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OF
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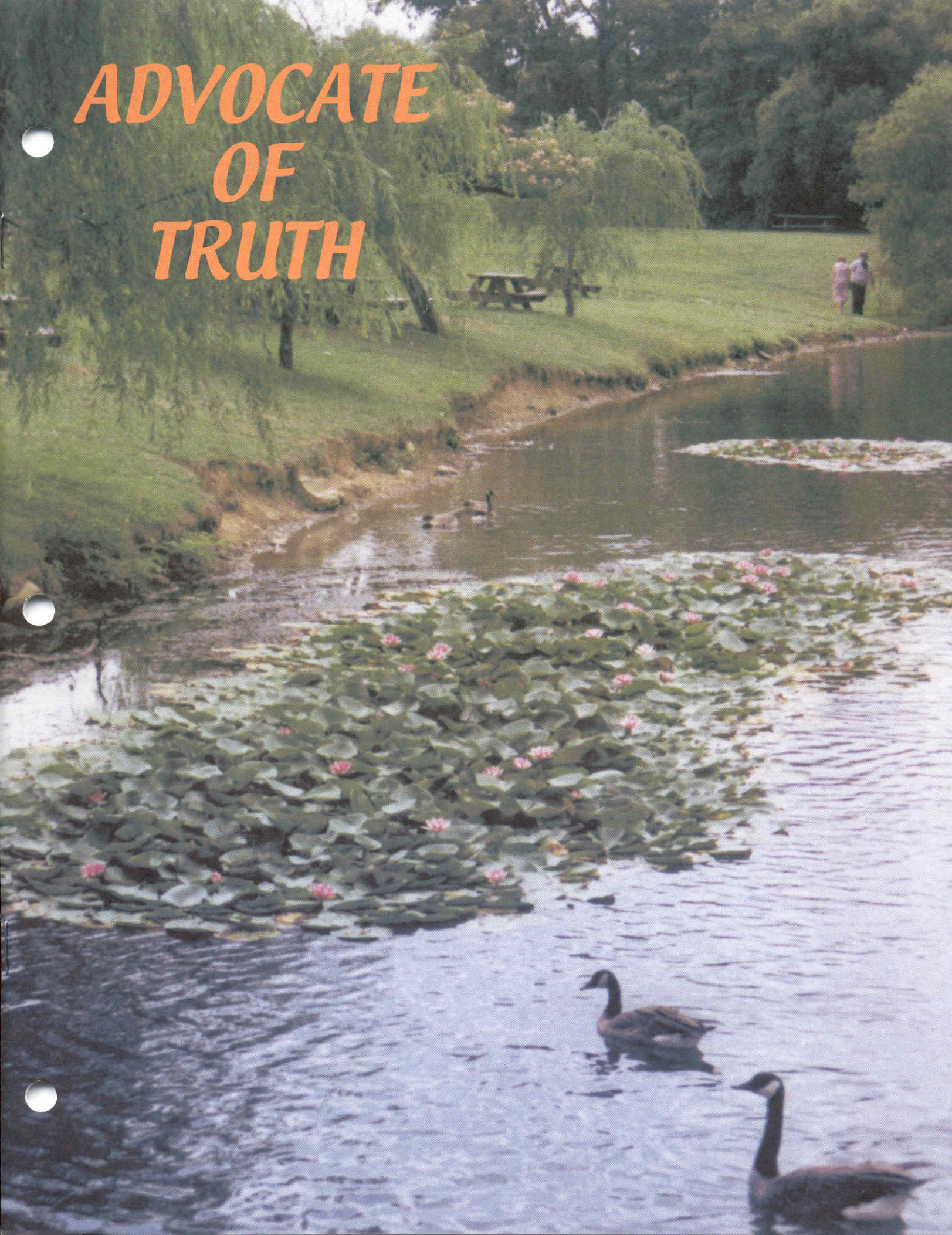




TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Word Keys That Unlock Truth 3
 This month our word is "armor".

7 Things You May Or May Not Know About What The Lord Hates..... 3-4

Available To Everyone 4
 Salvation awaits anyone who will accept it and follow the Lord.

Blasphemy 5
 Blasphemy against God is a serious matter.

The Mighty Miracles Of Jesus 6-9
 Jesus performed many wonderful miracles during His ministry.

God's Providence And Care For His People 9-10
 The Lord is merciful to those who obey Him.

Helping The Needy 11
 It is important for us to help others in need.

The Signs Of The Times 12-15
 A television evangelist has quite a following.

Questions And Answers 16-17
 What is the difference between sins of omission and sins of commission?

The Church Around The World 18-19
 This month we look at a youth retreat held in Texas.

The Children's Pages 20-23
Children's Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "Fun In The Fall"
Games and Puzzles

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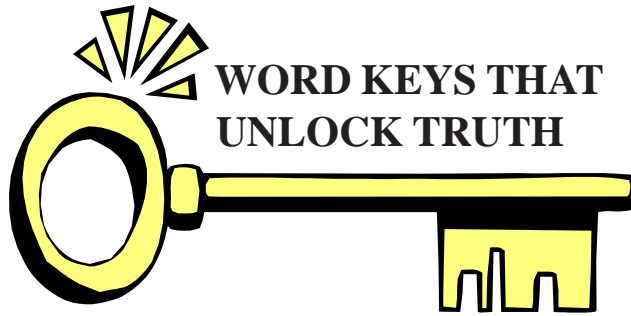
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 P.O. Box 328
 Salem, WV 26426-0328**

**Telephone: 304-782-1411
 Fax: 304-782-2248
 E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com**

**Del DeLong
 Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff
 Gary Mills Managing Editor
 Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor
 Fred Hardman Printer**

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ARMOR

7

Things you May or May Not Know About What the Lord Hates.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines "armor" as covering worn to protect the body against weapons. It is spelled "armour" throughout the Bible.

From the earliest times, even before the invention of firearms, mankind wore and used devices to protect the body when in battle. There were many types of armor, and the armor was made of different material from heavy leather to hardened steel. Usually the armor consisted of a shield carried on one arm, a coat or breastplate, leather or iron castings for the lower limbs, and a helmet for the head.

There are frequent references to armor throughout the Bible. Very often the word is used in a figurative sense, chiefly with reference to righteousness as a protection to the child of God against the assaults of evil or temptation.

The following references to armor by the Apostle Paul are the most notable and important.

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light" (Romans 13:12).

"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation" (I Thessalonians 5:8).

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:13-17).

"These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto Him" (Proverbs 6:16).

1. A proud look. "Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished" (Proverbs 16:5).

2. A lying tongue. "The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment" (Proverbs 12:19).

3. Hands that shed innocent blood. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. (Jeremiah 7:3) If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt them will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever" (Jeremiah 7:6-7).

4. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doing" (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

5. Feet that be swift in running to mischief. "Their feet run to evil and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths" (Isaiah 59:7).

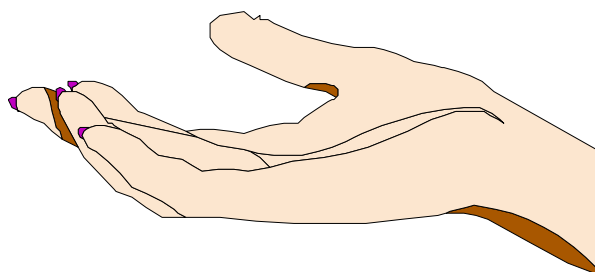
6. A false witness that speaketh lies. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" (Exodus 20:16). "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish" (Proverbs 19:9).

7. He that soweth discord among the brethren. "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are al-

ways liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:10-16).

AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

By Evalyne Bitengo



Salvation means to deny yourself, carry your cross and follow Jesus.

My beloved brethren, after obtaining salvation, are we to continue in sin so that the grace of God may increase. No! "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that the grace of God may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2).

Jesus, Himself, said that even though our sins are many, He is able to wash them away because He died on the cross to save us. For example salvation came to Matthew and Zaccheus who were both tax collectors.

To obtain salvation, one should do the following:

1. Hear the Word of God and do it. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:22-25).

2. Deny yourself, carry your cross, and follow Jesus. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

3. Love all people including your enemies. "For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also live those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil" (Luke 6:32-35).

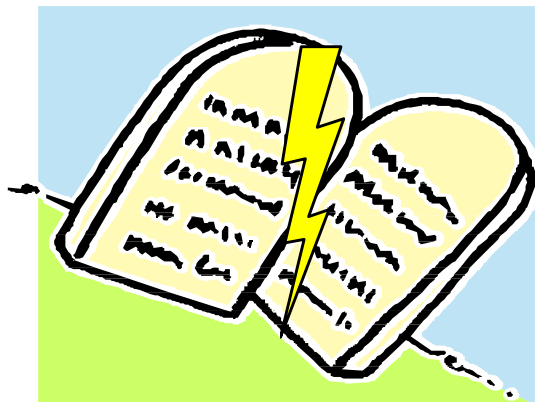
4. Be born again. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

My beloved brethren, I am happy to write to you about this good news of salvation because no one knows the time of His coming. "But of that day and hour knoweth

no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:36-39).

If you hear the word of salvation today, then salvation awaits you, but if you harden your heart, the lake of fire awaits you as the man who had no wedding garment was cast into outer darkness. "And when the king came to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 22:11-13).

If we accept this message of salvation, Jesus tells us



Once there was a man who was possessed by the devil. He was blind and mute. He was brought before Jesus and was healed so that he could see and speak. The people were amazed and said, "Is not this the son of David?" When the Pharisees heard about it, they said that this fellow does not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils (Matthew 12:22-24).

The word blasphemy according to the dictionary means: disrespectful or bad language about God or a person; to insult; to abuse; to offend; to speak ill of another.

The Ten Commandments are divided into two parts. The first four pertain to God, and the last six are for our neighbors. When we break one of the commandments

to go all over the world and spread the gospel. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Make 16:15-16).

Let not your hearts be troubled because in your Father's house are many mansions, and Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

In closing, one who hears Jesus's words and believes in Him has eternal life. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

BLASPHEMY

By Jose Daniel Mena

against God, we are insulting and offending him. The same is true when we break one of the commandments against our neighbors. Not only do we offend and insult our neighbors, but we offend and insult God as well. If we are children of God, we should be new creatures. We carry His name in our deeds and our actions. If we are disobedient, we are blaspheming the good name of God.

In the Old Testament we find some examples of blasphemy. Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses; Core and others rose against Moses; the children of Israel murmured against Moses, and those murmurers died. Another time people spoke against Moses and the Lord sent fiery serpents, and many died from their bites. God also sent leprosy to Miriam. She was later healed because

she and Aaron repented and Moses interceded for them before God. Read Numbers 12:1-3, Numbers 16:1-3, 28-35, Numbers 14:2, 27 and Numbers 21:5-6.

There is something interesting that we should learn from these incidents concerning the children of Israel. Although they spoke against Moses, God took it as blasphemy against Himself. This was because they were breaking the commandments, and the commandments were from God. We should therefore be careful about committing blasphemy against our neighbors, especially those who are anointed of God.

All of these things were written for us as an example and warning so that we do not fall into these same sins. The apostle Paul advised us not to follow these same mistakes. See I Corinthians 10:6-11, Romans 15:4 and Philippians 2:14-15. Paul also said that some were made shipwrecked concerning the faith, "Of whom is us Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme" (I Timothy 1:19-20).

We should not blaspheme against God. Jesus was accused that all the miracles He performed were produced by Satan. Many times, when things are done in the church that show the power of God, people doubt and question the things which were accomplished by God through his ministers. Whenever we murmur against these things, it is blasphemy, and blasphemy against God's power exposes us to eternal judgment. This kind of blasphemy will not be forgiven in this age nor in the coming age. All other blasphemy can be forgiven. If we blaspheme against God or Jesus Christ and we repent, then God will forgive us, but any blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. See Mark 3:28-29 and Matthew 12:30-32. The Holy Spirit is the power of God, and we should never disregard or blaspheme His power.

Dear reader, I hope that this writing will help you to be careful not to commit blasphemy, especially that which is against the Holy Spirit.

THE MIGHTY MIRACLES OF JESUS

By Bond Tennant



The four Gospels were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and the Apostle John. The book of Mark relies more than the other three accounts on these miracles to prove that Jesus was really the Son of God. There is no record in Mark's Gospel of Jesus's genealogy as found in the other three Gospels. Many Bible scholars believe that Mark wrote of the mighty miracles that Jesus performed to convince the Gentiles-not the Jews-that Jesus was the savior of the world.

In the very first chapter of Mark, we read of many miracles. Jesus called an unclean spirit out of a man who was possessed. "And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a

loud voice, he came out of him" (Mark 1:23-26).

He healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law of a bad fever. "But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them" (Verse 30-31).

He cast out devils and healed many of the sick in one city. "And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him" (Verses 32-34)). Our Lord traveled throughout Galilee and cast out devils. "And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils" (Verse 39).

He healed a leper. "And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed" (Verses 40-42). The lame were made to walk, and the blind to see. This was only the start of His ministry!

