

# the CHOSEN PEOPLE

Nov. 1976



*Why*

*I'm*

*more*

*thankful*



*pages 6, 7, 8, 9*



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Dearly Beloved Friends:

Let's make our bicentennial Thanksgiving Day a Jewish holiday! There is an attitude about the rabbinic theology of thanksgiving that is beautiful.

Many years ago we had our Mission summer camp in the hills of Connecticut and I really looked forward to my visit. It was a wonderful day. The weather was perfect. From morning to evening, the hours were crowded with good things: food, fun, and fellowship. I had a great day with the kids.

After the campfire, I walked from one cabin to another and eavesdropped at the devotions. One by one, the boys with grateful hearts remembered their parents at home. Many of them thanked the Lord for camp, their counsellors, loving care and the good food.

Then there was silence and the counsellor urged the boys to think of one more item for praise. The silence was broken by a lad of eight who was evidently making his first public prayer. Nervous but still eager he prayed,

"Dear Lord I thank God for God. Amen."

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength . . ." What deeper theology could be written than this pearl of wisdom from the lips of a lad?

We will soon celebrate our bicentennial Thanksgiving Day, but we have forgotten how to give thanks. Our grain elevators are full. The politicians have seen to it that in this election year our economy is booming. Many families own at least two cars. Our standard of living is rising. No longer do we toil for our bread by the sweat of our brow.

And still in this land of abundance, we cannot find time to go to the house of the Lord and thank Him for all His goodness. The family altar has given way to the family orgy. With empty hearts and overfull stomachs we are about to celebrate a day of gluttony.

"I thank God for God." Our little lad had discovered a truth of rabbinic theology. When a pious Jew gives thanks, he doesn't thank God for things. He thanks God for Himself. Every prayer of thanks begins with the benediction, "Praised art Thou, O Lord."

*The benediction is essentially an utterance of gratitude for God's beneficence.*

*The rabbis formulated benedictions for . . . the usual experiences of daily life . . . rising from sleep, dressing, eating, and drinking . . . on emerging safely from a dangerous situation, the Jew praises God, "who bestows benefits upon the undeserving."*

*Thus eating bread became not only an occasion for worship but an act of consecration. Life . . . tended to become a religious adventure, or, as the rabbis called it, a partnership with God . . .*

Abraham Millgram, *Jewish Worship*, pp. 91, 92.





*Why I'm more thankful this year*

**“All of His gifts are wonderful and worthy of our praise, but behind all of His mercies is God Himself”**

“I thank God for God.” Do you understand now why I stated we should make this Thanksgiving Day a Jewish holiday? Ingratitude is the sin of our nation. It is the result of not giving God His rightful place in our thinking. We are unthankful in the same degree that we are unaware of the fact of God.

The doctrine of God is probably the most neglected teaching of theology. People are interested in learning if Isaiah foretold the airplane, or if Peter prophesied the hydrogen bomb. These items are interesting tid-bits for intellectual nibbling, but they are shallow indeed and even harmful if they divert our minds and our hearts from the central truth of the Bible.

The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to mankind, and every page of it should make us more aware of Him and of His will for us. When Paul would prove that the heathen world is without excuse he began his indictment with its neglect of God and its resulting unthankfulness: “Because

that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful . . .” (Rom. 1:21).

We as a nation should thank God not only for all of His gifts to us but for Himself. All of His gifts are wonderful and worthy of our praise, but behind all of His mercies is God Himself. Let’s invite Him to our tables and make this a real Thanksgiving Day.

Do not misunderstand me. There’s nothing wrong about a good Thanksgiving Day meal—enjoy! A day of real thanksgiving should also be a festive occasion for the Lord’s people.

Our Lord never defended the charge that He frequently ate with publicans and sinners. It was at the table that He gave great truths about Himself to His disciples. His message to the church at Laodicea can validly be applied to repentant sinners during all ages, and it speaks of a feast.

*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to*

*him, and will sup with him, and he with me (Rev. 3:20).*

But remember it is not the meal, but the presence of the Lord Himself. “Praised be Thou, O Lord, king of the Universe.”

Faithfully yours in His service,

*Samuel Tuck*

P.S. We are happy to announce that we have received our initial shipment of Dr. Henry Heydt’s book, *The Chosen People Question Box II*. The printer assures us that more will arrive in good time for Christmas giving.

