

*The Pentecostal*

5¢

# EVANGEL

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD

NOVEMBER 25, 1956



H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS PHOTO

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.

# A Hymn of Hope

World events jolt us into a realization of the fact that the coming of the Lord must be very near. The fires of war have been kindled in the Middle East and a world-wide conflagration may or may not be at hand. News headlines tell of war and bloodshed in many lands. An uprising in Hungary, where people had grown tired of tyranny, has been cruelly crushed with horrible massacres. Israel, weary with years of blockade at the hands of her ancient taskmasters, has struck against the modern Pharaoh and won signal victories. Britain and France, impatient with the United Nations' failure to avenge their cause in North Africa, have seized the Suez Canal. And the U.N. has become so alarmed over the situation that it has organized a military police force of its own to intervene in an attempt to stop further bloodshed.

There is a temptation to speculate on what may happen next. The Bible clearly indicates that the Middle East is the area where the decisive events of the end-time will occur. Are we about to see an uprising of the entire Arab world? Will Russia attack Israel at this time? Will the armies of the nations, marching beneath U. N. banners, now attempt to occupy Israel and precipitate the battle of Armageddon?

We are reminded of the time when the disciples of our Lord Jesus grew curious and came to Him, asking, "What will happen next? Is this the time, Master? Are you at this time about to restore the kingdom of Israel?" And Jesus answered them, saying, "It is not for you to know times and occasions which the Father has fixed in His own authority; yet you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you are to be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the very ends of the earth" (Acts 1:6-8, Montgomery). Were we to say to Him now, "Master, what will happen next?" no doubt He would give us a similar answer. He would tell us not to worry; our heavenly Father is still on the Throne. The schedule of world events is still fixed within His authority. We need not know His timetable; our responsibility is merely to wait upon God until the power of His Spirit comes upon us—then to go out among the people as His witnesses, testifying that He soon will come again and that sinners need to repent and be saved before it is too late.

Montgomery's Centenary Translation puts a new light on Titus 2:11-14. It sets these four verses off as a poetic quotation and gives them a heading, as follows:

### The Grace of God: A Hymn of Hope

"For God's grace has shined forth  
 Bringing salvation to all men  
 And schooling us to renounce impiety and evil passions,  
 And to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age;  
 While we look for the blessed hope and epiphany  
 Of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
 He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity,  
 And to purify unto Himself a people zealous of good works."

Here, then, is our calling. We are to renounce impiety and evil passions. We are to be sober, remembering the urgency of our soul-winning mission. We are to be righteous, keeping our hearts free from the dark passions that poison men's hearts in wartime. We are to be godly, realizing that our future does not depend on international events but is bound up entirely in our Lord. Our eyes, ears, and hearts are not to be buried in the newspapers but engrossed in the Word and work of our Lord, "looking for that blessed hope." His glorious appearing may come today!

# THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

THE WEEKLY VOICE OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

NOVEMBER 25, 1956

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*. . . . we believe* the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule over the nations. WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. WE BELIEVE that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. WE BELIEVE in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

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# “...AND WITH FIRE”

WHAT IS THE FIRE THAT SHOULD ACCOMPANY THE BAPTISM?

**I**N THEIR RECORDS OF THE STRIKING prophecy of John the Baptist concerning the mighty One coming after him, who was to baptize with the Holy Spirit, it is remarkable that Matthew and Luke both add the words “and with fire.”

Many and various have been the testimonies to personal experiences on the line of this “fire”; and equally diverse have been the attempts to build up a doctrine around it.

Some have even taught that there is a separate “baptism with fire,” subsequent to the baptism with the Holy Spirit. This we unhesitatingly reject as a doctrine, even though we may accept some isolated personal testimonies. We feel that these passages plainly and simply refer to two features of one identical experience. There is no record in the New Testament of disciples ever receiving any such “baptism of fire” subsequent to Pentecost, or distinct from the various occasions recorded of the giving of the Spirit. It was on the Day of Pentecost that

BY DONALD GEE

“cloven tongues like as of fire sat upon each of them,” and that experience was simultaneous with the descent of the Spirit. We shall always look with justifiable suspicion upon any doctrine of an essential crisis in a believer’s experience after the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Some have gone astray into all sorts of dangerous pathways on that line.

Our good brethren in various sections of the Holiness Movement (God bless them!) have also taught a doctrine of a sanctifying fire connected with these words, and bring us their own peculiar doctrine of a “purifying baptism.” Once again, and much more heartily this time, we can gladly accept individual testimonies, even though we reject what we certainly consider to be an unscriptural doctrine. We have no contention whatever with “purifying fire,” and earnestly desire, with Wesley, that refining fire may go through our hearts and purify our souls. Our only dis-

agreement is with confusing this with the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

There is no suggestion whatever in Acts 2 that the Pentecostal Baptism purified the waiting believers; on the contrary, our Lord had plainly said to them before Pentecost, “Now are ye clean through the word which I have spoken unto you” (John 15:3). Christ never taught that the purpose of the Promise of the Father was to purify His disciples; but He did make it perfectly plain that the divine purpose was to give them power to become His witnesses (Acts 1:8). The hearts of Cornelius and his company were purified by faith in the Lord Jesus; and the gift of the Holy Spirit was God’s witness to an accomplished fact, not God’s method of accomplishing it (Acts 15: 8, 9).

The question now remains, however, what was the “fire” that should accompany the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

(Continued on next page)

If any passage can supply a scriptural answer it must certainly be Acts 2. Fire did literally appear in the Upper Room, and the prophecy "and with fire" was fulfilled then—or never. An examination of that glorious chapter seems to us to make it clear that the "fire" which accompanied the out-poured Spirit was the prophetic fire. Peter affirmed that Pentecost fulfilled Joel's prophecy, and the predominant manifestation of the Spirit therein predicted that "they shall prophesy." They did prophesy in that Upper Room, though the age-long miracle of inspired utterance then took the form of speaking with "other tongues," as God's new sign for a new dispensation. But the inspiring Spirit (verse 4) was identical with Him who gave the inward fire to the former prophets, and who caused Jeremiah to say, "His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones" (Jer. 20:9).

It was the fire of inspiration. Now the great result of receiving the prophetic fire was that it filled the recipient with God's message. God's prophets were always essentially the Lord's messengers with the Lord's message (Hag. 1:13); and such a message is a burning thing,

glowing with heavenly fire, whether in love or anger, pity or contempt, comfort or courage. Peter was filled with just such fire when he preached on the Day of Pentecost, and the same latent fire was burning in the hearts of the eleven who stood with him. He was at that hour supremely a man with a message. He was inspired. His soul was ablaze with it. He had been baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

They became, as promised, witnesses to Christ. The essence of Peter's burning Pentecostal "sermon" is all contained in its climax—"God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." All the others who on the Day of Pentecost, and on subsequent occasions, received the promised Baptism also became burning witnesses to a crucified, risen, and exalted Saviour. Their witness was always Personal; it was about the Lord Jesus Christ. They possessed undoubting convictions about Him, and found themselves constrained by an ever-deepening love for Him. Out of this came the irresistible urge to speak to others about Him, and to "preach the gospel to every creature." The deepest motive

was a passionate faith, hope and love centered in Jesus as both Lord and Christ. We believe that our doctrine of the Baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire does not arrive at the full revelation of Scripture, even when it emphasizes producing a passion for souls. Its firstfruit has to do with our attitude of heart and mind towards Christ Himself. All else should come from that.

What shall we say to these things? "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar, it shall never go out." A so-called Pentecostal testimony, whether individual or collective, that loses the fire is no Pentecostal testimony at all. The sacred flame lit at the Pentecostal altar must never be confused merely with great zeal in service; it is the heavenly fire of divine inspiration continually fed by beholding the Lamb of God. A Baptism with the Holy Spirit without expression through inspired utterance is not the baptism spoken about in Matthew and Luke: and a Pentecostal testimony that ceases to experience the inward fire of prophecy is not "that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." We preach a Christ who baptizes with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

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# A BAPTISM OF HONESTY

by Leonard Ravenhill

**W**E HEAR A LOT THESE DAYS ABOUT water baptism, less about a baptism of fire, still less about a baptism of suffering and nothing at all about a baptism of honesty, which is perhaps our supreme need in the church at this moment.

This is the bitter truth—if we can take it—that most of us could live our lives in our present level of spirituality by sheer will power and common intelligence. We have some of self and some of God, less of self and more of God; but where are they who can say, "None of self and all of God"?

We have terminology but not tears. Affluence but not influence. Interest but not intercession. We talk but do not work. We talk of the blessed Spirit but fail to demonstrate the power of the Spirit. We are loquacious about

spiritual things but live very much after carnal things. We discourse on eternal things but delight in the things of time.

With the Euroclydon of hell sweeping over this generation we are found with a theology that is mere theory, the letter without the *life*.

With this wind of hell battering down upon her the ship of Zion is found high and dry on a sandbank of mere intellectual interpretations. The ship is rocking. Her sails are ripping. Her spars snapping. By sheer necessity she cries, "*Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.*" When she should be a lifeboat, she is flying her own distress signal, advertising to a drowning world her own "helpless soul."

When she should be full steam ahead manning her lifeboats to rescue the

perishing she is found with a sleeping crew and her engines waterlogged with a stagnant theology. Christians, awake!

This present paralysis will fill hell, forfeit reward and find us naked and ashamed at the judgment—saved by the skin of our teeth, saved as by fire.

What your church has done in the last two hundred years matters very little, my friend. What she does in the next five matters very much. Sin is not an immovable mass. I believe that the blessed Holy Spirit is an irresistible force.

The question is as simple as this concerning your church: "If all its members were just like me, what kind of church would my church be?"

The Bible says, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" (Acts 19:2). —*Prophetic News*

# THE BRIDE and BRIDEGROOM

MEDITATIONS ON "THE SONG OF SONGS"

BY ALEXANDER LINDSAY, REVERE, MASS.

*"Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee" (S. of S. 1:4).*

**T**HE SONG OF SOLOMON IS THE greatest of all songs—a beautiful love song with a spiritual meaning. This book is different from all other books of the Bible; it has a special message for us that tells of the sacred, intimate communion and fellowship of the heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, with His Bride, the Church. Surely this is holy ground.

Such fellowship is so precious that the Lord calls it the "one thing . . . needful" (Luke 10:42). To many, communion of this type is a lost art. Like Martha, they serve God, and yet do not know how to commune with Him and worship Him as Mary did.

In our text the Bride is speaking to the Bridegroom, and from the depth of her soul she cries out to Him, "Draw me." She is not as near to Him as she longs to be; and she knows that unless He draws her, she cannot come.

The Lord revealed a great truth when He told the Jews, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). The fall of man was so terrible that in the natural we have no real desire to come to God. The Bible teaches that we are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). Thus we could not make a move toward God if He did not draw us.

We have all felt the drawing power of God in our lives. What a thrilling, joyous experience to know that when we had no desire whatever for God, He loved us enough to draw us to Himself. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Thank God that He does not drive us—He draws us.

Not only before we are saved, but all through our Christian lives, it is necessary for God to draw us. The world, the flesh, and the devil contrive to draw us away from Him. In these perilous times in which we live, sin abounds, and the love of many is growing cold.

How easy it is for the Christian to leave his first love, to grow weary in well doing, to neglect his prayer life, to lose his burden for the lost. May God stir in all of us a sense of our need until we, too, will cry to Him with all our hearts, "Draw us."

"Draw me," called the bride, "and we will run after thee." All men are drawn to Christ by the love of God shown on Calvary, but many harden their hearts and refuse to come.

That was the trouble with the Jews. Jesus drew them by His teaching. They confessed, "Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46). He drew them by His mighty miracles. With their own eyes they saw Him heal the sick, unstop deaf ears, cleanse the lepers, give sight to the blind, and raise the dead; but they refused to yield to His claims. They hardened their hearts against Him until

Jesus wept over Jerusalem, crying, "How often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

Why is it that many of God's people make such little progress in their spiritual lives, do not grow in grace, or bear so little fruit? Is it not because they refuse to run after the Lord when He draws them? This is why the children of Israel wandered forty years in the wilderness when they could have been enjoying the blessings of the Promised Land. This is also the reason why many are having "wilderness" experiences today. "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race . . . before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:1, 2).

"Draw me, we will run after thee," pleaded the bride. Notice how quickly her prayer was answered, for in the next breath she cries, "The king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee." He drew her; she ran; she found herself in His chambers.

We go places if we run after the Lord when He draws us. Let us say with the writer, "O be quick, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant my feet." As we run after Him, we find ourselves in His chambers. Here we see the King in all His beauty, glory, and majesty, and we are glad and rejoice in Him. The Psalmist said, "A day in thy courts is better than a thousand" (Psa. 84:10). What, then, would a day in His chambers be like? This is the secret place of the Most High, where we abide under the shadow of the Almighty!

We have all felt the tug of God in our hearts. He draws us in different ways—by His wonderful love; by a hunger for a closer walk with God; by a divine discontent. If nothing else will avail, He sends His messengers of grief and pain; but He does it in love, to draw us unto Himself.

As He draws us, let us be quick to run after Him. Then, some day when Jesus comes, He will draw us so strongly that the law of gravity will be overruled, and we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will spend eternity in His chambers!

*The Presidential Message at the  
Annual Convention, Youth for Christ  
International, Winona Lake, Indiana*

# The Ministry of Deliverance

—BY ROBERT A. COOK



**G**OD DEMANDS A MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE. The Bible asks: "How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength? How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is? To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?" (Job 26:2-4).

I

And we are a people who need deliverance. There was an article in the paper that spoke about the need for caution in the use of these "happy" pills—the pills that reduce tension of the "worry-wart," you know? It said that people are using them too freely, and other stimulants, and then they use sleeping pills to put them to sleep, after they have over-stimulated the nervous system with one kind of pill and over-happified themselves with another kind of pill. We're getting to be a nation of people who are slaves to our neuroses, slaves to our worries, and slaves to our desires, just trying to be free and happy.

If you knew all the problems about which people have talked to us, you'd burst into tears. Young people and older people have come to our prayer tent with broken hearts and broken homes, and vile habits that bind them and make them slaves with fear and guilt and scarlet sin; they come some-

how to find rest through wise and helpful counseling and through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Need I tell you, my good friends, tonight we need not operators primarily, although that helps; not advertising men and promoters primarily, although that's good; not good expository preachers, although we'll never forsake our convictions that the Word of God is primary in its importance in the ministry—but we need, most of all, people who can deliver other people from the power of the devil and win them to Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Does this leave you somewhat bewildered and cold in your heart, and do you begin to wonder what I'm driving at? Let's bring just a few simple cases. Here is a boy who comes and says he is a victim of bad habits. He has developed, in several years, habits of life that leave him weak, leave him filled with self-loathing, leave him a slave to his lusts and practices—and he comes along and says to you, "Brother Bob, what am I going to do?"

