

Volume 32, Number 4

Tell it Like it Is

This first chapter of Who Am I, by Norman Grubb, describes his life-long search to understand and be able to share with others the glorious truth of who we are in Christ.

Why am I starting to write again? I will jump right in and "tell it like it is" from the beginning. It is because years ago in my late teens dissatisfaction with my life and the challenge of a friend confronted me with what I had long been taught from the Scriptures-that I was eternally lost and deserved to be, unless I had received Christ as my personal Saviour. I did that the same night, and in my heart I had the inner witness. Because Jesus' blood had been shed for me, then my sins were forgiven and God was my Father, and I was going to heaven, not hell. A joy I had never known before was in my heart, and Jesus had become a living Saviour to me. This was life-eternal life. But it was only the beginning of the answer.

I gradually began to find that there is a difference between the sun at dawn and the sun at midday, and I began a pursuit, like Lancelot and the Holy Grail. I wanted what could be a total answer for me, a full satisfaction, a rational meaning to all life, a fool-proof workable key to daily living, a road map which I could unfold to a fellow-traveler and say, "This is the way." And for myself I daringly say the Grail has been found, and the midday sun does shine; and it is no longer a matBy Norman Grubb

ter of searching, but of exciting fresh explorations of this "Promised Land."

Long ago the Psalmist asked, "What is man?" And it is a fair question. The Greeks said, "Know thyself": and let's face the fact—all we have is ourselves, and we had better know in the fullest way who we are and why we are, and how we can be ourselves and what our destiny is.

I have dug around these vital ques-

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tions in several former short books, which are still—surprisingly to me—in circulation. They have been written over the past thirty years, and were an attempt to share what understandings I had at the time. It is not a question of wanting to take back what I then wrote, no indeed not, but only of, to me, increasing clarification. Truth is simple, that is why Jesus spoke so simply. The complications stem from our partial understandings and therefore partial explanations; and I hope this may simplify a little more what those other books have said—*The Law of Faith: The Liberating Secret: The Deep Things of God: God Unlimited: The Spontaneous You.* I have not reread them, and doubtless I shall repeat things said in them. I had better hide under Peter's umbrella: "I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them and be established in the present truth! And well I know we are mere paddlers in the ocean of the "unsearchable riches of Christ," with hardly a toe in the water yet, as we shall surely

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The INTERCESSOR

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I like always to repeat and underline that the Scriptures have always been the final authority to me, ever since fifty years ago, when taking a theological course for my undergraduate studies at Cambridge, I was greatly disturbed at some of the liberal viewpoints which undercut the facts as related in the Old Testament; and I made a personal decision in my room, rather dramatically maybe, on my knees with my hand on the Bible, that Christ having become so personally real to me, I would stand without compromise on accepting the Scriptures as evidently He did. I haven't, by God's grace, changed nor desired to change in these succeeding years, but rather all the time see ever greater depths of the ultimate of revelation in them.

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 was the author of many books and pamphlets, a number of which are available through the Zerubbabel Book Ministry. Norman P. Grubb entered the Kingdom at 98 years of age.



Available Now on amazon kindle

Great Titles by Norman Grubb:

Who Am I?
God Unlimited
The Law of Faith
Yes, I Am
Once Caught, No Escape
The Spontaneous You
The Liberating Secret

The Deep Things of God
No Independent Self
To All Believers...
It's as Simple as This
Intercession in Action
Paul's Key to the Liberated Life: Romans Six to Eight

AND

Life: The What, The Who, The Why by Page Prewitt The Intercession of Rees Howells by Doris Ruscoe

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Editor's Note

As Christmas approaches, it is only appropriate to reflect on the magnitude of the gift God gave us through His Son, Jesus Christ. A major thread that we weave throughout The Intercessor is that God has the answer supplied before we even see the need. Just so. God had a plan and answer for our redemption before the beginning of time. We get to celebrate that His answer was made manifest amongst us on earth on Christmas day. And though it is a time when we celebrate His birth, it is also necessary to acknowledge the total answer that was delivered to us. We know the full plan that was carried out: Christ's blood that was shed, His body death (freeing us from Satan's bonds), and His resurrection-which means He is alive and His spirit is free to fill our vessels and live His life out through us! As those who are our regular readers know, The Intercessor magazine is wholly devoted (and privileged) to present that total answer issue after issue.

Speaking of the Total answer...in our lead article, "Tell it Like it Is," Norman Grubb explains the reason he felt compelled to write *Who Am I*?. Norman acknowledges that his salvation as a young man (as life changing as it was), was only the "beginning of the answer" for him. After years of searching, he found what he called the "grail," and he generously shares with us this Total answer—a "fool-proof workable key to daily living."

Next, we've included another insightful excerpt from *Who Am I*?, titled "Religions of the World." It's a perfect reminder that the devil has traps of self-centeredness in all religionseven Christianity. It is not through our "religion" that our hope is found, but only through "God's only Son, come in human flesh, by His death and resurrection" that we are saved.

Moving along, you are sure to find this issue's "Q & A" segment extremely helpful. Sometimes a scripture verse that is commanding us to do or to not do something can be interpreted in an "independent" way—like there is a "just" us to fulfill the command. This "Q & A" addresses what it looks like to "resist the devil" (James 4:7) and to "be strong in the Lord" (Eph. 6), in the light of knowing that we are vessels joined in spirit to Christ.

As previously mentioned, *The Intercessor* has been devoted to delivering the Total Truth of Christ-in-you-asyou issue-after-issue, year-after-year. The next turn of the calendar will mark the 24th year! Over 100 issues after our inception, we thought you, the reader, might appreciate a behind the scenes of what has gone into publishing *The Intercessor* through our history. So, enjoy reading "*The Intercessor* 'behind the scenes" for a glance at the highlights.

Next, indulge in some downtime with our Christmas themed CrossWord puzzle, "And They Will Call Him Immanuel." Familiarize yourself with these scripture verses "that speak of God's redeeming love and mercy in the precious gift of His Son Christ Jesus."

Moving on you'll find "Two Men of God," which gives a glimpse into the intercessory lives of two of Norman Grubb's most influential role-models, C.T. Studd and Rees Howells. It is interesting to parallel the intercessory stands they took concerning issues on the world stage of their time with stands and words of faith that can and should be taken on

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 (I 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 Lawkeeper (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! behalf of our current world events. The examples they have shown us are pertinent to the gravity of our world affairs today. Let's follow their example.

You are sure to love our next article, "Except by Faith." In it, Norman gets back to the absolute basics of faith—daring to believe without evidence. He addresses the questions "how does God speak" and "how do we believe?" He then lovingly and eloquently shares with us what brought him to personally believe and count on Christ living in him.