Dr. Heydt’s “Question and Answer” column in *The Chosen People* is one of the most popular features of the magazine.

Here is a splendid gift for your pastor, Sunday School teacher or friend—also, buy yourself a gift. First come, first served!



Eliezer Urbach (Missionary, Denver) prays as Amy Rose (l) 27, confesses her faith in the Messiah by water baptism.

**I** WAS brought up essentially without formal religious training. My mother was of Jewish background and my father's family were Quakers. Neither one practiced religious beliefs but I have always considered myself Jewish. I know that I always identify with Jews and am proud of my ethnic background.

I have always prayed to God but have not always been a believer. I was unable to accept the real identity of Jesus because I understood that He was a different deity from God and I could only believe that one God existed.

God has been directing me toward Christianity in many ways my whole life. I did not realize this as I went through several "fads" of Eastern religious beliefs, but I see now that even when I was meditating according to an Indian technique, that God was working to prepare me for acceptance of Christ.

My conversion was facilitated by a close friend and some of the members of his Hebrew-Christian fellowship. The night I accepted Christ was the

night I finally learned that Jesus walked on earth as a man who was God. There is no contradiction as I had thought.

My acceptance of Christ has not brought me *instant* peace or *uncompromised* joy. I realize through my very conviction that I must experience a conflict within between my new and my old selves.

I have lived for twenty-seven years

wonderful friendships, and the ability to lose the bitterness of a painful past.

Of doctrine I know very little. I am confident the truth will be born to my understanding as I study and pray. My greatest joy is that I have found harmony between the Judaism which is my family heritage and Christ Who is my salvation.

Before I accepted Christ, my mind was often tortured with contradiction.

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**“. . . my greatest joy is that I have found harmony between the Judaism which is my family heritage and Christ Who is my salvation . . .”**

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as a skeptic and a rationalist. When doubt abates and I feel minutes of unending peace in my heart, then I know that skepticism is a sickness which He can heal.

God has led me to Himself through my heart and through the joy and confidence which sometimes rises within me for no apparent reason. I consider the many gifts He has given to me; opportunities for happiness,

I could accept nothing which reason could not figure out. Now that I am a Christian, I understand that there is a truth which is beyond the logic of intellectual thought. I can rest in the serenity which comes with sure conviction.

I am looking towards Thanksgiving Day with thanksgiving in my heart for the great salvation that the Lord gave me through the Messiah Jesus. ▲

I AM grateful to the Lord for redeeming me from death to life.

I am the "Jack" of Rev. Robert E. A. Miller's article entitled "A Shattered Soul Restored" in the May, 1976 issue of "The Chosen People."

This body, shattered by cancer, now has a most tranquil mind. Through believing prayer Jesus has given me peace of mind and the strength to live on a day-by-day basis with this disease.

I hope that He will keep giving me the ability to reach out to others who are experiencing similar trials.

Each day I grow stronger in my belief that Jesus is my Messiah. Since opening my home to a Beth Sar Shalom monthly Bible class, I have learned that giving brings many unpredictable returns.

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**"... this body, shattered by cancer, now has a most tranquil mind... Jesus has given me peace of mind..."**

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July, for instance, was the first month that I had to miss having the study group at my home. I was hospitalized for surgery, but the Lord had His reasons for putting me there. This is what happened.

During one of many visits to the hospital by Rev. Miller, Bill Katin and Dana Kasdan of Beth Sar Shalom, I expressed the desire to have a young couple share my home so I would not be alone.

Dana, who had been quietly standing aside, said, "How about Jean and I?" They stayed with me a short time but added a wonderful dimension to my life.

Since both of my children are grown-up and no longer with me, Dana and Jean made me feel like Job whose family was returned to him two-fold.

How wonderful it is to live by the grace of God. Thank You, dear God, for I have much to be thankful for through all the adversities. ▲



*The Lord had His reasons for Jack Schwartz's hospital stay.*

When I graduated from high school she gave me a Bible. I have been a believer ever since. But the sad part of my life is when we moved to Chicago twenty-five years ago I neglected to fellowship with Hebrew Christians.

Great was my loss these past twenty-five years. Last year however, I started attending a Hebrew Christian Fellowship (ABMJ's Dyann and Barry Budoff's Bible study) and my life has become much more meaningful.

I have a dear friend, Freda by name, who is a few years my senior, but she doesn't know my Lord Jesus.

