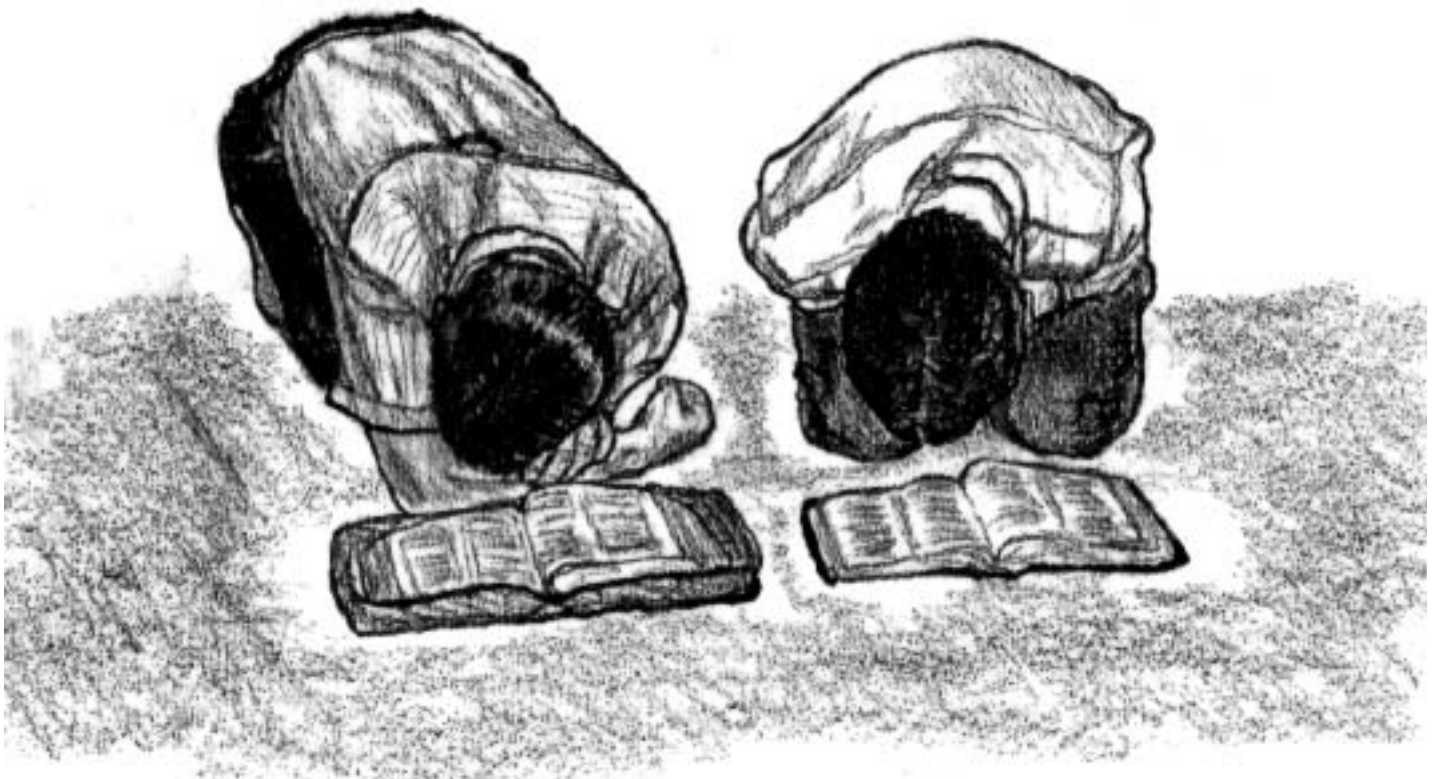


Soul Winning



Pray frequently.

Pray about whom you should speak to
and what you should say.

Pray that you will speak powerfully.

—R. A. Torrey

Our Mission Statement:

The reason for publishing this journal is to encourage youth to mature in the Lord. We desire all to be challenged to seek the reality of God in their own lives. We hope you will see, by the testimony of many youth, a Christian life that radiates the power of God. God's desire for all of us is much more than to escape Hell. It is for us to live a victorious life by abiding in Christ. All material will be edited with this goal in mind.

The Editors

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In Upcoming Issues...

Brokenness: God's Requirement Agape Love—The Unifying Factor

At this time, we plan to run these themes in this order, but if our readers desire an issue on a different topic, or submit material for an issue planned for a later date, we are willing to switch themes. Reader *feedback* is important!

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If possible, please have material typed out. If you decide to submit anything, please realize that we will probably have to edit your article. We will consider all submissions, although we reserve the right to select and edit them. We will try to clear all changes with you before printing.

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A Little Old Man On George Street

–David Smethurst

A number of years ago, in a church in Crystal Palace, London, the Sunday morning service was closing, when a stranger stood up in the back, raised his hand and said “Excuse me, Pastor, can I share a little testimony?” The pastor looked at his watch and said, “You’ve got three minutes.”

The man proceeded, “I just moved into this area. I used to live in another part of London. I came from Sydney, Australia. A few months back, I was visiting some relatives in Sydney, and I was walking down George Street. A strange little white-haired man stepped out of a shop doorway, put a pamphlet in my hand, and said ‘Excuse me sir, are you saved? If you died tonight are you going to heaven?’

A strange little white-haired elderly man stepped out of a shop doorway, and offered me a pamphlet

“I was astounded by those words, nobody had ever asked me that. I thanked him courteously. All the way back to Heathrow, London, on British Airlines this puzzled me. I called a friend and thank God he was a Christian. He led me to Christ. I’m a Christian now, and I want to fellowship here.” Everyone applauded and welcomed him into the fellowship.

That pastor flew to Adelaide, Australia, the next week to conduct meetings. During the meetings, a woman came to him and said, “I used to live in Sydney. A couple of months ago, I was visiting some friends in Sydney and doing last minute shopping down George Street. A strange little white-haired elderly man stepped out of a shop doorway, offered me a pamphlet,

and said, ‘Excuse me, ma’am, are you saved? If you died tonight are you going to Heaven?’ I was disturbed by those words. When I got back to Adelaide, I knew this church was on the next block from me, and I sought out the pastor. He led me to Christ. So, sir, I am telling you that I am a Christian.”



