

# Vista 2000

A Publication of The General Council of the Christian Church of North America  
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## We Believe . . .

the Bible to be the infallible Word of God. • in One God, distinct in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. • Jesus Christ is the Incarnate Son of God, the Only Savior of mankind, through whose death atonement was made for our sins. • in a personal devil, served by demon spirits, who will be cast eternally into the Lake of Fire. • in regeneration, (new birth), through faith in Jesus Christ. • in Water Baptism by simple immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. • in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, subsequent to salvation, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. • in the Lord's Supper to be shared in regularly as a reminder of our Lord's death. • in the Apostolic regulations regarding foods and practices that injure the body and offend the holiness of God. • in the healing of the sick in response to the prayer of faith. • in the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ. • in the bodily resurrection of the dead.

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## Vista 2000

Values • Integrity • Spirituality • Teaching • Authority of the Bible



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## Editorial



### *"Moving right along. . ."*

We hope that you were pleased with our initial attempt to bring substantive change to VISTA beginning with the special Millennium Issue. (If you do not yet subscribe to VISTA and would like to view the Millennium Issue, you may do so at the CCNA web site —[www.ccna.org](http://www.ccna.org)). Making VISTA *your* magazine while bringing honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ remains our earnest goal. To facilitate the "flow" of information from the local church including testimonies, events, and matters of interest, we are asking each pastor to appoint a Church Reporter to serve as a liaison between the church and VISTA. This will result in accounts of events reported in a more timely manner—rather than as Ancient History. (A church reporter should own or have access to a computer so that information may be sent to VISTA by E-mail—[ccnavista@aol.com](mailto:ccnavista@aol.com))

Of particular concern, of course, are the testimonies of brothers and sisters experiencing the fullness of the power of God in their lives. These need to be shouted from the rooftops because the Lord does still confirm His word with signs and wonders. We hope that this publication will serve as a forum for the dissemination of these wonderful accounts of expressions of God's love through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Recently, a call for prayer for a brother in need went out by mail to our churches. For those who have Internet access, the CCNA web site also features a Guest Book which can also serve as a place to post prayer requests. It is my continued hope that **all** CCNA churches will one day have the ability to communicate instantly with one another via the World Wide Web. (Instant Prayer Chain!)

We remain honored to serve the Lord and the CCNA through this ministry.

Rev. Eric R Towse  
Editor





## The Stigma of the Cross

by Rev. John DelTurco  
General Overseer



Jesus has borne His cross and borne it well. His work is completed. He does not ask us to pick up **His** cross. He asks us to pick up **ours**. That is why the cross still bears such stigma. We, as believers, must take up our own crosses in order to follow Christ. Taking up that cross may not be pleasant or easy, but it is necessary. I repeat, we are not called upon to bear the cross of Christ—only He can do that. Neither are we called upon to bear someone else's cross. It is easier to bear the cross of another. It is difficult, but necessary, to bear our own crosses.

It seems that there are other things in our lives that take priority over the cross today. No one wants to talk about bearing one's cross. I believe that this new millennium, the twenty-first century, is going to be a time when God's people are going to come back to the cross. Why is there a stigma attached to bearing one's cross? Why do God's people shun the cross? Why is it necessary to bear our crosses?

### The First Reason for the Stigma of the Cross is the Separation It Represents

When we take up our cross to follow Christ we are separated from everything. The cross separated Jesus from His family and friends. He hung on the cross; they didn't. The cross we bear will have the same effect. If we follow Christ and place our lives totally at His disposal, we may be separated from our family and friends. We may be separated from our ideals. We may be separated from our most prized possessions. The cross is a place of separation. This separation, however, has a positive aspect as well. Not only may we face separation from the things we have held dear, but we may also experience a divine separation from the power of sin.

No one had to tell me, when I was born-again, that I needed to be separated from the world. When you bear your cross, you'll have no difficulty being separated from sin. It's when we reject the cross, sin becomes apparent. The Lord Jesus Christ, in dying for us, bore all of our sins in His body. Even more, He took upon Himself our inherited sinful nature. That thing which we inherited from Adam, that thing which seems to drive us to sin, was nailed with Christ to the cross. When we follow Jesus to the

cross, the stranglehold that sin once held on our lives is broken. Just as our acceptance of Christ has separated us from the eternal penalty of sin, so our willingness to take up our cross with Jesus separates us from the power of sin. Calvary is a place of separation.

### Calvary Is Also A Place Of Desertion

When Jesus was handing out food, healing sick people, and raising the dead, masses thronged about Him. By the time He reached Calvary, most of them had deserted Him. At Calvary His enemies far outnumbered His friends. Even the disciples who had walked with Him so closely fled in fear. Those who would truly be Christ's disciples should expect desertion. Those who do not understand the message of Christ, and those who understand the message but reject it, will desert the one who goes to the cross with our Lord. Calvary is a place of desertion.

### Calvary Is Also A Place Of Misunderstanding

Many people avoid it for this reason. Jesus' own mother could not understand the cross. She stood weeping. Peter did not understand it. He cut off the ear of one man who tried to take Jesus to the cross. Calvary is a place of misunderstanding. When we are genuinely saved and take up the cross to follow the Lord, some of our best friends will say, "I do not understand you any more." They may not understand why we no longer desire the things we once desired. They may not understand our new interest in God's Word.

Only God, and those who receive life through His Son, can truly understand the cross. The unregenerate man, the man who has not been washed in the blood of Christ, cannot understand what the cross represents. To him it is a mystery; a place of misunderstanding. There are too many unregenerate men on our church boards, or in church leadership, who are not washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. Consequently, they hinder the work of God, because they do not understand the program of God, nor the direction that must be taken.

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### **Calvary Is Also A Place Of Ridicule**

At Calvary the priests sneered at Jesus. Crowds gathered to watch Him die. They wagged their heads and mocked Him, saying, "If you could tear down the temple and raise it up again in three days, why don't you come down from the cross?"

Most of us don't like ridicule. For that reason, we stay away from Calvary. We may be willing to accept the salvation Jesus gives us, but we are not willing to take up our cross and follow Him to the place of crucifixion. But Jesus could not have saved the world without Calvary. There could be no Holy Communion without Calvary. There could be no life, strength, edification, joy, nor peace without Calvary. There is no victory without the cross.

Likewise, we cannot be His true disciples without going to Calvary ourselves, in our own personal way. The trip to Calvary will include ridicule. Cruel soldiers cursed Jesus, and elite priests, dressed in the finest of garments, laughed at Him. Some of us could not stand that. If someone were to accuse us of being fanatics, or "holy rollers", or old fashion, some of us would leave the good church we attend and go hide in a church that is as cold as ice. To avoid ridicule we would run to a church that is as lifeless as a sepulchre and sit there, week after week, among the dead.

Ridicule is more than many believers can endure. But this is not what God wants from us. Jesus bore ridicule, and He expects us to bear our own crosses and follow Him, even if the path is one of ridicule.

### **Calvary Is Also A Place Of Humiliation**

There is no pride at Calvary. When Jesus came to Calvary the executioners divested Him of everything he had. They hung Him naked before the crowd and gambled for His cloak. Humiliation is part of bearing the cross.

Before we can be truly effective for Christ, before we can be His disciples, we must realize that there is nothing in us worthy of God's grace. We must realize that our pride is totally without basis. Sometimes we must be publicly humiliated before coming to this realization. Jesus, though He could have called on angels from heaven to hide His nakedness and rescue Him from His place of humiliation, allowed Himself to become a public spectacle. Now, He calls upon us to follow Him there.

It is not so much that God wants us to be humiliated, anymore than He wants us to be ridiculed or misunderstood or deserted or separated from the things we love. Nevertheless, God wants us to be as willing to bear humiliation as Christ was. Sometimes the way of the cross is a humiliating path. If the Son of God, pure and perfect, could face the humiliation being executed with the wicked, than we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, should be able to

bear the humiliation that comes into our lives.

### **A Place Of Submission**

Calvary, in still a greater sense, was a place of submission. One of the things we have inherited from Adam is a free will. That will is strong. We want to have our own way. We want to go where we want to go. We want to be what we want to be. We want to live the way we want to live. Calvary, on the other hand, is a place of submission. Calvary is a place where we must say, "Not my will, but Thy will be done."

