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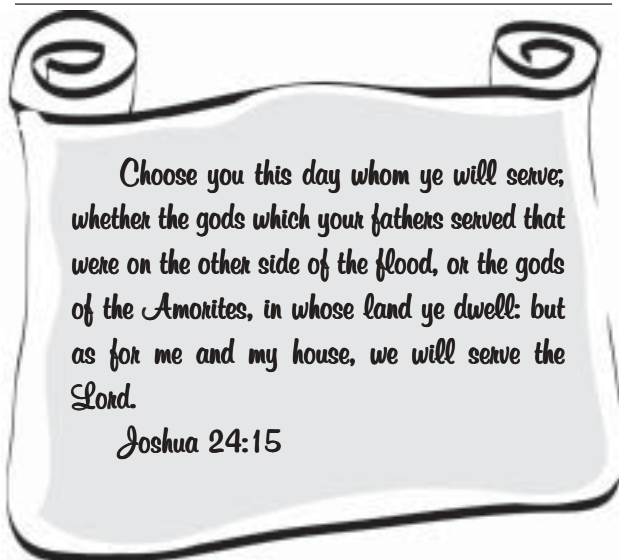
Vista

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Anno Domini 2003 – Volume 4, No. 1*



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Choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

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Editorial

“Merry Christmas”—“Happy Easter”

What do these greetings mean? To the Christian, they represent the two most important events in the life of our Savior, his birth and resurrection from the dead. Everything the unbelieving world needs to know is contained in the meaning of these two holidays. Or is it? After Thanksgiving, fewer and fewer Nativity scenes appear—especially in public places (due to a misapplication of the Constitution of the United States.) They are being replaced, more and more, by expressions of the secular (pagan) holiday worship of “X-mas”. These idols consist of snowflakes, reindeer, snowmen, winter wonderland scenes, and Santa Claus, the “gift-giver to all good boys and girls”. What is the average Christian’s response to all this? “Merry Christmas,” “Ho-Ho-Ho”, “Season’s Greetings!” Need we mention the office party?

Not only is homage paid to the X-mas deity, but a sacrifice is also made. As much as eleven month’s debt for expensive obligatory gifts, given, of course, in the holiday spirit of cheer, plagues many who should know better! The symbolism is being lost. The cross is replaced by a Easter Bunny. The sacrifice revealed in “Word became flesh” is marginalized by candy canes, bright lights, and colored ornaments that distract from the miraculous incarnation of Emmanuel: God-with-us.

Although we may all agree that Jesus was probably not born on December 25th, we openly celebrate this date as a commemoration of that truth. Originally a pagan holiday associated with sun worship, we Christians point to the December 25 as *our* holiday and at the same time send mixed-messages to non-Christians through our conduct during that time. Perhaps most incredible is lying to our children about the existence of this Philistine god (Santa Claus), and then having to tell them years later that—what? we lied, we thought it was cute? we wanted you to enjoy the holiday? What’s wrong with us? the true meaning of Christmas isn’t *good* enough? I’m not throwing stones, I’m just as guilty as anyone else.

What about Easter? Did you know that Easter is named after the Babylonian goddess Ishtar—the “light bringer?” Should we even be using the word “Easter”? Many Christians, concerned of that, greet one another with, “happy Resurrection day”. Greeks say in their language, “Christ is risen”. But, never mind the words, how about the deeds? Chocolate Easter bunnies, Easter eggs, egg-shaped jelly beans. . . [Did you know that Ishtar was the Babylonian *fertility* goddess?] We confuse our kids again with Easter bunny myths taking the focus away from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his tomb, that “first day of the week” following the Passover. Shame on us!

Let’s join together and “get real”. May I suggest you tell you children the truth about “Santa”. Celebrate Christmas as it was meant to be—a joyous time of thanksgiving to God for the gift of His Son. Prayerfully consider how that joy is to be expressed, that the true “Gift” is not overshadowed by materialism. Let’s give Easter back to Ishtar—she probably needs the calories. I don’t. Let’s celebrate the reality of Jesus’ resurrection in Spirit and in truth, and in the hope of our own!



Eric R Towse
Editor



General Overseer's Message IS REVIVAL POSSIBLE TODAY?

by Rev. John DelTurco



SOME earnest believers rule out revival in our times because they think such an event would be contrary to God's prophetic plan.

Observing the movements of nations on the world stage, the knowledge explosion, terrorism, and other end-time signs, they conclude that revival is not on the program. They point to Scripture references that describe increased wickedness in the last days:

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:11-12).

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1-Timothy 4:1-2).

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation'" (2-Peter 3:3-4).

Notice that none of these texts rule out revival. The conditions prophesied will exist, but such conditions were present before and after America's greatest revival. Even a revival of momentous proportions does not root out all the evil in a nation. There are still millions of people unconverted and in deep sin.

Another factor must be considered: We do not know the year of our Lord's return (See Matthew 24:36). To say that revival cannot come because we are too near the return of Christ is to say more than we know. A belief that we are fast approaching the fulfillment of Christ's promise to return should call any believer to revival. If we are living in the closing moments of the age, now is the time to surrender ourselves totally to the Holy Spirit, giving Him every area of our lives. John encouraged his readers to:

"Abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming" (1-John 2:28).

We should be motivated to personal revival and holy living, as John said,

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure" (1-John 3:2-3).

People who genuinely believe in Christ's imminent coming will be the first to seek revival. It is one thing to talk prophesy and quite another to allow end-time truths to change our lives. Whatever the world conditions in the last days, Christians need to clean their spiritual houses, return to their first love, and do personal evangelism. This translates to revival. I might add:

**REVIVAL CANNOT COME
UNTIL OUR SPIRITUAL
HOUSES ARE CLEANED UP!**

We can have revival now because God's power is not diminished. He is still able to refresh His people. In the Great Commission, He promised to provide power for believers for all time.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. 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 28:18-20).

The empowering Holy Spirit who came at Pentecost remains today. He indwells each believer just as He has done through the centuries. A well-meaning Christian, moved by the wickedness of the times and the seem-

ing inability of churches to stem the tide, said he thought the Holy Spirit was being gradually removed from the world in the last days. He was wrong. Believers are still here; their bodies are still temples of the Holy Spirit, as Paul said,

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's" (1-Corinthians 6:19-20).

The command for all believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit is still in force: "and be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians. 5:18). A Spirit-filled Christian is a revived Christian. And when the members of a local church are filled with the Holy Spirit, revival has come to the church.

If God could give a revival in Jerusalem at Pentecost, He can give one anywhere. There was never a city, never a country in the world where people have hated Christ more than they hated Him at Jerusalem. We know God can give us a revival now because He gave one in Jerusalem.

**GOD CAN GIVE US REVIVAL
ANYWHERE WHEN WE
MEET HIS REQUIREMENTS
AND PAY HIS PRICE**

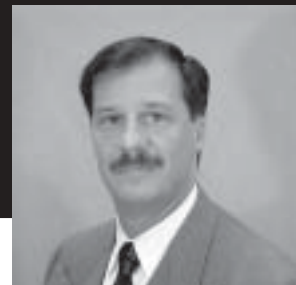
Can we have revival now? Absolutely! God is ready. Are we?

John DelTurco
General Overseer



Education Department

Rev. Lucian Gandolfo,
Executive Director



2003 National Education Conference

The CCNA Education Department is announcing its annual National Education conference, with a full day of informative ministry planned for pastors, leaders, teachers and such as are serious minded for the Lord's work. The emphasis this year is on "Leadership That Connects" as taught by the keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Muirhead of

"Around the World Radio." Also planned are two most important segments dealing with "Financial Planning for Ministers" and "Financial Management for Churches." These will be taught by Rev. Joseph Sullivan, Minister and Financial Consultant, and Dr. Roy DiFrancesca, Pastor of our Brooklyn Park, MD church, and author of a

book that lays out a comprehensive, easy to follow plan for church financial management.

The conference will be held on Saturday, June 21st at Christian Pentecostal Church, Staten Island, NY. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. More information will be coming to you soon.

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The CCNA Education Department thanks to all the faithful donors during 2002 who madethese awards possible.

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From the Pulpit

Messages from the Ministry

The CCNA and the Middle East Conflict

A Study of the “Times of the Gentiles”
by Rev. Lucian Gandolfo



WHAT does the CCNA have to do with the potentially explosive Middle-East conflict which these days is complicated by Palestinian standoffs, suicide bombings, and an impending attack on Iraq? We can probably all agree that we’re living in the “last days.” We’ve heard it preached to us all our lives. But, one may ask, last days of what? Let me attempt to clarify some prophetic scriptures that may help shed some light on all of this.

On the Day of Pentecost which followed the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, Peter announced that the “last day” era had begun (Acts 2:17). Therefore, we know that the Church Age is that period of time called the “last days.” But we must understand that the Church Age is a segment of time within a broader period of time referred to by Jesus as the “Times of the Gentiles”:

“...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the Times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” Luke 21:24

What is the “Times of the Gentiles”?

It is that period of history during which there is no divinely appointed Jewish king, from the tribe of Judah, from the lineage of David, who is sitting on the throne, reigning from Jerusalem. This absence of a divinely appointed king began in II Kings 25 when Babylon’s Nebuchadnezzar deposed Zedekiah. Since that day until now, even though Israel is once again reestablished as a nation, there has been no legitimate descendant of David ruling as King in Jerusalem. That throne will remain unoccupied until Jesus Christ returns to rule and reign in his millennial Kingdom.

