

Astronaut Jim Irwin Suffers Heart Attack

Apollo 15 Astronaut Jim Irwin, who retired from the space program last year to become an international Baptist lay evangelist, suffered an apparent heart attack April 4 after a game of handball.

The 42-year-old former astronaut was rushed to Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver and placed under intensive care.

Physicians said that Irwin would likely be in the hospital for six weeks and confined to his home for three months.

Two weeks earlier, Irwin had received a complete physical checkup, and his physician told him he was in better shape physically than he had been a year earlier.

On Aug. 1, 1972, Irwin retired from the Air Force and established High Flight as a means of sharing his religious experience while on the surface of the moon. He since has traveled throughout the world, seeking to share with all men everywhere the message that he "felt God's presence on the moon."

Last fall, Irwin traveled throughout the Orient on behalf of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, visiting Baptist missions work and heads of state in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand.

As a result of personal contact on the Vietnam trip, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have just adopted a three-year-old Vietnamese orphan. They adopted the boy through World Vision after meeting him in a Vietnam orphans' home. The boy's name, in Vietnamese, is "Cho" but the

Missionary Captives Confirmed Dead

Documents exhausted after the signing of the Vietnam cease-fire agreement in Paris in January appear to confirm the deaths of two American missionary war captives.

The documents revealed the deaths of Miss Betty Olsen, a Christian and Missionary Alliance nurse, in 1968; and of Mr. Henry Blood of Wycliffe Bible Translators, in 1972. Both had been captured during the Tet offensive of January 1968.

Missionaries known to have died as war casualties now total 14. Three other CMA workers remain unaccounted for.

In a letter addressed to U. S. President Richard M. Nixon in late 1972, SBC missionary Rondal Merrell expressed concern that anti-government soldiers might be allowed to remain in southern territories following the then-anticipated cease-fire. "Their first target," Merrell wrote "is to kill missionaries and their families; then all Christians."

—EBPS

Secret Service

The minister asked me, "Are you a soldier in the Army of the Lord?" I said, "Yes, I am." He said, "Then why do we only see you at Christmas and Easter?" I said, "I'm in the Secret Service."

Irwins have renamed him "Joe" to become the fifth "J" among the Irwin children. The four other Irwin children are named Jimmy, Jan, Joy, and Jill.

Mrs. Irwin, quiet and unassuming, is a Sabbathkeeper, connected with the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.



The Sabbath Recorder

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COVER DESIGN

The Church began in Jesus Christ. The apostles and the lesser known disciples spread the Word, and people took the leap of faith. The Church grew. Its development was arrested as the "dark ages" spread across the pages of European history, but with the dawn of the Renaissance new light began to open the doors of investigative knowledge. With the Reformation, the Church took on new energy and has demonstrated the life that is in her through Jesus Christ. The future is before us, and God's sure promise is of glory to come.

These thoughts stirred the mind of George Clement of North Loup, Nebr., and inspired our cover design. The founding of the Church in Christ is in the lower cross and diamonds. The Reformation is represented by the upper cross and arch. The look to the future is in the spreading rays which extend above. Christ is still the foundation of His Church.

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Light for Life

God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, has called us to Him by Jesus Christ, His Son. In Him He has offered hope to the hopeless and forgiveness to the sinner and humility to the proud. He has offered guidance to those of all ages: youth, new parents, adults. He has offered purpose to the uncommitted and release to the addicted. He has offered peace to the frustrated and challenge to the satisfied. He is "all things to all men." What He does in us is called "salvation" because He saves us from ourselves; our weaknesses, our faults, our sin, our hopelessness, our pride.

*He speaks to each of us where we are about the the problems and joys we know and see. Perhaps you can find yourself on one of the pages of this paper—
and find Christ!*

Do You Have

a Child?

Parenthood is a very special and challenging lifetime commitment. Your child is born a helpless being, and it is your responsibility to meet his needs and prepare him for adulthood. At first this is relatively easy because his needs are largely physical. However, as he grows you find that emotional and spiritual needs become more important. Your child begins to ask questions, to think for himself, and to act in ways you'd rather he didn't. While he is small you can supervise his behavior and learning experiences, but once he enters school your influence is supplemented by that of his teachers and peers. How can you possibly have the wisdom to help your child grow in the proper ways? You can't! Not by yourselves. You need someone to turn to and to entrust your child to. That person is Jesus Christ.

You need Christ's help to meet the needs that arise in family living. Being a Christian does not automatically remove all problems, but relying on Christ can help you react in a loving way. It will make your home a more understanding and harmonious place in which to live. All that is necessary is to allow Christ to love through you.

