# perspective

winter 2004

Heaven to gain



3 Lane Loman



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to shun



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Winter 2004

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s I look back over forty-plus years of continuous crusade evangelism (numbering over 1,500) in many parts of the world, I have more than once asked the question "Why?" Why would I have left my children and wife all these years to travel now these millions of miles in trains, buses, cars, and planes? And, make no mistake, it has had its great cost. Sure, I missed the flooded basements, kids' high fevers and heaps of blizzard snow in the driveway. But also, I have missed a 6'5" son's basketball career from grade school through college—a college across the street from my home. But Chip stood in for me like a little soldier. He took care of his mom and sister time and again. I also was absent from my daughter's recitals and special school programs. just being with Melinda during those years was an often wished-for reality.

Jeanne, my wife, used to take me to the Union Station in Kansas City, and then go home feeling so alone. At the altar of Kansas City First Church, in those early days, one Sunday night, she sealed the issue of my call *and its effect on her life* forever. Next to Christ, she has been the unshakeable rock of my life all these years.

Has this lifestyle had a negative effect on these children and my wife? Of course it has. On the other hand, the children went to camp meetings almost every week during every summer, with free snack stands and, in many cases, swimming pools or lakes with diving boards and boats...and their Dad's constant presence every day for three months. To tell the truth, after the first ten summers of this, it started to run together; those years have become a blur.

In spite of it all, I am preparing to catch a flight for a trip across the continent early tomorrow morning for one

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# a Heaven to gain a Hell to shun by Lane Loman

The task of the full time evangelist is to preach the "whole counsel of God." Included in that responsibility is the opportunity to relate the beauties of heaven and the horrors of hell as revealed in Scripture.

Jesus promised us in John 14:2, "In My Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Heaven indeed is a "prepared place for a prepared people!" Heaven is just as much a real place as is the city where you live. It is not a spiritual figment of our Christian imagination.

My father, the late Dr. J. Harold Loman, summed up heaven like this: "I made up my mind a long time ago that I was going to see what was inside the city of God. I set my face like a flint toward that celestial city and intend by His mercy and His grace to be in that number when He calls His children home or when He comes back after His chosen bride. I have never been to a city in all the years of my ministry where there wasn't a fevered brow, where eyes didn't get dim and hearing didn't get difficult and steps were not feeble and slow. I've never been to a city where there was no sickness, pain and death. I've never been to a city where the shades of night didn't settle and where men and women were not facing persecution, anxiety, pain, problems and the vicissitudes of life that bring heartache, grief and despair to the soul. But today, I report to you that I am on my way to a city, a city foursquare with walls of jasper, gates of pearl and streets of pure gold. A city where decay never gnaws at fadeless beauty, where time never writes a wrinkle and death never digs a grave. A city where they will never call a doctor, for no one will ever get sick. A city where they will never call an undertaker, for no one will ever die. A city where eyes will never be dim and hearing will never be difficult and steps will never be feeble and slow. A city where taxes will never come due and have to be paid. A city where

there will be not one night of darkness, where they will not shut the gates thereof at all by day for there will be no night there. A city where they will need no sun or moon for the Lord God is lamp and light thereof. I've determined that I am going to see what is inside that city."

Contrasted with the glories of heaven are the horrors of hell. "And in hell, the rich man lift up his eyes..." Luke 16:19-26.

The simple fact of Scripture confirms that hell is a place of torment, separation, and remembrance. There is no indication that hell is anything but eternal separation from God and all that is good and holy.

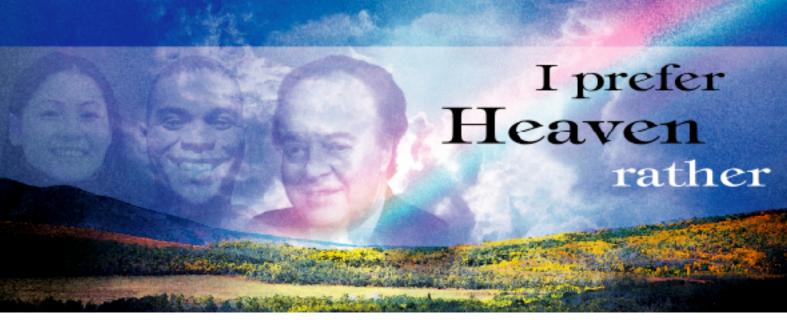
A wicked nephew asked sarcastically of his saintly aunt, "Auntie, where do they get their brimstone in hell?" She replied, "O child, they carry it with them!"

How true that is! If a person goes into eternity without God, they will carry with them all that will make hell horrible. The Rich Man remembered. If there were no fire, no outer darkness, no torment, still we would take with us the memory of the grace of God offered and opportunities lost to avoid the place prepared for the devil and his angels. The Rich Man was totally rational. He sought to have his thirst quenched, but no such relief was forthcoming. He developed the heart of a missionary. He did not want his brothers to experience this place of torment. His fate was permanent.

Yes, there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. John 3:16, a verse known as "the Bible in miniature", details our options in simple terminology that anyone can understand. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not *perish*, but have *everlasting life*." (All Scripture quotations KJV.)



Lane Loman, Greensboro, NC Evangelist, Church of the Nazarene



### by Jerry D. Porter

Thinking back over my life, I have never wanted to go to hell! Given the choice, I have always preferred to go to heaven. Eight years ago my daughter, Amy, died after a valiant battle with cancer. Now my enthusiastic desire for heaven has increased even more. I yearn for Amy's heavenly bear hugs!

Our Lord spoke clearly about heaven and hell.

### **HEAVEN TO GAIN:**

Heaven is a wonderful place. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms.... I am going there to prepare a place for you.... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am'" (John 14:1-3 NIV).

**The Lord reigns in heaven.** "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into

Dr. Jerry Porter is a General Superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene. He is the RG (Responsible General) for the USA / Canada region, the area in which Revivalism functions. heaven and he sat at the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19 NIV).

We store our treasures in heaven. "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matt 6:20 NIV).

Our names are written in heaven. "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20 NIV).

Jesus is the way to heaven. "'You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:4-6 NIV).

### **HELL TO SHUN:**

**Save your soul.** "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt 10:28 NIV).

**The Day of Judgment.** "Those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned" (John 5:29 NIV).

Hell is a place of torment. "In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, `Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire'" (Luke 16:23-24 NIV).





### **JESUS IS THE WAY!**

Some teach that all roads lead to God. Our postmodern world rejects absolute truth.

Nevertheless, Jesus did not say he was the best way, the express way, the scenic route, or the shortcut to the Kingdom. Jesus simply announced that he was **The Way** to the Father. By the grace of God we are born into the Kingdom now with heaven in our future! Our Redeemer delivers us from the sinner's hell that we deserve!

Jesus is The Way to resurrection hope. "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26 NIV).

Jesus is The Way to "here and now" fullness of life. "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:10 NIV). "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10 NIV). "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt 6:33 NIV). "From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matt 4:17 NIV). "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near."" (Matt 10:7 NIV)

Jesus is The Way to the Kingdom compassion lifestyle. "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the

sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me' ... Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.... I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (Matt 25:31-36, 40-41, 45-46 NIV)

By God's grace I am able to choose life in Christ. I do embrace faith in Jesus...