Daniel depicted the “Times of the Gentiles” era when he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the image, or colossus, of Daniel chapter two. The Jewish king had been cut off and a span of time of four successive Gentile world powers had commenced.

Daniel identified Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon as the head of gold. The breast and arms of silver are the Medo-Persian Empire which succeeded Babylon. Alexander the Great defeated Darius, and the Grecian Empire, depicted as the belly and thighs of brass, became the third world power. The legs of iron was the Roman Empire and the fourth world power, during which time the Church

Times of the Gentiles
continued on p. 24

In the Midst of Pain

by Rev. Nick Cacciatore
Christian Assembly, Richmond Hts, OH

*“Preach to the suffering,
and you will never lack a congregation.
There is a broken heart in every pew.”
(Joseph Parker, Leadership, Vol. 3, no. 4)*

INTRODUCTION

For two years, scientists sequestered themselves in an artificial environment called Biosphere 2. Inside their self-sustaining community these scientists created a number of mini-environments including a desert, rain forest, even an ocean. Nearly every weather condition could be simulated except one, wind. Over time, the effects of their windless environment became apparent. A number of acacia trees bent over and even snapped. Without the stress of wind to strengthen the wood, the trunks grew weak and could not hold up their own weight. Though our culture shuns hardship, we would do well to remember that God uses it—

for our good, that we may share in his holiness (Hebrews 12:10)

[From: Jay Akkerman in Fresh Illustrations for Preaching & Teaching (Baker), from the editors of Leadership].

It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. Psalm 119:71



HERE is an old proverb which says, “When a man is forty he is either a fool or a physician”; that is to say, he either doesn’t know anything, or else he at least begins to know what is good for him. When Handel wrote the “Hallelujah Chorus,” his health and his fortunes had reached their lowest possible ebb. His right side had become paralyzed and all his money was gone. He was heavily in debt and threatened with imprisonment. He was tempted to give up the fight. The odds seemed entirely too great. And it was then he composed his greatest work, “The Messiah.” [Peter Marshall, Sr., “Who Can Take It?,” Preaching Today, Tape No. 131].

In the Midst of Pain
continued on p. 23

Youth Ministry

Rev. Sam DeMarco



District "Next Level" Conferences



WITHIN a 2 month span I had the privilege to travel to three cities to attend our various District youth events. The following is a snap-shot report.

New England District

I love visiting Boston [pronounced "Basten" among the Bostonians]. What a joy to witness growth. The NE District hosted their 2nd annual Next Level the weekend of November 8-10. 100 teenagers and leaders gathered together. The theme, *Extreme Righteousness* was the focus. Great job by Tim Hatch, director of our youth department in the New England District.

Northwest District

A two-hour drive brought me to the beautiful city of Cleveland. [I have to say

that because my wife is from there]. This was the 7th annual "Next Level" for NWD. The Conference was held November 22-24 and the theme was *"Making a Difference"*. Over 300 young people attended. This was Quran Karriem's last NWD Next Level as Director since the formation of the Great Lakes District will keep him busy. There is great love and appreciation from everyone in NWD for Quran's leadership these past 3 years.

Niagara Mohawk District

The First ever NiMo "Next Level" district youth conference was held January 3-5, 2003. It was also the first in CCNA that a next Level was also a ski retreat. The theme was *"Intimacy"*. Director Mark Difrancesca

did a great job getting this first Next Level in up state NY established. I had the joy to fly into Syracuse during one of their worst snow storms. Although it kept the Albany group from attending [can you say 30 inches] provided great skiing for the 80 in attendance.

These three events had several things in common. I witnessed a hunger from our youth to live for Christ. I also observed the love and commitment from the leaders and volunteers that help in youth ministry. To all of you I say you are a blessing. As the commercial says: Giving up yourself to serve young people that they may know Christ . . . **Priceless.**

The Decision of a Generation

by: Pastor Sam DeMarco



DECISIONS are a part of life. Decisions can bring life and they can bring death. Decisions, depending on what they are, can be very serious. This year's Apex theme is *"The Decision"*. I would ask you to pray personally and as churches for our up coming National Youth Convention.

We have seen growth numerically. This year we are preparing for 900 to attend. Believe with me for this. We have seen growth in leadership. Our youth pastors and leaders are maturing in the Word and in their role. That is a compliment to the local pastors and churches. Our teenagers are becoming more aggressive with their faith. I believe this is happening because many are teaching our teens an uncompromising Gospel of love, truth, and power. I also believe what is happening with our children in some areas of the CCNA, is benefiting our youth ministries today. More churches that are serious about equipping their children are reaping the benefits several years later in their youth ministry.

Generation can represent an age group

and it can represent a people living in a set time. We, young and old, are today's generation and yet we have an older generation and a younger generation. Decisions by a generation can affect the day and impact tomorrow.

In Exodus we read about a generation that was at the threshold to their promise by God. Because of fear and doubt except for a few, they could not cross it and enter in. The generation that came after them faced the same threshold but they were able to cross over. I believe there were several reasons why. Notice there was a voice from the previous generation Joshua and Caleb saying we can do it. There was the resolve from the current generation to do it because they wanted more.

This current generation didn't face the oppression and disappointment experienced in Egypt. Therefore it didn't influence their faith. I believe this current generation was also tired of the desert when God was calling them to dwell in their destiny, the promise land.

May I say this, in our personal walk, we tend to dwell on disappointments rather than walking in our destiny. This will cause us never to cross thresholds into the blessings of God. Our walk is a walk of Faith. Walking in faith is a blessing to us and it pleases God. Walking in faith says my God will provide, my God will be faithful, my God will be true to his promises. I simply need to cross over and enter into this.

These past several years, we have experienced the Holy Spirit working in our National youth ministry, All Out Ministries. I believe this younger generation wants to cross over the threshold and I believe there are voices like Joshua and Caleb from the older generation that are saying 'yes we can'.

I seek the Lord's guidance for his perfect will for the Youth Department. I ask that all of us pray that we may recognize His will and have the heart and tenacity to embrace it. There are things that he has placed on my heart for our youth that soon in due time I will share to our leadership. Until then, may we all be the generation today that says we will dwell in the land of destiny.

World Missions

Rev. Mark Charles, Director

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT



Charis Madeleine

is a 26 year old, CCNA credentialed missionary from Christ Community Church, Roseville, Michigan. Charis never planned on being a missionary, but He

was preparing her heart for Himself through whom He could touch the souls of many people.

Charis was born into a Christian family. She was given the opportunity to go to summer camp with her older sister, Michele, and other Christians. At the various churches we attended she involved herself in youth groups, even taking on leadership roles. However, one incident caused her to turn her back on the church, but God brought healing to her life.

In 1993 our family became part of Christ Community Church, Roseville, Michigan, under Pastor Tim Tyler. There came an opportunity in 1997 for Charis to apply for a missionary outreach with our church's praise band to the Republic of South Africa. The following year Pastor Nancy Hudson and Pastor Jonas Mangena



would be visiting stateside and approached our church for Pastor Charlie and Kathy Hess to fill in for them and asked for a young person to minister to the youth. They agreed that Charis would do well. So back to South Africa for her.

Upon her return home Charis, with the blessing of her boss, quit her job to take a year of biblical studies at Elim Bible Institute. There God afforded her the opportunity to engage in street evangelism in New York City, a part of the course requirement. She was overwhelmed at the presence of God there and couldn't contain herself, sharing with everyone her experiences. While at Elim, Charis met Sharon Mumper, director of Magazine Training Institute, Baden, Austria. Sharon was looking for a secretary. Charis said she felt drawn to Sharon's offer, but confided later she didn't really know why because she really didn't want to work behind a desk again. You see, God had begun to call out of her an old desire to relate to women from the Middle East, but how could going to Austria, in the middle

of Europe accomplish that?

While living in Austria, Charis had the opportunity to live with two young women who were part of International Teams, a worldwide Christian outreach program. Jill oversaw the work of IT in Europe and Carol co-lead a work called the Oasis in the neighboring town. In that town was the largest refugee-processing center in all of Austria, the Lager, housing between 600 and 1,000 people. Many of these refugees were coming from politically and war torn countries such as North Africa, the Balkan states, but the most were from the Middle Eastern countries, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. God had been preparing Charis, cultivating in her a heart for people and than leading her to the middle of Europe, of all places, to fulfill His heart's desire and Charis' heart's desire. And her desire has gone beyond the Oasis where she is currently ministering. Her desire is to befriend some of these young women, to invite them to her apartment, to show them God's love and concern in a practical way, and to afford them, if only for a little while, some normalcy, peace, and quite, as a stranger in a foreign land, is in the theme of Matthew 25:31-40—

... 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

charis.madeleine@iteams.org

GUYANA UPDATE



LARRY AND MARY HALLAHAN

GOD is so awesome! It is only when we look to Him, that we can go forward. Even simple things seem to take a long time like getting the endorsement for the visa extension.

Larry and I just finished the paper work needed to have the visa extension officially

stamped into our passports. It took a good portion of 5 days, partly because of the paperwork and partly because of our lack of experience with the system. It has been a learning experience. Today alone I have traveled by mini van, taxi and bicycle, but Praise God it is officially stamped into our passports, and we did learn a new mini van route, which will save us using taxis in the future.