Jesus was able to cure all kinds of disease through the power of God, and He used these wonderful miracles mainly to point forward to His coming kingdom. They can be considered to be small blessings that will come to all the world when He reigns as king. The people He cured during this earthly ministry would get sick again, and they would die. However, in this kingdom, He will be able to give all, who will accept Him, everlasting life and health!

All that heard Jesus were astonished at his doctrine. He taught them as one having authority. "And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes" (Verse 22). "And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee" (Verse 28). Jesus became well known and sought after. "But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter" (Verse 45).

Hundreds of wonderful miracles are described in the Gospels. Let us recount the most remarkable miracles

ever performed. Jesus had, on two separate occasions, raised the dead to life! The first was Jairus's daughter. Jairus was the ruler of the synagogue and an important person in his town. He was with Jesus, seeking His help to cure his sick little girl, when word came to him that she had died. Jesus said to Jairus, "Be not afraid, only believe." Then Jesus went to Jairus's home and took the child by the hand. Then Jesus said to her, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise." Immediately she stood up and walked to the astonishment of all who saw her. Read about this amazing miracle in Mark 5:22-24, 35-43.

At a later time, Jesus saw a dead man being carried to his grave. He had been the only son of his mother, a widow, and she was overcome with sorrow at her loss. "And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people. And this rumor of him went forth throughout all Judea and throughout all the region round about" (Luke 7:11-17). This young man had been dead a full day, yet God's power enabled Jesus to raise him to life again.

Another greater evidence of God's power came near the end of Jesus's ministry. The most wonderful miracle that Jesus worked was when He raised His friend, Lazarus, from the dead. This family, which had two sisters-Mary and Martha- and their brother, Lazarus, was much loved by Jesus. They lived a short distance outside Jerusalem, in a small town called Bethany. Often when He was away, Jesus found comfort and rest in the home of His dear friends.

Jesus was some distance away from Bethany when the sisters sent him word, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick." His disciples were not very surprised when Jesus did not answer the message by going to Bethany. The leaders in Israel were beginning to fear Jesus and His power and influence over the people. The miracles and the message of hope He gave them made Him a popular figure. For this, the scribes and Pharisees hated Him, and they were coming to the conclusion that the only way to stop Jesus would be to kill Him.

However, this was not the reason that Jesus did not

go immediately to Bethany to help His friend. In words they did not understand at this time, Jesus told His disciples, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." Although they did not know what He meant, it was only a few days later that they learned to appreciate this thrilling lesson. Two days after receiving the report from Martha and Mary concerning Lazarus's illness, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea again." They reminded Him, "Master the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?" Then Jesus told them He desired to go to Bethany because Lazarus had died, and He meant to awaken him from the dead!

At first, they did not understand Him completely. He told them, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." They thought, "If he is sick, sleep will be helpful to restore his health." They were puzzled! Then Jesus said unto them plainly, "Lazarus is dead." Jesus was teaching His disciples an important truth. Because God has a plan to resurrect each and every one who has ever died in the past-or would die in the future-He could in fact consider death to be a sleep from which He will awaken them all.

By the time they arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had already lain in the grave four days. There were many friends and relatives gathered at the home of Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary sat still in the house. Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if thou hadst been there, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it to thee."

Jesus said to her, "Thy brother shall rise again," and Martha replied, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus asked her, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live...Believest thou this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

After this encouraging conversation, she went quietly into the house and told Mary, "The Master is come, and calleth for thee." As soon as Mary heard these words, she arose quickly and went out to meet Jesus. Now Jesus had not yet come into Bethany, but was in the outskirts, a little way from town. When all her friends and relatives who were there to comfort her saw Mary leave the house

so quickly without a word to them, they followed her. They said to one another, "She is going to the grave to weep there."

Jesus saw Mary weeping, and all those with her also were weeping as she came to meet her Master. He became overcome with sadness, and asked, "Where have ye laid him?" They answered, "Lord, come and see." "Jesus wept." Then the Jews said, "Behold how he loved! him! and again, "Could not this man which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that Lazarus should not have died?" These words made Jesus more heavyhearted than ever.

The mournful gathering reached the place where Lazarus was buried. It had a huge stone placed in front of the opening. Jesus said, "Take ye away the stone." Martha suddenly became alarmed, "Lord, he hath been dead four days!" Jesus calmed her, saying, "Said I not to thee, that if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?"

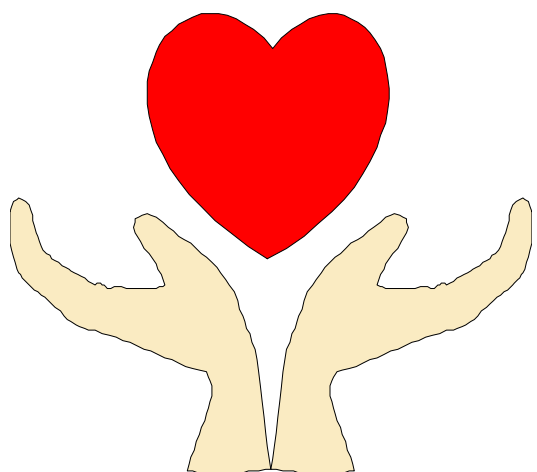
They took away the stone from the cave where Lazarus lay dead. Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and prayed, "Father, I thank thee that thou has heard me. I know that thou hearest me always, but because of the people that stand here I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me." When he had thus spoken, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound with a napkin. "Jesus saith unto them, Loose him and let him go." Now they began to understand what Jesus meant when he said this miracle was to show the glory of God!

Many of the people who had come to comfort Mary and Martha and had seen the marvelous things Jesus did, believed He truly was the Messiah. But some went straight to the chief priests and Pharisees, the bitter enemies of Jesus. They said, "what shall we do? We have to do something about Jesus! If we leave Him alone, all men will believe in Him, and we will lose our important positions as religious leaders of the people!" From that day forth, they plotted rigorously together to find a way to put Jesus to death. Read John 11.

His enemies knew this was the most outstanding miracle Jesus had performed, the like of which had never been done before by even the greatest of prophets. They were determined to kill Him. This would put an end to His message of hope, and the threat of their prestigious hold over the minds of the people in religious matters.

Jesus's followers knew it as the most remarkable miracle. They were encouraged and strengthened in faith. Not only was their faith made stronger in Jesus as the One sent of God, but their faith in the complete accom-

plishment of all God's purposes and plans and promises for the future became greatly fortified. Surely, the long-promised kingdom will come!



