



Speech by Paul Tretter President of Gifts of the Spirit Church

It was 33 years ago, in 1954, that a very special conception took place. High on a mountaintop in North Carolina, our good friend and pastor, Rev. Carl R. Hewitt, was given a thought by Spirit, or to say it another way, had a very special Spiritual seed planted within his mind. He was shown

a vision, of a special haven, a church which would act as a lighthouse, to guide people through a dark, confusing world of ignorance. This church would become known as Gifts of the Spirit Church, and Rev. Hewitt would become its founder.

Rev. Hewitt has often referred to himself as a Spiritual farmer. planting the seeds of Spiritual truth within the minds of the people who cross his path. However, he doesn't frequently discuss the tedious nature of this planting process.

Most people would think that planting spiritual needs is an easy task. Teaching people, who are hungry for truth would just be a matter of passing on the proper information. But these people are quite mistaken for Spiritual seeds require very special care before they can germinate and grow.

The process of planting seeds can be very painful because the soil of the mind needs to be cultivated. One must be ready for dramatic upheavals, as the soil must be harrowed, uprooting the heavy stones of old dogmas. Then new ideas can be carefully tilled into the mind, as the seeds are sown, that need to be well watered with love and understanding. An ever vigilant eye must keep watch to answer the infinite number of questions that keep popping out of the ground, which need to be answered and weeded out. Even though large amounts of the fertilizers called confidence and courage are to be mixed into the soil, this still does not protect the sprouting seeds from the 1 extreme dangers of the deadly pestilence of self-doubt, self—worthlessness, and jealousy from other people. But after careful nurturing, which may take hours, months, or even years, the seeds planted within a mind take root, not only in a person's mind but also their soul. They grow into a strong, healthy plant, which will eventually flower creating a beautiful, fragrant blossom.

Before Rev. Hewitt could plant spiritual seeds in other people's minds, he had to experience the entire process himself. Is it any wonder that it took 23 years from the conception of the Gifts of the Spirit Church and Psychic Research Center, when the minute seed of thought was planted in his mind, until its birth, ten years ago this month.

It is an extreme honor for me as the President of Gifts of the Spirit Church, to welcome you to our tenth birthday celebration. For it is at this point in time, that we are able to view a mature plant that has weathered several storms, and seasons, and has remained healthy with its roots anchored firmly in the ground. And now we are about to witness and experience the sweet fragrance of its very first blossoms.

Let us now pay homage to our diligent pastor, who not only plants spiritual seeds within others but has mastered the art of growing his own Spiritual garden.