

FILE COPY

# The Pentecostal EVANGEL

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

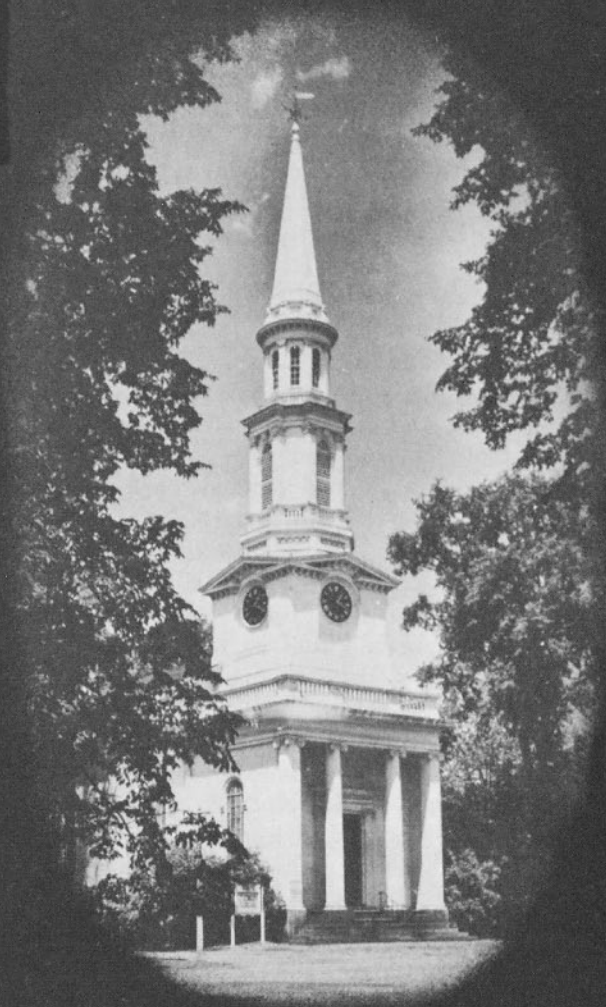
SEPTEMBER 13, 1959

PRICE 10 CENTS

*National Voice of the Assemblies of God*

*Campaign Issue*

## \*SUNDAY SCHOOL BRIGHTEST HOPE FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE



\* It has been the Sunday School through which the Christian children of the world have gained, to a large extent, their knowledge of the fundamental principles so basic to everyday life.—Harold E. Stassen.



# Take Time for SUNDAY SCHOOL

*The one great power to save all of us from moral chaos*

By **C. W. Denton**, National Sunday School Secretary

**T**HERE IS AN OLD RUSSIAN LEGEND about a man who was offered all the land he could run around from sunrise to sunset, starting at a given point and returning there exactly at sunset. He started out in the early morning, and as he ran swiftly past the fields of waving grain and the thick woodland he said, "These shall be mine." He ran like a deer over a stretch of prairie land, and past a shining river, and said, "These too shall be mine."

At mid-day he glanced up and saw that the sun had already passed the meridian, so he started back. Faster and faster he ran, but it began to look as if he would not make it. He put forth all his energy and was almost to the goal when the sun was just ready to dip behind the horizon. With a last call upon all his resources, he put forth an extra burst of speed and leaped across the goal, crying, "It is all mine." Then he fell exhausted. All that he had encircled belonged to him—but when they picked him up he was dead.

This is a picture of life as many people live it. If life consists only of what one possesses of this world's goods, there is not much worth struggling for. The Bible teaches that the real worth of life consists not in what a person has but in what he really is. It is possible to possess a great many things in this life and still die a pauper spiritually.

People who neglect the church and spend their time in other interests, are robbing themselves of eternal and spiritual riches. They may seem to gain certain possessions as they hurry along life's paths, but like the man in the legend their energies are spent in vain. It is important therefore to follow the instructions of Christ and "seek first the

kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." To seek the kingdom of God will lead us to associate ourselves with the church. Within the church the Sunday school is the teaching agency of God's Word. Everyone needs to know and understand the Bible, so "everybody ought to go to Sunday school."

## MEETING VITAL ISSUES

The Sunday school offers Bible truths around which life may be built. In the making of a wheel there of necessity must be a central hub from which the spokes run to the circumference. The hub strengthens and supports the spokes. Our lives must have an adequate center if they are to be strong and useful.

The chief textbook of the Sunday school is the Bible. The great central theme of the Bible is the plan of redemption that closes the gap between sinful man and a holy God. The Sunday school faces every pupil with this vital issue and helps to bring him into proper relationship with God. By making the individual conscious of his need, the Sunday school becomes the direct agent in bringing salvation to him.

This vital spiritual experience is further developed by regular Sunday school attendance and Bible study. Christians need to be encouraged to read the Bible and helped to understand it. One time an American was boasting of his ability to eat with chopsticks. He went on to tell how one of his Chinese friends had claimed that it is easier for an American to learn to handle chopsticks than it is for a Chinese person to learn to use a fork. At this point another American made the remark, "That's foolish: it just comes natural to eat with a fork." But

he was wrong. Americans handle their forks naturally because they were taught to do so. So the Christian only becomes skilled in using his Bible and letting it speak to him as he learns to study it. Such assistance is given in the Sunday school where the Bible is the textbook. All scripture is profitable for our guidance in meeting the vital issues of life. Take time for Sunday school.

## TRAINING THE CHILDREN

Sunday should be kept sacred for religious training and worship in order to give God and the church a regular place in the busy family life. No matter what others do, automobile and other pleasure trips should never take the family away from church. Such trips can be made in the afternoon or at some other time. The regular attendance and loyalty of parents will encourage the children.

Many are the fathers who might confess, "We do not feel competent to give our children religious training. Our kiddies are being reared like heathen, something must be done." True, something should be done, and that is to let the whole family resolve together to take time for Sunday school from this time forward.

## SETTING AN EXAMPLE

The regular attendance of all the members would fill the church building, encourage the pastor, and contribute to an enlarged ministry of the church. The new enthusiasm created in the church would result in a revival of the whole congregation. There is certainly no inspiration in empty pews. It has been pointed out that the most expensive piece of furniture in any church is an empty pew.

Everyone needs the church. We need

it for instruction, inspiration, and worship. A live coal, lifted off the fire and set by itself on the hearth, will grow cold while those in the fire continue to glow and give off heat. We need the stimulation and help of other Christian people; their enthusiasm is contagious.

The presence of each member is an encouragement to the church. Some people think since they are only one their presence would not make any difference. There are many "ones" and they make up a large group. Each one is responsible to God and his fellow men for the one life he lives. Everyone who takes the time to attend Sunday school and church encourages the members and the minister to greater endeavors. The power of the gospel is manifest to transform lives and make the world a better place to live in.

#### FACING WORLD CONDITIONS

A large part of our world is threatened with war. Hatred seems to be organized and on the march. Millions are helpless, homeless, and hungry. There is suffering everywhere. Sin is doing its deadly work by destroying homes, wrecking lives, and possessing men's hearts. Many are filled with fear because of the things that are taking place in the world today.

Democracy is challenged by great and strong nations. In some lands it has given way to godless communism. What has happened elsewhere may and can happen here. American people must awaken to the situation and be ready to serve and live sacrificially for the freedom of democracy. It will take a moral and spiritual regeneration throughout the nation to bring about the spiritual revival that is needed.

