

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

IN 1938 a New York business man purchased a barometer. The needle appeared to be stuck. It pointed to the sector marked "hurricane" He shook it, trying to move the needle. It was stuck. He wrote a letter to the company complaining. On the way to work the following morning he mailed it. That evening, when he returned to his Long Island home, he found his barometer missing. His home was missing also. The needle had been accurate.

This week we have been studying some of the signs of prophecy in the book of Isaiah. We'll close the study Sunday night at the 6:15 hour. I hope you'll be there. It's more than interesting to see the direction the needle of prophecy is pointing.

SUNDAY MORNING I promise you a real treat and surprise. The message you hear will be one of the most beautiful and touching you've ever heard. I hope you make every effort to be present.

A RECENT NEWS STORY tells that the University of California recently lost a large stock of pamphlets entitled, "Control of Termites." School officials

SAU GALLIE, FLA. 32935

Jan. 10, 1969

discovered the pamphlets (which had been stored in a basement) had been destroyed by termites.

Possessing information is one thing--applying it to life is quite another. Knowing about the power of God is one thing--experiencing it in your life is something else.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE READING IN PAPERBACK?

Last year Valley of the Dolls sold 7,350,000. The Adventurers sold 3,200,000. Truman Capote's In Cold Blood sold 2,117,482. Charles Schulz had 1 cartoon books in the top 10, both selling more than one million copies. The Source by James Michener, the biography of Hedy Lamarr, Games People Play, and Rush to Judgment rounded out the best sellers. Oh yes, leading the list with 7,815,042 was "Good News for Modern Man." The Bible still tops the list.

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A NEW PERSPECTIVE...

THREE DAYS BEFORE THE APOLLO SHOT my friend, Harold Shirley called from Huntsville. He was shouting "Help". Dr. Von Braun had invited down to the Cape to view the blastoff and, as you know, every motel and room from Jacksonville to West Palm Beach had been booked for months. I finally found him a room in a flop house on the beach, but it was the best I could do.

However, Pastor Shirley graciously responded by sending me a book after he returned to the red clay hills of Alabama. The book is Robert Short's Parables of Peanuts.

Short is a Divinity student at the University of Chicago who goes to great lengths trying to impress us that he has read (and understands) all the "deep" contemporary theologians. He seeks to interpret Peanuts in the language of Kierkegaard (whom most of us can't even pronounce, much less understand). Anyway, even though Short's theology is lousy, he does include some pretty good Peanuts cartoons. (My old buddy Bob Henry from South Carolina once gave me

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JAN. 24, 1969

Short's first attempt at this kind of thing, "The Gospel According to Peanuts"

He wrote in the flyleaf: "I can't understand the writing but the pictures sure are funny." All of which is to say if you want to read Peanuts you're better off buying the Charles Schulz version without the comments.

But one Peanut really caught my attention. Lucy says to Charlie Brown, "Charlie Brown, I think you should resolve to be perfect during the coming year." Roundhead says, "Perfect? Good Grief. Nobody's perfect! What do you expect of me?" And Lucy counts with, "I think you CAN be if you try. I really do."

So with a look of determination Charlie Brown says, "All right, Lucy. If you have that much faith in me, I'll try. I hereby resolve to be perfect during the next year!" Whereupon Lucy responds by pointing and laughing, "YOU? PERFECT? HA! HA! HA! HA!"

Despite Lucy's cynicism, perfectness (or "maturity") is not an impossibility to strive for and never reach. Most of us just have our sights too low. Keep trying!

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

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Feb. 14, 1969

SOMETIMES I think science has gone too far. All these efforts to make life more efficient only seem to make mine more complicated. It's like the fire extinguisher that I saw hanging on the wall in a public building that had these instructions. "To operate, turn bottom up and bump head on floor." Now that pretty well sums up my own frustrations with many of these time saving gadgets.

The trouble with modern conveniences is they are so inconvenient. Take those paper towels in the washroom of the restaurant. They are locked inside a metal receptacle which bears the cryptic instructions: "Pull down and tear up." This seems like a terrible waste because I don't want to tear them up--I just want to dry my hands. But if the instructions weren't bad enough, just try to get one of those towels out of that metal strong box. After pawing over the bolts and rivets trying to find the secret release, you finally reach inside the slot and manage to pinch off about a quarter inch of towel, which promptly turns to dough in your fingers. You finally conclude the

ordeal by either drying your hands on great streamers of toilet paper, or putting them in your pockets and wiggling them around until most of the water is gone.