Well, you turn his attention to the Scriptures and you say, "Look at this—'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.' Jesus will strengthen you, buddy." You turn to other scriptures like 1 Corinthians 10:13—"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer

you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." You point him to that and you say, "Look, buddy, God is able. You can believe Him. He was big enough to save you; He was great enough to love you and give Christ for your ransom; and He is great enough to deliver you. Do you believe it?"

He looks at you with eyes filled with discouragement and he says, "I've been all over this a hundred times and it doesn't work."

What are you going to do for that lad? Talking isn't going to do it, so you get down and pray, and you say, "Come on, let's talk to God." You say, "Lord, help this man and deliver him. Strengthen him." Then you say, "Now, buddy, you pray."

And he tells you, "I've done all this before and nothing works."

What are you going to do? Turn him over to somebody else to do the same thing? Are you going to say, "Well, buddy, you haven't got enough faith. You need to believe God. You need to have more faith"?

He says, "I've used up all the faith I've got. I don't know what else to do."

What you need, my friend, and what I need, if I may use the term reverently, is a direct wire to heaven so that

we can plug the power of God into that soul. He needs to be delivered. He doesn't need a lecture—he needs deliverance!

How is it with you tonight? You can run a rally, you can speak, you can sing a solo, you can lead the singing, you can sing in the choir, you can read Scripture—but when you bump against the fact that people are helpless in sin, and you can't deliver them, you had better ask *why*. God is demanding that we have a ministry of deliverance. I had rather have fewer people in Youth for Christ, but have that bunch of people in direct contact with the Almightyness of God. Wouldn't you?

## II

This text also demands that our ministry be prophetic: "How hast thou counseled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?"

The ancient prophets were noted for two things. First, they knew the mind of God; and second, they could give it out to others. They knew the mind of the Lord. Case in point: Samuel coming to meet Saul. Now, you can be very sure that King Saul had arranged everything so that he was pretty far in front of the procession and looked quite pious; and when Samuel came to see him, you can be sure there was no evidence of Saul's disobedience in sight. You remember the story: God had said to smite the Amalekites and not leave anything living. "Don't bring back any loot or booty," the Lord said. But Saul disobeyed. He brought back the king so he could brag over him. He brought back the slaves so that he could use them. He brought back the cattle so that he could have some fresh meat in his deep-freeze.

Saul couldn't fool the prophet Samuel. God had revealed the true state of affairs to His servant, saying, "Look, Saul has disobeyed Me. He is bringing back some spoil and some loot, and you've got to go talk to him." So Samuel went out to meet Saul, and I'm sure that Saul looked as pious as though he were singing, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee." But Samuel said, "What have you done? What means the lowing of the oxen, and the bleating of the sheep? What is all this I hear?" I don't believe he heard it with his ears. He had already heard it with his heart. He looked at King Saul and said, "God is through

with you, old boy, and He has gotten Himself a king who will obey Him."

Now, when David came along he fell into dreadful sin one day. God sent Nathan the prophet to him. Nathan told him a little story about a rich man with many flocks, and a poor man with one little lamb. He said the rich man, instead of killing one of his own animals to provide food for visitors, went and stole that little lamb from the poor man and used it. David immediately lost his temper and said, "That kind of man must be killed." Nathan pointed his forefinger at the king and said, "You're the man!"

You say, "Can you know the future?" You don't have to. You can know what God wants you to say this minute. I don't think you need to be a soothsayer or a fortune-teller to be an evangelical preacher, but if you're going to win souls to Christ you've got to live close enough to Jesus to know the heart of God. It's not enough to quote Bible passages. You have to be a prophet! You have to be able to say, "Thus saith the Lord"—and mean it.

Are you a prophet, or just a talker? We need a prophetic ministry. I can picture Amos with grit under his fingernails, and with straggly locks that never knew a barber shears. There he stood in the court of the king, with his whiskers flowing in the wind—stood in all his homespun garments and his home-made sandals. His voice was like a foghorn that creaked as he spoke. The perfumed court preacher advised him to go home and preach to the chickens and cows. Old Amos just fixed his eyes on them with a beady stare and said, "Listen, you court preacher and the rest of you, I am no prophet nor the son of a prophet, but the Lord took me from following the herd, and the Lord said unto me, 'Go, speak in the king's court.' So I came; and thou, therefore, hear the Word of the Lord. Prepare to meet your God!"

The prophet's authority came from the fact that he had been in touch with Almighty God. I want a prophetic ministry—I do, I do—and I want it for every one of you. I want it for

the students in high school. You are responsible not just to be a charming nobody, not just to be an anonymous, evangelical figure or a statistic standing in the hall and hoping that somebody will notice that you're all for Jesus. You are called to be a prophet of God—with school books. A prophet of God—in the kitchen or factory. A prophet of God—in the pulpit. Oh, may God give all of us during this coming year a prophetic ministry!

## III

God demands a responsible ministry. "To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?" It is a terrifying fact that we give to other people what we are! Inevitably, no matter how we try to fix it up or camouflage it, we give to other people what we are. Abraham told a lie and years later Isaac told the same lie, and years later Jacob told a similar lie. David fell into sin and years later his son Absalom fell into sin, and others of his sons fell into the same sin. We give to other people what we are. Oh, what a terrifying thought!

"To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?" You can never un-say a word. There is power in a word. Job said, "How forcible are right words!" He might also have said, "How devastating are bad words!" Be careful of your words, my friends, that they honor and glorify the Lord.

What determines our words? The Lord Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." And the wise man said, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Your words inevitably reflect the spirit of you. If you are a Christian, your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. There is no Christian life, there is no Christian ministry, apart from the fullness of the Holy Ghost. "Whose spirit came from thee?"

Isn't it quite obvious when a person is trying to put himself across? I was asking concerning a young leader in a certain city, and I said, "What's your estimate of him? How is he getting along?" Came the reply: "He's eager; he's young; he's handsome; he's very easy at expressing himself, gifted along that line. But when you talk with him you know he's trying so hard to put himself across." Is that the impression you give? "Whose spirit came from thee?" Your own?

(Continued on page twenty)

### COMING NEXT WEEK

#### **CURRENT EVENTS IN THE LIGHT OF BIBLE PROPHECY**

Outstanding articles on the signs of the times and the Second Coming

COMMISSIONER BRENGLE USED TO SAY that if trains could talk some of them probably would complain of their monotonous job in running up and down the same tracks day after day. And yet, what chaos would be caused in the railroad system if trains did not stay on the track!

God's children are often called to tasks that are monotonous and without glory. As a result we see some "derailments" as people get "off the track" of God's will. What spiritual wrecks there are when people "jump the track" and try to go their own way. But oh, what great blessing there is in moving along God's solid "road bed."

The question is often asked, "How



## STAY ON THE TRACK

CAN WE BLAME GOD IF WE INSIST ON JUMPING THE TRACK IN OUR FOOLISH STRUGGLE TO DO HIS WILL? DO WE NOT PROVE WHAT BLIND DISCIPLES WE ARE?

can I know what is God's will for my life?" The first step to knowing is yielding to Him. A great missionary once said, "If we were as desirous of *doing* the will of God as we are of *knowing* the will of God, we would know it."

Some associate God's will with something hard, unpleasant, and difficult to accomplish. They think God tries to make things distasteful for us. We need to realize, however, "that the sunrise is also God's will." All His ways are pleasantness, and all His paths are peace. God's plan for our lives is the best, happiest, most rewarding way.

We need never be afraid God may ask us to do the impossible. Moses felt God was asking the impossible of him when He chose him to deliver the people of Israel out of bondage. However, we see over and over again in Bible history that God made no mistake when He gave Moses a peculiarly hard task.

Sometime ago, while reading the Bible, I noticed how many verses plainly state that certain things are God's will. I took a notebook and wrote them down as I came across them.

I found that it is His will for all men to be saved. God "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

BY OLIVE BISHOP BRANCH

I learned it is not His will that any soul should perish. In 2 Peter 3:9 I found these words: "The Lord . . . is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." God always stretches the opportunity for repentance to its limit. He gives warning after warning, not willing to give up until a person's continued stubbornness and heedlessness makes the situation hopeless. If any man is lost, it is not because God wills it so. God is so anxious to see everyone saved that He gave His Son, who died on Calvary's cross that whoever is willing to believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

You may be sure you are doing God's will when you pray for the lost, when you witness to the unsaved, when you "rescue the perishing." We should pray for the salvation of every human being and we should work, under His direction, at the task of making the gospel known to the ends of the earth; for it is His will that all mankind should hear the Good News and have an opportunity to repent and believe the gospel.

"I have never ceased praying for you," Paul wrote to the Colossians, "and asking God to fill you . . . with a *clear knowledge of His will*, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord to His full satisfaction" (Col. 1:9, 10, Williams Translation). A clear knowledge of His will would clear up all confusion. It is right to pray for this knowledge, both for ourselves and for others.

Paul gives us some rules for Christian living in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. He says, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks." On the surface this looks like an impossible requirement. While there are times when it is easy to rejoice, and to pray, and to give thanks, there are other times when circumstances are adverse and we feel like doing quite the opposite. But Paul added, lest his readers feel the admonition was impractical for everyday living, "For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." And God will furnish us with the power of His Spirit to enable us to do this.

As you read your Bible, watch for the passages where God's will is definitely stated, and follow His will as He enables you. If you will do this, He will not leave you in doubt regarding any part of His plan for your life.



# THE BLIND ROPE-MAKER

BY MARY A. BISHOP

MANY YEARS AGO THERE LIVED IN THE little city of Tegucigalpa a blind man who earned his living by making rope. One day my father, riding on a mule, entered the little capital of Honduras to distribute Gospels and tracts and to sell Bibles. The "gringo" (foreigner), as anyone from a strange country was called, could not speak much Spanish, for he and his family had arrived in that little country only recently. No missionaries had ever gone into this area before.

While the "gringo" was in Tegucigalpa he gave a New Testament to the blind rope-maker who lived there.

Many years later a missionary and his family went to Tegucigalpa to bring the gospel to that dark and needy place. No missionary had ever lived there before. What a surprise the missionary had when he found there a group of twenty or thirty born-again Christians who met every Sunday to read God's Word together!

He asked them where they had heard

the gospel and who had taught them. The people told him that many years before, a "gringo" had passed through the city distributing Gospel portions. He gave a New Testament to a blind rope-maker, and this man paid a little boy out of his meager earnings to come daily and read this "strange book" to him. As the little boy read, a crowd would gather around the door to listen. As a result the blind man and twenty or thirty others were saved.

Who had been their teacher? Only the Holy Spirit, taking the things of Christ spoken through the lips of a small boy and making the Book live to them.

The blind man had passed into the presence of his Saviour, but the nucleus of a church had been established before any missionary ever lived there. A. E. Bishop, the "gringo" who gave the New Testament to the blind rope-maker, has joined him in the heavenly mansions, but today a large Christian church exists in the capital of Honduras, the city of Tegucigalpa. God has promised that His Word shall not return void.

## WHY ARE YOU SINGING?

BY BETTY SWINFORD

During the war I was trained as a nurse's aid; and when my husband and I moved to Tucson, Arizona, I worked in the hospital for a short time.

I remember well the night a woman was brought in who was having great difficulty in breathing because of an asthma attack. She remained for several days even though she was much improved after the third day. The head nurse told us, "She's completely neurotic, even imagines she has a bad heart. Do what you can for her—but I warn you, she'll run you to death if you let her!"

One morning I entered her room with her bath water, not even realizing that

I was humming a hymn. She looked up quickly. "Honey, why are you singing?"

I opened my mouth to speak, to tell her the reason for my song. It was a golden opportunity to witness for my Lord, for people seldom ask such a leading question of a Christian. Then, suddenly, I froze. I still don't know why, for it was my everyday practice to witness to the patients. *I didn't tell her!*

All day it bothered me. All night I was haunted because I had had an opportunity to tell someone about Christ, and I had said nothing. I determined that the very next morning I would tell her the reason for my song.

At seven-thirty the next morning I went to her room. The bed was empty. Quickly I turned and went to the head nurse's desk. There I was told the dreadful truth: the woman had died during the night of a heart attack!

It happened to me—it could happen to you. So if someone should ask you why you're singing—or even if they don't—be sure to tell them why!

WOMEN AND CHILDREN—  
STOP AND READ THIS!



I hadn't heard  
of TEAM before  
last Christmas!

That's right. I guess I just wasn't getting around to church often enough; because when I received a subscription to TEAM from my little boy, Buddy, I didn't know whether TEAM was a sports magazine or a yearbook for workhorses! But I thanked Bud for it, just as I thanked Sue for the cuff links and Barbara for the keycase.

My wife explained that TEAM was a religious magazine for men—pocket-size; came out quarterly; had all sorts of inspirational and newsy items and pictures—all for men. Then the first colorful issue came. I was fascinated. Read it straight through. I have to confess: we started up family devotions again that week.

Well, to make the story short, I just thought the other day about those gifts. Cuff links, keycase, and TEAM. Now, I only have one shirt with French cuffs, and I wore the cuff links the Sunday after Christmas. Frankly, they looked a little cheap—but you can't hurt the children's feelings. Same with the keycase. I put all my suitcase keys and such in it. It has stayed in the drawer mostly.

But TEAM—well, it cost the same as the other gifts. But I've enjoyed it all year long. Maybe you'll think I'm exaggerating when I say it's changed my life. At the very least, it has helped me catch sight of spiritual values again.

Hope Buddy gives it to me *this year*. If he doesn't, I'm renewing TEAM myself!

A gift card (bearing your name, if you furnish it in the space provided) will be sent to the person for whom you wish to enter a gift subscription to TEAM. Rates for TEAM are low: Single subscription, 75c per year; foreign and Canadian, \$1.00 per year. Cash should accompany order.

Please send a gift TEAM subscription to:

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State .....

Donor's Name .....

GOSPEL PUBLISHING HOUSE  
434 West Pacific St. Springfield 1, Mo.



# THIS PRESENT WORLD

## **Vatican Radio Can Reach Entire World**

New radio transmitters have been built for the Vatican, twelve miles north of Rome, according to *Prophetic News*. These transmitters are powerful enough to carry broadcasts to every part of the world, thus spreading Roman Catholic doctrines.

## **Church Press Grows in West Germany**

If the circulation of religious papers is any indication of interest in religion, then Christianity is growing in West Germany. Latest reports indicate there are 492 church publications with a total circulation of nearly 17 million. Religious periodicals constitute the second largest group of publications in West Germany, surpassed in number only by industrial and trade papers. Highest circulation total registered by religious publications in all of pre-Nazi Germany was 10,300,000 in 1929.

## **East Germans Protest Atheistic Propaganda**

Church officials in the Soviet Zone have protested to East German authorities against an intensive atheistic propaganda campaign they say is being promoted in the newly-formed East German Army. The religious leaders also charged that Christian clergymen are being prevented from exercising pastoral care of the soldiers.

