



# a ctivated

DO YOU FEED YOUR BODY BUT STARVE YOUR SOUL?

## PRESSURED?

Two time-tested steps for shedding stress

### PATH OF DESTRUCTION

A missionary family's encounter with mayhem during the Indonesia riots

### TEMPLE TIME

Solve your problems, clear your mind, all in a few moments

### RACING TOWARD THE MARK

Are we handing technology the controls?

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Issue 13  
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## personally speaking



The world is speeding up—and it's taking us with it! Former generations never had to cope with the pressures we do.

Job insecurity and competition in the marketplace have everyone from factory workers to CEOs under pressure to produce. More and more people must hold down several jobs just to make ends meet—and the pressure doesn't stop when the workday ends. Commuters spend hours in nerve-wracking traffic or crowded public transport. If they're parents, they go home to challenges their parents never imagined. Students' future job opportunities (and happiness, they're told) depend on them mastering an ever-increasing mass of information and keeping up with technology that's advancing at a dizzying pace. Movies, TV, music and advertising have nearly everyone trying harder than ever to be someone else—richer, more glamorous, more successful, more powerful, more famous. Who isn't stressed out these days?

And if we don't have enough problems of our own, we're constantly subjected to "secondhand stress." Friends and co-workers, hurried shoppers, weary salespeople and the driver behind us are often more than willing to share their stress with us. Those who aren't living in the fast lane live in fear of being blown off the road by those who are. It seems there's no end to it!

But it doesn't have to be that way. There's a sure and simple cure, and it doesn't cost a thing—no therapists, no drugs, no rigorous exercise routines, no rehab, no gadgets, no gimmicks. You'll feel better and be in better health, you'll get more done, you'll sleep better, you'll be happier, you'll get more out of life and you'll have more to give—and it only takes a few minutes a day. Read on to find out more!

*Keith Phillips*

Keith Phillips

For your activated family



An oyster on the ocean floor opened wide its shell. As its valves flushed seawater through, the oyster picked out minute particles of food.

Suddenly a large fish nearby stirred up a cloud of sand and silt with a flip of its tail. Sand! Oh, how the oyster disliked sand! It was so rough that it made life very unpleasant for the oyster whenever any got inside its shell.

Quickly the oyster slammed its shell shut, but it was too late. One hard, gritty grain of sand had gotten in and become lodged between the oyster's flesh and shell.

How that piece of sand bothered the oyster! But almost immediately, special glands God had given the oyster for coating the inside of its shell went to work, coating the irritating grain of sand

with a shiny, smooth covering. Year after year the oyster added more layers, until at last it had produced a beautiful, lustrous pearl of great value.



Our problems are like that grain of sand. They bother us, and sometimes we wonder why we have to suffer the irritation and inconvenience they can be. But God will work wonders with our problems and weaknesses, if we will let Him. We become more humble, more prayerful, closer to the Lord, wiser and better able to cope with other problems that come our way. Like blessings in disguise, the Lord soon takes the rough pieces of sand in our life and turns them into precious pearls of inner strength, and they become an inspiration to others.

The secret of calm and peace and rest and patience and faith and love is resting in the Lord—getting calm before the Lord and praising and seeking Him first. Then you impart this same spirit, or atmosphere, to others.

—D. B. B.

Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of God no matter what the conflict.


The Lord said, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light," but there's one condition to it—"come unto Me!"

—D. B. B.

# Pressured?

by maria david

two time-tested steps  
for shedding stress



When it seems there is much more to be done than there is time to do it, it's easy to get under pressure. We think we're not getting enough done or are not getting it done quickly enough, so we push ourselves harder. But the fact of the matter is that when we do that, we usually wind up being less effective and getting even less done.

Stress hinders us in a number of ways: It puts extra strain on our nervous system, which diminishes our mental capacities. It causes us to try to go too fast, so we're not as careful and prayerful as we should be and are therefore more likely to make mistakes. It squelches inspiration. It makes us irritable and harder for others to work with. It can really take the joy out of life! Allowing ourselves to get under pressure is counterproductive in every way.

## Pressure?—Or peace?

Learning to recognize when we're starting to get under pressure and then taking positive steps to

counter that feeling is probably one of the most important work habits we could build—and the very best way to do that is to ask the Lord for help.

