

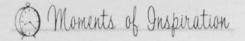


Featuring Outstanding Articles by-

 George Holmes • Andrew Murray W. H. Robertson . • Samuel S. Scull

• A. T. Jacobson • L. G. Gilmore • J. B. Bishop • E. S. Williams • Flora M. Beaver • Charles Hodge • And Others

• Grace Walther



NEVERTHELESS AFTERWARDS. . . .

The floods washed away home and mill—all that the poor man had in this world. But after the water had subsided and he stood on the scene of his loss, heartbroken and discouraged, he saw something shining on the bank which the waters had made bare.

"It looks like gold," he said. It was gold! The flood which seemingly had beggared him had made him rich! So it is ofttimes in life. —H. C. TRUMBULL

WANTED

1. FATHERS like Abraham. "He will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord" (Genesis 18:19).

2. MOTHERS like Hannah. "As long as he (her son) liveth he shall be lent to the Lord" (1 Samuel 1:28).

3. Boys like Jesus. He returned with His parents to Nazareth, "and was subject unto them" (Luke 2:51).

4. GIRLS like the little maid who told her mistress that God could heal Naaman's leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-3).

5. BROTHERS like Nehemiah and Hanani who served God together (Nehemiah 7:2).

6. SISTERS like Mary and Martha who received Jesus into their home and into their lives (Luke 10:38).

7. PREACHERS like Paul who "in weakness and in fear and in much trembling" presented the truth in the power of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

8. SERVANTS OF GOD like Barnabas. "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith" (Acts 11:24).

9. LOVERS OF THE BIBLE like the Bereans. "They received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11). —Anonymous

AN ODOR OF SWEET SMELL

It was only an earthen vessel of no especial beauty. All who came near it, however, were charmed by the exquisite, delicate odor emanating from it. Someone asked the potter: "What did you put into the clay you used to mold this vessel to make it so appealing to all who enter your shop?"

"Nothing! Nothing at all! I, too, noticed the flowerlike fragrance of the clay from which I wrought the vessel. Going to the place from which the clay came, I found a wild rosebush growing in the bed of clay. Its petals covered the ground and filled the atmosphere with fragrance."

If we stay close to Christ our daily lives will radiate His grace, His goodness, His sweetness.

-Gospel Herald

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 atoming 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 recentance and faith in the



WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is essentially egotism or selfism: putting self in God's place.

It has four principal characteristics or manifestations: self-sufficiency instead of faith in God; self-will instead of submission to God; self-seeking instead of honoring God; self-righteousness instead of contrition and humility before God.

All the different forms of sin can be seen to have their roots in selfishness. Instead of making God the center of the life and unconditionally surrendering to Him, sin makes our own interests the supreme rule and motive of our existence. —G. C. WEISS

NOTHING TO BE FEARED

A very young minister was once called to the bedside of an elderly woman who obviously had but a few hours left for this world.

The young minister was badly frightened, but the old saint was completely relaxed and radiantly happy. He muttered something about how sorry he was that she had to die, but she would not listen to such talk.

"Why, God bless you, young man," she said cheerfully, "there's nothing to be scared about. I'm just going to cross over Jordan in a little while, and my Father owns the land on both sides of the river!"

-The Alliance Witness

SELF-DENIAL

To feel the tempter's mighty power—without appeal; To know the pull that money has—and never kneel; To be entranced by honor's glare—and have no urge; To hear the voice of passing pomp—and not submerge; To be uplifted, lauded high—and sense no pride;

To gain an orator's great fame-and never stride;

- To be exalted to the skies-yet self disdain;
- To be condemned and set aside-and not complain;

This is the victory!

-R. E. NEIGHBOUR

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.

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The Ban Against God

Will the American people let a handful of unbelievers ban God from all functions of community life in the U.S.?

Will the ban against public school prayers be followed by a ban against Congressional prayers, a ban against military chaplains, and a ruling that it is unconstitutional for the Président to take his oath of office on the Bible?

How long will "In God We Trust" be our national motto?

After reading the Supreme Court's ruling against public school prayers in the State of New York we wonder how much further the anti-God movement will be permitted to go before God-fearing citizens rise up to assert the majority view and defend the foundations of our nation.

The prayer which the U. S. Supreme Court on June 25 said violates the Constitution was one which none but agnostics, infidels, and atheists could find offensive. It was composed by the Board of Regents of the State of New York and approved by school administrators, teachers, and clergymen of all faiths. "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country." What prayer could be simpler?

It is difficult to see how it could be unconstitutional for New York's school children to acknowledge Almighty God in this way when the Constitution of the State of New York itself opens with the words, "We, the People of the State of New York, grateful to Almighty God for our Freedom, in order to secure its blessings, do establish this Constitution."

There was one dissenter in the Supreme Court, Justice Potter Stewart. He alone was willing to give the framers of the Constitution credit for having better sense than to try to ban God from all operations of government. "I cannot see," he said, "how 'official religion' is established by letting those who want to say a prayer say it. On the contrary, I think that to deny the wish of these children to join in reciting this prayer is to deny them the opportunity in sharing in the spiritual heritage of our nation."

The vociferous minority who oppose every element of religion in public education seem unconcerned with the spiritual heritage of America. They say quite frankly that the U.S. ought to have a secular public school system. We are convinced the framers of the Constitution did not want an official secularism any more than they wanted an official sectarianism. Sectarianism is the view of one church as opposed to another. Secularism is the worldly, materialistic view that refuses to recognize any spiritual and eternal issues. They wanted neither.

Our pioneering ancestors placed their trust in God. They thanked Him for all their privileges. They obeyed His Word and based their laws on His commandments. They taught their children to honor their Creator as the One who endowed all men with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They never dreamed that their descendants would ask for a "secular public school system" which would treat life as though there were no God.

The handful of Americans who want to ban God from our schools can go to Russia if they want a secular school system. They will find it there. It is in a secular society that communism flourishes. We want something better in America. -R.C.C.

Both Christ and Satan approve the sifting process for Christians —but for different reasons



Peter denies his Lord (COURTESY STANDARD PUBLISHING FOUNDATION)

Sifted Saints

By GEORGE HOLMES

Pastor, Assembly of God, Menlo Park, California

DURING HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY, JEsus occasionally lifted the veil that hides the unseen realm. Such glimpses always revealed something important and dramatic.

The stage was set for a drama of cosmic proportions when the Master warned Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22: 31). Little did this disciple realize that this was to be a real-life drama with him as a leading actor. In Peter, Jesus knew He had a potential saint, an apostolic leader, and a foundation stone in His Church. The man in question did not at that time give much evidence that this might be so. As yet he was a strange, volatile personality, though not any stranger than most of us.

Undoubtedly he was a partaker of the divine nature, yet his human nature often was more apparent. He was doggedly courageous, yet frequently changeable in mood. He showed rare initiative, but often it was spoiled by his impetuosity. Action was his life, yet many times it was too hasty action.

Simon's frailties did not stop Jesus from loving him. He knew this lovable, boyish character just needed sorting out. In His great love He selected the frictional process to remove Simon's weaknesses and to reinforce his assets.

All of us can stand in Peter's shoes as to our need, and we all must undergo a similar experience sometime.

Satan was the former owner and general manager of Simon. The day when he lost legal and moral control of this useful servant marked a sad defeat for him. He was interested desperately in reclaiming Peter and worked tenaciously to that end.

Moreover, Satan himself had been created an angelic servant of God. His pride had robbed him of the great honor that was his and had reduced him to the ranks of the fallen. Nevertheless he still possessed great power and cunning, and God still uses him -as a testing agent. His name means "opposer." By his great powers of oppression he seeks to deter and overthrow the saints. This, of course, is overruled by God so that His children may learn to rely upon divine power and thus become stronger, not weaker. They find that when they resist the devil he flees from them.

Having considered two of the leading characters (Peter and Satan), we are now ready for the unfolding of the drama. As the curtain swings aside the angelic court of heaven is seen to be in session. The Almighty is presiding. To our surprise, perhaps, Satan is seen consorting with the angels very near the presence of God. From time to time he is actually allowed to converse with Him. Notice Job 1:6-7-"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

Another remarkable fact emerges. Satan not only has access to God's presence, but he evidently believes in prayer. Moreover, he prays for the saints and, because he does not give up, some of his prayers are answered. In his supplication concerning Simon, Satan may have reminded God that although this man was a disciple of Christ, he did not always act like one. He probably pointed out that although the incorruptible seed had germinated and produced some wheat, there was much chaff too. He also inferred that if God would just stop protecting him, Simon would show how weak he really was.

Our warrant for saying this is that Jesus is telling Peter to watch out, because "Satan has asked excessively that [all of] you be given up to him —out of the power and keeping of God—that he might sift all of you like grain" (Amplified Version).

For our comfort, we may rest as-

* * * * * * * * * * *

"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

* * * * * * * * * * *

sured that God does not give Satan this permission until He knows we are ready for the experience. For our *warning*, we may remember that sifting is one job Satan always does well.

Whatever size of mesh Satan uses, to go into his sieve is always a disturbing experience. It is the shaking, of course, that separates the good from the waste.

When a Christian finds himself in the sieve of sickness, his faith receives a good shaking up. But so does his complacent way of taking good health for granted. Much refining goes on as the mesh cuts into the life, especially if the process is prolonged. The things we thought we believed are rudely jolted, but what is left is real and becomes a part of us.

When we get into the sieve of adverse circumstances we soon find out whether our trust is in God or in creature comforts. Financial reverses especially shake away our fictional faith and show us how much is genuine. This may explain the rather ungrammatical but very eloquent expression we often hear: "I'm all shook up."

Maybe just now you are in the sieve of rasping personal relationships. Perhaps you have to live, or work, day after day with one who grates on your nerves and tries your patience. You feel that you are worn to a frazzle and that you cannot stand it any longer. But God is taking from you only that which you are better without—your own unevenness or awkwardness. The three godly Hebrews were cast *bound* into a seventimes-heated furnace. But in the fire they enjoyed fellowship with the Son of God; and nothing about them was scorched except their bonds, which were loosed. "When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned..." (Isaiah 43:2).

God uses Satan to sift from us all our pride, insincerity, love of ease and luxury, and false ideas of success and prosperity. In this way our thinking becomes chastened and our reasoning becomes God-centered. Little by little we develop the mind of Christ.

Simon, the object of the sifting; Satan, the wielder of the sieve—is there another actor in this spiritual drama? Oh, thank God, there is: Christ, our Saviour and Succourer.

With the waning of the impending sifting He gives to Simon the comforting assurance of His unfailing intercession, "I have prayed for thee."

Satan subtly prosecutes, and Jesus skillfully pleads. There is not the slightest doubt as to the outcome of the case. The Accuser emphasizes the imperfections of our lives; the Advocate offers the flawlessness of His own life, death, and resurrection—"the just on behalf of the unjust."

"I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." As a result of the sifting, Christ's beloved disciple would lose much of the shale of his *Simonish* ways. What was left would be compounded into the firm character of *Peter*, a rock. The quartz, felspar, and mica of *Simon* would, by the fiery trial of Satan, produce the granite of *Peter*.

The glory of God's grace is that the very same events that are evils to the wicked are blessings to the righteous.

Writing some years later, Peter, now able to strengthen his brethren, affirmed: "At present you are temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials and temptations. This is no accident—it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more valuable than gold, and gold as you know, even though it is ultimately perishable, must be purified by fire. The proving of your faith is planned to bring you praise and honor and glory in the day when Jesus Christ reveals himself" (1 Peter 1: 5-7, Phillips' Translation).

O LORD,

Brother Scull's 99th Birthday

On July 16, 1962, Samuel S. Scull will be 99 years of age. Last month he wrote a letter to our general superintendent, T. F. Zimmerman, in which he said:

"This is seemingly my last letter to you. As days go by I am reminded that I will be ninetynine years old the 16th of July.

"My early years were spent in

weakness and at thirty years of

Samuel S. Scull at 93 years of age

age I was told by the doctor that I had overdrawn my account beyond the point of no return. Nevertheless I carried on in weakness and pain.

"Early in December 1947 in Denver, Colorado, I was taken with double pneumonia and faced death in a very short time. All these years I had believed in divine healing but had not believed for it. This is the difference which will account for many failures. Now the devil had me in a corner and something had to be settled.

"About one o'clock at night I got it settled. I had a raging fever and indescribable pain, and I told the Lord that live or die I would trust Him. Much quicker than I could tell this, I was a well man. God had made me whole.

"I suppose that is the reason I am puttering around here at this extreme age. The Lord put me out beyond the point of no return.