GOD'S PROVIDENCE AND CARE FOR HIS PEOPLE

by Bibi Shimon Allicock

In the world today, many people do not know what or who they worship. They claim that anyone can worship according to as he or she feels. They claim that their god or gods answers their prayers. "For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and gold; fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good. Therefore thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them. Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble" (Jeremiah 10:3-5; 11:11, 14). "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" (John 9:31). "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination" (Proverbs 28:9). "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must wor-

ship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

The Lord is ever merciful toward anyone who willingly obeys His voice and keeps His statutes and commandments. "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine" (Exodus 19:5).

Some individuals claim that since God knows everything, even man's thoughts, He should have known that Adam and Eve would sin. God did know, but He just stepped aside to test man's obedience. When man sinned it grieved His heart that He had made man. "And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at this heart" (Genesis 6:6). As we study Genesis 3:8-23, and ponder upon the question that God asked Adam, where art thou?, we can clearly depict that it was a moment of testing. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3).

Brothers and sisters, to gain God's providence, care and protection, we need to obey His voice earnestly. Psalm 100:3 gives us the reason. "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

God is all powerful. He formed man miraculously from the dust of the ground. He blew the breath of life into his nostrils. He also planted a garden for them, and in

the midst he planted the tree of knowledge of good and evil. After Adam and Eve sinned, God made coats of skins to clothe them. See Genesis 2:7-9, 16-25:3.

In the days of old, animals were sacrificed as sin offerings. "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the Lord concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them: If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the Lord for a sin offering. And he shall bring the bullock unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord; and shall lay his hand upon the bullock's head, and kill the bullock before the Lord. And the priest that is anointed shall take of the bullock's blood, and bring it to the tabernacle of the congregation" (Leviticus 4:1-5).

Individuals continue to question that since God is a just God, why did He not want man to know good and evil. "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Ecclesiastes 7:29). "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day" (Genesis 1:27-28, 31).

God made man upright. Had man done as God commanded, surely all would have been well. There would not have been knowledge to make nuclear weapons, and, most likely, there would not have been knowledge to do most of the crazy things that people indulge in today. And there would not be wars, and the world would not be drowning in sorrow, pain, drunkenness, fornication, etc.

Yes, man ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Knowledge was gained, but is man using it wisely? "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh

upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (I Thessalonians 5:2-3).

Our God is really a just God, and He warns His servants from generation to generation. He has a plan for every man on His land. He told Abram that his seed shall be in a land that is not their's, and they shall be afflicted four hundred years. "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years" (Genesis 15:13). We can see how his people became sojourners in Egypt.

Joseph was sold as a slave in Egypt. He displayed real obedience, especially when Potiphar's wife wanted him to lie with her. As a result of not adhering to her wishes, he was imprisoned. He then became the ruler over the land of Egypt. "And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt" (Genesis 41:42-44). "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art" (Genesis 41:39). Even though Joseph's brothers sold him through envy, it was God's way of making providence, because at that moment there was a great famine. "And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because the famine was so sore in all lands" (Genesis 41:56-57).

It is well pleasing to obey the voice of the Lord. A reward awaits such persons, as John the Divine clearly states. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, at the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:11-14).



Helping the Needy

By Dinah Langai

The scriptures tell us how important it is to help others, and especially to show mercy to those who are less fortunate than we are. "And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately, he arose, took up his bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion" (Mark 2:1-5, 11-12).

The people in the above scripture reading were helping a sick man with palsy to seek treatment and salvation through Jesus. When they could not reach Jesus because of the crowd, they even made an opening, and lowered the sick man down so that Jesus could see him! They did not tell the sick man "Everything is possible by faith", and leave him on his own. It was their faith and their works that helped this man find Jesus and healing! It is good to help people in need and also to help people who seek Jesus.

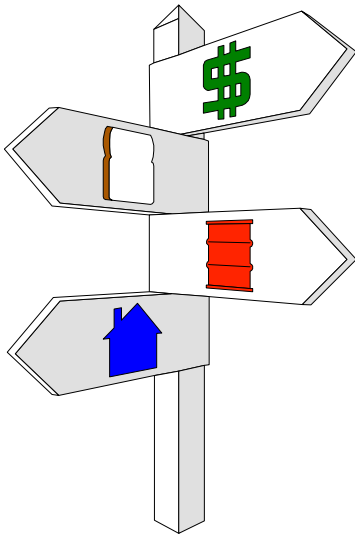
In I Peter 3:8, it says: "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous". The members of the body of Christ must all have the same attitude and the same feelings. We must love one another as brothers and sisters, and be kind and humble one toward another. Do not pay back

evil with evil! Instead, pay back evil with a blessing, because a blessing is what God has promised to give you for following His commandments and the example of Jesus. As the scripture says, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

Jesus is our example. He spent his life on earth healing, helping and preaching to others about the Word of God. We keep this in mind the next time we are presented with an opportunity to help another individual, either spiritually or physically. "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure of heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:7-9, 16).

THE SMILE STARTER!

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner,
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized,
I'd passed it to him.
I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile just like mine,
could travel the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

The following article appeared in the Houston Chronicle.

Unfazed by critics, evangelist wins souls, money
by Matt Curry
Associated Press

GRAPEVINE - If Benny Hinn puts on a remarkable television show, the view from his side of the camera is even more incredible.

Looking into viewer's homes recently, the evangelist spied a bald, overweight man with a heart problem. Wearing a yellow shirt.

Hinn said he could see the man walking away from his TV, resisting appeals to donate during a Trinity Broadcasting Network "Praise-a-thon."

"Come back," Hinn begged. "If you will come back and make that pledge, God will heal your heart tonight."

It was vintage Hinn, charismatic, even outrageous, melding the promise of healing with support for the network that broadcasts his show.

Such claims, of course, are the hallmark of the TV evangelist. But while others like Jimmy Swaggart, Jim Bakker and Robert Tilton have fallen from grace over the past two decades, Hinn plows ahead, relentlessly seeking souls and money.

Like his colleagues, he embraces his worldwide followers who say he has cured them, like heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield, who has credited Hinn with correcting his heart problem.

For the most part, he brushes off scrutiny, though not

always gracefully. He once wished aloud for a "Holy Ghost machine gun" to blow off the heads of his critics, who object to everything from his unverifiable healing claims to his perfectly coiffed hair.

This is Your Day television program appears on the Trinity Broadcasting Network and airs in 190 countries.

His crusades around the world draw thousands who hope the minister will zap them with power absorbed from the graves of dead faith healers. The lucky ones end up on stage, where with a motion of the preacher's hand they are overcome, dropping lifelessly into the arms of a "catcher."

"I've known him for many years, and he's doing a world of good with hundreds of thousands of people," said Freda Lindsay, cofounder of Christ for the Nations, a Dallas-based church building ministry.

