

The Pentecostal

EVANGEL

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December 30, 1956

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



New Life For
The New Year



The Strategic
Middle East

The Path Ahead

As we stand at the portal of another year and face the unknown future, our minds habitually go back over the path we have trodden, and we review the trials and triumphs of the year that is past. No doubt we can all say that the blessings have outweighed the troubles. It may be that as far as our personal lives are concerned, we would like to recall the vanished months in order to put a few wrong things right. Words were spoken that we would like to withdraw; acts were committed that we wish we might undo. But the past is gone, and we must leave it with God. Let us remember the lessons it has taught us, and pray that in the new year the Lord will make us victorious where we were defeated, strong where we were weak, hopeful where we were fearful, holy where we were sinful.

It is good to know that as we step into another year we are not venturing out into an uncharted wilderness. There is a path ahead, a course ordained of God that we should walk in it. It may be hidden from our view—we are permitted to see only a few steps of the way at a time—yet our heavenly Father has gone before and has prepared the path He wants us to take. Let us put our hand in His and ask Him to lead us step by step.

The Lord led the Israelites through the wilderness. He went ahead of them and actually picked out their camping site from night to night. Moses reminded them of this: "The Lord your God, Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to show you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day" (Deuteronomy 1:32, 33). Actually there were at least four means by which God led them, as follows:

The Ark of the Covenant preceded the Israelites wherever they went. It symbolized the presence of God among His people. In it were the tables of the divine law, covered by the Mercy Seat. God has set forth His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be a "propitiation" (Ark, or Mercy Seat) through faith in His precious blood (Romans 3:25). As Israel followed the Ark, so we are to follow Christ, who left us an example "that we should follow His steps." We must never depart from Him or we will lose the way and perish.

The supernatural pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night showed them which path to take. When the pillar moved, Israel broke up camp and followed it. When it rested, they stopped and pitched their tents. They did not dare to ignore this supernatural sign of God's will for their lives. Nor do we dare to go against God's manifest will. When He speaks we must listen.

The people also had spiritual leaders to guide them. The priests watched the pillar of cloud, and when the cloud moved they blew two silver trumpets as a signal. The Israelites did not move as individuals, but as a body. Thank God for spiritual leaders today whose eyes are on the pillar of cloud. Let us accept their leadership, and maintain a unity of action and purpose in our Christian work.

Finally, the Israelites had an Arab guide to help them cross the wilderness. He was Hobab, the Midianite—Moses' father-in-law. He was trained and experienced in desert life. He knew all the desert sights, sounds, and warnings. Though his service was no substitute for the other guides, yet the Israelites were sensible enough to take his advice on many matters. There are many mature Christians who can help us find the way. Let us be sensible enough to take their advice and profit from their experience. "He that hearkeneth to counsel is wise" (Proverbs 12:15).

May the Lord lead us all along the path of His choosing during 1957, and may it be a blessed new year for every reader.

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

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A New Life for the NEW YEAR

BY ATWOOD FOSTER

General Treasurer, Assemblies of God

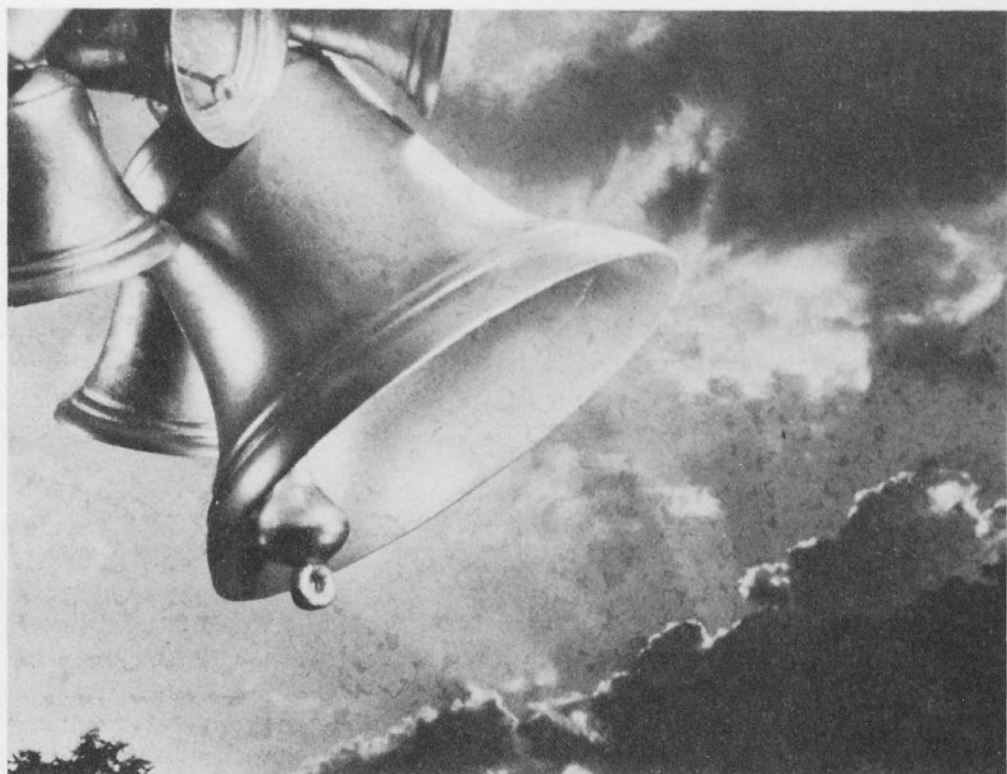
THERE WAS A MAN OF THE PHARISEES, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. In so many words the Bible introduces us to the man who came to Jesus by night for a very important interview.

The interview was important because it brought out the truth of the New Birth. We are entering a new year and we want it to be a good year. Let us remember that nothing is good except that which comes from God. No life is good except that which He puts within us. God offers us a new life for the new year. He offers to put His very own life within us so that 1957 will be a year of victorious Christian living.

This new life does not come through making new resolutions, or turning over a new leaf. It comes only through a New Birth. That is the hard fact that Nicodemus had to learn. Jesus said to him, "Ye must be born again."

Had Nicodemus been a wicked man he might have accepted the Saviour's words without a question. He might have said, "Yes, that's the only way a miserable sinner like me could ever expect to enter into the Kingdom of God. I would have to be born all over again and live a different kind of life from childhood on, for I have worked myself into a thoroughly hopeless situation." But Nicodemus was *not* a wicked man. He was a Pharisee, very pious and devout. In fact, he was a teacher of religion. And yet, in spite of his excellent reputation he knew he lacked something. That is why he had laid aside his religious prejudice and, under cover of night, had dared to visit this One whom the Jewish clergy despised.

Jesus spoke very plainly and directly to Nicodemus. He said, "There is only



one way to enter the Kingdom of God. You must be born into it. *You must be born again.* Being born into the human family is not enough. You need to be born into the family of God as well.

This doctrine was new and strange to the learned rabbi. He had studied and taught the Scriptures for many years, but he had never heard of anything like this. "How can a man be born when he is old . . . ?" he questioned.

Then Jesus explained in clear and positive terms. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit," He said, "he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

Water baptism does not save us; nevertheless it is important as a symbol of burial and resurrection. It implies that the candidate has surrendered his life in faith to Christ, has embraced the Cross, and has been crucified to sin. This is a spiritual transaction. It corresponds to the statement Jesus made to Nicodemus: *the only door into the Kingdom of God is by*

way of a rebirth, or resurrection, and this is symbolized by the watery grave. Water baptism is an outward experience whereas the spiritual rebirth is an inward work. But both are vital and real.

When Jesus went down from Nazareth to Jordan where John was preaching and baptizing the people, He was about thirty years of age. He was ready to launch out upon His public ministry. He stood on Jordan's bank, looking down the brief span of three and one-half years, and at the end of that span he beheld a cross. That cross meant ignominy and shame. That cross, standing on a little hill just outside the city of David, was rugged and cruel. It represented the maximum of dread, suffering and anguish to its victims. Rome had designed it for the most wicked enemies of human society—murderers, thieves, adulterers, insurrectionists.

(Continued on page twenty-nine)

Be of GOOD COURAGE!

by MARIE BROWN, New York City

WHEN MOSES SENT TWELVE MEN TO spy out the land of Canaan, he admonished them, "Be ye of good courage." Moses knew that ahead of the spies were giants and great walled cities, and that only as they were of good courage would they be able to bring back of the fruit of the land. A discouraged heart is one that allows itself to be bowed down by conditions and circumstances—it can never bear fruit for God.

How many times David was brought up against conditions which appeared to mean sure defeat. But instead of being discouraged, doubting his Lord, and bemoaning his fate, David *encouraged himself* in the Lord. He firmly believed God's promise to take him through victoriously. How wonderful it is to know that when we come face to face with the powers of darkness and defeat, we can stand firmly on the Word of God, for He has promised us power over all the power of Satan.

In Psalm 27 David tells us how to be encouraged in the Lord. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." You may go to God and wait and wait, but if you merely go over the same discouragements, trials, aches, and pains you can wait all day and all night and never be encouraged in the Lord. But if you wait on the Lord, desiring only to know His will, then "He will strengthen thine heart." Satan will try with all his power to keep you from that place, for he knows it is the source of your courage and strength.

Paul admonished Timothy, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:1). In other words, "Be encouraged in the grace and power of God!"

People who are living a normal Christian life often do not have the battles to fight that Spirit-filled believers have. This is aptly illustrated in the life of

David: "But when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold" (2 Sam. 5:17).

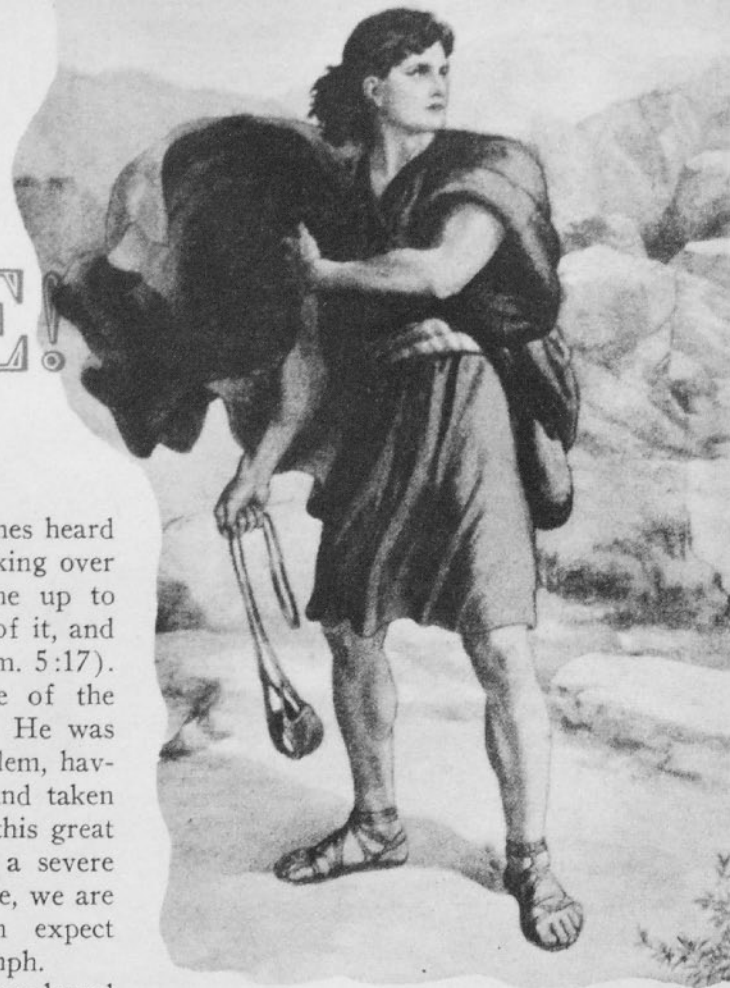
David had just gained one of the greatest victories of his life. He was now well established at Jerusalem, having driven out the Jebusites and taken the stronghold of Zion. But this great victory was soon followed by a severe test. As we look at this picture, we are reminded that we, too, can expect temptation in the hour of triumph.

It was not until the Philistines heard that Israel had anointed David as king that they began in earnest to seek his life. And it is the life that Jesus has signally blessed with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit that the adversary seeks to assail most vehemently. Many of us thought that when we received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit all our conflicts would be ended and we could take it a little easy. Instead we found ourselves entering a great battlefield—not to fight our own battles, but to follow our Captain.

Let us learn a lesson from the manner in which David won the victory in this test. When David heard that all the Philistines were come to seek him, "*he went down* into the hold." Though well-trained in military matters, David did not trust his own strength. Like a little child he went down into the hold to ask counsel of God. Note that he did not first ask if he would be successful; he first asked God what He wanted Him to do. God's will must be first—and then, what matters?

"Shall I go up to the Philistines?" David asked. The secret of victory is to please God, to ascertain and do His will. Then we can press Him for the assurance, "Wilt thou deliver them unto mine hand?"

God told him to go up against the Philistines and He would deliver them into David's hand—God's promise of



certain victory. How safe it is to go forward with God's assurance of victory, undaunted by circumstances and doubts.

In recalling this victory David said, "The Lord hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters." You will note that David gives the praise for the victory to the One to whom it belongs.

But it was not very long until the Philistines came again into this same valley. This time, no doubt, they came with greater forces, determined to avenge themselves for their previous defeat. Had David been less dependent on God, he might have thought (as have many of us), "God gave me the victory over this enemy before; I remember how I won it then. I don't think it necessary to inquire of the Lord again—I'll just go about it as I did before." But David had learned that his dependence must be wholly upon God. Therefore, he again asked God what he should do.

And God said that this conflict was to be won in an entirely different way: "Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees." The mulberry trees stood between David and his enemies. And when David

heard "the sound of a going"—or, as another version puts it, "the march of an army"—"in the tops of the mulberry trees . . . then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the Lord go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines." David was to listen for the marching of the Lord's army in the tops of the mulberry trees. This meant that David had to *look up* and *listen*, for it was then he was to bestir himself.

God's great army is in our midst, and if our ears were tuned to the spiritual we would hear the tramp of that army defeating our foes, ready to deliver us. How this should encourage us in the Lord.

Suppose David had not bestirred himself when he heard the sound of the Lord's army, what would have happened? Undoubtedly he would have been utterly defeated. But David's ear was tuned to the voice of God. He knew he must be on the alert, ready to strike when God gave the signal, ready to go against the foe when God turned the tide against them. God gives us the same opportunity to come against our spiritual foes. He wants us to be stirred to action in overcoming every power of the enemy.

Never should our hearts be more stirred than when we read God's wonderful Word and see His mighty power in action. May we never be guilty of letting this slothful self sit back at ease, becoming discouraged at the first onslaught of the enemy. May the blessed examples of those who have endured hard places because of the grace of God encourage us to press onward to victory.

Paul finished his course because God's grace was sufficient for him. But he wasn't satisfied merely to finish it with pulling and fighting—he wanted to finish his course *with joy*. He counted his tribulations and trials as joy. The joy of the Lord was his strength. And in spite of the tests which he endured—tests which make our trials seem minute in comparison—he was able to say, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13, 14).

Let us put our trust, our confidence, our all in God's keeping. Then as we are encouraged in God, He will strengthen our hearts.

—Glad Tidings Herald

They Said, "He'll Be Back"

A Personal Testimony by Roy Wasdin, Tampa, Florida

THE WHISPERS OF THE UNSAVED, THE talk of the town, the voices of many friends—they all blended together to say: He'll be back; Roy can't hold out. Religion just isn't strong enough to hold him!"

Those bitter words have echoed through my heart many times. They were my traveling companion for many years—a companion that cried out, "Fame and fortune are waiting for you. Go back!"

I was a professional prize fighter, shaped and molded into a fighting machine that didn't want to be stopped. Under my ring name of Roy Evans, I won the Southern Middleweight Championship in my thirteenth fight. I fought at Madison Square Garden—and won. From all appearances I was headed for the top in the fight game; I was a winner. But then I met One who was stronger than I.

Yes, Roy Evans was a winner until he met the Son of God. I was humbled at His feet as I saw His great love in giving Himself for me. And even though He conquered me, I was the one who was really the winner, for I

gained much more in Him than I had ever had in life before.