"I have enjoyed my years with the Assemblies of God very much. I do not feel a taint of ill feeling toward anyone. I have thought sometimes, like Paul, that I had fought a good fight and kept the faith. About all I know now is that I have been in the ring a long time and have never been knocked entirely out. 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.

"My testimony is that God is faithful, and He has promised that if we are faithful unto death we shall receive a crown of life. The anchor holds, never more certainly than now.

"God bless all the brethren and keep you faithful. I will meet you in the Morning.

"Your patriarchal brother-S. S. Scull."

Due to failing eyesight, Brother Scull has been unable to write his own letters for the past few years but has dictated them to his wife Florence.

Brother Scull is an honorary member of the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. We are reprinting by popular request an article he wrote in July 1949.

Brother Scull's address is Route 2, Box 2202, Mesa, Ariz. He would enjoy hearing from friends. I THINK THE REASON SOME OF US DO NOT BELIEVE FOR a great revival in these last days is that we have a misapprehension of the nature and character of God. We limit Him in keeping with our own limitations, but God is unlimited. We think that since we cannot do two things opposite in their nature at the same time, God cannot either, such as to send judgment and revival simultaneous.

But in Isaiah 60:1, 2 we see the people were commanded, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." At the same time it is declared that "the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee."

God makes a difference between His people and the world. He laid a blanket of complete darkness over the land of Egypt in the days of Moses, but the people in one section of Egypt had light in their dwellings. These were the people of Israel.

Again in the exodus we find God doing two completely contradictory things at the same time. The cloud that overshadowed Israel by day and glowed like fire by night served to separate the Israelites from the pursuing Egyptians. To the Egyptians it was a cloud of thick darkness, and to the Israelites a cloud of light. The same cloud at the same time had opposite effects. Yet those who have no expectations of revival say that since God's judgments are in the earth, and His wrath is being poured out upon a guilty world, therefore we cannot expect great mercies.

Then there is the expectation held by many that the Holy Spirit is to be taken away from the earth. I heard a good evangelist say some years ago that she felt the Spirit was already lifting and little could be expected in the way of salvation of souls. I believe this view to be entirely erroneous. It is based on a single passage of Scripture (2 Thessalonians 2:7). Here the plain teaching is that the manifestation of the wicked one, the Beast, the Antichrist, is being held back or restrained, until in the time and plan of God that restraint will be removed (taken out of the way).

The Holy Spirit cannot leave the earth. He fills all space in God's universe. He is omnipresent. It is said in natural science that "nature abhors a vacuum," and the God of grace undoubtedly abhors a spiritual vacuum. If the Holy Spirit be taken away, who sustains the two witnesses in Revelation 11? Who raises their dead bodies? Who sustains the woman in the wilderness for three and one-half years? Who sustains the martyrs who lay down their lives rather than take the mark of the Beast? Souls will be regenerated during the awful reign of the Antichrist and there will be saints here on earth when Jesus comes to establish His kingdom.



REVIVE THY WORK!

By Samuel S. Scull, Mesa, Arizona

These two ideas (that God is limited and cannot show great mercy in the midst of great wrath, and that the Holy Spirit perhaps is being withdrawn from the earth) cause one's life and ministry to be barren and fruitless. When expectation fails, effort and desire die. Why strive for that which is unobtainable? So the man of God who imbibes this idea sinks into spiritual lethargy and becomes a timeserver without vision. I cannot imagine a condition more pleasing to the enemy of all righteousness than this. If the devil can lull us into a state of spiritual coma and rob us of vision, then we will perish and hell will hold jubilee.

But God's nature has not changed. He still loves sinners. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." "And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." We have not reached the end yet. God did all that divine wisdom could do when He gave us the sacred Scriptures, and all that divine love could do when He gave us His Son, but He has not yet done all that divine power can do. However, He *will*, and that may be when He pours out His Spirit upon all flesh. This has never yet been done. He fulfilled this promise in a certain *measure* at Pentecost, but it is yet to be *filled full*.

The mightiest things God has ever done are before us. Let us rouse ourselves from our lethargy and join prayer with all the saints of God the world around who daily call upon God for rain. The clouds are big with blessing, and heaven is bursting with power. Let us be in expectation, for it is better to expect too much and receive something than to expect nothing and get what you expected. We have a great God. Let us expect great things from Him. He will not fail us.

Christ's first advent was preceded or accompanied by a great revival. Doubtless His second advent will be preceded or accompanied by a mighty revival. God grant it shall be so. Let us be in expectation. The greatest revival of all time, the mightiest outpouring of divine power, is before us.

When the Spirit brooded over the empty and lifeless earth and hatched it into life, thus preparing it for the habitation of man, He did not brood over a spot of the globe but He *enveloped* all of it with His brooding presence. In like manner will the Spirit envelope the earth when the Spirit is poured out upon all flesh. He will move in keeping with the greatness of His love, in keeping with the greatness of Christ's sacrifice ("not willing that any should perish") and in keeping with His almighty power.

He could not be true to His nature and His promises and do less. In Isaiah 53, God promised Christ that He should see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied. Does anyone suppose, that since He tasted death for every man, He will receive but little compassion for so great a sacrifice? The promise comes to us: "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). What a marvelous promise! What imagination can even dimly picture His riches in glory? I shall not attempt it. The world's greatest need now, as then, is spiritual.

I wonder if you feel needy? I do. When I consider all that I have received through Christ Jesus, I feel rich; but when I reconsider what He purchased for me that I have not received, I feel poor. I would like to be out in a great outpouring of Latter Rain, with no raincoat or umbrella, and get thoroughly soused. Hallelujah! The godly church needs it, that the heart of the contrite might be revived and that a harvest of souls might be gathered. The backslidden church needs it to awaken the drifters and save them from perishing. The careless world needs it to rouse its people out of their gross indifference.

How appalling the need of the sin-darkened world! I long for and daily look for a visitation from heaven that will supply all our need according to God's riches in glory by Christ Jesus; a time when the Word will again be preached with supernatural power, when all the sick will be healed, when multitudes will be added to the church daily, when the Spirit will fall spontaneously on a whole roomful and houseful of people at one time, and great grace shall be upon all the saints; a day when all the gifts of the Spirit will be in full exercise in the Church—by a mighty resurgence of the Spirit who dispenses gifts severally as He wills.

We are told to covet earnestly the best gifts; but to seek the same for our own glory would surely lead to confusion and open the door to the adversary. We need this greater manifestation of the Spirit, bringing the graces of the Spirit, the love, the meekness, the selfcontrol so essential in Christian lives. We need also to pray for wisdom, that in understanding we may be men. Amen.

THE LINK

Abram began his journey without any knowledge of his ultimate destination. He obeyed a noble impulse without any discernment of its consequences. He took "one step," and did not "ask to see the distant scene." And that is faith—to do God's will here and now, quietly leaving the results with Him. Faith is not concerned with the entire chain; its devoted attention is fixed upon the immediate link. —J. H. JOWETT The Flowing River

TWELVE YEARS A CHRISTIAN—ELEVEN years a minister—but not until October 9, 1961, could I say with Peter, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16).

A HUNGRY HEART

During the twelve years of my Christian experience God's Spirit repeatedly probed my heart, leading toward a deeper life. As a minister in the Church of the Nazarene I believed in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but defined it primarily as an experience of cleansing. As the Spirit probed I sincerely examined my heart, concluding, "I have experienced a spiritual cleansing, therefore I must have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit."

A PERIOD OF PROVIDENCE

It was providential that Woody and Edna Baker frequented the Sunday and Wednesday evening services of the church which I pastored. For two years I marveled at the power of the Spirit of God in their lives. They knew the reality of Pentecost and had been members of Evangel Temple in Kansas City, Mo., for twenty-three years before returning to their home town.

In the summer of 1961, Brother Aaron A. Wilson (former pastor of Evangel Temple in Kansas City) visited the Bakers. Something was said about having Brother Wilson preach at my church. I could not afford to hurt the Bakers, so, out of courtesy to them and with great reluctance, I asked him to speak on a Sunday night.

As Brother Wilson stood to preach, my heart went rampant—I was tense and fearful. "What shall I do," I thought to myself, "if he preaches about Pentecost and gets started on that tongues business?"

He began to preach, not about Pentecost, but about soul winning—the product of Pentecost. For forty min-



By CHARLES HODGE Pastor, First Assembly of God, Albertville, Ala.

utes the Spirit of God anointed his words and probed my heart. By the time Brother Wilson concluded his sermon the impact of the Holy Spirit was so real that my heart cried within me, "I want to know God the way he does."

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

Two questions were raised in my mind: "Is there an experience of the Holy Spirit (by whatever name the experience might be called) that one can know only if he yields to the phenomenon of tongues?" And, "Could this be the key to the reality of supernatural power I have longed to know?"

I searched the Scriptures and everything Christ said about the Holy Spirit increased my hunger. A study —in Acts—of the five case histories of baptisms in the Holy Spirit convinced me that what I had previously understood to be the Baptism was far short of the scriptural examples. Then, too, amidst his regulations of "tongues" in First Corinthians Paul not only defended it (1 Corinthians 14:39) but encouraged it (1 Corinthians 14:5), and definitely established its validity because it is man's spirit—the real man—that prays when he prays in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14).

SEEKING GOD

Convinced of the scriptural reality of a supernatural touch of the Spirit of God, honesty and hunger of heart demanded that I seek it. This I did secretly.

Late in September 1961 Brother A. A. Wilson conducted a revival meeting at a rural Baptist church near us. I attended every service I could.

On Friday night I went to the altar of my own empty church after taking my family home from the revival. I prayed until one o'clock in the morning and became so desperately hungry for God that I left the church, drove to the Bakers' home, and asked them and the Wilsons to pray with me.

We began to pray: a hungryhearted preacher, a Spirit-filled lay couple, and a Spirit-filled minister and wife. Before we had prayed long Brother Wilson started praying in strange-sounding syllables that did not make sense to me. I stopped praying as suddenly as if an arrow had been shot through my heart. I had never heard anything like that before! As I waited-my New Testament in my hands-the Spirit of God directed me to passages which reassured me that He had given utterances in other tongues before. Then, too, I could not deny the surging of the Spirit of God in my own soul as Brother Wilson prayed "in the Spirit."

The Lord seemed to remind me that the highest within man is not his understanding but his spirit. Why, then, should it be thought unreasonable that a man's spirit—the highest within him—could commune with God (who is a Spirit) in a way that his finite mind could not understand?

Mrs. Baker suggested, "Brother Hodge, just raise your hands and praise the Lord."

A former Nazarene minister finds the key to God's storehouse of blessing.

"Trying to get me lost in an emotional frenzy," I reacted mentally. But the Lord reminded me that it was while Moses' hands were uplifted in prayer that God delivered the Amalekites into the hands of the Israelites (Exodus 17:8-16).

But this business of praising the Lord! It seemed to be a strange emotional extravagance. Then the Spirit of God reminded me how I had thrilled repeatedly to the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah"-and it is nothing but praise to God. He also guided me to Luke 19 where Christ defended those disciples who praised God "for all the mighty works that they had seen" (Luke 19:37). And again, in Revelation 4:8, the Lord reminded me that in His divine economy He has creatures who "rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.'

And then came the Lord's tender prodding. "If praise is so important to Me," He seemed to whisper, "why should you—a mere mortal for whom I died at Calvary—refrain from offering praise unto Me?"

"That does it," I told the Lord. "You win! Here goes!"

The heavens opened—the throne room of God seemed right there before me. It was a glorious foretaste of the Baptism!

I left the Bakers and the Wilsons at 4:10 A.M., my wife not knowing where I had been. I hesitated to discuss my hunger with her, not knowing how she would react.

About ten days later my wife and I were visiting the Bakers. Mrs. Hodge began reading the doctrinal statement of the Assemblies of God, and asked me to check the Scripture references. Before I fully realized what was taking place she was praying—for the Baptism!

My wife later explained that when she began to sense the seriousness of my inquiry into the Pentecostal experience she prayed: "Lord, if it is wrong, check my husband. If it is real, lead me." She said she had hardly finished her prayer when the Lord began to deal with her about the Baptism.

REALITY!

Monday morning, October 9, 1961, I went to the study of my church. My only purpose was to worship the Lord. I read some Scripture and began to pray. Soon praying gave way to praising. God rolled back the heavens and the glory of His presence flooded my soul to overflowing. The throne room of God seemed to move into my very being! The presence of Christ was gloriously real! It was as Christ had said in talking about the coming of the blessed Comforter: "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you" (John 14:20). Blessed be the name of the Lord! This was reality!