First, we need to ask Jesus to help us see the early warning signs, and second, we need to learn to give our worries and cares to Him and trust Him to do the work through us, *His* way and in His time.

It is possible to be very busy and have a whole lot to do without feeling under pressure; the secret is to cast our cares on the Lord. "Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

How is this done? The Bible explains: "Don't worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6–7 TLB).

## First things first

Pressure is the enemy! That's especially true for Christians, because when we feel under pressure, the first thing to get crowded out of our schedule is often the very thing we need most—our time with the Lord.

You could be the most organized person in the world, but if you neglect your time with the Lord, your spirit will suffer. Personal happiness and fulfillment, successful relations with others, productivity, and everything else that really matters in life all depend on your keeping your connection with the Lord strong, getting spiritually nourished from His Word, being refreshed and refilled by His Spirit, and taking time to love and be loved by Him.

To get the Lord's perfect peace, you have to take time with the Lord. To take time with Him, you have to trust that whatever urgent work you have is in His hands and under His control. To trust Him, you have to understand and embrace the wonderful truth that He loves you so much He wants to help you with every aspect of your life.

He is concerned about you and your happiness. He wants to be involved. He wants to help you with your workload, and He will help you as much as you let Him. He *will* lighten your load incredibly if you'll just ask Him.

So when you begin to feel under pressure, the smartest thing you can do is stop and ask the Lord for help. He wants you to bring your problems to Him, and if you will, He will soothe your ruffled nerves, calm your mind, and show you what to do.

Taking that time to pray and commit your work to the Lord is the best way in the world to alleviate pressure. It's like opening the pressure valve of your spirit. If you don't take that time with Him, the pressure continues to mount.

## Jesus has all the answers!

Of course, it's also important to pray and ask the Lord to help you organize your work. As you take time with the Lord, He can inspire you with ideas that will make your way clear and simple so you don't get under such pressure in the first place.

You'll be amazed at how specific the Lord can be in His instructions about your schedule and how to go about your work. He'll show you your priorities. He'll give you tips on how to get them done most effectively and efficiently. He'll help you avert many of the time-wasting problems that put you under pressure by reminding you of things you have forgotten or overlooked or had no other way of knowing. He'll also cause His love to come shining through, no matter what you need to do. That can go further than almost anything in lightening your load and

## time take

I got up early one morning  
And rushed right into the day.  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I didn't have time to pray.

Troubles just tumbled about me,  
And heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I tried to come into God's presence.  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"Why, child, you didn't knock."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
But the day toiled on, gray and bleak.  
I called on the Lord for the reason—  
He said, "You didn't seek."