It was after I made my decision to follow Christ and quit the ring that the whispers began. I was called a fool—crazy, insane. My best friends drifted away from me. My advisor became my worst critic. A sports editor laughed in my face. They all had the same opinion of my conversion: "Give him a few weeks; he'll get over it; he'll be back."

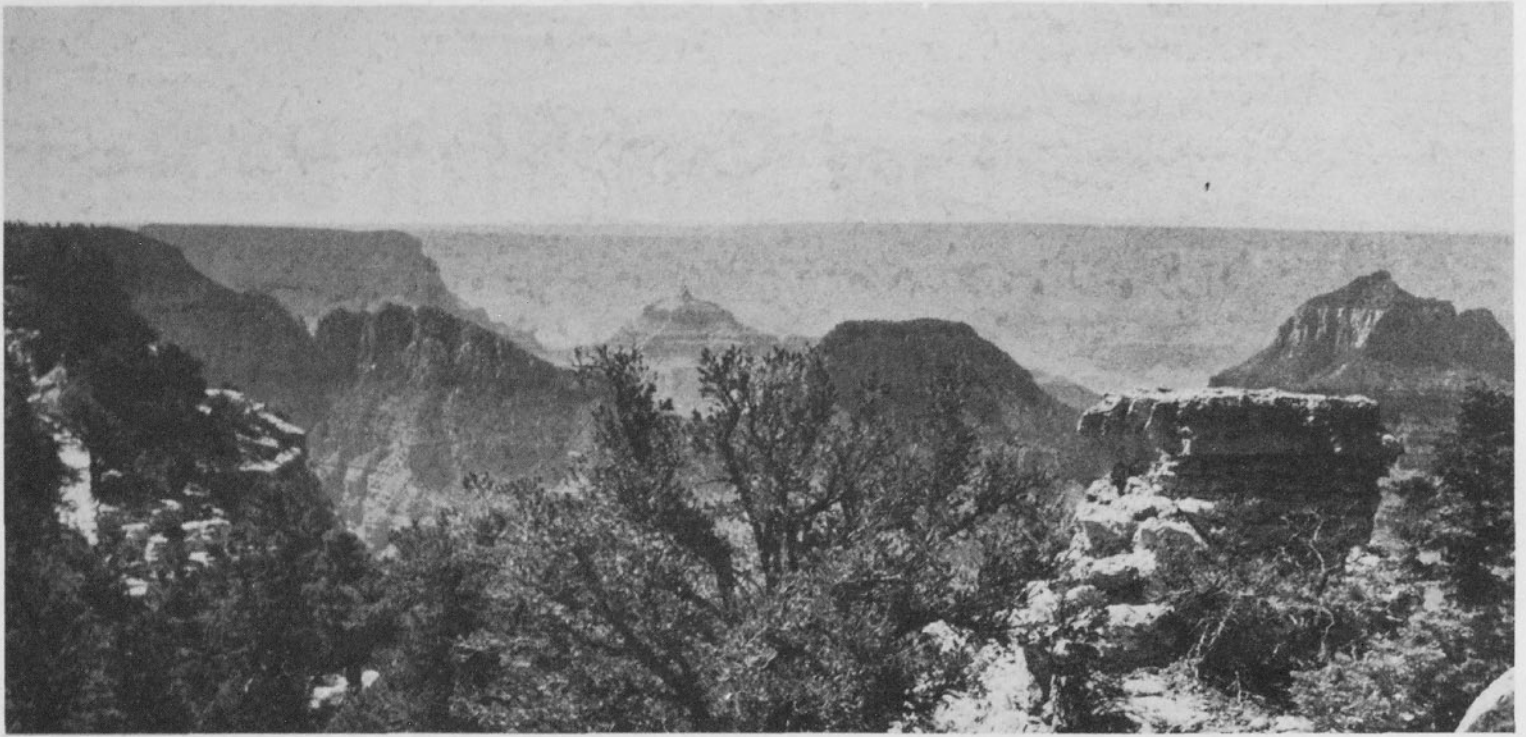
Even some who should have helped me were afraid of me. Some Christians looked down on me as a "bum." I overheard the remarks of others: "He can't last." They said, "I don't want any part in him."

But, in spite of what seemed like overwhelming difficulties, God was faithful to me. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:35, 37). I found that the keeping power of God was greater than the forces which tried to draw me back into my old life. God not only saved and kept me, but He also called me to be a minister of the gospel—to tell others about His great love. I am now completing eight years in the ministry. The whispers of "he'll be back" have become but a memory.

Yes, they said I'd be back in the world and sin again, but through God's grace and strength I've been true to Him these years. I'm still fighting—but there's a great difference now. I fight for the Lord in the battle against sin and evil. God's Word is my weapon and defense; I have proved it true. With Paul I can say: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

Roy Wasdin, formerly a professional prize fighter, now a minister of the gospel





We stand today, as it were,
upon a great, high ridge . . .

Looking Backward Forward and Upward

BY STUART HOLDEN

IN DEUTERONOMY 4:32 WE READ, "ASK now of the days that are past."

These words are part of the injunction of the man of God to the people of Israel not to forget all the way by which God had led them. Not to lose sight of the great lessons which the past held for them. Not to fail in their faith, and hope, and in their devotion to God, by imagining that the present had removed them from the great and glorious power which God had exerted on their behalf in former days.

We all need to take stock of our lives from time to time. We need to make as careful and as full a retrospect as is possible of that stretch of the pilgrim journey which now lies behind us.

Behind us there is a measured stretch of certainty. Its actions, its joys, its

sorrows, its sins, its victories are all irrevocable—never to meet us again, save in the power of their influence, until that day when we stand before God. Before us is an unmeasured stretch of uncertainty.

We know not what a day will bring forth, and we cannot even begin to conjecture what a year will mean for us.

We stand today, as it were, upon a great ridge, looking backward, forward, and upward. We do well to lay to heart this old prophetic injunction, and to "ask now of the days that are past." What is their lesson? What have they to teach us? What lantern do they put into our hands to guide us along the dark pathway upon which we are now entering? What word of guidance have they to give us concern-

ing the untried and unknown future?

"Ask now of the days that are past." The Bible assures us that men may forget the things that are behind; and that, surely, is part of the gospel of Christ, for such a forgetfulness is the assurance of fruitfulness. We should not bring forth fruit unto holiness unless we did forget much of that which is past.

Yet, at the same time, there is danger of forgetting too much, and losing immeasurably for forgetting the meaning and the purpose of all days that are past, and of God's dealings with us.

Of all the wonderful powers which God has invested in us, memory is, perhaps, the most wonderful. Memory, with its sovereignty over time, and space, and circumstances: memory, with its power to penetrate the strongest mental armor with which we can gird and defend ourselves; memory, with its strange capacity for utilizing the forces of the past either for good, or for ill.

Christ our Master lays claiming hands upon memory, as He does rightfully on all other parts of man's being. He offers to control it, and to sanctify it. He offers Himself to be its Lord and Keeper, so that memory shall become one of the greatest assets of our lives unto holiness. Christ lays claiming hands upon memory, for He recognizes that the past is not dead, but living and reproductive.

*"Our deeds still travel with us from afar,
And what we have been makes us what we
are."*

Christ would say to you: "Fear not to face the past. Look with Me upon

it; link your life to Mine as you examine it; see it through My eyes. Let the lens of My grace make it clear to you, bringing out, and putting into bold relief, all the greatness of the Divine love, power and mercy of which the past days are full."

We know that it is much easier to discern the true features of a picture when we stand away from the canvas. As we look back upon the past we see how—if that past has been under God's control—one thing has been knit up with another. We see that there has been no chaos, no tangle, no complexity in the past: but that it has all been one great, grand ordering of God.

"Ask now of the DAYS that are past." It is difficult rightly to estimate a long stretch of time: and here the injunction is to single out "days."

Each day of our lives has been different. We have had days of light and days of shadow: days of gladness and days of gloom: days of joy and days of chilling loss: days of strength, with life flowing vigorously, when tasks have been easy in the undertaking of them; and days of weakness, when we have been lethargic, indifferent or dismayed when confronted with duty and responsibility.

Bring the days that are past before your mind in review. Seek to learn their lesson, and to receive their message; for a right appreciation of the past, a right attitude toward the past, is the foundation of progress and of true Christian living.

In days gone by there used to be calendars in which the days of the year were distinguished in three different ways. There were, for instance, the black-letter days—dates which were set apart by ordinance and law for abstinence and fasting. Then there were the plain-letter days—days of no special significance, just ordinary routine days. And then there were the red-letter days—days of commemoration, feasting and festivity.

Every one of us has had black-letter days when our outstanding consciousness is that of sin, failure, and shortcoming. There are those black-letter days when pride rose in its heat and strength, when we rebelled in the face of God's commands.

Those black-letter days have a message for us. This exhortation to "ask of the days that are past," is, surely, a challenge to the easy tolerance with which we too often look back upon our own shortcomings. It is a warning

against the complacency with which we excuse ourselves when we have thus failed; against the ease with which sin loses for us its ignominiousness; against our apathy with regard to personal need for self-discipline.

It is well for us that some of the things that are behind God's back should be before our faces, and that some of those things that God has promised to forget, we should never forget.

We all know something about the



A Year With Thee

Another year is dawning!

**Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.**

**Another year in leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Of ever-deepening trustfulness,
Oh, quiet, happy rest.**

**Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;**

**Another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face.**

**Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence "all the days."**

**Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love;**

**Another year of training
For holier works above.**

**Another year is dawning!
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.**

—Frances Ridley Havergal

black-letter days of sorrow, of loneliness, of calamity, and we have reaped the harvest of those days. We have learned how to get honey out of the stony rock, and to make Baca, the vale of misery, as a well.

But it is also the dark days of folly and sin that we need to recall from time to time. Ask of those days, and they will say this to you: "Be distrustful of yourself. Your enthusiasms, your loyalties, have all been discredited; therefore walk warily and go softly all your days. Boast not yourself of tomorrow, for yesterday contradicts your boasting."

This is part of the message of the black-letter days: "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

But even in the darkest of days, we have the promise, "At the eventide there shall be light." Sin is never so black that the blood of Jesus cannot cleanse its stain when we call upon Him in true penitence. Behind the darkest of these clouds there is not only a silver, but a golden lining—love unspeakable: grace immeasurable.

What about the plain-letter days, of which life is mostly full? Just days of ordinary routine. Nothing very exciting about them; nothing much to show for them!

What is the message of the plain-letter days? They hold for every one of us a whole heaven of often unrecognized mercy. Put those common mercies under the microscope of faith, and you will find that in their very littleness God's greatness expresses itself.

What of the red-letter days—the days of special gladness and blessing? Those days when God seemed specially near. Days of answered prayer. Days that were marked by a glorious Ebenezer: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped me."

Perhaps the greatest day of all has come to you in the past year when you slipped your hand into the hand of Christ, and consecrated your life to Him.

Get back to those days, and dwell in thought upon God's tenderness, and mercy, and power.

Let us think of God's gifts to us, so rich and lavish. What have we given to Him? He has answered our prayer; how have we responded to His claims upon us? He has fulfilled His promises; how have we kept His precepts? Let the days that are past beget a new inspiration for the future.

—The Christian Herald, London

Eight Rules For a Happy Marriage

A RADIO ADDRESS OVER THE ABC NETWORK

BY C. M. WARD

MARRIAGE IS A PARTNERSHIP. BUT the details of the contract are not written out in black and white. It is a contract of trust based entirely upon love.

She has a right to expect protection. She is not a weakling or a simpleton—yet she has promised to set him in authority as the head of the house. He must never interpret this to mean dictatorial authority or abuse of privilege. First Corinthians 7:3 says that the everyday manners of husband and wife toward each other should be extreme courtesy: "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband."

The same kind of courtship and thoughtfulness after the marriage contract is signed as was used toward each other before the ceremony is needed to preserve Christian marriage. Paul says, "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence"—the kindness she has a right to expect. Too many husbands take the attitude, "Why chase the bus once you have caught it?" No other attitude can destroy a marriage faster than this. Romance is built, not on sex, but on the desire to perform kindnesses toward each other. Every wife has a right to look up to her husband as a Knight Gallant. And every Christian man should always bear in

mind that he has been called to be the highest type of gentleman—a true knight of the Cross. The arena that affords him the most thorough test in which to prove his right to profess such a high calling is his own home. *How do you act at home, Mister?*

1. LIFE'S PARTNERSHIP CALLS FOR A FAMILY ALTAR

I would far rather be without the family car than the family altar. A partnership in the Lord must include the practice of Bible reading and praying together if God's fullness of blessing is to be the daily experience in the home life. You can count on it, Neighbor, the devil will do his worst to make it difficult for you to fit this period of devotions into your family schedule. There will be problems after breakfast, problems after lunch, problems after the evening meal. You won't have to look very far to find problems when it comes to establishing the family altar as a regular feature of your home life.

But I know this: *Families that pray together stay together.* Let your daily schedule honor God. Let it truly be said in your life, "My times are in Thy hand. . . ." Refuse to permit anything

A GREAT THREE-MEMBER TEAM



to crowd out your family altar. Only Jesus can keep the marriage feast from deteriorating. He knows how to keep the wine flowing so that at your golden wedding anniversary you can say, ". . . Thou hast kept the good wine until now."

And around the family altar there is no reason why the wife should not be the "minister." You may feel that a woman should not minister in the church, but I have never heard an objection being raised to a woman's ministering in the home. The best sermons I have ever heard, the sermons that have lingered with me the longest, were those that fell from the lips of my mother as she ministered around our family altar when I was a boy.

2. LIFE'S PARTNERSHIP CALLS FOR A SENSE OF SAFETY

The Book of Proverbs describes the virtues of a good woman, and not the least of these is the fact that her husband can "safely trust" in her. He must be able to trust her with the knowledge of his faults and failings. She won't talk about him to other women. She knows, but she won't tell. A man will love and adore a wife like that. That's a virtue, Sister! He

should be able to trust her with his business secrets, his money affairs, and his private opinions.

Not only must she never tell, but she must be trusted not to take all his talk too seriously, for he will then be able to talk to her of things not fully thought out, and to let his mind roam among hopes and fears as well as facts and figures. He tells because he trusts.

During World War I some British state secrets leaked out, and Lord Kitchener laid a trap for the possible offenders. He told each a different "bit of news" in confidence. Just one of the stories reached the press. The offender had told his wife, and she was not true to his trust. He had leaned on a broken staff, and instead of supporting him she had let him down. However, there are always some secrets that are better never told to each other. They are for the Lord alone—to be told only in private prayer.

3. LIFE'S PARTNERSHIP CALLS FOR AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT MONEY

You cannot expect a partnership to work when there are misunderstandings about money. The first word you learn to say after you are married is "ours." The words, "Mr.," "Mrs.," "darling," and "sweetheart" won't mean much so long as you insist on the words "his" and "hers." Making beds, washing

(Continued on page twenty-two)



Our Family Altar

Monday, December 31

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 30:1-10

TODAY'S GEM: "Return unto the Lord thy God, and . . . obey his voice . . . with all thine heart, and with all thy soul" (v. 2).

FOR THE PARENT: The last day of this year is a good time to evaluate the past year; have the group speak freely of things they can do better next year. Stress the major importance of complete obedience to God as necessary to accomplish all things.

QUESTION TIME: What did God promise to do for Israel if they turned to Him? (vv. 3:7, 9) How can these promises be applied to Christians today? What do you think is meant by "turning to God"?

Tuesday, January 1

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 36:16-28

TODAY'S GEM: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you" (Ezek. 36:26).

FOR THE PARENT: The primary meaning of this Scripture looks forward to God's dealings with the nation of Israel, but emphasize the thought of a new heart and a new spirit for the new year. Point out that we cannot keep our good resolutions without the help of God. First we must accept Christ as our Saviour; then we must be filled with His Spirit.

QUESTION TIME: What do you think God means when He says He will give us a new heart? Why do we need a new spirit?

Wednesday, January 2

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 20

TODAY'S GEM: "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God" (Psa. 20:7).

FOR THE PARENT: David is rejoicing because God hears him, defends him, helps him, strengthens him, remembers him, grants his desires, saves him, and is a Source of security to him. God will be all of these things to us, too, if we put our whole trust in Him. It is safer to trust in God than anything else.