Having communed with the Lord for three hours, I dropped into the chair behind the study desk at about noon—basking my spirit in the rapturously glorious presence of God, the Holy Ghost.

Suddenly, and seemingly from nowhere, a phrase of three words formed in my mind. They were strange syllables—words I could not understand. I was hesitant at first. Again God directed me to Scripture: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). The Holy Spirit opened my understanding. He was giving the utterance—it was up to me to speak.

I was called away by many duties during the afternoon, which prohibited my giving full expression to what I had received of the Lord, or even mentioning it to my wife.

That night we attended a revival at First Assembly of God in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Evangelist Jimmy Brown preached on the baptism in the Holy Spirit. God directed him to close with an illustration of a missionary whose experience was remarkably parallel to my morning in the study. Again God was guiding.

My wife and I tarried in prayer at the altar. The Spirit came and filled me. The Baptism was real and the evidence clear. My heart rejoiced. This was that for which I had longed!

The next day, while praying alone in the parsonage, my wife received her Baptism with its initial physical evidence.

From the week that I began to inquire about the Baptism, the members of my church noticed a difference in my ministry—they even rejoicingly told my district superintendent. To me, this was another confirmation that God was in it from the start. But I met opposition.

(Continued on page thirty-one)



We Want to Share

The following is a recent testimony of an Assemblies of God annuitant.

"We are retired after fifty years of teaching and preaching. Our efforts and gospel preaching are regarded as being old fashioned and not adapted to present-day requirements. However, our faith grows stronger in the UN-CHANGEABLE CHRIST. We stand with those who labor as members of His body. Hence, we want to share some of our blessings.

"Our financial income is not fixed, and never large, but as we are blessed we want to remember the Lord's work." —W. J. C. G.

If you too desire to share the material blessings God has given to you, you may find the answer just as this friend did—in an Assemblies of God gift annuity. He has made an investment which not only will be a blessing to him and his wife during their lifetime, but which will continue to work in the soul-winning ministry of the church after they have gone to be with the Lord.

Mail the coupon below without delay for further information concerning the Assemblies of God gift annuity plan.

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THIS PRESENT WORLD

Churches Toronto's Peoples Church Sets New High in Missionary Giving

Oswald J. Smith, missionary pastor of The Peoples Church, a nondenominational Protestant congregation in Toronto, Canada, announced that the total offering for missions during this year's convention was \$325,000. He said this was the largest annual offering ever received in the congregation's thirty-four-year history.

Conservative Baptists Growing Fast

The Conservative Baptist Association of America, organized in 1947, now claims more than 300,000 members in 1,409 local churches. The association began as a splinter movement in the American Baptist Convention.

At its recent convention in Detroit the general director reported the association adds an average of 100 new churches and 10,000 members a year. "We now have 504 missionaries operating in 36 mission fields," said Dr. B. Myron Cedarholm of Chicago.

Schools Parochial School Transportation Ruled Out in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Supreme Court in a 4-2 decision held unconstitutional the 1961 legislation providing for public transportation of parochial and private school pupils.

Scheduled to become effective this month, the law would have required the state's 1,129 school districts to transport non-public school children to the nearest public school, and the children then would have been required to provide their own transportation to non-public schools.

Gotham Released-Time Religious Program Declines

The number of public school children participating in New York City's released-time program of religious instruction has declined for the fifth consecutive year. There are 102,240 children enrolled, a drop of more than 11,000 from a year ago. In three years the attendance has dropped about one-sixth altogether.

Many of our states allow churches an hour a week for religious education of their children. It would seem that pastors should be diligent in taking advantage of this released-time opportunity. Catholics in one place in Oregon, not having a church near the school, have erected a special building near the school to house their children for the one-hour-a-week religious session.

Morals General Eisenhower Sees Decline in Morality

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a sharp indictment of America's morals recently as some 25,000 persons thronged the little town of Abilene, Kans., for the dedication of the \$3,000,000 Eisenhower library. They heard the former chief executive condemn the "twist," modern art, and "vulgarity" in literature, among other things.

Noting that the dedication occurred on the 100th anniversary of his mother's birth, General Eisenhower said the past century had seen remarkable strides in scientific and technological progress. But he asked "whether these changes—all of which when properly used are for the good of mankind—have marked a similar advance in our ideals, our aspirations, the morale of our country—indeed, its soul."

Singling out modern art as an example, he said the works of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci have been replaced by "a piece of canvas that looks like a broken down tin lizzie loaded with paint has been driven over it...."

He protested strongly against



BROOKLYN, N. Y .-Missing only their wooden shoes, little "Dutch" children cluster around one of the floats in the Brooklyn Sunday School Union's annual parade. The windmill float, sponsored by a local Re-formed church, was typical of those depicting the national origins of some of the churches. About 150,000 children participated in the traditional parade which has been an annual event since 1829. This year's theme was "Christ, Today and Forever."



"movies and the stage, and books and periodicals, using vulgarity, sensuality, indeed, downright filth, to sell their wares...."

"What has happened to our concept of beauty and decency and morality?" he asked. But he added that he believes "we are about to see, and are seeing, a renaissance in American pride in America, in American pride in the characteristics that have made America great...."

Alarming Increase in VD

The New York Times reports a startling climb in the number of infectious syphilis cases in the U.S. in 1961. The 18,781 figure was double the 1960 rate and triple the 1959 rate. Figures for 1962 indicate the rate is still continuing to climb.

"Even more shocking," said the article, "is the fact that the greatest increase has been among young persons." The disease increased 59 per cent in the 15-19 age group and 73 per cent in the 20-24 age group between 1959 and 1960.

Several reasons were cited for the increase, such as the nation's population increase, mobility of population, prostitution, and homosexuality, but also "lowering of moral standards" and "inadequate parental control of teen-agers."

Bible

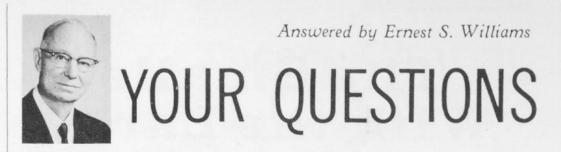
First Volume of New Hebrew Translation Ready Soon

The Torah—the five Books of Moses—will be published in late November as the first section of a completely new translation of the Hebrew Bible, it was announced by the Jewish Publication Society of America at its 74th annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. Translation and preparation has taken six years, and the project will not be completed before 1970.

Army Chief of Chaplains Deplores Army's Unchurched

Major General Frank A. Tobey, chief of Army chaplains, told the annual meeting of the Military Chaplains Association that half of the men in the Army today are from 17 to 23 years old. Of these, he said, a survey reveals that 38 per cent have never met a priest, a minister, or a rabbi.

"There is a great need to emphasize the chaplain service," he asserted.



Jesus said that if we deny Him He also will deny us. Peter denied Him three times, yet he was saved. What did Jesus mean by this warning against denying Him? Matthew 10:33.

There may be occasions when—under heavy pressure or persecution—a person who believes in Jesus might deny Him in words. But, principally, denial shows itself in living unworthy lives. Paul writes, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).

If we profess to be followers of Christ yet live like other sinful men when in their company, we deny Him. It is the duty of a believer to obey His command, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Are born-again believers possessed with devils?

No, born-again believers are not possessed by devils, since through Christ "the prince of this world is cast out" (John 12:31). Jesus said, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4), showing a distinction.

Born-again believers may be "oppressed" of the devil. They may be "in heaviness through manifold temptations" (1 Peter 1:6). They may be oppressed either physically or mentally, but oppression is not possession.

The place of deliverance is in Christ as one resists oppressive influences through faith. "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God" (1 John 5:5)?

Does Mark 9:43, 47 mean we literally should cut off the hand and pluck out the eye if they cause us to sin?

The hand and the eye are instruments—not causes. The cause of sin is in the heart; "for from within, out of the heart of men," proceed the evils mentioned in Mark 7:20-23. There is no sin in the physical body alone; otherwise sin would end when the body dies.

Since the source of evil is the heart, it is the principle which provokes the evil which must be destroyed. If the hand is accustomed to stealing, the *desire* to steal must be dealt with and not just the hand. Jesus said, "Cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell." In other words, the prize of eternal life is worth far more than any temporary benefit we may seem to obtain by misuse of our hands, so we ought to do everything possible to keep them under control.

Does the phrase "born of God" in John 3:3 have the same meaning as "born of God" in 1 John 3:9?

I believe so. The new birth consists of the life of God entering human life by means of the Holy Ghost. We are born again because we are born "from above."

We are taught in 1 John 3:9 that a born-again person does not *practice* sin. He might commit a sin impulsively but he does not habitually walk in sin. Read 1 John 2:1, 2. By means of the new birth, the seed of God's righteousness is implanted in the heart, enabling one to bring forth fruit unto God.

[∞] If I feel like remarrying, is it not my right to do so as long as I am legally divorced?

How you feel is not enough; you must guide your decisions by the Holy Scriptures and not by your feelings. Cain felt like slaying his brother, but that did not justify his doing so. The following scriptures pertain to remarriage: Matthew 5:32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:1-3.

If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville Avc., Springfield, Mo. Brother Williams will answer either in this column or by a personal letter (if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope).

The Smaller Church With the Larger Vision

By FLORA M. BEAVER

THREE YEARS AGO AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN *The Pentecostal Evangel* titled, "The Little Church with a Big Heart." This article told the story of a small church in Seaside, Calif.—a church with less than fifty members —and its vigorous, compelling missionary vision which began in the heart of the pastor and grew until its influence spread far beyond its own walls.

Many questions have been asked about Seaside's missionary program. Some of these are: Can such a vision endure? Surely, when a little church which gave only \$203 to missions in 1955 gives \$4,884 in less than three years, it has reached its climax. How can it possibly reach a higher goal, or spread its influence any further? Isn't there a saturation point, even in the Lord's work? What about the local community? Hasn't such abundant giving to foreign missions robbed the home church? The answers to these questions have been made known through "the small church with the large vision."

Since 1957, when the missionary books of Seaside Assembly showed a total amount of \$4,884, God has increased the vision and burden for missions. Despite much opposition, Pastor Lee Mildon has never lost his zeal and determination to keep the spirit of missions alive in every church service. There have been missionary conventions every year. Occasionally visiting missionaries present front-line pictures and reports of what God is doing through the combined efforts of those who go to the field and of those at home who are faithful to give and pray. Letters from the foreign fields reporting victories, as well as needs, are kept constantly before the congregation.

Missionary offerings went from \$4,884 in 1957 to \$7,019 in 1958 after a convention with Charles Greenaway. In 1959, when Paul Pipkin ministered during the annual convention, the offerings were \$10,131. They reached \$11,160 when Brother Greenaway returned in 1960 to hold another convention.

Giving to missions is practiced in every department in the church. Every Sunday school class, including the beginners, has made pledges. The children are anxious to give their nickels and dimes to help some boy or girl learn of Jesus. Their small gifts add to the missionary program, but, more important, the children have learned to share with others and to care for those outside their own circle of friends. The Christ's Ambassadors and Women's Missionary Council groups have also pledged faithfully, and individual pledges have been made by the members.

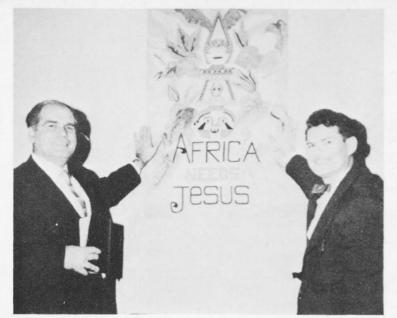
Has this tremendous increase in the support of foreign missions been a financial strain on the local community? Quite the contrary! Tithes and offerings increased more than \$2,000 in one year's time, and nearly \$9,000 was



Seaside (Calif.) Assembly of God is not a large church but it has a large vision. Lee Mildon is pastor.



Intermediate girls hand their missionary pledge envelopes to Sunday school superintendent Albert Bennett.



Pastor Lee Mildon (right) and Missionary Paul Pipkin display a new missionnary poster.

expended for building improvements, including new Sunday school rooms to facilitate the growing attendance.

From 1958 through 1960 the Sunday school classes gave a total of \$1,762 to missions, meanwhile increasing their regular offerings to the local Sunday school department more than forty-four per cent.

The C.A.'s faithfully increased their annual pledge from \$60 in 1957 to \$240 in 1960, also increasing their Speed-the-Light pledges. During this time they purchased a Hammond organ and Leslie speaker as a special project for the church.

