

Christian Coffee House Ministry, Inc.

512 Public Avenue

Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

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JANUARY, 1977

THE OVERFLOW

After the children of Israel finished their forty years of "vacationing" in the wilderness, they looked across the border of Caanan with mixed emotions, I'm sure. They were separated from their beautiful land of milk and honey by a raging, overflowing river with no bridge over it. Beyond that loomed the forbidding walls of Jericho, a city of warriors making preparation for their destruction and beyond Jericho, lay mystery, unknown dangers and Promise.

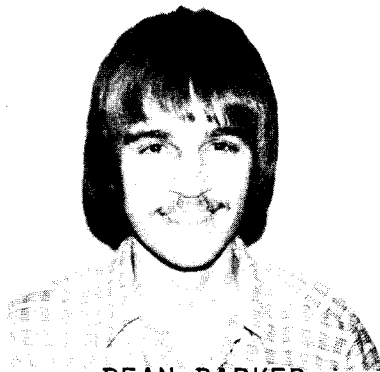
Joshua solemnly reminded his people, "Ye have not passed this way heretofore." (Joshua 1:5) But at the same time he advised them to keep their eyes on the ark of the covenant, the symbol of God's presence, and to follow faithfully wherever it led.

As we emerge from the old year into the new, we **kinda** feel like Israel in that "we have not passed this way heretofore". The path ahead of us leads into new and strange territory. Along this path are many opportunities for achievement, as well as possibilities for disaster. But, **that's** what the faith life is all about - living in the midst of a miracle on the brink of disaster. If we trust the Lord completely and keep our eyes on the ark, we have nothing to fear. Every **day** is planned by His loving concern.

Considering the direction this age seems to be heading, there could be some difficult times ahead. Looking to ourselves, we might be tempted to become fearful. But, we can face the coming year with perfect confidence. For even though we don't know what it holds for us, we do know who holds it in His all-wise, all-knowing and powerful Hands.

We also know that - from glory to glory, He's changing us. I guess that's why this ministry is so exciting. Although we don't always know where God is taking us, He knows. All we have to do is follow His leading.

We are pleased to share with you that we definitely felt the Lord's leading when we decided to have a co-management team to help with the responsibilities of keeping the coffee house running smoothly which would free us to pursue other outreaches of the ministry such as follow-up, visitation, **public relations** work etc.. We would like to introduce this team to you.



DEAN BARKER



VICKIE GARRETT

Dean comes to us from Rockford, Illinois with two years of experience in the coffee house ministry. He has been a Christian for four and a half years and believes the Lord chose him for this particular position at the Overflowing Cup. When asked what he felt his primary goal as co-manager would be, Dean replied: "I will pray in committed and dedicated brothers and sisters in the Lord to be an active part of the Overflowing Cup as the Lord gives the increase in the coming months." He has a vision of many people coming to know the Lord through this ministry.

Vickie also comes from Rockford and has been a Christian for about four years. Hers is a familiar face at the Cup, since she has been helping in various ways for quite sometime now. She feels it is a great privilege to work for the Lord at the coffee house and believes it is an answer to her prayers to work with young people in Beloit. Vickie spent four months with Teen Challenge in El Paso, Texas and feels she learned a lot of lessons while she was there that helped prepare her for this type of ministry. When she was asked how much responsibility she wanted, her reply was: "More than I can handle because that way the Lord will have to do it and I will have to trust Him more." As for Vickie's goals, she says: "I just want to serve the Lord. I don't have any big plans."

We will be in the background to guide and support Vickie and Dean and we ask you to pray with us for them as they begin their new positions at the Cup. Also, ask God to show you how you might help them. We praise the Lord for their willingness to take the initiative and step out in faith to help the Overflowing Cup realize its potential effectiveness for the Lord. We hope many others will follow their example of true discipleship.

INITIATIVE - now that's an interesting word. Let's kick it around awhile. The dictionary defines its meaning this way: 1. active part in taking the first steps in any undertaking. 2. readiness and ability to be the one to start a course of action. Hmmm! Did you ever think about God's initiative? I could never thank Him enough for taking the initiative in loving me when He sent Jesus, thus setting the whole plan of salvation into motion, even before I could love Him. That, my friend, is initiative! How's your initiative lately? Do you have the kind that's willing to make the first move in loving people who don't know about God's initiative or have never experienced His Love? Can you take the initiative and love people even when they don't love you? If you've got that kind of initiative, the coffee house is a good place to put it into practice. If you haven't got any, "ye have not because ye ask not". Which brings us to the need of the hour. . . more qualified counselors to share their faith and be available as good, caring-type listeners - the kind who don't just listen, but offer solutions to problems and can pray for the needs of those troubled and perplexed people trying to handle life without the Lord.

PROGRESS REPORT: We are moving rather slowly and it is sometimes frustrating when we think about how much could be accomplished in all areas of the ministry if we just had more manpower. However, thanks to the faithfulness of a few, the Book Store is almost ready to inhabit. We didn't make it by Christmas as we had hoped, but then we didn't say which Christmas, did we?

