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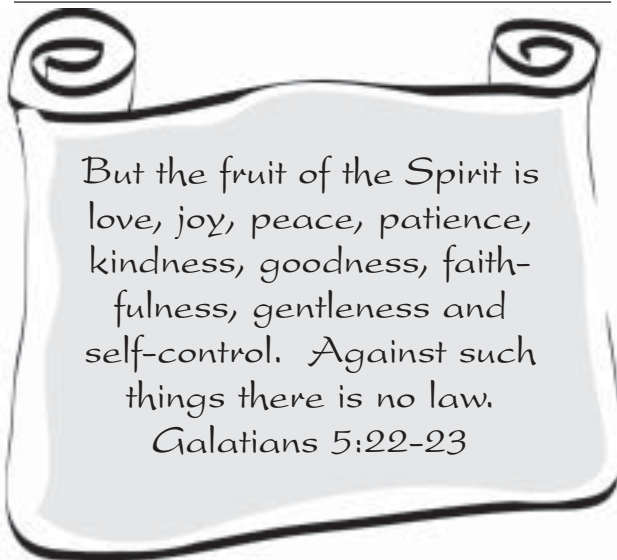
Vista 2002

*A Publication of The General Council of the Christian Church of North America
Anno Domini 2002 – Volume 3, No. 1*



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: the 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 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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*** New VISTA Feature**



Editorial

JEHOVAH AND ALLAH: ONE GOD OR TWO?



ANY a report in the news freely interchanges “Allah” with “God” even when attempting to exactly quote Usama Bin Laden or Mullah Mohammad Omar who use the word “Allah.” Are God and Allah one in the same? More importantly, do the religions represented by the names of these deities hold them to be equivalent? If, by *God* we refer to Yahweh, or Jehovah, the God of Israel and the “heavenly Father” of Jesus Christ, and *Allah* as the deity of Mohammad, the answer is emphatically **no**—they are not equivalent, with both holy books so stating.

The book of Genesis records the blessing of Abraham’s inheritance going to Isaac, the son of promise, not to Ishmael though Ishmael was born first. The Koran, written thousands of years later, revised this history and alleged Ishmael to have been the recipient of this special calling. The New Testament speaks of Jesus Christ as the “only begotten Son” of God. The Koran denies Jesus’ pre-incarnate deity. Allah, the god of Mohammad and the Muslim faith has no “son” named Jesus Christ. Furthermore, Yahweh, the God of Israel, has no prophet named Mohammad. These are two different religions, with two different gods, as identified by two different books.

To an atheist, any name will do. To the Muslim, however, “there is no God but Allah.” To the Hebrew or Christian, “thou shalt have no other gods before Me.” To have a clear understanding of this distinction will explain a lot of apparent contradictions when attempting to judge the conduct of the adherents of one faith against the standards of another—especially in light of current events.

In America, the model of religious freedom in the world, adherents of one religion or another who violate laws are tried as individuals and held responsible for their respective conduct. A religion itself is not on trial. Nevertheless, in the context of the September 11th attack on the United States where all of the terrorists not only shared the Islamic faith but considered their efforts a *jihad* (holy war) against America (whose God is obviously Jehovah *not* Allah), conclusions will unavoidably be drawn in the court of public opinion.

The Old Testament is replete with ancient kingdoms who fought against the God of the Hebrews with predictable results. Their gods proved no match for the true God of Abraham. Until the Israelites fell out of favor with God due to disobedience, neither the Baals, Chemosh, Molech, Ashtoreth, nor the Force behind them, could touch the “Apple of God’s eye.”

The books of Ezekiel and Daniel speak of “princes” that op-

Editorial is continued on p. 23



General Overseer's Message

"Plateaus—Not Permanent Dwelling Places"

by Rev. John DeTurco



ONE of the historical convocations of the Old Testament has great significance for us today. In Joshua 1:2, we read God's words to Joshua:

Now therefore arise, go over the Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

The Israelites came to various plateaus in their relationship with God but Israel needed to remind itself that plateaus of achievement are not permanent stopping places. We, as God's children, in the twenty-first century, need to learn this lesson as well.

Plateaus are but stepping stones or springboards to greater accomplishments for God. We know the story: Joshua and his people were instructed by God to go forward and do so courageously. Let us earnestly pray that God will enable us to so yield ourselves to the Spirit that He will be able to move us onto greater victories. Only the power of the Holy Spirit will make us equal to our great mission in life. How encouraging to know we will always find the Spirit's power adequate.

The important thing for us to keep in mind, as we pursue our calling, is that we must always make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, like a rushing mighty wind, is moving about us. May God help us to raise our sails to catch the power of the Heavenly Wind which will move us forward in this hour.

GO FORWARD COURAGEOUSLY

God also said to Joshua,

"Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

God was not unmindful of the problems Israel would face in going forward. He told them courage would be needed. God knew in advance about problems, like the swollen Jordan River, walled cities like Jericho, internal failures like that of Achan, crafty enemies like the Gibeonites, and enemy alliances. God told Israel to go forward anyway. The God of Israel is not the victim of circumstances. He is the Master. Never forget that. God is the Master.

The Bible indicates that as long as Israel moved forward in faith and with courage, they were victorious. The only thing that could defeat them was their own sin and doubt. Today, God is aware that there will be problems ahead for those who want to serve Him faithfully. No one is immune from problems or difficulties. People have a tendency to look at circumstances and say, "it can't be done." But this is an hour to keep looking to the God of the supernatural.

History teaches that the Church has always been glorious when it looked to God in simple faith. Big problems meant big victories. When threatened believers said,

"We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

When in prison they sang songs. When martyred they forgave. Under the most severe persecution and opposition, they could sing with Martin Luther:

A mighty Fortress is our God

A bulwark never failing...

And thou this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God hath willed

His truth to triumph through us.

In 1857 the English historian Thomas Macaulay wrote about America: *Your Republic will be fearfully plundered and laid waste by barbarians in the twentieth century as the Roman Empire was in the fifth, with this difference: The Huns and Vandals who ravaged the Roman Empire came from without, and your Huns and Vandals will have been engendered within your own country by your own institutions.*

In some respects this one hundred year old prediction is coming to pass in our day. And if there ever was an hour for a courageous Church to rise to the occasion, that hour is now. Only the gospel can solve the desperate problems on every hand, and we must proclaim it in its fullness. Like Israel, we can go forward courageously because it is the Lord who commands it.

OUR COMMAND IS STILL THE GREAT COMMISSION

Our responsibility is to go "into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Like Israel, we can go forward courageously because of the presence of the Lord. After giving the Great Commission, Jesus said,

"Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

It doesn't make any difference what circumstances we meet as long as we know we are doing God's will and His presence is with us.

After God had given His instructions to Israel, there were two things they needed to do. These are given in Joshua 3:5. First, they had to sanctify themselves, that is, completely set themselves apart to do God's bidding. Second, they had to start looking for miracles. They were told, "Tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

This is a dark time in the world's history, but there have been other dark times. When God found dedicated persons, He was able to save entire nations from revolution and destruction. The days of John Wesley were notably dark days. In his book, "The Burning Heart," John Wesley indicates that the nation was on the verge of moral disintegration. National leaders lived in undisguised adultery. The state of matrimony was ridiculed by young ladies and young men alike. Entertainment was indecent and lewd.

General Overseer's Message continued on p.24

CCNA Education Department

Rev. Lucian Gandolfo, Executive Director



CCNA SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE CONTINUES TO GROW

The Education Department is functioning effectively in the work of the Lord. As of January 2002, the CCNA School of the Bible has 235 students enrolled and is providing support to 11 church-sponsored Study Centers. A good number of our churches are ordering their Sunday School and educational materials through our Division of Lay Ministries. A number of our young people are taking advantage of the various college tuition discounts that have been made exclusively available to our CCNA-member students. This past year we distributed \$4,450 in CCNA Scholarship grants.

CCNA NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2002

Pastor Eugene Demarco will host the 4th annual CCNA National Education Conference Saturday, June 22, 2002 at Christian Assembly, New Brighton, PA. It will be an all-day event. See pp. 17-18 for more information.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CCNA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The CCNA Education Department would like to thank the following for their generous giving during 2001:

DONATIONS FROM CHURCHES

Riverside Christian Assy, Akron OH	\$1,000
Faith Bible Church, Mohegan Lake, NY	600
Christian Assembly, Richmond Hts., OH	550

Christian Assembly, Beaver Falls, PA	350
Christian Assembly, Greenville, PA	300
Christian Assembly, New Brighton, PA	240
Christian Church of Canarsie, Brooklyn, NY	165
Christian Assembly, East Patchogue, NY	100
Agape Christian Fellowship, Freehold, NJ	90
Christian Church of Bayside, Bayside, NY	50
Evangelical Christian Church, Waterbury, CT	30

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PRACTICAL LEADERSHIP

And he [Jacob] said unto him [Esau], my lord knoweth that the children are tender... I will lead on softly. Genesis 33:13-14



WENTY-FIRST Century American-style leadership is all too often stereotyped as the brash, gruff, cowboy-like, hard-hitting, get-the-job-done, the-end-justifies-the-means brand of leadership that can leave a lot of casualties along the way. In the above passage, Jacob was sensitive to the capabilities of his young, and wisely chose not to drive them beyond their ability to follow. I'd like to suggest that leading "softly" doesn't mean leading "weakly." Here are some thoughts on

PRACTICAL LEADERSHIP that can be put into practice in any organization, to include our work environments, our families, as well as our places of ministry:

1. Leaders lead people, managers manage things.

Leadership is sometimes confused with management but the two are very different, each requiring a different set of skills.