Now this London pastor was very puzzled. Twice within a fortnight he had heard the same testimony. He then flew to preach in a church in Perth. When his teaching series was over, the senior elder of that church took him out for a meal. The pastor said, “Mate, how did you get saved?”

The elder answered, “I grew up in this church from the age of fifteen through the Boy’s Brigade. I never made a commitment to Jesus; I just hopped on the bandwagon like everybody else. Because of my business ability, I grew up to a place of influence. I was on a business outing in Sydney just three years ago, and an obnoxious, spiteful little man stepped out of a shop doorway, offered me a religious pamphlet—cheap junk, and accosted me with a question: “Excuse me, sir, are you saved? If you died tonight, are you going to heaven?”

“I tried to tell him I was an elder, but he wouldn’t listen to me. I was seething with anger all the way home to Perth. I told my pastor, thinking he would sympathize with me. But my pastor agreed! He had been disturbed for years knowing that I didn’t have a relationship with Jesus. My pastor was right, and he led me to Jesus just three years ago.”

This London preacher flew back to the United Kingdom. He was speaking at the Keswick Convention in the Lake District. He shared these three testimonies. At the close of his teaching session, four elderly pastors came up and said,

“We all got saved between 25 and 35 years ago because that little man on George Street gave us a tract and asked us that question.

This pastor then flew to a similar convention for missionaries in the Caribbean. He shared the testimonies there also. At the close of his teaching session, three missionaries came up and said, “We got saved between 15 and 25 years ago through that little man’s testimony and asking us that same question on George Street in Sydney.

On his way back to London, he stopped outside Atlanta, Georgia, to speak at a Naval Chaplain’s Convention. The Chaplain General took him out for a meal. The pastor said, “How did you become a Christian?”

The Chaplain General answered, “Well, it was miraculous. I was a rating on a United States battleship, and I lived a reprobate life. We were doing exercises in the South Pacific so we docked in Sydney Harbor for replenishments. We hit King’s Cross with a vengeance. I got blind drunk and I got on the wrong bus. I got off on George Street. As I got off the bus—I thought it was a ghost—this elderly, white-haired man jumped in front



of me, pushed a pamphlet in my hand, and said, “Sailor, are you saved? If you died tonight, are you going to Heaven?”

“The fear of God hit me immediately. I was shocked sober. I ran back to the battleship and sought out the chaplain. The chaplain led me to Christ, and I soon began to prepare for the ministry under his guidance. Here I am, in charge of over a thousand chaplains, and we’re bent on soulwinning today.”

Six months later, this London preacher flew to do a convention for five thousand Indian missionaries in a remote corner of northeastern India. At the end, the Indian missionary in charge, a humble little man, took him home for a simple meal. The pastor said, “How did you, as a Hindu, come to Christ?”

“Excuse me, sir, are you saved? If you died tonight, are you going to Heaven?”

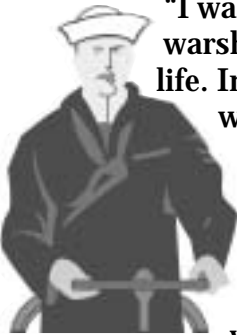
The missionary said, “I was in a very privileged position. I worked for the Indian diplomatic mission. I traveled the world. I am so glad for the forgiveness of Christ and His blood covering my sin because I’d be very embarrassed if people found out what I got into. One bout of diplomatic service took me to Sydney. I was doing some last minute shopping, laden down with parcels of toys and clothing for my children, walking down George Street when a courteous little white-haired man stepped out in front of me, offered me a pamphlet, and said, “Excuse me, sir, are you saved? If you died tonight, are you going to Heaven?”

“I thanked him very much, but this disturbed me. I got back to my town, I sought out the Hindu priest, and he couldn’t help me. But he gave me some advice. He said, ‘Just to satisfy your curious mind, nothing else, go and talk to the missionary in the mission house at the end of the road.’ That was fatal advice, because that day, the missionary led me to Christ. I quit Hinduism immediately, and then I began to study for the ministry. I left the diplomatic service, and here I am, by God’s grace, in charge of all these missionaries and we’re winning hundreds of thousands of people to Christ.”

Eight months later, that London pastor was ministering in Sydney. He said to the local minister, “Do you know an elderly little man who witnesses and hands out tracts on George Street? The minister answered, “I do. His name is Mr. Genor. But I don’t think he does it anymore. He’s too frail and elderly.” The pastor said, “I want to meet him.”

Two nights later, they went to a little apartment and knocked on the door. A tiny, frail little man opened the door. He sat them down and made them some tea. He was so frail he was slopping tea into the saucer as he shook. As he sat with them, this London preacher told him all these

accounts over the previous three years. This little man sat with tears running down his cheeks. He said, "My story goes like this:



"I was a rating on an Australian warship, and I lived a reprobate life. In a crisis, I really hit the wall. One of my colleagues, whom I gave literal hell, was there to help me. He led me to Jesus, and the change in my life was night to day in 24 hours. I was so grateful to God I promised Him that I would share Jesus in a simple witness with at least ten people a day, as God gave me strength.

"Sometimes I was ill. I couldn't do it, but I made up for it other times. I wasn't paranoid about it, but I have done this for over forty years. In my retirement years, the best place was on George Street. There were hundreds of people. I got lots of rejections, but a lot of people courteously took the tracts. In forty years of doing this, I have never heard of one single person coming to Jesus until today."

That has to be sheer gratitude and love for Jesus to do that. Not hearing of any results. That is 146,100 people that this simple man influenced somehow to Jesus. God was showing that minister the tip of this iceberg of individuals. Goodness knows how many more were arrested for Christ and are doing huge jobs out on the mission field.

Mr. Genor died two weeks later. I tell you, his name was famous in Heaven. Heaven knew Mr. Genor. Can you imagine the welcome he went home to when he arrived in Glory?

This was transcribed from a message by

David Smethurst

Smethurst Ministries Inc,

www.smethurstministries.org

Serving the King?

The days are quickly going bye;
And the Lord's coming is drawing nigh;
His return is like a thief at sly—
Will you want to rejoice or cry?

Will He find you serving the King?
Souls and crowns to Him will you bring?
Or will He find you at your play,
Forever throwing your time away?

Redeem your time, in these evil days,
For God is watching all of your ways,
Sinners are dying and going to Hell,
And you sit back thinking "All's well?"