The church was never more necessary than it is now. Every member in this time of spiritual emergency needs to be faithful and regular in church attendance. It is time to stand up and be counted, to join hands with other Christians and propagate the gospel of the Lord. Take time to attend and find a place of service in Sunday school and church.

Don't let the process of accumulating this world's goods blind you to eternal life and spiritual values. Jesus asked one day, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" In the estimation of Christ, the accumulation of all the world's wealth was not to be compared in value to the worth of one soul. ◀◀



# I BELIEVE...

PEOPLE OF VARIOUS WALKS IN LIFE DECLARE THEIR FAITH

#### POULTRYMAN

From my boyhood days I have served the Lord. I consider Sunday school one of the most important factors in my Christian life, for through it I have become rooted and grounded in God's Word.

The Christian life is rich and happy and fruitful in this world, and it prepares us for eternity with God. I believe the most important thing in life for the individual is to be ready to meet the Saviour. There is nothing in this world as important to me.

I believe that we should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and that if we do He will fulfill His promise to supply our needs. As I have put this principle to the test, the Lord has graciously given me wisdom in my business which I know could not have come from any other source.

—Enoch Christofferson



#### CO-ED



A young person dreams many dreams and makes great plans for the future. Sometimes they materialize; other times they do not. But I believe that God has a definite plan for each life if it is yielded to Him. It is exciting and thrilling to watch God unfold His plan for me, and I know that left to myself I could never choose as wisely.

I often find myself with just enough direction for the present, but God gives the assurance that all will be well. He says we are to be "anxious for nothing . . . and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." I know that He means it. I'm experiencing it now!

—Frieda Foote

#### SERVICEMAN

I became familiar with God's presence at an early age and when I was fourteen I gave Him my life. I was taught God's Word and memorized chapters from it during well-spent hours in a Sunday school classroom.

I believe the most significant and probably the most important forces in our nation and the world today for preventing juvenile delinquency are the Sunday school and the church.

When I see the results of sin and the unhappiness in the lives of fellow servicemen who do not know the Lord, it is a joy to share with them the good news of the gospel and what Christ can do for them.

As for my own life, I have stood in awe and watched God prove His Word: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

—PFC Vernon Henson



#### RADIO ENGINEER



As the result of the prayers of a Christian family, I accepted Christ as Saviour when ten years of age, at the conclusion of a Sunday school decision service.

He proved to be a constant friend and unfailing guide through my time of service in the Navy and the college years that followed. For the past several years, working as chief engineer for Radio Station KCVR, and superintendent of First Assembly Sunday School in Lodi, Calif., I have found the reality of Christ and the joy of Christian living more meaningful than ever.

I believe that the answer to all life's problems and the insecurity in this changing world is found only in committing our ways entirely to the Lord and trusting Him. It is only then that the greatest joy, happiness, and peace can be ours.

—George L. Sampson

For additional testimonies, turn to page fifteen

# "DIVIDING TO MULTIPLY" IN WEST AFRICA

Amazing Growth Inspired by International Sunday School Contest

BY REX JACKSON

*Missionary to Nigeria*

COMPETING WITH AMERICAN SUNDAY schools through the international Sunday school contest sponsored by *Christian Life* magazine sparked a burst of Sunday school enthusiasm that has never been equalled in Nigeria.

Two years ago, when Nigerian Assemblies entered the contest for the first time, four churches received awards and three were given honorable mention. The Sunday school at Aba averaged 255 the year before the contest, but grew to a record attendance of 2,560 during the contest.

Again this year the Aba Sunday school entered the *Christian Life* contest. Pastor August Asonye and Sunday School Superintendent James Uloacha planned their promotional program, setting an attendance goal of 5,000. Twice in the six weeks of the contest the attendance went over the 5,000 mark and it never dropped below 2,000.

The township of Aba was flooded

with printed invitations for weeks before the contest began. Taxis and trucks, hired by the congregation, began to deliver people to the church as early as 7:30 each Sunday morning. Some fifty men were assigned to lead the visitors to their classes. Since the crowds were much larger than the seating capacity of the church, the church utilized store buildings, schools, and even private homes as classrooms. When these were filled, brush arbors were constructed. On the last Sunday there were 2,000 boys and girls in the Beginner and Primary Departments alone! The congestion was so great that police had to direct the traffic.

Pastor Asonye preached evangelistic messages at the close of the Sunday school hour. The last Sunday of the contest 280 decision cards were handed in after the invitation was given. We

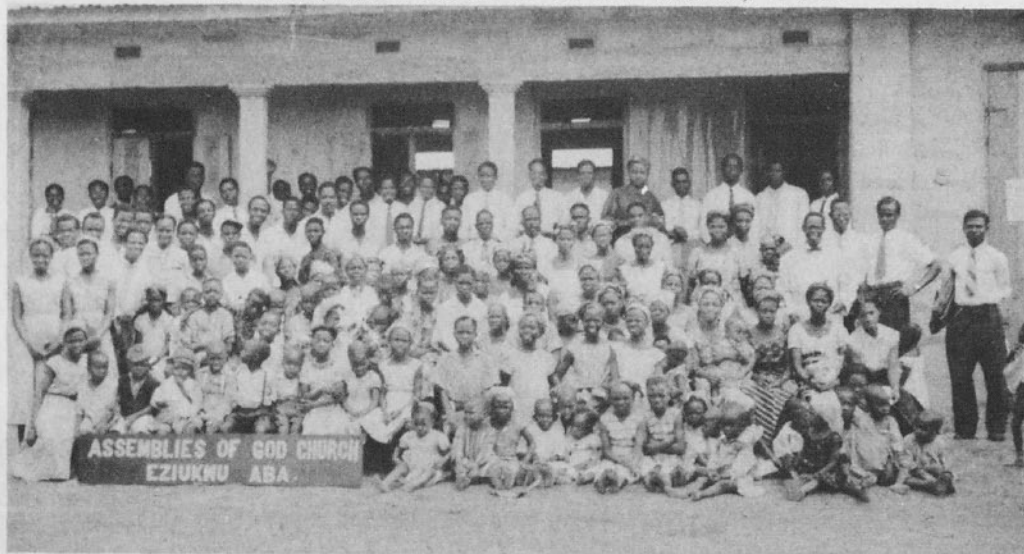


Trucks and taxis bringing new people to the Sunday school in Aba, Nigeria

do not claim that all of these were saved, but they represent individuals who made their first step toward Christ, and with the planned follow-up activities many of these people will be led to a definite experience of conversion.

Following the first contest, the Aba church had been enlarged to twice its original size; but the church board decided against repeating this action. Instead they voted to open a new church across town. A hall, renting for \$15 a month, was secured. Fourteen mem-

First Sunday school session at the new Assembly in Aba



Pastor August Asonye (left) of the "mother church" and Pastor Paul Orji (right) of the new Aba Assembly



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with the doctrines of our church, the Assemblies of God, an evangelical Christian body having several thousands of churches in the U.S.A. and several hundreds of missionaries in foreign lands. You are cordially invited to write to the address at the left for further information and to send for a free sample copy of a regular issue of this magazine.)



James Uloacha, Sunday school superintendent, holding a promotional banner



# The Gift of the Holy Ghost

BY R. L. BRANDT

*National Home Missions Secretary*

bers and a number of regular attendants who lived in the vicinity of the hall became the nucleus for a new congregation. The "mother" church provided benches and pulpit furniture for the new Assembly and Paul Orji was appointed pastor.

