



Perspective

By Jamie Buckingham

Truth

It is incredible how our lives are controlled by newspapers, television and other forms of media.

If it's in print, or on the tube, we believe it. Judith Crist has the power to make people go to the movies. Robert Finigan's endorsement of a particular wine sends its sales scoring. Let one of the major automobile magazines say "This is the finest car on the road" and thousands of people rush out to buy one. A fact becomes true by being in the media.

Most of us don't have very many genuine experiences each day. We live rather routine lives. But when we do have a genuine experience — an encounter with God or a touching relationship with a friend — it is almost always overshadowed by what we have read in the newspaper or seen on TV.

The bombing of an Israeli bus or trouble at the American Embassy in ~~Iran~~ sets our entire nation in motion. All because of the publicity they receive in the media. *Lebanon*

Beirut The fact is, however, the bombing of an Israeli bus, riots in ~~Lebanon~~, who wins the World Series or even the assassination of a president have very little to do with my personal life. Yet these facts — which only affect me indirectly, if at all — seem to be the reality of life. They are the things I talk about to my friends. They are the things that send me rushing out to my driveway early in the morning to get the paper, or keep me up until past my healthy bedtime to listen to the late news.

As a result, the important facts of my life tend to be overshadowed by the frantic activity of the media pouring information into my mind which is virtually meaningless.

Jesus did not say, "You shall know the facts and the facts shall make you free." It seems He made great distinction between "fact" and "truth." It is the truth which sets us free.

"What is truth?" Pilate asked.

Telling my wife I'm sorry for a poor attitude is truth.

Walking into my son's bedroom at night, sitting on the side of the bed and telling him how proud I am of him, laying my hand on his chest and praying for him audibly as he goes to sleep — that is truth.

Taking time to pick up the phone and tell a friend I love him, remembering the goodness of God in my life and giving thanks, sharing my money and my house with someone in trouble — all that is truth.

But real truth is not something you learn, something you perceive, or something you do. Real truth is found in a relationship with God through his son, Jesus Christ.

Sometimes, though, it's hard to hear or receive the truth, because we're inundated with facts.

I am thankful _____ for the media. Were it not for newspapers, I would not be able to share this concept with you. But I am determined _____ to look beyond the _____ facts, to the reality of Truth. I want to remember _____

_____ that life consists not of things — or the absence of things — but of a relationship with others, and with God.

That is truth.