And selfish, selfish, man am I,
Do I not care that sinners die,
And Christ is not enthroned on high,
In hearts of all both far and nigh?

Will we go and serve the Lord?
To every land bear we His Sword?
For the fields are ripe for harvest,
We shall reap, and forever be blest.

Andrew Erik Rocke



Personal Witnessing—How Did Jesus Do It?

—Ray Comfort

How to address the sinner's conscience and speak with someone who doesn't believe in hell.

John 4:7-26 gives us the Master's example of how to share our faith. Notice that Jesus spoke to the woman at the well when she was alone. We will often find that people are more open and honest when they are alone. So, if possible, pick a person who is sitting by himself. I call this the **R.C.C.R. Principle** of evangelism:

Relate: Jesus began in the natural realm.

The woman at the well was unregenerate, and the Bible tells us “the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:14) He therefore spoke of something she could relate to—water. Most of us can strike up a conversation with a stranger in the natural realm. It may be a friendly “How are you doing?” or a warm “Good morning!” If the person responds with a sense of warmth, we may then ask, “Do you live around here?” and from there develop a conversation.

A simple way to swing to the spiritual is to offer the person a gospel tract and ask, “Did you get one of these?”

Create: Jesus swung the conversation to the spiritual realm.

He simply mentioned the things of God. This will take courage. We may say something like, “Did you go to church on Sunday?” or “Did you see that Christian TV program last week?” If the person responds positively, the question “Do you have a Christian background?” will

probe his background. He may answer, “I went to church when I was a child, but I drifted away from it.”

Another simple way to swing to the spiritual is to offer the person a gospel tract and ask, “Did you get one of these?” When he takes it, simply say, “It's a gospel tract. Do you come from a Christian background?”

Convict: Jesus brought conviction using the Law of God.



Jesus gently spoke to her conscience by alluding to the fact that she had transgressed the Seventh of the Ten Commandments. He used the Law to bring “the knowledge of sin.” (see Romans 3:19,20) We can do the same by asking, “Do you think that you have kept the Ten Commandments?” Most people think they have, so quickly follow with, “Have you ever told a lie?” This is confrontational, but if it's asked in a spirit of love and gentleness, there won't be any offense. Remember that the “work of the Law [is] written in their hearts” and that the conscience will bear “witness.” (Romans 2:15)

Jesus confronted the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-21 with five of the Ten Commandments and there was no offense. Have confidence that the conscience will do its work and affirm the truth of each commandment. Don't be afraid to gently ask, “Have you ever stolen something, even if it's small?”

Learn how to open up the spirituality of the Law and show how God considers lust to be the

same as adultery (Matthew 5:27,28) and hatred the same as murder (1 John 3:15). Make sure you get an admission of guilt. Ask the person, "If God judges you by the Ten Commandments on Judgment Day, do you think you will be innocent or guilty?" If he says he will be innocent, ask, "Why is that?" If he admits his guilt, ask, "Do you think you will go to heaven or hell?"

From there the conversation may go one of three ways:

1. He may confidently say, "I don't believe in hell." Gently respond, "That doesn't matter. You still have to face God on Judgment Day whether you believe in it or not. If I step onto the freeway when a massive truck is heading for me and I say, 'I don't believe in trucks,' my lack of belief isn't going to change reality." Tenderly tell him he has already admitted to you that he has lied, stolen, and committed adultery in his heart, and that God gave him a conscience so that he would know right from wrong. His conscience and the conviction of the Holy Spirit will do the rest. That's why it is essential to draw out an admission of guilt before you mention Judgment Day or the existence of hell.

2. He may say that he's guilty, but that he will go to heaven. This is usually because he thinks that God is "good," and that He will, therefore, overlook sin in his case.

Point out that if a judge in a criminal case has a guilty murderer standing before him, the judge, if he is a good man, can't just let him go. He must ensure that the guilty man is punished. If God is good, He must (by nature) punish murderers, rapists, thieves, liars, adulterers, fornicators, and those who have lived in rebellion to the inner light that God has given to every man.

3. He may admit that he is guilty and therefore going to hell. Ask him if that concerns him. Speak to him about how much he values his eyes and how much more therefore he should value the salvation of his soul.



Ask the person, "If God judges you by the Ten Commandments on Judgment Day, do you think you will be innocent or guilty?"

Reveal: Jesus revealed Himself to her.

Once the Law has humbled the person, he is ready for grace. Remember, the Bible says that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. (James 4:6) The gospel is for the humble. Only the sick need a physician, and only those who will admit that they have the disease of sin will truly embrace the cure of the gospel. Learn how to present the work of the cross—that God sent His Son to suffer and die in our place.

Tell the sinner of the love of God in Christ; that Jesus rose from the dead and defeated death. Take him back to civil law and say, "It's as simple as this: We broke God's Law, and Jesus paid our fine. If you will repent and trust in the Savior, God will forgive your sins and dismiss your case."

Ask him if he understands what you have told him. If he is willing to confess and forsake his sins, and trust the Savior with his eternal salvation, have him pray and ask God to forgive him. Then pray for him. Get him a Bible. Instruct him to read it daily and obey what he reads, and encourage him to get into a Bible-believing, Christ-preaching church.

This was taken from a series of lessons on soulwinning at www.raycomfort.com.

Ray Comfort is an experienced pastor and soul-winner. His book, Hell's Best Kept Secret, is widely acclaimed as holding several missing keys to successful evangelism.



Rescue the Perishing—Fanny Crosby

Hymn History by Andrew Rocke

“It [this hymn] was written in the year 1869, when I was forty-nine years old. Many of my hymns were written after experiences in New York mission work. This one was thus written. I was addressing a large company of working men one hot summer evening, when the thought kept forcing itself on my mind that some mother’s boy must be rescued that night or not at all. So I made a pressing plea that if there was a boy present who had wandered from his mother’s home and teaching, would he come to me at the close of the service.

A young man of eighteen came forward and said, ‘Did you mean me? I promised my mother to meet her in Heaven, but as I am now living that will be impossible.’ We prayed for him and finally he arose with a new light in his eyes and exclaimed in triumph, ‘Now I can meet my mother in Heaven, for I have found God.’