## **Communists Seek World Atheistic Co-operation**

Russia's top organization for atheistic propaganda has announced a campaign for co-operation with similar groups in other countries, according to a report on Moscow Radio monitored in London. The organization is the All-Union Society for the Dissemination of Scientific and Political Knowledge. This society, which claims a membership of 340,000, is the successor to the League of Militant Atheists, which functioned for sixteen years in its fight against so-called "religious superstitions." The League of Militant Atheists was dissolved in 1941 when Russia adopted a more tolerant attitude toward religion in order to get religious believers to support the war effort. Now this new atheistic society is operating and wants to branch out into other countries.

## **War Prisoners Hand-Copy New Testament**

A German prisoner of war, recently released by the Russians, related this unusual incident of how the Scriptures were circulated in Russia. When he was taken captive, according to *Bible Journal*, this young man successfully retained his New Testament. Other prisoners heard about it and asked to borrow it so they could make copies for their own use. The absolute dearth of writing paper made this impossible until some old cement sacks made of heavy wrapping paper were discovered.

Little by little, ten hand-written copies of the New Testament were made secretly by the prisoners during their spare time. The copies were then handed out to other prisoners when they met in deepest secrecy for an occasional meeting of worship and prayer.

## **Evangelical Chinese Pastor Sentenced by Reds**

Pastor Wang Ming Tao, an evangelical Protestant church leader in China, and his wife have been sentenced by Chinese Communist authorities to 15 years imprisonment. He has been denounced for "opposing democracy," "deceiving the masses," and considering "dogma" to be "more important than patriotism." A number of other faithful Christians, including 18 or more students, were arrested in August at the same time as Pastor and Mrs. Wang.

## **Asks Religious Freedom Guarantee from Tito**

A member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee urged President Eisenhower to insist on "a positive guarantee" from Marshall Tito that full religious freedom will be restored in Yugoslavia, as a condition to further American military and economic aid. Representative Thomas J. Dodd, of Connecticut, said that "it is not fair or just to expect the American people to support a government which practices religious persecution." He charged that not only are Roman Catholic priests and laymen in Yugoslav prisons "right now" but other Christians also "are constantly persecuted because of their religious beliefs."

If Representative Dodd's suggestion becomes a part of American policy with Communist-controlled countries, we hope that the same principles will also be applied to American aid to countries like Spain, where the Protestant minority is being persecuted by the Roman Catholic majority.

## **Large Group Honor Zondervan Brothers**

Over two thousand persons attended Open House at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Zondervan Publishing House, publishers of Christian books by authors of most Protestant denominations. The publishers, B. D. and P. J. Zondervan, recalled how they began their publishing work in a back bedroom of the parents' farmhouse in 1931. Today they have an imposing business with 120 employees.

## **Claim Most Tax Money Goes for the Military**

The Friends Committee on National Legislation reports that the federal government is spending only 22 cents out of every tax dollar for nonmilitary purposes. The Quaker group said that 69.8 per cent of all government expenditure is marked for military preparations, and 8.1 per cent will be used to pay debts of past wars. Only 22.1 per cent will be spent on the ordinary civilian purposes of government.

## **Armed Forces and Religion**

Of the three million men in the armed forces of the U. S., 57 per cent have had some degree of religious background, while the other 43 per cent have had no previous association with any religious body, the Government says. These figures seem to indicate that churches today are reaching only about half of the young people at all; but they give no indication of how many of those reached are kept by the churches.

## S-D Day Just Ahead

The annual observance of Safe Driving Day is just ahead—a day when civic groups and newsmen join with law enforcement officers and others to help keep one day of the year free from traffic fatalities.

Every day should be a safe driving day for the Christian. Common rules of Christian courtesy and consideration would do much toward cutting our nation's astounding traffic death toll—a toll which has taken more American lives in fifty-five years than all the wars in the history of the United States. Remember, the life you save may be that of a person who does not know the Lord!

## Bert Webb Named Vice-President of NSSA

Bert Webb, Assistant General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, was chosen to serve as vice-president of the National Sunday School Association in the business meeting preceding the association's annual convention. Dr. Edward D. Simpson, chairman of the department of Bible at Northwestern College, Minneapolis, Minnesota, was elected president.

Other officers elected were W. S. Mooneyham, Nashville, Tennessee, secretary; and Paul W. McBeth, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, treasurer. General Secretary of the association is Dr. Clate Risley of Chicago.

The National Sunday School Convention met at historic Moody Memorial Church in Chicago on October 10-12, and attracted some 4,000 delegates from 45 states. Pastors and Sunday School workers from a number of evangelical denominations were inspired by the messages and workshops of the gathering.

The National Sunday School Association, a branch of the National Association of Evangelicals, was founded in Chicago in 1946. Serving more than a score of denominations, the association has experienced a rapid growth.

## Rain Comes After Oklahomans Pray

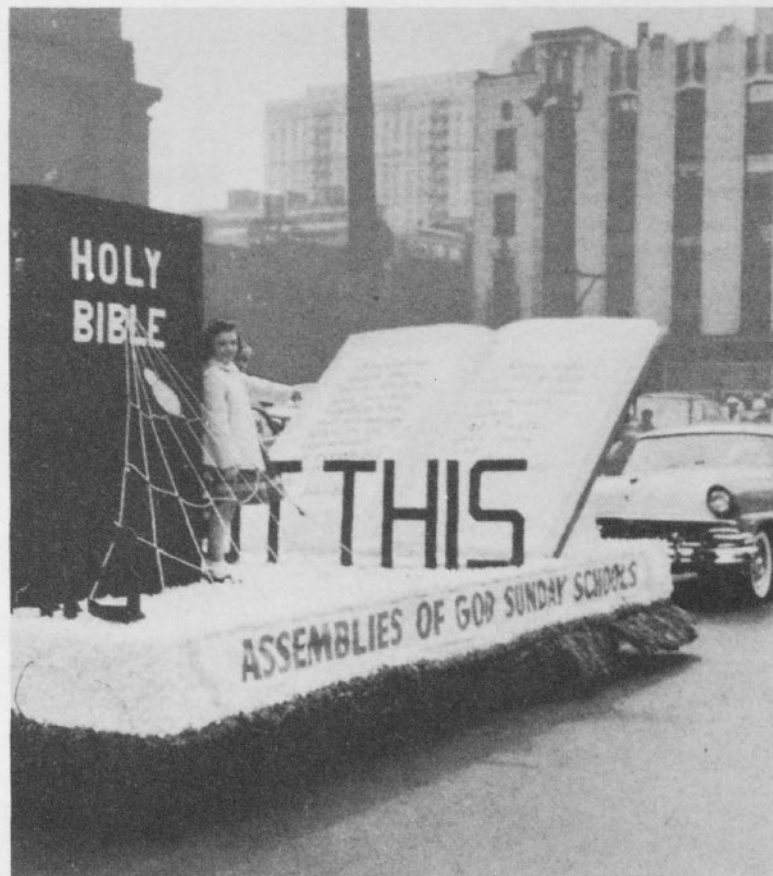
A soaking rain—the first general downpour in the state in nearly four months—fell throughout Oklahoma a few hours after prayers for relief from the drought had been offered in the churches.

Governor Raymond Gary had called upon Oklahomans to join in prayers for rain. The governor said he would not “presume to label the downpour a direct answer” to the prayers, but pointed out that the pleas had been offered by a “Christian state whose people believe strongly in God.” He said, “I know the people of the state are very grateful. I am very thankful, and I am confident we will receive more rain.” Governor Gary is a prominent Southern Baptist layman.

## Alcohol-Related Offenses Keep Police Busy

Over 60 per cent of all arrests reported to the FBI for the first six months of 1956 were alcohol-related, according to figures published in the Bureau's semiannual Uniform Crime Report. Out of 2,945,216 arrests reported from 1,771 cities, 1,786,547 were for the four liquor-related offenses of drunkenness, disorderly conduct, driving while intoxicated, and liquor law violations. The percentages do not include arrest figures on charges of assault, rape, vagrancy, and offenses against family and children. Liquor is often a major factor in these crimes.

These FBI figures give a rough idea of the amount of time spent by our police forces to control drinkers and those who sell to them.



## Sunday School Parade Precedes National Sunday School Convention

A gala Sunday School parade down Chicago's State Street on October 6—the first religious parade since the days of D. L. Moody—saw decorated floats and marching, Bible-waving youngsters prepare Chicagoland for the 11th annual National Sunday School Convention. The convention was sponsored by the National Sunday School Association, a branch of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Pictured above is the attractive float entered by the Assemblies of God churches in the Chicago area. The theme of the float was “Not This”—a closed Bible with a cobweb on its cover—“But This”—a girl and boy, Carole Gebhart and Glenn Mueller, pointing to an open Bible. The verses printed on the open Bible were John 3:16 and Matthew 11:28. (See convention story on this page.)

## Ten Commandments Out of Place in Public School?

The Parent-Teacher Association of East Side High in Newark, New Jersey, presented the school with a plaque bearing the Ten Commandments, but at least one teacher objected. The Newark Board of Education will debate whether such a plaque is “proper” in a public school.

Considering the rising rate of juvenile crime, the teaching of the principles of the Ten Commandments would be a helpful addition to the curriculum of any school.

## Industrialist Asks for Bibles in Factories

Albert S. Redway, president of the Connecticut Manufacturers Association, called upon members of the organization to make Bibles available in the reception and recreation rooms of their factories throughout the state. He noted that the Gideons International would provide Bibles free of charge for such a purpose.

“I have observed in Connecticut industry,” he said, “a growing emphasis on religious values. I hope that our action may be a positive step to introduce a great Book to a new group of people, as well as hope, faith, and charity in the day-to-day lives of those who read it.”

# The City With No Salt

BY ROBERT HYMES

Missionary to Japan

ON THE NORTHEAST COAST OF HOKKAI DO, the northern island of Japan, lies a fishing city. It is nestled between a mountain range on the south and the cold Northern Ocean that surrounds it on three sides. For some strange reason the salt content of the ocean has little effect to combat the Arctic coldness so that the entire harbor turns to a thick, hard layer of ice in winter.

The city was named Mombetsu (gateway to the ledge) by the Ainu Indians who once inhabited all of this area. Its main industries are dependent upon the fish and water products. The 53,000 inhabitants are stuffed together in fragile little frame houses.

Protestant Missions, though working over a hundred years in Japan, have somehow overlooked this fertile area. It has been left to lie in its heathen worship with "no salt to savor" the lives of the population. Ten huge temples are crowded between the homes and waterfront, so that the whole community revolves around the "gaudy, painted stone gods" of Shintoism and Buddhism. The inhabitants are chained with superstitions; the low state of morals defies imagination, and the young men and women spend their meager earnings and spare time between gambling houses and rice wine shops.

Paul Berg and myself, with three Japanese workers, pitched our gospel tent in August and started the first services in this city. Not willing to limit ourselves to this small area, we launched



Ainu Indians—the aboriginals of Japan

out into two or three open-air services daily. Many times hundreds would gather to hear the Good News. In the evening tent meetings, crowds stepped out in decision for Christ. An invitation came from the fishing factories to come during the lunch hours and hold services on the pier; the schools of the city opened their doors. Never have we felt such a challenge.

As a result of so many decisions for Christ, we found it necessary to send a native pastor and his wife into this area to live and work. God has arranged so that a home was rented at little cost for a temporary meeting place. However, this pastor and his new work must be supported for at least a year until the people themselves can carry the financial responsibilities. The sum of \$35.00 a month would help support and furnish fuel for the winter season. When Jesus plainly stated in His Word, "Ye are the salt of the earth," we cannot turn our backs on this city with such a dire need of "salt."



Preaching on the pier



Putting up the tent



The City of Mombetsu



An open air meeting

From Korea Comes—

# An Urgent Call

**M**AY WE SHARE WITH YOU A LETTER just received from John Stetz, our missionary representative in Korea?

"The moment I stepped into the office this morning, there came in one of our graduate students who is laboring in a town called Kurye, about two hundred miles south of Seoul. His tiny tent church is too small for his people, and the people are poor, so he had written to ask us for help but received none.

"He was very discouraged. His mother had become sick and needed an operation. Since he was the oldest son, it was his responsibility to care for her. He sold everything he possessed to pay the hospital bill. Then other members of his family took sick. Members of a Presbyterian Church came and asked him to be their pastor, promising to give him a good salary and build him a nice church. He refused, saying that he was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit in the Assemblies of God and felt he should not compromise. Nevertheless, he was discouraged.

"He had been taught in our Bible School to trust God for everything, and said that he didn't want to tell me his troubles. However, because the burden of the church and his family weighed so heavily on him, he just had to unburden himself to someone. Fortunately the day before this I had received a check from a sister in the States who said that God spoke to her heart to immediately send me \$50.00 for some special need. As I told this to the discouraged worker, he just broke down and wept; but he is still in much need of money for his personal need besides wanting lumber for his church. His people will sacrifice to buy the rest of the material for the church.

"The same day another worker, also a graduate from our school, who is pioneering in the north, came to talk with me. His tent church burnt down and he needed help to put up another. Then a third came to say that his tent church was destroyed by the recent typhoon that damaged Okinawa and hit the eastern part of Korea.

*"How could I tell these brethren that the offerings from America had been only about half the usual amount this month, and that we lacked money not only to help them with these special needs, but even to give them the usual amount to supplement the meagre offerings their churches are able to give them to support their families?"*

"We are working toward self-supporting churches, and the twenty-four or twenty-five ministers that we have been helping each month are only partially supported with mission funds. The amount they receive is being reduced systematically so that eventually they will be entirely on their own financially; but last year we had eighteen students graduate and these are looking to us for some help as they take up their places in towns and villages in pioneer gospel work.

"I notice that we received \$29.60 for the orphanage for this month. How can we ever feed twenty-four babies and pay the nurses and caretakers with this amount?"

We, in America, forget very quickly.

While the newspapers and radio kept us daily reminded of the war ravages in Korea, many friends supported the work there generously. Since we no longer have these reminders, it is easy to forget that our Korean friends still need our assistance. If you are not in a position to help, please do not feel embarrassed; but if you are able, and the Lord does lay this need upon your heart, please send your offerings to the Foreign Missions Department, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield, Missouri, designated "FOR WORK IN KOREA." If you are particularly interested in some special phase in the work you may designate your offerings accordingly.

Send Foreign Missionary offerings to  
**NOEL PERKIN, SECRETARY**  
**FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
434 W. Pacific St., Springfield 1, Mo.

## MISSIONARY News Notes



The Melvin W. Steward family

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin W. Steward and family sailed for the Philippines on October 23. They are new recruits and would appreciate our prayers.

