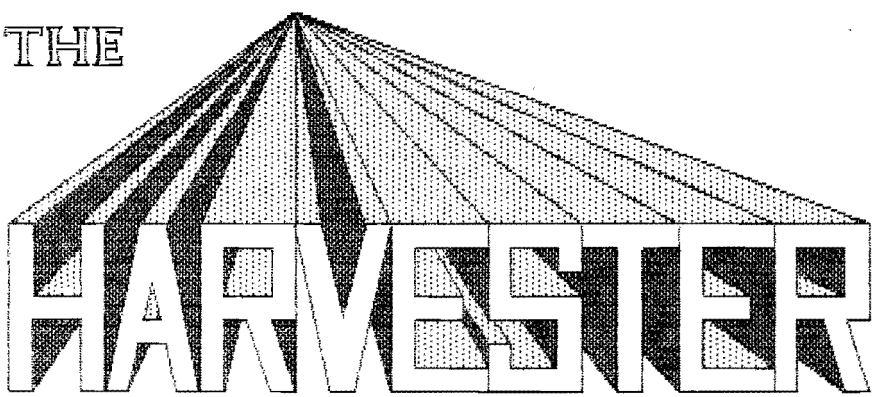


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." [Luke 10:2]

APRIL 1995

No. 112

## TOO YOUNG

The day dawned bright and sunny in Dantin, Arkansas. It was the 28th of May 1972, the day that Jane Evans had been waiting for longer than she could remember. It was graduation day at West-Central High School. And this year was Jane's year, she had finally made it. That morning her parents gave her a new car, a shiny blue Camaro, for a graduation present. Her parents were so proud of her, and she deserved it. She had worked so hard in school. She didn't quite make it to the top of her class, but she did finish fourth out of 78. At breakfast that morning, Jane thought to herself, that this day, which she had dreamed about for so long, was going to be even better than she had ever imagined.

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That afternoon Jane got in her new car and drove it for the first time. She had to be at school early to help set up everything for the ceremony that night. As she drove down Fourteenth Street toward the school, she couldn't help but think that she must be the luckiest girl alive. She had a wonderful loving family. She had a new car. She would be graduating from high school in a few hours. And a little over two years ago she had met and fallen in love with her fiance, Robert, whom she planned to marry the following Spring. Yes, this was the happiest day of Jane Evans' young life. But as it happened May 28th, 1972, was also the day Jane Evans died.

Just two blocks from the school, a man whose only apparent reason for living was to get drunk, ran a red light, and crashed broadside into Jane's new Camaro. She was dead long before the ambulance ever arrived. "What a waste," a passerby was heard to say, she was *too young*.

Later that evening, on the other side of town, Hank Thompson, who had just turned 85 in April, decided he would go to bed early that night. He had felt a little tired all day, and after seeing the news report about the tragic death of that young girl on the way to her graduation, he just didn't feel much like sitting up and watching Johnny Carson. Later that night, sometime after Jane's mother had finally managed to cry herself to sleep across town, Hank Thompson's heart, which had beat so faithfully for over 85 years, simply stopped.

Two days later the friends and family of Jane and Hank gathered at the local funeral home to pay their last respects. But there was quite an obvious difference in the mood of these two families. While both Jane and Hank were dearly loved by their families, Jane's death was

so unexpected, Hank's was not. After all, he was 85. It isn't shocking when an 85 year old man's heart gives out on him. But it is shocking when such a young and bright life is snuffed out so quickly. Hank's family was having a much easier time dealing with the turn of events than was Jane's.

Occasionally some members of Jane's and Hank's families would talk to each other. And almost without fail, each conversation eventually led around to the same thing. They would begin to compare the lives of Jane and Hank. Poor Jane had never lived, they said. She would never have a husband. She would never know the joys of motherhood. She never even got to graduate from high school, something she had wanted so badly. What a shame, Jane had died way *too young*. But Hank, on the other hand, had lived a wonderful life. He had a loving and loyal wife for 57 years. They had raised 5 children, and had more grandchildren and great-grandchildren than they could keep track of. Hank's family was saddened by his passing to be sure, but they had no regrets about his life. They could accept his death, but Jane's family could not.

But this is not the end of our story, no more than death is the end of life. You see, there came a great day, many years later, when both Jane and Hank were resurrected from the dead. Jane, who had seemingly been cheated by life, was taken up into Heaven. Hank, on the other hand, found himself banished into outer darkness for all eternity.

About two years before her death, Jane had become a Christian. Her parents had never really been religious, but her fiance, Robert, definitely was. Soon after they had started dating she began going to church with him.

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Lk. 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, and all correspondence to:

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Robert also studied the Bible with her, and it wasn't long before she was baptized.

