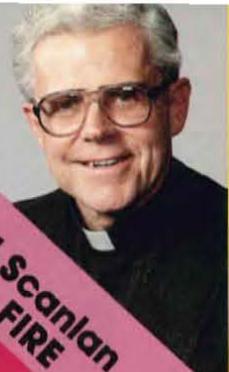


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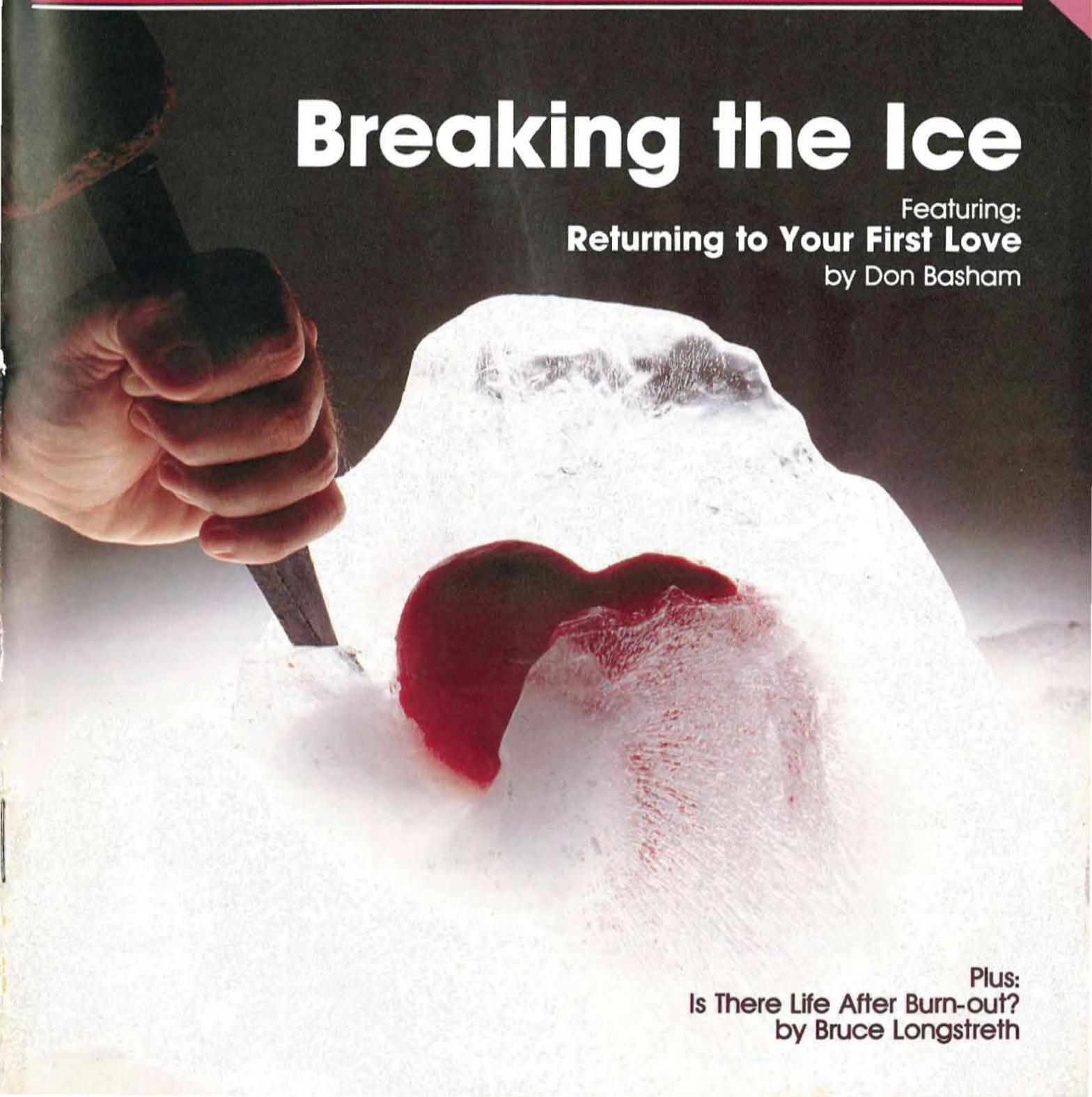
Magazine **New Wine**

Father Michael Scanlan
Spreading the FIRE



Breaking the Ice

Featuring:
Returning to Your First Love
by Don Basham



Plus:
Is There Life After Burn-out?
by Bruce Longstreth

Finding comfort for the journey

A Heads-up Approach

BY BRUCE LONGSTRETH



I never suspected that a simple question would bring about a major change in the direction of my life. But that's exactly what happened in a conversation I had last summer with Charles Simpson, chairman of the Integrity Communications Board of Directors, when he asked, "What would you think of becoming editor of *New Wine Magazine*?"

My predecessor, Dick Leggatt, had been a close friend for several years. From our fellowship together, I knew God was speaking to him about a new direction for his life, but I had no idea that the stirrings of the Spirit in Dick would result in such a radical

change in my own life.

But as shocked as I was, deep inside I suspected that Charles's question contained the embryonic will of God for a new season in my life.

And now, just six months after Charles planted that initial "seed thought," I find myself writing my first *New Wine* editorial. This duty and the others involved in editing *New Wine* often tempt me to look down at my feet—not from pressure or discouragement, but from a concern that I don't miss anything important in the path of my new responsibility.

To follow in the footsteps of Dick Leggatt, who effectively shaped the editorial character of the magazine for three years, is quite a challenge. Dick had followed another great editor, Don Basham, who in turn had followed others who have been a part of the fifteen-year history of *New Wine*—men and women who have faithfully served *New Wine's* readers through the years.

As I continue in the path that those who have gone before me established and carefully edge my way through the mine field of my new responsibilities, I find comfort in the words of the psalmist: "Thou, O Lord, art... the One who lifts my head" (Ps. 3:3 NAS).

In my new season of life, this familiar scripture speaks to me in a fresh way. I am reminded that He is the author and finisher of my faith and the initiator of

every change in my life—and I must stop looking at my feet, because He chose the path. As I look to the Lord, who leads the way, I see a tremendous opportunity to communicate the gospel of the Kingdom through the various tools available here at Integrity Communications. I am excited to know that with the prayerful support of many friends we can achieve some significant goals together.

As *New Wine* begins its own new season, I think it's appropriate that we key on the theme of "Returning to Your First Love." I believe this is a time for us all to make a fresh start, particularly those who are weary from the toil of their spiritual journey. In the cover feature, Don Basham helps us identify with Simon Peter in his denial of the Lord and then in his restoration to fellowship. We can receive fresh hope to press on as we follow the process Peter went through.

In John Duke's testimony of his struggle with burn-out, he candidly shares how he learned that God is God of every season—an especially helpful message for anyone going through a difficult time. And in our feature interview, Father Michael Scanlan, a leader in the Catholic charismatic movement, shares his optimistic outlook for renewing the institutional church.

As the new editor, I am more excited about the journey that lies ahead for *New Wine* than I've ever been. I am also thankful for the encouraging words and prayerful support expressed by many *New Wine* readers during this time of transition. I believe the best is yet to come as we walk together in this challenging ministry. Please continue to pray for all of us at Integrity Communications that as we journey down the path, we will continue to look to the One who lifts our heads. □

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Cover Photograph: Chris Poole

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear New Wine

Hit the Spot

The articles by Bob Mumford and Jack Hayford (December) pack a real positive and incisive punch for unity of believers. They are dynamite spiritual reality.

Without question, I believe *New Wine* is the best teaching publication available for new and growing Christians in America.

Lew Baldwin
Carlsbad, CA

Fit for a King

Terry Fullam's article "In the Fullness of Time" (December) is the best teaching on the kingdom of God that I have ever read.

Dorothy Casanova
Hudson, WI

The Turning Point

I want to thank you for helping me through many hard times. I've been reading *New Wine* for ten years now and it is still timely.

Six months ago I entered into

what seemed like the "valley of the shadow of death." My whole world was flipped upside down. Even so, God continually showed me His faithfulness in the midst of it all.

In May's *New Wine*, "The Way I See It," by Don Basham, was encouraging. In June, Ern Baxter's "Life on Wings" was life to me. I felt like the eaglet being pushed out of its nest. July brought the "Rewards of Waiting," by Bob Mumford, which gave me peace and reassurance. The articles by Terry Law in August, September, and October strengthened me and helped restore my vision as to what God was doing in my life.

Also September's editorial asked the questions I was dealing with and helped me learn to trust the Lord more. Then, November's article by Derek Prince took me by surprise. A week before I received November's *New Wine* I had searched unsuccessfully through our old copies to find an article I had read in

1977. I remember it so well because that article had been a turning point in my marriage. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the reprint of that article in November's *New Wine*. I thank the Lord for His love and faithfulness.

Debbie Braun
Toledo, OH

Maximum Courage

I am a first-year journalism student and I just finished reading Jim Reid's November article, "Maximum Security." It helped me tremendously. Before I came to the Lord three weeks ago, I was an emotional wreck. But now God has blessed me with courage and strength.

Jan McInnes
Canada

More Likely Disciples

I appreciated Don Basham's insights in his October column, "Unlikely Disciples." Because it was so meaningful, I shared it with my employees. As with many employers, I have sometimes looked with pride and sometimes with skepticism upon those who work for me. Occasionally I have worried about the unlikelihood of their making it. When I read the article it helped me to maintain a Christian perspective. I pray He will continue to help us all to see beyond our faults and failures.

Richard Baker
Fairfax, VA

Adult Education

Thank you for the article "Unmasking Halloween" (October). Every year I send a letter to my children's teachers to have them excluded from Halloween activities. This year I also included a copy of your article.

Just after Halloween it was time for parent-teacher confer-

ences. My oldest daughter's teacher mentioned the article and thanked me for it. She said she had copied it and sent it to the office. As we discussed it further, I was able to share my faith with her. She was very curious and amazingly open. Now each morning before school my daughter Faith and I pray that her teacher will come to know Jesus.

Colleen Sgroi
Bellingham, MA

Overseas Outreach

My husband and I are Americans in the Lord's service in Guatemala. We really enjoy *New Wine*. It was sent to us as a gift. I'd like to encourage others to send it to folks serving out of the country because we need to be fed and we enjoy seeing something in our own language. Both my husband and I usually read it from cover to cover within days after it comes.

The blessings from particular articles are too numerous to mention specifically except for "Life on Wings" by Ern Baxter in the anniversary issue. How it spoke to me!

Nedra Crawford
Guatemala City,
Guatemala

Grateful Reader

Words just cannot express the gratitude we feel for all the *New Wine* magazines you have been sending us all these years, more so as we are not able to contribute toward this wonderful work you are doing to propagate the gospel message of salvation so far and wide.

A. Henriques
Bombay, India

Please address all letters to "Dear *New Wine*," P.O. Box Z, Mobile, AL 36616.

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About *New Wine*

New Wine Magazine, published monthly by Integrity Communications, seeks to promote the maturity of the Church and the individual Christian by publishing scripturally sound content that is personal, action-oriented, and timely. We implement this purpose by including a wide diversity of Christian authors to communicate the message of the kingdom of God to all men.

As a reflection of our desire to be open to all that God is saying and doing, we at *New Wine* regularly feature material from Christian leaders and groups of diverse points of view. Their appearance in *New Wine* does not mean they totally agree with us on every issue, nor we with them. It *does* mean we recognize them as Christians who are saying something that we all need to hear. We recognize that virtually every ministry has its controversial aspects. We deliberately choose, however, *not* to highlight those areas of controversy but rather, in the interest of Christian unity, to present their views in the context of a more primary issue: the lordship of Jesus Christ. Our desire is to emphasize the common commitment to Him we share with the Christians featured in *New Wine*, and their contribution to the purposes of God.