I have tried on numerous occasions to witness to her about

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**"... I am nearing seventy but I'm never alone. The blessed Lord is always with me... and I know when that time comes..."**

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my Lord but she considers herself too intellectual to believe in such a simplistic way to God.

She says that she believes there is a Being in the universe but she can't believe in a Messiah. Because of her unbelief she is a most miserable senior citizen.

She is very apprehensive of dying some night because she lives alone.

How different is my situation.

I am nearing seventy but I'm never alone. The blessed Lord is always with me—dwells in me and I know when that time comes "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death" there will be no such fears for me. ▲



*Edith Gartenkraut admits she's a very different senior citizen.*

**W**HEN I came over from Poland I was a young girl of fourteen. We came to a small town in Iowa where a kind Christian lady took me with her to her Sunday school class. There I learned about Jesus the Messiah.



Harry Prince wouldn't participate in the singing but heard every word that was said.

**I** HAD always felt incomplete. I had no love for anyone. I was rebellious, stubborn and most of all the master of my own destiny. My best friend was alcohol which sent me to prison for three years.

My wife and daughter were believers. They would leave ABMJ tracts all over the house. If I opened my dresser drawer, I would find *I Found The Messiah* on top of my socks.

I would reach over the table for the newspaper and tucked inside was *Twenty-One Reasons (A Rabbinical student gives reasons why he believes Jesus is the Messiah)*.

Wherever I looked there was a tract staring at me. My wife would pray for things that I only worried about. And her prayers were getting answered.

Several times I went along with my wife to the Friday night fellowship at Beth Sar Shalom in Hollis, N.Y. The people were very friendly and welcomed me.

I'd just sit there and wouldn't participate in any of the singing. But I

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**“... wherever I looked there was a tract staring at me. My wife would pray for things that I only worried about. And her prayers were getting answered...”**

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heard every word that was said. There was a kinship there; a sort of bond these people had between them.

Sometimes the thought crossed my mind, that what I heard at the mission just might be true. But I had many doubts.

One afternoon, Herb Zwickel invited my wife and I to lunch. We sat at his dining room table, with our Bibles open.

From the Old Testament he explained the Trinity and the promises fulfilled in the New Testament.

After that I had a better understanding of what it really meant to be born-again.

A new interest seemed to be awakening in me. I even picked up the Bible and started to read it.

I called Herb Zwickel and we prayed together over the phone. He suggested a few Scriptures for me to read. Still I had my doubts.

Then one evening Eleanor Bullock of Beth Sar Shalom in Hollis suggested I take my family to the Brookdale Baptist Church in New Jersey. When the invitation was given, I raised my hand.

I started to cry inside. When my daughter said, “I’ll go up with you daddy,” the tears were coming out of my eyes.

Since then my attitude has begun to change. I have a love for people which I never had before and a hunger for

the Bible. I enrolled in two home Bible courses.

God has also taken away my desire for smoking and drinking.

I’m much happier this year than last year because on January 20, 1976, Jesus came into my heart. ▲



Marlene Rovner—no time for boredom in the new life.

**I**’M fifteen years old, Jewish and this past July I accepted Jesus Christ.

I am more thankful this year because before I found Jesus, I used to look for any kind of entertainment: Marijuana, wild parties, just to keep from being bored.

Now I can sit back and read the Bible, or go to church and never feel bored.

When things are going wrong and I don’t know what to do, Jesus helps me do the right thing.

When I feel depressed, I have the Lord to help me. He gives me peace in my heart and I know everything is going

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**“... when I feel depressed I have the Lord to help me...”**

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to be alright. Before, I didn’t know who to turn to.

I’m thankful that my parents understand and are glad that I’ve accepted Christ. I know some parents wouldn’t.

I’m thankful for friends who feel the same way I do about Christ. Friends I can share things with instead of some of the friends I used to have who would get me in trouble.

When I talk to my old friends about Christ and what He has done for me, they think I’m weird and want to change the subject.

With my new friends at church, we almost always talk about Jesus and really enjoy ourselves. ▲



**H**AVE one child, a daughter. She is married and has two young children. Not quite three years ago we had a horrible tragedy. My son-in-law had gone to visit a friend who had just opened a night club.

While he was there some gang leaders were throwing chairs around so he stayed five minutes and left. When he walked out the door, six of them stabbed him. He was taken to the hospital and died five hours later. It was such a shock. He was only thirty-one-years old and came from a very religious family.