“A few days before, Mr. Doane had sent me the subject ‘Rescue the Perishing,’ based on Luke 14:23. While I sat in the mission that evening, the line came to me, ‘Rescue the perishing, care for the dying.’ I could think of nothing else that night. When I arrived home, I went to work on the hymn at once, and before I retired, it was ready for the melody. The next day,



Frances Jane Crosby was blinded at age two by a poor medical application.

**Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o’er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.**

Refrain:

**Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.**

**Though they are slighting him, still He is waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive:
Plead with the m earnestly, plead with the gently,
He will forgive if they only believe.**

**Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more.**

**Rescue the perishing, duty demands it—
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way patiently win them,
Tell the poor wand’rer a Savior has died.**

my song was written out and forwarded to Mr. Doane who wrote the beautiful and touching music as it now stands to my hymn. The song was first published in 1870 in Doane’s *Songs of Devotion*.¹

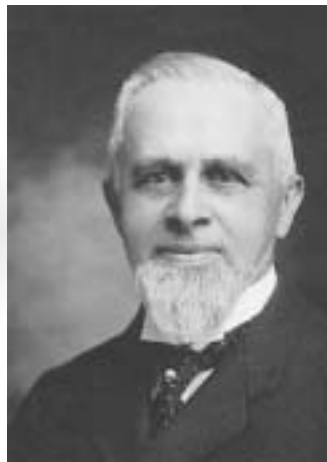
Frances Jane Crosby was born on March 24, 1820, in Southeast, Putnam County, New York. She died at the age of ninety-four on February 12, 1915.

In her later years, her time was spent in mission work in New York City’s bowery district. She called these rough, sinful men her boys. She was also in high demand as a speaker.

I have chosen a couple quotes from Fanny that shows her heart for lost sinners.

In regard to her mission work she said: “It is the most wonderful work in the world, and it gives such an opportunity for love. That is all people want—love.”

William H. Doane was a successful inventor. He held seventy patents.



In regard to her hymns she said: “God has given me a wonderful work to do, a work that has brought me untold blessing and great joy. When word is brought to me, as it is from time to time, of some wandering soul being brought home through one of my hymns, my heart thrills with joy, and I give thanks to God for giving me a share in the glorious work of saving human souls.”

A teenage boy who was in the hospital with an incurable illness was said to have converted fourteen other patients by his singing “*Blessed Assurance*.”

“*Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior*” also inspired by a certain incident in mission work, brought many to Christ. It was the most popular hymn during Moody’s and Sankey’s first British campaign.

“*Safe In the Arms of Jesus*” was another that was an extremely good evangelizing hymn. Also, *Rescue the Perishing* brought many to Christ and was very instrumental in the life of Mary Brown who would later write the first verse and chorus to, “*I’ll Go Where You Want Me To Go, Dear Lord*.”

Fanny Crosby always wanted to win a million men to Christ. I am sure that between her eight and nine thousand hymns she has affected at least a million men, women, and children. They have gotten saved, made a deeper commitment to Christ, or been encouraged and inspired. Fanny gave them something with which to worship God. One of my favorite music CDs is of just her songs sung by a full choir. Just listening to the words while they are sung and medi-

tating on them is wonderful.

William Howard Doane was born in Preston, Connecticut, on February 3, 1832. He was an extremely successful business man, but also a lay worker and Sunday school superintendent. He wrote over two thousand hymn tunes and published forty collections—all as an avocation. Fanny Crosby was a very good friend of the Doanes and often spent time in their Cincinnati home.

Most of the hymns he wrote music to were Fanny Crosby’s hymns, but he did write the music to “*More Love to Thee*,” “*Take the Name of Jesus With You*,” “*Tell Me the Old, Old Story*,” and several others.

William H. Doane died the same year as Fanny, on December 24, 1915, while living in South Orange, New Jersey.

101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth W. Osbeck
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Kregel Publishing
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Recommended Books

Just What The Doctor Ordered, \$9.95
By Walter L. Wilson.
Bob Jones University
Available through your local bookstore.

Hell’s Best Kept Secret, \$8, by Ray Comfort
Whitaker House Publishers
(800) 444-4484
sales@whitakerhouse.com
Available through your local bookstore.

The Hymn Makers: Fanny Crosby, \$12
Kingsway Music
Available Stateside only through:
Institute in Basic Life Principles
Phone Orders: (800) 398-1290
www.iblp.com

Praying Hyde: Apostle of Prayer, \$11
Compiled by E. G. Carr
Bridge-Logos Publishers
(877) 523-3805
www.bridgelogosretail.com
Available through your local bookstore.

Just What the Doctor Ordered

—by Walter L. Wilson

“I told her the story of my exercise of soul concerning the trip. My plans were to leave Kansas City on the night of June 28. However, the Spirit of God, knowing she could not come through that night, caused my friend to delay sending the ticket, thus hindering my departure and delaying my trip until the night of the Fourth of July. This remarkable example of the leading of the Spirit so stirred our hearts that we bowed together in reverence while I offered our united praise to God for the leading of His Spirit and the saving power of Jesus Christ.

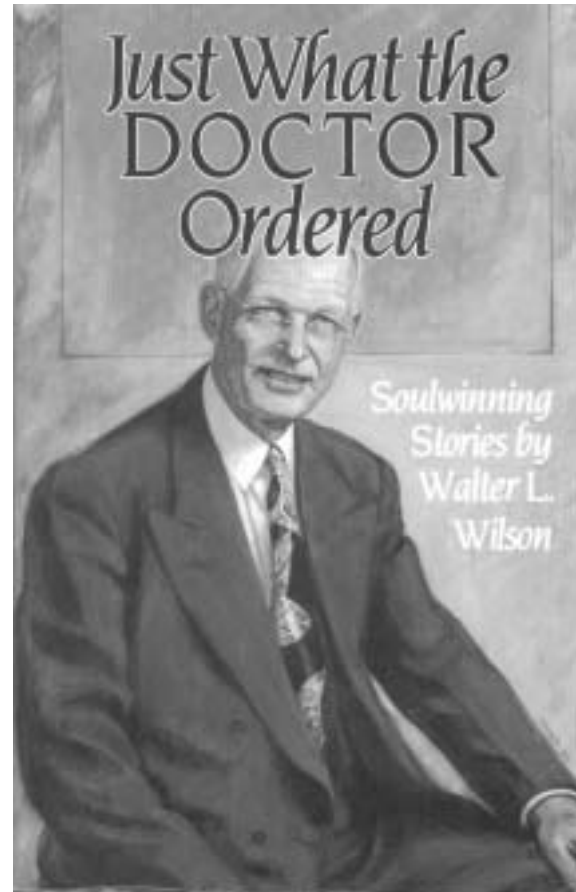
“At the conclusion of our conversation, my friend arose, walked to the rear of the car, and, as she passed from seat to seat, related to each passenger in the car the story of her wonderful conversion.