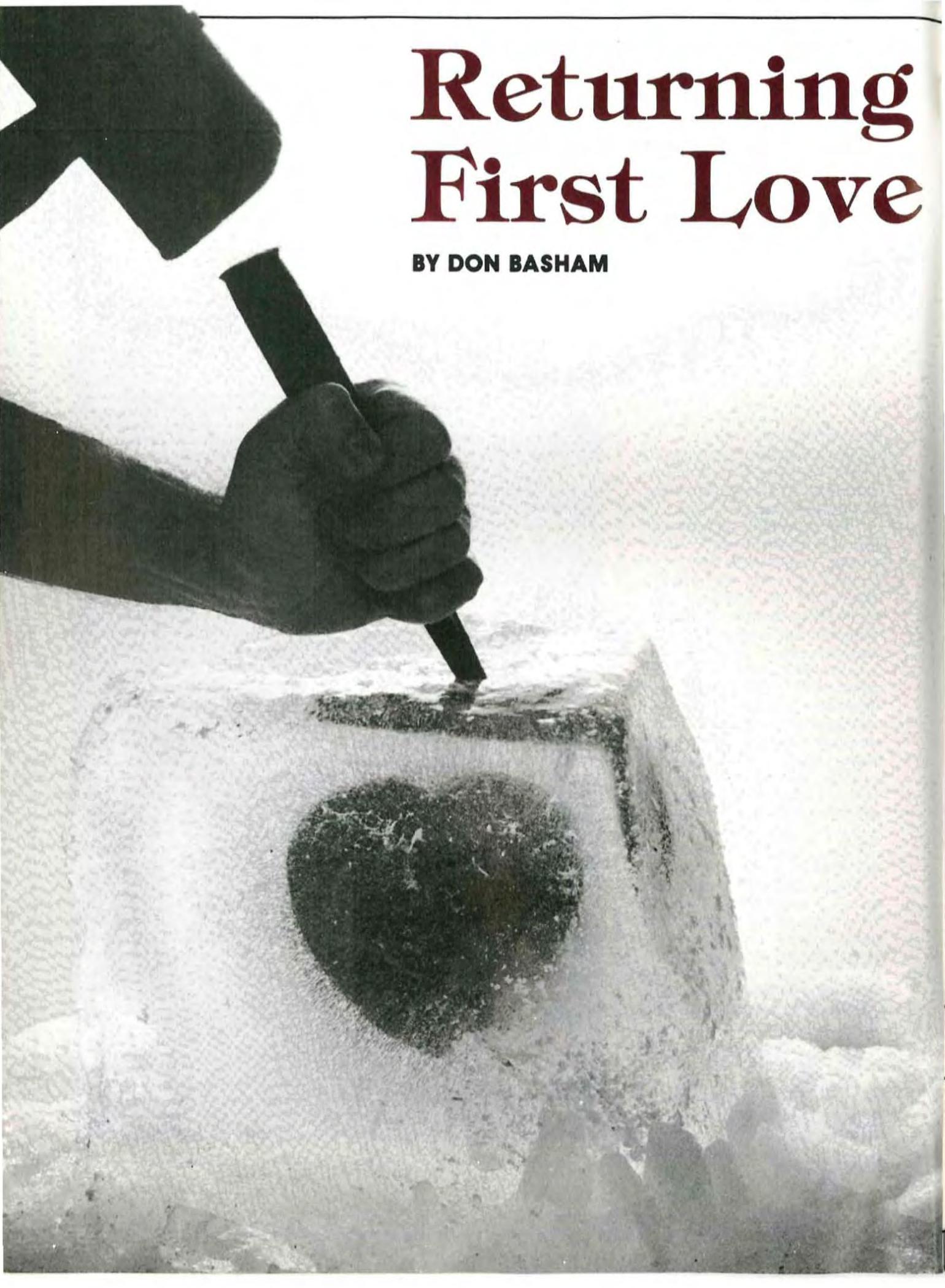
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Returning First Love

BY DON BASHAM



to Your

If your relationship with the Lord has grown cold, here's how to break the ice.

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write... 'I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance... Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love' " (Rev. 2:1-2, 4 NIV).

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers" (Lk. 22:31-32 NIV).

Sooner or later every church and every Christian must endure what the Ephesian church and Peter faced: times of testing and trial that temporarily lead to a loss of love and faith. In some cases, persecution can be so severe that we, like the church at Ephesus, forsake our first love for the Lord. Other times, we, like Peter, temporarily turn our back on the Lord.

Whichever response we have, it's important that we return to the Lord with a love as fervent as when we first knew Him. The life of Peter, a man who experienced the pain of turning away from the Lord and the joy of returning, is an excellent example for us of how to rekindle our first love.

But before we look at his life, the first step in renewing our love for the Lord is to remember three points when the tests and trials come: First, God is always with us in the trial. Second, it is His will that we endure the trial and eventually recover the joy of

our first love. Third and most importantly, God has plans for our future that take into account our failures.

Peter's Unstable Character

Peter can teach us a lot if we follow the path he took through Satan's sifting, through his denial of the Lord, and on to his eventual restoration. Although it is painful to see him as a disciple whose love for the Lord died, a brief character analysis not only shows us why Peter encountered trials that temporarily overwhelmed him, but it also helps us understand why we often react in the same manner.

The Scriptures reveal that Peter had an unstable character; unsophisticated, impulsive, and loud-mouthed, he was never at a loss for words. Although we seldom know what any of the other disciples said or thought, we always know what Peter thought, because he was so quick to open his mouth. Filled with high aspirations and a childlike receptivity to divine revelation, he was also a hot-tempered braggart who even had the audacity on occasion to rebuke the Lord. He was a combination of impulsiveness and inconsistency, courage and cowardice—a combination that made him a prime target for satanic attack.

When we, like Peter, face satanic attack, we must first understand that God allows Satan the freedom to attempt his nefarious schemes. It is both unscriptural and unrealistic to hope that somehow we will be spared the trials that have tempted Christians

throughout the centuries to forsake their faith. "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man" (1 Cor. 10:13 NIV). God deems such experiences—even those initiated by Satan—as necessary for bringing His children to maturity, because a mature faith is a tested faith.

Peter's Denial

Notice Jesus did not say to Peter, "Satan wants to sift you as wheat but I told him he couldn't!" Rather, Jesus said, "Satan wants to sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail." Jesus clearly foresaw the agony and humiliation that Peter would go through. His grace did not consist of *protection from* the test, but *strength for* the test.

Jesus knew Peter's love and faith would be snuffed out like a candle. But He also knew Peter would eventually recover, and He encouraged him, saying that once he had repented he should use his painful experience to help others destined to endure similar trials. "And when [not if!] you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Then Jesus told Peter that in a matter of hours he would deny Him three times, but Peter could not accept what Jesus was saying. "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death," he protested (Lk. 22:33 NIV).

Of course, not only did Peter deny Jesus three times as predicted, but the third time "he began to call down curses on himself, and he swore... 'I don't know this man you're talking

about' " (Mk. 14:71 NIV).

Peter's oath and curses surely marked the beginning of the darkest days of his life. It was only after the third denial, when the rooster crowed, that Peter suddenly recalled the Lord's prophecy concerning him. Both Matthew and Luke record that "he went outside and wept bitterly" (Mt. 26:75 and Lk. 22:62 NIV).

At that moment Peter not only lost his first love, but he also struck his name from the list of Jesus' disciples. The statement that "he went out and wept bitterly" implies more than "outside" the courtyard; it means outside the small band of faithful followers who still clung to their love for the Lord. In Mark 16:6-7, when the angel at the tomb tells the two Marys that Jesus has risen from the dead, he adds, "Go tell his disciples *and Peter*" (NIV, italics mine).

Peter's Restoration

But God is always with us in our darkest hours, and it is His fervent desire that we recover our lost love. Even though Peter had forsaken the Lord, Jesus hadn't forsaken him. John chapter 21 records Peter's restoration, which took place early one morning on the Sea of Galilee. It was after the crucifixion, and Peter, James, and John had returned to their boats and nets. Although they had fished all night, they had caught nothing.

Suddenly Jesus appeared unrecognized on the shore, and suggested they cast their nets on the other side of the boat. When they did, their nets filled with more fish than they could haul into the boat. Then John recognized Jesus. "It is the Lord!" he exclaimed (v. 7 NIV).

Peter could stand it no longer. He jumped over the side of the boat and swam the hundred yards to shore (no walking on the water



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this time!). The Scriptures are silent about anything Peter might have said to Jesus when he saw Him face-to-face. Perhaps he was too remorseful to say anything, struck dumb by his own folly. It was the first time Peter didn't have something to say. He sat in silence, humbly receiving bread and fish from the hands of the Lord.

Finally, after they had all eaten, Jesus spoke to Peter. "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" (Jn. 21:15 NIV). He was not asking if Peter loved Him more than the others loved Him, but, "Peter, do you love Me more than all this—more than your friends, the boats, the nets, the

lake, the life you led before you decided to follow Me?"

Peter's answer was a simple "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you" (v. 15 NIV).

Three times Jesus asked the same question: "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" Just as Peter had denied Jesus three times, so Jesus had him reaffirm his love and commitment three times. After Peter's third affirmative response, Jesus said, "Follow me!" (v. 19 NIV).

Jesus knew that despite his denials and his curses, the love and devotion Peter once proclaimed could be rekindled. When He said, "Simon, do you love Me?" He was really asking, "Peter, don't you want another chance? I haven't stopped loving you. I'm ready to take you back if you want to come. Follow Me."

And the Lord reinstated Peter as a disciple, fanning the ashes of his first fervent love once again into full flame.

The Steps to Denial

Now let's examine the five factors involved in Peter's denial and the death of his fervent love for Jesus.

1. *Peter's inflated opinion of himself.* In Romans 12:3, Paul says, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought" (NIV). But Peter, whose arrogant pride made him an easy mark for Satan's onslaught, wasn't among the Christians to whom Paul gave the warning. Before his denial of the Lord, Peter had boasted, "Lord, I am ready to go with You to prison and to death." Paul could have had Peter in mind years later when he cautioned the Corinthians, "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Cor. 10:12 NIV).
2. *Serving the Lord with carnal strength.* Peter's denial was also hastened by his stubborn use of carnal means in his effort to serve the Lord. When the sol-

diers and priests came to Gethsemane to arrest Jesus, Peter drew his sword and started swinging, severing the ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant. Immediately Jesus healed him and sternly rebuked Peter. "Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword" (Mt. 26:52 NIV). After three years of walking with Jesus, Peter still couldn't perceive the nature of the kingdom of God.

3. *Failing to stay close to the Lord.* The third factor that led to Peter's denial is found in the sentence, "Peter followed at a distance" (Lk. 22:54). When the soldiers arrested Jesus, Peter, stung by Jesus' rebuke and suddenly sorry for his violent act, melted into the crowd. One minute he was ready to kill for Jesus; the next minute he was so overcome by fear that he no longer desired to stay close to the Lord or be identified with Him. He became a reluctant disciple—

one who would only follow the Lord from a distance when there was a price to be paid.

4. *Fellowshipping with the Lord's enemies.* At the house of the high priest, most of the priests, temple guards, and Jewish elders remained outside in the courtyard while the others hauled Jesus inside. Luke says, "But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them" (Lk. 22:55 NIV). By following Jesus from a distance, Peter ended up sitting with a crowd of Jesus' enemies. He would have been much better off staying with some of the other disciples, even if they were running scared.