This fad for concealment is at its best in the automobile industry. My new VW has a seat release attached to a cable which winds its way under the seat and disappears in the floor board. I've tried for six months to try to find the other end so I can make the seat lean forward--all to no avail. Then there's that little button that's supposed to turn on your four way emergency lights. Its right beside the gadget that releases the hood. Perhaps it's designed this way, for at least you can't see the accident when it happens.

The more we work to make life simple the more complicated it seems to get. The only place you're sure is in your relationship with God. The Bible is the one instruction book still unpoluted by the ideas of men. My, how refreshing it is to turn to its living pages and read God's word for my life. Try it.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Feb. 28, 1969

THE EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN

INDEX recently complained about the lack of articulate writers and authors among Southern Baptists. It seems that a survey run by Christian Herald magazine of the top ten religious books for 1968 did not have a single Southern Baptist author in the list.

As some of you know, we're trying desperately to rectify this. But until we arrive, I want to recommend some books by other-than-Baptist-writers that have made a great and deep impression on my own life and on the lives of some of those in our church. All these books are in our church library.

CALL TO COMMITMENT by Elizabeth O'Conner is the adventurous story of the struggle of a group of people in Washington, D.C. to form The Church of the Saviour. So much of it runs parallel with our struggles. Your heart will be warmed and encouraged.

THE TASTE OF NEW WINE and THE SECOND TOUCH. Two books by a young Episcopalian layman on his personal search for honesty and identity. The concept of small prayer groups for sharing has carried

over into our own church. You'll laugh, cry, and be inspired by this brilliant yet easy to read writing.

THEY SPEAK WITH OTHER

TONQUES by John Sherrill. My good friend and the senior editor of Guideposts set out as a reporter to investigate the recent outbreak of the gift of tongues surrounding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The things he discovered were almost unbelievable until the Spirit of God reached down and touched John Sherrill too. Then it happened to him--just as it has happened to many of our people. If you're not afraid to have your mind stretched and your life changed by the Holy Spirit--read this.

NINE ROADS TO RENEWAL by the editor of Faith at Work Magazine tells the intriguing story of nine churches that were willing to dare to be different under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As you read it, you'll see Tabernacle Baptist in every page.

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A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

March 14, 1969

BAPTISTS have always been renowned as "people of the Book." One of the most popular books among the rank and file Southern Baptist today is W.A. Criswell's volume on "Why I Preach the Bible is Literally True."

Excellent. I, too, believe the Bible is literally true. And I believe that most of us feel the same way. But it is precisely at this point that we get into trouble.

If the Bible is true. If it is the Word of God. If it is not to be allegorized or explained away in myths and fables--then what do we do with the portions that seem "strange and unusual" to us?

A Baptist minister called on the phone and asked if it were true that we were having "healing services" in our church. I said I hoped that people were being healed--that we were certainly praying for it. He indicated this wasn't "baptistic" (and I left the word uncapitalized on purpose in this case). I said maybe not, but it sure was Biblical. He muttered something about that was for the 1st century that now God used doctors and drugs and changed the subj

I thank God for doctors and drugs. My brother's a doctor--and a good one. Some of my best friends are doctors. But Johns Hopkins certainly hasn't outdated James 5:14-15, or Psalms 103:3, or John 14:12. What about it, people-of-the-Book, do we believe?

Dr. Criswell told me personally he'd institute healing services in his church in Dallas if he wasn't afraid it would split the church. HMMMMMM? Maybe we shouldn't only preach a literally true Bible--but practice it. Or, just how open are you to God's Word?

And what about tithing? The Word specifically and literally promises God will bless those who obey Him in this matter. Are you practicing a literally true Bible?

Say, would you like to know what our literally true Bible has to say about "speaking in tongues"? I'll be preaching on this Sunday night. See you then.

march 28, 1969

THOSE who are students of psychology recognize the name of Carl Jung as the world's greatest Christian psychiatrist (Freud, Adler and Jung compose the trilogy of the "fathers" of modern psychology).

In his book, The Spiritual Problem of Modern Man, Jung speaks to those of you seeking the deeper, mystical experience of reality in God...and gives suggestions to those who are merely observers of others who seek reality through experience.

"[Modern man] wants to break with tradition so that he can experiment with his life and determine what value and meaning things have in themselves, apart from traditional presuppositions...And though this desire opens bar and bolt to the most dangerous possibilities, we cannot help seeing it as a courageous enterprise. It is no reckless adventure but an effort inspired by deep spiritual distress to bring meaning once more into life on the basis of fresh and unprejudiced experience...

