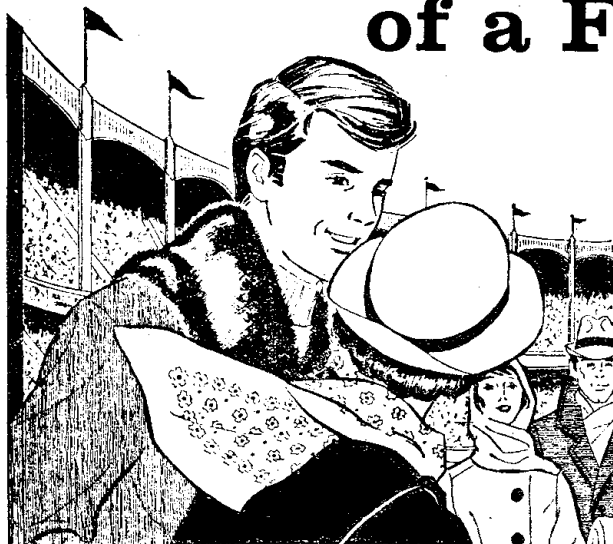


The AND Staff

"Preach the Word." (II Timothy 4:2)

"Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)

"Lord, Give Me the Enthusiasm of a Fan!"



★ By DAVID KIRK ★
Route 5, Box 128 B
Galax, Virginia 24333

• *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, ZEALOUS of good works" (Titus 2:13, 14).*

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST who bought us with His own blood desires and deserves a people who are zealous for good works; who are wholeheartedly doing His will. Every Christian needs to pray, "Lord, give me the enthusiasm of a fan for your work."

The Lord is made sick with LUKEWARMNESS. The Laodicean Christians who were neither cold nor hot but LUKEWARM made Him sick. Ephesus who had left her first love was about to be destroyed, to have her candle stick removed. ONLY the OVERCOMER is promised the crown!

When singing, preaching, and other activities engaged in for the Lord become mere forms we endure, we have long since become dead. A snake may wiggle until the sun goes down after having its head removed, but it is

dead for sure.

God HEARD the fervent cry: "God be merciful to me a sinner!" When Peter was sinking in the Sea of Galilee, he cried out: "Lord, save me" and Jesus rescued him. When the blind man pleaded, "Lord, that I might receive my sight," Jesus restored his sight.

The Psalms are filled with SHOUTS of Praise. The Lord is worthy of our fervent adoration and praise. In Psalm 150 the writer says for everything that hath breath to PRAISE THE LORD!

Christians are to be LIKE Jesus. He was FULL of ZEAL for God and righteousness. After He cleansed the temple, the disciples remembered: "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." Jesus' zeal for God finally brought about His death.

The church in the beginning BUBBLED over with LOVE and ZEAL for the Lord. "They departed from the council (where they had been beaten), rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer SHAME for His name."

Paul wrote, "REJOICE in the Lord always, and again I say REJOICE." He also wrote, "Be FERVENT in spirit" (Romans 12:11). To be fervent is to be on FIRE, to BOIL, to GLOW.

How it must grieve the Lord when He sees the church meet together on the Lord's day as though to mourn defeat instead of CELEBRATING A VICTORY.

The church of Christ is the only institution that will outlast time. It is the kingdom of God. Its head is the Christ. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The book of Revelation clearly shows that the church will win over all her enemies and stand for ever. The Hebrew writer says: "Wherefore receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28). Christians, we are on the WINNING TEAM!

You can hardly miss the meaning of the term "fan" in our day when you see the devotion of the thousands

(Continued on Page 3)

THE SWORD AND STAFF
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Proverbs of Today

If it is wrong for Christians to use tobacco (and the evidence weighs heavily in that direction), then it is wrong to grow it, it is wrong to market it, and it is wrong to sell it in stores (take heed, those who really wish to please the Lord).

"We don't lay up treasures in heaven by 'laying down' on our duties here."

It is better to get on your knees before God than to be brought to your knees by God.

"Happiness is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy."

