

EXALTING **CHRIST** · EQUIPPING **BELIEVERS** · EVANGELIZING **THE WORLD**

# CORNERSTONE

**MARCH - APRIL 2017**

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

**The Filling of the Spirit**

**Does All Scripture Apply  
To Us Today?**

**...and more**

**TO YOU WHO BELIEVE, THIS STONE IS PRECIOUS · 1 PETER 2:7**

# Fullness of the Holy Spirit

# Editorial

*“Be filled with the Holy Spirit...”*  
*Ephesians 5:18*

The year of 1871 was a critical one for D. L. Moody. He had been greatly used of God, but felt that something was lacking. He realized more and more how little he was fitted with personal talents for his work and how much he needed the Holy Spirit's power. He continued to hunger for a deepening of his own spiritual life. This realization was heightened by conversations he had with two ladies, Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Cooke, both of whom sat on the front pew in his church. He could see by the expression on their faces that they were praying. At the close of the service the women said to him, “We have been praying for you, because you need the power of the Spirit.” Moody said, “Their earnest talk about the fullness of the Holy Spirit set me thinking. There came a great hunger into my soul. I began to cry out as I never did before.”

Mr. Moody went to New York City to collect funds for victims of the great Chicago fire. In his biography, *Bush Aglow*, the author related Moody's experience, “Well, one day— oh, what a day! — I cannot describe it, it is almost too sacred an experience to put in words. I can only say that God revealed Himself to me.” Moody continued with his work. The sermons were not different; he did not present any new truths; yet hundreds were converted. His soul was set on fire in such a way that now his work began to touch lives worldwide. From that time God began to use the life of D. L. Moody as never before.

There is a great need for Christians who are filled with the Spirit. Anything other than a Spirit-filled life is less than God's plan for each believer. What does the Bible mean when it speaks of the fullness of the Holy Spirit? To be Spirit-filled is to be controlled or dominated by the Spirit's presence and power. In Ephesians 5:18, Paul says, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.” Here he draws a contrast between two things: alcohol and the Holy Spirit. An intoxicated person is controlled or dominated by alcohol. Alcohol's presence and power have overwhelmed his normal abilities and actions. The same principle applies to the Spirit of God. Instead of serving the Lord with our own strength or ability, the Holy Spirit

empowers us. Instead of being guided by our own ideas and perspective, the Holy Spirit guides us. Unfortunately, many believers do not enjoy the unlimited spiritual wealth at their disposal because they are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

The lives of many Christians reflect the ambitions, standards, and desires of the world. True, they have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, they are forgiven of their sins, and they are on their way to heaven. However, they are missing so much of what God desires for their lives. They seem to be more interested in following their own desires than following Christ. They have little concern for evangelizing the spiritually needy in their own community, their spiritual gifts are rarely used, and spiritual fruit is nearly absent from their lives. Such a Christian's zeal to walk in obedience to Christ is lukewarm. Their devotional life is uneven, if not largely neglected, and they would rather read a popular book than the inspired Word of God. If they pray, it is a cheerless duty and a tedious task rather than a joy. As with Lot in Sodom, sin for them has lost some of its sinfulness. Their sensitivity to sin has been blunted, and they rarely confess known sins in their lives.

Today, Christians have more equipment, technology, training, and information for evangelizing the world than ever before. Yet one of the great tragedies of the present hour is that far too many Christians lack the fullness of the Spirit and the true dependence on God's power which accompanies the spirit-filled life. Such tragedy was not the case in the early church described in the book of Acts. In Acts 17:6 the believers in one city were described as, “Men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.” It is true that isolated instances of the Holy Spirit's power exist today, but the great need today is for Christian men and women to live and serve the Lord in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

David Dunlap

by David Dunlap

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# CORNERSTONE

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**Please mail correspondence to:**

CORNERSTONE Magazine, PO Box 1033, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

**For address changes or new subscriptions:**

gferrier@cornerstonemagazine.org

**News & Events Editor:** George Ferrier, gferrier@cornerstonemagazine.org

**Editor:** David Dunlap, ddunlap@cornerstonemagazine.org

**Editorial Committee:**

David Dunlap, Florida, USA

George Ferrier, Ontario, Canada

Brian Gunning, Ontario, Canada

Mark Kolchin, New Jersey, USA

P. T. Tan, Maryland, USA

**Design and Layout:** Anna Grist, anna ink. designs

**Website Design:** Matt Williams, Louise Street Marketing

**Treasurer:** Eileen Lee (USA) · George Ferrier (Canada)

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that are easy to understand in regard to the person of Christ,

His church, and evangelism. Cornerstone does not intend to

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# News & Events



## **Bible Conference in Land O' Lakes, FL**

Land O'Lakes Bible Chapel  
1209 Livingston Road, Lutz, FL  
March 11-12, 2017

On March 11-12 Dr. Steve Price will be speaking on the topic "Evangelistic Outreach to a World Hostile to Christ". The conference begins Saturday at 9:30am to 3:30pm, and Sunday 10:15 and 11:15. Lunch will be served Saturday. For more information email David Dunlap at [daviddunlap@earthlink.net](mailto:daviddunlap@earthlink.net) or visit [www.landolakesbiblechapel.net](http://www.landolakesbiblechapel.net)

## **Central Bible Chapel Ladies Conference**

3270 Main St. Millbrook, AL, 36054  
April 1, 2017

The saints at Central Bible Chapel in Millbrook, AL invite you to their 10th Annual Ladies Conference to be held, in the will of the Lord, April 1, 2017, beginning at 9:30 A.M. Lunch will be provided and the conference will conclude at 3:30 P.M. For more information please visit [www.centralbiblechapel.com](http://www.centralbiblechapel.com) or contact Kathy Leach at (334) 868-3060 or Laura Bonner at (334) 300-4636.

## **Tavistock Area Conference on Biblical Church Principles**

Tavistock Mennonite Church  
131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock, ON  
April 8, 2017

9:30am - 4:30pm. Please contact Mike Bastiaansen at [leonab@xplornet.ca](mailto:leonab@xplornet.ca) or 519.475.4528. Scheduled topics: The Bible: Truth or Fiction? (David Dunlap, Florida) and Marriage and Divorce (Gary Weeks, Toronto, ON)

## **Vancouver Easter Conference**

Heather Bible Chapel, 777 West 68th Ave  
& 16th Ave Gospel Chapel,  
2756 West 16th Ave, Vancouver, BC  
April 14-17, 2017

Sessions will be held at both the above locations. The speakers are Dr. Joseph Mikhael and David Dunlap. For more information, please visit [www.easterconference.org](http://www.easterconference.org)

## **Couples Retreat**

7062 Lincoln Way E, Fayetteville, PA 17222  
April 21-23, 2017

Speaker: Kaz Ortiz. Registration starts at 8:00pm. Contact Martain Ferguson at [martain@greenwoodhills.net](mailto:martain@greenwoodhills.net) or at 717.352.2150. A relaxing weekend for married couples to enjoy sound Bible teaching and Christian fellowship. \$210/couple (\$30 discount for first time couples).

## **Spring Conference: New Hampshire Ave Gospel Chapel**

12608 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD  
April 29-30, 2017

Speakers: Brian Gunning, St. Catharines, ON Canada: "7 Markings of A Growing Assembly" and Samuel Cherian, Troy, Michigan: "Exercise Toward Godliness". For more details, visit [www.nhagc.org](http://www.nhagc.org)

## **North American Week of Prayer**

The Bible Chapel of Shawnee,  
12230 W. 75th Street, Shawnee, KS  
May 1-5, 2017

The third annual North American Week of Prayer will be held May 1-5, 2017, in Shawnee, KS. All believers are invited to gather together to pray to God and seek His blessings for North America. Area believers will seek to make housing accommodations available for attendees (register early, housing is limited). For further details please visit [www.naweekofprayer.com](http://www.naweekofprayer.com).

## **Lancaster Area Weekend in the Word**

Bird-In-Hand Family Inn, Rt. 340,  
Bird In Hand, PA, 17505  
May 5, 2017

Friday at 7 PM until Sunday 1 PM, contact Mark Kolchin at [mkolchin1@gmail.com](mailto:mkolchin1@gmail.com) or (609) 709-3220 for more info. "End Time Technology and Political Development in the Light of Bible Prophecy" Speaker: Rob Sullivan (Yonkers, NY) Cost: \$235 pp (double occupancy) Meetings held in conjunction with nearby Monterey Chapel Accommodations in the Bird-in-Hand Inn Rt 340 Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505 Many free time afternoon activity options including a replica of the Hebrew Tabernacle or Sight and Sound (advance reservations required) Schedule Fri - 7:00 PM Sat - 9:30 AM to Noon; 7:00 PM Sun - 9:00 AM to Noon, dinner to follow.

## **Video Offer**

Bethel Creations has produced a professional quality 2-minute video clip suitable for use on assembly websites free of charge. Using personal testimonies, this video presents biblical reasons for meeting as a New Testament church today. To view the video please visit [www.bethelcreations.org](http://www.bethelcreations.org). For more information, please contact Anish Varghese at [anish@bethelcreations.org](mailto:anish@bethelcreations.org).