“Let me remind each Christian worker that the Holy Spirit is still the Lord of the harvest. He arranges times and seasons. He brings about peculiar circumstances which work out for the salvation of men. Let us learn more and more to depend upon Him to lead us to troubled hearts and to bring together in His own peculiar way the seeking Savior and the needy sinner.”

Thus ends one of the remarkable stories in Walter Wilson’s book, *Just What the Doctor Ordered*. This book is actually a sampling of thirty-two stories from four books on soulwinning that Walter Wilson wrote. Each story is unique in setting, yet strangely familiar in circumstance: There is always a man seeking a way to share Christ with others.

Throughout this book, Wilson will demonstrate how easy it can be to bear witness of God and His Son.

Throughout this book, Wilson will demonstrate how *easy* it can be to bear witness of God and His Son. He begins conversations with a simple



question, and suddenly introduces a spiritual concept in context of the conversation. In the story “No Chair in the Temple,” we find this:

“I mentioned that she seemed to have a very unusual line of beautiful chairs. And then I added, ‘Do you know that the most beautiful building in all the world, and the most expensive building ever built, did not contain a chair, nor a seat of any kind?’ She was astonished at this statement and asked me to sit down and tell her more about it. She herself sat down and waited for my explanation. I said to her, ‘Solomon built a temple, which was covered all over on the inside with matched cedar, and the cedar was covered with thick plates of gold. Even the floor was covered with these golden plates. The five pieces of furniture that were in the building were made of pure gold...but in all of this, there was no chair.’”

Now that he had her attention, Wilson went on to explain why—the work of atonement was never finished. After a quick visit to Hebrews to explain that Christ had finished the atonement forever, the lady found peace and relief from her load of guilt.

This all probably took less than five minutes. Amazing!

Another vital truth that is clearly exemplified is *seizing the moment*. Perhaps this above all other truths is most critical to success. Winning souls is not just for crusades and street evangelism. It is primarily for the everyday occurrences of life. Fourteen of the stories deal directly with witnessing to the people we rub shoulders with everyday—the barber, grocer, waitress, bookseller, etc. Wilson saw every meal, shave, purchase, and business deal as an opportunity to plant a seed. As a result, he harvested many souls that we often pass by. Consider “The Case of the Japanese Barber”:

“All morning long, I had sought time and opportunity to shave myself before starting on a trip to Los Angeles from the neighboring village in which I was visiting. One circumstance after another combined to prevent this, until it was time to leave for the city. Hurrying up the long road to the interurban station, I went to the ticket window to purchase a ticket to the city, and there the agent told me that the electric train was two hours late.

I felt that the Holy Spirit had some special work for me to do, else I would not have been hindered from shaving in the home of my host. I surmised that somewhere He had a barber to whom I was to have the privilege of giving the gospel that day.”

The attitude of a harvester just screams from these two paragraphs. Here is a preacher who cannot get in his morning shave. What is his response? “Oh well, I guess I’ll just have a shadow today.” No! It’s “Well, God wants me to witness to a barber!” What an incredible attitude. Wilson saw every mishap and complication as God’s way of allowing him to witness to a needy soul. He continues:

“Upon learning the train was late, I started walking down the street, seeking a barber shop, at the same time looking to the Lord to guide and direct

me aright. Two blocks down the street was a small revolving sign which attracted me, and I approached the shop. As I opened the door, a bell rang, arousing the barber who was then in the rear of the shop, behind a partition.

We met near the barber chair, and I observed that he was Japanese, a young man of about thirty-five. I asked for a shave, and he politely requested me to sit in the chair, which I did. Adjusting the chair to a reclining position, he soon had the warm lather on my face, with a hot towel to soften the beard. While he sharpened his razor, I asked the Holy Spirit for wisdom to approach this man in a wise way, so that I might win him for Christ.



I inquired of him whether he knew a Mr. Kimura, who is called the ‘Billy Sunday’ of Japan.

‘Where is he from?’ he asked.

‘His home is in Kyoto, but he preaches all over Japan.’

‘Oh, I came from Kyoto. I was born there,’ he said. ‘Is this Mr. Kimura a little man who builds big, wooden tabernacles, with sawdust on the ground?’

‘Yes,’ I said, ‘that is his method.’

My answer produced a deep impression. He obtained a clean towel, wiped the lather from my face until it was dry, raised the chair in order that I might assume a sitting posture, then leaning over the chair, with a solemn countenance and a serious voice, he said, ‘I will never forget that little man. I went to one of his meetings in Kyoto and heard him preach. When he finished, he came from the platform down the aisle, placed his hand on my shoulder, and said, ‘Young man, how are you going to get rid of your sins?’

‘Have you found out how?’ I asked at once.

‘No,’ he answered. ‘I wish I could. When you rang the bell, I was walking up and down in my little room at the back of the shop, saying those words over and over again and wishing that I knew. Can you tell me?’

‘Yes, indeed, I can,’ said I, whereupon I arose from the chair, obtained my Bible, and returned to read to him the story of the Savior’s love.”

After sharing with the man, and allowing him to pray, Wilson continued the conversation:

“ ‘Did none of your customers ever tell you of the Savior?’

‘No,’ he replied, ‘they do not talk about Jesus to me.’

‘Have you not been to any of our American churches?’

‘Yes,’ he said, ‘but they did not tell me that Jesus blotted my sins for me and that I could have Him as my own Savior. No one seemed to care whether I was saved or not. It was mostly religion and singing and talking about many things, but I could not find peace in what they said. I am so glad you have come with your Bible to show me how to get rid of my sins.’

How kind he was and how grateful! I left him with joy and peace.

Before continuing with the shaving, I said, ‘Are your sins gone now? Are they blotted out?’