"Control has its place, no doubt, but we cannot refuse our support to a serious venture which calls the whole of the personality into the field of action. If we oppose it, we are trying to suppress what is best in men--his daring and his aspiration. And should we succeed, we should only have stood in the way of that invaluable experience which might have given a meaning to life...

"The living Spirit grows and even outgrows its earlier forms of expression; it freely chooses the men in whom it lives and who proclaim it. The living Spirit is eternally renewed and pursues its goal in manifold and inconceivable ways throughout the history of mankind. Measured against it, the names and forms which men have given it mean little enough; they are only the changing leaves and blossoms on the stem of the eternal tree."

To some this will be meaningless gobbledegook--to others it will give encouragement and depth in your search for the key to submission to the will of God. My thanks to those who served last weekend while I was preaching in Columbia, S.C. I'll see you Sunday.

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Eau Gallie, Florida 32935

BREVARD COUNTY leads the nation in people with problems. The divorce rate is the highest in the SE... teenage problems are rampant...crime prevention is the biggest bill...hospitals are jammed with sick, 75% of whom are psychosomatic...doctors are overworked...the Mental Health Clinic 20 miles away has a huge waiting list...area ministers are woefully untrained and besides, most people are afraid to consult a minister. The county is overflowing with people crying out for help--for someone to lend a sympathetic, understanding ear. Unable to pay the high fees for a psychiatrist, they turn to each other for help and comfort and the problems intensify.

TWO YEARS AGO our church set up a Counseling Center manned by the Pastor. A single ad in the "yellow pages" under marriage counselors has brought an average of one new phone call a day. The ministry has grown out of proportion.

Therefore, within the next month the Counseling Center will be joining forces with some of the people at the Spiritual Life Center. The

April 11, 1969
Pastor will continue as the Director but the offices will be moved to a non-church building on 9th Ave in downtown Eau Gallie.

We will be setting up a force of lay-counselors who will be trained in the basic counseling concepts and will agree to be "on call" for counseling appointments referred through the center.

Any mature Christian (man or woman) who is willing to attend the 4 training sessions and devote the time necessary can participate. The group will be limited to 15 and a \$3.00 registration fee plus the cost of the text book ("Psychology of Counseling" by Clyde Narramore--\$4.00) will be charged. The idea is to train lay-counselors to handle the incoming calls and conduct formal counseling sessions by appointment. Each counselor will be under supervision of the Director and will meet periodically for round table discussions.

Training sessions will be held April 17,18,24,25 at 7:30 p.m.. Those interested in participating should contact the Pastor.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of
(CENSORED) has a membership of almost 4,000 persons. The Pastor humbly admits that it has taken 8 years of "blood, sweat and tears" to accomplish this fete. (By sheer coincidence this happens to be the length of his tenure as pastor).

However, he quickly says that "we can decay inside if we measure success by numbers". He then goes ahead to point out a startling (yet tragically common) fact about his membership (a fact that is true of ALL big churches). He says:

"We have at least 2,000 members who have no spiritual perception and no deep concern. I often wonder if they are converted."

There's something strangely incongruent about church members who are not Christians. Matter of fact, since the church is supposed to be composed of people who have "sold out" to Jesus Christ--can a group that openly admits that half their membership are not Christians rightly call itself a church?

Of course, this situation can exist in a membership of 40 as well as in a membership of 4,000--altho

April 25, 1969
the percentage of non-Christians is usually somewhat smaller.

In setting the guidelines for our church the Holy Spirit directed us to emphasize and insist upon a "regenerate church membership" as the only true kind of church.

However, it was impossible to find a judge who was qualified to determine who was saved and who wasn't.

Thus, it was left up to the member himself to make this decision. Not only that, but since time is the only true measure of sanctification, it was determined that each year each member would have to re-examine his relationship with Christ and on the basis of his own self-inventory, recommit (or choose not to recommit) himself to church membership.

At the back of the auditorium is a small box. In front of this box are recommitment cards. If you want to continue to live up to the covenant relationship and want to recommit yourself for another year to the purposes of this local church--sign one. It's up to you.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE. 1104 AURORA ROAD

I don't know if it was EAU GALLIE, FLA. 32935
Sunday afternoon or Monday

back in 1809 when two
Kentucky hill-billys met
in a "holler" near the
Hardin County border.