In many years your child's relationship to you is similar to your relationship to Christ. The conception and birth of a child are living proof of the miracle of the new life God will give you when you open your heart to Christ. The love your child showers on you will remind you of the love God, through Christ, has for you.

Try to let your child know that Christ is the center of your family. Family devotions and regular church attendance are important. If your child hears you praying for guidance and sees the result of that guidance in your daily life he'll naturally come to know Christ's love for himself. You want your child to have as many of life's advantages as you can provide. Why not give him the best opportunity any child could ever have—a loving Christian home where Christ is a constant presence!

—Dale and Barbara Green

As parents our experience with Christ seems to grow deeper and more meaningful as the children grow in age and height. We try to live our daily lives with Christ as our Guide. At first, it was important for us to go to church because we wanted our children to learn about living the principles that Jesus Christ taught. Then we began to question our motives and priorities. We decided, after a long time of doubt and questioning, to make our *personal* commitments to Jesus Christ.

As we learn more about Jesus Christ, we are aware that our children are always watching. Sometimes what they see isn't very much like Christ, but that is no excuse for backing out. With prayer and study, we keep plugging along. As parents, we like to think that there is one thing we can give to our children — *Joy*. The joy of Jesus' gift of everlasting life, the joy of Christian fellowship, and the joy of being individuals whose life on earth will please God. Joy — Jesus first, Others second, You third.

—Nelson and Amanda Snyder

I have found that when I become frustrated it is time for self-examination because there is a sore spot in my life that needs dealing with. Once I have admitted my need to God and faced my frustrations as sin, I am relieved. First John 1:9 tells me that if I confess my sin, the Lord will forgive me. I then ask the Lord to relieve me of my frustration, and I know He will as He promises. I then thank God by faith for what He is about to do. As I thank Him for this victory I claim His promise as stated in Philippians 4:6, 7.

I am happiest when I am productive for Jesus Christ, whether it be serving as a helpmate for my husband, sharing Christ with a friend, or going about my daily household duties. When I set my mind on Christ, I cannot get frustrated. Beginning my day by reading His Word and praying sets the pace for my day and helps me to keep from becoming frustrated.

We have a wall plaque in our kitchen which states, "Home is where each lives for the other and all live for Christ." As I apply this principle to my life there is no room for frustration.

—Seili Bond

To Housewives, Young and Old:

You have learned already that life can be hectic. Living a life in Jesus will teach you that life can and will become a beautiful experience rather than a frustrating one. Jesus' teachings applied to your life will smooth the rough spots. Things that once seemed exasperating no longer count.

The frustrations of a limited income, preparing endless meals, laundry, mending, attending work, church and social obligations, helping your husband make job decisions that will not alter the life God would have you lead, caring for your children, teaching and training them, accumulating the furniture, clothing, and working materials for life—all will fall into their proper perspective if you make Jesus' teachings come first.

A smile on your face will array you more beautifully than any new outfit. Being at peace and enjoying the lives around you makes your smile a sincere one. You can learn from your children, if you take the time, that forgiving is beautiful; it leaves you with an open countenance others can approach.

To the young mother, the lowliest job becomes one of enjoyment if performed with love. Did Jesus not wash the feet of the disciples after a day of walking and teaching? Are you not rewarded with a look of love after changing a soiled diaper? Is your husband not proud of freshly-laundered clothing ready for him when he begins a day?

Your life determines the mood and pace of family life: those about you become at ease if you ask for God's guidance in tasks which seem particularly lowly and trying. That guidance may not rush in all at once, but comes gradually as you attune your life to Jesus' teachings each day. Jesus taught in John 14:13-16, "Anything ye ask in my name, I will do . . . including I will pray the Father and He will send you a Comforter."

You may ask in Jesus' name to receive the energy and the peace to meet each day's obligations, exasperations, tasks, and challenges and be assured of meeting them with the calmness that is needed.

—Robert and Leola Bond

Struggling for Maturity?

Being a Christian is more than going to church every week where you learn memory verses and learn to live by the *Golden Rule*. It is more than being baptized or sprinkled. The time comes when you question whether your faith stems from your own personal belief or whether it is the resulting habit stemming from the faith of your Christian environment.

