



Christian Coffee House Ministry, Inc.
512 Public Avenue
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511
Phone (608) 365-0365

1978

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

The Overflow

We finally scraped together enough coins to pay the printer and the Post Office for the newsletter, so here we are to let you know what's happening around the Cup. Although it isn't usually a good idea to look back or dwell on the past, this is the time of year when we can look back in retrospect and evaluate our lives before we look ahead to the year that is stretching out before us. It's a good time to look at where we've been and to think about where we are going. God doesn't intend for us to wander about in aimless confusion without goals or purposes in mind just waiting for the Lord to come. We are to "occupy" or work until He comes all the while being mindful that He could "make the scene" at anytime. He has specific tasks for each one of us, but He will never ask us to do anything without preparing us for it first. Sometimes, we don't even realize that we are enrolled in "prep" school, but we can look back later on and see how He had prepared the way before us. We know that He still has some plans for the Cup and has been preparing us for the conquests that are up ahead with a series of victories back here. But, for every victory, large or small, there has been a battle. Big victories are usually a result of some big battles. But, we have to fight some small battles and get some small victories in preparation for the larger battles and larger conquests.

Even though the children of Israel wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years, God never intended for it to be that way. He intended for them to go in and possess their inheritance. But, from the time they left Egypt to the time they reached the border of the Promised Land, they never experienced the joy of realizing God's purpose in the problems they faced. Their hearts were so centered on satisfying their immediate needs that they always found fault and murmured. We don't want to be like them. We want to profit from their mistakes and learn from their experiences. You see, they complained about their circumstances, grumbled against their leadership, expressed dissatisfaction with just about everything, refused to do things God's way and then wondered why they weren't being blessed. (My, my,! It almost seems like we are in the middle of a re-run sometimes, doesn't it?) We need to realize that every complaint, every criticism about our circumstances is a declaration of unbelief in the wisdom and goodness of God. Murmuring is evidence of a self-centered desire control the affairs of our lives. But, praise the Lord! The Christian's faith is not based on favorable circumstances, but in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. At times it may seem that God has not met our needs, but to complain about our inability or insufficiency is to cast doubt on the integrity of God's Word.

In each generation, God chose a man who would listen to His voice and follow His Word. He chose Moses to bring the people out of bondage and He chose Joshua to bring them in to the promised land. He is still looking for people who will listen to His voice and follow His Word and just as Joshua led the people out of the wilderness into the promised land and on to triumph, so Jesus came to lead us in that same kind of ongoing victory in our personal lives, in our day-to-day experiences. There is a way in which the Lord wants to lead us as a body of believers into new areas of conquest and possession that we have never known before. One of the greatest challenges that faces us is knowing when the Lord has brought us to a time when there is a new thing He wants to do. We've felt some holy nudges in that direction for some time now. He has told us in many ways that He is ready to do a new thing at the Cup and we realize we haven't begun to scratch the surface of what He has planned for us. (God must think He is trying to lead a bunch of snails.)

So, as we move into a new year, a new beginning, we don't want to be guilty of either of two failures: First, an impatience with the time that God has us waiting for Him to "do His thing"; Nor do we want to be guilty of the presumption that God wants to lead us into something He is not ready to lead us into just yet or doesn't plan to lead us into at all. We also don't want to be guilty of the sin of passivity or take an apathetic stance and be negligent and indifferent to our responsibilities before God. But, neither do we want to be more concerned over our present circumstances than over God's ultimate purpose. We have learned that one great hindrance to faith is the lack of need. God may permit overwhelming difficulties in our lives in order to increase our faith in His ability to meet our needs. He may delay answering our prayers for awhile to cause us to recognize His intervention. We keep remembering that Abraham had faithfully obeyed the voice of God for many years before God's promise to him was fulfilled, but it was worth the wait. So, one more thing we don't want to be guilty of is prejudging the outcome of our circumstances.

In case you haven't noticed, there's a war going on and the battle lines between God's people and Satan are becoming clearer with each passing day. It is no longer possible to be a Christian and not be on the march for right living and yet so many haven't even decided for sure which side they are on! The Lord would like to mobilize an army that will tear down enemy strongholds and take back ground that belongs to us. He wants to bring us to a place of maturity so that we become a people that are well able to to in and possess the territory He gave us in the first place. However, this is not a job for just a few. It's not a job that can be done when there is so much fighting going on behind the lines about how to fight the war, we don't even make it to the front lines. Worse yet, the front lines are being pushed back and so many just sit back and do very little or nothing. The Lord can't do a thing with unyielded people who want to stay in their nice, comfortable spot and not get their hands dirty or their feet wet. He didn't save us just to bring us out of the bondage of sin but to bring us in to His promised Kingdom. It's an ongoing thing! The really funny part about it is this: the day you became a Christian, you made a covenant with the Lord. Your part of the bargain was to give Him control of your life. His part was not just to assure you of a place in heaven but He became obligated to make us like Jesus. Like it or not, He aims to finish the job. So, why don't we stop hindering His plan and start fitting in to it?