## **Christian Missions Press**

Christian Missions Press began in 1962 in Waynesboro, GA with the hope that assembly writers could communicate to believers worldwide the importance of sound doctrine. Over 300 titles have been published and distributed. A website [www.lifehouse.org](http://www.lifehouse.org) has been established with many of these titles available digitally. A few titles are still available in print and can be ordered at no cost. Shipping and handling would be paid by CMP. Email: [sgengle@aol.com](mailto:sgengle@aol.com) and phone orders can be taken at 405-424-5433.



# News & Events

## **Hartford City, IN: Seeking to Form an Assembly**

Believers in the Hartford City, Indiana area are seeking other believers with which to form a New Testament assembly. For more information contact Gaylord Kramer at [chaplainkramer1@yahoo.com](mailto:chaplainkramer1@yahoo.com) or call 765.348.1837.

## **Brooksville Bible Chapel Brooksville, FL:**

Are you planning to retire or relocate to Hernando County, Florida? The believers of Brooksville Bible Chapel extend a warm welcome to you to fellowship with them. The chapel is located on 21123 Yontz Road in Brooksville, FL. For more information, please contact Richard Whatley at [rwhatley1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rwhatley1@tampabay.rr.com).

## **Frostproof Bible Chapel and Shepherd Christian Community:**

Are you planning to retire or spend winter time in central Florida? The believers of Frostproof Bible Chapel and Shepherd Christian Community extend a warm welcome to you to fellowship with them. Frostproof Bible Chapel is located at 185 Marion Place, Frostproof, FL 33843. Please contact John Chacko at [chacko.jm@gmail.com](mailto:chacko.jm@gmail.com) for more information.

## **Scripture Teaching Library**

STL is a publisher of devotional and expository Christian literature. It uses print-on-demand technology to provide sound biblical literature for Christians world-wide. There are over 40 titles available by respected writers. Their books are available through our website [www.scriptureteachinglibrary.com](http://www.scriptureteachinglibrary.com)

If you or your assembly has a news item or event to contribute, please email George Ferrier at [gferrier@cornerstonemagazine.org](mailto:gferrier@cornerstonemagazine.org)

# Homecalls

## **Gordon Lee Wakefield (1931-2016)**

Missionary Gordon Wakefield went to be with his Lord and Savior on Nov. 22, 2016. He was born in 1931 in North East Kansas. On Oct. 5, 1950 he received the Lord as his Savior. While a student at University of Kansas he married Florence Thomas Dec. 20, 1953. Gordon served 2 1/2 years in the U.S. Army, then taught in public schools in Basehor and Hutchinson, Kansas. In 1964, he and his wife were commended by Hutchinson Gospel Chapel to the work of the Lord in Peru. Lawrence Bible Chapel joined the commendation in 1975. They served the Lord faithfully in Lima, Peru for 51 years before retiring due to Gordon's health. A memorial service was held Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016.

## **James Bonner, (1942-2016) Needham, AL**

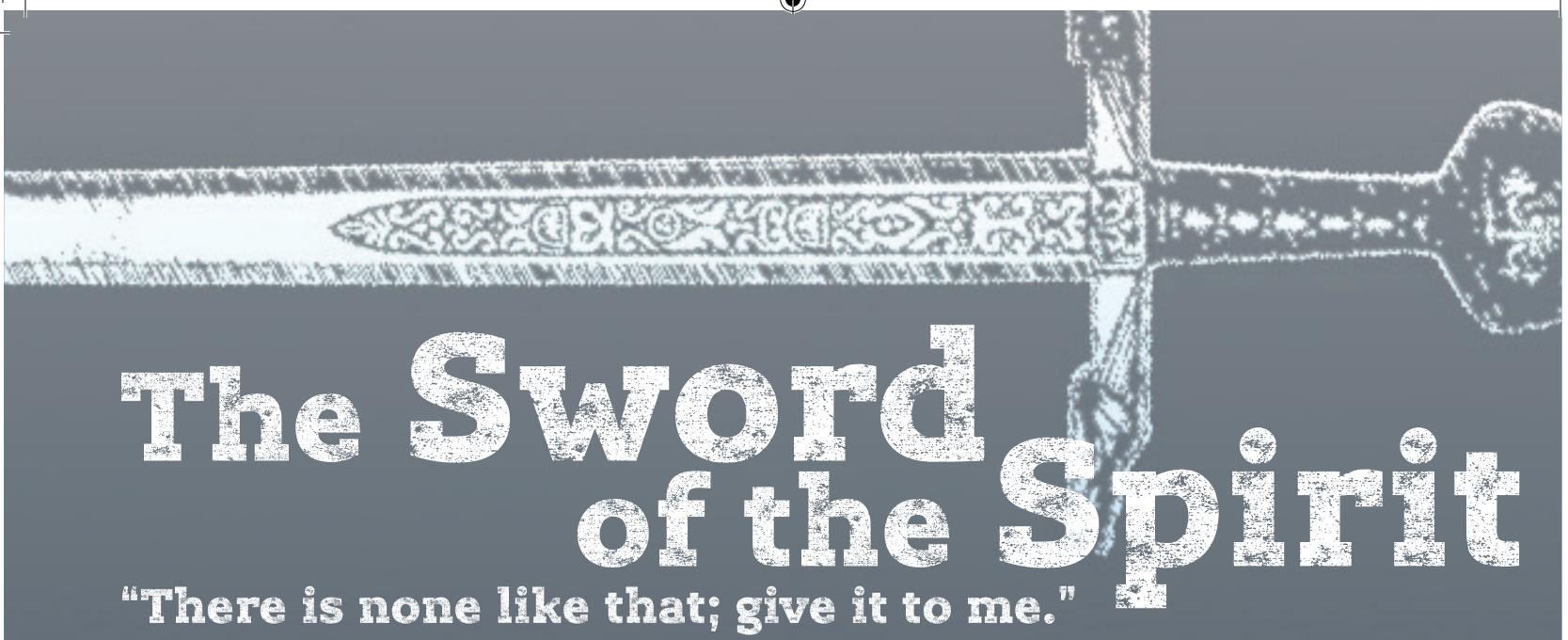
On Sunday, December 18, 2016, James Bonner was called into the presence of the Lord whom he loved and served for many years. James was a shepherd with a tender heart, a faithful elder at the Needham Bible Chapel, and a witness who desired to reach the unsaved for Christ in the Needham community. He was active at Deep South Bible Camp, in Carriere, Mississippi, and an encouragement to the Deep South assemblies. James is survived by his wife Patricia. James's consistent testimony for Christ, both in word and deed in the community, will be sorely missed. Please remember the saints at Needham Bible Chapel as they continue their work in southwest Alabama.

## **Dr. Helen Roseveare (1925-2016)**

Missionary doctor Helen Roseveare went to be with the Lord December 7th, 2016, she was 91 years old. He was a doctor, author, encourager of young people. She was the founder of a 250-bed medical center at the assembly mission station in Nyankunde, Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1966. She labored there faithfully for 17 years. She suffered much during the political unrest in central Africa in the 1960s. In 1964 she was taken prisoner by rebel forces and she remained a prisoner for five months, enduring beatings and rape. She left Nyankunde in 1973 because of health reasons. She passed into the presence of the Lord peacefully in Northern Ireland. She was internationally known for her books "Give Us This Mountain" and "He Gave Us This Valley" and as a speaker at missionary conventions world-wide.

## **Edwin C. Bills (1923-2017) Flushing, MI**

On January 31, 2017, Edwin Bills passed into the presence of the Lord at the age 93. Ed dedicated his life to serving the Lord. He was used of the Lord to help establish assemblies in Flint, MI; Owosso, MI; and Land O' Lakes, FL. He was also involved at the Upper Peninsula Bible Camp. He served as a jail chaplain with Forgotten Man Ministries for many years. He loved the Lord and sought to live a life that pleased Him.



# The Sword of the Spirit

**"There is none like that; give it to me."**

Some people like knives; others like guns; others like bows and arrows. I have a favorite weapon that is extremely effective at close and long range, day or night, in all weather. It can get through any metal detector or x-ray machine. I know! I have taken it with me on all kinds of public transportation. And what will you think of me when I tell you that I keep this weapon in plain sight and within reach of all my children and grandchildren, and even let them handle it?

Let me tell you about it. My all-time favorite weapon is the Bible, the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). It is listed as a vital part of the Christian's armor, and we should note that it is the only offensive weapon he is given. Like it or not, we are in a spiritual war with powerful, astute, and veteran enemies arrayed against us in relentless conflict. Scripture exhorts us to "fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12). To go forth without armor or weapon is not faith but insanity.

