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Epistles

Multiple

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"To be known and read" by all. . .

Operation Indian Hug

In "Operation Indian Hug" (p. 17) Edwin Schwisow refers to the way Indians treat a "fallen warrior"—generally, one who "falls off the wagon." I thought your readers would be interested in a recent example I observed.

While I was visiting one of our growing Native American congregations in the Northwest, a recently baptized middle-aged couple reeking of alcohol approached the church. Immediately two members were at their side to help them up the steps and into a pew. I'm sure it was in response to the look on my face that a young member told me later how pleased he was that they had come to church, even though they had "fallen off the wagon." He added, "It's only by continually coming to Jesus that any of us gain the victory over sin."

A little over a year later I met the same couple while visiting the church again. Now clean and victorious, they greeted me without a

trace of embarrassment. They were, after all, fellow children of God. And on that Sabbath, the wife was the Sabbath school superintendent.

Is it any wonder that church has tripled its membership during the past two years? I'm so grateful that the Lord invites us to bring our weaknesses and backsliding to Jesus. This is what He meant when He said we would enlarge His work if we lengthened our cords, accepting souls in their weakness and turning them to the Source of our strength (see Isaiah 54:2 and 3).

The grace the Indians extend to fallen warriors could be well utilized in redeeming our youth in white churches. Though most of our youth have been sheltered from tragic results of poor lifestyles, they haven't been saved, as we say, from the world. Many who have not cultivated a relational experience with Jesus feel unaccepted and condemned. Could it be that we have majored on the do's and don'ts rather than on the Source of victory? I often wonder whether I've failed to impress my children that anything I've achieved has come through the power of Jesus.

My dad was a strong man whom we children thought could do anything. He always provided well for us, but when I saw him humbled in his weakness and, in response to an earnest prayer, victorious through Christ, I learned something of what Christianity is all about. His example made theology clear to me. I often think of the words of a young Native lay leader: "Where would any of us be after our baptism if we didn't keep coming back to Jesus daily?"

Monte Church
Director of Native Ministries
Northwest
Portland, Oregon

• See "Visions of Crazy Horse and an Eskimo Prophet" on page 14.—R.R.H.

A Poignant Reminder

"When Nothing Is Everything" is a poignant reminder of God's tender mercy to all of us. Sometimes my emptiness seems to swallow me whole. I am grateful for the examples God gives us and the promises He makes in His Word. Thanks to an old schoolmate for the encouragement.

Sharon Robberson
Chicago, Illinois

I have read every issue of *PD* and would like to thank you for the many hours of enjoyment and thought-stimulating ideas that it has brought. Having said that, I would like to complain about a serious lack of substance in *PD* Vol. 6, No. 1. Please read the preceding not as an indictment of your editorial skills or as a complaint about the various authors. But the fact is that the only part of the magazine that arrived this month was the cover! Any help with this problem would be appreciated.

Dave Carfora
Llion, New York

• Whew! Dave, you had me worried for a sentence or two! Sounds like an inside job! I'm sending five replacements and hoping that at least one will get through. Of course, an impartial observer may conclude that the back cover alone is worth the price! Let us know if one of the five comes through without covers. Meanwhile, slip over to Work Station One and join me in preparing a blessing for your fellow readers.—R.R.H.

A Call to Holiness

In *PD* 2001:1 there was an article called "A Call to Holiness." As a col-

lege student, I really appreciated it and was challenged by the thoughts it presented. I have many friends that I feel would be blessed by this article and am wondering if it is OK for me to copy it electronically and send it to them. Lastly, do you have your publication accessible through the Internet?

David Currier

Via E-mail:

dcurrier@southern.edu

• For permission to copy, please contact the author, Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Director of Publications at Life Action Ministries, P.O. Box 31, Buchanan, Michigan 49107. At this time, *PD* is not available through the Internet. Now please join David and me at Work Station One.—R.R.H.

Called to Holiness—WOW!

The article on holiness is wonderful! The song “Holy, Holy, Holy” means so much to me, and I refer to our God—Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Never had it entered my mind, however, that *I* was called to be holy. In my thinking, holiness was for God only. After

reading the article, I am praying for my holiness through Jesus. Wow! What an awesome privilege to be called to holiness! To have a love relationship with our God that will make me “Holy” too!

The article is a new concept to me that I find very appealing and desirable. I want that “heart” relationship and “forever friendship” with Jesus.

Thank you for all you do to help us know Jesus in such special ways.

Lorrie Wescott

Portland, Oregon

Congratulations on *PD* 1:2001. Every article was excellent and very needed. I especially appreciated Nancy Leigh DeMoss’ “A Call to Holiness.” I even liked that piece on the back cover. Keep up the good work. The staff of *PD* and all the people at ATS are in my prayers.

Larry Lyons

Pacifica, California

From Russia With Love

Michael Kulakov shares the following letter from a reader of the Russian New Testament. It is addressed to the “Esteemed Mikhail Petrovich Kulakov.”

I am overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude to you. Permit me to explain why. A few days ago I had a

chance to read a translation of the New Testament prepared by your Institute. May God repay you for this great work, which you undertook in the cause of Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind.

I can only assume the degree of responsibility and the fear of God that guided you as the director of the translation team by means of cleansing through the blood of the Lamb, as with your very hearts and minds you touched that over which God Himself keeps vigil. From the very first lines, the gospel surprises one with its ease of interpretive flow and the high standard of verse construction. It literally flows into the heart of the reader, drawn in by the power of God.

It is quite beyond me to explain what it is that accounts for the ease of understanding and how, as though for the first time, we perceive familiar passages. One could truthfully and without any hint of flattery or insincerity highly appraise your work. However, it seems the Lord Himself already put His own stamp of approval on it. Surely

without His blessing and without the help of the Holy Spirit this translation would not have been as excellent as it is. . . .

Unfortunately, your translation is not yet available for sale on the open market. The copy that was kindly lent me a few days ago by a Seventh-day Adventist, I returned. Therefore, dear brother, if there is the remotest chance for you to reply to my request, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, please send me one copy of the New Testament. And if it not be contrary to your scriptural views, I beg you to pray over this copy, placing your hands on it, so that the anointing which illuminated and inspired you while translating, in a sense will pass on to me as I study the Scriptures.

Vladimir Il'ich Sedov
Lipetsk, Russia

• Pray with us (and pray God, join us) by sacrificing to finish translation of the Old Testament. To date, donations top \$10,000 of the \$75,000 ATS seeks to raise for this project. Donations may be sent to the Russian Bible Project, E. Edward Zinke, Ann's House of Nuts, 8375 Patuxent Range Rd., Jessup, MD 20794. Donations are tax deductible.—R.R.H.