Practical Leadership continued on p. 23



Women's Ministries

Rev. Vilda C. Roy, National Director

WAITING ON THE LORD



HERE is a little Scriptural song that goes something like this:

"they that wait upon the Lord Shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

I can hardly believe it is 2002. It seems only yesterday that God called me into ministry to women, and I was appointed as your national director.

The vision burns in my heart as brightly today as when God first gave it to me. Even though I can't say it has completely come to pass, I can tell you that through the years there have been many, many trial and tribulations, mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. But through it all, God has been faithful to the vision, to me and to His Word. I can honestly say that there have been no trials or tribulations that God has not been with me, encouraging me to press ahead through the warfares of the Devil.

God has given me as the National Director, favor, and wonderful women to work with. Each of the officers, Mary Hallahan, Carolyn Longo, Joyce Gay, Jenny Coburn, Pat Frank and Ann Oldsey fulfilled their respective offices with energy, dedication and love, working as unto the Lord to bring about His will in the Women's Ministries. I applaud each of them for the services rendered! I've had great District Leaders, Advisors and Lay Ministry Directors as well. I knew in the very beginning when God gave me the vision for women that it would be an uphill battle; the challenge of my life.

Our mandate to be instruments in bringing about household salvation, restoration of the family unit, and bringing men, women and children to Biblical order. God is preparing His Body for His return. He is coming for a Glorious Church—a Body that is walking in victory: prepared vessels, all filling their places of destiny in the Kingdom of God fulfilling His purposes and plan. I still believe there will come a mighty outpouring and revival of power for the Church before that great day! I thank God that He

only gives us a small glimpse of things to come as we move forward step by step, day by day, year by year. If I had understood the whole vision when I began this call, I'm not sure if I could have stood. But God in His infinite Wisdom, Mercy and Grace, knows how to keep us motivated to continue onward and upward in His calling for each of us. I thank God that "it is not by my might, nor power, but it is by My Holy Spirit, saith God!"

As I have been walking out my assignment, I've experienced much. Through loss of finances, death of loved ones, friends that were closer than my own family, hurt, and attack of my integrity, my mind, relationship, and especially my health, I've learned that even in the midst of trial and afflictions, there is nothing greater than to know that you are squarely in the center of God's Will! Even when the progress seems slow and people come against me, I will continue to stand,

"being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you [me] will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ! Phil.1:6

Taking heed to the ministry which I have received in the Lord, that I fulfill it. (I Thes. 4:17)

Let me encourage you especially in this very difficult time since September 11, 2001. The book of Habakkuk Chapter 2:1-3:

"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer, when I am reproved. And the Lord answered me, and said, "write the vision, and make it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: Though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry. The just shall live by his faith.

Those of you in the CCNA know the Vision. Please continue to stand. What God said He will do, He *will* do! Our families will be saved. Our households and families will be restored, and revival will come. In 2002 let us stand together in faith, and unity in the bonds of love and look at what the Lord has and IS doing!

Vilda C. Roy



From the Pulpit

Messages from the Ministry

THE EYES OF THE LORD

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3



THE questions that are being asked all over the world today since the tragic and diabolical events of September 11, 2001 are apparently fully answered by this timely text penned thousands of years ago. The questions most often asked are: Where was God in all this? Was God aware of what happened? Did God have anything to do with this dastardly event? Couldn't God have prevented it?

The text should assure every one, whether he believes it or not, that God is always fully aware of everything that goes on, of what has taken place, and that He has a lot to do with it. I certainly realize that such a viewpoint may disturb and perhaps even anger the casual reader, yet, how else can one truly understand such a clear and convincing truth? Let us therefore ponder this text in light of what the prophet Zechariah maintains:

The eyes of the Lord. . . run to and fro through the whole earth. Zechariah 4:10.

If one says that he believes in God, he must believe in God's Word. He must indeed accept the inspired revelation of His sovereign omniscience. King David was divinely prompted to state that,

"the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous." Psalm 34:15

And even ancient Job states,
God's eyes are upon the ways of man, and He sees all his goings. (34:21)

The prophet Amos unequivocally reports what the Spirit of the Lord said to him:

"Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth." Amos 9:8

I believe that God is sending a divine warning to both the world, that lies in the bosom of Satan, and to the church of Jesus Christ, that He has called to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Daniel, the prophet of God, was ordered of the Lord to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, in order that all may know that the most high rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever he will and sets up over it the basest men. Daniel further counseled the king to break off his sins by doing what is right, and his iniquities by showing mercy

to the poor. The king was given 12 months in which to repent and change. However, he failed to do so and the kingdom was taken from him.

Is not the Lord again saying to the Christian Church by the mouth of His servant,

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14

What is God trying to say to us through the horrible bombing of the World Trade Center — the heart of the worldwide economy, and the Pentagon — the symbol of man's greatest military power on earth? Will we persist in worshipping idols of gold and silver? Will we continue in shameless sensuality? Will we go on mocking holy things? Will we continue shedding innocent blood through abortions and stem-cell research? Will we keep on rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only Savior of the world, whom God has sent to earth from heaven for our eternal salvation?

Each of us must react to the message that God is speaking to us about. His eyes are in every place beholding the good and the evil. Now is not the time to discuss nor debate the recent shocking crisis, rather, it is indeed high time to decide and determine to repent, to confess, and to obey the voice of the Lord:

"redeeming the time because the days are evil"
Ephesians 5:16



Rev. Eugene Palma

The Evangelical Christian Church
Rochester, NY

Vista

**Earnestly Solicits Messages from the
CCNA Ministry for Publication**

From the Pulpit is continued on p. 20



Youth Ministry

Rev. Sam DeMarco

YOUTH MINISTRY: “to be or not to be” Is That Really The Question?

Jesus said: *where your treasure is, there your heart will be.*



It is safe to say that this past year was indeed my busiest in ministry travel. The Lord opened opportunities for me to minister to more youth pastors, workers, and leaders than ever. My travels involved three districts, oversees to Africa, schools, conferences and meetings within as well as outside the CCNA.

My heart rejoices in what I have witnessed. My heart also breaks of what I have seen. My perspective comes as an associate pastor as well as the national youth president. I rejoice seeing:

- Churches who are investing into their youth.
- The emergence of dynamic men and women who want to lead teenagers into a mature, passionate walk with the Lord.
- An increase in unity and excitement in the CCNA pertaining to youth ministries.
- An increase in activities in the local youth churches pertaining to evangelism and witnessing.
- Churches led by their pastor, taking steps of faith to create a staff position to minister to youth.
- The response of young people to ministry.
- The in filling of the Holy Spirit in so many teenagers.
- Youth churches, through newly created retreats and conferences, building friendships and discovering new ones.

Shakespeare’s character Hamlet posed a question, to be or not to be, which was really a question of worth and value. In lay man’s term’s he was simply asking, is life worth living? How tragic and yet today in the church we may find the same question pertaining to our most vital area of ministry, the younger generation. Notice I said younger generation. The question to be or not to be may not be actually asked but it does show in mind sets and activities a church is conducting. They may sincerely love children and teenagers but if they look closely, they may find that their actions speak other wise. Therefore, that ministry needs evaluated. May I suggest some things that I have learned and observed that all of us need to be aware of.

Ignorance of investment.

Jesus taught many times of the principles of sowing and reaping. He himself was sown in order to reap a return. John 3:16. Youth ministry is not an instant return, but more of a planting for a harvest at a later point. When we invest in children and teens, we can expect a harvest. I have personally witnessed a harvest of adult servant leaders who were once teenagers. I have seen new families begin to attend church based on their child coming first.

I have seen young people thrive at their respective church based on being development in our youth ministry. Investing involves time, people, and money. We never lose when investing the gospel in young people.

A lack of Properly prioritizing.

Fact: all of our future is in our children and yet most church budgets lean toward the needs of a few and/or to adults.

Fact: Today parents will attend a church where their children enjoy over their own preference. [We can actually disciple children through an enjoyable and creative process].

Fact: Churches tend to put more emphasis and attention on building projects and neglect financial staffing needs.

[Suggestion: I know of several churches who have intertwined their building project and need for a youth or children’s pastor in one program]

I have shared these things from my heart, as I believed the Lord is prompting me to raise the awareness to prioritize ministry for our younger generation. There are pastors in our movement that can be great resources. I have always gleaned from ministries that are effective so that I may grow as well.

There are several more items I will share at another time. Until then let us all go all out in ministry for all generations and may it never be said of any of us that we dare pose the thought pertaining to children and youth ministry: To Be or not to be.

Youth events held throughout the CCNA in 2001

- Calvary Full Gospel conducts their first winter youth retreat called U-turn. Close to 100 young people in attendance. Many were touched by God’s Spirit.
 - Apex 2001, our annual national youth convention witnessed over 700 assemble for a powerful weekend directed by the Holy Spirit!
 - Over 200 attended an All Out youth conference in Moshekga, South Africa hosted by the ministry of Nancy Hudson.
 - Richmond Heights C/A launches their first “crave” youth event. Over 130 in attendance for a powerful evening of worship.
 - NWD annual camp was filled with intense practical Biblical training for the 150 in attendance.
 - 10 churches were represented among the worship team of young people who ministered at the Sunday evening service of our annual CCNA convention.
 - New England District hosted their first Next Level youth retreat. The 5 churches represented and 50 some teens present grew closer to the Lord as well as with each other.
 - NWD’s annual Next Level experienced many of the 300 plus in attendance being baptized or refilled in the Holy Spirit.
- [Please note: the following were events that Pastor Sam attended. There were other events that occurred as well. Please send articles of your youth activities to allout@thesafety.net so we can publish them.]