In 1955, the Women's Missionary Council mended and distributed used clothing. In 1959, the year of the fourth missionary convention, the WMC contributed more to foreign missions than the entire church gave before the first convention and almost five times the amount the church gave to missions in 1955. Their annual pledge increased five dollars per month for the following two years, until in 1960 they gave \$25 per month to the missionary program—besides other gifts and services. At one WMC rally, \$200 in handwork was given to missionaries.

Quilts were made for local families, and other ministries were entered into with dedication and spiritual fervor. These ministries included county hospital and jail visitation, regular rest home services, and home visitation—visiting and praying for the sick, for needy families, new families in the area, unsaved families, and those absent from services.

A very important fact in the story of missions in Seaside Assembly is that much of the offerings comes from widows who are either on pensions or working to support themselves and their children. Pledges were also made by those who had no jobs, but in all instances God wonderfully provided.

The spirit of missions in the church cannot be defined separately from the spirit of Christ in the church; and, as Pastor Mildon fulfills requests to speak in other churches, he continually and fervently asserts that "The smaller church *must* have the larger vision!"

Tucson Church LOANS Its Pastor

By L. G. GILMORE

"PLEASE SEND US TO A TOWN THAT DOES NOT HAVE A church or missionary." This was our request as Missionary Earl Wilkie planned our evangelistic missionary ministry in Uruguay. I made this request of Brother Wilkie, our missionary in Uruguay, because I did not want to build on another man's foundation. He granted my request and sent us 500 miles from Montevideo to Artigas, a city with a population of about 15,000. First Assembly at Tucson, Arizona, where my wife and I pastor, sponsored us in this evangelistic-missionary tour of South America.

We secured a lot in Artigas and, with only a small platform and no seats, we began open-air services. We rejoiced to see the hunger in the hearts of the people as mothers carrying babies and elderly people leaning on canes stood for hours in the cold to hear, the gospel for the first time.

We soon sensed a mighty moving of the Spirit of God and knew we must conserve this work for Him. We secured a hall and wrote Brother Wilkie to send someone to take permanent charge of the services.

At the end of five weeks we had to leave Artigas. Brother and Sister Richard Jeffery from Phoenix, Ariz., who had been holding a campaign in Montevideo, Uruguay, took over the services for three weeks to help ground the people in the Word. When they left, Pedro Solis, deacon of the church at Montevideo was asked to take the work permanently.

Brother Solis was a baker by trade and had little experience in the ministry, but he felt called to preach. His appointment to the work in Artigas was surely in God's will! After six months he had from 150 to 200 attending the afternoon services. At night there was a completely different congregation, numbering from 350 to 400. Many could not get into the building. Pedro preached twice a day at the church and had a daily radio broadcast. He estimated 200 candidates would be baptized at his first water baptismal service. We praise God for allowing us this missionary outreach and enabling us to serve both at home and abroad.

SEND FOREIGN MISSIONARY OFFERINGS TO **ASSEMBLIES OF GOD** FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT 1445 BOONVILLE AVE., SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

-Exodus 20:12

The Children's Commandment

By ANDREW MURRAY



THE FIRST FOUR COMMANDMENTS have reference to God, the last five to our neighbors. In between stands the fifth. It is linked to the first four because to the young child the parent takes the place of God. From him the child must learn to trust and obey his God. And the fifth is the transition to the last five because the family is the foundation of society and there the child has his first experiences in contacting the world at large. PHOTO BY EVA LUOMA

A wise ruler makes good subjects; a firm commander, faithful soldiers. And it is on the parents' character that the children's fulfillment of this precept will depend. This leads us to consider what parents must be if they are to succeed in training their children to honor them.

Reverence, the sentiment of honor, is one of the noblest and purest of which our natures are capable. The power of perceiving what is worthy of honor, the willingness to acknowledge it, the unselfishness that feels it no degradation but a pleasure to render it—all this is itself honorable and ennobling. Nothing brings more true honor than giving honor to others.

This trait ought to be cultivated most carefully in the child as an important part of his education. It is one of the chief elements of a noble character and a preparation for rendering to God the honor due to Him. Our children must learn first to honor their parents. If they are to honor God they must begin by honoring their parents. If, in after life, they are to honor all men by recognizing even in the degraded and the lost the worth that belongs to them as created in the image of God, they must be carefully prepared for it in the homeschool of family life.

God has placed this commandment at the top of those on the second table of the law. It is necessary in order to secure a happy home and to put the intercourse of parent and child on a right footing, as well as to prepare the child for all his future relations to God and his fellow men. This commandment is one of the foundation stones of a noble character and a holy life. Parents may well study how they can train their children to fulfill it.

The child must honor the parent in *obedience.* "Obey your parents" (Ephesians 6:1) is the New Testament version of "Honor thy father and thy mother." The importance of this word *obedience* is more than the mind can grasp. God created man with his wonderful liberty of will that he might obey Him. Obedience to God was to lead to the enjoyment of God. By disobedience sin entered. In obedience—the twofold obedience *of* Christ and *to* Christ, salvation comes (Hebrews 5:8, 9).

Training the child to obey is a sacred charge laid on the parent. The child should be led to link all the memories of happiness and love in the home life with obedience. The principle should become part of the child's mind and heart, not so much by instruction or reasoning as by training and establishing the habit of obedience. The child is to be taught to honor the parent.

The will of the child, no less than his mind and affections, is given into the parents' hands to mold and guide.





Speak to my heart, dear Saviour, Out of Thy sacred Word; Let me draw near Thy presence Where Thy sweet voice is heard.

Grant that the life of Jesus May be revealed in me; Wholly Thine own, dear Saviour, I would forever be.

chochochochochochochocho

It is in yielding his will to the will of the parent that the child acquires that mastery over it and over himself which afterward will be his strength and safety, and which later will make him a fit instrument for doing God's will. Man was created free that he might obey; obedience is the path of liberty.

On this point parents often err. They say that to develop the will of the child the will must be left free and the child left to decide for himself. They forget that the will of the child is not free—passion and prejudice, selfishness and ignorance seek to influence the child in the wrong direction. The superior judgment, the calmer deliberation, the fuller experience of the parent are to decide for the child whose will has been entrusted to his care.

But are we not in danger of repressing the healthy development of a child's moral powers by thus demanding implicit submission to our will? By no means. The true liberty of the will consists in our being master of it, and so being our own masters. Train a child to master his will in giving it up to his parents' command, and he acquires the mastery to use it when he is free.

Yielding to a parent's control is the

path to self-control, and self-control alone is liberty. The child who is taught by a wise parent to honor him and his superior wisdom will acquire, as he gives up his own way, the power over his will as he never can if he is taught that he need do nothing unless the parent has first convinced him of the propriety of the act and obtained his consent. The New Testament says very distinctly: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1). Not because the child approves or agrees, but because the command is given by a parent-this is the true reason for obeying it.

In all his disposition and conduct, :00, the child should be trained to honor the parent. Familiarity breeds contempt; in language and carriage and conduct parents often tolerate an easy-going familiarity. Even though it may be miscalled by the name of love or kindness, such familiarity destroys those sentiments of respect and reverence in which true love has its strength and its real happiness. Manners are of more importance than many think. The neglect of good manners not only reveals a want in the disposition of those sentiments of respect and courtesy to which life and intercourse owe so much, but it reacts

FOR THE JUNIOR READER

BIBLE QUEENS

BY DICK CHAMPION

In the first column are the names of some Bible queens. In the second column are facts about these queens. Can you match the name with the fact by writing the letter from the second column in the space provided in front of the number in the first column?

QUEENS FACTS A. Mother of Solomon1. Athaliah B. Queen who saved Israel from Haman 2. Esther C. Queen of the Ethiopians (mentioned in 3. Jezebel Acts) D. Wicked queen who 4. Bathsheba killed her own grandchildren so she could 5. Queen of reign E. Wicked queen; wife Sheba of Ahab 6. Vashti F. Queen of Persia whom Esther replaced G. Queen who visited Solomon. ANSWERS: I--D; 2-B; 3-E; 4-A: 5-C; 6-F; 7-C

on the heart and fosters the selfishness and indifference that cares little for the feelings of others.

Locke has said that next to religion and virtue, manners are the most important thing in education; more so, he thinks, than learning. Let parents remember that in taking trouble to train their children to show them due honor and respect even in apparently insignificant things, they are forming habits in them and breathing principles into them which will afterwards repay all their labor. "Them that honour me, I will honour" (1 Samuel 2:30) is God's law which has its reflection in the life of earth too. None has received higher honor on earth than those who have learned to honor all men-to honor the poor and needy.

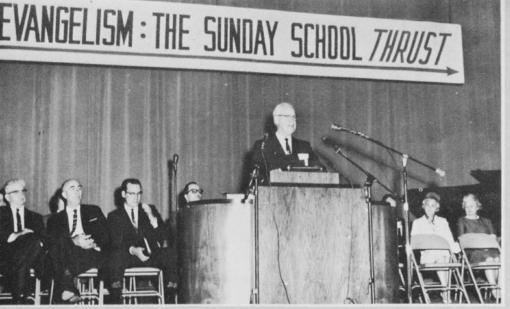
And now it is the parent who is to cultivate and develop this sentiment in the child. The young child is guided, not by reflection or argument, but by feeling and affection. He cannot yet realize and honor the unseen God. He cannot yet honor all men. The child can only honor what he sees to be worthy of honor. And this is the parent's high calling—always so to speak and act, and so to live in the child's presence, that honor may be rendered spontaneously and unconsciously.

This can only be where, in quiet self-recollection and self-control, the parent lives as in God's presence and walks worthy of this calling. He has been placed at the head of the family, to be not only its prophet and priest, but king, too. A king receives honor; let the parent as a king reign and rule in love and the fear of God. Honor will be given him.

Above all, let the parents remember that honor really comes from God. Let them honor Him in the eyes of their children, and He will honor them there too. Let them beware of the sin of honoring their child more than God. It is the sure way to grief for parents and children together! But from parents who in everything seek to honor God, children will learn to honor God and them together.

The parent who teaches his child to obey the fifth commandment has guided his feet into the way of all God's commandments. A child's first virtue is the honoring and obeying of his parents.

-Reprinted from the book *The Children* for *Christ*, by Andrew Murray, by permission of Moody Press, Chicago.



Charles W. H. Scott, executive director of the National Sunday School Department, challenged the delegates with his message on, "The Vision of Growth."



Above: Over 2,000 delegates from 13 western states participated in various activities of the Fresno, Calif. Sunday school convention. Below: Around 3,000 gathered in Harrisburg, Pa. for the eastern regional convention.

Sunday School Workers Found Instruction, CHALLENGING

Approximately 8,000 Sunday school workers from all parts of the United States attended the three regional Sunday school conventions sponsored by the National Sunday School Department of the Assemblies of God this year.

Emphasizing evangelism as the Sunday school thrust, the three conclaves offered delegates instruction, information, and inspiration. Workshops, interviews, dramatic presentations, a filmstrip, and a Vu-graph demonstration were featured in the morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. Each convention lasted for two days and three nights.

The first of the three conventions was in the Zembo Mosque in Harrisburg, Pa. where some 3,000 delegates gathered. Approximately 1,558 registered; over 1,500 attended the various workshops. Special speakers at the Harrisburg meetings were Ivar Frick, Thomas F. Zimmerman, and Melvin Brewer, Jr.

For the Oklahoma City, Okla. convention over 3,000 Sunday school workers from fifteen midwestern states assembled in the Municipal Auditorium. Of that number 1,222 registered and approximately 1,300 attended the workshop sessions. Speakers at these meetings were William Kirschke, Thomas F. Zimmerman, and Hardy W. Steinberg.

The last of the three regionals was held in the Memorial Auditorium in Fresno, Calif. There 2,000 persons at-





One of the musical highlights of the central regional convention was the Oklahoma City children's choir. This musical group was directed by Mrs. S. J. Scott.

G CONVENTIONS

tended the various sessions, with 868 of that number registering and 1,000 attending the workshops. Speaking to the Fresno delegates were Kenneth Schmidt, Charles W. H. Scott, and Hardy Steinberg.

Preconvention workshops offered specialized guidance for persons interested in writing, crafts, and Christian day schools. Separate workshops were held each afternoon for ministers, teachers, and Sunday school superintendents and officers. Special attention was given to schools under 200 in enrollment, as compared with those over 200.

Over seventy-five recognized leaders in the field of Christian education participated in each convention, most of whom taught or assisted in the thirty workshops that were conducted in each city.

