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J. A. Dennis

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"RISING UP EARLY"

"I MET GOD IN THE MORNING—"

I met God in the morning
   When my day was at its best,
And His presence came like sunrise
   Like a glory in my breast.

All day long His presence lingered
   All day long He stayed with me
And we sailed in perfect calmness
   O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered
   Other ships were sore distressed,
But the wind that seemed to drive them
   Brought to me a peace and rest.

Then I think of other mornings
   With a keen remorse of mind
When I too, had loosed the moorings
   And His presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret
   Learned from many a troubled way,
You must seek Him in the morning
   If you want Him through the day.

—Ralph S. Cushman

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." (Mark 1: 35)
A Miracle Move!

Praise the Lord! We have moved a part of Words of Life, Inc. ministry to Kerrville, Texas, 100 miles west of Austin, Texas, suddenly, safely, and joyfully in the Lord Jesus.

For about a year I have felt impressed of the Lord, that we would some day move to Kerrville. I never mentioned it to anyone, even to my wife, until about October 1st, 1981. I knew that in November we would have to decide and notify the owner of the building we rented for our office, whether or not we would renew our lease, when it expired on May 31, 1982.

Though at that time I had not yet received a clear word “To move to Kerrville”, I asked the Lord if it would be alright to go and, “Spy out the Land”. He indicated that it would be alright for us to do that. When I told Mrs. Dennis about it, she felt that it was from God.

On Friday, October 2, 1981, we drove to Kerrville, thinking we might find what it offered in Apartments to rent, and also office space. We were led to a large apartment complex in that area. She potted a “For Rent” sign on a building and called me, giving me the phone number. I came to Kerrville by bus, paid a deposit on our apartment, which they hoped to have finished by Nov. 1st.

I told the Apartment Manager what we wanted, and asked her to keep her eyes open to see a “For Rent” sign on a building in that area. She spotted a “For Lease” sign on a building and phoned me, giving me the phone number. I came to Kerrville again the next morning by bus. Virgil Hackett, a dear Brother in the Lord, met me and drove me to the building, after I had called the number, and asked the owner, a lady, to meet us there. Before she arrived, we had “Walked Around” the walls, peeked in the windows, and claimed it for the Lord’s work.

It is a lovely one story red brick building beneath some pecan trees, with very nice offices, much storage space, between our apartment and the Bank, and just 2 or 3 blocks from the Bank. We discussed the rental terms, and Brother Hackett drove me back to Austin. I then phoned our three fine Directors in Houston, and on Friday, October 23rd, I came back to Kerrville and signed a three year lease with the owner on our new Office.

On Saturday, Oct. 24th, Brother Schober, who had heard of our moving, invited me to speak at the Church of Glad Tidings on Sunday morning, Oct. 25th, which I did, and the Lord Jesus blessed that service. Saturday evening Mr. & Mrs. Hoit K. Frierson took Mrs. Dennis and myself out to dinner, then to see their very lovely home. There we found a group of his relatives and our dear friends, waiting to greet us with their love gifts and farewells: Mr. & Mrs. Hoit D. Frierson and Joel, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Godfrey, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Godfrey, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth R. Robbins, with the children of these three families, and Mrs. Nettie Culpepper.

In the meantime we had gotten our settlement money from the new owner of our old office, and had agreed to vacate by Nov. 1st, 1981. And we had made an easy settlement with the landlady at our apartment, to cancel our lease there.

My wife, at our Austin apartment, and our faithful helper
at our office, Hoit K. Frierson, had been busy packing everything to move. And on Thursday, Oct. 29th, a big Mayflower Van Loaded everything at our office, and then our household goods. Mrs. Dennis and I drove to Kerrville that evening, stayed at a motel, and the movers took all day Friday, Oct. 30th, to unload our furniture, then the office furniture and many boxes of books, Insurance Policies, etc. My wife spent that day, and we both spent that night, with another dear friend, Mrs. Leslie S. Cruthirds. On Saturday Mrs. Dennis unpacked at the apartment, and I at the office. On Monday we began working on the mail that had accumulated.

Our new mailing address is: Words of Life, Inc., P. O. Box 1789, Kerrville, Texas 78028. Our office phone number is: 512-896-4848. Our Home Phone, for evening calls from 5:00 to 9:00, is 512-896-6621.

Part of this ministry stays in Austin, where our trusted Agent will take care of it, handling mail from Africa, and other matters. Our address there will remain the same: Words of Life, Inc., P. O. Box 2156, Austin, Texas 78768. We will keep that Box Number for at least two years, so many people will write to the address they find on the many books, Policies, etc. that we have mailed out. Our Agent will get to us, in a few days, the First Class mail we should have.

But to all who read this Notice, from NOW on, Please send your letters, requests for prayer, the Texas Herald, changes of address, Books, Insurance Policies, Reprints, Cassettes, and your loving prayers and Gifts, to Words of Life, Inc., P. O. Box 1789, Kerrville, Texas 78028. Thank You!

Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Dennis

God's Way to Victory

PRAISE THE LORD

"Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours but God's."

