

MOVING SPIRIT

April, 1999

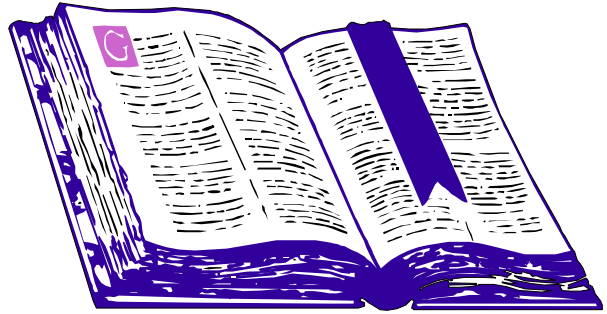
Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

"Wake up, old man; you're dreaming," yelled a passerby to a converted drunkard who was testifying to the saving power of Christ in a street meeting. The converted drunkard's little daughter, standing nearby, spoke up and said, "O please, sir, don't wake him up! Before he began dreaming, as you say, he used to beat up Mom and me. Now, he's good to us, and he brings home his money to provide for us. O please, sir, let him dream on! Don't wake him up!"

This story illustrates well the practical power of the Christian faith. The Bible proclaims a God Who works with us, Who speak to us, and Who, in Christ, comes to us to provide for restored fellowship between sinful humanity and Himself. Doubters of this Gospel have failed to better anyone by promoting their unbelief, but the undiluted proclamation of "the faith once delivered to the saints" has history's witness to its power to transform and sustain believing souls.

Critics have always chided those gullible enough to trust the Bible. The philosopher Voltaire predicted that 100 years after his death, the Bible would be outmoded and forgotten, a museum-piece. 100 years after his death, his



former home was sold to and used by the Geneva Bible Society. Robert Ingersoll, the famous agnostic humanist, holding up a copy of the Bible, said, "In 15 years I'll have this book in the morgue." In 15 years, he, not the Bible, was in the morgue. Human attacks upon the Bible's inspiration and authority have come and gone, flourished and faded, but the Holy Scriptures have outlasted and triumphed over them all. God has ordained that His written revelation be preserved for all Earth's generations until the very last.

God's Word remains a solid anvil of truth over the centuries, wearing out all hammers of unbelief. Inscribed on the monument to the Huguenots in Paris is: "Hammer away, ye hostile hands; Your hammers break; God's anvil stands." We can place solid trust in the Bible's miraculous God, not only as "*our help in ages past,*" but forever as "*our hope for years to come.*" -- Pastor David

Parish Proclamations

The **ALPHA Course** videos are being shown in the TV Room every other Friday at 1:00 PM. The 1-hr. sessions leave 10-15 minutes for questions and discussion. The rest of the dates are as follows: 4/30, 5/14, 5/28, 6/11, 6/25, 7/9, 7/23, 8/6, 8/20, 9/3, 9/17, 10/1. All at Eskaton are welcome to attend.

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The **National Day of Prayer** is *Thursday, May the 6th*. Join Pastor David in the Music Room at 1:00 PM for a concert of prayer for the nation.

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The **FIRE Meeting** gathers in a resident's home at 1:00 PM every other Friday (opposite the Alpha Course) for Fellowship, Inspiration, Renewal and Encouragement. Call Genevieve Goelz about the next meeting (482-9231).

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People's Pulpit

Winston Churchill had planned his funeral, which took place in Saint Paul's Cathedral. He included many of the great hymns of the church. At his direction, a bugler, positioned high in the dome of Saint Paul's, intoned after the benediction the sound of "Taps," the universal signal that says the day is over. But then came the most dramatic turn: as Churchill instructed, as soon as "Taps" was finished, another bugler, placed on the other side of the great dome, played the notes of "Reveille" -- "It's time to get up. It's time to get up.

It's time to get up in the morning." That was Churchill's testimony that at the end of history, the last note will not be "Taps," it will be "Reveille." The worst things are never the last things. The sleep of earthly death will someday depart with the sound of an angelic trumpet, blowing "Reveille!" (French for "Awake!")

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Pithy Pieces

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ! --Anon.

