

# Praise The Lord

VOL. X NO.III

TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK

MARCH 1982

TBN CHANNEL 40 • CALIFORNIA Studios located at 2442 Michelle Dr. (at Chambers), Tustin, California • Prayer Line 714/731-1000

KPAZ CHANNEL 21 • ARIZONA Studios located at 3551 E. McDowell Rd. at 36th St. • Prayer Line 602/244-8311

KTBO CHANNEL 14 • OKLAHOMA Studios located at 3705 N.W. 63rd at Portland • Prayer Line 405/848-1401

WHFT CHANNEL 45 • FLORIDA Studios located at Pembroke Rd. behind Coca Cola Bottle Co. • Prayer Line 305/966-4710

K57BT Channel 57 • Colorado • Prayer Line 714/731-1000

## THE ULTIMATE TRIP — DEATH

My son, Paul Jr., stood in front of a PUNK ROCK night club; kids as young as eight years old were milling around, heads shaved, faces painted with weird colors and symbols; eyes glazed and high on drugs. They were saying as the TV camera rolled: "I hate my mother"; "There is **NO** future"; "My buddy here", said a ten year old, "is my **REAL FATHER**." Paul Jr. asked a young girl, "Where is all this taking you, what is your **NEXT TRIP**?" Without hesitation she said — "**DEATH, — THE ULTIMATE TRIP IS DEATH!**"

Beloved partners, **SATAN IS KILLING OUR YOUTH!** Out of that interview in the middle of fighting, cursing, wild frenzied music, came a **CHILLING ELEMENT OF TRUTH**, — The ultimate trip **IS** death.

Many of you watched with **HORROR** as Julie Arguinzone took your TV camera into the "**REFRIGERATOR**" at the Los Angeles County Morgue. At any one time there are six hundred bodies of young people, unknown, unclaimed, on each big toe is a simple tag: "**JOHN DOE NO...**"; "**JANE DOE NO...**". As Julie turned to leave, sick at heart, she heard in her spirit the taunting hollow laugh of the evil one: "**THESE ARE MY TROPHIES.**"

Partners, **THE CHURCH** has let Satan kill and steal our children! We can try to blame broken homes, drugs, sex, even the devil, but in the final analysis we must blame **OURSELVES**, the **BODY OF CHRIST**. We have **LET** the devil get away with **MURDER!** Paul Billheimer, in his book, **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** makes this fact scripturally clear:

*"Legally the cross completely destroyed Satan... Calvary was indeed a victory. It destroyed all of his claims upon the human race. But the actual enforcement of Calvary's victory was placed in the hands of the church. If the Body of Christ fails to respond, enforcement becomes a dead letter. The authority to enforce Christ's victory over Satan **was delegated to the church.**" Matthew 16:18, 19.*

Beloved partners, "**WHAT WE BIND ON EARTH shall be BOUND IN HEAVEN,**" and your TV network is **COMING ALIVE** with the programming to **TAKE OUR CHILDREN BACK FROM THE DEVIL!** We **CAN** and **WILL** do it in **JESUS' NAME!**

Many of you went with us to Gazzarri's Night Club on Hollywood's Sunset Strip. Arthur Blessitt, Jan and I hosted a **LIVE PRAISE THE LORD** Program aimed at youth from the club. Kids wandered in by the dozen and found Christ. Many more watched by TV across America and phoned in to receive Christ! **PTL!**

Only God knows **HOW MANY** young people have been freed from bondage as Paul Jr. has exposed Satanic deceit through the Backward Masking and Rock Music specials. Praise God, the mask is coming off and youth everywhere are finding the **TRUTH** about this



Continued from page I

so called **music**.

