

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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

MARCH, 1965 • TEN CENTS



Pearsall

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

PENTECOSTAL FIRE BURNS IN GYPSY CAMPS. Whether they live in horse-drawn roulottes or modern house trailers, the gypsy people everywhere respond to genuine, heart-felt religion. For a fascinating story of the Pentecostal revival now spreading among these people, please turn the page.

PENTECOSTAL FIRE BURNS IN

GYPSY CAMPS

By RUTH LYON

IN THE NAME OF JESUS, GET UP AND MAKE ME SOME coffee!" Here is New Testament procedure, not according to Peter, but according to a 20th-century Pentecostal gypsy preacher in Europe.

The gypsy woman to whom he spoke had suffered for many years with a tumor in her hip, and was now confined to bed in her tiny roulotte. The preacher's words hung in the air for a second; then, in a moment of miracle, the fever left and the woman arose to minister to her guests.

This is only one of many such miracles. In fact, the 1953 revival among Europe's gypsies in which 6,000 of them found Christ (most of whom are now baptized in the Holy Spirit) stemmed from a miraculous healing as a result of a gospel tract. Simultaneously, although there was no human link, a similar spiritual awakening was taking place among the gypsies in America. Today there are 400 gypsies in the U.S.A. who are saved and rejoicing in the Pentecostal blessing.

* * *

Who are the gypsies? Where did their nomadic wanderings begin? Gypsy Smith believed that they originated from the lost tribes of Israel.

Clement Le Cossec, a pioneer missionary who works and lives among them and was instrumental in conserving the results of the gypsy revival in Europe, says:

"Although there is no known record, there is one point on which all scholars agree: the origin of the gypsies is Asiatic. . . . The fact that many customs practiced by the gypsies are so much like those of the Old Testament is perplexing. . . . Like the Jews, the gypsies have wandered over the world for many centuries. Everywhere persecuted and despised but never assimilated, they have not given up their ideal of primitive freedom. Even though they have no homeland, the gypsies are a numerous people with their Romany language, their ancestral customs and tribal laws, their faith in the sole God *Odel* or *Barodevel*, and their fear of the devil, the *beng*."

While there is no recorded population, gypsies of the world probably number several millions.

From their obscure Asiatic origin they began their centuries-long trek through many countries. Often they shared a common persecution with the Jews. In 1440 gypsies appeared in England. From there they journeyed to Canada and the United States.

Gypsies in France are divided into three large tribes: Man-Ouche, Rom, and Gitano. They still travel in roulottes, horse-drawn wagons. Some walk, carrying their entire belongings in a basket. For a living they tell fortunes, sell baskets from door to door, etc. Elsewhere in Europe they are mechanized, often building their houses on a car chassis. Some of the less migratory tribes may be coppersmiths.

If a roulotte is too small for a prayer meeting, gypsies think nothing of holding it outside—even in the rain.



Brother Le Cossec describes their prayers as forceful —“without searching for beautiful sentences.” As many as 20,000 have attended larger meetings at one time. Other camps vary from 5,000 to 6,000. They especially like outdoor camp meetings and bonfire services.

* * *

The American revival actually began when Dick Mason, a young Christian gypsy, visited Harold D. Chaplin, then pastor of the Assembly of God in Grand Island, Nebraska, to make funeral arrangements for his father who was known as “King of the Gypsies.” Through

Dick's influence, many of the Romanychell tribe (perhaps the largest tribe of gypsies in America) came to church services and prayer meetings in the parsonage. Soon most of them were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Jack, the new tribal leader, was one of these.

The American gypsy work has shown remarkable growth, especially since it has been made a part of the National Home Missions ministry. Many American gypsies are permanently located and gainfully employed.

Do gypsy converts remain true to the Lord? According to Brother Chaplin, now coordinator of the American gypsy work, 80 per cent of the converts remain true. There are 12 active gypsy ministers working among them in different parts of the United States. During the past year they reached 2,000 gypsies with the gospel. Attendance at their evangelistic services averages about 75, and at least 100 definite conversions have resulted. One hundred gypsies were baptized in water last year.

According to Brother Chaplin, the gypsies thoroughly enjoy their religion, but do not express a great deal of emotion outwardly. There is a sweetness in their belief and the expression of it. They must have a genuine experience of salvation or they will not make any profession.

The experience of salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit does not change the nomadic nature of the gypsy people. But these experiences do give a deeper meaning to their wanderings. Where once they were vagrants they now are pilgrims. With us, they seek a city whose Maker is God. And they seek to recruit many others to join them along the way.

* * *

The first Gypsy Convention ever held in the United States convened in Texarkana, Ark., in December 1964. The meetings were held in the only active gypsy church in America according to present knowledge. It is situated on the gypsy campgrounds which the gypsies call "The Hill." The Lawrence Youngs, who built the church at their own expense 14 years ago, are pastors. It is un-



denominational but Pentecostal in doctrine. "The Hill" is the permanent home for about 150 gypsies, and serves as a stopping place for hundreds of others.

As many as 100 gypsies crowded into the little church. Some did not remain for the entire service since gypsies are not accustomed to remaining in buildings. Gypsy ministers were able to witness to many of the 300 who joined the camp whether they attended services or not.

The purpose of the first American convention was to bring all the gypsy workers together to plan activities

(Continued on page fourteen)

This is probably the only permanent gypsy church in the United States. The building is owned by Pastor Lawrence Young who lives in the trailer nearby. Located on the gypsy campgrounds of Texarkana, Arkansas, it serves a year-around community of about 150 gypsy people. . . . Four gypsy evangelists (at top) attended the Gypsy Convention: Richard Mason, Fred Mason, James Mason, Elmer Mason. . . . The next photo shows part of the congregation in the gypsy church at Texarkana. . . . Dates Reynolds, a gypsy minister (center), joins Lawrence Young and Richard Mason in playing their "singing guitars." . . . At right: Pastor and Mrs. Lawrence Young.