We also purchased Larry a bicycle, since the running around we did for the visa

extension would have been much easier and less expensive by bicycle. We had purchased a bicycle for me a couple of weeks ago, but the bicycle frames on that brand of bicycle were too small for Larry.

Please pray with us for a vehicle as the ministry expands beyond Georgetown and for traveling at night. We am getting used to cooking and keeping house here. We are

Guayana
continued on p. 21



It's In the Bible

A Study in the Word with Rev. Eric R Towse



IN previous articles, we have explored the call of Abraham and the covenant that God established with him and later confirmed with Isaac and Jacob. We examined scriptures which showed that along with the “unconditional promises” of God’s blessings came certain requirements, or conditions of faith, belief, and obedience. How is it possible to have conditions to an unconditional promise? The answer is found in Jesus—the “seed” of Abraham through whom all peoples on earth would be blessed.

God would fulfill all of His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob regardless of the obedience of their offspring, because God’s promises are unconditional. To receive the benefit from the promises, however, one would have to be in perfect obedience to the commands of God—The Law.

During the historical journey from Abraham to Jesus, God’s people were chosen, enslaved, freed, blessed, cursed, rewarded, punished, exiled, and repatriated. They sinned, were forgiven, and sinned again. Our lesson begins at the end of Joshua’s life when God had fulfilled his promise to Abraham to give the land of Canaan to the Israelites:



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

Israel 101



PART III IN A SERIES ON THE BIBLICAL RECORD OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

(Continued from Spring 2002 Issue)

[JUDGES 2]

After the death of Joshua, in only one generation’s time, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and began to serve the Baals. As a result, the Lord handed them over to be plundered by raiders. God raised up leaders to save them from these raiders. The leaders were called Judges.

[JUDGES 3]

The key verse which expresses the state of Israel at that time is Judges 21:25,

“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.”

[JUDGES 4-21]

The Judges of this period included Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephtha, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson. They led Israel through a perpetual cycle of disobedience and oppression followed by crying out to the Lord and deliverance. Although the Lord could have justifiably “written-off” Israel due to disobedience, God continued His forbearance because the ultimate fulfillment of His promise to Abraham had not yet come: God’s Salvation in the flesh.

[I SAMUEL]

Samuel served Israel for many years, but the people demanded a king (so as to be like other nations.) God considered their request to be a rejection of Him, but granted their desire. He provided Saul, who, at the time, was “an impressive young man, without equal among the Israelites. . .” (9:2 NIV) Yet, Saul disobeyed God and paid with his life in battle. So God raised up David—one after His own heart to replace Saul.

[II SAMUEL]

Even David, Israel’s second king did not fully obey God. This resulted in war between tribes and a divided kingdom after the death of Israel’s third king, Solomon. Two tribes, Judah and Benjamin became known as the Kingdom of Judah, under Rehoboam, son of Solomon, and the remaining ten tribes

gathered as one under Jeroboam, son of Nebat, in a kingdom called Israel.

[I & II KINGS]

It is important to note, that from this time onward, “Israel” refers to ten break-away tribes whose seat was in Samaria. The remaining two tribes are referred to as “Judah.” The two kingdoms developed along parallel lines. The kingdom of Israel consisted of a lineage of 19 kings beginning with Jeroboam, son of Nebat. Twenty kings served on the throne of Judah. Some of Judah’s kings followed the Lord, others did not. None of the kings of Israel, however, were in God’s favor, but “did evil in the eyes of the Lord as his fathers had done.”

Israel’s last king, Hoshea, had been a vassal to Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, but had rebelled against him and refused to pay tribute. Shalmaneser put Hoshea in prison, captured Samaria, and deported the Israelites to Assyria (II Kings 17). Because of the great sins that Israel had committed, God removed them from his presence. The king of Assyria resettled the Samaria with people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath and Sepharvaim. These people did not know the Lord and were instructed by a priest of Israel as to “what the God of that country required.” They were being attacked and killed by Lions.

Yet, each group worshipped their own idols while serving the Lord—just as the exiled Israelites had done. It represented the end of the ten tribes. Yet, God’s promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would yet be fulfilled.

District News

GREAT LAKES DISTRICT

It has been an exciting time since the birth of the Great Lakes District, CCNA.

At the present we have four churches, 5 Ordained Ministers, 4 Ministers of the Gospel, 3 Licensed Preachers, 1 Christian Worker and 1 Missionary on the field. There are others in the process of becoming Credential Holders in the CCNA. The Prophet Amos prayed,

"O that Israel would prevail even though it was small." If something is of God – it is never too small or insignificant.

We believe that our district though small at the present, will grow and flourish as time passes. Now that we are firmly established, our real purpose and ministry must begin. We will strive to:

- Establish unity/fellowship among our churches and people,
- Plan rallies, retreats, seminars and other activities among our members, and
- Include in our vision, planting and establishing new ministries and churches within our District.

At our recent Fall Council Session, there were a good number of leaders from our churches that attended. We not only met for fellowship and the meeting but to brainstorm and come up with ideas that will help to strengthen the bonds of communion within our district as well as promote that bond within the CCNA. The future of the GLD will depend on our willingness to work at the vision that God has given to this District. We will be continuing our communication with all of you through the Vista and keep you up to date with our "happenings"!

The challenge before us is big – but our God is bigger and greater. We will be challenging every pastor, every minister and credential holder to pray and cooperate in fulfilling this vision that God has given to our District.

Charles and Kathy Hess.

kathcha@aol.com



NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

PRAYER RETREAT

The annual NWD Pastors Prayer Retreat was held February 3-6 at the Antiochian Village Retreat Center in Ligonier, PA. There were approximately 25 of the District pastors in attendance. Rev. Eugene Carver, NWD Assistant District Overseer, led the prayer retreat. Many hearts were challenged by the inspired messages that he shared. There was a great spirit of unity among the pastors in attendance, especially during the times of intercession for the families, churches and communities that were represented.

The prayer retreat has become one of the highlights of the year for the NWD pastors. As they join together in unity and love, God moves by His Spirit and much is accomplished for His kingdom. Many of the pastors leave the prayer retreat encouraged, challenged, and with a greater commitment to serve God faithfully in their ministries.

REV. DEMARCO HEADS NW DISTRICT



The NEW recently elected **Rev. Eugene DeMarco** as its General Overseer at its council meeting. Brother DeMarco fills the office previously

held by Rev. Michael Trotta who served the NWD for the past 12 years. The NWD was blessed to have Bro. Trotta as its Overseer and prays for continues success on his ministry.

Bro. DeMarco brings to the office much experience. He previously served the NWD as a presbyter for 12 years, serving as secretary and lay fellowship director. He also has served on the CCNA Executive Board for 15 years and by the nature of the office will again serve on the Executive Board and the Department of FOCUS.

Bro. DeMarco, together with his wife Norma, has served the New Brighton Christian Assembly as the Senior Pastor for 28 years and continues to serve in that capacity. The NWD Presbyters consists of Rev. Eugene DeMarco/Overseer, Rev. Gene Carver/Assistant District Overseer, Rev. Dale Russo/Lay Fellowship Director, Rev. Rob Berk/Youth & Camps Director, and Rev. Mark Tedeschi/Secretary.

REV. DAN CESENE TO SERVE FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The NWD Presbyters are pleased to announce that First Christian Assembly in Youngstown, Ohio has called a new Pastor. The Rev. Dan Cesene was unanimously approved by the congregation on February 2, 2002. Rev. Cesene has served in the ministry for 17 years and comes to the CCNA from the Assemblies of God. He recently pastored the Brookfield, Ohio Assemblies of God Church. May God's blessing be added to his leadership as he directs his new church.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

NEW BIBLE INSTITUTE

A two year school for the Bible was set in order Oct.4th, 2002 in the Southern District of the CCNA. The Bible Institute is under the direction of CCNA Southern District Board. The faculty and staff included:

Rev. Douglas Bedgood, District Overseer, Rev. William Nash, Assistant District Overseer, Rev. Dan Bolin, Presbyter, are the teachers. Rev. Lois Bedgood will serve as Secretary & Records Officer.

Our first class began with 24 students. We pray for those called, to help Southern District in establishing New Works.

FIRST WOMAN ORDAINED BY CCNA



Rev. Lois Bedgood was ordained Nov. 24th 2002, at New Life Outreach Church, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Rev. Carmine Saginario spoke at the morning service and took part with the Southern District presbyters in the ordination service.

Rev. Dan Bolin brought forth the charge to the candidate.



Rev. William Nash prophesied concerning her calling. District Overseer, Rev. Douglas Bedgood gave the congratulatory remarks and Rev. David Troesch offered comments and closing prayer.



LAYING ON OF HANDS
 Rev. Carmine Saginario Rev. Douglas Bedgood Rev. Dan Bolin Rev. William Nash

Flowers were given in love by the daughter Rebecca Torres and granddaughter Paige.

“Praise the Lord from whom all blessings Come.”



I would like to Thank God for all he has done for me and give him all the Glory. My name is Lois Bedgood, born in Charleston, South Carolina. When I was 9 years old going to Church Of God a man prophesied over me that I would preach His Word.

Years went by and nothing happened. After I was married and we had moved to Rhode Island, my husband Douglas was called by God to preach. He followed his calling and became Pastor of Pentecostal Church in Pawcatuck, CT. God used me in ways of Healing and Praying for the sick. I reminded God, it was said that I would preach His Word. So I began reading, and God led my husband to ask me to speak.