One lady wrote to us that her relative had ignorantly bought her young son some rock albums and picture posters for the wall of his bedroom. She said that she had no idea that the music was Satanic. A few nights later her son woke up in the night screaming with nightmares! He screamed monsters are coming out of the walls, and were telling him they were going to take his soul. The mother realized that what she had bought was Satanic — she tore all the pictures down and threw them and the records into the trash in the garage — **BUT THAT IS NOT ALL!** The next morning the garage and back steps were **COVERED WITH FLIES!** They were hovering everywhere and this was on a cold winter day when flies do not usually come. She finally **BURNED** everything with **FIRE** before the flies would leave! One of Satan's names is BEELZEBUB which according to the Encyclopedia Britannica means "LORD OF FLIES, PRINCE OF DEVILS, AND INTRODUCING THE STIGMA OF DUNG." What the world and even many Christians have thought to be harmless "Rock-N-Roll" music is in some cases Satanic deception of the lowest and vilest sort which is designed to kill our youth and damn their souls to a devil's burning HELL! CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST — WAKE UP!!!

*"THE THIEF COMETH NOT, BUT FOR TO STEAL AND TO KILL . . . I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE.*

John 10:10.

Together we are going to keep giving that LIFE TO ALL WHO CALL!

Mario Murillo is ready to finish THE JOURNEY, a youth special that will land a BLOCKBUSTER into the enemy camp! Todd and Donna Fisher are just finishing another Youth Special that is similar to the SCREWTAPE LETTERS. It, too, will speak the language young people understand — pray for these exciting new efforts and concepts. The "BEACH PREACH" has produced a number of youth witnessing programs from MIAMI, Calvary Chapel's MARANATHA groups are producing Christian youth music each Saturday night on TBN. ONE WAY GAME with Jim McClellan is a fast moving Bible quiz program for our youth and is on the air each week across the network. TREASURES OUT OF DARKNESS with Sonny and Julie Arguinizoni is reaching into the ghetto to reach the gangs and low riders — Partners, WE ARE BEGINNING TO REACH THEM! Praise God! Pray with us that God will show us more ways and new ways to do even more. We **WILL NOT** give our youth to the devil — we **WILL WIN THEM** in JESUS' NAME!

Will you help us do it? I know I can count on YOU our faithful partners. Many of you pledged specially for YOUTH PROGRAMS — we are using your gifts as promised to produce the programs. We thank you from our hearts for your faithfulness. Someone you love may find Christ because of you and your TV network. Jan and I love you and are willing to GO, GO, GO if you will send us through your gifts, prayers and love. God bless you and meet your every need as **TOGETHER** we **CLAIM OUR YOUTH!**

Sincerely your brother in Christ,

*Paul*

## TO THE PHONE COUNSELORS

### The Plea

Hello phone counselor,  
Thanks for being there tonight,  
I've called to talk to someone,  
Who can help me set things right.

My friends all seem mad at me,  
My brother's got the flu,  
My son has run away from home.  
Oh Please! Can you tell me what to do?

You say the Lord will give me help,  
If I will only pray,  
O.K. I think I'd like to try,  
Please tell me what to say.

### The Prayer

Dear Lord in heaven You love me  
so,  
Tho' I don't always do what's  
right,  
But because of what Jesus did,  
I am precious in Your sight.

I claim Your love tonight dear  
Lord,  
I know that You'll be true,  
To do what You have promised me,  
In Jesus' name You'd do.

### The Praise

Oh Lord, I know You've heard  
my prayer,  
I'm as sure as I can be,  
'Cause my problems are all being  
solved,  
And there's been a change in me.

Thank You Lord for all You've  
done,  
I praise Your Holy Name.  
Since the counselor helped me talk  
to You,  
My life just hasn't been the same —

Praise the Lord — Nancy  
Blankmeyer

### To be a Phone Counselor in your area Call

Phoenix —	Fran Stevens	602-273-1477
Miami —	Naomi Ridings	305-962-1700
Oklahoma City —	Al Boles	405-848-1443
New York —	Dick Dickson	914-454-3030
California —	Jay Jones	714-832-2950



*Those that pledged to keep our "Little Church" open 24 hours, help us with the project now!*



# OUR TRIP TO THE FLORENCE, ARIZONA PRISON

The weather in Phoenix on Thursday was rainy and cold and we were scheduled for an outside rally at the Florence, Arizona prison the next day. On Thursday night, Fred Ferrari came by TBA and asked the brothers and sisters would pray and that he "an ex-convict inmate" would get into the prison with us to minister. Friday morning, bright and early I awoke one eye and listened . . . no rain — I ran to the window and looked out. There was the clearest blue sky and not one cloud to dull the TV pictures.