New Faces, Places, and more:

The following are those who this past year were relocated, promoted or simply began full-time youth ministry. We praise the Lord for them and expect to hear great things.

- **Richard Stump** – Youth Pastor at Christ Community Church
- **Tom Ciccarella** – Associate at Greenville Christian Assembly
- **Ryan Paskey** – promoted to Youth Pastor at New Brighton Christian Assembly
- **Aaron Thayer** – Youth Pastor at Richmond Heights Christian Assembly
- **Andre Harrison** – Youth Pastor at Rochester Christian Church, NY.
- **Marc DiFrancesca** – Youth Pastor at Syracuse Christian assembly [Marc is also the newly appointed Niagra Mohawk District Youth Director]
- **Tim Hatch** – Youth Pastor at Living Waters, Mass.



OVER 75 TEENAGERS BOW IN PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO A CALL TO SERVE THEIR LORD JESUS CHRIST THIS PAST SUMMER AT A YOUTH EVENT IN MOSHAKGA, SOUTH AFRICA.

APEX 2002 - “THE CAUSE”



NEW PLACE: University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown.
 THEME: THE CAUSE
 DATE: May 24 – 27, 2002
 COST: \$120 which includes: linen, pillows and towels, lodging, 6 meals, activities and much, much more!
 Speakers: **Pastor Sam DeMarco**
Bobby Petrocelli from 10 seconds Inc.
Pastor Jonas Mangena from Moshakga, South Africa.
Jill DeMarco
 Worship Ministry: **David DeMarco**
 Founder and Director of DDM.
 Holy Hands – Drama Ministry
 Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, soccer, swimming, The All Out Games, Madness 2K2, and the newly formed Café to host special events planned each night after evening services.



THE STATE OF THE ART 1,000 SEAT AUDITORIUM WILL BE THE MEETING ROOM FOR APEX 2002.



District News

Northwestern District



ALVERY FULL GOSPEL CHURCH,

Fairless Hills, PA, is undergoing a major expansion program. Under the leadership of senior Pastor **David Farina**, new sanctuary, offices, and Christian School classrooms are in the process of being built to the Glory of God. The project is to be completed by early summer 2002.



A brief history of the church begins with a group of believers worshipping in the nearby city of Morrisville, PA., about 60 years ago. As the church grew it became necessary to move to the present location in 1985. A former supermarket building was purchased and remodeled over the years to meet the ongoing growth. That existing part of the building, shown to the left of the photo, now houses offices, Christian school, child care, and present worship sanctuary. When that facility became too confining, plans were developed for the new section.

Until completion, two services are now being held on Sunday mornings. The new sanctuary under construction, will seat approximately 1,600 in both the main floor and balcony. Other rooms will include a music practice area, a welcome/reception area, three offices, and seven classrooms. Soon after completion, plans are also being made to renovate the existing chapel which will seat 200. The current school classrooms will be used to accommodate the endless waiting list of child-care children, a ministry unto itself.

Rev. Nat Saganario

ORDINATION SERVICE



REV. DOUGLAS DRAGAN(c) IN GOOD COMPANY AT
NEW BRIGHTON CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

Great Lakes District

It was moved and accepted by the Executive Board of the Christian Church of North America on November 5, 2001 that a new district be formulated. The district shall involve the following states: Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The newly appointed District Overseer and Assistant General Overseer is Rev. Patrick J. Bossio, Sr.



This new district is born out of a vision to expand CCNA's opportunity for growth. Vision is born when you are so moved by a need that you ask God to turn an impossibility into a possibility, giving one the opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission: Evangelism both at home and abroad. Churches rarely founder because of lack of willing workers. They founder because of the lack of vision. Visions has the power to motivate people and churches to fulfill the Great Mandate. Thank God for the vision of CCNA and the Great Lakes District! To God be all the Glory.

Eastern District

IT HAPPENED IN NUTLEY

I had invited Lee Hance, an evangelist from the Northwestern District, to come and preach through the weekend Nutley, New Jersey. We had a great move of the Holy Spirit at a Saturday night youth rally with brother Lee, and expected more of the same on Sunday morning. We had a great praise & worship service that February day, and as we ended the last song, a woman named Rosa approached the altar and said "Pastor, I don't feel so well", and collapsed on the floor.

People rushed forward to pray for her. I have some medical training, but since her husband and grandson were there, I didn't want to alarm them, so while I prayed, I acted like I was holding her hand, but I was actually taking her pulse.

District News is continued on p. 24



Bits 'n Pieces

WILL HE FIND YOU SLEEPING?

by Michael K. Conrad
Niles Christian Assembly



VERY American will forever remember September 11th, 2001. The images of the airplanes striking the Twin Towers that unfolded on our television screens will be deeply burned into our memories, just like those of the Challenger lift-off or J.F.K.'s fatal motorcade in Dallas, Texas. It has been said that America had become overconfident, that we thought the evil terrorist acts, which had become so common in other countries, could never happen here on our own soil. It has been said, and I agree, that this should act as a wake up call to all Americans. The events of September 11th should wake each of us up, so we will not take our freedom for granted, but it should also serve to wake up another sleeping giant. It should serve to wake up the Church.

While it is easy to see how America was lulled into a deep sleep, what is it that has happened to the church today and brought it to this point? The modern church has become complacent. We have allowed the world to enter our lives so deeply that we have become hard and calloused. Our hearts are not tender anymore. We no longer have a desire for those that are lost. We are too concerned with church attendance and the totals in the offering plates to teach truth from the pulpit and chance offending someone. We have allowed a politically-correct mentality to creep within the walls of our churches. We have compromised what is right and are no longer that beacon of light shining the way to a dying world that the church should be. We sat back quietly as prayer was removed from our schools and each year there are many more lives lost through abortion than those that were killed in the World Trade Center. Yet we continue to remain silent. We continue to sleep. What is even worse, many Christians today are actually split in their opinions about abortion. It is becoming harder and harder to see a difference between those that consider themselves Christians and those that don't. Take a look at the divorce rate in the world and the church and you will see what I mean. We see churches making decisions about condoning same-sex marriages and allowing gay ministers to preach, not taking a stand against sin, but justifying it. We have allowed a silent enemy to enter into the church while we keep dozing in the back pew.

The Bible gives us a perfect example of the mentality of the church today in the church of Sardis. In Revelation 3:2-3, Jesus tells the church of Sardis to, "Wake up!" He tells them if they do not rise from their sleep, He will come like a thief in the night and they will not know at what time He will come. The city of Sardis was situated on what was thought to be an inaccessible hill, protected by what was thought to be an impregnable fortress. It however had one unobserved, unguarded weak point, a small crack in the rock wall that surrounded the city. One night, just as Jesus said, an enemy (the Persians and the

Greeks) came like a thief in the night and entered through the crack and defeated Sardis as the city arose from its deep sleep. Sardis had been rich and powerful and had enjoyed financial blessings. It had industry and trade and in many ways was a photograph of what America is like today. But Jesus said that while they thought they were alive, they were actually dead. Also, because of the state they were in, there was one element missing from Jesus' words that is found in most of the other letters to the churches of Revelation. There was no persecution of the church of Sardis. Why? Because Satan does not need to persecute something that is already dead!

The church today needs to wake up. We need to realize that we have been sleeping while Satan has been working overtime. We need to stop going along with the flow and begin to speak up when evil presents itself. Just this week my oldest son mentioned to me that he had to watch several videos in his English class at college that dealt with subject matter about homosexuality and had nudity and other things that are blatantly evil. He stated that these things had nothing to do with English and I told him that he needed to speak up and say so in class. These are things that most Christians should find offensive. We don't have to take this anymore. It is this type of silence that has allowed many of the rights of Christians to be taken away and has forced us to defend ourselves, and our views, from the liberal thinking that is so prevalent today. Just because we are Christians does not mean we have to be silent. Being silent has allowed the majority of movies on the big screen (and sadly enough the small television screens as well) to contain offensive language and subject matter. Being silent has removed God from our schools and government buildings. Silence has made those that do speak up have to defend themselves against charges of bigotry or of being fanatics. I recently voiced my opinion about the way my employer was pushing diversity initiatives that offended my beliefs and was asking me to justify something that I oppose. You know what? It felt good! Did it do any good? Did it change anything? I don't know, but it's a start!

As the time grew short that Jesus would be on the earth, He and three of his closest followers entered a garden. Jesus knew He would soon be facing the cross. He knew the sin of the world and what the cost was going to be for that sin. He was obviously troubled even asking God to "take this cup from Me." Mark 14:34 states that He said, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." Jesus knew what He had to do, but He had only one request of Peter, James and John. He asked them to pray and watch. Three times He returned to find them sleeping. Three times he came back from speaking to God and each time those that had been closest to Him had fallen asleep. Well church, He's coming back again. We don't know the hour or the day. He will come like a thief in the night. When He does return however, the big question for each of us is, "Will He find you sleeping?"



World Missions

Italy

We have just returned from a two-month missionary trip to Italy. The Lord greatly blessed our efforts. In visiting churches where we had previously worked, we met many new souls and also old ones who remembered us, and we thank God for their faithfulness in continuing to serve God.

One of our greatest blessings was visiting Frosinone, Sassino, Sora, and San Giorgio di Liri where Bro. Salvatore Pirrera is pastor and Bro. Salvatore Grimaldi is pastor emeritus.