Christ becomes real to you only when you personally invite Him into your life because you believe He is the Son of God, your Savior and because you need His guidance, strength, and assurance. If at the same time you let the Lord take control of your life by seeking His continual guidance and by living in faith that He will provide your every need, you can experience a new confidence and joy in life. The Christian way of life is a continuing process of growth which takes on new dimensions as you study God's Words and apply them to your daily life. You discover a wonderful purpose for your being. Through your dependence upon God you can learn to love the unlovable, to accept your own faults and try to correct them, and to live in sensitive union with others. You will be able to gain new insights of understanding in what the Lord has planned for your life and how He wants you to live.

The resultant joy and praise will bring a desire for rich Christian fellowship. Out of your love for Christ you will want to share Christ with others so that they too might experience the abundant life. You will be able to continuously feel the presence and beauty of God around you. There will be times of disappointment, frustration, and insecurity, but all you need do is reach out in prayer for the strength and courage of God and He will see you through. This is when we have to stand firm in the Lord and receive the glorious blessing of His joy, peace, and love in our innermost being.

Delight in life in the Lord today!
—Ruth Burdick

I was raised in a wonderful Christian home acknowledging the Christian principles to which my parents adhered. While in seventh grade, I first realized that I had to develop my own faith and beliefs and make a personal decision for the Lord. It was not until I was a senior that I was forced to realize that my temperament and self-centeredness kept me from a deeper relationship with my Lord. I asked Jesus to come into my heart that night at campfire. I began to view the world in a new perspective. For me life began. What joy! My next step in spiritual growth was when I relinquished to Christ the control of my life. He now is beautifully in charge.

Each day my Lord enriches and blesses my life through friends; beauty; warm, exciting, living experiences; and especially through His Word, the Bible. God's plan for my life has been inexpressibly more wonderful than I could ever have hoped for if I had been on my own power. Believe me, I've been out of communion with God and have felt downright miserable and guilty, but, praise the Lord! He is a forgiving Master!

—Ruth Burdick

Dear Junkie.

Getting high! Remember when you first heard about getting high? It sounded so exciting and scary; all at once. But after you try it once, you see that all your fears were foolish, and those stories you heard were just propaganda and lies. It feels really good. No worries or problems. Just get off and float away. But for some reason, it just doesn't seem to stay that nice, does it?

Dope's not always easy to get without a lot of money. And that's bad if you really need it. When you get it are you sure it's good? Coke, LSD, Smack, or is it really just horse tranquilizers—or does it even matter any more? Man, take a good, close, honest look at yourself! Your body is ready to collapse from abuse, and your head is just a tangled web. What does being burnt out, freaked out, and loaded really mean? Why is it what so many freaks look so miserable if they are really having such a good time? Look at yourself! You've got no purpose — except to stay high. How did it all start? Were you looking for truth or hiding from it?

Look up! There's a way out of this trap, but there's only one way. Jesus is that way. I'm not talking about that religion that you despise so much. I mean a real person sent by God, His Father, for no other reason but to save you and me. He did not send Him because we deserve it, but because He loves us — no matter how wasted we are. How many dope dealers would die for you? How many of your friends would be persecuted to death for you? Jesus did, and He's waiting for you to return His love. He can fix your head, cure your body and save your soul. No that's FAR OUT!

—David August

I spent the last five years of my life under the influence of one drug or another, but the reasons were always the same. I was looking for something more than just a life filled with pain, lived for no other reason than to survive and be successful. But instead of finding anything better, I ruined my health and drove myself over the brink of insanity. It was while I was five weeks into a cocaine run that I came face to face with Jesus and accepted Him as my personal liberator. Since then I've been too high in Christ to do any more dope. Everything I ever looked for was to be found in Jesus all along. This world is no longer a hassle because my sights are set on the New World to come. I'm still suffering because of the way I abused myself, but now I have hope and eternal life P. T. L.

—David August.

Lonely? Listen:

By Justin C. Camenga

Sincere congratulations and best wishes to you if you are sad, lonely or depressed right now! You are very fortunate, and I hope you will understand why as you think along with me for two minutes.

You know something very important about life which many people do not know. The commercials and programs you watch have taught you that satisfaction, contentment, and happiness are the result of owning or becoming something, and that good people want and get good things. But you know that—

- good things do not bring lasting happiness, or
- your best efforts cannot always bring about your greatest desire, or
- what you gain may change in value or be lost.