5. *Peter cursed himself and denied the Lord.* Peter's humiliating denial of the Lord was nothing more than the final step in a progression of circumstances: indulging an inflated ego, carnal service, following at a distance, and fellowshipping the enemies

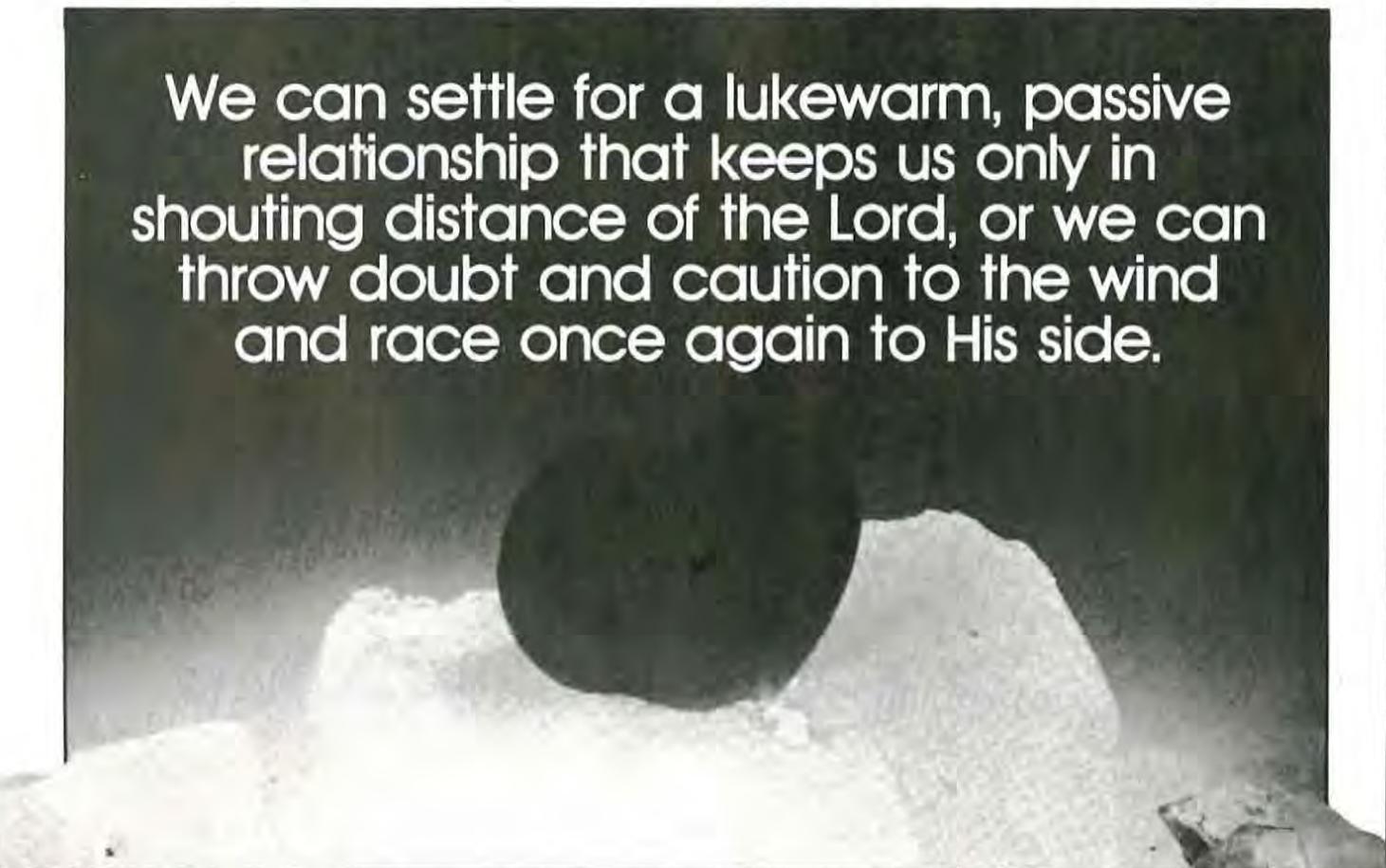
of Jesus. The last step, denying the Lord with a curse, was practically inevitable.

Returning to Our First Love

For Peter, returning to his first love was a matter of jumping out of the boat, swimming to shore, and reaffirming his love and commitment. Obviously, our approach must be somewhat different. But if certain steps are involved in *losing* our first love for Jesus or denying our faith in Him, then *regaining* that initial loving relationship is simply a matter of reversing those same steps.

1. *Humble ourselves.* Peter would have been saved a lot of grief had he been able to forsake his high opinion of himself. To avoid his failure, we should acknowledge the sin of pride, ask God's forgiveness for thinking more highly of ourselves than we should, and reaffirm our place as sinners saved by grace and believers daily in need of mercy.

We can settle for a lukewarm, passive relationship that keeps us only in shouting distance of the Lord, or we can throw doubt and caution to the wind and race once again to His side.



2. *Forsake carnal activity.* In identifying carnality, we are not speaking about gross selfishness and immorality as much as "doing our own thing"—that is, making our own plans and using our own strength without seeking God's power and direction. No matter how sacrificial our service, if it is done "in the flesh," it is unacceptable to God. Jesus soundly rebuked Peter's carnal attempt to help Him and warned that the sword of violence cuts both ways. We can neither maintain nor regain our first fervent love for the Lord unless we abandon the idea of serving the Lord "our way."

3. *Stay close to the Lord.* Many of us fail to follow Jesus as closely as we should, not out of any single crisis so much as from the constant pressure of a hundred small distractions carefully orchestrated by Satan to draw us away from the Lord.

But maintaining close fellowship is our responsibility not God's. As a wise man once wrote, "If you don't feel as close to God as you once did, remember—God is not the one who moved!"

The choice is always before us: we can settle for a lukewarm, passive relationship that keeps us only in shouting distance of the Lord—a relationship that is always just a step away from sitting with His enemies. Or we can throw doubt and caution to the wind and race once again to His side. There we can bask in the warmth of His smile, hear the whisper of His voice, and draw strength from His arm around our shoulders.

4. *Avoid fellowshiping with the Lord's enemies.* "Enemies" are not so much those who actually hate the Lord as they are those well-meaning Christians who neither understand our particular calling in God nor approve of the way we tend our portion of vineyard in the Kingdom. People

such as this are "friendly enemies." The Bible says we are to love our enemies; it doesn't say we have to listen to them.

As much as I long to fellowship with the whole body of Christ, I find it dangerous to spend much time with such people. Their constant carping and criticism could make me question my calling in God and possibly could even lead me to compromise permanently my relationship with the Lord. I've seen it happen. In seminary years ago, I witnessed more than one young man with a fervent love for Christ drink in the cynical teaching of professors who doubted the divinity of Christ and the authority of the Scriptures until their faith wilted and love died. How sad it was to watch those young men either leave Bible college or change their course of study to a more secular one.

That was thirty years ago. I don't know what eventually became of those men and their early dreams to serve God. But I do know that Jesus Christ still loves them, and still longs to see them return to their first love. I hope and pray they have.

God Still Has Plans

"Simon son of John, do you truly love Me? . . . When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. . . . Feed My sheep. . . . Come, follow Me."

I believe that is the Lord's call every time we turn to our own way. He anticipates the dark times when we temporarily deny Him and wonder if we have lost it all. He anticipates every foolish thing we will ever do or say that suggests that the cost of serving Him is too great or that our decision to follow Him in the first place was a big mistake. He anticipates all such times with full confidence that somewhere deep in the cold ashes of a for-

saken first love there burns a spark that can be rekindled.

Thank God, He has plans for us and for our future that take into account our failures. Thank God, He's always ready, every time, to turn us around from our own way back to His, to rekindle our first fervent love, to take us once more by the hand and say, "Come, follow Me." □

Don Basham holds bachelor of arts and bachelor of divinity degrees from Phillips University and its graduate seminary in Enid, Oklahoma. He is chief editorial consultant for New Wine and the author of several books, including Face Up With a Miracle and Deliver Us From Evil. Don resides in Mobile, Alabama, with his wife, Alice.



For Further Study

If you are interested in more in-depth teaching on this subject, Don Basham has a cassette tape available that is an expanded version of this message. In it, he offers additional advice on how to regain your first love. See page 34 to order "When the Lamp Flickers."

The Rest of the Prayer

Jesus' guidelines for overcoming anxiety

BY BOB MUMFORD

I have found in thirty-one years of ministry that some spiritual things don't come naturally. One of those that I was reminded of recently is rest. Although we're promised rest (see Hebrews chapter 4), we all at one time or another experience anxiety. I've often wondered why this is so. I have especially questioned it during my preparations to move to Santa Rosa, California.

My wife and I felt certain the Lord was calling us to move to California, so we put our house in Alabama up for sale. But as weeks, then months dragged slowly by with no buyer in sight, I began to get nervous, wondering if I had made a mistake.

After wallowing in this agony for a while, I heard the Lord speak. "Are you trusting Me?" He asked.

"Sure, Lord, I'm trusting You." But inside I really still felt nervous about my house.

Fortunately the Lord knows full well we don't always walk in His promise of rest. To help us along in this matter, Jesus gave us some guidelines for trusting Him and maintaining rest. That plan is outlined in Matthew chapter 6 in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father which art in heaven. When we step out of the rest of God, the first thing that we distrust is the nature of God our Father, who is the center of the Kingdom. We must place our trust in His character and intentions as our Father.

Hallowed be thy name. The name of Jesus is a strong tower into which He invites us to run. His name is the authority of the Kingdom. We must call upon His name.

Thy kingdom come. When Jesus walked on the earth, He demonstrated the nature of the government of God. He healed the sick, delivered the oppressed, and raised the dead; He revealed all the elements of the Kingdom. Thus, when we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we're actually praying, "Lord, let the kingdom that You demonstrated on earth come to us as a people." We must seek first His kingdom.

Why will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. God's will is the standard of the Kingdom. Jesus always walked in the will of God; He never fought against it. Learning the will of God for our lives is what brings us rest. We must know the will of God.

Give us this day our daily bread. In the Kingdom we live from hand to mouth—from His hand to our mouth. Don Basham tells the story of how he trusted God for three thousand dollars. When he finally got the money, he breathed a sigh of relief. The Lord asked him, "Are you relieved because you got the three thousand dollars, or because you don't have to trust Me anymore?" Our life is one of dependence. We must always trust Him.

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Forgiving and being forgiven are part of maturity. It is easy to keep a secret tally of offenses, but if we are going to experience God's rest, our accounts have to be short. We must forgive others.

Lead us not into temptation. Rest requires personal holiness. There shouldn't be anything in our hearts or lives that would need to be put to the test. I've often wondered why Jesus asked Judas to hold the money bag; He did it because something in Judas's heart needed to be tested. We must have a pure heart.

Even though my house in Alabama has not yet sold, I know God has a buyer for me. When faced with the dilemma of how to enter into something God says we have, but we're not experiencing, it's good to know He has provided for us. Entering into rest may not be so easy, but in the Lord's Prayer we have been given practical steps that can lead us there. □

Bob Mumford, a member of the Integrity Communications Board of Directors, travels widely in ministry to Christians of all backgrounds and has written a number of books about the Christian life. Bob, his wife, Judy, and their son Eric are planning to move to Santa Rosa, California, in June. They would appreciate your prayers for the sale of their home in Mobile, Alabama.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

"How can I serve fish sticks and macaroni to my husband's Boss?"



BY SHARON GUNDLACH

I was into another Monday of housework, standing beside the washing machine knee-deep in laundry, when the phone rang. Climbing over the multicolored piles of clothes yet to be washed, I answered the phone and heard my husband, George, say, "Hi, Honey! I'll be home for dinner in a little while. Oh, by the way, I'm bringing the Lord home with me."

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"George, I've had a bad day," I replied. "I'm just not in the mood for jokes."

