

The INTERCESSOR

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:23

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CELEBRATING
25 years
OF The Intercessor

Zerubbabel's Commission

By Norman Grubb

In the following address given at Zerubbabel's 1989 Annual Meeting, Norman traces the "nylon threads" of God's self-revelation, surfacing and submerging throughout the Old and New Testaments and through Church history. Our commission is to proclaim His self-revelation for the Church and the world today—how we function as humans in union with Jesus Christ.

I'm thankful to be able to be with you tonight. I've felt out of action as far as traveling around is concerned. I stick by Paul's word, "The outer man does perish," and it sure does, and deteriorates—the ears, the teeth, the body and everything else! But

the inner man gets renewed day by day. And I trust this one is still being renewed so that the Spirit comes out through a pretty funny body!

Tracing the Nylon Threads

My thankfulness, of course, is that I'm still with you, that I've been here long enough to see the Holy Spirit setting His seal on "nylon threads" which then become something. Noah, of course, was a thread. All left Noah; only Noah never left. Then followed Abraham. He was just one thread. And it took him all those years to get that son and then make sure that the son would be a Holy Spirit person, not a physical person. He even went to burn him!

In July 1985, the first issue of *The Intercessor* was published. In the following 25 years *The Intercessor* has been dedicated to presenting the total truth of our union with Christ. We are grateful for God's provision and for our readers and their faithful support of our ministry. We hope you will enjoy revisiting some of our favorite articles from these last 25 years.



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And so it went, thread by thread until Jesus came. Even the “Total” was just a thread, the son of Mary. He moved in to the ultimate, which is spirit. And so he went through physical death so that the Spirit person in His certain form could take other certain forms—resurrection forms. So we are Spirit revived, and He is now the first-born of the many brethren. It’s gone on like that, hasn’t it?

Before Pentecost He had twelve runaways with Him. They ran away and left Him alone. He died alone. But He had said, “The real Me, the ‘I AM’ in Me, is the Spirit ‘I AM.’” Jesus was the Spirit ‘I AM’ in outer form. He said, “While I’m in outer form, I’ve got no way into you, because you don’t really know the Spirit in Me; you hang around the outer form.” So He said, “It’s good that I go. I’ll pray the Father that the same Person who operates as Me will assume outer form and come into you and operate by you, as in Me.”

He moved then to faith, a word of faith, in saying, “I’ll send the Holy Spirit.” He moved from praying to saying that the same Person would come up again and again through these threads. And the threads would become ropes and expand. Then He left that group behind.

They were tested to see if they meant business because it took six weeks until Pentecost came, didn’t it? “He’ll come, He’ll come, we will stick to it, stick to it. He’ll come, and when He comes, we’ll know it.” That’s faith which becomes a word and then a deed. You know, you believe, you wait, you believe, and then

He comes. He came at Pentecost in one outer way with the tongues of fire and the mighty winds—the only time He came that way—but it was the Person who came.

Then the 120 became persons who had *the* Person. They lost sight of the Person who was crucified in the phys-

They lost sight of the Person who was crucified in the physical and who rose in the physical. You can’t trust a physical Jesus who died or a physical Jesus who rose. Where is He? We go to a Spirit who knows, don’t we? The Spirit knows. And they knew He was the risen, ascended, coming Jesus.

ical and who rose in the physical. You can’t trust a physical Jesus who died or a physical Jesus who rose. Where is He? We go to a Spirit who knows, don’t we? The Spirit knows. And they knew He was the risen, ascended, coming Jesus. And He is coming to gather all wholly in to the one, one day. The whole thing will be one, all in all—and they knew it. The 120? Well, they say there are fifteen hundred million on earth today. That thin nylon thread has come up. The Holy Spirit works like that, doesn’t He?

God’s Revelation for Today

We will say He’s done this for us. He has different methods, different phrases of the truth, different emphases, as He had with Luther: “justified by faith.” New things hap-

pen in the body of Christ. God has given us something which is a presentation of the whole business in our terms for today. There may be better terms coming the next generation, certainly.

I have put those terms in a little phrase I am using, just as Einstein came out with one tiny sentence after his years of mathematical analysis on technical subjects. His was $E = MC^2$: energy equals mass multiplied by the speed of light squared. Ours is “formerly Satan-I, now through Calvary, Christ-I, and never I-I.” This is by faith, of course, and the point is that there never has been an I-I, an independent self.

We’ve had “negative tests” on this—which are good, because it takes a negative to produce a positive. There are those who would say, “It’s a bunch of nonsense, leave us alone.” We know it’s a fact that the Church just doesn’t say it. We have to say it’s still rarely said, and where it has been said, it has been said by revelation.

Paul put this into its form in Galatians. He said, “By revelation I’ve seen it” (Gal. 1:12). “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you other than what we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8). Now, hopefully for all of us here, and for increasing numbers, something’s happened to you, somehow this is He to you, this is truth to you.

We as humans were walking Satans—Satan-I—and we got muddled up for a long time and thought we were just I-I. But we discovered that

we are Christ-I, by revelation, and that’s where we are now. That’s our rock, our revelation—Christ-I. That’s our basis. My own thrill is that I’ve been spared long enough to be with you and see the Spirit confirming this in us. This is what He has entrusted to us. We’re the commissioned people, the commissioned people who know who they are and have a drive to transmit this truth to others.

Proclaiming the Total Truth to the World

The commissioned people not only have the knowing, but are driven to get this out. We’re here to be driven. We’ve got to get this out, we’ve got to find out how it is to go out, if

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this is what we say it is. And we’re saying we have a fresh presentation to the Church of Christ of who the redeemed really are—who we are as real people as we pass through this process of grace.

Our numbers are arising, and it is my joy to be with you in whatever ways the Spirit will expand Himself by you. We’re very thankful for the negative fires which have burned a

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this magazine is to further the great high calling of the Lord Jesus to carry His Gospel to the whole world. This calling is known in the Christian world as the Great Commission. Our interpretation of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity, fully God, made manifest in the flesh. He was tempted in all points as we are, but totally without sin. He was crucified for the sins of the world, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He gives the power to become the sons of God to all who receive Him.

Beyond this forgiveness of sins, **The Intercessor** is committed to proclaiming to every creature the mystery of the Gospel, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church at Pentecost means that Christ has joined Himself to us as one spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). Thus we see that Christ has reproduced Himself in our flesh, and we Christians are really Christ living as us (Gal. 2:20).

Therefore, there is not only the forgiveness of sins but also a life in Christ of knowing we are dead to sin (Rom. 6). Furthermore, we are dead to the Law (Rom. 7) since the power of sin is through the Law. Christ is the only Law-keeper (Rom. 8) and there is no independent human nature that can keep the Law, though we are continually tempted to believe so.

Belief in an independent human nature is Satan’s lie and the root of sin. Non-Christians are really Satan-indwelt, expressing his lusts (John 8:44) just as we have come to learn that Christians are Christ-indwelt, expressing His righteousness (2 Cor. 6:16). Humans have no moral nature of their own, meaning that we are simply expressions of the indwelling deity nature, either of Christ or Satan (the fallen created being who is the spirit of error). Sin in a Christian is a result of believing again Satan’s lie that there is a human nature which can do good or evil.

Our full restoration, then, is to see ourselves as Christ in the world and to labor and travail to see Christ formed in others according to the mighty working of the Spirit. This is “intercession,” the definite laying down of our lives to present every man perfect in Christ (Col. 1:28). **The Intercessor** is committed to this great and thrilling commission, the cost of bringing it about, and the resurrection joy of reaping the harvest!

bit on us, and sharpened and polished us up when those who were part of us have left us. We're always saddened when they do. Some still do and others still may. And we say the sharpening is that. But we'll take it to the whole Church of the whole world.

I was with a man—by God's grace He has always called me to take an affinity with somebody who has the real goods—and I met this man just once. I sensed the real goods, and I got an affinity with him. He started on the gospel level and so on. The point I'm making is that he sighted something which could take the gospel to the world. When the Lord took him sixteen years afterward, not much fruit was there, but one of the last things he said to me was, "You watch. The Lord called me to get this started."

So He removes the starting people, as Jesus himself was removed. But He came again at Pentecost by the Holy Spirit. So I'm expecting to be removed. I'm expecting that when I go on, there are going to be expansion bases on the foundations we call the four pillars—sacrifice, faith, holiness and fellowship. So that's our background, isn't it? We have a Holy Ghost conviction which we call total truth. We have mas-

tered it, examined it and let other people attack it and get at it. Yet we still say this is what we see in the Scriptures, what comes down to us by the witness of the Spirit, and is put here in its simple form.

The value is in its simplicity. Complication means you don't yet quite get it. Love is very simple, God is very simple, and we're a very simple people—just doing what Christ tells us to do. But it has its basis, it has its equation. So I haven't got more to say on this except that the Lord is raising up among us the teachers and expanders of what we're talking about. I learned that principle as partners with C.T. Studd.

Zerubbabel—Spoken Word of Faith

We picked up the name "Zerubbabel," and it's a bit of a mystery to people. They don't know what it means. It means the spoken word of faith, and it is our trade to use the spoken word of faith. Zerubbabel means, "Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain!" (Zech. 4:7). What you see is a mountain in your outer seeing. By a position of faith you see an open plain by which God is going to send us His supplies.

Maybe we're right in calling it Zerubbabel. I'm more inclined to call our new conference center "The Burning Bush." People would understand then what we mean—a burning and a shining light. But we keep off organizations and special titles and operate on the fellowship basis, which is the mind of Christ coming through all who are involved. This is the consensus method. Democracy does work. So we define the Lord's

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mind by consensus and then move into operation.

So that's our basis, isn't it? Our consensus of conviction on the total truth is what we operate together. The basic method of operation is what the Bible calls the word of faith. The word of faith comes in the same way as, "Let there be light." It is the beginning. "In the beginning was the Word." And the Word was the second form of the Trinity speaking the word. He spoke what was in the mind of the Father, and He formed it into words. Then the word moved out into spirit substance—thought, word, deed.