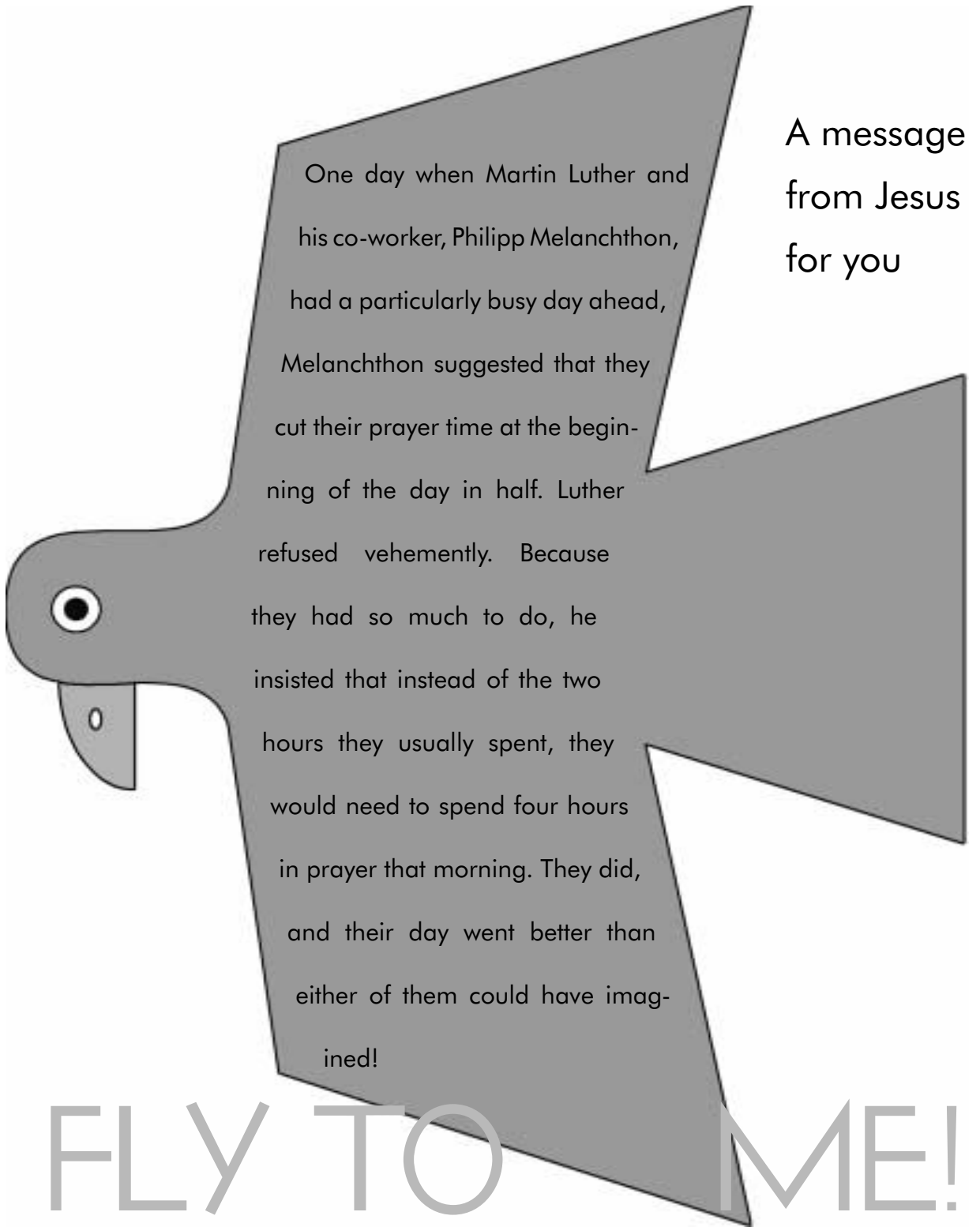
I woke up early this morning,  
And paused before entering the day.  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I had to take time to pray.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

## pray

brightening the lives of those around you.

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). The Bible also promises that, "You [God] will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You" (Isaiah 26:3). If you learn to let Jesus take over more of your life and work, and thus bear more of the load, you'll find that things will run smoother, faster, and more efficiently. It could change your life!■



A message  
from Jesus  
for you

One day when Martin Luther and his co-worker, Philipp Melanchthon, had a particularly busy day ahead, Melanchthon suggested that they cut their prayer time at the beginning of the day in half. Luther refused vehemently. Because they had so much to do, he insisted that instead of the two hours they usually spent, they would need to spend four hours in prayer that morning. They did, and their day went better than either of them could have imagined!

FLY TO ME!

**A**re you sometimes worried and burdened with the strain of it all? Yes, I know you are. Those are the times when you must fly to Me. Fly to Me on the wings of prayer, and I will sustain you.

The burdens were not designed to fit on your shoulders; they were intended for Me to carry. In My love and compassion I have fashioned it so that you might draw close to Me, so that you might rest here on My breast, so that you might need Me, and so that you might feel My love. I love you, and I will carry you through if you will cast all your cares upon Me.

Be as a wise man who learns from the example of others. Look to the example of My servant Martin Luther, who, when he had a task that was too big, pulled back and took double time in prayer and sweet communion with Me.

You ask how you will ever accomplish all you need to? Do as Luther did. When he prayed, he cast all of his burdens on Me. This is the secret of quiet rest—casting all your cares upon Me, knowing that I care for you, knowing that I have always taken care of every problem you have given to Me, and I always will!

Look to My own example: When I was followed day after day by multitudes of needy people, I knew I could not solve all of their problems Myself. How was I ever going to come up with enough food

to feed 5,000 people from a mere five loaves of bread and two fish? (Matthew 14:15-21). That was an impossible task, but I did not worry about it. I only had to accept My Father's help by saying, "I cannot do this. I cannot, but You can" (John 5:19).—And My Father did! He did what I in My own strength could not do.