The new church was opened with an evangelistic meeting. Each night there was a good response to the invitation, and 133 were present for the first Sunday school session. Mrs. Jackson and I promised the new church a wall register and flannel board if they would increase their Sunday school attendance by twenty per cent the first year. The following Sunday the attendance was 172—the twenty per cent had been gained in only one week! By the end of the month, the hall was too small for the congregation.

Instead of decreasing in attendance, the "mother" church increased fifty the first Sunday the new church was opened. Members of the "mother" church have been so thrilled with the results of the new church that they have been revived, and the Lord is blessing them in every way. ◀◀

## God Knoweth

There's never a day so dark and gray  
But the sun shines just the same;  
Seeking a rift through which to sift  
Golden, glorious flame.

There's never a loss or a heavy cross  
But Christ will help us bear it;  
Never a chain or a searing pain  
But He can break or share it.

There's never a heart with cruel smart  
But His can also feel it;  
Never a sorrow but we can borrow  
Strength till His love can heal it!

—Christine White

**T**HE SURPRISE OF MY LIFE CAME TO me one day several years ago when a child to whom I presented a gift utterly refused to receive it.

We had taken the small son and daughter of a missionary couple into our home to care for them while their parents traveled several months in the interest of their missionary work. Soon we learned to love them, and they in turn fondly called us uncle and auntie. When their parents had completed itinerating and were in a position to set up housekeeping, we parted reluctantly.

Some months later, business took me into the city where they were living with their parents. Happily I looked forward to seeing the youngsters again, and purchased a small gift for each.

Arriving at the home, I was warmly welcomed. Greetings were exchanged and I proceeded to present the gifts to the children. One of them gladly took the package, but to my utter amazement the other coldly refused. Not until a good while later was it finally accepted.

I was hard put to understand such actions on the part of a child, but God used the experience to bring a certain important truth to my attention. I have been reminded many times since that God has arranged for each of His children to receive the wonderful gift of the Holy Ghost, only to find them so very slow in responding to His gracious offer.

It is vital that the intended recipient of a gift should realize its availability. The Bible has much to say about the availability of the gift of the Holy Ghost for all of God's children. Peter, speaking of the gift of the Holy Ghost, said, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God

shall call" (Acts 2:39). Certainly this is a promise with broad scope, making the gift available to all God's children throughout the Church Age. Luke quoted Christ as saying, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (Luke 11:13).

Some have been taught that they received the gift of the Holy Ghost at the time they accepted Christ. While this is possible, it is not likely. The receiving of the gift usually is an experience which follows conversion, and it is certain that when one does receive he knows it. In the Book of Acts, when men received there was always an accompanying physical manifestation, and there is no indication of a change in God's pattern. Peter, in describing the original presentation of the gift, declared, "He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear" (Acts 2:33).

But why is it important that we as individuals receive the gift? Of what value is it?

Surely, if God has provided a gift, it is intended for some definite purpose. Again we resort to the Bible for understanding. John's Gospel indicates that the Holy Ghost, when He is received, satisfies the deepest thirst of the soul. "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not

(Continued on page fourteen)

# The BOOK by Your Side

BY JAMES Z. NETTINGA

Secretary, Education and Information  
American Bible Society



PHOTO BY H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS

**T**HERE IS A BOOK BY YOUR SIDE. IT is there whether you call for it or not—in the home, the hotel room, in every library and public reading room. It stands by your side twenty-four hours a day through every medium of communication — newspapers, magazines, books, radio, and television. It is there in the precepts of our schools, the mottoes of our clubs, the rituals of our holidays, and the inscriptions on our public buildings. It stands by your side in art, music, language, and in every area of our culture. That Book is the Bible.

## BASIC PREMISES FOR BIBLE READING

1. Throughout the Bible, history and faith are inextricably related. "Event without faith yields little illumination; it is faith that transforms the event and makes of it the reality which the Bible describes. And, conversely, faith without event is not relevant faith; it is the event that gives to Israel's religion its form and character."

2. The Bible helps us to understand life, because it tells us so much about life.

3. As it is faith that inspires the history of this Book and gives it content and meaning, so it is only through faith that the record can be understood.

4. Truth in the Bible is always in some sense or another *personal* truth. It is never abstract. Persons or personal relations or personal decisions enter at some point.

Thus we approach this Book by

our side. Men and women who are in earnest realize that the one thing which matters in reading this Book is to find God. And whether they are scholars or ordinary folk, they discover in their reading of the Bible that God does find them. An old Mohave Indian chief put it this way, "I know this Book is the Word of God, because it pulls my heart." And a little woman in Africa, when asked how she was enjoying reading the Bible, replied, "Sir, I am not reading this Book, this Book is reading me."

## EFFECTIVE BIBLE STUDY

What are some of the most effective ways in which the Bible is being used to deepen the spiritual life of people?

Depth Bible study makes a sound separation between personal and group reading. An individual reads a Bible passage as if for the first time, then tries to find an original meaning of the passage for himself, putting Bible words into his own language and imagining that he is telling the story to a third person.

In group study of the same verses more effort it made to understand what the writer is attempting to say and to discover what meaning the passage has for today and for those present. Such Bible-study groups give power to all who participate.

One Ohio church has adapted this depth method as part of its regular weekly program. The participants meet in small groups of from five to eight

persons each, with each group reporting its findings back to the larger body.

The so-called "head, heart, hand study" method is followed: the head meaning to note what you don't understand; the heart to check what really reaches you; and the hand to note what it asks by way of action.

## THE BIBLE AT WORK

Since it is God's message to man, the Bible contains a personal message to each of us. Millions have already found the solution to apparently insoluble problems in its pages.

A merchant sailor writes: "One night just before we sailed, I returned to my berth quite late after a rather wild round of the taverns. On my berth I found one of the American Bible Society Gospel Portions. I tossed it aside; but later, when at sea, I began to read it—first for want of something better to do, then with increasing interest, and finally with a real longing. The next time we touched shore I stayed away from the taverns and instead found a church. I was later baptized—and today I am a Christian because someone left a Gospel Portion on my berth."

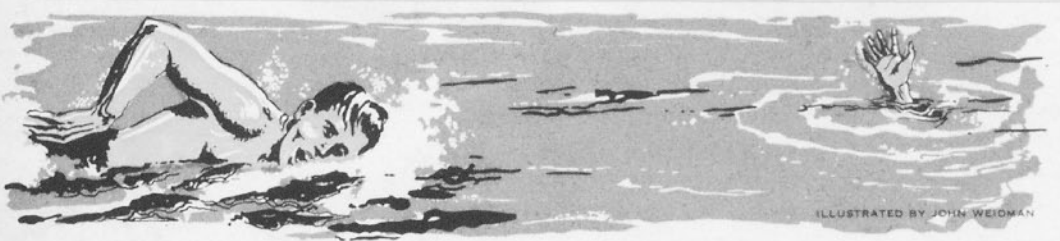
A man writes: "I was pretty far down the ladder. My job was gone. My wife had left me and most of my money had been spent on drink. While waiting in a bus depot to get warm, I took one of the little Gospel books from a container on the wall. Think-

ing that maybe the cops wouldn't kick me out if I pretended to read it, I began to read—first without interest or comprehension, then with such interest that I finished it from cover to cover. Just reading those words did something for me. Today I am back with my family, active in church, and have a good job. Please send me 25 of these little books so that I may give them to my friends."