The regional Sunday school conventions were part of the new Assemblies of God "Breakthrough" program which calls for the movement to "double within a decade." Their purpose was to inspire Sunday school workers to *break through* to greater spiritual achievement in each local church.

The spiritual response at each convention was excellent. God's blessing rested on the gatherings in a signal manner and the delegates testified that they were helped and inspired by the messages and special presentation. One man said his entire concept of the ministry of the Sunday school and what can be accomplished through it (Continued on next page)



A triple trio and a male duet provided music during one of the services in the western regional convention. The musical group came from Bethany Bible College in Santa Cruz, Calif.

vention

up was



D. V. Hurst (center) interviewed two pastors during the "Essentials of growth" presentation. Pastors Lloyd Shoemaker (left) and James Dodd (right) told their formula for a growing Sunday school.



Preconvention workshops were conducted on Tuesday afternoon. Charles Van Ness, editor of quarterly publications, led the writers' workshop.



Delegates to each of the three conventions participated in a crafts workshop. Instruction was given on how to accomplish the most good from the handcraft activities. Each participant actually made the handcraft.

COVER STORY

An impressive feature of the Wednesday night meetings at the regional conventions was the dramatic presentation, "Building a Wall of Faith," which emphasized the importance of the "Word of Life" Sunday school literature. By using this Spirit-filled, Christ-centered, true-to-the-Bible literature the teacher in each age group builds a "wall of faith" to protect children, youth, and adults from Satanic forces. A gap appears in the wall when the Intermediate teacher fails to fulfill his ministry. With this portion of the wall gone the student is exposed to all the anti-God forces from which he was protected so carefully in his earlier years —and consequently is lost to God and the Kingdom.

(Continued from previous page)

has been changed. He said he intended to go home and do much more than formerly to win souls in and through the Sunday school. His expression was similar to the testimony of many others.

The Fresno convention, last of the three held this year, was the thirty-sixth major meeting to be sponsored by the National Sunday School Department since 1940. Assemblies of God Sunday school conventions began that year with twenty delegates in attendance. Each succeeding convention was larger, the peak attendance being reached at St. Louis, Mo. in 1954 with approximately 11,000 delegates present.

In recent years the Assemblies of God has concentrated on regional rather than national Sunday school conventions, except in 1960 when an international Sunday school convention was held at Minneapolis. Delegates from Canada and a number of foreign lands came to this event.

Another great national Sunday school convention will be held in 1964. Plans are already being made with the prayerful hope that, if Jesus tarries, it will challenge Sunday school workers more than any convention yet.





Director of the three conventions was Charles W. Denton, national secretary of the National Sunday School Dept.

During a session for teachers James E. Adams, well-known Christian journalist, spoke on, "My Call as a Teacher."



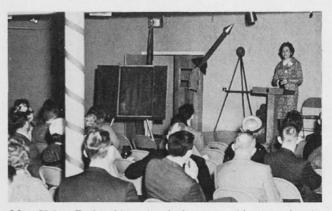
One of the most frequented areas of the conventions was the exhibit space. The National Sunday School Department booth provided counseling service to help delegates solve specific Sunday school problems.



General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman interviewed Pastor Wayne Kraiss concerning the "Breakthrough" church launched in Wheaton, Ill. The three conventions were part of the "breakthrough" plan which calls for the movement to "double within a decade."



The Harvester Choir of Southwestern Assemblies of God College, Waxahachie, Tex., sang at the central regional convention. Over 3,000 delegates attended this convention.



Mrs. Helen Radawski spoke during a combined session in the eastern regional convention. After 30 minutes of instruction each combined session was divided into workshops.



A FATAL LOOK

Sunday School Lesson for July 2, 1962

1 SAMUEL 6:10-15, 19-21; REVELATION 6:15-17

THE ARK REVERENTLY RETURNED (1 Samuel 6:1-12)

Some remarkable facts and practical lessons are to be noted in this account of how the suffering and plagued Philistines returned the ark of God into Israel's territory.

1. That which brings blessing to some men may bring judgment to others. The ark, symbol of God's presence, was a blessing to the Israelites when they honored God, but it proved to be an instrument of judgment upon the Philistines. So it is in the realm of things spiritual. The Lord's Supper—which may bring self-examination, a sense of Christ's presence, and an impartation of His life to those who properly "discern" the symbolism—brings chastisement, judgment, and condemnation to those whose hearts are not right with God and with each other (1 Corinthians 11:17-34). The Word of God will either lead them to Christ or condemn them eternally depending on their response to it and appreciation of it (2 Corinthians 2:15, 16; John 5:24; 12:48).

2. It is men and not God who need changing. When the Philistines experienced the judgment of God upon their bodies and crops, they decided to return the ark and with it the golden images as an offering. They thought that by this they could pacify God and change His attitude toward them. What was needed, however, was a change in their own attitude and in their relationship to God. Offerings to God are in order when they are the expression of obedient hearts, but they are never a substitute for obedience!

3. The reverence of unbelievers is frequently an example to believers. The Philistine priests, though heathen, were careful to return the ark in the most reverent way they knew. They chose an unused cart, as if to say that no vehicle used for ordinary purposes was fit to bear so sacred a vessel. They used young cows—rather than oxen, the usual beast of burden. They even recognized that what had befallen the Philistines was due to sins similar to those committed by Pharaoh before the Exodus. Finally, they instinctively felt that an atonement of some kind was needed, hence the offering of golden images. Likewise is there not a need among us for greater reverence and respect for the things of God, His worship, and His ordinances?

THE ARK IRREVERENTLY RECEIVED (1 Samuel 6:13-21)

The inhabitants of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest when they saw the ark returning. It is worth noticing, incidentally, that while the crops of the Philistines were devastated, those of the Israelites flourished. God provides bountifully for those who honor Him. The Beth-shemeshites received the ark with-

1. Appropriate Joy. "They lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it." The return of the ark symbolized the restoration of God's presence to His people and the return of divine favor. No wonder they rejoiced! The restoration of the ark was an act of grace and mercy—an unmerited blessing. Such is the case with God's presence today. How desperately we need Him and how earnestly we should seek Him!

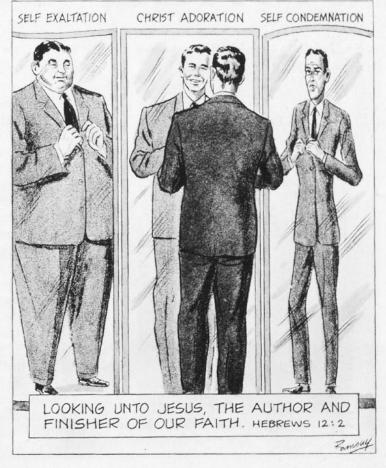
2. Unholy Curiosity. Rejoicing soon turned to lamenting, for in the face of definite scriptural precept and warning (Numbers 4:20; Leviticus 10:1, 2), the priests "looked into the ark of the Lord." A number of them were smitten by the Lord and died. Here again the importance of reverence for holy things is emphasized. Here, too, the evil effects of unholy curiosity are shown.

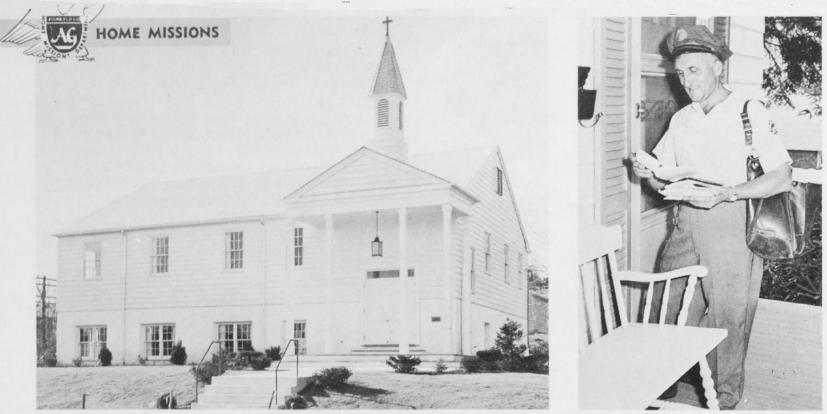
There is one kind of curiosity which is essential to spiritual growth and intellectual progress. There is another kind born of the flesh and inspired by Satan. Some manifest unholy curiosity in the sins and failures of others, ever seeking to pry into them. Some betray unholy curiosity in today's cheap and salacious reading matter besmirching their minds. The godly believer must be guided in these matters by such Scriptures as Philippians 4:8 and Ephesians 5:12. "Whatsoever things are ... pure ... lovely ... think on these things."

-J. Bashford Bishop

The joy of the Lord, which is our strength, is the joy of salvation, the joy of access, the joy of consecration, the joy of daily obedience, and the joy of fellowship—of identification with Jesus in our desires, our longings, our sorrows, our interests, our work.

LOOK IN THE RIGHT MIRROR





This attractive new church in Northvale, N. J. is pastored by Joseph Campana (right) who is also a postman.

POSTMAN BUILDS THREE CHURCHES



Joseph Campana, lay minister, conducts a service at his church.

"POSTMAN BRINGS SPECIAL DELIVERY for Every One on His Mail Route," declared bold headlines of *The Record*, newspaper in Demarest, N. J. The article referred to Joseph Campana, lay minister of the new Assemblies of God church at Northvale, N. J.

The story continued: "When he's not carrying letters, he carries the message of God. He walks on the west side of the Borough eight hours a day carrying letters and, for the rest of his long day, he carries a message which brings a perceivable glow to his face when he speaks of it. A minister since 1951, Mr. Campana has established three churches, one in Englewood, one in Pearl River, N. Y., and the one at Northvale."

After his daily fifteen-mile hike, Mr. Campana gives his attention to the church program and visitation. On his day off, Monday, he devotes his full time to church needs. Mr. Campana is a graduate of National Bible Institute in New York City, now known as Shelton College in Ringwood, N. J. In response to a call to the ministry which he felt while in the Army during World War II, he attended night school for six years after his discharge in 1945. He has been a postman for five years in Demarest and a letter carrier for a total of twenty-three years.

In answer to the question concerning his reason for not becoming a full-time minister, Mr. Campana states, "I am a layman to better understand the layman. As a layman I face the same problems of the lay members of my flock."

On October 15, 1961, slightly over six months from the time building operations began, the new church at Northvale was dedicated. Contractors and tradesmen gave liberally of their material, services, and labor. The Northvale Community Church, Mr. Campana's latest project, had its beginning in a two-week, house-tohouse canvass covering every home in Northvale. A nucleus of twenty-eight children and adults met at the Redmans Hall on September 14, 1958, for their first service. Within one year the Borough offered the group two and one-half acres of land, so the little congregation set up a building fund.

This forty by fifty-five-foot church, of colonial design with laminated arches, has a seating capacity of 150. The pews and the pulpit furniture



Evangelists Cooperate

Evangelist Michael H. Lord, Wing, Ala., recently wrote the National Home Missions Secretary:

"I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated your recent article, 'Sites for Souls,' in *The Pentecostal Evangel*. I believe such a fund and program would be a great help to our PROJECT BREAKTHROUGH. I am thrilled and challenged by the vision shown by the launching of the new, concentrated Home Missions effort, BREAKTHROUGH—8000, and I want to have a part in this effort.

"As you know, it is difficult for a fulltime evangelist to allocate extensive time for home missionary work, but I believe God will be pleased if I will arrange to devote some of my time for such work.

"In accordance with this thought and desire, here is a plan I've prepared after much prayer and thought called, 'The Lords' Breakthrough Evangelism':

1. We (Sister Lord and I) will allocate as much time as possible for campaigns in Home Missions assemblies, i.e., campaigns of from five to twelve services in duration.

2. For these campaigns, we will furnish the advertising materials we use in our regular campaigns, i.e., materials for radio, TV and newspapers, ready-made posters, etc., and will also furnish at our own expense visitor souvenirs and cards, prayer cards, etc.

3. We will advance some money to help in advertising the meetings, and we will devote our time and effort to making these Home Missions campaigns a blessing."

New Church for Tooele, Utah

BREAKTHROUGH—8000 funds are already being put to work. Property has been purchased for a new church in Tooele, Utah, at a cost of \$5,000. Of this, \$3,000 was sent from BREAKTHROUGH funds which had accumulated in the department.

One of the Rocky Mountain District's excellent, mature pastors has indicated his willingness to pioneer the new work, and plans are under way to launch a building program shortly.