I started to preaching, then served in the Woman’s Ministry (Dorcas) and became the Director of Eastern District. We held many retreats and we ladies were blessed.

After staying in Connecticut for 19 years and having built three churches there, we then moved back to South Carolina. There my husband became Pastor of Southern Baptist Church. We were there for 5 years and built another church where I also preached.

God called us to Florida, where we worked in several churches and where my husband became the Southern District Overseer, CCNA.

I have preached in many of our churches in Florida and elsewhere. The Southern District Board recognized my calling and requested that I be ordained.

On November 24th, 2002 I was ordained in the New Life Outreach Church in St. Petersburg, FL by the Southern District, CCNA and the Rev. Carmine Saginario.

I will continue to serve God and preach His Word. “To God Be The Glory.”

Rev. Lois Bedgood, OM



MINISTRY ON THE FRONT LINES



Civilians (that is what all of you are called by all of us) have no idea what it is like to live today in the military. Each day brings more tension and more uncertainty about the future. Each day we put our lives on the line and are forced to face our own mortality. In these days of impending war, my soldiers need to see me trusting Jesus as never before. I am the Jesus they see as we train, as we anticipate dying for our country. Keep us in your prayers. Only a sovereign move of the Spirit can solve this issue short of war. Pray for our enemies. Pray for our friends. Pray for us. Pray for me and my family.

Military life involves untold hardships, hardships for the soldiers who will go and hardships for the families who will stay behind, often in a foreign country and almost always away from family and their support network. Pray for us.

Each day as a Chaplain I have the privilege of sharing Jesus with the hurting. In recent days I have seen the ravages of sin tearing lives apart. Pray for me. Pray that I would continue to boldly proclaim the Answer. Jesus. Pray for wisdom and discernment. Pray.

Thank you for your prayer support. I hopefully will return to the States in July and plan to attend the Convention. I thank you in advance for the miracles that will happen as a result of your prayers.

Stanley D. Arnold
 Chaplain US Army





The Decision Is Yours

2003
APEX
THE DECISION
MAY 23-25, 2003



Pastor Sam & Jill DeMarco invite you to Apex 2003.
A weekend set aside to equip decision
makers like you to impact your world.



The Decision Is Yours



2003

APEX

THE DECISION
MAY 23-25, 2003



[Gregg Johnson]

- Featured Speaker
- Founder & Director of Movement Makers International



[David DeMarco]

- Apex Worship Leader
- Founder & Director of David DeMarco Ministries



[Sam & Jill DeMarco]

- Sunday Night Speaker
- Seminar Leaders
- CCNA National Youth President & Director of All Out Ministries



[Mark Charles]

- Sunday Morning Guest Speaker
- CCNA Foreign Missions Director

"Equipping A Generation" Seminar Speakers... Mike Devantier, Mark DiFrancesca, Tim Harch, Quran Karriem, Ryan Paskey, Jon Marc Saginario, Aaron Thayer—Coordinator... David D'Angelo

The Apex [CCNA National Youth Convention] ...More Than Just A Mountain Top Experience

Testimony

“No Longer Alone”

by Dan Hitz

This is the story of Dan Hitz’s deliverance from a life of homosexuality and desperate emptiness. The story of how God reached a lonely, broken man with the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Once in bondage, isolated and full of shame, Dan is now happily married, has five kids, and is full of hope. Dan ministers to people struggling with sexual and relational issues through Reconciliation Ministries of Michigan.



As the youngest in a family of two boys and three girls, I remember feeling left out and isolated as I watched my brother and sisters get on the school bus. At four years old, I didn’t understand why I couldn’t be a part of that group. I felt very alone. My father worked a lot of overtime to get out of the house and avoid my mother’s bouts with mental illness that would occur at five-year intervals.

When I was in high school, her illness progressed into paranoid schizophrenia. Though she was violent towards my father, she grew inappropriately affectionate towards me. The long process of my father committing my mother to a psychiatric hospital increased the feelings of hopelessness within me. When I testified at her mental competency hearing, she rose from the table and yelled, “You’re not my son!” She left the room. I sat there numb.

My father was a good provider, but his emotional detachment left me longing for intimacy. My mother’s behavior made me terrified of true intimacy with a woman. I wanted so desperately to have friends, yet I was emotionally unable to step outside the walls I had built for protection. The dark emptiness grew as I entered college.

My sexual encounters were extremely limited because I was afraid of further rejection from potential partners who would see the scars from cystic acne on my back, arms, and face. I placed myself inside a world of homosexual fantasy, and tried to create the intimacy that I longed for. My feelings of inadequacy and loss of control drew me into anorexic and eventually bulimic behavior. The Jesus that I had learned about, and even asked into my heart years earlier, had been assigned to the same

category as false religions and useless beliefs.

My salvation came a year after I graduated from college. I was envious of a co-worker. He was everything that I wished I was – handsome, creative, and most of all well accepted by others. God seemed to do extra favors for him “just because he prayed and went to church”. One day he talked to me about Jesus. The main thing that I remember him saying is that everyone will one day have to say “yes” or “no” to God.

I didn’t know what would happen to me

condemnation came. There were seasons when I felt like a prisoner in my own body – so full of shame and fear that I was afraid to reach out to others.

Gradually, the Lord dealt with the woundings. He began to show me that sex was not the ultimate issue, and that the lust was a symptom of holding onto the deep hurts. One by one, He would call up the deep hurts within my heart, help me to confront them, and soothe them by His Spirit. I was able to forgive my mother for the pain she caused; and the Lord, Himself, for allowing it to happen. As my healing continued, I met a loving, caring woman who became my wife. The divorce of her parents when she was five and the detachment from her mother helped her to understand my feelings of rejection and inferiority.

As my journey progressed, the Lord began to show me that other sins I had been holding onto perpetuated the homosexual drawings I was trying to avoid. Homosexual lust was also a symptom of not glorifying God as God, and not allowing Him to make some difficult choices for my life. When I

didn’t accept what God chose for my life, I grew angry and resentful. I became envious of others who had what I wanted. That envy led to lust as I tried to fill up the hurt in my own broken way. Not only was my constant inferiority a sin, it caused me to be drawn to men who had the character traits that I wished I had.

The Lord in His mercy took the sinful identity that I was holding onto, and replaced it with His pure, holy image. Much like the Israelites who longed to return to



if I said “no” to God, but I knew it would be very bad.

I began to learn what would happen to me if I said “yes”. The Lord instantly delivered me from bulimia as the emptiness inside began to be replaced by the love of my Heavenly Father. Unfortunately, my homosexual lusts did not instantly fall away. My feelings of inferiority remained as I struggled to feel like “one of the guys”.

At times I was comfortable with the new male friends the Lord provided; other times I was terrified that I would have a lustful thought toward a Christian brother. As I learned more about holiness the shame of my sinful heart deepened, and battles with

No Longer Alone
continued on p. 22

Bits 'n Pieces



IT'S TIME!

by Marlene Gallo-Travis
Rock Solid Christian Assembly
Boynton Beach, FL

"A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign!"

Matthew 12:39

Looking around the world and today's events, I am wondering how long it will take before we who call ourselves Christians will stand up and be counted? How long will it take and what will it take before pastors behind pulpits that call themselves Evangelical Christians start preaching what the Word of God says and not just preach cushy messages so their congregations will not be offended?

The scripture above goes on to say, *"But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah and now one greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here. When an evil spirit comes out of man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, I will return to the house I left. When it arrives, it finds the house, unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in, and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."*

One definition of 'Christian' used as an adjective is: **professing belief in Jesus as Christ or following the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus; relating to or derived from Jesus or Jesus' teachings;**

manifesting the qualities or spirit of Jesus; Christ-like; relating to or characteristic of Christianity or its adherents; showing a loving concern for others; humane.

A definition of 'Christian' as a noun is: **one who professes belief in Jesus or Christ or follows the religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus; one who lives according to the teachings of Jesus.**

Do these definitions describe the kind of Christian you are? We know the words, we may even know the scriptures by rote, but our lives may not reflect the type of person described above. Of course we mean well and may try to do our best by attempting to live our daily lives following Christ. But, do we—*really*? We say things with our mouths but may not live them by our actions.

Think back on your own life. Have you ever viewed something on television that was not what Christ would watch if He were present in your home? How about going to a certain place that Christ would not enter? Have you've never done that? Then there's the off-color joke that someone was telling at work that we just could not tear ourselves away from because our coworkers would laugh at us or talk about us behind our backs. Let's not forget the Internet right in our home. People think they are hiding pornography simply because they think no one else can see. Well, they are right—no one can actually see what is being viewed on those pages in the secret room in one's home. . .except Jesus!

The Scripture state that, *"A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it..."*

As I read and reread the passages in Matthew, I cannot help but think that we are the adulterous generation that is spoken of here. All of the things we do, say, think, hear or places we go are being viewed by Christ and in many cases he is not at all pleased with the behavior of His followers.

Harsh words, perhaps, but we must stop *playing* church. It is time to stand up and be counted, for the days are few and Christ will return as a "thief in the night" for a people

who are seeking and longing for His return. Is that You? Are you longing for His return? Are you living a life that would make Him proud? Are you manifesting the qualities and Spirit of Jesus, or are you caught up in carnal things or perhaps something else that is keeping you from living the kind of life Christ would be proud of?