If some preachers were as interested in pleasing God as they are in pleasing men, we would really have a spiritual church.

"If the best things are not possible for you, make the best of those things that are possible."

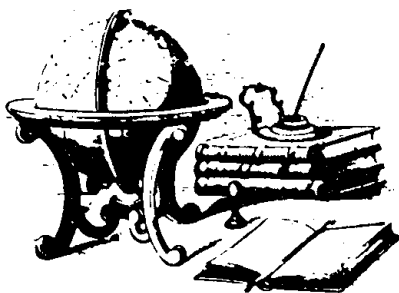
If you will take care of your money when you are young, your money will take care of you when you are old.

"Character is that which reveals moral purpose, exposing the class of things a man chooses or avoids."

Elders should not be dictators of Christ's church, but directors of His church.

"Good preaching must be timely and timeless."

The harder you work for God, it seems the harder the devil works against you.



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

THAT WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE TRUE CHRISTIAN

THERE ARE several qualities or conditions that characterize the true Christian. Having reference to the false and true religionists of his day, Jesus observed, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16, 20; 12:33). Then on another occasion our Lord said, as recorded in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." How we need this love in depth (13:34) manifested today! How we need the fruits of righteousness, holiness, and evangelism in evidence if our religion is "for real."

We could list many characteristics of the true Christian, but perhaps here is one that is not emphasized enough — PRAYER. We are aware that all religions, heathen and otherwise, pray — but perhaps the Christian's concept of God makes prayer more of a unique experience for him.

Please examine the following New Testament Scriptures.

- "And here he (Saul) hath authority from the chief priests to bind ALL THAT CALL ON THY NAME" (Acts 7:14).

- "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with ALL THAT IN EVERY PLACE CALL UPON THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD: both their's and our's" (I Cor. 1:2).

- "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with THEM THAT CALL ON THE LORD OUT OF A PURE HEART" (II Timothy 2:22).

We conclude from these Scriptures that the early Christians were such a praying people that they were called and characterized as those "that call upon the name of the Lord." Prayer is one of the essential earmarks of the true New Testament church. To be a Christian means to be one who prays. Bunyan wrote, "Thou then art not a Christian that art not a praying person."

A word of rebuke is in order for modern man and his "church." Prayer seemed to be more natural for the ancients, but the modern generation with its advanced technology too many times feels too little need to talk to God. A false self-sufficiency and lack of time replaces prayer. The lifeless (spiritually speaking) and formal modern churches know little of the significance of prayer; too many times prayer is limited to the church building, and it is regarded in the light of aesthetic value (even accompanied by music). Then many who "mouth" unending words about the New Testament church and undenominational Christianity, seemingly never get around to talking about prayer (and holy living!) as a definite distinguishing

(Continued on Page 7)



“LORD, GIVE ME THE ENTHUSIASM OF A FAN”

(Continued from Page 1)

who support their favorite team or teams. In the Lord's work we need the enthusiasm of a GOOD fan. What are some things a good fan will do?

I. GOOD FANS COME EARLY FOR THE WARM UP.

Good fans never straggle in late and thus miss the opening moments of the game. What good fan will miss the opening kick-off, or the “first-jump” for the ball? Not a good fan. And he will not leave the game at the half nor in the waning moments even if his favorite team is on the short end of the score.

The greatest contest in the world is the struggle between righteousness and sin. It is good to cheer a winning team, and Christians are on that team. The church may suffer momentary defeat but ultimately VICTORY is certain through our good captain, Jesus the Christ.

When Knute Rockney was football coach at Notre Dame, his team had won twenty games in a row when beaten by Iowa. He went home ashamed and planned to slip off the train without anyone seeing him when it reached South Bend after the game. When the train pulled into the station at 1:00 a. m., he was met by 1,000 fans who carried him on their shoulders and praised him in defeat as they had so often honored him in victory. The devotion of these loyal fans so moved him that he vowed to stay with Notre Dame, and he did.