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Guidelines for Sane Living

1. Strike a balance between work and play - between seriousness and laughter. Go to church regularly, and also to the ball game.
2. Stick with the truth, even if it makes you look or feel bad. Falsehoods are like wandering ghosts.
3. Forgive your enemies as part of the price you pay for the privilege of being forgiven. Realize you are sometimes a pain in the neck yourself.
4. Walk. Get lots of air and sunshine, and occasionally get some rain or snow in your face, some dirt on your hands.

5. Talk your troubles and mistakes over with someone you trust - and your dreams too.

6. Don't underestimate the ability of God to straighten out a situation even when you can't, and give Him a little time!

7. Discriminate among your fears. Learn to tell which ones are useful, which ones are destructive.

8. Remember that the ultimate death rate is still 100%. You would be getting cheated if everyone got to die and you didn't.

9. When you can't sleep, say "Aha! Here's a chance for a little privacy and creative thinking. All day I've been too busy to pray and now I can get around to thanking God."

10. Fall in love with life - with children, older people, middle-agers, sports cars, the theater, music, books, cities, hills, the sea, the Bible - with everything except money. --*Wrap Your Arms Around the City* by James Angel

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Praise's Portion

What I know of myself I know through the shining of Your light; and what I do not know of myself, I continue not to know until my darkness shall be made a noonday in Your countenance. -- Saint Augustine

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Out in the Fields with God

The little cares that fretted me
I lost them yesterday,
Among the fields above the sea,

Among the winds at play,
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.
The foolish fears of what may pass,
I cast them all away;
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay,
Among the rustling of the corn,
Where lazy poppies nod;
Where ill thoughts die and good are born,
Out in the fields with God.
--Elizabeth Barrett Browning

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*"Thou shalt guide me with
thy counsel, and afterward
receive me to glory" --Psalm 73:24*

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Prayer's Priorities

Dear Lord, my mind is so small and Your mind is so great--I rest my mind in Your mind. Let it be full of Your great thoughts--I want to live and think and act only as You would have me do. Fill my mind to overflowing with spiritual insights, with true wisdom. Your guidance is now coming to me in this problem and will come in all problems. Amen.

--Norman Vincent Peale

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Bless Our Friends

(sung to the tune of Edelweiss)
Bless our friends, bless our food,
Come, O Lord, and sit with us.
May our talk glow with praise,
May your wisdom surround us.

Friendship and love may they bloom
and grow, bloom and grow forever.
Bless our friends, bless our food,
Come, O Lord, and be with us.

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Lord Jesus Christ, You stretched out
Your arms of love on the hard wood of
the cross that everyone might come
within the reach of Your saving
embrace: So clothe us in Your Spirit
that we, reaching forth our hands in
love, may bring those who do not know
You to the knowledge and love of You;
for the honor of Your Name. Amen.

--Anon.

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I Said a Prayer for You Today

I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard--
I felt the answer in my heart,
Although He spoke no word!
I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind)--
I asked Him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind!
I asked that He'd be near you
At the start of each new day
To grant you health and blessings
And friends, to share your way!
I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small--
But it was for His loving care
I prayed the most of all!

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Poetry's Place

Life's Simple Things

Life's simple things mean more to me
Now, as I grow older, most are free.

A gull's white wings against the sky,
Laughter of children passing by,
Fragrance of flowers on the breeze,
The taste of fruit, fresh from the trees.
A cardinal, from the window seen,
Band music from the village green,
The pungent scent of new-mown hay,
Lemonade on an August day.

In autumn trees of red and gold,
Then Christmas stories often told.
The smell of wood smoke on the air,
Savory mince pies made with care.
Each day presents some new delight,
Some simple scene to thrill my sight.
A pleasant sound, a perfume sweet,
The flavor of a love-made treat.
Such little things as these I prize,
And thank God as I close my eyes
Each night that He, in mercy, brings
To me the joy of simple things.

--Alice J. Christianson

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O God who gives us all good things,
from whom we come and unto whom
our spirits return: You have been our
dwelling place in all generations and
have been our refuge and our
strength, a very present help in
trouble. Grant us your blessing in this
hour. Lift our eyes beyond the
shadows of earth that we may see the
light of your kingdom. Keep us
secure in the knowledge that you have
prepared a place for all who love you,
and that nothing, absolutely nothing,
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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Pearls of Prudence

Beautiful thoughts build beautiful souls.