Yes, it may seem that God is not doing His part in bringing things to pass in our lives, but His ways are not our ways. Our all-wise loving Father is accomplishing His will. How foolish it would be for us to judge the wisdom of God by the circumstances which surround us! "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33). We wouldn't begin to assume that we could figure God out. But, there comes a time when He says, "Don't look back. That time is past history. Forget it and go forward. Don't try to achieve the same thing. Rejoice in what has been done. But, you haven't begun to see what I want to do or what's up ahead." SO----we must not compare the future ministry of the Cup with what has been. That chapter of the book has been written. It's time to write a new chapter. We have to stop thinking in terms of what the Cup has been up to now. Sure, that was neat! We had a good thing going. We saw a great many lives changed and re-arranged. God really blessed and we have some good memories. We were talking with some friends the other day about how much has happened during the past almost four years since the Cup first opened. We see many couples who met their mates at the Cup, "courted" at the Cup and are now married, have children and are bringing them to the Cup. (It's sorta like becoming grandparents!) We receive letters, especially during the holiday season, from many people telling us what the Cup has meant to them. We've "lost" a few to Bible College. (P.T.L!) Others write and say, "When I get out of school, I want to come back to the Cup and use what I've learned and learn what I can use." Still others write and tell us: "I've met the one I'm going to marry and we are working in a coffee house or plan to start one here-there--from Florida to Wyoming."

Since the first week we were open, Dave and I have had at least 50 people stay in our home for various reasons: runaways, people who were down and out and needed a chance to get started again, those with marriage problems who needed a place to get their heads together, kids from broken homes or bad family situations, people with suicidal tendencies who needed someone to care and give them hope to face the future. There is so much oppression out there. But, you can well-imagine that this has really been a strain on our family life at times. We wish so much that we could be full-time ministers for the Lord because we are surrounded by full-time needs. However, for the time being, we know that the Lord has blessed Dave with a good job to meet the needs of our household. Unfortunately, people can't always arrange their needs and problems to fit in with our schedule. Trouble doesn't always happen next Tuesday. We have a family that has needs and likes some of our undivided attention once in awhile. Because we see so much of the damage caused by absentee parents who are so busy doing their thing that they don't have time to listen to what their children are saying, we know the importance of spending time at home and doing things as a family. We know how necessary it is to provide a reference point for them. Their needs don't always arise after everyone else's are met either. We know we can't do a good job of meeting their needs and coping with the needs of the ministry and a hurting world if we have to do it alone. We have learned that the Lord isn't asking us to be all things to all people all the time. We know He isn't asking us to continue to carry the financial burdens of running a household and a ministry, too. It takes a lot of people and a whole sack of money to do an effective job of meeting the needs out there. We have had to turn people away because we don't have the facilities and enough help and money to meet their needs. We are now finding it necessary to reduce our schedule even more so that we will be open only on Saturday nights. These are some of the earthly limitations we have to contend with. But, as long as it takes for us to break through these barriers that constantly plague us, we know that God will labor with us.

Our plea is this: People of the Lord, wake up! The day you became a Christian you enlisted in God's Army. He didn't save you to be a "conscientious objector" and even if you are not called to a front line position, don't fall asleep at your post of praying, giving, encouraging, helping-or your brothers and sisters at the front are gonna get trampled on. So, if you've been on R & R too long or if you've just been an observer, how about putting on the whole armour of God and getting behind this platoon so we can advance! I haven't meant to sound self-righteous and we aren't having a pity party. We are just making an attempt to be completely open about what's happening at the Cup so you will know why you don't see much activity going on lately. The telephone ministry continues on a daily basis but wouldn't it be great if we had enough people and funds to develop the potential of the facilities God has given us? We feel such a need to provide a "hang-out" with good supervision. We are competing with a world that the devil has dressed up to make look exciting and fun. (Now, c'mon! I said I wanted to be honest with you and I'd be lying if I said sinning wasn't fun-for awhile.) If we don't have any alternatives to offer, we can't expect to be any competition, can we? How long are we going to sit back on our thumbs and pocketbooks and let the devil entice our young people into all sorts of "pleasures for a season" because we don't have anything better to offer that fills the needs of a restless society for recreation and a place to go to meet friends and just "hang out"? I hope I've touched a sensitive spot in your heart and Spirit. At least be open to the Lord and think about these things, will you? Meanwhile, BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED!

PROGRESS REPORT ::::::::::

We can't report too much visible progress except that none of the water pipes seem to be frozen right at the minute. The part of the roof that fell off at the side of the building hadn't been designated for salvage material, but it looks like that may be what will happen to it. We are pleased with all of the carpeting that a couple of swell fellas from Janesville scrounged up and put down for us. They said it was sorta like putting together a jigsaw puzzle, but it really does help to make the floors warmer and cuts down on the area that has to be scrubbed.

We would like to express our appreciation to all of you who have participated in so many ways at the Cup. Your faithful giving of your time and money and just hanging in there with us when the going is rough has contributed much to the Cup's effectiveness.