II. GOOD FANS NEVER INQUIRE, “WHAT TIME DO WE GET OUT?”

Extra innings, overtime periods only add to the delight of the fans. I remember a game the Yankees played several years ago when they were the top team in baseball — the game lasted over seven hours and the tie wasn't broken until the 22nd inning. *And the good fans stayed with the game to the end!*

The greatest game is the game of life. Yet many are more concerned over a burned roast than they are about souls that are perishing in sin — souls that will spend eternity with the devil and his angels in Hell, unless they repent.

So many professing Christians are time conscious when they come to the assembly. If the preacher prolongs the sermon one minute past twelve, they may about twist their necks off trying to see what time the clock reads in the back of the building.

There are three urgent needs that should cause us to be little aware of time when the Word of God is being delivered.

1. Self — our own needs of instruction, reproof, exhortation and help from the Word of God.

2. The needs of others — many times our own children, friends, and loved ones.

3. The fact that Christ has promised to be present when the church assembles. “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

III. GOOD FANS GLADLY SHOW THEIR FEELINGS OF ENTHUSIASM.

Just listen at the roar as the fans applaud their team when a good play or score is made. Listen as they shout words of encouragement or challenge.

How good when this same spirit of enthusiasm is seen in the work of the church. How delightful when members daily praise Jesus and encourage one another. What a life when the song service about shakes the rafters of the building where the church is assembled. When glowing testimonies of what the Lord has done are heard it makes you want to do more and more for the Lord. How good and pleasant when there is a genuine hungering and thirsting for more understanding of the Word of God and for righteousness. When Christians zealously seek to tell everyone who will hear the story of Jesus and His great love, and when they demonstrate by their actions, choices, words, and attitudes that Christ and the church means everything to them, then the onlookers long for what the zealous Christians possess.

IV. THE GOOD FAN IS A FREE SPENDER.

Good fans are little concerned about the cost. Other things may be neglected, but he'll manage to have money for the games, even when it is away from home, and even if he has to lose hours of sleep, may be wait in line all night to obtain a ticket.

As Christians we should remember Jesus' words: “Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). Also, that “God loves a cheerful giver.”

Israel brought tithes and offerings to the Lord. How much more reason we have to give generously to the cause of Christ. The Lord Jesus died for our sins. The measure of His love should move us to liberality in giving.

V. SOME OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE FAN.

A true fan never has to be cuddled. He will endure hardships such as rain, cold, heat, overcrowding, hard benches, or standing for hours to watch the game without complaining.

He's a fan “in season and out of season.” His interest doesn't end with the close of the season. It is strong all the year through. He watches the news to glean anything that pertains to his favorite sport or team.

He goes in for memory work such as batting averages, leading scorer, etc.

It goes without saying that these are characteristics very much needed by us Christians — not concern about our favorite sport, but for the work of the Lord, the church of Jesus Christ.

(Continued on Page 6)

PRAYER



• Read *Luke 11:1.*

By **DON PINON**

Lord, teach us to pray; teach us HOW to pray. Were not the Jews accustomed to praying? Didn't they have specific hours set aside in the day for prayer? Why then a request to be taught how to pray? Probably, they, like many Christians had so neglected their prayer life, they needed to be taught the fundamentals of how to pray.

I wonder how many reading these words at one time had a consistent and fervent prayer life, but not now. Perhaps sin in the heart has killed your private prayer (Psalms 66:18). You know God isn't listening, so why pray? Sin in your life may also stand between you and sincere public prayer. Everyone knows you are not living right, why pretend to pray? The ex-blind man of John 9 spoke the truth when he said, "Now we know that God heareth not sinners." You can't sincerely pray for forgiveness if you know you're not going to quit your sins.

Perhaps discord in your home is quenching your prayer life (I Peter 3:1-7). When one member of the family is spiteful, contentious, unspiritual and ill-tempered, it can disrupt the prayer life of the entire family, and without prayer the situation only gets worse. The husband, or the wife or the children can't do the praying for the whole family, and you certainly can't pray together when a big family brawl is brewing.