Our Mission History segment for this issue is titled "The War and After." In it, we see C.T. Studd's worldwide vision of evangelization becoming a reality with the story of Fenton Hall, called to take the Gospel to the Amazon. Hall was a young Englishman who gave up all he had, resigning his commission in the Royal Air Force, to bring the Gospel to one of the most remote, dangerous places on earth. Look for the fascinating full account of Fenton Hall in Z-Press's upcoming release—a soon-tobe-named book on the missionaries of his time.

Then we have the delightful "Faith Illustrations." Those who are familiar with the Gospel of the New Testament know that each book offers unique parts and perspectives on the birth of Christ. Timely for the season, this issue's "Faith Illustrations" offers a comprehensive compilation of scripture taken from each Gospel book, and includes precious illustrations of the Christmas story. Use it to begin a tradition of reading to your friends and family gathered to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas time.

This issue's "Faith Notes" is definite-

ly *note*worthy (no pun intended), so don't pass over it. It is chock full of meaningful quotes. We highly recommend finding a prime place for it on your refrigerator (or anywhere else you may frequent).

"Bible Bedrock" brings us full circle from where we started, highlighting that before we call, God has answered. Featuring the scripture "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10), we are reminded that needs and problems are summons to faith...opportunities for us to acknowledge that He—the Answer—is the supply and is already answering before we call.

Just so God had an answer for our sin state from the beginning of time, through the loving sacrifice of His only Son. We wish for all of you, a blessed Christmas, giving thanks for the birth of Christ our Saviour. Merry Christmas!



There are a large number of religions in the world today. Each, if we look into it, has a strand of truth, but the rope is Satan's. The Muslims proclaim the uniqueness of God: the Hindus that God is the imminent presence in all things: the Buddhists that the human race is ensnared by its self-desires and deliverance is freedom from self: the Animists that there is a spirit world: even the Humanists and Marxists that we humans should be a brotherhood. But can these save a man from his sins and self-centeredness?

No. Because we are the captives of the god of self-centeredness, our very religions can only build up our own self-image: *my* religion, *my* code of ethics, *my* special God; and we turn them at their highest in to means of improving and purifying the self, which as we have seen, is an impossibility, for we still remain self-centered selves: or, what is their main effect on the multitudes of their followers, to debase them, as Paul said in Romans 1, into all forms of demonism and idolatry, into horrible caricatures of the living God, and into licensed deification of human lust.

Thus, the devil uses religion by the fanatical loyalty of its adherents into his final bastion of preserving his slaves in the kingdom of darkness. And he just as cleverly uses the religion of Christianity for the same purpose! (We can understand Bonhoeffer's call for a 'Religionless Christianity'!)

That is why we must take the gospel to every creature, for only God's Son, come in human flesh, by His death and resurrection, lift those humans who receive Him out of their self-centered bondages. Only He can bring them into true selfhood, which is not I living, but Christ living in me. He only is the Way, Truth, and Life which brings us back to the Father.

Question:

What does it mean to resist the devil?

Answer:

James is the one who mentions resisting the devil (4:7), but says first that we submit to God. You resist the devil by submitting to God. What does that mean? When the devil comes, you don't deny him; he has his rights, for he's the "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4). He beats and batters you. The devil gets at you and pulls you. Don't resist; accept. Then you say, "Wait a minute, I'm God's person." Then the devil flees. Resist the devil by affirming you're a God person, and then he flees.

If you resist the devil yourself, you've fallen into the lie of independent self and you're caught. And the more you resist this, the more you're caught. Resisting means you're believing in his power. "Ooh, you're an ogre, I'd better fight you." I've admitted unbelief, believing in the devil's power; that's (the lie of?) independent self. But if you accept it as "Oh, that's not what I'm believing in," then my real believing is, "Oh, he's just God's agent, and I'm confirmed in Christ." And Christ comes through. Off goes the devil; that's it. So you don't use that Scripture, "resist the devil," until you first use the previous word to submit to God.

Question:

So is that the same as Ephesians 6 when it says to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might?

Answer:

Yes, How do you *see* it? You wrestle not with flesh and blood. If you say, "All these things are happening to me here, I'd better handle them as if I'm just a human person,"

then that's really believing there is an independent self. The answer? You stand in Christ. Christ is the victor, so you're expressing Christ-victor. He knocked the devil out 2000 years ago and you affirm that. Say, "You're knocked out; I don't wrestle against you. All my wrestling is the affirmation of Christ." As we said before, it's receiving.

That's why I say believe, believe, believe, you silly person! It's always the key—all the time. Believe, believe! Why didn't you believe during the storm? Why didn't you believe when there was no bread? Why didn't you believe there was no sickness? Faith means I'm saying He's the one who's got the thing in hand, and I'm saying so. And the word of faith brings the substance.

Therefore, we come to Hebrews 11, where the whole of life is faith. Some of these people endured and suffered, but in it all, it was God in the suffering, and they took their suffering even to martyrdom. So faith is the answer. The whole of Hebrews is shaken faith—saved people having shaken faith. Now we are here to have a confirmed faith, aren't we? How is it confirmed? By practice. Tribulation gives you practice. Patience is sticking at it, sticking about it, sticking at faith. "Count it all joy when you fall into divers trials." And you get matured in that operation of faith.

So your only sin is to move back into unbelief, which is believing more in Satan than God. Then you've been tricked into (thinking there is an?) independent self, unbelief. You've got a little slip-off. You're really Christ as you. So you come back and say, "Well I don't understand this. All right, Christ, this is your show. You meant it." And you begin to see where Christ is in it or wait until you do see Christ in it. And there's a light in you. We walk in that light. My old African friends had it on the principle of cups running over—that when you walk in the light you're in fellowship with God. You're free.

The INTERCESSOR "behind the scenes"

By Sanda Cooper

January 2017 will mark the 24th year that *The Intercessor* has been published from the headquarters of the Zerubbabel Total Living Center in Boone/Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Those who moved here to be a part of this ministry had a commission to reach others with the Galatians 2:20 message of our union with Christ, and the magazine has been a crucial channel for spreading this truth. Over 100 issues later, perhaps you, the readers, would enjoy a "behind the scenes tour" of some of the highlights of our history, which many of you have shared since our beginnings here.