Perhaps you have turned one way and another as the many experiences of life provided excitement-filling time, mind, memory and purse, and hoping that these will somehow dull the anguish of your starving heart. If you have, you know that soon you lie to others. Claiming to feel "fine" you assemble your mental and physical powers to grind through another day, smiling outside, screaming for help inside—yet not wishing to bother anyone: lonely, sad, intent on keeping busy —

Before you turn to yet another diversion, consider this: If you see that contentment and satisfaction do not proceed from anything on earth, you can be glad, because that knowledge leads you to seek that which is most important in life—its Author, God—its Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who said He had come to give you abundant life (John 10:10). Not a life without pain, but with a full measure of everything, here, —now — forever.

It's your move, if you want to win
—try Reverse Evangelism.
Find a Christian and bother him a little.

"I am lonely and oppressed" (Psa. 25:16). In times of loneliness and depression, I have found that nothing helps like human companionship. I need to experience Christ's love in a fellow human being. Companionship does not exist in a vacuum; it must be embodied in the flesh, in the person of a living, breathing friend.

I am coming to appreciate group prayer as a means of interpersonal communication. I express my cares and joys in the hearing of others, and listen to their prayers, and find that we are communicating with each other as well as with the Lord, bridging the gap of loneliness. "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18). I have learned that the Lord created us for each other.

— Alan Crouch

Proud To Be You?

By Glen Warner

"God is always against the proud, but he is always ready to give grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

We tend to become what we worship. This is the land of plenty. It is a competitive society, and pride is the natural weapon in the success struggle. Performance is our praise. High standing demands sacrifice and hard work. No one will fault ambition. Think yourself superior and you may become excellent in your skills.

Think yourself superior to others, however, and you will become defensive and unhappy. The proud person is the one who by his own status-seeking will find himself alone, and in bad company. Excellence of the spiritual person within you is not produced by the same rules that apply in society at large. The delusions of status can infect your spiritual person within to the point of sickness and even to death.

The weary ladder-climbing self within is not healed simply by religious performance. Jesus demonstrated in His life and teachings (Luke 18:10) that life is most worth living when a person is right with God. Even a negative pride that says, "I am glad that I am *not* as other men," is insufficient. That is a person still trying to be content with a fragment. Happiness in life is a derivative of a relationship—not a goal to be gained by self-sufficiency. True meaning of the self is the result of an open-minded search for the Living God, until He finds you.

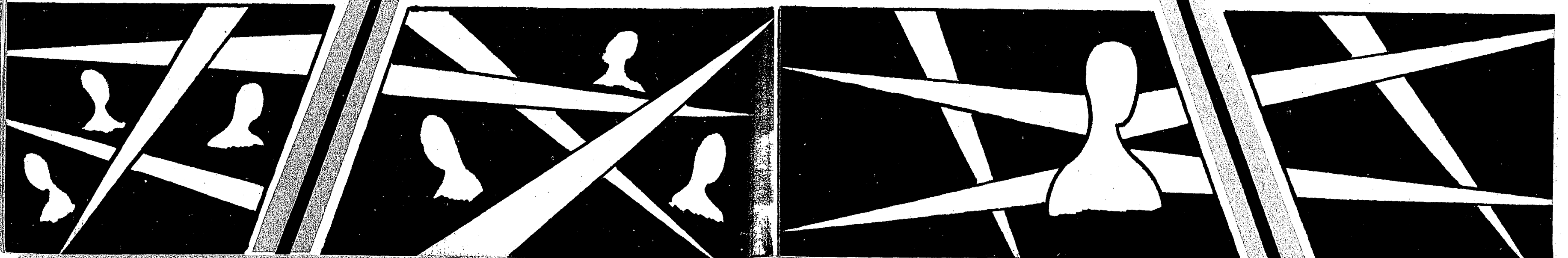
You may have an easier and nobler self to live with than you realize. Because of his self-confidence, the proud person may be prohibited in moving from security to trust. It takes both courage and a willingness to admit that God can accept you, even your pride and the causes of your pride.

Don't be content with a fragment. Give God a real chance to open you up and to expand your life. He loves you irregardless of your performance. His grace can become the greatest resource in your whole life. Put Him first, and watch the ladders in your life topple.

It is a startling thing to be brought up short by your pride. During my years in seminary I felt I had discovered the true meaning of brotherhood. But my pride got the best of me—it took a real beating as my overtures of concerns for others were left unacknowledged—unheralded.

In a seminar class I brought my frustrations up, declaring my inability to see how people could refuse to respond to my unabashed overtures of "love." The professor looked at me in surprise at my selfish ignorance and replied, "Agape—God's divine love that is to be in each of us — NEVER demands a response." That expression of concern for my pride has always been with me. God's love is a wonderful possession and we must give it day by day, but it NEVER DEMANDS A RESPONSE. I only pray that His love might become more real to me each day in order that I may really learn to LOVE—love without demanding recognition for what I have done. That is burying pride once and for all.