### ***A Unique Weapon***

And what a unique, impressive, and effective weapon it is! In 1 Samuel 21:9, when David sought a weapon as he fled from Saul, the priest told him the only weapon available was "the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod." David replied, "There is none like that; give it me." Now Goliath's sword was unique, but it doesn't even begin to compare to the Bible! Hebrews 4:12 gives the specifications of this weapon: "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged

sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." It's alive, and powerful; it's the sharpest weapon in existence. A surgeon's scalpel is dull in comparison. This sword doesn't draw blood, but it does get into the soul and spirit of a person. It does inside work! Sometimes I hear people say, "You can't know what's in another person's heart." My reply is, "I have something that penetrates and discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart." God knows all about what is in the human heart, and has written a book about it!

**"The devil knows  
what we hold in our  
hands, but do we?"**

### ***A Powerful Weapon***

That's why the devil hates the Scriptures and tries to distract and discourage Christians from using them. He knows the damage that the sword of the Spirit can do. He knows that "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (2 Cor. 10:4). The devil knows what we hold in our hands, but do we? The Bible can expose sin and bring about conviction. It can reprove and rebuke. It can pronounce judgment. It can illuminate the darkness, break the chains of spiritual

bondage, and bring a person into the light of salvation. It is a key instrument in the new birth (1 Pet. 1:23). The story is told of a Buddhist monk who sat on the ground to rest and picked up a scrap of paper near him. It had been torn from a New Testament. There were only a few words on that little scrap of paper: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” The sword went to work and pierced his conscience. He said, “If that is true, then I will never see God, for my heart is not pure.” And that led to a search for the book from which that scrap had come, which led to the gospel and salvation. Such is the power of the sword of the Spirit. God blesses and uses His Word, not our clever arguments or tear-jerker stories. Preach the Word! That’s why when Spurgeon was asked to participate in a debate on the validity of the

**In order for us to effectively use the sword of the Spirit, we need to be guided by the Spirit... We need to be familiar with our weapon and with its intended use.**

Bible, he said he would come but not present any defense of the Bible. He would preach the gospel. He said, “The Bible is a lion. You don’t defend a lion, you turn it loose!” It’s the same with the sword. A sword doesn’t need to be defended, but used. If the other person says he doesn’t believe in your sword of the Spirit, don’t put it down. That’s what the devil wants you to do. Quote the Scriptures; read them; cite them; obey them. Let your adversary feel the point of the sword. He won’t like it, but he will certainly know it’s real!

### **Sword Training**

Now here’s the catch. We need to train if we desire to wield the sword properly. In order for us to effectively use the sword of the Spirit, we need to be guided by the Spirit and be spiritually-minded, not worldly-minded. We need to be familiar with our weapon and with its intended use. How can we as Christians be effective in using the Scriptures if we spend more time surfing the internet, sending text messages, watching TV and movies, and listening to the Top 40 than we spend in the Bible? If our home, study, and business responsibilities consume our lives, and we spend mere minutes in the Bible on a weekly basis, then how can we hope to skillfully use the great sword of the Spirit? When temptation or trouble arises, or an opportunity to witness presents itself, if we haven’t been practicing with the sword, we aren’t going to know what to do with it. It never ceases to amaze me that people can be in churches for years—even decades—and never read through the Bible even once. The remedy for that dangerous deficiency is to start reading right now and to do so every day until you finish the whole book. That’s basic orientation, step one. Continue your “weapon training” with Bible study (2 Tim. 2:15), Bible meditation (Ps. 1:2), and Bible memorization (Ps. 119:9, 11). When in meetings and Bible studies, pay attention and take notes. Taking notes is a proven aid to study and memory. Get to know the sword of the Spirit, and become adept at using it. There is none like it. Spurgeon wrote, “*You know the old proverb ‘Beware of the man of one book.’ He is a terrible antagonist. A man who has the Bible at his fingers’ ends and in his heart’s core, is a champion in our Israel; you cannot compete with him: you may have an armory of weapons, but his Scriptural knowledge will overcome you, for it is a sword like that of Goliath, of which David said, ‘There is none like it.’*”<sup>1</sup>

#### *Endnote*

1 Charles Spurgeon, *Lectures To My Students* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1979), p. 180

*Originally appeared in Uplook 2009*

Carl Knott is an author and Bible teacher. He and his wife Ruth have served as missionaries in Spain for over 30 years.

**by Carl Knott**

We read in Ephesians 5:18, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? It means to be controlled by the Spirit of God. God wants us to enjoy our relationship with Him. When the Lord Jesus was going back to the Father, He promised not to leave us as orphans, but to send One like Him, the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:16; 16:7), to come alongside us as our Advocate (1 Jn. 2:1), to guide us into all truth (Jn. 14:17; 16:13), and to teach us all things (1 Jn. 2:20, 27). Since this Helper knows what is best for us, we should yield to His control. We are to neither grieve Him nor quench Him, but to be filled with Him! Romans 8 is one of the most Spirit-centered chapters in the Bible. It begins with no condemnation, ends with no separation, and, in between, teaches us that we are under no obligation to live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. He is the third person of the godhead, and no one is closer to us than He. God the Father is for us; God the Son is with us; and God the Spirit is in us. This chapter teaches us seven aspects in which the Holy Spirit guides us along in our lives.

### **Seven Spiritual Steps**

We begin by walking in the Spirit. The principle in Romans 8:1-4 clearly teaches us that “what the Law could not do... God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to

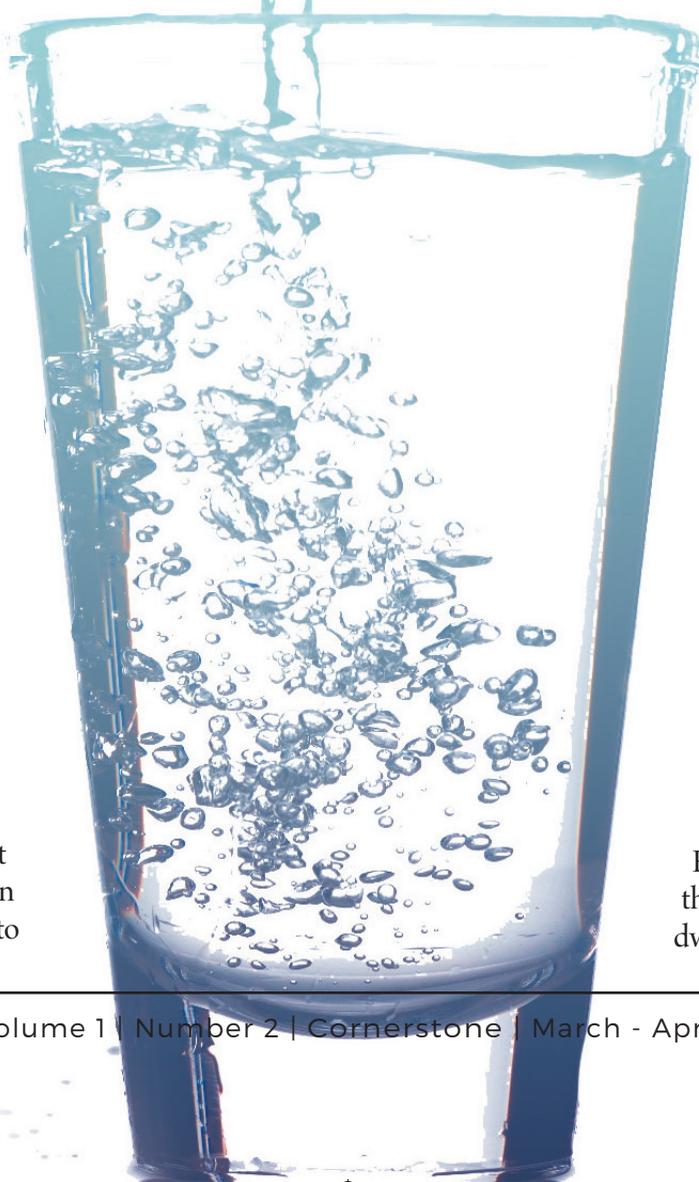
the flesh but according to the Spirit.” Walking in the Spirit is the evidence of being Spirit-filled. It is like taking the high road over self and sin and is the only way that we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).

# The Filling Of The Spirit

Secondly, the wonderful truth of being Spirit-filled is more than a pastime: it is a way of life. It is not just what we do on certain days or around certain people, but how we think and how we live. Romans 8:5-8 declares that the mind set on the flesh is death and the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. We are talking about a matter of life and death. The Lord Jesus said that our new birth was carried out by the Spirit (Jn. 3:6, 8). Therefore, we are to live in the Spirit and not according to the flesh. We are alive, wonderfully walking and living in the Spirit.

Thirdly, being Spirit-filled is only possible for believers, because they alone have been indwelt by the Spirit of God. Romans 8:9-11 states that everyone who has received Christ as their Savior has been indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This began on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to dwell in us (Jn. 14:17). He is the earnest of our inheritance and has sealed us for the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13; 4:30). He dwells in us and will never leave us nor forsake us. He is our surety and security. We cannot have more of the Spirit of God than what we have been given. If a believer desires to be Spirit-filled, he must ask himself, “Does the Spirit have all of me?”