Coordinate a conference in your area

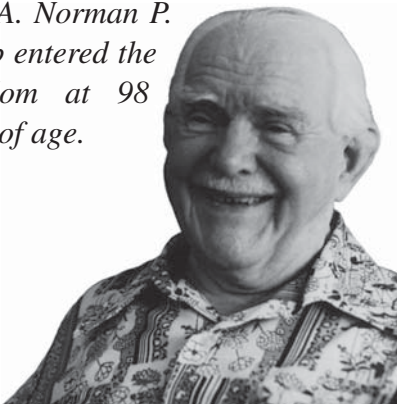
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE the Total Truth with friends and family? Zerubbabel ministries would like to send a team to your area for a day of teaching, sharing and fellowship. Contact us to find out more.

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The central operation is the word, the spoken word. A thought is indefinite. A word is saying it, and the deed is the word having become substance indeed. That's the word of faith!—and among God's people that can operate when we've gotten far enough to recognize that the operator is God. We are the agents. That of course is part of our foundation. We're the body members of the Head. The difference, then, is that the word of faith doesn't come from the agent but from the operator. The agent knows how to get to know the words of the operator and then moves in on the principles of the word of faith. The basis of that principle then is, "What is God's thought to me? What is God up to?"

For many years after his retirement as General Secretary of the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, Norman Grubb traveled extensively sharing the truth of our union with Christ. He also carried on a huge personal correspondence with individuals throughout the world. He was the author of many books and pamphlets, a number of which are available through the Zerubbabel Book Ministry. Norman lived with his daughter, Priscilla, in Fort Washington, PA. Norman P. Grubb entered the Kingdom at 98 years of age.



Editor's Note

In the next two issues we will be celebrating 25 years of The Intercessor by re-publishing some of the best articles and features that present the total truth of Galatians 2:20 and Colossians 1:2— "that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." The emphasis of this issue is the distinctiveness of the Total Truth message as the missing link in the Church today.

Our lead article is a talk by Norman Grubb to the Zerubbabel fellowship during the 1986 Annual Meeting in which he presents an astounding overview of the workings of the Spirit to reveal God in His fullness through His called people—"nylon threads" emerging and submerging in time, unveiling hidden aspects of God anew to successive generations. Several articles in this issue reveal the emergence of that "nylon thread" in and as us today.

"The Missing Truth," reprinted from the first-ever issue of The Intercessor, contains Norman's bold assertion that the message we are proclaiming is as crucial for the Church today as was the truth He entrusted to Martin Luther for his generation—the true meaning and operation of the human self.

Norman's early editorial "Why We Are Attacked" directly addresses the controversy that arose over his publication *It's As Simple As This* with a remarkably clear explanation of the distinctiveness of our understanding of the replaced life

and the universal error of believing in a self-functioning self. That very booklet becomes the focus of "A Look at a Book" review—and details its very personal, life-changing impact on the reviewer's life. In "Letter to Page," Norman gives biblical clarity on issues that have proven to be stumbling stones for many Christians, such as *How can we be "dead to self"?* And *"Free At Last"* explores how we walk in newness of life by our understanding of the implications of Galatians 2:20 during the trials and temptations that test our faith.

Also in this issue is a glimpse into the founding vision for Zerubbabel Ministries (Editorial from Our First Issue) and its fruition as told through several personal accounts of lives changed through both the message and the messengers who pour themselves out to see "Christ formed in others according to the mighty working of the Spirit." And that "mighty working of the Spirit" is manifested dramatically in Scott Prewitt's gripping moment-by-moment personal account as a volunteer responder after the 9-11-01 attack on the Pentagon, giving him the privilege to be "an earpiece and mouthpiece of God during this time when so many were turning to the Heavenly Father for answers."

We hope our readers will enjoy and benefit from this issue celebrating twenty-five years of freely sharing God's Total Truth to all who will receive it.

9-11-01

By Scott Prewitt

For me, September 11, 2001, started just like any other day. I was driving to work and listening to the radio when I heard the news at 8:50. At the time, the radio was reporting that a small plane had crashed into one of the World Trade Center towers. I did not think much of it, but I decided to turn on the TV when I arrived at my office to see what it looked like.

I tuned into the news about 30 seconds after the second plane hit. I could not believe what I was seeing. The broadcasters were still trying to speculate what type of plane it was, but I knew that this had to be a large commercial aircraft. I am a flying enthusiast, and I know what most commercial and private aircraft look like. I knew right away that the second plane was a wide-body aircraft, so I knew something horrible was unfolding here. The TV footage showed beautiful blue skies over New York City with miles and miles of clear visibility. There was no way this could be a freakish problem with air-traffic control; even if they had a total system failure, no pilot would ever fly into a building by accident.

The rest of the event unfolded as our nation and the rest of the world watched in horror. I was completely shocked, dazed, and distraught. As the news continued to show the second plane hit the tower, they suddenly switched to a live shot somewhere else. Before they could put up a graphic, I could tell that underneath billows of black smoke, the Pen-

tagon was on fire. I remember loudly saying, "Oh no, that's the Pentagon." My colleagues in the office watched with me in horror as the news showed the building burning out of control. I knew that the depth of the disaster was not over. Our country was under attack.

My fear grew through the morning because my brother-in-law Tony was traveling that day by air. He was flying from Charlotte, North Carolina to Los Angeles that morning. He was out of contact, and there was no way for me or anyone else in my family to know that he was safe. The day became more surreal by the minute. The phone rang and rang through the morning as family and friends called to check in with each other and tried to discuss what was going on. Finally, I received a call from my sister saying that Tony was safely on the ground in Memphis, Tennessee. His flight landed there after they had been flying for about an hour.

The call I was waiting for came at about one o'clock that afternoon. Dan Norman serves as the regional coordinator for the North Carolina Baptist Men's disaster relief unit in our area. I have volunteered as a team member for disaster relief for about six years. The disaster relief team goes into areas hard-hit by natural disasters throughout the southeastern United States. The team is responsible for setting up a mobile kitchen and serv-



ing meals to victims of disasters as well as those who help in the aftermath. We usually serve many volunteers, police, fire, and military personnel. The mobile kitchens are loaded on large trucks and driven right into affected areas.

I have worked several floods and multiple hurricanes. North Carolina has seen several major hurricanes hit the coast in the past several years, so our team has unfortunately had plenty of practice working in the kitchen. However, we have had no experience working in a situation like what we would face now. I wondered if we would be called to step-in and assist in the relief effort from the terrorist attacks. My emotions were mixed; I could hardly come to terms with the horror of the attacks, but I knew God could use me no matter how I felt.

Skip Greene also called me a few minutes later to tell me that our unit was on alert and that we should expect to move out sometime Wednesday morning. He did not have any final word on exactly where we were going or exactly when we would get there, so I was restless for the remainder of the day wondering where we would go and what this new kind of disaster would be like. Plus,

I just kept watching the images over and over again of planes crashing into buildings and people running and screaming. Through it all, I constantly affirmed to myself that God was in complete control of this, and he would use the tragedy as a triumph.

That evening my family gathered at my mother's home to be together and share in the day's events. Our family has been a close-knit group for years, but this night took on special meaning to us. We were so thankful to all be together in the same place (except for Tony who we knew was safe and would be driving back to Boone the next day) and not be scattered about the country. I know so many others around the country experienced a special closeness with family and friends that night and in the days to follow. Families and friends all across the country did lots of soul searching and inventorying of their lives. It did not take much time for practically the whole nation to realize that people are what matter—friends and family and relationships are what God puts in front of all of us as His means to express His love to each other. I believe that our nation was quickly turning on its heels and moving quickly to God.

Several times that afternoon and evening, I called Dan and Skip to see if there was any definitive word on where our unit would go and when we would leave. They heard nothing, and this kept me unsettled on top of the rest of the events of the day. By the time we were ready to leave my mother's house, it was about ten o'clock that night, and we had no word on our final status. Driving home, my mobile phone rang. It was Dan, "We are leaving in one hour and we are going to the Pentagon." Wow! My surreal day

had just taken a turn into even stranger territory. We had all guessed that we would be going to New York City and that we would leave sometime on Wednesday morning. As usual, though, God has His plans beyond what we can imagine.

Our team gathered in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church of Boone at eleven o'clock and prepared to leave. Skip prayed that God would bless us and keep us from harm and use us as his servants of mercy. We loaded up in several vans, and off we went. All totaled, there were thirty-five of us going to set up the unit and serve. We drove all through the night through North Carolina and Virginia. I took the late-night shift and found a radio



station that was broadcasting the news instead of regular programming, and that helped me stay awake. I felt like I could not hear enough about the events of the day. I wanted to know every angle and every bit of news and every lead in the investigation. We stopped for breakfast just after daybreak, and we were only about two hours outside of the capital then. We were all anxious as to what would soon follow. We were really close, and we did not know what this disaster would be

like. We continued to drive on, and as we got closer and closer, the mood became more and more quiet and reflective.

Traffic was moving pretty well outside of the city, but we knew we would be in for a tough time as we got closer to the Pentagon. Luckily, the head of the North American Baptist Mission's Board has some pull, and they were able to arrange a police escort to the Pentagon. We met our escort about ten miles outside of the city, and away we went. The best way I can describe the next ten miles is to compare it to the parting of the Red Sea. I do not know what it looked like for Moses and the Israelites, but I think I got a sense of it that morning. We rode past traffic snarled in congestion that would have taken us hours to crawl through. It was a real blessing for us to be able to hurry to the site to get set up, plus it really helped us mentally. I'm glad that we did not have to be frustrated as we were stuck in traffic trying to get help to people who really needed it.

We drove with the windows down, and when we were about four miles out, we could smell smoke and fire. It got thicker as we got closer, and finally we topped the last hill and there it was, right in front of my eyes. The Pentagon was still burning and firemen continued to work to control the blaze. Again, it was totally surreal that here I was a part of this now, sensing the situation with all five senses. The smell of smoke and jet fuel was almost unbearable. My eyes burned. You could taste the soot in the air as you breathed. It was hot as we were only about fifty yards away from the burning building. We pulled into the south parking lot of the pentagon at 8:40 A.M. Wednesday morning, exactly twenty-three hours after it had been hit.