A Protestant chaplain writes: "Many

thanks for your generous gift of Scripture Portions for the men of Alcatraz. I know these little booklets are appreciated by the men. When I told them that we had a few left over, they said the Bible Society probably figures that the guards should be reading the Scriptures also! Many thanks."

Whatever *your* station in life, the Book by your side stands ready to help you as it has helped others. Have you read it lately? ◀◀



## How To Be Saved

BY ELVA M. JOHNSON

**J**ESUS CAME TO CALL SINNERS TO repentance. He came to seek and to save the *lost*. If you are ever to be saved, you must first acknowledge that you need a Saviour. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The knowledge that we as individuals have sinned, and therefore are lost and in need of a Saviour, is brought home to us individually by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He may use various means—a sermon, a prayer, a godly friend, a Bible verse, an incident—but back of whatever means is used is the Holy Spirit convicting us of sin.

Conviction, like pain when we touch a hot stove, is actually one of God's blessings, for it lets us know that what we are doing is wrong, and that the longer we do it the more harm will result. To ignore or despise the Spirit of God who points out our need of a Saviour is both dangerous and foolish, for it is to disregard the goodness of God which leads us to repentance. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3)

Conviction for sin is necessary, for Jesus said, "No man can come unto me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44).

The next step to salvation is to accept the fact that we cannot save ourselves. If man could have saved himself, God would not have sent His Son to die for us. It is a tragic fact that

every year many people who cannot swim drown in deep water simply because they fight off their would-be rescuers in a desperate attempt to save themselves. If only they would cease to struggle and submit to those who come to their aid, they could be saved. This is just as true in the spiritual realm. The waters of sin are too treacherous for any of us, but God who recognizes our helplessness "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Knowing then that you cannot save yourself, and that Christ died for your sins, you have only to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Believing on Christ to salvation is *more* than giving mental assent to His existence and ability to save. Salvation is, in fact, both a crisis and a progressive experience. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." That is the crisis experience, just as the birth of a child into the world is a physical crisis. The "new birth" takes place when we come to God in prayer through Jesus Christ, confess our sins, and accept the Saviour. This may take place in the home, at the office, at church, or alone, or in the company of others. The place is

not important. *What is important is that you meet God on a personal basis, honestly and with faith, acknowledging that you are lost and want to be saved.*

The same Spirit of God who convicts of sin and makes us realize we are lost also brings assurance of salvation when we have so come to God in faith. "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Following the crisis experience which brings the knowledge of sins forgiven, the joy of being in right relationship with God, we begin a whole new life. And just as the infant must eat in order to grow and develop and take his place in the world, so the new-born Christian must do that which will develop him into a strong healthy Christian, able to take his place in the kingdom of God.

As he reads his Bible attends church regularly, and fellowships with Christ in prayer and service, his Christian experience affects every area of his life. Not only is his joy in living increased greatly by the understanding of God's purpose for his existence, but he looks forward to even greater experience with God throughout eternity.

Have *you* accepted Christ as your personal Saviour? Are you saved—now? You can be, for the Bible says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." ◀◀

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the Assemblies of God

**REV. C. M. WARD**

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**HOME MISSIONS**—Special ministries to the Deaf, the Blind, foreign language groups, Alaska, Indians, Jews, prisoners, and millions in industry are conducted by over 200 appointed home missionaries. Scores of new churches are established each year through the church extension program.



**WOMEN'S MISSIONARY COUNCIL**—The more than 5,000 WMC groups, along with 1,150 Missionette clubs (teen-age auxiliary) have united to supply millions of dollars in cash, equipment, and clothing for missionaries.



**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**—Laymen find unusual opportunities for fellowship through the Men's Fellowship organization.



**BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS**—In addition to several district-operated homes for the aged and children's homes, the church sponsors the National Children's Home at Hot Springs, Ark., and a home for retired ministers at Pinellas Park, Fla.

*Introduce*

# THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

A CO-OPERATIVE, GROWING FELLOWSHIP OF

## 8,000 AMERICANS

• For forty-five years the Assemblies of God has been a powerful force in the United States and around the world. The immediate need of every God church in your community is to spread the Gospel, to save and fill believers with the Holy Spirit, and that He is coming again. Be a part of this organization as outlined on the next two pages.



**SUNDAY SCHOOLS**—Bible-centered lessons for every age group are taught by personnel trained through annual nationwide workers training programs. More than 925,000 are now enrolled in the denomination's Sunday schools.

**RADIO EVANGELISM**—Now in its sixth year of network broadcasting, *Revivaltime*, radio voice of the Assemblies of God, reaches millions over the ABC network and through powerful stations overseas.



**YOU'LL BE WELCOME AT THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

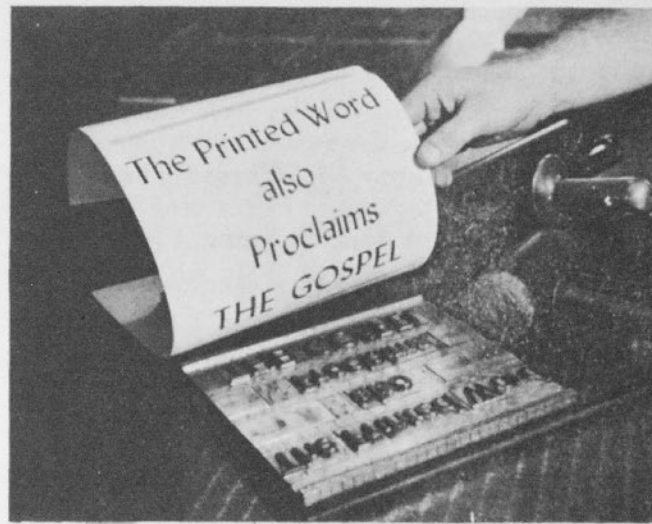




Laymen of the church find fellowship and service through organization.



**CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**—Most of the 14,518 ordained and licensed ministers of the denomination have been trained in its own Bible schools and colleges. The new liberal arts school, Evangel College, is located in Springfield, Mo.



**GOSPEL LITERATURE**—Fifty-six English-language publications (40 of which are related to the Sunday school) plus six in Spanish, are produced in the million-dollar printing plant of the Gospel Publishing House. A Braille Sunday school quarterly is also prepared there, but produced elsewhere.

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# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD G FELLOWSHIP OF MORE THAN CAN CHURCHES

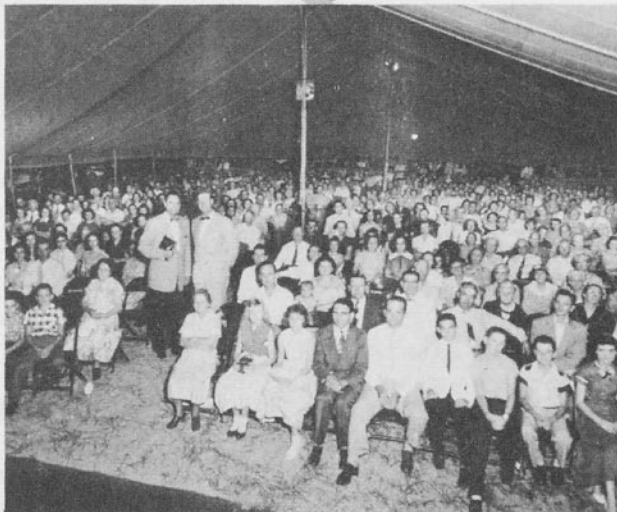
has presented the full-gospel message in the immediate objective of the Assemblies of God to spread the Good News locally that Jesus is the Holy Spirit, that He heals the sick, and that He gives life. But every local church is part of the global mission of the Assemblies of God outlined on these pages.



