

ON THE SPOT

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Doves Don't Scheme

A lot of scheming is going on in the world, and a lot of scheming is mentioned in the Bible. In the new edition of PRESSING ON!, see below, Satan is named as the master-schemer, some of his accomplices being Jezebel and daughter Athaliah, and later Haman.

There is a most remarkable scripture where all man's scheming is portrayed in its proper light as directed against the **CHRIST**, be it political, financial, military, philosophical, religious, educational, scientific, etc. In as much as it originates in the mind of Satan, it aims to dethrone God's King and throw off his hated restraints. Of course, no effort is spared to make Satan's schemes appear plausible. You may have realized I'm thinking of Psalm 2.

Take education - the children that have survived their mother's womb must NOT be taught Creation. But they MUST be taught that marriage did not originate with God and can be manipulated to mean whatever MAN judges convenient...

Should you have the temerity to take a public stand, because of your conscience and your faith, and because you have seen through it all, you may lose money, liberty or job. It is not a laughing matter..., to us, that is. The psalm tells us that to God all this scheming is not only pathetic, but super-ridiculous.

He told us to 'be wise as serpents and harmless as doves', that is, to be wise and discerning without the guile and the scheming, in simple and joyful dependence on HIM, 'as sheep in the midst of wolves'. The psalm also shows that things are rapidly winding down.

Maranatha!

**NOW IN HARDCOPY AND PDF!
LET US KNOW WHICH YOU PREFER.**

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- "WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO 2 TH. 2:3?" - JvH
- "The City of the Cursed" (part two) - JvH
- "Anamaría"; "LOOK UP!" (Colossians) - Howel Jones
- "I Can Shoot Him Afterwards"

PRESSING ON!



Dear friends,

With a lot on my plate, I don't sometimes get down to writing personal letters when I should. Please forgive me! But I'm glad that 'On the Spot' helps to keep in touch. Just now, in these last few days, word has come from Holland, South America and Australia, about very dear friends who have left us to go and meet their Savior. How much I'd like to travel and be present at the funerals - to sorrow with the ones left behind (because of their physical separation), yet, at the same time, to rejoice with them greatly because of the wonderful spiritual realities in Christ. From experience I know something of the great encouragement there is in that.

Distance often makes it impossible to travel on such occasions. However, while praying for my good friends **Emil** and **Corrie** Kreunen in Norway, there was a difference. Emil, my friend of long years, had been our 'best man' when Janet and I married in Holland, in May 1963. He did a great job! Then, two months later, when we were already in Spain, Emil married Corrie. They later went to Norway as missionaries. We were out of touch for a while, but then, especially during the last ten years, we tightened the old friendship again, and they were with us twice in this area for vacation.

Healthwise things weren't going well with Corrie. There were many operations, she landed in a wheelchair, and both were faced with severe challenges. As I kept praying for them through the years, it came to me that, whenever Corrie should go, I must travel and be with Emil. Mid-January, Emil called to say that Corrie had gone home. Remember they got married two months after we did. Now their marriage was dissolved two months after ours. In other words, theirs too lasted exactly $51\frac{1}{2}$ years. It was uncanny, but it was the Lord's doing! And Corrie and Janet have been rejoicing together ever since!

Before long I was on the 4-hour flight to snow- and ice-covered Norway. Five very special days followed. Once again the remarkable character of a believer's funeral stood out, and a good number of non-committed friends heard the Gospel that there is One who conquered death for all.

Another great experience in a country where I did not know anyone else, nor the language, was meeting a **house-church** and experiencing their love and hospitality. Sharing from the Word with them in English proved to be a blessing. They even took me out witnessing to a neighbor and to a friend! Now Facebook helps to stay in touch!

In February, it was Scandinavia again. This time two Swedish ladies in their early 70s, **Asa** and **Mira**, were put in touch with me. They have lived in this area for 18 years, but when their Swiss bank froze their account because of new rules, which they didn't know anything about, Asa & Mira were put out of their rented apartment, i.e. some time later. Their money had dried up. For weeks they roamed the streets - no food, no shelter, no bed, no sanitation - you'd wonder how they survived, and their two little dogs.