BRO. SALVATORE PIERRA (L) BRO. GRIMALDI (C)

San Giorgio de Liri is the hometown of our dear Bro. Michele DeSimone, an evangelist from Bronx, NY. For those who do not know of his testimony, here is a bit of it:

In January 1942 our father, Bro. Michael Palma, invited Bro. DeSimone (photo at left) to hold evangelistic services for a week in Syracuse, NY. On Wednesday, January 4th, his third night, he preached on the topic of "Living Moment by Moment." When he finished, he went down from the pulpit and sat on the first pew, where he collapsed and died! He was 42 years old. This event brought a great fear and a testimony in Syracuse.

His body lay in state for a day in the Syracuse church so that the people could mourn him.

During the day and evening the young men of the church

stood honor guard, two at a time, with white gloves on for two hour intervals. Bro. and Sis. Palma accompanied the body to the Bronx for funeral services. While living, he would visit Italy, especially the towns surrounding his home town and hold evangelistic services. However, none of his family, including his wife and three children ever accepted the Lord.

Two years ago, his grandson attempted to locate Bro. DeSimone's burial place. Through the efforts of Bro. Bavaro, the family was able to obtain a death certificate and found that he was buried in Beverly Hills, NY. When we visited San Giorgio di Liri, this grandson did much to help Bro. Pirrera get a hall in the Hotel so that services could be held. On Saturday, November 10, 2001, a service was held which was first of its kind in that town. Over 200 attended including some 20 members of the DeSimone family, some of whom accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The pastor is planning to continue to hold services there.

We also visited churches in Taranto and vicinity, Benevento, Prato, Firenze, and of course, Bro. Remoli's home church in Rome (photo below) where Bro. Francesco Toppi is pastor.

We have been blessed on this trip and we thank God for the



great opportunity and privilege He has given us to minister for Him. Italy is very open for the Gospel, especially in light of the events of September 11. Keep us in prayer that we may continue to be faithful to Him how has called us in His service.



Rinaldo and Leah (Palma) Remoli

World Missions continued on p .22



It's In the Bible

A Study in the Word with Rev. Eric R Towse



Israel 101

A Series on the Biblical Record of Ancient Israel
(Continued from Fall 2001 Issue)

The Sons of Israel

[GENESIS 29, 30, and 35]



ACOB, having married both daughters of Laban, had children by both his wives and his wives' maidservants. The children of these servants would also be considered his. It is to be noted that, in the Hebrew language, regular words were used to name children. Names in Hebrew had meaning. Jacob, literally means "deceiver" and was a prophetic reference to his actions to usurp his brother Esau's birthright.

Jacob's firstborn was named Reuben. His birth was followed by Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. Although there are interesting accounts surrounding many of these births, we should note a special relationship between these sons when the order of their birth is considered.

Recall that names in Hebrew are rich in meaning. The name Reuben means, *behold a son*. Simeon, *one who hears*. Levi, *attached*. Judah, *praise*. Dan, *he vindicated*. Naphtali, *my struggle*. Gad, *good fortune*. Asher, *happiness*. Issachar, *reward*. Zebulun, *honor*. Joseph, *may he add*. Benjamin, *son of my right hand*.

If the meaning of the names of the twelve sons of Jacob are considered in the order of their birth, we read:

BEHOLD A SON • ONE WHO HEARS • ATTACHED PRAISE • HE VINDICATED MY STRUGGLE • GOOD FORTUNE • HAPPINESS • REWARD • HONOR • MAY HE ADD • SON OF MY RIGHT HAND.

If you did not recognize this for what it is, a prophecy concerning the Son at God's right hand, read it again!

From Bethel to Egypt

[GENESIS 36-50]

Jacob settled in Bethel. His sons sell Joseph into slavery and he becomes ruler of Egypt. During a famine, Jacob, now old, sends his sons to Egypt to buy food. Joseph, recognizing

his family relocates them to an area of Egypt called Goshen. All of the events that happened to Joseph were part of God's plan for the fulfillment of His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The nation of Israel, all twelve sons of Jacob are now in a position for God to bless them. But first comes a test.

The Israelites are in Egypt, they are called Hebrews. They are not Jews.

Moses and the Exodus

Moses at age 80 is called by God to rescue Israel from the slavery in Egypt. But first, Israel needed to learn a very important lesson, that God is God. Instead of just "miraculously" delivering the Israelites from their bondage, a series of events occurred for their edification, that is, the judgment upon the gods of Egypt. The land they were to inherit was inhabited by many peoples—all evil, and all who were to suffer the judgment of God at the hands of the invading Israelites. The peoples of the promised land worshiped many different gods. God would



first demonstrate His authority over the gods of Egypt so that there would be no doubt in the minds of the Israelites who was indeed the true God. The signs and plagues culminated in the Passover and established a most important reminder of the power of God to both free and save Israel.

Upon their escape through the Red Sea, the Lord began to test the Israelites. They griped and grumbled, first against Moses, then against God. He gave them manna and quail to satisfy their grumbling and then provided water from the rock.

Israel in the Desert

At Mt. Sinai, the Lord gave Moses the law while the Israelites indulged in revelry and sin. This resulting in a punishment where 3,000 people died as the Levites killed their brothers by the sword. Additionally, God struck the Israelites with a plague.

The Israelites erected the tabernacle in the desert according to the instructions given to Moses in the law. This would provide a means for atonement (covering) for sin.

Moses' sister Miriam became leprous when she and Aaron challenged Moses'



It's in the Bible continued on p. 19

Testimony

An Account of God's Miraculous Touch



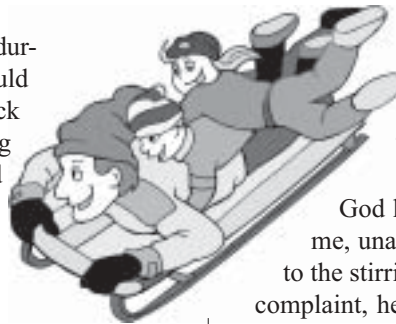
WINTERS are beautiful in Michigan and during the Christmas Season of 1971 it would be no different. Our two children, Patrick Jr (14), and Paulette Marie (12) were enjoying their Christmas vacation from school. It had snowed for a few days continually and the ground was covered with a well-packed snow covering, perfect for sledding. Dad suggested that the family go tobogganing, Mom begged-off, but the children were delighted. We selected a well-known "toboggan hill" less than ten miles away, packed our gear and away we went for a day of adventure and fun.

A few practice runs halfway down the steep hill and then we were ready for the thrill of a lifetime. Patrick in front, Paulette in the middle, and Dad driving in the back. Gathering speed as we rode down the now icy toboggan run, it was too late to see the two foot mound of solid-packed ice that had formed at the bottom of our run. We hit it full speed and with the thrust of a rocket soared in the air while we turned somersault and came crashing down with full impact on dad's back. No one heard it nor felt it but dad: The Crack; the sound of bones breaking and the excruciating pain. "Oh, God!" he cried, "I have broken my back and my legs are paralyzed."

The children were both laughing and jumping with joy at the thrill of the ride before they realized dad was seriously injured. The reality of the accident finally began to become clear as the children cried and asked what they could do. In my agony I asked them to pray for me and they did. In what seems like an eternity I was able to miraculously drag myself to our car and slowly, in great pain and discomfort, drive home. Since dad was a pastor, mom called a member of the church to drive him to the doctor as he laid down on the floor of the car.

After X-ray, our fears were confirmed: dad had fractured 3-4 vertebrae in the lower part of his back. "Reverend, I can operate," said the Doctor, "but I don't recommend it. What you need is 3 to 6 months' bed rest. . . and above all, don't even think of going to church in the near future." To a pastor, that is the equivalent of a death sentence.

I had never experienced such a pain as I laid in bed, unable to move, get comfortable, or rest. Every move brought fear of pain and torture, plus the mental agony of who was going to take care of the spiritual needs of my congregation. Approximately a week passes. The church was having special prayer for the pastor. Cards, phone calls, and offers of help were a daily occurrence for the Bossio family, and then it happened. Pastor Vito Tedesco from Akron, Ohio



called and said he was on his way to Detroit and wanted to know if he could pray for Pastor Bossio. Only a fool would refuse an offer of prayer in such a time as this. "Please, come my dear brother," was my reply.

When Pastor Tedesco arrived, he shared how God had placed upon his heart to come and pray for me, unaware of my unfortunate accident. In obedience to the stirring of the Spirit of God, and without question or complaint, he obeyed. Thank For obedient and faithful servants of God who without question move in the realm of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Tedesco prayed, laid his hands upon my head, and in the Name of Jesus proclaimed my complete healing. To say that I felt a bolt of lightning, or a physical manifestation of supernatural power, would be untrue. As abruptly as he came, he left after prayer.

That same night, at three o'clock in the morning, I slid out of bed, crawled to the living room and prayed, "Oh God, if you spoke to Pastor Tedesco to come all the way from Akron to Detroit to pray for me without his knowing what had occurred in my life, then I will accept my complete healing by faith, and Lord, as a sign of my healing have Dr. Bower say to me, 'You are completely well and you may now return to your church duties.'"

The next morning, still in pain, I was taken to the doctor's office. He was shocked to see me out of bed, but I insisted on an immediate X-ray of my back. He agreed and when the results came, he said, "I can't understand it. You had 3 to 4 fractured vertebrae and now the X-ray shows that they have fused together and you have the back of a sixteen year old. Get dressed and go home." Instead of rejoicing, yet still in pain, I slowly dressed myself though utterly depressed and disappointed. My "sign," had failed to come from the doctor's lips.

