

# MOVING SPIRIT

May, 2001

## Eskaton Village Community Church

### Pastor's Parcel

One theme stood out in the History of Christianity videos: *the Gospel has been transforming lives down the centuries*. He who said, "*I will build My church*," rose on Easter to do it! People through the ages encounter a living Savior. His presence and promises outlive history's fickle ideals, inventions, and ideologies.

But have you heard of the *redaction of history*? To redact is to edit or revise: "*If facts back then aren't acceptable now, eliminate them!*" Thomas Jefferson did this by redacting and printing a New Testament with all miracles removed as fictitious. Today's public school texts skip over the rich religious heritage of America's Founding Fathers. Their legacy of faith is intentionally forgotten. Soon paintings of Washington kneeling to pray will be doubted as a myth added later, rather than known as a past reality.

Bible scholars also redact. In the 1800s, volumes were written exposing geographical inaccuracies in the Bible. As archeologists unearthed ruins of these supposed inaccuracies, it was the work of those scholars, not the Bible, that became the historical myth. Even today, some modern scholars speak against the



reliability of the New Testament, yet the spiritual conversion experience we see described in its pages reliably continues to occur among millions around the globe, despite their scholarly doubts.

Trust the Bible and Christ's promises. Jesus promised peace and rest to all who come to Him. His rising on Easter Day secured them. His sending of the Spirit at Pentecost provided them. No skeptic can shake away the realities of Easter faith and Pentecostal power that have fulfilled Christ's words: "*I will build My church*." It's not only history but the Church's present experience. Praise God!

-- Pastor David Hatton

### Parish Proclamations

EVCC has reached 50% of its \$1500 goal to supply 3 mechanical limbs to victims of rebel maiming in Sierra Leone and to liberate 3 Christian bond-slaves from Muslim land-owners in Pakistan through debt payment and repayable micro-

business loans. Any in the larger Eskaton community who wish to join this effort, can contribute by making out a check to *World Hope International*, placing it in an envelope labeled "EVCC," and putting it in the mail room box of Eskaton Village Community Church (after the 300#s).

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## *Personal Pulpit*

(from a tract that a resident at Eskaton loves to distribute....)

RELIGIOUS, but not right with God? That may sound strange to you, but there are many religious people "hiding" from God. They may be sincere, but sincerity is not enough; they need the truth of God's Word.

Some people think that they are Christians automatically because they had Christian parents. Others presume that attending church or being baptized or sharing in Communion makes them Christians. These are all important Christian responsibilities, but if they have never committed their lives to Christ their efforts are hopeless.

The Bible -- from beginning to end -- teaches that to be right with God we need a sacrifice for our sins: "Without shedding of blood is no remission [of sins]" (Hebrews 9:22). God has provided salvation through His Son who "once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

Trying to be religious without Jesus Christ as one's Savior can be like taking a drug that distorts a person's reasoning. It is a delusion to think that performing a religious duty can make us right with God. Even leading a respectable life can never erase our sins. We all need a Savior.

The Bible teaches that salvation is God's

gift which we do not deserve, nor can ever earn. The Lord taught that salvation is through faith in Him alone: "He that believeth on Me has everlasting life" (John 6:47). His apostle Peter declared, "Through His name whoever believes in Him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). The apostle Paul wrote of his Savior: "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians 1:7). The apostle John testified, "As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12).

God's Good News turns us from our own vain attempts to earn His pardon to Christ's complete salvation. John Wesley, the great evangelist of eighteenth-century England, strove for years to make himself acceptable to God by his own efforts. But he never found peace until he could say, "I trusted Christ and Christ alone for salvation. And an assurance was given me that He had taken away all my sins."

Are you religious, but not right with God? Then come to Him today -- just as we all must approach God, as sinners in need of a Savior. You can pray to God right where you are, believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and claiming Him as your Lord.

Jesus Christ promises, "He that hears My word, and believes on Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life" (John 5:24).

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(If you need personal assurance of salvation or have questions about being "right with God," Pastor David would enjoy talking with you: church office, 487-5123; or home phone, 920-5854.)

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## *Pithy Pieces*

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The unbelieving mind would not be convinced by any proof, and the worshiping heart needs none.

--A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

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### **THE BLESSING IS "NO"**

I asked God to take away my pride.

God said "No"

It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up....

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said "No"

Her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary....

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said "No"

Patience is by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it's earned....

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said "No"

I give you blessings; happiness is up to you....

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said "No"

Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me....

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said "No"

You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful....

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said "No"

I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things....

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as He loves me.

God said... "Ahhh, finally you have the idea!"

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### **BECAUSE**

*(printed during WWII -- this still applies to the battle of moral survival for America today...)*

Because there is so much hate in the world I will love more.

Because there is so much strife today I will try to live at peace with myself and with others.

Because there is a trend toward atheism and disbelief I will be stronger in my faith in God and I will make my acts and deeds reflect such a faith.

Because there is so much greed in the world I will strive the more to be charitable both in thought and in deed.

Because there is loose talk, gossip and irresponsible conclusions I will try to weigh my words on the scale of right and reason.

Because the world needs the practice of true brotherhood I will try to be worthy of my brother's love and respect.

Because many give aid and comfort to the enemies of America in time of war I will strive the harder to be a loyal and patriotic citizen.

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## *Praise's Portion*

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**THANK YOU GOD,  
FOR EVERY NEW MORNING**

You are ushering in another day

Untouched and freshly new.  
So here I come to ask you, God,  
If you'll renew me, too.  
Forgive the many errors  
That I made yesterday  
And let me try again, dear God,  
To walk closer in Thy way.  
But, Father, I am well aware  
I can't make it on my own  
So take my hand and hold it tight  
For I can't walk alone.

