

# WAYSIDE HARVESTERS

He that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30

Summer 2012

## *How many times do I have to pray to receive Christ to be SURE I'm saved?*

by Mel Gerrard

Dr. Bill Bright, founder and late president of Campus Crusade for Christ had just led a young German man to the Lord.

The young German was ecstatic with joy, knowing that for the first time in his life, he actually had eternal life as a very real possession. He didn't have to be concerned where he would spend eternity. What a tremendous joy was his that day! The young German wasted no time in calling his parents in Germany to tell them the good news. You see, they were also very interested in spiritual matters. The only difference between them and their son was that their son now knew that he had eternal life, whereas they were not 100% sure yet.

They decided that it would be worth the trip to fly to the U.S. and get this thing settled. They wanted what their son had—the

assurance that when life here ended, heaven would be their eternal home! They bought their airline tickets and flew to the U.S., then came to Campus Crusade's beautiful offices where they were ushered in to see President Bill Bright. After they exchanged pleasantries, Bill proceeded to share the gospel with them as he had previously shared with literally thousands of people.

Bill explained how God had a wonderful plan for their life, but that they were separated from God because of sin. Bill explained that all of us are sinners—even the most righteous of us. After explaining how God sent his only begotten Son Jesus to die in our place on the cross, he explained how we must repent (turn from) a sinful life and receive Jesus Christ. Bill asked them if they would like to repeat a prayer with him to receive Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives.

Their answer surprised Bill. They said, "Oh Dr. Bright, we receive Jesus into our hearts every day!" Bill then wondered what he would say next. He prayed silently, asking God for guidance. Then a verse came into his mind:

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith..."* (Ephesians 2:8-9). He then realized that they



**Jeff, a U.S. Marine, wanted to be baptized—so Hamer and Mel baptized him in Mel's Jacuzzi. Pool heater is broken so water is cold—but Marines are tough, right?**

had been praying the prayer to receive Christ mechanically without believing that Jesus actually came into their heart as He **promised** he would do.

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hear my voice, and OPENS the door, I will come in to him”* (Revelation 3:20).

Since we’re saved by **faith**, then we must **know** he came into our heart because of Jesus’ **promise** that He would come IN to us if we open our door to Him to let him into our heart. Then, in I John 5:11-13, we have the promise that *“if we have the Son of God, we **have** eternal life.”*

Bill then suggested that they pray the salvation pray only one more time to receive Christ, only that **this** time, they pray the prayer **believing** that Jesus

would actually come into their hearts and stay—and because they **have** Him, they **have** eternal life. After that, they would never need to pray the prayer again. They were happy to do so.

Their joy that day was complete, for the first time in their lives, they now **know** they are saved and on their way to heaven.

So how many times do we have to pray to receive Christ to be truly saved? Just once—but there is a catch—we must **believe** that he came in to us when we prayed the prayer—simply because he **said** he would come in if we open our door to Him—he would never leave us, and if we have him, we have eternal life.

In our fair and event soul winning (and you know we do

more than 20 events yearly) we make it a practice to get people to write their names and the date in the *Know Your Future* booklet after they receive Christ. We tell them to never forget the date because it is the date of their New Birth. We tell them that they never need to invite Jesus into their hearts again because he said He would never leave them. If we ask Him to come into our hearts again, it shows that we didn’t really believe He came in the first time we asked him. We have found that people **like** to write their names and the date after they receive Jesus into their hearts.

Knowing for sure that we are saved and on our way to heaven is of utmost importance in our lives!

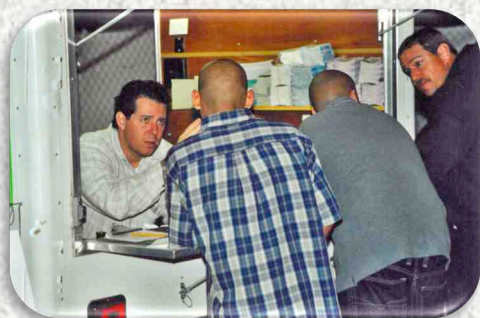
## Letters to the editor:

### From Agona Nyakrom, Ghana, West Africa:

Wayside Harvesters Gospel booklets are greatly changing lives in my nation, Ghana. The anointing on your booklet is so great it has helped my spiritual life by elevating me to a new level of understanding things of God. A Christian brother gave me your booklets to share with other people. **Whoever I gave the booklets to received Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior!**

Please send me some Holy Bibles and more of your booklets so they will help us in winning souls.

Rev. Prince Sackey,  
Hands of Christ Bible Church



*From inside our trailer, Jason shares the gospel with U.S. Marines*

### From Glory Bible Church, Ghana

*A Christian brother gave me one of your booklets to read. Reading your booklets has helped me a lot—in fact, your booklet is the mighty net for winning many souls to his mighty kingdom. I made copies for the members of my church and other believers. They were happy to have their own copies. Many others were seriously crying for copies, so I recopied many more copies for them. Your booklets are a life-changing message to many people.*

*Because of this distribution, testimonies were coming to us from those who got converted through reading them. We won 30 new converts who have vowed that they cannot do without your booklets in their lives. They also requested Holy Bibles. I am begging you to kindly send us Bibles and more copies of your booklets.*

*Pastor Cidus MacCarthy and members*

## Recent events:

### College of the Desert—an open door!

No doubt you've heard how God is being shut out of our nation's schools. Believe me, that is **not** true at College of the Desert in Palm Desert, California! In fact, the college gives us an official permit to set up our tables in the courtyard next to the dining hall right during lunchtime. We have been doing this one day a week for the past four weeks! During these four weeks, 31 happy students have become citizens of heaven and possessors of eternal life when they repeated a salvation prayer to invite Jesus Christ into their lives. They were also given follow-up booklets to help them become strong Christians, and we invited them to good churches near the college.

**Thank you for praying for these events.  
Prayer moves God's mighty arm!**

### 29 Palms Carnival Days

This was a four-day event in this High Desert Marine base town. In spite of the high winds that caused us to shut down early, we were able to share the gospel message with 175 people—many of them Marines—and 104 of these prayed the salvation prayer with us to become children of God! Praise to our mighty God!

### Additional Events

We also have weekly church in the county prison in Banning, and do street ministry every Thursday and Saturday nights in Palm Springs, handing out hundreds of gospel booklets each night.



**Southern California Fair at Lake Perris where eight people hear the gospel message at the same time.**



**Dolores and Mel are shown here with 600,000 Know Your Future booklets, which we have printed all at one time. We use these in all 20 of our soul winning outreaches, and ship them worldwide almost daily.**

**Cost for next printing could be \$36,000.**

**Will you help us pay for them? Ninety percent of the booklets we have printed are given out free in Third World Countries.**

## Upcoming events:

### Grubstake Days Yucca Valley, CA

Would you believe this is our 38<sup>th</sup> year in this fair? We still set up our double booth to reach both children and adults, although this fair is much smaller than it used to be (no carnival or rodeo now).

### Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival at Lake Skinner, CA

Jeff Matuzak does all of the church recruiting to obtain volunteers. Last year, 19 of us shared the gospel with 290 people and 162 of these prayed to receive the Lord into their hearts! Do they drink wine there? The answer is **yes**.

**OUR THANKS to those of you who are supporting us with your prayers and financial gifts.**

**As you know, it costs a great deal of money to ship our gospel booklets and Bibles worldwide, and to have these 20 outreaches yearly (\$116,000 last year alone).**

**Please keep those checks coming—we need them!**

**Our officers receive NO salaries.**