In those early days technology was quite primitive by today's standards. The content of that first January/February 1993 issue was comprised of stacks of paper, some handwritten, some "Xeroxed" (younger readers ask your parents!), piled on a conference table in someone's law office. Most of us had never laid eyes on a computer, and were barely conversant with a fax machine. Through a friend's nephew familiar with the printing business we were put in touch with a graphic designer, and faxed (!) everything to him. When the pages of the first magazine came put-putting back to us out of the fax machine, it was a thrilling moment! Back then the magazine was printed in Atlanta and shipped to Charlotte, NC, where we picked it up from a palette on a loading dock at the Charlotte airport in an SUV. At one point Dickinson Press in Ann Arbor, Michigan, which prints all the books we have republished, also printed *The Intercessor*, and the boxes of magazines would arrive on an 18 wheeler which couldn't make it up the narrow driveway to our office. A smaller truck would have to meet it at the bottom of the driveway and ferry the magazines up. Now we use a local printer right here in our own backyard, and our turn-around time is days rather than weeks. What a luxury!

Of course, desktop computers, laptops, email, internet and laser printers have totally transformed the process of putting together the magazine, as indeed they have changed modern life. Now articles are emailed from anywhere in the world—a far cry from our first fumbling steps with fax machines. Alan Wingo who has stayed with us all these 24 years, bless his patient soul—now sends a pdf directly to our local printer.

Printing all the labels has undergone modernization as well. In the "old" days we used a clunky cumbersome process, which chugged out labels from a long roll fed into it and was notoriously difficult. Now our jack of all trades administrative assistant on everything to do with the ministry—Joanna Coatney prints them out in a snap.

One thing that has not changed all these years—by design—is labeling *The Intercessor*. We have resisted having

them labeled by a third party such as the printer because it is important to us to see every name and handle every magazine. Those who are available gather on a Sunday morning in a living room and stick on every label (if yours is not 100% straight, now you know why). Early on we had a pretty complicated sorting system to comply with Post Office regulations for non-profits, and categorized by zip codes, states and I can't remember what else. Now all that is obsolete and unnecessary. After Sunday School, taught by Elliot Coatney, the young folks and children join us. We have always included them, and some of our young adults were 5 or 6 years old when the first magazines from Boone were mailed. Now they are grown, and we have a new crop of children—one is two!—who love to help. As piles of labeled magazines grow, they will pick up an armful and take them to the folks who are rubber-banding stacks and adding them to postal bags. They love to throw empty label pages in the trash, or bring their hard working parents and friends a wellearned bottle of water. What a blessing it has been to watch all these children grow up knowing that sending out our magazine is an important event which brings us together in fellowship for a common purpose.

As we work, someone will call across the room that they see the name of an old friend, or question "Do you remember so and so? Didn't we meet them at a conference?" Or "I think this person has moved. Let's check the address." Norman would always talk about the importance of "living links," links with fellow Christians who know or want to learn the truth of our union with Christ, and the magazine address list is, in effect, a history of some of these links. It has always been a special time, this morning when we are reminded of the privilege we have to "touch" our readers through *The Intercessor*.

Which brings us to the actual content of the magazine. The lead article in the first Boone issue was "The Missing Truth," by Norman Grubb, and that title sums up the reason we believe it is so crucial to consistently present a truth by and large lacking in the Christian church. The Biblical fact that there is no such thing as a "human nature," that we have no independent life of our own and are vessels containing either Christ or Satan is the central truth set forth in every issue of the magazine. As Norman used to say: "Satan-I, then through Calvary Christ-I, never just I-I."

In that same issue was also "What Makes God a Person," by Scott Prewitt and "Alphabet Soup" part 2 by Page Prewitt. Highlights from our 10-year anniversary issue included "Body, Soul and Spirit," also by Page, "Christianity's Lost Chord" by Norman, and "The Story of the Ten," one of our favorite reprints from After C.T. Studd. After September 11, 2001 the cover of The Intercessor was simply, in red, white and blue, the 2 Chronicles scripture, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." In "9-11-01," Scott Prewitt tells his moving story of traveling with the North Carolina Baptist Men's disaster relief group the day after the attacks to the Pentagon and shaking the President's hand. In that same issue was "God Determines, Not Permits," the gospel" have been the foundation of the magazine from its inception. Chapters from his books (many out-ofprint until Zerubbabel Press republished them) illuminate the great

The Holy and Hidden Mystery

By Norman Grubb

There is a background to the manifestation of the mighty works of God through a human channel. Underlying resurrection is death. Paul to possess all things had nothing; to make many rich was poor; to be powerful and wise had become foolish and weak; to be re-made had been broken. To share the intimate fellowship of a Savior he went the way of saviorhood, 'suffered the loss of all things,' 'became conformable to death.' We know and can employ through the Spirit the powers of the world to come in the measure that we have died out to enslavement to the possessions, glories, ways of this world. It is a real death, as prelude to a real new life. The Lord Christ made some strange statements, such as that it costs some an eye or limb to enter the Kingdom, that a disciple must forsake all, must 'hate' loved ones, possessions, life. By this He meant that such an one must pass through fires in which the selfish claims of natural loves and the selfish hold on the 'good things' of life, not to speak of the bad, must be burnt out to make room for the influx of supernatural grace, vision and resources. Holy and hidden mystery—that through the Cross is power, through the Cross glory, through the Cross joy, through the Cross fruitfulness. God grant that we may be of this company of the abundant life, with a gaiety that is irrepressible, an attraction that is irresistible (through ourselves to Him), an adventurousness, an optimism and a courage that strike the deep chords of human nature; yet withal with a purity, intensity, meekness and altruism which are not of this world, but are a sweet savior of Christ, both of life unto life and death unto death. These are they who in every generation 'turn the world upside down' and make preparation for the glorious day of Christ's personal appearing. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

-Taken from After C.T. Studd.

which you will know we often return to, if you have received the magazine for many years.

Norman's insights into "the mystery of

revelation of our identity in Christ, the centrality of faith, and the principle of intercession which he learned in the Congo with C.T. Studd and Rees Howells, and then leading the WEC for

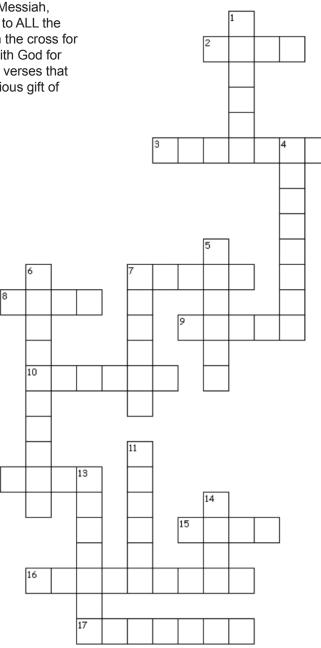
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NORD

"AND THEY WILL CALL HIM Immanuel"

12

At the Christmas season, Christians have a chance like none other to testify to the world that we celebrate the Promised Messiah, born of a Virgin, who came to live out the Good News to ALL the world that God our Father gave His only Son to die on the cross for our sins and restore us to righteousness and peace with God for all eternity. Let's rejoice at this Christmastime in these verses that speak of God's redeeming love and mercy in the precious gift of His Son Christ Jesus!