I guess God had His way of leading me to Beth Sar Shalom. I always had a feeling of searching and didn't know what it was.

**“ . . . the Bible studies . . . seemed to make such sense . . . I wanted to have God in my life, I wanted to know more about Him . . . ”**

The first time I came here life seemed so unbearable. I thought that if I came and prayed it would help me. Once I started coming regularly I felt a calmness. I felt God was really honoring my life and I began to see things differently.

In the Bible studies, whatever subject we covered seemed to make such sense to me. I wanted to have God in my life. I wanted to know more about him.

On August 10, Doris (secretary, Beth Sar Shalom, Philadelphia) and I were discussing little things and talking about the Bible. Secretly, I wanted her to ask me if I wanted to accept the Lord. When she did I was so excited.

I feel entirely different now. I have lost that feeling of—



Mrs. Doris Donnellon (sec'y. ABMJ Phila.) with new believer Jean Carrabs (r).

don't know—resentment. I have a different outlook on life. God is with me all the time, guiding me. ▲



Rev. Hal Lindsey

Dr. W. A. Criswell



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## "Into the Hearts of His Elect"

We thank God for what He is accomplishing in this part of the world. The American Board of Missions to the Jews is continuing its ministry in spite of well-known facts: a 525% inflation last year, the political bankruptcy, the new failure of democracy and the escalation of guerrillas.

But God is still on His throne and as in every chapter of His work through history, He never fails!

The promise that "the Word of God will never return void . . ." is always true. New names have been added in the Book of Life to the long list of Jewish people who believe in Jesus as

the Messiah.

A Jewish widow has recently believed and is regularly attending our meetings. Hers is a happy face, enjoying a new experience in her soul. Her daughter also attends our services from time to time.

She invited a Jewish lady lawyer who also has believed in Jesus, whose interest and thirst for our Bible study is an inspiration to us all.

Another Jewish girl has for some years been attending our Saturday and Wednesday meetings. Some days ago she confessed her faith in Jesus as her Messiah.

She had never made a decision be-

fore and when I asked her about such a step, she humbly yet firmly answered "How could I keep coming to your meetings for such a long time, if I didn't believe in Jesus as my Messiah?" We praise God for her!

**By Rev. Victor Sedaca  
Missionary in Charge,  
Buenos Aires**

Another woman is paralyzed as the result of a car accident some years ago. She sent us a very encouraging letter in which she said: "I listened to your broadcast message last week, and I am very happy to tell you that I am a

Several weeks ago I was made aware of the subtle yet real influence the evil one has over masses of people who went to see the movie "The Omen."

Rev. Ben Alpert suggested we formulate a pamphlet using "The Omen" as the opener and closing with the Messiah Jesus. With prayer and encouragement from Ben, ideas began to fall into place.

The ominous character of the Antichrist seemed a prime opportunity to explain his opposing relationship to the genuine Christ of God. We included verses from Revelation where the vileness of the Antichrist beast will only serve to accentuate the purity, glory and excellence of the King of Kings.

As a result of our initial witnessing with this pamphlet, a group of believers from Wisconsin have distributed it while the movie was showing in their home town.

Yes, "The Omen" is a very real portrayal of the power of Satan in the Antichrist. But as believers we must share "the author and perfecter of our faith" with unbelievers, that we may all come to realize the power of the Messiah to reign victoriously over the evil one.

## The Omen:

## SIGN OF THE TIMES?

**By Rev. Myron Schweitzer  
Missionary, Chicago**



Myron Schweitzer (r) invites a passerby to investigate the Answer to "The Omen."

Jewish believer in Jesus Christ.

"I would be very grateful to receive your literature and join other Jewish believers in the Messiah in order to enjoy a real fellowship in Him."

Our English classes have been intended as a friendly contribution to our Jewish neighborhood. Most of the students are Jewish and over eighteen years of age.

Even though we do not push them to make a decision for the Lord we give our testimonies to them when the opportunities arise. The cost of the program is minimal compared to the day-by-day challenge which the Lord is putting before us.

We were blessed by God this year to be able to enjoy the services of Mrs. Marilyn Parker, a young lady from Texas, who is volunteering in our Mission.

We thank God our mission has become the distribution center for literature to Spanish-speaking Jews in South, Central and North America.