**YOUTH PROGRAM**—In the past nearly 15 years, the 96,000 Christ's Ambassadors (youth group of the Assemblies) have given over three million dollars to speed the gospel light by providing vehicles, and radio and printing equipment for missionaries.



**EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS**—The Pentecostal movement was born in revival. Tent meetings and revival campaigns in the churches bring many to God and keep alive the old-fashioned revival atmosphere.



**FOREIGN MISSIONS**—Seventy-one countries are now served by 828 Assemblies of God missionaries. The organization leads all others with 62 Bible schools on foreign soil, training national ministers.

# OF GOD CHURCH IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**P**SYCHOLOGISTS AND SOCIOLOGISTS agree on the importance of a happy home. Many studies have been made to discover the factors which make the home a happy one. These studies have shown that happy homes tend to conform to a general pattern.

#### A HAPPY MARRIAGE

One needs but to scan the marriage and divorce statistics to realize how many marriages are not happy. And how many other marriages are unhappy but never reach the divorce court, one cannot say. It is tragic but true that every unhappy marriage represents an unhappy home, not only for the mar-



PHOTO BY H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS

# What Makes a Happy Home?

Social Science Points to Both Natural and Spiritual Factors, College Teacher Says

riage partners, but also for any children who may be involved.

What makes a marriage happy? Here are some of the factors, discovered by social scientists, which contribute to a happy marriage and thereby to a happy home.

1. *Happily married parents.* Persons who are happily married usually have happily married parents. Burgess and Cottrell (1939) and Locke (1951) pointed out that there is a tendency for happy marriages to run in families. It would seem that in the matter of happy marriages, children of Christian parents have an edge over children of non-Christians, since Christians are happy people.

Do we want our children to be happily married? Let us show them that marriages can be happy by making our marriages happy. Let us show them how to make the personal adjustments necessary for a happy marriage by making them ourselves.

2. *Closeness to parents.* Young persons who are close to their parents and who enjoy good relations with their parents, tend to be more happily married than those in other circumstances. It would seem that the kind of parent-child relationship taught in the Bible contributes to the marital happiness of the child when he grows up and establishes his own home.

3. *A happy engagement.* It has been discovered that a happy engagement foreshadows a happy marriage, and that an unhappy engagement foreshad-

ows an unhappy marriage. The cooperative attitude which is so important in making the engagement a happy period of time is even more necessary in marriage. The emotional stability which makes the engagement a happy one is even more necessary in marriage. Marriage does not solve the problems which make engagements unhappy; it intensifies them.

BY DONALD F. JOHNS  
*Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Missouri*

4. *Social adjustment.* The kind of social adjustment achieved before marriage is correlated with the happiness of marriage. Burgess and Cottrell point out that one indication of social adjustment is evidence of religious activity. Parents who take time to *worship with their children in the home and in church*, and who take them to Sunday school, are indirectly contributing to the social adjustment of their children and to their future happiness in marriage.

5. *Moderate economic security.* Moderate economic security relieves a marriage of the financial stresses which contribute to emotional strain in marriage.

6. *Desire for children.* Happiness in marriage is correlated with the desire for children even though children may not yet be present.

7. *Sexual adjustment.* A good sexual

adjustment contributes to a happy marriage. When, as a result of previous training, marriage partners regard sex as nasty, crude, or sinful it is difficult to achieve a good sexual adjustment. While parents should teach their children that sexual activity outside the marriage relationship is wrong and sinful, they should also emphasize that "marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled" (Hebrews 13:4). The right attitude toward sex, making it neither more important nor less important than God intended, is a factor in a happy marriage.

#### HAPPY CHILDREN

Of all social influences, the home is the strongest influence on the development and behavior of the child. The home is the child's first and most important social situation. The habits and attitudes formed in the home are fixed before other social influences become at all significant. The general emotional tone of the home establishes the general emotional tone of the child's personality. The happy home produces happy children. Here are some of the factors which make for happy children.

1. *Respect for parents.* Parents earn the respect of their children by the way they act. Children will identify themselves with their parents if they respect them. They will capture the ideals of the parents, imitate their behavior, and will do so uncritically.

2. *Discipline.* The child needs discipline. Discipline contributes to the

child's feelings of security by making him feel that his parents are interested in him.

Discipline should be moderate. If it is too harsh and too rigid, the child may be crushed under the weight of it. If it is too lenient, the child may never adequately adjust to the kind of demands that society will place on him later.

Discipline should be consistent; it should not depend upon the emotional moods or whims of the parents. Inconsistency in discipline may make the child unhappy by making him feel insecure in a world which he may come to see as morally chaotic.

3. *Freedom.* Children need a certain amount of freedom if they are to develop well-balanced, happy personalities. Some children are unhappy because they suffer from "too much parents." Parents need to allow freedom to children in areas where they are able to handle it. Parents need to teach their children how to make good decisions, rather than to make all their decisions for them.

Happy parents and happy children—these constitute the happy home. ◀◀

## This We Believe . . .

*We believe* the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God.

*We believe* that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

*We believe* in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule over the nations.

*We believe* that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

*We believe* that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

*We believe* that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.

*We believe* that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

*We believe* in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.

*We believe* in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.



# Family Altar

DAILY BIBLE READINGS BY R. G. CHAMPION

## Monday

**Read:** Acts 16:16-34

**Learn:** "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

**For the Parent:** Review the story of why Paul and Silas were in prison. Stress their attitude (v. 25) in spite of their condition (v. 22). Show the miracle God performed in freeing them and how it resulted in the conversion of the jailer and his family. Discuss how we can be saved (v. 31). Use also such verses as John 3:16; Romans 10:9, 10. Salvation comes as we accept Christ, putting our faith in Him as our Saviour.

**Question Time:** Why were Paul and Silas in prison? What happened?

## Tuesday

**Read:** Acts 8:26-40

**Learn:** "And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37).

**For the Parent:** Philip was in a successful revival meeting in Samaria (vv. 5-25) when God told him of another work He wanted him to do—to take the gospel to one individual. Discuss Philip's conversation with the Ethiopian eunuch and how he pointed the eunuch to Christ. Emphasize the eunuch's confession of faith (v. 37). Then he was baptized in water. Baptism does not save us; it merely testifies to others of what Christ has done in our hearts.

**Question Time:** What was the eunuch's confession of faith? (v. 37).

## Wednesday

**Read:** Acts 9:1-18

**Learn:** "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6).

**For the Parent:** Review the previous history of Paul (Saul)—see Acts 8:1-4. Discuss his conversion and the incidents related to it. His surrender to Christ is recorded in verse 6. After we are saved, we are to serve the Lord. Also discuss Paul's healing and his baptism. God wants to do miraculous things in our lives, and He will if we let Him.

**Question Time:** What events were related to Paul's conversion? (vv. 1-8) Why was he going to Damascus? (vv. 1, 2) How did he get his sight back? (vv. 17, 18)

## Thursday

**Read:** Genesis 22:1, 2, 6-14

**Learn:** "God will provide himself a lamb" (Genesis 22:8).

**For the Parent:** (Additional material on "Abraham's Faith Tested" will be found on Sunday's Lesson page.) Review the story of the great test Abraham faced, his complete consecration to God (not even allowing his well-loved son to come between him and God), and the lamb that God provided for the sacrifice. Stress: (1) we should not put anything before God in our lives; (2) Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins—He died that we might live.