Calvary is a place where we must submit to the will of God. When we go to the cross, our will is no longer important. It is no longer important where we want to go. It is no longer important where we want to be. The only thing that is important is that Christ said, "Take up thy cross and follow Me." Calvary is a place where that strong will we have inherited from Adam is nailed to the cross of Roman crucifixion. If we would follow Christ we must realize that our will is now His will.

### **A Place of Sacrifice**

We may further describe Calvary as a place of sacrifice. Jesus, as the Lamb of God, was the fulfillment of all the Old Testament sacrifices. All of those sacrifices pointed forward to the time when the Son of God would offer Himself as the great and final sacrifice for the sins of mankind. It was at Calvary, upon the cross, that Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice: He gave His blood and His flesh for mankind.

Following Christ, in the truest sense, involves sacrifice as well. Sacrifice is not the normal thing for human beings. Man does not want sacrifice. Man is interested in man; self is interested in self. Taking up the cross demands sacrifice. Discipleship demands sacrifice. This means placing our lives at His disposal, putting all that we hold dear upon the altar and giving God permission to use all according to His will. Sacrifice means no longer thinking of ourselves first, but placing Christ first. Sacrifice is more than giving, it is giving up. Sacrifice is the surrender of our lives to God. This is basic to discipleship. Those who would take up the cross and follow Christ must be willing to sacrifice themselves completely to Him.

### **A Place Of Death**

Most of us agree that Calvary is a place of separation. It is a place of desertion, misunderstanding, ridicule, humiliation, submission, and sacrifice. Ultimately Calvary is a place of death. It was at Calvary that Christ died. It was at Calvary that His flesh was torn and His blood was spilled. It is at Calvary that the perfect life was cut off so that the

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# In Memorium

## Rev. Frank P. Fortunato

### 1906 - 2000



**R**everend Frank Paul Fortunato was born in Calabria, Italy on November 27, 1906. At the age of twelve he emigrated to the United States and took up residence in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Frank accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of twenty-one and dedicated his life to serve the Lord in full-time ministry. Rev. Fortunato was ordained as a minister of the Gospel of Christ by the Christian Church of North America. Before his marriage, he served two pastorates— one in California, PA, and then in Bentleyville. On June 6, 1936 he married Mary Iannelli of Philadelphia. After their marriage, Rev. Fortunato continued in the ministry by assisting his father-in-law, Angelo Iannelli, in his church in south Philadelphia. When Rev. and Mrs. Fortunato moved to northeast Philadelphia, they assumed the pastorate at Christian Church of Tacony, where they led a thriving congregation from 1942 to 1961. It was during this time in

1953 that they took a three-month missionary trip to Italy.

In 1961, Rev. Fortunato was elected as General Overseer of the Christian Church of North America, the highest honor the organization could bestow on one of its members. He served in that capacity (first part-time, and then full-time) for twenty years. During those years, he also served pastorates in Erie and Beaver Falls, PA. After his retirement from the pastorate he traveled extensively in Europe, South America and Australia, preaching, and teaching various seminars.

Rev. and Mrs. Fortunato were married for sixty-three years. On January 20, 2000, at 10:30 AM, Rev. Fortunato quietly slipped into the presence of his Lord. He is survived by his wife, Mary, four children: Jerry, Jim, Frank, and Lorraine, eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

#### EULOGY FOR MY DAD

by Lorraine Montanari

The year was 1987 and the setting was Washington, D.C. The March for Jesus Movement was spawned and was beginning to grow throughout the United States with the first major march to be held in our nation's capitol.

Standing on the corner of Constitution Avenue I was awed and almost overcome with the novelty and blessed significance of it all; beautifully and magnificently colorful tapestry banners were held aloft waving in the spring breeze with the name of Jesus embroidered and emblazoned on all of them. Standing next to me and drinking in the entire milieu with overwhelming sanction and satisfaction was Dad who waved our comrades on with his outstretched arms and extended a hearty hand clap of support as they marched by singing about and praising our

Lord. Such memories will be forever etched on the canvas of my mind which compose the inimitable picture of one Frank Fortunato Sr., our beloved father and fellow soldier in our Lord's army.

If we were to embroider a tapestry in his honor, the letter F which stands not only for his name but also for those prioritized areas which defined his life would be most in order: his faith, family, and friends. For we honor him not as a people without hope or peace but with the full assurance that the faith which he stalwartly and consistently lived, proclaimed and defended the entirety of his life has now ushered him into the hallowed presence of his Creator. Thus, we do not grieve without gratitude or sorrow without celebration for we know that he has finally observed his homecoming for which he labored his



entire life to experience. We are grateful that by His providence, God extended his life to an exceptionally long ninety-three years and we celebrate his life which stood for magnanimous principle, integrity, character, love, generosity, and godliness.

My brother Jim sent Dad a most poignantly worded birthday card this past November 27th for the commemoration of his 93rd year which stated in part that he prayed for every one of us every day his entire life and now it was our turn to pray for him. How incredibly true that in a few beautifully composed words, his entire life could be encapsulated by the love that he had for his God first and foremost and then for his family which was expressed always on his knees before he demonstrated it in his godly walk to all of us. The picture is forever cemented in my mind that even as a young girl growing up and living on Bleigh Avenue in northeast Philadelphia that Dad could always be found on his knees. When I would return home from school, it was not uncommon for my mother to exhort me to be quiet because Dad was praying and he usually did it in my bedroom. I would quietly tiptoe up the stairs and sure enough praying on my chair would be Dad. It gave me a sense of surreal comfort that he chose my bedroom as if such a godly atmosphere might somehow imbue my life and protect me from all harm. He never changed his habits throughout his entire life: from my young girlhood days to my adult age as a wife and mother when he would visit our home in Virginia, his ritual remained consistent and intact; he began his day in prayer and Bible-reading. He lived what he preached and preached what he lived. Thus, it is not by happenstance that the white pristine purity which colored his motives to demonstrate to us in a tangible way that paramount relationship that he had with his Lord resulted in all of his children serving and loving God in their own right; that his three sons and their wives are active and viable in some form of ministry is the unquestionable testament of the spiritual legacy and heritage that he passed on to all of us.

And he did not do it alone; for sixty-three years our mother stood faithfully by his side as the wife of a pastor, a missionary, and the General Overseer of the Christian Church of North America, and most recently as his primary custodial help. In his final days, she cared for him with the minutest and thoroughness of assistance. His every call for a drink, sweater, or help in eating and bathing were provided for to the fullest by our mother; and indeed anyone who would visit or call him would be told how he had the best wife in the world as he dutifully and appropriately showered praise on her efforts. Such an example of marital faithfulness to the vow “until death do us part” should serve us four children well when the inevitable fact of aging will visit our lives.

Not only did he pass on his spiritual legacy to us but also wholeheartedly and immediately inundated us with his full fatherly support, guidance, advice, and presence

in every area of our lives. His love was not expressed so much in mawkish words as it was in meaningful action. It mattered not the personal dilemma, painful trial, or pressing need, he became our staunchest cheerleader, fan, and bulwark and stood by us when no one else would, prayed incessantly for us when we could no longer pray for ourselves, and praised and defended us when we thought we had really hit bottom at any given time. He gave when he didn't have it to give either financially or emotionally and thus his was always a sacrifice of love and support. He brought a blue placid equilibrium and stability to our lives and assured us that through his prayers and personally concerned intervention, things would work out for our good and he was usually proven right. Thus, his legacy to us is hardly measured by monetary gain which surely would dissipate and decay over time, but in a spiritual and personal legacy which is boundless in its richness and still lives and impacts our lives beyond the grave.

