

CHRISTIAN LIGHT PUBLICATIONS

March – April 2011

Do You Take Myrrh?

There are two ways to become like Jesus. One way is to copy Him. By observing His words and actions, we can try to model our life after Jesus by doing things such as helping the sick or getting up early to pray. Though this type of conforming is not wrong, it misses the true nature of the new covenant life.

Romans 6:5 explains how we can become like Jesus in a deeper way—through the supernatural work of God. “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”

This verse is a promise. If by faith we identify with Jesus and die with Him, crucifying the old man that our body of sin may be destroyed, God will make us like Jesus, implanting the glory of the resurrected Jesus into our hearts. The new life of Christ can then grow and conform us into the image of Jesus Christ, so that we become like Him in our daily walk.

Sadly, many professing Christians do not experience this resurrection power. They are angry, depressed, fearful, and suspicious.

Deep inside they feel miserable and unhappy, and covet the glory they see in other Christians. What is wrong? Why do some manifest glory while others do not?

We know God does not lie. If we are truly planted together with Jesus in the likeness of His death, God will share His glory with us. Thus, the fault lies with people. Somehow, people are not being properly planted in Christ’s death. Something is wrong in the dying.

In the Gospels we read how Jesus died, and it reveals a way we need to identify with His death. At the site of His execution He was offered a drink of wine mingled with myrrh. It was a custom of the Jews to give this mixture to people condemned to death, providing some relief from the pain. But Jesus refused the mixture.

Like Jesus, the Christian also experiences pain at the cross. It stings when God reveals pride which needs to die. And just like Jesus, we are

offered mixtures designed to ease the pain. Are you hurting because God has said no

to courtship because you need to deal with something in your life? Here, sip from this earthly

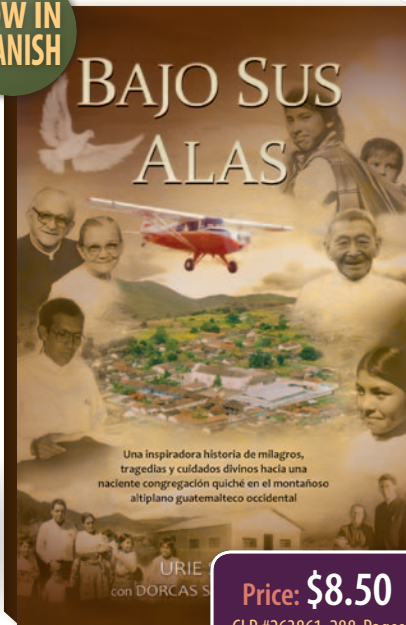
music. Or does your heart ache because God took away your business

to deal with your covetousness?



Continued on page 3

NOW IN SPANISH



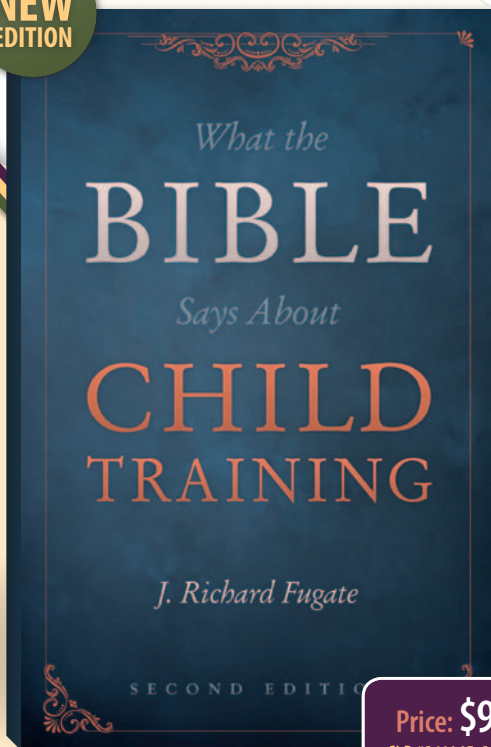
Price: \$8.50
CLP #263861, 288 Pages

UNDER HIS WINGS *Urie Sharp*

Beyond the end of the road in Guatemala's Quiche highlands, Indians were hopelessly lost in a quagmire of sorcery, superstition, and drunkenness. The missionary pilot longed to bring the Gospel to them—but could missionaries survive among them? A tiny church not only began, but also grew.

A ringing testimony that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against the church.