\* \* \*

Cynthia Joy arrived at the home of the Marlin Petersens of Liberia, West Africa, on October 9.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Dowdy and son returned on furlough from Chile. Their address is 902 Oildale Drive, Oildale, California.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Perrault recently returned from Cuba and their address is in care of R. W. Welz, 8115 Stoney Dell Court, Houston 17, Texas. They returned because of Sister Perrault's sickness. Let us pray for her.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS in a way that will bring glory to God and cheer to His special servants—the missionaries.*

*Send an extra offering for the Christmas Gift Fund so that these sacrificing workers in the regions beyond may be remembered.*

*Our missionary family is large, but your gift, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.*

*Address it to the Foreign Missions Dept., 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield 1, Mo. designated, "Christmas Gift Fund."*

# "Workers Together..."

## A REPORT OF THE FIRST ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENTION FOR THE DEAF

**T**HEY CAME FROM FAR AND THEY came from near, from the cold north, the sunny south and the friendly mid-west. But every person who attended the first Assemblies of God Deaf Convention carried with him the same burden on his heart—to win America's lost Deaf for the Kingdom of God. October 18-21 marked the dates of this important meeting held at Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri.

From the very beginning of the meetings on Thursday evening a special sense of God's blessing was present. There were times when God's Spirit swept in like a flood as the people's hands and hearts were lifted in adoration and praise.

Assemblies of God ministry among the Deaf has sprung from small beginnings, and with the exception of a few pioneer works little was done until 1948. In that year a Sign Language Class was begun at Central Bible Institute, and from these classes and those conducted in three other Bible Schools have come our present home missionaries to the Deaf—38 in number. How we praise God for His faithfulness and blessings upon those who have consecrated themselves to the all-important task of rescuing from sin those whose physical ears are closed but whose spiritual ears hunger for the satisfying portion of God's Word. To date there are 72 Assemblies of God deaf groups and Sunday School classes in the United States.

"WORKERS TOGETHER," the appropriate theme for the convention, was aptly woven into the many discussions led by various workers, and into the devotional messages. In one session encouraging reports of God's victories and blessings were given by

the workers present. Combined with the reports of workers were the soul-stirring testimonies of deaf people themselves who have been gloriously lifted up from lives of sin, washed in the Blood of the Lamb, and baptized in the Holy Spirit. Their testimonies and silent singing were sources of encouragement and blessing, and served one specific purpose—to further fan the flame of passion for lost deaf souls that was kindled in every heart.

Special consideration was given during the meetings to planning the 1957 camps for the Deaf. Plans were made for six camps bigger and better than ever before. Miss Maxine Strobidge, minister to the Deaf from Michigan, led the discussion and planning period. Another specialized conference

was conducted on local church ministry, visitation, and tracts led by Croft Pentz, minister to the Deaf in New York and New Jersey. Brother Pentz gave report of good results of ministry in the Eastern states. He also reported progress in the Sign Language classes at Eastern Bible Institute.

Julius Hoffman of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a special guest during the convention, had many inspiring and encouraging words for those present. Brother Hoffman is a deaf man and president of GOSPEL WITNESS FOR THE DEAF. Thirteen years ago he began a tract ministry by mail to the Deaf with a list of only 38 people. His ministry has grown steadily through the years until the mailing list of deaf friends has reached the 42,000 mark.

Group of the Deaf and ministers to the Deaf who were present at the conference





One of the conference sessions



Earl Walpole presiding at communion service for the Deaf

Workers and delegates alike were greatly impressed with the potential of the printed page in evangelizing those who cannot hear.

Attendance at the convention reached a peak of 130 in the weekend sessions. Many folk from nearby areas gathered in for these last few meetings. The crowning service of the convention was the Sunday morning worship service in which the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit was so real. For long periods of time the glory of God swept through the congregation. Tears of consecration and praise flowed without interruption as God's Spirit had His way among us. This wonderful atmosphere prevailed as Communion was served in commemoration of the broken body and shed blood of the greatest Home Missionary of all—our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

God has been abundantly good to our Assemblies of God deaf workers, not only in blessings and growth of churches, but in committing to us the full gospel message to preach to the Deaf. "For we are LABOURERS TOGETHER with God . . ." (1 Corinthians 3:9). Our Pentecostal message

is for every tribe and nation. To some have been committed the language of signs and they have gone to preach. But each of us has a part in this great harvest. There are some who must remain behind to PRAY and GIVE and help in other ways so that hungry souls may be fed the Bread of Life. Have YOU found the way in which YOU can help?

The Home Missions Department would like to have the name and address of each deaf person in need of spiritual help. We will arrange for one of our workers to contact them either personally or through correspondence. You can help by sending the names of deaf persons you know. Assistance in a financial way is needed now in order to adequately take care of those projects already started. Why not in reality be a LABOURER TOGETHER WITH GOD to help in this great task? Use the coupon below to do your part.

### AMONG THE PEOPLE

*The parish priest, of austerity,  
Climbed up in the high church steeple  
To be nearer God that he might hand  
His Word down to the people.*

*And in sermon script he daily wrote  
What he thought was sent from heaven;  
And he dropped it down on the peo-  
ple's heads  
Two times one day in seven.*

*In his age God said "Come down and  
die."  
And he cried out from the steeple,  
"Where art Thou, Lord?" And the  
Lord replied,  
"Down here among my people."*

—Selected

## SERVICES BEGUN IN ARIZONA STATE PRISON

Delbert E. Gribbling, pastor of the Sunnyslope Assembly at Phoenix, Arizona, believes in the effectiveness of prison work to win and change the lives of men and women through the power of the gospel.

He began his ministry in the State Prison at Florence, Arizona, in company with Arvid Ohnell, National Prison Representative. When they arrived at the prison for their first appointment, they found that some mistake had been made, and they were unable to have a service with the men. However, the Chaplain arranged for them to minister in the women's ward. Now the women's ward is visited regularly. The Men's Fellowship at Sunnyslope sponsors the meetings.

Brother Gribbling writes: "Thank God for those who have taken the Lord as their Saviour and for the one who has received the Holy Spirit thus far.

"There has been a growing interest in the men's ward, and a large number have taken the Basic Bible Study Course supplied by the National Home Missions Department.

"It is interesting to watch this group of men as the burden for the fellows inside the prison increases. As the men who go with me testify and sometimes weep with their burden for souls, the men in prison feel the same Spirit of God and weep also.

"A number have raised their hands for salvation, and a number of them are now confessed Christians."

HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT  
434 WEST PACIFIC STREET, SPRINGFIELD 1, MISSOURI

Mr.  
Mrs.  
Miss \_\_\_\_\_ a deaf person of my

acquaintance, residing at \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE

is a Christian  needs Christ

Enclosed please find my offering of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help in the Deaf ministry.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_



Prepare your child for a righteous  
life in a ruined world.

★

### ADULT DELINQUENCY

Fathers and mothers, listen to me!

Who is to blame for delinquency—  
You or your untrained girl or boy  
Who turned to crime in search of joy?

Do you delight in obeying God  
And train your child with reproof and rod?  
Or does he grow from a babe to youth,  
Devoid of the knowledge of Christian truth?

Do you take your children to Sunday School  
To learn of God and the golden rule?  
Or are they sent to a picture show  
Where most delinquent children go?

They learn of crime and of sinful lust,  
But not of Christ whom they ought to trust.  
They learn to lie and to steal and kill,  
But not to love and to do God's will.

Who is to blame—you or the child,  
If he turns to crime and becomes defiled?  
Who should go to the prison cell,  
To the rope, or chair, and a burning hell?

God is your Judge in heaven above.  
He bids you repent and, in His grace  
And love, to turn from your careless way,  
And start to study His Word and pray.

Forsake the world and the social whirl,  
And go to church with your boy and girl,  
Oh, parents, pause and listen to me,  
For YOU are the cause of delinquency!

—by Dwight C. Ritchie  
Hamilton, Montana

# Over-correcting the Children

There comes a time to spare the rod and not spoil the child

THE BIBLE SAYS, "FATHERS, PROVOKE not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Colossians 3:2). The italics show that the words "to anger" are not in the original. The verse really reads, "Fathers, provoke not your children lest they be discouraged." The idea Paul had in mind was, "Lest they be discouraged from doing what is right." J. B. Phillips has translated this verse as follows: "Fathers, don't over-correct your children or they will grow up feeling inferior and frustrated."

It is possible to give a child too many rules to follow. God gave the Israelites ten commandments, but many parents have issued far more than ten regulations for their children to obey. The thunder of Sinai lasted one day, but some parents keep up the thunder day after day shouting commands in a loud voice until their children learn to hate all commandments. It is best to forbid as few things as possible, and then soundly to enforce what is forbidden.

Often the father represents God in the mind of the child. If the latter feels his father is a tyrant, he is apt to regard God the same way and to acquire a hatred of Christian things.

Some parents are over-exacting in their demands and too hard to please. Children love to be praised, and they are very disappointed when, after seeking to do something special for their father or mother, instead of being praised they are scolded for some small matter they had overlooked.

How do you suppose we should fare if our heavenly Father should treat us just as we have treated our children? When a child does wrong, it is right for us to show our displeasure. But there is such a thing as holding displeasure too long. The prodigal's father hastened to meet him, offer him forgiveness, and welcome him back to the

former fellowship of the home.

Similarly, a parent must be slow in accusing a child of wrongdoing, for much harm can result from hasty and false accusations. A child who is constantly being accused of lying, will eventually begin to feel he must live up to his reputation.

Many mothers worry too much about the health and safety of their children. They are forever cautioning them to keep away from this, that, and the other. The child begins to feel that he is in a continual torment of suppression. His happiness is constantly clouded by the thought that he must be careful not to play too hard, or run too fast, or make too much noise. A parent who is super-cautious and always nervous and anxious about the children robs them of some of life's most valuable lessons. We must pray for our children, and then trust them to the care of our heavenly Father. It is not always best to keep a child away from danger; rather, he must be wisely trusted to the danger and shown how to conquer it.

Finally, let us remember not to give our children tests of character that are inappropriate for their age. We must not expect too much of them. When they do that which is wrong let us not discourage them by harping on it, but rather show them God is ready to help them and forgive their faults. After all, what is the difference between the child who wants to play on Sunday and his father who, too old to play, sits in church and plans his secular work for the week? Let us not test our children by a set of rules by which we ourselves would not like to be judged.



"Parents, don't over-correct your children, or they will grow up feeling inferior or frustrated."



—by Everek R. Storms  
in *Gospel Banner*




# Picture Puzzle



To solve this picture puzzle, simply write out the word that each picture represents, then add or subtract certain letters as directed. Each line of the puzzle is one word of a Bible verse.

 - UMB +  - YE



 - BSTE +  - OG

 - WRT

 - OP +  - EE

 - E + HE +  - BI

Is - s

 - IP +  - B

 - K

 - TER +  - U

ANSWER: Look up Psalm 23:1.

## MY HOME FOR GOD

In my house, the church of God ought to be established. And what will its establishment mean?

It will mean a daily worship. Long ago, wherever Abraham pitched his tent he built also the altar of the Lord—his own dwelling made of slight and shifting canvas, God's shrine of stable stone. I wonder if I am as eager that His should be the place of honor in the home that I know and love. I wonder if I maintain the seemly custom of family religion. I wonder whether I have erected a firm and abiding altar, at which I and my family kneel and pray morning and night.

—Alexander Smellie



# Our Family Altar

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:13-25

TODAY'S GEM: "It is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

FOR THE PARENT: Point out (1) God expects His children to be holy and pure; (2) holiness is not merely a separation from sin, but also includes a complete surrender of our lives to God; (3) one reason for living a holy life is because of the great price Jesus paid for our salvation.

QUESTION TIME: How are we redeemed from our sins? (vv. 18, 19) How long will God's Word endure? (v. 25) Why are we to be holy? (v. 16)

PRAY that we will live holy lives.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:25 to 2:8

TODAY'S GEM: "The word of the Lord endureth for ever" (1 Peter 1:25).

FOR THE PARENT: The Word of God is one of our most precious possessions. Christ is the Living Word of God; the Bible is the written Word of God. Point out the part God's Word plays in salvation (1 Peter 1:23) and in the daily life of the Christian (1 Peter 2:1, 2).

QUESTION TIME: What does God's Word help the Christian to do? (2:1) Who is the Living Word of God? (Christ) What is the written Word of God? (The Bible)

PRAY for a greater love for God's Word.

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:9-25

TODAY'S GEM: "But ye are a chosen generation . . . called . . . out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

FOR THE PARENT: Stress (1) God's mercy and love toward us in saving us, verses 9, 10; (2) the practical commandments that guide us each day, verses 11-20; (3) we are to follow the example of Christ, verses 21-25.

QUESTION TIME: Why are we to be subject to the laws of the land? (vv. 13-15) Who is our example in all things? (v. 21) What characteristic of Christ is emphasized in this passage? (vv. 22, 23) How are we to follow Christ's example in this? (v. 20)

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:18-30

TODAY'S GEM: "We have left all, and followed thee" (Luke 18:28).

FOR THE PARENT: (Additional material on "the Mark of Consecration" will be found on Sunday's Lesson page.) Review the story of the rich young ruler, pointing out that (1) his money was more important to him than eternal life; (2) those who put Christ first will be richly rewarded.

QUESTION TIME: What was the one thing that Jesus said the rich young ruler lacked? (v. 22) Did the rich young ruler do what Jesus asked him to do? (v. 23)

PRAY that we will always put Christ first.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:1-10, Psalm 66:18 (Sunday's Lesson for Juniors)

TODAY'S GEM: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done" (John 15:7).

FOR THE PARENT: God answers prayer. Have members of the family recall some specific answer to prayer in their lives or that they know about. Then point out that two reasons why our prayers may not be answered are (1) because of sin, Psalm 66:18; (2) because we are not abiding in Christ, John 15:7.

QUESTION TIME: Why are some prayers not answered? (see above) How do we know God answers prayer? (Luke 10:9, 10).

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 13:1-18 (Sunday's Lesson for Primaries)

TODAY'S GEM: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

FOR THE PARENT: Review the story of Abram's separation from Lot, pointing out (1) Abram's desire for peace; (2) his generosity; (3) Lot's selfishness. Abram was rewarded for his love toward Lot. God expects us to love others even when they are selfish and thoughtless toward us.

QUESTION TIME: What was God's reward to Abram for his unselfishness and love? (vv. 14-17) How are we to love others? (John 15:12).

# SUNDAY'S LESSON



## THE MARK OF CONSECRATION

Sunday School Lesson for December 2, 1956

LUKE 18:18-30

To consecrate means to "set apart as sacred," "to make clean," "to sanctify," "to dedicate to the service of God," "the act or state of setting apart for a sacred use or cause." In view of these definitions, consecration as it is spoken of in the Bible may be defined as the act or state of being separated from all that is unlike God and of being completely dedicated and devoted to the person and service of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was just such a consecration which Jesus sought from the rich young ruler who came to Him inquiring about eternal life.

### I. THE NEED FOR CONSECRATION

Two questions asked by the rich young ruler revealed his spiritual need:

(1) "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" His was a common mistake. He thought eternal life was to be gained by his own good deeds! But "by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" (Rom. 3:20; see also Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8, 9.)