George hesitated a few moments before replying.

"Sharon, this is no joke. I'm really bringing the Lord home with me. You know... Jesus... for dinner... tonight... at our house."

"You're kidding."

Silence.

"You're not kidding."

More silence.

"You're crazy! You can't bring Him here! The house is a mess; I'm a mess; the kids are a mess. How on earth am I supposed to turn frozen fish sticks with macaroni and cheese into a gourmet delight? George, I just had a baby! Forget it—it's impossible!"

"Sharon, I know this puts you in a difficult position, but I can't very well tell the Lord He can't come to dinner just because you were planning to have fish sticks. You'll just have to trust me in this and do the best you can. Try to look at the bright side," he added. "At least we know He likes fish."

"I don't believe this is happening!" I muttered back into the phone. "Okay," I said numbly. "Go ahead. Do this to me. See if this doesn't push me over the edge."

But George was sticking to his guns. "Honey, I have to go—I'm late for a meeting. I'm sorry, but just remember how much I love you. We'll be there in a bit. Good-by." Click.

Missing Clothes

Frantically I started to tear through the house. Surely the Lord would understand that Monday is my laundry day and... oh, no... the laundry! Fifteen loads of Monday's wash were going to greet the Lord at the back door. I ran to the laundry room but it was empty. All the wash had disappeared.

Maybe it's a miracle, I thought. Maybe God sent angels and they did all the laundry. But then I spied a suspicious-looking trail of socks and underwear that led directly to our boys' room.

Maybe I'm going to wring their sweet little necks.



I burst into their room, praying, "Please, dear God, don't let me kill one of them." They were playing their favorite game—war—and were using the piles of laundry to make bunkers.

"You kids clean up this mess, get that laundry back where it belongs, and be kind to one another right this minute, or else!" I yelled wildly. "Don't you realize that Jesus is coming for dinner?"

This is some sort of nightmare, I thought as I headed back to the kitchen. George, the Lord, the kids... it's a plot and they're all in it together. They'll send me away to a "home." Word of this will get out, and my life will go down in history as a major flop in the modern Church.

Only one thing was left for me to do—hide.

A few minutes later I heard the car drive up. "It's them," I whispered to no one. George was probably relieved to see that the house was still standing.

I heard the back door open.

"Hi, Honey. We're home."

I could picture the Lord picking His way over fifteen loads of clothes just to get inside the back door, and our two older boys eagerly waiting to get a look at the person who made Mommy act crazy.

Hide and Seek

"Boys, where's Mommy?" I heard George ask.

"She's hiding."

"Where?"

"She made us promise not to tell you," they said, staring at the largest pile of laundry.

Then I heard a voice calling me.

"Sharon."

What a wonderful voice—so full of love, laughter, and hope!

"Sharon," He called again.

Why did He sound so happy? I wondered. Couldn't He see what a mess I'd made of things, what a failure I was as a wife and mother? Couldn't He smell the burnt fish sticks?

"Sharon," He said again gently. "You are worried about so many things. Only a few things are really needed—maybe only one. If you choose the better part, I won't let anything tear it from you."

Where had I heard that before? It didn't matter. With His words singing in my heart, I leapt out from under the pile of laundry no longer ashamed.

"Hi, Honey! Hi, Lord Jesus!" I cried. "I'm so glad you're here!" □

Sharon Gundlach is a New Wine reader who lives in East Lansing, Michigan. She is the wife of George Gundlach, former managing editor of Fathergram.



God in All Seasons

BY JOHN DUKE

Finding God in the good times is easy, but can we find Him in the bad?

I have recently come through a difficult season—the most difficult of my life. Some might call it a mid-life crisis. If so, my first jolt was to find that mid life did not come as late as I had hoped. Others might label my experience “burn-out”—a nice way of saying, “He got used up ahead of his time, and he’s lost the enthusiasm he once had.”

It was a mid-life crisis, burn-out, and more. It became a season for finding answers to some very serious questions. As I looked at twenty-three years of ministry, I wondered, *What have I given myself to? What have I done with my time? Do I have*

any regrets about the way I have invested my life? Do I want to keep doing what I have been doing? If I couldn't find answers to these questions, I couldn't continue going through the motions of ministry.

I had no emotion, desire, or will to continue what I was doing. It wasn't that I was discouraged about the commitment that had brought me to this place in my life; I was just worn out from the journey. I couldn't tell if my exhaustion was spiritual, emotional, physical, or a combination of all three; nevertheless anything I did taxed me beyond my resources. I was not running



out of grace; I was out.

Even though my spiritual life was empty, people still came to me for pastoral care, and thanks to the Lord, they got help in spite of me. But I had reached a point where I did not want anyone to ask me for help. Deep inside I felt, *Lord, I don't want to see You bless them. I want You to do something for me.* Of course, I really did want Him to bless them, but I desperately needed something from Him for myself that I didn't know how to get.

A Time to Search

The only bright spot I could see on the horizon was my vacation in July. My prayer was, "Lord, help me live until July 7." I was convinced that on my vacation I could unplug from people and plug into God. I wanted a quiet time to get alone with God and hear His voice.

But July 7 came and there was no miracle. I was too deeply entrenched to be able to turn around immediately. Then while I was praying one morning, God put a single phrase in my mind: *First the natural, then the spiritual.* I felt impressed that before God would meet my spiritual need, He wanted me to do something about my physical condition.

For me, meeting the natural

requirement God was after meant only one thing, jogging. I didn't know how far to run or how long my jogging would last. I didn't set any goals—I only determined to run. I felt if I obeyed God on this issue, somehow I would have a spiritual rendezvous with Him.

So I started jogging—right then on my vacation. And I kept at it after I returned home. It wasn't easy. I've read many articles about joggers getting a "runner's high." I haven't gotten one yet. But I wasn't running to get a high; I was running to get in touch with God. I was running for my life.

Each day as I ran I quoted from Isaiah chapter 40:

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become



Whenever God shuts off sources of supply, it may be because He wants us to press into Him again.

weary (vv. 28-31 NAS).

This scripture expressed my only hope. If God, who doesn't grow weary, who never tires, and who never faints, wasn't going to help me, I wasn't going to make it.

A Time to Heal

Day after day I jogged and quoted Isaiah—not just once, but over and over again. With each step pounding on the pavement, I repeated that scripture as if my life depended on it. And gradually each day, my spiritual hunger and faith increased, and I knew that somehow God would meet me.

I was up to seven miles a day when light began to break—slowly, like the dawning of a new day. I began to see and feel differently. Nothing outwardly had changed, and yet everything seemed different.

God's voice and the strength of His Word had become my food and my delight. God saw and heard the desperation of my heart and brought me through a difficult but necessary season.

Ecclesiastes chapter 3, says, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven" (v. 1 NAS). God is the one who appoints the times and sets the seasons of our lives, and He is the one who can change them. In this passage from Ecclesiastes, the word *event* means "delight." There is a time for every delight under heaven. God intended for every season to be a delight.

A Time for Every Event

What has "delighted" me about this particularly difficult season of my life are the insights God has given me through it—important lessons that couldn't

have been learned any other way.

First, I learned that God is absolutely sovereign and totally in control. This is no longer a theological doctrine with me; it is life. He is in control and He brings the

walk in darkness (see Isaiah 50:10-11), but He tells us that He has something hidden for us in those seasons. In Isaiah 45:3, the Lord says, "I will give you the treasures of darkness" (NAS). The meaning is "hoarded treasures"—hidden wealth stored up in the darkness. We must commit ourselves to finding it.



seasons of my life—light and darkness, well-being and calamity (see Isaiah 45:5-7).

Giving God credit for the light and blaming the devil for the darkness may be an oversimplified theology, which can keep us from discovering God's purpose in the darkness. God is absolutely God of every season—not only when there is light, but when there is no light; not only when there is peace, but when there is no peace; not only when life is good, but when life seems absolutely rotten. *He is God in all seasons.*

God makes it clear that there is a season when each of us will

It is quite possible to serve God, to walk in the fear of the Lord, to obey His Word and His will, and to still find ourselves in a place of darkness. That does not make God any less God. *He is still God in all seasons.*

A Time to Be Silent

Second, I learned that God determines what we receive in the dark seasons. At times, we can seek counsel from others—even those whom He has placed in our lives for that purpose—but they can't help us. Job 12:15-20 says:

"Behold, He restrains the

That God is absolutely sovereign and totally in control is no longer a theological doctrine with me; it is life.

waters, and they dry up; and He sends them out, and they inundate the earth. With Him are strength and sound wisdom, the misled and the misleader belong to Him. He makes counselors walk barefoot, and makes fools of judges. He loosens the bond of kings, and binds their loins

responsibility. He not only gives life; He also sustains the life He gives. "In Him we live and move and exist" (Acts 17:28 NAS).

Whenever God shuts off sources of supply, it may be be-

and fail to discover the treasure in it.

2. We create our own way out instead of seeking God's way out.
3. We never resolve the issue that brought us into the season in the first place, so we miss God's purpose.

Rather than reacting to the difficult season in anger, we should respond to it by trusting the Lord and relying on Him. He is worthy of our trust and confidence. *He is God in all seasons.*

A Time for Peace

Fourth, I learned that until we face whatever issue God presents to us, we will not get out of the dark season nor will we find the treasure in it that will be our delight. I had to face the painful truth that my life was seriously out of balance; that I was ministering in my own strength rather than God's grace.

In the final analysis, we need to believe that God, not the devil, is in charge of the seasons of our lives. We need to face each new season that comes along, saying, "God is absolutely my God. I trust Him. I rely on Him. He is in this season somewhere, and I am going to keep looking until I find Him. He is sovereign. He is in control. He is God in all seasons." □

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with a girdle. He makes priests walk barefoot, and overthrows the secure ones. He deprives the trusted ones of speech, and takes away the discernment of the elders" (NAS).

When we have done everything we know to do, everything we have been taught to do, and still don't find what we seek, that ought to tell us something. It reminds us God is in control—not us. He is the one who determines whether we get help—no matter who we may go to for it. If God is sovereign and has chosen us to be His, then we are His

cause He wants us to press into Him again, because He is our ultimate source.

A Time to Love

Third, I learned that I should not blame anyone else for the season I am in, because God is the one who brought it. In a difficult season, our tendency is to blame others—our spouse, our children, our pastor, or our boss. Then it is only one small step to blaming God: *God has not been fair to us, we argue. And we become angry.*

But when we do this, three things happen:

1. We misinterpret the season

Is There Life After **BURN-OUT?**

A prescription for recovery from this
common ailment

BY BRUCE LONGSTRETH

Take a moment for a brief self-examination. Do any of these symptoms sound familiar?

- Pressure to succeed at all times**
- A need to generate excitement to prevent boredom**
- Estrangement from others at home or work**
- Difficulty in relaxing**
- Inflexibility once a decision is made**
- Falling apart if projects fall apart**
- Worrying about preservation of your self-image**

These are symptoms of a widespread twentieth century affliction called burn-out. Burn-out is "a state of fatigue or frustration brought about by devotion to a cause... or relationship that failed to produce the expected reward."¹ No easy cure for burn-out victims is available, but any good prescription will have at least these three ingredients:

First is *conviction*. There is no cure unless there is a conviction of the problem and a desire to change. Next is *confession*. We must admit honestly to the Lord and to a pastor or close friend if possible that our own attitudes are the lone cause of the problem. The third step is accepting and acting on wise *counsel*.

This three-step prescription can provide dramatic results when applied to the symptoms of burn-out. Here is some helpful counsel for the person who has taken the first two steps of conviction and confession.

Redefine Success

David was proclaimed a hero by the people of Israel for killing the giant Goliath. Yet success for David was never measured by the applause of others, but by how well he served the Lord (see 1 Samuel 17:45-47). Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave" (Mt. 20:26-27 NAS).