—Herbert E. Saunders



Forgiveness Is Now

By Leland and Betty Cobb

God loves you! He has a plan for you! If you feel the weight of wrongdoing, of sin, this is for you!

You may feel deep down in your heart that there is something better than you now have. If you will you may recognize this longing as the voice of God to your soul. Ask Him to give you repentance, to reveal Christ to you in His infinite love, in His perfect purity. Jesus has died so that you may live. Come with your whole heart to Jesus, and claim His blessing. Accept the gift and take it with the faith of a child. Then say: "I believe it, not because I feel it, but because God is true, and He has promised."

Christ can free you from fear, worry, dejection, jealousy, hatred, pride, lust, self-pity, addiction, oppression—all the sins of your life. God's Word says: "... if any man be in Christ, He is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). As a new creature in Christ you should have the fruits of the Spirit in your own life: "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."

After giving in to Christ, you will gradually lose your selfish love of things and sensations and will be more sensitive to His leading and to the needs of others. The discouragements of others will become yours; the joys of others will become yours. You will become involved with life. You will experience true joy and true peace for the first time.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

During this past year we have learned that we can, as it says in His Word, come to the throne of God, boldly in Jesus' name for what we want, and it will be given. To claim the promise that we shall do even greater things than Christ himself (Jn. 14:12) makes us realize we have access to power which we have never used. In an experience in our family, we did claim the promises and knew God could deliver. We acted on it. Praise the Lord, the miracle happened! The key to the whole problem has been a slow releasing of our wills, minds, bodies, tongues—our complete lives—to the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord, we are seeking, learning, surrendering, growing a little more each day. We know what has to happen. The next thing is to do it. To believe in God is one thing; to know God is another, for to know Him is to love Him.
—Leland and Betty Cobb

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Satisfied as You Are?

By Dale and Althea Rood

You must be an individual whom other people wish they could be like. You are confident of yourself and what you can do. You know what you want to do or at least have a few good possibilities. Your future looks bright. You have friends. You have family. Life certainly looks like a satisfying experience.

I have a challenge for you. Are you ready? The challenge is . . . No, I bet you are not ready. Why do I think that? Because people who are satisfied with things as they are rarely take on challenges, for to take a challenge means they are not satisfied with something as it is. People who take on challenges work and strive to excel, but people who are satisfied with life are happy to let things be and just enjoy being satisfied.

I think it only fair to warn you, however, Jesus talked about a man in just about the same situation as you are, in Luke 12:16-29. This man said to himself upon seeing his vast wealth and resources, "Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry." Sounds good, doesn't it. But Jesus went on in His story, "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'" Tell me, if you heard a knock at your door tonight and, upon answering it, discovered Jesus standing there, what would you say? You know, Jesus Himself gave the challenge I was going to mention earlier. He said, "You are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). Have you met that challenge? Jesus is the Way to meet it, for He also said, "No one comes to the Father, but through me" (John 14: 6b).

A person can be so caught up in his job and his achievement that nothing else matters: not God, not family, and not fellow human beings. I was that man!
When I asked Christ to come into my life, for the first time I found the peace which so often I had heard about. Accepting Christ has given me a new purpose in life looking for opportunities to help people. It created for me a new excitement in living, a new zest and enthusiasm. The sheer joy I experience in doing something for my family, those I work with, my customers and those I meet is like putting fuel on a fire. I forget myself; I am not thinking negatively but looking on the bright side of each situation. This grows; it builds; it's exciting! I can't do this on my own, I must ask Christ to help me on a daily basis.
—Morris Streich

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Is It Real?

There are many wonderful blessings which we enjoy as members of our local church: weekly services, times of fellowship, church dinners, summer camps, Bible studies, choir, even business meetings and work bees—all can have great meaning and benefit for us. Yet there is a danger in all this which is subtle, but very real. Because our day-by-day lives are relatively easy and luxurious many of us feel no real need for a personal Savior.

It is quite possible to be a member of a local church for years without taking Jesus Christ too seriously, without really becoming a Christian at all. It is easy for one to be indifferent and lukewarm to the claims of Christ. Just see what the Lord said to members of the Laodicean church: "I know your deeds that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:15-16, NASB). He just wants us to take a stand concerning Jesus Christ! He cannot tolerate indifference.