(2) "What lack I yet?" In response to the young man's first question, Jesus reminded him of the ten commandments—not because they could save him, but to prove their insufficiency to save. This insufficiency the young man admitted. Think of it! The young ruler did not lack zeal, reverence, sincerity, morality, or outward religion. But he did lack one thing without which all else was vain—full surrender of his heart to Christ!

### II. THE CALL TO CONSECRATION

"Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me." Christ was not teaching that eternal life can be bought by charitable deeds and benevolence. His demand was not, and is not, made upon all rich men. Eternal life is secured through personal relationship to Jesus; and Christ, who knows the hearts of all men, was simply trying to remove from the young man the thing that hindered him from relationship to God—his love of money.

### III. THE REFUSAL OF CONSECRATION

"And when he heard this he was very sorrowful." Matthew adds, "He went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." The fact really was that his possessions had him. He kept his possessions, but he lost Christ. That he made a bad bargain is evident from the fact that he went away, not satisfied but sorrowful!

Poverty is not a mark of godliness, neither is it wicked to be rich. But Jesus made it quite clear that it is very difficult to possess riches and not allow them to possess you! However, there are many other things which hinder men from salvation and consecration to Christ, such as a home, a hobby, one's business, one's family, recreation, etc. Good

and legitimate things must be kept in their rightful place, being subject to the will of God.

### IV. THE REWARDS OF CONSECRATION

"Then said Peter, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee." It is easy to follow Peter's thoughts. He realized what the rich young man had lost by refusing to give up all to Christ, and he began to wonder how great would be the reward of the disciples who had gladly given up all.

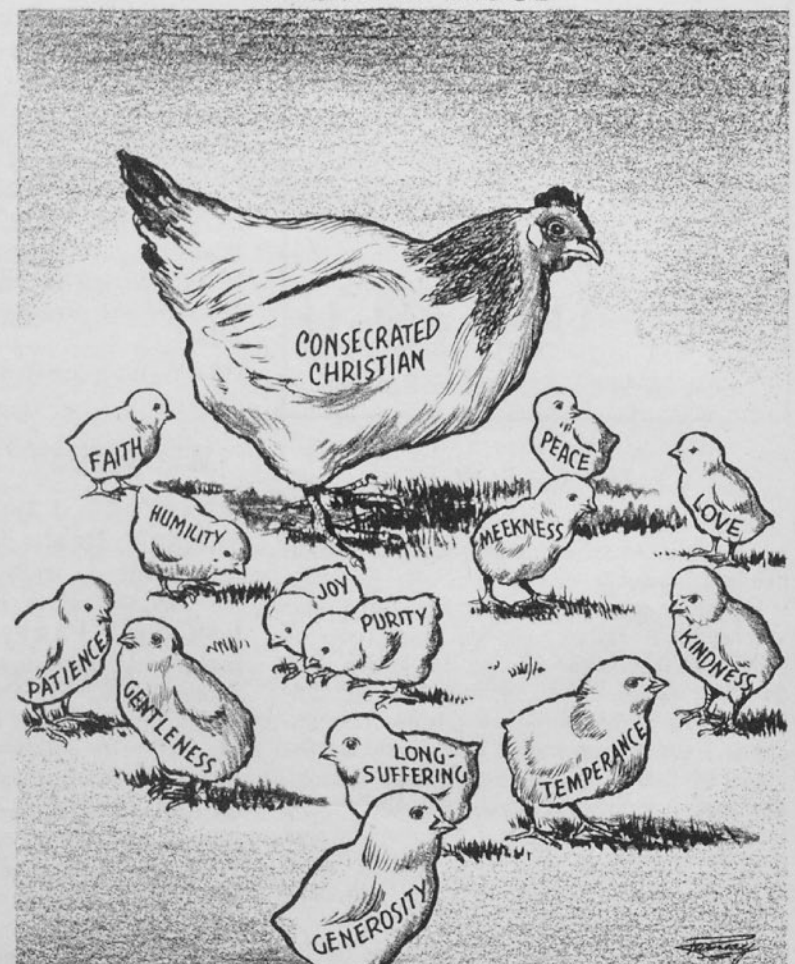
Christ very generously assured Peter that all sacrifices made for the glory of God would be rewarded in this life and in the life to come. Those who give up relatives or friends for Christ's sake will be rewarded with the love and fellowship of brothers and sisters in the Lord. Those who sacrifice material things for Christ's sake will be rewarded with spiritual blessings which money cannot buy!

"But many that are first shall be last; and the last first." There had been a trace of pride, complacency, and boastfulness in Peter's words. Hence Christ threw out a word of warning and said, in effect, "Peter, do not be deceived. Because you were among the first to follow me does not necessarily mean your reward shall be greatest. Neither are the sacrifices you make as important as the motive behind them. If pride or desire for personal gain should motivate your sacrifice, you will lose your reward. Men like the rich young ruler, if they repent in all humility and surrender to my claims, may reap a reward which would be greater than yours."

In the final analysis, consecration and the sacrifices it involves are not for any purpose, however noble, but for Jesus Himself. "My goal is God Himself," said a great saint of another age. This, too, is the goal of consecration.

—J. Bashford Bishop

### A HEALTHY BROOD



# Watch the Timetable

READ THIS CHALLENGING ARTICLE AND BE  
PREPARED TO TAKE YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL MEASURE

EDWIN RAYMOND ANDERSON

**T**HE POOR CHAP SEATED NEXT TO ME in the railroad station had such a look of bewilderment that my heart went out to him. He seemed so desperately in need of help.

He was clutching a timetable with nervous frenzy, and when I offered to help him, he literally thrust it at me. "I—I can't seem to understand this." His voice was at the point of pleading. "Something seems to be wrong. The train for Boston is supposed to leave at seven. I've made all the arrangements for it, but there doesn't seem to be any such train! What am I to do?"

I took the timetable and scanned the column. Yes, there was a train scheduled to leave for Boston at seven. I glanced across to the waiting room clock; the hands pointed to 6:50. Glancing back to the timetable I noticed the small letter "t" beside the figure "7." Looking down to a footnote, I saw that "t" indicated that the seven o'clock train for Boston did not run on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. And this was Saturday!

The poor fellow could have saved himself considerable worry if he had only paid close attention to the timetable. And immediately I thought we Christians ought to give more careful attention to that which is set forth in the divine timetable, God's Word. Hebrews 2:1 says, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." If we would learn the mind of the Lord and get in line with His desired will and purposes, we must prayerfully read His Word.

God has revival in His timetable—and to it we do well to give serious attention. We hear and read a great deal about the need of revival these days. Many seem to be mouthing the words without genuine meaning in the heart. Perhaps they do so because it is considered as "fundamental," and they do not want to be accused of liberal tendencies. But surely revival does not come merely by talking about it. Every



## CLING TO THE BIBLE

Cling to the Bible, though all else be taken;  
Lose not its promises precious and sure;  
Souls that are sleeping, its echoes awaken,  
Drink from the fountain, so peaceful, so pure.

Cling to the Bible, this jewel, this treasure  
Brings to us honor and saves fallen man;  
Pearl whose great value no mortal can measure,  
Seek and secure it, O soul, while you can.

Lamp for the feet that in byways have wandered,  
Guide for the youth that would otherwise fall;  
Hope for the sinner whose best days are squandered,  
Staff for the aged, and best Book of all.

—M. J. Smith

text that underscores the business and blessedness of revival also speaks of the need for genuine repentance, forsaking evil, and cleaving more closely to the Lord.

One day I noticed this sign on a church bulletin board: "Revival Will Begin Here Sunday Evening at 7:30." Passing the same bulletin board two weeks later I read, "Revival Will End Sunday Evening at 7:30." If heavenly visitation could actually be regulated in such fashion, would it not be tragic? Where would be the place for the liberty of the Spirit?

Many other things also come under the heading of giving earnest heed to the Word. Often men measure blessings from heaven according to the size of their meetings or the talent on the platform. Vainly do they imagine that the outwardly splendid is inwardly spiritual, and sooner or later they are left in bewildered disappointment. There is no blessing in any meeting when God's plan is not followed, when His leading is ignored. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

The Word of God is certainly clear enough. Our own dullness is our dismay and defeat. It is time indeed that we gave more earnest heed to the Word of God. For how shall *we* escape if we neglect the realities of this great salvation?

## THE MANTLE OF POWER

*"The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha" (2 Kings 2:1-15).*

Elijah was gone, but the Spirit of the Lord remained. God's workmen pass from this earth, but the work of the Lord is in the hands of the Spirit of the Lord. But the Spirit of the Lord looks for human helpers. He looks for those who can wear the mantle of power—then He clothes them. Only the persistence of faith justifies the mantle of power. If we would know the power of the Holy Ghost then nothing must discourage us. No Gilgal of comfort, no Bethel of persecution, no Jericho of difficulty must be allowed to stop our progress. Go through with God and you will come to the spot where God clothes you with the Holy Ghost. If you have not yet been baptized in the Holy Ghost, do not be discouraged. Go through! Refuse to be left unblest! The blessing will surely be given at last.

—Glad Tidings Herald



New tract by Revivaltime speaker, C. M. Ward, tells clearly and plainly what Christmas really means

IT BEGINS, "NO OTHER RELIGION ON earth has been able to come up with a scene that can compete with the most precious scene in the world's history—THE MANGER SCENE." And from there, C. M. Ward presents one of the most dramatic and dynamic messages ever written on the theme of Christmas.

"MESSAGES FROM THE MANGER" is an eight-page leaflet containing a message of what Christmas really means. Why do we celebrate Christmas? Is there a greater meaning to Christmas than just a family gathering, a joyful time of celebration, an exchanging of gifts? Radio Evangelist C. M. Ward brings out in unique fashion a powerful message from the 'Manger' to the man of the common lot, for Democracy, for the family, in-

cluding mother, father and the children, for our nation, and for the burdened. This Christmas season, it should be the desire and purpose of every Christian to bring a message of cheer and hope to every friend, whether saved or unsaved. The world is shaping up now for one of the greatest events it has ever witnessed. And we should make this the happiest Christmas for others we possibly can. The world has no hope outside of Christ, and we should take the opportunity of bringing hope to those of our friends to whom we shall be sending Christmas greetings.

This unusual tract "MESSAGES FROM THE MANGER" is done up in a colorful attractive form with the Christmas touch and appeal. It is something you will be happy to enclose in your Christmas cards. Don't merely

send a personal greeting this year. Send a Christmas message, as well, and help to keep Christmas what it really is intended to be.

REVIVALTIME wants to send you without cost ten copies of this Christmas tract, "MESSAGES FROM THE MANGER." If you will write us at once, we will send your package of tracts so you will have plenty of time to mail them with your greeting cards. Just fill in the coupon below, giving us your request, and enclose with it your offering for REVIVALTIME THIS MONTH. Your copies will be sent immediately. You may acquire extra copies at cost, \$2.00 a hundred, directly from Revivaltime, P.O. Box 70, Springfield, Missouri. Get your order in promptly to assure prompt delivery.

## The Ministry of Deliverance

(Continued from page seven)

Sometimes there is a committee meeting and something goes cross-wise. There is a little sandpaper, a little rough abrasive, and all of a sudden you say something that you hadn't intended to say. "Whose spirit came from thee?" Your own!

Oh, for the blessed Spirit of God and the fruit of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. These are the things that come from the Holy Spirit. Self-will, avarice, love for the world, greed, laziness, your irritation at not having your own way, your towering ambition to be somebody—these are the things that come from your own spirit. "Whose spirit came from thee?"

Let me say to you, my friends, that in our contact with people the Lord expects the Holy Spirit to be flowing from us at all times. The Lord Jesus, on the great day of the feast, stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" Whose spirit came from thee?

REVIVALTIME

P. O. BOX 70  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

Enclosed is my love-gift to Christ for the ministry of REVIVALTIME this month \$..... I am more than happy to invest in lost souls. Please send me free of charge 10 (ten) copies of Brother Ward's tract "Messages From The Manger" to enclose in my Christmas greeting cards this year.

I am going to need extra copies, so send me ..... Enclosed is \$..... to cover cost at \$2.00 a hundred.

NAME .....

STREET .....

CITY ..... STATE .....

You are responsible for the impression you make upon people. You meet them just for a moment on a bus, or train, or streetcar—or perhaps it is a conversation in the hall, or in a store. You hand something across a counter. In that brief moment, "To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?" We're responsible for the words we say and for the spirit we give out.

It's not enough that we meet together to view certain things with alarm, and make resolutions, and appoint committees, and try to expand our organization across the world. You and I are responsible for the salvation of the lost. God says so. He says through Ezekiel, "I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel. . . . When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand."

I plead with you—before you compromise, think of the responsibility. Before you get careless and lazy about your rally program, think of your responsibility. Before you lose your temper, or hinder your testimony, or sell your soul for sin or lust or greed or money or whatever it be, think of your responsibility before God.

If you have a responsible ministry you won't go to the joints that the world has opened. If you're responsible you won't go to some of these questionable places where some weak little Christian looking in would say, "Oh, look who is in there; it must be all right for me to go." If you're a responsible Christian you'll dress like a Christian, you'll talk like a Christian, you'll act like a Christian, you'll pray like a Christian, you'll sing like a Christian. If you're responsible, you'll be thinking of your reaction on other people all of the time, because eternity is involved!

Will you get to be somebody that is somebody for God?

Will you get to be a prophet instead of just a poor pitiful stick of a religious professor?

Will you ask God for a ministry of deliverance?

*(Adapted from Youth for Christ Magazine; approved by Robert A. Cook)*

"I believe in a topless heaven, a bottomless hell, eternal salvation, and everlasting damnation!"

—C. H. Spurgeon



# Your Questions

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

**What are the seven pillars on which wisdom is built? (Proverbs 9:1).**

Seven is the perfect number expressive of harmony and unity, completeness and rest.

\* \* \*

**Luke 21:23 says, "But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days." Does this mean that mothers of young children and expectant mothers will not be ready when Jesus comes?**

The context shows that Jesus was not speaking concerning His coming for the Church. It is a warning concerning the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus said, "When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies . . . then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains." The "woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck," sets forth the added difficulty and burden which these conditions would impose upon these women of Jerusalem seeking to escape (Luke 21:20-24).

\* \* \*

**Who were the sons of God who took the daughters of men in the days of Noah? (Genesis 6:1, 2).**

It is not important that we should know. Some believe that the sons of God were angels who, through corrupting themselves with the daughters of men, lost their first estate and were cast down into pits of darkness. They believe they were the same sort of beings as the sons of God, or angelic beings, who shouted at creation (Job 38:7). Jude 6, 7 has been quoted to show that the sins of Sodom were similar in character to the sin of these angels. It is said that giants were the offspring of these unholy marriages, or unions, and they were called *Nephilim*, Hebrew for "fallen ones, or fellers."