We immediately got to work. We had lots to do to be ready to serve 3,000 meals for supper that evening. The kitchen unit is a large covered trailer packed with cooking wares. Loaded onto the trailer are numerous pots and pans and utensils as well as portable stove burners. The centerpiece of the unit is two steam kettle cookers. Together, these can cook 1,500 pounds of food in about an hour's time. The unit also has a propane gas tank and an electric generator. The mobile kitchen is truly self-contained. After we arrive where we need to be, we can operate self-sufficiently for days.

The only thing we do not bring with us is the food. The disaster team is usually coordinated with the Red Cross emergency response teams, and the Red Cross is responsible for supplying us with the food to cook. As we began setting up the kitchen, I was assigned the responsibility of managing the inventory when it arrived. This was no surprise for me as I was in charge of inventory when our team went to the North Carolina coast to provide relief for the victims of hurricane Fran. At that disaster, I managed six tractor-trailer loads of food and was responsible for ten thousand meals each at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We prepared so much food at that site that we had to have two forklifts on the job just to get food from the truck to the kitchen unit.

This disaster would be easier than the usual hurricane because we were serving much fewer meals, and we did not have to serve breakfast. A local McDonald's franchise, located minutes from the Pentagon, had volunteered to make biscuits and McMuffins for the 3,000 folks there working the scene. It was truly amazing to see help pouring in from so

many areas. We continued to set up the kitchen through the rest of the morning, and 100 yards away, the Pentagon continued to burn. Two tractor-trailers loaded with food arrived just before noon, and my task turned to menu management and inventory organization. Each time we work a disaster, we have to wait for the food trucks to arrive before we can make our menu. Most of the food is canned, which is more sanitary plus it can be stored in a non-refrigerated environment. Some of the food is frozen, and some is refrigerated. On a disaster, we usually have a variety of entrees to serve such as chicken and dumplings, stewed beef, chili, pot roast, and baked ham. We also



serve vegetables such as corn, green beans, field peas, and mashed potatoes. Plus we usually serve pudding or applesauce for dessert, and a roll, and tea or coffee to drink.

I quickly surveyed the two trucks to get an idea of what we had, and then I jotted down a menu that would get us through the first three or four days. Next I unloaded the items that we would serve for dinner that evening and then organized the two trucks so that we could easily locate items when we needed them in

a hurry. Our unit was taking shape, and everyone was working hard to be able to serve that evening. By the middle of the afternoon, the hardest part was over for me. I had gotten the trucks organized, the evening meal was unloaded and being prepared, and I suddenly had little to do. A couple of us decided that we would walk closer to the building and survey the damage and rescue efforts as close as the security would let us. We did not realize at the time just what that would mean.

The police had set up a security perimeter at the street that runs completely around the building. Between the street and the Pentagon is about fifty yards of

grass lawn, and this is where the numerous agencies were stationed and had set up makeshift command posts. Looking in that area was like looking into a bowl of alphabet soup. Local, state, and federal government agencies were all there. Most of them wear a simple shirt or jacket with the initials of their agency on them. We saw AFD, FBI, NTSB, NSA, ATF, APD, PPD, and USAF just to name a few. Plus, there were numerous military personnel wearing their fatigues. As we got closer to the security checkpoint, we noticed that

the area had an unusual mood and that something very serious was about to take place. After asking around a few folks, we were told that President Bush and his top aides were about to make a trip to the Pentagon to view the damage and speak with the rescue workers on site.

We got as close as the Alexandria police let us, and we waited to see if we could get a glimpse of the President. Time moved slowly on as the streets began filling up with more police and secret service personnel. At one point, on a hill behind where we were standing, a van pulled up and ten officers wearing all black and carrying the biggest automatic weapons I have ever seen got out and slowly disappeared into the bushes and trees behind us. It was strange to think that this spot that had been so vulnerable just a day before had quickly become one of the safest places on earth. A few officers were on motorcycles right in front of us, and we could hear the chatter on their police radios. Just like in the movies, we heard dispatchers and officers speak in code about the President, his security, and his whereabouts.

President Bush finally arrived, and I was thrilled to see him so close. He was only about forty feet away from where we were standing at the barricade when he got out of his limousine. He walked with his entourage into the secure area of the building and met with rescue personnel and reporters only feet away from where the airplane had slammed into the building. While he was there, a group of firefighters unfurled a huge American flag off of the side of the building just to the side where the building had collapsed. It was a stirring moment for everyone there, and most people I saw were crying. President

Bush was in the compound for about twenty minutes, and then he made his way back towards his limousine. As he was about to get in, he looked towards the barricade where we were standing. There were several military folks near us, and we were all waving and clapping for him. The President then proceeded to walk around his limousine and approach us all. I could not believe it. Here was the President of the United States walking over to this relatively insecure area to speak with some military personnel and some volunteers.

Just a day before, he had been a specified target of assassination, and then the next day, he was out in public speaking and shaking hands. He came over to where we were standing and spoke to the fatigue-clad army grunts, and he took a few pictures with them. Then, he walked right over to where my volunteer friends and I were standing. I shook his hand and told him "God bless you, Mr. President," and he said, "Thank You." As he made his way down the line, another Baptist volunteer was able to tell him a little bit about our group and our mission. He paused to thank us for being real "soldiers of compassion" and then slapped my friend Charlie on the back with the charm of a man from Texas. We were all very impressed that the President would go out of his way to see folks like us, especially considering the circumstances of the day. I also take great comfort in knowing that our nation is being led by what all signs point to a man of God who seeks His will in the decisions he makes.

Strangely, our time at the Pentagon was fairly easy and routine. We had a job to do, and we did it. At meals, sometimes we would sit next to some officials who

were working inside the crash scene and get details of what they were seeing and doing. That was always interesting, and we would try to share in the expression of our emotions with each other too. The hot meals we served were a great opportunity to reach those who needed help and were hurting. They also allowed us to be an earpiece and mouthpiece of God during this time when so many were turning to the Heavenly Father for answers. I will never forget the people I met there, and I am grateful that God used me to touch others with His love in the middle of the tragedy.

We came home on Saturday night having left the unit in the care of the next team from North Carolina. We worked for three days and nights, and our time was done. I was sad to leave in one sense, but I was thankful to be heading home to see and be with family and friends. I will probably never be quite able to explain everything I saw and felt there at the Pentagon for three days, but I do know that God called me to go, and I willingly answered His call. I am grateful to family back at home who picked up the slack for me which allowed me to be gone from work for three days. Mostly, I am thankful that we have a God who loves us and cares for us and has moved heaven and earth for us to know Him, and He promises us eternal peace if we call on His name and are saved by His grace. No tragedy on earth can ever separate us from His love.



In the following letter, a woman relates how, over the course of a year, she went from total despair to total wholeness by exchanging faith in herself to faith in the Total Truth of Galatians 2:20—in the supportive environment of faith, encouragement, and accountability at Zerubbabel’s Total Living Center.

A Christmas Letter

By Gail Bedell

Dear Family and Friends,

So much has happened over the past year that I wanted to share with you. I have so much to be thankful for! Last year I came down to be with family (my daughter and grandson) and friends, hoping to recover my sanity—literally! I was deep in depression, despair, and unbelief and could not find my way out of it. I hated my life, my job, and myself. Over the course of about two years, I was deteriorating mentally. My behavior became bizarre, I lost my short-term memory, and I became unable to communicate effectively. I fully expected at any time to be fired, knew I could not learn a new job successfully, and expected to end up on the streets. I thought about drinking or taking sleeping pills, but I knew that would only speed up the end and further hurt my family.

The most frightening thing was that I no longer believed I deserved anything from God or people. I knew I was so self-focused that I was unbearable to be around. I was ashamed to call myself a Christian because I knew there was nothing in my life that demonstrated His love or power. Since I didn’t deserve anything, I thought I was lost. The friends that hung in there with me, along with my daughter and son, kept telling me that was a lie. But I wouldn’t believe it. Finally they got through to me that I thought I was bigger than God and beyond His salvation. Two things they said that stuck were: “Your God is too small,” and “Gail, there’s no grace in your world.”

In the midst of oppressive depression and negativity, I started to let go of my own insane thinking and hold on to these facts: 1) God was bigger than I was; 2) Because I had at one time received Christ as my Savior, He honored His promise to save me and join His Holy Spirit to my spirit forever; 3) Although I was not faithful to Him, He was faithful to me because that’s His unchanging nature; and 4) His grace (unmerited favor and mercy) was totally outside my senses but was constantly being poured out to me in Christ.

But the breakthrough came when my “world” came crashing down. The week before Thanksgiving, 1995, I was gently but firmly told that my behavior at work was unsatisfactory and that I had to get professional psychological help to keep my job. That’s when I gave up. I gave up hope, and I gave up believing my own thoughts, reasoning, and feelings. I knew I could not help myself.

Powerless, I began to take direction from those I trusted, believing that God was in control of everything that came to me, and He had my ultimate good at heart. I had to trust Him in spite of my fears and doubts, or I would go back to hopeless despair. I was relieved to begin crying for the first time in months as I acknowledged my total selfishness and poured out my shame. All the while I felt that if I didn’t somehow control the situation, I couldn’t trust that there was anything or anyone that could help



me. But I was powerless—all I could do was trust the God of the Bible to lead me. I was totally blind.

One step at a time, God led me—both through people I knew and trusted and through complete strangers. I sought medical treatment and began seeing a counselor. I began to realize how God’s love is poured out on everyone, totally undeserved, and that God really was “able to save to the uttermost those who come to God by Him [Christ]” (Hebrews 7:25). I began to trust in Him, not me, and His grace, rather than Satan’s accusations or my own perceptions and reasoning.

The biggest miracle to me is that Galatians 2:20 really is true—Jesus Christ truly does live in me, and with my sin confessed and cleansed by His blood, I can live a life for others. But it’s not my righteousness, but His right life. He really can (and does!) live His righteous life out as me.

A week after I started counseling and stopped working, I was invited to come here to our “Total Living Center.” I was a “crashed” Christian: my hands shook, all I could do was stare, and I could not call up the words in my brain to carry on a simple conversation. But I felt truly thankful to God for EVERYTHING in my life. Thankful for small tasks I could do to help others, thankful that I was welcomed in spite of my inability to function, and thankful that people were honest with me about any unacceptable behavior. Most of all, thankful that God poured out His grace on me (as He does on everyone) and never let me go. Amazing Grace has become my song.

