

Heavenly news worth printing

George Cornell, one of America's foremost journalists, recently ripped into one of his fellow editors at a gathering of The Associated Press managing editors. "Why," he asked, "do most newspapers carry an entire section of sports events daily, but only one page of religious news weekly?"

There are exceptions, of course. If a minister loses his temper and goes after the bank president (who is chairman

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of his board) with the jawbone of an ass, then that's considered "news." Or, as recently happened, if a prominent minister is found guilty of shoplifting, the story makes the front pages.

The press, it seems, hangs on every word uttered by politicians, but seldom reports on the words of a preacher—even if he is speaking prophetically. In other words, what is said in Washington is more important than what is said in Heaven.

Not only that, but if a politician does happen to say something with spiritual meaning, the news media, somehow, has a way of dropping that part from the published remarks.

Hardnosed editors usually look on church news as something to be tolerated. This is not a condemnation on the news media. It is a sad commentary on the fact that in most churches, there isn't enough worth reporting. If something really exciting does happen, it's either written up so poorly that nobody will read it or it is sensationalized.

For instance, during a recent evangelistic campaign in Africa, a man was raised from the dead. The evangelist, however, chose to use the event to raise money for his organization. He chopped up the platform where the miracle took place and sent splinters to all his financial supporters. The genuineness of the miracle was lost in the cheap sensationalism.

It's time for the churches of the world to realize the awesomeness of their responsibility. Many exciting things are happening in the kingdom, I'm not talking about building programs and rummage sales. I'm talking about lives changed by the Gospel, bodies healed from disease, homes brought into happy order, and, yes, saints being raised from the dead. If that isn't happening in your church, then it ought to. And when it does, it's worth printing.