The tapestry is becoming more colorful as we add the highlights of sparkling bright yellow hues of his contagious personality which lit up any conversation, gathering, or event. His was a unique persona which exuded friendliness, quaintness, and at times even pleasant quirkiness; he eventually became the life of every party and had the uncanny ability to consistently engender love and affection from all those with whom he interacted. How he regaled any dialogue with his impressive recall of detail of his past life with entertaining accounts of people, events, and happenings present and past. And though he emanated from humble roots, he was never intimidated by anyone but fit in with remarkable ease and comfort with everyone. He reflected security and self-esteem without snobbery, confidence without condescension, and friendliness without undue familiarity. How well I remember the college graduation of my daughter Melanie from the prestigious private Christian institution Houghton College in Houghton, New York. At a reception given by her political science professors who all held Ph.d's there dad was as usual in the middle of things holding court and everyone captive with his fascinating wit and wisdom. And who among us has never heard his account of how he witnessed to Muhammad Ali? I remember Jerry exclaiming to him once when he was just about to plunge into yet another time of his descriptive encounter with Ali, “Dad, get another story, already; we heard it a thousand times—enough.” Dad would simply chuckle and continue to proceed to describe to us one more time of how he witnessed to Ali as we all rolled our eyes in harmless humor. Or who has not been the recipient of his opening standard line when he would exchange a phone call of how lovely it was for him to see our rosy cheeks, pearly white smile, and pleasant face. At those times it was our turn to chuckle because of the warmth and affection we knew always saturated such rote verbal mannerisms. Or who has not received his playful but at times painful squeeze on our shoulders when

he would be conversing with us? He hardly was conscious of such habits for they were indeed the warp and woof of his delightful personality. He probably, even at this present time, is squeezing the shoulder of Cornelius and trading stories of the old country or evoking a familiar chuckle from Peter as he incessantly is curious of what it was like to see Christ walk on water.

Faith, family, and now indeed friends. The color of our tapestry is becoming even more brilliant as we add the richness of purple symbolizing loyalty of royal dimensions of his commitment to his many friends from many and sundry walks of life. Proof of such commitment is reflected in the numbers which are gathered here today to pay their last homage to our father and for your presence. We as his family are incredibly grateful and appreciative. It mattered not the faith, status, social class, or background, Dad knew instinctively how to make friends, treat them and keep them. Perhaps, it was his inviting and open demeanor which always wanted to know more about others which enabled them to feel important and good about themselves than it was in his desire to be known. He exemplified the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi in which he sought not so much to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood but as to understand, not so much to be loved as to love; for it was in his relentless giving that he received, it was in his pardoning that he was pardoned and indeed it is in his dying that he was given eternal life.

The year is now 2000 and the setting this time is not the capitol of the United States but the capitol home for all believers in the domain of heaven. Dad is standing not on Constitution Avenue but on Hallelujah Square reminiscing with his mother, Grandparents Iannelli, Aunt Esther, Uncle Vito, Aunt Nancy, the two Uncle Johns, Cousin Tony, Aunt Rachel, Marie, Lenny, David, and JoAnna. Their corner is becoming quite crowded but not too peopled for him to exhort us one final time that he is saving a special place for all of us: his beloved wife, his three sons, one daughter, all of his grandchildren along with his extended family, friends, co-pastors and co-laborers in the spread of the Gospel of Christ. Even from the balcony of heaven, he is ever the biggest cheerleader of all of us encouraging us to persevere, prevail in the faith, and make him proud until we are ultimately united with him and all of our departed loved ones never to be separated again.

Though his presence in our lives is irreplaceable, his influence undiminished by death, and his spirit unrelinquished by daily absence, we choose to be comforted for the tapestry is now complete. Bursting with color, radiance and memories we will hang your picture Dad on the walls of our hearts forever and know without a doubt that you too, like the apostle Paul can say that you have *fought a good fight, you have finished the course and have kept the faith*. In gazing at your tapestry, we then will be able to convert our sorrow into strength, our pain into peace, and our heartache into hope....for this is not good-bye, Dad,

but good night. We'll see you again in the morning....over there.

**My Tribute to Brother Fortunato  
by Rev. John DelTurco, General Overseer**

Brother Fortunato was God's goodman. He has left a legacy that has made the world and The Christian Church of North America richer. Brother Fortunato was the General Overseer for CCNA from 1954-1975, 21 years, longer than any other General Overseer of CCNA. He had been in the ministry for over 70 years. He and sister Fortunato had been married for almost 65 years.

Like Abraham, he went where he was called and was faithful in all things. He was totally committed to the will of God. When all hope was against him, Abraham believed in hope that he might become the father of many nations. The Bible says that he staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith giving glory to God. Many times, in the life of our dear brother Fortunato, hope was against him. Yet he staggered not at the promises of God, and always gave glory to God. As a result, our dear brother Fortunato always managed to retain the victory.

Like Moses, he had led the people of God of CCNA from doubts and fears to confidence for success in the face of many difficulties. He always had the faith that God would work a miracle. When Moses approached Pharaoh, he cried out, "Let my people go!" Wherever our dear brother Fortunato went, he always cried out to the devil, "Let my people go!"

Like Joshua, he loved his country and worked and prayed for its success. Even though he was confronted by many Jordan rivers, he always trusted God to part the waters and walked across on dry land.

Like Jonathan, he met many a discouraged brother and cheered him by telling him to hold to God's unchanging hand. He always had the love that uplifted people to greater victories in God.

Like David, he sang the church to victory and shouted. In the face of the enemy, he never feared, but always voiced glory and saw the enemy destroyed. When David was ready to face the giant, who was hindering the Israelites from advancing in war, he was approached by his older brother Eliab, who said, "Why are you here? Why have you left the few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and your naughtiness of heart." David said: "Is there not a cause.?" One of brother Fortunato's favorite sermon in his past ministry was, "Is there not a cause." Brother Fortunato always believed that there was a cause for the existence of CCNA, and every day, especially when he was the General Overseer, he did everything in his power to fulfill that cause, believing that God had a special

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# In Memoriam

## Rev. Richard L. Corsini

### 1903 - 2000



Our brother R.L. Corsini has gone home to be with the Lord. He died on Saturday, January 8, 2000. He was born in Butler, Pennsylvania, on May 20, 1903. He died at the age of 96. His funeral was conducted in Christian Assembly, New Brighton, PA. Brother Corsini and his wife Anna had seven children. He went through an elementary school education. Theologically, he taught himself through Bible study and research.

Brother Corsini was a Roman Catholic, but was converted in 1926 through the testimony of brother Frank Maruso, a very close friend. Two years after conversion, he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Beaver Falls, PA.

God called Brother Corsini to the ministry in 1928. He yielded to God only after a bed-confining illness of several months. His first message was preached in New Brighton, PA. Brother Corsini pastored throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The CCNA commissioned him to survey missions fields in Europe, North Africa, and Belgium in 1954. He served as the Executive Director of Word Missions for CCNA from 1943—1969. He held the positions of Secretary of the Northwest District Camp, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northwest District, and Northwest District Overseer.

The moderator of his funeral service was brother Eugene De Marco, the pastor of Christian Assembly of New Brighton, PA., and the Director of Lay Ministries for CCNA. He shared with the congregation that brother Corsini wrote his own eulogy, profile, and requested several hymns to be sung.

Brother John DelTurco, the General Overseer of The Christian Church of North America ministered the message. The title of the message was, "How does one measure the life of R.L. Corsini." He could not be measured by his height, or his weight, or the size of his chest, or the

clothes he wore, or house he lived in. He could not be measured by his bank account. Brother Corsini had to be measured by the Word of God. The text was Hebrews 13:7,8: *Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way. . .and imitate their faith.*

Brother Corsini was an example of true godliness. He followed righteousness. He had the strength of leadership. He had a genuine shepherd's heart, and a love for all



pastors and servants of God. He practiced faithfulness, vision, and was a man who was kind. He had compassion and courage. Brother Corsini was a man to emulate, to imitate. He was a man of God who practiced humility, honesty, integrity and accountability. He had character. He had passion for the needy, and compassion for the world.

Brother DelTurco went on to say that the best way to measure a man like Brother Corsini, was to measure all of the qualities and attributes of his character. When we do this, our brother was a man who was

tall and stately, majestic in his walk with God. He was elegant and graceful in his commitment to the call of God upon his life.

The sermon concluded that Brother Corsini was always conscious of his legacy, his heritage, and he made sure that his heritage was passed on to his younger generation. Brother Corsini was God's gift to the world, to CCNA, and to his family. Because of his life, we are the richer for it. R.L. Corsini's life and ministry will be sorely missed. To God be all the glory for this servant of God.

