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servant

GUIDED TOGETHER INTO RENEWAL (part 2)
RENEWAL OF THE MIND
FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT
"SHE IS PRECIOUS TO ME"



Vol.1 No.2

EDITORIAL

This issue of 'Servant' highlights aspects of the new life that the Lord is pouring out into the hearts of many people today. It gives testimony to changed lives, of transformation in Christ and of renewed desire to serve Him.

Glen Heidenreich tells of some of the experiences he faced when confronted by the truths of Scripture as they measured up against his life, and how the Lord resolved his nagging doubts that "there had to be more." Brian Proeve shares something of the difficulties he encountered as a student in relating to God and His purposes, and how the Lord transformed his life and ministry. Rev. Doug Kuhl further examines some crucial aspects of the renewal movement and its impact upon 'Servants of Christ Community', while Helen Wade retraces her call to follow Christ in nurturing His young and often immature lambs. Another article takes a look at an area of renewal that is receiving increasing attention as the Lord calls us to examine our daily thoughts.

Costs of printing, postage etc., have brought about the need for subscriptions to begin at this time and you are encouraged to subscribe as soon as possible if you desire to continue receiving 'Servant'. We are anticipating contributions coming from a much wider personel in the future, however, the expansion and growth of 'Servant' will depend on the interest of subscribers. Any letters, feedback etc., are greatly appreciated and have already been of great encouragement. Also any contibutions, testimonies etc., will be considered for publication.

KARL BRETTIG

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PART II "There is a life to be lived!"

GUIDED TOGETHER INTO RENEWAL

In the last edition I wrote of the early beginnings of our work at street level - of how God spoke to us in those circumstances about His guiding of us into renewal. We saw a new call to life as disciples of Jesus. We saw new possibilities of living as we were led to understand and examine the nature and new structure of life in the Kingdom of God.

In those days, I guess we were asking far more questions than we were receiving answers.

As well as the questions we were asking of ourselves and of God, there was a flood of questions being poured upon us from the street as we attempted to speak Christian answers into matters of life, death, misery, oppression, bondage and injustice to the people there.

"How real is your Christ?" they would tauntingly ask. "He's a joke - all your god-talk ain't no practical good - it's just a lot of god-talk."

"Satan is more powerful than God - look who is winning everywhere anyhow!"

"I gave Christianity a go for 12 years - but it did nothing for me - I still masturbate. All I got out of the trip was a lot of guilty hang-ups and inhibitions - no help."

"I can get more love and understanding from one of those massage parlours than from a thousand of your sermons," (to be followed by an applause of raucous laughter.)

We were bombarded with questions from all sides, inside and outside.

We concluded that people on the street obviously have very high expectations of what they expect Christianity to be. Only when these are fulfilled will they regard it as being genuine, what it ought to be, what it ought to offer and



how it ought to live out its witness.

The vexing thing was that we were troubled by the fact that, many times over, the expectations of Christianity which the people of the street had most often resembled what used to happen in New Testament times (they had obviously read a New Testament at some time or other too.) They accepted and expected a literal interpretation of biblical events for today as well, if they were to recognise something as being truly Christian.

Putting it bluntly, I used to get sick and tired of trying to rationalise and argue away why the Church of today no longer seems the same as the Church that is described in the New Testament.

Somehow people never really became convinced of my arguments, least of all ME! I often felt such a flop as a Christian minister in the face of the demands of the man on the street for the reality of Christ's salvation to be actually demonstrated on the one hand; and such simple declarations of the Bible that the "Gospel is the POWER of God for salvation" on the other hand. Jesus has come to give life and give it in all its abundance. This I read in the New Testament. "But where is this life?", everyone seemed to be asking, including me.

I concluded: "Today's generation needs God's power for life generated among them. In this respect people today are no better or worse than those of New Testament times. A sinner is a sinner, bondage is bondage, god-forsakenness is god-forsakenness, no matter in what time or culture it is to be found - New Testament times or now! All of us, people of yesterday or of tomorrow or of today, we all need God's powerful personal act of deliverance and rescue just as much now as then."

I compared my conclusion with the attitudes of many people I was personally ministering to on the street. They were hungering to see God be God in power and provision for salvation, to rescue them in their daily circumstances.

"God has just got to act - act according to His Word," I debated. God, you can't be a respecter of persons like this - treating people in one way in one century, and then placing restrictions on your salvation activity and cutting out all the power, the daily victory, the fun and excitement, all the reality and confirmation of your ability and willingness to save us from our sins in another century! You just can't desert us, God, in our weakness, our failure, our despair of ourselves, our inner fears and doubts, Lord, you just can't! Not with so much human need around us everywhere!"

So I cried to God, as the pressures of people with deep psychological, emotional and spiritual problems bore down upon me. I cried out to God as my own inabilities to cope with inner and outer pressures of life swept over me in waves of depression, anxiety and doubt.

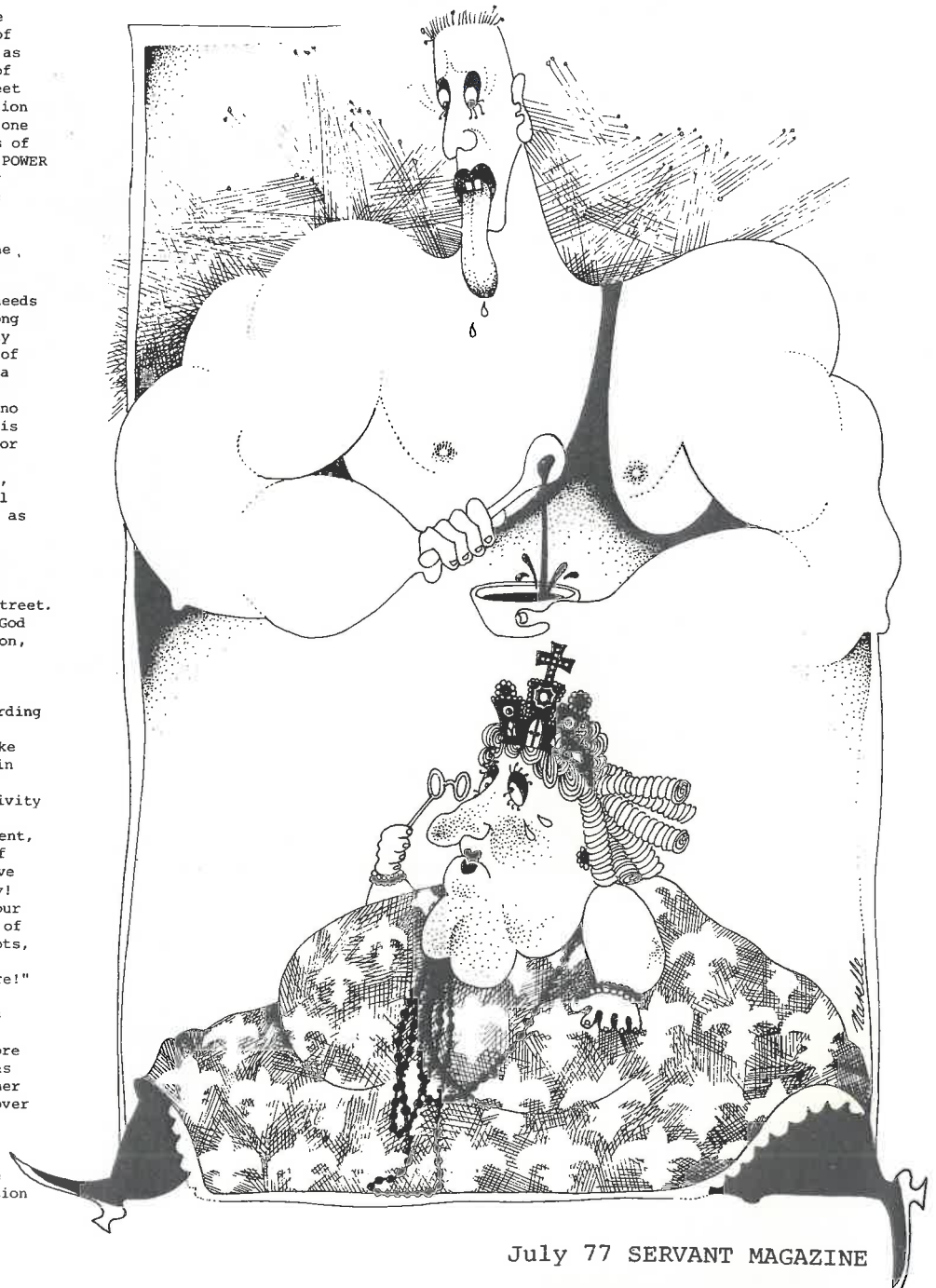
Then I picked up a book called "The Young Church in Action," a translation

of the Acts of the Apostles by J.B. Phillips. In the preface to this book I read J.B. Phillips' conviction concerning life in the Spirit. It startled me, but also gave me courage to continue to wrestle with the issues I've mentioned so far. With a brilliance of style and lucidity of expression which we have come to expect of this man, J.B. Phillips spills out the following confession:

"It is impossible to spend several months in close study of the remarkable short book, conventionally known as the Acts of the Apostles, without being profoundly stirred and, to be honest, disturbed. The reader is stirred because he is seeing Christianity, the real thing, in action for the

first time in human history. The new-born Church, as vulnerable as any human child, having neither money nor influence, nor power in the ordinary sense, is setting forth joyfully and courageously to win the pagan world for God through Christ Here we are seeing the Church in its first youth, valiant and unspoiled - a body of ordinary men and women joined in an unconquerable fellowship never before seen on this earth.

Yet we cannot help feeling disturbed as well as moved, for this surely is the Church as it was meant to be. It is vigorous and flexible, for these are the days before it ever became fat and short of breath through prosperity, or muscle-bound by over-organisation.

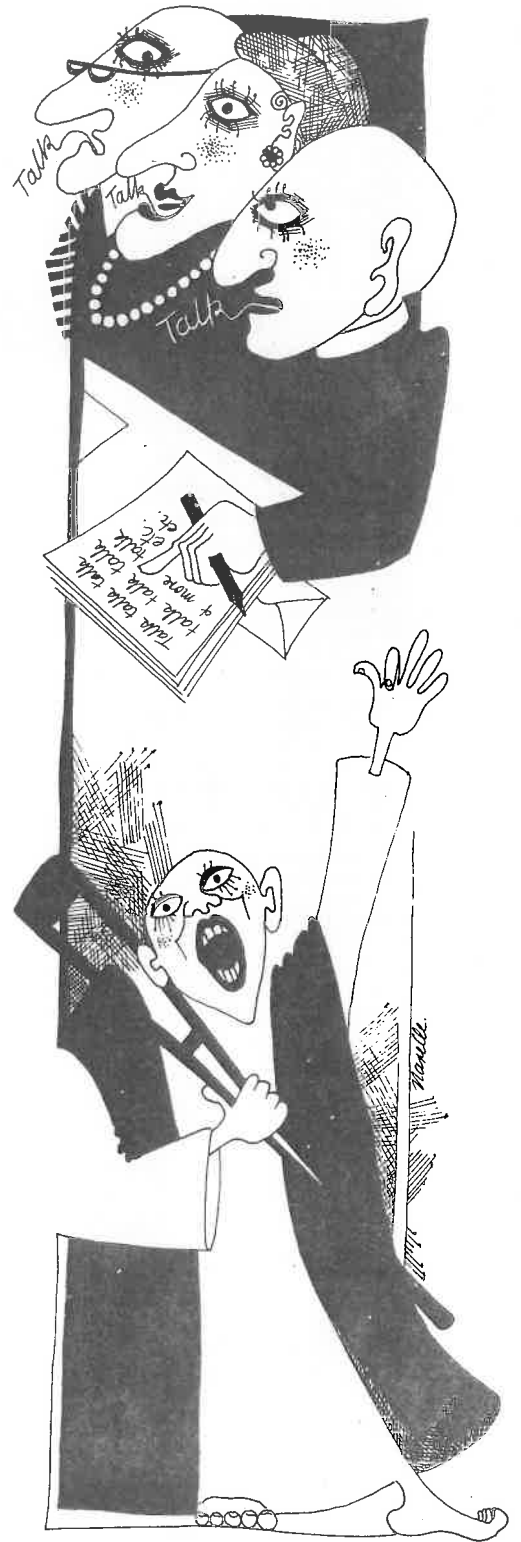
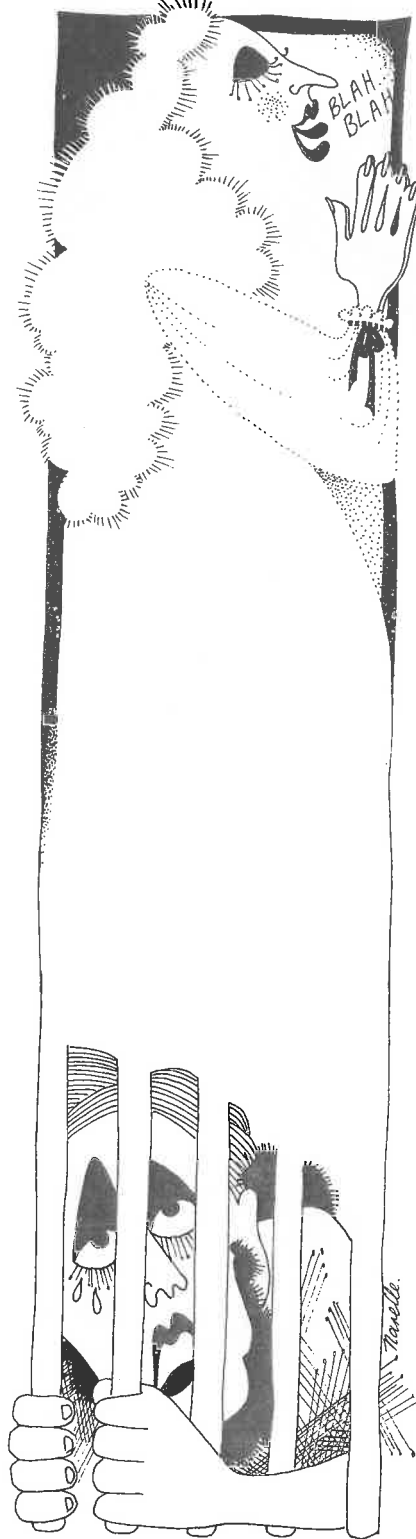
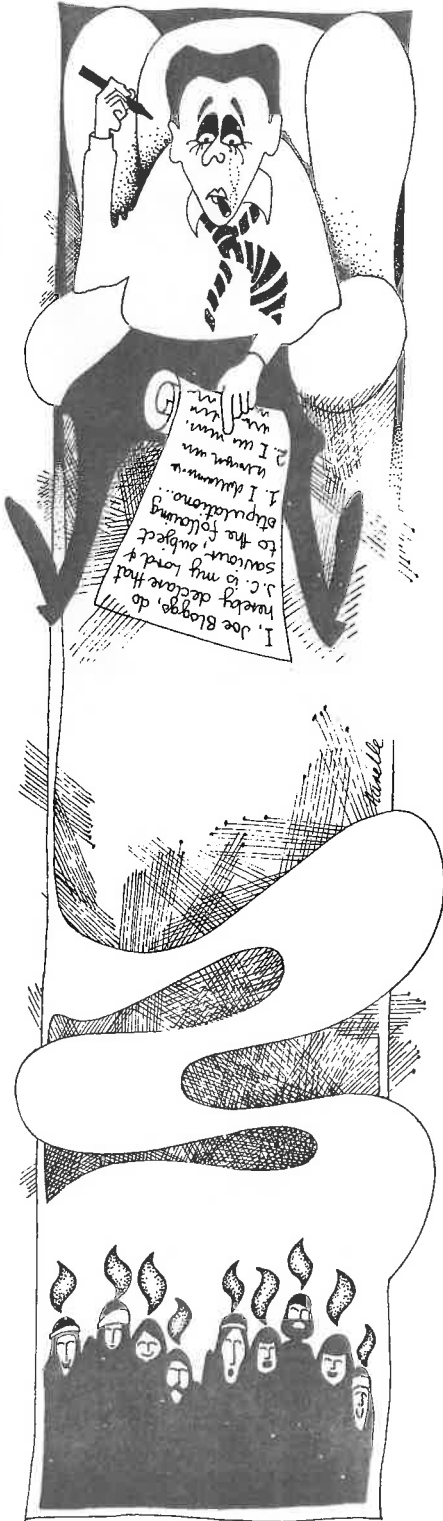


These men did not make "acts of faith", they believed; they did not "say their prayers", they really prayed. They did not hold conferences on psychosomatic medicine, they simply healed the sick. But if they were uncomplicated and naive by modern

standards we have ruefully to admit that they were open on the God-ward side in a way that is almost unknown today.