Fourth, it stands to reason that with such a blessed person dwelling in us, we should let



Him lead. The Spirit-filled believer is led by the Spirit. God is not our co-pilot. Hand over the controls to Him! This is how Romans 8:12-14 identifies believers: “As many as are led by the Spirit, these are the sons of God.” We are debtors, but not to the flesh to live according to the flesh. We are no longer under any obligation to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. We are free. Not free to sin, but free to serve the One who has broken sin’s dominion over us. We follow Him and are led on into victory.

Since this Helper knows what is best for us, we should yield to His control. We are to neither grieve Him nor quench Him, but to be filled with Him!

Fifthly, being born of the Spirit, we have been brought into the family of God. Romans 8:15-17 tells us of the family privileges into which we have been brought. These family privileges are made manifest in three areas: caring, bearing, and sharing. By the Spirit of God we cry, “Abba, Father.” Abba is the Greek word for father, but there is a shorter version. It is simply Ab, and it is the first word in the Hebrew dictionary. Who is the first person you go to for help? As sons of God, we go to our heavenly Father who cares for us. The Spirit also bears witness that we are the children of God. To bear witness is not just a feeling but agreement with the Word of God. I’m saved by what Christ did on the cross; I’m sure by what God wrote in His Word. To this Word, the Spirit bears witness saying, “It is true, you are a child of God!” Our family privileges also include sharing. If we are children by birth and sons by adoption, then we are heirs by right. God has declared that we are His heirs and joint heirs with Christ. He will share all things with us, all because we are born of the Spirit into God’s wonderful family. The hymn writer, John W. Peterson, wrote:

*Born of the Spirit with life from above  
Into God’s family divine;  
Justified fully through Calvary’s love,  
O what a standing is mine!*

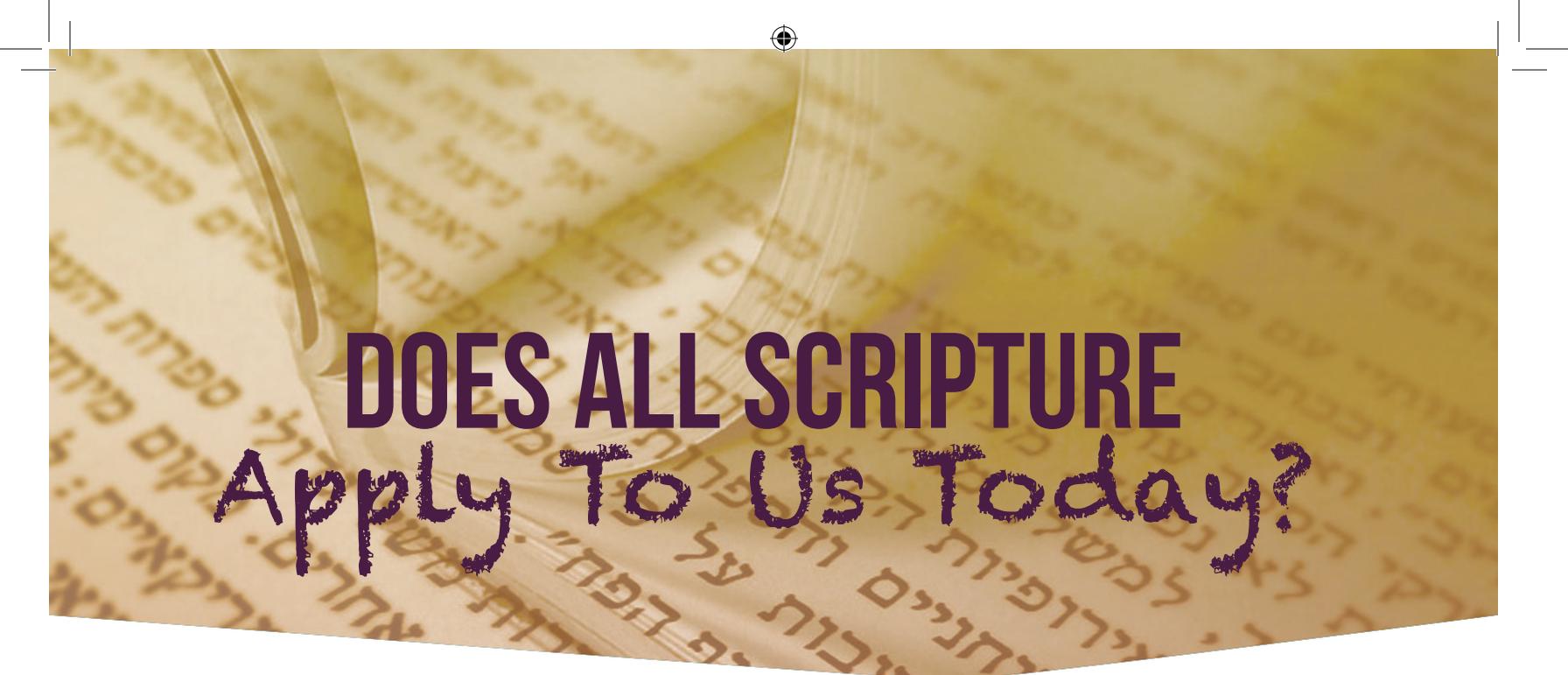
Sixth, we hope in the Spirit. Romans 8:18-25 describes a yearning in the Spirit-filled believer that is true hope—a definite expectation of glory. At the present, the whole creation groans, longing to be set free from the futility into which it was subjected in hope by the Creator—hope that one day God will restore and renew this weary creation. We are assured in Romans 8:18, “that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Suffering in the present and then glory in the future is indeed the order. The Lord Jesus said, “Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” Not only the creation groans awaiting redemption, “but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.” It is this hope in the Spirit that gives us the right perspective.

Lastly, praying in the Spirit. The things we have discussed are bigger than we are. How would we even know what to pray? For help, we turn in this great chapter to verses 26-27. The words, “Likewise the Spirit,” tie the Spirit to the groaning of the creation and our groaning as He “prays for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” He helps our weaknesses for we do not know how to pray as we ought. How? First, God knows our hearts, and, second, He knows the mind of the Spirit. Therefore, He knows what to pray for us, even when we do not. Since it is the Spirit doing the praying and not us, how should Spirit-filled believers pray? We should pray in the Spirit, as Paul and Jude both exhort. John clarifies, writing that we should pray “according to His will” (1 Jn. 5:14). Thank God for His Spirit who seals us and fills us. May we never get over the wonder of it all as we live in the fullness of His Spirit.

*Originally appeared in Uplook 2009*

Rex Trogdon is a church planter and Bible teacher in Charlotte, NC. He and his wife Nancy served for many years as missionaries in D. R. Congo. He is in fellowship at Believers Bible Chapel, Pineville, NC.

**by Rex Trogdon**



# DOES ALL SCRIPTURE Apply To Us Today?

There are certain questions which are foundational to Christian doctrine and practice. For example, “Where do we find authoritative revelation from God?” If the answer is “the Bible plus subsequent books,” we shall arrive at Mormonism or Islam. If the answer is “the Bible plus the teachings of the Church,” we will become Roman Catholics. If the answer is “the Bible plus modern prophetic words,” we will align with some extreme forms of the charismatic movement. But if our answer is “the Bible alone,” we will find ourselves on the solid ground of evangelical Christian doctrine.

Looking around at broader evangelical circles, it is clear that one greatly misunderstood foundational question is, “Does all Scripture apply to us today?” Whole denominations have been built on doctrinal errors stemming from this one question. Within New Testament churches, this doctrine is correctly understood, but often it is not applied in the day-to-day questions that arise in our lives.

### *All Scripture Does Not Apply to Us*

The answer to this question is simple: “All Scripture is profitable for us, but not all Scripture applies to us.” To illustrate this, let us use Genesis 2:16,17, which says, “The LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’” (NASB). This Scripture is profitable for us because it is foundational to our understanding of Original Sin. But this Scripture does not apply to us because it was unique to God’s dealings with

Adam. Christians today do not need to hear impassioned sermons warning us to avoid eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!

So, to some extent, all Christians understand that there are passages of Scripture that are not applicable to us. We cannot eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because that tree no longer exists. Regrettably though, there are many other passages which Christians misappropriate to themselves. The history of the church is littered with attempts by believers to arrogate to themselves part or all of the Old Testament Law.

**MUCH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS NOT DIRECTLY APPLICABLE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY. BUT THE OLD TESTAMENT IS STILL PROFITABLE FOR CHRISTIANS. AS SEEN ABOVE, IT ILLUSTRATES NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS. IT ALSO SHOWS US HOW BELIEVERS IN OTHER AGES LIVED OUT THEIR LIVES FAITHFULLY TO THEIR GOD. THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHES US ABOUT THE CORRUPTING NATURE OF SIN. IT SHOWS US WHERE WE COME FROM AND WHAT OUR SPIRITUAL ROOTS ARE. AND YES, IT TEACHES US ELEMENTARY TRUTHS ABOUT CHRIST...**

That the Law is not needed for salvation should be plain. One of best known verses in the Bible, Ephesians 2:8,9, makes this very clear. And in case someone tries to put the

Old Testament Law into some special category of works to which Ephesians 2:8,9 does not apply, God gave us the entire Epistle to the Galatians. For example, Galatians 3:11 says, "Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, 'The righteous man shall live by faith.'" Paul uses very strong language against those who would suggest that keeping the Law is binding on Christians, saying, "... let him be eternally condemned" (Galatians 1:9).