An Image That Speaks

Many remarkable sights greet a visitor to the New York World's Fair. The most novel feature of the Fair, perhaps, are the animated marvels developed by Walt Disney. There are mechanical men, women, and children that move and talk like real people. There is a dog that lifts his head at the sound of thunder, rolls his eyes, raises his ears, barks—and then, when his mechanical master reaches down to pat him reassuringly, the animal wags his tail and goes back to sleep. It is all amazingly lifelike.

Our most moving experience was a visit to the Illinois Pavilion where Abraham Lincoln is the feature attraction. First there was stirring patriotic music; then the lights dimmed and the curtains parted to reveal a lone figure sitting in center stage in a high-backed chair. It matched the description of Lincoln exactly as to face, figure, dress, speech, and mannerisms. Slowly the figure arose, paused to regard the hushed audience to right and left; then quietly but forcefully it began to speak. For ten minutes it delivered excerpts from Lincoln's speeches dealing with liberty and freedom.

The audience sat very quietly throughout the performance. At the end the figure took its seat, the curtains closed, and cheers arose from the packed auditorium. As many as 25,000 spell-bound Fair-goers a day witnessed the marvelous production.

Some of the people could hardly believe it was all done electronically. One woman asked, "What is the name of the actor that plays Lincoln?"

After witnessing the performance we thought of the thirteenth chapter of Revelation and the "miracles" (signs) that the False Prophet will do to induce people to worship the "beast" (the Antichrist). An image of this "beast" will be made and the False Prophet will give life to it "that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (verse 15).

After seeing the image of Lincoln at the Fair we realized how easily the above scripture can be fulfilled in our day.

Revelation has become a contemporary Book and the Bible doctrines concerning the Second Coming of Christ have become relevant to our times. No man knows the day nor the hour when Christ shall return (see Matthew 24:36) but the Lord expects us to recognize the nearness of the event by the "signs of the times." Jesus said, "Can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

The apostle Paul said the Second Coming will catch unbelievers completely by surprise, as a thief that comes at night when all are asleep; but it should not come upon the "children of light" unexpectedly (1 Thessalonians 5:4). We are to "watch and be sober." We are not to be intoxicated with the riches and pleasures of this world, but to be on the alert, ready to meet our Lord.

The Bible says that "when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." In other words, when the world is being rocked to sleep with false promises of security, that is the very time when the Lord shall come and take the wicked by surprise. His coming will be unannounced. It may occur at any moment. Those who know their Bibles best are convinced that every prophecy that needs to be fulfilled prior to the Rapture of the Church has already been fulfilled. The next great event on God's prophetic calendar will be the catching away of His people. Are you ready?
—R.C.C.

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years. WE BELIEVE in the Blessed Hope, which is the Rapture of the Church at Christ's coming. WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ. WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. WE BELIEVE that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. WE BELIEVE in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

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Living FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

BY H. PALLISER
Hull, England

CHRISTIANS EVERYWHERE AGREE THAT JESUS IS COMING—in fact, must come *soon*—for He is the only hope of the world.

But how does this knowledge affect our daily lives? How should we live in anticipation of His return?

John wrote, "He that hath this hope in him purifieth himself." Peter challenged, "What manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" Paul, writing of the Lord's return, said, "We pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling."

But it is to our Lord Himself that we turn for practical teaching concerning His return and how it should affect our lives and relationships. Matthew 24:43 to 25:30 records the fullest answer Jesus ever gave to a question, and the question was, "When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age?"

Vividly Jesus portrayed world conditions in the end time, with all the turmoil, perplexity, and foreboding of evil to come. Having thrown some light on the manner

The article by H. Palliser, Minister of Elim Church, Hull, is a condensation of some Bible studies published in the *Elim Evangel*, official organ of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance, London, England.

and signs of His return, Jesus urged His followers to be prepared for it. This preparation involves right relationships in a fourfold sense; first, with our Lord (24:43, 44); then with our fellow Christians (24:45-51); also with our inmost selves (25:1-13); and finally, with the world around us (25:14-30).

RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD

"Ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up" (Matthew 24:42, 43).

Jesus here emphasized that since the time of His return is not known to us, we must be prepared at all times. Watchfulness, or lack of it, on the part of the householder in the parable was revealed in his attitude. His carelessness resulted in loss.

In the light of our Lord's soon return, what should be our relationship with Him in regard to the use of our *time*? "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34).

The danger of being too busy is ever with us. We fill our days with the cares of this life, with the pleasures that are so near at hand, even with Christian service, and leave too little time for personal communion with our Lord. Dr. J. H. Jowett once warned that we might even "be so busy with the holy place that we have no time for the holy Lord."

In Luke 16, Jesus gives a parable in which He sets forth, among other things, a principle of Christian stewardship. The story opens with an unfaithful steward being told to "Give an account of thy stewardship." The time for investment was past.


When Christ returns we too shall give account of our stewardship. There are no offerings taken in heaven; no needs there. In this parable, Jesus challenges the Christian to use the money he has in this life to make friends for eternity. If we use what we have to win souls, there will be people in heaven we never met down here who will greet us and thank us for faithful stewardship, without which they would not have heard the gospel.