End Boredom

Boredom is often the result of staying too long on the same spiritual plateau. One young man, for example, had arrived at what he thought was the highest plateau, but longed to experience the life that Jesus had. Jesus encouraged him to sell all that he had and follow Him (see Matthew 19:21). His life would cease to be boring only if he left the comfort of his religious expe-

Burn-out is a state of fatigue or frustration brought about by devotion to a cause that failed to produce the expected reward.

rience and began the adventure of faith in following Christ.

Reestablish Relationships

Times of stress make us want to "get away from it all," but they are often the times that we most need fellowship with the Lord and the citizens of His kingdom. Fellowshiping when we don't feel like it takes a deliberate act of our will, but it does produce healing where isolation would bring certain death. Even in the worst times David knew that the Lord was his only hope, and he said the saints were "the majestic ones in whom is all my delight" (Ps. 16:3 NAS).

Improve Health

People who work hard need to exercise and eat right. After a hard day at the office, a light meal and an evening walk will do much more good than a long snooze. The workaholic may go overboard even in exercise until it becomes a contributing factor to burn-out. A balance of exercise and nutrition will produce rest and relaxation.

Release Inflexibility
Inflexibility and stubborn-

ness are symptoms that indicate the presence of pride. If God gives grace to the humble, we must release foolish pride to receive God's much needed grace in our lives. Releasing pride often involves submitting to and acting upon the suggestions of another.

Control Emotions

Success and failure control the emotions of people who suffer from burn-out. But the recognition and acceptance of God's sovereignty in all things good and bad should regulate our emotions. The Psalm writer said:

God is our refuge and strength... We will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea (Ps. 46:1-2 NAS).

Smash Idols

Self-preservation is our attempt to keep alive an image we have created. Jesus could have preserved His image as a great teacher and miracle worker, but He chose the Father's will instead. The cross was His answer to the idol of self-preservation. It is our answer as well, for He says to us, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Mt. 16:24 NAS).

Burn-out is a serious problem, but the Lord graciously provides the prescription for our healing: conviction, confession, and counsel. It may be a tough pill to swallow, but with the Lord's help, there can be life after burn-out. □

Footnote

¹Dr. Herbert J. Freudenberger, *Burn Out: How to Beat the High Cost of Success* (New York: Bantam Books, 1980), p. 13.

Bruce Longstreth is editor of New Wine and Fathergram.

The Girl in the Mirror

"If only I could lose a few pounds, I would be popular and all my problems would be solved."

BY BARBARA ISRAEL

I stared at myself in the mirror and couldn't believe my eyes. I was ecstatic! The dress I was trying on was a size 3—smaller than I had ever worn before.

As a five-foot five-inch tall high school student, I weighed only ninety-five pounds. Although my ribs showed through my sweaters and my arms were like toothpicks, I seldom ate more than eight hundred calories a day. Being popular was important to me, and I was convinced that the thinner I was, the more popular I would be.

The tragic result of my thinking was that I was slowly but surely starving myself to death. At fifteen years old, I had anorexia nervosa.

The seeds of this disease were sown in a troubled childhood. Most memories of my mother are of her struggle with mental illness and the time she spent in institutions. When I was nine years old, she went to Greece to visit her mother. I waited and waited for her return, but as the weeks turned into months, I eventually had to accept that she was never going to come home. Her abandonment devastated me. I felt rejected, alone, and bitter.

By the time I was thirteen, my parents had divorced and my dad had hired a housekeeper. She was a diligent, hardworking woman who tried her best to mother me, but I was rebellious, hurt, and angry at my mother's desertion, so we fought constantly. One afternoon I arrived home from



school, and found her lying semi-conscious after falling down the stairs. She died an hour later of a cerebral hemorrhage, and I was filled with guilt because of the way I had treated her.

Not long after, I began to have trouble walking up the steps at school, and could not shake a cold that had lingered for weeks. One morning I woke up and couldn't move. The doctors thought I had polio, but finally diagnosed my disease as Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a potentially fatal virus that attacks the nervous system. It left me completely paralyzed below the waist and partially paralyzed above. When the paralysis finally subsided, I spent many long hours in physical therapy.

After two months of learning to walk again, the doctors let me return to school, where I found that my boyfriend was dating someone else. The all-too-familiar feelings of loneliness and rejection engulfed me, and I fell into a new trap: self-pity. *Wasn't there anything in my life that I could control?*

Taking Charge

One day as I scrutinized myself in the mirror, I came to a conclusion: *If only I could lose a few pounds, I reasoned, I would be popular and all my problems would be solved.*

I concocted a low-calorie diet that included diet candy to control my appetite. For breakfast, I ate cereal (allowing only eighty

calories) and a single piece of canned fruit with the sugary syrup washed off, and drank a cup of black coffee.

For lunch I would eat an apple and "reward" myself with a piece of diet candy, because I had stuck to my regimen. Occasionally I would eat a carrot in mid-afternoon, but only if I was absolutely faint from hunger. Dinner followed the same pattern, as I carefully counted each calorie.

My eating was so precise that it soon became a neurotic ritual. I began eating food in even numbers—two raisins or four raisins, never three or five.

But I didn't see how fanatical I had become, and no one was concerned about my rapid loss of weight. All I saw were the pounds dropping off—twenty-five in six weeks. Soon I was down to ninety-five pounds. On the day that I fit into a size 3 dress, I was sure happiness was in sight. *Everyone is going to love me*, I said to myself, *because I'm so thin*. For the first time in my life, I was in control. Instead of everything happening to me, I was making it happen.

Out of Control

I watched my weight obsessively, getting on the scales every morning to monitor any increase. I thought about food all the time. Because my "meals" were so infrequent, I savored every tiny crumb, especially the occasional dessert I allowed myself for being so good.

About the time I thought I was "in control" of my eating, I noticed a disturbing trend. My special treats were becoming more and more frequent. During the summer between my junior and senior years, I became addicted to Banana Flips, a gooey concoction made of sponge cake stuffed with banana-flavored cream. Before I knew it, I had gained fifteen pounds!

Now I was depressed. Not only had I gained weight, but the very thing in my life that was so important—being in control—had slipped from my grasp.

It was during this time that I visited a college friend of mine. She told me some exciting news. She had become a Christian and had found real peace and happiness in her commitment to Christ. When I returned home, I thought

about what she had said, and a month later, I too accepted the Lord and was baptized in the Holy Spirit. *This is it*, I thought. *I've got everything I want. For the first time in my life, I'm really happy.*

But whenever I looked in the mirror, I faced that nagging issue that brought overwhelming guilt: I was gaining weight, and I was out of control.



Charles Colson on commitment

NEXT MONTH IN NEW WINE

In the horror of a Soviet prison camp, a doctor risks his life to talk to a prisoner about Jesus. In this exciting excerpt from Charles Colson's book *Loving God*, we see a dramatic example of the cost of commitment.

Does salvation have a price tag? No, explains Charles Simpson, it's absolutely free—but it's not cheap. There is a cost to sharing the gospel with others.

Only the strong survive—that was the rule by which a Florida drug addict and murderer had lived. But on the night he planned to kill his last victim—himself—someone told him about Jesus Christ and a different set of rules for living.

All in the March *New Wine*

¿Sabia Usted?

Did you know that *Vino Nuevo*, the Spanish edition of *New Wine*, is reaching Nicaragua and El Salvador with the gospel?

Vino Nuevo is sent free to forty Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Since it was first published in May 1975, circulation has grown to ten thousand. But because each issue is read by many people, the actual readership is about fifty thousand.

Many of the countries *Vino Nuevo* is reaching are in Central America, where the magazine is having a powerful effect. The leader of one of the largest denominations in Costa Rica asked for subscriptions to *Vino Nuevo* for all his pastors. In El Salvador, a country noted for its widespread violence, 120 church leaders recently met together—all were readers of *Vino Nuevo*. Even Nicaragua, a hot spot in the news, has been penetrated by the gospel through the message of *Vino Nuevo*.

Vino Nuevo is sent free to its readers, because of their limited finances. Integrity Communications, publisher of *New Wine Magazine*, provides most of the financial support for *Vino Nuevo* each month. But the amount we can give is based on the contributions of *New Wine's* readers.

Hugo Zelaya, editor of *Vino Nuevo* says, "With greater financial support for *Vino Nuevo*, we could accomplish even more. We have the people who want to receive the magazine, but can only do so much with the resources we have. With more contributions, we could double the size of our circulation immediately."

There has never been a time when Spanish-speaking people more desperately needed a teaching resource such as *Vino Nuevo*. The magazine touches many people needing solid spiritual direction, and is fulfilling a vital role in the restoration of troubled Central American countries by presenting practical teachings from the Word of God.

Your contribution to Integrity Communications will help reach people in Central America with the gospel. To contribute, simply mark the box on the response form on page 34, and mail the form along with your check in our postpaid envelope, or use the memo portion of your check to designate that it's for *Vino Nuevo* and mail it to Integrity Communications, P.O. Box Z, Mobile, Alabama 36616.

The Lord is using our Spanish counterpart, *Vino Nuevo*, in a tremendous way, and we thought you'd like to know. □

How could I stay thin and still eat what I wanted?

In desperation I devised a plan that gave me the best of both worlds: I would eat everything I wanted and then vomit to get rid of the food and the calories it contained—a technique called "binging and purging."

A Double Life

The plan worked well. I gorged myself on sweets, often sneaking into the kitchen for a "snack" and spooning my way through half a tub of whipped honey, a quart of ice cream, or brown sugar straight from the box.

Afterward, feeling bloated and nauseous, I "purged" my system by vomiting all I had eaten. I saw what I did as vile and repulsive. I knew that by constantly vomiting I was causing acid from my stomach to harm my teeth, and that I might get stomach ulcers, ruin my metabolism, and perhaps never be able to have children. But I could not control myself. My plan became a way of life. For three long, grueling years, I was binging and purging almost daily—one or two times a day, sometimes even three. I was hooked.

I knew that I had a problem, and I desperately wanted to break the vicious cycle, but didn't know how. Steve, the Christian I was dating, was the only person who knew my secret. But even he didn't know the full extent of my sickness.

Outside I was a happy praise-the-Lord Christian, but on the inside I was riddled with guilt and obsessed with food.

Again and again I begged God to help me stop. "Why is this happening to me?" I would ask Him. "I can't stand it anymore!" My desperation showed in my diary:

November 30, 1972: I am so sickening. This vomiting everyday is crazy. There are so

many reasons why I shouldn't: I am dating a Christian man; I have a job; I am happy . . . *But I'm so hung up on my body. It's ridiculous. Lord, hear me please.* The crazy thing is I know that Jesus can take this all away, but I'm not giving Him the chance. It can end if I let Jesus do it.

Turning It Over

Although I didn't realize it at the time, the Lord heard my cries of anguish. I don't remember the day I first noticed a change in my behavior. But as I called out to Him and began to turn my life over to Him, my healing gradually took place. He gently began to deal with my feelings of insecurity and rejection, and my poor self-image, assuring me of His love and acceptance. Overcoming these internal problems took time, but as they were taken care of, my destructive behavior changed. The Lord's grace delivered me from a way of life that was nothing less than satanically inspired.

One of the deceptions that Satan had foisted upon me was believing that my problems were unique, that I was the only one and must really be crazy. In the early 1970's the dangers of anorexia (the medical term for starving to lose weight rapidly) and bulimia (binging and purging) were not well-known, and the lack of information, which is available now, only served to emphasize my isolation. I have since learned that such eating disorders are common, not only among middle-class teenage girls, as is usually thought, but among both men and women of all ages.