Lindsay, 88, shares Hinn's belief in faith healing and said prayer cured her of tuberculosis when she was 24.

"Benny Hinn is very sincere," she said. "I would vouch for him that he's a man of God. He's not a phony."

Critics, meanwhile, consider him a master manipulator.

"I think he's a great showman who understands how to utilize both media and the stage in order to manipulate the audience," said Stephen Winzenburg, a communications professor at Garand View College in Des Moines, Iowa, who monitors evangelists' television broadcasts.

While Swaggart's and Bakker's high-flying ministers were leveled by sex scandals, and Tilton eventually was

brought down by reports of false promises and a legal battle with his first wife, Hinn has tripped over no such obstacles.

Winzenburg's research shows that Hinn actually spends little of his air time soliciting contributions. His personality further separates him from his colleagues.

"He has a charm and a charisma that some of the other television evangelists don't have," Winzenburg said. "He's no threat. He's someone people feel that they can approach."

The man who was the white-suited inspiration for Steve Martin in the film, "Leap of Faith" has been conducting public healings for nearly 30 years.

His unlikely journey to spiritual stardom began as a child who was embarrassed by a stuttering problem - an impediment he says was later healed by God.

Benedictus Hinn, 49, was born in Israel to a Greek father and Armenian mother, according to the 1999 book "Religious Leaders of America." His mother named him after Patriarch Benedictus of the Greek Orthodox Church.

As a boy, he attended Catholic schools, and marked his first religious experience at the age of 11.

"I saw Jesus walk into my bedroom," he writes in "He Touched Me", his 1999 autobiography. "He was wearing a robe that was whiter than white and a deep red mantle was draped over his shoulders."

The Lord looked at him and disappeared, Hinn said, "but suddenly my young body was caught up in an incredible sensation that can only be described as "electric."

The family moved to Toronto, Canada, where he was "saved," an announcement that so baffled relatives that his father booked him an appointment with a psychiatrist. The defining moment in his life came in 1973 when he attended a service in Pittsburgh by faith healer Kathryn Kuhlman.

It is often suggested that Hinn has fashioned himself in her image, and he frequently mentions her influence. He has written a book about Kuhlman's life but says he never knew her personally.

"He's copied her act almost to the letter," said Joe Nickell, author of Looking for a Miracle. "She wore white gowns with gold trim. He wears white suits with gold jewelry."

In He Touched Me, Hinn writes that seeing Kuhlman

simply pointed him in the right direction. That path led back to Toronto, where by 1974 he was conducting his own healing services.

He moved his operations to Orlando, Florida in 1983, where he married Suzanne Hathern, daughter of an Assemblies of God minister. There, buoyed by television appearances and his trademark flamboyance, he rose rapidly to become one of the best-known healing ministers, stepping into the shoes of heroes such as Oral Roberts.

In 1999, he decided to move his corporative headquarters to Dallas-Fort Worth, noting that the ministry's legal and accounting firms were already in the area. Hinn lives in California, home of his World Media Center, which houses his television production facilities.

Neither Hinn nor ministry representatives responded to numerous interview requests made through his World Healing Center Church Inc. Headquarters.

About 200 people work at the office, located along a busy freeway just a few miles from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Inside the unadorned building, a hallway lined with large pictures features the healer in action.

At his monthly services, believers are treated to the high drama in person.

In his first such meeting in Dallas after the move from Orlando, Hinn announced grand plans for a 50-acre spiritual healing theme park near Texas Stadium in Irving.

The appeals came rapid fire that night. Work was to start in January 2000 - if \$5 million could be collected by December 31, 1999. If donors could generate \$30 million in the next two years, Hinn said then, they would see a multimedia center like no other.

A spokeswoman for the city of Irving's zoning department said recently that the ministry never submitted any plan.

Followers who send donations, or "partners," must take his word that he will use the money for the Lord's work.

Hinn has not joined the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability, a sort of Christian Better Business Bureau to which evangelists such as Billy Graham belong. The council assesses the financial integrity of Christian organizations that join it.

Hinn has not publicly acknowledged his salary, but told CNN in 1997 that his yearly income including book

royalties was somewhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million a year. A spokesman has said Hinn generates about 460 million a year in donations.

The minister acknowledges an appreciation for the finer things in life. Once questioned about driving a Mercedes, he said, "Where in the Bible does it say I have to drive a Honda?"

Linsay said she understands that much of the criticism revolves around the large amount of money Hinn raises.

"When you fly all over the world, you have to have a large group of people, or you can't handle crowds of hundreds of thousands that he has," she said. "How can you have those kinds of campaigns without raising a lot of money?"

Hinn once handed her \$50,000 for the construction of building for Christ for the Nations, and he continues to send monthly donations to the ministry, she said.

Skeptics, however, say their objections go beyond the massive fund-raising. They question his grandiose pronouncement, his motives and his "healings," which they say can lead to false hope and sometimes even give tragic results when sick people abandon conventional medical treatment.

"He's a false prophet. He banks on the fact that people are going to forget what he has previously said," said Hank Hanegraaff, who heads the California-based Christian Research Institute and is host of radio's Bible Answer Man.

Hanegraaff notes that Hinn has claimed that the world would end by 1999 and Cuban President Fidel Castro would die in the 1990's.

Hinn, who once said women originally were designed to give birth out of their sides, is accustomed to having his declarations ridiculed.

He occasionally responds by saying that, although he's a minister, he is by no means perfect.

"I do admit there have been times when I have made a statement that was incorrect," he once wrote. "Because we are continually growing in the Lord, preachers and lay people alike must be open to the Lord's correction."

"However, I do not believe it is right when a minister corrects his theology - or his view on a point of Scripture - and the critics continue to bring up that same subject."

Nickell has investigated miracle claims for 30 years and attended one of Hinn's services in Buffalo, New York

last summer. He described what he calls Hinn's "shotgun technique" in which he offers broad suggestions to the audience like "someone back there has just been healed from cancer, someone else is getting relief from back trouble."

Those who believe Hinn is talking to them approach the stage, where Hinn's handlers audition them quickly. The ones with the best stories get on stage and present their testimonials: diabetes healed, cancer gone, depression cured.

"He touches them or gestures and they fall 'under the power,'" Nickell said. "This is the culmination of a process that is essentially what stage hypnotists do: suggestion, compliance and role playing."

"He's borrowed this from Kathryn Kuhlman, and it's a tried and true method," he said. "I don't claim to know what's in his mind, whether he's insincere. I do know that he must know what he uses works."

Comment

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).

Without a doubt many of the healings during the Benny Hinn crusades do take place. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Corinthians 11:14-15). Benny Hinn concentrates only on healing and being slain in the Spirit. He does not preach the weightier truths of God's word.