(II Chron. 20: 15)

Paul tells us that the Old Testament stories regarding the children of Israel were written for examples and warnings to us.

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (I Cor. 10: 11)

In the story of Jehoshaphat, as recorded in II Chronicles, Chapter Twenty, we find a perfect outline of God's plan for our victory over any problem or danger that confronts the Christian. The story is told simply and in detail, so that we may not miss one single important step in gaining victory over the difficulty or danger that threatens us who are God's children.

Jehoshaphat had been a good king over Judah. He "sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doing of Israel." (Chron. 17: 4) He "took away the high places and the groves out of Judah." (II Chron. 17: 6) He set up a traveling or circuit "Bible School," sending priests and princes to the cities of Judah, teaching the "Book of the Law." (II Chron. 17: 7-10) He also established a system of courts and judges at Jerusalem and throughout Judah, that justice might be done in all cases of controversy between the citizens of Judah. (II Chron. 19: 5-11)

Jehoshaphat committed one grievous error and was rebuked for it by the prophet Jehu. He had joined himself with Ahab, the wicked king of Israel, and had gone with him into battle against the Syrians, in spite of the warning of God's prophet Micaiah. In this battle King Ahab was killed. (II Chron. 18)

Some time after this, the armies of the Moabites, the Ammonites and the inhabitants of Mount Seir came up against Jehoshaphat and the kingdom of Judah, to make war with them. Here, then, begins the story of God's deliverance, not only for Jehoshaphat and the armies of Judah, but for all Christians who will follow Jehoshaphat's example and do what he proceeded to do.

The first thing Jehoshaphat did, when danger confronted him, was to turn to the Lord in fasting and prayer.

"And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

"And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord." (II Chron. 20: 3-4)

If America, faced with communism, evil, danger, war, would turn to the Lord in prayer and fasting as did Jehoshaphat and Judah, it would be an easy thing for God to deliver us. Instead, we rely on our armies, our wealth, and our H-bombs—and so we know no security and no peace.

Many prayers are going up in America, from individuals, prayer groups and in churches, for peace. But there is no national call to prayer, no actual reliance upon God and His ways, little fasting, and little faith in God's ways of deliverance.

Next, Jehoshaphat, as the nation's head, stood up in the great congregation and led them in prayer.

"And said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God
in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

"Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

"And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

"If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

"And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir whom thou wouldst not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

"Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

"O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." (II Chron. 20: 5-12)

In this prayer Jehoshaphat reminded God of His promise to Abraham that He would give this land to his seed. Also of the building of the temple and of Solomon's prayer at its dedication that when evil would come upon them, if they would stand before the temple and pray, that God would "hear and help."

The Christian today who faces danger or trouble or is in need, can likewise remind God of His Word and the precious promises recorded therein, that God will hear our cries and answer our prayers and deliver us.

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jer. 29: 13)

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." (Jer. 33:3)

Jehoshaphat confessed that he and his people were powerless before the hosts of the approaching enemy, and that they didn't know what to do, but they were looking to the Lord to deliver them somehow.

That is faith. That is humility. That is the attitude that God loves and honors. When a man admits his helplessness but affirms his faith in God to bring him through.

"O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." (II Chron. 20: 12)

The king was not alone in his prayer. "And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children." (Verse 13)

Joel urges the same nationwide consecration, when danger threatens. "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

"Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

"Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, 0 Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?"

"Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people." (Joel 2: 15-18)

God has promised in His Word that whenever His people call on Him in earnest, in repentance, in humility, and in desperation, that He will hear and answer.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7: 14)

How will God answer? He will answer in one or more of several ways: by His Word, as we read it; by speaking in "a still small voice" to our hearts, as we pray; by providence, the opening or shutting of doors beyond our own efforts or ability; by prophecy through the lips of a consecrated prophet of God, one with the true gift of prophecy. (Not all modern-day so-called "prophecies" are the pure voice of God speaking. It takes an opening or shutting of doors beyond our own efforts or ability; by prophecy through the lips of a consecrated prophet of God, one with the true gift of prophecy. (Not all modern-day so-called "prophecies" are the pure voice of God speaking. It takes an humble and consecrated vessel to bear God's divine message.)

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matt. 7: 7)

In Jehoshaphat's case God answered through a prophecy coming from the lips of the prophet Jahaziel. "And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's but God's.

"Tomorrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

"Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O
Judah and Jerusalem; tomorrow go out against them: for the
Lord will be with you." (Verses 15-17)

Oh, if God's people today could only accept this charge!
"Be not afraid nor dismayed . . . for the battle is not yours, but
God's . . . Ye shall not need to fight in this battle . . . for the
Lord will be with you."

We fuss and fume and fear and cry and try every worldly
way under the sun to get ourselves out of the predicaments we
allow ourselves to get into, instead of humbling ourselves be­
out in his wisdom and might.

God cannot carry our burdens until we really "turn them
over to him." He cannot keep our bodies in health until we
commit them entirely into his keeping. He cannot keep our
businesses, our homes, our children, our lives, until we whole­
heartedly and sincerely have committed them into His keeping.