No-one can read this book without being convinced that there is Someone

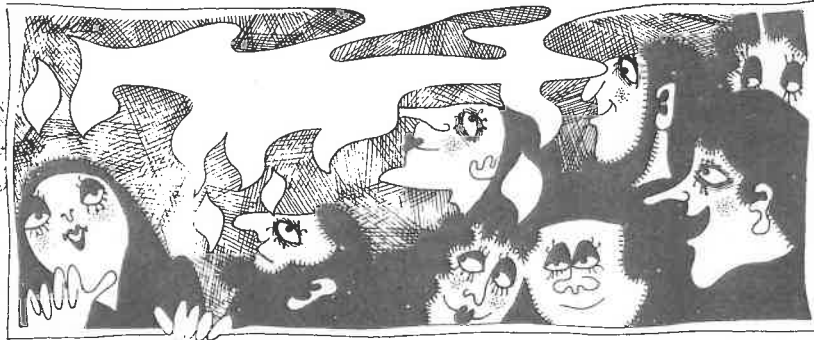
here at work besides mere human beings. Perhaps because of their very simplicity, perhaps, because of their readiness to believe, to obey, to give, to suffer, and if need be to die, the Spirit of God found what surely He must always be seeking - a fellowship



of men and women so united in love and faith that He can work in them and through them with a minimum of let and hindrance the fresh air of Heaven is plainly blowing, and to turn from the vitality of these pages to almost any current Christian writing, be it theological book or Church periodical, is to bring tears to Christian eyes."

"Okay Lord Jesus, if I've erred on the side of my being closed off to you and unbelieving, then I intend, from this point of time onwards, to do something about that. First I'm going to read the New Testament through, again and again, and again. To the best of my ability I will put to practice the words I read there. Finally, I will expose my life to whatever the Holy

at prayer. I felt utterly foolish, offended and frightened. I'll be kicked out of the church for being a pentecostal. My immediate reaction to all this was to refuse to pray out loud for four days. When I saw the foolishness of that, the gift resumed. However, only on a few occasions has this gift been exercised involuntarily, normally as I speak out the Spirit of God supplies the words and sentences. The central experience undoubtedly, was to know Jesus as real.



I was thoroughly convicted of the obvious fact that I simply wasn't "open on the God-ward side" in my life. My life was largely closed to any real expectation of, or vulnerability to, God's Spirit working, changing, subtracting, adding, transforming the details of my character and life-style. Could it be that the problem of God not acting to rescue me from my weaknesses, which had led me to despair, was really to be found not in any unwillingness on God's part - but in stubborn, ignorant, unbelieving ol' ME?!

Spirit might say concerning life and ministry, and, most importantly, I will expose my being to the Spirit's indwelling life, presence and power."

This I prayed. God met that prayer with His promises and has continued to do so ever since. My life began to experience in greater measure the powerful influence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

But this was not without cost. Like Jesus says "It'll cost you everything" - the pearl of great price which cost a man all he had in order to purchase - the forsaking of all to follow the King of all - the losing of life to gain life at the call of Jesus - the plunge into that which men call foolishness in order to discover God's infinite wisdom.

J.B. Phillips had more cannon fire to blow to bits my preconceptions on what Christianity could be for today:

"When we compare the strength and vigour of the Spirit-filled early Church with the confused and sometimes feeble performance of the Church today, we might perhaps conclude that when man's rigidity attempts to canalise the free and flexible flow of the Spirit he is left to his own devices."

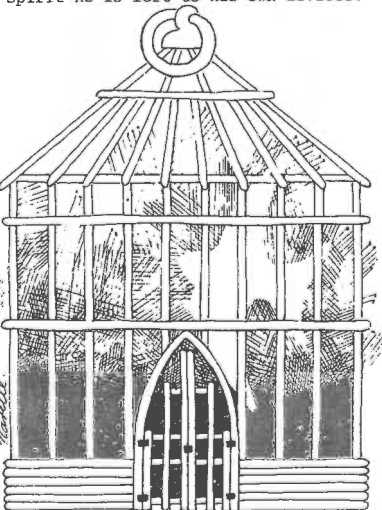


Jesus became real to me in a way I have never known before - through the pages of Scripture; through the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; through prayer; and through the voice of the Holy Spirit addressing my thoughts in and through various circumstances.

Answers to prayer - long sought for directions for ministry and life became clear. God's pattern for life began to emerge. This was not only true for my life but the same experience was occurring in the lives of other leaders of our small street level outreach team.

Without any contrived situations the Lord was sovereignly working in each of our lives in similar ways. One by one, workers of the outreach team would come to me and in confidence quietly share with me that a strange thing had happened to them the other day - they spoke in tongues - or they believed God was speaking to them short messages of exhortation, comfort, admonition, instruction for the group at worship - some shared dreams, some visions.

In every case the reality of Jesus alive and active in our midst came crashing into our conscious perspective of life, pushing aside old habits, old bondages to fear, bitterness, doubt, depression. Chains of old worldly life patterns snapped as Jesus burst these old restrictions in our lives - new patterns, new thoughts, attitudes, temperaments took their place.



Boy! what a judgement for my unbelief, "left to my own devices." That sure fits my situation.



The Lord gave the gift of speaking in tongues. It happened quietly in a Lutheran chapel one morning while

This didn't happen over night, but it has and it is happening as a constant growth process in the power of the Holy Spirit. The truth of the fact that the New Testament proclaims that "there is a life to be lived" and that life in Jesus, given to us by the Holy Spirit, has become for us the cornerstone of our lives.

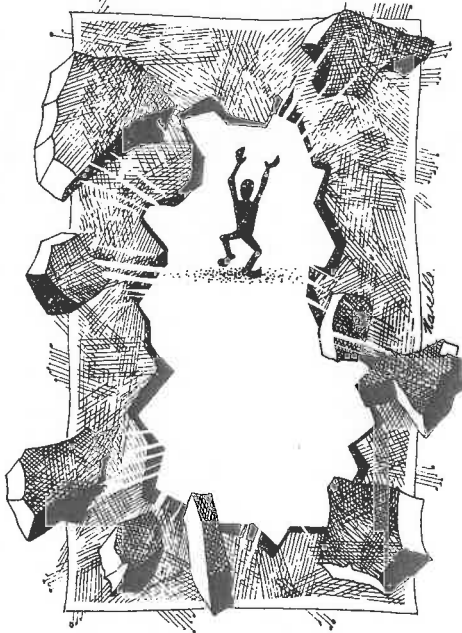
After months of agonising work along the street, conversions to Christ began to flow, then as a trickle, but now a steady stream. We witnessed with sheer amazement how Jesus took the lives of the most hardened drug addict, street gang leader, outlaw bikie, alcoholic, and transformed them within months into Christian young people of sensitivity, courage, dedication and responsibility.

Hopefully, future issues of this magazine will contain the stories of those persons whose lives have been changed from what society generally calls "hopeless cases" into people who are now mature, dedicated Christian disciples.

The story of this street outreach team, now grown into a community, is surely one which testifies to God's power at work today within the lives of people - leading them from defeat to victory in Christ.

Out of this story, three basic facts have become clearer for us.