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Age is a matter of the mind--
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

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An attitude of gratitude creates joy
and blessings.

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Just as apples when they are green are with difficulty plucked from the tree, but when ripe and mellow fall of themselves, so with the young, death comes as a result of force, while with the old it is a result of ripeness. To me, indeed, the thought of this "ripeness" for death is so pleasant that the near I approach death the more I feel like one who is in sight of land and is about to anchor in his home port after a long voyage.--Cicero, *Concerning Old Age*

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Happiness is the by-product spiritual health, not material wealth.

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Pleasurable Pastime

Good morning! This is God. I will be handling all your problems today. I will NOT need your help, so have a nice day!

--author unknown

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Alexander Whyte, a Scottish preacher, always began his prayers by expressing of gratitude. One cold, miserable day his people wondered what he would say. He prayed, "We thank Thee, O Lord, that it is

not always like this."

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These 17 messages appeared on billboards and buses in Ft. Lauderdale one year. The Smith Agency in charge of the advertising campaign said an anonymous individual foot the bill. It caused quite a stir. Here they are:

1. Let's Meet At My House Sunday Before The Game. -- God
2. C'mon Over And Bring Them Kids. -- God
3. What Part Of "Thou Shalt Not . . ." Didn't You Understand? -- God
4. We Need To Talk. -- God
5. Keep Using My Name In Vain And I'll Make Rush Hour Longer. -- God
6. Loved The Wedding, Invite Me To The Marriage. -- God
7. That "Love Thy Neighbor" Thing, I Meant It. -- God
8. I Love You . . . I Love You . . . I Love You . -- God
9. Will The Road You're On Get You To My Place? -- God
10. Follow Me. -- God
11. Big Bang Theory, You've Got To Be Kidding. -- God
12. My Way Is The Highway. -- God
13. Need Directions? -- God
14. You Think It's Hot Here? -- God
15. Tell The Kids I Love Them. -- God
16. Need A Marriage Counselor? I'm Available. -- God
17. Have You Read My #1 Best Seller? There Will Be A Test. -- God

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Precious Principles

Let's Plant a Garden

(repeat, different from in the Aug.'97 issue)

First, plant five rows of *Ps*:

Presence
Promptness
Preparation
Perseverance
Purity

Next, plant three rows of *Squash*:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash unjust criticism

Then plant five rows of *Lettuce*:

Let us be faithful to duty
Let us be unselfish and loyal
Let us be true to our obligations
Let us obey rules
Let us love one another

End with five rows of *Turnips*:

Turn up for meetings
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with new ideas
Turn up with new members
Turn up with determination

-- Author Unknown

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Springtime

Springtime is God's beautiful
reminder

He's given us a fresh new start each day

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In Him, we have become a new
creation,

The former things in life have passed
away.

Because of what He did for us at
Easter,

Each day we are forgiven and
restored,

Set free to share the never-ending
blessings

Of love and life abundant in the Lord.

-- Diana Manning

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Past Pathways

An excerpt from *Way to God*,

by Dwight L. Moody

When God had redeemed the children of Israel from the bondage of Egypt, and brought them through the Red Sea, they struck out for the wilderness; and then God became to them their Way. I am so thankful the Lord has not left us in darkness as to the right way. There is no man here who has been groping in the darkness but may know the way. "I am the Way," says Christ. If we follow Christ we shall be in the right way, and have the right doctrine. Who could lead the children of Israel through the wilderness like the Almighty God Himself? He knew the pitfalls and dangers of the way, and guided the people through all their wilderness journey right into the promised land. It is true that if it had not been for their accursed unbelief they might have crossed into the land at Kadesh-barnea, and taken possession of it. But they desired something besides God's word; so they were turned back, and had to wander in the desert for forty years. I believe there are thousands of God's children wandering in the wilderness

still. The Lord has delivered them from the hand of the Egyptian, and would at once take them through the wilderness right into the Promised Land, if they were only willing to follow Christ. Christ has been down here, and has

made the rough places smooth, and the dark places light, and the crooked places straight. If we will only be led by Him, and will follow Him, all will be peace, and joy, and rest.

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The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

--Deuteronomy 33:27 (NIV)