

Shortsighted Bishop

Some people are blessed with the gift of vision -- the ability to have a glimpse of the future, to dream and to make it come true. Others cannot see beyond the end of their noses.

In the book, "A Saviour for All Seasons," William Barker relates the story of a bishop from the East Coast who many years ago paid a visit to a small, Midwestern religious college. He stayed at the home of the college president, who also served as professor of physics and chemistry.

After dinner, the bishop declared that the millennium couldn't be far off, because just about everything about nature had been discovered and all inventions conceived.

The young college president politely disagreed, and said he felt there would be many more discoveries. When the angered bishop challenged the president to name just one such invention, the president replied he was certain that within 50 years men would be able to fly.

"Nonsense!" sputtered the outraged bishop. "Only angels are intended to fly."

The great irony of this story is that the bishop's name was Milton Wright, and he had two boys at home who would prove to have greater vision than their father. Their names: Orville and Wilbur.

--Beecher Hunter