We desperately need about \$2,000 before March 1st in order to pay all outstanding bills. Of course, there's one thing about bills. They just keep coming. Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated and we know the Lord will richly bless you for it. Please continue to pray for us that we will be able ministers of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and that 1978 will see a great harvest of souls. We trust that your walk with the Lord is making you closer to Him everyday and that this year will be full of many rich experiences as you learn to know the Lord better.

Love,

Dave & Pat

Dave and Pat Fogderud, Directors

THE OVERFLOWING CUP

CHRISTIAN COFFEE HOUSE MINISTRY, INC.
512 PUBLIC AVENUE
BELOIT, WISCONSIN, 53511
Phone 365-0365

Non-Profit Orgn.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Beloit, Wis.
PERMIT No. 78

STRAIGHT THINKING about crooked ideas

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN!" How many times have you heard that? You know, it's true. You don't. The thief on the cross probably wasn't praying at the church when he was caught stealing and sentenced to be crucified. His salvation took place with a bloody cross for his altar. Organ music was noticeably absent. He met the Saviour and was assured of heaven minus church, baptism, a good life, keeping the commandments or any works whatsoever. Yet, he was instantly and wonderfully saved. Now, before all you good pastors and church members go getting all upset, I said, "You don't have to go to church to become a Christian." However, it's beyond my comprehension how you can live a Christian life and not fellowship in a church. In fact, I can't even fathom not wanting to go to church. You don't have to live with your wife or talk to her after marrying her either, but wouldn't it be a lousy marriage if you parted after the ceremony or just saw each other occasionally whenever you felt like it?

You are probably thinking, "Well, what's that got to do with anything?" The Bible compares salvation to marriage; when we accept Christ, we are married to Him for eternity. The church is called His body of which He is the Head. What would you think of a man who wanted to marry his bride's head but have nothing to do with her body? Would that be a real marriage?

This "who needs the church" view is characteristic of many people everywhere these days. In some cases, it is a parroting of the popular presumption that the church has failed, that it is no longer relevant. In other cases, it is a total misunderstanding of what salvation involves. Sometimes, it's just plain old rebellion against the establishment.

The facts are that Christ saves, and Christ alone. God's Word declares that: "He that hath the Son hath life." (I John 5:12), not he that has some particular church. No church died for your sins, and no church can save you, I don't care how many times a week you attend. In this sense, when someone says he doesn't have to go to church to be saved, he is right. I was saved in my home kneeling by a sofa that was badly in need of upholstering. I know of people who were led to the Lord in bars, schools, buses, airplanes, trains, mop closets and jail. They are scattered around the world in full-time Christian service. I know both from the Bible and from personal experience that one can be saved through Christ alone, church or no church. However, the New Testament knows nothing of any Christian living in isolation from the local church.

Jesus said, "If a man love Me, he will keep My words." (John 14:23) And what does God's word say about church attendance? "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:25) This verse is talking about the meetings of a local church. To say we love the Lord while deliberately avoiding the church is self-deception. Jesus said, "And why call ye Me, 'Lord, Lord', and do not the things I say?" (Luke 6:46) It is sheer nonsense to call Him our Lord and say we love Him, if we do not love Him enough to willingly obey Him. So what about this claim, "You don't have to go to church?" Don't go because you have to. Go because it pleases the Lord and helps you grow. Try it! You'll like it!

Calendar

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1978

JANUARY 21 ----- THEOPHILUS:

This group was here already. They drove four cars from East Moline, Illinois just to give us a fantastic night. Besides having a great sound and message, they refused to take a love offering and gave us a check for \$100 for the Cup ministry. Isn't that just like the Lord?

JANUARY 28 ----- HOSHEA:

We had planned to have this group from Fond du Lac in December. However, a new baby didn't time its arrival very well so we all had to make a few "changes". Oh, well. They will be here tonight with a rock sound and a message that will set your heart right with the Rock - Christ Jesus! Don't be bashful or you'll miss a good opportunity for a blessing.

FEBRUARY 4 ----- TOM DENK:

Tom is a newcomer to the Cup but not to the Christian music world. He is a fine folk/rock singer-guitarist from the Milwaukee area with a fantastic repertoire bunch of songs.

FEBRUARY 11----- LIGHT:

This six-member band from DeKalb, Illinois will really touch your spirit and change your life. Their style is unique - contemporary/rock and a little bit country.

FEBRUARY 18-----

WHAT ELSE CAN WE SAY? This rock band comes from the Jesus People U.S.A. ministry of Chicago, Illinois. The sound and message are solid - based on the Solid Rock! They plan to share some brand new songs for the first time in concert. If you want a seat on the floor, come early.

'RESURRECTION'

FEBRUARY 25-----

Don't make an appointment with the eye doctor. It's true! You don't believe it? Well, I guess you'd better check it out for yourself and that's all we're gonna say about this fantastically talented, funny guy who has recorded several albums. Randy brings an up-to-date message from the Lord just for you.

Randy Matthews

HEY! THAT IS SOME SCHEDULE, ISN'T IT?

Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; Activities begin at 8:00 p.m.

Remember, there is never an admission charge. So, bring all your relatives and your friends. If you don't have any friends, come on down and make some.