



He that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30

Winter 2012

Am I Wasting Time or Redeeming Time?

by Mel Gerrard

Ephesians 5:16 commands: ***“Redeem the time because the days are evil.”*** Colossians 4:5 commands: ***“Walk in wisdom toward those who are without, redeeming the time.”***

It was my first date with Carol, who was to become my wife. She didn't know how fussy I was with my cars. It started to rain, so I bought a newspaper and spread it out on the plush carpeting to keep it dry. Carol thought I was a bit strange for doing that. In those days, all the cool cars had whitewall tires, and if I accidentally brushed a curb, I would go home quickly and wash the soiled tire before someone saw it. My car was spotless—always! You might think I was a fanatic! Not only was I a fanatic—I was **wasting time** with such foolishness!

During those days, my friends and I loved to go to Huntington Beach for body surfing. There were yet no restrictions about

jumping off the pier so we would walk out on the pier, dive off, and surf to the shore. Hundreds of people sunning themselves on the sand had never realized that they were lost sinners needing to be saved so they would go to heaven when this short life is over. My friends and I were oblivious to their need! Sharing the gospel with people never entered our pleasure seeking minds! We were there to have fun, not to tell them about eternal life and Jesus! You guessed it—we were **wasting time!**

Nate Saint, Auca Indian martyr, said, “People who do

not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives, and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted. “

This was my idea of a Christian in those days: Get saved by receiving Jesus Christ, get baptized in water, attend church at least weekly, and put some money in the offering plate. After all, what else is there?

My “simple belief” bubble burst one day when a friend told me about a Bible story

found in Luke 19. By this time, I had learned that we were supposed to tell others about getting saved so they would also go to heaven when this short life is over. In the story, Jesus (the nobleman) gave money to his servants and told them to do business with it. When the nobleman returned after receiving



***Our annual board of directors meeting.
From left: Greg, Mel (treasurer), Jeff, Dolores, Bob (president), Maria, Bob West, Jason, Andy (secretary and Mel's son), Mark Collins (vice president)***

his kingdom, he asked each servant how much he had gained by trading. The first servant gained 10 times more—he could rule over 10 cities! The second gained five—he could rule five cities! The third failed to **redeem the time**—he gained nothing and he lost his eternal reward! Jesus called him a **wicked servant**, and gave his money to the servant who had gained the most. **Wasting time** made him a loser!

This story made me realize that I was **wasting time** when I could have been fulfilling God's

purpose for my life by winning souls, helping others, and putting money in God's work. Then, I would be **redeeming the time!**

Nowdays, if you inspect my two older cars, you will see that they are not as perfect as they used to be. Their owner (me) realized that he **wasted time**. He now wants to **redeem the time**. There is a lot of satisfaction in knowing that what we do (winning precious souls to Jesus by telling them how to be saved) is eternal—not temporary like the things of

this life that so distract us and keep us from doing the eternal things that will last forever.

Sure, it's okay to have some fun and recreation, but let's not make it the main thrust of our lives to crowd out the things God wants us to do! Jesus' last command just prior to his return to heaven was, "...you shall be witnesses to Me..." (Acts 1:8). **Let's redeem the time—not waste it!** Then you'll hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your Lord!" (Matthew 25:21).

Letters...

From Ghana, Africa

I am saved through your wonderful literatures, namely Treasures in Heaven, Your Appointment, and Know Your Future. Through the wonderful literature, I have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and have been baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Please send me one Holy Bible and some of your powerful booklets to help me serve God. I want to win souls for Christ, our Lord.

Gabriel Kojo Kessim

From Agona Nyakrom, Ghana, Africa

We are 10 friends who were idol worshippers. We never considered Christianity in our whole lives. We were going to the market to buy some goods. Someone gave us some of your booklets. After reading them, we were totally converted. We are now repented Christians, baptized, and we are now attending church.

We don't have Bibles. Please send each of us a Bible.

Melvicient Oppong



Pasadena Rose Parade.

From left: Jeff, Hamer, Mike, and Mel make up the experienced soul winning team.

Approximately 3,000 "Parade Guide" tracts given out, and there were approximately 64 decisions for Christ.