"What's new down your way?"
one of them asked.

"Nothin'" came the answer.
"Nothin' a tall. Nuthin'
ever happens out here 'cept
fer a few babies borned--
like the one down at Tom
Lincolns last night..."

NOTHING INDEED!! That
seemingly insignificant
moment in history is what
in retrospect is known as
the pivotal event in the
life of our nation.

I think about this some
times when I come face to
face with some dirty little
snot-nosed kid throwing
rocks at cars...or read a
birth notice in the paper
...or see a group of little
children sitting around a
table in a Primary Sunday
school class.

Who knows what restless
child attending our Sunday
school will someday take a
place in the affairs of men
that will distinguish
every part of a previously
obscure past?

This came flashing to
mind last week when I
read an article written

May 16, 1969

by the pastor of the First
Baptist Church of San
Antonio, Texas. He said:

"We missed him. Our chance
to change things came and
passed and we did not know
it was there.

"A dark-skinned little boy
sat through Sunday school
classes for three years at
our church but someone
missed him. His name was
Sirhan Sirhan, and at the
age of 24 he shot and
killed Senator Robert
Kennedy. In a welter of
words and the shudder of
grief throughout our nation
the persistent thought
keeps recurring...someone
missed him."

I remember reading a
anguished letter in the
Dallas newspaper written
by a Baptist Sunday school
teacher from Ft. Worth.
He told of having a kid
in his class that he never
reached for Christ. The
kids name was Lee Harvey
Oswald.

President or presidential
assassin...he could be in
your class--or your home.
But be careful when you
say with a casual shrug,
"Nuthin' ever happens
around here."

FROM YOUR PASTOR....

I'm deeply grateful for our church. Your acceptance of my writing ministry as a mission arm of the church has allowed me the freedom to walk through doors that heretofore had always remained shut. But it's impossible to estimate the vast number of people we (you and I) are reaching for Christ through this ministry.

Last week in New Jersey my publisher showed me some of the letters that have come in from teenagers who have read Run Baby Run. I'll share some of these with you in the weeks ahead. The only adequate word to describe it is "thrilling".

I'm also grateful for those who have assumed places of leadership and stepped in while I'm away on research trips. We are becoming--perhaps by necessity--a New Testament church where every man is a minister. I thank God for each of you.

I'm grateful for your wonderful acceptance of Elbert Jones and his spirit-filled ministry. Maybe I ought to feel a little jealous that you have responded to his preaching so wonderfully when I'm away. Matter of fact, Elbert has offered on several

THE ENTIRE CHURCH
EXPRESSES DEEP SYMPATHY
TO GILBERT THOMAS AND
AGNES GIBSON IN THE DEATH
OF THEIR FATHER. ALSO TO
JANET FOX IN THE DEATH OF
HER MOTHER IN MICHIGAN...

occasions to stay away if I felt my security threatened. He's that kind of man and I love him for it...and I love you for your acceptance of him. There's not many places where a Spirit-filled former Church of God minister can command the attention and receive the response that he has among our people. Those of you who have not heard him preach need to re-arrange your schedule next time so you can be here.

May 25 we're in for another great treat. Jim Hylton, Spirit-filled pastor of First Baptist Church of West Plains, Mo. will be preaching at all services. Jim is Allen Reed's former pastor and has led his church into the charismatic movement and seen great results. He's coming to Eau Gallie to confer with Jorunn Ricketts who is preparing to write a book on his ministry. So while he's here, he'll preach. Great!!

One other thing...Pete Gibson tells me he had to withdraw \$500 from our savings account to pay current bills last month. Don't forget your tithe!!

TO THOSE INTERESTED IN THIS CHURCH...

May 25
1969

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH is a group of Christians from all religious backgrounds, who have found a common unity in Jesus Christ.

We have voluntarily affiliated with the Brevard Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention so we may share in the world-wide mission program.

Our headquarters building is here at 1616 Ferndale, but the church (which is composed of people) is scattered throughout the surrounding communities.

The church maintains a counseling center on a non-sectarian basis in the church office. Various other ministries are conducted by the members themselves who believe the church exists only to minister to others.

The greater fellowship of the church is composed of all people, regardless of belief and background, who wish to meet with us for worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, service and contribution. The Membership is composed of those who have met the following requirements.