QUESTION TIME: Psalm 20:7 says we should remember the name of the Lord. Why? (See Prov. 18:10) Why do you think it is better to trust in God than in chariots or horses?

Thursday, January 3

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3:1-17

TODAY'S GEM: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

FOR THE PARENT: (Additional material on "Christ, Our Righteousness" will be found on Sunday's Lesson page.) From this passage stress (1) the ministry and message of John the Baptist; (2) the results he had; (3) Jesus was baptized, although he had no sin, "to fulfill all righteousness," showing His obedience to God; (4) Christ's obedience brought God's approval.

QUESTION TIME: What was John the Baptist's message? (v. 2) Why was Jesus baptized? (v. 15) What happened after this? (vv. 16, 17).

Friday, January 4

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 10:17-24; 12:13-20 (Sunday's Lesson for Juniors)

TODAY'S GEM: "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility" (Prov. 15:33).

FOR THE PARENT: When the children of Israel wanted a king, Saul was chosen to be their first king. Point out (1) God gave them their desire, even though it wasn't His perfect will for them; (2) we should always desire God's will because it will be best.

QUESTION TIME: What was outstanding about Saul's physical appearance? (1 Sam. 10:23) How did the Israelites know they had displeased God in asking for a king? (1 Sam. 12:17-19)

Saturday, January 5

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 24:54-67 (Sunday's Lesson for Primaries)

TODAY'S GEM: "All that the Lord hath said, will we do, and be obedient" (Ex. 24:7).

FOR THE PARENT: Recall the incidents in the first part of Genesis 24, how the servant of Abraham came seeking a bride for Isaac, and how God helped him. Stress (1) Rebekah was willing to leave her own family and go to Isaac to become his wife; (2) God wants us to be obedient and do what He asks us to do.

QUESTION TIME: What was Rebekah's answer when her family asked her if she would go to Isaac? (v. 58) Why do you think it necessary for us to obey God? Why obey our parents?

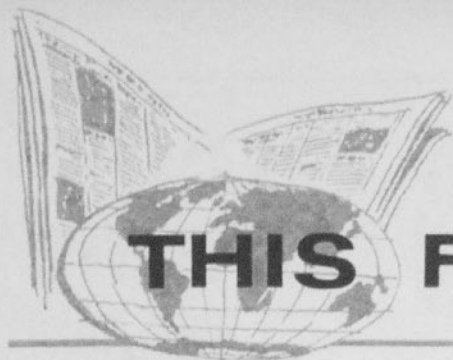
A BIBLE QUIZ

for junior readers

Can you match these husbands and wives who lived in Bible times? Place the letter that is in front of the wife's name in the space provided in front of her husband's name.

HUSBANDS	WIVES
.....1. Ananias	a. Jezebel
.....2. David	b. Zipporah
.....3. Adam	c. Sapphira
.....4. Isaac	d. Gomer
.....5. Jacob	e. Elizabeth
.....6. Abraham	f. Bathsheba
.....7. Hosea	g. Rebekah
.....8. Ahab	h. Priscilla
.....9. Aquila	i. Rachel
.....10. Joseph	j. Eve
.....11. Zacharias	k. Mary
.....12. Moses	l. Sarah

ANSWERS: 1-c; 2-f; 3-j; 4-g; 5-i; 6-l; 7-d; 8-a; 9-h; 10-k; 11-e; 12-b.



THIS PRESENT WORLD

No More Christian Names for Yugoslav Towns

The government of Marshall Tito has issued a decree ordering all towns and villages in Yugoslavia with names of Christian origin to replace them by names with a Communist association, the Vatican Radio reported.

Russian Official Says American Missionaries May Come

A Church of Christ missionary who recently visited Russia says that the Soviet Union's minister of cults told him that American missionaries could be sent there.

NAE Committee Helps Combat Soviet Propaganda

The social action committee of the National Association of Evangelicals contributed an essay on "The Vulnerability of the West to Soviet Propaganda" to the House Un-American Activities Committee's publication, *Soviet Total War*. The NAE group's essay stressed that the Christian message on sin and redemption "involves a realistic penetration to the sources and depths of international instability."

Who Will Bury Whom?

Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Communist party boss, at a Polish Embassy reception in Moscow, delivered a bitter anti-Western tirade that caused diplomats from the Atlantic Alliance nations and Israel to leave the room. One of the statements credited to Khrushchev was this: "Whether you like it or not, history is on our side. We will bury you."

Mr. Khrushchev, of course, was ignorant of the fact that God has spoken on this subject. Students of Biblical prophecy agree that Ezekiel 38 and 39 refer to an invasion of Israel by Russia and her allies. God will fight against Russia in that day, and her armies shall be so utterly destroyed that "seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land." (Ezek. 39:12). So, it matters not how Mr. Khrushchev rages; God has said that Israel will bury the invading armies of Russia!

Hungarian Refugee Pastor Urges, "Be Alert"

A Baptist pastor from Budapest, among the first 60 Hungarian refugees to arrive in this country, urged Americans to "be alert, because well-being is a great temptation and it takes you off your spiritual feet."

ABS Provides Scriptures for Hungarian Refugees

Refugees from downtrodden Hungary arriving in Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, were presented with Testaments and Bibles in their native tongue. The Scriptures, sent by the American Bible Society, were distributed by U. S. Army chaplains.

Meanwhile, overseas, the Society shipped Hungarian language Scriptures from its supply house in Amsterdam, Holland, to supplement the stock in Vienna, Austria, where many of the refugees were arriving daily. And in co-operation with the Swiss Bible Societies, the printing of 200,000 Gospels in Hungarian was started in Switzerland.

Chapel Attendance High in Air Force

Chapel attendance by members of the United States Air Force and their families during the 1956 fiscal period topped the ten million mark for the third consecutive year.

Protestants Hold Outdoor Service at Olympic Games

Thousands of persons gathered at Como Park in Melbourne, Australia, for a special open-air Protestant service held in connection with the Olympic games. More than a hundred athletes took part. It was the largest religious service ever organized by Protestants in the State of Victoria.

Lebanon Bans Sermons on State Radio

The Lebanese government has banned religious sermons over the state broadcasting station. Both Christian and Moslem service are affected by the ban.

The order said that in the future religious broadcasts would be limited to prayers, liturgy, and the reading of the Bible or the Koran. The ban came as the result of a Moslem radio sermon criticizing the government for failing to sever diplomatic relations with Britain and France.

Priests Lead Mob in Attack on Mexican Mission

A missionary to Mexico, quoted by *The Baptist Record*, reported that six Roman Catholic priests led a mob of several hundred people in an attack on a Protestant mission in Zapopan, a city of ten thousand near Guadalajara. The mob tried to destroy the property and threatened the pastor and his family, forcing them to flee for their lives. The attack, which took place on October 29, climaxed a series of threats, stonings and firings against the building and fanatical persecution of the lives and properties of the believers in that town.

Says Clergy Should Master Stage Techniques

A Pennsylvania clergyman, himself an amateur actor, advised ministers to master stage techniques. Said he: "Every well-delivered sermon has something of drama in it . . . and like an actor, the preacher has to use gestures; must enunciate clearly, and needs to cultivate a pleasing facial expression."

The editor of *Aero* magazine, commenting on the statement, said, "It all depends on one's viewpoint: shall one *live* the part or merely *act* it?"

Governor Points Out Moral Side of Driving

New Mexico's Governor John F. Simms has urged clergymen to wage war against traffic accidents on moral grounds. "A lot of people who travel a hundred miles an hour and endanger the lives of others would be plain shocked if you told them they are just as bad morally as the man who steals money out of a safe," the governor said. "We must get a moral consciousness developed about this problem of speed." Governor Simms said that during recent tours of the state he had met privately with more than 100 pastors to discuss with them the idea of attacking the safety problem on moral grounds.

Time Consumer

A survey of 7,000 people in 48 states showed that 58 per cent watch television. The average time spent per week in front of the TV set was 18 hours and 24 minutes! And yet most people find it difficult to spend a few hours a week in the house of God.

Dayton Area Grocery Chains Closed on Sundays

For the first time in more than a year, all major chain food stores in the Dayton, Ohio, area, are closed Sundays. Three grocery chains ran full-page newspaper ads, saying: "We believe it has now been proven that the unlimited Sunday openings of retail stores of many types is an evil which could soon destroy the traditional observance of Sunday, and therefore would undermine an important and worthwhile phase of community life. . . . We hope that our positive action against Sunday business will encourage other commercial enterprises in this area to follow."

Ministers Suggest That Crime Be Taxed

Protestant ministers of Mount Ida, Arkansas, have proposed—with a trace of sarcasm—that speeding, theft, and prostitution be legalized and taxed for revenue in the state. The clergymen were pretty well fed up with the arguments that "drinking and gambling should be legalized because people are going to do them anyway." They pointed out that "it is just as consistent to legalize and collect taxes" from other vices.

Alcohol and Teen-Age Crime

Staten Island District Attorney John M. Braisted, Jr., termed the use of intoxicating beverages by teen-agers a chief cause for crime. Braisted said that the majority of cases handled by his office involved teen-age offenders and that almost in every instance intoxicating liquors played a part in the crimes they committed.

Alarming Increase Noted in Teen-Age VD

Time magazine reports that venereal disease is increasing at an alarming rate among U. S. teen-agers in some areas. Latest figures show 200,000 persons between 11 and 19 now have VD—more than half the number of total cases. According to current estimates, 200,000 more will be infected next year. The American Social Hygiene Association plans to spend \$92,000 on a wide-ranging study which will investigate teen-age sex behavior, relationships between VD and juvenile delinquency, and the social and economic background of VD victims.

Brewers Sponsor Safe Driving Display

One of our readers recently sent us an account from the Baltimore, Maryland, *News-Post* reporting a death car which was taken on a tour through that state. The mangled convertible, mounted on a flat-bed truck, was the car in which six teen-agers met their deaths. The display, which brought gasps and somber expressions from all who saw it, carried various safety slogans, including: "Speed Did This" and "Speed Kills."

While no one would question the value of such a display, there was one catch: the exhibit was furnished by a brewing company as its contribution to the drive against motor vehicle deaths. Could it be that the brewers are trying to call attention away from the fact that their product is also a highway menace?

According to figures of the National Safety Council, based on 1955 averages, approximately 10,900 Americans will have lost their lives this year in traffic accidents caused by liquor. Liquor was involved in 26 out of every 100 traffic fatalities last year.

Peace, Perfect Peace

*Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.*

*Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?
To do the will of Jesus—this is rest.*

*Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?
On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.*

*Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?
In Jesus' keeping we are safe and they.*

*Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.*

*Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.*

*It is enough; earth's struggles soon shall cease,
And Jesus call us to heaven's perfect peace.*

—Edward Bickersteth

Greek Court Acquits Baptist of Proselytism Charge

A Greek-American Baptist was acquitted by the court at Lefkas, Greece, of a charge that he conducted proselytizing activities. John Georgakis, 60, was arrested while distributing Baptist literature. Police accused him of proselytizing by handing out clothing and spreading teachings opposed to the Greek Orthodox Church.

Broken Homes

According to reports, there are about two million children under 18 years of age in the U. S. who live with neither of their parents, and almost four million who live with only one parent.

Alcoholism Causes Half of North Dakota's Divorces

Fifty per cent of the divorces granted in North Dakota each year are caused by alcoholism, according to figures just released by the North Dakota State Alcoholism Commission. Commissioner Bernard Larson adds that the annual divorce rate is a minimum estimate. Because of the alcoholism-caused divorces, about 744 children each year in the state are deprived of normal homes.

Commissioner Larson further noted that while North Dakota collected \$4,000,000 in liquor taxes last year, it cost the state \$3,035,000 just for the treatment and maintenance of alcoholics through public welfare assistance, medical, hospital, and institutional care.

Baptists Fight Tavern Near Church

"It looks like you'll have to open a dance hall nearby to avoid issuance of a beer license to a tavern across the street from the church." So said a Tulsa, Oklahoma judge to a group of Baptists protesting the issuance of a license to the tavern. The judge pointed out that Oklahoma law restricts the operation of beer taverns near dance halls, but has no ban against taverns operating near schools or churches. He did, however, tell the church group that he was in sympathy with their feelings.

Church and school leaders in the state are already working on a bill to restrict tavern locations. They expect to present it to the state legislature next month.



What Price Alaska?

BY JAMES REB

Over a hundred years ago Daniel Webster scornfully described the western half of the U.S. as the formidable home of savages and beasts, and an expanse of wastelands and brooding mountains.

"What do we want with this worthless area? To what use could we ever hope to put these great deserts and and endless mountain ranges?" he challenged.

But Webster proved to be wrong on a tremendous scale, just as those who argued against the purchase of Alaska were wrong.

Little was known about Alaska prior to our purchase. It was the land of the "Promyshlenniki" (fur trader) who braved the perils of the storm-tossed north Pacific, and numerous massacres by the "Kolosh" who resented the encroachment and cruelty of the rapacious Russians. The "Promyshlenniki" paid a price in blood, starvation, scurvy, and loneliness in their struggle for riches. Since that time men have scabbled and mucked for its gold, disappeared in its vastness, and frozen in its cold.

But they did not all perish. Along with our pastoral duties in the Sitka Assembly we have a regular preaching appointment at the Alaska Pioneer Home. Over two hundred rugged pioneers are there to spend their remaining days at the end of "The Sourdough Trail."

We have renewed old acquaintance with men met and ministered to through the years in various parts of Alaska. Some are here from such distant places as Wiseman, eighty miles inside the

Arctic Circle, where we spent eight days ministering to the Eskimos a number of years ago. And we have met men here whom we first knew in Koggiung, where we were privileged to witness on our way to Aniak to open the work there.

We had arrived in Koggiung in late August that year and found a small crew feverishly at work in the large cannery. The fishing season over, the "ways gang" struggled with the racing tides of the Kvishak to haul the fleet of large scows and tug boats out of the water for the winter.

The foreman promptly let me know that he had no time for missionaries. The cannery made up the entire village and had its only store, so in the natural it seemed impossible to find an opening for missionary effort in

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all who gave toward the HOME MISSIONS CHRISTMAS FUND. We know that as the Christmas checks went to each home missionary they met some definite needs just at that time.

The children and workers in the Alaska Children's Home were also blessed by your remembrance.

We know that your own Christmas was made more joyous, too, through the knowledge that you shared with others at the season when we commemorate the giving of the greatest Gift of all.

—G. F. Lewis, Executive Director
HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT



"The Prospector" in front of the Pioneer Home at Sitka, Alaska (Photo courtesy The Photo Shop)

this village. Nevertheless, here was a real challenge! Therefore I took courage and asked for a job on the "ways gang," completely surprising the foreman who thought it incredible that a preacher would actually work. As though trying some new experiment, he hired me. The price of a testimony in Koggiung was thirty-three days of hard labor, some of which was perilous in the raging waters of the Bering.

We have talked with men here who remember the winter we mushed over the Tanana Trail with Charley Shade, to reach the Teenah Indians with the gospel. Despite the Arctic temperature which ranged from fifty to sixty below zero, my heart was set aglow with a burning love for those Indians as they made their way to the little school house to hear the gospel, their pathway lighted fitfully by the awe-inspiring splendor of the Northern Lights which flashed to and fro in the Arctic night. The chief had sent a runner to announce the meeting, and since the "strong cold" had brought many in from the trap lines and wood camps, almost the entire village filed into the building.

We told of the prodigal son—an Indian boy who left the home villages where the cache was well filled with meat. In spite of the pleading of his father who gave him good dogs, fine fur clothing, traps and hunting equipment, he started for a distant land. As long as his presents lasted, he was well

received by the strange tribe, but when the caribou and moose disappeared from the land and all were facing starvation, they no longer shared with the stranger. In his weakened condition, he remembered the well-filled meat cache at home. The regret and deep humiliation, the long, weary journey home, the royal welcome, feasting and dancing in the "potlatch" registered with that stolid congregation.

After an appeal that they return from the land of strangers, take the home trail, and acknowledge our Father God as the great, all-wise Chief, I sat down. There was deep silence for several moments. Then the old chief slowly rose, the look in his eyes confirming the sincerity in his voice as he expressed his appreciation on behalf of the entire village, closing with a plea for us to come back to them.

Alaska may have been bought from Russia at a bargain, but there is no mark-down on its souls, and there is no easy way to win them.