Wayside Harvesters' 20 Events During 2011

- **Pasadena Rose Parade**—Estimated 64 prayed to be saved; 3,000 tracts given out; 20,000 tracts donated to other ministries.
- **Village Fest in Palm Springs**—Every Thursday night; we hand out over 300 gospel booklets each night and usually see 6 or 8 pray to receive Christ each night. Thousands jam the closed-off street.
- **County Prison Church Service**—Every Saturday afternoon; usually 3 to 4 pray to receive Christ each Saturday.
- **National Date Festival**—10-day county fair; shared with 1,256; 807 prayed salvation prayer; 105 four-hour volunteer shifts.
- **Grace Church, Desert Hot Springs** —1-day event; shared with 27; 24 prayed to be saved. (Mel caught cold/bronchitis. There was a very high wind.)
- **29 Palms Carnival Days**—4-day event; shared with 157 (many Marines); 102 prayed to be saved.
- **Festival of Life, Tedesco Park, Desert Hot Springs**—1 day event; shared with 63; 41 prayed salvation prayer.
- **Yucca Valley Community Fair and Parade**—Shared with 40; 37 prayed salvation prayer; approximately 2,500 parade tracts given out.
- **Temecula Valley Balloon & Wine Festival**—3 day event; shared with 290; 162 prayed salvation prayer.
- **San Diego**—University and college campus evangelism.
- **Anza, CA Flea Market and Parade**—shared with 58; 39 prayed to be saved; approximately 800 parade tracts given out.
- **Northern Arizona University and Sodona Evangelism**—2 weeks daily campus evangelism; 27 prayed.
- **Grand Canyon**—trail evangelism with government permit; one week; gave out 100 tracts daily; 17 prayed to receive Christ.
- **Southern California Fair**—9 day fair; 84 four-hour volunteer shifts; shared with 899; 438 prayed salvation prayer.
- **29 Palms Pioneer Days Fair**—4-day event and parade; 54 prayed to be saved.
- **Grace Church in Desert Hot Springs** again—Shared with 71; 38 prayed salvation prayer. No wind this time.
- **Halloween Alternative at the Christian Center, Desert Hot Springs**—33 prayed to be saved.
- **International Tamale Festival, Indio, CA.**—Shared

with 348; 141 prayed to be saved. Huge Hispanic attendance.

- **Ship Bibles and tracts worldwide** (mostly to Africa)—All year long, Dolores assisted by her daughter, Sue. We spent \$25,800 on postage alone during 2011.
- **Palm Springs**—Every Saturday night in brings the maximum number of tourists to our resort city, where we offer them gospel booklets (street witnessing) and tell them how to be saved.

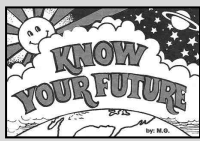
We spend tens of thousands of dollars on these outreaches. We depend on your partnership to help us pay our many bills for printing, postage, space rent, gasoline, diesel, signs, etc. Thank you so much for being our partner in this soul-winning ministry! We love and appreciate you! Keep praying. The devil doesn't like what we are doing!



Huge crowds attend the Indio International Tamale Festival. We shared the gospel with 348 people and 141 of these prayed to receive Christ!



These are our two booths in the Tamale Festival. Note that three groups are hearing the gospel message at the same time.



Know Your Future
Soul winning—
teenagers and adults



A Gold Street
Soul winning—
for children



Your Appointment
How to share
your faith



Treasures in Heaven
Challenges Christians
to do God's will



*Signs like this one bring curious people in
to take the "quick test."
Result—HUNDREDS pray the salvation prayer!*

----- CUT OR TEAR -----

YOUR RESPONSE OR ORDER FORM

(Go to website to view and for description of six color items: www.waysideharvesters.org)

I want to partner with you in reaching the lost! I enclose this donation to help pay for tens of thousands of Bibles, New Testaments, and gospel tracts that are given free to reach people for Christ: \$ _____

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING:

	QUANTITY	AMOUNT (\$)
Treasures in Heaven – English (\$14 per 100; or \$12 per 100 if over 1000)	_____	_____
Know Your Future – English (\$10 per 100; or \$9 per 100 if over 1000)	_____	_____
Know Your Future – Spanish	“	_____
Know Your Future – French	“	_____
Your Appointment – English (\$14 per 100; or \$12 per 100 if over 1000)	_____	_____
Your Appointment – Spanish	“	_____
A Gold Street – English	“	_____
A Gold Street – Spanish	“	_____
6 Bead Color Gospel Bracelets (33 cents each; or \$15 per 50)	_____	_____
6 Color Tract for Gospel Bracelets – English (\$6 per 50; or \$10 per 100)	_____	_____
6 Color Tract for Gospel Bracelets – Spanish	“	_____
6 Color Bookmarks explaining each color - English (\$3 per 50)	_____	_____
6 Color Bookmarks explaining each color - Spanish	“	_____
6 Color Gospel Story Bag used with Bracelets (\$20 per each)	_____	_____
Your Parade Guide for handing out at parades (\$4 per 100)	_____	_____
Evangelism Training DVD (\$10 each, includes shipping and handling)	_____	_____

For Shipping and Handling, please add \$5.00 min. or \$10.00 if over 1000 items:

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