It is for this reason our mailing department has been sending tracts and booklets to the two extremes of the Americas, such as Mr. Torres in Mexico City, Mr. Richard McMullin in Colombia, some people in Peru, Miss Raquel Gabay in Montevideo, Uruguay, and a Baptist missionary in Santiago, Chile.

At 7:45 p.m. on Sunday the chords of the "Exodus Theme" sound majestically on the air and 300,000 Jews in Argentina know the "Messianic Voice" program has begun.

The program has had a tremendous response, as indicated by the number of letters and personal visits that we receive almost every week. A good number of those letters come from Jewish people.

In one letter we recently received a Jewish listener wrote: "I have also believed Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, prophesied and long awaited by many generations. I try never to miss one of your programs, because I feel you are a man who is preaching the truth."

I covet the prayers of the "Chosen People" readers for this unique opportunity of reaching so many Jews through this mass communications media.

Last April 15 we had the joy of sharing with Pastor Lichtenstein and praising God on the celebration of the pastor's 84th birthday!

It is remarkable how the Lord has kept him and continues to give him strength enough to stay at the front line in the Lord's battle to reach His people with the gospel. We praise God for each new year that we have him with us.



We wish to express our deep appreciation for the many friends of ABMJ who pray and sacrificially support our work here in order that we may continue giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel."

## REPORT FROM GREECE

### *"He Never Fails!"*

By Demetrius Papanikolaou  
Missionary, Athens, Greece

It is most remarkable that in the time of these past months it has become more and more evident that circumstances being created in the horizon of the life of nations really show how things lead to situations which are to precede the coming of the Lord.

And it is known that in view of all these there are special preparations, on behalf of God, into the hearts of His elect people. Despite the anxiety of the nations we are happy to see the Word being fulfilled, although we feel the touch of the affliction which has been making the world disappointed.

The Jews ought to be helped to see through these events and the concern of God for His people and His directing history to the end He wishes.

This is the interpretation of history which we pass on to the Jews, based on the Old Testament, to make them take off the cover they have put over their hearts in studying the Old Testament. It is sad most of them do not have an Old Testament in their homes.

But will current events awake them?

It has been apparent that, although most Jews have been hard in the past, the suitable touch of the Word of God in the light makes a good number of them cease insisting on rejecting the truth. They're prompted to think differently.

In a visit at a shop, after a witness had been given, the wife of the man visited said to her husband "Shall we become religious now?" The man answered "Don't you see



what is happening in the world? All the world is being destroyed!"

Another one who was listening added "God will destroy all of us. . . ."

A very encouraging thing is that although in the past we used to go to meet Jews, now many of them phone and ask me to visit them!

Our project is to distribute about 300 French and English calendars (actually 250 French and at least 50 English) and about 100 Greek, to Jews. This occupation is also an opportunity for visits and for their having something of the Word of God in their homes.

And the calendar contains excellent messages, heart-piercing. (I shall send you samples of them that our friends may be reminded to pray for us and for the souls who receive them.)

We also give out New Testaments and various gospel tracts. Please pray for me!



## AT THE OLYMPICS

# Border incident: “I will go before you”

Gary Meeks (Eastern Mennonite College) surveys the Montreal skyline after Canadian officials almost prevented him from entering the country.

**By Mrs. Winnie Marriner  
Missionary, Montreal**

“PAGING MRS. MARRINER! MRS. MARRINER—PLEASE COME TO THE INFORMATION DESK!” Some time had gone by since the scheduled arrival of the Greyhound bus which was to bring three young men from the USA to assist in our Olympic outreach.

I had just begun to wonder why the bus was so late when I suddenly became aware of my name being called out on the loud speaker system at the bus terminal. My daughter Karen was

on the other end of the line, telling me that the Canadian immigration officials had refused entry to each of our three young men! Two were being held in New York State and the other in Vermont!

I would have to go down personally to vouch for these young men. Security precautions for the Olympics were very stringent.

I picked up the two young men in New York—Ed Youket was from the Eastern Mennonite College, and Dean Freeman was from our Baltimore Branch. They were sitting on the floor in the American Immigration Depart-

ment, and were quite happy to see us finally arrive.

We all got into the car and headed for Vermont where we picked up Gary Meeks, also from the Eastern Mennonite College. Finally, we were all together, heading for the Canadian Immigration Office.

Much to my dismay, we were forbidden entry for our three volunteers! The gentleman with whom we dealt was like a brick wall—unmoving! Without previous notification from the Mission, these men were not eligible for entry into Canada. There were no two ways about it!