LaVerne and Edith, Robby and Terry, Paul and I, jumped on his big bus about 12 noon, heading toward Florence Prison (a one hour drive). We took the wrong road and the service was scheduled at 2 p.m. and at 1 o'clock we were no where near Florence Prison. Our precious inmate brother, John Wagner (now in maximum security) kept listening through the prison grapevine to see if we were there: 1 o'clock; 1:15; 1:30 . . . and no Paul and Jan. He immediately went to the Prison Chapel and fell on his face and prayed to God that we would make it in time and that the men would not leave before the service had begun. At two minutes to 2 o'clock, the big bus rolled through those big iron gates with the barbed wire fence and armed guards. You should have seen the faces of those men as they saw the bus and when John saw us, his beautiful face lit up like the sun.

We had a beautiful service. Our Brother Fred made it in and ministered to us all. LaVerne and Edith ministered and sang, JESUS LOVES COWBOYS. And, for the first time, the girls lost! There were only four of us against all those men but we sure tried anyway . . . most of all, LIVES WERE CHANGED. Our lives were changed.

We were allowed to go into the Gas Chamber and now I know why "Jesus wept" at Lazarus tomb . . . not because He had lost a friend. He knew that in three minutes his friend would be ALIVE, but I believe He cried at what Satan had stolen from His friend . . . HIS VERY LIFE! Jesus knew that He had the authority to raise His friend from the dead, but He knew that SATAN AND DEATH had robbed His beloved friend of his very life and He was angry about and cried out bitterly because Satan had put the ultimate end, filthy death on His best friend. Satan had the authority over the whole human race until Calvary and he had maimed and crippled and lied to and deceived and destroyed even Jesus' best friend, so Jesus wept bitterly. (John 11:35 LB)

As the door to that Gas Chamber opened and I looked inside and I saw that chair where human beings (God's creations) had been chained and had died, I felt what Jesus had felt at Lazarus' Tomb about death and Satan. A feeling of anger came over me and I got so mad at Satan, I began to cry. I looked at that chair where Satan had lied to and deceived and robbed lives and led them to that chair and killed beautiful human beings. **Satan had done that, and it made me angry.** I walked away all alone, wondering who had failed all those men; who had let Satan rob them of their freedom and even their life? Had I? Had I done all I could to help reach those men? All of a sudden through the tears I began to remember Jesus' Words from Luke 10:10 (LB), "I have given **YOU** (Jan Crouch, Grandma Jones, Papa Billheimer, children, teenagers young couples, **YOU**) authority over **ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY**", and I realized that we had not exercised that authority or there wouldn't even be the need for that horrible death chair. Human beings had died because of Satan and because someone failed to reach them.

So, whose life was changed by going to Florence Prison? Oh, yes, we had many, many conversions of prisoners, but my life was changed. I wept as Jesus did over unnecessary death and we should take Luke 10:19 and together punch Satan's filthy lights out and take Matthew 25:36 LB and visit the prisoners wherever we can and win them all to Jesus. It is our privilege, and it is our joy. Do it in Jesus' Name.

I love you, Jan

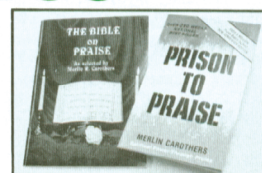


*For those of you who pledged for the Holy Beamer to roll around the world to bring revival to your city, we need your pledges NOW!!*

## OUR LOVE GIFT TO YOU

Our love gift this month is really two gifts—one for you and one to give away. Merlin Carothers exciting new book, THE BIBLE ON PRAISE is the crowning jewel in his blessed series of books on **PRAISE!** It is yours for your love gift to your Christian TV network.

The second gift is a condensed version of Merlin Carothers original book, PRISON TO PRAISE. Use it to witness by sharing it with a friend, loved one, or anyone who needs Christ. Thank you for keeping **YOUR** stations on the air for Jesus!