See page 23 for answers.

Across

2. "For the wages of sin is death; but the ______ of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23
3. "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to ______ Him." Matthew 2:1-2

7. "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts: gold, and frankincense, and ." Matthew 2:11

8. "O come, Let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise unto the _____ of our salvation." Psalms 95:1

9. "And the ______ answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35

10. "But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to ______ them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4-5

12. "Yea, all _____ shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him." Psalms 72:11

15. "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the _____, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3

16. "And the ______ returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." Luke 2:20

17. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a _____, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in a fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Philippians 2:5-8

Down

1. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of _____, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17

4. "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name _____." Isaiah 7:14

5. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a _____ shall grow out of His roots." Isaiah 11:1

6. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the _____ shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

7. "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a _____." Luke 2:12

11. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not _____, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

13. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save _____; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting." 1 Timothy 1:15-16

14. "And the ______ was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth." John 1:14



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May 11 1971

Maureen dearest-precious to me through so many years!

Thank you for yours, dear. I always love the way you share with me. And of course I'm thrilled when you say you know and prove this is the "total Truth." IT is clearer all the time that God has commissioned us to take the Holy Spirit's revelation to the whole body of Christ worldwide, which we call The Twentieth Century COMPLETION of what Luther began with Justification with Col. 1:23-28 as our marching orders. YES I AM is being a confirming word to many.

Yes, love, we simply walk as who we are—HE in our forms, and we go on giving out all He pours through us with no strings attached. If folks leave you, as you say, we look neither to the right nor to the left—only we give what we have, boldly fully with no compromise, and here and there will be the fruits shewing above ground. You are right not to move, and those whom the Spirit draws will come. We are having much encouragement and many "seeing."

Glad you are clear in running into any kind of organization unless and until God gives a word. Some organization is a human necessity, even meeting in a home needs some; but once (at least I have found this thank God in these 50 years in WEC) you have tasted the liberation of the life where it is we being outer forms of Him who is The Universal Life, the organizing element goes way into the background. There is nothing I am more thankful for than that He used me these years to keep WEC free from becoming choked in the weeds of organization, and to remain a bunch of fellowships in the Spirit bringing new fellowships in the same Spirit into being worldwide, each of them equally learning how to walk in that same liberty in God.

So this is your present walk in the Spirit, dear. It's not your business to make any plans for the future. We live in only one tense—the present—NOW. God has what is coming, and undoubtedly on a larger scale of blessing, all fixed up for you.

So this with my continuing love, dear, and along with you in Spirit.

Ever lovingly,

CONGO • SPANISH GUINEA • IVORY COAST • UPPER VOLTA • SENEGAL • LIBERIA • GHANA • PORTUGUESE GUINEA • CHAD CANARY ISLANDS • COLOMBIA • VENEZUELA • URUGUAY • BRAZIL • DOMINICA • FRANCE • TRUCIAL STATES • IRAN NEPAL BORDER • INDIA • PARISTAN • THAILAND • VIET NAM • INDONESIA • FORMOSA • JAPAN • KOREA GREAT BRITIAN • UNITED STATES • CANADA • AUSTRALIA • SWEDEN • NEW ZEALAND • SOUTH AFRICA • SWITZERLAND • GERMANY "He knows what we have need of before we ask. He responds before we call. In other words, while we are busy persuading God, in reality He is persuading us! For what He wants is our faith." —The Law of Faith "On what grounds can we accept ourselves? Because of this great revelation: we are merely the negative joined to the Positive. We are no longer we, but Christ in us. Christ the real we."

-Who Am I?

"What I am not, God is: and God is not at a distance, we are joined—one spirit. He is my Other self." -The Spontaneous You

"I learned to change from the false idea of becoming something to containing Someone." -Who Am I?

Whatever happens, we say, "All right, God, You sent this. It may tear me apart to say so, but I say so." From there the next step is easier, 'God, this has some purpose outside of me to meet the need of others. Just show me what."

-The Spontaneous You

Two Men of God

by Norman Grubb

The most outstanding examples of intercession—and ones which greatly influenced me—are the lives of C.T. Studd and Rees Howells.

C.T. STUDD

C.T. Studd left for the heart of Africa in 1913, leaving behind his wife, apparently a permanent invalid with an enlarged heart, who was spending half her days in bed. He had to go, he said, and it was the only time he went against the wishes even of his own wife; and when a friend carne to tell him that it was not even Christian to leave her in that condition, he wrote on a postcard what became the motto of the Crusade: "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

He went. He found his "black gold" in the Ituri Forest of the Congo. But before reaching there, he wrote back to tell his wife of how he had nearly died on safari of a severe attack of fever. He had one young man with him, Alfred Buxton, and when thinking that he would not be alive by the next morning, he called Alfred into his tent to tell him so. But as Alfred left the tent, "C.T." remembered the promise in James that those who call, when they're ill, for the elders of the church and are anointed in the name of the Lord, will be healed. So he called Alfred back—Alfred being twenty years old-and said to him, "Alfred, I hereby appoint you an elder of the church of Jesus Christ!" Then he said to him, "Get

some oil All we have is in the kerosene lamp-but the scripture isn't particular-so get some and anoint me." He did so and the fever was gone by the next day. So he then in his letter to his wife said, "Scilla, don't trust those earthly doctors. Trust Doctor Jesus and get off your bed." This she did, and began to go through England and the U.S.A. with a fiery challenge to young men and women, of whom I was one, to go and join her husband in getting the gospel to those tribes. So involved were these two at the two ends of the young mission that in the last sixteen years of their lives they saw each other only for one short visit of *two weeks!* That was a long-drawn-out "death." I know what it cost her-in a way, much more than him-as she was my mother-in-law. She remained "at home" while he was immersed in all the absorbing and dangerous activities of his pioneer life. But note: You don't choose your own "death" in your intercession; God puts it on you as you proceed. "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

But the price was fully paid, the intercession gained, both in the heart of Africa and in the worldwide extensions of the Crusade. The full story, which has had tens of thousands of fascinated readers and has resulted in many being called into full-time service for the Lord, has been written in his biography, which is now available in a number of languages.* Once again, this illustrates the three principles of intercession—Commission, Cost, and Completion.