As I walked down the long corridor of Dr. Bower's office, I was about to open the door to leave when Dr. Bower called from the end of the corridor and shouted, "Rev. Bossio, your back is healed. You can go back to your church now." I walked rapidly back to his private office and shared with him the "sign" I had asked of God to confirm my complete healing. He was visibly moved and agreed it was a miracle from God.

That same evening I walked into my church where unknown to my people who were praying for my healing there, I proclaimed my testimony of healing. Within two days, all pain was gone. No further pain medication was needed and now, as



I write this testimony for the glory of God, I have enjoyed thirty painless years, free of any back problem and I proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord, Savior, and glorious Healer.

Rev. Patrick Bossio, Sr



Your Health Advisory

by Marcia P. Kaufman, BSN



“LET THERE BE LIGHT”



LIGHT? How important is light? Well, it was so important that light was one of God’s priorities on the first day of creation.

“And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness” Genesis 1:3.



Light is a form of radiant energy because it moves out or radiates in waves in all directions such as from the Sun or an electric bulb. These waves can be either visible or invisible depending on their wavelength or vibration (frequency). Light waves that are too long (i.e.,

infrared) or too short (i.e., ultraviolet), and vibrate too quickly or too slowly are invisible, although all waves travel at the same speed of 186,300 miles a second. Visible, or white light, such as that of the Sun, is really a mixture of colors of different wavelengths. When light is passed through a glass prism it breaks up into its component colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. These are the colors of the rainbow, also called the visible light spectrum.



Red light has the longest waves and violet has the shortest. Invisible light is present beyond each end of this visible spectrum. On the long end, infrared wavelengths produce heat and necessary to keep the Earth from freezing. On the short end we have ultraviolet light, which is rather controversial. The Sun emits three types of ultraviolet lights: A, B and C. UV-A is primarily responsible for tanning. UV-B has many effects that are beneficial to human beings. Various studies have demonstrated that it stimulates the production of vitamin D in our skin and aids absorption of calcium in our bones, activates natural anti-bacterial oil production in our skin, stimulates our immune system, can lowers blood pressure and serum cholesterol, and is an effective treatment for psoriasis. UV-C is the harmful form of UV light. Although it is used to kill viruses and bacteria in hospitals, it is widely considered a cancer risk.

Some scientists have found that, while overexposure to the sun greatly increases your risk of cancer, regular, moderate exposure may actually reduce that risk. Warning! Light sources used in tanning salons contain both tanning rays (UV-A) and the dangerous UV-C. There are actual mental disorders attributed to deficient exposure to full spectrum

Winter is upon us bringing with it colder weather, more days indoors, and shorter days. Ever get the “winter blues” or a touch of “cabin fever”? Have you ever wondered why you feel more energy in the summer or when you are enjoying the pleasures of the great outdoors on a sunny day? The answer may be as simple as the amount of light, or more correctly, full spectrum light that you are exposed to.

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a form of depression caused by the decreased amount of sunlight present in the winter months. This is a real problem for those in the northern latitudes where sunlight is low for long periods of time. Light therapy has been shown to be an effective treatment of this disorder, especially in children. These northern climes also have traditionally shown increases in drug abuse and alcoholism during the winter months. Research is being done to see if there is a link between low light and addiction that may eventually lead to treatment or even a cure for these conditions.

A two-year study of Canadian children, ages 10-12 was conducted to see if there was any difference in the students exposed to natural light as compared with those under yellow sodium vapor lamps and traditional cool-white fluorescents. The results were interesting. Those under natural, full spectrum light performed 26% higher in reading and 20% higher in math than the other groups. It was also noted that these children grew faster, had less absences from school, and had fewer dental caries (probably because of UV-B increasing calcium absorption). Wal-Mart noted that there were improved sales in areas under skylights. They even varied the items in these areas and the results were the same. It has been reported that where there is more natural lighting present: sales increase (as high as 40%), productivity increases, there is better visual acuity, better color matching is facilitated, and there are reductions in the cost of energy. In fact, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District reported its sunny building saved about \$56,000 a year in electric bills.

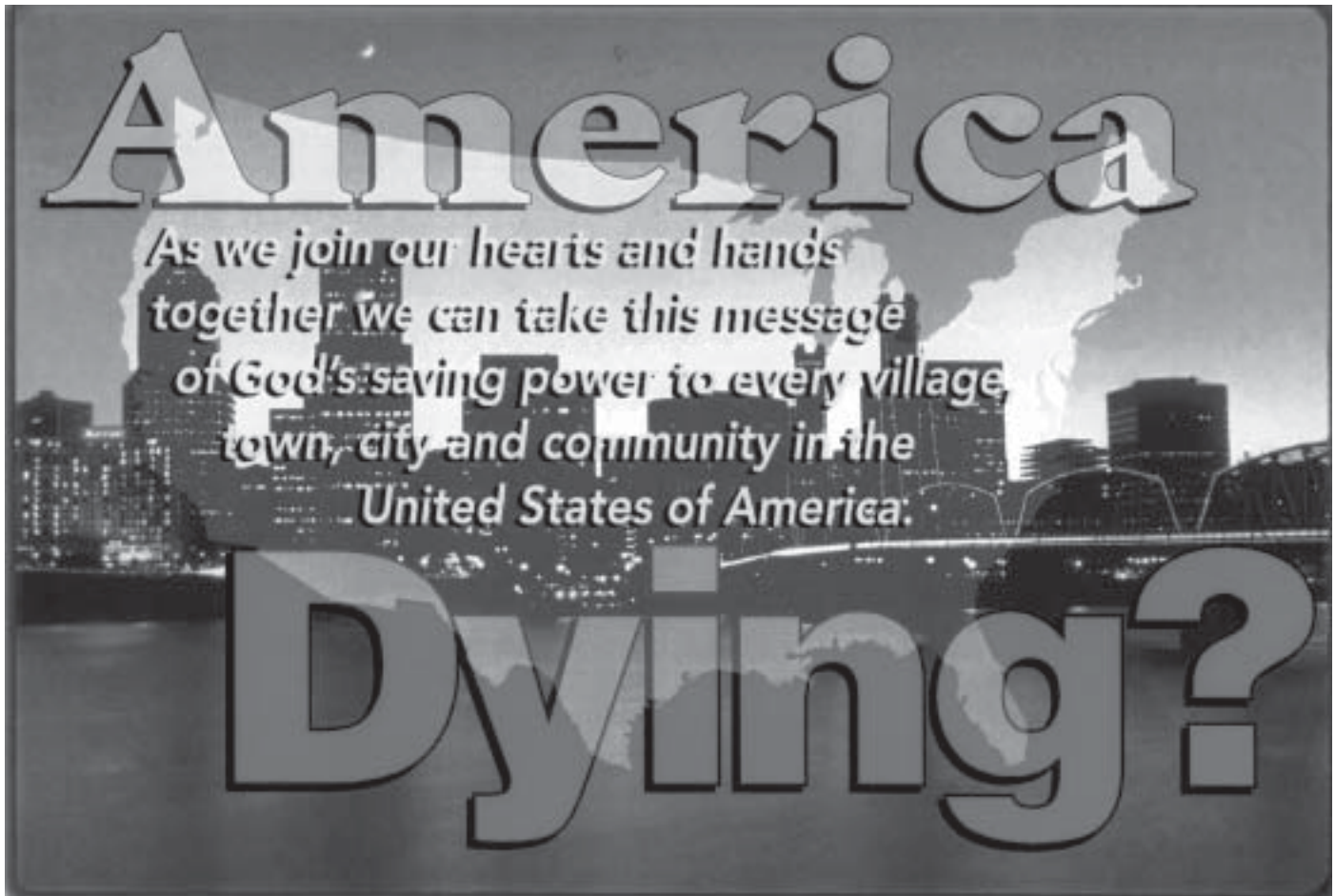
As Spring approaches and the days start to lengthen again, I would encourage you to take advantage of the gift of light that God has so generously provided for His children. Remember that moderation is the key to healthy sun exposure. Even if you can’t get out as often as you would like, make sure to open the blinds and let the sunshine in. While we are on the subject of light, don’t forget what Jesus said to his followers to show how important they were in leading others to God.

“You are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14,16).



Home Missions

Rev. John Ferguson



HOME MISSIONS VISION 2002 AND BEYOND

Home Missions will be a high priority for 2002 as the leaders are involved in "Chartering the CCNA into the Future." In keeping with our sub-theme for this year, "A FIRM FOUNDATION," National Home Missions will focus on the Great Commission. A clear sense of direction and vision are needed to keep churches focused on our God-given mandate.

In the light of September 11, 2001 many have felt that it is a wake-up called to all Churches in America. Did you notice the Home Missions Poster prepared for the Convention in August 2001 titled with the question AMERICA DYING with NYC outline in the background, with the WTC buildings blotted out? COINCIDENCE? The Lord may be revealing to us the **urgency** of the hour.

Someone once said, "It's hard to see history when you're in the middle of it." Even rapid and radical change, in historical perspective, happens slowly and suddenly. It catches us like a time warp. It jolts us with a bolt of reality shock. Many Americans are suffering from a reaction to this new reality. The USA has become a mission field.