The Way to shun hell

The Way to gain heaven

The Way to resurrection hope

The Way to "here and now" fullness of life

The Way to be transformed into the Kingdom compassion lifestyle. □

# EVANGELISTS SCHEDULES

# See where your evangelist is going to be

February, March, April 2004

# ADAMS, DAVID; ADAMS VOICE (DAVID AND CHARLENE ADAMS)

. Feb 1-4, Ashland, KY, Summit Feb 6-8. New Castle, IN, First Feb 14-15, Elkhart, IN, Northside Feb 22, Richardson, TX Feb 29, Ferguson, MO, Mar 7-10, Indianapolis, IN, Southwest Mar 14-17, Pittsfield, IL Mar 21, Winter Haven, FL, First Apr 9, New Castle, IN, Westview Apr 11, Lowell, IN

### ADAMS, MICHAEL

Feb 1-4, Blairsville, GA Feb 8-11, Crowley, LA, Ebenezer Feb 15-18, Madera, CA, Madera Family Feb 22-25, Dinuba, CA Feb 29-Mar 3, Lemoore, CA Mar 7-10, Estill Springs, TN Mar 14-17, Shelbyville, TN Mar 21-24, Bedford, IN, First Mar 28-31, Newton Falls, OH Apr 11-14, Kingston, MI, \* Apr 18-21, Columbus, OH, Northwest Apr 25-28, Olive Hill, KY

# ARMSTRONG, B. (T) ARMSTRONG FAMILY MINISTRIES

Feb 4-8, Port St. Joe, FL Feb 11-15, Jacksonville, FL, Cornerstone Feb 18-22, Ogden, IL Feb 25-29, Sikeston, MO, First Mar 7-10, Fairmont, WV, First Mar 11-14, Pulaski, VA, \* Mar 17-21, Greensboro, NC, Southeast Mar 23-28, Conneaut, OH, Kelloggsville Mar 31-Apr 4, Ellisville, IL Apr 6-11, Macomb, IL Apr 14-18, Orland, IN Apr 20-25, Asheboro, NC, \* Apr 27-May 2, Bedford, IN,

### BELZER, DAVID

Feb 8-15, Kingman, AZ Mar 28-Apr 4, Wheeler, WI, New Life Apr 6-11, Alma, MI Apr 14-18, Arcola, IL, First Apr 20-25, Wausau, WI

# BENDER, TIMOTHY T Mar 16-21, West Brockton, AL,

Apr 25-28, West Bend, WI

Apr 30-May 2, Anderson, IN, \*

Mar 31-Apr 4, Signal Mountain, TN Apr 20-25, Williamsburg, IN Apr 30-May 9, Lawrenceville, IL,

# BOLICH, JEREMIAH; CROSS STYLE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Feb 1-4, Prescott Valley, AZ Feb 8-11, Sun City, AZ Feb 15-18 Peoria AZ Feb 22-25, Las Vegas, NV, Charleston Heights Feb 29-29, Dallas, TX, \* Mar 7-10, Lansing, MI, Woodview Mar 14-17, Waynesburg, PA Mar 24-26, Bourbonnais, IL, Olivet Nazarene University Apr 4-7, Kokomo, IN, Pathway of Hope Apr 11-14. Coldwater, MI Apr 18-21, Richland Center, WI

### **BOLING, JERRY**

Mar 1-7, Falmouth, KY, \* Mar 24-28, Maysville, KY, \* Mar 29-April 4, Flemingsburg, KY, \* Apr 5-11, Manchester, OH, \* Apr 26-May 2, Paris, KY, Clintonville

### BOND, GARY; GARY BOND MINISTRIES (T)

Feb 15-18, Carey, OH, Ridge Chapel Feb 22-25, Dunbar, WV Feb 29-Mar 3, Marion, IN, First Mar 7-10, Helena, AL, Trinity Mar 14-17, Des Moines, IA, Eastside Mar 21-24, Sistersville, WV Mar 28-31, Monticello, KY Apr 4-7, Saint Joseph, MI Apr 11-14, Gregory, MI, Southwest Apr 18-21, Hurricane, WV, First Apr 25-28, Vincennes, IN, First

# BURKHALTER, G. T BURKHALTER MINISTRIES

Feb 4-8, Portland, IN Feb 11-15, Post, TX Feb 18-22, Burleson, TX Feb 25-29, Sylvia, KS, Pleasant Hill Mar 3-7, Mackey, IN Mar 10-21, Gladewater, TX Mar 24-28, Florien, LA, Cenchrea Mar 31-Apr 4, Republic, MO, First Apr 7-11, The Plains, OH Apr 14-18, Masontown, WV Apr 21-25, McConnelsville, OH Apr 28-May 2, Indianapolis, IN, South

### CANEN, DAVID T DAVID CANEN MINISTRIES, INC.

Feb 3-8, Vidalia, GA, First Feb 10-15, Bainbridge, GA, First Feb 22-29, Wrightsville, GA, Mount Olive Mar 7-10, Sharpsburg, GA, First Mar 14-17, Monroe, OH Mar 24-28, Fort Walton Beach, FL Mar 30-Apr 4, Oak Hill, WV, \* Apr 6-11, Pikeville, KY, \* Apr 13-18, Wilkinson, IN, Warrington Apr 20-25, Shirley, IN Apr 27-May 2, Fort Smith, AR, Trinity

CANFIELD, DAVID
CANFIELD EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES Mar 7-10, Uhrichsville, OH, Rush Community Mar 14-17, Hernshaw, WV, Lens Creek Apr 4-7, Dayton, OH, Dayton Northridge Apr 11, Greenup, KY, Lloyd Apr 18-21, Williamsburg, OH Apr 25-28, McArthur, OH

### CASSELMAN, GERALD

Feb 1-18. Robertsdale, AL Apr 22-25, Goodland, KS Apr 25, Valley, AL, First

### CHAPMAN, JAMES

BIG CHAP MINISTRIES Mar 10-14, Gillette, WY, Mar 19-21, Sikeston, MO, First

### Tenured Evangelist is recognized by the church as a lifetime assignment. See Manual 407.3

# COBB, WILLIAM BILL COBB MINISTRIES, INC.

Feb 8-11, Loveland, CO Feb 15-18, Tallahassee, FL, First Feb 22-26, Apple Valley, CA Feb 29-Mar 3, Huntsville, AL, Southeast Mar 5-7. Bradenton, FL. First Mar 14-17, Tecumseh, MI Mar 21-24, Virginia Beach, VA, Tidewater Central Mar 28-31, Tulsa, OK, Calvary Apr 4-7, Newton, KS, First Apr 25-28, Abernathy, TX, First

# COVINGTON, NATHAN

SERVANT HEART MINISTRIES, INC. Feb 1-4, Waldron, AR, Fist Feb 5-7, Holdenville, OK, Wewoka Feb 8-11, Tahlequah, OK Feb 15-18, Mount Pleasant, TX Feb 29-Mar 3, Anderson, IN, First Mar 7-10 Brainerd MN Mar 14-17, Red Oak, IA Mar 21-24, Hutchinson, KS, Bethany Mar 28-31, Nacogdoches, TX Apr 4-7, Bowling Green, MO Apr 14-18, Knoxville, IA Apr 21-25, Sioux City, IA, First Apr 28-May 2, Fort Madison, IA

### **CUNDIFF. VICKIE** SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Mar 24-28, Middletown, OH, First Apr 4-7, Roseville, OH Apr 25-28, Tiffin, OH

### CURRY, J.

Feb 13-15, Marietta, OH, First Feb 29-Mar 3, Elk City, KS Mar 7-10, Austin, TX, South Apr 18-21, McEwen, TN, Pine Hill Apr 25-28, Oklahoma City, OK, Crown Hgts