First, we have discovered that the forgiveness of Jesus is not just some kind of verbal formula we recite



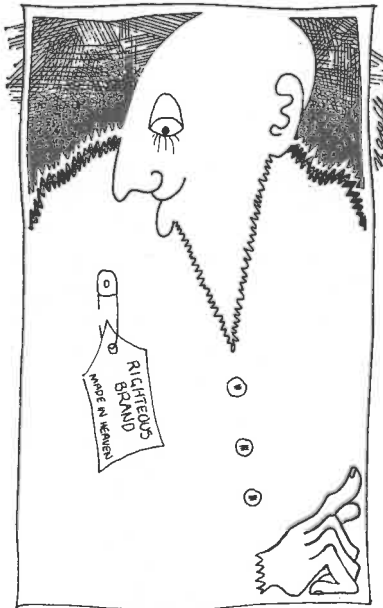
to make us feel better after we have sinned, as we were inclined to think in former days. The forgiveness of Jesus is a power at work within our lives. It is God re-establishing fellowship with us through Jesus. It is an entering into the area of God's powerful activity to bless with His mercy, love and life. A relationship with the living God can never be a merely passive affair, especially the

relationship offered to us in forgiveness. This relationship means that all barriers have been torn down. All that once separated us from God our Father has been removed.

A whole new situation has come into being. I have entered into a new life with God through forgiveness - a new life that is meant to be lived by the power of Christ's active restoring of me.

This we witnessed happening in the lives of young converts. Their transformation through Christ's power at work in them was something that challenged us to further faith and obedience to God in our own lives. Our lives knew the constant challenge and encouragement not to trust our inherent weakness, but to place our confidence in Christ's power to renew our lives.

The second thing we discovered, through witnessing the transformations of lives around us, was that Christ not only is our righteousness for us before God in the face of our guilt and condemnation for our sin, but,



praise His Name, He also actually actively clothes our beings with His righteousness. Our beings become new, changed into the likeness of Him, our righteousness.

We could thus confidently work, live, share and serve people around us, knowing that they will be able to witness Christ's very own nature stamped upon our daily lives.

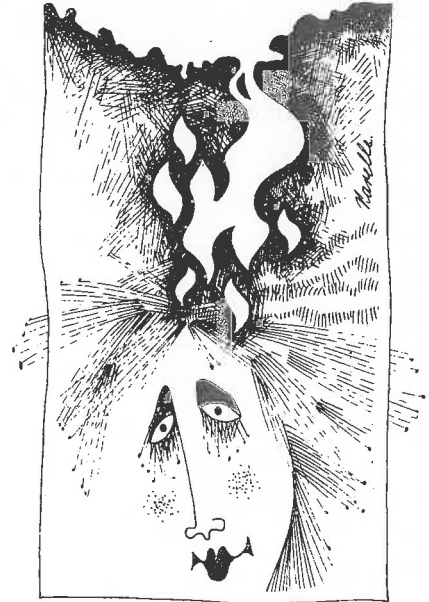
Thus our daily lives, lived together in "community", became a vital factor in our work of rehabilitation of those whose lives have been smashed by the disintegrating forces of the world out of which they have come.

At the very point of writing, our community is in the process of sharing life with ten persons whose lives have been all but totally destroyed by drug

addiction, prostitution, mental breakdown, criminal involvement etc.

I can write with great joy that all ten persons are responding to Jesus' love and righteousness demonstrated and shared by our community house members. The lives of these ten persons (just like hundreds who have gone before them, through our community) are being dramatically transformed by the active power of Jesus.

Finally, we have come to see the absolute need for the continual infilling and release of the Holy Spirit into our lives so that we may have the ability (not our own) to live the life of Jesus. (Galatians 2:20)



There is no possible way for us now to live, minister, share and serve on the basis of our own fickle, failing strength. We could only live this life the Lord has led us into by the power of the Holy Spirit poured out upon us and active within our lives. Come to think of it, the same goes for any and every Christian.

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is the rightful inheritance of every Christian. However, the "Jacob, deceiver, world" wants to trick us out of our (second) birthright.

There is a life for you to live - claim it now by faith in Jesus' Name!

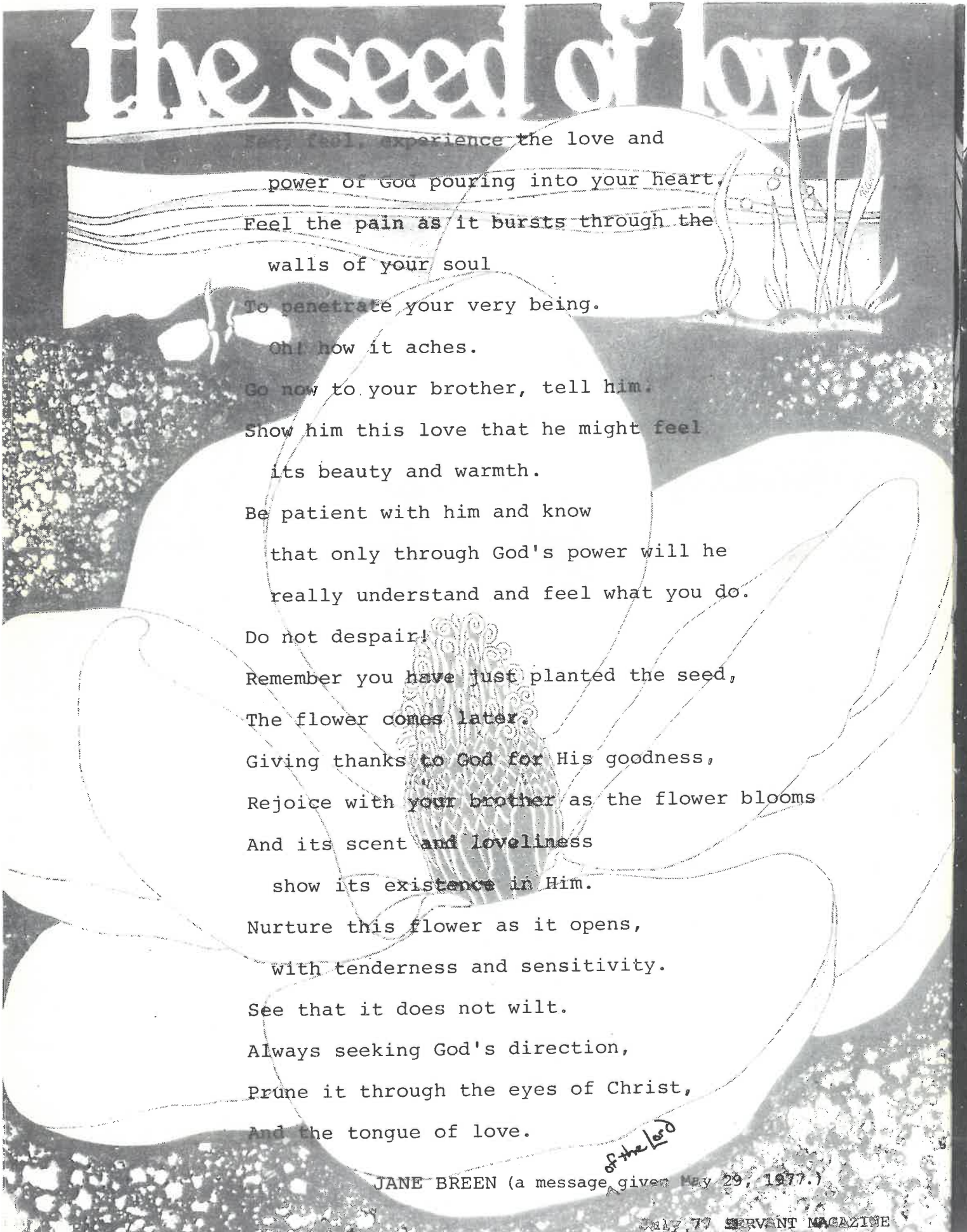
Praise Him - it's really ours!

REV. DOUG KUHLE

Next issue -
Guided into Renewal Part III

More on the empowering of the Holy Spirit;
community life - the life for ALL Christians;
and God is gathering His people together unto Himself all around the world.

the seed of love



See, feel, experience the love and
power of God pouring into your heart.
Feel the pain as it bursts through the
walls of your soul
To penetrate your very being.
Oh! how it aches.
Go now to your brother, tell him:
Show him this love that he might feel
its beauty and warmth.
Be patient with him and know
that only through God's power will he
really understand and feel what you do.
Do not despair!
Remember you have just planted the seed,
The flower comes later.
Giving thanks to God for His goodness,
Rejoice with your brother as the flower blooms
And its scent and loveliness
show its existence in Him.
Nurture this flower as it opens,
with tenderness and sensitivity.
See that it does not wilt.
Always seeking God's direction,
Prune it through the eyes of Christ,
And the tongue of love.

of the Lord
JANE BREEN (a message given May 29, 1977.)

reNEWal OF The mind.

guidelines for spiritual homework

When Jesus was asked to name the greatest commandment he replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

Loving someone involves spending time with them, giving of ourselves to the other. What then, does it mean to love God with all our mind?

