

Life

In the Upside-Down World

EPISODE #14

By Warren Litzman

Earl Scoggins was a faithful pastor. He had pastored his current church for over 25 years. But in the last two years, everything had changed. The attendance had fallen off considerably with some of his best friends changing to other churches. Several of the people had gone to the new super-church downtown. This was heart-breaking and caused him to blame himself for the exodus from the church. Was there something wrong with his preaching? Was he not inspiring anymore? Had God forsaken him?

Several times in the past two years, he felt he should resign, leave the church to someone else. But his love for the people who had been there during all the exodus caused him to hold on. He had thought several times he should drop the programs God had blessed him with through the years—maybe try some programs the big church promoted—but even a slight investigation of what ran a super-church was contrary to his understanding of the gospel as he knew it. What was he to do? His world was truly upside-down.

In his schedule for the week, he was to see an eye doctor about a twitch in one eye. He went to the doctor's office and checked in. As he sat in the waiting room, he glanced over to a table that had a bunch of magazines on it. He went over and pick up one. One caught his eye; its title read *Life in the Son*. Ordinarily, he would pass up reading a religious magazine, but something impressed him, and he picked it up deciding to look through it.

He casually thumbed through it until he was struck by its difference. He read a short article and was called by the nurse to come in. He asked the doctor what he knew about the magazine. The doctor replied that a little lady he was treating brought some of the magazines with her every time she came in, and he didn't know anything about what the magazine was saying, but almost all of the magazines were taken over a short period of time.

Earl took one of magazines home with him and read every message in it. He was thrilled to know such a message existed. Led of the Holy Spirit, he went to the phone and called the office of the publication in Dallas, Texas. They recommended several books to him that he ordered right then. As he studied, a fire started building up in him. He realized his problem was not using new programs, but rather preaching a new message, Paul's gospel.

He made an intense study of the Christ-life message and realized its truth was what the people wanted and needed. When the word got around that Earl Scoggins had a new message, new people started coming to his church, and even some of the old members returned. Earl's upside-down world began to turn up-right.

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