‘Yes,’ he replied, ‘Jesus has put them away, and I believe in Him.’

The shave I received that day will never be surpassed. How carefully he handled the razor and me! How kind he was and how grateful! I left him with joy and peace, for his sins had been blotted out.”

I wonder how many barbers, grocers, bank tellers, or utility workers could say of us, “They do not talk about Jesus to me.”

I would urge all to get a copy of this, or any of the other books on soulwinning that were written by Walter L. Wilson. The lessons they teach are timeless, and the concepts and strategies they show will enable you to deal effectively with the angry, hurting, or felicitous people you encounter. JDR

Ordering information is located on page 9.

God's Great Commission!

Jesus said, "Go, disciples make
Of nations far and near,
Baptize and teach, salvation's free
For all who trust Me here."

He's asking not for eloquence
To leave the crowds impressed
But hearts available to use
Through which His love's expressed.

Friends, has our love for our dear Lord
Waxed cold and grown dim,
So fear of man predominates
The love we have for Him?

The challenge, friends, while souls are dying
Let's not our duty shirk
But look for opportunities
To witness as we work.

Where'er we go, where'er we stay
Lord, may we always be
Pure channels of your love divine
To reach those souls we see.

Friends, souls await to hear of Him
Why don't we go and tell
Of God's great love, so they won't spend
Eternity in Hell?

Carissa J. Troyer (19)
Stone Lake, WI



John “Praying” Hyde (1866-1912)

–Tyler Griffin

As we ponder the subject of soul winning, what soul winners come to your mind? Likely, you will think of D.L. Moody, Charles Finney, George Whitefield, and others who left a deep mark on the history of evangelism.

As you consider these great soul winners, has this thought ever crossed your mind: *These men had the rare opportunity to lead so many to Christ because of their speaking ability, natural boldness, or striking personality. I'm just an ordinary person. I would love to win someone to Christ, but there are others more gifted and qualified for this task.*

I have thought this. One of my biggest struggles has always been speaking to a group of people. Because of this, I felt I would never be able to preach, and therefore would never be able to lead many souls to Christ like these other great men in the past.

Many of us are involved in some form of evangelism or have friends involved in evangelism, yet we seldom see results. Have you ever wondered why? I have. Often I wonder: *Am I just not qualified for the task?*

I would like to draw from John Hyde's life to address two questions: One: Does it take someone gifted to win souls? Two: Why do we see so few results in evangelism?



While neither eloquent, striking, or well-known, John Hyde became one of the greatest soul winners of all time.

Hyde—The Student

“For behold your calling, brethren, that not many wise after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God chose the foolish things of the world, that He might put to shame them that are wise; and God chose the weak things of the world, that He might put to shame the things that are strong; and the base things of the world, and the things that are despised, did God choose, yea and the things that are not, that He might bring to naught the things that are: that no flesh should glory before God.” 1 Corinthians 1:26–29 KJV

This verse, above all others, clearly describes the life of John Hyde.

In 1866, John Hyde was born in Carthage, Illinois. His father was a Presbyterian minister and known to be a very godly man. Reverend Smith Harris Hyde built up a strong congregation

during his 17 years as a pastor. His cheerful personality and zeal for God was contagious.

One writer described John's mother as a sweet-spirited, gentle, Christ-like woman. John spoke of his mother as loving music and having a gifted voice.

Their home is described as “a home where Jesus was an abiding guest, and where the dwell-

ers in that home breathed an atmosphere of prayer.” In this home, John’s parents raised him and his siblings to know and love the Lord. I found no record of the exact time that John first surrendered his life to the Lord. Little was written about him until his seminary days.

As a student, there did not seem to be anything remarkable about John. Although he desired to serve God, it was not until one of his brothers died that he began to seek God in earnest.

John faced a great struggle as to where he should live his life. One evening, he went to speak with a friend named Mr. Konkle. He asked Mr. Konkle to share all of the arguments he had for the foreign field.

Mr. Konkle replied: “John, you know as much as I do about the mission field. It isn’t arguments you need. You need to lay it before the Lord and let Him decide where you should go.”

John sat in silence for a moment. He then rose, said he believed Konkle was right, and bid him good night.

The next morning, John met Konkle on the stairs of the chapel. With a glowing countenance he said, “It’s settled, Konkle!” Konkle didn’t need Hyde to tell him what was settled—it was obvious.

From that day, Hyde grew in power until others considered him the single most powerful influence for missions on the campus. His soul



seemed aflame. One young man he influenced spent over 30 years as a missionary in Korea and planted 67 churches.

Hyde was inclined to be mo- rose, retiring, shy, and silent. Does that sound like an ideal missionary or soul winner?

At this seminary, Hyde learned a wonderful principle: His powerful influence came only through hours spent in prayer—*specific* prayer for the individual he desired to approach. Hyde later found this same principle was true in soul-winning.

Prayer became his pathway to greater things. From this point on, prayer characterized every area of his life.

Hyde—The Missionary

Soon after graduation, Hyde left for India. His first years as a missionary did not impress his committee or the other missionaries. He was slow of speech. When someone asked him something, he seemed not to hear. If he heard, it seemed to take him a long time to reply.

Hyde was also partially deaf, and they feared this would hinder him in learning the Indian languages. How true the Scripture is that “*man looks on the outside, but God looks at the heart.*” Hyde later learned to speak the Indian languages fluently.

After arriving in India, Hyde’s first assignment was to learn the language, and he began to study diligently. Later, however, he neglected language study for Bible study. He was reprimanded by the committee, but he replied, “*First things first.*” He argued he had come to teach the Bible, and he needed to know it before he could teach it.

Because of all the time he spent reading the Bible and praying, the other missionaries did not understand or respect him. It was not until they saw all the fruit from his ministry that they be-

gan to admire him.

Hyde also seemed to lack in the zeal that a new missionary should have. His natural disposition may shock you. He was inclined to be morose, retiring, shy, and silent. Does that sound like an ideal missionary or soul winner?

The point of all of that is this: Hyde did not seem to have a lot of natural ability. He had none of the qualities listed earlier: Speaking ability, natural boldness, or striking personality. He was, at best, an ordinary person as far as natural ability goes. Yet, his life was far from ordinary! God used him to lead multitudes to Christ.

Does it take someone gifted to win souls? No. God *can use* ordinary people with seeming little natural ability to lead souls to Christ.