REES HOWELLS

The life story of Rees Howells must be read, as it is by many thousands these days, to catch the continual stream of instances of how the Holy Spirit first got His total possession of that young life, and then began to give him early practice in specific intercessions. There was the derelict of a man living in the boiler room of the tin mine; the tramps; the unemployed villagers; the sick people; and the succession of deliverances having to do with buying the four large properties for the Bible College and School. Each has a fascinating story of "deaths" which led into the gaining of them. Finally he lost his reputation-and perhaps never regained it. For he had a word from the Lord, together with his co-intercessors at the College, just before the start of World War II, that for the next thirty years the world would be kept open for the gospel and a thousand more missionaries would go out from the College. He called it the Thirty Years Vision.

Then came Hitler and Mussolini and the outbreak of the war, with the threat that these two men would take over the world and close it to all missionary witness. Rees Howells first countered that by publishing a book called *God Challenges the Dictators*, which openly declared that God would destroy these men who were clamping down on the spread of the gospel. Rees Howells would have been one of the first men to be liquidated if Hitler had conquered Britain!

He then went further. He announced, by the word of the Lord, the day the war would be ended. There had been that first year of so-called war when nothing happened, and we joked about it as "The Phony War"-the French just sitting cozily behind their Maginot line. It was at the end of that year that he called for the celebration of victory to be on Whitsunday of 1941. Some of the national newspapers took up the "prophecy." But that was the very week when the real war broke out, not ended, with the shock of Hitler's Panzer invasion of Holland, Belgium and France-and threatening Britain. If ever there was a false prophet! His reputation was lost forever. But he held to his Whitsunday celebration. He had gained the victory and the destruction of the dictators by faith, and there he stood.

It actually took four years before the victory was a visible fact. Surely a crazy and mistaken faith. It may have looked like that then, but not now. We couldn't then see that Hitler had built up such an enormous armament that unless it was wholly destroyed, even if there should be a so-called peace, the free world would have lived faced with a constant threat. In those four years that threat disappeared forever, with the entry of the U.S.A. into the war, and the final destruction of the Nazi and Japanese power.

During those years Rees Howells and his co-intercessors at the College stood on their faith ground. They confronted the challenge of Rommel on the verge of the capture of Alexandria, which would have opened the door for an invasion of the Holy Land, and they got through to the victory of faith which declared that he would *never* capture Alexandria—and they made that word of faith known. No one had then heard or thought of Montgomery and the way in which he turned Rommel and his army back in flight.

It was the same when the German army had invaded Russia and reached Stalingrad. If they had taken that city, they could have crossed the Caucasus and invaded the Holy Land by that route. The College stood their ground in faith that the Nazis would never take that city. The battle raged for weeks, and the surrender of the German army there was the beginning of the end of the German invasion of Russia.

Then, with the war ended, there came the real gain of this intercession, far beyond anticipation-as Paul puts it, "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." With all opposition ended, and the dictators destroyed just as Rees Howells by the word of faith had said they would be, a tremendous upsurge of the gospel throughout the world began. We who are involved in missions know there has been nothing like it in world history. There have been hundreds of new missionary recruits, at more than double the rate before the war, and all kinds of new missionary agencies. But far more important, the freedom of the world from colonial governments has meant many nations finding their identity. Their churches and believers, the fruit of a century and more of missionary labors, have begun to rise up. They have claimed their inheritance as autonomous churches of Jesus Christ with His Word and Spirit and have begun to take their place of leadership both in the spread of the gospel among their own people and in sending their own missionaries to other lands. There is a wholly new "bursting at the seams" of the church of Christ in whole continents like Africa and South America, and in many countries such as Indonesia, Korea, and elsewhere in the Far East.

So we see that the gaining of the intercession for which God called Rees Howells and those with him to lay their lives on the altar, accompanied by "the first fruits going to the altar" (Lev. 2:1-3) in that loss of reputation, has in God's perfect timetable produced this unbelievable world harvest, beyond what any of us fifty years ago would have dreamed of; and this could not have been produced without the time it took for the destruction of the Nazi menace and the freedom of the years that have followed. It was an intercession gloriously gained, but only seen by those whose eyes are opened to the law of intercession: the corn-of-wheat principle-through death to life. This is what Rees Howells used to make so plain in his teaching on the lives of the Bible intercessors-from Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jonah, Daniel, right through to the Savior Himself, and on to Paul and up to our day. Samuel, Rees Howells' son, has cooperated with Doris Ruscoe in preparing a further book on some of those teachings. Intercession: Readings from Rees Howells, published in the U.S.A. by Christian Literature Crusade and distributed in Britain by Lutterworth Press.

* *C. T Studd, Cricketer and Pioneer,* published by Lutterworth Press in Britain and distributed by the Christian Literature Crusade in the U.S.A.



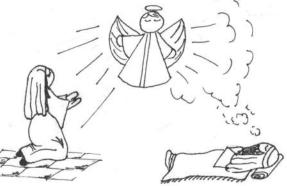
THE ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS

Isaiah 7:14

...the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us).

Luke 1:26, 31

...the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a virgin (Mary betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph).... And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.



Matthew 1:20

...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying "Joseph, son of David do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel....

Luke 2:1-4

...a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered...everyone to his own city...into Judea, to Bethlehem, because he [Joseph] was of the house and lineage of David...to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.





Luke 2:6-7

...while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



Luke 2:8-16

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ...an angel stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them....and this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.





Matthew 2:1-2, 11

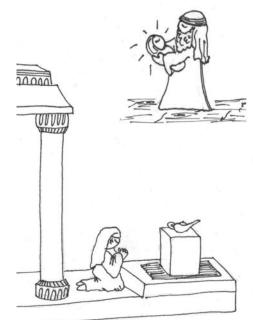
...wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews: For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Luke 2:25-32

God had promised Simeon, a righteous and devout man, that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. When Joseph and Mary brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he [Simeon] took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

Luke 2:36-38

There was also a prophetess, Anna, who was a widow of about eight-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jersusalem.



The War and After

When C.T. began his first journey to the heart of Africa, he wrote that God had told him "this trip was not merely for the southern Sudan, but for the whole unevangelized world!" We see his worldwide vision becoming a reality with the story of Fenton Hall, called to take the Gospel to the Amazon.



peace and joy of a life wholly given to God. The end of it was that he took the tremendous step of his life, and whilst on a long journey wrote to Captain Godfrey Buxton, who had given him the booklet, told him he was going to resign his commission in order to become a missionary, and asked that he might be allowed to join the Mis-

One night a young officer at Chatham returned to his room tired out after a hard day's work. Throwing himself into an arm-chair, with his feet on the table, he picked up a little booklet which had been given him a few days before by a brother officer. Little did he realise that this casual action was to revolutionise his whole life, change the ambitions of a lifetime, and lead him in a few short years to a hero's grave for Christ's sake in one of the remotest corners of the world. It was a ten-page booklet that he read, written by C.T. Studd. The latter startled and stirred the athletic world of the last generation (by whom he was recognised as the finest all-round amateur cricketer of his day), when he gave up his cricketing career in order to go out to China as a missionary.