We as Christians should be concerned about our relationship with Christ first and then that to our families and of course, the lost souls we meet on a daily basis. Are we trying to win them to Christ or be accepted by them in their world? Are we doing, hearing, and saying things and going to places that would discredit our testimonies and then trying to win those same folk to the Lord? Wouldn't our very lives be considered a sham?

Those who do not know Christ are watching our lives daily. We need to be on constant guard of our lives—the property of the Holy Spirit that lives within us, and we need to make sure our lives measure up so that things do not taint our testimonies. I am reminded of a question someone asked me once, "If you were charged in a court of law for being a Christian, would the evidence against you prove it?" A great question, don't you think? That is the question I hope you will think about every day of your life. Would the evidence against you find



you guilty of being of Christian? It is definitely time to stand up and turn from a wicked and adulterous generation so that we *would* be found guilty of all charges for the sake of Christ!



Bits 'n Pieces
continued on next page

PRAYING FOR CHRISTIANS

by John Lathrop
Christian Pentecostal Church
Newtonville, MA

The New Testament teaches that Christians should pray for one another (Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16). Every genuine believer would affirm that this is a Biblical doctrine. But prayer needs to be more than a doctrine that we hold. It is to be a discipline that we practice. A thorough reading of the Book of Acts will reveal that the apostolic church practiced prayer. A number of texts show the believers praying with and for one another (see Acts 1:14; 4:23-31; 9:40).

Most Christians have been asked to pray for a fellow brother or sister in Christ. This usually happens when there is a crisis or need that is near at hand. In Christian charity we usually comply with the request and pray for the need that has been presented to us. But how do we pray for one another when there is no particular crisis? What kinds of things should we ask for? The apostle Paul provides us with answers to these questions in his prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23:

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

As we consider his prayer we can see the various types of prayer that are contained in it, the people for whom it was offered, Paul's attitude in the prayer, the purpose of the prayer and how this prayer may instruct us in praying for one another.

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is a combination of two types of prayer, thanksgiving and petition. In verse 16 Paul thanks God for his readers, in particular he thanks

God for the spiritual life of the Ephesians. They have a genuine faith in the Lord Jesus and love for all the saints (verse 15). Both their vertical and horizontal relationships seem to be in order. This, however, does not stop Paul from praying for them. On the contrary, even though they are apparently faring pretty well spiritually, Paul proceeds to pray for them. This brings us to the second type of prayer that we find in this passage. In verses 17 and 18 we find Paul petitioning the Lord on their behalf. In verse 17 he asks the Lord to give the Ephesians, "a spirit of wisdom and revelation", so that they may know God better. Verse 18 begins a request that stretches right down through the rest of the passage that the Ephesians would have a more adequate understanding of the hope, inheritance and power that is theirs in Jesus Christ.

The people that Paul is praying for are Gentile Christians (2:11; 3:1). Paul's attitudes in the prayer can be characterized as both gratitude and concern. He is glad for what they have already attained in Christ (faith and love) and at the same time is concerned that they grow even further in their faith in Christ Jesus. The purpose of this prayer is to invoke God's help in bringing the Ephesian Christian community to a greater level of spiritual maturity. Paul's pastoral heart is evident in this prayer, it is an expression of love for the Ephesians.

Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23 offers us much by way of instruction as to how we can pray for one another. There need not be a request from or a problem in another believer's life in order for us to pray for them. We ought to pray for one another even when there is no crisis.

One thing that we ought to do is to thank God for His work that we see in fellow believers lives. So often we look at the deficiencies and the faults, we all have these but we ought to look at the positive. Paul's prayer also teaches us to prayer for the spiritual lives of other Christians. Very often, our prayers for one another deal with earthly things. We pray for jobs and money, etc. These things have their place but let's remember to pray for each other's spiritual health and growth.

We all need to know God better and to have a greater understanding of all that we have in Him. Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23 could be an ongoing prayer that we pray for one another.



PRAYING FOR OUR PRESIDENT

by Lindsey Yeskoo

The following story was written by Lindsey Yeskoo, the wife of Paul Yeskoo, a Christian Foreign Service Officer serving in Shanghai, and details their experience of meeting the President when he was in China. It underlines why we need to be faithful in praying for the President in particular and all our national leaders.



**PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. BUSH**

Dear Family:

It is a dull, polluted Monday morning here in Shanghai and we await news of President Bush's safe arrival back in Washington D.C. He just left here less than twelve

hours ago. Everyone is breathing a sigh of relief that no terrorist incidents occurred here over the past days. Security was tight, as you will have seen on TV. On Friday afternoon, a crowd of 600 consulate/embassy staff + families were invited to a reception in the Atrium of the Shanghai/Portman complex, at 3:15pm, to meet both GW and Colin Powell.

We waited a LONG time (due to all the security we had to go through), but our anticipation outweighed our tired bodies and sore feet. [We had left the house just after 10:30am in order to do all this!]. Finally, Bush was announced, and it was SO INCREDIBLE to see him walk in with Powell and take the podium before us, especially with all the recent events. Quite emotional for us all, actually.

He gave a tremendous, candid yet heartening speech, and then was escorted down to the floor to meet the crowds. Everyone was of course behind a tight rope, and there were Secret Service men and security everywhere. There was no way he could meet all, but he sure did a great job of shaking hands with as many as possible. Colin Powell followed immediately behind him; he did not seem so engaging, surprisingly. Maybe the Secretary was (understandably) tired and distracted after his previous trips to Pakistan and India. Anyway, the three kids and I were in the very front row, and had an extraordinary experience with President Bush. Bush came along and shook Chris's hand first,

noticing that he was all dressed up, and said, "You're looking sharp today, boy!" Chris was SO PROUD and SO PLEASED at the recognition (if only GW had known what a struggle I'd had to get him to wear a jacket and a tie!). Then he shook my hand and I told him how much we value his strong leadership at this time, that we are 100% behind him. He went on and took the girls' hands and talked to them.

Then I leaned over and mentioned that we pray for him every day. He stopped dead in his tracks (a definite security no-no... the Secret Service men got *really* antsy). He searched my eyes as if to see how much I really meant what I was saying. Then he gave me the most amazing and unexpected personal response, Paul said for a good 20-30 seconds. He told me what the effect has been on him, waking up every day of the crisis and knowing within himself that he is being faithfully prayed for. He almost pleaded with me not to give up, but to persist with it, for this is only the beginning. Then he looked me even more squarely in my eyes, and gave me a very personal and specific series of instructions about the very things he most needs prayer for, on behalf of himself and of the nation. He urged me that the threat against America is very great and that one of our focuses in prayer to God needs to be "the shielding of America"... and wisdom for him as he leads the country through this time.

I don't know why, but as I looked straight back at him directly into his face, he let me see for those brief moments a tiny part of the agony he himself is going through, and the weariness. He finished the conversation by putting his hand on my right shoulder, almost as if it were the close of a commissioning, but affectionate too in a brotherly sort of way. People were pressing in at this point and almost knocking the four of us right into Bush. Many of them were the Chinese staff who work for Paul, who would not have understood ANY of that conversation; but others caught snippets and came afterwards to ask me WHAT we had been talking about. The President moved on. Needless to say, the whole experience was unforgettable. I cannot begin to tell you how deeply it has affected me. Certainly, I do not think I have ever prayed for a leader or government or nation (or world!) so extensively as I have done since then. It was really quite an unusual and unexpected and powerful encounter. What a blessing to have a professing Christian as President. Please

take a moment after you read this to pray for him. He truly does have the weight of the world on his shoulders. Pray that God will sustain him and give him wisdom and discernment in his decisions. Pray for his protection and that of his family.

[Editor's Note: This story has been widely circulated on the Internet. It was verified by VISTA in a telephone conversation with the father of Palul Yesko.]



**N.E.A.T.
NORTHERN EUROPE
ADVANCED TRAINING**
• CCNA MISSIONS OUTREACH •
Mini Bible School — Germany

"Champions Today, Heroes Tomorrow"

Our 2002 "Mini Bible School" was a special school for all youth leaders. We have about 55 youth groups organized in seven districts. Each district has its own youth committee and leader who is responsible to guide the work of the youth in the local churches. Then we have an International Youth Leader who directs all the work on a national scale.

The work in Northern Europe is unique in that we work in six different countries having five different languages. In Switzerland, everything is in three languages, German, French, and Italian. We have many youth leaders who speak at least three languages.

The challenge was to be a "Champion Today, to be a Hero Tomorrow." The emphasis was on how and what produces a good leader and the requirements of a leader. Different Bible heroes served as examples of heroes for the Lord.

We had invited a young man to return to Germany, whom we had met while he was serving in the U.S. Air Force. He began preaching in our CCINE churches. He returned to the USA and enrolled in a school to become a chaplain. The Holy Spirit touched everyone present through his testimony. We let the Holy Spirit lead us and each year we have seen his glory.

Our guest chaplain spoke on the vision of Jesus that the Apostle John had on the Island of Patmos. The Glory of the Lord hovered over us.

Our teachers were faithful in their preparation of study which proved most valuable in forming leaders for today and tomorrow. The teachers were: Bros. DeSantis, DiBiase, and Navaneri, the President of CCINE. Each morning a different district youth leader led a time of prayer and a brief meditation.

This year, the afternoons were given to different workshops. Discussions were held for different problems facing our youth today. Sis. DeSantis lead two of these workshops.