By fully facing my inability to live right or save myself from addictive self-focus, I finally experienced what

it meant to be saved “to the uttermost.” And to be saved by faith in Christ—not in myself or my puny reasoning—but Someone greater than me who is “the author and finisher of my faith.” The biggest miracle to me is that Galatians 2:20 really is true—Jesus Christ truly does live in me, and with my sin confessed and cleansed by His blood, I can live a life for others. But it’s not my righteousness, but His right life. He really can (and does!) live His righteous life out as me. I’d given lip service to those facts, but now I’ve begun to know it in my experience.

I’ve been here over a year now. My counselor (who is not part of my fellowship) said she wished more of her clients had the opportunity to live with the type of people with whom I was living—people who are so honest and supportive. She said I have made tremendous progress since I started, and she rightfully credits the fellowship I live among. She may or may not know that it’s actually Jesus Christ living out through His body that she is crediting.

Now I am working fulltime, have changed careers, and am kept busy learning how to truly live by faith. I am always around people who demonstrate how to live, and who hold me accountable for believing God. I am also held accountable for the fruit of right believing, and I am beginning to see Christ’s responsible, sane life being lived out in my form. While I do feel more vulnerable, less self-assured (thank God!) and more uncomfortable than I can remember, that’s to be expected after believing Satan’s lies for so long and consequently bearing the bitter fruit of his totally self-absorbed life.

Well, that is what’s been going on this year. There’s lots more to tell—about how God has been working in the lives of my family. But I’ll let them tell their own stories.

Wishing you a new awareness of God’s grace in Christ this Christmas and all year.

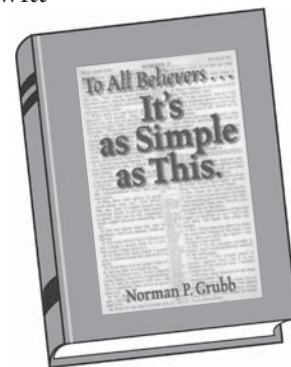
— Gail

A Look at a Book

By Steven Prewitt

BOOK REVIEW:

It's As Simple As This by Norman P. Grubb



It's As Simple As This is a compact, condensed booklet of Norman Grubb's message about the way of total living in Christ. I wholeheartedly endorse this booklet because it is quick to read and easy to understand. Norman walks through all aspects of our born-again faith in this booklet. *It's As Simple As This* is a complete, point-by-point reference to what Norman describes as having "no understanding of man except in his relationship with God." This is a great title to the booklet because of its simple illustrations packed with Biblical references. This booklet answers all the questions people have about why am I here? What is my purpose in life? How do I live as a Christian in today's society? How do I reach lost people?

Norman's writing is packed with scriptures, even though not all of them are referenced. He then takes the scriptures mentioned and puts meat and bones on them. His writing is also sprinkled with practical, even personal, applications that flesh out his points from scripture.

At the time I read it, I vitally needed (and found) in *It's As Simple As This*—a quick, start-to-finish, Bible-filled, easy to understand reference of how my Christian union in Christ works and manifests itself in my life. When I picked up this booklet, I was desperate to find a quick source of Biblical references for the points Norman makes about no independent self, the law of opposites, my spirit-to-Holy Spirit union relationship with Christ, and how that union

relationship is lived out through me. With *It's As Simple As This* I quickly reestablished a fresh foundation of these critical points of faith, then moved forward to the more mature themes in the latter pages of the book about God's highest use of mankind, which is where I desired immediate answers.

Norman concisely explains how "standing in the gap" (Ezekiel 22:30) for other people works—God prompting me to "lay down my life for others" (John 15:13). What I learned in *It's As Simple As This*, then, is how to live in my third, father level of faith when "we move from merely knowing God's acts to participating in His ways (Psalm 103:7)."

When I got to this section of the booklet, I was in a personal crisis of faith and these very passages helped me understand my role in His living through me. I had come to a point of asking myself about the stage of "taking up your cross," beyond the point of going to His cross for salvation. I had an almost overwhelming desire to help others come out of sin, to see other people "whole, complete, lacking and needing nothing" (James 1:4).

For me, *It's As Simple As This* has been a great source for considering, understanding, then saying yes to "becoming free from overriding self-concerns to involvement outside ourselves in people and situations." I read, desired, then by choice "became willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ—if that would save" (Romans 9:3) people God has laid on

my heart to see repentant and living in “the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9).

When I read the section called “The Spirit’s Drive In Us” it confirmed in me that my desires to reach out to others are really God’s desires through me. Norman writes that “a permanent drive ‘eats us up,’ that all the world, and that means for us all within our guided reach, must share this life’s secret which belongs to them if they but knew it: ‘Beloved, now we are the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be’.... Whatever confronts us as the area within our reach where we can bring Christ to others...by whatever form of involvement the Spirit indicates to us that we can be in action in bringing our light to others.”

Opportunities to reach out and to share may seem small, like sharing a bit of Scripture or some words of encouragement with someone, or they may seem big like leading a Bible study. Big or small, they are God’s perfect opportunities. It is for me to obediently respond to God’s promptings in all circumstances, taking the opportunities He presents to share and reach out, knowing that it is really Him bringing His own light to others through me.

The “To Sum Up” section answers in concise, understandable language why I am here and how I can trust to live as Christ in me—as me—for His lost world: “Our only reason for existence, glorious as that is, is to express God in His nature and reproduce Him in all forms of sacrificial love-activity so that we are He in our forms...we are God-expressers through Christ in His holiness nature indwelling us...we are captured by the pressures of self-giving love, God in His lamb nature, and lay down our lives as intercessors that others may find their secret of life, ‘death in us, and life in you’...total fulfillment in present-day world living—Paul’s Colossians 1:28, ‘presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus.’” I then recognize and confirm I am only a vessel/container of the Holy

Spirit. I check my desires as being either self-for-self or self-for-others, then trust, obey, and abide in His actions through me to reach, encourage, shed His light, His truth in other’s lives...that are as close as an arm’s length away.

By the Holy Spirit’s directive in my life, I re-evaluated a sin-filled, rebellious period of my life. I re-lived a period of time that was extremely painful, dark, and full of sin. The Holy Spirit prompted me to think about and consider a time in my life when I was a Christian, yet I was in rank, sinful rebellion against God and what I knew was right. I came face to face in my thinking with someone I had known then. She had lots of problems; she was lost and needed help. If she was saved, I did not know it. If she wasn’t saved, I DID NOTHING to bring Christ to her. Though I had my Savior, I did not share His hope, love, and salvation with her because of unconfessed sin in my life at the time. Then, months later, this person was killed in a car accident. I now see how I had God’s answer to share, but my sin kept me from doing so.... And now, for her, it is too late! My tragic consequence of that sin-filled time in my life is that I cannot go back to her and “make things right” (1 Corinthians 9:11).

My conviction and subsequent repentance (change) has been motivated by the pain of that lost opportunity. In my repentance, I found usable applications for laying down my life so others might live in *It’s As Simple As This*. I learned that my desire is really Christ’s original desire being lived out through me. I learned that Christ’s highest and best use for His redeemed people is that we reach others with His love, hope, concern and encouragement. I have done all I know to do as concerns any people or opportunities God lays open for me to share Him to others through me. So, though I did not share Christ with Ann, out of her death has sprung motivation, life, desire to share Christ with others...to reach people as close as an arm’s length away...given practical application learned by reading *It’s As Simple As This*.

God's Standards Have Not Changed:

British Fall Conference 1997

By Marian Kinahan

Castleton was the venue once again for the British Fall Conference. Folks came from the U.S., Ireland, Scotland and England for a weekend of fellowship. Over the weekend we discussed issues which illustrated the importance of discipline in the church and adhering to God's standards. Sin which is not dealt with and not repented of continues to have a detrimental effect on the Body. Throughout the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, we have seen God's dealings with sin. He dealt very severely with the children of Israel on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land when they rebelled and sinned.

God does not expect any less of us today than He did then. His standards have not changed. We, as members of His body, must apply these same standards to our own lives. We listened to a tape by Dr. David Jeremiah in which he emphasized that sin among Christians must be dealt with. His text was Matthew 18:15-20 where Jesus set forth a clear process of church discipline. Clearly sin left unchecked and tolerated leads to destruction. "...a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough" (1 Corinthians 5:6).

We are all without excuse when it comes to how we live our lives as Christians since God's wisdom

is available to us throughout the Bible for every aspect of life. We know, too, that only Christ can live a right life through us; our responsibility is right believing (Galatians 2:20).

Time was set aside for people who wanted input from others on particular aspects of their lives. It was exciting to see God's Spirit clearly at work through us giving insight and light in each situation. Throughout our discussions we drew on the teachings of scripture as our reference point with examples of the consequences of sin and God's guidelines for our lives.

The youth were led by Scott Prewitt and Ginny Mansoor as they studied Proverbs and Psalms and applied God's Word here to their lives. They also very ably led the whole group in singing with Joanna Langley on guitar. On Saturday night the youth introduced the adults to "George" (a game) which tested our rhythm and concentration and added much fun to the evening.

We all headed home on Sunday in the English rain, very grateful for our time together. A special word of thanks to the folks who came all the way from the U.S. and their invaluable contribution to the weekend.

The vision of Zerubbabel Ministries and the function of its newsmagazine is aptly described in this excerpt from the editorial of our first issue (July/August of 1985).

Editorial...

Our First Issue

Welcome to this our first issue of *The Intercessor*. What can we say, but that how glad we are to have this opportunity to publicly share and loudly proclaim "that which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes...of the Word of Life," which has become our Living Total Reality? We can build on no other Foundation, nor do we ever leave this Center, of the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ, as Paul said, "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified," and "that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection."

The Intercessor is being published, in association with Zerubbabel Outreach, to function both as a sharing magazine, to proclaim God's "Christ in us as us" reality to the whole church of Christ, and also as a newsmagazine to regularly publish news and information of current activities and events happening nationwide and abroad, of the Spirit's outpourings. We are also specially privileged to bring news about the Zerubbabel Conference Center, the land now being purchased, with plans to build soon in the mountains of North Carolina, near Boone.