The frequency with which the flag flies at halfmast at the Pioneer Home, indicative of the passing of another pioneer, bears mute testimony to the fact that it is appointed unto men once to die.

Only a few days ago we stood at the graveside in the Pioneer cemetery to conduct the last rites for Jasper Hansen from Cordova, a familiar townsman when we ministered there several years ago. One of the most illustrious of our pioneer friends was Tom Haley, who passed away during October at the age of ninety. He had been a resident of Sitka for eighty-eight years. His family was present during the historic transfer on October 18, 1867, when the Russian flag was lowered and the American flag was raised.

The following account is not recorded in the pages of history books, but it comes to us from the lips of the old pioneers, and during these days of international unrest may have special significance to the student of prophecy. President Johnson had appointed Gen. L. H. Rousseau to accept possession of Russian-America from Capt. Alexis Pestchouroff of the Russian Navy, commissioner for the Czar. "As the Russian flag was lowered it became entangled in the halyards. A Russian sailor was sent aloft to free it; and as he cut it loose a breeze whipped it from his grasp, and it billowed down—and became impaled upon the bayonets of the

American troops, as the American flag was quickly raised in its place."

Along with the responsibility of preaching to white people, the Alaskan missionary ministers to the natives. In this area we are in contact with three tribes who have a proud heritage left them from a culture which existed before the Promyshlenniki came in quest of furs for European and Asiatic markets. The totemic natives are of a high order of aboriginal people who once ruled in the Island Empire comprising hundreds of islands, where, during the past century, 50,000 once lived and prospered before the encroachment of the white man.

In the Sitka Assembly, which has among its membership a number of Tlingits, we often have Haidas and Tsimsheans. Gospel singing in these languages is the usual order. There are yet many villages that need the gospel. They are neglected for want of workers and funds for their support.

Today younger pioneers of the Assemblies of God labor on America's last frontier paying a price in isolation, hardships, and physical strain to occupy until He comes. They know that only by dint of their greatest effort, their utmost unselfishness, and their complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit will the task be completed. It is their



MISS HAHNEMANN'S HOMEGOING

We in the Home Missions Department announce with regret the passing of Miss Wilma Hahnemann, a faithful worker in the Assemblies of God Children's Home in Valdez, Alaska. Miss Hahnemann passed away in Seattle, Washington, on November 10, after an illness of several months.

We wish to express our gratitude to the many who contributed to Miss Hahnemann's hospital expenses. We know that this help was deeply appreciated by Miss Hahnemann although she was physically unable to acknowledge the gifts and letters. May God bless all who stood with her in her hour of need.

—G. F. Lewis, Executive Director
HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT



price of service to gather in the souls that are priceless.

You can share in their quest for Alaska's lost souls by sending an offering today for ALASKA MISSIONS to:

HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT
434 West Pacific Street
Springfield 1, Missouri



GLAD TIDINGS ASSEMBLY, SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA, REPORTS OUTSTANDING GROWTH

Shown above is the new home of the Glad Tidings Assembly of God, 740 West Highland Shawnee, Oklahoma. The building program was started in November, 1955, after the congregation had outgrown all available space. The original church building was revamped into Sunday School rooms and departments, and a beautiful 60-by-85-foot new auditorium now joins the original structure on the east. Also included in the new building are the pastor's study, the nursery, and rest rooms. The congregation has given liberally to help construct the new building.

The church was set in order by the General Council of the Assemblies of God in November, 1939, with 33 charter members. Under the leadership of the present pastor, Roy H. Sprague, who came to the church in 1950, the congregation has experienced a remarkable growth. The Sunday School has averaged 325 for the past six months—and the church has set a goal of an average of 400 for the next six months. The church membership has increased eight-fold since 1950.

During the past six years over 700 people have accepted Christ through the ministry of Glad Tidings Assembly and the personal ministry of Brother Sprague.



General view of Jerusalem, the Mt. of Olives, and Gethsemane showing the Moslem mosque occupying the Temple site.

The Strategic Middle East

BY GEORGE H. CARMICHAEL

Field Secretary for Europe and the Middle East

DUE TO A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR, A report on the Middle East turned out to read, "THE MUDDLE EAST." To one observing recent events in the area the caption seems fitting. Peace has not been achieved. The Arab-Israel situation has become explosive. The present precarious truce in the Suez Canal zone is only a lull punctuated by daily gunfire.

The United Nations has found no solution to the hatred, rancor and political intrigue that has made the Middle East one of the storm centers of the world. Its close proximity to Russia makes it of strategic importance to the Western powers.

The Arab world has become a force to be reckoned with by world statesmen. Gone are the days when "the Arab folds his tent and silently steals away." When wide-eyed Americans stared at the flowing robes of an Arab delegate to the United Nations he exclaimed, "Would to Allah, that they

would pay as much attention to my words as to my clothes."

The partition of Palestine and the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 still rankles the Arab world. Efforts of world statesmen to promote a better understanding between the sons of Ishmael and the sons of Isaac have been of little avail. Wretched, sprawling camps of Arab refugees who fled from Israel at the time of partition are a constant source of friction, and Communism finds a fertile field among them. The presence of 500,000 refugees burdened with poverty and blighted hopes lends a spirit of impermanence to the whole social structure of the area.

Israel is hated by the Arabs and the age-old enmity has reached white heat. Israel, a tiny land of 1,750,000 population, is flanked by forty million Arabs. The almost nightly forays of Egyptian Commandos into Israel territory provoked Israel's recent attack on Egypt's Sinai peninsula. President Nas-

ser of Egypt has been charged with being a spearhead of Soviet penetration into the Middle East. His ambition to create an Arab empire, exterminate Israel, and take complete control of the Suez Canal and the oil fields of the Middle East, has caused the situation in the area to flare into alarming proportions that could touch off World War III. President Nasser's ambitions for Egypt are doomed to disappointment according to Ezekiel 29:15. The Bible says Egypt "shall be the basest of kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations, for I will diminish them, and they shall no more rule over the nations."

The Bible lands which comprise the Middle East occupy one of the most strategic regions on the face of the earth. Here three continents meet, making it a pivot on which world issues swing. These lands have from the dawn of history been the crossroads of the world. It was in this part of the world that the most important events in history were enacted, and are yet to take place.

Though some of the countries of the Middle East are small, they hold a position of importance far greater than their size. They may be weak politically, but their oil resources make them an area of international rivalry. Their present status is one of fear and tension; their future is crucial to themselves and to the world.

It should be a matter of concern to Christians everywhere that these lands, of such strategic importance politically, historically and geographically, are today in spiritual darkness. Though these lands were the first custodians of the gospel, they are today a needy mission field. It may seem incredible to some that this area, the cradle of Christianity, should need missionaries. That the early disciples faithfully carried out the great commission and evangelized the

The Plain of Esdraelon, where the Battle of Armageddon will be fought



area, is evidenced by the number of church ruins being unearthed by archeologists in the Middle East. We forget that in the seventh century Mohammedanism swept across these countries and all but exterminated Christianity. Hundreds of present-day mosques were formerly Christian churches dating back to the days of Constantine. Today, with the exception of Lebanon and Israel, the Middle East remains 92% Moslem.

An accelerated gospel literature program is of vital importance in the Middle East, for Islam is essentially the religion of a book—the Koran—and there is respect for the printed page. No agency can penetrate so deeply and so irresistibly as literature. It can go where a missionary is forbidden, and it will be read by men who would not listen to a preacher. BGMC funds have made possible the translating and printing of many books into Arabic which are having wide distribution.

There are several thousand Pentecostal believers in the Middle East, but when we think of a total population of more than 50 million we realize our task of evangelism has scarcely begun.

God is blessing our work in Arabic Palestine, now known as the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom. Besides preaching in the villages where we have established churches, our national workers are reaching new villages and Bedouin encampments with the gospel. Sunday schools are being promoted with good success. In the historic Old City of Jerusalem our Sunday School has an attendance of 130 children. Balm is sorely needed in Gilead in these days of tension.

The scores of minarets on the skyline of Damascus bear evidence that Syria is a stronghold of Islam, but even there Christ is being preached and many villages are being reached with the gospel.

Lebanon has a majority Christian population and its President is a Maronite Christian. At present the doors are open for evangelizing the country. Our need for a larger building in which to conduct services in Beirut is urgent.

Egypt has been the most encouraging field in the Middle East. We have more than one hundred churches and a total attendance of about nine thousand. Three thousand are enrolled in the Sunday Schools. Recent



The ruins of the church where Philip preached in Samaria—now a Moslem mosque

restrictions imposed on Christian missions by the Egyptian government have seriously impeded missionary effort. The recent invasion of the Suez Canal area has wrought much destruction of property and suffering among our people. It is unofficially reported that our Bible School building in Port Said has been struck by a bomb, but we do not know the full extent of the damage. The Bible School students were out in the villages at the time so none of them was injured.

Florence Christie and Karlene Burt, who were stationed in Tahta, Egypt, were recently evacuated by a United Nations plane. Lillian Trasher, of the Assiout Orphanage, and Mable Dean, of Minia, are remaining in Egypt. Let us remember these courageous, consecrated missionaries as they stand by their posts of duty.

In view of the present situation in Egypt we are particularly thankful for our fine group of national workers. These young men have been trained by our missionaries to assume responsibility for reaching their own people and to be ready to meet any situation that might arise. The training of national workers is the most effective contribution our missionaries can make to any field. The students and graduates of the Bible School are preaching in the villages and pastoring new churches in the Nile Valley. As soon as conditions permit, our Bible School will be re-opened. In the meantime we must lend assistance to these students who are now working in the villages.

The rising tide of nationalism, with its accompanying aversion to the West, and a resurgence of Islam, portend that our time for reaping in the Middle

East may be short. We must work with unceasing vigilance to establish an indigenous church of courageous witnesses for Christ while the doors remain open.

Present events in the Middle East portend the soon coming of the Lord. During a session of Israel's Parliament, the Knessett, at a time when the influx of immigration into Israel was at its height, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion suggested that because of lack of food and housing facilities, immigration be halted. A young member of Parliament rose to his feet and shouted, "We cannot stop immigration. We must not stop immigration. WE DARE NOT LAG BEHIND HISTORY." On three different occasions during the War of Partition, Jewish troops fought their way into the Old City of Jerusalem. There seemed to be no natural reason why they should not hold the beachhead; nevertheless, each time they were driven out. Is it possible that the Jews were on schedule? Could it be that it was time for them to take over the Old City where the Temple Site is located, but THE CHURCH HAS LAGGED BEHIND HISTORY and has been dilatory in fulfilling her mission to gather from among the Gentiles a people for His name. We know that "the time of the Gentiles" will not end until the non-Jews loose their grip on Jerusalem (see Luke 21:24; Revelation 11:2). Is God now giving the Church an extension of time to carry out the Great Commission, by permitting a small segment of Arabs to hold the Old City, thus prolonging the *times of the Gentiles*?

Watch events in the Middle East. That strategic area holds a key position in prophecy. There God is working out His age-long purpose. The massing of Syrian troops on the Israel border may precipitate an Israel attack on Syria and the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom at any moment, in which event Israel probably would take over all the territory west of the Jordan River, thus taking control of the Old City in fulfillment of Christ's words, "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). The stage is being set for the last-day acts in God's great prophetic drama . . . the rapture of the church . . . the great tribulation . . . the unveiling of the Antichrist . . . and the revelation of His Son from heaven. ◀◀

"Mother of the Venda Girls"

BY FRED BURKE



Venda girls at play



M. J. van Kerken

VENDALAND! Land of the Venda tribe, whose manner of living and customs seem to take us back into the old Africa; where women still wear skirts of goatskin, and half-naked girls carry great pots of water from the river on their heads. Here men worship the gods of their ancestors by pouring an oblation of beer over the smooth round stone embedded in the entrance to the village, which is the god of the village. Here the mystical Lake Funduzi is still the scene of annual sacrifice, and the priests of the lake guard the domain of one-armed, one-legged spirits that are believed to inhabit it. This is the land of beautiful mountains and village-dotted valleys, where the smooth-flowing Njelele river divides the peaceful valley, to dash through rocky gorges and find its way into the Indian Ocean.

One of the outstanding missionary characters of Vendaleland is Miss M. J. van Kerken, the founder and mother of Bethany School for girls. Miss van Kerken came to Vendaleland in 1926

to work together with Mrs. Burke and me at Njelele Mission Station. This picturesque and beautiful Mission was pioneered by Ralph M. Riggs, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, and Mrs. Riggs. It overlooks a valley still clothed with great trees.

"Jossie," the name by which Miss van Kerken became known, started her missionary career teaching Sunday School. It was difficult to get boys and girls to attend because of the heathen customs that bound the people. Young girls had been sold by their parents to older men; goats and cattle were being paid for them on the "installment plan," and rarely would a parent allow one of his daughters to attend school.

How different it is today. By her life of sacrifice Jossie has won the love and confidence of the Venda people. Chief Mpefu, one of the foremost Venda chiefs, recently gave her the official designation of "Mother of the Venda girls." From the chief's village, as well as from all parts of southern Africa, girls are being sent to her for training in homecraft and mothercraft. Headmen and teachers send their wives for training. Parents

in far-off cities beg her to take their girls so that they may receive a Christian training away from the terrible iniquity of these locations that seethe in immorality and crime. Many applications have to be turned down because of lack of accommodation.

Today the Girls' School has an enrollment of over 230 girls crowded together in very small rooms. New dormitories are urgently needed. The fine big kitchen has been equipped by the government, which pays the teachers. But the upkeep of the school is managed entirely through the living faith of this mother of the Africans. Heavy expenses have to be met, and her whole salary often goes into the needs of the school. What enormous quantities of meal 230 growing girls consume. While the girls' parents pay a small sum toward board, this is entirely inadequate and the whole school is run on the basis of faith that God will provide. He has never failed!

The school is situated on a mountain overlooking Louis Trichardt. The girls, arrayed in blue uniforms and spotless white aprons, make a beautiful sight as they stand for inspection. The

The Primary School



The Industrial School



forest-covered mountain, on the side of which the school is built, provides an impressive background.

Most of the girls find the Lord as their Saviour during their time in the school, and a number have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. In a recent meeting held Sunday afternoon at the school, between seventy and eighty accepted Christ and many tears of repentance were shed.

Miss van Kerken has surrounded herself with a staff of capable workers. Miss Joyce Adams (U.S.A.) gave capable assistance for some years. Now Miss Jean Roberts from the South African Bible Institute is her missionary helper. In addition there is a staff of consecrated African teachers assisting in the work.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Delpont, the Assemblies of God missionaries in Louis Trichardt, have given valuable assistance in the many business matters that arise.

Future mothers and Christian workers are being prepared to shed their influence throughout the villages of Vendaland and lift the Venda people from the darkness of heathenism into the light of Christ's salvation. Pray for God's rich blessing to continue with the "mother of the Venda girls."

Attention!

Help Hungarians

The tragic developments in Hungary, causing thousands to flee for refuge to Austria, places certain responsibilities on every freedom-loving person throughout the world.

It would only be fair for the Assemblies of God constituency in the U.S.A. to come to the rescue of its brothers and sisters of like precious faith in and outside of Hungary.

Your donations of funds and clothing will be greatly appreciated.

Funds marked "Hungarian Relief" please direct to: Foreign Missions Department, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri.

Please send good used or new clothing by prepaid freight (from the Eastern section of the U.S.A.) to Assemblies of God Warehouse, 233-53rd Street, Brooklyn, New York; or (from the Western section of the U.S.A.) to Assemblies of God Warehouse, 1119 South G. Street, Tacoma, Washington.

A Local Missions Convention

by H. Paul Holdridge
Pastor at Bartlesville, Okla.

The Missions Convention sponsored by the First Assembly of God, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, was a most wonderful and highly successful meeting. The four missionary speakers (F. Wm. Olson, American Indians; Mrs. Marjorie Denton, Philippines; S. Joseph Geno, Italy; and Carl D. Holleman, India) formed an excellent and cooperative team. Both from the missionaries and from the local people came the expression, "This is the best convention I have ever attended."

The four mission fields were well presented and the response by the peo-

ple was good. The total cash and pledges was \$1,500. Each of the projects presented by the missionaries received substantial support. However, almost \$500 was pledged to missions "undesigned."

We are sure that the immediate results do not indicate the complete effectiveness of the convention. It will be reflected in the missionary offerings each month in the years to come.

