



## READ and OBEY

■ *A STUDY by Dr. John D. DeBrine* ■

A man had been in business for many years, his business was going down the drain and it was full of debt. He was seriously contemplating suicide, and he didn't know what to do. So he went to his pastor to seek advice. He told the pastor about all of his problems in business and asked the pastor what he should do.

The pastor said, "Take a beach chair and a Bible and put them in your car and drive down to the edge of the ocean. Go to the water's edge. Take the beach chair out of the car, sit on it and take the Bible out, and open it up. The wind will rifle the pages for a while and eventually the Bible will stay open at a particular page. Read the Bible, and it will tell you what to do."

The man did as he was told. He placed a beach chair and a Bible in his car and drove down to the beach. He sat on the chair at the water's edge and opened the Bible. The wind rifled the pages of the Bible and then stopped at a particular page. He looked down at the Bible and

delighted. He recognized the man and asked him what advice in the Bible brought such good fortune to him. The man replied, "Chapter 11."

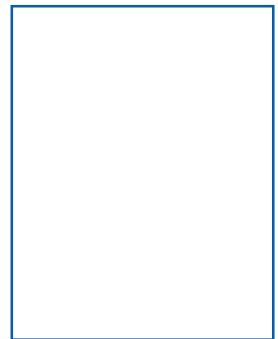
We may find that amusing, but it's not exactly the best method to find an answer because it is more important to discover the contents of Chapter 11. However, it does start us on the road to realizing that the Bible is to be read and applied. This is certainly the message of James 1:22-24: *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."*

The real issue is that we are reading the Bible but not applying it. Let me explain. Recently I noted some Cape Cod demographics. I live in Barnstable, Cape Cod which is the fastest growing county in New England. The Cape population in the winter is 210,000 but in the summer it increases to 600,000. Here's the concern. Less than 2% of the population are in Evangelical ministries. We need to read plus obey. This means that the text for us, as well as those reading this, is Acts 1:8. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you: and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."*

Unfortunately, it takes Acts 8:1 (pres-

sure and persecution) to accomplish Acts 1:8 (witnessing) to motivate us to allow the Holy Spirit to control **all** of us so that Acts 1:8 will result. Let me introduce Tomas Karel from the Czech Republic. He found Christ in a godless country because he not only read the Bible - Tomas applied it. His mother and father gave him a wonderful upbringing with high moral standards. When he came to Christ, he

wanted his entire family to know, so he selected Christmas Eve to tell them that he had personally received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. There was a dead silence and finally his grandmother spoke up and said, "Oh well, as long as you have your health." In contrast to those around him Tomas read and applied the Bible. This is a portion of the testimony he shared on Songtime USA.



**Tomas Karel**

**"I was interested in reading the Bible but I couldn't get any because during the Socialist era, Bibles were not sold in bookstores. Church - to me - was a huge building and I was told that it was a part of history. It was something which is not relevant anymore. After finishing high school, one of my tutors loaned me a book. It wasn't a Bible but it had Bible stories and it was**

**"The real issue is that we are reading the Bible, but not applying it."**

knew immediately what he had to do.

Three months later the man and his family came back to see the pastor. The man was wearing a \$1,000 Italian suit, his wife was all decked out with a full-length mink coat and the child was dressed in beautiful silk. The man handed the pastor a thick envelope full of money and told him that he wanted to donate this money to the church in order to thank the pastor for his wonderful advice. The pastor was

*Continued on Next Page*

great. The book was printed sometime in the middle of the century and I fell in love with the Old Testament. It was like fresh water in my life and then when I began to read the New Testament, I got stuck. There was one particular part when it said that one of Jesus' followers wanted to follow Him after burying his own father. Jesus wouldn't let him do that so I said, "Oh, this man is arrogant - why is he such a great person in this religion?" God gave me a great blessing to understand that He is here and that He will listen to me. Everything finally came together and I remember the last sentence or the last part of the Catholic book about the

Bible where Romans 10:9,10 was quoted: **"If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you confess and you are saved."**

Pray for this young man as he returns this month to the Czech Republic. He has prepared himself by studying theology and social work because the government is soon eliminating support to the church. At that time, pastors will have to support themselves with another job. He is ready but keep in mind that all of this started when Tomas Karel read the Bible and applied it!

## A "HYMNSTORY"

■ Bill Dagle ■

The long hot days of summer and the study of hymn histories have caused me to wish my way back in time. I read about those days gone by and in particular, the old fashion camp meetings of the 1800's. There must have been something special in presenting the Gospel in the outdoor air with the fluttering of canvas overhead.... to hear an old fashioned message on "hell fire and damnation".... to hold on to your seat for fear of slipping into the abyss and to finally respond as the altar call song was sung. Oh, just to have been there would have thrilled my heart beyond belief.