**Rev. John DelTurco,**  
**General Overseer**

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# Testimony

by Rev. Andrew G. Farina  
Greenville Christian Assembly



On August 3, 1999, I was diagnosed a diabetic. My sugar level had reached an unusually high reading of 885. My thirst was unstable and my voiding frequency had reached an intolerable state. So off to the hospital I went at the insistence of my doctor. I did not feel weak, faint or ill. My discomfort was thirst and a great thirst at that.

and my insulin was reduced accordingly. Rejoicing in my progress, I inquired of my physician concerning substituting oral medication for insulin injections. He continued to caution me to be patient until our next visit. It was then that I pestered him once again. He consented. By this time it was October and he continued to reduce my oral medication until I again challenged him, but this

time it was my request to eliminate all medication for diabetes.

Since early November I have been medication-free! My sugar levels are, according to my doctor, “awesome”. Why wouldn’t they be? “We serve and awesome God” and a God who is sovereign in His justice and judgements. I cannot understand as to why he healed this diabetic condition and chose to ignore any other ailment in my body. I

## I was diagnosed a diabetic

I was tested, diagnosed and admitted to the hospital where I was placed on an insulin drip for five days. During my stay, diet and exercise were stressed and I was instructed on how to inject myself with insulin which I did three times a day—morning, noon, and night. Needless to say, I was not a “happy camper.” I felt restricted and put upon, especially at General Conference in August where I had to watch my food intake and retire to my room thrice daily for medication. I was required to interrupt sessions, fellowship, and most of all, times of indulging in my favorite foods. Still I committed myself to doing this thing which I never dreamed would be my lot.

One Sunday morning in September, the invitation was given for those who desired special prayer. Pastor John Ferguson and I were praying for the sick when Brother

## My sugar levels are, according to my doctor, “awesome”.

do know that He is God and our God is in control. He is constant and compassionate while He does all things well and in accordance to His plan.

“He is good and a stronghold in the time of trouble.” Good and a stronghold when He answers “yes” as well as when He answers “wait.” When we agree as well as when we disagree. He is awesome and His promise remains, Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us again and again until. . .

So, till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more, till the clouds roll forever from the sky, hold me fast. Let me stand in the hollow of your hand. Keep me safe ‘till the storm passes by.

## The invitation was given for those who desired special prayer

Ferguson turned to me and prayed the prayer of faith for my healing. I simply agreed in prayer. We concluded the service and went our respective ways satisfied that we had ministered to those in our care.

I continued to test my sugar levels and recorded them as I had been instructed. My levels were dropping steadily

## We serve and awesome God!



# Straight from the Heart

by Vilda C. Roy

National Director, Womans' Ministries, CCNA

I want to talk straight from my heart on what I believe is from the Lord. I can think of no other more appropriate way than in this article for the VISTA. I feel compelled to reach as many as possible with this message. Please listen with your heart as you read this. Ask God to confirm this to your heart. Please know that I am not trying to put condemnation on anyone, nor am I trying to criticize anyone. I truly believe God the Holy Spirit will guide you to His truth concerning this matter. I sometimes feel like John the Baptist—as one crying in the wilderness crying out repent, repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!

This message is not only for our CCNA Women, but, for all who will hear. Please let as many people as you can read this—it is important!

I am sure that most of you in the CCNA know by now the call of God on my life, to minister to women. What some, probably many, do not realize just how important the working of God to bring this about, and to what avail. This is what I want to bring to you as you read this article.

Along with the call to minister to women, came the burden for The Family. Since I am not a “mother” nor a “wife” some may think this to be an unusual calling for me. I questioned it myself, at first, but then later, through the Holy Spirit, in the working of circumstances, and in the way God used His people to minister to me, God confirmed it over and over in my heart and through the Word of God. Soon I seemed to just find myself DOING the Will of God. I’ve learned that if you are a willing and a clean vessel, God will “cause you” to do His will when you are truly called by Him. Otherwise, one could find one’s self to be fighting against God!

Jeremiah 31:22b says: “For the Lord has created a new thing in the earth- a woman shall encompass (surround) a man”. This perhaps indicated how God is going to use women in a new way in these last days. Statistics already indicate that there are more women in the world right now!

More than ever I’m convinced that God is in the process of restoring the family and the Church. He said in His Word that He was coming for a glorious Church, one WITHOUT SPOT, AND WITHOUT WRINKLE. That suggests to me that God intends on restoring His Church, and His Church is made up of families! God in Himself is a Family: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! The Church is not glorious right now, but, God is working throughout His

Body making it so. He must start somewhere, and sometime. I believe that “sometime” is now, and “somewhere” is in the family. God is a God of restoration! He is the God of the Church and He intends on her becoming all that He intended her to be! Glorious with no spots and no blemishes! A perfect Bride for a perfect Son!

In the last few decades women have begun to go into the market place, to work to help improve the quality of life in the family. They thought they would help to make it a better way of life for their children. This of course, on the face of it is not a bad thing to do. But at what expense, at what cost? What has happened, is that some have become so mentally and emotionally influenced by the world, that it has brought them to a place of deception! They have bought the lie of the devil—again! The deception being that they are “helping to better their families lives” by providing for them more *materially*. MORE IS NOT NECESSARILY BETTER! Better, should mean QUALITY, not QUANTITY!

AS A RESULT OUR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO THE CARE OF OTHERS, others who do not have the love and concern nor the love for them that the natural Mother and Father should have. This causes the family values to be taught to them by those who do not hold to the true Christian values, nor to the instruction of the Lord’s Word in principle or deed. Our children are cared for and taught the values of a Godless society—the public school system, care givers, and a world system that are motivated mostly by the money it brings them. Certainly not in the best interest and good for the Child. We are presently seeing the destruction of our children by children! WHY? Because they have no sense of the fear of God, nor of right or wrong. They have allowed the spirit of this world to take control of them, blindly.

Our teens and smaller children have been dabbling in the occult, black magic, and witchcraft. The games and videos they play are inspired by Satan, himself! They are full of evil actions, violence and all kinds of debauchery—mayhem of the worst kind. Many have opened their young spirits to evil spirits and have become possessed and taken captive by demons at Satan’s will!

The things we are seeing unfold, should be a wake-up call to parents and all caring adults, Christian and non-

• CONTINUED ON P.18 •

**CCNA**  
**Education Department**  
*Rev. Lucian Gandolfo*  
**Executive Director**



The CCNA Education Department would like to thank all those faithful supporters who contributed financially during 1999. We have listed our 1999 donations below:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>DONATIONS TO</u>	
		<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Scholarships</u>
Christian Assembly, Clarksburg WV .....	Morrell .....	\$1,000 .....	\$1,000 .....
Christian Assembly, Youngstown, OH .....	Hunt .....	650 .....	
Riverside Assmby, Akron, OH .....	George .....	600 .....	
Christian Assembly, Richmond Hts., OH .....	Marino .....	575 .....	
Christian Assembly, Greenville, PA .....	Farino .....	325 .....	
Christian Assembly, Beaver Falls, PA .....	Russo .....	250 .....	
Christian Assembly, New Brighton, PA .....	DeMarco .....	240 .....	
Canarsie Assembly, Brooklyn, NY .....	Abraham .....	165 .....	
Christian Assembly, Wilkes Barre, PA .....	Falcone .....	100 .....	
Christian Assembly, Newcastle, PA .....	Trotta .....	50 .....	150 .....

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**REMINDER TO STUDENTS**

Apply for this year's **CCNA Scholarship Awards**. Requests for applications should be forwarded directly to the

**CCNA Education Department, P.O. Box 1122, Scranton, PA 18501-1122.**

We anticipate that the Year-2000 CCNA Scholarship Program will consist of approximately \$4,000 in awards!

If you would like to contribute to the CCNA Scholarship Fund, you may do so by sending your check to the above address.



# General Overseer's Trip to India

by Rev. John DelTurco

After 30 hours of traveling (including connections), we arrived at the city of Hyderabad, India, the headquarters site of brother Komanapalli. Lydia and I departed for India on the 17th of February, 2000, and we arrived on Saturday, February 19th. Brothers Carmine Zottoli, pastor of the CCNA Faith Bible Church in Mohegan, New York, and Peter Juliano, a leader in Zottoli's church, accompanied Lydia and me.