Who are we? There's a bunch of

us, actually! Most of you who receive this first issue will have replied to the letter we sent out a couple of months ago, listing all the names of folks who sent greetings from our Jackson, MS, meeting in January—some 50-plus. At that meeting, several of us, with the consensus of the whole group, heard the "word" to function as a coordinating fellowship, to spearhead some of these activities we will be listing in our magazine.

What, then, are we about? Why are we calling this *The Intercessor*? "Intercessor" is an awfully big word. But we see this as the age of the "intercessor," a growing-up time of God's Church, a coming of age, as Paul put it, "Unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." And this means not just individuals here and there, but the whole body of Christ's Church!

The "fulness of Christ!" What else could that mean in any given individual but that He is living that life—a human life that is Christ expressed. "Christ magnified in my body," said Paul. Then what is the fulness of "Christ expressed" in and as us? Peter describes the unceasing activity and direction of the Life of Christ in Acts 10:38: "How God



anointed Jesus Christ of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil: for God was with Him."

So then, of greatest interest to us, and the subject material to which *The Intercessor* will be giving primary attention, what is the secret of Jesus' Acts 10:38 activity? We will center on five: first, He knew who He was—"Before Abraham was, I AM." Secondly, He knew how he functioned as a human being—"The Father that dwelleth in he, He doeth the works." Thirdly, He knew His purpose—"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." Fourthly, He knew the word of command, of achieving faith—"And he arose...and said unto the sea, 'Peace, be still.' And the wind ceased...And they said one to another, 'What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'" And then finally, as the

(continued, page 18)

Free At Last!

By Norman Grubb

At last we are clear. We are free, because we know ourselves as nothing but the expresser, vessel, branch, temple, body member and slave of the Deity self, His Spirit joined to our spirits. And we have moved in by the recognition of faith, as in Romans 8:2 and Galatians 2:20, to being right self-conscious selves, conscious of ourselves being Himself in expression. We act freely as ourselves because He has of His own choice by grace joined, fused and identified Himself with us as ourselves. We are “driven” people, driven by His self-for-others deity nature. And we live freely in His keeping in our soul-body reactions as much as in our spirit (1 Thes. 5:23).

So then, what about those continual pulls that we still have to that old opposite—those invasions of fear, hate, worry, lust, self-seeking and weaknesses? Now we are alive to Satan’s subtlest assaults on us. The subtle trick occurs when we feel those constant pulls on us and we go back to the old habit of thinking we ought not to respond to them. Bang! We have been caught out in the old habit of thinking we are independent, and thus need to respond to an “ought to” or an “ought not.” This is the subtle trick. Those pulls make us think we are independent human selves again, and the moment we think that, back comes the law saying, “No, you ought

not to.” And we are caught right up into false condemnation. That “ought not” only reaches us because we have slipped back into thinking we should be watching ourselves, running our own lives and combating the wrong pulls. That is where Satan has his laugh on us. There we are, inwardly condemned as if we ought not to fear, hate, anger, lust, or to want or react to these negative desires. And there we are struggling and condemned, or maybe following through to some actual sin.

Why? Here comes Satan’s final subtle trick. We are tricked into thinking that having those pulls is sin; whereas the real sin is the unbelief of thinking we are again independent selves who should not have these pulls. But independent self is really Satan-self again having his hold on us, and we then again “carnal, sold under sin.” That means we are back again under the law with its “thou shalt not.” But we are bound and unable to keep that law because our false sense of independent self, to which the law addresses itself, is really Satan as us with his temporary control of us.

Paul puts the essence of Romans 6, 7 and 8 into three verses to the Galatians—Galatians 5:16-18. “Walk in the Spirit,” he writes, “and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.” We are Spirit people, but still in our

flesh-humanity, and thus open to all Satan’s pulls on us in our soul-body emotions and appetites. So now what happens? We become conscious of flesh pulls, for, says Paul, “the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other.” These

Here comes Satan’s final subtle trick. We are tricked into thinking that having those pulls is sin; whereas the real sin is the unbelief of thinking we are again independent selves who should not have these pulls.

contrary pulls make us conscious of the antagonistic opposites, “the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.” We are Spirit people bearing Spirit fruit and loving to be so, but we now also feel the pulls and desires of the flesh—Satan’s agency in this Satan-filled world for attracting us back to his self-for-self ways.

This consciousness of the flesh-Spirit antagonisms is the danger spot. Satan thereby seeks to drag us back to that separation through the Fall, in which we again think we are in-

dependent selves instead of Spirit-united selves. This independent self outlook is really the touch of the old Satan-union on us. It also means that we immediately put ourselves back under the law again. And with what consequence? We are bound by that Satan-self in our separation and cannot respond to the law or Spirit, and so Paul says, "Ye cannot do the things that ye would." Thus we are under the condemnation of the law and experience guilt that we cannot fulfill it. Being in the lie of independent self temporarily puts us back under Satan's control. Therefore, we cannot do the things that we would. Properly caught, properly bound and condemned!

But now Paul says, "If ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law." In other words, if we are temporarily in unbelief, which has resurrected the lies of the independent self, we then suddenly remind ourselves of who we really are—Spirit bound and Spirit led, our self expressing Himself. We then say, "Wait a minute. Of course I am not an independent self feeling these pulls of Satan. That is his lie. No, I am a Christ-self." I do not deny or fight the reality of my flesh pulls (and those are precisely what my Elder Brother equally, continually had according to Hebrews 4:15).

I accept and recognize the reality of these flesh pulls, but I am dead to them in Christ ("always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus" as in 2 Corinthians 4:10). They can shout at me by temptation, but have no hold or right to me (Rom. 8:12). I am alive unto God, a Spirit

person and led by the Spirit. The only law on me is what I now instinctively fulfill, that "law of the Spirit" by which I spontaneously do the things of the Spirit. Through Christ, the Spirit has replaced that old "law of sin and death" by which I spontaneously did the things of the flesh. So I go free—back to who I really always was. This is Paul's definition of daily freedom under daily flesh-assaults or pressures. It is what James told us to be very thankful for—good constant practice in the application of our faith walk. We admit those lying pulls back to unbelief, but now we are spontaneously faith-conscious of walking as Christ as us. Therefore, we "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free" (Gal. 5:1). By admitting Satan's right to pull at us through the flesh, we are also free to affirm our right to our faith-consciousness of being Christ as us. Thus we express Christ's nature of love, joy and praising. We swallow up the negative pulls, or rather use those very pulls to express His pulls: love replacing hate; faith, fear; rest, strain; strength, weakness; self-giving for self-gratifying; and so on.

WE WILL REPEAT ABOUT THIS INDEPENDENT SELF

Because of its importance, and because it is the main reason for this whole "walking in the Spirit" sharing, I will address again what we do in meeting the assaults of the flesh. The answer is that we do not fight temptation or take condemnation for it. The very opposite. We recognize that the

real temptation is to make me think I am the independent self that I am not. Then I am again "under the law," yet cannot fulfill it, because independent self is really Satan as me (Matt. 16:23). It is the sin of unbelief. What then do I do? I quickly recognize that the problem is not my having flesh-

We recognize that the real temptation is to make me think I am the independent self that I am not. Then I am again "under the law," yet cannot fulfill it, because independent self is really Satan as me (Matt. 16:23). It is the sin of unbelief.

temptation, but rather my temporarily forgetting (2 Pet. 1:9) that I am no longer an independent self. Who I am is simply and solely an expresser of Christ in His nature.

Therefore, as quickly as I can, I accept the fact of being tempted, for we live in a totally tempting world. Accepting that, I don't deny or resist the temptation. Instead, I resist the tempter (James 4:7) by saying, "That's not me you are pulling. That's only my outer soul emotions and bodily appetites, which of course are open to all that can reach me from your outer world (for his is 'the spirit of the world'—1 Cor. 2:12). But I am not a bunch of outer responses: I am Christ as me. He is the real Self expressed by my human container self." As I do that, I am

in fact doing what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:10: inwardly recognizing my place of death in His death to those old pulls of Satan on my human self. In place of these temptations, I am seeing myself in my true self-relationship of Christ in me as me. As I do that, the consciousness of myself as a Christ-expresser swallows up the negative consciousness of Satan and his pulls on me. Satan flees (James 4:7). I resist him by replacing false belief in him by true belief in who I really am—Christ as me. Light swallows up dark. We don't fight the dark; we recognize its right to exist, but we replace it by turning on the light.

Our danger, then, is not the fact that temptation pulls us. We shall always have plenty of that on all levels. The danger is that it tricks us back into thinking we are the selves who must respond to these pulls. But now we know that trick of Satan. We accept the pulls as normal and right on our humanity. And then we say, "That's not my real me. Those are only pulls on my outer clothing of soul-body. My 'me' is Christ as me, and the light is on and the darkness swallowed up." And if we are tempted to think, "But yes, we are constantly assaulted by the same things," then we equally say, "And yes, that gives me continual practice in recognizing again and again who I am—Christ as me!"

—*No Independent Self*

OUR FIRST ISSUE, continued from page 15

central key to all, He knew and lived out the death/resurrection principle of the cross: "I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd gives His life for the sheep...Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

Therefore, the articles in *The Intercessor*, and the activities, teachers, or publications we recommend, will generally be giving heed to these main issues, and their sub-topics: knowing who we are; how we function as human beings; the Father's purpose by us; achieving faith; and the "royal priesthood" principles of intercession. And, obviously, we have no interest in merely imparting "ear-itching" head knowledge, but as we have suggested in our title, we see ourselves joining in Paul's bold commission of Colossians 1:28, of presenting "every man perfect in Christ Jesus." A Church with "enlightened eyes—rooted and grounded in love, comprehending with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth and height...to know the love of Christ...being filled with all the fullness of God," all "perfect workmen," and "thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The Faith Process

By Page Prewitt

When I read the following statement in a letter I was given to look over and comment on, I realized the author was somewhat confused as to how the faith process works. The letter said: "By realizing Christ's perfection and changing my believing about myself, I could begin to step out by faith and do things a shy person could not do"

But it is not our believing that enables us to be and do what God wants us to be and do. What we believe/what we attach ourselves to by faith is a supernatural spirit: Christ or Satan. When I trust Christ to be the Lord of my life He is free to be just that—the Spirit that expresses His Spirit through my human-vessel self—According to your faith be it into you. To put it in a nutshell: I am never independently living my own life, so I don't have the power to be shy or not be shy.

