

UNIT

I

VERSE TO MEMORIZE

“I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE
BRANCHES. IF A MAN REMAINS IN
ME AND I IN HIM, HE WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT; APART FROM ME
YOU CAN DO NOTHING.”

JOHN 15:5

God's Will and Your Life

VANCOUVER WORLD'S FAIR

When the World's Fair was coming to Vancouver, our association of churches was convinced God wanted us to try to reach the 22 million people who would come to our city. We had about 2,000 members in our churches. How in the world could our little group make much impact on such a mass of tourists from all over the world?

Two years before the fair, we began to set our plans in motion. The total income for our association was \$9,000. The following year it grew to \$16,000. The year of the World's Fair, we set a budget for \$202,000.¹ We had commitments that would provide 35 percent of that budget. Sixty-five percent of it depended on prayer. Can you operate a budget on prayer? Yes. But when you do that, you are attempting something only God can do. What do most of us do? We set the practical budget, which represents what we can do. Then we might set a second hope or faith budget. The budget we really trust and use, however, is the one we can reach by ourselves. We do not really trust God to make a practical difference in what we do.

As an association of churches, we decided God had definitely led us to the work that would cost \$202,000. That became our operating budget. All of our people began praying for God to provide for everything we believed He had led us to do during the World's Fair. At the end of the year, I asked our treasurer how much money we had received. From Canada, the United States, and other parts of the world we had received \$264,000. People from all over North America assisted us. During the fair we became a catalyst to see almost 20,000 people accept Jesus Christ. You cannot explain that except in terms of God's intervention. Only God could have done that. He accomplished it with a people who had determined to be servants and were moldable and available for their Master's use.

1. Throughout this book I will give illustrations that sometimes mention amounts of money. Don't get caught up in the amounts, since they are relative to the year when the event took place. Some amounts may seem small by current standards, while other amounts may seem inconceivably large in other cultures or economies. Focus instead on the faith required or the miraculous timing and provision of the Lord in regard to the need. In the case above, the amounts merely indicate the size of the faith required when the people compared the proposed budget to their previous experience.