After visiting the main Orphanage in Hyderabad on Saturday afternoon, and ministry in the main church on Sunday morning, we boarded an overnight train for Amalapuram. Upon arrival in the city of Rajahmundry, Amalapuram, I dedicated the John DelTurco School building, and Lydia dedicated the Lydia DelTurco Home (orphanage) Building. Then we had a ground-breaking ceremony, with brother Zottoli dedicating the land where a new church is in the process of

being built. This compound, consisting of the school building, Lydia's Children's Home, and the new church, is considered a CCNA compound. To God be all the glory.

Lydia's Children's Home has 100-children, and all of them need sponsors, at a cost of \$20.00 per child per month, which will house, feed, clothe, and educate them. If you are willing to sponsor a child, you will receive a picture and history of the child. Your \$20.00 dollars monthly should be channeled through the CCNA Missions Department, ear-marked for a child in Lydia's Children's Home.

We were kept very busy while in Amalapuram, with many seminars, special services, and other speaking engagements. I appreciated brother Zottoli's ministry, heavily anointed by God, with the glory of God manifested in every service. I could not have handled all the seminars, and

services by myself. Our ministries, together, challenged, and met many needs, blessed many pastors, and only the Lord knows the many healing miracles that occurred. To God be all the glory.

The work of brother Komanapalli has grown immensely. One can easily see the fruit of his ministry, and where our CCNA dollars have gone. His work includes over 50 orphanages, with over 6000 children, 1000 churches with 1200 pastors. He has an accredited Pentecostal (the only one in India) college, grade schools, high schools, trade schools, Bible schools, and a leper colony. Our brother needs our prayers that God will continue to meet his every need.

It was a joy and an honor to visit India once again with ministry. God gave us a good trip and good ministry. To Him be all the glory.



# Featured Mission

## The Rock Church

Seoul, South Korea  
by Rev. David Verzilli  
Director of Foreign Missions



The church in Korea has been through a great trial with the death of Deborah Lee, but they continue to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. With the passing of Deborah, there has been a change in leadership in the Rock Church. Co-founders of the church, (Deborah's sister and brother-in-law), have assumed leadership of the Assembly. Ester Lee continues to faithfully serve in music and teaching. Brother Lee is working in a different area of the city of Seoul.

Please keep The Rock Church in prayer as they labor in Korea. They have a beautiful church facility, a strong fellowship, and good leadership. God has great plans for The Rock Church in Korea!



Rev. David Verzilli with deacons and elders.



The Rock Church Choir  
ministering during the worship service

# Featured Church

## New Brighton Christian Assembly

New Brighton, PA  
Rev. Eugene DeMarco, Senior Pastor



Sunday, November 28, 1999 became a day of jubilant celebration when the congregation of New Brighton Christian Assembly witnessed the burning of the mortgage on their building. Reverend Eugene DeMarco, senior pastor, held the mortgage high in his hand proclaiming, "In the spirit of gratitude to our heavenly Father by whose favor, inspiration, and guidance we are able to free our church home from all indebtedness—we burn this mortgage."

Three pastors serve the congregation of over 450. Pastor Sam DeMarco is the assistant pastor who serves as worship leader, youth

pastor, as well as National Youth Director for the CCNA. Pastor Sam is assisted in the youth ministry by Ryan Paskey. The Ministry of Helps is under the leadership of Pastor Doug Dragan who directs the hands-on ministry of meeting peoples' needs. Also, the large Children's Ministry is under the care and supervision of David Albanese.

New Brighton Christian Assembly had its beginning 75 years ago when a group of men and women found Jesus and with the zeal of the early church apostles, began declaring the Gospel to friends and family. The church con-

tinued to grow and each time they would be settled in one place, the numbers increased causing a need for a larger facility. The rich heritage of the assembly has been blessed because God is faithful. When the group built a meeting place in 1927, God was faithful to provide the finances. God's faithfulness was again seen when in 1936, under the leadership of Pastor DeChellis, God provided \$4,000 for a new building. Again, in 1967, under the guidance of

Rev. Francona, God was faithful to provide \$50,000 for a building. That structure now houses the New Brighton Christian



Assembly Preschool as well as the Youth Center. God's arm is not short in making provision for the fulfillment of His purpose and His plan. When the cost increased to \$450,000 for the present building, God, again, was faithful. In six years this building was built, filled, and paid for—to the glory of God!

Denny D'Angelo, President of the Board of Directors said, "It is a privilege to be here. Not too many of us get to see a time when we are relieved of debt. This is a glorious time!" As David DeMarco spoke a few words before singing, he looked over his dad and said, "Well, dad, people don't realize that it has taken thirty years to be an overnight success."

As the mortgage lay in ashes, the words of the Pastor hung in the air, "We now dedicate ourselves, our services, and our substance anew to the work of this, our beloved church and to the extension of the kingdom of Jesus Christ throughout this community, this Nation, and the whole world that the will of God may be done on earth as it is in heaven."

The rich heritage of New Brighton Christian Assembly gives evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit and the power and authority in the Name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. All glory, honor, and praise be unto God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for He has shown His great and mighty works remaining faithful—for God is faithful!



# 20/20

## “The Vision for Today’s Youth”

Vol. 1 Issue 2

### "FOLLOW THE LEADER"

As I was sitting in front of my computer in the early morning, I began to cry out to the Lord (something I have been doing quite a bit of lately. Ever been there?) “Lord what do you want me to share with the young people of the CCNA, particularly in this article before our first **Apex**<sup>2000</sup> youth convention together.” In that sweet still voice, He simply said, “**Follow me.**” Sure Lord, let the kids know you are calling them. Again that still voice said, “No I want you to say to them ‘**follow me**’”.

Well gang I’ll be honest with you, my next comment was, “Lord, some of these teens and youth pastors don’t know me and . . .” yadda yadda yadda. **Then I got it.** So here it is: Jesus approached fishermen that didn’t know him and simply said to them, “**Follow me.**” They dropped their nets and followed him! Something about Jesus was worth following. The scriptures tell us that people marveled over him because he was one who taught with authority. Jesus said, “*All authority has been given to me, therefore GO. . .*” The scripture also tells us that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now lives in us.

Some of you may not know me, but you will. Some of you may not understand this **Apex** thing or the **All Out** concept, but you will. Some of you may not understand everything. Neither do I. Join the crowd. However, one thing I do know in my life is the voice of God. I know when He speaks to me; I know when He is trying to get my attention, and I know when He gives me a vision for something.

The vision for the youth ministries in our CCNA churches that God has given me to run with is exciting. I have tasted of it. I see it. God has been lining up people, resources, and places as His plan unfolds. My word to

you is simply this, follow me as I follow Christ. Do not expect the same as previous events. What is that supposed to mean? Was the past bad? Not at all. How absurd even to think that. God is pouring out new blessings, fresh revelation, and a timely refreshing to His children. I have been with the Lord. I have been in His Word, and I want all that He has for me and for the youth of the CCNA.

Pastors, Youth Pastors, Leaders, and Teens join with me and pray that the Holy Spirit is welcomed at our gathering in May. Join with me and agree that we will see repentance, restoration, deliverance, and healing taking place in the lives of those attending. Agree with me that there will be a **oneness** so that we may witness Pentecost. I have already seen it. God has shown me, I am preparing for it, and I don’t want any of you to miss out. So get ready for **Apex**<sup>2000</sup> and follow me as I follow Christ! All Out for Him,



Pastor Sam DeMarco



## 20/20: Behind the Vision

If you really think about it, our culture is advancing at a rapid pace. New technology constantly labels your "three month old" equipment outdated. It's amazing. Computers become faster and better, video game systems compete with one another to produce the best and most lifelike graphics, and telephones have traveled from circular dialing to lengthy chords to cordless to 900MHz to wireless cell and now to digital cell that can access the internet. This advancement of culture exists beyond the technological realm. Look at our clothing and apparel. We've worn everything from Jams to Skidz to tight jeans to baggy jeans to carpenter pants to cargo pants and now x-pants. Levi's led to Bugle Boy which led to Gap, which led to American Eagle, which paved the way for Tommy Hilfiger, Ralph Lauren, FUBU, Structure and finally Abercrombie. (What ever happened to Fitch?) Do I even have to list the progression of our once "primitive" baby dolls that now eat, sleep, drink and talk on their own? And the list goes on into every area of our culture from our music to our cars. Has this theme of progression affected our gospel? Yes and No. The message of the gospel has not changed and it never will, but the methods of presenting it have. Expect exciting things in May. You will love it. Get ready for "The Encounter" at Apex 2000.