# THE HOLY BEAMER IS ROLLING AND BEAMING THE GOSPEL AROUND THE WHOLE USA!!!

What a fantastic month we had as we brought to you **LIVE** Via Satellite the Morris Cerullo "Harvest Time" Revival with Dr. Cerullo, T.L. Osborn, and Kenneth Copeland, and then James Robison at the First Baptist Church of Lakewood, and then **LIVE** from the Revival in Phoenix at Channel 21! As we saw men of God minister to us... Jerry Barnard, Dwight Thompson, Doug Clark, LaVerne Tripp, Richard Hogue, Richard Jackson and David Wilkerson and as Pastors Tommy Barnett and Don Price from the Phoenix area came by to welcome us to the valley of the "Son".

We will never forget as Dr. Morris Cerullo **thundered** the words to us just as the prophets of old did! One startling statement he made was: "Two hundred years after the death of Jesus, every person in the **whole world** had heard the Good News and at least had had the opportunity to accept or deny Him. But in our generation, two thousand years after his death there are 2¼ billion who have **NEVER EVEN HEARD HIS NAME**." God help us — where have **I** failed — what if I had never heard **HIS** beautiful, worthy, matchless name? What if **YOU** were one of these on their way to **HELL** and no one had **ever** told you His name? God help us to reach the ones God puts into our hands to reach!

What if **you** had been that one in some small little valley in some foreign land that the missionary **could not** go because of lack of funds? **We are** going into Haiti via Tele-Haiti and the Fourcands feeding clinique. We are reaching those in Indonesia via television and radio. We are reaching those totally unreached ones in Taiwan and China via television. We are reaching those **remotest** areas of South and Central America via television. We **will** do our part to reach our world!

We would do all this even if **YOU** were the only one who had not heard of Jesus! We love **you** and want you to know Him! Can we do less for **everyone** of God's creations? Lord help us together to reach the **whole wide world!!!**

## THE JOY OF GIVING

"If one word could describe the life of Jesus of Nazareth, it would have to be 'giving.' He lived a life of charity. He gave so profusely of His time and energy that His friends, thinking Him insane, sought to take Him into custody (Mark 3:21). At the cross, His ministry of giving was fulfilled. What motivated Him? Love! He knew the invisible incentive of the joy of giving. 'Who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame...' (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. **BUT WHEN IT CAME TO GIVING, HE FOUND A DEEP JOY THAT DROVE HIM ON TO FINISH HIS TASK.** And that joy was the Bride of Christ... us! There is a joy set before us too, if we follow His precedent.

"I want to draw your attention primarily to the giving of money, **NOT TO THE CHURCH, NOR TO ME, BUT TO THE LORD JESUS.** Money is a nasty word. Is it improper to speak about money? **NO!** Only unpleasant. But the unpleasantness is due only **TO MISUNDERSTANDING**, and can be removed by a proper appreciation of the promises of God in relation to the **USE** of our finances. **JESUS SPOKE OFTEN OF MONEY, WITH NO APPARENT INHIBITION.** Someone has computed that the Gospels record **FORTY ACTUAL DAYS** of Jesus' life. On **THIRTY-NINE OCCASIONS HE SPOKE ABOUT MONEY.** Of the **TWENTY NINE** recorded parables, **SIXTEEN DEAL** with 'filthy lucre.' Why so much emphasis on such an unpopular subject? Perhaps the same factors that make 'GIVING' an **UNPOPULAR** subject also render it an **IMPORTANT** one. Your time, tears, sweat and blood — in short, your whole life — **GOES INTO EARNING THAT BUCK**, and giving it means a **GIVING OF YOUR ENTIRE BEING.** This does not mean that a large contribution always evidences an exemplary commitment of one's life to God. It may mean that someone wants to put on a good show for other Christians. **BUT THE LORD KNOWS.** We should not forget the Lord's estimation of the respective gifts of the wealthy Pharisee, who gave much, but with little sacrifice, and the poor widow, whose gift of two mites comprised her entire assets.