NEW EDITION



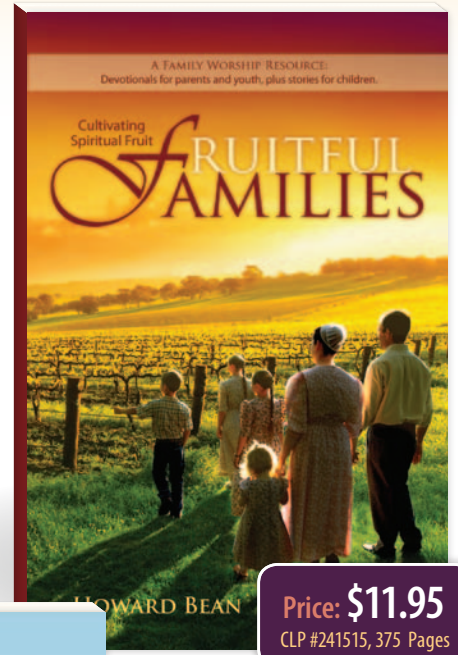
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Howard Bean Many parents see the importance of family worship, but struggle to find material suitable for their whole family. *Fruitful Families* addresses that need. The book is broken into ninety-one lessons. Each day's lesson consists of two parts. The first part is especially for Dad and Mom and older children while the second part consists of a reading from a continued children's story. This story is related to that week's theme and includes discussion questions which apply the theme to everyday life.



Price: \$11.95
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NOT REGINA

Christmas Carol
Kauffman

The 1500s were stirring times in Europe. Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to a church door in Germany, exploding a powder keg of unrest that seethed for decades. Against this background, Regina Strahm found herself caught between two religious factions in Switzerland. Her parents repeatedly warned her against the Anabaptist heresy, but why then did Zwingli's official religion fail to satisfy? And why were the Anabaptists willing to die for their faith? Regina discovered why, and found a joy she had never before known.



Price: \$8.95
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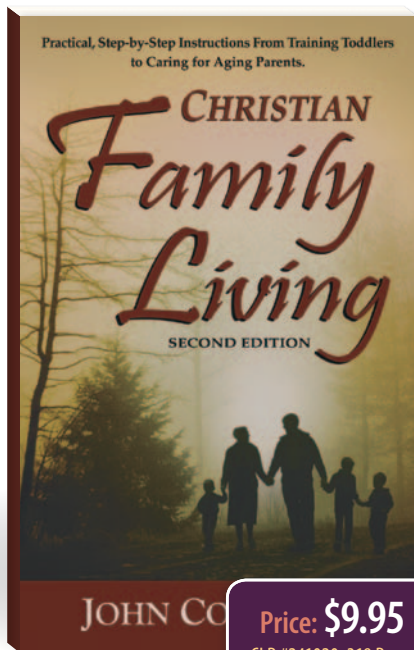
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Continued from page 1 → Here, try this delicious chocolate cake. Eating cake is not wrong, but food, alcohol, gambling, self-pity, and making money are all common offerings that blunt the pain, but dull the senses.

To live like Jesus, we need to die like Jesus, and refuse the offerings of this world to evade the pain. Paul knew this secret when he declared why he wanted to identify with Jesus, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made *conformable unto his death*” (Philippians 3:10). Paul actually wanted to become like Jesus in his death, trusting in the Father to sustain him through the destruction of the flesh.

Are you down and discouraged about your Christian life? Do you long for the beauty of Jesus to shine through your spirit? Perhaps you need to learn how to go to the cross. Perhaps you need to check your drinking habits, and refuse the myrrh. ■



CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIVING

John Coblenz
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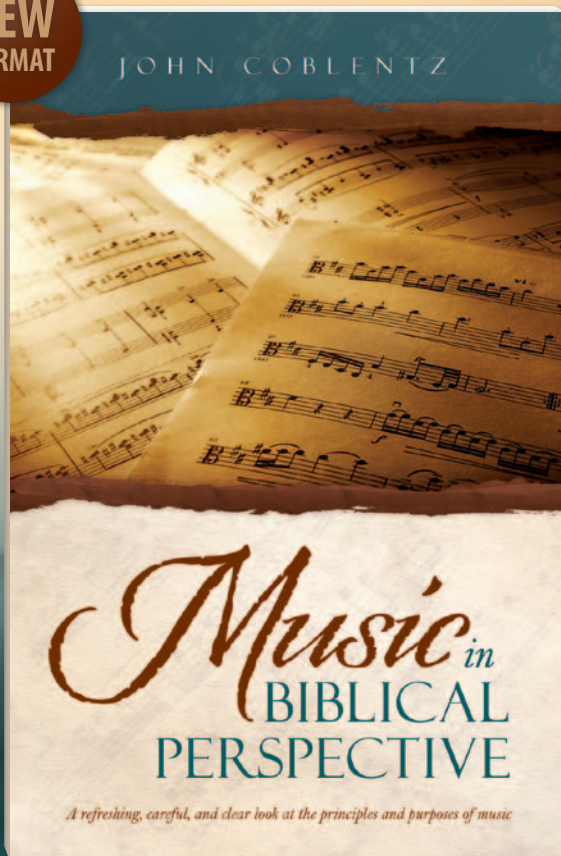
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