### DABYDEEN, ROBERT

Feb 1-13, "Prashed Nagar, Georgetown", \*N, Guvana Demerara-Esseguibo Feb 14-17, Warm Springs, GA, Harmony Feb 21-25, Birmingham, AL, Center Point Feb 28-Mar 3, Indianapolis, IN, South Side Mar 6-10, West Columbia, SC, Central Mar 12-14, Findlay, OH, First Mar 21-24, Charleston, WV, Southeast Mar 28-31, Jamestown, TN, Pleasant View Apr 3-7, Elizabethton, TN Apr 11-15. Monroeville, AL Apr 17-18, Canton, OH, First Apr 24-28, Jacksonville, TX, Lookout Valley

# DODDS, LARRY LARRY DODDS MINISTRIES, INC.

Apr 18-21, Fort Wayne, IN, Trinity

# DOWNING, ANN ANN DOWNING MINISTRIES

Feb 6-7, Florence, AL, Feb 20-21, Boaz, AL, \* Feb 28, Bruce, MS, \* Feb 29, Hickory Flat, MS, \* Mar 6, Wurtland, KY, \*
Mar 19-21. Tijeras. NM. New Mexico Apr 2-3, West Des Moines, IA, Apr 23-25, Nashville, TN, Apr 26, Jonesboro, GA,

### ELLINGSON, R.

Apr 14-18, Irvine, KY, Ravenna

# ELLIS, PAUL; LIBERTY QUARTET Feb 1, Surprise, AZ, \*

Feb 1, Apache Junction, AZ, \* Feb 4, Apache Junction, AZ, \* Feb 5, Sun City, AZ Feb 6, Tuscon, AZ, \* Feb 7, Sierra Vista, AZ Feb 8, Tucson, AZ, Oro Valley Feb 15, Yuma, AZ, \* Feb 27, Boise, ID, Boise Euclid Community Feb 28, Boise, ID, Feb 29, Boise, ID, \* Mar 14, Reno, NV, \* Mar 14, Vacaville, CA, \* Apr 16, Pocatello, ID, \* Apr 17, Salt Lake City, UT, \* Apr 24, Mt. Vernon, WA, \* Apr 25, Bellingham, WA, \* Apr 25, Camano Island, WA, \*

### **EVERMAN, RUSSELL**

Mar 24-28, Cynthiana, KY Mar 30-Apr 4, Greenup, KY, Lloyd Apr 7-11, Grayson, KY Apr 14-18, South Shore, KY Apr 20-25, Pikeville, KY, \* Apr 27-May 2, Lenoir City, TN, White Wing

LIVE THROUGH THE WORD MINISTRIES Feb 9-18, Lotus River 7805, \*N, South Africa RSA Western Cape Apr 18-25, Bellefontaine, OH

### GERDES, TIMOTHY **GERDES FAMILY MINISTRIES**

Feb 4-8, Fort Myers, FL, First Feb 10-15, Vero Beach, FL, First Feb 17-22, Cantonment, FL, First Feb 29-Mar 3, Richmond Heights, OH, Cleveland Mar 7-10, Ashtabula, OH, First Mar 14-17, West Union, OH Mar 18-21, Cedarville, OH

Mar 23-28, Waukegan, IL, First Mar 31-Apr 4. Columbus, WI Apr 6-11, Park Rapids, MN Apr 14-18, Lander, WY, Apr 25-29, Pablo, MT,

# GREENWAY, KENNETH GREENWAY MINISTRIES

Feb 8-11, Apache Junction, AR, \* Feb 22-26, High Point, NC, Feb 29-3, Greensboro, NC, Rolling Roads Mar 7-10, Eden, NC, \* Mar 14-18, Stuart, VA, \* Mar 21-24, Mebane, NC, \* Mar 28-31, Fayetteville, NC Apr 4-7, Nancy, KY, Delmer Apr 11-14, Worthington, KY Apr 18-22, Potts Camp, MS, \* Apr 23-28, Greenville, MS, First

### HAINES, GARY T

Feb 10, Colorado Springs, CO, Nazarene Bible College Feb 14-18, Poteau, OK Feb 28-Mar 3, Wichita, KS, West Side Mar 13-17, Sulphur Springs, TX Mar 27-31, Charleston, WV, Calvary Apr 3-7, Denison, TX, First Apr 14-18, Wheeler, MI, \* Apr 24-28, North Royalton, OH, State Road Community

denotes non-Nazarene church

# WEB SITE: showcase

# Visit The Sites Of Your Evangelists

Adams, David & Charlene and Faithful Benson, Michael

Bond, Gary Bullock, Rex

Burkhalter, Pat & Donna

Busby, Paul

Cervantes, Rudy Cobb. Bill

Davis, James R. Dell, Jimmy

Dority, Randy Downing, Ann

**Dunham, Scott** 

Phelps, Phillip

Garrick, John Gee, C. Eugene

Gessner, Don & Shirl

Hance, Larry Hermiz, Tom

Hicks, John David

**Huddleston**, Billy

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www.heavenlytrumpet.com www.billcobbministries.org www.bright.net/~ dafam

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www.anndowning.com www.scottdunham.com

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www.networksplus.net/g2pray www.gessnermusicministries.org

> www.larryhance.com www.tomhermiz.com

www.faithencounter.org

www.billyhuddleston.com

Jackson, Paul & Trish

Leckrone, Larry Legg, Charles

Loman, Lane

Lothenore, Bob Manley, Stephen

Millhuff, Chuck

Miner. Scott

Mitchell, Royce Moore, Benjamin

Perdue, Nelson

Pettit, Elaine

Pickle, Robert

Reed, Sherman

Scrivner, Vickie Sharpe, Vance and Jeannie

Tharp, James W.

Ulmet, Bill Vecchi, Pete

Ward, Dale

Whitworth, Marcus

www.gojetstream.net www.leckroneministries.org

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www.lothenoreministries.com

www.crossstyle.org

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www.angelfire.com/la/ulmetministry

www.petevecchi.com

www.freedomquest.org

www.marcuswhitworth.com

To submit your web site for inclusion, contact Don Gessner at (317) 272-8261

### HANCOCK, TIMOTHY (T)

Feb 1-4, Port Arthur, TX, First Feb 8-11, Sandusky, MI Feb 15-18, Belleview, FL Feb 20-22, Bedford, IN, Feb 29-Mar 3, Turbotville, PA, Fairview Mar 7-10, Rockford, IL, First Mar 14-17, Beckley, WV, First Mar 21-24, Nashville, TN, Bethel Mar 28-Apr 4, Cedar Rapids, IA, First Apr 4-7, Upper Sandusky, OH Apr 11-14, Oak Hill, WV Apr 18-21, Logan, OH Apr 25, South Charleston, WV, First

### HEADLEY, LUCILLE NEWTOUCH MINISTRIES

Apr 20-25, Stonewood, WV, Clarksburg

### HERMIZ, TOM

Feb 1 Orlando Fl. Metrowest Feb 8-11, Hernando, FL Feb 15-18, Venice, FL Mar 7-10, Indianapolis,IN, Southwest Mar 14-17, Muncie,IN, Harris Chapel Mar 21-24, Indianapolis, IN, Southport Apr 4-7, High Point, NC, Apr 17, Circleville,OH, Apr 18-21, Redkey,IN Apr 25-28, Oklahoma City, OK, Calvary

### HICKS, JOHN DAVID FAITH ENCOUNTER, INC.

Feb 8-11, Bloomington, CA Mar 7-10, McCrory, AR Mar 21-24, Naches, WA Mar 28-31, Cambridge, OH, First Apr 25-28, Colfax, WA