NEW CHURCH PLANTING

A few years ago the General Council of the CCNA placed a high priority on planting new churches in America. Home Missions main focus will be sharing this vision with every church in the CCNA. Most all church growth leaders of our day declare, "New church planting is the number one method of evangelism." Jesus said, "***I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***"

Jesus is still calling men and women to the fields of America to plant churches and fulfill the Great Commission. Our responsibility is to help send them and support this highest priority of our Lord. We thank God for the many pastors and churches who have caught the Vision for this ministry of Planting. (Planting is only the first step, we must help to water and trust God for the increase.)

Home Missions continued on p .21

CCNA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Invites You to the 4th Annual
Christian Education Conference for 2002



A FIRM FOUNDATION . . .

from which to reach . . .

BEYOND ALL LIMITS

Saturday - June 22, 2002

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY • NEW BRIGHTON, PA

will commence a “**Kingdom-class**” event (as compared to “*world-class*”) with a line up of renowned national church leaders who will speak to us on relevant topics extremely important for the 21st Century Church! This Conference is designed for all Pastors, Christian Education teachers, Youth Leaders, Lay Workers, Evangelists and Minister’s wives. All are welcome and all will benefit! Space is limited to 300. Registration deadline is June 10th. Register early to secure a seat!



Key note speaker **Rev. Dr. James O. Davis** serves as the National Representative of the **Assemblies of God** Department of Evangelism and coordinates the annual AG’s National Evangelists’ Leadership Conference. He has traveled to five continents presenting the dynamic life-changing Gospel message of Jesus Christ and has authored a number of books. He is also the founder of **Cutting Edge International** and the **Pastor’s Global Network**. Recently he and Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ coordinated the **Beyond All Limits** Pastors’ Conference in Orlando, Florida. More than 5,000 Pastors and Pastor’s wives from many denominations registered from all 50 states and over 60 nations. Dr. Davis resides in Springfield, Missouri with his wife Sheri. Their two children, Jennifer and James, reside in heaven. Dr. Davis will be ministering in two sessions, “**The Minister in Crisis**” and “**Ministerial Leadership**.”



Dr. Ronald A. Iwasko is the President of Global University, which through our cooperative agreement makes possible the CCNA School of the Bible. Dr. Iwasko has served as an Air Force officer, a civil engineer, pastor, and a foreign missionary to Brazil where he spent 5 years pioneering distance education. He has also served for 16 years in leadership positions in the **Assemblies of God World Missions Department** and 7 years in leadership positions at North Central University and the Carlson Institute. Dr. Iwasko has two earned Masters degrees from the University of Minnesota and two earned doctorate degrees from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Dr. Iwasko resides in Springfield, MO with his wife Kathryn. He will be speaking to us on “**The Importance of Christian Education: For the Minister, the Lay Teacher, the Church Body**.”



Conference Coordinators: **Rev. Lucian J. Gandolfo** is the National Executive Director of the CCNA Education Department. He also serves as the Assistant District Overseer of the Eastern District CCNA, and is currently Pastor of the Grace Full Gospel Church in Newark,



Rev. Sam Farina is Senior Pastor at the thriving First Assembly of God in Concord, North Carolina. As a dynamic communicator, especially in his ability to challenge young people and leaders, he has traveled the world. He serves as adjunct professor at North Central University. Sam and his wife Vicki have a grown son, Troy. With deep sensitivity to the ministerial needs of endurance, encouragement, and the unique challenges faced by evangelists, pastor’s spouses and families, Rev. Farina will be speaking to us about “**Ministerial Perseverance**.”



Rev. Norman Lawrence has served in full-time ministry for over 20 years. His expertise in computer technology has been used of God in many aspects of ministry. He is an integral component of the Pastor’s Global Network and has designed web sites for a number of national ministries. He is a contributing author of “**Living Like Jesus**,” a book coauthored by 29 renowned ministers. His chapter entitled “Click Here” deals with overcoming negative aspects of the Internet and the many battles that are waged at the end of a little device called a “mouse.” Rev. Norman and his wife are also gifted in song. Their newest CD entitled “**One Less Stone**” builds from Jesus’ Luke 19:40 admonition to the Pharisees that if we don’t praise the Lord, even the rocks would cry out. Rev. Lawrence and his wife Brenda reside in Kittanning, PA with their two boys, Dwayne and Aaron. Rev. Lawrence will be speaking on “**The Minister and Technology**.” He and Brenda will also be ministering in song.

NJ. Rev. Gandolfo resides with his wife Lisa and four children in Clarks Summit, PA.

Rev. Peter Lambo has served as a Pastor and currently as a Presbyterian in the Eastern District CCNA. He also serves on the National Education Department Committee as the Director of the Lay Ministries Education Division. He and his wife Carolyn reside in West Orange, NJ.





2002 Christian Education Conference (continued)

DATE: Saturday - June 22, 2002

LOCATION: CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY • Valley Avenue & Mercer Road • New Brighton, PA 15066
Rev. Eugene DeMarco, Host Pastor. Church Phone: 724-846-8820

DIRECTIONS: Will be provided to registrants by mail.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 (\$35 per Married Couple)

LUNCH & CONFERENCE MATERIALS: Included

SPECIAL MUSIC BY: Norman & Brenda Lawrence.

THEME: Bridges this year's CCNA theme with the January 2002 Beyond All Limits Pastors Conference in Orlando, FL, coordinated by Dr. James O. Davis and telecast on cable networks where over 5,000 pastors from all 50 states and 60 nations were represented.

AREA HOTELS: List will be provided to registrants. Special Conference rates have been secured.

- Additional Conference details will be mailed to each CCNA church. Watch for Informative Conference Brochure •

SCHEDULE:

8:00 AM Registration, Fellowship, and Refreshments
 8:45 AM Conference Opening Remarks / Orientation / Worship
 9:00 AM Session 1 - "The Minister in Crisis" by Dr. James O. Davis
 10:00 AM Session 2 - "Ministerial Perseverance" by Rev. Sam Farina
 11:00 AM Session 3 - "The Minister & Technology" by Rev. Norman Lawrence
 12 Noon LUNCH
 1:00 PM Session 4 - "The Importance of Christian Education: For the Minister, For the Lay Teacher, for the Church Body" by Dr. Ronald A. Iwasko
 2:00 PM Session 5 - "Ministerial Leadership" by Dr. James O. Davis
 3:00 PM Video Session - (2 options)
 "Vision-Casting" by Rev. Andy Stanley or
 "Moral Earthquake" by Rev. Maurice Watson
 4:00 PM Closing Comments



REGISTRATION FORM

CCNA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT • REV. PETER LAMBO • 107 ELM STREET • WEST ORANGE, NJ 07052
REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 PER PERSON (\$35 PER PERSON)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE/E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME CHURCH _____

CHURCH POSITION OR MINISTERIAL CREDENTIAL: _____

NO. OF PEOPLE REGISTERING _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED:\$ _____

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CCNA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

authority. Moses interceded on her behalf and the Lord healed her.

In Numbers 13 we read of the spies being sent out to explore Canaan. Ten of the twelve returned with favorable reports of the land, but discouraged Israel from attempting to take it because of the apparent power of its inhabitants. Only Joshua and Caleb returned and encouraged taking the Land with the help of the Lord.

A great rebellion ensued resulting in a punishment of remaining in the wilderness for 40 years. All adults who were rescued from Egypt died during that 40 year period with the exception of Joshua and Caleb.

Deuteronomy

In the 40th year God prepares Israel for entrance into the land he promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The people are certainly not deserving of it as their conduct has shown, but God keeps His promises. In Deuteronomy 1:10 Moses said,

“The Lord your God has increased your numbers so that today your are as many as the stars in the sky.”

This was the fulfillment of a promise to Abraham as recorded in Genesis 22:17.

Before entering the land, God promises the Israelites blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. (Deut 28) The blessings for obedience consisted of:

1. Blessings in the city and the country.
2. Blessings of children, crops, and livestock.
3. Blessings of abundance of food.
4. Blessed when they come in and when they go out.
5. Defeat of their enemies.
6. They would be called by the name of the Lord.
7. Peoples of the earth would fear them.
8. Rain on the land in season
9. Bless the work of their hands.
10. Lend to many nations but borrow from none.
11. Be on top—never on the bottom.

The curses for disobedience were far more extensive:

1. Cursed in the city and country.
2. Shortage of food.
3. Curses on children, crops, livestock.
4. Cursed when they go in and when they go out.
5. Be destroyed and come to sudden ruin.
6. Plagues of wasting diseases, blight, and mildew.
7. Curses on land and drought.
8. Defeated by their enemies.
9. Become a thing of horror throughout the earth.
10. Their carcasses will be eaten by birds.
11. Afflicted with the boils of Egypt, tumors, and the itch.
12. Madness, blindness, confusion of mind.
13. Be like a blind man in the dark at midday.
14. Unsuccessful at whatever they do.
15. Oppressed and robbed.
16. Not live in houses they built.

17. Plant a vineyard but not eat its fruit.
18. Animals forcibly taken from them.
19. Children taken from them to serve another people.
20. An unknown people will eat from their land.
21. They and their king would be driven out.
22. They would worship other gods of wood and stone.
23. Swarms of locusts would take over their land.
24. The alien among them would rise higher and higher.
25. They would sink lower and lower.
26. They would borrow from the alien, but not lend to him.
27. An iron yoke will be upon their necks.
28. A nation will lay siege to all their cities.
29. They will eat the flesh of their children.
30. They will be few in number.
31. They will be scattered among all nations.
32. Find no place of rest.
33. Live filled with dread night and day.
34. Sent back to Egypt on ships to offer themselves as slaves.
35. No one will buy them.