The school of 2002 will remain an unforgettable experience for many. Thank God for those who were blessed, baptized with the Holy Spirit, and received the victory over personal problems. Our thanks to the CCNA churches who prayed for us and blessed us through missionary giving. We are grateful to the Lord and thank Him for every avenue of success and blessing.

Bro. & Sis. DeSantis



offers a free web page for your church on our web site: www.ccna.org.

Please send a color photo of your church along with a bulletin or schedule of meetings and a list of your ministries. Contact information and e-mail addresses should also be included. It's free!

Bro. Eric Towse
647 74th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209

CCNA Education Department Promotes "Solid Biblical Education"



ACCORDING to a recent Moody Bible Institute study, over the past 30 years, churches have cut Christian education and Sunday School by one half every ten years. Despite this dumbing-down trend, your CCNA Education Department wants to do all it can to promote solid Biblical Christian Education. We endeavor to do this through our:

- School of the Bible,
- Sunday School Program,
- Christian Education Conferences,
- Christian college tuition discounts, and
- Scholarship Program.

The Scholarship Program provides tuition funds for our own CCNA college-age students. Priority is given to students who are studying for the ministry. It is a critical investment in our future! In an effort to bolster funding for the 2003 CCNA Scholarship Program, we'd like to acknowledge your donation with a special gift from us.

Below is a list of 21 teaching/preaching messages by your CCNA Education Department Executive Director, Rev. Lucian Gandolfo. These messages are packed with Biblical truth and sound doctrine, assuring the messages to be informative and inspirational. For every \$25 gift to the Darrell

Valentino Memorial Scholarship Fund you may pick any one tape as our gift to you. For every \$100 gift, you may select 5 tapes. Every dollar donated will go towards scholarships. All expenses for tape duplication and mailing will be borne by our Education Department general fund. We hope this incentive will not only move you to give to this worthy cause, but that you will be blessed by our gift, and most importantly, that future CCNA ministers will be adequately equipped to carry on the work of Christ! Thank you for your prayerful and financial support to the CCNA Education Department. May God richly bless you!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Scripture Reference</u>	<u>Title/Topic of Message</u>
7/25/99	Genesis 27:1-4,9,15-27	"The Superiority of God's Word"
9/12/99	Psalms 139:14	"Worship: If He is Worthy of Praise, Our Praise Must be Worthy of Him!"
11/25/01	Jeremiah 12:1	"Why Do Christians Suffer?"
2/27/00	Ezekiel 22:23-28	"Jesus: Prophet, Priest & King"
1/26/01	Matthew 22:2-14	"The Proper Garment"
4/18/99	Mark 1:1-8	"At His return, Will Christ Find Faith on the Earth?"
8/12/01	Mark 6:41-51/ John 1,17,21	"The Church's Relationship to her Lord"
12/24/01	Luke 1:51	(Christmas message) – "Comparison of 1 st and 2 nd Comings"
12/24/99	Luke 2:21-32	(Christmas message) – "Jesus: A Light to Lighten the Gentiles"
2/10/02	John 9:4	"Missed Opportunities & Seized Opportunities"
7/22/01	Acts 11:19-26	"What It Means to be a Christian"
10/17/99	1 Corinthians 2:3-9	"The Three Phases of our Glorious Salvation"
7/9/00	Ephesians 2:1-7	"The "Strong" of God"
11/25/01	Philippians 3:10	"That I May Know Him"
1/31/99	Hebrews 1:1-3	"Jesus Christ: The Ultimate Revelation"
5/30/99	Hebrews 12:2	"Looking Unto Jesus"
2/6/00	James 4:10	"The Humility of Christ"
6/27/99	Revelation 2:1-7; 3:14-22	"The End-time Church"
6/2/02	Revelation 4:8-11; 5:1-4	"Christ our Kinsman Redeemer"
8/23/98	Revelation 12:1-17	"The Enemy of our Souls -vs- the Lover of our Souls"
8/24/02	Luke 22:15, 20	"The Four Great Covenants of the Bible"



CCNA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

1294 Rutledge Road
Transfer, PA 16154

Dear Rev. Gandolfo - Here's my support for the education of our future ministers: Amount: \$ _____

Select date(s) of Messages: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Church: _____

The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches

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The Christian Church of North America and Professional Pastoral Care in Special Settings

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED. . .

Have you ever watched M*A*S*H reruns and wondered how a Catholic priest, Father Mulcahy, wound-up as a chaplain in Korea assigned to an Army hospital unit? Ever thought “Hey! I could do that!”? If you have been hospitalized in the last five years, upon admission you were either asked if you wanted a chaplain to visit you, or a chaplain stopped by unrequested (it’s the law now.) Did you think, “That’s an interesting ministry. I wonder if/how I could do this...?”

AN ALLIANCE IS IN PLACE

Thanks to a strategic alliance now in place with The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches, CCNA ministers and their congregations have the same access to military and civilian chaplaincy as the main-line denominations. Could it be that God is calling you to represent CCNA in the Army, Navy, or Air Force? There are openings available right now for both active duty and reserves. The Army and Navy are critically short at this time. Or, are you more interested in health care chaplaincy at Veteran Affairs hospitals or civilian hospitals or hospices? Or, perhaps correctional chaplaincy appeals to you with the Federal Bureau of Prisons or with your state’s correctional facilities.

ATTENTION PROSPECTIVE THERAPISTS

In addition to chaplaincy, professional pastoral counseling possibly may be a calling for you. To be credentialed as a pastoral counselor requires graduate work in both theology and counseling. And, there is a real need for such clinically-trained Spirit-filled ministers!

ATTENTION SEMINARIANS

Are you a seminarian or graduate counseling student and a member of a CCNA-affiliated church? How about a no obligation, firsthand taste of military ministry during your summer breaks and be commissioned and paid as an officer?

The Army, Navy, and Air Force all offer just such programs for “chaplain candidates” so that students can explore military chaplaincy. Additionally, the Army and Air Force offer tuition assistance programs for candidates willing to make a commitment.

Spirit-filled chaplains are already making a difference. For instance, CCNA has a chaplain on Active Duty with the Army now in Germany, **Stan Arnold**.

ATTENTION MILITARY MEMBERS

Perhaps you are already in the military, are happy with your job, and have no interest in becoming a chaplain. As you probably know, there is a real, major shortage of Spirit-filled chaplains to conduct Spirit-led services. Nevertheless, if you are a mature Christian leader and would like to help out, you now can by becoming authorized as a “certified lay minister” to voluntarily conduct such services as a representative of CCNA. This is especially needed during wartime and deployments! Interested?

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. . .

If any of these scenarios appeals to you, or if you would like more information, please contact the CCNA office at 724-962-3501 and CCNA’s chaplaincy endorser Rev. David “Dave” Plummer, the Executive Director of The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches (www.Spirit-filled.org), toll-free at 877-CSC-CHAP. The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches is a “religious endorsing body” that is formally recognized by the Pentagon and professional civilian chaplaincy and counseling organizations to screen and credential Spirit-filled clergy for chaplaincy and professional pastoral counseling. As a special service to affiliated ministers and congregations, CCNA has entered into a strategic alliance with The Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches to represent interested CCNA ministers and congregations.



College For Your Son Or Daughter?

by Vincent Stigliano



ONE of my part time jobs since retiring from Child Protective Services was Guidance Counselor at a local Christian school. My responsibilities covered two general areas: counseling students with behavioral and/or emotional issues and college and career planning. I had

the privilege of speaking to the parents of high school students at the August 2002 Open House for Warren Christian School. Many interesting questions were raised and many insightful comments were made. The discussion at the open house was primarily about issues in college and career planning.

I wanted to alert parents of sophomores, juniors and seniors especially about pre-college testing, choosing a college, and financial aid. Following are excerpts from that training that I thought would be helpful to many parents.

PRE-COLLEGE TESTS PSAT, ACT, SAT WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

My advice is to start early, take each test at least once, and don't overreact to low scores. The main objective is for your son or daughter to learn how to take *these* tests and build up to their best performance. All of the colleges assure you that they will only consider your son or daughter's best score. Generally, students should not study subject matter for these tests, however they can study how to take the tests. There are websites and software programs that help build up test taking skills answering such questions as, "How fast should I go?" "Should I guess?" etc.)

The PSAT is for sophomores and juniors. It's a pretest or practice test for the real ones – the SAT and ACT. Exceptional students have a chance to win scholarship money if they score very well on it. The SAT and ACT are for juniors and seniors. They are similar tests that are supposed to predict the student's potential for taking college best. On the other hand, no one should give up on college just because they don't score well enough to immediately win a scholarship.

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

This is not as hard as some parents think and not as easy as most students assume. Don't rush! Be thorough. Be practical. Involve your son or daughter in the decision.

I suggest that parents give guidelines to their son or daughter about choosing a college rather than naming a specific col-

lege. For example,

"We want you to attend a Christian college but you can choose which one," or *"We want you to live at home for the first year to make sure you are ready to live independently. That means attending a college within driving distance at least for that year. Let's make a list of all the colleges within driving distance,"* or *"You want to major in microbiology so we should make a list of all the colleges that you like that offer a degree in microbiology."*

The Internet is a fine place to do research on each college. Today all colleges have websites and you can get tremendous amounts of information. Don't rush the process. Let your son or daughter explore each college they are interested in. However, help them analyze each possibility carefully. Consider academic appropriateness (do they have the major you are interested in), financial feasibility, safety and security of the college environment, distance from home, presence of Christian clubs (if it's a secular college), check for doctrinal issues (if it's a Christian college.) If the college is in another state, will your son or daughter adjust to the difference in climate? Will they be comfortable in an urban or rural campus? All these issues play a part in making your son or daughter's college experience rewarding.