And I did not feed those 5,000 by organizing fishing boats and sending My disciples out to catch fish. All I did was look up and cast My burden on My Father. He performed the miracle that fed 5,000 that day, but I had to truly trust first. I had to take the stand of faith before My Father could do the miracle. Afterward came the organization and distribution of the food, but the quiet trust came first.

The situations and the problems and the burdens were many, and the pressing needs of the people about Me were great. So were the cries of "It can't be done!" Many of My followers were besieged by doubt and discouragement. Indeed the problems seemed insurmountable at times, yet those were the times when I learned to truly trust, to truly lean upon My Father and to cast My cares on Him.

I will not allow more to be put upon your shoulders than you and I together are able to bear. As you cast your burden upon Me, you will be able to avail yourself of My strength. My strength will be perfected in you (2 Corinthians 12:9). ■

# Quietness

feeding reading

## **Quietness of spirit is strength of spirit:**

Ecclesiastes 7:8

Isaiah 30:15

Luke 21:19

1 Peter 3:4

## **Quieting our spirits before the Lord shows that we expect Him to work in our behalf; it's a sign of faith and trust:**

Exodus 14:13a

Isaiah 26:3

Isaiah 40:31

Philippians 4:6-7

Hebrews 4:9-11

## **Fretting and operating in the energy of the flesh are futile and hinder us from doing things God's way:**

Psalms 37:7-9

Luke 10:38-42

Luke 12:25-26

## **Quietness of spirit, like peace of mind, comes from knowing that we're doing our best to please the Lord and stay in His will:**

Psalms 119:165

Proverbs 1:33

Isaiah 32:17

Matthew 11:28-30

Romans 5:1

# temple time

(Describing a vision:)

I see a picture of a group of people under a dome in a big central room. They're all looking up, like they expect something. There are other people rushing around busily out in the wings [in service to God], but the people under the central dome are just standing there quietly, looking up. They're bathed in a beautiful golden glow from above, and they take deep breaths of the heavenly air that descends on them. It's the Lord's temple.

*(Prayer:)* Oh Lord, for a breath of Your heavenly air to refresh us and clear our minds and inspire our hearts and give us visions that thrill us, that set our heads awirl for You, Jesus!

The people who are so busy rushing around get tired and have to come under the dome to get refreshed and refilled.

*(Prayer:)* Help us to be like that, Jesus. Help us to remember we can't go on without the heavenly vision You give, without a breath of heavenly fresh air, without the sound of that sweet music. We just can't go on without hearing Your voice and getting inspired by the upward look!

We wouldn't worry and fret so if we spent more time with the

Lord, looking up through that starry dome, breathing that heavenly air, and hearing that beautiful music. We'd find peace and rest for our soul. It would totally renew us and refresh us and give us new vision and fresh inspiration, new strength, rest and peace and joy.

## Have you been there?

Have you taken time to get quiet before God as you slip into the temple of the Spirit? Have you been there to get a fresh breath of air from Heaven? If you haven't, you've really missed something! You'll get awfully tired and weary and upset and fearful and doubtful and discouraged and worried and flurried and hurried. You'll get out of touch with the Lord and run out of strength and wisdom and love and patience—all because you haven't come into the



He can clarify all your thoughts with just one sweet strain of heavenly music.



temple to be refreshed and renewed by His Spirit.

Are you too busy? Are you in too big a hurry? Is your work too important to stop for a few minutes of inspiration and refreshing from on high, spiritual renewal, physical rest—a little love feast with the Lord? You'll never make it if you don't stop for a while under the dome. If you don't get in there and catch a little of His light, you're not going to reflect much of it to others.

### **Make a temple of your heart!**

All you have to do is get alone with the Lord and look up at all His beauties and breathe His heavenly air and hear His heavenly music and see His heavenly visions.

It doesn't have to be at any set time. You can look up through the dome any time of day, anywhere, wherever you are, whatever you're doing. Just take a few quiet moments with the Lord. Anytime, anywhere, you can come swiftly out of the wings and enter the temple in spirit (John 4:24). Look and live! Look up! Make a temple of your heart. See what God can do in that beautiful realm of the spirit.

You just can't do that very well in the midst of the other voices and

the clamor of business. Those other things may be necessary, but you have to keep coming back into the rotunda in spirit to get your batteries recharged. You can't do it without Him. You'll never make it without His power. You may run for a while, but unless you come back and get hooked up to the current again, you'll run slower and slower till you have nothing left and are just plumb flat!