Until we've "taken our hands off" and let him have complete
control.

Paul had perfect peace because he had made a perfect com­
mittal. We have only partial peace in body, mind and spirit, be­
cause we've made only a partial committal.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things; neverthe­
less I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and
am persuaded that he is able to keep THAT WHICH I HAVE
COMMITTED UNTO HIM against that day." (II Tim. 1: 12)

Jehoshaphat had done several important things up to this
point. 1. He had called the nation and himself to fasting and
prayer. 2. He had reminded God of His promised protection.
Had acknowledged that they had no might of their own with
which to face the enemy, and that they were relying on God for
deliverance. 3. He had received instructions as to what to do.

The next step is terribly important. Many Christians fall
down here and lose the victory that God has for them. 4. Je­
shaphat accepted the answer as from God and set about to
obey.

Many times we Christians, after praying desperately about
a situation or a problem or a sickness, get God's answer, either
from His Word, or in our own hearts, or through someone's
prophecy or sermon, or God's open door. But we refuse to
accept it as from God. We doubt and fear and question, and
continue in our defeat. Because, usually God's answer is so
contrary to the world as to seem ridiculous to us.

We forget that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men."
(I Cor. 1: 25) and that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness
with God." (I Cor. 3: 19)

Jehoshaphat did not question God's voice or God's wis­
dom, though it was a fantastic and foolish thing, from the hu­
man standpoint, that God had commanded him to do.

"And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the
ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell
before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.

"And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of
the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of
Israel with a loud voice on high." (Verses 18-19)

What was it that God had commanded Jehoshaphat to do?
He, with the people of Judah, were to go out against the
multitudes arrayed against them. They were to go out immedi­
ately, the very next day. But they were commanded NOT TO
FIGHT. They were to "stand still, and see the salvation of the
Lord." (Verse 17)

"Often the "standing still" in the face of danger or trouble
or need, is harder than trying to go forward; "Not to fight" is
much harder than fighting. Waiting on the Lord to move, is
harder than making futile motions of our own.

But the glorious promise that was to go with them!
"Be not afraid nor dismayed, by reason of this multitude;
for the battle is not yours, but God's." (Ver. 15)

Jehoshaphat had prayed, he had asked God's help; he had
admitted his own helplessness; he had thrown himself entirely
into the hands of God; God had answered; had told Jehosha­
phat what to do; Jehoshaphat had accepted, without murmuring,
questioning or disputing, God's command; he had thanked
God for his answer and for his Victory.

Next, Jehoshaphat set himself to carry out God's orders, re­
gardless of their seeming "foolishness."

"And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into
the wilderness of Tekon: and as they went forth, Jehoshapath
stood and said, Hear ye, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jeru­
salem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established;
believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." (Verses 20-21)

Picture what they were doing, at God's command!! Im­
agine the President of the United States, as Commander-in-

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chief of the armed forces of America, reviewing his troops as
they face an invading enemy army. And, after praying and re-
ceiving God's answer, picture him sending them out to face the
foe with the command that they were NOT TO FIRE A SING-
GLE SHOT or DROP A SINGLE BOMB!

And, more, picture the Commander-in-Chief appointing a
battalion of singers to lead the army, not singing the usual army
songs, but singing "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty."
That is exactly what Jehoshaphat was ordered to do, and
this is precisely what he did do.

And that is what God is commanding you to do in a per-
sonal way, as you face your "enemy," to "fear not," to "stand
still," to "praise the Lord," to "see the salvation of the Lord,
for "the battle is not yours, but Gods."

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything
give Thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus con-
cerning you." (I Thess. 5: 16-18)

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and
he shall bring it to pass." (Psalm 37:5)

"Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you."
(I Pet. 5: 7)

"And who is he that will harm ye if ye be followers of
that which is good?" (I Pet. 3: 13)

And what is the promised result? The very victory that Je-
shophat and Judah enjoyed. The same miraculous victory
that God gave Gideon and his 300 followers who held only
trumpets and candles in their hands as they faced an enemy as
"sands of the sea" for numbers. (Judges 7)

God only works miracles when nothing but a miracle will
save us. As long as our human hands can work out our own
salvation, no miracle is needed. As long as our human hands
are TRYING TO WORK out our own salvation, no miracle is
promised or forthcoming.

When we recognize that we are at the end of our human
resources, and are completely surrendered to the will and mercy
and power of God, then He can step in and work a miracle in
our behalf.

"And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord
set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and
mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were
smitten.

"For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against
the inhabitants of mount Seir utterly to slay and destroy them:
and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir,
every one helped to destroy another.