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## *Prayer's Priority*

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### **A CHILD'S PRAYER**

-- author unknown

I pray, whatever wrong I do,  
I'll never say what is not true;  
Be willing at my task each day,  
And always honest at my play.

Make me unselfish with my joys,  
And to the other girls and boys;  
And kind and helpful to the old,  
And prompt to do what I am told.

Bless every one I love, and teach  
Me how to help and comfort each;  
Give me the strength right living brings,  
And make me good in little things.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Lord, help us to live this day with  
the touch of your hand upon our spirits.  
Amen.

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Almighty God, who created humanity  
after your image and gave them living  
souls that they may seek you and rule

your creation, teach us so to investigate  
the works of your hand that we may  
subdue the earth to our use, and  
strengthen our intelligence for your  
service. And grant that we may so receive  
your Word as to believe in him whom you  
sent to give us the science of salvation  
and the forgiveness of our sins. All this  
we ask in the name of the same Lord  
Jesus Christ. Amen.

-- James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879)

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## *Poetry's Place*

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### **HE LEADETH ME**

In pastures green? Not always; sometimes He  
Who knoweth best, in kindness leadeth me  
In many ways where heavy shadows be.  
Out of the sunshine warm and soft and bright--  
Out of the sunshine into the darkest night,  
I oft would faint with sorrow and affright,  
Only for this--I know He holds my hand;  
So whether in the green or desert land  
I trust although I may not understand.

And by still waters? No, not always so;  
Ofttimes the heavy tempests round me blow,  
And o'er my soul the waters and billows go.  
But when the storms beat loudest and I cry  
Aloud for help, the Master standeth by  
And whispers to my soul, "Lo, it is I."  
Above the tempest wild I hear Him say,  
"Beyond this darkness lies a perfect day.  
In every path of thine I lead the way."

So whether on the hilltops high and fair  
I dwell, or in the sunless valleys where  
The shadows lie--what matters? He is there.  
So where He leads me, I can safely go,  
And in the blest hereafter I shall know  
Why in His wisdom, He hath led me so.

--Rev. John F. Chaplain

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**EACH DAY IS A GIFT FROM GOD**

He has given us morning, brightness and sun,  
Laughter to share, and work to be done.  
He has given us rainbows, flowers, and song  
And the hands of our dear ones to help us along.  
He has given us prayer, with its wonderful power  
To lighten our hearts in a troublesome hour.  
He has given us blessings to brighten our way,  
And always--the gift of another new day.

(from an old card sent to a resident  
by Rev Jack and his wife Juyne Gunn)

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*Pearls of Prudence*

We must be fond of the world, even in  
order to change it. --G. K. Chesterton

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Lead your life so you won't be ashamed to  
sell the family parrot to the town gossip.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sometimes the majority only means that  
all the fools are on the same side.

\* \* \* \* \*

I don't have to attend every argument I'm  
invited to.

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Little drops of water,  
Little grains of sand,  
Make the mighty ocean  
And a pleasant land.  
Little deeds of kindness,  
Little words of love,  
Help to make earth happy  
Like they Heaven above.

--author unknown

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A coincidence is when God performs a  
miracle and decides to remain  
anonymous.

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*Pleasurable Pastime*

**RECIPE FOR REAL RELIGION**

Get religion like a Methodist,  
Experience it like a Baptist,  
Stick to it like a Lutheran,  
Conciliate it like a Congregationalist,  
Be proud of it like an Episcopalian,  
Simplify it like a Quaker,  
Glorify it like a Jew,  
Pay for it like a Presbyterian,  
Practice it like a Christian Scientist,  
Work at it like the Salvation Army,  
Propagate it like a Roman Catholic....  
--in a speech by Judge Lewis Fawcett

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Quotes from "God" signs that started  
appearing on buses in Florida have been  
turned in again and again to the *Moving  
Spirit*. Rather than republish them all (it  
would be a 3rd time), here are some of  
the newer ones:

"I don't question your existence."  
-- God

"It's about time we had a talk." -- God  
"Do you have any idea where you're  
going?" -- God

"Why do you think they call it 'His-  
story'?" -- God

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*Precious Principles*

**EVERYDAY SURVIVAL KIT**

Toothpick - Rubber band - Band aid  
Pencil - Eraser - Chewing gum - Mint  
Candy kiss - Tea bag

Here's why:

**Toothpick** - to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others - Matt.7:1  
**Rubber band** - to remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out - Romans 8:28.

**Band aid** - to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's - Colossians 3:12-14.

**Pencil** - to remind you to list your blessings everyday - Ephesians 1:3.

**Eraser** - to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay - Genesis 50:15-21.

**Chewing gum** - to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything - Philippians 4:13.

**Mint** - to remind you that you are worth a mint to your heavenly father - John 3:16-17.

**Candy kiss** - to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or hug each day - 1 John 4:7.

**Tea bag** - to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of God's blessings - 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

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The fruit of silence is prayer.

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service.

The fruit of service is peace.

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## *Past Pathways*

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### **"I Have to Know"**

Thomas Hauker - England, 1555

"Thomas," his friend lowered his voice so as not to be heard by the guard. "I have to ask you a favor. I need to know if what the others say about the grace of God is true. Tomorrow, when they burn you at the stake, if the pain is tolerable and your mind is still at peace, lift your hands above your head. Do it right before you die. Thomas, I have to know."

Thomas Hauker whispered to his friend, "I will." The next morning, Hauker was bound to the stake and the fire was lit. The fire burned a long time, but Hauker remained motionless. His skin was burnt to a crisp and his fingers were gone. Everyone watching supposed he was dead. Suddenly, miraculously, Hauker lifted his hands, still on fire, over his head. He reached them up to the living God, and then, with great rejoicing, clapped them together three times.

The people there broke into shouts of praise and applause. Hauker's friend had his answer.