Probably the most common reaction to this question would be something like this :... To love God with our minds is to read and study and learn about Him. He is involved in every phase of history, of life and of death and so in order to love Him with our minds we should spend many hours thinking, discussing, reading and studying the writings of humanity about Him. In recent times I have become more and more convinced that the Lord wants something other than this. He wants us to give our minds to Him, not that He might remove them from us, rather that he might renew them and conform them to the mind of Christ. St. Paul puts it this way:

"Get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to - the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy." (Ephesians 4:22ff)

Paul encourages us to be freed from the futility of our minds, our

darkened understanding (Vs. 17 and 18) and to have our minds renewed in Christ - a renewal that reveals itself in the holiness and righteousness of our lives, the ability to speak the truth, to be helpful and to forgive one another. It is a renewal that enables the Lord to free us from bitterness, slander, anger, insults, and negative, hateful feelings. These can only lead to death.

Jesus came that we might have life. Not that we might know about life, but that we might have life - life that reveals itself in our relationships with others. It begins with the renewal of our hearts and minds.

How then is this renewal to take place? Let's go back for a moment and ask the Lord what it means to love Him with all our minds. I'm sure that if I asked my wife that question she would not reply, "Well dear, I would like you to find out all you can about me, talk to all the people who say they know me and read all you can that has been written about me"

She would much prefer me to spend time with her, talking with her, giving of my mind to her (all my mind - not a piece of my mind!) in order that our relationship might become more

meaningful and fulfilled. I believe it is the same with the Lord. He wants us to give our minds to Him submissively, that He might renew them in the Holy Spirit, enabling us to build up one another in Christ.

Our mind is made up of thoughts, intentions, desires, ambitions etc. If we look at the Old Testament account of the flood we find that the Lord was displeased with mankind because his thoughts were evil (Genesis 8:21). When Jesus was speaking about adultery he said:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery', but I say to you that whoever looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart." (Matthew 5:27-28)

It is our 'thought life' that the Lord wants to renew as an integral part of our whole beings. We know that preoccupation with illicit relationships will lead to such relationships. It is becoming better known that entertaining fantasies (through fictitious books, popular music, television, violence etc.) has a significant effect on behaviour. In the same way, what we think about other people will inevitably prescribe the way in which we act towards them. The thoughts that we try to hide will be exposed by our actions.

"Whatever is now covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known. What I am telling you in the dark you must repeat in broad daylight, and what you have heard in private you must announce from the housetops." (Matthew 10:26-27)

Jesus would not condemn us but rather convict us by these words and call us to allow Him to transform our minds as we confess our sin to Him and ask that His Spirit might renew our minds. This is His desire. He will enable us to rebuke and turn away from

darkness and bring things to the light of His truth that Christ may shine. (Ephesians 5:11-14)

We need our brothers and sisters to support us in this. It is often when we are alone in our thoughts that we fall victim to Satan's manipulation of our minds. We need to pray for one another daily and to encourage each other in the Lord, then we know His victorious risen presence. The Lord asks us to love Him with all our mind, not five minutes per day but all day, giving Him our thoughts and our conversations and letting Him direct our learning.

"Be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with words of psalms, hymns and sacred songs, sing hymns and psalms to the Lord with praise in your hearts. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the Father."

(Ephesians 5:18-20)

How different we are to be from the world about us - a world which fills its minds with the incessant blare of transistor radios, stereograms and television sets (mostly lies). In ourselves we are at the mercy of this barrage. We need to allow the Lord to renew our minds that they might be filled with the things of the Spirit.

Sing to the Lord a new song - not the worn out old songs of the transistor radio - but the life-giving songs of the Spirit of God. Speak to one another about the things of God. Learn to number your days and not waste precious time with idle conversation which seeks to exalt the self and results in bitterness and human bondage. Always give thanks to the Lord, acknowledge His mercy and greatness and speak of His acts. As our minds are renewed by the power of His Spirit so will our lives beam out His life into the world. KARL BRETTIG

The following quotation is from a book edited by Nobel Peace Prize-winner, Alexander Solzhenitsyn in which he and several other Russian contributors examine Christ's call to national repentance and change. Its message has plenty of application to all of us as we live out our lives in a world system where truth and honesty have lost their meaning for most people. How easily we fall victim to the father of lies in the pursuing of success and survival in a decaying world. As Christians we need to stand up and be counted in all of our actions in whatever situation we might find ourselves.

Do not lie! Do not support the lie! Do not take part in the lie!

because in our country the daily lie is not the whim of corrupt natures but a mode of existence, a condition of the daily welfare of every man. In our country the lie has been incorporated into the state system as the vital link holding everything together, with billions of tiny fasteners, several dozen to each man.

This is precisely why we find life so oppressive.... Which is the sacrifice? To go for years without truly breathing, gulping down stench? Or to begin to breathe, as is the prerogative of every man on this earth? What cynic would venture to object aloud to such a policy as non-participation in the lie?

Oh! people will object at once with ingenuity. What is a lie? Who can determine precisely where the lie ends & the truth begins? In every historically concrete dialectical situation, & so on - all the evasions that liars have been using for the past half century....

What does it mean not to lie? It doesn't mean going around preaching the truth at the drop of your voice. It doesn't ever mean muttering what you think in an undertone. It simply means not saying what you don't think, & that includes not whispering, not opening your mouth, not raising your hand, not casting your vote, not feigning a smile, not lending your presence, not standing up, & not cheering....



People will say how unfair on the young! After all, if you don't utter the obligatory lie at your social science exam, you'll be failed & expelled from your institute, & your education & life will be disrupted.

Be that as it may, educational damage is not the greatest damage one can suffer in life. Damage to the soul & corruption of the soul, to which we carelessly assent from our earliest years, are far more irreparable.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn
"From under the Rubble"



(A married couple receives new life)

It's not the first time that it's happened in a marriage situation. My wife, Judith, received the infilling of the Holy Spirit twelve months before I did - why? Because she asked for it and didn't reject it when God gave it to her, unlike most of us who say "if God wants to bless me in a special way, He will - but please God, no tongues".

I know this seems contrary to what theologians say about God's gifts - that is, we can do nothing ourselves to earn them. I whole-heartedly agree, but I also know God doesn't bless if a person refuses to receive the gift.

Life was uncomfortable during those twelve months. My wife was growing spiritually through this beautiful release of the Holy Spirit in her life, and I was resentful and confused. "Why should the Lord bless her and not me?" I complained. "After all we are married." I made life difficult by doubting this new found "experience" in her life.

One evening, at a men's fellowship meeting, the subject of Neo-

Pentecostalism was being discussed. "People roll around on the floor in Pentecostal meetings" the article said. I had heard of Holy Rollers but hadn't noticed any signs of this in my wife. So I looked up the proof text against Holy Rollers, 1 Cor. 14:40, which says "All things should be done decently and in order." However, you can imagine my surprise when reading the text prior to verse 40. "My brethren earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid the speaking in tongues." This verse certainly couldn't be found in the anti-Neo-Pentecostal article up for study. My curiosity aroused, I read from 1 Cor. Chapter 12 onwards and found how Paul had explained very clearly and precisely to the Christians in Corinth what spiritual gifts were and how they were to be used.

I brought this section of Scripture to the notice of the meeting but, to put it mildly, received a very negative response.

My wife and I had been good churchgoers for 18 years and I had held many offices and been on committees both in our congregation and at a district level. Although we received a real blessing from our Sunday services and serving in the Sunday School we always knew something was missing in our lives. We found our joy in worldly pleasures (tennis, golf, parties, fishing trips etc.). During the week we seldom prayed and in no way could we have said that our lives were poised towards God. Rather, we were Sunday Christians. One hour a week was enough to satisfy our spiritual needs, but always this nagging thought "that there had to be more."

