



Chaplain's Corner

Many people who have been going to church all their lives have never faced the most basic spiritual question of all, 'What does it mean to accept Christ?' Could you for instance tell someone else the answer if he suddenly appeared and asked, 'Help me find Christ.' How does one accept Him? What would you say?

Since becoming Chaplain of "S.N.C.C." I have learned six ways people have tried in vain to get God to accept them.

1. Searching for God in fear and concern. "Where is God?" man has asked, and he has sought Him with great worry and apprehension. Many have let the quest for God become the main purpose of life. But like Martin Luther, who joined a monastery to seek God, but who did not find him by that; you too cannot find God by worry concern, and mere seeking.

2. Some of us, have tried, by making sacrifices, such as the lives of children in pagan religions, or by sacrificing great treasure, or by hard labor or by the self infliction of pain. These things are often practiced in an attempt to persuade a reluctant God to accept man. A person who is wicked, has recognized that somehow God has placed Himself just beyond the reach of his five senses, but still we know He is there, watching and judging us.

We see His foot prints; we sense His presence; and yet we recognize that God is holy, and therefore is hard to find even by our own best efforts. But still man keeps on trying. Many of us have offered their charity and good works to persuade God to accept them but God will not yield His presence even to the utmost sacrifice.

3. Men have tried by reformation to know God, but the Bible says that our righteousness (even the best we have within us) isn't nearly good enough to take us into the presence of the king. It says that "all our righteousness is as filthy rags." Moral - rearmament or -reformation- the shining of the old clothes, isn't enough. Only the new garments God gives are acceptable.

4. Men have tried religious ceremonies. Oh, how men love to depend on religious ceremony to satisfy God. My heart breaks when I see people going through the forms in all His glory could be impressed with our religious forms.

5. There are too many people who think they can get God to accept them if only they join a particular religious group. They may call it a 'church' or a denomination or a 'religion', or a 'sect', but whatever the group may be called, people who trust in it instead of Christ usually go through the process of false reasoning. "That group is going to make it safe to heaven so if I just join that group I'll be accepted along with the crowd."

The Bible says Christ is going to send forth His angels at the judgement who will separate the wheat from the chaff. You can't get God to

accept you simply by being in a special group, or church, or denomination. God accepts no people in masse. He accepts no man because of the crowd with which he is identified. He admits you or rejects you as an individual.

6. Finally, men have tried to find God and become acceptable through learning. Martin Luther tells that he became a learned monk because he thought that only when one mastered theology could he be accepted by God. Many religions have taught that God is to be found at the end of the road of education. They have taught that one could only be acceptable to God if one would master the knowledge of the laws of God. In modern times false cults have said that one must master the laws of the universe before one could know God. This is sadly in error. Jesus said one must become as a little child to enter the kingdom of God.

Now these six things man has done trying to get God to accept him. And they are all futile. They may have a certain spiritual value, in their plac, but not for the purpose for which many people use them; not for the aim of getting God to accept us.

I know that in my "prison Ministry", there have been countless souls-going through the motions, trying to impressive that they are really into looking for Gods presence. But they are actually fooling themselves, because God does not come in a box all wrapped up in pretty paper, and tied with a ribbon.

Service is what I offer to the men, and its important that each takes upon himself, realization and truth that he has to find God for himself as an individual, instead of looking in the crowd. Its easy to find God behind the prison walls but what about when freedom is had.

Black Unemployment Show Little Change

The unemployment rate for black workers in December at 11.5 percent showed little or no change from its 11.7 percent rate in November, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The unemployment rate for white workers, at 5.2 percent in December, also showed little or no change from its November rate of 5.0 percent.

The Bureau reported that while there had been little change among the demographic groups, virtually all worker groups have shown some improvement since December 1977, with a few notable exceptions, including teenagers and women who head families.

In December 1977, the unemployment rate for black workers was reported at 12.6 percent, while the jobless rate for white workers was 5.4 percent.

Nationally, total employment and unemployment in December 1978 remained close to their November levels. The overall unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, not much different from November, but lower than the 6.3 percent rate prevailing in early 1978.

Total employment--as measured by the monthly survey of households--was 95.9 million in December. Over the past year, total employment has risen by 3.0 million.

In contrast, nonfarm payroll employment--as measured by the monthly survey of establishments--continued to expand in December, rising by 250,000 to 87.3 million. Over the year, non-farm payroll jobs have increased by 3.6 million.