Hank, though, had never cared much for religion. Oh, he was a good man alright. A fine man indeed by most accounts. But he had just never taken the time to get involved with religion on his own, and no one had bothered to try to talk with him about it. And it was such a shame too, because being the kind of man he was, Hank would have probably listened. But it was too late now, what's done is done.

Think about how wrong those grieving families had been many years before. Bewailing poor Jane because she had been robbed of her life so unjustly. "It wasn't fair!" they had said, she had simply died *too young*. But they consoled themselves with the knowledge that Hank had enjoyed a long full life. He had perhaps even gotten a little more than his share. But it was Jane who lived long enough to make preparations for eternity, not Hank. Perhaps it was Hank who died *too young*, after all.

Whether you are 18 or 85 life is never certain. God is the only constant we can have in our lives. Friends, now I put the question to you,

"Are YOU another Hank Thompson?" Even if you live to be a hundred, will you die "too young" to meet God???

TONY WHIDDON

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What king (Pharaoh) of Egypt killed Josiah?
2. When did Jesus say He would not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God came?
3. Are the faces of those who look to the Lord ever covered with shame?
4. What are the only two settings in the Bible in which we find Salome?
5. What was to happen to the Israelites who worshipped the sun, moon, or stars?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. To which tribe did King Saul belong?  
BENJAMIN (1 Sam. 9:1,2)
2. What did Christ tell the disciples to remember if the world hated them? IT HATED HIM FIRST (John 15:18)
3. What troubled the Sadducees about the teaching of the apostles? PREACHING THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD (Acts 4:2)
4. What did David do when the ruthless witnesses who witnessed against him became sick? HE PRAYED FOR THEM AS THOUGH FOR A FRIEND OR BROTHER (Psa. 35:11-15)

5. What book of the Bible records events covering the greatest amount of time?  
GENESIS

## CHILD RIGHTS?

On November 20, 1989 the United Nations General Assembly approved a seemingly harmless treaty called the "United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child" (UNCRC). At that time the United States of America was one of the few nations NOT to support this document. Our leadership probably recognized the potential hazards associated with the UNCRC. Unfortunately our current President and a number of Senators are seeking to ratify this same treaty for our country. On February 17, 1995, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations signed the UNCRC, under the directive from the Clinton administration.

If ratified, the UNCRC would become a new law designed to "free" children from the direction and authority of their parents! Is this what our nation needs today? As an example, consider now the following "freedoms" that would be granted to each child under the UNCRC and the implications that would go with it. They are:

\* Freedom of Association - i.e., no parental right to protect your children from predatory "friends"!

\* Freedom of Expression - i.e., no parental right to restrict/discipline children for vulgar, rude or obscene language or immoral actions!

\* Freedom of Religion - i.e., no parental right to raise your child in your religious faith!

\* Right to Privacy - i.e., no parental right to monitor your child's activities, including abortion!

\* Right to Sex - i.e., no parental right to stop your child at any age to privately enter into illicit sexual relationships!

\* Right to Education - i.e., your children can choose their own education without parental input!

\* Right to All Information/Media Access - i.e., no parental rights to restrict television or video or movie viewing, etc!

\* Freedom of Punishment - i.e., no parental right to administer corporal punishment, spanking, "grounding", etc!

The UNCRC further states that parental violation of these "children rights" could result in prosecution and the removal of the child from the home!

The UNCRC has not been approved in the U.S., . . . yet. But Senate Resolution 70 is slowly gaining momentum among the liberals of our government. Before we support this treaty, we need to examine it more closely and note the implications that could come with it. Is the idea behind this document "*from heaven, or of men?*" (Matt. 21:25) Will such a law actually help us to bring up our children "*in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*"? (Eph. 6:4)

RAY

THE FAITH THAT FIZZLES 'FORE  
THE FINISH HAD A FLAW IN IT  
FROM THE FIRST.

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
April 2 - 7	West Broad Street Wedowee, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 12 - 14	Barnes' Ridge Church Livingston, TN	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
April 17 - 21	Hopkinsville, OH	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 21 - 23	Fairview Church Oxford, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)



## ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

- 1. The Bible is its only guide (Rom. 1:16;  
1 Thes. 2:13).*
- 2. It wears a Biblical name (Rom. 16:16).*
- 3. It was established at the right place  
(Isa. 2:2,3; Acts 2).*
- 4. It was established at the right time  
(Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).*
- 5. It was established on the right person  
(Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:36).*
- 6. The saved are in it (Eph. 5:23;  
Acts 2:47).*
- 7. Its members are enrolled in heaven  
(Heb. 12:23).*
- 8. Membership in it is obtained by  
obedience to God's commands  
including baptism (Acts 2:41-47;  
1 Cor. 12:13).*