### ***The Purpose of the Mosaic Law***

But there are those who will make more subtle statements. Some will admit that salvation is entirely of grace, but they suggest that the Law provides a useful rule for life. However, it does not matter how subtle they try to be; at its root is an attempt to get Christians back under the domination of the Old Testament Law. But Scripture does not allow for the position that says the Law is a useful rule of life. Galatians 3:3,5 make it very clear that the Law is not the basis for Christian living. "Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ... So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?"

So then, if this teaching is a misapplication of the Law on believers today. How is the Law profitable to us today? What was the purpose of the Old Testament Law? Galatians 3:19 tells us, "Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made." Being that man was sinful, God gave man a specific code (rather than relying on his conscience) so that he would understand the nature of transgression. We also read in Galatians 3:24, "Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ." This word "tutor" or "schoolmaster" is difficult to translate since it has no direct equivalent in our society. A "tutor" (Greek: *paidagogos*) was a slave that was put in charge of a young boy, to lead him to school, to keep him from getting into trouble, and to guide him in his school work. Though the tutor was a slave and the young boy might be the heir to the family, the tutor had the right to discipline the boy to ensure that he learned his lessons. Hebrews 6:1 nicely summarizes this by referring to Old Testament commands as "a foundation." So the purpose of the Old Testament Law was to teach us that

God is holy and man is sinful. It leads us to Christ, the only Savior, who offers for man's sins.

### ***All Scripture Is Profitable to Us***

So let us assume we have understood these foundational teachings. What is the purpose of the Law for today's Christians? It is not a rule of life, for having begun with Christ, we do not return to the Old Testament Law as a guide to show us how to mature in Christ! But for Christians today, the Old Testament Law illustrates New Testament commands. The New Testament warns us against sexual immorality (Romans 1:24) but it does not list all the different activities that are considered by God to be immoral. These are listed in detail in the Old Testament.

For these reasons, it should be clear that much of the Old Testament is not directly applicable to Christians today. But the Old Testament is still profitable for Christians. As seen above, it illustrates New Testament commands. It also shows us how believers in other ages lived out their lives faithfully to their God. The Old Testament teaches us about the corrupting nature of sin. It shows us where we come from and what our spiritual roots are. And yes, it teaches us elementary truths about Christ. For these reasons, some missionaries find it helpful to teach unreached people groups about the Old Testament before introducing them to the New Testament.

### ***Conclusion***

We should understand that people who would seek to combine the Law and grace have existed since the first days of the Church. This is not going to stop. False teachers will always be active. But we will be well protected if we understand this simple principle: "All Scripture is profitable for us, but not all Scripture applies to us."

Shawn Abigail works in the telecommunications industry. He is active in writing and in preaching the Word of God. He fellowships at Bridlewood Bible Chapel in Ottawa, Canada.

**by Shawn Abigail**

The Lord's Supper provides an excellent opportunity for the men in an assembly to exercise their priesthood. Yet many of those men rarely, if ever, take advantage of that opportunity by participating audibly in the breaking of bread. Is it possible to persuade more of these men to take part, and, if so, how specifically?

### ***Encourage Their Priesthood***

While I can make no guarantees of increased participation by those who seldom share in the Lord's Supper, I do think that there are concrete steps that can be taken to increase the likelihood of such participation. To begin with, it's expected and necessary for the elders of a local assembly to participate at the Lord's Supper on a regular basis. By doing so, they set the spiritual tone of the meeting. Moreover, they are responsible not only to teach God-honoring worship publicly but also to model it practically. The other worshippers will learn much from the elders' participation concerning reverence, spiritual depth and the appropriate use of the Scriptures, prayers, and spiritual songs.

**...it is the responsibility and privilege of the men to lead God's people in corporate worship, our goal is to promote vocal participation by as many men as possible on a regular basis...**

To begin with, it is critical that the elders and others who share regularly in the remembrance meeting make it clear that they would love to see participation by an ever larger group of men. The elders could express this sentiment publicly in sermons or even in announcements. Perhaps it would be more effective, though, for the elders and other spiritually mature brothers to meet with men who have indicated an interest in starting to participate vocally. Such meetings could be individual or collective, with the objective of giving those men specific direction as to how they can share simply and appropriately in the Lord's Supper.

What should be our goal as we seek to encourage participation in the Lord's Supper? Since the New Testament clearly indicates that all believers are priests (1 Pet 2: 4-10), and that it is the responsibility and privilege of the men to lead God's people in corporate worship, our goal is to promote vocal participation by as many men as possible on

# Prompting More Priests To Lead Out In Worship



a regular basis. However, realistically, if a man is not walking closely with the Lord or spending time in His Word during the week, it will be an uphill battle, if not impossible, to get him to participate because he will be spiritually dry come to the worship meeting. If they will permit it, the first step should be to work personally with such men, encouraging them to spend time daily in the Word and thereby to begin to grow spiritually.

### ***Help Them Overcome Their Obstacles***

In a typical assembly, there are those men who are spiritually inclined, yet hesitant for a variety of reasons to say anything at the Lord's Supper. What might be preventing them from participating? Some would say that they just don't have the

ability to speak in public. Yet I have observed those same men stand before our congregation and calmly give a very competent announcement about an upcoming event at our chapel. It should be pointed out to such men that they are not expected to deliver complex and long-winded orations at the Lord's Supper. Short and simple is preferable, especially for men who have little experience speaking in public. They should also realize that this isn't a competition. They don't have to outdo or even equal other men in their sharing. Instead, their focus should be solely on pleasing the Lord by what they pray, by the hymn they suggest, by the Bible passage they read, or by the brief comments they make. The Lord is most impressed by heartfelt expressions of worship however simple they may be. Now, when the quieter men actually do participate, by all means, be encouraging of them and appreciative of their contributions, avoiding criticism, or correction unless absolutely necessary.

### ***Regular Participants: Determine Not to Dominate***

Some men who are anxious and hesitant to share publicly may not participate if the brothers who currently take part in worship continue to dominate. The tendency of some men is to share in the worship meeting every single week. I would encourage such men to consider actually refraining from vocal participation during an occasional breaking of bread to give way to others that might like to take part but are more reluctant.

In addition, those who are regular participants must be careful not to expound at length, speaking for ten minutes or longer every time they share. Obviously, if several do that every week, the less outgoing men will have little opportunity to add their contributions. Indeed, those who frequently share in the Lord's Supper should make a point of keeping their own offerings brief. Concise prayers and comments on Bible passages leave more time for others to participate. Short contributions also make it a lot less daunting for men not accustomed to sharing. They will be more likely to feel that they can capably follow what has just been offered.

Also, we should not feel unsettled by brief periods of silence. Those men who are hesitant to share often need more time to get their thoughts together and to work up the nerve to stand and speak. Thus, a time of silence can be of real help to them, as well as a good time for all of us to reflect on what has already transpired in the meeting.

### ***What Say the Scriptures?***

In his first letter to the church at Corinth, Paul provides us with some guidelines for the conducting of a spontaneous

meeting similar to the way the Lord's Supper is observed in many of our assemblies today (1 Cor. 14:26-40). Take a few minutes to open your Bible and read over verses 26-33. Notice several implications in this passage. First, in the case of the Corinthian believers, ALL of them typically came with something to contribute and were so eager to share that Paul had to impose some regulations. We must strive for and promote this same eagerness in our assemblies today. Second, those who shared audibly had full control over whether or not they spoke in the meeting and, if so, how long. Clearly, the attitude that Paul was trying to cultivate among the Corinthian brothers was that of giving way to others who might want to speak, as opposed to dominating the meeting every week. Third, it appears that Paul was encouraging all of the men to participate in such spontaneous meetings, though not all of them at every single meeting.

### ***A Success Story***

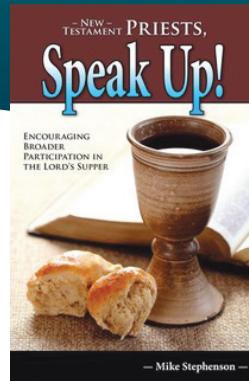
On two occasions, I have held teaching sessions with some of the men in my home assembly in order to encourage participation at the Lord's Supper. Did those sessions lead to greater participation by men who typically were not sharing vocally? Regrettably, several of them still do not contribute to our remembrance meeting. However, a couple of those men now do participate regularly. Both of them, like me, are brothers who are not originally from the assemblies. One of them, in particular, is by nature a reserved person who prefers to stay in the background, yet he is a man with obvious spiritual interest and depth. After our sessions, he began to share in the Lord's Supper on occasion; but since then, he has continued to do so regularly, confidently, and always appropriately. Because he and the other brother were both teachable and willing to change, we now have two more significant contributors to our breaking of bread, and we are all the richer for it. Perhaps there are men in your assembly who need a bit of encouragement to join in and enrich your remembrance meeting with their unique contributions to the glory and for the pleasure of the Father and the Son.