The convention was climaxed with at least six persons giving themselves to the Lord for missionary work or any other special work He might want them to do. One was saved, two were reclaimed, and one filled with the Spirit on the closing night.

NEWS FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

We have received reliable information from our Christian friends in Poland that one of our outstanding ministers has been released from prison. Due to false accusations, this brother was sentenced to exile in Siberia for twenty-five years. Now he is expected to arrive soon in his homeland—Eastern Poland.

While in exile our brother was greatly used of God in bringing the knowledge of salvation to many souls, a number of whom were also baptized in the Holy Spirit under his ministry. During the time this brother was in Siberia, his entire family remained true to the Lord.

A well-known minister, who is pastoring a large congregation in Eastern Poland, enjoys the special blessing of the Lord in his ministry. In addition to his heavy church responsibilities he works as a mechanic in order to make a living for his family. Other Christian workers are in similar circumstances.

Recently some Protestant ministers in Bulgaria who were sentenced to long prison terms were set free. However, it appears that at least two of our As-

semblies of God leaders in Bulgaria are still in prison. Earnest prayer on their behalf is needed.

Many of the Pentecostal churches in the Soviet Union, where conditions are favorable, have united with the government-approved "Union of Evangelical Christians." The churches enjoy comparative freedom, provided they conduct all their church activities within the premises of their meeting places. In certain areas the Pentecostal assemblies function independently and enjoy numerical superiority. The number of assemblies is considerable. It is reported that the Lord is blessing the soul-saving efforts of His children.

Many new assemblies are being organized. In the territory of the Ukraine alone there are approximately one thousand assemblies.

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

Revivaltime in Retrospect

LOOKING BACK ON 1956, WE SEE MANY ANSWERS TO PRAYER THROUGH THE RADIO MINISTRY, AND WE GIVE THANKS

P RAYER CHANGES THINGS! THIS IS a motto which decorates the walls of many homes around the world. Do we believe it? Do we practice it? Have we witnessed first-hand circumstances and problems which have literally been turned around because of answered prayer?

Yes, prayer does change things. Through prevailing prayer, nations have been brought to revival, armies have been stopped, lives of loved ones have been completely changed, disease-ravaged bodies have been delivered, and broken homes have been reunited.

REVIVALTIME has witnessed *God on the move* this past year because of those who joined with the staff in praying for thousands of needy souls in the radio audience. We thank God for many answers to prayer! Literally hundreds of people have been helped spiritually, physically, and economically during this past year because someone touched God for their needs. There have been prayer groups across the country which have joined with REVIVALTIME in prayer intercession. WMC groups, MF groups, Bible School prayer bands, and many individuals have said, "We want to have a part in this great world-wide missionary ministry by means of radio, so we are praying with you in this tremendous effort."

Scores of letters have come pouring in week after week telling of results of these combined prayer groups. From Missouri comes this testimony, "I'm happy to report an answer to prayer. I sent in my brother's name (age 23) to be prayed for. He found Christ as his Saviour." A North Dakota listener writes, "We praise God and thank all of you who did so wondrously pray for the healing of our daughter who has been mentally ill. She is now at home from the hospital, and called us on the telephone last night. She is so happy."

A West Virginia listener writes, "If you remember, I wrote you all about my niece. She was very bad with diabetes and some of her kidney was gone. But God answered prayer for when they X-rayed her kidney there was nothing wrong with it. Thank you and your prayer band so much." Then from California comes this letter, "A year ago I wrote to you and asked you to pray for my daughter and her husband. It was not long until they came to me and told me they were going to church and have been going ever since."

Another answer of prayer is reported from Georgia: "I am so glad that you and your REVIVALTIME staff prayed for me and my sick husband. It has done my husband so much good. He is a saved man now; and, you know, I told you I had to take him to the hospital. Well, I went to see him last Sunday and he was so much better that the doctor let me bring him home. He is a saved man. Thank you and your staff for praying for me and my husband."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE IN RESULTS LIKE THIS?

A great portion of the REVIVAL-

TIME mail is made up of testimonies from those who have requested prayer and have been helped. This next year, 1957, will perhaps be one of the most important years in history as far as Bible prophecy is concerned. This could be the last year the Church has to win souls to Christ. We face a greater challenge than ever. There are more souls to win, more sick and afflicted now than at any other time in history. There are more broken homes and families to be ministered unto. There are more bound by habits of sin. This is the time to work for God.

Every week REVIVALTIME reaches millions with a Full Gospel message. Many more Radio Partners are needed. If you wish to share in this great prayer harvest during the coming year, we will mail you a monthly sheet containing prayer requests taken right out of our daily mail bag and coming from needy souls in all parts of the world. To make your prayer pledge, just fill out the following coupon and return it to us immediately. Prayer does change things—that is why we are asking you to join with us in intercessory prayer. God is looking for prayer warriors. Will you be one?

REVIVALTIME
P. O. Box 70
Springfield, Missouri

I want to join with the REVIVALTIME staff in special prayer during 1957. Send me your monthly **prayer requests sheet** so that I may be able to take specific needs to the Lord in prayer. My address is:

NAME

GROUP OR CHURCH

STREET

CITY STATE

The Watch-Night Service

A TRUE STORY

ONE NEW YEAR'S EVE A NUMBER OF loafers and drinkers were assembled in the barroom of the Wilson House. Liquor was flowing freely and everybody was feeling boisterous. Samuel Russell, a minister's wayward son, had drunk considerably, but was not yet under the influence of the stuff, for it took a great deal to intoxicate him.

During a pause in the conversation, Joe Allen came in. He was a hardened toper, with a terrible hatred for everything religious. "They're having a watch meeting over in the church," he said, as he stamped the snow from his boots and took a drink. "I don't see why we can't have one here. We can all do something to give the meeting life. Brother Eldridge will please lead in prayer."

Eldridge was a glib-tongued fellow—a barber who had just come to town—and he immediately dropped on one knee and gave a mock invocation.

"We will now sing a hymn," said Allen, in a voice which so exactly imitated a certain young preacher in the town that it brought roars of laughter from the crowd. And he "lined" one of the hymns of the day, with profane variations, the others joining uproariously.

"Brother Samuel Russell will now preach the sermon," announced Joe, "and we trust it will be for the spiritual good for us all."

It was a terribly disagreeable suggestion to young Russell, and he tried in every way he could to evade it. He even attempted to rush the door, but they caught him and stood him up at one end of the room behind a table. "Preach now, or treat all round," they shouted. As he had no money to do the latter, he reluctantly consented to "say a few words," but complained that he had no text.

"Try, 'The spirit is willing but the

flesh is weak,'" shouted Joe. So the young man commenced in a numbling way, telling them that in spite of their good intentions they would find that the flesh was weak, and through drink would gradually grow weaker and weaker; that they were all on the broad road to death, and as a New Year was about to begin they had better make a break with the old sinful things and start a new era in their lives.

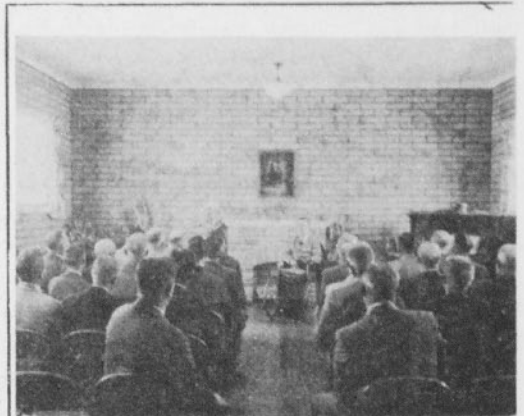
"Why, I believe the fool's in earnest," said Joe, in his usual sneering tone.

If Russell was not already in earnest, something in Joe's words and tone went far toward making him so, and he began to say things which had been really in his heart for many years, but which had been covered by his wicked, careless life. Things he had heard his old father say, fragments of prayers he remembered as having been uttered by his dead mother, passages he had learned from the Bible while a boy at Sunday School—all came to him now with new force and meaning—faster than he could speak them. The others looked at first resentful, then surprised, then interested. Even the most drunken seemed suddenly sobered, and all began to listen in intense silence.

As Russell went on, strange to say, he began to notice the effect his own words were having upon himself. Then he commenced to ask himself, "If these things are true, why do you not get down on your knees and pray to a merciful and offended God for forgiveness?" And that was what he finally did, right in the midst of the sermon.

In the company that was present that night, two were converted to Christ before they left the room, and went away sober and serious; and Joe Allen, though he did not make a public confession, was never heard to say anything more against religion, or suggest another mock sermon.

"As I turned the corner on my way home," concluded Samuel Russell, after relating this strange but true story, "I overtook my aged father, who was feebly making his way home from the watch meeting, and I never experienced any other happiness on this earth equal to that which I felt when I took his arm and told him that his prayers had been answered, and I had found Christ. He spent the rest of the night on his knees thanking God. That was my first sermon. I have preached many since, with varying success. I have never climbed the ladder of distinction and fame, but I have tried to do the will of Him who that New Year's Eve snatched me like a brand from the burning, and made me His own forever."



Wheel Chair Pulpit

A DRAMATIC STORY THAT
BEGAN WHEN A YOUNG
MAN WAS SHOT IN A
HOLDUP. THE WHOLE
STORY IS IN THE NEW
ISSUE OF

TEAM

A new issue of TEAM, just off the press, features the *Ned Jones* story. This story is an example of the inspiring reporting of men and men's activities that has made TEAM the popular pocket-sized magazine for men that it is. Subscribe today and receive this issue. TEAM is a quarterly. Only 75c a year. Bundle of four or more to one address, 60c each per year. (Foreign and Canadian, \$1.00 per year; bundle of four or more to one address, 85c each per year.)

GOSPEL PUBLISHING HOUSE
434 W. PACIFIC ST., SPRINGFIELD 1, MO.

SUNDAY'S LESSON



CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sunday School Lesson for January 6, 1957

MATTHEW 3:5-15; MARK 1:9-11

Real faith, the faith which works in the spiritual realm, can only be sustained as we keep "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." We now begin a series of thirteen lessons setting forth some of the many glorious aspects of Christ's person and work, lessons which are calculated to develop and strengthen faith in Christ Himself in an age when men are prone to put faith in everything but Christ.

THE TESTIMONY OF JOHN

1. *John's Baptism* (Matt. 3:5-10). The boldness of John is worthy of our admiration. He was not awed by, nor tempted to compromise with, the Jewish religious leaders. He placed them on the same level as the heathen, for in those days only the heathen submitted to baptism, and that in order to become converts to Judaism. To submit to John's baptism was like coming to an altar or mourners' bench today. It was an acknowledgment of sin and an indication of willingness to repent.

John's baptism was an outward sign of repentance pointing to a future salvation. But Christian baptism is complete, an outward sign of an inward regeneration. It indicates that a definite spiritual experience has taken place in a believer through Christ's atoning work.

2. *John's Testimony Concerning Christ*. John's water baptism was a prophetic symbol of that inner regeneration predicted by the prophets (Ezek. 36:25-27; Zech. 13:1). But John also declared that there was One among them who would baptize them with a mighty Spirit. By His divine energy their hearts would be purified, set aflame, and empowered to serve the Lord. This baptism was received by the 120 on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), and by millions of people since! (Acts 2:38, 39).

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

1. *Its Meaning* (Matt. 3:13-17). What infinite condescension on the part of Jesus to submit to baptism! Since He knew no sin, why did He deem it necessary to be baptized? (1) It was an act of obedience, in order that Jesus might fulfil all that was required of any individual "made under the law." See Galatians 4:4. (2) It showed Christ's identification of Himself with the sin of His race and of mankind. Israelites had a keen sense of racial solidarity. They were well acquainted with the way Ezra, Nehemiah, and Daniel had identified themselves with the sins of Israel in their day. See Ezra 9:10-15; Nehemiah 1:4-11; Daniel 9:3-19. (3) It was a foreshadowing of the Atonement. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

2. *Its Results* (Mark 1:9-11). (1) *The Opened Heavens*.

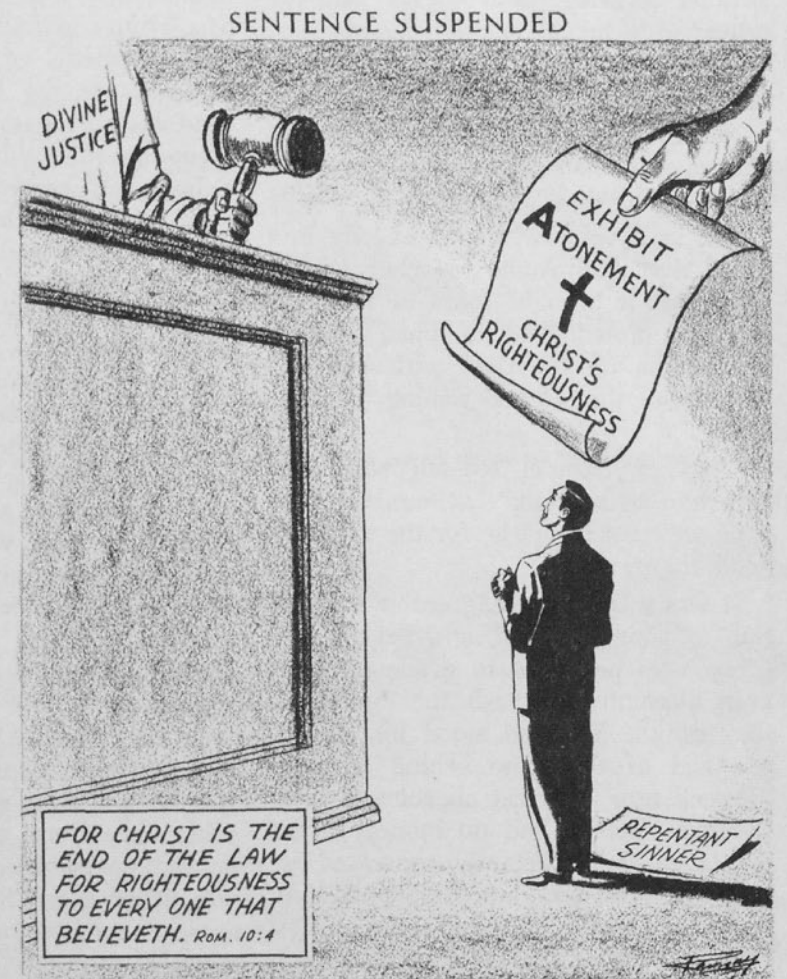
Jesus had been obedient in the matter of baptism, had fulfilled the will of God; hence, the heavens opened upon Him.

(2) *The Descending Spirit*. John saw the Holy Spirit in a dovelike form descend upon Jesus. This experience was of great significance both to John and to Jesus. To John it was certain proof that Jesus was the Messiah (John 1:33). To Jesus it was a sacred and powerful spiritual experience that prepared Him for public ministry (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38). Jesus came into the world not only to die for men, but to bring the Spirit-filled life within the reach of all! How shall we receive this baptism? Luke tells us that Jesus was "praying" (Luke 3:21) when the Spirit descended. We have already seen that obedience to God's will opens the heavens. Complete obedience, implicit faith, and believing prayer and praise will surely bring the fullness of the Spirit today (Luke 11:13; Acts 4:31; Acts 2:1-4).

(3) *The Voice of God*. At the age of twelve Christ had an inner consciousness of His divine nature and mission. Now that consciousness was confirmed by the audible voice of God! Note that God was "well pleased" with His Son before He engaged in full-time ministry. What is that to us? It means that anyone who lives a life of devotion to the will of God shall receive God's approval and blessing, no matter how obscure the life of that person may be! We please God by faithfulness in the common task!

(4) *The presence of the Trinity*. At Christ's baptism we have the first distinct revelation of the doctrine of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all present! And at the institution of baptism for His Church that doctrine brightens into full glory (Matt. 28:19).

—J. Bashford Bishop



The Prospect of His Coming

Christ's impending return to earth is a glorious prospect to those who are spiritually prepared for that great event

BY JAMES R. SWANSON

Hayward, California

IN THESE MOMENTOUS TIMES, WITH outstanding and shocking occurrences all about us, we cannot help but give much thought to the future and wonder what will happen next! During these days of uncertainty, we can be sure that there will be tremendous changes in almost every phase of life—political, economic, and social. It is apparent to the enlightened Christian that the time is ripening for the next great event in the program of God—the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What will happen when He comes? Christ's coming will be so far-reaching in its effects and will produce such a revolution on earth that none dare disregard it. Although with vastly different outlooks, all should and must anticipate it.