The people are warned by Moses to choose life and not death and be obedient to the Lord so that these curses would not come upon them. The Lord speaks to the Israelites in a way that indicates that He knows that they are going to rebel, for even so He promises to return them to Himself if they return to the Lord with all their hearts.

Before he died, Moses spoke to the Israelites and warned them that they would soon prostitute themselves to foreign gods, forsaking both Moses and the covenant. Moses dies on Mount Nebo at the age of 120. He is succeeded by Joshua.

Israel Under Joshua

After Moses died, the Lord began to fulfill the promise of the inheritance of the land. After crossing the Jordan, the fall of Jericho, the sin of Achan, the land is taken by the Israelites under the leadership of Joshua.

The people, however, did not fully obey the Lord by driving out all of the people of the land they were entering. Nevertheless, God was faithful. God fulfilled the promise he made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob concerning the land. To wit:

So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord handed all their enemies over to them. Not one of the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled. Joshua 21:43-45



WHY TAKE UP MY CROSS?

by Pete DelTurco

"Take up your cross and follow me" (Mark 10:21)



HISTORY records that the Roman method of crucifixion was a device unmatched in history for brutality and ruthlessness. History also reconns that the cross, as a torture and death device, first appeared in Phoenicia, then passed on to the Greeks, but was perfected in Rome. Here are a couple of questions to provoke our thinking about the historical cross. How is the crucifixion of Jesus Christ now being translated into our everyday lives? Are we closing the gap between the old rugged cross of 2000 years ago and our crossless lives today, or are we content with just wearing shiny crosses? The answers to these questions are found in Jesus' challenge to take up our cross daily because of the presence of sin that ever threatens us. This raises one last question. If God dealt a deathblow to sin by Christ's crucifixion, then why does sin still survive in us after our conversion?



We have all experienced, and sometimes yielded to, the downward pull of our old nature, the flesh, as it dictates to us to do wrong. For your encouragement, let me say that as a believer in Christ, the old man was crucified with Christ to deliver us from sin's controlling power.

"Our old man was crucified with Christ that the body of sin might be destroyed." (Romans 6:6)

As believers, our problem is not with the body of sin ruling and reigning in our lives making us habitual sinners; our problem is with sin in our members vexing us now and then as occasional and infrequent sins. After Paul clearly stated that,

"you died [to sin] and your life is hidden with Christ in God"

Then he follows that up by instructing God's people to,

"put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, covetousness. . ."

(Colossians 3:1-5)

He says the same thing in Romans 7:22, 23 where he delights in God's law after the inward man (Christ) but sees another law in his sinful members warring against the new man. Paul's teaching here is to clearly distinguish between the body of sin, which enslaved us before conversion, and specific and individual sins in our members which act up occasionally after conversion.

Let me illustrate this for clarity. There were two brothers, Lester and Hector. Hector died and Lester buried him. The next day Lester visited Hector's grave. He noticed that Hector's leg was sticking straight up from his grave. A mortician will explain this a postmortem rigor mortis.

If the mortician doesn't treat the corpse, it may stiffen, sit up in the funeral parlor and look at you. But don't be afraid; it's still a corpse.



Lester grabbed his shovel and dug Hector's grave a little deeper to conceal that wayward leg.

Occasionally a sinful member of our body will go astray and do wrong. Satan will whisper to you, "you say you're saved, why, you haven't changed at all!" Don't be discouraged; it's just spiritual rigor mortis. Take your gospel shovel and dig a deeper grave for your old self. Remember he was crucified. When you feel the old man coming back to life, it's just a knee-jerk reaction. Begin to pray, quote scripture, affirm you victory in Christ by,

"reckoning [as an established fact] yourself dead indeed unto sin but alive to God. . .present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God." (Romans 6:11, 15)

Then walk in the Spirit away from that sin, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

Keep in mind that your old fleshy nature will be in your body like leprosy (but under God's control) until you get to heaven.

Another illustration will help us here. When I was in my early teens, I would love to watch those old horror flicks. Dracula films were popular. In one particular film men were hunting for Dracula's body. After finding his casket, they opened it. Though warned to to pull the stake from his heart least he come back to life, they withdrew it anyway. Dracula rises from his coffin, turns into a ghostly bat and flies away. Then after the movie, I would have to walk home alone by dark alleys frightened to death!



It is of interest to note that the root meaning of the word "cross" translated from the Greek is σταυρος (stavros) meaning stake, a vertical, single upright wooden stake. (The Romans fashioned their trees into four or five different shapes for crucifixion, but they were all called stakes.) Paul said,

"Our old man was crucified [staked] with Christ" (Romans 6:6).

Jesus used the cross as a stake, driving it deep into the heart of our old Dracula nature, destroying its ability to live and rule our lives! Don't remove the stake by habitually yielding to temptation!

THE CROSS MUST BE APPLIED

Sometimes we must deal ruthlessly with our sins in order to overcome them. Use the cross principle as a stake to deaden the sinful members of your body. This will keep the old man where he belongs—in his coffin. Always keep in mind that before you were saved, you were dead IN sin (Ephesians 2:1). Now that you are in Christ, you are dead TO sin (Romans 6:10, 11). You now have the advantage. This puts you in control of your old man-nature. The traditional shape of the cross illustrates perfectly how to recognize your cross, how to take it up, and at what point in your life your cross appears.

Act this out: Take your left arm and position it directly in front of your face. Your arm should be bent at the elbow so that for the elbow to the tip of your fingers, your arm should be in a vertical position. That vertical left arm represents your will. Listen to Paul who has nothing good to say about our will with respect to God's righteousness,

"In my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find for the good that I will to do, I do not do it." (Romans 7:18,19).

What Paul is saying here is that even as Christians, our natural will is hostile to God's will, at enmity with it, and incapable of pleasing God. Our only hope for greater freedom from our will is found in the will of God. Now take your right arm and bring it down at a left angle so that it intersects your vertical left arm to form a horizontal crossbeam. Your right arm, which represents God's will, has shaped a cross. Many times your will and God's will are at cross-purposes. When you say "yes" to God's will, you have taken up your cross.

Even Jesus struggled with His cross in Gethsemane by saying,

"Not my will but yours" (Matthew 26:39).

You see, much of our self-will is hidden from us until it is revealed to us by God's will through His Word. The cross involves a death of something that is contrary to God's will. It could be your wrong choice of friends, or a need for self-denial in compromising situations, a readjustment of your priorities, or a sinful habit. The good news is that the crucified life gives birth to the resurrection of joy, peace, glory, and life on a higher plane. Again, Paul said,

"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live" (Galatians 2:20).

This is resurrection life experienced here and now in this life. Go for it! You will never settle for life on any other plane.



Rev. Peter DelTurco
Amhurst, OH

HIS WISDOM

by Marie Elena Wilson

The time is coming,
The day is near,
The hand of our savior
Will soon appear.

The Spirit is moving,
Seeking a heart,
Whispers of wisdom,
To hear in the dark.

Raising up His children,
To harken to His word,
An army of saints,
Will soon be heard.

Knowledge and wisdom,
Will pour from above,
Confirming His word,
With His promised love.

In 2001 we had three new churches planted: South Port, NC, Boca Roton, FL, and St. Petersburg, FL. In the Eastern District we have two new church plantings in progress already in 2002. In the Niagra Mohawk District we have two new church plantings in the beginning stages. Praise the Lord! The Lord of the Harvest is sending laborers into His fields.

It is our prayer that all of our pastors and churches will join us in this great task of reaching America with the Gospel. Every-**"ONE Can Make a Difference."** With new church planting in view, seven (7) new works started in the last several months need our help now. We ask that every member in ever church give \$1 per week (\$52 a year) and join our efforts together making the difference of failure or success in planting new churches in America. This is the General Income for National Home Missions that will be used to cover all expenses.

What a difference we could make if only 24 members of each of our 100 churches gave \$52 this year, we would realize \$128,800. (This is what we call GO-104). We would be able to offer Pastor's of New Plantings \$25,000 in each of our (6) six Districts. In addition, we would have funds to realize a full time director and do other needed ministries for Home Missions. Can you see what would happen if we had all of our pastors and churches join together? WHAT A DIFFERENCE ONE CAN MAKE . Will *you* make a difference?

District Directors: In keeping our focus on new church planting, each district director will work closely with the national director to realize goals by scheduling two Home Missions rallies each year in each district.

District Home Missions Rally. This rally will be designed for all the ministers and Churches of the District. We will work together in setting goals and projects for each district, and supporting those new works and in assisting the smaller churches. In this rally all the Home Missions pastors will be able to share their heart for the new works.

District Youth Home Missions Rally. What untapped resources we have in our youth. This rally will be design to inspire, inform and enlist many of our youth in Home Missions outreaches that will be scheduled each year. A mini-Home Missions trip close to home will allow those youth desiring to be used of God who cannot go overseas. Evangelism teams, Outreach teams, Crusade teams along with Summer Internship ministries are being planned by our District Directors in their own district.

Let us lift up our eyes to the harvest fields and see they are already white, and hear the Lord's call to go a do our part in reaching America with this wonder Gospel of Christ.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

CCNA HOME MISSIONS
1294 Rutledge Road
Transfer, PA 16154

India



Ebenezer Gospel Mission

Reaching India with the
Full Gospel of Jesus Christ!



Why Should We Support the Missionary Work?

There are people in the third world who have not heard the Gospel even once!