Mike Stephenson was a 'tentmaker' missionary in the Middle East and later a professor of missions at Emmaus Bible College. Mike is a deacon at Rice Lake Bible Chapel in Maple Grove, Minnesota.

**by Mike Stephenson**

# Book Review: New Testament Priests, Speak Up! Encouraging Broader Participation In The Lord's Supper

by Mike Stephenson,  
Dubuque: ECS Ministries, 2015. 76 pages.



Understanding what worship is can be a challenge for a new believer. Even actually going ahead and sharing in a worship meeting, many find it very intimidating to start participating in the Lord's Supper. "I could never see myself standing up and talking." "What should I say?" "What will others think of me?" "How do I know what worship really is and what's considered appropriate?"

A verse that I've found very helpful in understanding what worship is comes from the story of Joseph. When he finally revealed himself to his brothers after many years in Egypt, he told them with excitement, "Tell my father of all my glory..." (Genesis 45:13). That's what worship is... telling the Father of all the glories of His Son, the Lord Jesus.

*New Testament Priests, Speak Up!* is an easy-to-read book that can help any man in the assembly learn to do just that. As the subtitle indicates, its primary purpose is to encourage broader participation in the Lord's Supper as opposed to the same few brothers sharing every week.

Among the standard books on the breaking of bread for the assemblies have been two written by A.P. Gibbs, *Worship; the Christian's Highest Occupation* and *The Lord's Supper*. Many young believers have been directed to these books as a way to help them understand the purpose of the Lord's Supper meeting. For over 50 years they have served us well, yet there is a need today for a fresh reminder to new generations of the centrality of the Lord's Supper.

*New Testament Priests, Speak Up!* is grounded in what most assemblies would believe about the Lord's Supper. This is accomplished in large part by reference to a number of key Bible passages along with a variety of helpful quotes from

what worship challenge for a harder might be and sharing in a Truthfully, intimidating to audibly in the

classic books on worship, books that a young person would likely not have. The author then adds practical guidance and advice for the reader.

Unless you understand what the Lord's Supper is, you may never be moved to participate in it. This book speaks in conversational language that will teach you what the Lord's Supper is, why it is so important in the life of the assembly and how every man can easily take an active part in it. Furthermore, as I've already mentioned, public speaking can be very frightening to many. Thus, a major goal of this book is to offer very doable suggestions for how to get over that hurdle.

The book opens by telling the story of the author's approach to helping some men in his own assembly understand and begin participating in the remembrance meeting. He guides you through those lessons and training sessions that they did together and focuses on how they put into practice what they had been learning. Even if you don't follow exactly how he did this in his assembly, it will give you assembly leaders ideas on how to assist others to learn about this vital meeting and gain confidence to share a hymn, a prayer, or a passage of Scripture in the meeting.

One of the things I enjoyed the most about his book is that Mike anticipates the questions that often come up: Why is there silence sometimes and is that good? Why do people speak of a theme to the meeting? What does the leading of the Holy Spirit mean? These are the types of questions that young people or those new to an assembly fellowship often have. Thus, it's refreshing and beneficial to have someone provide an easy-to-follow explanation of why we do what we do. Frankly, this is a book I wish I had had when I was younger.

Who is this book for? Really, it's for anyone who would like a simple, biblical overview of the meaning of the Lord's Supper, why we should want to participate vocally in it and how to go about that. Even for those who are quite familiar with the assembly perspective on the Lord's Supper, it can be very useful as an oft needed reminder of those principles of worship as well as a source of ideas on how to encourage others to actively and regularly join in. Just saying "we'd like to hear from you" usually won't be enough. People need practical help.

This is an easy and very readable book to give to those in your assembly. We have given it to all of the men in our fellowship. It can be read in just a few sittings. You could also use this as a study guide for an informal class on the Lord's Supper. I warmly recommend this book.

Bob Upton works as a graphic designer and serves the Lord in assembly and conference ministry in teaching and songleading. He is in fellowship at Maryland Bible Chapel in St Paul, Minnesota.

by Bob Upton

# Report: North American Week of Prayer



The annual North American Week of Prayer is quickly approaching again. Once again, it will be held, in the Kansas City area on May 1-5, 2017 at The Bible Chapel of Shawnee, 12230 West 75th Street, Shawnee, Kansas. Last year there were more than 10 official satellite sites around North America, and over 300 home sites where people gathered to pray! It has been a huge privilege to be a part of this, and to see what the Lord is doing among His people!

When I think of the annual Week of Prayer, three things come to mind:

*It is God-Ordained:* The Lord clearly directed us to convene for a week of prayer. It is not a ministry; it is a movement of God. A number of brothers labored in prayer for years concerning the possibility of hosting a week of prayer. I will never forget receiving a letter from a dear brother, asking that someone please call for a week of prayer so the people of God could come together and seek the Lord. Psalm 105:4 exhorts us “Seek the Lord, seek His power, seek His presence continually.” This brother testified that he goes to his office, cries before the Lord, stains the wall with his tears as a testimony of his pleas to God. Through this and numerous other ways, the Lord clearly led to convening the week. It is the Lord’s great idea. If this were anybody’s idea besides our God’s, I wouldn’t want to be a part of it! So, thank the Lord for His clear guidance. The Lord encourages his people, “For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death” (Psalm 48:14).

*It is God-Empowered:* The Lord has met with us and helped us along the way. Many gave testimony, at the end of the week, that the Lord changed their lives and opened their eyes to what ‘seeking the Lord’ in prayer can look like. Most particularly in the first year, I was very tempted to try to take control of the week and manipulate it to make it something “successful.” (How silly is that thought!) Each time this temptation would come, the Lord would remind me that the Week of Prayer belongs to Him and that He will meet every need concerning it. What a joy it has been to witness the Lord using this special week and spreading a burden for prayer among His people. At the end of each year, I find myself hungry for so much more, and yet, content in knowing the time that we had just ‘seeking the Lord’s face’ was “PERFECT” (complete – all that it should be for that moment). We rest in the Lord and trust Him as He leads us each step of the journey, knowing that He is guiding, empowering, and teaching each step of the way.

*It is God-Directed:* We fervently pray that the next North American Week of Prayer will belong 100% to the Lord, that He won’t let

us get our grubby hands on it, and that He, PLEASE, will overcome our shortcomings and won’t let us mess it up! Last year I went to bed on Monday night so burdened and so hungry to seek the Lord. If the week would have ended there, I think I would have exploded. Tuesday and Wednesday were days of pouring our hearts out to the Lord. Thursday morning was a time of corporate prayer, like none I have ever experienced in my life; an entire auditorium of people praying as one, moving under the direction of the Spirit of God. It was such a joy and privilege to witness this. Looking back, it is clear that the Lord was slowly “bringing up the lights,” so to speak. He was giving us what we could handle each day, and as we sought Him, He kept giving us more. Isn’t that just like our wonderful, generous God!

When I think of the North American Week of Prayer, I am so thankful that our great God ordained the week, that He is empowering the week, and that He is directing the week. I can hardly fathom the great privilege that is ours of coming into His presence as sons, seeking His face, and then watching His sovereign hand reach down out of the heavens to do things that only He can do!

Lord, help us on. There is no place on earth like Christ’s School of Prayer. No place I’d rather be. I can’t wait to see what He teaches us next.

All believers are invited to gather together to pray to God and seek His blessings for North America. Many Kansas City Area believers will seek to make housing accommodations available for attendees (register early, housing is limited). For further information please visit [www.naweekofprayer.com](http://www.naweekofprayer.com).

Scott Degroff is a commended worker from Topeka, Kansas. He is married to Lynn and has two children. He ministers the Word of God throughout North America.

by **Scott DeGroff**

# Report: The eTeams Story

## Short Term Missions Producing Long Term Results

The eTeams ministry is an assembly-based outreach that has been formally working under the auspices of MSC Canada and in cooperation with CMML. Short-term missions is the main road down which many of our long-term missionaries first walked. Their brief mission experience educated, equipped, and challenged them to consider what the Lord could do with them on a long-term basis. Some of these short-term missionaries have gone on to be missionaries associated with MSC Canada and CMML. Their temporary encounter on the field led them from their lives in the USA and Canada to where they are today, among over 700 assembly-commended missionaries serving the Lord in over 70 countries around the world. For others, it was the road that led them to greater vision and commitment when they returned. Such believers can be very helpful in strategizing evangelistic outreach, raising the profile of missions, and leading various assembly ministries.