### HUDDLESTON, BILLY **BILLY HUDDLESTON MINISTRIES**

Feb 1-4, Fitzgerald, GA Feb 7-11, Griggsville, IL Feb 15-18, Nitro, WV Feb 22-25, Sheffield, AL, First Feb 29-3, Windham, OH Mar 7-10, Amelia, OH Mar 14-17, Council Bluffs, IA, Emanuel Mar 21-26, Albany, KY, Mar 28-31, Flora, IL Apr 4-7, Cincinnati, OH, Apr 11-15, Grove City, OH, Darbydale Apr 18-21, St. Joseph, MO, First Apr 25-28, Mitchell, IN

### **HUGHES, JAMES**

JIM HUGHES MINISTRIES, INC. Feb 25. Millville, NJ. 3 Mar 14-17, Pennington, NJ, Trenton Mar 20-24, Cape May Court House, NJ, \*

### JEWETT, LARRY

WINDS OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES Feb 14-15, Evansville, IN, Faith Feb 18-22, Robeline, LA, Friendship Mar 1-3, Bloomington, IN, Mar 5-7, Martinsville, IN, Willow Grove Mar 17-21, Hendersonville, NC, First Mar 24-28, Franklin, TN, Community of Faith

Mar 31-Apr 4, Shepherdsville, KY, First Apr 7-11, Madison, IN, \* Apr 14-18, Irvine, KY, Ravenna Apr 21-25, Greensboro, IN Apr 28-May 2, Muncie, IN, \*

### LECKRONE, LARRY T LECKRONE MINISTRIES, INC. Feb 7-11, Lehigh Acres, FL

Feb 14-18, Apopka, FL, Calvary Feb 19-29, Lakeland, FL, \* Mar 6-10, Melbourne, FL, First Mar 13-17, Avon Park, FL, First Apr 3-7, Columbia, MO, First Apr 10-14, Louisville, KY, Southern Hills Apr 24-28, Kankakee, IL, Westbrook

### LEEDER, DAVID

### DAVID LEEDER MINISTRIES Feb 1-4, Elizabeth City, NC

Feb 8-11, Flint, MI, West Feb 12-15, Coolidge, AZ, Comm. Fellowship

Feb 18-22, Decatur, IN Feb 29-Mar 3, Saginaw, MI, Saginaw

Valley Mar 4-11, North Huntingdon, PA, Norwin Mar 21-24, Pennsville, NJ

Mar 28-31, Saint Johns, MI Apr 4-7, Fayette, OH Apr 11-14, Fredericktown, OH Apr 15-18, Durand, MI Apr 25-28, Hillsdale, MI

### LEIDY, ARNOLD **UPWARD CALL MINISTRIES** Feb 11-15, Sun Valley, AZ

Feb 26-29, Wilson, TX, \* Mar 17-21, Royalton, IL, First Mar 24-28, Monongahela, PA Mar 30-Apr 4, Shadyside, OH Apr 7-11, White Bear Lake, MN, Great Apr 14-18, Huron, SD



We welcome Tom Hermiz as an evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene. He is a distinguished international Holiness preacher. Dr. Hermiz is the former president of both the Christian Holiness Association and World Gospel Missions. He and his wife reside in Marion, Indiana.

# EVANGELISTS SCHEDULES

continued...

### February, March, April 2004

### LEWIS, CHRISTOPHER CHRIS LEWIS MINISTRIES

Feb 1-4, Modesto, CA, Modesto Trinity Feb 6, Butte, MT, Feb 8-11, Exeter, CA Feb 15-18, Vancouver, WA, Central Feb 19-24, Kirkintilloch

### LEWIS, JOHN WHITE DOVE MINISTRIES

Feb 15-18, Paris, TX, First Mar 28-Apr 4, Denver, CO, Faith Apr 7-11, Erin, TN Apr 14-18, Sidney, MT, First

### LOMAN, H.; LOMAN MINISTRIES (T)

Feb 1-4, Kingsport, TN, First Feb 8-11, Fort Smith, AR, First Feb 15-18, Shelbyville, TN, Feb 22-27, Davenport, FL, Feb 29-Mar 3, New Philadelphia, OH Mar 7-10, Warner Robins, GA, First Mar 14-17, Chattanooga, TN, First Mar 21-24, Denton, MD Mar 28-31, Parsons, KS Apr 4-7, Rock Hill, SC, West Main Apr 11-14, West Columbia, SC, First Apr 18-21, Asheboro, NC, \* Apr 25-28, Alum Bank, PA, Ryot

### LOTHENORE, ROBERT **BOB LOTHENORE MINISTRIES**

Mar 28-29, Tulsa, OK, Mar 31-Apr 2, Eufaula, OK Apr 6-9, Bowling Green, MO Apr 13-16, Nevada, MO Apr 23-27, Evansville, IN, Grace Apr 30-May 4, Princeton, IN

# MANLEY, STEPHEN; SMEA (T)

Feb 4-8, Waterford, MI, Williams Lake Feb 11-15, Vero Beach, FL, First Feb 18-22, Pensacola, FL, \* Feb 25-29, Camillus, NY, Mar 3-7, Vineland, NJ Mar 11-14, Dover, DE, Calvary

Mar 17-21, Roanoke, VA, East Gate Mar 24-28, Fairborn, OH, \* Mar 31-Apr 4, Hot Springs, AR, First

Apr 5-7, Elkhart, IN, \* Apr 7-11, Hot Springs, AR, Hamilton Apr 14-18, Dunkirk, IN

## Apr 21-25, Parkersburg, WV, Broadway

MILLER, C.; C. WESLEY MINISTRIES Feb 15-18, Helena, OK Feb 22-25, Stillwater, OK, First Mar 28-31, Jonesboro, AR, Woodsprings Apr 4-7, Wickes, AR Apr 23-25, Tishomingo, OK

# MILLHUFF, CHARLES T MILLHUFF MINISTRIES

Feb 4-8, Kingsport, TN, First Feb 11-15, Natchitoches, LA Feb 18-22, Robeline, LA, Friendship Feb 25-29, Tipp City, OH Mar 3-7, Jackson, OH Mar 10-14, Joliet, IL, First Mar 17-21, Plainfield, IN, United

Community
Mar 31-Apr 4, Winona, MN
Apr 14-18, Shawnee, OK Apr 23-25, Fort Smith, AR Apr 28-May 2, Santa Maria, CA, First

### MILLS, CARLTON; SECOND TOUCH (T) **EVANGELISM MINISTRIES**

Feb 12-12, Lakeland, FL, Highland Park Feb 18-22, San Mateo, FL, First Mar 2-7, Charleston, WV, Valley Grove Mar 21-24, Johnson, VT, Lamoile Valley

### MITCHELL, ROYCE; LIBERTY QUARTET

Feb 1, Surprise, AZ, \*
Feb 1, Apache Junction, AZ, Feb 4, Apache Junction, AZ, \*

Feb 5, Sun City, AZ Feb 6, Tuscon, AZ, \*

Feb 7, Sierra Vista, AZ Feb 8, Tucson, AZ, Oro Valley Feb 15, Yuma, AZ, \*

Feb 27, Boise, ID, Euclid Community

Feb 28, Boise, ID, \* Feb 29, Boise, ID, \*

Mar 14, Reno, NV, \* Mar 14, Vacaville, CA, \* Apr 16, Pocatello, ID, \*

Apr 17, Salt Lake City, UT, \*

Apr 24, Mt. Vernon, WA, \* Apr 25, Bellingham, WA, \* Apr 25, Camano Island, WA, \*

### MOORE, NORMAN (T) NORMAN MOORE MINISTRIES

Feb 1-4, Nampa, ID, Bethel Feb 8-11, Indianapolis, IN, Westside Feb 29-Mar 3, Virginia Beach, VA, First Mar 7-10, Fairmont, WV, First Mar 21-24, Sapulpa, OK Apr 11-14, Colona, IL, Grace Community Apr 18-21, Pittsburg, KS Apr 25-28, Carthage, MO