*David D'Angelo*

Administrative Assistant

### Eastern District Winter Retreat

The annual Eastern District Winter Retreat was held Jan. 15-17 at Harmony Heart Camp. About a day before we arrived, the camp had it's first snow fall of the season - a whopping four inches !! Fortunately for us, it was just enough to open up the tube run. After all, it wouldn't be a winter retreat if we couldn't go tubing !

Rev. Maurice Lassiter was the guest speaker for the weekend, and, dealt with many issues relating to our relationship with the Lord, and, with others. In particular, on Sunday morning, he was impressed to share about unforgiveness. He immediately gave an altar call at the beginning of his message for those who had unforgiveness in their hearts. Many lives were touched that morning, and were freed from the bondage of unforgiveness. He also issued a challenge to us, splitting us up into groups, and, assigning scripture verses to each group, we were to write up an original song (not a melody that already exists), which contained the actual scripture verse, or, a paraphrase of the verse. During the last service, each group shared the song they wrote. From the sounds of some of the songs, we may have some budding songwriters in the Eastern District ! Bro. Maurice stated that the purpose of the song writing was to enable us to remember our scripture verses. So, the next time you see someone from the Eastern District, ask them what their song was from the winter retreat.

*Peter Pellegrino*

### Niagara-Mohawk District Event

We kicked-off our NiMo District Events 2000 with an All-Nighter Syracuse on March 10-11. Hope you didn't miss this night FULL of your favorite food, rockin' music, fab fellowship, powerful preaching, and an awesome time around the altar. See your Youth Leader for details of upcoming events! **Get ready for Apex 2000**

*Bill Kingsley*

### Northwest District Youth Events

The year of 1999 in the Northwest District was an awesome one indeed. From things as simple as Splash O Rama IX to something as intense as The Next Level '99, we have had fun (remember the Velcro challenge?), fellowship, and most importantly the filling of the presence of God whenever we came together. We have had awesome ministries from Michigan, Colorado and Pennsylvania all coming together to draw us, encourage us, and challenge us in our relationship with Jesus. Pastor Sam DeMarco, has worked hard over the last nine years to bring us where we are today, and I am grateful to have been able to serve under his leadership.

The year of 2000 will be just as awesome. First of all this year will be the decade celebration of "the Splash".

That's right, this is the year of Splash O Rama X, "The Big One"! Coming up will also be summer camp, a young adults' getaway and of course TNL2000! Keep tuned in to 20/20 for more info on these events as they come around.

As we move forward, I am excited about what the Lord has in store for us as a district. As the new NWD Youth director, it is my vision and desire to see our district youth continue to pursue "The Next Level" of excellence in Jesus Christ. I envision youth ministries all over our district becoming enabled and empowered to impact their "Jerusalem" for Christ. Youth leaders, and pastors, I want to hear from you! Together, under the power and direction of the Holy Spirit, we can see this happen. Let me know how I may be of assistance to you. I'm looking forward to hearing from you and, I'll see you at...THE APEX!

*Pastor Qwan B. Karriem*

### **New England District Events**

The New England District held an exciting night of student led praise and worship at the Pentecostal Christian Church in Newton Massachusetts on Friday night,

January 21st. Students we encouraged to come prepared to actively participate in ministry through drama, sign language, worship, and singing under the guidance of their youth leaders. Six churches represented the district in the various ministries as each youth group got a glimpse of what God can do through anyone, young or old, who gives their talents to God. The night began with worship led by the students of Living Waters Christian Church, followed by skits by the Newton Church. The Revere youth did sign language as well as drama, and many other churches participated in the worship band and singing throughout the night. Pastor Mike Craig hosted the night as it was a hands off night for youth pastors. The night was used to encourage our youth that they can actively participate in the ministry of our district and see God use them in ways they previously had not thought possible. Special thanks to John Lathrop, Pastor of the Newton Church for letting us invade his fellowship hall for refreshments and fellowship afterwards. God is raising up the Youth of New England for good things to be used for His glory alone.

*Tim Hatch and Michael Craig*



### **CCNA National Youth Administration**

**Standing L to R: D. D'Angelo, T. Hatch, P. Pellegrino, M. Craig,  
B. Kingsley, Q. Karriem. Seated: Rev. S. DeMarco, Rev. E. Demarco.**

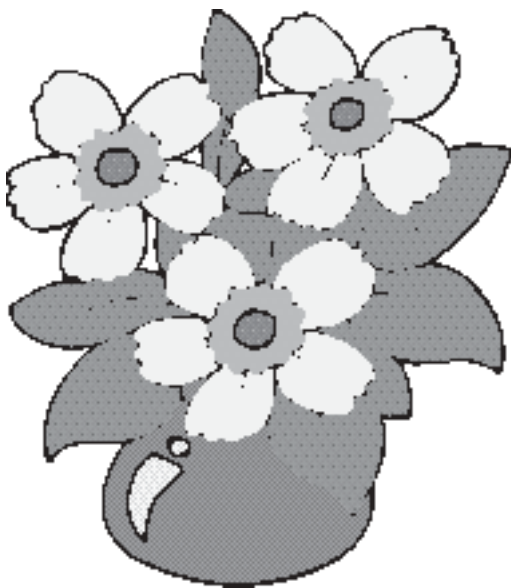
Christian, churches everywhere MUST AWAKE! I urge you, I plead with you in the Name of Jesus! AWAKE, O you sleeping church! Arise!! Let us repent for our idolatries and for not holding fast to the God-given, entrusted responsibilities for our families as God's Word has taught and commanded us. Come home, come home, and raise up your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Dads: come home, back to you first love. Be the husbands, fathers, and priests of you home. Wives and mothers, come home. Be the care givers the nurturers of your children, be supporters of your husbands. God wants to bring His order and rule of purpose back to your family. We must wake up and in obedience, set our priorities back in the order and purpose of the Word of God!

JESUS CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN! I don't pretend to know the day or the hour, but I do recognize the signs of the time! I do discern the spiritual decay of our day! I do know we MUST take our stand, once again, for righteousness' sake!

The new millennium is here. What a great time to begin to turn our lives and our families around, and align ourselves with the Word and Will of God! I urge you, I plead with you, start now to prioritize, evangelize, your own home, neighborhood, and church. Minister to your extended family, set your family values in order. Take a stand! It's later than you think! NOW IS THE TIME! Get ready, get ready, GET READY! I am praying for you. Pray for me too.

*Vilda C. Roy*

E-mail: vildac@juno.com



## MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE



On behalf of the Executive Board and Pastors of the Italian Pentecostal Church of Canada we send our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Rev. Richard Corsini.

Many of us in Canada knew Brother Corsini as a dear friend and leader of the work of missions for the Christian Church of North America. He was highly respected and loved by all of us, especially by my wife, Angie, who knew him as her Pastor for many years.

While we sorrow that our Brother has left us, we also rejoice in the wonderful hope of God's word that our Brother has been promoted to Glory. "Absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

*Rev. Daniel Ippolito*

General Superintendent of the Italian Pentecostal Church of Canada

## A TRIBUTE by Rev. Carmine Saginario

Complete the acrostic to reveal the name of a CCNA patriarch who exemplified the distinctive high-principled moral and ethical standards, vision, and scriptural foundation of the CCNA:

- herished colleague
- ommitted crusader
- ommissioned curator
- rthodox oracle
- utstanding orator
- vert overcomer
- esolute reformer
- esourceful reaper
- econdite realist
- terling steward
- talwart soldier
- teadfast soul-winner
- nspirational instructor
- ntrepid ideologist
- ncandescent ingenuity
- otable narrator
- imble nexus
- uminous imbus
- nsightful innovator
- llustrious improviser
- ncorruptible integrity

• CONTINUED FROM P.4 •

imperfect could have eternal life. For Jesus, the cross meant death. For His disciples it can mean no less.

### Why Go To Calvary?

Death, taking up the cross, becoming a disciple, is not always easy. It may be painful or unpleasant. Why should we endure it? Why should we go to Calvary? Why should we deny ourselves and take up our crosses? We do it because on the other side of Calvary is an empty tomb. After death there is resurrection.