We now know that all independent stuff is Satan stuff. Therefore when I trust or believe in a "just me" to live my life, I am giving in to Satan's lie that I am independently operated. When I live from this independent viewpoint or belief, I give Satan the power and freedom to boss and direct my life. He can't re-enter my spirit center after he has been ousted and replaced by the Holy Spirit at my new birth, but he is within ear-shot and can control me from his now other place.

Editorial...

Why We Are Attacked

By Norman Grubb

Where does the basic conflict lie in the disturbances expressed over my *It's As Simple As This* booklet (this is a 57 page booklet condensation of the message presented in *Yes I Am*. It may be ordered through the book ministry listed in the back of *The Intercessor*). It has even been suggested that I am among those seducing Christianity by teaching self-deification.

The point lies here: even the best of the evangelical Bible and Victorious Life teachers believe in a self-functioning human nature, taken captive by Satan through the Fall. Thus, by our nature we express his sin nature and are “carnal, sold under sin.” Through the finished work of Calvary, Christ’s nature replaces Satan’s, but the emphasis remains upon us to operate and express one of these two natures. There has been the radical change from Satan to Christ, through Calvary, but the responsibility is still laid upon us to do the “abiding” in this exchange. And we are constantly pulled back into responding to that former sin-nature. Therefore, the main emphasis is upon our need to walk watchfully.

But this is a mistaken emphasis. We humans were never created to be self-responsible; we only have the ability of choice as to who will spontaneously express his deity na-

ture by us. There never has been an independent, human, self-operating self. Our main human drive is simply to walk in the spontaneity of the deity nature possessing and operating us. When pulls come from the opposite, now outcast, deity nature, our one response is to recognize those pulls and not be deluded into falsely seeking to combat them as if we are self-operating. We simply affirm in our recognition that He of the New Nature now operates us. In that faith recognition, His nature, as us, swallows up the pulls of the opposite one.

So the issue between us and the great majority of evangelical Bible believers is in locating the area of responsibility. They put it on us in our humanity as if we are the arbiters, and as we “abide,” so we remain free or captives. We, on the other hand, lay the total emphasis on the God who indwells us and expresses His nature by us—the god of this world, or the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we maintain that this is the Bible emphasis, the experience of Jesus Himself in His dove baptism, and of Paul, and of all believers after Pentecost whose eyes have been opened to the total truth.

But it is usually named as dangerous “mysticism” by most evangelicals. Our emphasis is not on us

as responsible to walk this way, but on Him who is now joined to us in place of that Satan-spirit, the One who walks in us and as us. Our main human activity is the faith recognition that He is so walking in us and as us (1 John 4:17). This is our “suspicious” freedom which is attacked and warned against by all precious Bible believers who see themselves as having an independent human self and so still put their emphasis on human responsibility instead of on Him.

The whole point is that HE who is living His life, in us and as us, spontaneously maintains us in a totally responsible walk of holiness and the “Sermon of the Mount” standards of living. We who see, believe, and experience this total Christ walk as us are totally bold in witnessing to it and expounding its Biblical basis. It seems at present that we must be prepared to be largely outcast from our believing brethren, though there will be increasing numbers of those who become see-ers and knowers by Spirit illumination, and thus equally, totally absorbed in sharing our total truth to the whole body of Christ to whom it belongs.

The Missing Truth

By Norman Grubb

This message, the lead article from the first Intercessor published from Zerubbabel's headquarters in Blowing Rock, NC, highlights our unique and ongoing commission to proclaim to our generation the missing aspect of our full salvation: the true purpose of the human self.

It is our privilege to once again proclaim what sounds so boastful: that God has entrusted the missing truth to us for our generation of the church of Jesus Christ, just as much as He entrusted the truth of justification by faith to Martin Luther for his generation. This missing truth is THE TRUE MEANING AND OPERATION OF THE HUMAN SELF.

This is the era of the self, since Freud and others turned the attention of the whole world to what the human self really is. It has become the absorbing theme of psychology and psychiatry, and of a hundred other claims of answers to the question. Indeed, it has become the danger point in the efforts of many seeking to give the answer.

The danger, as ever, is in the offering of some form of self-development or self-completion. We who are believing Christians at once recognize the falsity of all this, when the basis is a supposed sufficiency available in the human self. This was the reason, after the Fall, for that flaming sword of Genesis 3:24: to block any such way to the Tree of Life by the lying deception of Satan. The only true way is through the replacement of the fallen self-effort life, (operated in the human self by the Deceiver), by the substitutionary death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Only then can there be the finding of the true human self: by the exchange of Christ for Satan as operator. But it is totally by grace, through faith in His death and resurrection for and as us. And thus, we see also our co-crucifixion and co-resurrection in and with Him.

But the problem is that, though these glorious facts are recognized by the Bible-believing church of Christ, yet the

church has not given out the total solution. Actually, the solution appears to be largely unknown and unrecognized by the whole of the church. This is a strong thing to say, and said most unwillingly. But if this is indeed the fact, then why is this so, and what is missing?

There is an increasing number these days who know and preach a gospel, which goes beyond that first great truth of justification by faith. They do know, and by many thousands experience, the reality of that new birth of the Spirit, by which believers become new creatures in Christ. The fruits of the Spirit are manifested in their lives. Many rejoice in and use the gifts of the Spirit. There are also those who know that further revelation to the believer, given by Paul in Colossians 1:24-27—not only Christ for us, but “Christ in us the hope of glory.” And yet the full solution has not been found. Why?

The Self's True Purpose

The reason is that the true purpose of the human self has never come into focus in knowing and application for born-again believers. That purpose is realized by the relationship of the human self to God through Christ in His deity Self, and before that, alternatively, to the god of this world in his false deity self. The Scriptures give us ample illustrations to show that our human selves were created only to be containers and then expressers of God's divine Self. Our human selves were never self-operating and cannot be. So there is no such thing as self-reliance, though the whole world seems to be built on it!

We have constantly pointed out, in the pages of our *Intercessor* magazine and through Bible illustrations, that there never has been an independent human self. Such illustrations picture us as being: vessels to contain a liquid (Rom. 6:21,22), temples to manifest the presence of the deity (1 Cor. 6:19-20), slaves at the beck and call of their owner (Rom. 6:17,18), bodies activated by the head (Eph.

There is no such thing as a self-driven self. We have not been created with that capacity. We are only and solely expressing the drives of the deity self indwelling, and thus joined, to us.

1:22, 23), and even wives reproducing the seed of the husband (Rom. 7:4).

These examples all teach that the Only One, who is the I AM of the universe, is the love, power, life, truth, and finally the “All in all.” And He created us human persons solely to be containers of Himself. Our one function, then, is to express by all the powers of our human faculties what He “wills and does of His good pleasure” by us (Phil. 2:13). Now this portion of truth is, to some extent, recognized and applied by faith by present-day believers. And they will say, as Jesus said in His John 15 vine-branch illustration, that “apart from Him we can do nothing.” Many will say that.

But it is just at this point that, so far as we can tell, the great majority of the more “advanced” believers, who will say that much, have failed to find and share the true and total solution. (This group includes the preachers and victorious-life teachers and writers.) The reason they have come short is that they have missed the vital truth that everything in the universe functions only by pairs of opposites, the one using the other to gain validity and application.

Light is seen only as it swallows up dark: sweet, bitter; soft, hard. And the list continues ad infinitum, right to the positive and negative of electricity and the proton and electron of the atom. The same is true of our personhood, since it can be motivated only by the self expression of one of two types of beings—either a self-for-self, or a Self-for-others. And this is the truth of God Himself, when it is revealed that He never remained a One alone. In the eternal begetting of His beloved Son, He has forever been the Self-for-others, the other-lover, rather than a self-lover.

When God purposed to bring into being a vast family of persons like Himself, He designed that they could only know and express their personhood by being confronted by alternative trees in the Garden. Partaking of the Tree of Life would impart to them His other-love, Self-for-others

nature, to be expressed in their human personhood; or, partaking of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil would give entrance into them to the disobedient, self-for-self nature of Satan.

In his created freedom, Lucifer had rebelliously chosen to become what God was not and was therefore cast out of heaven. And then this false god enticed the human race to go his way and express his nature by their disobedience. This then meant that we humans, created to contain and express the being and nature of an indwelling deity-spirit, were taken captive by the spirit of error. Mankind has been “naturally” adept in expressing the total drives of self-for-self spontaneously, ever since the Fall. That includes when we do “good” things, which really have the self-for-self motive behind them.

The Great Deceit

Now this has been the vast deceit, which has blinded the whole human race (Rev. 12:9). We have been so deceived that we do not recognize that all of our self-for-self drives, which produce the misery and chaos of our world, are really Satan’s drives expressed and operated by us. They are never our own initial drives, because the human was not created to be controlled by himself. And that is the key to the widespread misunderstanding which exists among churches, preachers, and victorious-life teachers, as well as to the world itself. And it is this deceit which has blocked believers from entering into the liberty that is theirs and enjoying the total knowing and being of who they truly ARE. Practically all think of self as being the culprit in their selfishness, hates, fears, lusts, negative reactions, etc.

There is no such thing as a self-driven self. We have not been created with that capacity. We are only and solely expressing the drives of the deity self indwelling, and thus joined, to us. Therefore, the whole outcry by teachers in the church to “shape up,” to improve, to be bet-

*In His body-death out went that sin-spirit, and in the tomb,
in came His own Spirit.*

tered by prayer; by Bible reading, by good resolutions or what not, is pure vanity. With enough “trying to become,” believers do experience the miseries and condemnation of Romans 7, which they hate but cannot be rid of.

But as Paul’s cry, “Wretched man that I am,” is every man’s cry, so must also his illuminating discovery become ours. Paul found, by Spirit revelation, that his humanity, his soul-body, his flesh, was created whole and good; and so was ours. The problem was never in our humanity, but it was the Garden of Eden intruder; “SIN,” which is the operating nature of the god of self-for-self.