Another deception I had fallen into was what I call the Madison Avenue Curse—the belief that it's "in to be thin."

My deliverance was nothing less than a sovereign act of God: I had tried to stop on my own

power many times but never could. I was healed without psychiatric counseling or medical help, although the Lord does use doctors to help cure these same problems.

Not only did He stop the vicious cycle I was caught up in, but His healing has been all encompassing. I have no after-effects from my illness, such as bad teeth or an inability to bear children. In fact, Steve and I are now married and have a healthy son and daughter.

The final chapter in my healing took place last summer when I received word that my mother was dying of cancer in a hospital in Greece. I flew immediately to be with her.

I will treasure our two weeks together forever. It was almost as if the Lord had erased the past. She asked me to forgive her, and I assured her that I already had. I even had the occasion to share the Lord with her.

A month after I returned home, I received word that my mother had died. Although I

was, of course, sad, I rejoiced at the goodness of the Lord for allowing my mother and me to make peace before her death.

I am so grateful to the Lord for redeeming my past. Now when I look in the mirror, I am satisfied, not because of my dress size, but because I see a woman the Lord healed and set free—someone who is happier than she has ever been. □



Barbara Israel is a New Wine reader who lives in Mobile, Alabama.

Helps and Hot Lines

For further information on anorexia nervosa, you may want to contact the following groups:

National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders, Box 271, Highland Park, IL 60035 (send thirty-seven cents in postage). Hot line: (312) 831-3438.

National Anorexic Aid Society, 550 South Cleveland St., Suite F, Westerville, OH 43081 (will mail information within a month, or for faster service send \$1.37 to cover costs and postage). Hot line: (614) 895-2009.

Two newsletters discuss how to treat these diseases with Christian principles:

The Hopeline, 550 16th Ave., Suite 301, Seattle, WA 98122, (206) 324-4880.

Imagery, Box 2351, Irwindale, CA 91706, (818) 914-4359.

For further reading:

Starving for Attention by Cherry Boone O'Neill (Crossroad, 1982) and *Confessions of a Closet Eater* by Jackie Barrile (Tyn-dale, 1983). □

Spreading the FIRE

A Catholic charismatic leader sparks the faith of a college community.

The FIRE that Father Michael Scanlan and others are spreading is a program to ignite the spiritual lives of Catholics in the United States. We recently talked with Father Scanlan, a longtime leader in the Catholic charismatic renewal, to get his unique perspective on what God is saying to His people.

For readers who may not be familiar with Father Scanlan, in the early days of the renewal, he guided the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as its chairman. Since 1974, he has been president of the University of Steubenville, a Catholic charismatic school in northeastern Ohio.

New Wine: What do you see God doing now that you find exciting?

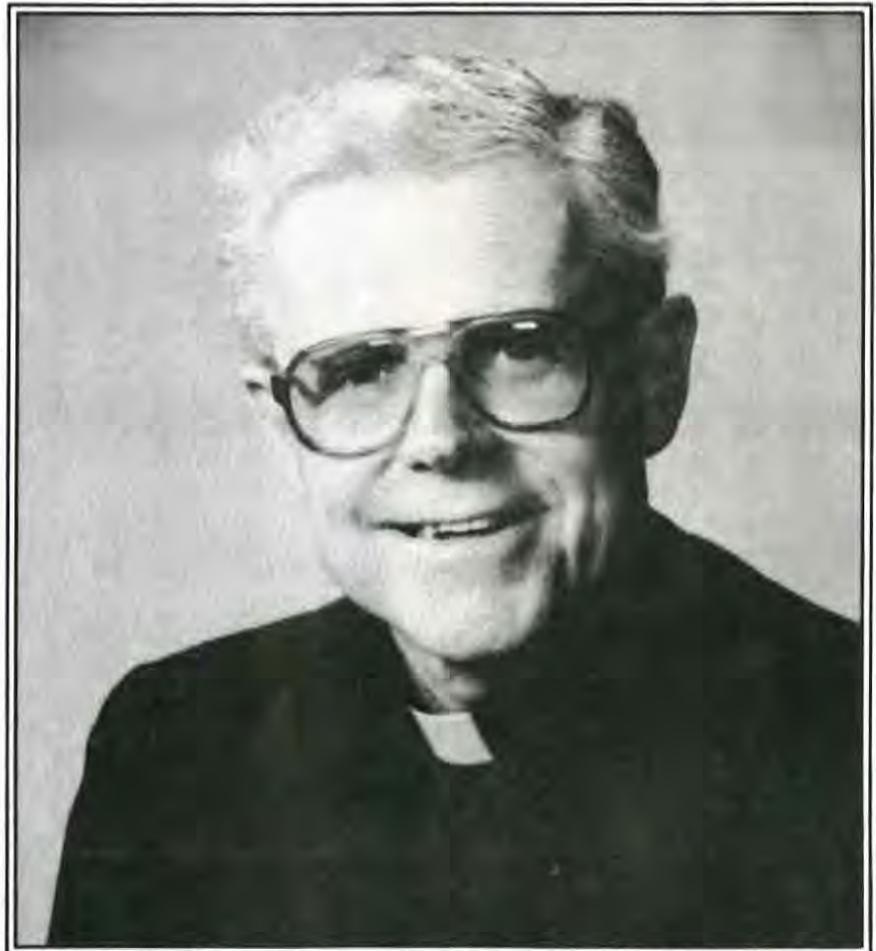
Father Michael Scanlan: I'm sensing that God wants to visit His people in power, and I'm seeing visitation in a new way. It's so much bigger than what I saw initially in the charismatic renewal when we experienced one kind of visitation from God—baptism in the Spirit, prophecy, miracles, and healings. Now it's a different, much deeper sort of visitation, calling for specific biblical responses. It's similar to what we see throughout the Scriptures—when Jerusalem failed to recognize the Lord's visitation, judgment came on it, as it did on Sodom and Gomorrah, on Jonah, and on Noah's generation. In the visitation in our day, God is issuing a call to commitment. De-

pending on how we respond, He will bless us with the fire of His love or the fire of His judgment.

NW: As a university president, how do you communicate to your students what you're seeing?

MS: We began this school year

with what we call a FIRE Rally—*FIRE* stands for faith, intercession, repentance, and evangelism. In our FIRE rallies around the country, Ralph Martin, Father John Bertolucci, Ann Shields—all leaders in the Catholic charismatic renewal—and I preach about the times that we're in, the bless-



Father Michael Scanlan, president of the University of Steubenville in Ohio, says he believes that God wants to visit His people in power.



Father Scanlan and Father John Bertolucci, left, both at the forefront of the Catholic charismatic renewal, preach about the cost of commitment at FIRE rallies around the country.

ings of God, the cost of commitment, and the consequences of not responding.

At the rally at the beginning of this school year, Father John Bertolucci and I preached the FIRE message and included workshops on how to grow in Christian commitment during the college year. The students responded enthusiastically to this message of visitation. They sense that the world's structures are collapsing, and they want to hear God's word, see His vision, and know how to respond.

NW: In a practical sense, what do you tell the students that this visitation demands of them?

MS: The name for our rallies, FIRE, comes from Luke 12:49, where Jesus says, "I have come to cast fire on the earth." That verse has very practical implications for students and for every Christian. The light of that fire is being kindled in the four areas that FIRE represents. These are at the core of what God is calling

us to during this time of visitation.

First is faith. We tell the students we must look at everything in our lives and in the world with the eyes of faith. Only then can we see that God is still in charge of the world and that His providence still operates. Just as some people need glasses to physically see what's going on, so we have to put on eyes of faith to see God's movement in this time of visitation.

Second is intercession—to really be a prayer warrior. Prayer is the power that some say "conquers God," because the prayers of God's people can alter His in-

tentions and plans. This is true even though in a broader sense God never changes His mind.

The third is repentance. We must want to repent and adjust to God's course, just as a ship has to keep adjusting its course because of winds and storms. Even if we have given our life to Jesus Christ, we constantly need to adjust our behavior through repentance. Repentance is something we should want to do because it brings us closer to the Lord.

The final emphasis is evangelism. This visitation demands of us all that we be evangelists. This is for everyone. We may not be called to preach publicly, but we're called to witness at every opportunity about what we've found in Jesus Christ.

NW: What kind of response are you getting from the students?

MS: We're amazed by the reaction: They have deepened their commitment to the Lord and the body of Christ. Even though the overwhelming number of our students are Catholic, I'm particularly happy about the strong, positive response from people in different denominations. We've also had a tremendous response in cities around the country where we've had these rallies. Wherever we go we are told that the response we've gotten there is larger than from any other Catholic charismatic event

REMEMBER:
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, IS A
 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND
 FASTING.



Students throughout the country are becoming more committed to Christ and to His people as a result of FIRE rallies led by Father Scanlan, right, and other leaders in the Catholic charismatic movement.

they've had. What amazes us is that the response isn't a result of our promising healing or other supernatural manifestations, but preaching commitment.

NW: It sounds as if the Lord is laying a foundation for something He wants to accomplish in the future. What do you see Him preparing His people for?

MS: First of all, I think we're heading into a time of great difficulty—you don't need God's Word to see that disruption and persecution are ahead of us. I believe they're coming, and we're going to have to stand and be purified through them.

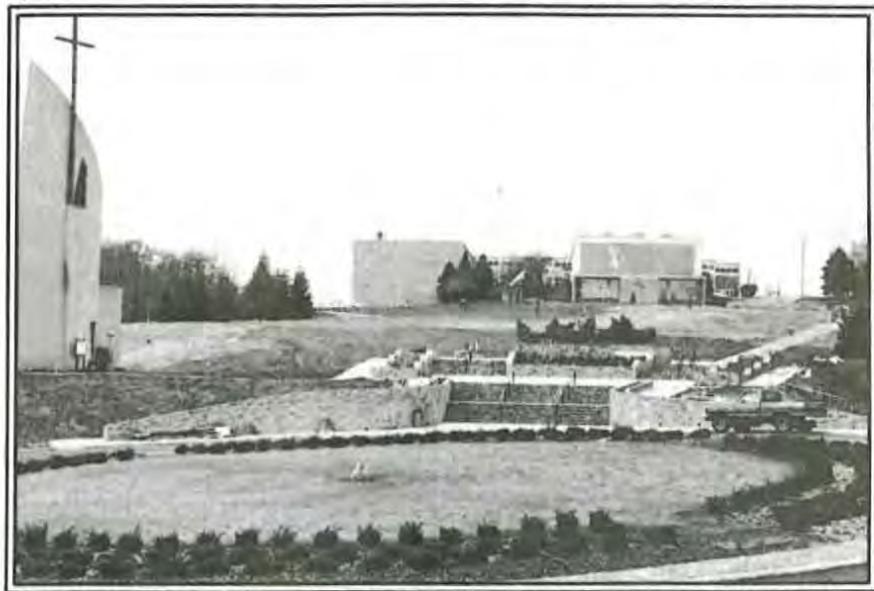
Second, I think God is preparing us for a shaking in the mainstream churches. In the Catholic Church, for example, there is a shaking among our religious orders, clergy, and seminaries. The number of priests and nuns, as well as parishioners and programs, is decreasing, because our culture is working against the men and women of God living a zealous life. A shaking is in progress, but God is building a new,

solid foundation upon the ones who survive the shaking because they're committed to Him.

NW: Looking ahead to troubled times, how do you avoid the tendency to be negative, to think that the future is going to be difficult to weather? What's the

most encouraging thing you see?

MS: The Apostle Paul teaches that if our life is truly hidden in Christ, then nothing can get to us except what He allows to get to us. We will never be tested beyond our strength, because the grace and power of the Holy Spir-



Before Father Scanlan became president of the University of Steubenville in Ohio ten years ago, it was known as a party school. Since then, he has turned it around to a college swept by spiritual renewal.

it will be sufficient. We don't have to think that we'll ever be abandoned out there, because as long as we don't abandon Christ, He won't abandon us.