When it comes to the subject of the altar call, probably no one song has been used more for that purpose than the one written in 1834 at Brighton, England. The author of the hymn, Charlotte Elliott, had been an invalid for most of her life. Now at the age of 46, she wanted to do something to help her minister/brother raise money for his new school. Everyone in town was doing something. Everyone - that is - except her for she could hardly get about her room. In the middle of a sleepless night, oppressed with a sense of helplessness, she wrote the formula of her faith in six terse stanzas. At first it was published as a poem for sale, raising money for the benefit of St. Margaret's Hall, Brighton. As a matter of fact, the poem would bring in more revenue than all of the town's efforts combined.

Then in 1849, the poem came to the attention of William B. Bradbury in New York city. Bradbury had been composing music for the Lord's work and now he would give Charlotte's poem wings to fly around the world. For the Lord had wonderful plans for this song because it describes so pointedly how we first must come to the Saviour. With a cool breeze blowing under the canvas top, the night air surrounding the pleas of the evangelist and the singing of the final hymn, millions have stepped into the old sawdust trail and come to an old fashion altar with the singing of an invalid's song:

*Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou biddest me come to Thee - O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

If you have never come to the Lord "just as you are", contact us here at Songtime and we'll gladly show you how.

## We Love to Get Letters!

*"I love receiving the tapes. All day I have no radio station so I cling to the audio magazine tapes and use these instead. Manna from heaven!"*

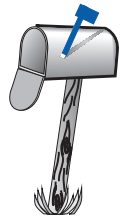
- Listener in Lebanon, ME

*"You're all doing a great job for Him and for us! The morning program is a great way to start the day. It's nice to think of John, Dave and Dave as we hear your voices. But I also think of you, Marge as you do so much that no one sees...and Pat and Sevie and the other volunteers whose contributions are the icing on the cake. Its that great teamwork that makes SONGTIME what it is - a BIG BLESSING!"*

- Listener in Duxbury, MA

*"Your program is my favorite one on WDAC. I plan my schedule around being able to listen at home or in my car. The music and messages are uplifting, encouraging, thought-provoking and edifying. The format is just right! Thanks for pressing on."*

-Listener in Myerstown, PA



## PROGRAM TIME CHANGE

Songtime USA can now be heard at **6:30 am Monday-Friday on WDER** (Derry, NH) at 1320AM

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## A Special "Thank You" and Update on CD's for the Nations

Ron Cline (left) hand delivers a stack of CD's to Talis Talsberg (right), a local broadcaster in Riga, Latvia.

Dear Friends,

I wish you could have been there, could have seen their faces, could have accepted their thanks.

Your CD's were wonderful...what a gift. We were able to deliver about 1200 CD's and some of those are already on the air in places like Moscow, St. Petersburg, three stations in Latvia, Macedonia, Kiev, Spain, Poland, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Georgia, over six stations in Romania, and on some of our stations deep in Muslim territory in Central Asia. We also will put some of them in Athens, Istanbul, and Magadan (in Siberia).

In all, your CD's will be aired from stations in 19 countries on those 'suitcase' FM radio stations that we have delivered throughout the old Soviet Union...now allowing local Christian radio in many places, and God has given us wonderful national partners in each of those places. Praise Him!

Serving our God together,

Ron Cline, President of HCJB World Radio

## Songtime on the Road

- Sunday, August 2** - **Brooklyn Tabernacle** 290 Flatbush Ave. in Brooklyn, NY at the 3 pm service with John DeBrine.  
**Living Word Community Chapel** Route 113 Allentown Rd in Franconia, PA. "The Billy Sunday Story" with Bill Dagle at 6 pm.
- Sunday, August 9** - **Hawthorne Gospel Church** 2000 Route 208 in Hawthorne, NJ for their 8:15 & 11:15 am services
- August 15 & 16** - **Milford Park Camp Meeting** Chestnut Street in Zionsville, PA for Saturday & Sunday evenings at their 7 pm services.  
**Bethany Evangelical Congregational Church** - Clayton, PA for Sunday morning at 10:30 am.
- Sunday, August 23** - **Nauset Baptist Church**- Eastham, MA (Cape Cod) for their 10 am service with Dr. John.
- Sunday, August 30** - **Nauset Baptist Church**- Eastham, MA (Cape Cod) for their 10 am service with Dr. John.
- September 4-6:** **Maranatha Bible Conference** 4759 Lake Harbor in Muskegon, MI with Dr. John.
- September 11-13:** **Songtime's Annual Corporation Meeting** at Four Points Hotel in Eastham, MA. Rev. Ron Mansdoerfer will be the Bible Teacher for the weekend.
- September 17-25:** **Fourth Annual Songtime Trip to Bermuda** at Willowbank. Reservation deadline is August 14th.
- September 27-29:** **Carlisle Brethren in Christ Church** in Carlisle, PA Sunday evening at 7 pm, Monday Noon luncheon meeting and Tuesday evening at 7 pm.