"And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the
wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and behold, they
were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped." (Verses
22-24)

"When they began to sing and to praise." Praise is more
powerful than prayer. Praise without prayer might be presump-
tion. But prayer without praise is unbelief. Praise anticipates the
victory. Praise acknowledges that the answer is on its way.
Praise testifies that God is more powerful than the devil or any
situation the devil can bring upon us. Praise witnesses to the
goodness and might and mercy and wisdom of God.
Praise is the "hymn of committal." Praise proclaims that
the burden is no longer on our shoulders, but on the Lord. Praise
testifies that no matter what the outcome, we will be "glad and
rejoice."
Praise demonstrates the relief of a small child, faced with
danger, when his father appears on the scene to take over in
the child's behalf.
Praise is the release that comes when committal is made
to a "higher power." Praise is the joyful acclaim that God is
on the throne and all is well.
Praise is the most powerful "prayer of faith."
Praise says, "It is done! Hallelujah!"
Praise shouts, "My worries are over, my struggling is end-
ed. God has taken over. The battle is now his concern, not mine.
I am free to stand still, to cease to fight, to see the salvation of
the Lord!"
Praise shouts, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him."
"I will yet come forth as gold." "In all these things we are more
than conquerors through him that loved us."
Praise confesses, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless
I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life that I
now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who
loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)
Praise shouts, "Ye are of God, little children, and have
overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he
that is in the world." (I John 4: 4)
Praise proclaims, "And they overcame him (satan) by the
blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." (Rev.
12: 11)

Prayer frightens the devil. Praise puts him to rout.
Prayer makes the devil tremble. Praise causes him to flee.
Prayer begs God. Praise thanks Him in advance. "Father,

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PAGE SIX
I thank thee that thou hast heard me...Lazarus, come forth.”
(John 11: 41, 43)

Prayer brings our petition to God. Praise takes home the answer.

Prayer says, “Please.” Praise says, “Thank you.”

Prayer changes things. Praise shouts down the walls so we can take the city. (Josh. 6: 20)

Prayer is “weeping may endure for a night.” Praise is “joy cometh in the morining.” (Ps. 30: 5)

Prayer is an “eagle of the Lord” trying to fly with only one wing. Praise is the “king of the air” soaring high above the storm on two raised wings.

Pray—Yes. Pray much, pray “without ceasing.” But don’t forget to praise God for the promised answer.

Prayer is wondering “if it will come to pass?” Praise is “knowing it is done.”

God loves to see his children pray. But He rejoices to hear them praising Him for the expected answer.

Prayer may move mountains. Praise moves God, so that He cannot refrain from rejoicing with his praising children in their victory.

Does it pay to obey God?

Not only were Jehoshaphat and the inhabitants of Judah spared from harm, by obeying God’s unusual orders; but they came home laden with wealth. It took them three days to gather up the spoil from the bodies of the dead soldiers who had come up against Jerusalem.

“And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.” (II Chron. 20: 25)

“The real victory in all service is won in secret beforehand, by prayer; service is gathering up the results.” —Herald of His Coming.

The people under Jehoshaphat came home rejoicing and in triumph.

“Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

(Turn to Page 12)
THE MISSION

By Jim McKeever

You may remember the TV series, "Mission Impossible." In it, Mr. Phelps was given a mission to undertake, should he care to accept it.

In a similar way, not too long ago, God asked me to undertake a seemingly impossible mission. Based on His request, I reluctantly said "yes" and accepted it. That mission involves each person who reads END and I felt, in all honesty, that you should know about the mission that you and I have embarked upon.

In this article I am going to be talking some about myself. This is something I would rather not do. I would far rather talk about Jesus Christ, and yet have been encouraged by those close to me and by many pastors, in places where we have ministered, to share some of this background information. The only way that you could really understand "the mission" that we are embarking on together is if I give you some of this background.

LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY IN THIS GALAXY

I would like to start the story long ago and far away in a strange country called "Texas." It really begins when I was 2 years old and I turned a tub of boiling water over on myself. I was so badly scalded from my waist down that the doctor said that I would not live and, if by any miracle I were to live, there would be no possibility that I would ever walk again. My mother (who died when I was 12) was a tremendous Christian and she prayed and said, "God, if You spare him, he is Yours." God answered that prayer and, not only spared my life, but let me walk, and not only walk, but play football, run track, ski, play tennis, scuba dive and so forth.

Two of my uncles were Methodist preachers, and everyone assumed that the Lord had spared my life so that I could be a preacher. Therefore, early in life, I began to be concerned about religion. I read the Bible for actually thousands of hours in my youth. I would meditate upon some of the parables for hours, trying to understand them, but their meaning escaped me. I became a licensed, local Methodist preacher at age 16 and preached one Sunday night a month at the Methodist church that we attended. I would take a sermon printed in a book of sermons, rehash it to fit my personality, and then give it. I had a hard-time talking for fifteen minutes back in those days. I really did not know Christ personally and had no power and no real message in my heart.

As a small boy (preschool) at the age when I knew nothing about the Tribulation, nor the rapture, I had a deep sense in my spirit that before I died, I would see Christians in America meeting in bombed out basements and caves. Also deep in my spirit, I had a strange sense that God had spared my life to somehow be involved in those times. That sense has been with me my entire life and remains with me to this day.