Eventually I was able to place them in **Karen**'s little 'farm', just outside the town. Karen, our good friend in England thought that was a good idea. With some help, they have now recovered from their ordeal, but to get things sorted out financially, that is another story. A real-estate family, good friends, are fortunately giving a helping hand with the paper-work. And all of us, in the mean time, are happy to see the ladies coming to our meetings

Solomon said that "of making many books there is no end". As I seek to do literature work every day, also for the Internet, I've at last caught up with Solomon. But how grateful I am that much of this written ministry is of use to help believers and unbelievers alike.

Before very long we hope to have baptisms. **Jesús** and **Amanda**, the young couple, have 'come through' (as we say), and are now asking for baptism. There was a problem - they were living together, but not married. Then, a few weeks ago, they took that step of marriage, and we had celebrations and ring-exchange in the hall! A different problem is their lack of work *and* health...

You may remember that in the past we have mentioned **Elaine** at some point. She is **Michael**'s aunt and a dearly beloved sister in Christ. For weeks Elaine hasn't been well; she was hospitalized and now she has been diagnosed with cancer. We are waiting to know whether the doctors think it is operable. You may want to join us in upholding her in prayer. She is in good spirits and the hospital stay is leading to great opportunities for witness.

BRIEFS: **Lydia** is hoping to be with me from May 16 till 22. This is somewhat in preparation for their complete move to Southern Andalucía later on this year. **Dave** needs to live in a dryer climate than England's.

Latin America has long been calling. I may be there this summer. No details yet. **Esteban**, my neighbor, just turned 40. He still misses Janet's daily visits. To compensate a little, he pays me a daily visit. Pray for him!

With this and with **The Illustration**, I leave you with, on my part, a deep sense of gratitude for your faithful intercession,

Jim

The Fishless Fishermen



The Illustration

They were surrounded by streams and lakes full of hungry fish. They met regularly to discuss the call to fish, the abundance of fish, and the thrill of catching fish. They got excited about fishing!

Someone suggested that they needed a philosophy of fishing, so they carefully defined and redefined fishing, and the purpose of fishing. They developed fishing strategies and tactics. Then they realized that they had been going at it backwards. They had approached fishing from the point of view of the fisherman, and not from the point of view of the fish. How do fish view the world? How does the fisherman appear to the fish? What do fish eat, and when?

These are all good things to know. So they began research studies, and attended conferences on fishing. Some traveled to faraway places to study different kinds of fish with different habits. Some got doctorates in fishology. But no one had yet gone fishing.

So a committee was formed to send out fishermen. As prospective fishing places outnumbered fishermen, the committee needed to determine priorities. A priority list of fishing places was posted on bulletin boards in all of the fellowship halls. But still, no one was fishing. A survey was launched to find out why.

Most did not answer the survey, but from those who did, it was discovered that some felt called to study fish, a few to furnish fishing equipment, and several to go around encouraging the fishermen. What with meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops, they just simply didn't have time to fish.

Now, Jake was a newcomer to the Fisherman's Fellowship. After one stirring meeting of the Fellowship, he went fishing and caught a large fish. At the next meeting, he told his story and was honored for his catch. He was told that he had a special "gift of fishing". He was then scheduled to speak at all the Fellowship chapters and tell how he did it.

With all the speaking invitations and his election to the board of directors of the Fisherman's Fellowship, Jake no longer had time to go fishing. But soon he began to feel restless and empty. He longed to feel the tug on the line once again. So he cut the speaking, he resigned from the board, and he said to a friend, "Let's go fishing." They did, just the two of them, and they caught fish.

The members of the Fisherman's Fellowship were many, the fish were plentiful, but the fishers were few!

Anonymous.

Jesus said: "I will make you fishers of men!"