### JOIN US AS WE TRAVEL TO BERMUDA...

- It won't be long til the college dorms will be filled, yellow buses line the roadways, lunch boxes are packed and "back to school" clothes are purchased. After busy months of entertaining and traveling, why not plan to join us, unwind and enjoy the beauty of Bermuda in September? We'll be staying at Willowbank (a Christian resort) for 8 nights (Sept. 17-25) enjoying the fantastic breakfasts and dinners each day, growing spiritually as we listen and learn from Dr. John each morning and enjoying the fellowship of old and new friends. We have a "moonlight sail" scheduled, a picnic at Horseshoe Bay and shopping excursions planned.
- THIS IS YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP - deadline is August 14th.**
- Garden View** rooms: Single, \$1580 or Double \$1280 per person **Ocean View** rooms: Single \$1750 or Double \$1450 per person. Airfare & tour costs not included. Call for registration form.

# ■ Questions & Answers ■

*Dr. Bob Burrelli*

**Q:** What is the meaning of life?

**A:** At the risk of sounding philosophical, I should like to turn the tables on you this month and pose this question, which is foundational to most questions that arise in evangelistic situations. I raise it primarily because it has been on my mind especially since June 21st, when the Lord was pleased to call home my grandmother, known affectionately as Noni. Forgive me, then, for getting a little personal with you, but I feel as though I know many of you well enough through answering your questions that I can.

This was the question I asked myself repeatedly beside Noni's hospital bed and at her funeral and memorial service. It is, along with the gamut of emotions and activities I ran, usually associated with this situation. I assure you, for me it was strictly a rhetorical one-I knew the answer. I was simply confirming in my mind what I already knew to be true and what many desperately need to know.

I could not help but raise it, the first time, when Noni lay unconscious in the hospital gasping for air. "Life really is a bummer," Dad said to me from across her bed. "Think about it? You grow up, make a living, and die. That's it." After a few moments, he added, "I'm sure glad that Christ is in my life and He has granted me salvation."

The second time I raised the question was at the memorial service, where the pastor asked much to my surprise and joy, "If we take away your religion,

baptism, achievements, and family, what do you have left?"

I raised the question a third time the following day, while my father and I cleaned out Noni's apartment. In less than eight hours, all that represented a life of 89 years had been either inherited, donated, or discarded. Again the question arose in slightly different words, "Is this what life comes down to when all is said and done?"

The same question was posed a few thousand years ago. The writer of Ecclesiastes asked, "What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?" (1:3). His conclusion, "Everything is utterly meaningless . . . Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil" (12:8, 13-14).

Life is meaningless for those without Christ. They grow up, make a living, and die, entering and exiting this world in the same way, with nothing. And O how they shall wish that life did end with mere physical death, but sadly judgment awaits them. Life is abundant, however, for those in Christ, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). It is only when you live Christ, dear friends, that life becomes significant, and death is our advantage (Philippians 1:21).

Marjorie Needham hard at work in the Songtime Archives

**Songtime sends a big "Thank You" to Marjorie Needham for the organizing, alphabetizing, and filing of our extensive collection of music records in our archives. Marjorie spent several weeks straightening out over 3500 albums in our collection. We have already benefited from the organization as we search each day for just the right music to complement the interviews and Bible teaching heard on Songtime USA.**

## IN THE SONGTIME BOOKSTORE

- The Faithful** by Steve Green, one of Songtime listeners favorite artists. This latest album features new songs like "The Faithful", "To God all Praise and Glory", and "I Repent". **CD \$15.00 or Cassette \$11.00**
- Boundaries with Kids** by Henry Cloud and John Townsend. This book will help parents know when to say "yes" - and when to say "no" and will help your children to gain control of their lives. **Hardcover Book \$17.00**

**Total Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please make checks payable to Songtime Bookstore.**

**(All prices include postage & handling)**

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**I listen to Songtime on:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Station**