Breakthrough Rally Reports

Many districts have had BREAKTHROUGH— 8,000 rallies. Reports on these have been inspiring. For example, William Van Winkle, superintendent of the Indiana District and district home missions representative, wrote: "Our February Home Missions rallies were by far the best yet. You will be glad to know we have started three new churches in Indiana in the past six months." are of light oak. Nine Sunday school classes meet in the Fellowship Hall. The kitchen and restrooms are located in the basement. The new church is valued at \$75,000 with a total indebtedness of \$32,000. Seven new families have been added to the church since the dedication.

As of May 31, 1962, nearly \$18,000 had been received in rally offerings and pledges have amounted to approximately \$2,000. The Wisconsin and Northern Michigan District reported pledges for local projects amounting to \$12,034.

Northern California and Nevada District on the March

In a single district council service, the Northern California and Nevada District raised \$19,700 in cash and pledges for local home missions projects.

Norwalk

Harvey Meppelink, pastor of the first Breakthrough church in Norwalk, Conn., writes: "Last Sunday morning (May 20) we saw two hungry hearts, a lovely young couple come to Christ at our altar. God is moving and the revival spirit is here."

Slipping

No longer can it be said that the Assemblies of God has a church or mission in every town with a population of 1,000 or over in Alaska. Here is why; the following towns have no Assemblies church:

Bethel 1,258 Kotzebue 1,290 Mountain View 2,880 Mount Edgecumbe 1,884 Spenard 9,074 Whittier 1,000

Vocational Volunteer Information

Mimeographed information (revised to March, 1962) concerning the teaching situation in American Indian schools and Alaska is available upon request from the National Home Missions Department.

Carloads of VIP's to be at A.C.T.S.

Carloads of some of the most important people in the world (that is, Sunday school leaders) are scheduled to be at the 1962 Advanced Christian Training School August 20-24. Sponsored annually by the National Sunday School Department and held on the beautiful Springfield campus of Central Bible Institute, this highly specialized school offers practical aid to persons involved in Sunday school work. Plan now to be one of those VIP's who attend the 1962 A.C.T.S.

National Sunday School Dept, • 1445 Boonville-Springfield, Mo.

Sirs: Please send me addition	nal information about A.C.T.S.
NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE



RADIO ABC DEPARTMENT

Requests Come to Revivaltime for Prayer and Many Receive Healing

BY LOIS HOKANSON KROEKER

LAST SUMMER THREE-YEAR-OLD JANICE Hope Suddreth of Aurora, Ill., was badly burned. The doctors classified her burns as second and third degree and offered Mrs. Suddreth little hope for Janice's recovery.

Worried, but believing that God would hear the prayers of His people, the little girl's grandmother wrote to *Revivaltime* to request prayer. Within two weeks Janice was home from the hospital—and best of all, she doesn't have one scar on her. A year later,



Three-year-old Janice, badly burned, was healed without a scar after prayer.

Mrs. Suddreth is still praising God for her daughter's healing.

For ten or eleven years, Mrs. Rosa Williams of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., had an open ulcer on her right ankle. After a second ulcer appeared on the other side of her ankle, she wrote to *Revivaltime* for prayer. In a short time she was able to report, "My ulcers on both sides of my right ankle are entirely healed. Thanks for your prayers and thanks to God who can heal all pain and suffering." Two years ago Mrs. Lizzie Trice of Pittsburgh, Pa., wrote to *Revivaltime* for prayer for her daughter. At the time the daughter was in the hospital, unable to sit up in bed. "After I wrote and asked you to pray for her," Mrs. Trice reported, she started getting better that same week and is now doing fine."

The A. L. Walkers of Clanton, Ala., are also thankful for God's healing power. "When the doctor told us the baby had double bronchial pneumonia and a heart ailment," Mrs. Walker wrote, "I knew there was hope in Jesus. Brother Ward, the Lord has worked a miracle. Our baby is recovering speedily. Thank you for your prayers."

About two months ago Mrs. Leona Andress of Minneapolis, Minn., sent a request for prayer for her mother who had gall bladder attacks. "The Lord has heard and answered our prayer," Mrs. Andress reported. "My mother has gone back to work again. Thank you for your prayers."

Also rejoicing over her healing is Mrs. Minnie Lentz of Jacksonville, Fla. For thirty years she had been afflicted with a double rupture of the stomach. One Sunday morning in May, 1958, while listening to C. M. Ward give testimonies of miraculous healings through prayer, she was inspired to write for prayer for her affliction.

"At that time," Mrs. Lentz wrote, "I felt the healing power of God begin to go through my body. God gave me faith to believe that the work He had started would be finished."

Three and one-half years later the healing was complete, and the condition which had troubled Mrs. Lentz for thirty years was gone. "I can never thank and praise God enough," she wrote, "and I can never thank Brother Ward and the *Revivaltime*

REVIVALTIME GIVING

TOP DISTRICTS

January 1 to May 31, 1962

TOTAL GIVING

1. New York
AVERAGE GIVING PER CHURCH1. New York47.502. Montana38.49
INCREASE IN TOTAL GIVING1. West Florida\$1,108.382. Appalachian972.63
INCREASE IN AVERAGE GIVING PER CHURCH 1. Appalachian
GREATEST INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CHURCHES GIVING1. North Texas172. New Mexico9
GREATEST INCREASE IN PERCENT- AGE OF CHURCHES GIVING1. Southern Idaho12%2. New Mexico10%

prayer partners for their faithful prayers."

Each week a large number of prayer requests—many of them for healing —are sent to *Revivaltime*. Each one is prayed for by Brother Ward and other members of the team, and a number of them are sent each month to the individuals and groups throughout the United States who are *Revivaltime's* prayer partners.

And God answers prayer! Many like Mrs. Suddreth, Mrs. Lentz, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Trice, the Walkers, and Mrs. Andress write to report God's miraculous touch upon their bodies and upon their loved ones, after they have sent prayer requests to *Revivaltime*.

Revivaltime, Box 70, Springfield, Missouri



Mrs. Minnie Lentz was healed of a double rupture of the stomach.

NEW STATIONS

The following stations have been added to the *Revivaltime* log:

- DES MOINES, IOWA (KDMI-FM) ERP 115,000-97.3 mc See local newspaper for time.
- BLACK MOUNTAIN, N. C. (WFGW) 1010 kc-10,000 watts
- Sundays, 4:30 p.m.
- OAKDALE, LOUISIANA (KREH) 900 kc-250 watts See local newspaper for time.
- DEARBORN, MICHIGAN (WBFG-FM) 98.7 mc-65,000 watts Sundays, 10:30 p.m.
- MONAHANS, TEXAS (KVKM) 1330 kc-1,000 watts
- Sundays, 9:00 p.m. SONORA, CALIFORNIA (KVML) 1450 kc-250 watts
- Sundays, 9:30 p.m. BISHOP, CALIFORNIA (KIBS) 1230 kc-250 watts Sundays, 9:30 p.m.
- CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA (KICO) 1490 kc-250 watts Sundays, 9:30 p.m.
- TULIA, TEXAS (KTUE) 1260 kc-1,000 watts Sundays, 4:30 p.m.
- PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA (WXRI-FM) 104.5 mc-12,000 watts
- Sundays, 4:00 p.m. DAVENPORT, IOWA (KWNT) 1580 kc-500 watts Sundays, 6:00 a.m.
- PAMPA, TEXAS (KHHH) 1230 kc-250 watts Sundays, 7:00 p.m.
- DEARBORN, MICHIGAN (WBFG-FM)
- 98.7 mc-65,000 watts
- Sundays, 10:30 p.m.
- STATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA (WFMX-FM) 105.7 mc-3,000 watts See local newspaper for time.

ARTHUR GODFREY

PREACHER C.M. WARD

MADE ME A

Healed of Seizures

FOR TEN LONG YEARS I KNEW WHAT it was to sleep with "one eye and one ear open." Our son James, from the time he was ten years of age, was stricken with seizures-sometimes one a week, sometimes half a dozen in one night.

James had been born again when he was five years old, and filled with the Holy Spirit at the age of ten. During the years we were praying for God to heal him, he did not once doubt that God would do the work. I must confess that there were times of deep discouragement and doubt in my own life, but the faith that he had during all this trying time made a better woman of me.

We took James to many doctors in many different places and to different men who prayed for him, but it seemed that nothing availed. He took a great deal of medication to hold down the seizures but, no matter how often they came, he held on to his faith in the living God. He often told us that he felt he was not trusting God fully, and that when he became twenty-one years of age he was going to throw away all the medicine and let the Lord really do the work for him. God dealt with me much along this line but my husband was not saved at this time and I hesitated to take the responsibility of putting aside the medicine. If James missed just one dose he grew worse and the seizures came closer together.

Many times I lay in bed with God

talking to my heart. One night the words of the song "Submission" rang through my very soul for half of the night. Toward morning God changed the words of that song a bit for me and I found myself not singing but praying these words, "If it pleased my God to bruise His own Son divine, then who am I that I should choose what He shall do to mine?"

I think that very night I was able, at last, to turn my boy over completely to God and faith arose in my heart.

A few weeks later our minister asked to take my son to Sister Nankivell's meetings in Virginia to be prayed for and, as I gave my consent, I think we both knew this was the moment for our faith to take hold of God's Word and win. It was God's time, and He did the work.

Today my son is a big six-footer, strong and well, pastoring his fourth church-Grace Chapel, Assembly of God in Green Lane, Pa. He is the father of three healthy children, with a lovely wife by his side.

What does all this add up to? Only this I think, that any situation plus Jesus equals victory !--- Mrs. Leon Travis, Wilmington, Del.

(Endorsed by Jacob Heinrich, Pastor, First Assembly of God, Wilmington. Del.)

When God measures a man, he puts the tape around the heart and not the head.

Does God Forget the Ones He Calls?

The testimony of Marty Karl, former TV star, as told to C. M. Ward

For nine years Marty Karl sang for the Mariners Quartet on the "Arthur Godfrey Show" on the Columbia Television network. Today he sings for God.

Circumstances which gave him unusual opportunities r success also drew him away from God and His call. en had to treat him cruelly before he turned back God.

THE STORY OF MARTY KARL	for success also drew him away from God and His call. Men had to treat him cruelly before he turned back to God.
TV'S FAMOUS MARINERS QUARTET	You'll want to read Marty Karl's testimony as told to C. M. Ward to see how patiently God deals with men. This book will bless your friends, too. To receive your
My P	FREE copy, fill in the coupon below and mail to REVIVALTIME, BOX 70. SPRINGFIELD, MO.
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F P B	Ø®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®®

Please send my FREE copy of Arthur Godfrey Made Me a Preacher, as told to C. M. Ward. Enclosed is my special offering for this soul-saving ministry of Revivaltime \$_

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CITY STATE REVIVALTIME, BOX 70, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI The New CREATION Compared With THE FIRST CREATION

by Grace L. Walther

Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

THE PHRASE "NEW CREATION" POINTS BACK TO A former creation, the first recorded act of the Divine Creator as described in the beginning of the Bible.

This new creation follows the developmental pattern of that first creation. The process of the step-by-step unfolding is given in the first chapters of Genesis. Man's lost condition is aptly expressed in the words "without form and void," "darkness upon the face of the deep." All was utter formlessness and vacancy, a deep dark vacuum, until the command, "Let there be *light!*"

No redeemed soul can ever forget that blaze of glory that separated darkness from light, and that first perception of what sin is —exceeding blackness. The first flash of glorious truth often blinds one to many things. The detailed outline of specific applications is not clearly seen, but dark is dark and light is light—specifics come later.

The two general terms given to this first day of a new creation are "salvation" (day) and "sin" (night). Oh, the exceeding brightness and glory of that first day!

The second day brings the unfolding of the firmament —heaven. Heaven becomes real. Many songs have been written about this stage of the new creation—"How Beautiful Heaven Must Be," and others. Many Christians never get beyond this second-day experience, living in the clouds. It is wonderful, but not a fully developed creation. For as in the growth of a child the pattern is the same for every individual but the *rate* of growth varies, so in the growth of the new creation there are individual differences; we find Christians in all the progressive stages.

The third day the land appears. This suggests a coming down to earth, a realization of the practical application of Christian experience, a solid footing. But this is not all. Earth must produce; there must be fruit. It is interesting to note that the first productivity resulted in grass. Not very spectacular, but good fodder for cattle and good to be walked on! Next came herbs for healing. The Christian's fruit-bearing ability also progressively improves. Last of all, fruit is mentioned.