God’s Remedy

At last, when we are desperate enough to have the remedy, the Spirit opens up the simple truth to our eyes. “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 7:25). That “Satan sin-nature” was by infinite grace the Savior’s sin-nature, as representing us on Calvary (2 Cor. 5:21). In His body-death out went that sin-spirit, and in the tomb, in came His own Spirit. And we, every redeemed member of the body of Christ, are freed forever from the domination and indwelling of that sin-spirit, and given forever the Holy Spirit of God. We are free, free, free!

Our human selves, indeed, remain physically mortal until we receive our resurrection bodies; but in our spirit selves we are whole persons, human spirit united to Holy Spirit. Then we go boldly forward, as walking Christs, in place of what we formerly were: walking Satans. **NOW WE ARE WHOLE PERSONS!**

Even though many do go so far as to know and recognize the indwelling Christ and say that they can do nothing apart from Him, yet we must reluctantly say of the church of Christ in general that they are in deadly ignorance, having fallen into Satan’s snare. The unrecognized stumbling block is that false, lying, conscious sense of a supposed self, which causes us such trouble, such failure, and such condemnation.

We are even told we must “die to self.” What an absurdity! How can we die to a precious humanity, which God created for His dwelling place and means of God-manifestation and action? God forbid! It does seem that God’s new day is now dawning, when the church will throw off these grave-clothes of misunderstanding about our beautiful, God made human selves. But this cannot be accomplished by some sort of affirming about our being “good selves.” No! No!

Total Freedom

Only by our total recognition of the Truth can we be totally free. Do we see that we never have been self-run or independent selves, but that all of us formerly were Satan-indwelt and Satan-expressing people? Do we see the site of the work done as Calvary, and not ourselves; and do we see the savior as Christ, and not us? And do we know that the Gospel is not an exchange of a “bad self” for a “good self,” but rather an exchange of indweller in the human self? Is it clear that I now live as Him and for others because of Christ’s death for me and as me?

This is all of marvelous grace, through faith—by our simple recognition; it is not by some important-looking commitment of the “self.”

And so we boldly say that the Gospel is not an improvement of the self, but an exchange of indweller, by forever having taken place at Calvary: Christ for Satan in ourselves. Then, as Jesus said, “When the Son makes you free, you are free indeed.”

Because this is the missing truth in the church of Christ, I outline this once again, and never tire of doing so. God has given us to know and bring back this truth to the whole church: the true meaning and operation of the human self.

Nothing Short of a Miracle

By Dacia Trethewey

Some of our readers may be familiar with our youth magazine, *Z-News*. *Z-News* is a simple quarterly publication designed to introduce children to the Colossians 1:27 truth, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Our late friend Dottie Tupper started the publication in the summer of 1989. At Dottie’s invitation, I became involved with *Z-News* by the second issue just doing little drawings. At that time, I was 19 years old and just beginning to emerge from a pit of sin and despair with no hope and no direction in my life. Today I have the privilege of being the editor of *Z-News*, teaching a children’s Sunday school class and teaching art to K-8th graders in the public school system in North Carolina. It’s amazing to look back and see God’s faithfulness over the past 16 years, both in my life and in the life of *Z-News*. In a way, my life really started at the same time *Z-News* was first created, and our testimonies have been intertwined ever since.

My life used to be hopeless and bleak. I had a negative view about God and my circumstances, and it affected every area of my life. My view of God stemmed from my ungrateful heart, as I believed he gave me a “raw deal.” I was a special case, and no one else was like me or understood what it was like to be me. I used to see myself as an independent

person, and lived from my feelings of shyness, self-consciousness, and self-pity. I believed that these feelings were “just me.” This was sin, and was extremely debilitating in my life. It affected me to the extent that I could not speak in a room full of people without breaking down in tears—even for something as simple as an introduction.

I did not plan much of my future because I didn’t know how I would ever make it on my own. My family was dysfunctional, but I didn’t ever see that I could “make it” on my own away from home. I avoided authority and uncomfortable situations. Although I went to church when I was younger and was taught the Bible, I had zero integrity. Instead, I rebelled and turned totally away from God. I lived a life of immorality including abusing drugs and alcohol during most of my teenage years. Eventually I became more desperate and longed for an answer and freedom from this bondage. Nothing worked, until in a moment of desperation, my mother shared with me a truth I had not known before. This truth was simple and was the total answer I was seeking!

The total truth that I came to know is what our *Z-News* and *Intercessor* magazines are founded on—the principle of no independent self. I am not “just-me,” but am joined to

Christ. I learned that we humans are composed of three parts: body, soul, and spirit. I always lived from body and soul, and that was my total focus and reality. That was my huge problem because when I saw myself independently, I was really giving Satan the opportunity to have free reign of my members. Instead of focusing on all the negative ebbing and flowing of my body and soul as I had done all my life, I began to focus on spirit—the part that never changes, where I am joined to Christ. I claimed then that I was whole, complete, and lacking nothing—for one reason and one reason only—that Christ is this in me. I knew I couldn’t say that about “just me,” but I could definitely say it about Him. I could then no longer say that “Christ-I” is limited by any feelings or circumstances. The Creator of the universe lives in me, and knows NO limits. This was the TOTAL answer that I was seeking! And it was applicable in EVERY area of life. Though seemingly just words in daily living, I believed it, meant it when I said it, and I saw God begin to work a complete miracle in me!

This was a time of “new beginnings.” As God began a work in me, He provided a network of new friends/believers, and I had the opportunity to contribute artwork for the new youth magazine, *Z-News*. I first attended our local Bible Study

in Massachusetts and Zerubbabel conferences and summer camps. It was great news that others believed the truth, shared how their own lives were transformed and helped me know it for myself. My life then began to dramatically change as I dared to claim that I was not an independent person, but was joined to Christ, and "...it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). I trusted God in small things, believing He could handle any situation perfectly through me. Having the total, practical answer gave me confidence to take action where I was formerly debilitated. He could handle the next thing that was before me to do, and could do it despite the negative feelings and thoughts I had. It was relieving because I didn't trust "myself" but trusted Christ to take action through me. Simple, yet not always easy to say, especially when body/soul pulls seemed so opposite.

As I began to take steps by faith I was able to do things I once thought impossible—trusting Christ to do what I could not. He did the impossible through me—and could speak to a group of people and have something worthwhile to say without crying. I learned to do the next right thing, which thankfully included working more and more with *Z-News*. I was able to share what I was learning about Christ living my life as I was learning how to handle more responsibilities with the magazine. I see now that it was part of God's plan to have my life and the life of *Z-News* coincide, and was all part of His perfect plan to bring me to today.

God provided an outlet for me to begin to take what I believed and share it in simple terms with *Z-News* readers, and it was a privilege to be able to do this. The spiritual growth in my own life occurred alongside the growth of *Z-News*, and I was able to share this in the magazine, beginning with simple artwork in the 2nd and 3rd issues. By the 5th issue, I shared my testimony ("I Felt So Lost") and was involved in the creation, set-up and production with my friends Robyn Mace and Scott Prewitt. Robyn would travel from Maryland, I would travel from Massachusetts,

I claimed then that I was whole, complete, and lacking nothing—for one reason and one reason only—that Christ is this in me. I knew I couldn't say that about "just me," but I could definitely say it about Him.

and we would meet in New Jersey at the home of *Z-News*' creator, Dottie Tupper. We typed, cut, pasted and put *Z-News* together in two days, literally on the floor of Dottie's living room. We loved this time we had together and were grateful that we had taken part in an important commission for young people. These were the early days of the magazine and early days of my redeemed life.

Even before I recognized it, God was preparing me to carry out His will for me. I earned a secretarial certificate from a business school in

Boston, which was a first significant walk of faith for me because it was so far outside my comfort zone. There I learned administrative skills, which I have always used in the jobs God lined up for me, both for employment and for our youth ministry. My parents owned a print shop where I worked for several years and learned how to plan, prepare and produce printed materials, which was a foundation for understanding how to publish *Z-News*. I attended a local college for visual arts, (I recently went back to college to earn a teaching degree), which has now become my career, as I am a full time art educator. Through these years, I attended Zerubbabel conferences and became more involved with *Z-News* and working creatively with young people. I didn't realize the big picture at the time, but did the next right thing God had for me to do, trusting Christ to be able to do it through me. Now I see clearly that God had these specific details worked out for the larger plan He had for me in our youth ministry.

Through the years, I continued working on the magazine, and by the 10th issue I had moved to North Carolina with close friends who were committed to our ministry based on the truth of Galatians 2:20, through which each of us had experienced freedom. God continued to do a further work in me as I realized that I was bound in those areas in which I still saw myself independently (which means I really believed Satan's lie). I will spare many of the details, but can sum up that EVERY problem stemmed from my sin of un-

belief (thinking I was just-me again) and refusing to trust God and His sufficiency in ALL areas of my life.

There were some things I did not want to give up and preferred my ideas and perceptions to God's. This was sin. As a result, I missed out on one and a half years of my commission and ministry through *Z-News*, which I deeply regret. Although I cannot get that time back, I am reassured that I have been forgiven for it. After reaching a point of desperation and brokenness from the consequences of my choices, I confessed my sin to God and others, and repented and turned from it. I don't take lightly that my life today is a second chance—a redeemed life. I am even thankful for that negative side, because it is such a contrast to the joy, freedom and forgiveness I now know.

My life today is victorious and nothing short of a miracle! I went from being unable to state my name in a room full of people to becoming a gradeschool teacher where I rely on my ability to communicate verbally. I ultimately changed from believing I was “just me” (the lie of independence) to knowing that Christ is in me and can live perfectly through me, despite my feelings. I am whole and complete, lacking nothing. Christ truly has lived the life I cannot! This truth works, because the person Christ works, and my life is a testimony to that. I want others to know this amazing truth that has changed my life, and that's why I am so glad to share my testimony and to help share the truth with the next generation of young people through *Z-News*.