*"I had the privilege of attending an eTeams short-term missions trip to Jamaica in January 2015. This trip was crucial to my current ministry. I am so thankful for this trip and how it has impacted my heart to share the gospel."*  
- Mike and Melinda Dilione, missionaries in Jamaica

### *Our Beginning*

Since 1996, when Jabe Nicholson first recruited a team to come help Ron & Robin Hampton in Ireland, TrT Teams (now eTeams), has been sending teams of believers to Ireland. Following a training period, team members are then engaged in cross-cultural evangelism, building up existing national assemblies, and assisting our missionaries. Over the years, eTeams has also mounted teams for Ghana, Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad, led by brothers like Tim Hood and Sean O'Byrne. In 2015-2016, eTeams, have been sent to help assembly missionaries and assemblies in Jamaica, Belize (twice), Ghana (twice), Ireland (three occasions),

and recently to Trinidad. Team members have the option to serve from 10-23 days on their short-term eTeam missions trip.

### *Our Mission*

The mission of eTeams is to engage, enable, and equip believers to effectively cross cultural barriers, encourage national churches and evangelize in English. Even though our tag line is "Equip – Encourage – Evangelize," the "e" word that best describes how we try to do things is "effectively." We are sensitive to the charges often laid against short-term missions and recognize that many times the criticisms are well-founded. One of the criticisms heard from assembly elders is that their young person went out with a non-assembly ministry and never settled back into the assembly upon returning. We believe eTeams offer a positive, well-organized assembly alternative for those wanting to serve the Lord on a short-term basis.

We continue to see our short term missions produce long-term results in the lives of the worker, the sending assembly, the work, and the missionaries on the field.

### *More About the eTeams Ministry Philosophy:*

**Evangelism & Ministry:** Our short-term mission is focused almost entirely on evangelism, along with ministering to

the national assemblies with whom we work. We teach team members how to share the gospel using methods like door-to-door evangelism, open-air sketch board preaching, and children's outreach. Team members build up national assemblies by helping with existing children's and youth groups, speaking and singing at the meetings, and stimulating evangelism, and fellowship with local believers.

**Experienced Leadership:** While we provide our teams with cross-cultural orientation and evangelistic and ministry training, the most effective way to learn is by doing the work alongside gifted and experienced evangelists and missionaries. Along with me, the following are commended



by North American assemblies and work directly with our teams: Tim & Linda Hood (BC), Sean & Vera O'Byrne (ON), David & Beth Wilson (NJ), Colin & Natalie Burnett (ON), and Daniel & Priscilla Webster (BC). There are other missionaries, commended by assemblies in Northern Ireland and other countries, whom we also work alongside.

*"Being on an eTeams short-term mission trip in an English speaking country, I was able to really see the 'on-the-ground' work that missionaries do. It was so eye opening, and for the first time in my life, instead of idolizing the work of a missionary, I actually considered it for myself."*

*- Heidi Koppert, commended worker serving the Lord as a missionary in Ireland*

*English-Speaking:* To be an effective witness in a foreign country you need to know the language. Therefore, we have teams located only in regions where the population can understand English.

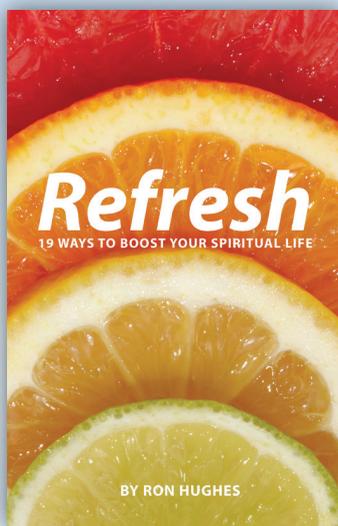
*Ensured Follow-Up:* While our witness can be effective even in the short term, in order to see long-term results, our teams work only where there are existing churches and/or resident missionaries to follow up our short term work.

*Contact eTeams:* Ron Hampton from Manitoba, Canada, leads eTeams and may be contacted at (email) ron.hampton@eteams.ca. His contact telephone number is: +1 (204) 669-6026 and his mailing address is 212 Roberta Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2K 0K3, Canada. You can learn more about eTeams at their facebook page [www.facebook.com/eTeams/](http://www.facebook.com/eTeams/), and their website, [www.eteams.ca](http://www.eteams.ca)

Ron Hampton is the director of eTeams, (a ministry of MSC Canada). He was formerly a missionary to Ireland. He now resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is in fellowship with the Kildonan Christian Fellowship



by Ron Hampton

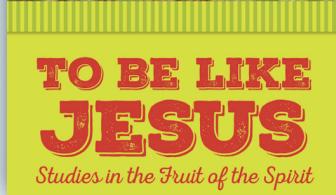
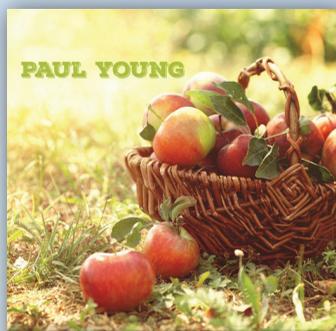
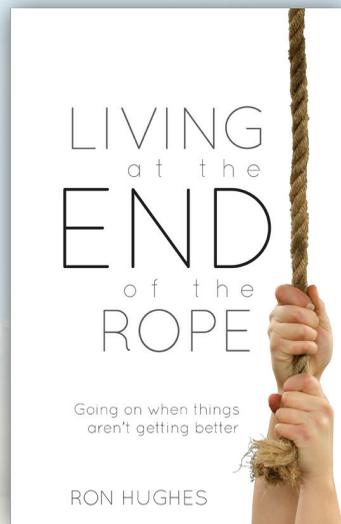


This book is for ordinary people who desire to become extraordinary by being more like Jesus, and I highly recommend it.

*Sue Augustine, Author*

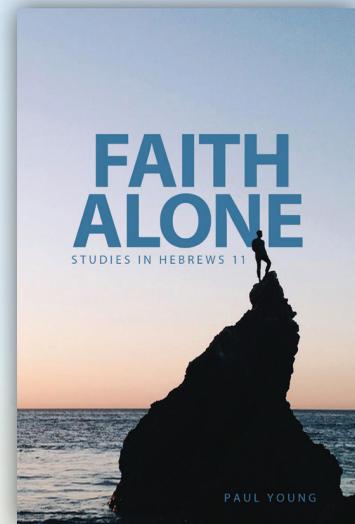
*Living at the End of the Rope* presents a marvellous collection of humbling stories, demonstrating the triumph of God's grace shining through the darkness.

*Philip Boom,  
Emmaus Bible College*



The fruit of the Spirit was most fully and most wonderfully witnessed in the life of the Lord Jesus. He is our example of someone who truly lived the fruit of the Spirit.

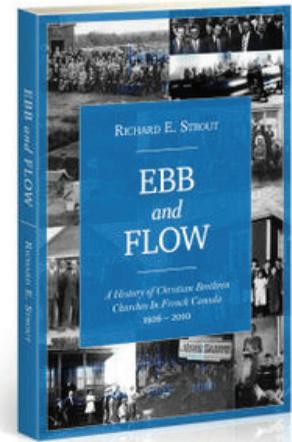
The great people of God listed in Hebrews 11 reveal that the secret of success was their faith in the Lord. This book examines the Biblical truth of faith in terms of its meaning and application.



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# Ninety Years and Counting: The History of Assemblies in Quebec



It was nine decades ago, in 1926, that the first assembly commended worker, John Spreeman arrived in the province of Quebec to begin a “boots on the ground” work of evangelization among French Canadians. Indeed, for number of years, tract bands from the neighboring province of Ontario had already been showering the province with the Gospel. Now God’s time had come to begin sending in the troops.

Needless to say, it was slowing at the outset. Preaching the Gospel in Roman Catholic Quebec often met with strong opposition. John Spreeman and others who followed him were kidnapped, imprisoned and their lives were threatened. Brother Spreeman himself suffered a serious breakdown from such treatment which seriously impaired his health.

And then there were the new believers, recently delivered from Catholicism, who were ostracized from family and friend, often losing their jobs and /or being forced to move to new locations. Their children also experienced the effects of such harassment as they were the brunt of verbal and physical attacks from classmates whose parents had poisoned their minds against the Protestants whom they often qualified as Communists.

But the Gospel cannot be bound and as the seed was sown, it grew and produced, some thirty and some sixty and some hundredfold, being watered by the prayers of God’s people across Canada, North America, and throughout the world. It took eight years following Mr. Spreeman’s arrival for the first local French-speaking assembly to be established at Girardville in the north of the province. That assembly is functioning today, the very first of no less than seventy-five such gatherings of God’s people that the Lord established. At one time, there were fifty-five francophone assemblies across the province in operation at the same time. Today there are forty-three with one or more currently in development.