Take a look at your own life for a moment. Has church participation become just a weekly routine? It has happened many times that a lifelong church member has been asked to give a testimony of what Jesus has done for him personally, only to discover that he has nothing to tell. Jesus intends for the Christian's life to be exciting! If, even after years of church membership, you're not absolutely certain whether you're really a Christian — sometimes it seems like you are and sometimes it doesn't—why not settle the matter now? It's so simple! Jesus said to that same Laodicean church: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Rev. 3:20). Just invite Jesus into your life and believe that He comes and forgives you. Then watch Him make life exciting for you!

—Steven Crouch

I didn't need God to be successful. I didn't need God to be a good American. I didn't need God to get a good wife. I didn't need God to have two wonderful children. I didn't need God to become a church member, I didn't need God to become a commissioner and president of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. But I did need something.

Through an experience with Christian Business Men's Committee in 1968 I discovered what that something was. There was nothing that I could do for God, but God could do it all for me. I had been "playing church" in the role of a "self-appointed" Christian. I was religious without being a "born again" Christian. Now He lives within me.

This experience in my life gave import to the words of Luke 22:32, ". . . when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." It was then that the burdens of responsibility were lifted and my witness for Him became effective. *God could do it all for me.* Now I can speak with confidence to my fellow man of the Christ who changes lives.

—Leland Bond

Christian. Do You Need Help?

When you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, the Lord provides a number of experiences to help you in your developing Christian faith and life. The dearest of these is the day-by-day experience of His own presence and power within you. He simply fulfills his promise: "I will be with you always." He provides the opportunity, the invitation for you to pray alone daily. The time of private devotion and prayer is one of the experiences He offers to you to enable you to grow in understanding and in faith and in life.

The fellowship of His people is given to you to be your aid; for His Church is a fellowship of faith and worship and love and service. It is yours as a gift from God, your Savior.

You may find His gifts all around you, each one tailored to fit your need to grow and to serve.

The Sabbath is just such a gift. He provided it

—that it might mark the rhythm of your weeks with holiness;

—that it might give you opportunity to throw off nagging cares and rejoice in Him;

—that it might insert into the daily routine the importance of devotional life and service to others and fellowship with those who find a Savior in Him;

—that it might imprint upon your life a pattern of worship which recognizes Him as Lord;

—that it might give you new hope and new life because you meet Him by His appointment and find your life renewed in Him;

—that it might prove to be that which will unite with His other gifts to hold you close to the Father and make you His obedient, loving, faithful child.

God's gifts to aid you in your developing Christian faith and life are all around you. He who knows you better than you know yourself has prepared them and offered them for your needs. The Sabbath stands among them, as a part of God's own plan for your life of devotion and service. Christ himself is its Lord (Mark 2:27, 28). Accept this gift of His love for your good.

I think of the Sabbath as one of those personal gifts from God which has come to me and brought me blessing. From the time I can first remember, Friday afternoon brought a bustle of preparation: smells from the kitchen were enticing as Sabbath dinner was prepared, largely in advance; shoes were shined; baths were taken; and the Sabbath, beginning at sundown, brought a sense of accomplishment and change. Sabbath morning brought associations with friends at the church. After the church services and dinner a small boy sat by his mother's rocker to hear her read.

I no longer sit beside her rocker, but the Sabbath still comes into my life each week and gives it balance and reminds me both of my obligation to God and of the gifts He gives through Jesus Christ. I could not live my life without this gift from God.

Conclusion:

The Power and the Glory

Whenever we sit down in quietness we are confronted with the necessity to think. Actually we have a tendency to avoid the process. I like to pick up a crossword puzzle to keep my attention. Some turn on TV or radio. Some pick up a book, others, the telephone. So, unless we discipline ourselves or catch ourselves un-awares, we seldom let our minds concentrate for long on anything other than our daily activities. We use so little of what God has given us.

It is the "thing" just now to comment that when we do really think things out, the old traditional ways go out the window, and the old traditional faith just has to be doubted. For this is an age of doubt. But it is equally true that there never has been an age of faith. Ever since Christ came to earth the age of doubt has been with us. Even we who have given our pledge to Jesus Christ are subject to doubt.

We couldn't be so inconsistent, so unable to make up our minds, so unsure of right and wrong, so haphazard about the things of faith if we were always sure about Him. Why is it that we hesitate and toy with ideas and acts we know are wrong if it isn't that we doubt the eternal verities; e. g., "You shall reap what you sow." Why is it that we let our religion become "Sabbath-morning-in church" rather than a sustaining force every day of our lives if it isn't that we doubt the reality of Christ's promise to be with us always and everywhere? Why is it that we allow boisterous fun and business matters to invade our Sabbathkeeping if it isn't that we doubt the reality of the promises of God relative to blessing and goodness coming from a Sabbath kept holy?