After graduating from high school and a tour of duty in the Navy, I enrolled in the Southern Methodist University in Dallas as a pre-Theological student. Fortunately, they were very liberal in their treatment of the Bible. They attempted to explain away the miracles of Christ. For example, they claimed that when the little boy pulled out his fish and loaves, the other 5,000 people did also. They similarly explained away the other Old and New Testament miracles. Even though I did not know Christ as my personal Savior, I at least believed the Bible, so I was really confused. I dropped out of the Theological school, feeling that if I did not know what I believed, I could not help anyone else, and I switched to the sciences.

DOWN AND THEN UP TO CHRIST

As a sophomore in college for the first time in my life I was no longer going to be a preacher. So, therefore, all the things that had been forbidden to me, in my mind, were now fair game. So I went the way of the prodigal son and began to drink the cup of life in giant gulps. I took up ballroom dancing and exactly one year after I took my first dance step, I was teaching at Arthur Murray's. About this time I joined a fraternity and found that if I had something to drink I was more relaxed when I danced. I eventually became quite a boozer.

It was in this state of progressive degeneration that I began to date a Baptist girl. She started bugging me to go to a Baptist student meeting on campus. I wanted no part of this since I had been warned that the Baptists were fanatical, narrow-minded and would try to convert you. She kept nagging me and I really did not want to break up with her, so I finally told her that I would go to a meeting with her one time if she would shut up and never mention it again.

With this "beautiful" attitude, I went to one of their meetings. I saw something truly different in the young people there. When they prayed, you could tell that they were really talking to God! These were not the shallow prayers that I had heard most of my life. I wanted this quality of life and this relationship with God, so for about three months I attended all the meetings on campus and went to the meetings that their youth revival team held in all the churches around Dallas. After about three months, I invited Jesus Christ into my heart to be my own personal Savior. What an incredible change it made in my life! Instead of a restlessness, there was the peace of Jesus. For the first time in my life, I felt truly loved. Christ gave me new life and something for which to live.

NEW SPIRITUAL EYES

Now with a new set of spiritual eyes I could understand the passages of Scripture that I had spent many hours contemplating but had never been able to comprehend. As the Holy Spirit enlightened me, everything began to fall into place.
Many Christians in Dallas wanted to tell me what to believe about certain things. I told them all to go away and effectively went into my closet and read the Bible through. When I came out, they again tried to tell me what to believe. Some of it matched beautifully with the Scriptures and other things they tried to teach me did not seem to be in harmony with the Bible.

One of the things that I accepted, although reluctantly, was the occurrence of the rapture before the Tribulation, since this was the only semilogical explanation given to me for the end times events. Yet I had a number of difficulties with it. For example, you would have to take some verses from the end of Matthew 24 and insert them in between verses 20 and 21, which would be right in the middle of a sentence. I also didn't see the rapture, at the beginning of the Tribulation, in the book of Revelation. It was clear to me that Christ never taught a rapture before the Tribulation. Also, when the Bible referred to the second coming, I had difficulty knowing whether it was referring to "the rapture second coming" or "the second coming in power and glory." In general, it was messy and all the other things I had found in the Bible were not messy at all: they were clean and beautiful.

So for ten years I asked various people about these difficulties that I was having reconciling a rapture before the Tribulation with the Scriptures. Finally, a Christian professor of thermodynamics at USC told me to go back and reread the passages concerning the rapture and the second coming in power and glory, looking at them as one event rather than two. I did this and everything then fell into place and I was no longer confused, nor concerned.

It was about ten years after that that the Lord began to show me some solid scriptural reasons why the rapture is going to occur at the end of the Tribulation. Much of this I covered in my book, CHRISTIANS WILL GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION—AND HOW TO PREPARE FOR IT. He began to show me about the last trumpet, the first resurrection, the mystery of God being completed and many other things that validated what He had already shown me—that the rapture would be at the end of the Tribulation.

I will skip over many things here that are not relevant to this article—such as my being a Baptist evangelist for the youth revival team my last two years in college, my time on Catalina Island and being a pastor there for two and a half years, and my involvement with home Bible studies. Also, I must leave out my business career and jump to the point where I was living in Marina del Rey in Los Angeles, writing an economic newsletter and consulting internationally.

**MOVE TO CANADA AND COSTA RICA**

As I was living in Marina del Rey, with a beautiful apartment and a lovely office at the Marina, everything seemed to be going quite well for me. Then the Lord told me to move to Costa Rica (in Central America) and to Canada. I had long since given up arguing with God when He told me to do something, no matter how strange or illogical it seemed, so I applied for residence permission in both countries and moved to both of them. I had an apartment in each country. The economic newsletter was being published out of Canada, so I had to find an office there and a secretary and so forth. I wasn't sure why I was in these countries, because I was simply doing the same thing I had been doing in California but from a different locale. Yet, I knew God had moved me there and that was enough.

A few months later, at a charismatic Episcopal Church in Canada, I met Jeani, who was later to become my wife. Shortly after we were married, the Lord told us to leave Canada and Costa Rica and to return to the United States. I am absolutely convinced that the reason God took me to Canada was to find my wife.

After we were married, we were spending half of our time in Canada, half in Costa Rica and we were jetting all over the world to speak at economic and investment conferences. The Lord then told me to write a book about Christians going through the Tribulation.