Our first question is answered, but what about the second. Why then, if God *can use* ordinary people, do so few see results? Let's look at some reasons why Hyde was such a soul winner. See if some apply to you.

Hyde—The Fisher for Souls

1. *He was totally surrendered to God.*

Hyde left the shores of New York on a steamer bound for India. After departing, he retired to his cabin. On a desk in his cabin lay a letter addressed to him in the handwriting of a dear family friend. He opened it and read these words:

I shall not cease praying for you, dear John, until God fills you with His Holy Spirit.

In anger, he crumpled the letter and threw it in a corner of his cabin. The thought that his friend did not consider him fit for the work of a missionary hurt his pride. He went on deck and tried in vain to argue with this thought. Finally, he realized his friend was right. He returned to his cabin, found and smoothed out the letter, and began to open his heart.

For several days he was miserable, as God impressed on him his need. Finally, in desperation he asked God to fill him with the Holy Spirit. Although he felt a change immediately, God continued to deal with him. He finally told the

Lord he was willing to fail his language examination and be a missionary quietly working out of sight if only God would fill him with the Holy Spirit. He wanted the Anointing at any cost.

Now God began to do a marvelous work in Hyde. It was only because of this surrender that the other characteristics listed below became reality. This is the reason God could use Hyde in spite of all the outward things that people saw. God does not ask for *talented* vessels, He only asks for *willing* vessels. It is difficult to write about anyone mightily used by God without touching on this point. God can accomplish very little through unsundered vessels, regardless how gifted they may be.

God can accomplish very little through an unsundered vessel, regardless of how gifted it may be.

2. *He knew the Word.*

He spent hours studying the Bible. It was always a priority. God opened the Word for him to a depth few ever see. Why doesn't He do it for more people? Could it be that we



won't make the sacrifice of time required to study the Bible? Perhaps we lean too much on commentaries and footnotes. Hyde simply looked to the Holy Spirit to teach him the Word. He could keep the Indian nationals spellbound for hours as he taught the rich truths God had showed him in His Word.

3. *He continually communed with Christ.*

He never allowed the pressure of missionary work and evangelism to take away from the time he spent with Christ. He would not substitute good things for the best. Hyde's love for other souls only flowed from his greater love for his Savior.

A fellow missionary wrote: "Hyde talked with

Christ as with a friend, spending hours with Him. His innermost being was made radiant by Christ's abiding presence, and wherever he went, Christ was revealed." What a testimony!

4. His undying passion for lost souls.

Hyde always expressed this passion first through prayer. He would intercede and groan for specific souls in the area he was ministering, and wait on God for the power to reach them.

At one point in his ministry, a burden for the lost especially gripped him. He began to beg God for one soul a day. Not just a casual inquirer, but an earnest soul everyday who would be clearly born again, baptized, and publicly confess his new faith.

His efforts were rewarded however, as he personally led over 400 souls to Christ that year.

Suddenly he was filled with confidence that God heard his plea. He returned to his district excited to see God work. It meant a constant sacrifice—he was often up all hours of the night, searching for another soul. His efforts were rewarded however, as he personally led over 400 souls to Christ that year. But he was far from satisfied.

He heard the Shepherd's constant cry: "*Other sheep I have, which know not My voice.*" The next year he pleaded for two souls to come to Christ everyday. God gave him his heart's desire. Every day at least two souls came to Christ. The next year, he became more desperate—he begged God to give him four souls to lead to Christ everyday.

It meant often going without sleep or food. It meant groaning and agonizing in prayer for yet another soul to break free from Satan's grip. It meant giving himself unceasingly for others. Hyde paid the high price and received this request as well. If we caught a hold of a little of this desperation, what could God do?

5. His continual praise.

One day, Hyde was traveling to a distant village. An Indian evangelist that Hyde had led to the Lord was along. This local evangelist had also brought two of his young children with him. As they were driving, the two men were sadly discussing how, although this village had heard the gospel so many times, there was still little interest among the people.

Such gloomy thoughts did not affect the children, however. They were so happy they were singing! They sang song after song of praise to God until the two men could not resist such cheeriness and joined in as well.

A spirit of praise soon filled the men, and they sang until they reached the village. They were surprised to find people with hungry hearts, excited to hear the gospel.

That night, at least a dozen souls were ready to confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and follow Him. The new converts had such a bold testimony that Hyde and the evangelist felt they needed to baptize them before they left.

What brought the sudden change? Hyde was certain it was because of the songs that they sang in praise to God while they were on the way. Many future experiences confirmed this.

Whenever Hyde was experiencing a lack of souls coming to Christ, he usually found the reason was a lack of praise in his life. He would confess this lack of praise as sin, and plead for God to fill him with joy and the spirit of praise. Then, in faith, he would begin to praise God for the work He was about to do. This would result in victories and God again saving souls. Certainly, God works differently in each one of our lives, but could a lack of praise be one reason we see so few results?

6. His Holy Life.

At one point in John Hyde's ministry, members of a group similar to the Hindu were angry: This Hyde was winning an incredible amount of their people to Christ. Nothing they did was stopping him! Finally, they sent one of their



members, a young boy, to stay with Hyde until they found some sin in his life. They planned to publicize this sin, and destroy his ministry.

The boy lived with him for three days, and then left Hyde in haste to return to the ones who sent him. The boy exclaimed to the men, "Hyde is not a man, he is a god! He never does anything wrong!" What a clear testimony for Christ! Hidden and unrepented sin will hinder the power of God in our lives, and damage our testimony before men.

7. *His Life of Intercession.*

The mission Hyde was associated with held a convention every year for both national and foreign missionaries. Before one of the first conventions, Hyde and a friend fasted and prayed for thirty days and nights, agonizing over the condition of the church and the millions of lost souls in India.



At the conference, God transformed many lives. The Spirit swept through, purifying and cleansing their hearts. At every convention that followed, as long as Hyde was in India, he was one of the intercessors God used to bring revival to the meetings.

God used Hyde as an intercessor more than anything else. This was the distinctive trait that marked his life. It was not by coincidence people called him Praying Hyde. It was the main reason for his power in soul winning.