- (1) *Have professed belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*
- (2) *Have accepted Him as Saviour and are endeavoring to follow Him as Lord.*
- (3) *Have been Scripturally baptized.*
- (4) *Have committed themselves to the purpose of the Church Constitution.*
- (5) *Have accepted the Church Covenant as a spiritual goal.*
- (6) *Have attended the membership orientation sessions (or their equivalent).*
- (7) *Have been counseled by Pastor and Deacons.*

Application for membership may be made by answering the invitation at the close of the service--or by speaking to the Pastor.

The church services are open to all people and those who wish to commit their lives in service to God are invited to join the membership.

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

EAU GALLIE, FLA.

James W. Buckingham
Pastor

May 25, 1969
11:00 A.M.

Barbara Prisk
Pianist

W.S. Gibson
Song Leader

Marge Thomas
Organist

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP-----Choir and Congregation
"He Keeps Me Singing"

INVOCATION

CHURCH PROGRAM ----- Welcome of Visitors

HYMN NO. 41 -----"To God Be the Glory"

SPECIAL MUSIC-----Solo and Choir
"He's Everything to Me"

SCRIPTURE READING

MOMENTS OF MEDITATION

HYMN NO. 264 -----"Showers of Blessing"

OFFERTORY

SPECIAL MUSIC ----- Youth Choir

SERMON ----- Jim Hylton

INVITATION HYMN NO. 240 -----"Just As I Am"

BENEDICTION ----- Response

POSTLUDE



"He hath showed thee, O Man, what is good; and what
doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly,
and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy
God."
--Micah 6:8

A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

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I really don't have anything profound to write this week so I thought I'd just share a few tidbits that may or may not have any meaning to you.

A delightful, elderly woman made a trip to Bible lands. One of the visits was to Egypt. Part of the activity included in the tour was a camel ride to the pyramids. The Egyptian guide hoisted her into the saddle, but the obstinate camel refused to move. The camel driver prodded, pushed, and pulled but the beast refused to go. The old lady got off, began to scratch the camel behind the ear, and the camel got up and galloped off at top speed. The camel driver hysterically said, "Madam, what in the world did you do to that camel?" She said, "I tickled him." The Egyptian guide screamed, "Well, hurry up and tickle me...I've got to catch him!"

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By the way, Alice, in your desire to get everybody else straightened out, try this on for size.

I dreamed death came the other night and Heaven's gate swung wide;

With kindly grace an angel ushered me inside;

And there to my astonishment stood folks I'd known on earth--

Some I'd judged and labeled as "unfit" or "of little worth".

Indignant words rose to my lips but never were set free, For every face showed stunned surprise--no one expected me.

Historian Charles Beard asked by one of his students if he could sum up everything he had learned in 5 minutes. The historian said he could do it in just four lines:

(1) Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad.

(2) The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly small.

(3) The bee fertilizes the flower it robs.

(4) When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.

Add to this a statement by the late Prime Minister Nehru who regretted "being so busy doing things that he didn't have time to look into the meaning of them."

A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

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The whole thing started with the "Regent's Prayer" in New York state. N.Y. law required all school teachers to repeat the prayer at the beginning of each class. Jews, Communists, and Athiest opposed the prayer and the Supreme Court rightly abolished this required prayer as an infraction on the 1st Amendment.

Later, under the proding of a fat possum named Madelyn Murray, the court acted on a similar case in Maryland and sent most of the nation's school boards into panic. The school boards, in turn, banned all prayer rather than run the risk of a law suit.

But now the people of America are fed up. And from the grass roots are exerting pressure on Congress to at least "allow" prayer in public schools.

The best amendment is that sponsored by Sen. Everett Dirkson which would "allow" (not require) prayer in public institutions.

Last Monday night the Eau Gallie city council went on record favoring such action and proclaiming June 21 as sign up day for petitions to be sent to Congress. (Many of us have already signed).

June 13, 1969

A Melbourne man, Scott Campbell, was on hand to violently oppose the Council's actions and finally had to be escorted from the room by the police chief. Ironically, the pastor of the First Baptist Church found himself in the embarrassing position of being on the same side of the athiestic objector when he tried to defend the 1st Constitution. All the Council was doing, however, was setting aside a day to sign petitions (even though the overwhelming sentiment on the part of the city fathers was to have prayer restored in the public schools). (FRankly, though, I feel the athiests have had their day in school long enough, and it's time for those who may want to pray to be given at least equal rights).

The Melbourne City Commission approved a similar bill last Tuesday with the same Mr. Campbell objecting. This time he was supported by a student from (of all places) our Baptist Stetson University.

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