### HEART CONDITION

"Every year more missionaries are called back home from the foreign field because their support

could not be raised among the Christians at home, whose **FINE CARS AND TELEVISIONS SEEM MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM THAN REACHING SOULS.** What keeps these brethren from contributing from their abundance to the laborers in God's field? **IT IS A POPULAR BRAND OF WORLDLINESS, STILL LURKING IN THE CHURCH SINCE ITS FIRST MANIFESTATION IN ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA. IT IS COVETOUSNESS.**

"There are three varieties of worldliness: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the **PRIDE OF LIFE.** If you will read I John 2:15-17, you'll find that anyone who entertains these attitudes is **DEVOID OF THE LOVE OF GOD.** James 4:4 even makes such folk out to be **ENEMIES OF GOD.** The lust of the flesh is our tendency to please our bodily appetites. The lust of the eyes is our desire to accumulate material things, particularly money. The pride of life is ungodly ambition. All three of these constantly entice us. Solomon tried his hand at all three in his desperate search for inner fulfillment apart from God.

"Satan has most of us convinced that the accumulation of 'things' will produce in us the joy our hearts cry out for. Solomon swallowed that line and found it bitter in his belly. Concerning the lust of the eyes, this wealthiest of all kings said, '...whatever my eyes desired, I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any (so-called) joy... and, behold, all this turned **OUT TO BE EMPTINESS, AND STRIVING AFTER THE WIND, AND THERE IS NO PROFIT UNDER THE SUN.**' (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11).

"Can riches ever bring joy, or is just the opposite true? Remember the rich young ruler? He came to Jesus and asked what he should do to inherit life. Jesus rehearsed for him several of the ten commandments. 'O.K.', the young man replied, 'I've done all of that already.' Jesus then looked inside the man and noticed that he had a heart condition. The Lord said, 'If you're really interested, there's one more thing that keeps you from being perfect: Go and sell everything you have, and give the money to the poor, then come and follow me.' We are told that that man left Jesus very sorrowful. Why? What made him so sad? 'He had great possessions' (Matthew 19:22). Did wealth bring happiness? On the contrary! **IT HELD A MAN'S SOUL** in cruel **BONDAGE**, and made him **SORROWFUL!**

Page 4

"Why does the minister beg for money? And why are there so few in the field carrying the Gospel? Because the church is low on funds. Why? **HAS GOD FAILED? NO, WE HAVE FAILED. WE HAVE NEGLECTED TO GIVE.** It is all because we have permitted weeds of **GREED AND COVETOUSNESS** to take root in our hearts. At the root of the problem is that old root of all evil. The Body of Christ has a heart condition. Remember the parable of the sower. The **THORNS** sprang up and **CHOKED OUT** the good seed. Jesus said those thorns represent 'THE CARE OF THIS LIFE AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES.' It's time to take up the trowel and to begin uprooting all that hinders our fruitfulness. **JOY IS TOO DEAR A PRICE TO PAY FOR AFFLUENCE.**

"Possessing material riches is not a sin, **BUT THERE IS A FINE LINE, EASILY CROSSED, BETWEEN POSSESSING RICHES AND BEING POSSESSED BY THEM.** The rich man is usually the last to know that he is possessed by his money. IF YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE NOT POSSESSED BY YOUR POSSESSIONS, TRY GIVING THEM ALL — OR EVEN HALF OF THEM — AWAY TO THE POOR!

### WEEDS OF GREED

"Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us therewith be content.' Then he gave this warning '...**BUT THEY THAT WILL BE RICH FALL INTO A SNARE, AND INTO MANY FOOLISH AND HURTFUL LUSTS, WHICH DROWN MEN IN DESTRUCTION AND PERDITION.**' (I Timothy 6:6-9). These are strong words, but they evidence a spirit of **MONETARY LIBERTY** IN PAUL THAT WE NEED. A heart free from roots of covetousness and weeds of greed is satisfied with food and clothing. **DON'T YOU WISH YOU WERE THAT FREE? YOU CAN BE.** God wants you to be, and has provided a way for you to come into that glorious freedom. The apostle advised Timothy, 'BUT THOU, O MAN OF GOD, FLEE THESE THINGS, (THE LOVE OF MONEY); AND FOLLOW AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, GODLINESS, FAITH, LOVE, PATIENCE, MEEKNESS' (I Timothy 6:11).