Perhaps ill-will toward a brother hinders your prayers (Mark 11:25,26). Is there someone for whom you know you should pray, but just can't? You can pray for everyone else, but your old heart won't melt enough to pray for a certain one. Brother, you had better go to that one and pray with that one for forgiveness, for a cleansing of hatred from your heart.

When your desires are carnal, in-

stead of spiritual, it's hard to pray. You pray that God will bless financially, that He will help you get out of debt. Why? So you can buy some more "goodies" (James 4:3)?

Perhaps you are just too indifferent to pray. God may find it necessary to drive you to your knees, to break your apathetic heart.

A personal closeness to God, a real sense of spirituality, an awareness of the needs that exist and a desire to see those needs fulfilled are the greatest assets to a good prayer life. What are we going to do? Let thousands go to hell without even so much as a prayer on their behalf?

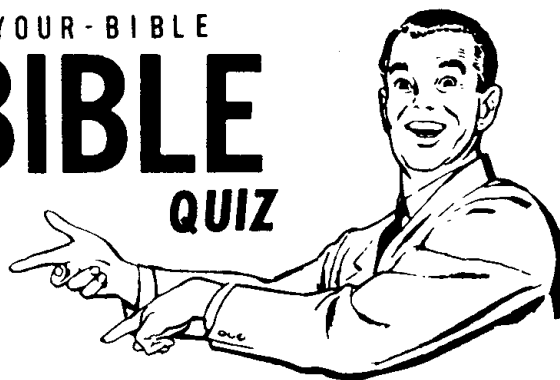
Perhaps there is an elderly person who feels unable to do much for Christ because of the physical limitations of age. There is something of vital im-

portance you can do. You can pray. No greater need exists at this hour than the need for effectual fervent prayer. Make yourself a prayer list. Include: every faithful and every back-slidden soul you know or don't know personally, strong preachers and weak preachers, national and international leaders, friends and enemies. Then PRAY! Your prayer need not be fancy or oratorical, the Holy Spirit will help (Romans 8:26), and your Heavenly Father will listen because He loves you (John 16:26,27). Throughout the land men will see things stirring for God, mountains being moved. No, you might not even receive the credit in this life, but remember, it is God that keeps score, not man.

Brethren, if we don't learn to pray in this land of freedom, we, like the Israelites may learn it in captivity. □

KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE

BIBLE QUIZ



1. God set the rainbow in the sky to signify what?
2. When the Israelites settled in Canaan, what place became the permanent location of the tabernacle?
3. What great man of Syria was instructed to dip himself seven times in the Jordan to rid himself of leprosy?
4. What O. T. prophet saw the vision of the four wheels?
5. Which of the four "Gospel" writers give a genealogy of Jesus?
6. When Jesus was born, what wicked king had all the babies in Bethlehem two years old and under killed?
7. What relation or kinship was John the Baptist to Jesus?
8. Which of the disciples was a tax collector when Jesus called him?
9. The least in the kingdom of heaven (the church) is described by Jesus as being greater than what outstanding man?
10. Where is an outstanding chapter found in the N. T. on the following subjects?
(1) Faith; (2) Love; (3) Works; (4) The Resurrection?

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

(IN)DIRECT SUPPORT "Missions"



By Steve Payne
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Elizabethtown, Tenn. 37643

THERE IS a lot of talk about "Direct Support Missions." We have heard much of this over the last several years. Indeed for nearly forty years this has been the most overworked of terms, with a sizable segment of the "Restoration Movement." What this term refers to apparently is any mission, benevolent, evangelistic, or educational work done in the name of the church, but not done under the auspices of the United Christian Missionary Society (Disciples of Christ central agency).

What we have begun to wonder is, where is some of this "Direct Support" work? A survey of the nation finds a great deal of so-called mission work going on, yet most of, particularly the support of evangelistic endeavor in the United States, is done through some sort of organization which is in effect a missionary society. Many are the preachers and the churches which have raised the cry against the U. C. M. S., and then jumped on the bandwagon of some lesser organization. We wonder if there are not a large number who have been thrashing the Disciples denominational system because it was the popular thing to do without any thought to the principles that are involved.

