

"When she turned 100, we had a surprise party for her at church," Carlson said. "She wasn't very happy. She doesn't want any

Does she think that the younger generations, especially today's teenagers, have that same helpful attitude? She had noth-

do me much good these days," she said. But it stuck with her, so much so that very few people know her daughter as Elizabeth. Every-

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BRIEFLY

Inspirational words for an on-the-go society

By JEFF STRICKLER
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Coming soon to a windshield near you: an inspiring Bible verse or other motivating message.

Bloomington resident Jane Brown has come up with a system that displays inspirational messages at the bottom of a car windshield. The messages, in transparent white lettering that complies with the laws in all 50 states, are reflected onto the glass from a tray that is anchored on the dashboard.

Called Driving Reflections, they are being sold through Brown's company, Get It In Your Soul. She came up with the idea by happenstance.

"I was driving my car one day when someone had thrown a newspaper up on the dashboard, and I realized that I could see the type on the paper reflected in the windshield," she said. "At the time, I was doing a lot of Bible study work, and I said, 'This would be so cool if we could do it with the Bible verses.'"

The reflection relies on available

light, which means that it works best in the daytime, but it works at night, too.

"A street light will work, and so will a light in a parking lot," she said. "It's so fun to be driving down 494 at night and pass under a street light and see the message pop out at you."

She doesn't think the messages are distracting.

"Certainly less so than a cell phone," she said. The Bible verses are paraphrased to "keep the messages short. It doesn't take any longer to look at them than it does to glance down to see how fast you're going."

For \$9.99, you get the tray and 14 messages, which come in two main styles: biblical and inspirational. The biblical offerings are divided into subsets ranging from "prosperity" ("God has a blessing with my name on it") to "empowerment" ("I come boldly to the throne of grace") to a set called "worry-free living" ("Jesus eliminates all my fears").

The inspirational messages range from general attitude issues ("I choose to live in and be filled with joy") to specific weight-loss advice



("I no longer react to stress and anxiety by overeating"). And for those who can't decide, there's a variety pack with a little of everything.

Driving Reflections are available online at www.getityoursoul.com or at Christian bookstores, including Bachmann & Associates in Lake Elmo, Works of Faith in Ridgedale and Vine and Branches in St. Paul. They also are carried by several church bookstores, including those at Speak the Word Church in Golden Valley, Grace Church in Eden Prairie, Hosanna Lutheran Church in Lakeville and Community of Hope Church in Rosemount. (A list of retail outlets outside the metro area

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is available on the website.)

Brown's favorite message is: "I hear God's word behind me saying, 'This is the way.'" And, yes, she realizes that it could be interpreted as meaning that "God is my back-seat driver," she said with a laugh.

The Bible as drama

David Rhoads is used to seeing raised eyebrows when he says he is going to "perform" one of the books of the Bible. But the professor at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, who will recite Galatians from memory at a Roseville church Thursday evening, insists that he's presenting the material the way it was meant

to be presented.

"Paul's letter to the Galatians was drafted for the purposes of being performed," he said. "All the books in the New Testament are like that. When they were written, 95 percent of the people couldn't read. The books were meant to be experienced as drama."

Gestures, facial expressions and voice inflections shape the message, both for listeners and the presenter.

"Memorizing and presenting it changes the way I relate to it," he said. "As biblical scholars, we spend all our time studying texts. But that's like a musicologist who never goes to a concert or a Shakespearean scholar who never sees a play. We've lost the dramatic experience of these pieces."

Rhoads has spent 20 years "studying how this works and trying to recover it," he said. In addition to oral renditions of Galatians, he has done them for Mark, 1st Peter, James, Revelation and the Sermon on the Mount.

"On Sunday mornings, we break these books into bits and pieces for lessons," he said. "There's a payoff in hearing them from beginning to end and getting a feel for what is said and the passion with which it is said."

His Galatians presentation will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 W. Roselawn Av. Admission is free.

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