It is so easy for God's children to be deceived in these last days. "For there shall arise false Christ, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24).

The real test is found in Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in though the gates into the city."

The following article appeared in The Facts, published in Clute, Texas.

The World Wonders:

Who Next?

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Under the headline "American capitalism takes a beating," a stunned superhero in red, white and blue Spandex reels from a giant "KAPOW!"

The cartoon on the cover of Britain's Economist magazine captures the sense of surrealism many outside the United States feel as they watch one U.S. corporate giant after another ensnared in scandal.

But there's been little gloating as financial shock waves reverberate around the world, depressing stock prices from London to Tokyo and threatening to undercut the global economic recovery.

Instead, the fear is that no country is immune. "Only the very foolish would pretend that recent events in America could not or will not happen here," European Union Internal Market Commissioner Frits Bolkestein told a financial forum in Paris this week.

"The issues raised by Enron, WorldCom, Xerox, and others are issues for us all, and issues that we must address urgently."

Europe already has seen its own accounting scandals: Belgian high-tech darling Lernout & Hauspie collapsed last year after it was found to have overstated income; Comroad AG, a German provider of traffic-navigation technology, admitted this spring it invented almost all of its 2001 revenue.

France's market watchdog announced Tuesday that it is examining financial documents provided by Vivendi Universal since January 2001, amid charges the French media giant sought to embellish its 2001 accounts by nearly \$1.5 billion.

In Asia, too, the recent revelations of unethical practices in the United States have raised eyebrows.

"Asians can hardly gloat, but should cast a skeptical eye when next lectured to adopt U.S. market standards lock, stock and barrel," the English-language South China Morning Post said in an editorial Thursday.

Comment

Many people suffer when a corporation fails because of corrupt business deals and accounting. Many must

suffer the loss of jobs, and the workers may lose their pensions. It affects the stock market in a negative manner, which causes many to lose much money. Trouble in the business world is one of the signs of the times.

The only way to be secure is to put our trust in God.

FOR YOU, AND HOPEFULLY BACK TO ME

"I wish for you...

Comfort on difficult days,
Rainbows to follow the clouds,
Laughter to kiss your lips,
Sunsets to warm your heart
Gentle hugs when spirits sag,
Friendships to brighten your being,
Beauty for your eyes to see,
Confidence for when you doubt,
Faith so that you can believe,
Courage to know yourself,
Patience to accept the truth,
And love to complete your life.

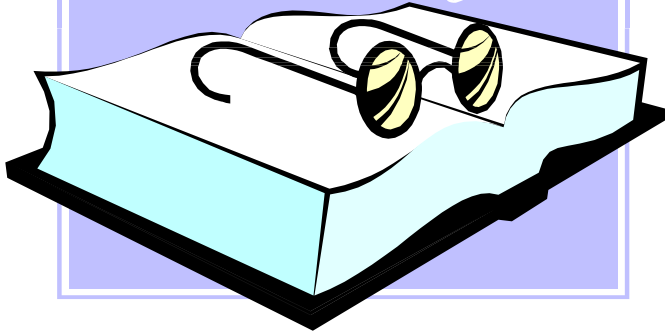
God Bless you!

I asked the Lord to bless you
To guide you and protect you
As you go along your way...
His love is always with you
His promises are true
No matter what the tribulation
You know He will see us through
So when the road you're traveling on
Seems difficult at best
Give your problems to the Lord
And God will do the rest.

From the Internet

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: What is the difference between sins of omission and sins of commission?

Answer: A "sin of omission" is one wherein we neglect or fail to do something which should be done. It denotes neglect or carelessness in fulfilling one's obligations. Failure to attend Bible studies, if such classes are available, could indeed be a sin of omission or neglect.

On the other hand, a "sin of commission" is to perpetrate or deliberately do things which we know to be wrong or sinful. We as children of God must be on guard continually, for our desire is to do the will of God. Sin is a noxious weed which grows without cultivating, and manifests itself in many forms. Let us therefore be watchful, and uproot from our hearts any tendency toward carelessness, and any disposition toward that which would surely draw us away from the Lord and hinder us from enjoying the close fellowship with Him which is one of the rewards of faithfulness.

Question: It seems to me that Isaiah 26:14 proves that the wicked dead will never be resurrected. Is this not so?

Answer: Let us quote the verse to which you refer, "They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish." The answer to your question is no for the reason that this text is not discussing wicked people, but false gods who have deceived and misguided the people. This is apparent from the pre-

ceding verse, which reads, "O Lord our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name." It is these "other lords" that perish and are forgotten.

The Israelites were continually confronted with the temptation to worship and serve false gods. Frequently they yielded to this temptation. When they did this, the false gods took dominion over them. Throughout this age, God's professed people have also frequently been worshippers of false gods who have made slaves of them. There have been, for example, the torture deity, the trinity god, and others. Many have worshipped the god of gold and silver, others the god of pride, or the god of pleasure.

Then, throughout all the ages, there have been the various heathen gods, which have been worshiped by millions who have been enslaved by them. Actually, of course, none of these gods have been other than figments of imagination in the minds and hearts of the people who have worshiped them - fantasies to which, in many instances, idols of wood and metal have been erected in an effort to make them seem real.

All these "other lords" are to perish from the minds and hearts of the people. Their destruction will be brought about by the fact that the knowledge of the true God will fill the whole earth when Christ and His saints reign in the kingdom of God, which will be established in the earth.

Question: How did Jesus overcome the world?

Answer: Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Certainly Jesus did not overcome the world by conquering it with a mighty army! His thought fundamental is that He overcame the spirit of selfishness which motivates so much that the world does. He overcame in the sense that He walked contrary to it. There are two basic principles, one or the other of which is manifest in all human behavior. One of these is selfishness. The other is selflessness, or love.

The spirit of the world is, generally speaking, self first. It is the law of self-preservation and, often times, operates without regard to justice or the welfare of others. This spirit of selfishness has been responsible, directly or indirectly, for all human suffering. It's cruelest expressions are in crime, war, and other evils which plague the sin-cursed and dying race.

But Jesus did not conform to the world's spirit of selfishness. He did not view life from the standpoint of what He could get from it for Himself. Instead, He denied self and sacrificed His life in the interests of others. Throughout His entire ministry, He exhibited the spirit of selflessness and of love for others. He gave His time, His strength, His all, that others might be blessed.

The supreme manifestation of love by Jesus came at the close of his ministry when He gave up life itself in order that mankind might have an opportunity to live. Thus He met the challenge of human selfishness, and won!