Article continued on page 6



# REMEMBER

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY CH. 14!! MARCH REVIVAL



IN  
**OKLAHOMA**  
March 8-13  
Time: 10 p.m. — 1 a.m.  
Eastern time  
Come join the celebration  
at

**CHANNEL 14 KTBO**

3705 N.W. 63rd  
Oklahoma City, OK 93116



## SATELLITE BIBLE LANDS TOUR May 31-June 9



Paul & Jan



Hal Lindsey



DR. C.M. Ward



LaVerne & Edith Tripp

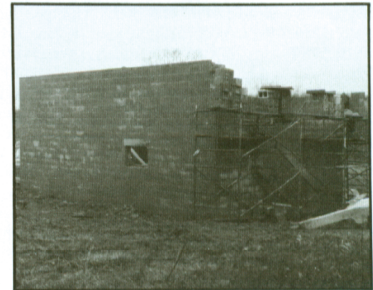
☐ Please send information on Holy Land Tour

Enclose my name on the scroll that will go to Prime Minister Menachim Begin. In agreement with Isaiah 62, Micah 4, Joel 2 \_\_\_\_\_

## RICHMOND—CINCINNATI—DAYTON!



Exciting progress continues on your new CHANNEL 43 in spite of record breaking cold and snow in the Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky area. Praise God, the transmitter building is up, the foundation for the TV Tower is finished and soon the Tower will be going UP! The studio in Richmond, Indiana is nearing completion and the satellite receiving dish is **IN PLACE!** Our engineers say early April we could be **ON THE AIR!** Keep praying and please help us **NOW** with your pledges. The big bills are coming in on your newest Sister Station, Channel 43! Get ready to **THROW ANOTHER BIG SWITCH!**



*Those that made telephone pledges for Channel 43, we need your help now.*

Page 5



Can you imagine what would happen in the Body of Christ if each member would forsake his overemphasis on **'MAKING A LIVING'** and, instead, build his life by applying himself to the above virtues? **THE POTENTIAL FOR REVIVAL BOGGLES THE IMAGINATION!**

"There is a promise in the Scriptures, often quoted by Christians, who seem to imagine that it presupposes no specific obedience. They think this is to be an unconditional affirmation: **'BUT MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS'**" (Philippians 4:19). The world is facing a food crisis, fuel shortage, and economic collapse. The stage is being set for Antichrist to pull the nations out of this chaos and so win their admiration. Many Christians look for the Lord's coming to remove us from the earth before any serious trouble. However, if the Lord tarries, we will have to know how to cling to the promise of Philippians 4:19.

"But this **IS A CONDITIONAL PROMISE**. It is **NOT** a blanket assurance that God will not let any of His children hunger. The verse under consideration begins with the word **'BUT'** which links it with a previous thought. The first thought is expressed in verse eighteen: **'I HAVE ALL, AND ABOUND: I AM FULL, HAVING RECEIVED OF EPAPHRODITUS THE THINGS WHICH WERE SENT FROM YOU...BUT MY GOD SHALL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEED...'** Paul had received a generous and sacrificial gift from the Philippian church. It was on the basis of their generosity that Paul expected God to meet **THEIR NEEDS**. The promise was made to those **WHO HAD ALREADY GIVEN**. Paul said in verse seventeen that he was looking for that which would be credited to their account. They were laying up treasures in heaven, in their **CELESTIAL BANK ACCOUNTS**, where neither moth, nor rust, nor inflation could devalue, and neither thieves, nor politicians could break through and steal. **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN?** Is it simply a matter of living a good, clean life? NO, the way to lay up treasures in heaven is to **GIVE YOUR RICHES TO GOD**. HE'LL KEEP THEM SAFE FOR YOU UNTIL YOU REALLY NEED THEM, THEN HE'LL GIVE THEM BACK **WITH INTEREST**. Everytime you give a gift to the work of God's ministry, you make a deposit in your heavenly bank account. **THIS MEANS THAT YOU LOSE CONTROL OF THE MONEY, BUT WHEN WE ARE OUT OF CONTROL GOD HAS A FREE HAND TO BE IN CONTROL**. The safest place to hide your assets is not with a bank, but with God. **WE CAN TRUST HIM TO ADEQUATELY RATION THEM OUT TO YOU IN THE TIME OF NEED**.