We found a motel on the U.S. side, got everyone settled, and then began to ponder the situation before the Lord. As I began to recall the conversation with the immigration officer, I realized he had mentioned the name of someone who had had a similar entry problem.

Suddenly, I remembered that the man he had mentioned was a friend of mine. A ray of hope! We were up bright and early the next morning. A quick call was made to my friend who made a call to an alternate border crossing on our behalf. God had a man to stand in the gap—had it been two weeks later, this man would have been away on vacation! God really means it when He says He'll go before you. We were on our way . . . into Quebec!

Many Jewish people heard about their Messiah for the very first time.



Dean Freeman (ABM), Balt., Md.) Messiah's ambassador to the Olympics ran into a few problems with Canadian immigration.

After sharing the Messiah with one Jewish lady in a park, I received great hugs and kisses from her as she prepared to leave. As she passed by another bench she said to a man and woman sitting there, "you should listen to what that lady over there has to say. It's WONDERFUL!"

I now found this man and his wife moving over to sit on the bench which was to my immediate right. God moved in each of our hearts and I found myself sitting on their bench, comforting this lovely lady who said she was continually attacked at her job as one of those people who "killed Jesus."

The Holy Spirit was tenderly dealing with this lady, and I had the privilege of explaining the meaning of John 10:17 and 18 to her. Tears came to her eyes as I explained Jesus' statement that He voluntarily lay down His life for her—and that He had come to give her life—abundant life!

As I explained the simplicity of committing one's life to God she suddenly jumped up, took her husband by the arm and said, "Come on, I'm going home to do what she says!" With that remark they hurried away! Tears in her eyes bespoke the moving of the Holy Spirit Who came to her that day to begin His revelation concerning the



Winner Marriner: "Jewish people heard about their Messiah for the first time." Ed Youket (r) Eastern Mennonite College.



ONE Who gave Himself a ransom for her!

A lovely, elderly lady who speaks only Hebrew was deeply touched to discover we knew so much about the Messiah. This lady operates a gift shop and when I pointed to a cultic charm in one of her showcases and told her the Torah forbids such things, her eyes opened wide. She asked if I were Jewish, and I replied, "No, but I love and believe the Hebrew Scriptures." The door is still open.

Gary had the opportunity to speak with a member of the Israeli team.

The love generated by the Holy Spirit dissolved the language barrier and no doubt will go a long way in God's plan for this young athlete's life.

The Lord gave us the opportunity to speak with approximately 350 young Christians concerning the obligation and techniques of Jewish evangelism. We have made many new young friends who returned to various churches across Canada and the USA challenged by the Holy Spirit's statement, "The Gospel is the power of God . . . to the Jew first . . ." (Romans 1:16).

## Is a "trust" good stewardship for my estate?

**M**UCH has been written in recent years about the value of a trust in a person's estate distribution plan. All of us have read articles by popular columnists about the advantageous use of one type of trust or another.

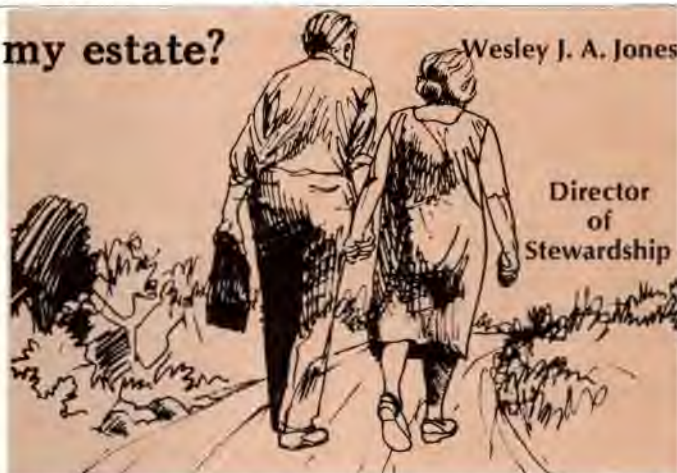
Unfortunately much of this information is taken by the reader and applied personally without consideration of the many other trust types which are available to accomplish similar or additional purposes.

An example in point: We recently read a magazine article describing the use of a testamentary trust. The article was good but some of its content could be misleading and would be totally inappropriate for certain readers—particularly those without heirs or those having no needy relatives.