This booklet, "The Shame of Christ," written as it was by one who had found in Jesus Christ the peace and joy of heart which the topmost pinnacle of fame and fortune could not give him, so gripped this officer that he read it again and again. It was inspired by a burning zeal to make every Christian realise his obligation to pass on the knowledge of his Saviour to those who do not know of Him.

For days afterwards he kept it in his pocket and re-read it until he could not get away from the fact that he had been saved to serve those who had never heard of the wonderful sionary Training Colony, of which Captain Buxton was the Commandant.

The young officer alluded to above was Ernest George Fenton Hall. It will not take long for any who read to see that he was altogether an exceptional man–exceptional in physique, exceptional in fineness of character, exceptional in his utmost devotion to the work to which he was called, and outstandingly exceptional in the depth of his love to his Lord.

He was born in 1898 and brought up in a rambling old country house on the wild west coast of Ireland. He was a typical Irishman in his quick sense of humour and utter fearlessness. He was named after his cousin, General Fenton Aylmer, V.C., who won the Queen's sword for service honour at Woolwich, 1880. Fenton was a lover of nature and especially of all the sea-shore creatures, the little crawling cowries, and the baby squids, which he enjoyed poking to see them eject their black fluid at the enemy. Nobody but such a lover of nature could give the beautiful description which he gave of the wild life of the forest rivers when on his journey to the Indians.

The whole family were lovers of outdoor life: they rode, fished, swam, shot, motored, and yachted. In summer-time they spent most of their time on the wide and island-sprinkled waters of Clew Bay. His mother and he were devoted to each other, and the best of pals. His sister was his greatest friend. Like her brother, she was adored by children; they called her the "Gentle Goliath."

During the First World War she died of spotted fever, which she probably caught from a soldier's child; for one of the many little children who swarmed over her and would not leave her lap was thought to be a carrier of the infection.

His only brother was smashed up badly in the War on the Passchendale Ridge, and has had continual suffering ever since.

After leaving his preparatory school at Bexhill-on-Sea, Fenton took a scholarship at Eastbourne College. From his childhood it had been his own and his mother's great desire that he should enter the Navy; but war had broken out, his brother was at the Front, and his ardent spirit could wait no longer. He therefore attempted the entrance examination for Woolwich in November 1915, passed out at an exceptionally early age, and received his commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery, whilst only seventeen, in May of the following year.

The shelling became more intense, so the officers crouched in an abandoned trench. For over two hours they waited for a lull, so as to make a dash for home. They had put on their gas-masks, but the heavy poison, trickling like water, filled the trench, and they sat in it up to their necks. Both were very badly burned all over their bodies, and wherever a metal button or stud or wrist-watch was a great blister rose as if from a red-hot iron.

larks soared and sang above the thundering barrage. He could hear nothing, but saw the little creatures mounting up and up, and shaking their wings, as the larks do at home over the quiet fields in spring.

During the Retreat he was badly gassed. He and his Major were out a long way from the Battery one evening, looking for a Forward Observation Post, when heavy shelling began. They thought at first that it was only the

> usual "Evening Strafe," but soon found that the shells were gas. The shelling became more intense, so the officers crouched in an abandoned trench. For over two hours they waited for a lull, so as to make a dash for home. They had put on their gas-masks, but the heavy poison, trickling like water, filled the trench, and they sat in it up to their necks. Both were very badly burned all over their bodies, and wherever a metal button or stud or wrist-watch was a great blister rose as if from a red-hot iron. Twelve hours after their return to the Battery, both became blind. Fenton was sent immediately to the Base Hospital and soon after to "Blighty," where he gradually recovered.

The War was over before he was fit enough to return.

The year after the War he was posted to Malta. A friend there invited him to go to some meetings of the Officers' Christian Union. For some time in the secret of his heart he had had a great longing after God, and in his soul hunger he used to spend hours in prayer. He did not understand things then, but only went to please his friends. Soon, however, he discovered through one of their printed leaflets that

Although so young, he was given command of an antiaircraft station at the mouth of the Tees. This was no sinecure, for the Zeppelins came over continually and bombed the adjacent towns. At nineteen he was sent to the Front, where he spent three months. He was there for the great "Hindenburg push" of April 1918. One of the things that struck him most, he wrote home, was that the

17

the Union was above all one for Prayer. This had an immediate attraction for him. He felt that he enjoyed prayer so much that he might help by joining, and so he signed the form and sent it in. At Malta also he had scope to continue his nature study, and used to grope along the seashore at night to catch the spider-like star-fish which come out only after dark. Afterwards he would wander up on to the ramparts and stand for hours enjoying God's wonderful earth and sea and sky, giving thanks for all the benefits which he was given so richly to enjoy. the Officers' Christian Union had weekend conferences for young officers, and he decided to attend one of them. What a day that must have been to him when he heard there the Gospel story explained in just a simple way! Everlasting love dawned on his soul as he realised that God had given Jesus Christ to die for him on the Cross, and by that one act to atone for his sins; and that He had raised Him from the dead to be his everlasting Saviour and Friend. He was told that all he had to do was just to say, "Thank you," and this he did with the deep love and gratitude of his whole nature. Gone were

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Back in England in 1921, at the age of twenty-three, he was seconded to the Royal Air Force, in which he made his mark by winning the officers' heavy-weight boxing championship. He had developed into a man of magnificent physique, standing 6 ft. 4 inches in his socks. Not only was he champion boxer but also one of the leading lawntennis players of the Army, a wonderful swimmer and diver, and a first-class football player; but with all this he had the great charm of absolute simplicity. He was one of

Gone were the empty void, the doubts, dissatisfaction, and failures; he had found Him whom he had been seeking, and was satisfied; and from that time Fenton Hall, who never did things by halves, concentrated his whole being on living absolutely and only for his Lord and Master Jesus Christ. the empty void, the doubts, dissatisfaction, and failures; he had found Him whom he had been seeking, and was satisfied; and from that time Fenton Hall, who never did things by halves, concentrated his whole being on living absolutely and only for his Lord and Master Jesus Christ. It was only a few months later that the incident took place with which this chapter started. He then decided to resign his commission. It was the second great crisis of his life, when the Lord

God's natural gentlemen. One of his greatest attractions was his smile; indeed, it used to be said you could not see Fenton's eyes because they were nearly always closed by smiling!