Texts like Luke 10:37 "You shall love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength" didn't line-up with our life-style - surely the writer was using terms that only affected us once we were taken to heaven. As for "pray unceasingly," I felt sick inside, knowing my miserable prayer life. I knew I wouldn't fit into heaven too well if the saints were to be spending eternity praising God. (Surely there would be golf courses and tennis courts etc. to help the time pass).

Then it happened! My wife became "Charismatic". All she wanted to talk about was Jesus and the Holy Spirit. And the love! She poured love onto me and the children from every angle. She wanted to go to church at every opportunity and seemed to have an insatiable appetite for spiritual food. She read her Bible at every opportunity and was altogether a changed and very loving person. This was about the time of that men's fellowship meeting on Neo-Pentecostalism.

From that night I felt convicted to seek out the truth about the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Subsequently I too was blessed by the Lord with this beautiful infilling. After praying to Him for the Gift of the Holy Spirit, He filled me with a love for Him and for others as I had never known before.

I too received a great desire to read the Scriptures and seek every opportunity to worship and praise Him. The Scriptures became alive and passages hitherto meaningless literally jumped up at me, and the desire to love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength was overwhelming. My prayer life became active and the desire to serve Him and my fellowmen was very real.

The rest of the story is a fairly familiar one. Some people didn't understand what had happened and were doubtful whether it was really the Holy Spirit we received. Our opportunities to serve in the congregation became less and less and we were generally considered a bad influence on the others within the body.

However, we were led to join a very precious group of believers at Jacob's Ladder called the Servants of Christ. Here the Lord is very precious and real, leading His people into a ministry to the poor and lonely. It's a hard ministry but one that gives a great joy to those who serve. Many are being led to the Lord and, under the capable leadership of Pastor Doug Kuhl, are nurtured and given homes and, above all, love - God's love.

I praise God for the opportunity He has given my family to come so near to Him and to His people. Nothing would change our love for Him and we thank Him continually for the many mercies He has shown to us daily.

Praise the Lord! GLEN HEIDENREICH

TAPES AVAILABLE FROM
LUTHERAN CHARISMATIC RENEWAL AUSTRALIA



"Christian Marriage in the light of God's Word" by Dr. D.C. Overduin (a series of three talks examining theological perspectives on Christian marriage from Genesis 1-3 and Ephesians 5:21-23).
 Other Tapes by Dr. Overduin include "Healing" and "Life of Victory in Christ".

Tapes by Rev. Doug Kuhl include "Healing" "Life of Victory" (Part I)
 "Victory" "Life of Victory - Life of Love" (Part II)

In addition to these (taped at L.C.R. (Aust.) meetings) we are able to offer until September the entire selection of tapes made of the Fifth International Lutheran Conference on the Holy Spirit, Minneapolis, Minnesota, August, 1976. (list printed below)

SPECIAL SESSIONS

- 2665 Opening Session, Robert Heil
- 2666 Evening Service, Morris Vaagenes
- 2667 Bible Study No.1, Derek Prince
- 2668 Bible Study No.2, Derek Prince
- 2669 Bible Study No.3, Derek Prince
- 2670 Evening Service, Charles Simpson
- 2671 Evening Service, Erwin Prange
- 2672 Evening Service, Cardinal Suenens and Ralph Martin
- 2673 Closing Communion Service, Rodney Lensch.

WORKSHOPS

- 2674 Introduction to the Spirit-filled Life, Kenneth Ellingson
- 2675 Introduction to the Theme No.1 (We are gathering together unto Him) Don Pfothenauer
- 2676 Introduction to the Theme No.2 (We are gathering together unto Him) Don Pfothenauer
- 2677 Introduction to the Theme No.3 (We are gathering together unto Him) Don Pfothenauer
- 2678 Developing Inter-personal Relationships, Jack Brombach
- 2679 Small Group Discipleship, Robert Ellison
- 2680 How to Introduce Charismatic Renewal into a Congregation, Donald Matzat
- 2681 Walking in the Spirit and Growth by Grace, Richard Jensen
- 2682 Growing in the Spirit, Robert Heil
- 2683 Charismatic Balance, Rodney Lensch
- 2684 Healing of the Body, Ian Andrews
- 2685 Healing of the Body, Herbert Mjorud
- 2686 Inner Healing, William Backus
- 2687 Deliverance, Erwin Prange
- 2688 The Gift of Tongues, Milton Markworth and Dennis Gruver
- 2689 Christian Marriage: Husbands and Wives, Rev. & Mrs. Larry Christenson
- 2690 Fatherhood, Derek Prince
- 2691 Womanhood, Mrs. Russell Peterson
- 2692 Worship, Herbert Mirly and Delbert Rossin
- 2693 Charismatic Prayer Meetings, David Dorpat
- 2694 Charismatic Renewal and Lutheran Theology, Theodore Jungkuntz
- 2695 The Army of God, Charles Simpson
- 2696 An Alternate Society - The Church as a Counter-culture, Larry Christenson
- 2697 Our Mission in the Lutheran Charismatic Renewal, Rodney Lensch and Richard Denny
- 2698 Our Mission to the Nations, Robert Heil and Morris Vaagenes
- 2699 The Destiny of the Nation, Derek Prince
- 2700 A Call to Committed Christianity, Jack Brombach, Ralph Martin, Tim Nolan, and Hal Langevin
- 2701 The Prayer Life, George Voeks
- 2702 Righteousness No.1, Charles Simpson
- 2703 Righteousness No.2, Charles Simpson
- 2704 Righteousness No.3, Charles Simpson

Tapes are available at the incredibly low price of \$2.00 and can be obtained from:
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen & Judy Heidenreich, or the L.C.R. (Aust) Office which is currently situated at
 c/- Upper Sturt Post Office, (2nd Floor), 102 Gawler Place,
 UPPER STURT, S.A. 5156. (Ph. 339 3951) Adelaide, S.A. 5000. (Ph. 223 6684)

There are so many religions - so which one is right? Or are all right? Is God there anymore? How can I be sure if I die tonight I will be welcomed in Heaven? And if this stuff about Christianity is right, then why do Christians fight? And what about.....?

Two Seminary students, Steen and Maurie, had this barrage of questions thrown at them, as well as many more, as I tried to come to grips with my faith. But what I failed to realise was that the problem didn't only lie with the "rigidity of the church" or "the lack of life and vibrance within the pastor" but in the truth that I am the church. I was the one who was



dead and buried. Since that time in 1974, slowly but surely I have been brought back to life. In this individual way I began to see the reality of unity in Jesus (John 17:21) - that the church may be one as each one of us Christians have their lives lived out in Jesus.

As the son of a dedicated Lutheran pastor, one of seven children, I look

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FROM
WEAK THREADS
INTO A
STRONG
GARMENT



PAGE 14

back on my childhood and teens and see a theme being traced through it. In my early years three important incidents left their mark.

One time at my grandfather's house I was in a lousy mood. Nothing went right and I was getting annoyed with everyone. I was only about five years old. But my grandfather suggested that I sing "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" as I walked around the house. So, in a child-like tune with notes from all over the scales, I went round the house singing just the simple word "Hallelujah!" Well, once wasn't enough. I continued around the house all afternoon and I even forgot that I was in a bad mood. Such is the power of praise (*Carothers).

I can remember another incident where several of my brothers and sisters tied our tricycles together, using ropes, in single file. The line also included a four-wheel trolley which was tied on the end. My elder brother took the lead. I cannot fully explain the experience, but I know that working together produced good fun not normally attained by riding our tricycles alone...

The third real event was a comic book that was given to me. It contained in Gospel and Acts stories done out in comic book style. The magnitude of pictures (one of the advantages of comics) helped me visualize actual situations in which Jesus and His disciples were placed and it enlivened the stories for me. The reality of Jesus' presence on earth and the miracles He performed became alive and I wished that I was there to see the miracles happen.

As I grew up I still enjoyed Bible stories, but my mind had lost much of its creative thinking. The evils and the culture of the world began to take me over. It was a hard world and I had to tell lies to stay alive. I had to hurt others to keep myself from being hurt. It was soft and sissy to be a Christian so I shut-up about it. It was manly to swear so I also learnt the "language of the world".