It can be downright hard work out in the wings, and you'll never have the strength or the vision or the inspiration that you need to do that work unless you keep coming back in under the dome.

He can solve all your problems in one little glimpse. He can refresh your whole spirit with one deep breath. He can clarify all your thoughts with just one sweet strain of heavenly music. He can wipe away all your fears and tears with just one little restful moment in that perfect peace He gives when your mind is stayed on Him and Him alone, because you trust in Him (Isaiah 26:3).

It just takes one little glimpse of Jesus to make it worth it all—and to help you be able to *do* it all. Take time in the temple today!▪

### *Prayer for the Day*

Thank You so much, dear Jesus, for helping me bring my cares to You in prayer and to give them to You so You can carry the weight. When I do, it shows You that I love You and need You and trust You, and then You're able to help me accomplish much more than if I tried to do it all in my own strength. Thank You for taking my burdens and dealing with them one by one before they become bigger problems. Thank You so much for Your simple solutions, Jesus!

# PATH OF DESTRUCTION

From a Family missionary  
community in Indonesia

JAKARTA, MAY 13, 1998

Caught in the heart of citywide riots that had been sparked by anti-government student demonstrations, the Lord was our only defense—but He was strong enough! What could have turned into trauma and tragedy for us became instead a thrilling testimony to the power of God.

For the previous few days, we had left our third-story apartment only for emergencies. “Have you heard the latest?” someone whispered. We kept our voices low, as we didn’t want to upset the children. “Crowds are rioting all across the city!”

Lydia peered out the window, being careful to stay out of sight behind the curtain. “It’s all quiet around here,” she said. “Almost too quiet.”

“We’re safe here for the time being,” John said, putting his arm around Lydia. “We’ve prayed for our situation, so we know we’re in the Lord’s hands.” We had been praying about trying to leave the city, but kept feeling that the Lord wanted us to stay put.

“Now seems like a good time to try to talk to some of our neighbors,” John said.

Lydia looked out the window again, this time at the men who stood guard at the outer gate of our housing complex. Their show of force might be enough to deter a few would-be looters, but what could they possibly do if they were set upon by an angry mob?

John and Lydia prayed for the Lord’s protection, then set off down the stairs and out of the building. They hurried past the evacuated shops on the ground floor, then over to the front gate of our complex, where a small crowd of neighbors mingled and talked with the guards. As John and Lydia got closer, a loud crashing sound shook the neighborhood. At the same instant, two frightened teenagers came hurtling around the corner.



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“They’re right around the corner! You’ve got to run! You’ve got to get your families out of there!”

“Quick!” one of them shouted. “Get out of here! A mob is headed this way!”

There were more people behind the two teenagers—dozens of them on foot and motor-bikes, or in cars—all racing as fast as they could to keep ahead of the rioters.

The first young man stopped and bent over. Resting his hands on his knees, he tried to catch his breath. “They’re breaking shop windows and setting buildings on fire—buildings just like this one!” he said. “They’re right around the corner! You’ve got to run! You’ve got to get your families out of there!” Fear flashed in his eyes and he sprinted off again. A wave of panic swept over the crowd, and they took off too.

John and Lydia prayed to stay calm. Without saying another word to each other, they turned, rushed back to our apartment building and bounded up the stairs. Joanna had seen them coming and flung the door open for them.

It was clear that something



terrible was happening in the streets below, and there was only one thing that we could do: pray desperately for the Lord to keep us from harm!

A couple of us kept our children occupied with reading in another room, while the rest of us prayed as we never had before! Time passed. We prayed on. When the shouting and screaming below got louder, we stopped our ears and claimed God’s protection over and over.

Psalm 91 was a tremendous comfort. “A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. ... I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.’ ... You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day. ... No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling” (Psalm 91:2,5,7,10). It seemed like that had been written specifically for us. The peace of God covered our spirits like a blanket.

After what seemed like for-



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The mob left a path of destruction across the city—a cindered, litter-strewn mess of mangled steel and shattered glass.

ever, someone got up and went to the window. Everything was quiet and still. Not a soul was in sight. We were safe!

Phil and Esther ran up to the roof to get a better look. There they could see just how wonderfully we had been saved. The mob had left a path of destruction down the street that led to our neighborhood—a cindered, litter-strewn mess of mangled steel and shattered glass. The mob had come straight up our street, and then just a few meters before it got to our apartment, the mob had made a U-turn and headed for a nearby supermarket.