What should be our *heart* relationship to our Lord in the light of His coming? John spoke of *abiding* in love, and said boldness at His coming would result. If we know Him well here, and our hearts are "at home" in His presence, then we are anticipating His coming as the coming of a beloved friend. "There is no fear in love." If our hearts are right, we can look up and lift up our heads in joyful anticipation of His coming.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

In Matthew 24:45-51, our Lord pictures a mansion with the owner absent, and the staff of servants left on their own for an indefinite period. Their obvious duty is to carry on their work just as if the master were present. In this situation, Jesus points out, one of two things may happen. They may work together conscientiously in harmony; or they may begin to disagree, thereby creating an atmosphere of dissension, bickering, and tension, which ultimately blazes out into open strife. What-

(Continued on page fifteen)



THIS PRESENT WORLD

England

Anglicans Dispute Infant Baptisms

Four Anglican vicars who publicly rebelled against the Church of England policy of infant baptism were severely criticized by the *Church Times*, an independent Anglican weekly. The magazine declared editorially:

"There should be no sympathy at all with those priests who... have publicized their outright refusal to administer holy baptism to any infants at all. Such a refusal is in plain defiance of the rule and practice of the church from which they derive their orders, and in which they hold their office and earn their living.

"The Church of England is committed at present to infant baptism," the editorial continued, "...and every priest at his ordination has solemnly promised always to minister the sacraments."

Two of the vicars in question have resigned; two others have declared they will baptize no more babies. One vicar, after his resignation, was later rebaptized at a Free Church in another district. Regarding infant baptism he said, "I was unhappy about the service in which the child baptized is declared to be regenerated."

(Assemblies of God churches do not practice infant baptism because we believe that baptism is an act which

should follow conversion—and conversion can come only as a person makes his own decision for Christ.)

Holy Land

Restrictions Placed on Children of Converts?

In Jerusalem, a bill making it illegal to use direct persuasion on persons under 18 to convert them to another religion received wide support when it was given a reading in Israel's Knesset (Parliament). The bill declares that no child between the ages of 12 and 18 may be converted even if both parents desire it. The consent of both parents is necessary before a child under 12 can undergo conversion, and the new religion must be that of at least one of its parents.

It appears the proponents of this bill may be taking a page from the book of Pharaoh who, when asked if the people of Israel could leave the land of bondage, said the adults could go but not their children! Have they forgotten how God changed Pharaoh's mind?

World's Lowest Winter Resort Is in Jordan

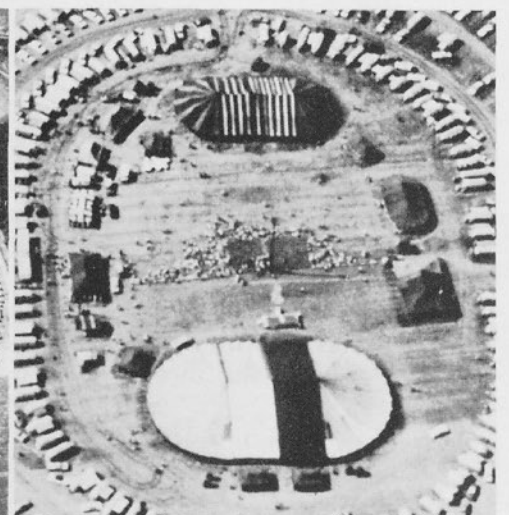
The world's lowest winter resort—from the standpoint of elevation—is Jericho in Jordan. It lies 840 feet below sea level.

History of this city goes back to about 5000 B.C. Modern Jericho is a city of date palms, orange groves,

Evangelist Has Unique Ministry to Trailer Caravan

Evangelist Fred R. Diehl has a unique ministry. This Assemblies of God minister and his family travel with a caravan of luxurious house trailers on many of its pleasure tours to distant points and conduct gospel services for members of the caravan. Last month they were scheduled to accompany a caravan of about 300 trailers through Mexico and Central America to Panama. These pictures, taken last summer at Princeton, New Jersey,

show the World's Fair encampment. This was the seventh international rally of the Wally Byam Caravan Club. There were about 2,000 trailers in the "mobile city." While Brother and Sister Diehl conducted gospel services in the big tent that seats over 12,000 their daughters had children's and youth services in two other tents. Pray for Evangelist Diehl's ministry among the thousands of members of the Wally Byam Caravan Club.



and hot winter sunshine. Its air-conditioned resort hotel stands on the shore of the Dead Sea. Nearby are the Qumran Caves, Mt. Temptation, and the excavations of Old Jericho.

From Jericho, trips can be arranged to Petra, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and other Biblical cities. Jordan has 175 licensed tourists guides, all of whom speak English and Arabic, and some of whom speak other languages as well. Guide service costs about \$5.60 a day.

More Jews Are on the Move

Except for the years of persecution by Hitler and the events of World War II, more Jews are on the move today than ever, according to Charles H. Jordan, overseas director-general of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Mr. Jordan stated that during the past three years more than 300,000 Jewish men, women, and children suffered the "traumatic experience" of displacement from their homes, friends, and familiar surroundings to face an "uncertain future."

The 300,000 recent refugees came mainly from North Africa and Eastern Europe, he declared. About half of them have found haven in Israel; many others have settled in France.

Bible

New Polish Translation of Bible Planned

A new Bible in modern Polish will be published in 1966 to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in Poland. The announcement was made by a Polish clergyman, Z. Pawlik, in an address at the Baptist Church House in London. He showed guests a copy of the four Gospels and indicated that the complete New Testament would be available in 1965, with the entire Bible being published in 1966. Mr. Pawlik, one of the translators, said the translation project had been going on for decades.