Jesus's followers are given the opportunity to demonstrate this same spirit of unselfishness. They are invited to walk in His steps of self-sacrifice. This costs them the frown of the world, but those who overcome will have the opportunity to live and reign with Christ a thousand years.

Question: Why is Jesus coming again?

Answer: When we stand or fall when Christ returns, we will not stand or fall on the basis of any particular denominational teaching, but upon how we have accepted or rejected the teachings of Christ. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Therefore, we should give the words of Christ proper place in our think-

ing.

A majority of people believe in a second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth again, but as to His purpose there are many opinions. Some think of His coming as one for His people. This is a coming to take them away. Others see His coming for the purpose of rejoining soul and body. There are many other ideas, and even those who deny that our Lord will come in person. They think of His coming as just a spiritual awakening in the people of the earth.

What men may suppose concerning the coming of Christ is not our concern. What does the Bible say? Many believe He is coming, but do not know for what purpose. If a man goes to his reward at the time of death, then the second coming is a useless servant, and it has no importance relative to our salvation. That the Lord will come to this earth again, only an atheist would dare deny. Three fourths of the New Testament is written concerning this great event. It is the blessed hope of the church! "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13). It will inaugurate the age of restitution, for Jesus must remain in heaven until the times of restitution. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:19-21).

How important is it? Every prophecy regarding redemption of man and the earth awaits His coming, which will bring times of restitution from the presence of the Lord. Man's redemption depends upon the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is in heaven now, as the noblemen who went into a far country to receive a kingdom and to return. Read Luke 19:12-27.

At His first coming, Jesus sowed the good seed. The seed is in the growing season while the husbandmen awaits the harvest. He will return and gather the good seed into His barn, and He will burn the tares with fire. It is then that the righteous shall shine in the kingdom of their Father. Read Matthew 13:24-30.



TEXAS

Cindy Buechner, a member of the San Antonio church, was the organizer of a youth retreat held this summer. Tim Buechner, her husband, and several others helped in organizing and promoting this retreat held for teens and preteens from the church. Amanda Smith, a participant, wrote the following report.

Where do I even begin? First, I want to start off by giving ALL the thanks and credit to the only one who made this retreat possible - Our Wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ. We did a lot of praying for this retreat, and our prayers certainly were answered. I truly believe that God blessed each and every camper who attended in some way.

I guess I'll start with the teens. There was so much spirit in all of us. The first day was a day for us to get to know each other and to relax. It was fun, but this was only the beginning. I could only imagine how much more awesome it was going to get.

Friday was our day at the river. It was so hot, but I can't remember one time when anyone stopped to complain. That night Brother Isai came and spoke to us about the fruits of the spirit and living for the Lord. That got me excited to know that the Lord had picked me to be His servant. How awesome this was. Somewhere along the way I made a spirit buddy. We kept each other pumped up and on fire for God. WOOOA! By the end of the retreat, I had lost my voice because of all the yelling and singing I had done, but it was worth it. We had an awesome praise and worship band who taught us a lot of new songs. It was great.

Saturday was completely given to God. Brother Mario came out and gave us the word, and there were many who blessed us with specials. But I think through it all, we got the most and had a lot of fun with the Christian rappers who came out to the bonfire. Our last night ended with a BANG! We sang, praised, and loved our Lord. The rappers were so great and truly a blessing.

Sunday came way too soon. A lot of us wanted to stay longer, and since we couldn't, we will be anticipating the retreat next summer. Brother Tim came out on the last day and prayed with each of us individually. After that, some packed their bags and headed home. I say some, because I along with my sister, Miriam, and Cindy were in for two more days with the preteens. We served as camp counselors for them, and they were great. The kids were divided into three groups and had many different competitions throughout the two days, from running obstacle courses to playing volleyball. We had a super time. On Sunday, they had a motivational speaker come out and talk to them. This was great, because, for the rest of the retreat, they were on fire. Monday was the day at the river, and that night we had a bonfire. I really believe that God blessed each and every one of them in some way.

Tuesday they had a time of praise and worship and I was their speaker before they left. I honestly had no idea what to talk about until about five minutes before I had to speak. All I can say is that it was the Lord speaking through me. I left the kids with this. I Samuel 16:7 says "But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature, because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." So no matter what others think of you, you are beautiful to God and that's all that matters.

Thank you, Lord, for the awesome retreat. It was all for you. Thank you for choosing me to be your servant. Though we are all so unworthy of your love, you continue to bless us all. I am forever grateful - Amen.



Above are the teens from the retreat, and below, are the preteens.



LESSON I

THE RAIN COMES

Scripture Reading: Genesis 7:17-24.

Golden Text: Genesis 7:24.

"And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days."

1. What happened to the ark when it began to rain? Genesis 7:17-18.
2. What happened to all the hills? Genesis 7:19.
3. How high above the hills did the waters go? Genesis 7:20.

NOTE: A cubit is about 18 inches. So 15 times 18 inches is 270 inches or 22 1/2 feet.

4. What happened to all the people and animals that were on the earth? Genesis 7:21-22.
5. Who were the only ones that lived? Genesis 7:23.
6. How long did the waters stay on the earth? Genesis 7:24.

LESSON II

THE WATER GOES DOWN

Scripture Reading: Genesis 8:6-14.

Golden Text: Genesis 8:6.

"And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made."

1. What did Noah do at the end of forty days? Genesis 8:6.
2. What did he do with the raven? Genesis 8:7.

3. Why did he turn the dove loose? Genesis 8:8.

4. What did the dove do and why? Genesis 8:9.

5. How long did Noah wait before he sent out the dove a second time, and what did the dove do this time? Genesis 8:10-11.

6. What did the third dove do? Genesis 8:12.

7. What did Noah do when he found that the earth was dry? Genesis 8:13.

LESSON III

AFTER THE FLOOD

Scripture Reading: Genesis 8:15-22, 9:1, 8-17.

Golden Text: Genesis 8:21 (middle part).

"...and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake."

1. What did Noah do after the flood had dried up? Genesis 8:18-19.
2. What did Noah do after everything was out of the ark? Genesis 8:20.
3. What promise did God give to them? Genesis 8:21-22.
4. What did God tell Noah and his sons to do? Genesis 9:1.
5. What did God say would be a sign between Him and man? Genesis 9:11-15.
6. How long did Noah live after the flood? Genesis 9:28.
7. How old was Noah when he died? Genesis 9:29.

LESSON IV

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Scripture Reading: Genesis 11:1-9.

Golden text: Genesis 11:1.

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech."

1. How many different languages did the people speak? Genesis 11:1.
2. Where did the people travel to at this time? Genesis 11:2.
3. What did the people make in Genesis 11:3?
4. What did the people want to build with the bricks? Genesis 11:4.
5. What did God think of the Tower? Genesis 11:5-6.
6. What was done to punish the people? Genesis 11:7-9.