Make no mistake about it. We are as opposed to the error of denominationalism, any denominationalism, as anyone; and we do not mean any defense whatsoever of the U. C. M. S. However, we wonder what the difference is, in principle involved, in one unscriptural man-made organization acting as a substitute to do the work that the church is to do and another such organization. Once the bars are let down, and unscriptural practice creeps into the church, then further such practice is bound to follow.

We have rummaged the books of the Bible, but can find no mention of such organizations. For instance,

in the sixth chapter of Acts where we read of some financial needs of the widows in Jerusalem arising, we do not read that a *Jerusalem Area Men's Fellowship* was formed to take care of the problem. Nor do we read of Paul being sent out to preach by the *Asia Minor Evangelizing Association* or the *Macedonian Missionary Board*. Nor did the apostles and elders who gathered in Jerusalem in the fifteenth chapter of Acts to discuss matters relative to the Lord's work adopt by-laws and incorporate as the *Judean Christian Convention*. Can you imagine the apostle Peter as chairman of the committee on committees? No, such contrivances came many years this side of the first century and are somewhat less than divine in origin.

Either the church is sufficient to do the work God has ordained for it to do, or else the Lord has given us an imperfect revelation.

We have been a part of such organizationalism and have seen the bitter fruits of it first hand. We have seen an operation, indeed been a part of it, that causes friction, chaos, rivalry, and gross inefficiency in doing the task of evangelism. It takes a dozen churches, through such groups, to do the work that one should be doing. There is inevitably a struggle to see which personality will control which position. There are always problems that arise in trying to handle funds sent from someone else, and to handle them to the satisfaction of all.

It appears to us that all this red tape and organizational mess can, even in this day and age, be eliminated. The work of the Lord can go forward in a speedy and successful way. This will come about when churches do what they are supposed to do.

The prevalent system today is for the members of the church to give only

a small amount of their money to the church and then demand that most of the money be spent for their benefit. Congregations hire a preacher, a youth minister, a choir director, build in a kitchen and dining hall, air condition the building, carpet the floor luxuriously, buy an expensive organ, build a gigantic meetinghouse and a preacher's home, support a scout troop or two, and send a donation to some college to pay some denominationalist's or modernist's salary. When all this is done, some fellow with a "zeal, but not according to knowledge" starts a missionary society or some fellowship or association to go around and collect the scraps of money that are left over, in as many congregations as he can, to send a preacher to start a new church in a needed area somewhere else and perpetuate the same system there.

IF THIS IS BIBLE EVANGELISM, THEN WE HAVE BEEN READING THE WRONG BOOK. There are many churches, by their size and income, that could be completely supporting several gospel preachers to do a scriptural work at home and abroad. But most of them prefer to spend the Lord's money on their own comfort.

We realize that many who decry unscriptural organizations as methods of doing the task of evangelism do so because they really don't want to do anything at all. This is equally an unscriptural idea. The New Testament knows nothing of a church that is not busy carrying out the great commission.

HOWEVER, IN OUR STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE HAVE YET TO FIND A SINGLE THING THAT THE LORD COMMANDED US TO DO THAT CANNOT BE DONE BY INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS OR BY A LOCAL CONGREGATION OF THE CHURCH. In any event, it is obvious that the Lord did not make us dependent on "Missionary Societies" not mentioned in the Bible.

It is our prayer that the Lord will deliver us from being beaten to death by man-made "clubs." □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"For the past 5,500 years, the world has known only 300 years of peace. Since 3,600 B. C., there have been more than 14,000 large and small wars in which 3.5 billion people have been killed."

—Allen Isbell

“LORD, GIVE ME THE ENTHUSIASM OF A FAN”

(Continued from Page 3)

VI. THE GOOD FAN IS A STICKLER FOR THE RULES.

He cannot sit idly by and see the rules given some weird interpretation. He knows the rules of the game.