By the time I had reached Matriculation, I still knew that Christianity was the



truth but I also desired the security of the world.

My child's dream to become a pastor had died and I had plans to be a Computer Programmer with the hope of finally becoming a Systems Analyst, worth about \$25,000 per annum. I thought I could give a good amount to the offering plate and yet still live well also. Computer Programming was a developing field and had good prospects of employment. I have ability in mathematics and logic and so that area appealed to me.

But I wasn't at complete peace. My elder brother made two comments that always stuck in my mind, even though I disagreed with him. (1) Office work e.g. bank work is always boring and monotonous and unfulfilling and (2) There is more to being and living the life of a Christian than we already know.

So I stepped out from home in search of training in mathematics. I failed first year at Adelaide Uni and therefore swapped to the Institute of Technology to study Computer Programming. Part way through second year I had had it as far as I could

handle. My search for security had made me insecure and at times I felt I could be happier if I were dead rather than still alive.

As I studied and read, it slowly dawned on me what was happening to me.



I couldn't handle the loneliness I was experiencing. Amidst all the formulae, programmes and data I lost my sense of human-ness - I could communicate with a brick wall better than I could to fellow students.

I had to still come to grips with many problems in my life, and God chose to remove those things from my life that prevented Him from fully revealing Himself as the God and Lord of all. I was working part-time in a wine shop and I could not justify pulling the lives of many people down - as well as myself. Alcohol is a beautiful gift of God but, abused as it is in our Western world, it can become one of our biggest curses.

concept we call God and so I prayed. And God gave me a thought in my mind which contained three words - All being, All knowing, All purposing. In Him were all things made, including ourselves. He created us and therefore He knows us - He knows our frame, where its weak points are and its strong points. In that knowledge He is all purposing. He will knit our lives from weak threads into a strong garment, beautiful for all to see - like from wool into a jumper.

With it, God also, in a special way, proved that He is real for as I prayed a Spirit of deep peace came into the room where I was alone. I cannot deny it. I didn't even expect it. What happened to me was that the room changed before my eyes. The desk and the bed, the chair and cupboard all remained the same but a warmth came which gave the room character. And all I could do was cry, weeping for my unworthiness, my slowness, my

The last weeks of my studies were full of frustration, despair and confusion. It's hard to describe exactly what it was like. But, God met me with His gracious call - follow me. And not just a call to repentance, sorrow for my sins, but a call to live out what He tells me to live, that is, live in the Kingdom of God, to live the truth of His Word.

He gave me an opportunity to follow in a concrete way - by taking up shared leadership of a drop-in-centre at Henley Beach which had a ministry mainly to 13-17 year old kids. This was only the start of a new life which God was creating within me - this new life that lay dormant for many years. Much of the ministry that I did there was done in my own strength and not in God's strength, and so it finally closed down.

As I contemplated my future and asked God to reveal to me His purposes, He called me to Seminary. Full of fear I went to the Seminary full-time in 1976 and God gave me the grace to study. During 1976 God answered my long felt desire for His presence and empowering to do His work.

One evening early in January, I wanted to know how to relate to this thing/

deafness and blindness to God. A tape of music by 'Family' called "Family Sings Jesus Music" comforted me.

At Easter-time 1976 at a camp at a farm at Padthaway, I desired a permanent love-relationship with God - but I did not know what it really would mean. God spoke again the words, "follow me - I will take away your burdens but give you a cross to carry" (Matt. 11:28-30).

That message came through a sermon on Easter morning. As much as I could, I wanted and believed it. And that very afternoon God gave me a key to a special prayer-life that I could have with Him - the gift of a new language. God gave it to me for prayer and praise, in order to build up our relationship together. As the weeks went by, I denied this gift and tried to forget about it and God took away from me the deep peace that He had given me. But through this simple gift God has taught me faith and trust and has also brought many blessings in sharing this new life I have received with others.

For the struggle God went through in order to bring me to new life, I now praise Him for it truly was His grace that has brought me to where I am. His promise is true - "I have come to give you life and that you may have it more abundantly." BRIAN PROEVE



It was a Friday night in June, 1975, and I was at home, the children tucked up in bed and fast asleep. Ian was in at the "centre" and I was enjoying a night of quiet.

This was the end of our first month in our new house and for the first time in three years we had our family to ourselves and I had time to be healed and restored and come close once more to the Lord in a deep, uninterrupted

way. There had been many nights like this in the month and each was like a sip of soothing balm after a long hard battle.

We had been led in no uncertain manner into residential work at a children's home when Kym, our oldest child was a year and nine months old and Martin only nine months old. Here I, as house-mother, came into close contact with fourteen year olds and younger who knew every four letter word in the book, and literally used tooth and nail at times to make a point known. These were only outward signs of deeply troubled hearts and scarred personalities. When we moved in, there was a feeling of evil in the house, but this left gradually. After seventeen months of this, a situation completely foreign to us both, and full of tensions especially for me, we left as the Lord opened up a new door. This, however, was where the Lord taught us something of His kind of love.

We were led into work with men coming straight from gaol sentences, men who perhaps had started out like the children we had come to love in the childrens' home. These men were starving, starving just to be accepted as human beings, and to be loved and cared for. It became a joy for me to be able to say to a man who came in for the first time, "This is your room. This is your bed and wardrobe. Would you like a cup of tea or coffee?" Simple words, but through the power of God's Spirit, they told the man that he was cared for and accepted. Let's face it, it didn't just take one moment to let these men see these things and it was only by the Lord enabling us to give all we had (not just materially) that showed some of these men that there was indeed a new life to be had, even in middle age. So, after eighteen months of this type of life (the four and half months are another

story), we moved again.

Well, there we were, all set at last in a home of our own in an ordinary suburban street, able to go out and lock the door and come home to a clean tidy house without fear of what may have happened in our absence. As I looked back on those three years, I felt as if I had been hanging on by my fingernails, and those were being slowly pulled out. At times we both felt like a rubber band, stretched to the extreme limit of tension before breaking. Yet always, God brought us back to Himself and said, "Trust me, rest in Me. I am your strength. Be not afraid. I will uphold you with my strong right hand." Even though we were battered and bruised, this quietness was so beautiful to me.

However, like Job, I had a doubt. Could it last forever? Somehow I felt this little bit of bliss was only temporary and I hated to face it. On a quiet Friday night my worst, hidden fears were realised.

The telephone rang. It was Ian and he had a proposition to make. My heart sank. Here it came. Yes, he had a girl there who was only just coming off drugs. No, she didn't have anywhere else to go. Yes, she's with me in the office now. (I thought that was most unfair!) Yes, you may think about it, but please, don't be long. So we hung up, me fuming and fighting, crying and praying, feeling guilty and rebelling all at the same time. Then, as a little quietness settled on me, as I leant my head on my hands on the table and sought the Lord, a word was dropped into my mind, "She is precious to me."

We took in, that same night, a girl who, at seventeen, had tasted most things of the world, and had found them bitter in her mouth. Yet Jesus was near to her, and she gave herself to Him.

Even before this time, the Lord constantly reminded us (and still does), that He died for every person we laid eyes upon, and that God is no respecter of persons. He who created all things has no favourites.

The way is open to all who will come, turn and seek Him, and He will in no way turn them back or discourage them. (Isaiah 42:3).

Once, in our post-release house, we cared for a man nicknamed "Old Joe". He was sixty three years of age and had spent thirty odd years in gaols all over Australia - half his lifetime - mainly for drink offences. The first week he came to us he "blew" his whole bank balance of seventy dollars (bar one dollar to keep the account open) on drink, and came home in a continual stupor. As time went on he had longer periods of sobriety, and in those times he worked hard in the house, wore a suit with hat and read the New Testament from cover to cover. (He asked me which book he had to read now he'd finished that one).

We had to "baby-sit" him constantly and he was not a man easy to love, but God revealed beauties in him. One day, when he came home "rolling" drunk, he went to Kym and Martin (then five and three years old respectively) and hugged and kissed them, his beery breath all over them. This was as much as I could stand, so I ran over, dragged him away and told him in no uncertain way to leave the children alone.