There's a book called *A Distant Grief* about the terror brought by Idi Amin. It recounts an incident of three members of Amin's death squad bursting into a church, pointing revolvers at a Pentecostal minister named Kefa, and saying they were going to kill him.

Kefa's answer was, "My life is hidden in Christ, but if you ask me, I'll pray for you."

The men were stunned. But they asked for prayer, and he prayed for them and they left.

We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus and if our lives are hidden in Christ, then every testing and every time of difficulty is a time for a new conquest.

I also believe that out of the difficult times ahead, Christian unity will be accelerated. We're going to identify as brothers and sisters in Christ in a new way. Christian unity is not a matter of negotiating with each other; it's our pursuing zealously the Lord Jesus Christ, His gospel, and the power of the Spirit. When we do that, we end up in the same place. In times of trial, that's very much accelerated.

NW: As the head of a major church institution, how would you sum up your main task? What is at the top of your agenda for 1985 and the years ahead?

MS: In dealing with church institutions, I've found that the longer they've been around, the more we have to work for renewal to bring new life to them. That's been my experience here as president for the past ten years. When I came, Steubenville was known as a party school, and we had drugs and problems like any other university. But we've been committed to

renewal—and we've seen it happen.

What I stand for today more than anything else is renewed life in Christian institutions. Every church institution can be renewed. It can change and move forward if people commit to three areas: building on the truth of Jesus Christ and His revelation, living what He reveals, and relying on the Holy Spirit for inspira-

tion and power. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

There's a certain degree of patience, perseverance, and steadfastness involved. It's hard work being committed. Some institutions have to die—they all don't get renewed. But if we're fully committed to these principles and pursue them zealously, we can bring renewal to almost anything. □

"Do You Exist, God?"

A young man spends his nineteenth birthday settling life's most important issue.

He began his nineteenth birthday with a sobering, early morning walk through the Massachusetts woods.

On this cold December morning in 1950, young Michael Scanlan was determined to face a difficult issue that had been gnawing at his insides. "Do You exist, God?" he asked, not certain anyone was there to hear his question. "If You do, then let me know it."

The snow crunched under his boots as he walked, thinking of several events in his life that seemed unrelated but were factors in the question he was posing that brisk morning. His parents had divorced, and his mother had later married a Protestant who opposed much of their Catholic doctrine. As a freshman at Williams College his greatest desire had been to spend the next four years as a popular member of the school's best fraternity. And the past summer he had worked as a deckhand in the merchant marines, bunking with two ex-

convicts. There he had been forced to make difficult moral decisions, often standing alone as the only voice saying "No!"

But now, back in college, a philosophy class challenged his beliefs, and he speculated that God might not exist, that Christianity might be a farce, and that what he held as goodness might not be goodness at all. "Do You exist, God?" The question had to be answered before the day was out.

The chill winter wind made his birthday pass slowly. When the day was half over, there was still no answer to his question.

But by mid afternoon, the answer came. Without knowing how, he knew beyond any doubt that God was alive and real, and he spent the rest of the day questioning Him about how He ran the universe.

By ten o'clock that night, he was certain that God was in control.

He left the woods and went back home. □

"Shut Your Mouth, Boy!"

Life with Daddy wasn't easy, but then he never meant it to be.

BY BILLY DUKE

I was born the son of a millwright. My daddy put in long hours at the sawmill. He always said if he didn't keep the mill running, the mill would keep him running.

Daddy was also a fisherman and knitted fourteen-foot hoop nets. Many a time I saw him get up at three o'clock in the morning, knit a net, and put the throats and hoops in it—all in one day. Back then, there wasn't any such thing as nylon line; he had nothing but cotton twine, which meant he had to dip the finished net in a vat of hot tar.

We fished hard and we worked hard in those days. But as hard as it was sometimes just to make it through the day, my father didn't live and work just to get by. He believed in the future and he invested in my future.

A Reason for the Rod

Sometimes we kids would get whippings but didn't understand why. Later, we knew that by correcting us, Daddy had been investing in us. I remember one time when I was about fourteen and trying to determine if I wanted to walk the straight and narrow. We had run the nets and

come back with a boat full of fish. I stood looking at them, smiled, and said, "Hot almighty, we've got the fish!"

My daddy stopped in his tracks. "What did you say, Boy?"

"Hot almighty, we got—"

"Shut your mouth, Boy! Don't let me hear you say that again."

"I just said, 'Hot almighty!'" I protested.

"I know what you were thinking, so don't you let me hear you say that again."

He invested in me, my daddy did. Another time he bought a cow for \$150. Back in those days, that was a lot of money. He told the man that he would pay him a certain amount each week. But three days after Daddy gave him the down payment, the cow died—before we could bring her to our house.

"Daddy, you don't have to pay for that cow," I volunteered. "That cow is dead. She died in his backyard!"

"Boy, shut your mouth!"

He worked at the sawmill and he fished and he paid for a dead cow. By his example he was investing in me.

At times, we'd come home late

at night and I'd be dog-tired, ready for bed. Sure enough Daddy would say, "Billy, go outside and get some of those fish out of the box and take them down to the Smiths." We used to trade fish with our neighbors for vegetables.

I started to point out that my brother hadn't done a lick of work all day—why couldn't he get the fish? But before I could open my mouth, Daddy added, "And be sure you clean them real well before you take them down."

I was mad! "I don't understand," I said. "We work hard to get these fish and you not only make me take them to the neighbors, but you want me to clean them before I do."

"Shut your mouth, Boy!"

Hugs and Swats

Daddy was investing in me—although I certainly didn't appreciate it at the time. He believed in me. Looking back, I can see that as a father, he had faith in me. And because he did, he disciplined me. He didn't make life easy for me, because he knew that life wasn't easy.

We treat kids today as if they're so fragile that we can't make any real demands of them. We don't want to hurt them. But the truth is we hurt them by not disciplining them, by not requiring anything of them. A father who loves his child will invest in his child. Sometimes that means a hug. Sometimes that means a swat. My daddy gave me both.

He invested in me. □

Billy Duke, a member of the Integrity Communications Board of Directors, attended Clark Memorial College and the American Institute of Banking. Billy and his wife, Betty, live in Mobile, Alabama.





We had no hope for recovering our treasure

Lord of the Ring

BY WILLIAM WATTS

From the beach I could not hear my wife, Karen, as she shouted to me over the pounding surf. But the painful expression on her face made me hurry to her. When I finally reached Karen, she sobbed out these words, "Honey, I've lost my wedding ring!"

We could not have lost anything more precious. The diamond in the ring had been my grandmother's engagement stone. The ring was a symbol of our covenant in that continuing heritage. Our loss was more than a diamond or a band of gold.

We searched for more than an hour, scooping up handfuls of sand from the shifting ocean floor, and dropping pennies to watch the direction of their fall. But we even lost the pennies in the ocean current. Eventually we had to admit it was no use; the ring was gone.

It was difficult for us to give up. Leaving the water meant losing all hope of recovering the ring. But we finally waded ashore and Karen gave the lifeguard a

description of the ring, thinking that some honest soul might find it and seek out its owner. That was all we could do.

Karen, who is usually strong and cheerful, sobbed helplessly in my arms that night. I tried to comfort her with the thought that we could have lost something far more precious—like one of our children. Still, something was gone that had meant "us" to us.

The next day, as we walked along the beach, I noticed two men near the water's edge, each with an electronic metal detector in one hand and a sand scoop in the other.

I had lost any hope of recovering the ring, but I decided to go ahead and offer them a hundred dollars if they could find it. Before I spoke, however, I caught a glimpse of the object of their discussion.

I couldn't believe my eyes. "You found it! Our ring!" I called my wife over to describe the ring—the men had trouble believing my story at first. But they

listened to her detailed description, looked at their "treasure" one last time, and gently placed it in her hand.

A miracle unfolded as the men shared their story. The lifeguard had told the two treasure hunters about a ring that had been lost in the surf. They began searching the general vicinity with their metal detectors, but after an unsuccessful hour of wading in the surf up to their necks, they were ready to give up. They decided, however, to make one last sweep.

Then they heard the tone that told them they had found what they were looking for. They dug and sifted, dug and sifted, each time checking for the tone. As the sound got louder and louder, they dug out half a foot of sand. And there it was!

God could have chosen a thousand other ways to return that ring to us. I could have found it myself that first afternoon as I scooped up handfuls of sand. That too would have been a miracle. But God chose to frustrate my search. After my own efforts had failed, He sovereignly revealed Himself on my behalf.

The Lord surprised me not only with the ring but with a revelation of His nature. The universe was so silent and indifferent to my loss, but He showed me He was there. He showed me His infinite concern for the small details of my life. And He showed me His sheer delight in redeeming that which I had given up as lost.

Frankly, I felt chided for failing to trust one who had gone to such lengths on my behalf for a wedding ring. But through the experience I found a faith I had not known before. It was not a greater faith for miracles. It was the certainty I could trust the One who sovereignly orders all the details of my life. □

William Watts is a New Wine reader who lives in Mobile, Alabama.

INTRODU

LET US INTRODUCE NEW BY SENDING YOU THE FIRS

It's a special message that every New Wine reader will want to listen to—not just once, but again and again.

Introducing New Wine Tape of the Month

Here's a chance to listen to each of our teachers on a regular basis by joining New Wine Tape of the Month. All of them are featured here—Don Basham, Ern Baxter, Bob Mumford, Derek Prince, and Charles Simpson.

It can be a life-changing experience. If you have heard them, you'll know exactly what we're talking about.

"I have never received a New Wine Tape of the Month that did not challenge me, interest me, provide new perspective, or change me in some way."

—Wayne McNamara, Bowling Green, OH

You know what reading the articles by these men in New Wine Magazine has meant in your life. Wait until you hear them speak on tape. It's a whole new experience—an exciting way to learn God's Word. It's almost like being right there with the teachers.

Their messages come alive for you. You discover things you've never known before. You just seem to see things from a more godly perspective.

"God has used you to teach us well and to widen our vision to become more like His."

—Rita Donnelly, Rochester, NY

It also seems as if each month's topic deals with the situation that you're facing right then. We hear this comment from our listeners time after time.

"This month's tape was God's answer to my prayers asking for boldness to take a stand concerning the many issues confronting us today."

—Gloria Schultz, Wausau, WI

What you'll learn from the tapes

Had you received some of our recent tapes, you would have learned:

1. How to wage war against Satan and win. Do you struggle with depression? with temptation? The problem may be spiritual.

2. How to become a more godly man or woman. Most Christians want to become more like the person God desires them to be, but they don't know how.

3. How Christian parents should care for their families. In the middle of a culture of broken homes, there are answers that are practical and encouraging for both mom and dad.

4. How to find new freedom in praise and worship. You also would have heard creative and fresh insight on how to express your love of God more deeply.

5. How to pray with greater joy and purpose. Do you have trouble knowing how to pray? Like any form of communication, prayer is developed with time. We've offered some straightforward suggestions and ideas on how to improve your prayer life.

6. How to establish Christ's reign in your life. Do you believe that one day the kingdoms of this

CING...

WINE TAPE OF THE MONTH T TAPE ABSOLUTELY FREE!

world will become the kingdom of our God? There are practical ways to establish Christ's reign in your life, in your family, and in your nation.

As you can see, New Wine Tape of the Month regularly features topics that are vital to your Christian growth. And future tapes will continue to meet your needs with the same solid, practical teaching.

"I appreciate the in-depth teaching each month. It helps bring me to maturity as I apply the lessons to my life. Thank you."