O r Financial S pport

We feel the words of C.T. Studd best describe our means of financial support:

WE HAVE A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE TO back us up, out and away the wealthiest person in the world. I had an interview with Him. He gave me a cheque-book free and urged me to draw upon Him. He assured me His Firm clothes the grass of the field, preserves the sparrows, counts the hairs of the children's heads. He said the Head of the Firm promised to supply all our need, and, to make sure, One of the Partners, or rather Two, were to go along with each member of our parties and would never leave us or fail us. He even showed me some testimonials from former clients. A tough old chap with a long beard and hard-bitten face said that on one occasion supplies had arrived and been delivered by black ravens, and on another, by a white-winged angel. Another little old man who seemed scarred and marked all over like a walnut shell said he had been saved from death times untold, for he had determined to put to proof the assurance that he who would lose his life for the Firm's sake should find it. He told stories more wonderful than novels and Arabian Nights, of escapes and hardships, travels and dungeons, and with such a fire in his eye and laugh in his voice, added, 'But out of all of them the Partner delivered me.' He said gambling for Christ was the best game in the world. He said the compulsory rest cure was rather hard on him now with his gambling craze still there, but the Chief Partner commanded it, and said he must not be selfish and greedy about it, that he had had a good long innings and made the highest score so far, and had better sit quiet a bit, with pads off and coat on, and encourage the others.

It did me good to see this old warrior. He was like a bit of red-hot quicksilver, and one felt scorched up with shame—and ever since I saw him, and heard him, I have had a sort of pocket telephone inside, ringing me up and saying at intervals. 'Go it, old chap, go in for a slog! Your eye's in all right, and their bowling is getting weak. Take the long handle, only a few minutes till the stumps are drawn. Go it! Go it! Go it! Bravo! Now again!!!'"

Source C. T. Studd Cricketer & Pioneer by Norman Grubb 1933 by Christian Literature Crusade. Fort Washington. Pennsylvania.

Letters from Norman

The Worldwide Evangelization



Crusade

C. T. STUDD, Founder

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
BOX A - FORT WASHINGTON, PA. 19034
Telephone: (215) Mitchell 6-8489

Office of
NORMAN P. GRUBB

Oct. 24, 1972

Page dearest,

What a precious letter from you. Actually the day it arrived (two days ago) I was thinking of you and hoping that, when I am able to come to Texas again, hopefully next April, though I haven't worked out details yet, I might also be able to come to you. So you indeed encourage me to do so!

My dear, you are well on the way (for it is those who hunger and thirst who are filled), and you actually have arrived, only you don't "recognise" it because of various snags!

It is our misconceptions about ourselves which tie us up. You mention right at the end about "How can self be dead" etc. Self isn't meant to be dead, but very much alive! The self has died in Christ from its central control by the Satanic self-centred spirit of error; but the same self is well alive in Christ in its new union relationship with Him, the Spirit of truth. Rather like if a man works for a steel firm under a steel boss, then changes to a cotton firm under a cotton boss, he has "died" to the one and come alive to the other. But because both the steel and cotton firms continue in existence, the steel boss may try to tempt you back again. So we are still in a world where we are now in a negative which it swallows up. So God Our Positive must have human negatives (we), who are stirred up by our self-reactions—fear, worry, annoyance, hurt, lusts, dislikes etc.—and so are alive reacting negatives. Now our misconception is if we think we human negatives should change and not have these reactions. That's our mistake. We are meant to have them and we never change.

But what Gal. 2:20 means, (the "Exchanged life," yes, that's the best title) is that you are not really just your Page you, nor I just Norman I; you are in an eternal, inner unity, the branch of the Vine; you are the Vine in its Page-branch form. Now then, as you have these self-arising, you don't condemn yourself, you don't get guilty or try to change; but inwardly you transfer your inner recognition from what is humanly stirring you up to the True Fact, which is CHRIST the Real you. Then as you recognise and affirm Him, and praise, you find He overflows, swallows up your negative human reactions, and He manifests Himself in love, praise, faith, peace, what-not by you.

- CONGO
- SPANISH GUINEA
- IVORY COAST
- UPPER VOLTA
- LIBERIA
- GHANA
- PORTUGUESE GUINEA
- CHAD
- CANARY ISLANDS
- COLOMBIA
- VENEZUELA
- URUGUAY
- FRANCE
- TRUCIAL STATES
- IRAN
- NEPAL BORDER
- INDIA
- PAKISTAN
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- NEW ZEALAND
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SWITZERLAND
- GERMANY

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NORMAN P. GRUBB

So you see, love, it is not a matter of you hoping and searching and looking for some new experience of Gal. 2:20 not yours already. No. You ARE eternally in that union, and HE is eternally within you, the Real You. All you do is to dare to affirm and recognise; and as you do this, He Himself will confirm to you that this union is a fact.

Then you see you don't accuse or condemn yourself for being yourself and having your own will, wanting your way etc. No, when you feel like that, don't be afraid of going your way and reckoning it to be His way in your union; or you just say to Him, "That's what my will is and how I feel about it. If I should be different, You get changing me." So be yourself, and dare to believe the fact that you are not you, but Christ in you.

And where you have guilt or conviction that you have slipped, well, immediately thank God for the precious cleansing blood, and where is the guilt of sin? Not there, disappeared long ago in the blood! Yes, for books, a great many have found help in Watchman Nee's "Normal Christian Life." Others like "Christian's Secret of a Happy Life."

Yes, I know Miles Stanford and his Green Letters. They have helped many. My one question might be whether they put too much emphasis on the death side, and leave folks rather as you say—how can I be dead when self is so evident? And does not enough bring you thru to the full sunlight of the life side which has swallowed up the death, but not swallowed up self, but liberated us to be real selves!

And how fully I agree with you about those who say, "If God gets anything done, it will be done by the Holy Spirit working in me." No, that's not the answer and is proof that those who say it don't know it yet. Because the answer is "God is getting things done—in and by me"—though all Hell and other folks and accusing self would seek to deny it. "Ye ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" not become it, may be it, ought to be it. No, ARE it! So are you, my dear.

Should love to hear from you again and I think it wonderful that you have so poured your precious heart out to me like this.

Much love,

Norman

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Thoughts on Abraham

By Sanda Cooper

Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac is one of the greatest examples of faith in the Bible, as it was through this child whom God had promised that the nation of Israel was born. This article is particularly timely in light of the events of September 11, 2001, as it was Abraham's "unfaith" in God's promise that led to the birth of Ishmael, his son by the maidservant Hagar, which in turn gave us the Arabs. Thus began thousands of years of bloodshed that continues on to this day.

A friend of mine sent me an excerpt about the sacrifice of Isaac from a book by Elie Wiesel, the Jewish concentration camp survivor and author. I had been reading *Fear and Trembling*, Kierkegaard's account of the same story. The difference between the two is marked.

Elie Wiesel calls Isaac "the most tragic of our ancestors," which puzzles me, as I would call him one of the most triumphant evidences of the power of faith in God prior to Christ Himself. Isaac and Jesus have similar roles. God, in fact, asked Abraham to do nothing He Himself had not done.

God promised that the nation of Israel was to come into existence through Abraham's seed, Isaac, and yet God said to sacrifice him. Mankind was to be saved from eternal separation from God through Jesus Christ, yet He was crucified. Abraham so believed God's promise that he acted, as Kierkegaard says "on the strength of the absurd," and believed that even if he killed Isaac, God could raise him from the dead. Jesus, who was scorned, mocked, hated and totally disbelieved by almost everyone to be the Son of God, actually died and was buried, and did rise again.

Absurd is a good word for both: it is absurd and ridiculous to the natural mind to imagine a father willing to kill the only son he has waited for many years to be born, a son through whom will come a nation, and from that nation the salvation of the world, and yet willing because God—the one in whom he has put his faith—told him to, so He must have a plan to raise him.

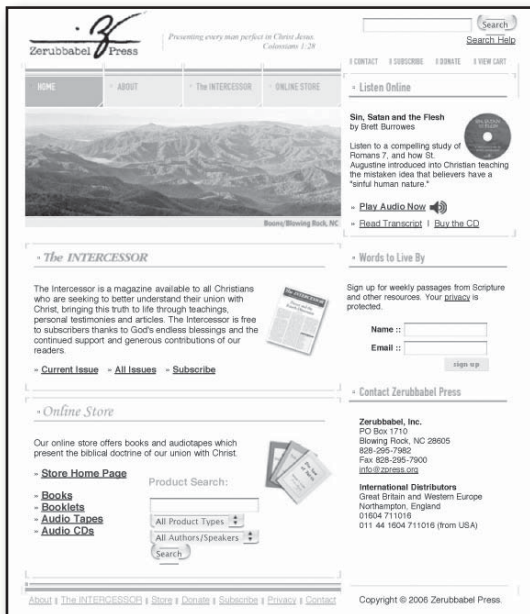
It is equally absurd that a man who grew up like you and me and had brothers and sisters, learned a trade, ate, drank, slept, got hot and itchy or cold and hungry, said He was God in the flesh, was killed for it, and came back to life and was then seen by over five hundred people. Two very bizarre stories, unintelligible to reason, but sensible to the eye of faith.

The reason Wiesel misses the point is that he is not equipped with the only faculty that can bring understanding—the Holy Spirit, who lives in a person once he accepts Jesus Christ as his savior. Jesus knew His disciples did not comprehend most of what He said, and He told them, "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." This proved to be the case, as attested by the fact that after the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they are almost unrecognizable from the scared, doubting group who ran for cover at the crucifixion.

So the still, small voice is the Holy Spirit: He makes the path clear, whether or not it feels hard or soft, pleasant or painful, or is "normal" according to many people's standards. Jesus said, "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake shall find it." So, we are in the "losing" business. So was Abraham, and look what he gained.

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Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. 'What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"

—Zechariah 4:6-7

(*New American Standard*)

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—Norman Grubb, *The Spontaneous You*

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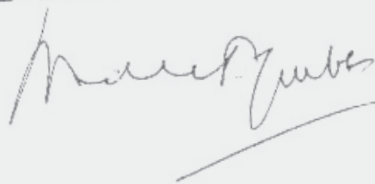
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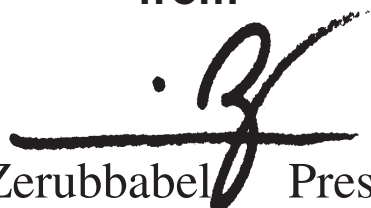
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