To me the difficulty in this theory is how angels, being spirit beings, could become the fathers of human children. If these children were the offspring of angelic fatherhood, were not the *Nephilim* of Numbers 13:33 sons of

similar parentage? And, if conditions similar to those of the days of Noah are to be repeated (Matthew 24:37), are we to expect another fall of angelic beings through intercourse with the daughters of men? Personally, I favor the view that the sons of God were the descendants of Seth, who married the descendants of Cain, even though the evidence for this may not be perfect.

\* \* \*

**Is it possible to be too careful in matters of obedience and thus think one has sinned when he has not?**

A person cannot be too careful, for "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life" (Matthew 7:14). However, it is often those who are most faithful to whom Satan presents the suggestion that they are not faithful enough. Our place of spiritual rest is in our reliance on what Jesus has done. When we find our place in Him there is less opportunity for Satan to accuse. A trouble with some who love the Lord is that they are unconsciously depending too much upon self-effort. We must put our reliance on what Jesus has done. Slavish fear and labors performed under its yoke are not of the Lord. "There remaineth . . . a rest to the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9). The next verse gives us the secret of entering into this rest: "For he that is entered into his [God's] rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."

\* \* \*

**Is it scriptural to have the church book for membership open only by a vote of the church members, or should it be open at all times?**

This the local church must decide, but my recommendation is that no one be accepted into the church until the church is first satisfied that such a person is worthy of membership.

*If you wish Brother Williams to answer a question, send it to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield 1, Mo. He will answer either in this column or by personal letter.*

# the quiet heart

FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF A LONG LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF GOD,  
A GREAT TEACHER PASSES ON THE SECRET OF GENUINE CHRISTIAN GROWTH

BY F. B. MEYER

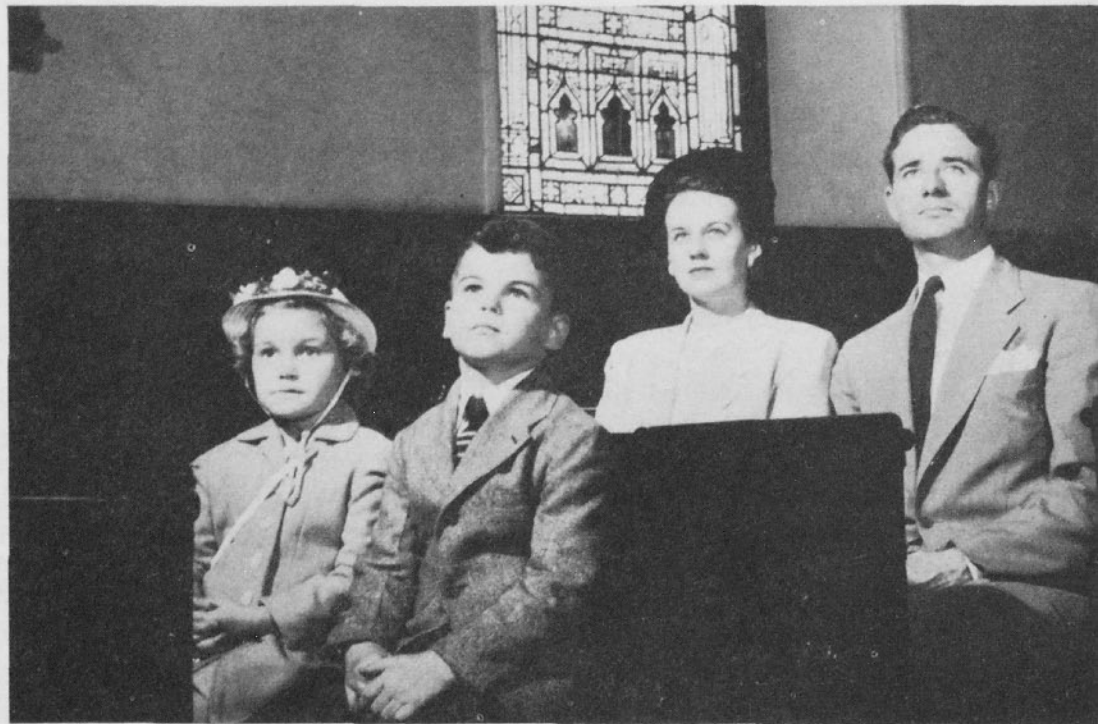
"Sit still, my daughter . . . for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day" (Ruth 3:18).

UNLESS THE HEART IS AT REST, IT will not be possible to minister the real health and comfort that those around us need. We must learn the innermost secret of Him who bade the weary and heavy-laden to rest. Christ's secret is not to relieve us of our labor or our responsibilities, but to give us the secret of tranquillity.

We will borrow an illustration from the Old Testament, which will light up and enforce our lesson, and then consider how the heart may beat quietly in respect to all the prayers, problems, and purposes of life.

Outside the little town of Bethlehem, situated on the brow of one of the Judean hills, was a piece of land which was an eyesore and a nuisance to the neighborhood. For years it had lain neglected. Thistles, rubbish, and rank growth covered it, the seeds of which were scattered far and wide.

It was the property of two women—the elder, a lone widow who had recently returned from Moab, whither her husband and she had gone in a fit of unbelief some years before; but she returned, leaving three graves behind. A young woman had accompanied her, cleaving faithfully. Out of pure sympathy she had turned her back on home and friends, the land of her birth, and the temple of her god; had crossed the mountains, with her sacred charge, and had adopted her people, her fatherland, her God, little dreaming that her name would become indissolubly connected with Bethlehem's greatest Son, and with the Saviour of the world!



As these two, late one afternoon, walked along the main street of Bethlehem, the women sitting at their cottage doors recognized in the elder woman the playmate of their girlhood. They had last seen her as a happy wife and mother, and wished her well as she was starting for Moab; but they shook their heads with sad forebodings after she had padded by. Probably the old home had remained untenanted, and there the two sheltered themselves, depending for their food on the result of the younger woman's gleaning in the neighboring fields, where the barley harvest was being reaped.

There she had good success, but permanent improvement of their position could come only through some arrangement concerning that piece of land and the disposal of the young girl's life, in accordance with Hebrew law and precedent. So far as Naomi understood the case, the future of both lay at the discretion of a leading citizen,

a near kinsman of her husband, Boaz by name, who had reached middle life, was still unmarried, of great wealth, high ideals, and universally respected and beloved. His presence in the councils of his people was a guarantee of order and righteousness; and his word was his bond.

Secretly the mother's heart was constantly turning toward this man. She knew that he could be trusted, and rejoiced when Ruth returned with warm praise of the kind words he had addressed to her, the only doubt being whether he would be willing to do the kinsman's part, or would devolve it on a more distant member of the clan.

She was overjoyed, therefore, when she learned that he was prepared to do all that might be necessary to save the name of the dead, and rehabilitate the family fortunes. One further difficulty, however, had to be faced. There was a nearer kinsman, who might assert his right. Owing, however, to some flaw

in the leasehold of the property, and also to his reluctance to marry this Moabite girl, no further obstacle blocked the benevolent plans which, beneath the guidance of God's Spirit, had formulated themselves in the mind and heart of Boaz.

The solution of the matter, which was being settled in the city gate by a council of elders, hastily summoned, involved considerable delay. Hour after hour passed in the leisurely formalities, and it was probably the late afternoon when the matter was settled. In the meanwhile the two women awaited the verdict. The older woman had read the evident leadings of Providence, and was morally sure of the issue. She knew the character of Boaz, and was confident that he would not fail in this crisis. But Ruth found it hard to be patient.

She was constantly rising to her feet, going to the door, looking up and down the street, feverish with excitement, unable to control herself amid the lights and shadows that chased each other across her heart. Presently the elder woman interfered and said: "Sit still, daughter; we have placed the whole matter in the hands of Boaz. He is an honorable man, a man of his word, a man of decision and dispatch. What he has undertaken he will carry out. The man will not rest till he has finished the thing this day. Let us reckon on him, and be at rest. Sit still! Sit still!"

So the day passed on. At last they heard steps in the silent street, and Boaz entered the cottage with a kindly look on his face, saying: "It is all settled. The next kinsman prefers not to prejudice his present position by assuming the tenure of this piece of land, the title deeds to which are not very reliable. I therefore will assume his place, take the land under my care, and to you, Ruth, I offer my hand in marriage." The story is a beautiful one. As Boaz claimed that estate, and made it a valuable addition to his own holding, so we may dare to believe that Jesus Christ will never rest till this sin-stained, distracted, and devil-cursed world is restored to its primitive order and beauty! Let each repeat to his or her troubled and anxious heart those words of Naomi, giving them their furthest reference to our great Kinsman, Christ! "Sit still! Sit still! Jesus will not be at rest until He has finished the work which the Father has given Him to do, and to which, in the eternal coun-

cil chamber, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, He pledged Himself."

He is our near Kinsman by His definite choice to descend to the cradle at Bethlehem and become flesh of our flesh. He went so far as to die for our redemption! His bloody sweat and the blood and water of His broken heart have consecrated His union with our race. He carried our nature to Heaven, and that is the indissoluble bond between Him and us.

## 1. OUR PRAYERS

But there is a personal aspect of the matter, on which we desire to insist. We must calm our anxious, restless, tumultuous souls by reckoning on Christ in respect to our personal needs. When once we have thoughtfully, deliberately, and prayerfully handed over to Him some matter of vital interest, we must dare to believe that He has taken it in hand, and that He will not be at rest until He has finished it. "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth us; His mercy endureth for ever, and He will not forsake the work of His own hands."

There are three levels in prayer, which correspond with the three levels of life: the child, the wrestler in mid-current, and the mature believer.

The first of these is unfolded in the Sermon on the Mount. We ask for things we need. We seek for truth and right understanding, as a man seeks for pearls. We knock for admittance into personal fellowship and communion. All through our life we require these; but they are very characteristic of the child's simplicity.

The second we find in the story of the widow's conflict with the unrighteous judge. She united herself with the authority of his judicial position against the high-minded injustice of her oppressor.

The third we find often referred to in the closing months of our Lord's life. "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven"; "He shall have whatsoever he saith"; "Believe that ye have received, and ye shall have"; "Have faith in God," which, as Hudson Taylor was wont to say, is equivalent to "Reckon on God's faith or faithfulness to you." These latter quotations clearly indicate that there is something more in prayer than we have been accustomed to think.

Prayer is the co-operation of the

human spirit with the Divine. As a slight noise will sometimes dislodge an avalanche, so the prayer of faith sets in motion the power of the ascended Christ. Believing prayer supplies the Almighty with the fulcrum on which He rests the lever of His omnipotence.

But prayer of this kind has two characteristics. First, we wait for the Holy Spirit to teach us what to pray for. He must make intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Second, we cease to worry. However long the interval, however strong the combination of adverse circumstances, we can sit still, with the patience of an unwavering faith, being assured that Christ will not rest until He has finished the things with which we have entrusted Him. The climax of the life of prayer is that sense of fellowship between Christ and ourselves. It is the communion of the Holy Spirit. We reckon on God's faithfulness to so large an extent that definite asking is exchanged for quiet waiting.

## 2. OUR LIFE PROBLEMS

They are set before us to test us. Each has its purpose. Some muscle or aptitude has to be tested and strengthened by use. It is thus that character is developed and impulses become principles.

From the experience of a long life I urge that the best confidant and adviser is Christ Himself. The wisest and safest course is to place the whole case in His hands, asking Him to advise and control.

There is an immense realm within us, known as the subconscious self. It has been suggested that as much of this is concealed as seven-eighths of an iceberg is concealed beneath the surface of the ocean. By our surrender to Him, our Lord has access to this vast capacity of knowledge, and in these depths can formulate resolution, decisions, and judgment which are absolutely right.

When once a decision has been arrived at which is confirmed by some outward incident and the teaching of Scripture, be sure to follow it out, though the heavens threaten to fall. The late Bishop Temple said truly that "all true guidance consists in calling up from within the souls of men the powers that are living and working in the secret abysses of their souls."

The sea is very wide, the crosscurrents

(Continued on next page)

very treacherous, our bark very frail. It is best to take the Pilot on board, then the captain may go down from the bridge and rest. Don't worry. Don't anticipate. Don't fear. Don't, like Saul, be precipitate and offer the sacrifice before Samuel arrives. "Sit still, my soul, sit still. Jesus, whom thou hast trusted, will not fail thee. He will not rest until He has finished that which thou hast committed to His care!"

### 3. OUR PURPOSES

The servants of Christ will often become aware of a purpose steadily forming in their hearts. Paul, kneeling in the Temple, becomes aware that henceforth his lifework must lie among the Gentiles. Philip discovers that he must leave the revival which has broken out in Samaria and go to wait on a bit of wilderness track for a certain purpose, which is not further disclosed. Paul arrives at Ephesus just as Apollos leaves it.

Mary Fisher traverses land and sea to give her message to the Sultan himself, which he receives with much attention and gravity. Stephen Grellet preaches a sermon, apparently to nobody, in the heart of the forest, which led to one thousand sheep being brought home to the Good Shepherd. Carey is impressed to go to India, Judson to Burma, John Williams to Raratonga, Mary Slessor to West Africa. Tens of thousands whose biographies have never been printed have felt the urge of the Spirit of Christ and have dared to obey, to their everlasting joy.

Our one act must be to obey. We must keep our souls before Him as a still lake. We must throw on Him the entire responsibility of opening the way, providing the funds, and inclining our friends to acquiesce. The route, the hour, the companionships, the minding of things behind, the preparing of things before, must be absolutely committed to His grace. He must open the way and go in front and bring up the rear.

Everything will be deftly and abundantly arranged. All we have to do is to follow where He leads, quieting our souls by the refrain: "Sit still, my soul, sit still, for He will not be at rest till He has perfected that to which He has His hand."

*Measure thy life by loss instead of gain,  
Not by the wine drunk, but by the wine  
poured forth,  
For Love's strength standeth in Love's sacrifice,  
And whoso suffers most hath most to give.*

# Greetings From Iceland

BY FRED PFEIFER

**T**HE BRETHREN OF ICELAND SEND WARM Christian love and greetings to all of our dear Pentecostal folk in the United States. I had the wonderful privilege recently of making a missionary trip to that land. The Assembly in Goteborg, Sweden, made it possible for me to take the air mail route to Iceland, thus eliminating a hazardous five- or six-day journey aboard a fishing vessel through storm-tossed waters.

Arriving in Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland, I was warmly welcomed by a fellow missionary. After dinner at the pastor's home we drove to Keflavik and there distributed English and Icelandic tracts and literature among the soldiers and native workers. There are some 10,000 on duty at the army base, including native workers who serve in construction operations, hangars, and various army divisions. We were glad for the Evangels, tracts, Sunday School papers and pictures that had been sent us, and began distributing these among the workers at the army base, refrigerating plants, trawlers, and other freighters in the harbor, thanking God for the opportunity of placing the Word of Life in the hands of so many who are on the broad way to a Christless eternity. The army chaplains and other

officers received us warmly. When we spoke to the whole Boy Scout troop about Christ, many of them raised their hands to indicate that they wanted to take Jesus with them and give Him their hearts.