PROSPECT FOR THE WORLD

Prophetic scriptures foretell a time when the curse will be lifted from creation; this will be realized when Christ returns.

*No more shall sin and sorrow reign,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
HE COMES to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found.*

The perplexed nations and governments of this world, which today are vainly doing their utmost to obtain world peace, will finally give their power to the Antichrist in a desperate hope of solving international problems. The injustice and misrule of this age will terminate in the greatest conflict the world has ever known, when Christ will descend from the sky to do battle against the Antichrist. Then the evil government will be overthrown, and Christ shall rule in peace.

*From north and south the princes meet,
To pay their homage at His feet;
While western empires own their Lord,
And savage tribes attend His word.*

PROSPECT FOR THE JEWS

The Jewish nation, Israel, has a glorious prospect when Jesus comes. When God completes His dealings with that nation at the close of their years of sorrow, then Christ will reveal Himself to them in great glory. A believing remnant will recognize Him as the



CHRIST IS COMING

Christ is coming! We are waiting
'Mid the shadows dim;
Longing till the night's dark pinions
Fold their plumes to Him.
Waiting by each gate of sorrow,
Thinking of the glad tomorrow;
Standing 'neath His banner, keeping
Watch while all the world is sleeping.
Christ is coming! Come, Lord, come!

Christ is coming! in a moment
Shall the shout resound,
And the voice of heaven's archangel,
And God's trumpet sound;
Then the sleeping saints arisen,
Bursting from their earthly prison,
With the living upward soaring,
See their Lord with eyes adoring.
Christ is coming! Come, Lord, come!

—Heyman Wreford



long-awaited, once-crucified Messiah; they will crown Him as their King. The promises that were made to Abraham will then be fulfilled. God, speaking through the prophet Zechariah, said, "They shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God."

PROSPECT FOR THE CHURCH

The Church of Jesus Christ has a yet more glorious prospect than Israel. To them Jesus acclaim Himself as the "Bright and Morning Star." This "Star" appears while darkness is still unbroken, to announce the approaching day. Night sleepers do not see it—only watchers! Thus, while conditions on earth are still dark, and impending tribulation hangs over men, Christ will appear for His Church. This is the rapture, taking place before the events described above. This is the time when He shall come as a "thief in the night" and take unto Himself His own who are ready and watching for His coming. To His Church will be given the privilege of being at the marriage supper of the Lamb, while the inhabitants of earth shall undergo swift and terrible tribulation and wrath.

PROSPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

But, my friend, let us make this matter of His coming even more personal. What will happen to *you* when Jesus comes?

One of these days or nights, while men are busy with the common cares and pursuits of life, something supernatural will happen. Unheeded and unknown to the gay world, Blood-washed people from all parts of the world will suddenly disappear—caught up like Enoch, who was not found be-

(Continued on next page)

cause God translated him. Invisibly, noiselessly, and miraculously these redeemed of the Lord will vanish from this world and ascend to meet their waiting Redeemer.

When the heavenly trumpet sounds, announcing this event, the resurrection power that raised Jesus from the sealed tomb will pierce every grave that holds the body of one who died in the Lord. Those bodies, corrupted by death, will suddenly put on incorruption. They will come forth, and rise by the mighty power of their King. At the sound of the shout from the skies, and the voice of the archangel, some dead bodies will awake and arise, while others will be held by death and the grave, for the mighty Christ, at His coming, will speak with a voice that only those who have been washed in His blood will hear. Those that have accepted Him as Saviour will be called forth to everlasting joy and peace. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." There in heaven we shall again meet our loved ones who have gone on before us; we shall behold our Redeemer. What a joyous reunion that will be!

But what of those who are not ready for this great event? They shall wait a thousand years for their resurrection day, and when it comes they shall receive the penalty for their sins. As you look forward to the certain prospect of His coming, will you not look back to Calvary and realize that He included you in the wrath He bore for sin? When He appears you need not say, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." *You can be saved today and enjoy a part in the Rapture or the first resurrection.*

How glorious is the prospect of the redeemed at the coming of the Redeemer, but how hopeless is yours, my unsaved friend. If you miss Christ, you miss everything; you have nothing but trouble, sorrow, and destruction before you. But there is still opportunity for you to be prepared for the momentous event which may transpire at any moment. Accept Christ as your Saviour. Turn your back on all your sins. Take the mercy and forgiveness that God is offering to you. Then, even though darkness gathers over this world, you can look forward with inner peace to the coming of the Saviour, knowing that it is a glorious prospect.

Eight Rules

(Continued from page nine)

and ironing clothes, dusting and cleaning, cooking and shopping are tasks as hard as eight hours in an office or driving a truck. Try it some day for yourself, Mister, and you'll see. She is earning that pay check just as much as you are, Husband. So don't be miserly with her. Don't be a penny-pincher. Keep the pocketbook open all the time between the two of you.

4. LIFE'S PARTNERSHIP DOES NOT INCLUDE RELATIVES

It is so easy to turn "in-laws" into "outlaws" who prey upon your marriage. Your relatives are precious friends—but not partners. Use the needed tact to make their friendship deep and true. Friendships thrive on remembrance. Remember your mother-in-law's birthday and her wedding anniversary. You need her friendship.

There are two wonderful mothers-in-law mentioned in the Bible. One is Naomi, who became a baby-sitter for little Obed, who grew up to be the grandfather of King David. The other is Peter's wife's mother, who believed in divine healing. But when the perimeter of friendship is passed and an "in-law" is entering the partnership, the time has come gently and prayerfully to take action.

5. LIFE'S PARTNERSHIP CALLS FOR A WILL

Marriage cancels what you may have done before as an individual. Both partners should act in the matter of preparing a will. Of course, this will not expedite your death by even a second, but if the black cloud one day overshadows your home a will may then eliminate much anxiety.

As the Lord blesses you, keep such a will up-to-date. Do not wait until you are ill. Joseph should have rejoiced when Israel blessed both his sons, but instead he wept, for the shadow of death was falling across the family threshold. Don't leave one partner ignorant and bewildered if death should step in suddenly and sever your partnership. Assume that this can happen to you, and prepare for it. Don't be afraid to

talk about it during your lifetime together. Too many couples don't even have an understanding over where they would like to be buried. Don't leave unfinished business.

6. LIFE'S PARTNERSHIP CALLS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Marriage isn't a silent partnership. There must be conversation if there is to be a happy marriage. But don't bore each other. Some things are not worth talking about. Why should your husband live through the details of Aunt Mary's operation of ten years ago? Why should your wife be regaled by the weariness of those sleepless hours which you suffered last night?

Learn to guide your table talk into Christ-honoring channels. Christ Himself was the greatest table conversationalist this world ever knew. The Gospels are filled with His table talk. Your table talk, parents, will shape the lives and destinies of your children, grandchildren, and guests. There is no substitute for it. Work on it every day of your life. Season your meals with bright, constructive, cheery, Christ-honoring conversation. It will keep your partnership alive.

7. LIFE'S PARTNERSHIP CALLS FOR CO-OPERATION

There is no room in marriage for rivalry. When hobbies and outside activities differ, sympathy must be shown one toward the other. There is a secret in finding happiness in the happiness of another. "Give, and it shall be given unto you. . . ." Make some contribution to your partner's interests. If she is the gardener, slip her a little money, especially earmarked for the purchase of a special plant or gardening tool. If he is building a library, don't scold him when he brings home a new volume. Marriage is not a tug-of-war; it's a joint enterprise.

Marriage is a co-operative effort of two personalities. I don't suppose any man will ever grasp a woman's appreciation of clothes. I think that among Christian women it is the happiness of being inconspicuous—and not being conspicuously shabby. In the family, most women buy for themselves last, and a man will be greatly loved who occasionally forgets the word "economy" and insists that his wife buy something for herself.

On the other hand, I don't suppose any woman will ever quite understand the satisfaction a man finds in putter-

ing around in the basement. A husband will love the wife who is understanding enough not to insist that he put everything away on the workbench or tidy up his desk. Let there be room for personal expression. Don't just *endure* each other—*enjoy* each other!

8. LIFE'S PARTNERSHIP CALLS FOR SPIRITUAL UNION

Marriage is meant to be a partnership in spiritual matters. Don't "widen" your wife here, Sir! After you have built a home together, reared a family together, followed a business together, and chosen a recreation together, don't make your choice for eternity a divided choice! Be united in your religious convictions. Sit together in church. Don't be divided on Wednesday night—she at the prayer meeting, and you, Sir, at the ball game. That's no partnership.

Share spiritual things as you share material things. Remember, your marriage oath was taken in the name of the Holy Trinity. You pledged to love and honor. But you dishonor her when you speak lightly of her religious convictions, and you shame her before the children when you substitute golf for Sunday School attendance. Don't drift apart here.

There can be no real partnership between sinner and saint. "A house divided . . . cannot stand." The devil wants to break up your home. He whispers, "It will be better next time." That is an evil whisper. Will the captain abandon the bridge of his ship? Will the state secede from the Union? Will the player let down his teammates? Will the man in the ranks sell out to the enemy? Then will you walk out on your contract? No, Sir, do not!

Substitute conversion for divorce, the New Birth for alimony. Let God truly make you one in His blessed Son, Jesus Christ. Once you knelt at the altar of matrimony. Now I ask you to kneel at the altar of repentance. I ask you both to let "a Third Party" join you. His love and concern for you both will help you through those "September days" of your lives. Jesus Christ is concerned about your marriage. The devil would destroy your partnership and leave a trail of wreckage and heart-break behind you, but the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, wants to breathe new perfume and further incentive into every life-partnership. Your marriage needs Christ.



Your Questions

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

If a person has no witness to his salvation but feels the presence of God, is he saved?

Do you not think it is witness enough that the person feels the presence of God? Perhaps he has the idea that some special manifestation accompanies salvation. We must not look for any certain feeling. The assurance of faith, which comes when we take the gift of salvation through Christ, is what is needed.

* * *

I am a child of God and wish nothing but the will of God, but I remain in a state of unbelief and cannot rise to a place of faith. Even if I claim the promises of God nothing comes of it, and I get no comfort from them. Why is this?

Perhaps it would prove helpful to you to look back on your life to see whether you have been by nature inclined to live on the dark side of life. Try to remember when you first recognized such moodiness; it may help you in your struggle.

Whatever the cause of your unbelief, you should realize that you have much more faith than you think. The fact that you "wish nothing but the will of God" shows a disposition to please God. It also shows that you have faith in God, so that you continue to live for God in the face of the feelings of doubt. I would recommend that you see how Jesus gave His life for your salvation, then accept and proclaim that you accept what He has done. The next step would be to ever rely on what Christ has done, turning from your feeling of unbelief to reliance on Christ. The dark clouds may not immediately vanish, but the sun of rest and victory will shine more and more, until full victory comes.

* * *

Are the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit different Spirits?

The Holy Spirit is given a number of names, each setting forth some relation or activity. He is spoken of as the Holy Spirit, setting forth His character as holy; as the Spirit of holiness, show-

ing that through Him holiness is begotten in those who believe. He is called the Spirit of God because He is sent by God. When He is spoken of as the Spirit of Christ it is because He comes to beget within us the character of Christ. The Holy Spirit is the Divine Administrator, who takes the things of Christ and reveals them unto us. What Christ purchased through His sacrificial death, the Spirit comes to make real in Christian experience. "He shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you" (John 16:15).

There have been those who taught that in salvation we receive the Spirit of Christ, and in the baptism with the Spirit we receive the Holy Spirit. I think this is a mistake. In salvation we are born of the Spirit; in the Baptism we are infilled with the Spirit. I also wish to mention that the terms "Holy Spirit" and "Holy Ghost" mean the same. "Ghost" is the old English word for "spirit."

* * *

What is self-denial in prayer?

Self-denial means a denying of self or the natural man. It may include perseverance against hunger, fatigue, sleepiness, or anything else that might hinder us from getting through to God. Daniel denied himself all pleasant foods until his prayer was answered (Daniel 10:2, 3). Paul fasted often, and at times spent whole nights in sleepless watchings (2 Corinthians 11:27).

We would warn believers, however, against getting into a nervous strain while seeking the Lord—a strain which might cause a person to take upon him some kind of self-denial that could result in a nervous breakdown. Let us remember that Satan likes to take advantage of our earnestness and, if he can, to drive a person to such extreme as would break down his health.

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.

Revival and Power Through Prayer

BY R. G. CHAMPION

WHY ATTEND A WATCH NIGHT service? What can be the purpose of spending New Year's Eve in church? Is it merely a tradition handed down for generations, or does it have a real spiritual significance and benefit?

These questions can best be answered by determining the purpose of a Watch Night service. If it is merely held as a traditional gathering, conducted as a social time, or planned only to keep people from other places, then the Watch Night service has lost its original purpose.

The observance of Watch Night began with the Wesleys and Whitefield in London in 1739. They called a special meeting to pray for revival. The spiritual welfare of the church and of the world was the uppermost thing in the minds of these godly men and those who gathered with them. And unless this purpose carries over into the Watch Night services of 1956, we have missed the whole purpose of this endeavor.

But, if we have our purpose clearly in mind, the Watch Night service can be a powerful event. Certainly it is a wonderful opportunity for prayer, and we know that God is more interested in the prayers of His people than in their service for Him. We are told in the Word that "men ought always to pray." Upon the ground of prayer God has chosen to bless His own. Peter caught the vision of this when he said in Acts 6:4, "We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." The unlimited power of the omnipotent God is at the disposal of the Christian through prayer.

For what shall we pray in the Watch Night service? While prayer, to be effective, should be specific, perhaps these general categories will be helpful:

First, think back on your failures and imperfections of the past year—not to dwell upon them and become discouraged, but to seek forgiveness and cleansing. The blood of Christ is always sufficient to cover all sin and uncleanness. One cannot hope to pray for others until he himself is in a right relationship with God. As a person confesses his sin, Christ will forgive.

WATCH NIGHT

Because the Old Year, at its close
Leaves me imperfect in Thy sight;
And I have need of cleansing blood,
I'm on my knees, my God, tonight!

Because the New Year, near at hand,
Is full of promise and of light;
And I am weak without Thyself,
I'm on my knees in prayer tonight.

Because, with all the past forgiven,
I would rise up to walk aright,
And live victoriously for Thee,
I'm on my knees in prayer tonight.

Because there's work for me to do
In fields to harvest lying white,
And time for reaping is not long,
I'm on my knees in prayer tonight.

Because another year may bring
Thy Son, returning in His might,
And I would meet Him unashamed—
I'm on my knees, dear Lord, tonight!

—Betty Bruechert in *King's Business*



Praise and worship to God for the blessing or forgiveness, as well as His many other bountiful blessings, are always in order.

Certainly the approaching year holds many perplexities and problems. None can be certain of what is before us. Our future lies in the hands of God. Surely He is able to direct our lives. How important it is, then, to seek the guidance of God for the coming year. To know the "One who holds tomorrow" is to know the greatest security in the world.

A quick mental glance around the world immediately ascertains that the fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few. The great unfinished task will be completed only as the people of God bend every effort for the evangelization of the world. The continuation of world-wide revival depends on the concentrated efforts of Christians everywhere.

"Behold thy king cometh unto thee!" What greater reason could we have for spending the closing hours of 1956 in prayer? The new year might well bring the anticipated Rapture when the King of glory shall "receive from the world His own." What better preparation is possible than to be in prayer, occupying until He comes?

It is obvious that there is a need. A greater revival must come if the Church is to be the mighty force for Christ that she ought to be in the world today. The way to revival is through united prayer.

But why gather together? Cannot prayer be made effectively alone? No

one would dare dispute the value of private prayer—it is one of the greatest avenues of communion between man and God. But there are things that can be gained through united prayer that can be gained in no other way.

It was when the hundred and twenty were gathered together “with one accord in one place” that the Holy Spirit was given. Mighty Baptisms can be expected in Watch Night services as hungry hearts meet scriptural conditions, and sincere believers unite in faith with them.