Every Christian who has the enthusiasm of a fan for Christ is satisfied with nothing less than “thus saith the Lord.” “I think,” or “perhaps it’s this way,” is not accepted. He demands; “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God” (I Peter 4:11). “If any bring not this doctrine” (the doctrine of Christ) he will not receive him. See II John 9-11. He knows that “if any speak not according to this word, it is because there is NO LIGHT in them” (Isaiah 8:20).

He knows one RULE BOOK, the Bible. He “contends earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). He knows that those who preach another gospel are “accursed” (Galatians 1:6-9). He earnestly seeks to abide by the rules God has given in His eternal Word and is not “moved about” by “every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians 4:11-14).

Notice the title of this sermon is not “Lord, make me a fan,” but rather, “Lord, give me the enthusiasm of a fan.”

True Christians are PARTICIPANTS in the good fight of faith, in the race and game of life. We are not onlookers but actively engaged in the battle, cheering one another along as team-mates in the same struggle.

There is a cheering section. It is composed of those who have finished their course, having fought a good fight and kept the faith. They have retired from the race to receive their reward for faithfulness and loyalty to the team. Read Hebrews 12:1. They are a great cloud of witnesses, urging us on by their example of faithfulness demonstrated while they were here in the conflict. They encourage us to “lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us” and to “run with patience (steadfastness) the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of the faith” (Hebrews 12:1,2).

Let us pray, “Lord, give me the enthusiasm of a fan” for prayer, Bible study, giving, church attendance, soul winning, abhorrence of sin, love for righteousness, singing and praising God, and for what ever is within our power to do for the Lord.

May we so live that the whole world (our world of influence, however large or small it may be) will know that Christ and His cause mean more to us than any and everything this world has to offer.

Friend, give your ALL to Christ. Let the world KNOW that He is EVERYTHING to you! Do it NOW for there may not be a tomorrow. □

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The word “enthusiasm” comes from the Greek words which literally signify “God in you,” or to be inspired or possessed by the gods.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A PLAGUING PROBLEM
WITH A
SCRIPTURAL SOLUTION

THE INCREASING inflationary trends have put a strangle hold on the much needed funds for Christian colleges across the land. This has put many rocks in the royal beds of college presidents and faculty. What will we do? We are begging for funds but still are falling behind. What is the solution?

The solution may be turning the responsibility for educating Christian workers back to the local assembly which very definitely seems to be the concept of early Christianity. The evangelists train new converts (II Timothy 2:2). The elders teach churches (Acts 20:28). Women teach younger women (Titus 2:3-5). Elders and evangelists train evangelists to be sent out. Maybe if the local congregations would once more assume the responsibility of Christian education we would have a Scriptural solution to a plaguing problem.

—Joseph O’Neal
CENTURY OF RECOVERY
Engelhard, N. C. 27824

WHEN PAIN AND SUFFERINGS COME

When pain and sufferings have come,
Which prove so very hard to bear,
Don’t hesitate to turn, yea “run,”
To God and plead your case in prayer.

Remember Hezekiah now—
He boldly prayed to God in tears,
When death he faced in sickness grave;
Jehovah God prolonged his life,
And blessed with fifteen extra years.

Remember now how Jesus died
That awful death on Calvary;
In full he drank that bitter cup—
As faithful priest he qualified
To sympathize with you and me.

When pain and sufferings have come,
Which are so very hard to bear,
Don’t hesitate to turn, yea “run,”
To God and plead your case in prayer.

By A. BROTHER

WAS PHEBE A DEACON(ESS)?

By JAMES E. GIBBONS
129 Cherry Street
Mt. Airy, N. C. 27030

SOME THINK the church today should have deaconesses, and they refer to Romans 16:1 as the proof text to establish their position. It reads (KJV), "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a SERVANT of the church which is at Cenchrea." Some translations render this word "servant" as deaconess. (And this is not necessarily incorrect. The word "servant" in Romans 16:1 is the feminine gender of the word deacon, or more exactly, *diakonos*). But what does that prove? Well, let us now see.