We are presently concentrating on the library and hope to have it open soon. We are adding new tapes and books as they become available and know you will appreciate having access to them. We plan to have a room for listening to tapes and could use some cassette recorders for that purpose as well as loaning to shut-ins and those who don't have recorders but would like to take advantage of the good teaching that is available on tapes.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the ministry, we feel that we need to be open more hours and we are constantly reminded of the need to make the sleeping rooms available. We are also increasingly aware that we need to develop our recreational facilities to meet the needs of the Jr. High age group. Teaching them at an earlier age level could keep many young people from heading down the wrong road later on. But, all of these needs are greatly hindered by the manpower shortage and a limited amount of funds.

As a means of increasing our income, Dave has sold a mailing service system to the Overflowing Cup for a \$1.00 (just to make it legal). He developed this system to help us with our mailing and it has proved quite a time-saver for other organizations and churches who use it regularly. We would appreciate an opportunity to help you with your mailing and benefit our ministry at the same time. Remember, all profits go to the coffee house ministry, so give us a call if you could use this service.

By the way, for those of you who may not be aware of it, we are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit corporation with tax-exempt status making all of your contributions tax-deductible.

Before we sign off for this month, we'd like to say a brief word about another member of our organization. He is quite new around the premises, coming to us all the way from Indiana. He came to Beloit to live with a friend but became destitute when he couldn't find a job and homeless when he couldn't pay his rent. So, we took him in and gave him the responsibilities of custodian and night watchman at the Cup. His name is Samuel because, like Samuel in the Bible, he has come to the Lord's House to do the Lord's work. He's also been assigned the position of Public Avenue Mice Chaplain and was last seen **counseling** our mouse clientele with regard to finding new housing facilities so He wouldn't have to exert himself by chasing them. In case you haven't **guessed**, Samuel is a cat who is in dire need of a foster home. Isn't it neat that God cares about the little things? I only hope the mice see it that way.

I want to mention one more thing that we definitely feel the Lord leading us to begin and that is a Christian weight-watchers group. Plans are being formulated and we hope to begin meetings sometime in January. If you would be interested in being a part of this group, please call us at 365-0365, leave your name, address, telephone number and a preference as to a convenient time for meeting that would fit in with your schedule. Someone will contact you with more definite information as soon as it is available.

As we begin 1977, let's make it a year of really trusting God for everything and a time of real dedication like we've never had before. Who knows what could happen. Maybe even a revival!

In His Service, 'Til He Comes,

Dave & Pat

Dave & Pat Fogderud, Directors

IN THE BEGINNING . . . God created Heaven and Earth

He was then faced with a class-action lawsuit for failing to file an environmental impact statement with HEPA (Heavenly Environmental Protection Agency), an angelically staffed agency dedicated to keeping the universe pollution free.

Also the HHUD (Heavenly Housing and Urban Development) required an immediate HHUD filing plus refunding of all monies to any purchasers. God explained that there would be no profit out of solar systems sales and that only one parcel was involved so HHUD and HEPA granted permission for God to proceed.

God was granted a temporary permit for the heavenly portion of the project, but He was issued a cease and desist order on the earthly part, pending further investigation by HEPA.

Upon completion of His local, state and heavenly construction permit application and environmental impact statement, God appeared before the HEPA council to answer questions. When asked why He began these projects in the first place, He simply replied that He liked to be creative.

IN THE BEGINNING - cont.

This was not considered adequate reasoning and He would be required to substantiate this further! The new HREC (Heavenly Real Estate Commissioner) was unable to see any practical use for earth since the earth was void and empty and darkness was upon the face of the deep. The new HREC also pointed out that access was doubtful and that the winds would blow when the wind blew and water would fall when it rained.

Then...God said, "Let there be light." He should never have brought up this point since one member of the council was active in the Sierra Angel Club and immediately protested, asking, "How was the light to be made? "Would there be strip mining?" "What about thermal pollution?" "Air pollution?"

God explained the light would come from a huge ball of fire. Nobody could really understand this, but it was provisionally accepted assuming: 1. there would be no smog or smoke resulting from the ball of fire; 2. a separate burning permit would be required; 3. since continuous light would be a waste of energy, it should be dark at least one-half of the time.

DAY AND NIGHT CHALLENGED

So...God agreed to divide light and darkness, and he would call the light "day" and the darkness "night". (It was at this time that council members from Alpha Centauri said that they objected to any kind of development and that Heaven should be left just as it was.) Several other members agreed that there were too many outsiders already, but no action was taken.

When God was asked how the earth would be covered, God said, "Let there be firmament made amidst the waters; and let it divide the waters from the waters." One ecologically radical council member accused him of double talk, but the council tabled action since God would be required first, to file a permit with the ABLM (Angelic Bureau of Land Management) and further would be required to obtain water permits from the appropriate agencies involved!

The council asked if there would be only water and firmament and God said, "Let the earth bring forth the green herb, and such as may seed, and the fruit trees yielding fruit after its kind, which may have seen itself upon the earth."

Here again, the council took no formal action since this would require approval of the Game and Fish Association coordinated with the Heavenly Wildlife Federation and the Audubon Angelic Society. It appeared that everything was in order until God stated that He would like to complete the project in six days and then rest.

At this time He was advised by the council that His timing was out of the question. The HEPA would require at least 180 days to review the application and environmental impact study; then there would be a public hearing. It would take 10 to 12 months before the permit could be granted.

Thereupon God said, "Oh, Fiddlesticks!" *

THE OVERFLOWING CUP
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