For some time after that, we could still hear the shouts of looters as they emptied the supermarket of anything they could carry. Later, 200-foot columns of fire illuminated the night sky as two nearby department stores were looted and burned.

Destruction and terror were all around, but through it all, we were kept safe in the hands of our loving Savior. ■



My friends and I are in the habit of exchanging gossip about others. I sometimes feel bad about it because, to be honest, a lot of it is unkind or sarcastic. But I just can't resist the desire to be in on "the latest." Any advice?

answers to your questions

King Solomon said, "The tongue has the power of life and death" (Proverbs 18:21 NIV). Think of that! The words you say are real things. They can bless or curse, they can lift up or knock down, they can save or damn!

The old saying, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me," is not true at all! Take, for example, the true story of Mary Ellen and Jesse Pepper: Mary was so hurt and discouraged by the malicious gossip that another 18-year-old girl, Jesse, had spread about her that Mary committed suicide—and Jesse was convicted of manslaughter. It was called a "gossip slaying" because Mary took her life as a result of the gossip.

That may seem like an extreme example, but honestly now, is it *that* extreme? Haven't there ever been times when you've felt so low and discouraged because of someone's cruel, unkind words that you wished you were dead? Or maybe you have wounded someone else that way.

Let's face it, we've all been guilty at some time or another of hurting others with our words. Maybe they were unintentional, maybe they were intended in fun, but they were unkind and hurtful just the same.

Maybe at that very moment the other person was longing for a word of encouragement, but instead our cutting words wounded deeply and left an ugly scar. This poem makes the point poignantly:

If I knew that a word of mine,  
A word not kind and true,  
Might leave its trace  
On a loved one's face,  
I don't think I'd speak it—  
Would you?

It often only takes a few words hastily spoken to start things going wrong. So how can we guard against that thoughtless, unkind word that can leap so quickly from our lips? What can we do to tame our tongues?

Well, try as we may, *we* can't! The Bible says, "Every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue" (James 3:7-8). Only *God* can tame it! "With men it is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). The only way to fully tame our tongues is by asking God to change our *hearts*, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34). If your heart is overflowing with God's love, then the words of your mouth will be filled with love and compassion.

There's only one way to change the untamed tongue, and that is to change the spirit that controls it. You can never control it yourself. Jesus is the only true source of love, kindness, goodness and sweetness, and as you allow Jesus to take control of your life, He also takes control of your tongue. His Spirit in you will inspire you and even speak through you with His wonderful words of love, light and life!▪

If I knew that the sting of a word  
Might linger and leave its mark,  
With a deep dark scar  
On a loved one's heart,  
I don't think I'd speak it—  
Would you?

—Author unknown



# NAILS

## in the Gatepost

As a young boy, I had a fiery temper that often caused me to say and do unkind things.

One day, after an argument had sent one of my playmates home in tears, my father told me that for each thoughtless, mean thing I did, he would drive a nail into the gatepost in front of our house. Each time I did a kindness or a good deed, he would pull one nail out.

Months passed. Each time I entered our gate, I was reminded of the reasons for those ever-increasing nails. Finally, getting them out became a challenge.

At last the wished-for day arrived—only one more nail! As my father withdrew it, I danced around proudly exclaiming, “See, Daddy, the nails are all gone!”

My father gazed intently at the post as he thoughtfully replied, “Yes, the nails are gone—but the scars remain.”

—Author unknown



# Racing Toward the Mark

By Keith Phillips

**D**uring the last half of the reign of the Antichrist, the three-and-a-half-year period known as the Great Tribulation, those who refuse to worship him or accept his mark, or number, will not be able to buy or sell. We who worship God will be persecuted, but our faith in God will save us. At the end of this period, Jesus will come back to rescue us, destroy the Antichrist's worldwide economic, political and religious system, and set up His own kingdom here on Earth.

The technology needed to institute the mark of the Beast—technology unheard of only a few years ago—is rapidly developing. Consider the following:

## Microchipped to Serve

At a time when conspiracy theories abound, perhaps no one is more outspoken than former TV sports commentator and spokesman for the British Green Party, David Icke, who has written 10 books supporting the same basic premise: The same few people, organizations and secret societies are taking over the world—and us. This Elite, according to Icke, creates

the news and then pipes it to us. They engineer events and set the trends—wars, revolutions, terrorist attacks, assassinations, political and economic upheavals, international drug trafficking—then form our perception of those things through the media that they also control. They are masters of collective and individual mind control, and their aim is to master *us*!