In the midst, however, of all his increasing success the same old void remained deep down in his heart, the same secret longing for true peace, satisfaction, and the knowledge of God. Then suddenly all became changed; the light from Calvary shone into his heart and Fenton passed from death unto life. He had learnt that called him not merely to yield his heart to Him, but to leave all and follow Him–and he obeyed. He never said much of what he had passed through at this time, of what it cost him to take such a tremendous step as to resign his commission, and still more of what it cost to stand true to his decision; but that he must have suffered we know. His Commanding Officer did his best to dissuade him, and it must have caused comment, criticism, and regret in the officers' mess, that one who was becoming their standby in so many forms of sport was leaving all to serve God as a missionary.

Three Exciting New Projects

We are excited to share with you some details about three new projects we are working on—to be completed in 2017.

Missionary book

This book (title yet to be decided) contains excerpts from several of Norman Grubb's out of print books about the missionaries who followed C.T. Studd to the heart of Africa. These intrepid pioneers, some of whom never returned home again, gave their lives to take the gospel to the unreached people of the Belgian Congo. Norman paints a moving and inspiring picture of missionary life that has all but disappeared in our day, detailing the sacrifices and zeal of a handful of men and women whose life purpose was to obey the Great Commission.

To be completed by June 1, 2017. Estimated cost \$5000.

"Our Spiritual Heritage" booklet

This new booklet details the stories of Zerubbabel Ministry's spiritual lineage from Hudson Taylor to C.T. Studd to Norman Grubb and Rees Howells. Reading from several biographies, Page Prewitt guides us through the lives of a series of pioneer missionaries who blazed a trail of passion and sacrifice to discover the hidden power of our Total God.

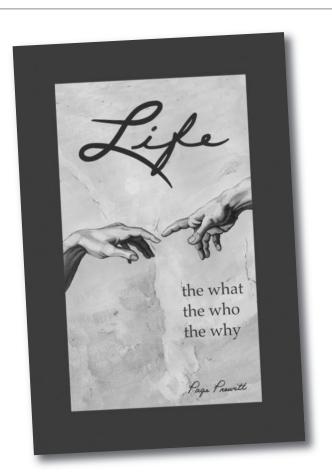
To be completed by Feb 28, 2017. Estimated cost \$1,500.

Zerubbabel Streaming Audio Ministry

We will be making all of our audio material available online for free, on our website zerubbabel.org. This tremendous undertaking will make this priceless audio library available to a whole new audience.

To be completed by Dec 31, 2017. Estimated cost \$2,500.

We invite you to join us in a word of faith that God will provide the funds and resources to complete these projects by December 31, 2017.



Life the what the who the why

"I have found the book, "Life" to be one of the most succinct messages yet regarding the In Christ position we share; the clarity of your message needs to be spread. May you be richly blessed in all things!"

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By Norman Grubb

I had been taught through the years the Bible and the gospel. But external teaching does not save. It may be fuel for the lamp of the Spirit, that is all. How does God speak then, and how do we believe? I don't know, because it all comes from the Other Side.

That precisely is faith. The nearest we can say is that through the human faculties of mind and heart there come to all (I believe) hidden communications of the Spirit, disturbances of the status quo, of our rationalizations, our funk holes in which we try to hide our sinfulness from ourselves and from Him, our false pursuit of satisfaction in things of time and sense, our build-up of a human ethic, religion, philosophy or idealism which crumbles when matched with the actual realities of our self-centred lives, or our pretended and endeavoured forms of communion with God. As we respond to these pricks, which was the name given to the goadings of the Spirit in the apostle Paul, further revelations of inner truth come to us, revelations to us if to no one else, revelations which have their ultimate source and guarantee in the Scriptures: "if they speak not according to this word, there is no light in them."

But the moment comes when we settle it, or rather God settles it in us. We can prove nothing. The wise of this world may be able to shoot holes in our logic or reasons. We readily grant that the One in whom we now have put our faith is unknowable to the world, invisible, and we can never say we know or see Him except by

faith. Historic facts are available, but again we admit that history is unprovable. We have only the word of the historians or eyewitnesses. We have no ultimate grounds upon which to base our belief in the reliability and infallibility of the Bible; indeed plenty can be brought against it. We further admit that certain facts concerning the life and death of Christ are altogether beyond human probabilities—His deity, His incarnation, His physical resurrection, His ascension. Pile question mark upon question mark, we admit all. But faith has nothing to do with these. Faith is itself from the Other Side, and is as inexplicable and absurd as that in which it believes. Faith has nothing to say for itself beyond the bare statement that from certain inward convictions which are convictions to it. it stakes its all on God as truth in His revelation through the Bible and supremely the Christ of the Bible. For myself I have stated the two main convictions which constrained me forty-seven years ago to gamble my life on God: first, what was the obvious, that I was a 100 per cent self-centred person; and second, that God was the wholly opposite, 100 per cent self-giving, so that He actually gave Himself in the Person of His Son to change me into His likeness. That final fact convinced me. I said I could follow to eternity a God who is forever the Servant of His own creation. even to the point of giving His own life for His enemies; and I could wish for nothing higher than that such a Person could and should live that same quality of life through selfish me. And so say I to-day.

"When I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Corinthians 12:10

Needs, shortages, problems are summonses to faith. That is why they are God's will. They are His necessary way of compelling us flesh-bound humans to recognize our earthly limitations, to be dissatisfied with them, to seek the way to transcend them, and to become agents of redemptive faith. There He stands just the other side of the barrier, beckoning to us and saying, "I am the answer, I am the supply. I have come to you in Christ. Receive Me in this situation." For need is a shadow. And what casts the shadow? The light. No light, no shadow. The light of God's fullness shines on this world. The oppositions of Satan, to which we add the sin of unbelief, have interposed themselves and cast the shadows of the lacks of this life. Christ has come to destroy that intervening barrier. Then to those who believe Him, it is no longer a barrier but a bluff-a challenge to faith.

That may or may not mean that the actual material situation is changed. Very often it is. But it means that we look at all situations with God's eyes. We see that in reality they are His situations, into which He has deliberately put us that He might be glorified in them. Therefore before we call. He is already answering, because He Himself has instigated this actual situation with His answer all prepared. Our calling is His stirring of us to feel the need and recognize that here is a situation in which God is going to do something. Our action then is to call on Him, in other words, to take the attitude of faith. Faith means that we turn our attention from the need to the Supplier who is already supplying that need, and who allowed the need because He intends to supply it to His glory. Therefore our calling on Him is our seeing Him and praising Him and confessing Him before men, and awaiting the manifestation of the supply.