#### A WORD ABOUT THE TITHE

"We Christians may lay hold of the promise of God, that, if we bring all the tithes into the storehouse, there will always be food in His house (which house we are, according to Hebrews 3:6). Some will foolishly claim, 'But the law of the tithe is not binding in the New Covenant, so we don't have to tithe.' My answer to that is, **I WOULD HATE TO THINK THAT THE BLESSING PROMISED IN REGARD TO TITHING HAS BEEN REPEALED**. IF IT HAS BEEN REPEALED, SOMEONE OUGHT TO INFORM GOD, BECAUSE HE'S BEEN HONORING IT WITH ME FOR YEARS. It is true that we don't live under the law of Moses. But **THE TITHE PRECEDED THAT LAW**. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, and Jacob also promised God a tenth of all that he had '(tithe' means 'one tenth')'. Jesus affirmed tithing in Matthew 23:23 when He decried the Pharisees for scrupulously observing the tithe while neglecting the weightier matters of the law. He said, '(paying tithes) ought ye to have done, and not leave the other (mercy) undone.' Is tithing **OUR DUTY TO GOD?** YES, but not so much as it is **OUR PRIVILEGE**. Will we go **TO HELL IF WE DO NOT OBSERVE THESE PRECEDENTS?** Hardly. **BUT WE MAY GO HUNGRY**.

#### REAL FINANCIAL SECURITY

"Why do we look upon giving as a negative principle, rather than a positive affirmation of God's willingness to receive our frail gifts and to bless us for them? **IT'S BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE LIE THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR MONEY AND IT, IN TURN, WILL KEEP US SAFE**. The truth is that taxes, inflation, thieves and death will eventually deprive us of every penny...**WHOEVER SHALL SEEK TO SAVE HIS LIVELIHOOD SHALL LOSE IT**. And whoever shall **LOSE HIS LIVELIHOOD** for Jesus' sake will **RETAIN IT**. This is as certain as the law of gravity. We find no genuine security in clinging to our possessions. They will simply melt away when the heat of God's judgment consumes' **ALL THAT OFFENDS**.

"Would you like to lay up a good foundation against the time to come? **TRUST GOD AND GIVE LIKE CRAZY TO HIS WORK**. Men will consider you crazy if you do. **REMEMBER HOW JUDAS CRITICIZED THE WOMAN WHO, OUT OF LOVE FOR JESUS, EXTRAVAGANTLY POURED EXPENSIVE OINTMENT ALL OVER HIM? BUT JESUS COMMENDED HER FOR HER UNRESTRAINED GIVING, AND SAID THAT WHEREVER THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED, THIS ACT WOULD BE REMEMBERED IN HER HONOR**.

#### THE GIFT OF GIVING

"All members of the Body of Christ have a particular gift, or ministry (the words are interchangeable). The Body of Christ is so constructed that, **IF ONE MEMBER IS IN DISOBEDIENCE AND FAILS TO DO HIS JOB, MANY WILL SUFFER**. Each member is related to others in such a way that none is entirely dispensable. You should know your gift and use it, or we will all be in trouble.

"Romans, chapter twelve, adds a few more gifts to the list in 1 Corinthians. Among them are the gifts of ruling, exhortation, teaching, mercy, helps and **GIVING**. The New Testament devotes more space to the operation of this ministry than to that of any other. We are **ALL COMMANDED TO EXERCISE THIS GIFT TO SOME DEGREE**. We have already examined this statement: 'Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches...that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to share.' (1 Timothy 6:17-18). We must constantly pray for these people, that their **HUMP** will not **HINDER THEIR SAFE PASSAGE** through the **NEEDLE'S EYE**. An abundance of material things is given to a man for **THIS PURPOSE**, that he might **HELP THOSE WHO LACK**.