NOTE: Another name for Babel is confusion.

**How To Use The Bible In Times Of Need
Hebrews 4:16**

- When in sickness, read Psalm 41.
- When men fail you, read Psalm 27.
- When discouraged, read Galatians 6:9.
- When persecuted, read I Peter 4:12-14.
- When you have sinned, read Psalm 51.
- When you are poor, read Proverbs 28:6.
- If you want to be fruitful, read John 15.
- When you worry, read Matthew 6:19-34.
- When you are in danger, read Psalm 91.
- When you are forsaken, read Deuteronomy 31:6.
- When you have the blues, read Psalm 34.
- When homesick, read Luke 15; Matthew 12:50.
- When you are discouraged, read Isaiah 40.

- When you are rich, read Jeremiah 9:23-24.
- When God seems far away, read Psalm 139.
- When you feel like gossiping, read James 3.
- When doubts come upon you, try John 7:17.
- When in poverty, read Psalm 37:3; James 2:5.
- When you are opposed, read II Timothy 2:24.
- When wanting a friend, read Proverbs 18:24.
- When backslidden, read Jeremiah 3:12,13,22.
- For Jesus's idea of a Christian, read Matthew 5.
- For James' idea of religion, read James 1:19-27.
- When you are tempted, read I Corinthians 10:13.
- For Paul's secret of happiness, read Colossians 3:12-17.
- When you forget your blessings, read Psalm 103.
- When your faith needs stirring, read Hebrews 11.
- When you are afflicted, read II Corinthians 4:17-18.
- When you feel down and out, read Romans 8:31-39.
- When you are looking for happiness, read Colossians 3.
- When in trouble or sorrow, read John 14; Psalm 46:1.
- When you want courage for your task, read Joshua 1.
- When you grow bitter or critical, read I Corinthians 13.
- When the world seems bigger than God, Read Psalm 90.
- When you want rest and peace, read Matthew 11:25-30.
- When you are lonely or fearful, read Psalm 23; Luke 15.
- When you want Christian assurance, read Romans 8:1-30.
- When you leave home for labor or travel, read Psalm 121.
- For Paul's idea of Christianity, read II Corinthians 5:15-19.
- When your Prayers grow narrow or selfish, read Psalm 67.
- For a great invitation and a great opportunity, read Isaiah 55.
- Under all circumstances, read Isaiah 26:4; Hebrews 12:2; Matthew 11:28.
- For Paul's rules on how to get along with men, read Romans 12.
- When you think of investments and returns, read Mark 10:17-31.
- For the prophet's picture of worship that counts, read Isaiah 58:1-12.
- For Jesus's idea of prayer, read Luke 11:13 and Matthew 6:5-15.
- Why not follow Psalm 119:11, and hide some of these in your memory?



FUN IN THE FALL

"Catch him, Bimbo!" called Jerry as his cocker spaniel chased a frightened gray squirrel.

Daddy leaned against his rake. "Leave the squirrels alone," he said, laughing. "They're gathering acorns to eat during the winter."

Jerry's smile turned to a frown. He watched the leaves drifting slowly down from the trees. "Why did summer go away?" he whined. "Now we can't have any fun."

"Why, Jerry," said Daddy, "have you forgotten the fun we had last winter?"

Jerry kicked his feet through the crackly brown leaves, trying to remember. "Oh, yes." Jerry smiled. "Snow and snowmen! I do like winter."

"Do you remember when the snow began to melt and spring came?" asked Daddy.

Jerry's smile grew bigger. "We went to the field to fly my kite," he said. "Yes, I do like spring. The yellow daffodils started growing, and tiny green leaves grew on the trees."

Jerry's smile turned into a frown again. "Why do the leaves have to turn brown? Why did summer go away?"

"Jerry," said Daddy, "there are good things about each season because God planned them all. It is a good plan."

Daddy piled the leaves high with his rake. "You and Bimbo take a running jump into these leaves," he said.

"Arf! Arf!" barked Bimbo, running after Jerry.

Swoosh! Bimbo jumped into the leaves right on top of Jerry. Jerry laughed as Bimbo's pink tongue licked the leaves away from his face.

Jerry hugged Bimbo. "We like summer and winter and spring and fall, don't we? I'm glad God planned it that way."

AUTUMN

The autumn leaves are golden brown
And many of them are tumbling down
And soon the rest will sadly say,
Give way, dear autumn, to the winter day.

In spring the trees will leaf again
With warmth of sun and growing rain,
In verdure green therein shade bestow,
On happy birds and squirrels below.

Just so it is with women and men,
Who are drawing near their journey's end.
They like the leaves go tumbling down
To a place prepared in the cold, cold ground.

There to await that happy time
When the Lord will come in glory sublime,
and take the curse of death away
That we may live with Him for aye.

--L.O. Van Nostrand.

TRICKY TREES

Match each riddle to the correct kind of tree.

1. What tree is never alone?
2. What tree can you hang a picture on?
3. What tree is part of the sea?
4. What tree reminds you of a color?
5. What tree is always sad?
6. What tree can be burned and still be itself?
7. What tree keeps a bear warm in winter?
8. Which tree is older than the others?
9. What tree is part of each month?
10. What tree do you carry in your hand?

- a. Elder b. Fir c. Pear d. Walnut e. Ash f. Palm
g. Bay h. Redwood i. Pine j. Date

Answers: 1. c; 2. d; 3. g; 4. h; 5. i; 6. e; 7. b; 8. a; 9. j; 10. f.

I WANT YOU THERE

By Angela Smith

As I stand on the streets of gold,
And behold God's beautiful face,
The awe and wonder I'll feel,
As I thank Him for His saving grace.

How I want you to be there
Standing next to me,
As we walk down the street
Beside the crystal sea.

I don't want you to get left behind,
I want you to see God too.
But you have to open up your heart
And accept the one who died for you.

Can't you see what's coming?
Destruction and punishment for those
Who don't know Christ.
Why do you continue to reject
The one who loves you -the one who gave you life?

But God doesn't want you to be punished,
I'm here to tell you just how much He cares.
His desire is to bless you,
And even more than me, He wants you there.

Can't you feel Him tugging at your heart
When you look at the big blue sky?
Or as you watch an amazing sunset,
Or when you hear a song that makes you cry?

It makes me so sad to think of being
There without seeing your beautiful face.
Won't you please let Jesus into your heart,
He's waiting to give you His grace.

As I stand with God and the angels,
An eternity with Him I'll share.
I pray you'll accept Him too,
Because with all my heart, I want you there.