"Greetings from James, the slave of God, to the Jewish believers scattered abroad."

- (1) We look ahead to joy when we encounter the troubles and trials of life, 1:2.
- (2) We look ahead to joy because we know that this testing of our faith will produce steadfastness, 1:3.
- (3) We look ahead to joy and receive joy: A life of perfect satisfaction, 1:4.

Trials ... Enemy or Friend?

A Letter of Encouragement from Pastor Whacko!

• How nice ... a letter of encouragement from Pastor Whacko! "Don't worry ... be happy!" Then and now James' command to "Consider it pure joy ... whenever you face trials of many kinds" sounds irrational! Put this verse on a sign next to the expressway and it would appear to be the work of a crazed fanatic. Indeed, to any culture (including ours) determined to insulate itself from trials, even from discomforts, this sounds crazy. Tragically, it even seems irrational to many who identify with Christianity (Kent Hughes).