Of the grass and herbs we note they yielded "seed after his kind." Crab grass reproduces crab grass. (No wonder there is so much crabbing!) But of the fruit it is said its "seed was in itself." Here is the beginning of self-discipline. The potential hidden in one's self may be selfishly kept there, or shared to bring forth more fruit.

"After his kind" shows individual differences. All fruits are not identical. Some are sour, some sweet, some bitter, some more pleasing to the eye. God does not expect apples from a lemon tree; man often does! The fruit of our hands, or our ministries, may differ. Whatever the variety of fruit in the new creation, the potential for reproduction lies within the individual himself. Fruit that clings to the bough withers up and loses its power of germination, but if it falls to the ground and dies new life springs up to bring forth more fruit. "And God saw that it was good!"

The fourth day is the time of divisions: night from day, season from season, greater light for the day, lesser lights for night. With increasing maturity in the Christian life come some clear-cut dividing lines. Finer discernment of truth, a better spiritual perception of greater and lesser lights, a pinpoint break through the firmament revealing glimpses of the glory of the infinite yet to be manifest, stars of different magnitudes. It is possible at this stage for one to be so obsessed with the divine revelation of one small star of truth never seen before, that it is magnified out of proportion, and to disregard the vast galaxies that "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard." It is so easy to hitch one's wagon to one star and ride along, deepening a rut, rather than keeping the heart and mind open to greater perspectives of revealed truth.

But days are divided into seasons, and seasons into years. The vicissitudes of life are still very real and the maturing Christian is aware that in the natural order of things the exuberance of spring is not a constant condition, nor will the heavy productivity of summer and fall continue forever—for winter barrenness and apparent dearth is also part of the eternal purpose of creation. Christians living in the pervading glow of the light of the first days of creation have not had these finer perceptions developed.

The fifth day brings abundant living—activity in the sea and in the air. The sea is mentioned first. This typifies Christian activity in the world around us, Christians becoming fishers of men, putting forth great evangelistic efforts. All this is good, but there is activity as well in the heavens, and the concern of the growing Christian is with both. There is a difference in the two but both are necessary. There should be a concern for (Continued on next page)

Grace L. Walther was a missionary in India for some thirty years. During most of this time her ministry was at the Girls School and Orphanage at Bettiah, Bihar, India. Sister Walther is now living in Springfield, Mo. and serving as Assistant Professor of Education at Evangel College.

When the Holy Spirit Came to a Methodist Church

DISCOVER

DAYO

Christian Life

CHRISTIAN LIFE brings you NEW EVIDENCE GOD IS ALIVE!

-

Have you heard about the mighty work of the Holy Spirit in the old-line denominations today? On the scene reports of these developments are appearing in CHRISTIAN LIFE, the solid evangelical magazine. Coming issues will feature:

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 - Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College
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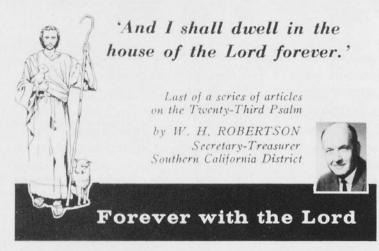
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evangelism, and also a concern for experiencing life in the heavenlies—for personal growth in spiritual things, for the deeper or higher life. Life in the heavenlies includes participating actively in the high-priestly ministry of our Lord, in worship, communion, and intercession.

The creation of animal life begins the sixth-day stage. During the early stages of the new creation there is a lack of awareness of the "old man" in the Christian life. With growth and development the animal forces in our nature appear, but the "new man," after the likeness of God, is given dominion over the beast. Many Christians struggle with the creeping things of fear and worry, and with the beasts of pride and self-pity, until they recognize the *new man*, whose right is to subdue and control. It is the God-likeness of this new man that gives the enabling to overcome bestial might. Not I but *Christ!* Christ *liveth in me*—oh, glorious victory!



THE PASSING OF THE YEARS AWAKENS IN OUR HEARTS the cry for permanence. Our nature is keyed not to the temporal, but to the eternal—a home which death cannot invade, a friendship which time cannot impair, a joy that lasts forever.

Better than the thought of permanence is the thought that heaven is a *home*. It is "the house of the Lord," which is the nearest approach possible in the Old Testament to the words of Jesus in the New Testament: "In my Father's house are many mansions."

And what is it that makes the idea of home so dear? It is not the mere locality, or the bricks and mortar, or the furniture which is associated with tender memories. No, it is not these that make us fond of home. Home is where father, mother, brothers and sisters, wife and children are.

Now let us turn our thoughts to that heaven, of which we know comparatively little, except that our Good Shepherd has gone thither. Notice what light is thrown upon it by the comparison instituted here between it and home. In our heavenly home we shall be as free in the presence of God as children in the presence of the parents whom they tenderly love. We shall know each other as well, and converse with each other as freely. There we shall never again part; there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying. We shall be forever with the Lord, and He with us. Thank God for the long, happy, and glorious festival for all of us who know Him.... Blessed The seventh-day rest the Book of Hebrews identifies as a rest of faith. The struggle with the animal nature comes under control of the Spirit; the activity of the Christian life assumes a proper balance. Even revelations and heavenly glories are recognized as only a part of the whole creation, and there is a restfulness of faith, a deep tranquility of soul—*peace, peace, wonderful peace.*

The blessing and sanctifying of the seventh-day rest is not something for the future but a condition to be enjoyed here and now. A ceasing from our works, from our struggles, from our questionings, a settling into God Himself. *This* is the confidence we have in Him, the rest of faith in believing that *He doeth all things well*.

Many Christians never enter into this day of rest; they always seem to come short of it. It takes a consistent effort of faith to put away unbelief and enter into this rest. But God's promise is, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9).

are they that are homesick for heaven, for they shall reach home.

Because we have trusted Christ and are one with Him, because we have received into our hearts the germ of eternal life (which carries with it heaven in embryo), because we have the earnest of our inheritance already in the presence and witness of the Holy Ghost, and because God's promise and oath assure us of our eternal blessedness, we can affirm, "I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The best way to prepare to dwell in that heavenly home, I think, is to dwell in the house of the Lord on earth. The early Christians loved to frequent the house of God, for it is written that they "were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God" (Luke 24:53).

Let us see to it that we live for God each day, ready to move out of our earthly house and into our heavenly home on a moment's notice. Glory be to our wonderful Lord forever!

DON'T CRASH YOUR DEADLINE

A deadline is a line drawn around a prison, to cross which a prisoner is liable to be shot; or it is the time set as a limit for the completion of any operation. In the matter of printing it is the hour at which the newspaper forms are locked, after which no copy can be inserted. It is a fixed limit, beyond which disaster is imminent.

Every life on this planet has a deadline, and it is given to each to prepare to meet it—for death comes to all sooner or later. The tragedy is that so few people actually plan for that time of no return when the body and spirit go their separate ways. For with millions of people there is little or no time for dying. Death can come very quickly—in fact, many people are killed daily without a moment of time for dying. This then is the tragedy—no time for conditioning the soul to meet a just and holy God at the judgment bar of heaven! —LESLIE W. SMITH

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PERSONAL WORK, A Book of Effective Methods, by R. A. Torrey. Torrey's outstanding work covers in detail the importance of personal work, the conditions of success, where it is to be done, the problems and objections to be overcome, and the best methods to employ. This book covers in comprehensive fashion the proved methods in personal evangelism. Cloth bound, 179 pages.

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DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM, 1445 BOONVILLE AVE., SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

Edwards Brothers See 'Breakthrough' in Philippines and India

Hundreds were saved and healed in services conducted by Evangelists Dwight and Quentin Edwards of Dallas, Tex., in the Philippines and India during the past few months.

Reports of their meetings have been given by the following missionaries.

PHILIPPINES: Dan Marocco, Naga City; Lester Kenney, Bacolod City; Gunder Olsen, Iloilo City.

INDIA: D. Mark Buntain, Calcutta: E. A. Sorbo, Marthandam, and Kerala State; Doris Edwards, Tirapur.

The American evangelists not only conducted church and open-air services in the Philippines, but they were also invited to minister to the students at Central Philippine University and West Negros College. Nation-wide radio broadcasts also featured the Edwardses.

On the last day of services in Iloilo City, 44 persons were baptized in the ocean. In appreciation, this congregation presented the evangelists with two beautiful guitars made by one of the church members.

Many miracles were reported in the meetings in India. Thousands were in attendance daily in the Hindu city of Tirapur. Missionary Doris Edwards writes, "We expect a church to be built as a result of these meetings. The pastor is thrilled. .

Mark Buntain reports the conversion of a stunt rider who performed in circuses throughout took place in Marthandam and in India. He had been a confirmed alcoholic, gambler, and smoker, but E. A. Sorbo.



NEGROS ISLAND, P. I.-Evangelists Dwight and Quentin Edwards sing a duet during their recent revival campaign.



NAGA CITY, P. I.-Evangelist Quentin Edwards is surrounded by Philippine children. The young lady in the center foreground received a marvelous deliverance from a serious affliction.

was saved and delivered from his habits.

Many outstanding healings and deliverances from demon possession the state of Kerala, according to

LUBBOCK, TEX .- First Assembly of God just concluded a twoweek revival with Evangelist and Mrs. Leslie C. Eldridge of Bakersfield, Calif. Many Christians established a new and deeper consecration. The week preceding and including Easter Sunday the Ambassador Travelers of Fort Worth, Tex., attended the services. At that time the Sunday school attendance record was broken.

-R. I. Stewart, Pastor

*

OWOSSO, MICH .-- Twentyeight persons accepted Christ as Saviour, six were reclaimed, and WHITEHORSE, YUKON-Sunone received a refilling of the Holy Spirit during a recent revival conducted at First Assembly of God here by Evangelists Bob and Jeri Winford. The revival was climaxed on Easter Sunday with an overflow crowd and, according to the church members, the best Sunday worship attendance in the history of the church.

-R. L. Berthume, Pastor

* *

ALTON, ILL .- Milton Assembly of God recently held a revival campaign with Evangelists Johnny Barton and Mike Lasky of Granite City, Ill. One man who had been tarrying for over 14 years received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Among the many that received the baptism in the Holy Spirit the revival. were Catholics and Lutherans. There were a large number of persons who accepted Christ as their personal Saviour, among them COALINGA, CALIF.-Evange-many Roman Catholics. A water list John C. Poteet conducted a baptismal service was conducted, and several joined the church. Dur-

visitors, and the Sunday school reached an all-time high of over 200. -David McGarvey, Pastor

*

NEW BOSTON, TEX.-First Assembly of God recently concluded a revival campaign with Evangelist Jerry Dee Hill of Grand Prairie, Tex. He was formerly a Baptist minister. The Holy Spirit moved in a glorious way throughout the services. Weeks later, the church is still experiencing a great outpouring of the Spirit of God. -Johnny Dickerson, Pastor

* * *

day school attendance reached a high of 168 during a revival campaign with Evangelist Oliver Johnson of Minneapolis, Minn. Several sought the Lord's blessing in salvation and the entire church was stirred to greater fervency in the ministry of personal evangelism. -Charles Postal, Pastor

ST. LOUIS, MO .- April 29-May 13 were the dates of a recent revival conducted by Evangelist Glenna Byard at Grace Assembly. Two persons accepted Christ as Saviour, five were reclaimed, and seven were baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Sunday school has averaged 217 in attendance during the last four Sundays following

*

-Gene Leach, Pastor

revival at the Assembly of God here during the early part of May. ing the campaign there were many 'A wonderful climax to the services

*



ILOILO CITY, P. I .-- Standing in front of Bethel Temple is the large congregation which heard the Edwards brothers.



CALCUTTA, INDIA-A capacity crowd heard Evangelists Dwight and Quentin Edwards. Mark Buntain is the missionary here.



MARTHANDAM, INDIA-Thousands attended the revival campaign conducted in Marthandam where E. A. Sorbo is missionary.

service when nearly all of the Six decisions were made for Christ a thousand. Sunday school attendyoung people came forward to the and five persons received the bap- ance averaged over 600 for the altar for reconsecration. Many tism of the Holy Spirit as a re- month. Every financial need was people were healed, and others sult of a special revival effort met. The whole city talked about were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Backsliders were reclaimed.

-Thomas O. Grams, Pastor *

×.

COLLINSVILLE, VA .- Fifteen persons accepted Christ as Saviour and one person received the baptism in the Holy Spirit as a result of a revival conducted at the Assembly of God here by Evangelist George Miller of Atlanta, Ga. Prior to the services a prayer chain was formed and two persons found Christ as Saviour the Sunday before the meetings started. The people of the church were stimulated to go ahead with the building program and the finances of every department have increased.