The writer said nothing about an alternative type—a living trust—which could have additional advantages in some instances. One such benefit of a living trust, for example, is to serve as "an effective will substitute" for certain types of assets, to quote the phrasing of one respected, impartial legal authority.

And, of course, another advantage of a living over a testamentary trust—particularly when revocable—is to provide for the care of a person during a period of physical or mental incompetency in lieu of a conservatorship.

This can be of great importance if there are no relatives or friends who are in a position to undertake the physical, as well as the financial, care of the disabled person.



Wesley J. A. Jones

Director  
of  
Stewardship

Determining the value of a trust for one's estate or the best type to be used is a matter of personal and impartial consideration based on an explanation of all types. No boilerplate recommendations should ever be taken. And for the Christian whose fiduciary stewardship of the Lord's assets is an important element of the spiritual life, such an explanation is extremely important.

If you would like to know whether a trust might be of benefit to you, your inquiry to Dr. Daniel Fuchs will bring you precise, accurate and impartial information. Without obligation, of course.

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# The Puritan Life

By **Earl D. Radmacher, Th.D.**  
Pres. Western Conservative Bapt.  
Seminary, Portland, Or.

Based on an article by Dr. Radmacher from the forthcoming book, "America in History and Bible Prophecy" edited by Thomas S. McCall, printed with permission from Moody Press. All references to quoted matter may be found in the book.



What sort of people were the builders of the Bay Colony? Robert Baird observes that Governor John Winthrop and his fellow passengers to America were "almost without exception godly people."

Governor Bradford's liberty monument of *Plymouth Plantation*, is inscribed: "They knew that they were Pilgrims and looked not much on those things, but lifted up their eyes to heaven their dearest country, and quieted their spirits."

Bradford's classic account speaks further of entering Cape Cod harbor "by God's good providence."

Recalling this latter experience with a sense of happy and praiseful relief, Bradford tells of their "being thus ar-

rived in a good harbor, and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven . . ."

The observation is well placed which says, "The challenge which the Puritan met was to provide an environment conducive to the effective transmission of the Old World to the New . . ." That such a challenge by this kind of people was even considered and successfully undertaken, bespeaks their toughminded belief in God. Without some understanding of Puritanism, it may safely be said, there is no understanding of America.

## Vocation

These transplanted English men and women seemingly knew nothing about leisure or idleness. A wilderness required taming, houses needed building, laws needed formulating, Indians befriended, towns laid out, schools and colleges founded.

From the inner reserves of divinely imparted motivation, the Puritans worked with zest and exhilaration. A holy disinterestedness in self marked their labors. They were members of Massachusetts Bay Colony, a commonwealth which bore the inscription: "A due form of government, both civil and ecclesiastical." Wrote Perry Miller, "Existence for him was completely dramatic. Every minute was charged with meaning."

Work had been ordained by the Almighty Creator and was accepted with a sense of mission. Idleness was a violation of civil and religious law, and met with punishments—unduly severe to us today.

This pulsating, lively sense of a calling led one historian to describe the Puritan as ". . . a soldier of Jehovah who never came out on the losing side of a bargain . . . a practical idealist, with a strong dash of cynicism."

## Moral Consciousness

Each man endeavored to treat his neighbor as Christ would. Each was forever preoccupied with conformity to Biblical injunctions; ever alert to the signs of an evil presence. A realist to the core, "he refused to ignore or to sentimentalize the pain, the labor, the misery . . . the imminence of death. . ."

## Individuality

Unlike other colonists in other places around the world, the Puritans made no concessions to their wilderness. The Puritan mind was one of the toughest the world has ever had to deal with. It is impossible to conceive of a disillusioned Puritan; no matter what misfortune befell him, he would have been prepared for the worst, and would have expected no better.

Yet he was by no means a fatalist, for God was in complete control of all

**QUESTION:** I cannot understand Jn. 14:13 and 14. Please tell me about these verses.

**ANSWER:** The "whatsoever" of verse 13 and the "any thing" of verse 14 are both governed by "in my name." It is most important to realize that this is not a merely mechanical phrase possessing some magical charm which can be attached to any prayer to make it acceptable.

In Scripture names are not only the marks by which people are known, but they are also descriptive of what they are or what they do or of some special circumstance connected with them. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ signifies both His person and His work. See Mt. 1:21.

To pray in the name of Christ means in the very first place that the person doing so believes in Him, has entered into living union with Him, and is leading an abiding life (Jn. 15:7). This enables such a person to have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16) and to ask according to His will.