Don't apply to just one college. You know the saying, *"Don't put all your eggs in one basket."* It certainly applies to this situation. Apply to at least three colleges so your son or daughter is keeping their options open.

Be open with your son or daughter about how much you can contribute to their college education. This is all a part of the process of them maturing and accepting responsibility and facing reality. Always express your confidence in them and their ability to "make it" in college. Remind them that God has a plan!

FINANCIAL AID

First, I want to say that no one should avoid college because of finances. *"If there is a will, there is a way."* Better yet, *"With God all things are possible."* College can be very expensive or it can be about twice the cost of Christian school tuition or it may be almost free! Let me explain:

VERY EXPENSIVE COLLEGE

Private college tuition and board currently costs between \$18,000 and \$30,000 per year. There are a few exceptions below these amounts and a few above them. However, almost all of these schools promise to do everything possible to help the student get scholarships that would bring the cost down to no more than it would cost to go to a state school. Students who have above a 3.0 GPA and score well on the ACT and/or SAT will find it possible to cut the cost almost in half. Any further reduction would depend on demonstrated financial need through the FAFSA form.

With creative hard work these high costs of private colleges can be trimmed significantly. I know of a student that got scholarship money from the CCNA, two local

College

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Guayana
continued from p. 8

also trying to give time to prayer and to correspondence and reports. God is our only hope as we try to get into some kind of schedule. I am also enrolled in a Bible School Program, so I need to find time to study as well.

Larry has been spending time editing the video tape from the January conference, has been speaking to the young people, and has been contacting the deaf. He is also involved in a TV program that the church here in Georgetown is starting this week. We will be starting the first set of Sign Language Classes the beginning of March, right after we return from a short trip to the interior. We have been invited to the dedication of a church, which contributions we brought with us in March had helped to rebuild. It is in an American Indian area, so we need special permission from the government to travel into the area. We have already purchased the tickets and are waiting for the permission. The trip will be from February 25 to March 4.

Larry and Mary Hallahan.

guydefmin@solutions2000.net



URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS

The ministry of **Bro. J. T. Norman** is also experiencing persecution. People are not allowed to convert to Christianity. This is come about by an ordinance from the Government in the area that Bro. Norman resides. Any violators will be imprisoned or fined. Women receive a higher fine. This ordinance came about after there were mass conversions in the area. Ministry to the poor is also not being allowed. The Government feels that this is merely an attempt to allure people to Christianity. Many good Samaritans and charitable organizations are afraid to continue because they fear being imprisoned.

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Some recent attacks against the church have prompted me to write and ask that you pray for the Christians in India. While much

is made of Islamic attacks on the Church around the world, groups of militant Hindus are also emerging as a threat to our peaceful existence.

An American preacher, Mr. Cooper, was ministering recently at a conference in the Kerala region, south west of India. While he was preaching, a group of Hindus interrupted the service and beat him up so severely that he was hospitalized. As he was receiving treatment for his injuries, the militants put pressure on the local authorities to have him deported. Upon being discharged from hospital, Mr Cooper found himself being asked to leave the country. It is doubtful whether he will ever be allowed to return. We were very disturbed and upset to hear this news, but the trouble seems to be moving closer to home.

Last Sunday, 26 January during a morning worship service at another church in Hyderabad, a group of Hindu militants stormed into the sanctuary and beat many of the worshippers, including women and children. As you can imagine, there was chaos, with people trying to escape the onslaught. The militants went to the front of the church, threw a blanket over the local pastor, and beat him up and kicked him mercilessly. He is still in hospital suffering from multiple injuries, including damage to his kidneys. This pastor's ministry includes working closely with AIDS patients, a largely neglected part of our community, and I understand he intends to continue with the work to which the Lord has called him.

The timing of these attacks is significant as January, February and March are the months in which many major conferences and rallies are held around the country, due to the good weather. Of course, many Christians are now wondering where or when the next attack might come.

The government in India tends to be slow in seeking justice when the Christian Church is persecuted, but extends every resource to vindicate the Hindus and Muslims.

Please pray for us as we face an uncertain future.

Yours in Christ,

Ernest Komanapalli

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Lisa and I will be going to Uruguay for their 50th Anniversary Celebration of CCNA being in this country. Bro. Mario D'Aloia heads the work in Uruguay. We will also be visiting our work with Rev. Antonino Galvano. Please pray for good travel, good health and a GREAT time of ministry. We will be gone from Feb 27th to March 10th.

Rev. Mark Charles

ccnamissions@yahoo.com



DOROTHY'S SHOES

by Marie Elena Wilson

Birtherd out of sorrow
Pushing back the pain;
Reaching ever forward
I search for peace in vain.

Where are the yellow bricks
Laid for me to trod?
Life gets so complicated,
Unsure and very hard.

To answer all these questions
I peer upon a star,
Looking up I see the light;
It seems so very far.

Did You not say that You would stay
Near my broken heart
Where love would flow
and gives me strength;
Never to depart?

'Tis in this pain and discomfort
My gaze is just on You,
I know I'll have the strength to wait
And see Your love shine through.

The answer's in Your holy Word
That brings us such "Good News"
Just like Dorothy's click of heels,
In her beautiful ruby red shoes.

We "had the Power all along"
But knew not how to use
The Power in His spoken word
Like the power in Dorothy's shoes!

ethnic organizations, one local service organization and the college she is attending. She managed to reduce a \$26,000 expense down to less than \$15,000 without using financial aid or loans.

Grove City College in Pennsylvania is one exception to the high cost of private colleges. They are very restrictive in their admission policy, but tuition and board is currently slightly above \$12,000 and they offer further scholarships for high academic achievement and/or high ACT or SAT scores. Geneva College in Pennsylvania offers a 15% discount to members of a CCNA church (their tuition and board is around \$20,000 per year.)

In summary, if you plan to send your son or daughter to a private college you should have a significant portion of the cost saved ahead of time. Then a student can make up the rest through scholarships, grants, earned money and, if necessary, loans.

COLLEGE AT ABOUT TWICE THE COST OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Tuition to colleges supported by the state of Ohio cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 as long as the student is a resident of Ohio. Other states have similar offerings. Of course, living at home and driving to the local community college may not be your first choice but it does greatly reduce the cost. *A college degree is a college degree...*

COLLEGE ALMOST FREE

In short, your son or daughter must be extremely smart or qualify for some specific scholarship to get a “free ride.” If your son or daughter scores in the top 5 percent of all students taking the ACT or SAT many colleges will offer a “free ride.” I know of a student attending Case Western Reserve all tuition paid in such a situation (their tuition, board and room is over \$30,000.) I know of another student who was valedictorian of his class and got all of his tuition paid at a state university. By living at home he could keep his cost per year under \$2500 for tuition, books and fees. Other students will qualify for special scholarships and or grants because of a disability or special life situation. There are organizations that give scholarships to students with ADHD, visual problems, child of a disabled, deceased or MIA

veteran, cancer survivors, to name a few.

Still other students will get a “free ride” because they plan to work in a “high need profession.” Currently nursing and teaching provide special grant possibilities. Ohio offers a tuition loan repayment for students who become nurses (the state repays 20% of the loan for every year he/she works as a nurse in Ohio – in 5 years the loan is completely repaid!) Of course, the military offers free education while in the armed services and GI bill education stipends for veterans.

The most significant grants are through the Federal government which calculates financial need through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Completing the FAFSA is time consuming but necessary to qualify for almost any scholarship. Your last IRS#1040 must be attached. Once they have made their calculations they respond to the parents and all named colleges announcing a dollar amount that the government feels the parents should be able to contribute toward their son or daughter’s college education for the next year. Be careful to include all your income and assets and also all of your allowable expenses. This form is used for almost every grant based on financial need whether the money comes from the government or private sources.

Okay, now it’s time to get to work! Encourage your son or daughter to get their best score on the ACT/ SAT. Encourage him/her to apply for any and all scholarships available. Try to settle on a specific college by January or February of their senior year. Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible but definitely by April 15th. Pray for your son/ daughter daily.



No Longer Alone
continued from p. 14

the familiarity of Egypt, ex-homosexuals must resist the tendency to hold onto the “security” of their wounded identity. The Lord helped me to lay aside the “security” of dwelling within my sinful past and learn my true identity as I embraced the image of Christ in me.

I thank the Lord for my first pastor who was an excellent source of support and encouragement in my journey and was instrumental for laying the foundation for my Christian walk, but he did not understand

the intricacies of same sex attraction. After many years on the journey out, I still wrestled with residual issues which were not overcome simply by crying out to God for deliverance.

When I met Tom Cole of **Reconciliation Ministries**, the Lord added a crucial ingredient in my healing – the Living Waters Program and the Body of Christ. I learned the importance of being open about my struggles with others who have been down the same path that I have walked, and who can share insights into Christ’s cleansing power specific to my issues. I also learned the importance of being open about my past with my family and friends who then accepted me for who I was – not who I pretended to be.