### NAJARIAN, BERGE

Feb 7-8, Spring Hill, FL, First Feb 21-22, Tampa, FL, First Apr 24-25, Midland, MI, Midland Community

# NICHOLAS, CLAUDE RENEWING LOVE MINISTRIES

Feb 22-25, Plant City, FL, Wagoner Memorial Feb 29-Mar 6, Vancleve, KY, \*

Mar 7-10, Catlettsburg, KY, Twin Fork Mar 14-17, Owego, NY Mar 21-24, Sidney, OH, First Mar 28-31, Paulding, OH Apr 4-11, Callensburg, PA, \* Apr 11-14, North Port, OH, \* Apr 18-21, Louisville, KY, Farmdale

# PERDUE, NELSON T

Apr 29-May 2, Marysville, OH

Feb 2-8, Hamilton, OH, Tri-County Feb 15, Charleston, WV, First Feb 19-29, Lakeland, FL, \* Mar 4-7, London, OH Mar 10-14, Bedford, OH Mar 17-21, Paden City, WV Mar 24-28, Lexington, KY, Lafayette Apr 4-7, Parkersburg, WV, First

### Apr 28-May 2, Logan, WV PETTIT, BENJAMIN ELAINE PETTIT MINISTRIES

Feb 15-18, Bradley, IL Feb 29-Mar 3, Taloga, OK, Camp Creek Mar 5-7, West Monroe, LA, First Mar 12-14, Heber Springs, AR Mar 24-27, Evansville, IN, \* Apr 15-17, Cincinnati, OH,

### PETTIT, ELAINE **ELAINÉ PETTIT MINISTRIES**

Feb 1-4, Ashland, KY, Summit Feb 8-11, Collinsville, OK Feb 15-18, Bradley, IL Feb 22-25, Stone Mtn, GA, GracePointe Mar 1-7, Meigs, OH, \* Mar 9-14, Tuscaloosa, AL, First Mar 21-24, Casey, IL Mar 28-31, Maryville, MO Apr 4-7, Holt, MI Apr 15-18, Cincinnati, OH, \* Apr 25-28, El Reno, OK, First

### PHELPS, PHILLIP PHILLIP PHELPS MINISTRIES

Feb 22-25, Many, LA Mar 28-31, Pryor, OK Apr 18-21, Ardmore, OK,First

# RITTGERS, DELBERT CROSS ENCOUNTER MINISTRIES

Mar 2-7, Shenandoah, IA Mar 17-21, Winterset, IA Mar 31-4, Oakwood, IL Apr 18-21, Mason City, IA Apr 25-28, Ames, IA

# ROACH, JERRY; ROACH EVANGELISTIC

MINISTRIES, INC.
Mar 7-10, Chattanooga, TN, East Ridge Mar 24-28, Fort Walton Beach, FL Apr 21-25, Oak Hill, FL

### ROSE, D.; ROSE GARDEN (T)

Feb 11-15, Palmer, AK Feb 29-Mar 4, Derby, KS Mar 7-10, Winfield, KS Mar 17-21, Morristown, IN Mar 24-28, Kendallville, IN Mar 31-Apr 4, Marshall, IL, West Union Apr 18-21, Joplin, MO, First Apr 28-May 2, Sallisaw, OK

# ROTH, RONALD RON ROTH MINISTRIES

Feb 3-8, St. Cloud, FL Feb 22-29, Reedsville, OH, Fellowship Mar 2-7, Vienna, WV, River Valley Comm. Mar 9-14, Cowan, TN Mar 16-21, Decherd, TN Mar 24-28, Mountain Grove, MO Mar 30-Apr 4, Mexico, MO Apr 7-11, Monroe, LA, First Apr 13-18, Marksville, LA Apr 21-25, Iberia, MO Apr 28-May 2, Montgomery City, MO

# SEMRAN, CINDY PROCLAIM & PRAISE MINISTRIES, INC.

Mar 14-17, Monroe, MI, Mar 19-20, Fenton, MI,

### SEMRAN, KIM PROCLAIM & PRAISE MINISTRIES, INC. Mar 14-17, Monroe, MI, \*

### SMITH, DUANE T

Feb 4-8, Albany, GA, Grace Feb 11-15, Wrightsville, GA Feb 25-29, Claxton, GA, Bellville Trinity Mar 10-14, Douglasville, GA, First Mar 17-21, Kingsport, TN, First Mar 23-28, Bedford, IN, Valley Mission Mar 31-Apr 4, Wright City, MO Apr 7-11, Piedmont, MO Apr 14-18, Greenwood, AR Apr 21-25, Manhattan, KS Apr 28-May 2, Ottumwa, IA, Trinity

### THARP, JAMES CHRISTIAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES

Feb 8-11, New Ringgold, PA, \* Feb 23-Mar 2, New Delhi, India Mar 7-10, Buckhannon, WV Mar 24-28, West Carrollton, OH Mar 29-Apr 4, Hurricane, WV, First Apr 14-18, Elkins, WV Apr 21-25, Leicester, VT, Apr 28-May 2, Grafton, WV, Blueville

# THROWER, JAMES; STRAIGHTWAY EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY, INC.

Feb 15-18, Ruskin, FL, Community Feb 22-25, Hampton, VA Mar 7-10, Gallatin, TN Mar 14-17, Goose Creek, SC, Charleston Calvary Mar 21-24, Weirton, WV, First Apr 11-13, Bridgewater, VA, Spring Creek Apr 18-21, Sparta, TN Apr 25-28, Hanahan, SC, Charleston First

### ULMET, WILLIAM; ULMET MINISTRIES T

Feb 1-4, Chester, SC Feb 8-11, Macon, GA, Shurlington Feb 15-18, Smyrna, GA Feb 22, Cuba, IL Feb 29-Mar 3, Des Moines, IA, Highland Park Mar 5-7, Climbing Hill, IA Mar 14-17, West Plains, MO, Cornerstone Mar 21-25, Springfield, MO, Crestview Mar 28-31, Yukon, OK, First

Apr 14-18, Houston, MS, Saxon Memorial

### WARD, DALE

FREEDOM QUEST MINISTRY Feb 8-11, Oviedo, FL, Oviedo University Feb 15-18, Archer, FL Feb 22-25, De Land, FL Feb 29-Mar 3, Webster, TX, Clear Lake Mar 7-10, Dumas, TX Mar 14-17, Troup, TX, Martin's Chapel Mar 21-24, Lawton, OK, First Mar 28-31, Amarillo, TX, South Georgia Apr 4-8, Elkhart, KS Apr 11-14, Thornton, CO, Denver Cottonwood Lakes Apr 25-28, Las Animas, CO, First

### WELLS, LINARD (T)

Feb 17-22, Longview, TX, First Mar 2-7, Pine Bluff, AR, Oak Park

### WESLEY, RONALD WESLEY MINISTRIES

Feb 29-Mar 3, Lawrenceburg, TN, Grace

### WILLISON, RICK; THE X-TREME TEAM Mar 1-31, London , Clapham Junction Apr 28-May 3, Lake Havasu City, AZ, \*

### WOMACK, PAUL; PP&P MINISTRIES

Feb 1-4, Hueytown, AL, First Feb 8-11, Pittsburg, TX Feb 12-15, Blossom, TX Feb 22-25, Sullivan, IN Feb 29-Mar 3, Pana, IL, First Mar 10-14, Hagerstown, IN Mar 21-24, Monticello, IL Mar 26-28, Osawatomie, KS Mar 30-Apr 4, Winslow, IN Apr 18-21, Fort Wayne, IN, Trinity Apr 25-28, Vivian, LA



## By G. Stuart McWhirter

If there is no hell, no one can be lost. If no one can be lost, no one needs to be saved. If no one needs to be saved, there is no need for the Incarnation, the Atonement, or the existence of the Church. If there is no hell, all the Christian martyrs died in vain.