**Question Time:** What did God ask Abraham to do? (v. 2) What provision did God make for Abraham's sacrifice?

## Friday

**Read:** John 13:2-17 (Sunday's Lesson for Juniors)

**Learn:** "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

**For the Parent:** One of the outstanding characteristics of Jesus was His humility. We are to be like Him, willing to serve others. Review the story, stressing that the important lesson here is that we be humble, willing to help others in every way possible. Christ is our example.

**Question Time:** On this occasion, what did Jesus do? (v. 5) What lesson is to be learned from this? (See above) How can we serve others?

## Saturday

**Read:** Acts 28:11-31 (Sunday's Lesson for Primaries)

**Learn:** "I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

**For the Parent:** This passage contains the story of some of the last days of the great apostle Paul. From this passage point out: (1) the ministry of encouragement, v. 15; (2) Paul's faithfulness in witnessing for Christ in spite of his prison bonds, vv. 23-31. Paul lived faithfully for the Lord, serving and honoring Him. That should be the aim of our lives, too—to please God and serve Him faithfully.

**Question Time:** What encouraged Paul? (v. 15) What did he do while imprisoned? (vv. 23-31).

**ABRAHAM'S FAITH TESTED**

*Sunday School Lesson for September 20, 1959*  
 GENESIS 22:1-14

"And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said." Behold God's faithfulness to His Word! "At the set time" Isaac, the child of promise was born to Abraham and Sarah. After thirty years of waiting, and though fully aware of the natural impossibility of such a miracle taking place, Abraham, being "strong in faith," believed God and was given a son! He had passed the test. But less than twenty years later, Abraham faced a greater test.

**I. THE SUPREME TEST. Genesis 22:1-2.**

"And it came to pass that God did tempt Abraham." The word "tempt" here means "test." God never tempts man; He tests men to strengthen them and to bring out good.

(1) *This was Abraham's greatest test.* Life is a succession of tests, for only thereby may Christian character be developed and the servant be prepared for service. Abraham had passed through other tests which involved separation from something naturally dear. Now came the crisis of his life which would decide his destiny.

(2) *This test followed blessing.* "After these things;" that is, after the blessing recorded in 21:33, 34. We may find it thus in our own lives. "Therefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

(3) *The blessing, nevertheless, prepared him for the test.* Abraham had just received a new revelation of God as "El Olam," "The Everlasting God." Blessings are likewise granted to us not to tickle our emotions, nor to be dissipated selfishly, but to prepare us for the trials ahead.

(4) *The trial touched Abraham in his tenderest spot.* God's own words even seemed to remind him of the fact, "Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest." God fully realized the depths of Abraham's love for Isaac; He also knew that Abraham's love for God was greater. So God tested him to prove to the world that mortal man can actually love God more than all other loves, and that he is willing to put Him first in deed and in truth.

**II. THE INSTANT OBEDIENCE. Genesis 22:3-6.**

"And Abraham rose up early in the morning." The "ands" in these verses speak of continuity of action. Abraham answered God with deeds, not words. He "conferred not with flesh and blood" but obeyed God. Galatians 1:16.

**III. THE IMPLICIT FAITH. Genesis 22:7, 8.**

"And Isaac... said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

"And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb." Just what did Abraham mean? Hebrews 11:17-19 helps with the answer. "By faith Abraham... offered up Isaac... accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead." Abraham did not know exactly what would happen. God could actually provide a substitute for Isaac, or, should Abraham have to put his son to death in obedience to God, he was sure God could raise him from the

dead. What mighty faith! Does this mean Abraham did not suffer? Of course not! For three days Isaac had been as one dead in Abraham's mind. He had suffered agony and would yet suffer more. The presence of real faith does not mean the absence of suffering, but rather it means that suffering is aided by that inner poise and comfort which comes from God through faith.

**IV. THE WILLING SUBMISSION. Genesis 22:9.**

In praising Abraham we must not overlook Isaac's part in the test. Undoubtedly as father and son neared the place of sacrifice, Abraham told his son what God had commanded, and he also may have told him what he expected God to do as a result of his obedience. Even so, the test was no less severe upon Isaac.

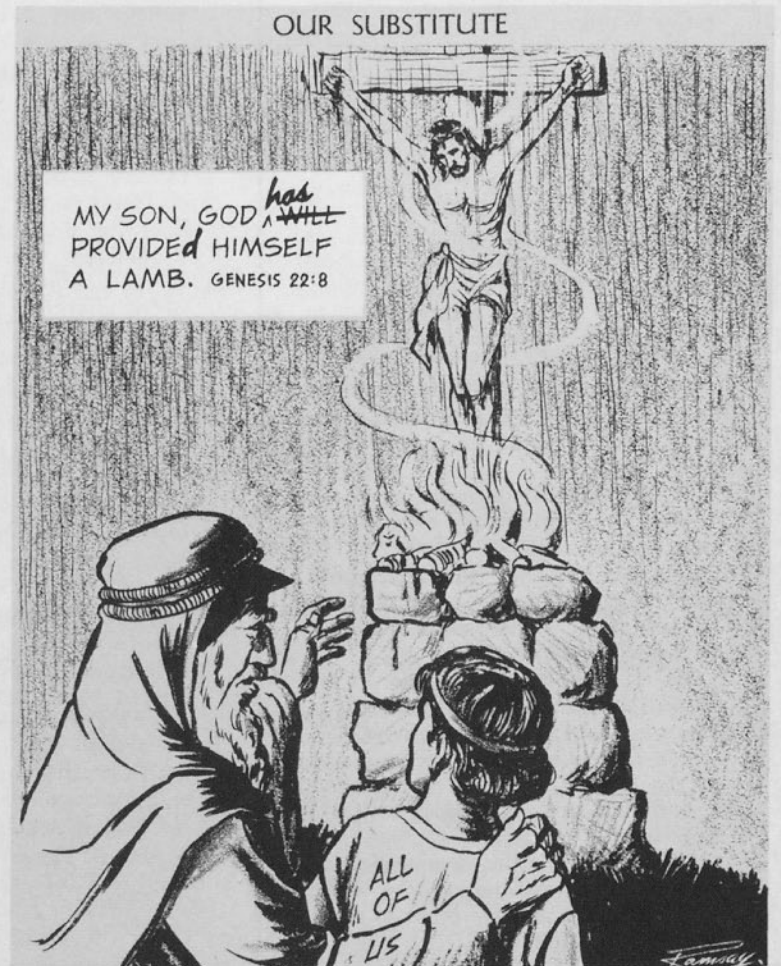
**V. THE DIVINE INTERVENTION. Genesis 22:10-12.**

Abraham fully intended to go through with the act, but miraculous intervention came at just the right moment! God bore unmistakable testimony to the fact that He did not desire human sacrifice. As to the practical application, let us remember that "according to our faith" it shall be done to us. In the time of physical, mental, temporal, and spiritual need and crisis, God will intervene and provide for those who trust Him!

**VI. THE DIVINE PROMISE REPEATED. Genesis 22:13-19.**

Abraham's faith was rewarded by the re-affirmation of promises which included temporal, physical, and spiritual blessing. What does this mean to us? Just this — "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us... that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ... that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:13, 14).