Modern Bible Translation Illegal in Greece

Greece gave us the language in which the New Testament was first written, but modern Bible translations are against the law in that country today, according to *World Vision* magazine. The Greek constitution not only recognizes Greek Orthodoxy as the state church but also makes the only legal translation of the Bible the old *Koine* Greek which is almost unintelligible to the average Greek citizen. Modern Greek translations are published but they are not legal within Greece.

Russia

Moscow Claims Purge of Wandering Christians

Like a page out of Early Church history reads the account from Moscow of the success in smashing an anti-Communist religious sect whose members "live by day in hidden basements and come out by night to worship Christ and spread anti-Communist literature." They are called the True Orthodox Wandering Christians.

Leaders of the group who had recruited dozens of young persons were sent to Siberia for forced labor.

"They do not recognize Soviet power but call it the power of the anti-Christ...they do not have passports (which everyone in Russia must carry)," complained the *Literary Gazette* which published the account, "and they do not apply for welfare services."



Your Questions

Answered by Ernest S. Williams

I have been filled with the Spirit, but I do not know when the Holy Spirit is telling me to do something. How can I know this?

If your life is devoted to God, believe your every step is in His will. You need no further guidance. Should God at some time wish you to do some certain thing, He will impress this on your heart. "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord" (Psalm 37:23). "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6).

Does God have a body, or is He now, and will He always be, an invisible Spirit?

Some believe God has form. Others speak of Him as a sort of invisible spiritual atmosphere "without bodily parts or passions." He is without *human* bodily parts or passions, but the Scriptures indicate that He is not without form. He is set forth as being seated on a throne. Jesus taught us to pray to "our Father, which art in heaven." This would indicate that His powers are exercised from a center.

We have the promise, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Before Jesus came to earth He was "in the form of God," possessing all the attributes of God (Philippians 2:6). In its footnote on this verse, the Scofield Bible quotes Thayer as describing form as that "by which a person or thing strikes the vision, the external appearance."

The Psalmist said, "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness" (Psalm 17:15). The margin reads, "When I awake with thy form." We will understand it better by and by.

My husband is unsaved and does not wish me to go to church. Am I not to obey God rather than man?

You have an obligation both to God and to your husband. Perhaps your husband dislikes remaining at home alone. Can you not arrange to show interest in your husband and also faithfulness to the church? I suggest the possibility of attending at least the Sunday morning services and any daytime midweek meetings which are held at a time convenient for you to attend.

Peter advised wives to "be in subjection to your own husbands; that if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives" (1 Peter 3:1). Conversation here means conduct, or manner of life.

I trust the Lord will give you wisdom, keeping you from losing out in your own spiritual experience through neglect of the place of worship. Also, may the Lord guide you in giving your husband wise and Christian consideration that you may be able to win him to Christ.

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, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Brother Williams will answer if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

THANKS TO THE THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND

BY MORRIS PLOTTS, MISSIONARY EVANGELIST

IN DECEMBER, 1964, THE WORK WAS completed on the Assemblies of God Evangelistic Center in Georgetown. This was a milestone of progress in the Pentecostal work of British Guiana. The church, situated in a strategic location, will seat 700 people.

I found the congregation filled with deep gratitude for the kindness of the more than 400 U. S. churches which gave to make the center possible. According to records I kept while itinerating on behalf of this project, approximately 33,000 Americans made contributions.

And I must also speak most heartily of the great sacrifice and labor of the Guiana Assemblies of God in building the center. Not only did the missionary personnel work untiringly, but the Guianese Christians themselves raised \$6,000.

On Saturday afternoon, December 5, all was ready. At 2 p.m. a crowd

of 200 or more gathered for the opening. The governor of the colony, Sir Richard Luyte, was our speaker. When he quoted the familiar words of Zechariah, "Not by might, nor by power . . .," the gathered audience standing in the walkways and yard suddenly joined in enthusiastically with, "but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." Then Sir Richard walked to the door and in a moment had snipped the ceremonial ribbon in two, proclaiming, "I declare this house open." The crowd then surged into the church to examine it and to sign the guest book.

On Sunday morning more than 500 gathered for the first Sunday school session in the new church, followed by a brief cornerstone ceremony. At 2 p.m. there was a marvelous dedication service. Thirteen hundred people were crowded into the building. At the actual moment of dedication the entire audience stood in worship.



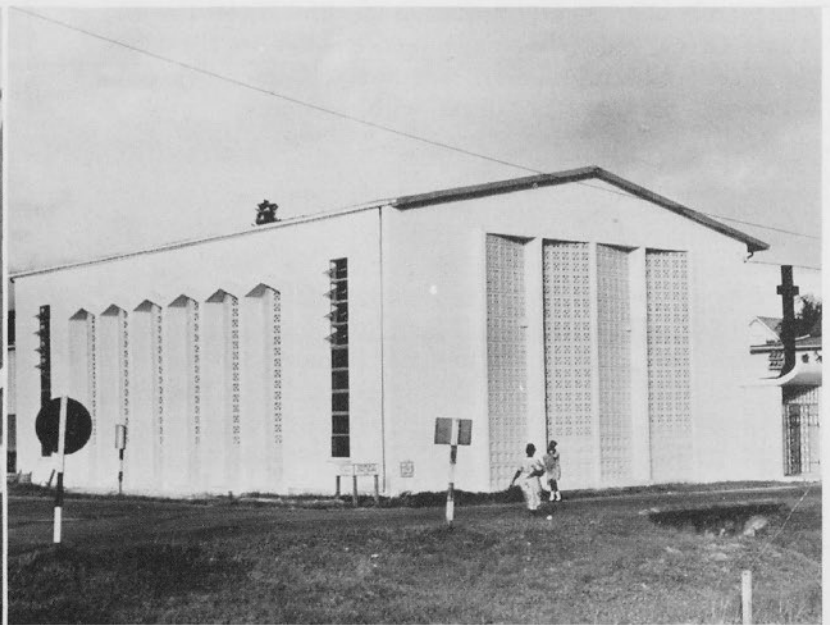
Missionary Palser and Evangelist Plotts lay cornerstone as Pres

It was most inspiring to see these many people with hands raised, presenting to God their love and praise.