In the early days, tract distribution by mail and door to door colportage of Bibles and Christian literature were about the only ways to get the gospel out. In 1957, God raised up *Publications Chretiennes* to provide the needed ammunition for such activity. As time went on, however, radio and then television opened up. The first programs to be aired in French by any of our workers were those by Arnold Reynolds broadcasting from Sherbrooke beginning in 1946. Due to religious pressure, he was forced off the air after only three and a half years. A decade would pass before our flagstaff radio programs *L’heure de la bonne nouvelle* with Gaston Jolin at the microphone, launched in 1961, and *La foi vivifiante*, begun by Fernand Saint-Louis two years later, saw the light of day, television followed in 1964.

Happily, our brethren were not destined to labor alone in this vast field as God eventually sent others with whom they served in happy fellowship. Baptist and Mennonite Brethren were among several groups with whom our workers joined hands in joint efforts such as Bethel Bible School, begun in 1948, Quebec Every Home Crusade in 1950s, and sermons from Science in the 1960s.

And who of those that lived through the stirring times of the late 1970s and early 1980s will ever forget the thrill of those days when it seemed that the windows of heaven were open over the province of Quebec. Hundreds came to Christ, churches were multiplied, evangelical infrastructure increased many-fold. This was followed by a period of leveling off which caused much concern throughout the entire evangelical community including our assemblies.

All along, God has been raising up workers from among the French-Canadian believers themselves. Roland Lacombe was the first such to be commended of the work in 1949. Blanch Durocher followed in 1952, Charles-Eugene

Boulianne in 1959, Fernand and Yolanda Saint-Louis in 1962, Gaston and Margot Jolin in 1964. Little by little the ratio of workers originating from English Canada, the United States and Europe decreased until presently more than two-thirds of our work force of eighty-five active, commended workers are of French-Canadian origin. To God be the glory!

Today, after ninety years, God continues to work through the assemblies of His people here in French Canada. The pioneers, along with most of the early workers, have gone on to their eternal reward but God has raised up others to carry on where they left off. A new generation of prayer warriors

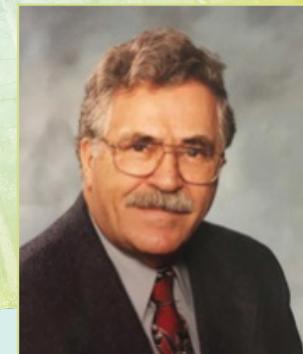
and laborers. May he find us, each one, faithful in service for Christ.

All of this and more can be found in over three hundred pages of *Ebb and Flow: A History of Christian Brethren Churches in Canada 1926-2010* (English version). This book is available at News of Quebec, P. O. Box 1054, Sherbrooke (Quebec), J1H 5L3 or by email at [koinonia\\_qc@hotmail.com](mailto:koinonia_qc@hotmail.com).

by **Richard E. Strout**  
*Editor, Periodical "News of Quebec"*

# In Glory

Gaston Jolin  
Quebec, Canada  
August 28, 2016



Brother Gaston Jolin has been promoted to glory. Gaston has labored for many years in French speaking Canada, mostly in Quebec and northern Ontario. He has given himself and his considerable energy in the spread of the gospel. He was born in 1931, and passed away on August 28, 2016 at the age of 85.

Gaston was a visionary. He was commended to the work of the Lord in 1963 by the assembly in Rollet, Quebec. He founded the bilingual camp Camp des Iles near Rollet. Shortly after he joined another brother in Radio work to get the gospel to isolated regions of northern Ontario and Quebec. Soon after, in 1964, the work was turned into the television program now called *L'Heure de la Bonne Nouvelle* (Good News Hour). It is the longest running television program in all of Canada.

Later Gaston, along with his brother Jacques, started another camp, Camp Joli-B which receives about 400 campers each year. He was also the writer of the book *"Messager de la bonne nouvelle"* (Good News Messenger).

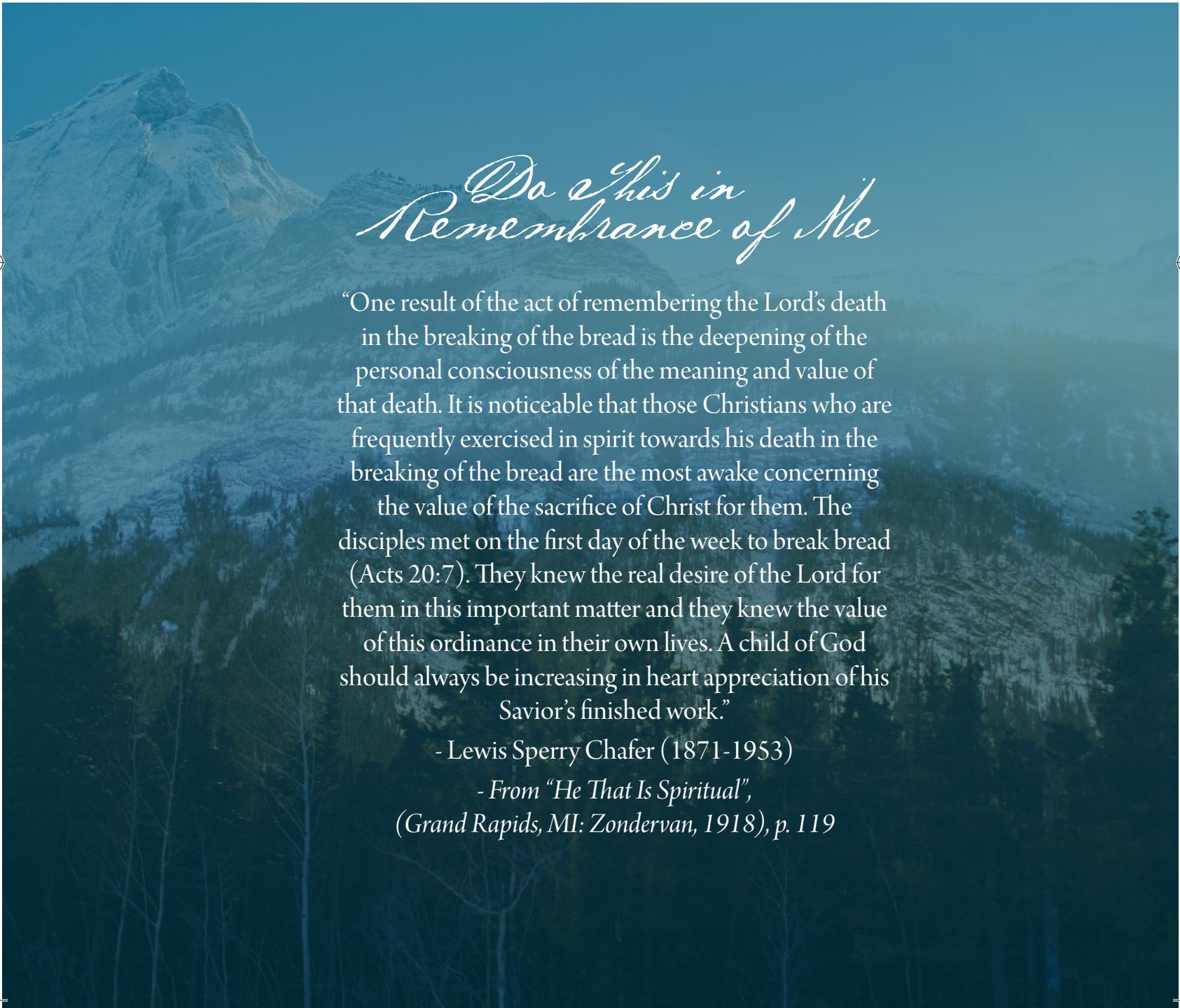
Gaston was a rustic man, raised in northern Quebec. As his family were pioneers in the north, so he was a pioneer in the gospel. Brother Jolin, as a pilot, "flew by the seat of his pants". This expression also describes how he labored for his Master. His only resource book was the Bible, and there was little, if any other direction or instrumentation. He saw needs and opportunities. He took those opportunities as doors to serve even further. He was saved over 70 years ago, and now has the joy of being with his Lord and Saviour face to face and serving Him there too.

Gaston was so respected and so well known that the funeral services needed to be held in an arena.

Brother Jolin came from a large family, and had 7 children. He left behind a large family, and many Christians to mourn and to rejoice.

Brother Gaston was one of the last of this generation of pioneers. He passed on the baton for others to continue the race in all of his many endeavors. Will we also take up the call to snatch up the baton from those who have gone on before us?

by **Gérald Boisvert**  
*Missionary to Quebec*

A background image of a mountain range with evergreen trees in the foreground, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered over this image.

## *Do This in Remembrance of Me*

“One result of the act of remembering the Lord’s death in the breaking of the bread is the deepening of the personal consciousness of the meaning and value of that death. It is noticeable that those Christians who are frequently exercised in spirit towards his death in the breaking of the bread are the most awake concerning the value of the sacrifice of Christ for them. The disciples met on the first day of the week to break bread (Acts 20:7). They knew the real desire of the Lord for them in this important matter and they knew the value of this ordinance in their own lives. A child of God should always be increasing in heart appreciation of his Savior’s finished work.”

- Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1953)

- From “He That Is Spiritual”,  
(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1918), p. 119