#### THE JOY OF GIVING

"When David was collecting materials for the construction of the temple, he asked for voluntary contributions from the people. David himself set an example for the people by exhausting his personal treasury for the cause. Several million dollars' worth of gold, silver, bronze, and other precious substances came in when the people followed their king's example. The chronicler records that, following their giving, 'the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly...' and 'did eat and drink before the Lord that day with **GREAT GLADNESS**' (1 Chronicles 29:9,22).

"We also have the joy of giving to the project of building God's spiritual temple, the church. If we do it willingly, we also will be filled with a joy that is not expressible, but can only be experienced.

'The Macedonian church had discovered the joy of giving. Paul wrote to the Corinthians to tell them about it. He said:

*'And now, brother, we want you to know about the grace that was given by God to the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy, and their extreme poverty, welled up in rich generosity. For I*

*testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.' II Corinthians 8:15.*

"That is the proper order. **WE FIRST SUBMIT OUR WHOLE LIVES TO GOD, AND THE AUTHORITIES HE HAS PLACED OVER US; THEN WE GIVE OUR GIFTS**. There is no promise of blessing to the giver who **HAS NOT FIRST GIVEN HIMSELF TO GOD**.

#### THE JOY OF THE LORD

"**THE MACEDONIAN CHURCHES WERE IN DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS**. Their generous giving would appear to the worldly mind as a foolish move, especially since they gave more generously than they could **REASONABLY AFFORD TO GIVE**. They apparently realized they could **NOT AFFORD TO HANG ON TO THEIR MONEY**, and **TRUSTED GOD** to provide for them. Also, that money could never adequately replace the joy of giving. **THEIR CHOICE WAS BETWEEN THEIR MONEY AND THE JOY. THEY CHOSE THE JOY**.

"We are all familiar with the parable of the three stewards. Their master went for a trip and left them in charge of his substance. To one was given ten talents, to another five talents, and to the third, one talent. When the master returned from his journey, he called his stewards to give account of their stewardship. This is a picture of believers who have been entrusted with God's wealth.

"The steward who had been given only one talent had hidden it, fearing that he might lose it. As a result, he only had a single talent to give into his master's hand. His master was displeased, **DEPRIVED HIM EVEN OF THAT ONE TALENT, AND DISMISSED HIM**. SO IT IS WITH THE MAN WHO **CLINGS TO THE LITTLE HE HAS**. HE WILL **LOSE EVEN THAT LITTLE HE HAS, AND SUFFER THE PAINS OF HUNGER AND POVERTY**.

"The other two stewards had invested their money in such a way as to bring **INCREASE TO THEIR MASTER**. This corresponds to our **PUTTING OUR FUNDS INTO THE LORD'S WORK**, WHERE THEY CAN **PRODUCE FRUIT A HUNDREDFOLD FOR JESUS**. The Lord was pleased with those servants and said to each, **'WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, THOU HATH BEEN FAITHFUL IN FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE THEE RULER OVER MANY THINGS: ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THE LORD**. (Matthew 25:23).

"We cannot equate 'the joy of the Lord' with 'heaven.' This would indicate that only those believers who had used God's riches properly could be admitted to heaven, making salvation a reward for good works, rather than faith. **THE 'JOY OF THE LORD' IS AVAILABLE IN THIS LIFE**, and may be equated with the **'JOY OF GIVING'**. These two faithful stewards had put their money into the ministry of God's Word. God, seeing their faithfulness in the **SMALL THINGS**, then entrusted them with still more of **HIS WEALTH**, and rewarded them with what he calls the **JOY OF THE LORD**. Are you experiencing the joy of the Lord in your life? Are you using God's money properly, and investing it in the business of heaven?

"One final point may be worth mentioning. **JOY IS ONE OF THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT LISTED IN GALATIANS 5:22-23**. It is preceded in the list only by love. Love, OR AGAPE, means **SELFLESS GIVING**. When we love, not in word, but in truth, we are eligible for the next fruit in line, joy, **JOY FOLLOWS GIVING**. The joy of the Lord AND THE JOY OF GIVING ARE INSEPARABLE."

(Editor's note: Exerpts taken from **THE JOY OF GIVING** by Steve Gregg. Published by Logos International). □