The doctrine of hell is the most uncomfortable and, in modern times, often the most hushed Christian doctrine. C.S. Lewis said, "There is no doctrine I would more willingly remove from Christianity than this, if it lay in my power. But it has the full support of scripture and, specially, our Lord's own words."

The doctrine of hell should never be a major or overly emphasized theme of Christian preaching and teaching. And those who preach and teach this doctrine should never do so without a tender heart and a burden for the salvation of lost souls.

Jesus said more about hell than anyone else in the Bible did. If we cannot trust what he said about hell, we cannot trust what he said about heaven. We must not be taken in by the cafeteria theology of a pick-and-choose Christianity. In Mark 9:47, Jesus said, "If your eye causes you to sin, pluck

it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of Heaven with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell." Although our Lord is here using metaphor and hyperbole, the severity of His language cannot be easily ignored. I know of an emotionally disturbed Christian lady who took this language literally and attempted to gouge her eye out. How sadly mistaken she was. In this passage Jesus was using symbolic word-pictures to teach a tragedy beyond human language to describe.

Since Jesus used such strong words to teach the tragedy of a person missing forever their Godintended destiny, then why have so many evangelical Christians seemingly fallen into almost rampant subjectivism in thinking about God and exclusive softness in preaching? Knowing Jesus taught of a hell of eternal separation from God, then why has His Church often failed to warn the lost of this reality; that failure is an unspeakable sin.

God is not a petulant, leering, vindictive God. Twice in I John 1, we read, "God is love." In Ezekiel

33:11 the Lord says, "I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked." Yes, God is love, but His love is holy love. At the center of divine love is blazing, absolute holiness and inevitable wrath against sin. In Romans 1:8, Paul emphasized, "The wrath of God is being revealed against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

Today, many preachers focus on the love of God and say little about His holiness, justice and wrath. Some currently seem to think of God as a long-bearded, old man upstairs who gives in to the whims of spoiled, peevish man. Much contemporary preaching emphasizes affirmation, acceptance, and seeker-sensitivity. These are good ideas. But if our theology has anything to do with the Bible, instead of being based on mere sentimentalism, we must deal with the truth of the wrath of God. Of course, God's wrath is not human wrath. His wrath is never separated

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Rev. G. Stuart McWhirter, Corydon, IN Evangelist, Church of the Nazarene



# **by Gary Haines**

Personally, I believe that a "call of God" to ministry is, indeed, just that—it's a call. It's not just a job, or a vocation, it's a "calling" of that individual to full time Christian service. I believe that God's call on my life was birthed in my heart in childhood. I'm a third generation Nazarene, born and raised in our beloved denomination. From the ages of three to seven, I was singing in revivals and camp meetings with a well-known evangelist of that time, Reverend Sammy Sparks.

In the late 1940's, there was a polio epidemic that found its way into our home. I was afflicted with infantile paralysis. My precious mom, who was a single parent, had to work so my grandmother became my primary care giver for at least five years. There was such a bond that developed between us. When she died. I got very angry with God. Consequently, I turned away from Him and the church. As a result of my spiritual rebellion and self-centeredness, I began to go down a road of heartache and heartbreak. In my early adult life, I became a professional night club entertainer. I started hanging out with the wrong crowd, did all the wrong things, and, before I knew it, I became an alcoholic/drug addict.

There is not enough room here to explain all that happened back then, but choosing a life of sin completely and totally destroyed my life-believe me. I hit rock bottom. It was at this point that Jesus finally got my full attention! I cried out to Him in prayer with Reverend Howard Rickey by my side. I asked Him to forgive me and save me from the literal hell that I was already living in. And He did! Praise His holy name forever! I made a vow-promise to Him that morning that "I would go wherever He wanted me to go, do what He wanted me to do, and be whatever He wanted me to be." I waved the white flag of unconditional surrender. I wanted Him and His will for my life from that day on. Little did I know what this vow would entail because, at that point, full-time ministry wasn't even a blip on the radar screen.

A few months later, Dr. Chic Shaver had a revival at our church. One evening he felt led of the Lord to take me aside and inform me about Nazarene Bible College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where older men and women could prepare for ministry. Afterwards, sitting in my car, I thought, "Wow, was that strange.

Why did he talk to me about this?" I know now that it was a "God thing," and the "call" that I knew as a child was rekindled from that moment on. Every day the call would be there, and the more I tried to divorce myself from it, the worse it got. Then one Sunday morning, General Superintendent Dr.V.H. Lewis spoke at our church on the subject "How a man knows when he is called of God." I couldn't believe it! Every question that I had was being answered that morning. When he finished the message, I knew, as preposterous and ridiculous as it was, that God was calling me. I said "Yes" to His will that morning. Shortly afterwards, Dr. Dwight Neuenschwander called me from NBS to tell me that my application that I had sent earlier was accepted and effective immediately.

Well, that was 31 years ago. The Lord has led me all over the United States and Canada. My precious wife, Marti, and I still can't believe how good He has been to us. To all the pastors, D.S.'s, and congregations that have been a platform for my ministry (especially in the early years!), I say thank you so very much. I have more love, respect, and admiration for all of my evangelist colleagues, both past and present than any of you will ever know. I am so humbled, honored, and proud to be one of you. You're the best! And to our Lord, thank you for not giving up on me when others did. I have always tried to do the best that I can with what I've got. Hopefully, I have brought honor to the name of Christ through my life and my call. And, if this is so, then that will be reward enough for me.



Gary Haines
Colorado Springs,
Colorado
Evangelist, Church
of the Nazarene

# WHY?

### > continued from page 2

more meeting. I am very excited about stepping into a pulpit tomorrow night as if I were just out of seminary overwhelmed with the awesome privilege of becoming the very mouthpiece of God. Hanging behind me on the wall of my office here at home is a verse Jeanne and I have stood on all these many years. Done in black calligraphy on parchment many years ago, it is framed in a nice wooden gold frame.

"There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time and in the world to come life everlasting." Luke 18:29-30

It has hung in our kitchen for all of those growing up years of the children. And it has already come true.

Yet, what has all of this done to me? The wear and tear of earning a living all these years one week at a time has taken its toll and still does. Added to this, I had an emotional breakdone over twenty years ago that left me with a serious, ongoing Bi-Polar II condition. Was my life as an evangelist the reason for this? Only God knows. Among other things, however, the pain has laid me out on my face before God and His Word. How many times have I turned my face to a cement block, painted wall in a motel room and wept with no one but God to hear. Yes, it has cost me a great deal. And yet I say, "God, let it be." Now, you might ask, "Chuck, why have you done this all these years and under these conditions?" An easy and seminal answer is that God called me to this.

I was a seven-year-old sitting with my family in the balcony of the old Chicago First Nazarene Church watching and hearing an evangelist preach. God told my little heart, "Someday you will be doing what that man is doing." That man was U.E. Harding. I never have considered anything else. I settled the issue in an adult way during a revival at Olivet Nazarene University while Evangelist Bill Fisher was preaching. And the cost has been great. In fact, it has cost me everything when you consider any description of a life most call normal. Make no mistake, there has been the up side to all of this in terms of associations and remarkable experiences. I have been blessed beyond many, and am humbled and struck down when I enter into any kind of complaint. God's blessings in terms of material things and unbelievable experiences far exceed anything I ever dreamed I would see, to say nothing about the indescribable experience of God's words flowing through me in unfathomable moments of unction.