Our examination of the word "deacon" in the original language proves that is is primarily a general word, meaning servant. It is translated three ways in the New Testament (KJV); namely, as *minister*, *servant*, and *deacon*. It is a word comparable to the word "elder" in manner of usage. To illustrate, the word "elder" basically means an older person. But then, a few times it is used as a technical religious term, referring to an office in the church. The same is true of the word for deacon.

Using Young's *ANALYTICAL CONCORDANCE TO THE BIBLE*, we will now show all the references where the word "deacon" (*diakonos*) is used in the New Testament (generally speaking and otherwise).

SERVANT

Servant (Matthew 22:13; 23:11; Mark 9:35; John 2:5,9; 12:26; Romans

16:1). In all of these Scriptures this word translated "servant" is the same Greek word *diakonos* elsewhere rendered "deacon." Please notice. In these references Jesus has a king speaking to his deacon (servant), the greatest among the apostles would be their deacon (servant), the mother of Jesus speaks to the deacons (servants) at the wedding feast, every follower of Jesus is called a deacon (servant) and Phebe is called a deacon(ess) (servant).

MINISTER

Minister (Matthew 20:26; Mark 10:43; Romans 13:4; 15:8; I Cor. 3:5; II Cor. 3:6; 6:4; 11:15,23; Galatians 2:17; Ephesians 3:7; 6:21; Colossians 1:7,23,25; 4:7; I Thess. 3:2; I Timothy 4:6). This word "minister" is the same word in the original language that is elsewhere translated "deacon." Here some of the references are duplicates of the situations where this word was represented by "servant." However, some new circumstances are brought up. The law enforcement official is called a deacon (minister), Christ himself is called a deacon (minister), and preachers of the gospel are called deacons (ministers).

Now back to our original question. Was Phebe a female deacon? Yes, she was a deacon(ess). But what does that prove? So are slaves, so is Christ, so are the apostles, so are preachers, so are government officials, and so is every Christian. The con-

text must settle the question as to whether the word is used in a general or technical sense. The context of Romans 16:1 does not prove she was a female "deacon" in the technical sense (that of being an office in the church). There are no qualifications laid down for deaconesses in the Scriptures elsewhere, nor any reference to support the idea of official "deaconesses."

DEACON

For your information, the following Scriptural references are the ones that definitely deal with deacons as an office in the church: Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:8,12. □

Crowding God Out

I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted joy and beauty,
But the day was grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me;
He said, "You didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock;
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

—Unknown

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

mark of the CHURCH OF CHRIST. Then what about the mid-week "prayer meeting" (so-called)? Is the modern church characterized as they "that call upon the name of the Lord" when we take a look here? What about the attendance?

Yes, verily we need to "repent" and "pray" (Acts 8:22; I John 1:9) that we may again be characterized as they "that call upon the name of the Lord." It is a sin to neglect our prayer lives (Samthought so — I Samuel 12:23). Prayer is a definite characteristic of the true Christian. Does it characterize your life? □

READERS' . . . **Response**

HOBBS, NEW MEXICO:
■ "I'm moving—please discontinue."

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MT. AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA:
■ "We do not want this JUNK! Please remove our name from your mailing list!" (Sorry, it was just a sample; you're not on our mailing list—Editor).

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A GOSPEL CAMP GATHERING is in the process of being planned for the week (part of the week) before July 4th, 1971, in this area (near Mt. Airy, N. C.). Make a note of this and plan your vacation during that week next year. More and detailed information will follow later.

ANSWERS TO "KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE" BIBLE QUIZ

1. Genesis 9:8-17;
2. Joshua 18:1;
- Judges 18:3;
3. II Kings 5:1-14;
4. Ezekiel 1:15-25;
5. Matthew and Luke;
6. Matthew 2:16;
7. Luke 1:34-37;
8. Matthew 9:9;
9. Matthew 11:11;
10. (1) Hebrews 11; (2) I Cor. 13; (3) James 2 (latter part); (4) I Cor. 15.



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