United prayer unites the Church. It gives her a common purpose and aim. It helps her members to work together for the advancement of God’s Kingdom. When the early believers joined in united prayer, “the place was shaken . . . and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31). Whether this shaking was literal, or spiritual, or both we may not know, but we do know that the Church today must have the power of the Holy Spirit presently operative in her to meet the needs of the world.

Spiritual power and revival through prayer must be our keynote for 1957.

The best way to end the old year and begin the new is in united prayer in a Watch Night service. Believe God to make this service the beginning of the greatest revival you have ever known

in your church—or in your life. And, after you have asked Him to do that, don’t miss the Watch Night service, or you may miss the answer to your prayer! —by R. G. Champion

The Third Temple

Is the Material Ready for Its Construction?

by RUTH RACHEL SPECTER

Soon after my conversion from Judaism to Christ eighteen years ago, I received a report concerning the rebuilding of Solomon’s Temple which thrilled my soul, for I understood by this the return of my Lord Jesus was near. It had been stated by various ones in Christendom that building plans were under way, and that the material for the sanctuary was in the possession of the Jews all over the world. According to later reports, the various parts of the Temple were in the hands of rich Jews and ready to be brought to Jerusalem to be put together.

In February, 1955, I read the following article in *The Jewish Post*. This article, along with the rest of my investigation, has settled in my own mind the question of the new Solomon’s Temple. I here quote it to help any EVANGEL readers who might want to know about it, too:

THIRD TEMPLE LEFT TO GOD’S WILL

ST. LOUIS (JP)—Israel’s Chief Rabbi, Isaac Herzog, has left the building of the Third Temple in Jerusalem entirely up to God. The spiritual leader of Israel made clear his stand in a letter to a St. Louis non-Jew who asked “whether or not there were any plans by Jewish laborers for the building of the Third Temple.”

Rabbi Herzog’s reply, forwarded by his secretary, read: “The rebuilding of the Temple we leave entirely to the Almighty, to cause it to be rebuilt when His Holy Will will so determine.”

WHEN DO YOU LOOK UP

The Answers?

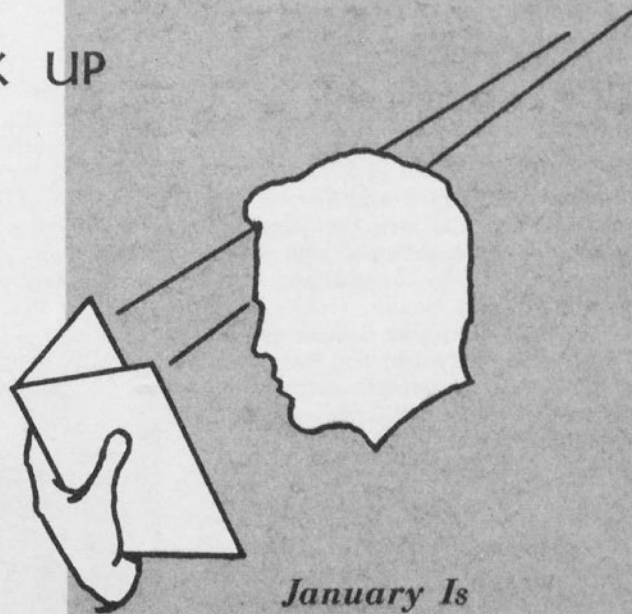
“Let’s see, it’s in here somewhere . . . I remember seeing that in the quarterly. . . .”

And while the teacher searches, the interest and attention of the class is lost.

The competent teacher is prepared before class. He takes advantage of every opportunity to study, for he realizes he needs to be trained to teach.

When a Workers’ Training Course is announced, he’s quick to register. When the training course is held in his church this January, he will be present each night to study a course on the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The suggested Training Month book which will be used by many Schools all over the nation is “The Spirit Himself” by Ralph M. Riggs. Visual aids and an instructor’s manual are prepared to accompany the text. For further information about conducting a Workers’ Training Course, write: the National Sunday School Department, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri.



January Is
Training Month

EVERY CHRISTIAN A
WORKER—EVERY
WORKER TRAINED

“STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF . . . A WORKMAN . . . NOT ASHAMED, RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”



Fagots From the Torch of Evangelism

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

► **OVERLAND, MO.**—Evangelist and Mrs. Carl Oney of Pleasant Hill, Mo. recently conducted eleven nights of meetings here. Their ministry in song and on the vibraharp, along with the anointed and timely sermons, were inspiring to all. Six were saved during the meeting. Since then the revival spirit prevails, and two of the converts have been filled with the Holy Spirit in the regular services.

—Glenn Gilder, Pastor

► **VIVIAN, LA.**—Evangelist Glenn Montgomery of Golden Acres, Tex. just closed three weeks of meetings here. One soul was saved, and the entire church was blessed by the anointed ministry of the Word. The consecration of the evangelist and the straight-forward presentation of the message was appreciated by all.

—James Hood, Pastor

► **BORING, OREG.**—Ten individuals knelt at the altar for salvation during the three-week revival here with Evangelist C. E. Freeman of Hillsboro, Oreg. Several also received a healing touch. One family living 17 miles from the church brought eight young people and they all came to the altar. The church is now in the process of building six new classrooms and a nursery which should be ready for occupancy in about two months.

—Floyd Huntley, Pastor

► **CORRECTIONVILLE, IOWA** — The church here was revived and several new families were brought into the congregation in the two-week series of evangelistic meetings conducted by Arnold and Anita Segesman of Berlin Center, Ohio. There were at least 150 first-time visitors present in the meetings. The vocal and instrumental numbers, chalk drawings, oil paintings, and ministry of the Word had much to do with the outside interest.

—S. A. Sanders, Pastor

► **CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA** — Evangelists Paul and Dorothy Olson of Minneapolis, Minn. just finished a three-week campaign in the Pentecostal Tabernacle here. It proved to be one of the best ever conducted in the church. Night after night fine crowds turned out to hear Paul's preaching and Dorothy's music. About thirty came forward to take the Lord as Saviour. A dozen or more were filled with the Holy Spirit, and a large number were refilled and quickened. One family in the church stated that their family altar has become like a camp meeting since the special meetings. On Saturdays and Sundays the people spent most of the day in the prayer room seeking God's blessing for the services.

—John M. Watts, Pastor

► **MENOMONIE, WIS.** — The Tanner Team of Willmar, Minn. recently closed one week of revival in the Gospel Tabernacle here. Over 100 new visitors came to the church during that week and 15 came to the altar for salvation. As a direct result of the meetings, three new families are now active in the church and are present at every meeting. A new Sunday School attendance record of 130 was established.

—Ernest J. Moen, Pastor

► **KEOKUK, IOWA**—The Deeper Life revival conducted by Evangelists Carl and Edna Goodwin was a great blessing to the Faith Temple Assembly of God. The two and a half weeks of anointed ministry has stirred the Assembly and made them hungry for a sweeping of old-time power. Many a night, as His servants ministered the Word, the sweet presence of the Lord settled down upon the entire congregation; the church became an altar, and the people were lifted into the heav'nlies as they sat and worshiped. The seed sown will continue to bring forth fruit for a long time to come.

—W. J. Lewis, Pastor

► **CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.**—Evangelist and Mrs. L. C. Eldridge of Bakersfield, Calif. recently concluded their second series of evangelistic meetings in the Central Assembly of God. There were five saved, four filled with the Holy Spirit, and a goodly number in the church were refilled. Quite a few received healing in answer to

prayer. One young man who had done some heavy lifting was in great pain with a double hernia. After prayer, the pain left him completely and there is no sign of a hernia now. The evangelists left the church in better condition than when they came in each of their two campaigns.

—I. L. Raymond, Jr., Pastor

► **EAU GALLIE, FLA.**—The church here was blessed recently by the spiritual ministry of Evangelist W. L. Hersinger of Marion, Ill. New people attended every service. There were outstanding healings. One person who had a back injury from a car accident in childhood was made whole. A young girl who had a nervous condition and could not attend school last year or this year was delivered and has returned to school. Others testified to being healed of hernia, growths, migraine headaches, and other afflictions.

—Earl Frerking, Pastor

► **RUSSELLVILLE, ARK.**—Many churches in the surrounding area joined with the First Assembly of God in sponsoring a recent revival campaign with Evangelist Warren Litzman. Many of the co-operating pastors and people felt it was the greatest move of God this area has experienced in a long time. The fire of God moved into the local churches setting many hearts aflame. Many were saved, and 110 received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. A large number were also healed of various afflictions. The effects of the meeting linger on even after the evangelist has gone.

—J. C. Dickinson, Pastor



These pastors co-operated in the Warren Litzman meeting in Russellville, Arkansas

► **LA GRANDE, OREG.**—Evangelist Johnny Hoskins of Portland, Oreg. just concluded a four-week series of meetings in the Gospel Tabernacle. God blessed in every meeting, and much was done for His kingdom.
—*Bert Allbritton, Pastor*

► **ROCHESTER, IND.**—First Assembly of God concluded a most blessed series of meetings with Evangelist John Higginbotham of Cleveland, Ohio. Seven or more consecrated their lives to the Lord, two received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and many were healed. Some hopeless cases received instant healing. One Methodist man, 76 years old, was deaf in one ear and had only 6% hearing in the other. He was healed instantly. A lady who was paralyzed on one side of her face and had bad eyes was also healed. Her face instantly became warm and natural-looking.
—*Virgil Hershman, Pastor*

► **GALLATIN, TENN.**—Evangelist Carl D. Walker Jr. of Charleston, S.C. just closed a very successful revival here. Good crowds came night after night to hear the preaching and enjoy God's blessings. Besides being a fine evangelist and singer, Brother Walker is a chalk artist. During the meetings the Sunday School set an all-time record attendance of 168 and a monthly average record of 141. The congregation has outgrown the present building, and a new block and brick auditorium is being constructed. The revival spirit continues in the church and Sunday School, and crowds continue to come.
—*Herbie E. Darnell, Pastor*

► **KOUNTZE, TEX.**—The DiPrima Evangelistic Party recently conducted two and a half weeks of revival meetings in the Glad Tidings Assembly of God. Brother DiPrima once served as an altar boy in the Catholic church. The night he gave his testimony extra seats had to be brought from the Sunday School rooms. Among those saved was an entire Catholic family. The mother and father were both saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Mrs. DiPrima and daughter, Juanita, were a special blessing through their singing and telling of Bible stories for the children.
—*Clyde C. Rieson, Pastor*

► **DRAKESBURG, OHIO**—The Assembly of God has just concluded a two-week revival campaign with Evangelist and Mrs. Eddie Roush of Clinton, Ind. Night after night the blessings of the Lord were poured out upon the people, resulting in a goodly number of young people being saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. God definitely touched sick bodies in the Divine Healing services. One man who had been suffering with a rupture for some time was healed. Now it is not necessary for him to wear a truss. Many new people visited the meetings. The Sunday School attendance reached an all-time high. God anointed the music and the message each night.
—*Clark Grable, Pastor*

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

STATE	CITY	CHURCH	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Ark.	El Dorado	* Highland	Jan. 7—	O. R. Ball	Murphy Smith
Calif.	Hawthorne	A of G	Dec. 30—	Billy Guthrie & wife	James Ireland
	Taft	A of G	Dec. 30-Jan. 13	Oran Duncan	Norman Field
	Vallejo	First	Dec. 30-Jan. 6	Paul Cook	Keetah Jones
	Visalia	Full Gospel Ch.	Jan. 6—	Morris Lefkovitz	Harvey Mitchell
Conn.	Stamford	Gospel Tab.	Dec. 30-Jan. 13	Ronald Ripley	Roy T. Johnson
Fla.	Avon Park	A of G	Jan. 6—	J. Earl Douglass	Harvey Stocker
	Eau Gallie	First	Jan. 1—	Alvin Kyle	E. L. Fierking
	Palmetto	A of G	Dec. 30-Jan. 13	Warren D. Combs	L. B. Johnson
	Tampa	Sulphur Springs	Jan. 1-13	Stanley MacPherson	John R. Hardt
Ill.	Chicago-Oak Pk.	Bethel Temple	Jan. 6-13	Latin-Amer. Gosp. Team	W. L. Williams
	Clinton	A of G Tab.	Jan. 1-13	A. F. DiMusto & wife	C. R. DePrenger
Kans.	Lawrence	A of G	Jan. 2-13	Paul Hild & wife	J. J. Krimmer
	Ottawa	First	Dec. 30-Jan. 20	Ferdie C. Jay	Bennie R. Harris
	Shawnee	A of G	Dec. 30-Jan. 20	Singing Sandalls	Llyod Bilhimer
Ky.	Shelbyville	A of G	Jan. 1—	A. J. and Mabel Wells	Howard Barrick
Mich.	Detroit	Calvary	Jan. 8—	Raymond Rueb	D. D. Roehl
Minn.	Blue Earth	A of G	Dec. 30-Jan. 6	Christian Hild	Kenneth Peters
Mo.	Crocker	A of G	Dec. 30—	Warren-Marsh	David Wellard
	Springfield	Eastside	Dec. 30—	Lonnie L. Osborn	Albert Pyle
N. Y.	Elmira	Pentecostal Tab.	Dec. 30—	L. K. Dodge	John Bedzyk
Oreg.	Tillamook	A of G	Jan. 1-12	Don E. Gossett	Raymond Harryman
Pa.	Mechanicsburg	A of G	Dec. 30-Jan. 6	Bill Caldwell	Charles Crone
Tenn.	Ashport	A of G	Jan. 6-20	Jerry A. Jones	Kenneth Worley
Tex.	Abilene	First	Dec. 30—	George Gospel Team	Wilson Estes
	Baytown	Central	Dec. 30—	Cecil Grice	Lonnie Bowlen
	Floydada	A of G	Jan. 6-20	E. C. Lagmay	I. L. Walker
	Newton	A of G	Jan. 6—	Bob McCutchen & wife	W. L. Williams
	Perrin	A of G	Dec. 23-30	Zearl Amburn	A. A. Adams
Wash.	Sunnyside	* Nghbd. Ch.	Dec. 30-Jan. 6	W. C. Peirce	Paul G. Trulin
Canada	Perth, Ont.	Pentecostal Ch.	Jan. 1-13	Oliver Johnson & wife	S. S. O'Brien

* Workers Training

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.

► **GARDEN CITY, KANS.**—Faith Tabernacle has just closed what many believe to be one of the greatest months of spiritual victory the church has known. Evangelist Joseph Johnson preached the first two weeks, and the entire church was drawn nearer to God. The next week we had the inspiring ministry of Evangelist C. B. Roberts. During the last week the Evangel College Choir under the direction of E. Leslie Stubbs came for a sacred concert. Many testified with the pastor that they have never heard a group sing with such anointing. This month will long be remembered as an hour of God's visitation.
—*Richard W. Dortch, Pastor*

NEW ASSEMBLIES CHAPLAIN ASSIGNED TO U. S. NAVY

Lt. David Plank of Pasadena, Calif. is the nineteenth Assemblies of God minister to serve in the Armed Services Chaplaincy at the present time. He has been assigned to the U. S. Navy.

Other Assemblies ministers now serving actively in the Chaplaincy include two in the Navy, seven in the Air Force, and nine in the Army. These chaplains are currently stationed in Japan, Okinawa, England, France, Germany, and the U. S.

According to T. F. Zimmerman, executive director of the Servicemen's Division of the Assemblies of God, the denomination has approximately 28,000 young men in the armed services at the present time. The Servicemen's Division of the Youth Department is ministering to servicemen of other denominations as well. Numerous services are offered to the chaplains. In addition, the Division carries on active correspondence with some 7,000 men who are grateful for this ministry of spiritual counsel and encouragement.

"Reveille," the special servicemen's publication circulated by the Assemblies of God, is still being issued. Its bright military format combined with its wit and readability have made it one of the most popular periodicals among servicemen, and millions of copies have been distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE-NIGHT MEETINGS—Will hold a series of one-night meetings in Alberta, Canada, beginning in Edmonton the first of January. M. L. Olson, Camrose, Alberta, is arranging the itinerary.—by Evangelist Jimmie Hearn, Columbus, Ga.

WINTER CAMP MEETING—Jan. 22-Feb. 1 at State Fair Grounds, Phoenix, Ariz. C. M. Ward and Dwight McLaughlin, speakers. For information write J. K. Gressett, District Superintendent, 2345 W. Bethany Home Rd., Phoenix, Ariz.—by V. E. Shores, District Secretary.