After the dedication I had the privilege of conducting the first evangelistic campaign. Night after night the new altars were hallowed by the tears of penitents; as many as 12 people at one time sought God for salvation.

To the glory of God there now stands in Georgetown this fine building, valued with its present equipment at more than \$60,000, where people are finding God. Missionary Paul Palser, Guiana Field Superintendent, who has built the church in Georgetown to its present strength, calls it "a dream come true." ◀◀

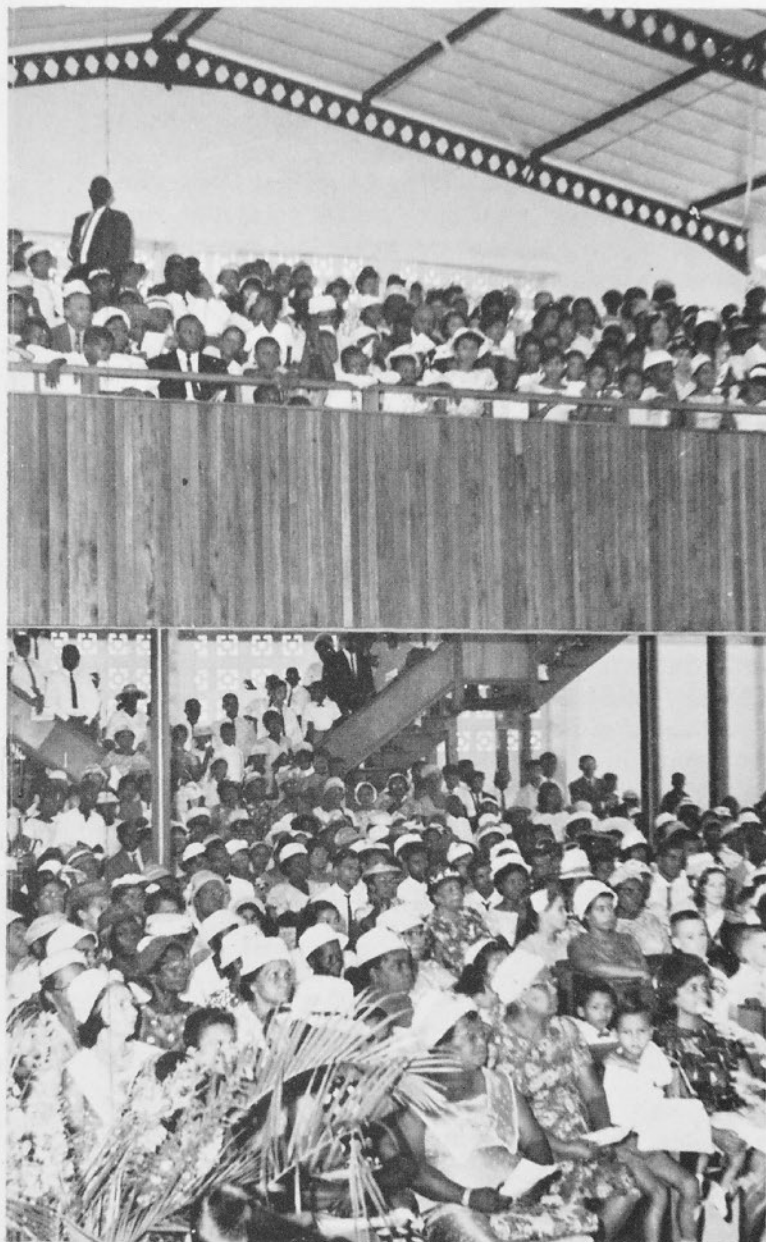
Governor Sir Richard Luyte officially opens new church building made possible by combination of American and local efforts.





nerstone as Presbyterian Sydney Ramphall and Missionary David Guenther look on.

Dedication drew crowd of 1,500.



BY LOUIE STOKES
MISSIONARY TO ARGENTINA

THE CITY OF GOOD AIRS

BUENOS AIRES RECEIVED ITS NAME FROM NAVIGATORS who came from lands where malaria was especially prevalent. The newly discovered city struck them as being a place of healthy air, hence the name "good airs."

Buenos Aires is the national capital, the headquarters of all major organizations and institutions, and the hub of Argentina's entire rail and highway system. Four million people live in the capital itself and another four million in the suburbs. Over one-third of Argentina's population is crowded into this one huge area.

In greater Buenos Aires the Assemblies of God has 70 churches and halls. But in the city proper there is only one strong assembly, the Evangelistic Temple on Hidalgo Street, and three small groups in rented halls. Four churches for four million individuals! There is one borough of a million people without a single assembly. Sometimes the need seems overwhelming.

Workers are anxious to carry the Word, and there is a great desire to open new assemblies, but real estate is so expensive that we cannot even purchase a lot. (A small piece of land would cost \$15,000 to \$20,000; a large house or building even more.)