—J. Bashford Bishop



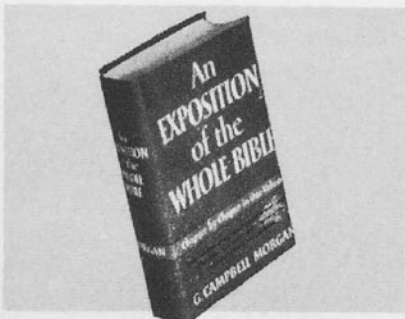
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# Your Questions



ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

**Please explain Matthew 6:34: "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."**

The Lord warns against borrowing trouble which may or may not actually come to us. We are to live one day at a time. We find plenty of difficulties each day without worrying about the future.

In many places in the Bible the word "evil" refers to the causes of sorrow, disappointment, sickness, or difficulties. It does not always refer to sins. In Genesis 37:20, the term "some evil beast" means some beast that might destroy. In Job 42:11, we read that Job was "comforted over all the evil" which he had suffered. This refers to all his afflictions and losses.

**Do you understand the statement, "Then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Corinthians 13:12), to mean that our loved ones in heaven know what we are doing here on the earth?**

A person might so interpret the verse, but the meaning the apostle seems to have had in mind was that our present spiritual vision which requires that we walk by faith will give place to the full blessing of the glorified life. We will comprehend completely in heaven that which we have only known very little about in this life.

Of one thing we may be sure: our loved ones do not seek communication with us as the spiritists claim. All forms of spiritism are regarded in the Bible as evil, and are forbidden. See Leviticus 19:31; 20:6.

**If Jesus loved the rich young ruler, why was He so strict in His demands on him? Mark 10:21**

The rich ruler, while morally clean, proved when tested that he loved his riches more than he loved the Lord. I am afraid there are many today in a similar condition. They are willing to serve God as long as He does not interfere with their plans or require any sacrifice. The true test of a person's love and devotion to God comes when the Lord lays His hand upon whatever he loves most and says, "Will you surrender it to Me?"

**Does all sickness come from Satan?**

Sickness is a result of the Fall which Satan through his temptation brought about. We may say in this light that all sickness is of the devil. But we err if we say all sickness is demon possession, as some have taught. Jesus, in His healing ministry, made a clear distinction between sickness and demon possession. He "healed all that were sick and cast out many devils." He did not cast out devils when He healed Peter's wife's mother, but He did rebuke the fever.

Sickness is physical. Our bodies are mortal. Because of this they break down and sicknesses result. How much satanic influence there may be in inducing the sickness I am unable to say. Demon oppression is recognized in that Jesus "healed all that were oppressed of the devil" (Acts 10:38). But you will usually find that where Jesus cast out devils they are described as "unclean spirits." This, God's beloved and saved people do not have. A person may be "sick nigh unto death" as one of Paul's coworkers was (Philippians 2:27), yet his heart and spiritual life be as clean as the blood of Christ can make a person.

*If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Missouri. Brother Williams will answer either in this column or by a personal letter (if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope).*

# THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

(Continued from page five)

yet glorified.)” Now the Holy Ghost has been given. Now the spiritually thirsty can come and drink to their complete satisfaction.

The Holy Spirit is also given to make the things of Christ real to the believer. “He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you” (John 16:14). He is given as a guide for the purpose of, not only unfolding and imparting truth, but of making it gloriously real in the believer’s experience. “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.” God has given Him to be the Christian’s indwelling teacher.

There is another personal advantage in receiving the gift. It has to do with the believer’s prayer life. To many, praying was somewhat of a drudgery until they were filled with the Spirit. Then, suddenly, they found themselves

praying in the Spirit with great delight and success. Paul speaks of this in 1 Corinthians 14:4. “He that speaketh (or prayeth) in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.” And again he writes to the Romans, “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought” (Romans 8:26).

Not only is the Holy Spirit given for personal advantage. The predominant purpose is to enable the recipient to effectively represent Christ before lost men. This is brought into clear focus in the final words of Jesus to His followers: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...” (Acts 1:8). When the early Christians received the Holy Ghost that is precisely what happened, and it is delightfully true today that when peo-

ple are genuinely filled with the Spirit they become effective representatives for Christ wherever they are.

Perhaps by now you are asking, “How can I get God to give me this gift?” Really, we don’t need to concern ourselves about God’s part, for He is more anxious to give than we are to receive. In fact, He has already given the Holy Spirit. He is already available. The next step is ours. Now we must exercise faith and receive Him. When Peter and John went to Samaria, after many had been saved and baptized in water, they “prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost” (Acts 8:15). They did not pray God to give the gift. He had already done that. After they had prayed, “Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost” (Acts 8:17). Even so today, it is often a great help and encouragement to faith if those desiring to receive the gift will have the hands of Spirit-filled believers laid on them.

“Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” (Acts 19:2). God has provided the gift. Will you receive Him? ◀ ◀

## HEALING TESTIMONY

### Prayer Brings Healing to Accident Victim

(A MODERN MIRACLE)

MANY CHRISTIANS KNOW BY EXPERIENCE that Jesus Christ is the Great Physician, still able to heal the body as well as the soul. Charles Carlton is one of them.

Mr. Carlton was crossing a street in Biloxi, Miss., when he was hit by a car traveling at a tremendous rate of speed. His injuries included a fractured skull, broken nose, fractured neck, torn ligaments, dislocated vertebra, and a serious knee injury.

It was necessary for him to use crutches for four and a half months, and to wear a steel and rubber support on his back, as well as a brace on his right leg. He also wore a cervical collar constantly, since otherwise he could not move his head without prolonged,

excruciating pain. He lost all feeling in his right leg, as well as the senses of smell and taste.

“My three doctors said I would never be able to work again, but I knew the Lord would heal me,” Mr. Carlton says. “We arrived back home in New York after the accident. On November 2 we went to the Alcove Full Gospel Church (Assemblies of God).

“Evangelist E. H. Anderson was holding a revival there, and as we walked in he called me to the altar for prayer. He was joined in prayer by my pastor, Ira Tompkins, and the congregation. As they prayed the power of God went through my body. I went to my seat and removed the supports from my neck and leg. Within a few seconds, feeling was restored to my leg,

and my ability to smell and taste had also returned.

“Although doctors said I could not work again, I am now working as a carpenter. Thanks to the Lord for completely healing me.”—Charles Carlton, Cornwallville, N. Y.

(Endorsed by Pastor Ira Tompkins, now of Port Chester, N. Y.)



Mr. Carlton showing the neck brace and other supports he wore before God healed him

## I BELIEVE . . .

### SCHOOL TEACHER

Christ does satisfy young people today. I accepted Him as my personal Saviour while still a child, and there has never been even a moment when I have regretted that decision. It has been satisfying and exciting to live a Christian life, knowing that God, my Creator, is interested in even the smallest detail of my life. God has helped me to maintain a Christian testimony through high school, college, and graduate school.

And what does the future hold—who can say—but once we have placed our hand in the nail-scarred hand of Christ we need not worry or be discouraged for we know that God our heavenly Father doeth all things well.

—Janet Schumitsch



### CABINET MEMBER



As a teen-ager I delved deeply into the pleasures of the world and enjoyed its revelry. But whenever I was in a thoughtful mood I was frustrated because I saw no clear path ahead. Through the influence and prayers of godly parents and brothers and sisters I came to Christ at the age of twenty-two. Since that day I have had an objective in view that has changed my entire life.

Today I serve God both as a minister of the gospel and as Minister of Highways in British Columbia. I believe in God's Word which says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Wherever I am, I commit my life daily to God and look for opportunities to influence others to come to Christ.