The church has been given the responsibility by the Lord Jesus Christ to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. We cannot disobey that mandate which we have been given. Can you believe that there are millions of people in the world who have never heard the Gospel of Christ even one time? Without a strong missionary effort, many of these people may never have the opportunity to hear the Good News. We need to pray for the areas of the world where the Gospel has yet to go. And we need to send Spirit-filled workers into these harvest fields.

India is one of the largest and neediest mission fields in the world. Within the next 20 years, India will have the world's largest population. There are many wonderful opportunities for evangelism and church planting in the nation.

Of the over 700,000 villages in rural India, only about 65,000 actually have a Christian church. It is our mission to reach these remaining villages with the Full Gospel. We are training and sending them to evangelize unreached villages and plant churches. The militant Hindu government is trying to restrict the work of Christian missionaries, but the Gospel is still advancing forcefully. Despite threats, beatings and imprisonment, our missionaries continue to evangelize with great boldness and fervor. Please continue to pray and support this missionary effort in India. Together we can make a difference!

Reaching Villages and Planting Pioneer Churches

Our ministry is planting pioneer churches in five states of southern India. Our missionaries are working among the poorest villages in Karnataka (photo opposite-left), Tamil Nadu and Kerla State. In Orissa State and Andhra Pradesh our missionaries are working among various tribal groups in the area known as the Tribal Belt.

Church Building Constructions

The cost to construct one church is \$1,500. Our ministry is among the poorest people in India. Often, their offerings amount to an egg or a handful of rice. They are not in a financial position to build a church to worship in. In some areas, the pro-Hindu government is cracking down on Christina "house fellowships" by disbanding them. So the missionaries need our help to construct churches after they have had a successful church plant. We need to construct in 34 areas. Hopefully, the CCNA church family will accept the challenge to support the construction of some of these churches.



REV. THOMAS ABRAHAM

Ebenezer Gospel Mission

299 Roma Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306

718-979-2939

reachegm@aol.com

Please send your offerings to:

CCNA Missions Department

1294 Rutledge Road

Transfer, PA 16154

Designate to: INDIA -Rev. Abraham

pose God. In the New Testament, spirits of demons are described coming forth from the mouths of the dragon, beast, and false prophet. (See Revelation 16). The power behind these forces is the Devil.

I think it's high time we Christians begin to face the realities that are before us in light of these truths. Allowing the Bible to be the judge of the world events "by their fruit" one can come to no other conclusion than the true power behind Islam can be none other than Satan, the god of this age. Although the true follower of Mohammad will not see this connection, it is the Christians who must wake-up to the realization that what is unfolding before us are the preludes to war—the last battle—the battle of Armageddon.

We are in the last days!

Rev. Eric R Towse
Editor



To be a leader, one must have followers. Good managers must have technical competence, sound values, character, and integrity. But good leaders must also possess courage, credibility, composure, and genuine care for the people they lead. A good leader must always be fair to his followers, challenging them along the way, entreating them as a servant. Good leaders show positive concern and recognition to their subordinates. They encourage innovative ideas and offer developmental feedback. Leaders must develop their followers. Socrates said that you don't teach anyone anything, you create an environment where people can learn for themselves. A leader must also remain sensitive to the morale of his followers. People don't need to like you for you to be effective, they need to like themselves when they're with you for you to be effective. Good leadership will produce true loyalty and a healthy pride!

2. Leaders inspire trust, managers rely on control.

Organizations must have a clear sense of mission. Where an organization is going, why, and how, must be defined by the leadership, and followers must see their role in it as worthwhile. People are motivated when they feel their efforts are helping to fulfill a mission they believe in. Managers who are weak in leadership skills, or insecure, will try to lead by tightly controlling those serving under them. Good leaders will provide closer supervision to novices who need it, but will progressively release control with development, and will trust the more experienced by allowing them to operate freely within established boundaries in fulfillment of the defined mission. Trust is the lubrication of an organization!

3. Good leaders make good decisions.

Decisions must be based on reliable information and should be made on a timely basis, without unnecessarily delay. The decision-maker should fully consider the advice of his advisers. Trust promotes good decisions. Decisions may be challenged up, but must be supported down. In other words, the time for subordinates to challenge pending decisions is before they're made. Once a decision is made it should be supported. There is a logical process for making good decisions. First the leader should estimate the probability of success, and the probability of failure. Secondly, the leader determines the likely benefit of success, and the likely cost of failure. The leader then calculates the expected value of success (probability x value) versus the expected cost of failure (probability x cost). If the expected value of success is greater than the anticipated cost of failure, decide to implement the action. In other words, if:

UPSIDE OPPORTUNITY (probability x value) >

DOWNSIDE RISK (probability x cost) = DO IT!

Finally, before actual implementation, decisions should be reviewed from "50,000 feet." Does the decision support the organizational values, mission, and vision? If the answer is yes, the decision to go forward with the action should be a "no-brainer."

4. Effective leaders resolve problems at their lowest possible level.

When faced with problems, we need to pray for divine wisdom to know when to act and when to stay silent. But most of the time, "sweeping problems under the rug" will only come back to haunt us. "Burying our heads in the sand," by making believe the problems don't exist is just as dangerous. Unattended little problems can become complicated big problems. However, it is rarely a good decision to address problems on impulse. The wise leader will first "sleep" on his response before taking the intended course of action. It is also wise for the leader to counsel with his spouse or other confidential advisor before going forward.

Jesus taught us to resolve problems at their lowest possible level (Matthew 18:15-17). Whenever possible it should be in private between the offended (or the leader as the responsible representative of the offended body), and the offending person. If the offender does not correct his behavior, he should be re-approached with one or two witnesses. If the offender remains stubborn in his offense, the full disciplinary process ought to be implemented. The goal is always to act with a motive of love, aiming to restore the offender.

Conclusion.

In the Genesis 33 account, Jacob proved himself to be an effective leader. He obviously loved his followers. When faced with potential danger he remained composed and took the appropriate steps to protect his own. His followers trusted him and cooperated with his leadership. He calculated his plan of action and sought to defuse his anticipated problem by dealing with it at it's lowest level of confrontation. When the immediate danger seemed past him, he wisely chose to continue to "lead on softly." May God grant us the same kind of wisdom as we serve Him in this new millennium. God bless all of you.

Rev. Lucian Gandolfo

It's In the Bible continued from p.13

God had promised Abraham that his offspring would be as the stars of the sky. He fulfilled that promise. God also promised the land of Canaan to his offspring. God fulfilled that as well. It can be seen by a careful study of both Deuteronomy and Joshua, that God knew full-well that the Israelites would rebel against Him.

The one promise that God could not fulfill through Israel under Joshua was that of Genesis 22:18:

and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

The promise, according to the Apostle Paul, would only be fulfilled through Jesus Christ:

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.

Galatians 3:16

NEXT ISSUE:

Israel Under Judges and Kings: Heading Towards Exile

District News continued from p.11

There was none, and she was very cold. I later found out that brother Hance at the same time was taking her pulse on the other arm, and he too found none.

While someone ran to call 911 and we continued to pray, I said quietly "Rosa, in Jesus Name, come back." Her eyes opened and she said "I just wanted to go, please let me go."

The ambulance arrived and took her to the hospital where she was treated and released, and was back to her joyful self that afternoon. Around four o'clock that afternoon brother Hance's wife Goldie called from Ohio and said, "What happened out there this morning?". When Lee asked why, she said that their Pastor, Rick George, had stopped the service telling the church that they needed to pray, because something was wrong at the church where Lee was in New Jersey.

The next morning, as I spoke with Rosa, she said that all she remembered was coming forward saying she wasn't feeling well. Her body then went cold and a wonderful peace came over her. As she yielded to that peace, she heard my voice saying "come back, Rosa." She doesn't remember saying anything about want-

ing to go, but she told me that in the morning before she left for church, the Lord showed her a picture of a fish, and told her he wanted her to be a fisher of men. She was taken away by the ambulance before brother Lee was able to preach, and later found out his message was about Jesus calling us to be fishers of men. God gave her the message ahead of time since she would miss it, and she is more determined than ever to use what time she has left to reach the lost for Jesus, who still raises the dead.



Dennis C. Derhay

Senior Pastor, Bethel Assembly,
Nutley, NJ

General Overseer's Message continued from p.4

The popular taste in literature was completely demoralized. The nation had given itself over to the twin evils of drunkenness and gambling. There was widespread indulgence in cruel and degrading sports. There was general indifference to the things of God and lack of passion in the pulpit. It was in such a dark hour that God called John Wesley. Wesley found the power of God sufficient to bring a mighty revival to England which spared it from a revolution such as France suffered.

Today, conditions in our beloved country parallel some of the darkest times of human history. Sin of every kind is prevalent. Anarchy stalks the land. Only God knows what the future holds, unless America has a great spiritual awakening. Some will look to circumstances and say conditions are so bad there is nothing the Church can do. Others will look to God and hear Him say, "Rededicate yourselves and I will do wonders among you." God wants to perform the miraculous among us. He wants to manifest the supernatural.

We must believe like never before that the days of miracles are not past, and like never before, we must believe that our God is current, and all things are possible to him that believeth. I think of John 4, which says,

"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Only two things can be done with a harvest: you gather it or you let it rot. What is our supreme delight? What is our supreme task? Our supreme task is world evangelization in this generation. May God help us to watch. May God help us to work. May God help us to warn.

May God help us to remember that plateaus are not permanent stopping places. Plateaus are but stepping stones or springboards to greater accomplishments for God. May God help us to live in view of the night that prevails!

Rev. John DeTurco