The problem may well be doubt, but the solution to that problem is not so apparent. Still, there are a number of

experiences, both Biblical and modern, which demonstrate how we may move from insecurity to security, from vacillation to steadiness, from surface religion to deep and abiding love, from the question marks of doubt to the exclamation points of faith.

At the time of Jesus, the people of Jerusalem and the others who had come up to the great feast were expectant. Rumors were flying. Questions were being asked. Hope was high: Was this the time when Messiah would come? The leaders of the people were aghast: How shall we maintain order? How shall we quench this false spirit? How shall we maintain order? How shall we keep things as they are until God really delivers us?

But the masses of the people were asking questions of another sort: Will He come? Do you really think so? Who is He? Some say it is Jesus of Nazareth!

Then the moment came! Jesus came into the city riding on a donkey's colt, just as the prophet had said Messiah would come. The expectant multitude went wild. Over the noise of holiday and holyday, the cries of these people were heard. Joy shone on their faces. Ecstasy beamed from their eyes and gave tongue in their voices. They forgot themselves in the enthusiasm of the moment. They found themselves caught up and carried along by excitement. They did not pause to wonder or to debate as they laid their cloaks on the ground for his donkey to walk on. They did not seek for some cheaper way to show their respect. No! They were lifted up on a flood tide of spontaneous enthusiasm. They shouted: "Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna! Save, thou that dwellest on high." These are the exclamation points of enthusiastic fervor. Gone are the question marks of doubt. They might as well have been

shouting: "Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory."

But the vision and the enthusiasm of that moment were gone quickly. And we follow the long line of men who question the Christ. We say: Is he really the way? —Or, if we admit that He is, we consider some of His teaching to be impractical in our world. Is He really the Truth? Has He anything to offer me? Does He fit into the world with all its changes? How can I find time for Him? Is He, a Jew, really the Lord of all the earth? Is He who was known as a carpenter's son, the Savior of men? If He is so wonderful and so powerful why doesn't He stop war and famine and illness and suffering? Isn't He interested in us?

The questions go on and on: Why should I follow a man who died over 1900 years ago? On and on and on . . .

But for some people the questions have been answered. They are over, ended. The question marks have disappeared, and the exclamation points have moved in. They have forgotten themselves in an enthusiastic welcome to the Christ. They are caught up and carried along by the contagion of sincere worship. They no longer pause to question or to hold back. They cry out, as did the crowd of old: "Praise God! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." For the Truth that is Jesus Christ has struck home within them and they are spontaneously enthusiastic about Him.

This journey from the question marks about Jesus Christ to the exclamation points about Him is one which every person may take. I suspect that most of us are on the road, somewhere in between. It is the journey of faith, that loving trust which is faith makes the difference. That is what changed the doubters into shouters. That is what changed cowards into brave men. That is what gave final point and purpose to Jesus' work. That is what brings Him into focus in these modern times. Loving trust that in this Man, Jesus, we have the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Loving trust that He is able

to guide and to save — this is the transforming power.