Figurets



WHAT ARE BIBLE FIGURETS?

BIBLE FIGURETS are three-inch high, vinyl figures. They are the artist's conception of famous Bible characters. These characters, together with accessory pieces, are combined into sets, so that the teacher may re-enact some certain event in Bible history.

Bible "figurets" are revolutionary teaching aids. *Three-dimensional*, they bring the story to life. *Practically indestructible*, they can be used and handled by the eager hands of boys and girls without fear of breakage. Each "figuret" is carefully detailed. The hands are capable of holding the accessory pieces, thus adding to the fascination of the groupings.

These beautiful vinyl figures are pliable, rubber-like. They must be seen to be appreciated. Good use has been made of color. The "figurets" themselves are light tan. The first set, which tells the Passover story, includes a

white lamb, green hyssop, and red (plastic) blood in the bowl.

If a flat picture is worth one thousand words how much more must these interesting "figurets" be worth! Think of the countless ways in which they can be re-grouped, the effect of the three-dimensional picture with the figures standing so sturdily.

Bible "figurets" are packaged in sets or units. Each unit tells a complete story. In addition to the "figurets," each set contains two or more accessory pieces.

For instance, the Passover set contains a doorway, figures of a father and a son, and accessory pieces of a lamb, a bowl, hyssop, and blood. The father's hand can hold the hyssop, the son can help his father hold the bowl, and the pieces of blood (plastic) can be placed on the doorpost.

One new unit will be produced each quarter.

HOW TO USE BIBLE FIGURETS

USE THE "FIGURETS" to teach the Sunday School Lesson. As the teacher accumulates these interesting pieces, he will find that he has material for teaching stories other than the one for which they were designed. Angels, lambs, baskets, trumpets, swords, harps, crowns, idols, etc., can be used again and again.

The sets are inexpensive and can be used as awards. Such awards will have real meaning. They will recall to the child's mind the whole Bible story. Where could you get better awards for good conduct, for attendance, for

memory work, for bringing new members, etc?

Each child could be given a complete set, providing he has been present for at least ten of the thirteen Sundays during the quarter. If present less than ten Sundays, the child can make up for his absence by bringing a visitor, doing extra memory work, etc.

It is recommended that the "figurets" be awarded only at the close of the quarter, so that they may remain available for use by the teacher and pupils when lessons to which the "figurets" are applicable are taught. Use these Bible "Figurets," the newest aid available in Christian Education.

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The Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Mo. is the exclusive agent for Bible "Figurets." No other agent anywhere sells them.

One set (three figures and accessories) **66c** per set.

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A New Life for the New Year

(Continued from page three)

Jesus stood and looked toward that cross. He had come from God to save poor lost sinners who deserved to die such a wretched death as that. There was only one way He could save them—by dying in their place. The cross therefore was an altar. On it God designed that this guiltless, spotless Son of His love should be offered as the Sacrificial Lamb for the sins of men.

Through long ages past men had offered guiltless lambs on altars for their sins. Those sacrificial lambs did not take away sin. They merely pointed as types or symbols to God's true Lamb that was to come. They expressed the faith of the worshipers in God's promised Redeemer—that sinless Man who would give His life as a substitute for them. Now that Man had come!

Standing there on Jordan's shore, Jesus' mind and heart embraced that old cross. It was the perfect will of God for Him and He willingly gave Himself to it. In spirit He gave His life for sinners then and there. John, as though to confirm the fact, leveled his finger at Him and boomed out his prophetic announcement: "Behold the Lamb of God. . . ."

Jesus waded out to John to be baptized by him. Jesus had bowed His will to the perfect will of God to be offered as God's paschal Lamb; therefore John took Him in his great strong arms and laid Him away in a watery grave. There, beneath the muddy waters of Jordan, Jesus was buried for an instant. The waters closed over Him. His consecration was complete. He had said, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God." He had assured His disciples when they brought bread to Him, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work." He had told the Jews, "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." He had made a full surrender.

Then John lifted Him up from that watery grave, symbolizing His resurrection, and in that moment the Spirit of God descended upon Him in the form of a Dove, while a voice from heaven declared, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Three and one-half years later the experience which had been portrayed symbolically was enacted in fullest reality. The sins which He had come to take away were actually laid upon Him. The cross which in spirit He had embraced was actually placed upon His back. The life which He had surrendered at heart was actually given up at Calvary.

They took His body from the wooden cross and laid Him away in a rock-hewn tomb. The grave was closed and sealed. Death had claimed its prey, and the burial which the watery grave of Jordan had symbolized was now an accomplished fact. Yet the first was just as real as the last, for it was wrought in the Spirit of God. Jesus was "born of water and of the Spirit" and thus He "fulfilled all righteousness."

What can we learn about this new life into which Jesus was born by the Resurrection? We learn that it is a "new creation." The old creation (Jesus' body) had terminated in death and the grave. That was the horrible price of sin. Then the Spirit of the Lord moved into the grave and "recreated" the mortifying body—made it over again, not as a part of the old creation, as in the case of Lazarus, but as a new creation. Lazarus had been raised from death, only to return to the grave after a few more years of earthly life. But Jesus was reborn by the Holy Spirit into a new order, a new creation which had no part nor substance with the old. The resurrection Kingdom belongs to another world. Flesh and blood has no inheritance therein.

The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus Christ is "the firstborn from the dead" (Colossians 1:18). John called Him "the first begotten of the dead" (Revelation 1:5). His disciples constitute the "Church of the Firstborn" (Hebrews 12:23). The term "Firstborn" reminds us of the glorious fact that others may follow Him and likewise be "born from the dead." *Nicodemus, you too must be "born again." First you must realize that you are dead in trespasses and sins; then by repentance and faith you may be "quickened" (made alive) and be raised from the*

dead to walk in newness of life. This is the only way to enter into the Kingdom of God. You must embrace the Cross. You must surrender your will to God. You must be crucified (in spirit) with Christ. There is no other way.

A man's rebellious will is his greatest problem. The human will is set against the divine will. The siren song of earth is none other than Lucifer's refrain which precipitated his fall from heaven to hell—"I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation . . . , I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:14).

But our Lord has taught us a *new* song. The words are *not*, "I will," but "I surrender." We kneel before Him, raise both our hands as high as we can raise them, and sing the glad new song, "I surrender, I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Saviour, I surrender all." That is the way to get a new life. There is no other way. It takes a complete surrender of your will to God. Your will must be crucified. Your old life with its disobedience and sin must be nailed to the cross. You must be "buried" with Christ through a complete consecration in order that you may rise with Him to enjoy this newness of spiritual life.

The great apostle to the Gentiles cried, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but A NEW CREATION" (Galatians 6:14).

In another place he wrote, "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in NEWNESS OF LIFE" (Romans 6:4).

Those who have embraced the cross of Christ and have been buried with Him in a watery grave of baptism are accounted to have been "born again" from death. They have been resurrected with Christ. They belong to a new world—a resurrection world. They are taught to live for God as "those that are alive from the dead."

What a glorious privilege it is to have this *new life* from God as we enter the new year.

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to the
editor



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I have come across a copy of your celebrated magazine, THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, and I have found it very inspiring and real spiritually nourishing material. I have showed it to most of my friends and they have all realized how important and useful the magazine appears to be. I never knew such a good magazine for Christian workers existed. Please enroll my name as your regular subscriber.

NAME WITHHELD BY EDITOR
Denominational Minister
Gold Coast, Africa

Shut-in Helping Others

I am a shut-in. I had polio at the age of eight months, and now I am confined to my bed with kidney infection. While in bed I am reading the EVANGEL and other Christian magazines. I am making a scrapbook of poems of all kinds and pictures I have cut from these magazines. I send poems and write letters to the discouraged shut-ins who are sick.

MAXINE WANGLER
Tilton, Illinois

More About Rain in Holton, Kansas

I want to thank you for the nice article concerning our community prayer meeting for rain in Holton, Kansas (EVANGEL, November 4). The Lord who told Abraham, "I will not destroy it for ten [righteous] sake," has answered our prayer. We have received in excess of four inches of rain the past few days and more appears to be on the way. We certainly give God the glory. At our Ministerial Alliance meeting we scheduled a special service of thanksgiving to God for the rain.

WILLIAM L. CUMMINS
Pastor, Glad Tidings Assembly
Holton, Kansas

Freedom Restricted in Virginia?

An article was printed in the EVANGEL (Sept. 16, 1956) concerning the difficulty of getting a building permit for a new church in Hong Kong. We have a similar situation here in Virginia, except that it is Americans and not Chinese who are restricting our religious freedom.

The Haymarket Assembly of God Church has purchased a lot in Haymarket, Virginia, on which to build a new church. (The original church burned down last January, and the congregation decided to rebuild in a better location.) A building permit has been issued by the County of Prince William, Virginia, since all the building specifications

of the County have been met, but the Town Council has brought an injunction against the Church to stop all construction work.

The Town Council repeatedly refuses to grant a building permit, without giving any plausible reason for their action! Is this America? Where is our freedom of worship, as guaranteed by the First Article of the Bill of Rights? We ask the support and prayers of all Christian people in our problem.

(MRS.) ELLEN LOUISE HENSLEY
Secretary-Treasurer,
Haymarket Assembly of God Church
Haymarket, Virginia

E.U.B. Minister Corrects Us

I am receiving your paper (someone subscribed for me) and I am writing to tell you of an error. In the September 16 issue under "This Present World" there appeared this item:

"E.U.B. Considers New Site in Dayton, Ohio—The Evangelical United Brethren Church has taken option on a site in Dayton, Ohio, as possible location for a new half-million-dollar building for its world headquarters. Denominational headquarters are in New York at present."

We have no headquarters in New York, and as far as I can learn there is no plan to build in Dayton.

C. R. NESS, PASTOR
First E. U. B. Church
Milton, Pa.

● We regret that we erred. We were informed by Religious News Service that the E.U.B. Church took option on a plot at Dayton as the possible site of a new world headquarters building for the denomination. The R.N.S. dispatch also stated that "the denomination now has offices in a downtown building, it once owned but sold to a New York hotel chain corporation four years ago. . . ." Evidently this building is in Dayton, Ohio, and not in New York.

A later report from Dayton informs us that options were taken on three separate plots, but when the E.U.B. general council of administration met in special session this fall they decided the options were "too costly." The options subsequently expired.

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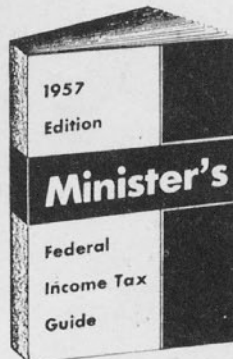


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MINISTER'S

Federal Income Tax Guide

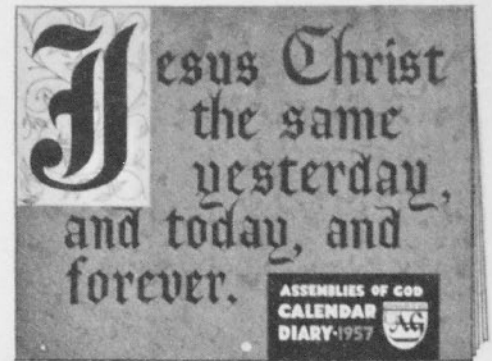
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BY LESLIE B. FLYNN

AN UNKNOWN NEW YEAR lies before us. We cannot know what the days will bring, but there is a way to find peace and contentment in spite of uncertainty. It may be something you never thought of before.

The question, "What will the new year bring for us?" naturally turns over in our minds as January 1 rolls near. Where will we be at this time next year? What changes will have occurred? How much progress will we have made spiritually?"

The new year—365 days—is before us. Where we will be one year hence depends largely on what we do with this very day in which we are living, for that is the way God has ordered our lives.

A saintly invalid who had to spend all her life in a crippled condition in bed was once asked, "How long must you lie like that?" She answered, "Just one day at a time."

The day is the smallest division of God-given time. Seconds, minutes and hours are artificial and man-made, but the period from dawn to dusk is a product of nature—the shortest span of time God has provided.

The day is also the chief division of God-given help. Divine help is never promised for a month or even a week in advance, but for a day—"as thy days, so shall thy strength be."

All of the Christian life is a day-by-day proposition. The Psalmist cried to the Lord daily. The Bereans searched the Scripture daily. Paul died daily. Disciples are to take up their crosses daily.

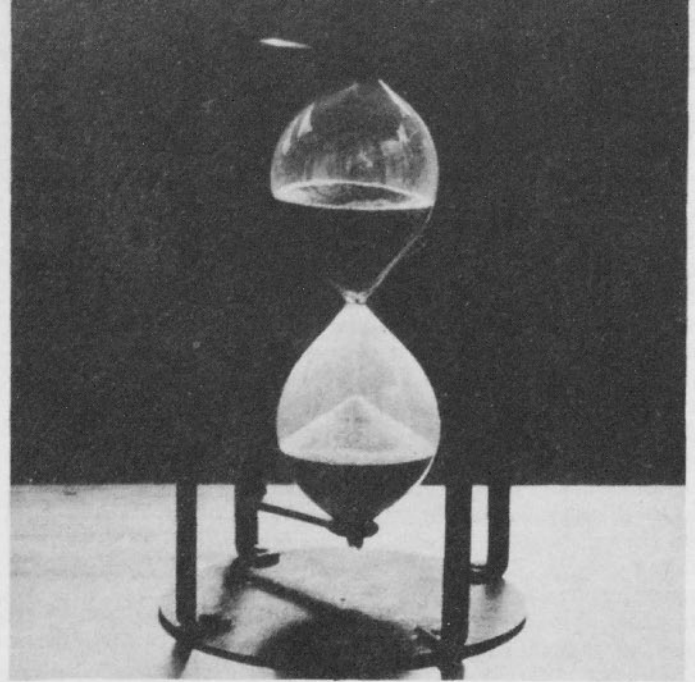
WE ARE NOT TO LIVE THREE DAYS IN ONE. It is folly to try to live tomorrow and yesterday today. Paul said he forgot the unworthy past, "those things behind."

Not only will worry over a fruitless past or an unknown future dissipate our powers, but even dreaming of a golden past or a fair future will rob us of our energies. Longing for the remote is a real enemy, unless we work now to put a foundation under our dreams.

However, living in the present doesn't mean a total disregard of yesterday and tomorrow. He who "eats, drinks, and is merry, for tomorrow he may die," is not living **in** the present but **for** the present. True living in the present profits from the past and faces the future.

LIVING FOR TODAY may involve reparations for yester-years and preparations for after-years. To recall the mistakes of the past and do nothing to repair them is living in the past. To dote on a glorious success and do nothing now to maintain that success or improve it is living in the past. But to remember some injury to another so that we now can make right the wrong is living in the present. To relive some glorious experience so as to take new heart and fresh courage is living in the present. We should never dwell on the yesterdays unless they can do something for our todays.

Nor should we dream about the future unless we do something in the present to help make that dream a reality. To plan to memorize hundreds of Bible verses and fail to learn one today is living in the future and weakening to our spiritual stature. To dream of winning



THIS DAY

hundreds of people to Christ and not speak to one today about his soul is idle dreaming. But to desire a deep knowledge of the Word and then study faithfully every day is living in the present.

The only time we have is now. The feet of time fall noiselessly so if you intend to teach a Sunday school class, phone the superintendent today; if you aim to distribute tracts, start giving them out now; if you wish to enjoy life, resolve to find joy each day.

The past is gone; the future is coming fast; we must make good use of the present.

To be informed of all the trials yet before us in this life would cause us to faint, but God will give grace to meet them day by day. A man who lost his wife, his wife's sister, a nephew in France, then had another nephew seriously wounded in Germany—finally taking ill himself—would not have been able to bear it all had he known of these tragedies in advance, or had he experienced them all at once. But as each day brought its new burden he was able to live through that day.

IF WE TAKE CARE OF THE DAYS, THE YEARS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

As each new day dawns, we can remember: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Perhaps some will read this who are not living a life of peace day by day because they have never thrown themselves on the mercy of Jesus Christ and permitted Him to forgive their sins and make life meaningful for them. If so, we urge you right now to follow the instructions found in the Bible:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). —Courtesy American Tract Society, 21 West 46th, New York 36