We had the privilege of witnessing to many workers at the fish-packing plants and evaporators in Keflavik. In the evaporators, offal is reduced to fish meal for fertilizer, sacked, and sent to all parts of the world. Great cylindrical retorts swallow ton after ton of offal and reduce it to powder.

In the mighty container for extracting oil there were more cod livers cooking than one could imagine the world contained. The waters about Iceland teem with great schools of cod, and trawlers sometimes earn a thousand crowns in a single night. Unfortunately, however, the men frequently spend their earnings for strong drink. It was a special joy and satisfaction to give these men tracts and gospel portions. May God grant an abundant harvest from the gospel seed sown in this place.

We have the same fervent prayer for our short period of service farther north in Isafjord, where another missionary and I went among the natives with gospel portions, tracts, and literature, speaking to them of Jesus wherever possible. He contacted one well-known opera singer, who said, "Icelanders do not think much of religion," but who acknowledged that not many of them give God a chance to do anything for them. After a friendly conversation with my friend, the singer received the tracts and really seemed to have changed his mind.

On Sunday night we went aboard two ships at the docks, one Norwegian and the other Danish. It was wonderful to see those fellows with grimy hands receiving the tracts and literature we gave them. They listened reverently to a message from the Word and a song from my friend's phonograph, and were so still when we prayed for them. The next day we met a number of them on the street, and they stopped and spoke in so friendly a manner one cannot help thinking that this service for Jesus was well worth while. In Isafjord, as in other places, we took the opportunity to give little children small picture cards with a few verses of Scripture to take home to their parents. They flocked around us and followed us all the way home, even though we had told them to go home to their parents. We trust that many of them, as well as their parents, will find Christ through the picture cards we gave out.

The last Sunday in Reykjavik a brother invited some of us to ride into the country to see the hot springs and other places of interest. In that locality the hot springs are



The Sunday School in Isafjord, northern Iceland



scattered all about. We came to one and it was sending out just a little steam. We were told it was not time for it to boil over, but as we stood and watched, it began to send up steam and soon was boiling furiously and sending up a column of scalding water and steam. It was in this place that we went into a great greenhouse with a really tropical, moist atmosphere and there saw row after row of banana trees with great bunches of fruit. There were also grapes, melons, and cucumbers, which were grown with profit from the natural hot springs even in the midst of winter storms and blizzards. This visit was climaxed by the distribution of tracts to those whom we may never meet again.

On the way home we stopped for a bit of refreshment. We distributed tracts to all in the dining room. After the meal we found a young Scottish man out in the hall who had received one of our tracts. He had been a drunkard, and his young wife had forsaken him and married another because of

his drink habit. Now he had reformed and was not far from the Kingdom. I did my best to comfort him in his distress and to point him to God, who alone can help him. He promised to seek the Lord. He said he was going to England and would so much like to meet me again. God bless and help him find his way to Calvary.

On the way homeward we passed over the "Well of Death," where for 300 years all the death-doomed criminals were tied in sacks and thrown alive into its icy depths. Its waters are crystal clear and very deep. As we drove over the bridge and looked into its depths we wondered how many had met their fate there, and if some had not repented even as the thief on the cross and received forgiveness from a gracious God who, for Jesus' sake, even in the very last moment forgives those who call upon Him.

From this place of death we could look up to a beautiful waterfall where the leader of his people—who was considered to be a

god in those heathen times 1000 years after Christ—had gone and lain under some skins for two days and nights. He then arose and threw all of the people's idols into the base of the waterfall and declared that the nation would thereafter be a Christian nation. Such has come to pass, although there is much room for improvement in the observance of His holy law of love. It is our desire that there will be many more who will follow Jesus and be born again and be baptized in water and in His blessed Holy Spirit. I also hope that there will be a heart-searching time among the clergy in the state church, where there are reported to be spiritualists, communists, and theosophists. God is working and souls are being saved in many evangelical churches, especially in the Pentecostal Assemblies. In Kevlavik a fine church building is being completed, and a larger church is being contemplated in Reykavik to the glory of Him who has brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

## A Letter From LILLIAN TRASHER

ASSIUT, EGYPT  
AUGUST 20, 1956

Women's Missionary Council groups and other friends send supplies for the Assiut Orphanage to the Assemblies of God Warehouse, 233-53rd Street, Brooklyn, New York. From there the supplies are sent in regular consignments to the orphanage in Egypt. Sister Trasher wrote the following letter after receiving one of these shipments:

TO THE LADIES OF THE WMC AND  
FRIENDS ALL OVER THE STATES:

I am sure that many of you have been wondering why I have not written to thank you for the wonderful gifts which you sent me, many of you as long ago as this spring. Well, after many very long delays the things have only just reached us! They arrived in Egypt June 23 and were held in the Customs for about two months. They have at last arrived in really wonderful condition—nearly everything a person could wish for. Hundreds of girls' dresses, over a hundred pants for the older boys, little pants for the smaller boys, some of the most lovely dresses for the girls that anyone could think of, baby powder (what a blessing!), baby quilts, toys, towels, pieces of yardage, beautiful samples of wall paper, five more new typewriters! Oh, so many lovely things!

I am sure you are wondering why I have not written you direct to thank you. Well, the fact is that in all of the boxes I only found five addresses for all of those thousands of articles! Nearly all of the addresses had been removed. Unless the addresses are sewn to the things, I just don't get them.



Miss Trasher with a group of her girls on Mother's Day, 1956. The skirts were made by a WMC group in Madison, Wisconsin.

When I saw all of the enormous boxes I wondered how long it would take me to thank so many people. All of your packages had been opened and the things put together, but I feel sure that nothing was taken out, as all of the boxes were packed tightly, though they were badly mixed up.

May God bless you for the lovely things which you sent. You will never know what it means to have enough clothes!

Thanking you again for all you are doing for us,

I am, your sister,  
LILLIAN TRASHER

A Christian is a *mind* through which Christ thinks, a *heart* through which Christ loves, a *voice* through which Christ speaks, a *hand* through which Christ helps.

—Selected

*Meet the  
New Year*

**WITH  
A  
WORKERS' TRAINING COURSE**

As 1957 begins, how appropriate for a Sunday School to meet the new year with a united plan for improvement—a Training Course! The study book suggested for this January is "The Spirit Himself" by R. M. Riggs, on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. For details on the book and teaching aids, write the National Sunday School Department, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri.

*January is Training Month*



# Fagots From the Torch of Evangelism

Compiled by the Department of Evangelism, 434 West Pacific St., Springfield, Mo.

► **VIOLA, ARK.**—Evangelist Glenna Byard held evangelistic meetings here during the month of September. One was saved, three reclaimed, and two were filled with the Holy Ghost.  
—Ray Shelton, Pastor

► **LAWRENCE, KANS.**—The Lawrence Assembly recently enjoyed a good revival with Evangelist R. Alan Davis of Tulsa, Okla. and his co-worker, Jim Collins. A number came to the altar for salvation. Others were refilled with the Holy Spirit, and the Church was greatly blessed as the Lord visited His people.  
—J. J. Krimmer, Pastor

► **HICKORY, N. C.**—The church in this new field recently enjoyed four weeks of revival with Evangelist W. V. Bentley of Spearman, Tex. Several were at the altar for salvation, and several were healed. There were many excellent altar services. The Sunday School record was broken with 60 in attendance.  
—James Gitchell, Pastor

► **STOCKTON, KANS.**—Thirteen souls met God at the altar during a mighty revival conducted here by the Lambertson Musical Evangelists. With the exception of the first few nights the church was packed in every service. Brother and Sister Lambertson and their two daughters have a varied musical program of vocal and instrumental numbers. The ministry in Word, music, and song proved a real benefit to all. (Brother Lambertson was a Methodist minister for 15 years.)  
—Ivan Christoffersen, Pastor

► **ONTARIO, OREG.**—This church has witnessed one of the greatest revivals in its history during the five weeks when Evangelist Johnny Hoskins was with us. Many were saved, healed, and filled with the Holy Spirit during these great days.  
—D. W. Phillips, Pastor

► **ATLANTA, GA.**—Evangelist Carl C. Haas just closed his fourth revival meeting in the Washington Street Assembly of God. It was the best of his meetings here. There were sinners at the altars almost every night, and a good number were filled with the Spirit. The straightforward preaching of Brother Haas and his broken spirit caused the people to "dig in" and really become more established in the Word of God. It was more than just another meeting, because the results are lasting even after the campaign has been concluded.  
—Jimmie Mayo, Pastor

► **SPRINGFIELD, MASS.**—The Bethany Assembly of God recently closed a wonderful series of meetings with Evangelist L. B. "Bill" Lewis of Wilmington, Calif. During a three-Sunday period about 50 received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some 35 came forward to receive Christ as Saviour, and several backsliders were wonderfully reclaimed. On the final Sunday morning an all-time Sunday School record was set with 360 present. Attendance throughout the meeting was good, and many felt this to be one of the greatest revivals in Bethany's 37-year history.  
—David W. Flower, Pastor

► **SHAWANO, WIS.**—The Musical Vanderploegs ministered in the church here for two and a half weeks. Good crowds were attracted by the outstanding music and anointed preaching. Numerous people were saved and reclaimed, and God performed miracles of healing. The church as a whole was spiritually renewed. No evangelist has worked harder for the church than Brother Vanderploeg. On the final night of the campaign he raised \$1,370 in cash and pledges for the building fund.  
—Paul B. Hoff, Pastor

► **SAN RAFAEL, CALIF.**—The church here will long remember the excellent meetings conducted by Evangelist Maurice Contreras. During the campaign two came forward for salvation, one received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and at least eight prayed through to a definite refilling. The greatest benefits, however, cannot be evaluated statistically. Every message seemed to meet the need of the moment, and was confirmed by the presence of the Lord.  
—William O. Vickery, Pastor

► **CLEVELAND, TEX.**—The First Assembly of God recently enjoyed an old-fashioned Pentecostal revival with Evangelist and Mrs. LeRoy Fleck. Souls were saved and blessed. Several received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Quite a number of backsliders of long standing in the city were reclaimed. Many were healed. One outstanding conversion was that of an excavating contractor who was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit in the Sunday morning service. At 1:45 p.m. he was still "drunk on the new wine" and we had to help him to his automobile. He was under the power of God and speaking in other tongues until around 5 p.m.  
—Harlen J. Pate, Pastor

► **MIAMI, OKLA.**—A very successful union Salvation-Healing campaign was held here recently by the Morris Cerullo Evangelistic Party. The meetings were held under a gospel tent in Fairgrounds Park, and were attended by the largest crowds ever seen in Miami at such services. People of all faiths attended and witnessed the mighty miracle-working power of God. Twelve churches of the Assemblies of God in the surrounding area co-operated in the campaign. Hundreds came to the altar for salvation, reconsecration, and the infilling of the Holy Ghost. People of all faiths attended the meetings. Many of these are now attending an Assemblies of God church in their community. Ralph Bender's messages at 7:00 each evening were an inspiration and were enjoyed by all who heard him.  
—L. J. Choate, Chairman

Tent meeting in Miami, Oklahoma, with Morris Cerullo Evangelistic Party



## EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

STATE	CITY	CHURCH	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Ala.	Dothan	First	Nov. 27-Dec. 9	Stanley MacPherson	Max McNab
	Eufaula	First	Nov. 25—	Carl C. Haas	Andrew Daniel
	Newton	A of G	Nov. 25-Dec. 9	Nelson White & wife	Hollis Kelly
Ariz.	Tucson	First	Nov. 28-Dec. 17	Sunshine Party	L. G. Gilmore
Ark.	Harrisburg	A of G	Nov. 26-Dec. 9	George R. Wood	Billy McKenzie
	Hot Springs	First	Nov. 25—	Benny Sapp & wife	Faye Hutchinson
Calif.	Dinuba	A of G	Nov. 27-Dec. 9	Willard Peirce	J. S. Murrell
	Richmond	Central	Nov. 13-25	Tom Ming Sr. & wife	Russell Griffin
	San Jose	First	Dec. 2-23	Virgil Warens & wife	R. J. Thurmond
Fla.	Dade City	A of G	Nov. 25—	Skondeen Family	H. Wm. Ponge
	Pensacola	Brownsville	Nov. 20-Dec. 2	R. A. Sherrill	Carl Arnold
Ill.	Harvey	Calvary Temp.	Dec. 2—	Frank Lummer	Wm. Sawyers
	Industry	A of G	Nov. 28—	Fiscus & Peak	D. L. Boyd
	Peoria	First	Nov. 20-Dec. 2	John C. Peteet	E. L. Shoemaker
Kans.	Great Bend	First	Nov. 25-Dec. 9	Singing Sandalls	J. O. Rosenberg
La.	Calhoun	A of G	Nov. 25—	Charles Reed	A. C. Bristol
	Mer Rouge	Bonne Idee	Dec. 2—	E. H. Sherratt	Jack Gibson
Mo.	Springfield	Glad Tidings	Dec. 2—	Hastie Twins	Paul Witten
Mont.	Hamilton	A of G	Nov. 27-Dec. 2	Ruth Specter	W. R. Leisy
	Havre	A of G	Nov. 25-Dec. 16	Wesley Fleming	Don Ashmore
N. J.	Bridgeton	Full Gosp.	Nov. 28-Dec. 9	Watters Gosp. Team	Edward Cooper
Ohio	Delphos	First	Nov. 27-Dec. 9	Paul Wilbur	Elvin D. Irwin
	Claremore	First	Nov. 20-Dec. 2	Clinton Vanzant	C. A. Snodgrass
Okla.	Sapulpa	First	Nov. 27—	Carl Oney & wife	Claude Maples
	Lebanon	A of G	Nov. 25—	Johnny Hoskins	H. D. Robeson
Wash.	Anacortes	Pentecostal	Nov. 27-Dec. 9	McColl-Gerard Trio	E. M. Johnson
Canada	Morden, Manitoba	Pentecostal	Nov. 20-Dec. 2	Ollie Johnson & wife	C. F. Cairns

Announcements should reach the Department of Evangelism 30 days in advance, due to the fact that *THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL* is made up 24 days before the date which appears upon it.

### News of Evangelists

After pastoring for many years, R. S. PETERSON is again on the evangelistic field. . . . JOHN L. PRICE of Indianapolis was recently called home to be with the Lord. . . . JAMES NICHOLSON has taken a pastorate in Richland, Wash. . . . J. B. WOOLUMS is now pastoring Faith Assembly of God, Hazleton, Pa. . . . RAYMOND T. RICHEY recently ministered in Korea. . . . BIRD CAMPBELL is once again serving as an evangelist. . . . The personnel of the McCOLL-GERARD TRIO has changed recently due to the marriage of MISS JEAN McCOLL to MR. CLYDE ROBERTS, 71 Avenue A, Prichard, Ala. Mrs. Roberts is still available for meetings in the southern states. The trio is now made up of Velma McColl, Jean Linamen, and Bernice Gerard. They will continue in meetings throughout the nation.