I suggested to the Lord that I should write a book on finances and investments instead. He kept telling me to write a book saying that Christians will go through the Tribulation. I told Him that if I were going to write a Christian book, I would much rather write it about loving God or glorifying God or one of those "neat" topics. I felt that a book about Christians going through the Tribulation would be about as popular as a skunk in church.

God kept insisting that I write this book which I absolutely in no way wanted to write, so I finally said "yes" to the Lord. The Lord spoke through one of the Christian sisters down in Costa Rica, saying that if I were going to write that book, Satan would really come against me and we should be in one place really covered by the prayers of a body of believers. The only group of Christians we knew with whom we had that kind of relationship was in Pasadena, California. So at the beginning of 1977, we shut down everything in Costa Rica and Canada and moved bag and baggage to Pasadena.

**BACK TO CALIFORNIA**

In Pasadena, again we had to find an office and hire a secretary. We published the economic newsletter from there and wrote the book. Almost as soon as the book was written we moved to Oregon. While writing the book, several times we tried to change the name of the book and God would not let us. I wanted to at least put it in the form of a question (Will Christians go through the Tribulation?) but God said no. Also, on four different occasions we attempted to pull out the physical preparation section and make it into a separate book, but again God would not allow it.

I then submitted the completed manuscript to almost all of the major publishers and none of them wanted it at all.

**LIVING WATERS RANCH IN OREGON**

Here we were sitting at Living Waters Ranch in Oregon with a manuscript that no one wanted to publish. I earnestly asked the Lord what He wanted me to do with it. It seemed strange that He would have me go to all the trouble and expense of moving from Costa Rica and Canada to write the book if it were never going to be published. Then God reminded me that we had a publishing company that was publishing the financial newsletter and, therefore, we should publish it.

So we had the manuscript typeset. Books must come out in an even number of 32 pages. Because of this we had several pages that were blank in the back of the book. We used these to put in information about my speaking and other items of interest to the reader, but we still had one blank page left. After praying about it the Lord said to put in an ad for END-TIMES NEWS DIGEST.

I read a stack of reports, newsletters and so forth about 2 feet high each week, in my role as an international economist. I kept running across items that the body of Christ needed to know about, but there was no way to get the information out to them. Before I ever moved to Canada, the Lord had had me create a letterhead for the END-TIMES NEWS DIGEST, but He said that it was not yet the time to do it. So God told me to use that last blank page in the back of
the book to run an ad for this publication. I mentioned to God that the publication did not exist, but He assured me that it would.

After the book was published and, through some real miracles of God, began to be widely advertised, many people wanted to subscribe to the END-TIMES NEWS DIGEST, so we started it in the fall of 1978. Also, that fall I taught through the book of Revelation at a Foursquare church here in Medford. It was taped and we made those cassettes available.

Because of the book on the Tribulation, the END-TIMES NEWS DIGEST, and the cassette ministry, we began to get a large number of requests to speak at different churches and Christian conventions. At about that time, the Lord and I had a long heart-to-heart talk.

THE MINISTRY BEGINS

I sat down with the Lord and reminded Him that I already had 4 full-time jobs:

1. An International Consulting Economist—Publishing a financial newsletter, speaking at investment and monetary conferences around the world and consulting is a full-time job.
2. A Money Manager—I managed over a million dollars for people in the commodities market, and that is easily a full-time job.
3. A Ranch Manager—Running a 70-acre ranch with hired hands, fences to repair, sheds to build, animals to doctor, a 2-acre garden to take care of, and so forth is a full-time job.
4. An author of books—I write an average of 2 to 3 books a year and that is a full-time job.

On top of all of this, it looked like the Lord was giving me a full-time ministry (publishing the END-TIMES NEWS DIGEST, having a cassette ministry and a Christian speaking ministry). I told the Lord that I needed a fifth full-time job like I needed a hole in the head. I then told Him that there were a lot of good ministries out there and unless He who knew this but the masses of Christians did not.

2. "HELP THOSE WHO LISTEN TO THE WARNING TO GET PREPARED SPIRITUALLY, PHYSICALLY, FINANCIALY AND EMOTIONALLY FOR WHAT IS COMING." I found that by and large even the Christians that believe that we are going through tough times, the time of birth pains, or even the Tribulation are really not ready for it.

Since God gave me that two-part charter, everything I have done has been weighed back against it. You will see how that works out a little bit later in this article.

When this ministry first began in October of 1978, we had barely over 100 people receiving END-TIMES NEWS DIGEST. The ministry was initially called "Living Waters Ministry." This then became Ministries of Vision, so that the contributions of those who would support the ministry could be tax deductible. The Lord told me that I should contribute my time and half my income to the ministry but that the bulk of the finances of the ministry would come from those who would be ministered to.

THE MINISTRY MULTIPLIES

During 1979 and the early part of 1980 we did all we could to fulfill this two-part charter. I used every minute and every dime that I had to try to get the message out.

I should digress to explain something. Many people have the false idea that I am a wealthy or a well-fixed individual. That is not true. Jeani and I live in a two-room apartment in the basement of our ministry headquarters. When I am here on the ranch I usually wear blue jeans to work and we raise most of our own food by working hard in the evenings and on weekends. I take a modest salary and then contribute 50 percent of that to the ministry. We don't need much and don't have much.