I thank the Lord for the Living Waters program that has confirmed and expanded many of the precious truths the Lord has taught me in my journey out of homosexuality, and into His perfect plan for my life. I am thankful that the Lord has taken a wounded, broken man; and has transformed me into a new creation in Christ with a loving wife and five happy children. The Lord has taken me out of the prison of loneliness and has given me a heart for the body of Christ and the lost. As a minister, I thank Him for a heart that longs to reach out and touch others with the healing message of the cross; and tell them of a heavenly Father who desires to give them the love they’re crying for.

Jesus Christ can set you free from the addictive power of sin.

Dan Hitz
DHitz@juno.com

If you or someone you know needs help contact:

Reconciliation Ministries
43700 Merrill Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
or call (586) 739-5114
www.recmin.org



In the Midst of Pain

continued from p. 6

There are two things of which I am certain. First, **“it is good for me to have been afflicted;”** and the second is, **“it is good for me to draw near to God”** Psalm 73:28.



From 1660 to 1672, **John Bunyan**, the English preacher, and author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, was in the Bedford county jail. He could have been released if he had agreed not to preach. He did not know which was

worse, the pain of the jail house conditions, or the torment of making his own choice, in view of what it cost his wife and four children. John Bunyan said, “Leaving my wife and children is like pulling the flesh right off my bones. Not only because I am so fond of these great mercies, but also because the hardships, miseries and needs of my poor family are always on my mind. How can I be taken from them, especially from my poor blind child, who is so near to my heart? To think of the hardships my blind daughter might go through, breaks my heart to pieces.” [Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners, Evangelical Press, 1978, p. 123] Because of suffering, this broken John Bunyan was seeing treasures in the Word of God that he would not have seen any other way. He was discovering the meaning of Psalm 119:71, **“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.”**

John Bunyan never so greatly saw into the Word of God as when he was in prison. The Scriptures that he saw nothing in before were made alive through his suffering. John Bunyan is quoted as saying;

“Here I have seen him and felt him indeed. I have seen such things here that I am persuaded I shall never, while in this world, be able to express. Being very tender of me, God hath not suffered me to be molested, but would with one scripture and another strengthen me against all; inasmuch that I have often said, were it lawful I could pray for greater trouble for the greater comfort's sake.” [Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners, Evangelical Press, 1978, p. 123]

One of God's gifts in suffering is that we are granted to see and experience the depths of God's Word that a life of ease

would never yield. What you receive through the Word of God as a result of suffering will never be forgotten. God works in our times of pain and suffering. He instructs through times of difficulty.



Martin Luther had discovered the same “method” of seeing God in his Word through suffering. Martin Luther, the great theologian was born in 1483 is famous because of his stand against the powerful Catholic Church, and especially for his stand against the authority of the Pope. Luther said that the word of the Pope was fine as long as it didn't disagree with scripture. This was not well received. His main point of disagreement with the Catholic Church concerned salvation. Luther argued against the teaching of the church that said men could earn remission of their sins through works. Instead he led his listeners to God's truth of remission of sins through the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther was pressured to recant his volumes of theological works before the Pope in Rome, the Emperor and other officials of the German State, but would not. Luther was pressured to keep silent but would not. He said that he would stand on what he had written until it was proven wrong by Scripture. He stood firm, endured hardship, withstood many angry authorities of the church and state, and continued to preach and write until his death at the age of 63.

Luther said, there are three rules for understanding Scripture: praying, meditating and suffering trials, which “teach you not only to know and understand but also to experience how right, how true, how sweet, how lovely, how mighty, how comforting God's word is. God's Word is wisdom supreme.” He also writes, “For I myself owe my papists many thanks for so beating, pressing, and frightening me through the devil's raging that they have turned me into a fairly good theologian, driving me to a goal I should never have reached.” [What Luther Says, Vol. 3, Concord Publishing House, 1959, p. 1360].

Even in our own experiences we can say this is true: Disappointment, loss, sickness, fears, and suffering sends us deeper into God and his Word.

It is amazing how clear our focus be-

comes through suffering. When you have been through some difficult life experiences, and have kept you eyes on God, and have grown closer to God through because of your sufferings your faith is strengthened and the glory of unseen things shines within your heart. Insignificant worries actually become insignificant. And significant worries, or cares, are cast upon the Lord. Be encouraged by Bunyan and the great reformer Martin Luther. Learn to lean on God's Word as never before. Allow God to use times of affliction for His glory. I know that there are seasons when we cannot think or read or even pray, the pain is too great. But even in these terrible times, God grants spaces of relief. Turn your heart to the Word of God and prove the truth of Psalm 119:71, **“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.”** Although we do not look for afflictions or suffering in our lives, it is ours to realize that it has been the lot of the best of saints to be afflicted.— an advantage to God's people. The psalmist David could speak out of experience when he said, **“It was good for me that I have been afflicted, that I have learned your statutes”.**



When the Nazis in World War II arrested Jewish psychiatrist **Victor Frankl**, he was stripped of everything—property, family, possessions. He had spent years researching and writing a book on the importance of finding

meaning in life—concepts that later would be known as Logotherapy, When he arrived in Auschwitz, the infamous death camp even his manuscript which he had hidden in the lining of his coat, was taken away.

“I had to undergo and overcome the loss of my spiritual child,” Frankl wrote, “now it seemed as if nothing and no one would survive me; neither a physical nor a spiritual child of my own! I found myself confronted with the question of whether under such circumstances my life was ultimately void of any meaning.”

He was still wrestling with that question a few days later when the Nazis forced

Next page, please

Age began.

We are now living in the time of the feet, a composite of iron and clay. Notice that even though they were defeated, or ceased to



be world powers, none of the four empires ceased to exist. Babylon is modern day Iraq. Medo-Persia is modern day Iran. Upon Alexander the Great's death, the Grecian empire was split by his four Generals into four territories: modern day Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt. Remnants of the Roman Empire are visible in Italy and Europe. Notice also that Islam has become the religion of the Arab world and is the fastest growing religion on the planet. It is the established religion of the first three empires and it is advancing in Europe. Germany and France have very high Muslim populations. There are more mosques in London today than there are evangelical churches. It is even seen in

our hemisphere. Canada has become a point of migration for many Arabs who eventually find their way into the United States.

This last-day composite of iron and clay will develop into a new world order which will have Roman and Islamic components. Be not deceived,

the ultimate goal of the Islamic world is to eliminate Israel from the face of the earth!

In the fullness of time, Jesus Christ, the Stone cut out without hands, will smite the image on its feet and break the whole colossus into crumbling pieces which will be blown away as dust. The Stone cut without hands will become a great Mountain which will fill, or rule, the earth. You and I, if we are "in Christ," will reign with him as heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ!

What does the CCNA have to do with the Middle-East conflict? Everything! We are one of God's precious components of his glorious universal church. By His Spirit, He has sovereignly brought us into being nearly one hundred years ago. Looking back over the past years, we can see that God has accomplished much through us. But he is not finished with us yet. There is much work to be done. We must work while it is day,

"for the night cometh when no man can work" (John 9:4).

The incidents associated with the Middle-East conflict serve as an alarm for us, rousing us to awake and fulfill our calling. In light of where we are in the time periods of history, we ought to be that much more urgent in our approach to evangelism and the disciplining of the saints. Until the last day, the gospel must be preached and lived.

"... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."
- Jesus. (Matthew 28:20).

Rev. Lucian Gandolfo

the prisoners to give up their clothes. "I had to surrender my clothes and, in turn, inherited the worn out rags of an inmate who had been sent to the gas chamber," said Frankl. "Instead of the many pages of my manuscript, I found in the pocket of the newly acquired coat a single page torn out of a Hebrew prayer book, which contained the main Jewish prayer, "Shema Yisrael" (Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one God. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.) "How should I have interpreted such a 'coincidence' other than as a challenge to "live" my thoughts instead of merely putting them on paper?"

Later, as Frankl reflected on his ordeal, he wrote in his book *Man's Search for Meaning*, "There is nothing in the world that would so effectively help one to survive even the worst conditions, as the knowledge that there is a meaning in one's life. 'He who has a "why" to live for can bear almost any "how"' [Unknown, *Leadership*, Vol. 4, no. 3.].

Many good lessons are learned through sufferings, and many good works have been accomplished which would otherwise have been undone. In the Scriptures we learn that God visited David through sufferings, that he might learn God's statutes. Afflictions contributed to the growth of David's knowledge of God and His grace.

Psalm 119:64-72 – ***"The earth is full of Thy loving kindness, O LORD; teach me Thy statutes. Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O LORD, according to Thy word. Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Thy commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Thy word. Thou art good and doest good; teach me Thy statutes. The arrogant have forged a lie against me; with all my heart I will observe Thy precepts. Their heart is covered with fat, but I delight in Thy law. It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes. The law of Thy mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces."***

Suffering teaches us to put our trust in the Lord. The nearer you get to God the more you will be able to trust God. If you don't know God, how can you trust God?

Psalm 9:10 says, ***"They that know thy name will put their trust in thee". Those who have had most dealings with God believe most in Him.*** Those that know God, trust God!

I pray that through your sufferings you will draw close to God. What a joy it is to have a faith that will go with us everyday and in everything. If Sunday morning faith ends there it is as substantial as a piece of candy.

But faith in the midst of my pain, my poverty, my hopelessness, my suffering, my affliction, my heartache — that is faith (Spurgeon). The Bible says, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes".... "It is good for me to draw near to God".... "I have put my trust in the Lord."



Rev. Nick Cacciatore