But let me cut to the chase. I actually believe that unless a person—any person—comes into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and experiences the new birth, he or she will languish in a devil's hell. I vividly believe that Satan, the great deceiver, is going to be cast into a lake of fire and brimstone along with the beast and the false prophet (Revelation 20:10). I also believe that whoever is not found in the book of life, which is God's eternal record of the saved, will be cast into the lake of fire as well (Revelation 20:15). This torture is so horrible that men will grind their porcelain teeth into stubble in soul-wracking fear prior to being cast into this place of eternal pain and judgment (Luke 13:27-28). And it will never end. You might ask, "Do you really believe hell will be that bad?" No, I believe it will be much worse. Just as language cannot describe heaven's glory, so language cannot describe hell's torment.

It is this inextinguishable belief that has driven me all these years. The terrible lost condition of mankind! This is why I talk to total strangers about their neverdying souls. Often, I have actually sunk to my knees on a platform in a packed tabernacle or in a small, out-of-the-way church with outstretched hands and pled with tears running down my face, crying out, "Please, don't be lost!" Hell is, in fact, what we are saved from, and eternity with Christ is what we are saved to. If I were just traveling the country, giving little after-dinner speeches of morality with religious overtones, I would never have done what I have done all these years, nor paid such a high price. Make no mistake, I see my life as a matter of:

"Rescue the perishing, care for the dying Tell them of Jesus and His power to save."

Yes there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun, and it is the reason for all we do. I pray I can help just one more person into the presence of God and a state of saving grace. This is my greatest joy. As St. Francis Of Assisi said, "Above all else, save souls. When necessary, use words." I have done that, and that is the answer to the "why" of my whole life. What is the "why" of yours?

# Revival Fires

unusual breakthroughs of the Holy Spirit in our churches!

Here is a recent testimony from a church in which Elaine Pettit ministered.

REVIVAL CONTINUES AT OUR CHURCH

Dear Rev. Elaine and Rick,

I just had to write you. We had four or five folks at the early morning prayer time on Thursday and several others who have spent significant time in prayer for our services this week. We had a great Lord's Day today. There are at least a half dozen people who are testifying to being sanctified holy and many others who testify to receiving significant spiritual help. Today's service went to almost one o'clock. I preached on sanctification, there were about a dozen people at the altar. One young boy gave his heart to the Lord. An elderly woman surrendered a grudge that she has held for decades, I believe the Lord sanctified her as well. Tammy, a younger single mom, prayed through and gave up cigarettes. God is so good!

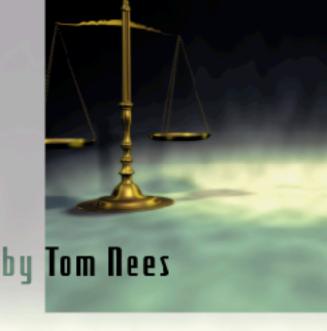
I also want to tell you what a powerful impact our revival is having on my life. Included in the message this morning was my testimony. I now know that I am sanctified. For a long time, I thought I was sanctified. Talk about two trips to the altar, I've taken about two thousand. I've "surrendered all" more times than I can count. It got to be very frustrating. I figured that I had to be filled with the Holy Spirit because God anointed the messages. When I heard your tape last winter, you described an experience that I did not have. You talked about sanctification like the "old timers." I have been in the Church of the Nazarene long enough (1982) to have heard some of the old timers. I began praying in earnest last winter. We even employed much of the prayer strategy for our spring revival. I found myself in the middle of a spiritual war. I didn't like it. I can remember one evening after the revival service one of our young men was upset because the ushers would not allow him to go out to his car with his girlfriend during the service. He was very angry shouting and cursing very loudly right at the front door of the church. I thought to myself, "Lord, did we not ask you that there would be no interruptions, did we not ask You to watch over these meetings?" Those revival meetings did produce fruit, for which we praise the Lord, but not the results we had been expecting. I was confused.

Anyway, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I am His 100%. Today I promised my congregation that I would be a holiness preacher, a man of prayer and that I would lead them in the direction that God shows me.

In Jesus, Joe

Has God been
working in an
unusual way in
your church or
camp meeting?
We encourage
you to submit
written accounts.





other Teresa reminded her followers that Jesus comes to us in the distressing disguise of the poor and needy—an insight drawn from the parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25:31-46.

The parable begins with Jesus welcoming into His eternal kingdom a group of people who were completely surprised to learn that, since in their everyday living they had responded in compassion to the needs of hungry, thirsty, sick and naked people; and because they had welcomed strangers and visited prisoners, they were in fact serving Him. Their eternal reward was heaven.

Even more astonished were a group of people who learned that by ignoring poor and needy people they had, in fact, ignored Jesus and were, therefore, condemned to eternal punishment.

From the streets of Calcutta, Mother Teresa taught her followers to take the parable literally. Serving Jesus through service to the poor was not optional for her. Eternal consequences were at stake. The parable, which so dramatically challenges comfortable, self-centered religion, is all about consequences.

This parable, like all parables, was meant to teach us something important about the kingdom of God. The essential truth is that the Kingdom extends beyond this world into life after death. One enters the Kingdom, or reign of God, by following Jesus, by submitting to the will of God as made known in the life and teaching of Jesus.

It is clear from this and other teachings that the decision about who lives on in the Kingdom and who is

excluded is a decision made by God alone. It is not for us to judge or be judged by others.

While the rewards and punishments in this parable came as a surprise, the parable was intended to eliminate any misunderstanding about what will determine our eternal destiny. Our presence in the Kingdom is not predetermined. We enter the Kingdom by following the teachings of Jesus, by living consistent with the God's rule in this world, by doing right things.

The final judgment was a surprise because it challenged conventional wisdom about who is in and who is out of the Kingdom. In Jesus' time as well as ours, common thought said that religious belief and faithfulness to established traditions assured one God's favor. However here, as throughout Jesus' ministry, the Kingdom is a gift of grace to those who, however unlikely, choose to be followers of Jesus.

This core gospel theme is extended beyond what even the "righteous" could have anticipated. They, as well as the "unrighteous" could not believe that Jesus was found in what Mother Teresa described as this "distressing disguise." To our surprise too, we are taught not only to serve poor and needy people but to expect to find Jesus hidden there. And as we do, the same Jesus who comes to us unexpectedly in this life will welcome us into the next life, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father;

take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).



**Dr. Tom Nees**Kansas City, MO
USA / Canada Region Director,
Church of the Nazarene

the evangelists' perspective WINTER 2004

# Divine Dementia? Not So!

# God's Perfect Memory Forgets, Too!

by Larry Leckrone

It seems by modern-day media standards that every-one who dies goes to heaven. The accidents have been tragic, but so have been the lasting fruits of ungodly influences. If you are rich enough, beautiful enough, or popular enough, you might even attain saint-hood in the eyes of the public. The proverbial scale in heaven must weigh heavier on the "good" side. If so, you are in. Common phrases often heard include: "They are in a better place," "They have made the final journey," or "They are smilling down on us now." The Bible teaches that heaven is a real and wonderful place, to be sure. However, it does not teach that everyone will live there. Sad, and eternally tragic, is the fact that many will not make the trip.

Men are pleased to receive the Bible revelation concerning Heaven, but do not heed its warning regarding hell. Human sentiment, opinion, and reason are without value concerning these eternal issues. Real wisdom heeds the voice of the Son of God, and He more than any other has stressed the woes of the lost (Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5). God is not one who causes good people to suffer in hell. He is revealed as one who, at infinite cost, has carried out the divine design that sinners, having confessed and turned from their sins, believing in Christ, may not perish, but have everlasting life.