We have made great strides in extending our work to the outlying towns and cities of the province. But what about the four million that live in the port city of Good Airs? They deserve an opportunity to feel the breezes of the Spirit moving in their lives. This burden rests heavily on our hearts. Help us in prayer. ◀◀



Lot's Deliverance

Sunday School Lesson for March 14, 1965

GENESIS 19:1, 15-25; 2 PETER 2:6, 9

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

Our study today is a triad of devotion, deliverance, and destruction.

What an example of devotion Abraham sets! What drama is revealed in Lot's deliverance! And what an ominous warning lurks in the destruction of Sodom for those who have ears to hear!

1. ABRAHAM'S DEVOTION (Genesis 18:1-33)

a. *His intimacy with God* (v. 17). "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord." By precept and example to his family and friends Abraham would exert a blessed spiritual influence.

b. *Abraham's intercession* (vv. 22, 23). "But Abraham stood yet before the Lord... and Abraham drew near and said..." When advised that Sodom and Gomorrah were in danger of being destroyed, Abraham was immediately concerned. He was anxious about Lot. Divine love would not let him forget his weak nephew. But more than this, he was also concerned over a wicked

city. Abraham gave himself a work of intercession which serves as a classic example even to this day.

In his dealings with God, Abraham demonstrated the tremendous power of intercessory prayer. He was humble, yet bold and persistent. Why did he stop when he did? Might the city have been saved had he continued to press in farther? We may not know. But we do know that God did not stop giving until Abraham stopped praying!

2. LOT'S DELIVERANCE (Genesis 19:1-23)

Lot has undoubtedly been castigated and unduly vilified by many a preacher. But we must not lose sight of the fact that he was a "righteous" man and that his "righteous" soul was continuously grieved with the wickedness of the city (2 Peter 2:6-9). His attempts to divert the horrible wickedness of the inhabitants of the city who wished to violate his guests reveal the depth of Lot's respect for his divine visitors.

The angels of destruction were first angels of mercy and salvation. In the following respects they set an example for all soul winners:

- They went to where Lot was.*
- They were content to work for a very few.*
- They spoke to Lot plainly of his danger.*
- They hastened to assist Lot out of his danger.*

3. SODOM'S DESTRUCTION (Genesis 19:24-29)

a. *It was a merciful warning to the rest of mankind.* The lesson of the Flood had faded. How little men learn from past history! God's intention was to provoke surrounding nations to repentance.

b. *It hastened the results of man's own actions.* Nations are not destroyed until they are rotten at the core. As the wind which snaps forest trees only hastens the result toward which the borer worms have been preparing, so are the judgments of God. Egypt, Babylon, Greece, and Rome all sank into oblivion because of social, moral, and spiritual degeneracy. Where is *our* nation headed?

c. *It came only after careful investigation.* "I will go down now and see." God is slow to anger and plenteous in mercy, but those who refuse His mercy seal their own doom.

d. *It came only after repeated warnings.* The presence of Lot, feeble testimony though it was, witnessed in behalf of righteousness. Abraham's rescue of Lot and contact with Sodom's king was surely a clear witness for God. These warnings were ignored. Men follow the course of sin in spite of red lights and danger signals set into operation by a patient God.

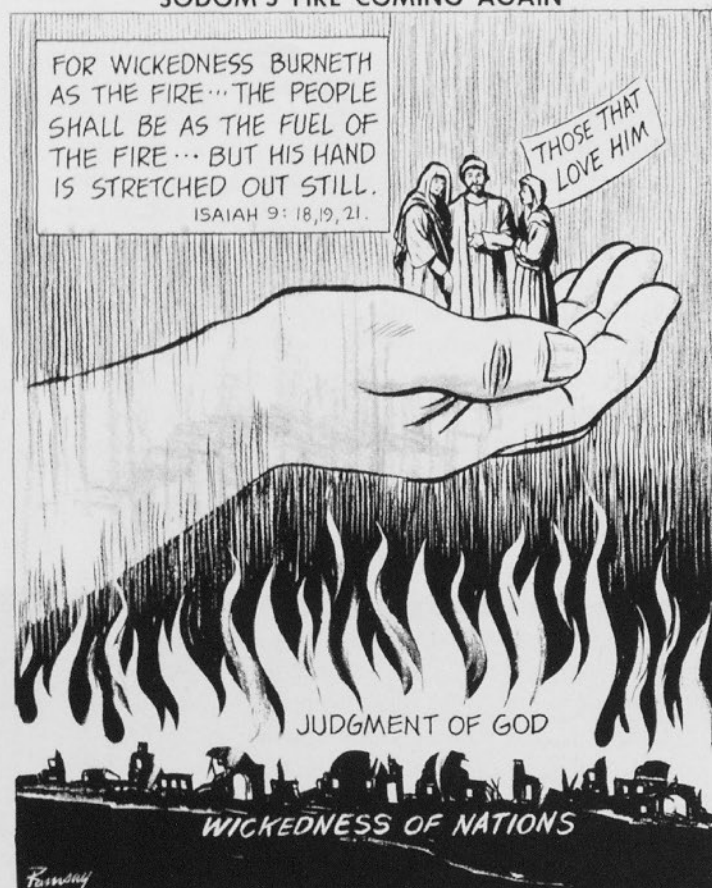
An unholy affinity bound Lot's wife to Sodom. Though outwardly separated from the city, she was still attached inwardly. She looked back, and became a pillar of salt. She became a monument to the retributive justice and judgment of God.

Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Lot... thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed... In that day, he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:28-32).

No sin is small. It is against an infinite God, and it may have consequences immeasurable. No grain of sand is small if it is in the mechanism of a watch.