Both the total number of persons unemployed in December--6.0 million--and the overall unemployment rate--5.9 percent--were little changed from a month earlier. Among the major demographic groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (4.1 percent), adult women (5.8 percent), and teenagers (16.5 percent) were little changed from November.

The median duration of unemployment in December was 5.6 weeks, not much different from the November level. Median duration was more than a week shorter than a year earlier, a reflection of reductions in long-term unemployment as well as an increase in short duration joblessness of less than 5 weeks.

Total employment was little changed in December at 95.9 million, following a gain of half a million in the prior month. Over the past year, employment has risen by 3.0 million (after adjustment for changes in the survey introduced in January 1978). Reflecting this expansion, the employment--population ratio--the proportion of the total noninstitutional population that is employed--has increased substantially to a record

59.1 percent. The civilian labor force edged up slightly over the month to 101.9 million in December, but also has expanded substantially over the year.

The highlight of the Nation's job situation in 1978 was the strong increase in employment. Gains were pervasive throughout the economy, occurred in every major nonfarm industry and among all major worker groups. This marked the third consecutive year of sharp expansion in employment. Most of the over-the-year increase resulted from an expansion of full-time jobs.

Following a quarter of no change, the number of discouraged workers--persons who report that they want work but are not looking for jobs because they believe they cannot find any resumed the downward trend that began in late 1977, falling almost 100,000 to 760,000 during the fourth quarter. As usual, about two-thirds of this total indicated job-market factors as the reasons for not seeking work.

Nonagricultural payroll employment increased by 250,000 in December to 87.3 million, as employment advanced in 76 percent of the 172 industries that comprise the BLS diffusion index of private nonagricultural payroll employment. Nonfarm jobs have risen by 3.6 million over the past year.

Over-the-month employment gains were posted in most of the major industry groups. The largest increase, for the third consecutive month, was in manufacturing (125,000). Employment increases in nondurables occurred primarily in food processing and printing and publishing. Elsewhere in the goods sector, sizable growth was registered in construction jobs (45,000), while mining employment was unchanged.

In the service-producing sector, the largest increases occurred in services (35,000), State and local government (25,000), wholesale trade (20,000), and transportation and public utilities (20,000). There was also growth in finance, insurance, and real estate.

The only industry in the service-producing sector where employment declined was retail trade, as retailers apparently added fewer than usual extra workers for the Christmas season. Employment growth in retail trade has been generally strong throughout the year.

The average workweek for production or non-supervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls was 35.8 hours in December, unchanged from November and about in line with levels prevailing over the past year. The manufacturing workweek inched down 0.1 hour to 40.6 hours in December, but factory overtime, at 3.8 hours increased by 0.2 hour.

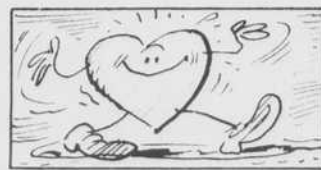
Average hourly earnings of production or non-supervisory workers on private nonagricultural payrolls increased 0.7 percent in December and 9.1 percent from a year ago (seasonally adjusted). Average weekly earnings were also up 0.7 percent over the month; weekly earnings have risen by 8.8 percent since December 1977.

Before adjustment for seasonality, average hourly earnings rose 3 cents to \$5.90, 50 cents above last December; average weekly earnings were \$212.40, \$2.25 above November and \$16.92 higher than a year earlier.

The Hourly Earnings Index--earnings adjusted for overtime in manufacturing seasonality and the effects of changes in the proportion of workers in high wage and low wage industries--was 220.2 (1967-100) in December, 0.5 percent higher than in November. The index was 8.2 percent above December a year ago. During the 12 month period ended in November, the Hourly Earnings Index in dollars of constant purchasing power declined 0.6 percent.

Answer to Puzzle

Grid puzzle solution with words: BUT, LETH, HOW, ETA, ALOUD, EVA, GALE, MURDERER, SHIRK, TRINARY, SEEM, YET, JAM, YAK, SERGE, IRAN, DIG, REEF, GENUS, TAT, VET, RED, TALE, CLUSTER, BERRY, ROSETTES, ASIA, AVE, LEASE, ELL, BED, ERRED, SEE



The heart is only about 5 1/2 inches long and 3 1/2 inches wide.

THERE'S HOPE for humanity, in its children. There's hope for Democracy, in its minorities. KDWN Radio (720) 3:30 a.m. . . . LISTEN!