Jesus chose the way of the cross because He knew that three days later there would be a resurrection. He knew that in a very brief time there would be something new. He knew that in a few days all power in heaven and earth would be given to Him. He knew that the keys of death and hell would be His. He knew that by giving up Himself He could secure victory for all men for all time. He endured great suffering for a brief period in order to obtain victory forever. The same opportunity is ours.

We cannot become the resurrected Lord of Glory, but we can share in the victory He has secured. But before that victory can be ours, we must learn something that Jesus knew. He knew there could be no victory, there could be no resurrection, there could be no eternal life, without the crucifixion. Likewise, there could be no victory or resurrection or life for us without the cross.

When we first come to the cross, we come as sinners. We accept Jesus as Savior and He gives us eternal life. Sadly, there are many believers whose lives show no evidence of the victory Christ has won. They live defeated, unhappy, discontented lives. Just as the crucifixion of Christ was the prelude to the victory over death, so the crucifixion of our old desires is the prelude to victory over the power of sin and death.

We as God's people have been given authority over the world, the flesh, and the devil. We have been given authority over serpents and over all the evil forces of darkness. But we cannot exercise this authority until we identify ourselves with the cross. The Bible says that we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus—but only by the cross.

*And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me (Matthew 10:38).*

*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciples (Luke 14:27).*

Finally, Paul says in Galatians 6:14,

*But God forbid that I should glory (or boast), save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...*

Paul teaches us that our only boast is in the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Even though we believe in miracles, we do not boast in miracles. Even though we believe in signs and won-

ders, we do not boast in signs and wonders. Only in the cross can the Christian boast.

My prayer is, in this new millennium, Lord, bring us back to Calvary, Amen!

## His Father's Choice

by Eric R Towse

Down the path of life we often see  
a light so bright we turn to flee  
When from that light a voice so clear  
calls to us, "Stop!" and to draw near.  
The source of light and voice is He  
who made us, knows us, and sets us free  
From all the snares and traps of life  
who holds our hand in the darkest night.

"Why turn from light?" He asks of us  
knowing full-well our lack of trust  
Has placed us nearly beyond His grasp  
He calls to us to make us fast  
Unto the love that knows no bounds  
and from His lips the joyous sound  
Of words that tell the lost they're found.

And through the separation-miles of space  
comes His arm to us embrace.  
The Shepherd of the flock has done  
what He promised to the ones  
Who first submitted to His care  
that for 'een one sheep he'd search and stare  
Through the bleakest black and dark of night  
to find the one who's lost in fright.

And so we now have come to know  
the type of love that's God's to show  
It leads us to this glorious thought  
that Jesus saves those who He bought.  
So if you see in some dark place  
a light, a shining, glowing face,  
Turn to Him — you'll know His voice!  
He's come to find His Father's choice.



purpose and ministry for his beloved Movement, The Christian Church of North America.

Like Isaiah, he constantly pointed the church to brighter days and better things in the future. He always had the vision that God would work it out.

Like Daniel, he was true through life to the faith that was once delivered to the saints. Even though persecuted at times, mocked for his perseverance, He always succeeded in living on top and not on the bottom.

Like Malachi, he believed in bringing all the tithes into the Lord's storehouse. He believed and taught that the more he gave to God, the more God gave back.

Like John the Baptist, he delighted to cry to the multitudes: "Behold the Lamb of God." Even when he was in the wilderness many times, He kept pursuing the plan of God until the Lamb of God gave him victory. The Holy Ghost and fire that John the Baptist talked about, always burned in the heart of brother Fortunato. Wherever he went, he always had the fire burning.

Like St. John, he believed with all his heart that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. He always made sure that his heart was in tune to the heart of his Master.

Like Peter, he honored the Holy Ghost by teaching the doctrine of the operation of the Divine Spirit upon the souls of men. Even though at time he became impetuous or impulsive, he always managed to be more than a conqueror.

Like Paul, he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, believing unswervingly that it was the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. He never hesitated to talk about his Savior, whether in the air, talking to the boxer Muhammed Ali, in the marketplace, or overseas, always believing that the Lord could take a down-out sinner and make him a saint of God.

Like Jesus, his Divine Master, whom he followed daily, "he went about doing good" in advancement of Christ's Kingdom. Even in his latter years, he always supported the Christian Church of North America, was present in all of its activities, always saying a word that encouraged.

The Christian Church of North America, and the world is richer because he lived, worked, and died in the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brother Fortunato was God's gift to the world and to CCNA. When God was ready to create a man to be an instrument in His hands to lead CCNA, He wanted a special man. After He created brother Fortunato, He said, "I'll never do that again!" Brother Fortunato's spirit, style of ministry, anointing, determination and zeal for the work of God, was uniquely prepared by God for a special time.

Brother Fortunato will long be remembered as one of the great patriarchs of the CCNA, and one of the great contributors to the heritage of our beloved Movement.

We all know that when brother Fortunato entered into the Kingdom of God through the pearly gates, there was a shout from the redeemed, and a stirring from all of heaven that is still continuing to this moment. Heaven will never be the same again because of the presence of our dear brother Fortunato.

Thank you, Brother Fortunato, for the rich heritage that you have passed on to your brothers and sisters and colleagues in the ministry. It is our desire, as your successors in the ministry, to pass our legacy, our heritage to our children and children's children, until the sound of the trumpet.

Until we meet again. . .

## Running the Race

by Sandra J. Carlo

"As I began my race, not looking to the left or the right, I set my goal on the finish line. I didn't flex a muscle, though many things threatened to distract me. I set my face like flint knowing that if I didn't I wouldn't finish my race. Would I win? That was the question. Did I plan on winning? Well, in my heart, I hoped that I would, but as I ran I saw others who were running faster than I and were in much better shape. There were little people and big people all dressed in various colorful outfits, but that didn't affect their performance. Some were dressed very plainly, yet some of the plainly-dressed folk seemed to be doing quite well. I soon realized as I ran that it didn't really matter whether I came in first, because we would all be winners if we ran this race and finished it. The greatest thing about it was that anyone could qualify. All ran side by side with their heads held high! Though their goal was set on the finish line, that did not deter them from reaching out to the left or right for a cup of water offered by a well-wisher along the way."

Our lives typify a race, our finish line is Heaven and the best thing is that we are not alone, nor is anyone going to be left out; we will all be winners. Yes, there are things that distract us, disturb us and, perhaps, greatly discourage us, but we have to get to that finish line. We can count on encouragement from those we meet along the way. They, too, want to finish their race. Not everyone runs at the same pace, but we all have the same goal: Heaven.

We must keep our eyes on our goal and not become distracted by the world around us. Eternal life is our prize and Jesus himself, will be waiting at the Finish Line!

*"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain." (I Cor 9:24)*



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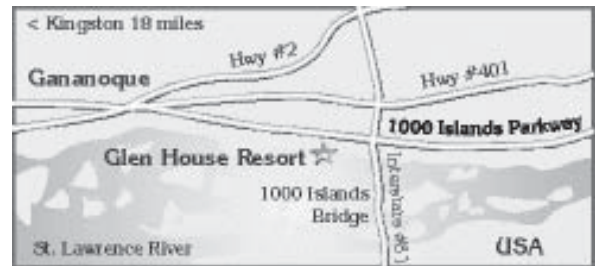


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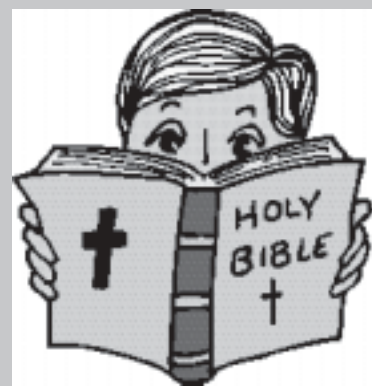
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# It's In the Bible

A Study in the Word with

Rev. Eric R Towse

Topic:

## Is Anything Missing from the Bible?

I have always believed that the Bible is, among its other attributes, **“complete, infallible, and inspired in its original text by the Holy Spirit.”** It is with respect to the Bible’s *completeness* that is the subject of our lesson.

Genesis 1:1 sets the stage for what some call the **“Battleground of the Universe”**. God vs. Satan, Light vs. Darkness, Good vs. Evil. It should also be noted that Genesis 1:1 is the prime target of the Enemy’s retaliatory efforts to win a battle against Almighty God the outcome of which has already been decided.