I stopped at a small antique shop in Wisconsin many years ago where I saw a ledger from an old general store. It was attached to a board with an ink well and dipping style fountain pen at the top. Beside it was a small roller and a well stained, narrow, semi-circular blotter. The proprietor noticed my fascination and volunteered some insight. Upon his suggestion, I opened the ledger to find many lines of blotted names. He explained the old credit system—how the purchaser could sign their name in the ledger if they did not have money to pay for goods they needed. The amount of the debt was recorded across from the name. When the debt was settled through cash paid or goods traded, the small roller was dipped in the ink, then applied to the blotter. Subsequently, the ink from the blotter encompassed the name and the debt, rendering them both unreadable. I immediately thought of the old hymn, "My Sins Are Blotted Out I Know" and how our sin has been blotted out by the precious atoning blood of Christ. He remembers it against us no more! We all chose sin, and the debt was recorded; but He cannot read it in the ledger any longer if His blood has covered it through confession and cleansing! The store-owner sensed my emotion and I explained my joy—only to quickly sober when I looked down and saw a name still legible. The debt was small, just \$4.55, but clearly recorded and yet "un-blotted." Jesus' words in Matthew 7:21-23 invaded my thoughts! "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (NKJV)

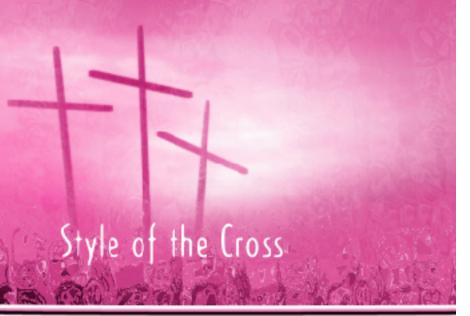
My thoughtfulness was apparent, so I shared again with my new acquaintance. It was a witness opportunity for sure, and I believe God used it. I finally left with two small purchases, but have often wished I had bought the old ledger ensemble. I drove along that day with the lingering thought of Jesus' words, "I never knew you" still reverberating in my consciousness. The same Lord that knows everything about us, knows our "up-rising and our down-sitting," knows "the exact number of hairs on our heads," will not know us at all if sin still appears in our ledger of life. His memory either fails to remember our sin, or it fails to remember us. This "divine dementia" is not a flaw in God's omniscience. His qualified memory emphatically emphasizes that sin is the separator between heaven and hell.

The rejection of Christ is the all-inclusive sin. It not only "insults" the Spirit of grace, it also rejects the infinite love of God. Hebrews 10:29 (NASV) says, "How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?" The Christ rejecter theoretically takes his sin off from the Lamb of God and lays it back upon himself to his eternal condemnation.

"There must be a heaven somewhere!" cried out Dr. Lawrence Hicks, a southern orator from yesteryear. Yes, there really is a heaven somewhere—and so is there a hell!



Larry Leckrone, Morenci, MI Evangelist, Church of the Nazarene



# God's Wrath Revealed by Stephen Manley

Our theology often seemingly produces conflicts which do not exist in the Scriptures. Such is the case with the judgment of God. The frightening, judgmental, anxious-to-damn-you kind of God, who is being held back by a merciful, loving Jesus, will one day be turned loose to judge those who are not hidden in Christ. This concept violates the very tone of the Scriptures and certainly the Christ who is the revelation of the Father.

The Biblical pattern for the wrath of God is highlighted in Romans. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" (Romans 1:18). The following verses state the tremendous grace of God bestowed on all mankind. "What may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them" (Romans 1:20). A twofold revelation of God has taken place. The nature of our world declares Him to us, and the inner awareness pressures us to Him. It is very clear we are without excuse (Romans 1:20).

However, mankind did not accept this revelation. Terrible judgment was given by God. "Therefore, God also gave them up..." (Romans 1:24). This is not an act of violence. It is not even an act of disgust. It comes from a broken heart that has done everything within its power to prevent such a thing. God simply lets man go his own way, which always ends up in destruction or hell. God continues to weep and extend redemption while man continues to reject and make his way to judgment. Judgment is not from a condemning God, but from a condemned man who has judged himself.



**Stephen Manley,** Nashville, TN Evangelist, Church of the Nazarene

# **HELL**

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from His compassionate, loving, forgiving character. But He is eternally opposed to sin.

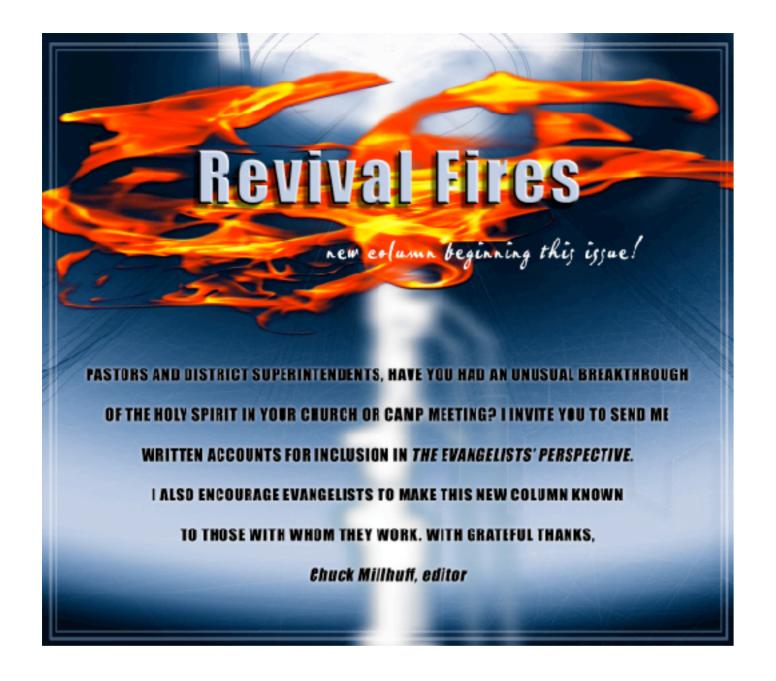
In His love, God gives us freedom — freedom that allows for possible, final rebellion against Him. If this were not so, our freedom is not real. This freedom allows us the possibility of arriving at last in hell. Surely no one consciously chooses hell, but he may choose a path that leads to hell.

Hell is the consequence of persistent, ultimate refusal of God and defiance against God. Those who are finally lost live self-centered, self-governing lives. Perhaps, the worst thing about hell is that those who inhabit it will be eternally imprisoned in self. After reading many reputable Christian scholars on the subject of hell, I find these recurring themes in all their writings: Hell is absolute, unceasing selfishness and eternal separation from God.

Throughout their lives, those who choose self-sovereignty and refuse God to the end expect to find pleasure and satisfaction. However, the conclusion of their quest will bring neither pleasure nor satisfaction. Hell is not what they expect, but it is what they will find.

C.S. Lewis said that, in the long run the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell, is itself a question: "What is God to do?" What if God were indifferent to wickedness and evil? What if God had no moral outrage? What if God neither condoned nor condemned the Nazi persecution and execution of millions of Jews? What if all the crimes, cruelty, and inhumanity of mankind were of no concern whatsoever to God? This universe would itself be something akin to hell. Those who object to the doctrine of hell because of its horror, leave us with a far worse alternative.

What is God to do? He has already done the most loving and magnificent thing. Between every soul and hell, God has raised the Cross of His crucified Son. Those who are finally lost will have to walk past Calvary as they journey on the road to hell.



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