Paul's thorn in the flesh is a perfect illustration of this. Though a "messenger of Satan," *God* sent it, for it was "given" him for a deliberate purpose—to keep him from the subtle inroads of self-esteem, leading to self-reliance. The trial was deep and prolonged (probably increasing blindness). At first he thought that the One who had done physical miracles in other bodies through him would do the same in him. But no. After three separate appeals, we may suppose with intervals between each, God's word came clear to him. He was to prove the power of God in his weakness, not from it; not by deliverance from it, but by constant ability to transcend it. The Supplier had met his need-this time as abounding spiritual supply overflowing an ever-present physical need. A seeking faith became a praising faith, and reaching out over all the unending trials and sufferings of his pioneer life, he gathered them up in one embrace of praise and thanks for all of them (2 Cor. 12:10), and especially for the blessedness of that basic lesson for all time: "when I am weak, then am I strong."

And, far more important, when his own lesson had been well-learned, his testimony has transmitted the secret, even more clearly than Job himself, to millions of succeeding generations. Our trials are *God's* trials, *given* us for a purpose, exactly suited to us. Our lacks are God's lacks, our perplexities are God's perplexities. Before the trials, God has already prepared the deliverance and sends us the trials that He may manifest Himself through them. The trial is to stimulate faith, and faith is seeing Him who is invisible. As we do this, in praise and expectation, He gives the answer. It may or may not be the kind of deliverance we anticipate. But it will be what we can recognize and receive with joy as *His* answer, and to which we can testify. The need will have been wholly met by *His* supply in *His* way, and, as a pebble thrown into a pond, the widening circles of the testimony will do their redemptive work far beyond our knowledge.

> -The Deep Things of God by Norman Grubb

Likewise also the Spirit helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. —Romans 8:26

In intercession you must always allow the Holy Spirit to direct you in it. Everything of yourself, of your own life, must go if you are to be an intercessor, but you cannot give your life for others if it belongs to you. There are only two Intercessors, the Saviour and the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit must have a body to pray and intercede through.

I have never done one thing in intercession without his telling me. Before God can disclose his will to you, you must be willing for his will to be done through you and to pay the price. The strength of an intercession is the price paid for it. The Saviour placed the highest value on lost souls so that he was prepared even to die for them. That is why one soul is worth more than all the things of the world put together. I have never lost the consciousness that I was bought with the blood of the Saviour, and if he, who was perfect, was made sin for me, I should regret it throughout eternity if I had been unwilling for the Holy Spirit to pay any price through me for others. Many have accepted the gift of eternal life, but instead of realizing that their life belongs to the one who died for it, they keep it to themselves. They are like the man in the parable who hid his talent in the earth instead of gaining on it.

The Intercession of Rees Howells by Doris Ruscoe

The Intercessor "behind the scenes"

continued from page 6

decades. Many are classics, such as "How Acquire Faith" from God Unlimited, "Undiscovered Self" from The Law of Faith, "The Self Can't Be Improved" from Who Am I?, "Speaking the Word of Faith" from Yes I Am, and "Need is Evidence of Supply" from The Deep Things of God. We return to these and others again and again because of the timeless and invaluable truths they present. Norman also wrote about Biblical figures such as Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and the Savior Himself, describing the faith crises in their lives in order to explain "the way of God more perfectly."

Throughout the years there have been features that have remained the same, such as "Q & A," "Letters from Norman," "Words to Live By," "A Look at a Book," and "Tape Talk" (when there still were tapes!). Newer features "Faith Notes." include "Bible Bedrock," and "From the Mission Field." Personal testimonies detailing how an individual came to understand the truth have always been key, bringing a 4th dimension truth into the 3rd dimension, because it is always helpful to see how Biblical truth is actually lived out in an individual life. From the agony of sin and Satan's deception to the glorious discovery of one's real identity, contributors to the magazine have generously shared their stories.

We are grateful to all those who have written such articles for *The Intercessor* and those who have read them. Our faithful readers are the most important group involved with the magazine; without you there would be no reason to publish it. We love hearing how and when folks first received the magazine, what has touched someone's heart and helped the penny drop, and how we can better serve you. It has been our joy to send out *The Intercessor* free of charge all these years: at last count to 5,356 subscribers in 50 states and 38 countries. We invite you to join with us in faith to further spread the good news of our union with Christ—what it means and how it works.

The banner of the magazine describes its mission as "Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1:28), and our statement of purpose further defines our commitment "to proclaiming to every creature the mystery of the Gospel, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). It has been our highest privilege to publish *The Intercessor* from our Total Living Center in Boone these past 24 years. It is with great expectancy that we look to the future, striving always to remain true to God's calling.

"Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." –Romans 5:3-4

Daily life is by no means just easy, smooth-running times. It is constantly disturbed by things small or big. Something lost, something gone wrong, responsibilities to fulfill, demanding children, finances, sickness, clashes of personalities, differences of viewpoint, decisions to be made. At these moments, self comes very much alive and we have our human reactions. It is at this spot that we find it hard to grasp that this is precisely God's purpose that His sons should be involved in disturbing human situations. The positive must have its negative to manifest through, so we must learn to the full what it is to be a negative. It was said of Jesus Himself that though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience through the things which He suffered, and clearly knew that the Son could do nothing of Himself.

We ask a useless questions and mistake the meaning of life if we say, "Will there be no letup from continual pressures?" No. If I am to function in my proper place as a son and inheritor of God's universe in my eternal destiny, I need to learn first how a son functions in adverse circumstances. A swimmer grows strong against the tide, not with it. It is the trial of my faith which works maturity in me, says James. When we see that, we can expect and welcome what the world calls problems and frustrations.

-Who Am I?

ANSWERS TO "AND THEY WILL CALL HIM IMMANUEL"

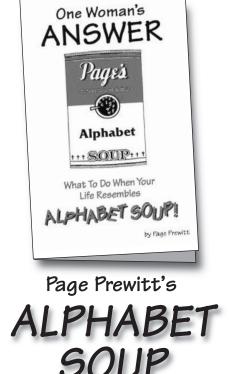
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"...has the basic simplicity and elegance of Einstein's E=mc². When we look back it will probably rank with other outstanding 20th century achievements as one of the most important writings of the century. It takes the complicated ideas of Norman Grubb, who was a Cambridge undergraduate with decades of missions' experience, and with a woman's insight is able to condense it down into its main insight: no independent self and Christ in you as you." *–Anonymous Reader*

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Before they call, I will answer...

"It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. "

> – Isaiah 65:24 ((New American Standard)

Words to Live By ...

He has always intended, planned and provided total supply for every human need, and the supply has always been there. It is not that our need initiates the demand for its supply and must somehow call the attention of the Father to it and persuade Him to supply. No indeed. HE initiated the need so that we might find all our supply already there in His and our Christ! The need is the proof that the supply is there, and is merely God's means of conditioning us to be agents of faith.

-The Deep Things of God

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