In an interview with the *Independent* newspaper of South Africa (Jan. 19, 1998), Icke stated, “The secret government of the world is manipulating the human mind to accept a centralized global tyranny, as we speak. This tyranny is called the New World Order, and unless we wake up it will manifest as a world government; a world central bank, currency and army and a microchipped population linked to a global computer.”

And we'd better wake up quick, because it's happening! Already pets are being microchipped, and human applications are either being discussed or are in the experimental stage—from microchipping pre-schoolers to thwart kidnappings and make it possible to track lost children, to microchipping parolees and inmates in “jail at home” programs.

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**“He [the False Prophet, top aide to the Antichrist, also known as the Beast] causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name” (Revelation 13:16-17).**

Ultimately, Icke says, the plan includes the microchipping of all babies at birth. “The technology already exists, and all that remains is to persuade the public to accept it. One way this will be done is to highlight missing children stories, including the abduction of babies from maternity wards.”

On the financial front, coins and banknotes are being phased out in favor of credit and smart cards. “Today if you go into a shop to buy anything and your credit card is refused by the computer, you can pay with cash,” Icke explains. “What happens when there is no cash? If the computer refuses your card or microchip, you have no means to buy anything. We will then be robots in every sense of the word, an extension of a computer program.”

Proponents of microchipping humans say there are other selling points: Passports could be done away with, and people could carry their medical records with them wherever they go, in case of accident. In the UK, people are already being microchipped with their medical records. “Even more frightening,” Icke says, “is that the microchip can be used to modify [human] behavior.”

### **Connecting Brain to Computer**

According to an article in *The Sunday Times* (London, England, Nov. 7, 1997), the prospect of extending human intelligence by means of electronic implants in the brain has come two steps closer. Scientists have not only grown living nerves cells of a rat—cells that closely resemble their counterpart in humans—on a silicon chip, but have also transmitted electrical impulses along the nerves to trigger sensors within the chip.

“The findings are being hailed

as a crucial first step in developing direct connections between computers and the brain. This will lead to silicon-based enhancements for the body, ranging from memory devices inside the head to ‘bionic’ eyes that allow blind people to see,” states the *Sunday Times* article.

When asked about the latest research, Colin Humphreys, a professor at Cambridge University, said it raised the frightening prospect of one day being able to control people’s minds through silicon chip implants.

### **Chip Implants to Track Workers**

“Big Brother could soon be watching from the inside,” another *Sunday Times* article (May 9, 1999) warns. “Several international companies are consulting scientists on ways of developing microchip implants for their workers to measure their timekeeping and track their whereabouts.

“The technology, which has been proven on pets and human volunteers, would enable firms to track staff all around a building or complex. The data could enable them to draw up estimates of workers’ efficiency and productivity.

“The technology is likely to have a strong appeal to companies with high labor costs, for which small increases in staff productivity can have a big impact on profits. It is also relatively cheap—just a few [British] pounds for each person, according to Professor Kevin Warwick of Reading University.

“For a business the potential is obvious,” the article quotes Warwick. “You can tell when people clock into work and when they leave the building. You would know at all times exactly where they were and who they were with.” ■

*From Jesus with Love*

## Because I Love You ...

I see your every tear. I hear your every cry.

I feel your every frustration, your every worry, your every burden, your every desire. I know everything about you—all your wants, all your lacks. I see your heart and all that is in it, and I deeply love you.

I long to hold you and kiss away the hurts and heartaches, if you will but allow Me to. I long to comfort, to soothe, and to pour My balm of love upon your aching heart. I long to take away every worry, every fear, every tear, every frustration. I long to blow away every cloud of confusion and to soothe your frazzled nerves. I long to melt away the bitterness and turn every deep longing into marvelous fulfillment and true satisfaction.

I long to give you the sun and the moon, the stars in the sky, the ecstasies of Heaven and a love that will never end. I long to pull you through whatever deep, dark experience, whatever dense fog you find yourself in. Whatever confusion or frustration you have bottled up inside, I long to melt it all away—because I love you.