In the next place, to ask in the name of Christ is to ask on the basis of who He is and what He has done; on His authority and not on our own.

In the third place, to ask in the name of Christ is to ask as His emissary, as one who is His witness occupied with His cause.

**QUESTION:** I would like some of the promises of God explained as to just what is meant by the ones which say, "Delight thyself in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of thine heart"; "Commit thy way unto the Lord and He shall bring it to pass"; "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

**ANSWER:** In the first place, the yea and amen of all the promises of God are in the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 1:20) so that they are dependent upon our relationship to Him as both Saviour and Lord. It is like the statement in 2 Cor. 1:14 that God always causes us to triumph in Christ.

There is no guarantee of triumph if we do not maintain our relationship in Him. Another example is that of prayer. We are told to pray in the name of Christ and according to His will. These are not unconditional promises.

Now note the Scriptures you give and see how God has circumscribed what He promises by "delight," "commit," and "he that dwelleth." Again relationship is in view.

The right relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ will enable us to say with Paul, "we have the mind of Christ." It is this which governs the prayer of faith and enables us to pray that kind of prayer, to delight in the Lord and have the desires of our hearts, and so on.

events. He was neither lukewarm nor half-hearted. The Puritans were a covenant people and such covenantism forbade selfseeking. As God entered into covenants with Adam, Abraham and Moses, so with these seventeenth century children of Zion. By virtue of the covenant conditions, God dealt with His elect.

The Bible was the superlative, incomparable Book. The Puritans treasured their Bibles as their most valued possessions, viewing them not as a collection of sacred documents but as the full disclosure of the will and ways of God.

Their speech, their towns, their children's names, their expressions reflected the pervasive hold of the Scriptural text upon their everyday thinking. The Bible was the perfect rule. Its authority superseded all other

authorities, especially that of the papal church and all ecclesiastical tradition. Although God's providential workings were continuously being exhibited in the natural world, He gave no commands to the consciousness of men apart from the Biblical record; hence, the Puritan hatred of all forms of quietism and enthusiasm.

### A Sovereign God

The entire universe was held to be under the direct continuous controlling guidance of God. Though effects were seemingly produced by "secondary causes," the actual government of all events, from the setting of the sun at dusk to the blossoming of the most insignificant flower, was under His superintendence.

To ascribe effects to change or to nature was to miss altogether a vision

of the dynamic hand of God. Fervent prayers preceded every decision, for they knew all things were cupped in His hands. Upon their departure from England to Holland, "they rested on His providence, and knew whom they had believed." And God's activity was not limited only to the daily concerns of His elect, but, at the same time to a "great design" encompassing His work of redemption throughout the whole world.

Here were a people who exceeded supreme confidence in their calling, their faith and their hope—for all was from God, their universal, immutable, eternal, invisible and loving Sovereign. How many times they had occasion to reflect upon His compassionate concern for His own, "filling their afflicted minds with such comforts as everyone cannot understand. . ."

## Questions and Answers



By DR. HENRY J. HEYDT

**QUESTION:** Is it right to ask God in prayer for the blessing in Gen. 12:3? I desire every blessing that our Heavenly Father will send.

**ANSWER:** Your desire for God's blessing is quite in order. Jacob took a similar position in Gen. 32:26. It is, of course, understood that not the gift but the Giver is to have the first place in our hearts.

Many people, however, are not honest enough to admit that they seek a blessing and as a result develop a hypocritical altruism which in turn robs them of the very blessing they really desire.

**QUESTION:** Can you tell me what time of the day is meant in Acts 10:9, "Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour"?

**ANSWER:** Three times a day the devout Jew attended to special prayer (Dan. 6:10). These hours were the third, Acts 2:15 (9 a.m.); the sixth, Acts 10:9 (12 noon); and the ninth, Acts 3:1 (3 p.m.). This custom arose during the captivity to replace the morning and evening sacrifices which could no longer be offered.

**QUESTION:** Is it right to close a prayer by saying, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou has heard me," and is it right to give thanks both before and after praying?

**ANSWER:** It is certainly proper to thank the Lord for having heard our prayer, and thanksgiving before and after prayer can never be out of order. It is much better to give thanks than to promise it and never fulfill the promise. I refer to the statement so frequently used, "And we'll thank Thee for it," which is just as frequently forgotten.

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Heb. 13:15).

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