It was not long after that, that he asked Jesus to take over and had a real change of heart, and began on a long hard climb with the Lord. Yes, he too was precious to the Lord, despite all the ugly marks of sin he bore.

I think of what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:16 - "No longer do

we judge anyone by human standards." It is so easy to look on someone and see only the ugliness and react to them according to how they affect our good taste or our "high principles." We have to learn to see that each man is made in the image of God, and although Satan's destruction may be in their body, mind and soul, our God is able to redeem, restore and renew them in every way. Cannot the Creator recreate His creation?

Let us also take a look at ourselves. Many of us, even Christians of many years, still do not know who we are. From childhood, we've had other people's opinions, expectations, insecurities and prejudices thrust upon us. When we also take into account our own sinful natures and Satan's tactic of looking for every advantage to destroy us, then no wonder we feel lost.

Many times, on contemplating the attitudes and actions of men and women who are adults and yet respond and react at an immature level, I have a picture of a seed just sprouting. This seed is that of an oak (Isaiah 61:3) or pine tree and has great potential for strength, grace, usefulness and beauty. However, as the shoot grows, so a rock is placed on it, causing it either to wither away and die, or to somehow twist its way out into the sunlight, hence becoming ugly and losing any chance of grandeur. Yet it is still potentially an oak or a pine.

That's how I see our lives. As a young shoot, we have all that is needed to cause us to spring up into full manhood or womanhood, and we have an affinity to God also. Yet there is also the seed of destruction planted by Satan in our very natures, and the clogging clay of passions and lusts and the boulders of adversity foil up the root system and make the ground hard and cold.

The only hope for us as warped, twisted, lost adults is in the form of a Husbandman, one who knows His plants.

This Husbandman of course is God, Himself, the Creator, who made all things well. He comes, and with His Holy Spirit works constantly, skillfully and gently in our hearts and on the deeply furrowed tracks in our minds gradually working it into pliability. He then drops the good seed in, causes tears of repentance to water it and warms it with, the sunshine of His love. As time goes by we begin to see what we are really meant to be and who we really are right now.

Of course, as humans, thinking in human terms, we wonder if we are going to be a lawyer, a nurse, or maybe a doctor. In God's terms though, He says firstly that we are a real person, an individual, a living being with that God-given right to live, to move and to be himself or herself. We are also told by God that through faith in Christ, we are now "new creatures". We now have God's Spirit in us. We are His children, made in His image. We are princes and princesses of the High God and Almighty King. We are sitting on the throne with Him, right now (Ephesians 2:6). We are brothers and sisters of Jesus, and are being constantly made more able to live exactly as He did on this earth.

It is only as we come to know God through getting to know Jesus, that we come to know who we are. No longer need we look to human ways and means of testing out who we are or how we rate. This is not the truth about us. The truth about who we are, is who Jesus is. That is who we are meant to be like, and how we are meant to act. Once we see this, we are set free to "be", and we will come to know that we also are "precious to Him."

(Ephesians 1:5-23)

HELEN WADE



LUTHERAN CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

The Commission on Theology and Inter-church Relations of the Lutheran Church of Australia recently released a statement on Lutheran Charismatic Renewal. The statement notes that "The Church praises God for all evidence of evangelical zeal, of a renewed desire to hear and study God's Word, and to use the gifts of the Spirit in the service of the Lord....All Lutherans will surely agree that the Church continually needs the renewing power of the Holy Spirit if it is to be the Church that the Lord wants it to be."

It goes on to list certain areas in which confessional clarity and theological understanding of the work of the Spirit should be maintained e.g. in the area of Baptism. "Being filled with the Spirit which should be the earnest desire of every Christian (Eph. 5:18) is part of the growth in Christ which begins at baptism." (Quoted from Larry Christenson's "Introduction to the Lutheran Charismatic Renewal")

While Lutheran Charismatics are urged to give heed to these areas of concern, all members of the L.C.A. are encouraged "to be prepared to listen to the concerns of Charismatics" and to adopt a "positive pastoral attitude". Patience and gentleness need to be shown in coming to understand the spiritual experiences of those involved in Charismatic Renewal. The statement concludes with a call to all members of the L.C.A. to pray continually "for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit in their own lives so that the old life of sin may more and more be overcome by the new life of the Spirit of Christ. They should also continually pray that the whole church, its leaders, pastors, teachers and people, may be filled with the Spirit, and that His gifts may be poured out richly on all. Thus the Church, empowered by the Spirit, will increasingly reflect the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and glorify the Father."

The recent Convention of the L.C.A., S.A. District then passed the following resolution in relation to the statement. "That Synod note that the Statement of the C.T.I.C.R. on Charismatic Renewal has been published in the Lutheran of March 14, 1977 (Vol. II, No. 5) and that members be urged to study it." We praise God that He is opening the way for the revitalisation of the use of spiritual gifts in the life of the church that she may be renewed.

THUS SAYS THE LORD.....

The following prophecy was given at the May conference of the L.C.R. (Aust.) held in Adelaide recently. It was a word of great encouragement and comfort. "Fear not for your Church, for the glory of God surrounds it. The glory of God surrounds it because, down through the years, you have been faithful to the Word of God. You have not denied the Word of God. You have kept it hidden within your hearts. So fear not because the glory of God surrounds your Church and there is no person



in your Church who can quench the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit will not be quenched. Wherever the Holy Spirit moves, there is God. Wherever the Holy Spirit has His being, there is God Almighty. Wherever the Holy Spirit speaks and commands, it is the Word of God that commands. It is not men. So fear not for your Church, for the glory of God surrounds it, and the glory of God will keep it forever, but be faithful to God and to His Word."

The Lord's call in these days of secular humanism to remain true to His Word is a timely one. He is asking us to look to Him as the source of our being, not to be plagued by all kinds of doubts and fears about our future, but rather to look to Him as our protector and remain faithful to His Word of life.

MEANWHILE, AROUND THE WORLD.....

On the International perspective there is a growing interest and anticipation of what the Lord is going to achieve at the Conference on Charismatic Renewal in the Christian Churches. It is being held in Kansas City, Missouri, July 20-24, 1977. It will probably bring together the largest ecumenical gathering of its kind and organisers are expecting some 60,000 to attend. (They've hired a football stadium for the occasion!) We are hoping to send delegates and should have a report of this major event in Christendom in the next issue of 'Servant'.

Last summer 30,000 attended the 1976 Continental Conference on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States and some 25,000 attended a similar Lutheran Conference, which gives some indication of the scale of the renewal. Since the address of Pope Paul VI in 1976, where he called the charismatic movement "a chance for the Church and the world", the Catholic Renewal has grown to something of the order of one million participants. We are featuring an article written by a local Catholic Priest involved in that renewal also in the next issue of 'Servant'.

FILMS

A film on the Catholic Renewal, shown at the recent Lutheran Students' Conference in Melbourne, created much interest amongst the students and was rescreened recently at an L.S.F. meeting at Luther Seminary, Adelaide, again generating considerable response to the renewal amongst the large gathering that attended. A film of the International Conference on the Holy Spirit and the Third Australian Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference held in Sydney in January, 1977, which seeks to answer questions on renewal in the Church today, is now available from the Australian Religious Film Society,
Blenheim Road and Warwick Street,
P.O. Box 97, North Ryde, N.S.W. 2113.
(Phone (02) 88 2412, 3, 4)

or 162 Russell Street,
Melbourne, Vic. 3000,
(Phone (03) 663 2061)



notes AND news

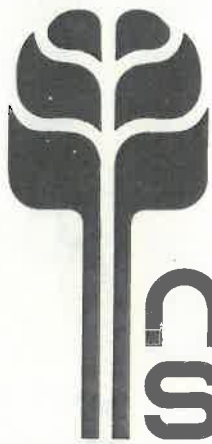
The film runs for 30 minutes and captures something of the highlights of these conferences and the ministry that took place there. Rental is \$30.00.

That the renewal is having an incredible impact on Christendom cannot be denied, however we must remember that it is a "movement wishing to die" as one journalist put it, for its goal is the renewal of the whole Church.

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Psalm 91:4
He will cover you with His wings;
you will be safe under His care,
His faithfulness will protect
and defend you.



Martha