“In the beginning God. . .” vs.  
“THERE IS NO GOD!”

“. . .created the heavens and the earth.” vs.  
“CREATION IS A MYTH—MAN *EVOLVED*  
(ASK ANY SCIENTIST!)”

Although atheists and agnostics have made their positions known all throughout the Christian era, their agendas received a significant (but temporary) boost when Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* in 1859. It seemed at the time that science had scored a coup over religion and had somehow “disproved” the Bible. Nothing was further from the truth. In fact, within 100 years of its publication, evolutionary-based scientists discounted all of Darwin’s conclusions (in favor of their own “new and improved” versions, of course).

Shortly after its publication, however, ripples were felt within the church—the effects of which are still echoing to this day. This is why an understanding of the leading of the Holy Spirit in times of persecution is so important for the Bible-believing Christian. While the Holy Spirit encouraged the faithful to stand firm with the Word of God, some were misled into believing Darwin’s conclusions and began a frantic search of the Scriptures to reconcile Creation with Darwin’s opinions.

Among those who attempted this self-imposed challenge was G.H. Pember who, in the 1870’s book entitled,

*Earth’s Earliest Ages* thought to retranslate certain words from the Hebrew Scriptures to allow for an indeterminate amount of time to have elapsed between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. This created a **“gap”** in which all kinds of things allegedly happened, including an entire creation that was build and destroyed before Adam. The theory may have initially brought some consolation to the Scripture-Science controversy if one felt the need to view the earth as “old”, but the theory did not stop there. It went on in great detail to describe Satan’s rebellion during this time period with the resulting death and destruction of God’s initial attempts at creation.

This theory became a problem unto itself when its concept of sin and death before Adam came into the light of the clear New Testament teachings of death coming through one man (Adam): *Therefore, just as sin entered*

***the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—***  
(Romans 5:12 NIV\*)

***For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation***

***itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.***  
(Romans 8:20-22 NIV\*)

***For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.***  
(I Corinthians 15:21-22 NIV\*) \*—emphasis added.

Nevertheless, this **“Gap Theory”** as it was called actually found it’s way into the Scofield reference Bible and was adopted by the renown Bible teacher Donald Grey Barnhouse. Even today, one can hear it being described as “revealed truth” by some Televangelists.

We now know that the correct interpretation of scientific evidence allows for a very young Earth in accordance

I was taught that God’s Word is, among other attributes, **“complete, infallible, and inspired in its original text by the Holy Spirit.”**

with the plain and clear teachings of Genesis. The need for some external reconciliation between the Scriptures and opinions of “scientists” who argue for an earth billions of years old no longer exists. (I place the word *scientists* in quotes because the mere **opinion** of a scientist does not automatically make a conclusion *scientific*. In fact, a poor excuse for science is displayed when one enters into an investigation of evidence dealing with the origins of life and of the universe, **having ruled-out in advance** the possible existence and of and intervention by a Creator.)

A poor excuse for “science” is displayed when one enters into an investigation of facts and evidence dealing with the origins of life and of the universe, **having ruled-out in advance** the possibility of a Creator!

This having been said, we will now briefly look at Genesis 1:2, the target of the Enemy’s second salvo against the Word of God:

*“and the Earth was without form and void and darkness was over the face of the deep.”*

The Hebrew source of **each and every word** in the above verse is found to be **similarly translated** elsewhere in the Bible. For example, it was suggested that “*without form and void*” signified **judgement**, when compared to its use in Isaiah 34:11 and 45:18. But in other Bible texts it simply refers to **empty space**.

Similarly, “and the Earth **was** . . .” gap theorists said, should have been translated: “and the Earth **became**.” Although **became** is a possible alternative, this Hebrew word is translated **was** over 260 times.

It was further suggested that other Hebrew words and phrases throughout the Old Testament be reinterpreted to suggest a recreation following some cataclysm prior to the creation account of Genesis 1:2, especially when viewed, they say, in the light of the following passages from Jeremiah:

*I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were **no people**; every **bird** in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the **fruitful land** was a desert; all its **towns** lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. (Jeremiah 4:23-26 NIV)*

Does this refer to a race of people who died prior to the birth of Adam or, perhaps, to a future judgement prior to God’s creating a new heaven and a new earth described by John? (See Revelation 21:1)

We must, therefore, conclude that Genesis 1: 1-2 may

be taken as it has been traditionally understood as describing the same creation event.

There are several other thoughts that are worth considering when evaluating the Gap Theory. First, God went into great detail in the Bible to let us know about creation, sin, the fall of man, the Devil, and redemption. Evidence in the earth of Adam’s sin is universal. If such events as postulated by Gap Theorists had actually occurred, why would God want to hide it?

Secondly, no Jewish rabbinical writer ever viewed the creation account as contained in the Hebrew Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy) as anything other than a single creation.

Finally, would God use the timing of the introduction of the theories of Charles Darwin as a milepost to enlighten a few concerning a new interpretation of the Scriptures?

Genesis 1:2 stood for eighteen centuries until evolu-

**If such events as postulated by Gap Theorists had actually occurred, why would God want to hide it?**

tionary thought entered the church. It’s long past the time that this “gap” theory be laid to rest. Adherents of the gap theory who are truth-seekers should avail themselves of the wealth of materials that are now available by organizations such as the Institute for Creation Research, PO Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021. Degreed scientists belonging to such organizations have reexamined the so-called “scientific proofs” of evolution and point-out the flaws in the various theories as well as an interpretation of evidence that supports the Bible view. Once a believer has determined that the theory of evolution has failed to prove its case, there remains no need for any Gap Theory. Rather, the Scriptures are, once again, proven to be the **complete, infallible, and inspired Word of God!**

In retrospect, there is a valuable lesson to be learned from the widespread of this erroneous teaching. We are warned by the Apostle Paul, . . . *do not go beyond what is written* (I Cor 4:6). The principles of our Pentecostal faith, that is, matters of salvation, righteousness, holiness, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ for his saints, are **plainly stated** in Scripture and, . . . *that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.* (2 Peter 1:20)

Our focus should never waver from the commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to,

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* (Matthew 28:19-20).

**(Views Expressed Are Those of the Author)**



# Bits 'n Pieces

New England District

## ALL THAT GLITTERS . . .

by Rev. V. Prestigiacomio

Why has man ever valued gold so highly? Why is gold good? Gold is good and highly prized because it is warmly beautiful. It is enduring, for it never rusts or dissolves away, it retains its beauty. Gold is the only metal unharmed by fire, in fact each time it goes through fire it comes out better or more refined than before.

The gold the Bible speaks of is unlike the gold that we hear about today that is supposedly falling from heaven! Gold fillings, gold leaf, gold dust on hands and clothing. The Bible speaks to us about gold because of its preciousness, gold is used to symbolize many things.

In the gold which the wise men presented to the young child Jesus, they recognized His Deity. When Christ Himself urges us to secure gold tried by fire, He illustrated the Sterling Worth of Christian Character Notice with me some of the gold of the Bible we should strive for.

**Faith**—*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.* (1 Peter 1:6,7)

Gold is often used as a symbol of comparison to the **LAW** and **Wisdom** of God. *The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.* (Psalm 119:72)—and—*Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.* (Proverbs 3:13-14)

Gold is often used as a symbol of **PURIFICATION** *I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.* (Rev. 3:18)—and—*But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.* (Job 23:10)

Let us look at the gold in 1 Cor. 3:12-15 **LASTING WORK:** *If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.*

**The Gold of PRAYER in Rev. 5:8:** *And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

I find the excitement that is being created by some (gold fillings, gold dust, and gold leaf) will soon fade away because that is not the gold of the Bible. No matter how much gold a person possesses, he can be dispossessed of it, or his gold can canker and corrupt (James 5:3). But in Christ and His Word we have golden treasures none can rob us of, and which, because they are incorruptible, never canker or lose any of their virtue and value. (1 Peter 1:23). Too many make gold their god, and come to prove what a false object of trust and worship it is.

Let us go for the gold of faith, the gold of God's wisdom, the gold of lasting work, the gold of prayer, the gold of purification, let us go for a gold which will not canker or fade away, gold which will bring honor and Glory to our Lord.