—Evelyn Ziuchosch, Reno, NV

An invitation to try New Wine Tape of the Month

We would like you to hear just one representative cassette from the New Wine Tape of the Month program. The tape is by Charles Simpson on the very important subject of prayer.

It's called "Our Place in Prayer," and many consider it a classic. Charles delivered this message in Washington, D.C., to over one thousand people at an Intercessors for America conference.

To get this FREE tape, all you have to do is check the box on the special New Wine Tape of the Month card in this issue, or on the response form on page 34. Mail the card or form in the postpaid envelope, and we'll enroll you in the New Wine Tape of the Month program. Remember, send no money.

Each month you can expect to receive a new, specially selected tape by one of our teachers—for just \$5. If at any time you decide to cancel, we will understand. In any case, you may still keep the Charles Simpson classic tape on prayer.

So act now. Send no money. Just check the box on the special card and drop it in the mail.



IT'S CHARLES SIMPSON'S LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGE "OUR PLACE IN PRAYER."

"Charles's message on prayer was more helpful than anything on the subject I've ever seen or heard."

—Richard Raad, Irving, TX



TO GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THIS INSPIRING TAPE, SIMPLY CHECK THE BOX ON THE ENCLOSED CARD, PUT IT INTO THE POSTPAID ENVELOPE, AND DROP IT IN THE MAIL.

One of life's most precious moments

"Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep"

BY DICK LEGGATT

If your kids are anything like mine, they will probably use every excuse imaginable to keep from going to sleep. For us dads, just getting them to bed can be a feat in itself. But that's when the fun begins.

The excuses start with the routine ploys:

"Dad, can I have a drink?" Drinks all around. (You can't take care of one without watering the entire bunch.)

"I forgot to brush my teeth!" Isn't it ironic that the job most children avoid at eight o'clock in the morning becomes their chief desire at eight o'clock at night?

"It's too dark in my room, Dad. I'm scared!" This is always a surefire two-step excuse, because shortly after good old Dad has turned on a light to brighten up things, one of his darling cherubs is sure to pipe up, "Now it's *too* light. I can't go to sleep."

Sometimes the kids really get inventive, such as the time my youngest son, Ben, said he couldn't get to sleep because the picture of Jesus on his wall kept blinking at him.

After we've been through all that and just as I'm about to say, "If I hear another word from anyone . . ." one of my kids never fails to deliver the coup de grace: "Dad, you forgot to pray for us."

Although I might be able to deny or ignore the other excuses, they know they've got me with this one. Since the birth of our first child, my wife and I have

maintained a practice of praying *for* and *with* our children at bedtime.

Parental involvement in prayer time is an important part of a child's spiritual growth, and one that doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, it's best to keep it simple. Usually, our prayers take one of two forms: either praying for our kids, or praying with them.

Praying for them is the most basic. For me, it simply involves placing my hands on each child, recommitting him to the Lord, and asking God to bless and protect him as he sleeps.

Sometimes, when I pray in this simple way, the Lord makes me aware of their specific needs. Other times I pray, as Job routinely did, for God to forgive and cleanse them (see Job 1:5).

Praying with our children is sometimes more productive. It helps younger children learn how to talk with the Lord and allows participation with older ones as they pray. For example, praying with our daughter, who is still learning to talk, means simply having her repeat a prayer phrase by phrase. But when we pray with our older boys, we agree with them as they express their concerns to the Lord in their own words.

Sometimes it's amusing to hear what they pray, but it's amazing to hear the substance of their prayers. One time, for example, after asking my youngest

son if there was a specific prayer need, he astonished me by launching into a powerful prayer for a classmate who had a brain tumor. I was even more astonished at her subsequent healing—all part of the excitement of praying with our kids.

Praying for or with our children is simple compared with the mighty challenge of getting our kids to sleep. But we have found great reward in making this a part of the bedtime routine. It's especially good when I've prayed for one of our sleeping cherubs, and I hear him mutter at the close of the prayer, "Thanks, Dad." □



Dick Leggatt is the former editor of New Wine. He and his wife, Cindi, now live in East Lansing, Michigan, with their children, Christopher, Joshua, Benjamin, and Elizabeth.

THE WORD

February 1985

I Believe That God...

- I. Created Man in His Image**
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| A. In His image | Gen. 1:26-31; 5:1-2; 9:4-7 | Feb. 1 |
| B. "Your hands shaped and made me" | Ps. 8:1-9; Job 10:1-12 | Feb. 2 |
| C. Fearfully and wonderfully made | Ps. 139:1-24 | Feb. 3 |
| D. The image and glory of God | 1 Cor. 11:1-10; Jas. 3:9 | Feb. 4 |
| E. The image of God renewed | Eph. 4:20-29 | Feb. 5 |
| F. The image of his Creator renewed | Col. 3:1-11 | Feb. 6 |
- II. Banished Man From His Presence Because of Sin and Disobedience**
- | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------|
| A. "So the Lord God banished him" | Gen. 3:1-24 | Feb. 7 |
| B. "I am grieved that I have made them" | Gen. 6:1-13 | Feb. 8 |
| C. God's glory turned to shame | Ps. 4:1-3 | Feb. 9 |
| D. Wicked from birth | Ps. 14:1-3; 58:1-5 | Feb. 10 |
| E. "We have sinned as our fathers did" | Ps. 106:1-48 | Feb. 11 |
| F. The whole head is sick | Is. 1:1-9 | Feb. 12 |
| G. All have sinned and fallen short | Rom. 3:23 | Feb. 13 |
- III. Promised Man Salvation and Full Restoration**
- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------|
| A. To Adam, Noah, and Israel | Gen. 8:20-22; Hab. 2:14 | Feb. 14 |
| B. To Abraham—all nations will be blessed | Gen. 22:1-18 | Feb. 15 |
| C. To David—a son and an eternal throne | 2 Sam. 7:1-29 | Feb. 16 |
| D. To the Israelites—a ruler from their nation | Is. 9:1-7; Mic. 5:2 | Feb. 17 |
| E. To Jeremiah—every man will know the Lord | Jer. 31:31-37 | Feb. 18 |
| F. To Ezekiel—God's law in their hearts | Ezek. 36:22-38 | Feb. 19 |
| G. To us—a Savior, Christ the Lord | Lk. 1:46-55, 67-79; 2:29-32 | Feb. 20 |
- IV. Restored Man Fully in His Image in Christ**
- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------|
| A. Incarnation—restored in Christ | Heb. 1:1-14 | Feb. 21 |
| B. Reconciliation—brought back to God | Rom. 5:1-11 | Feb. 22 |
| C. Re-creation—beginning a new order | 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Col. 2:16-23 | Feb. 23 |
| D. Affiliation—called to be sons | 1 Jn. 3:1-24 | Feb. 24 |
| E. Regeneration—born into God's family | Rom. 8:1-17 | Feb. 25 |
| F. Repatriation—brought to glory | Heb. 2:1-18 | Feb. 26 |
| G. Substantiation—eternally joined to Him | Rom. 8:28-39 | Feb. 27 |
| H. Illumination—walk in the light | 1 Th. 5:1-11 | Feb. 28 |

A monthly Bible study by Bruce Longstreth

Some mountains are meant for climbing,
not casting into the sea

The Other Side of Miracles

BY DON BASHAM



Occasionally, even during the toughest of times, you may hear a word from God that makes all the difference—just the word you need to see you through. I recall a time when such a word came to me.

It had been a long week filled with nothing but frustrations and hassles. Too weary to pray and too bruised to be spiritual, my wife, Alice, and I sat together on the couch, numbly grateful for having slipped sideways through the day with no new crises erupting.

"Whatever happened to the victorious Christian life?" I wondered aloud.

Alice reached over and squeezed my hand. "Honey," she said, "*sometimes, just to endure is victory.*"

It was a truth so simple yet so encouraging I knew it had to be from God.

Too often we act as if being the right kind of Christian requires a string of answered prayers or a series of spiritual successes. But God has called us to be faithful, not successful. Although it is true that most Christian testimonies affirm God's power to bring us from sin to salvation, from sickness to health, or from poverty to prosperity, we need to keep in mind that an instantaneous transformation by His grace is more the exception than the rule.

My dear old friend Rufus Moseley used to say, "God is a bit sparing with His miracles. If there weren't any, we'd all be goners, but if there were too many, we'd all become lazy."

Miracles may take us to the mountaintop but endurance is needed in the valley. In fact, there can be no mountain peaks without valleys in between. Testimony to miracles notwithstanding, the Bible abounds in advice about the necessity for endurance.

In warning of the perils of the last days, Jesus concludes, "But the one who endures to the end, it is he who shall be saved" (Mt. 24:13 NAS). Paul says that love "endures all things" (1 Cor. 13:7

NAS), and that we must "endure hardship" (2 Tim. 4:5 NAS). James says, "We count those blessed who endured" (Jas. 5:11 NAS). So although there are those spectacular victories that reflect an instantaneous intervention of God, far more often it is through the measured strength and faith God provides for endurance that we experience eventual victory.

Let me discourage no one from praying for God's miraculous intervention. But let not our desire for the spectacular blind us to the availability of quiet daily grace, which—like manna to the Israelites—can sustain and strengthen us to endure the trials we cannot escape and work through those difficulties we cannot cast aside. David said, "I waited patiently for the Lord" (Ps. 40:1 NAS).

Perhaps you feel hemmed in by walls too high to leap over, or surrounded by mountains of difficulty that your faith can't seem to move—with no sign of a miracle anywhere on the horizon. I know the feeling well. But finding yourself in such a narrow place is no reason to grieve; simply being there does not signify defeat. God is still present with grace to endure. After all, some walls are meant for leaning on rather than leaping over, and some mountains are meant for climbing rather than casting. Some of life's experiences are destined to be endured rather than enjoyed.

So during those long and unyielding days when quick answers and happy solutions are nowhere to be found, why not lean into the Lord and accept His comforting reminder, "*Sometimes, just to endure is victory*"? It may prove just the right word to see you through.

At least, that's the way I see it. □

Don Basham is chief editorial consultant for New Wine.

“...the greatest reward I have found from our new lifestyle is enjoying Ern’s new physical health.”

RUTH BAXTER

NUTRITION AND HEALTH: A WIFE’S CONCERN

A NEW LIFESTYLE

When Ern Baxter experienced a close brush with death, he and his wife Ruth realized that a radical change in their lifestyle was essential. With God’s intervention and the help of the Weimar Institute, he and Ruth began to rebuild his health and vigor. Ruth’s faithful and enthusiastic support of their new lifestyle has made the critical difference for Ern. Her creativity and ingenuity in meal planning and preparation have made “health food” a delight to enjoy.

8 STEPS TO BETTER HEALTH

These eight steps are based on using the natural healing and maintenance elements which God has placed in our environment:

1. NUTRITION
2. EXERCISE
3. WATER
4. SUNLIGHT
5. TEMPERANCE
6. AIR
7. REST
8. TRUST in divine power

RECIPES YOU CAN USE

Try this tasty, healthful sample of one of the 22 recipes and menus you’ll find in *Almost Died*:

Polynesian Bars

3 c. rolled oats 1/3 c. chopped nuts
1 c. whole wheat flour
1 c. unsweetened coconut
1 c. fresh orange juice
Mix flour, oats, coconut and nuts. Add orange juice and moisten thoroughly. In a 9” x 12” pyrex baking dish, put 1/2 of this mixture and pat down. Spread filling on this and put rest of oatmeal mixture on top and pat down. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until lightly browned.



THIS BOOK CAN HELP

“The issues Ern raises in this book must be faced by everyone. His dramatic story provides us all with both a hope and a challenge: death can be delayed, disease can be prevented, and health can be restored!”

Dr. Henri Weibe, The Weimar Institute

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