The ministry owns The Omega Corporation. In The Omega Corporation, we have Omega Financial Services, Omega Publications and Omega Food and Supplies. Any profit from these goes 100 percent to furthering getting the word out; none of it goes to me personally.

The ministry has to bear all of its own expenses. Thus, we can only have the cassette ministry, speaking ministries, and publish END-TIMES NEWS DIGEST to the extent of the contributions that come into Omega Ministries (we have recently changed from the name "Ministries of Vision" to "Omega Ministries").

The expenses of Omega Ministries have increased considerably. We now mail out over 40,000 issues of END each month. (The experts estimate that five people on the average read each issue of END; therefore, they say that we have 200,000 readers.) You can see that in a little over two years, END has had an incredible growth in both spiritual responsibility to the readers and in expenses. The contributions of the people being ministered to have not kept up with this growth.

Also, there are many things that the Lord is laying on our hearts to do that we simply do not have the finances for. One of these is to have a first-class, high-quality television special that deals with the message of the end times and preparation. We have a little television fund but it is nowhere close to the $200,000 that we will need for this caliber of a production, much less the cost of airing it once it is produced.

But I'm getting ahead of myself—let's go back to what we were discussing. During 1979 and the first half of 1980, I prayed earnestly to God for some miracle to help us fulfill the charter that He had laid on our hearts. On July 1, 1980 we had a large amount of money come in from a very unexpected source. We could have used this for selfish purposes but it was used entirely to fulfill this two-part commission. In the fall of the last year we were able to run a full-color, full-page ad in almost all of the major Christian magazines for two months. It is estimated that 40 million Christians read that ad, which indeed warned them that tough times are coming and that they had better get ready. We praise the Lord for His miracles and the way He does provide the funds to achieve His purposes.

That advertising campaign was one of the things the Lord used to cause our ministry to greatly multiply. We give Him all the credit and the glory for it. This is His ministry. We didn't want it and we weren't trying to create one. Every step of the way it has been Him, for He cares for His people.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The high-quality TV special that we would like to produce and show would
help fulfill the first half of that charter of warning the body of Christ that tough times are coming. This, and perhaps a daily radio program, could be used by the Lord to achieve this.

In order to help fulfill the second part of the two-part charter from the Lord, we would like to make a series of video tapes showing Christians, in very real terms, how to make many of the preparations that the Lord might lead them to make. For example, we could have one on raising rabbits. A buck and doe rabbits will put roughly 400 pounds of meat on the table each year. We would love to have a video film on raising rabbits and the care, breeding, birth, growth, butchering, and preserving of them. Also included would be how to raise rabbits in the city, as well as rural.

In addition to many films like this on physical subjects, we would also like to have a number of video tapes of outstanding men of God, such as Jim Spillman, talking about preparation for the end times and films of crucial Bible topics being taught.

We would like to take a video camera to various sizes of farms that Christians own and show you some of the things that they have done and let them tell you of the experiences they have had that might be helpful to other Christians moving to a farm.

We would like to hold a number of conferences around the country, probably similar to the upcoming Labor Day one, where Jim Spillman and I and other men of God will be sharing. Also, in the cities we would like to hold special seminars for pastors to help them learn what to tell their people.

The Lord knows my heart. I am willing to put in my time and all the finances that I have available to do a daily radio program or a high-quality television special or to create video tapes that could help train Christians in things they can do to get ready.

I also joyfully contribute my time to write END. Yet many people who receive END can not afford it or, for some reason, have not contributed. This means that others are going to need to contribute more, or else we will have to start dropping off some of these people. They need to know the significance of major events to their own personal lives as this age draws to a close. God has laid a message on our hearts, but we must have help to get it out.

WE NEED SOME COMMITTED OMEGA TEAM MEMBERS

This is God's ministry. He forced us to start it, He is prospering it, and I believe He wants to expand it even further. Yet there is just so long that I and this little group of believers here in Medford can shoulder this burden alone, We believe that God wants us to have a group of committed team members to join with us in this task that He has called us to do.

We believe that a committed team member should commit to doing three things:

1. PRAY—Pray that this mission of warning the body of Christ about the tough times that lie ahead, and helping those who listen to get prepared for it, would be completed in time.

2. WORK—Do what you can personally to help complete this mission, whether it be by distributing books, speaking, helping arrange for a TV special to be shown in your town or whatever the Lord leads you to do.

3. CONTRIBUTE—Contribute at least 1 percent of your income each month to Omega Ministries to help complete this difficult mission. (If you make $2,000 a month, this would be $20 per month. If you make $800 a month, this would be $8 a month.)

We are praying for 1000 committed Omega team members. To each committed team member, I will send an auto-graphed copy of my new book, YOU CAN OVERCOME. I believe that this book will help you to become one of God's special troops, the overcomers.