—Phil Gaglardi

### HOUSEWIFE

Sunday school is an indispensable part of my life and experience. I began attending at a very early age and there received my first impressions and subsequent knowledge of Jesus Christ who has become all the world to me. Therefore, I believe in the value of Sunday school as a means of introducing Christ to those who do not know Him.

It was in the Sunday school that I received training which led to opportunities for service in helping others know the Saviour. I have a deep sense of satisfaction and joy in observing the ultimate results in the lives of others with whom I have been able to share the blessings of Christ.

—Mrs. Anna K. Schmidt



### LUMBERMAN



Since most of the promises given in Scripture are conditional, it follows that some business principles work in God's business. In the business world, few people get paid for more than they do until they are willing to do more than they get paid for. I believe this is a principle we can employ in our Christian service. If we truly want God's blessings in our lives, we must be willing to place ourselves completely at His disposal. God's kingdom would surely go further faster if more of us were "go-givers" instead of "go-getters." It is my purpose to be among those who are working, praying, giving, and witnessing in the harvest field for the Master.

—Jack Kuykendall



## THIS PRESENT WORLD

NEWS AND NOTES ON OUR TIMES

### Church Membership Sets New Record

The 260 religious bodies in the U.S. now have 109,557,741 members, which is 63 per cent of the nation's population. According to the 1960 Yearbook of American Churches, there are 61½ million Protestants, 39½ million Roman Catholics, 5½ million Eastern Orthodox, and 5½ million Jews. Of the Protestant groups, the largest are Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians.

### Refugees Cast Longing Look This Way

Out of the 40 million people uprooted by World War II, some 15 million still lack permanent homes. Many of these unfortunate people envy the average American citizen the great privileges which he carelessly takes for granted. (During this World Refugee Year the U.S. and other nations are stepping up the efforts to solve the problem of these homeless millions—which, after all, is a world issue and not merely an individual problem.)

### Mental Hospitals Overcrowded

There may be some significance in the fact that mental hospitals seem more crowded than churches these days. Emotional disturbances and personality disorders affect more people than all other illnesses put together. Projections indicate that one in twelve persons will spend some part of his life in a mental hospital, and mostly during his working years. In the U.S. there are now at least eight corporations which employ full-time psychiatrists, and there are some two hundred companies which use psychiatrists on a part-time basis.

### Two Million Youngsters Bound for Court

Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr. of Missouri, chairman of the special Senate subcommittee investigating juvenile delinquency, said that two million American youngsters who are between ten and seventeen will have court records before they are eighteen, if the present trend in juvenile delinquency continues. The statistics ought to shock every American into a realization of the importance of Sunday school. The number of children appearing before juvenile courts for delinquency has increased two and one-half times since 1949, while child population was increasing only 25 per cent, Senator Hennings said.

### Materialism Said to Be Worse Than Communism

Chaplain (Major General) Frank A. Tobey, chief of Army chaplains, told the American Baptist Convention at Des Moines that materialism, not communism, is the "fundamental enemy" of Christianity. He told some 10,000 delegates that even if the communist threat were eliminated the world would still be faced with the problem of materialism.

"Whether we like it or not," said the top chaplain, "war has become the preoccupation of our time. Communism, as we see it today, is materialism in its most active, violent, and ruthless form."

# Faith Conquers Fear

BY FRED GREVE

Bethany Bible College, Santa Cruz, California

**W**E DO NOT LEARN TO BE AFRAID; WE LEARN WHAT TO be afraid of. As very small children we have few fears, but as we grow older many other fears become associated with our original, elemental fears. The maturing person, increasingly able to utilize the powers of imagination, links onto the fear emotion a concern about things which are not present—things which may or may not be real—and thus worry is born.

The emotion of fear is placed within us by our Creator to equip us for the serious business of living. When we meet real danger, our bodies marvelously and automatically arise to the occasion. The heart beats faster, adrenalin is pumped into the blood stream, digestion stops, sugar is released into the blood for quick energy. The body is ready for emergency. If danger actually exists, the body burns up the emergency chemicals and returns to normal.

But what if the fear is only a product of the imagination? Then we do not expend the aroused energies and they, in turn, poison our bodies.

In our times there are so many things to worry about. Taxes and juvenile delinquency and international crises; sickness and bills and jobs. Each of us has at times known fear. This fear is agonizing.

God is not unaware of this. He has shown us in the person of Jesus and taught us in the words of Jesus how to handle our fears. Jesus showed great insight into our human weakness when He said, "Take no thought for the morrow." He also knew that a verbal statement such as this is not easy for us to put into practice. When He said it, He must have foreseen that some of His hearers, alone in a storm-tossed boat, would be overwhelmed with paralyzing fear. But when it happened He came into the boat, and they, like the sea, became calm. There was something about His presence that dispelled anxiety, and when we have His presence we cease to fear. So what should you do when you are afraid?

1. *If you are afraid, seek the Saviour.* It is not true that no Christian ever fears; it is true that a Christian does not have to face his fears alone. He has a Saviour. Redeemed people have a Person, not a theory. If, therefore, you are not a Christian you should seek Jesus as your Saviour now. The fear of the eternal results of sin is settled when Jesus is your personal Saviour.

2. *If you are afraid, pray.* The disciples cried loudly from their ship, "Lord, save us: we perish." Not all such prayers are loud, but they all have a desperate quality. Instead of trying to conquer fear by will power or by self-discipline

alone, we must cry out desperately. Some might think it fashionable to talk about their worries, to tolerate them; but actually it is infinitely better to get rid of them.

3. *If you are afraid, sing.* The example of Paul and Silas who, not knowing what might befall them, sang in their prison, is still our pattern. Many of us have found it possible to sing our fears away. This is not a whistling-in-the-dark sort of self-assurance; it is the appropriation of God's help through structured praise.

4. *If you are afraid, read the Bible.* The Bible is not magic; but it is Truth. Through the centuries, millions have received assurance through its statements. When we read in 2 Timothy 1:7, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind," we receive new courage. It is helpful to realize that men of the Bible had problems, too. They had fears and failures. These men of faith were not men insulated from fear; they were men who conquered fear. It is not unusual to experience fear, but it is a tragedy if we do not rid ourselves of it by appropriating God's provision for us.

5. *If you are afraid, serve.* No one has ever proved that we have a one-track mind. But practical experience has shown that if we occupy ourselves with good things, evil things must vanish. There is no greater cure for our personal fears than to help others in need. Victorious saints of God are persons who, though human and prone to fear, spend themselves in service and thus have no time for worry. Self-pity and fear are close twins.

6. *If you are afraid, trust.* Trust is a strong word. It means abandonment to God. Trust is not passive; it is very active. Implicit trust affirms God's truth. It does not say, "I wish the Lord would help me." It says, "The Lord is helping me now." If you are bothered by fear, repeat these Bible statements: "The Lord is my helper." "The Lord is with me." The promises of God are couched in positive language. "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen" (2 Corinthians 1:20).

The Christian has both *trust* and *hope*. Hope, in the Bible, has the referent of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus said, "I will come again and receive you unto myself" (John 14:3). No one has resolved all his worries. But the Christian is very certain that Christ, the moment He appears, will neutralize all fear in those who await Him. This hope functions now to help him bear his loads and toils. In the midst of today's tensions—caused by the sin in the world—the true believer looks up, knowing that his redemption is at hand. ◀ ◀