#### REPORT FROM GERMANY

American evangelists F. A. and Inez Sturgeon recently concluded six weeks of revival meetings in the Evangelistic Center in Berlin, Germany. Capacity crowds filled the hall which seats 1100. Many nights the crowds were so great that it was impossible to accommodate them. On Sunday evenings two services were held because of crowded conditions. Over 700 hungry souls sought God for salvation, and about 100 were filled with the Holy Spirit. These were filled in the regular tarrying services, the main

services, at home, and in the healing line. The Lord stretched forth His hand to heal the sick each evening. Testimonies of these healings, many of them confirmed by doctors, include a wide variety of sicknesses.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL HOMECOMING—Dec. 2 at Bartons Chapel, Murchison, Tex.—by Cora Voyles, Church Secretary.

FIRST MISSIONARY CONVENTION—Nov. 22-25 at Capitol Hill Tabernacle, 3518 S. Harvey, Oklahoma City, Okla. Paul Bruton and Carol Holleman, speakers—by O. M. Keener, Pastor.

MISSIONARY CONVENTION — Nov. 29-Dec. 2 at First Assembly of God, 13th and Mulberry, Ottawa, Kans. Harold Jones of Africa, speaker.—by Bennie R. Harris, Pastor.

CHURCH DEDICATION—Dec. 1, 2 at Norwich Assembly of God, Norwich, Conn. Grady Fannin, District Superintendent, and George Flower, District Secretary-Treasurer, speakers.—by Robert J. Lundstrom, Pastor.

WEST TEXAS C. A. CONVENTION—Nov. 28-29 at First Assembly of God, Levelland, Tex. T. A. McDonough, District C. A. President of Oklahoma, speaker. First service on Wednesday night.—by M. F. Hankins, District C. A. President.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY—Nov. 25-27 at First Assembly of God, 504 N. 2nd St., Marshalltown, Iowa. Chas E. Long speaking Sunday morning; T. E. Gannon speaking Sunday evening. Sectional C. A. Rally 7:30 p.m. Monday. Anniversary Service, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. with A. M. Alber speaking.—by Mirko E. Parlotz, Pastor.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED—Sunday School quarterlies (adult, young people, or intermediate), and Sunday School picture rolls for use on foreign field. Send post-paid to Honora Osberg, 1236 E. Grand, Los Angeles, Calif.

►JACKSONVILLE, FLA. — The Kings Highway Tabernacle was richly blessed through the inspired, prophetic ministry of B. R. Minton. A number were saved and many drawn closer to the Lord through the use and explanation of the large chart, "The Eternal Purpose and Plan of God in the Ages."

—James A. Cain, Pastor

►BIG SPRING, TEX.—The First Assembly of God enjoyed the recent two weeks of special meetings with Evangelist and Mrs. Glen Shinn. Five were saved and quite a number were healed by the power of God. The timely and Scriptural messages, as well as the special singing, were greatly appreciated by the congregation.

—Calvin O. Wiley, Pastor

►ALLIANCE, OHIO—Evangelist and Mrs. Eddie Roush of Clinton, Ind. just concluded a splendid three-week revival campaign here. A good number of souls came forward for salvation, and three were filled with the Holy Spirit. One man was saved from a life of drunkenness and filled with the Spirit. Both the numerical and spiritual blessings of the meetings have proved a benefit to the church.

—I. A. Shank, Pastor

►ESTACADA, OREG.—A large number of visitors attended every night of the special meetings recently conducted by Evangelist Don Gossett. This was the best campaign in several years, and many of the visitors have become decidedly interested in the church. The Lord's power was present to save and heal. There were many thrilling testimonies of healing. Several cases of total deafness were instantly healed, including one lady who had been deaf for 41 years and another for 35 years. These miracles were a real challenge to the people of Estacada, and the meetings were favorably discussed everywhere. The local Methodist pastor was also healed during the campaign.

—Marion Ravin, Pastor

►SELBYVILLE, DEL.—The Selbyville Evangelistic Center experienced a move of God in two and one-half weeks of meetings conducted by Evangelist Richard Owens of Wilmington, Del. The results of the meeting were very gratifying. At least ten found Christ as Saviour, one received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and many were healed. Many new people were reached during the revival. Not one service passed without new people coming to the church for the first time.

The revival spirit continues. Two men have been saved since the close of the meetings. The former Sunday School record was 71. The first Sunday of the meetings there were 72 in attendance, and the second Sunday 84.

One boy ten years of age was immediately delivered of a brain tumor. This was confirmed by the doctor's report. A boy with leukemia was prayed for, and the doctors were amazed at his improvement. God has been signally blessing this pioneer work.

—Jack Kylor, Pastor

# "The Lord Is My Rock"

by DAVID M. WELLARD

David said, "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer" (2 Sam. 22:2).

When we think of a rock we think of something solid, stable—something immovable — something that warrants trust—something safe.

I can well remember playing on the great rocks on the shores of St. Andrew's Bay, Scotland. How we used to romp and skip, jump and pound, but we never made a dent in the rocks. When storms arose our stone piles and sand castles were easily swept away, but all the fury of the wind and waves could not budge those huge rocks a fraction of an inch.

Of course, we know rocks can be moved. Whole mountain ranges have been known to topple during earthquakes; but we are not trusting to movable rocks of this world. The Lord is our Rock—and our Rock can never be moved.

We may tremble. Our hearts may faint as the storms of sorrow and difficulties break over our heads, but be of good cheer—our foundation is secure. Our Rock never moves.

When your heart quakes, and your secure feelings are blown away, and great plans and ambitions seem to collapse, always remember: *the Lord is your Rock* and He remains the same.

He has promised never to leave you nor forsake you—and He meant it when He said it.

"Sometimes on the Rock I tremble,  
Faint of heart and weak of knee,  
But the steadfast Rock of Ages  
Never trembles under me."

## SEEING DOUBLE

Be not like the foolish drunkard who, staggering home one night, saw his candle lit for him. "Two candles," said he, for his drunkenness made him see double. "I will blow out one." So he blew it out, and was in the dark.

Many a man sees double through the drunkenness of sin—he thinks he has one life in which to sow his wild oats, and the last part of life in which to turn to God; so, like a fool, he blows out the only candle that he has, and in the dark he will have to lie down forever.

—C. H. Spurgeon



# My Happiest Christmas

**L**ET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY HAPPIEST Christmas. It was some thirty years ago; I was a member of a modern up-town church.

There really didn't seem to be much spiritual life in evidence in that church, but one Sunday during November the pastor said, "Friends, our missionary funds are very low. The need is so great that I want to ask if this Christmas you will forego the giving of gifts to others. Would you be willing to save the money you plan to spend for gifts and bring it to the church on Christmas Day in a special 'Gifts for Jesus' service?"

The idea caught like a fire in a spruce forest. Everyone, from the primaries to the adults, seemed to be enthused. We sent letters to friends and loved ones, explaining that there would be no exchanging of gifts since this Christmas the gifts were going to the One whose birthday we were celebrating—Jesus!

Hard on the children? The greatest reluctance was among the adults, not the children! Childish attitudes are but the product of training. Isn't it time we teach them true values?

That Christmas there was freedom from shopping, freedom from aching bones, freedom from rush and worry, freedom from a stricken conscience. Our nerves were not on edge, and there was a place in our hearts for the peace of God to enter and abide.

On Christmas Day, as we placed our gifts of money for missions in the boxes at the altar, we suddenly understood why the shepherds returned from Bethlehem

praising God. To us that money represented a people who needed the gospel message. It symbolized self-denial. It stood for the spontaneous co-operation of the children. It was what would have gone into trees and gifts and ornaments—sacrifices that God knew about and understood. This was the true spirit of Christmas. Only eternity will reveal how many people heard the gospel because of the united, consecrated action that year.

And now 1956! Christmas is just ahead of us. Are we, the churches of America, going to succumb again to the spirit of our age? Will we again draw names in our Sunday School classes to exchange a gift that costs twenty-five or fifty cents, and receive in return something that we neither need nor want? Would that some historian of the future might dip his pen and write as follows:

"It was in the year 1956 that the churches of America had a mighty awakening. Whereas there had been much spending and exchanging of gifts at the festival called Christmas which celebrated the birth of the Lord Jesus, now they left off this and instead brought large gifts of money into the churches on Christmas for the printing of Bibles, for the sending forth of missionaries, for the building of Bible Schools in heathen lands, and for the work of the Lord everywhere. Because of this, the message of the gospel was spread abroad to the ends of the earth, and the return of the Lord to the earth was immeasurably hastened."

—Anonymous

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for Christmas

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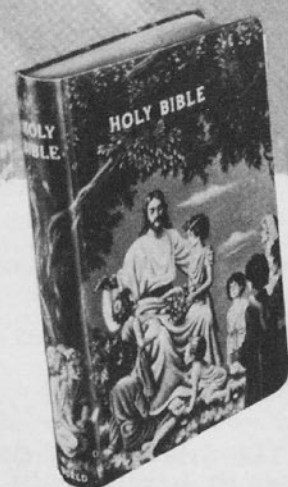
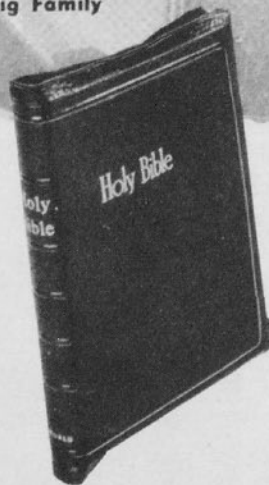
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# How I Was Led Into Pentecost

by Albert Westfall  
Rochester, N. Y.

I RECEIVED MY FIRST BIBLE TEACHING from a Christian grandmother. Later, when I was a teen-ager, an elderly pastor who was a real man of God convinced me that I should be baptized and become a member of his church.

Shortly after this, however, the pastor resigned because about half of the members felt he was too old to lead them (even though he had built the congregation from a handful to a thousand members).

The new pastor took a firm hold on his office and soon doubled the church membership—but the price was a great spiritual declension in that church. I continued with this denomination for about eight years, taking an active part in all the church work. For a time I believed all that was preached from the pulpit—even the political sermons. The church became more concerned with raising funds than reaching souls. After several unchristian incidents took place in group activities, I began to lose faith in this church and its teachings.

About that time my family and I moved to a rural section where there were few churches. Since we had no car, we had to walk several miles to attend the nearest church. Then a new minister came to this church and brought discredit to the cause of Christ. Because of his actions, the church was closed for some time.

We began to wonder where we could find a group of Christians that preached the truth as we read it in the Bible. It seemed there must be some who did, but up to this time we had not even heard of these Pentecostals.

Then one day I made a trip to a community where I had lived as a child. On the way I passed an old abandoned farmhouse. Its windows and doors were gone; the roof was falling in. I remembered the man who had lived there when I was a child. Suddenly I had an overwhelming desire to take a last look inside.

As I entered, I noticed a few pieces

of broken furniture lying about; some faded pictures still hung on the walls; here and there were piles of rubbish. Upstairs I noticed a pile of old magazines and papers, including several copies of THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL. I glanced through the EVANGELS and found them very interesting; then I stuffed them into my pocket meaning to study them more closely at home.

We spent the next few evenings reading over those magazines. They seemed to bring to us a new desire to attend church, but we were at a loss to know how to contact anyone of this movement.

God supplied the answer. A few days later a man and his wife asked us if we would like to attend Sunday School in their home in a neighboring community. We gladly went the very next Sunday—our first service in the Assemblies of God.

Now, twenty-five years later, we still cherish the Pentecostal movement. We thank God for leading us to where we hear the whole Bible preached, a church that believes in salvation, divine healing, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and the soon return of Christ. We thank God for using the EVANGEL to bring our family into His glorious light.

## STAR of HOPE

The star the Wise Men followed that first Christmas was a star of hope, for it pointed them to Christ. In a similar way, gift subscriptions to the "Evangel" are "stars of hope." They lead to the One who can save from sin; they lead to the blessed, personal fulfillment of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Recently we have received a number of letters telling of persons who have been saved or have come into Pentecost through reading the "Evangel." The subscriptions you give this Christmas, besides bringing help and comfort to your friends and loved ones, could well be the answers to your prayers. For spiritual Christmas gifts use the handy order form below. Subscribe at these reduced rates (and include your own subscription or renewal):

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BY HOWARD E. KERSHIMER

Playing  
Down  
Christianity  
in Our  
Public  
Schools

WE CONGRATULATE AN ALERT BOARD of Education in a town which we shall not name, for withdrawing, canceling and destroying a bulletin sent to the Principals by the Superintendent of Schools.

The bulletin declared that in various parts of the State there was a growing feeling against "the celebration of Christmas by special observances and exercises in public schools." Principals were advised to re-plan Christmas programs to de-emphasize the religious aspect and to emphasize "folklore values." They were advised to use folk songs instead "of the more religious type songs which are generally used."

The bulletin predicted that within a few years the Courts would forbid "specifically religious aspects of the celebration" and that it will become illegal to use some of the hymns and anthems that are now quite common, and that it will become necessary to avoid pageants involving the Nativity, angels, and similar "props." It was suggested that it might be well to begin to re-plan the Christmas program in this direction so that the change-over is so gradual as to be unnoticeable to the general public over a period of years.

So the ground is being prepared to rub out the religious significance of Christmas in the public schools. A sacred day in which spiritual values have always been emphasized is to be wholly secularized. This is to be done so gradually and carefully that the people will not know it. (What an estimate of the intelligence of the people!)

Ostensibly this is being done to avoid offending minority groups. The point is not well taken, in our judgment, as these minorities need not be required to participate and might well be accord-

ed a place in school programs for the presentation of such folklore singing and other activities as they consider appropriate.

It is assumed that the Christian majority will not be offended by the secularization of Christmas. Why, therefore, should the minority be offended by the exercises which the Christian majority consider appropriate?

We have vegetarians in our schools but we do not give up the practice of serving meat in our school lunches. We do not require vegetarian children to eat meat, but we do not take it away from other children.

We have Christian Science children in our schools who seek exemption from medical practices therein carried on, but we do not discontinue such practices on that account.

Small minorities should not be allowed to destroy sacred values which the Christian majority believe to be of great importance. The rights of the minorities not to participate must be fully recognized and protected, but there is no reason to accept and practice a minority point of view when it means the destruction of values which the overwhelming majority consider of vital importance.

This is one small evidence of what we believe is a wide-spread, well-planned campaign to de-emphasize Christianity. Even as we defend the right of all people to exercise complete freedom in religion, so we believe the Christian majority should not be restricted nor hampered in its time-hallowed Christmas observances. We congratulate this School Board and hope its example will be followed throughout the land.

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