Would you please take a moment after you read this paragraph and just lay END aside and pray, asking God if He wants you to be one of the committed team members with us. We cannot do this task alone, we cannot fulfill this mission alone. Without you taking up the burden with us and becoming a committed team member, we cannot complete the task God has given us to do. Gideon could not defeat the army by himself; he had to have some committed men with him. We too need some committed men and women of God who are willing to sacrifice in order to do God's task.

(Pray please and pray now, would you?)

SUMMARY

Usually, I say "Summary and Conclusion." This time I just said "Summary" because I don't think this is the conclusion of this matter. God is raising up an army of overcomers in preparation for some very significant things that are going to be happening. With all my heart I want each reader of END to become part of this army of overcomers. I am straining with all that I have to help you do this, not for my own glory, but purely for the glory of Christ. It will be throughout all eternity that the overcomers will enjoy special privileges and rewards that Jesus wants to give them. You won't even remember Jim McKeever—you will be so absorbed in Christ throughout eternity. What we are doing here could have eternal consequences in your personal life.

Pray for us, help us, support the ministry, for it is a big, almost-impossible mission. But with the power of God and His people behind it, it will be done victoriously and in a way that will build up and help the body of Christ and will glorify Christ.

I hope this doesn't come across as just another plea for money. I, like you, am flooded with hundreds of requests every year. I do pray that you would pray about joining with us in the mission that God has given us and, if He leads you to be involved, that you would consider it your ministry too.

We love each of you who already regularly support this ministry and who pray for us. It is a joy to meet many of you as the Lord allows us to travel around and minister. I hope to meet many, many more of you as time goes by, especially those who will become committed Omega team members. We are praying about maybe even having a special conference or doing something just for Omega team members.

We love you and appreciate you. May God guide you and you what preparations you should make and then give you the strength, the time and the resources to make those preparations. God bless you.

—Jim McKeever

REPRINTS

We will send up to 10 Reprints of Captain John M. LeVrier's Testimony—How God miraculously healed him of cancer—Postpaid, to anyone who will prayerfully distribute them for God's Glory.

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God’s Way to Victory
(From Page 7)

“And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets into the house of the Lord.” (Verses 27-28)

Not only were the people of Judah blessed, but this great victory was a testimony to others.

“And the fear of the Lord was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel.

“So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.” (Verse 29-30)

Praise the Lord for his object lesson! Praise the Lord for a formula that will always work against the devil or any of his agents!

Praise the Lord for the way to have victory over trouble, sickness, poverty, defeat, danger—whatever the adversary brings up against us!

Thank God for Jehoshaphat and the example his victory can be for us.

“Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 15: 57)

Let’s sum up again the steps to victory over every foe:

1. Immediately turn to God in prayer and fasting. “This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” (Matt. 17-21)

2. Call for others to join you in prayer. “If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in Heaven.” (Matt. 18: 19)

3. Remind God of His promises in His Holy Word. Assure Him that you are standing on those promises, believing and relying on His pledged word. “I will hasten my word to perform it.” (Jer. 1: 12) “God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” (Num. 23: 19)

4. Confess that you are unable of yourself to overcome the difficulty but that you are relying on God for wisdom and help, and promise Him that WHATEVER He tells you to do, you WILL DO IT. “I can of my own self do nothing.” (John 5:30) “But the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.” (John 14: 10)

5. Wait on God for the answer. Seek to learn his will through prayer, searching the Scriptures, hearing the Word, or through the Providential opening or shutting of doors. “Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.” (Psalm 27: 14)

6. When God’s answer comes, do not question, doubt, fear or argue, no matter how foolish it sounds. Check it with God’s Word. God doesn’t guide contrary to His Word. “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8: 31-32)

7. Obey what God’s Word or God’s Voice has told you to do. “Whatsoever he sayeth unto you, do it.” (John 2:5)

8. Thank God for the victory, NOW, immediately, BEFORE the answer comes into being. “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thess. 5: 18)

9. TRUST God. Be prepared to “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.” Commit the whole matter to Him. Leave it on his shoulders. Remember, “the battle is not yours, but God’s.” “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” (I Pet. 5: 7)

10. Go forth rejoicing, singing praises unto God, ignoring circumstances, symptoms, appearances, the size or ferocity of the enemy. Keep your eyes upon the Lord Jesus.

Praise Him, Praise Him, Praise Him. Knowing that God “always causeth us to triumph in Christ.” (II Cor. 2: 14)

Rejoice that God through Christ Jesus has taken over the situation. And rejoice, knowing that WHEN GIVEN A FREE HAND, God has NEVER LOST A BATTLE. Only when we tie His hands by our lack of commitment, does He fail.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Do these things that Jehoshaphat did, and you will come through the battle unscathed.

More, you will bring home the spoils of Victory. Then rejoice all the more, Let the neighbors and the heathen know that once more God has triumphed over evil. Rejoice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! “Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.” (Ps. 150:6)

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.” (Psalm 100:4)

“Ye will not have to fight . . . Set yourselves . . .
Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord . . .
For the battle is not yours, but God’s!”

Praise the Lord!
Hallelujah!

From Our Booklet,
“Praise The Lord”
—J. A. DENNIS

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