—J. Hudson Taylor

SODOM'S FIRE COMING AGAIN



Thousands of Canadians Reached by **REVIVALTIME**

SINCE DECEMBER, 1963, REVIVALTIME HAS BEEN THE official radio voice of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Many hundreds of persons across the vast Dominion have been influenced for Christ by this weekly radio broadcast.

From Canada's scenic southland to its ice-bound Arctic coasts—from its warm Pacific ports to its bitterly cold Atlantic seaboard—the radio ministry of *Revivaltime* is finding its way into the homes and hearts of thousands. It is greatly appreciated, especially by rugged individuals who live in the northern frontier areas who are cut off from the outside world for months at a time. One listener recently wrote as follows:

"We are enjoying *Revivaltime* here in the frozen northland. It is our one contact with other full-gospel churches during the winter. It is a blessing and inspiration, and helps prepare our hearts for the Sunday services."

Canadians are challenged and inspired by this ministry of the Word of God. In an area where ice and snow brings transportation to a virtual standstill for the long winter, the radio reaches past closed doors, barred to chilly blizzards, to bring the warmth and comfort of Christian fellowship. The Spirit of God speaks to hearts, no matter what their particular faith or language might be.

"I always tune into your wonderful, worldwide program," writes a man in Bellis, Alberta, Canada, "and it has done something for me since I began listening. Though I am not of your faith, I find your manner of preaching the Word very stirring, and I am interested in learning about your religion. Yours is a Pentecostal broadcast, and is challenging to my heart. Please tell me where I can find out more about your faith."

And an Indian from Athabasca, Alberta, testifies, "I'm a full-blooded Blackfoot and I listen to your broadcast every Sunday, enjoying your preaching very much. I am praying for you in your radio ministry."

Not only does God speak to people's hearts, but He also meets their physical, financial and spiritual needs. One of the many radio listeners in Newfoundland, Canada, writes: "I have been healed from cancer through your prayers. May God bless the work you are doing for Him."

A grateful wife in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, also praises God for healing: "Sometime ago I wrote asking prayer for my husband, who had a heart attack. Now he is well and back to work. Thank you so much for sharing my burden."

"I want to thank all the prayer warriors who touched the Lord in my behalf," writes another Ontario mother. "I requested prayer for my son-in-law who had a coronary attack in November. The doctors said he would be unable to work for a long time, if indeed he ever



House of Parliament, Ottawa, Canada

could. He went back to work before Christmas and is still working. Praise God!"

The phantom of death is no respecter of persons, and the sorrow it brings is often more than the heart can bear. But God in His mercy instills faith, determination, and courage in the bereaved heart. Ministering to these persons is yet another outreach of the *Revivaltime* ministry. This letter from a widow in Newfoundland is typical of many:

"I wrote to you requesting prayer after my husband was accidentally shot. At that time I felt cast down. I had no victory. I couldn't sing or worship God. But through your prayers, God has given me victory; and although I still feel lonely, I can sing and praise the Lord for His goodness to me. Once again, I feel strong in my body. I give God the glory for He alone could lift the burden I was carrying."

Grief is not the only trial Christians must face; there are unemployment and financial problems in every land. But God knows the need, and if we truly believe, our burdens will be lifted.

A woman in Stettler, Alberta, made a rather unusual request, and shortly thereafter she wrote again to *Revivaltime*:

"Last week we wrote you after listening to a broadcast and enclosed a small donation, at the same time asking for prayer in our venture of selling plows. The Lord has seen fit to have us sell two this past week to one man alone, so we have once again enclosed a donation to your work. We are sure the Lord is answering our prayers and yours on our behalf."

Thousands of letters each month assure us that wherever *Revivaltime* is heard, hearts are blessed and influenced for Christ. Believers are inspired to greater efforts, and the discouraged are strengthened. The sick receive faith for healing, and the unsaved are challenged by the full-gospel message.

Radio is reaching the world for Christ. But the powers of darkness are working at breakneck speed to prevent hungry hearts from hearing the Truth. Will you pray for this ministry? ◀◀◀

THE STORY OF A PRIEST WHO WAS CAUGHT IN THE

'AVALANCHE'

By ELVA J. HOOVER

JOSE MARIA RICO WAS NO NOVICE IN THE CATHOLIC priesthood when he answered the call of Pope Pius XII in 1949 to help stop "the avalanche of Protestantism" in Latin America.

He had begun to study for the Jesuit priesthood in early adolescence. These studies took him to Belgium and Italy, and finally to Lyon, France, where he was ordained to the priesthood. He had served his country and his church in peace and war; now he set about his task in Latin America with enthusiasm.

But little by little the avalanche he had come to stop overtook him. As he sometimes says now, "I tried to fight with the Bible and the Bible won the battle."

His last desperate effort to resist the Truth was the writing of a book which was to set forth the glories of the Catholic priesthood. This involved a close look at the Book of Hebrews. As a result, this man who had become one of the best-known priests in the country recognized Christ as his great High Priest and only Saviour, thus "putting an end to the tragedy of my 19 long years in the priesthood."

Jose Rico was later baptized with the Holy Spirit and he is now an Assemblies of God evangelist, going from one Latin American country to another with the joyful message that *Jesus saves*.

His first four campaigns in Assemblies of God churches were held in Colombia. In Templo Bethel in Bogota, where David Womack was host missionary, the "avalanche of Protestantism" was evident as crowds up to 1,500 attended the meetings. Here, as in other meetings in Bogota, and in Sogamoso and Cali as well, many were saved, bringing the total number of converts in the Colombia meetings to more than 500.

Remarkably, there was not a single case of persecution

during the campaigns in this country where Protestants have known so much opposition in the past. Several Jesuit priests attended the meetings and stayed after the services to visit with their former colleague.