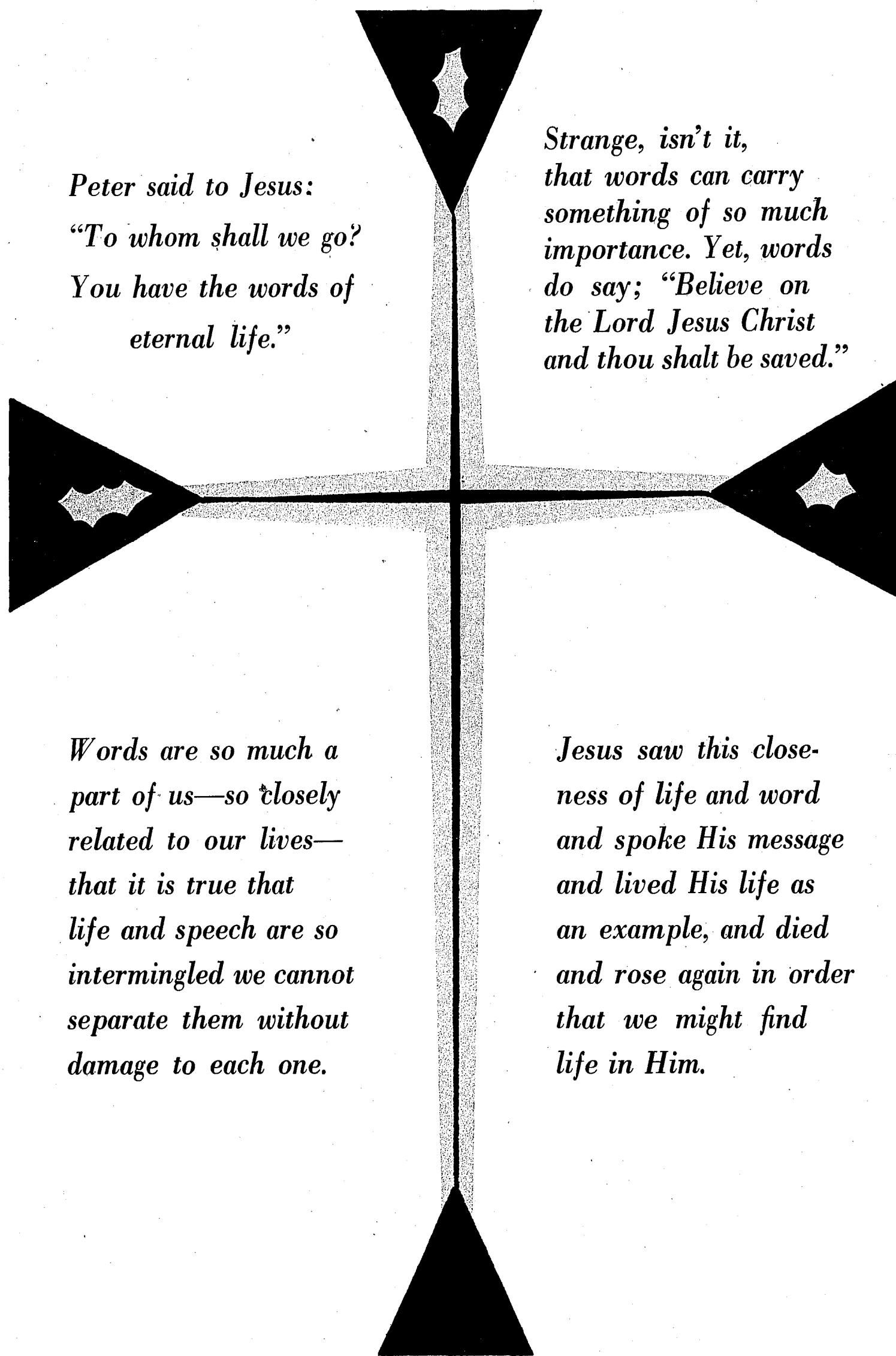
What does it mean to say, "He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life"? It means that all our life is wrapped up in Him, that there is no truth about anything that is not His truth, that life as we know it is not life without Him. You may disbelieve! and go on and on, searching for meaning and purpose and missing the greatest and best part of life. You may disbelieve and go on and on without real hope for the future in this world or the next. Or you may believe! and be transformed. You may believe and find the power and the glory of Jesus Christ in your own life.

Our Guest Editor



The Rev. Victor W. Skaggs, editor of this evangelistic special issue has been pastor of the North Loup, Nebr., Seventh Day Baptist Church since November 1970. In the years just prior to his return to the pastorate he set up the new Center for Ministerial Education in the Seventh Day Baptist Building at Plainfield, N. J., and served as its first dean. He was active in the work of the American Sabbath Tract Society, helping guide the Publishing House in its change-over to strictly denominational printing in 1967. He has served on important denomination committees and as president of the General Conference.

The Sabbath Recorder



*Peter said to Jesus:
"To whom shall we go?
You have the words of
eternal life."*

*Strange, isn't it,
that words can carry
something of so much
importance. Yet, words
do say; "Believe on
the Lord Jesus Christ
and thou shalt be saved."*

*Words are so much a
part of us—so closely
related to our lives—
that it is true that
life and speech are so
intermingled we cannot
separate them without
damage to each one.*

*Jesus saw this close-
ness of life and word
and spoke His message
and lived His life as
an example, and died
and rose again in order
that we might find
life in Him.*

Pause For Power



**"THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD
SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH;
THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH
WINGS AS EAGLES, THEY SHALL
RUN, AND NOT BE WEARY, AND
THEY SHALL WALK, AND NOT
FAINT."
— ISA. 40:31**

JACK HAMM