

THE SABBATICAL COMMUNIQUE OF
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By the time this communique is in your hands...or your wastebasket, whichever comes first, I will have finished my work at Word of Life, in the will of God, and gone to Detroit (Plymouth, Michigan) for a week end conference. I am working on a subject which is entitled ambitiously "The Revitalized Believer"...and is subtitled "a study in spiritual renewal, growth, and maturity." I am working heavily out of Hosea 14 as a major text and am seeking to expound this subject in this text. I am planning four messages on the theme and we all know that will not complete the study but it should be a start. The Editor, as most of his students know, loves to preach. It is one of the side benefits of seminary life...the opportunity to teach in the academic institution and also to share concepts of truth with those in the regular world. It keeps one out of the "ivory tower" and I think enriches one's teaching. And there are all sorts of these conferences. The Editor is not one of the great teachers...he has admired Mr. Dunzweiler's pulpit skill in teaching a subject; he is not a great exhorter...he appreciates Mr. Harding's gift in this area; and having heard a strong message by Dr. Murray recently he has concluded that he, the Editor, is not a very powerful evangelist, either. He likes to work with spiritual ideas and try to pragmatize them and this is what most of his conferences consist of. So we can't say much about it...it hasn't even happened yet but as the Lord allows the Editor will have gone from Word of Life to Detroit and thence to other places as well. He does expect to be home and again and in his office on the 16th of April on which day he invites all his counsellees to have lunch with him...at his expense.

But I had noted for you in previous communiques the unusual train of events that led me to a personal experimentation quite out of the ordinary. The Taylors are an adventurous people but most of their really big adventures are at the refrigerator. Here, suddenly I was on another planet in a galaxy utterly unknown to us and utterly unfamiliar to me...but I did not feel frightened...it was a strange sense of calm that gripped me when I was greeted as mentioned in my last note.

Now I must tell things rapidly and not go into too much detail. I