

Call a Miracle A Miracle

There is something haywire in American journalism. It is evident in the magazine trade, the wire services, and among most syndicated newspaper columnists.

God, especially the supernatural work of God, is either edited out, rewritten into some kind of "nonoffensive" mush, or treated editorially the same way most folks treat flying saucers and Indian rain dances.

The sophisticated publisher wants to recognize religion and is usually kind to religious people—that is, as long as they don't go over board talking about miracles, angels, or supernatural visitations from God. Most papers carry a religion page and the bigger ones even have a religion editor. The big news magazines often carry a religion feature (Even the President goes to church and mentions God in his official messages.) But for the most part there seems to be a subtle conspiracy at work which causes editors to automatically blue-pencil any reference to the supernatural work of God. Or, if it is mentioned, it's always under the "alleged" category.

The result is the readers are treated to a display of religious humanism where luck, fate, or good fortune gets the credit for something that was actually the miracle work of God.

A year or so ago Reader's Digest ran an article called "Terror at Shoshone Creek." It was the story of the Ben Roberts family who narrowly escaped drowning when their car overturned in an icy Idaho creek.

The Digest has the most astute reporting staff in the world. Their writers and editors are master craftsmen when it comes to getting to the heart of events, going beyond facts to feelings. Yet this particular story was written simply as a near tragedy which turned into a remarkable rescue.

The truth of the matter, however, according to people who knew the Roberts family, was the incident was actually a miracle. The Roberts knew they were dying and called out to God. They are snatched from sure death by his intervening hand. Yet this part was simply edited out.

Mankind Given Credit

For several years I sat at the editorial table of a religious magazine which often edited out any strong references to the supernatural. Their rationale: "The American public will not read the magazine if we give God all the glory. Man needs to think that by his own ingenuity and intelligence, he, too, should share in the glory."

Poppycock! Americans are hungry for someone to tell them the truth about spiritual matters. That's one of the reasons Billy Graham's book on angels has had such phenomenal success. People, believers and unbelievers alike, are eager to know the truth about supernatural events.

Look at the Kathryn Kuhlman miracle services, attended by the very "cream" of Hollywood society. Anyone who has heard Miss Kuhlman speak or minister knows she pulls no punches. She edits no lines to keep from offending her hearers. What a pity the national news media can't be as open and honest.

In a recent article in a national magazine, a famous actor and playwright gave a detailed account of how he overcame his nervous breakdown through Freudian psychology, psychoanalysis and his own grit. No gripe here. It was a fine, factual article. But if another person, equally articulate, had gone through a supernatural healing, do you believe the same magazine would have printed the story? Probably not without some editor changing "prayer" to "thought" and "it happened" to "it seemed."

'So-Called' Language

We laud humanitarian effort, medical research, and heroism. But the moment anyone starts talking about God we slip into such language as "so-called miracle," "he thought he saw. . ." or "some people were reportedly healed."

Much of what happens in life cannot be explained. Many people have opinions. All I am saying is, let's give God equal billing.