-J. Russell Mayhue, Pastor * * *

WINDSOR, PA.-April 24-May 6 were the dates of a revival conducted at the Pentecostal Lighthouse here with Evangelist James Tucker of North Dakota. One person accepted Christ as his personal Saviour, three persons received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and three others were refilled with the Holy Spirit. In addition to these results there were a number of definite healings. One individual saved was a high school teacher who will be a real addition to the Assembly. The attendance averaged from 75 to 80 during the week and a high of 130 was reached on Sunday. -Robert H. Shipp, Pastor

PINEDALE, CALIF .-- The Sunday school of the Assembly of God here reached an all-time high of 181 during a two-week revival with Evangelist John Sciford of Fresno, Calif. Fifteen persons accepted Christ as Saviour and 13 received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Four other persons received refillings with the Holy Spirit. At the conclusion of the revival 26 persons followed the Lord in water baptism.

*

-Virgil R. London, Pastor

conducted at Assembly of God here the meeting. Although the revival by the Kudra Musical Team of meetings have been concluded, peo-Victoria, B. C. A number of the ple who were reached during the Christians were revived and re- revival are still coming to the filled with the Holy Spirit. Ca- church. pacity crowds attended the meetings and a vast area was reached with the gospel message.

-L. H. Price, H. M. Smith, Pastors

-J. McDonald, Pastor STORM LAKE, IOWA-Evangelist Robert Paul of Colorado conducted a revival at the As-BELLEVILLE, CANADA-The sembly of God here April 17-29. Sunshine Evangelistic Party of A high school teacher received Indianapolis, Ind., conducted a six- the baptism in the Holy Spirit. week meeting at Calvary Temple There was also a renewed hunger here. Over 200 persons accepted for the spiritual gifts as a result services through the week .- by Christ as Saviour. On one Friday of teaching on this subject during

came during the Sunday night COATSWORTH, ONTARIO- night the attendance reached over afternoon instructional sessions. Several Sunday school boys and girls accepted Christ as Saviour, and others were reclaimed.

-Vernon L. Huffey, Pastor

*

40TH ANNIVERSARY AND HOMECOMING

DE LEON, TEX .- The Assembly of God, established by Evangelist and Mrs. F. R. Anderson, will commemorate its 40th Anniversary and Homecoming July 22-28. J. K. Gressett, superintendent of Arizona District, will preach a memorial and homecoming message, Thursday, July 26 at 11 a.m. Former pastors and evangelists will participate in C. L. Stewart, Committeeman.

STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELI
Ark.	Helena	First	July 17-29	Frank Martin
	Searcy	*First	July 16-(6:30 p.m.)	Dick & Nanc
	Searcy	First	July 16—(7:30 p.m.)	Dick & Nanc
Calif.	Benicia	A/G	July 22—	Marvin Schn
Colo.	Denver	First	July 17-29	Ken George
0	Englewood	**A/G	July 17-29 (a.m.)	Victor Etien
Conn.	Naugatuck	*Full Gospel Tab.	July 9-15	John Tkaczu Pattie Thom
Ga.	Albany	First	July 15-22	Shelvey Holl
111.	Griffin Lincoln	Faith Temple Faith	July 8-22 July 22-27	Charles Sene
Ind.	West Terre Hau		July 16-20	Dedelow-Fri
La.	Denham Springs		July 22-Aug. 2	Logue-McG
Lia.	Mansfield	First	July 15-29	W. H. Mitcl
Minn.	Minneapolis	Bethel	July 1—	Message for
Mo.	Crocker	A/G	July 22-29	A. J. Chande
	Harrisonville	Berean Chapel	July 8-22	Jackie & Peg
	Springfield	**Glad Tidings	July 8-	Don Norvill
N. H.	Dover	*A/G	July 16-22	John Tkaczu
N. Y.	Ossining	*Gospel	July 17-27	Mrs. Robert
N. C.	Highpoint	First	July 16-22	Jim & Tamm
Okla.	Minco	A/G	July 22-	Al Davis
	Oklahoma City	Grace	July 22-	Glen & Faitl
Oreg.	Portland	* * * Calvary	July 18-Aug. 12	Fuchsia T. F
	Salem	****Central	July 18-22	D. C. Branh
Pa.	Beaver Falls	***First	July 15-29	Paul Olson I
	Easton	*A/G	July 9-15	Mrs. Robert
	Lancaster	***Glad Tidings Tem.		Rudy Cerull
Tex.	Dallas	Evangel Temple	July 18—	Paul M. We
ICA.	Dimmitt	First	July 22—	Ward & Mrs
	El Paso	*Valley	July 16-21	Edith Little
		First	July 15-29	Melvin & M
	Mesquite			Jimmy & Lei
	Tulia	A/G	July 22.—	David A. Le
Va.	Danville	First	July 17-24	
Wash.	Renton	A/G	July 22-	Walter & Ru
	Tacoma	*Glad Tidings	July 15-20	Christian Hi
* Cl	nildren's Revival	** Youth Rev	ival *** Area	n-Wide Tent

ELIST

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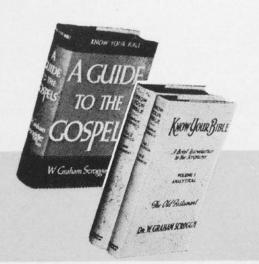
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**** City-Wide Revival

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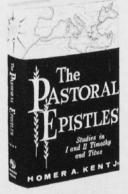
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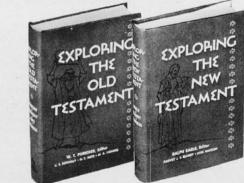
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Ministering to Ministers

The Editor of Our Sunday Visitor, a Roman Catholic weekly of over one million circulation, has asked his readers to contribute the amount of a one-year subscription to "Operation Understanding," by sending Our Sunday Visitor to a non-catholic clergyman. It was stated that over 12,000 Protestant ministers already were receiving such gift subscriptions. We would be pleased to see The Pentcostal Evangel going into the homes of clergymen of all faiths, including Catholic and Jewish, as well as Protestant. Already a number of readers have ordered the Evangel for non-Pentecostal ministers in their communities and many of these ministers have expressed their gratitude. By ministering to ministers you may be a blessing indirectly to their congregations. Subscriptions at \$2.50 per year (slightly higher outside U.S.A. due to additional postage) should be addressed to The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri.

The Flowing River

(Continued from page nine)

For three months following my Baptism there was no salary. My former pulpit was not open to the truth I had experienced. However, God opened the way for us day by day. The Lord supplied income greater than my salary had been. He has allowed me to relate this testimony to thousands in seven different states.

Having found fellowship among the Assemblies of God and having been ordained by the Alabama District presbyters, I was further led of the Lord to pioneer an Assembly of God in Albertville—the first in the county.

The biggest surprise—and the greatest thrill—in this exciting new ministry is that hungry-hearted people come to us, asking, "What meaneth this?" (Acts 2:12). I have marvelous opportunities to report, "This is that which...." Glory! Praise the Lord! Wonderful Jesus!

The Comforter has come and the "rivers of living water" (John 7:38, 39) have now begun to flow!

Pray that you will be what God wants you to be. That is harder than going where He wants you to go.—J. Franklin Baugh, Jr.

WITH CHRIST

RAY JOLLIFF, 52, of Cadiz, Ky., went to be with the Lord April 12. In 1958 Brother Jolliff was licensed with the Kentucky District. At that time he started the church at Cadiz where he remained as pastor until shortly before his death. He is survived by his wife and one child.

CLECE F. MAULDIN, 55, of Hector, Ark., went to be with the Lord May 6. Brother Mauldin was an ordained minister with the Arkansas District at the time of his Homegoing. He had served as an evangelist and pastored churches in Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Alabama. Survivors include his wife and four children.

CARLOS POGGI, 67, of Miami, Fla., passed away April 28. Ordained in the Latin American Branch of the Assemblies of God in 1943, Brother Poggi later transferred to the Spanish Eastern branch. He served as pastor of three churches in California and from 1958 until the time of his death he pastored in Miami, Fla. He is survived by his wife.

MRS. IDA O. RIFENBERG, 88, of Hot Springs, Ark., passed to her eternal reward February 26. An ordained minister of the Arkansas District, Sister Rifenberg ministered since her ordination in 1935 as an evangelist, except for a year when she pastored the church in Perryton, Tex. In 1945 she was superannuated. She is survived by one daughter.

MRS. OLGA L. JOHNSON, 72, of Minneapolis, Minn., went to be with the Lord April 3. Sister Johnson, ordained in 1935 in the Wisconsin & Northern Michigan District, served as pastor and evangelist. She and her late husband Hjalmer Johnson (who passed away in 1949) founded and pastored several Assemblies of God churches in Wisconsin. Their last pastorate was in Sparta from 1940 to 1950. In 1954 Sister Johnson was superannuated. Survivors include three daughters and four sons.

MRS. ROSE PENUELAS, 68, Montibello, Calif., passed on to her eternal reward March 24. Ordained in 1939 with the Evangelical Christian Pentecostal Church, Sister Penuelas transferred in 1948 to the Italian Branch of the Assemblies of God. She ministered as an evangelist until 1959 when she was superannuated. Her husband survives her.

MRS. WANNETTA M. McWHIN-NEY, 47, of San Jacinto, Calif., went to be with the Lord May 12 following an automobile accident. Ordained in 1955 in the Southern California District, Sister Mc-Whinney ministered as pastor and evangelist. She pastored in Victorville, Calif., as well as San Jacinto. She is survived by one child.

E. A. STOVALL, 73, of Vernon, Tex., went to be with the Lord April 22. Brother Stovall was an evangelist affiliated with the North Texas District. He is survived by his wife.



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STOP and THINK But Don't Stop With Thinking

By A. T. Jacobson

"THE THINKER," PRODUCED BY THE FRENCH SCULPTOR, Auguste Rodin, is a well-known work. Not well known are the other pieces of sculpture that originally accompanied it. "The Thinker" was part of a production called "Portal of Hell." The larger production (not completed by this famous artist) includes various characters and myriads of souls swirling into hell.

Evidently Mr. Rodin's own desperate thoughts are reflected in this masterpiece of marble. It is to be hoped he did not stop with thinking but was wise enough to act in time to escape the "portal of hell."

No doubt this piece of sculpture has led many a man to stop and think. The art of thinking is one of the requirements of successful living; yet few people actually think things through for themselves.

The pose does suggest deep thought. Copies of "The Thinker" are found in many schoolrooms. One day a teacher, exasperated with a scholar who never seemed to try to concentrate on his studies, plunked this little marble replica down before the boy and exclaimed, "*That's* what a man looks like when he's thinking!"

It is this lack of proper thinking that imperils the very liberty of our country. It is this lazy satisfaction with ready-made ideas that gives dictators their power over the mobs, and that gives the leaders of false cults their power to control large numbers of religious followers. By clever and deceitful propaganda they brainwash multitudes. As an illustration, think of the mob in Jerusalem, incited by the lies of their religious leaders, that clamored for the blood of Christ. How few individuals in that mob, if any, could have given a logical reason why they had joined those conniving priests and politicians in their envious hatred of the Master.

"What is it that characterizes the thinker?" asks Ernest Dimnet in his book *On Thinking*. He replies, "First of all, and obviously, vision."

"The thinker," he says, "whether he wishes it or not, is a leader." This spells action. The ultimate purpose of thinking is to lead to appropriate action.



PHOTO BY A. DEVANEY

Many would strike the pose and stop with this. They think but do not go beyond this point. They remain as immobile as Mr. Rodin's marble statue. The apostle Paul spoke of those who are "forever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 3:7). Like Pilate they are second-rate thinkers, as one writer put it, for they ask "What is truth?" at the end of an argument instead of asking this at the beginning and setting out to find the answer.

One of the thieves who died on a cross did some constructive thinking. He had been reviling the Son of God as had the other thief (Matthew 27:44) but there was something in the manner of this Person on the middle cross that caught his attention. He detected a note of authority and love in His words, and he thought about it. Then, having decided that this Person was able to save him, he promptly acted upon his conviction, saying, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

It does not take long to offer the penitent's prayer, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." The danger lies in remaining too long in thought without acting upon your conviction. Perhaps you have done enough thinking. Perhaps you have thought a good deal about spiritual matters and have decided a long time ago that you need to be saved. There is danger in delay. Ponderous thought will not save you. You must act. You must repent, turn from your sins, and ask Christ to save you.

The Bible says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Call upon Him today—while you still have the opportunity—and be saved. If you do not call He cannot save you.