Perhaps this is one reason we don't see results in soulwinning: We have little power, because we have little prayer. It is true that God must give the increase, but have we watered the Seed with tears? Have we cried out that the Light of the Son might shine and warm the soil of the

He would spend hours of his time sharing Christ with anyone who would listen.

heart? Do we know what it means to groan and agonize for lost souls?

8. *His sincere, selfless love for people.*

He would sacrifice anything for a person from the lowest caste in India. He would spend hours of his time sharing Christ with anyone who would listen. Often he would share with them desperately, while tears streamed down his face, about the awfulness of their sin, and the price that Christ paid for their soul. He then would plead with them to turn to Christ.

People can tell if we really care about them or whether we have a different motive for sharing the gospel with them. Do we really *love* lost souls? This love is not something we can put on. Others will know it is artificial. This love flows from a close walk with Christ. Let us seek it!

Much of the evangelizing Praying Hyde did was one-on-one or in small groups. Wherever he was, he continually shared the gospel. He used every opportunity he had, small or great. Here is a great key to winning souls. How many opportunities do we pass by for being too trivial?

I hope God will use something from Hyde's life to inspire you to draw closer to Him and His burdened heart for lost souls. There is so much about Hyde's life that has blessed and inspired me. I would like to recommend his biography to you. I am sure the book will challenge and inspire you as you see more of what God can do with a man who will give himself wholly to God. May it give us a vision of what God can do with us *if we will only allow Him*. God Bless You!

Information on how to order Praying Hyde: Apostle of Prayer can be found on page 9.

A simple question that can be used to start a spiritual conversation is:

"Do you know what the most important word in the English language is?"

The answer: "Receive. Without receiving Jesus as a personal savior, one cannot be saved. (John 1:12)"

That They Might Hear

–John Pazdziora

Almost every Christian has heard the Great Commission, and the very few that have not probably will. This sentence, the last command Christ gave upon earth, is the whole basis for missionary work throughout church history. But that is, of course, not the only instance where the church is called to disciple the nations. The Apostle Paul, writing in the letter to the Roman Christians, again presents the Great Commission.

This comes at a climax in his outline, in the heart of his discourse on Israel. As one reads this section beginning in chapter nine and continuing to eleven, one can sense Paul's mounting fervor. He begins by sharing his deep love for his nation, Israel, and proceeds in showing how Israel fell away, by striving to build their own righteousness upon the law, rather than accepting the righteousness God offered them through the death of Christ.

The Apostle Paul, writing in the letter to the Roman Christians, again presents the Great Commission.

Then, in the opening section of chapter ten, Paul draws a vivid contrast, between righteousness as derived from the Law, and the righteousness that comes from faith. No one can attain righteousness by following the Law. But, Paul says, the righteousness that comes through faith in the completed work of Christ is available to all men, all nations, Jew and Gentile alike. And then, with passionate enthusiasm, Paul bursts forth with this heart-wrenching appeal:

“How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they be-

lieve in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!’” (Romans 10:14-15)

We are faced with a series of sharply penetrating rhetorical questions, with which we can do nothing but agree. First, *“How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed?”* No one would contact someone they did not believe existed. If, for example, people lived in the house across the street from me, but I did not believe there was anyone there, thinking that the house was deserted, I would never visit them. And in the same way, unless people have some reason to believe that there is, in the words of Francis Schaeffer, “a God Who is There,” revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, they will not call to Him. They will worship impersonal gods in the way they learned from their fathers, whether the gods are plants or possessions.

Every prayer to God intrinsically acknowledges that He is. Even such prayers such as, “Okay, God, if You're up there, show me,” inadvertently admit that the one praying believes that God *is* up there; if they were absolutely sure that he was not, they would not bother to pray. So then, even the initial prayer to the true God requires knowledge of His existence.

The next question stems from the first. *“And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard?”* Naturally, in order to believe in something, one must hear about it. I would most likely never even think of a balding old soldier conquering barbarous nations and becoming emperor of a republic unless I had first heard of Julius Caesar. That he did, in fact, live and act would mean nothing to me; unless I had heard of him I would have no reason to even

consider believing in him.

Again, the same is true with Christ. Many times, the missionaries who go to half-savage tribes find that the people are tired of their ways, and their bondage to fear, but know of no other way to live. When they hear the gospel, and understand it is not just for the white-man, then many accept it eagerly. But they needed to hear before they could accept. They wanted freedom, but had no knowledge that Christ would give them that freedom. And this does not stop only with tribal peoples; many people from "civilized" societies, whether they be rich, poor, or somewhere in between, are in the same situation. The principle holds true in all societies. Hearing must always come first. It is not until men hear that they can decide to accept or reject.

And now Paul drives home his point. *"And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?"* The Word of God must be proclaimed; people will not come to the Word unless the Word comes to them. Christ came to the earth in the form of a man, that He might be lifted up and draw all men to Himself. (John 12:32) And we are to follow Him, proclaiming His victory over sin and death. People must be told; the messengers must be sent.

Notice that Paul does not say "sent by man." God's commission is enough in itself. Even if no one comes up to us and says, "I really think you should be proclaiming the gospel," God has said it. And those who love God keep his commandments. (1 John 2:3) And so we proclaim Christ out of love: love for Him and for the people He has made.

And the proclamation must be active, not passive. *"Just as it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!'* Please notice that it says "the feet," and not "the armchair." We must be moving, actively proclaiming Christ, not only through our words, but also through our love for God and man, and the outworking of that love. Paul's emphasis is that we must go, that they might hear and believe.

For the gospel of Christ is indeed "glad tidings of good things." What could be more exhilarating than the news that there is "an infinite, personal God Who is there," Who loves us, and that He offers freedom from sin and death to all who believe in the work of His Son? This is something we ought to share, something we want to share. This message rings with the truth of life; it gives hope to a hopeless world. This is the God we serve. This is the message we bear.

(All Scripture quotations from the New American Standard Bible.)

John Pazdziora, 16, lives in Delavan, Wisconsin with his family. He has one older brother.



Artwork Needed!

We are seeking artists, photographers, or anyone with a collection of art who would be willing to share with our readers.

If you would like to help, please contact Josiah. Contact information is on page 2. Thanks ☺

In the Next Issue...

Brokenness

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; And he that is wise winneth souls.

Proverbs 11:30

And I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved the less?

2 Corinthians 12:15

In This Issue... Evangelism

Abide

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