Leaving the missionaries and national pastors to follow up the new converts and conserve the rich harvest of souls, Brother Rico went on to Guayaquil, Ecuador, at the invitation of Missionary Lowell Dowdy. Here again large crowds attended the services, and many were saved and filled with the Spirit. The evangelist spoke daily on the radio, and one evening was invited to speak to a group of university students.

Leaving Guayaquil he was soon on his way to Asuncion, Paraguay, where the missionaries had arranged special meetings. Here those still dedicated to stopping the Protestant avalanche were on hand to oppose the meetings. Leading the opposition were Jesuit priests, supported by Catholic Action, a youth group of which Brother Rico had at one time been a national leader.

For 12 nights they sought to cause a riot and thus force police to close the meetings. By means of specially printed literature and daily radio programs they challenged Brother Rico. He was not permitted radio time in which to answer them.

Priests attended each meeting and on the last night created such a disturbance that the people were unable to hear the evangelist's message. In spite of this opposition, 80 persons accepted Christ and some were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Brother Rico and some of the missionaries then went to Encarnacion, in Southern Paraguay, for a week of VBS, Bible studies, and evangelistic meetings. The Lord gave victory there also, in spite of some opposition.

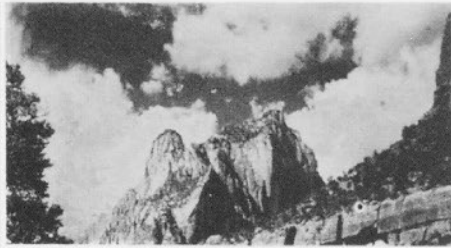
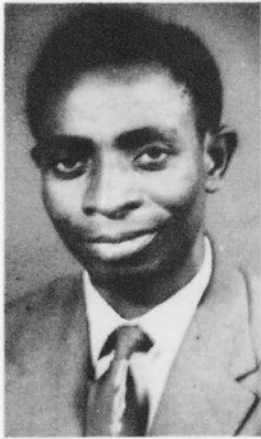
As Missionary Paul Hutsell and the evangelist returned to Asuncion by car late one night, their headlights suddenly revealed the figure of a man standing in the road with a rifle. He motioned for them to stop. But, remembering the threats that had been made against them, they raced past him, giving him no time for foul play.

Brother Rico continues his ministry of evangelism in Latin America. Pray that God will continue to be glorified in this ministry and in the ministry of others whom He is raising up to preach the full gospel. ◀◀◀



Large crowds gathered in Guayaquil, Ecuador, to hear Jose Rico, converted Catholic priest. Meetings were also held in Colombia and Paraguay.

SO GOD BECAME AN



EVANGELIST

BY EVANGELIST O.M.U. OKPO • LAGOS, NIGERIA

"HOW THEN SHALL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? . . . AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER? AND HOW SHALL THEY PREACH EXCEPT THEY BE SENT?" (ROMANS 14:14, 15)

THE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN IRREVOCABLY LOST TO God had He not chosen to be the Evangelist at the deplorable fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Adam's condition at that crucial moment of his transgression is the true picture of the unsaved sinner today, irrespective of his color, nationality or civilization. The unsaved world is a lost world.

The first man did not only lose the glory of God, he lost his contact with God as well and became a lost man. He found himself in an awful atmosphere that the Bible describes as "without God in the world." He became terrified with even the animals under his dominion only a moment ago. A man conscious that he is lost is sometimes fearful of the sound of his own footsteps, and it was not different with Adam. His thoughts troubled him. He thought he needed a cover for he had been discovered. His guilt was uncontrolled for conscience had leapt up like a giant. He must scheme for an excuse—and to think he must stand before God shortly and be judged for an eternal punishment.

Suddenly the voice of God thundering through the clouds called his very name. Adam! Adam! He was all the more confused. He must hide, he thought. But man cannot hide from God whether in this life or hereafter. Called out of his hiding place he stood embarrassed and trembling before the holy God.

That is the picture of the unsaved world. It is a confused world; it stands guilty and trembling before the holy God. It is ripe for destruction. Man has betrayed himself. Fears fill the hearts of great and ruling men, and to man's fears are added the torments of disease, sinful habits, and the thought of an eternal hell after death. Adam did not know the way out, but God did! The unsaved world does not know the way out, but the church does.

How could Adam know the love of God and the plan of God's salvation? He must be told, and how can he hear without a preacher *since faith cometh by hearing*

and hearing by the Word of God? (Romans 10:14). God had to preach the first gospel of Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15). How Adam and his wife loved to hear the promise! How relieved and happy they were to know the way back to God.

The lost world cannot find the way home without a preacher. In the dispensation of conscience God was the first evangelist. In the dispensation of human government Noah was the evangelist. For 120 years he was the world's only evangelist. He did an exploit, for he saved the only family that formed the next world generation and justified God's righteousness leaving no cloak of excuse for the wicked condemned race. God told him of the disaster and he preached it to his family. The mightiest preacher is one who wins his own family.

In the dispensations of promise and law, God sent the nation of Israel to the world with flaming evangelists. These men were to be willing to hazard their lives if need be to proclaim the message of God. Their hearts were filled with burden for the lost world. God called, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Isaiah answered, "Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

Jeremiah said, "But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" (Jeremiah 20:9).

Micah said, "Truly I am full of power by the spirit of the Lord, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgressions, and to Israel his sin" (Micah 3:8). These were men of vision, faith, and power. They practiced as well as preached righteousness. They were ready to sacrifice to see that God's message was delivered, even at the cost of their lives.

Have you ever wondered why God did not give up the idea of sending any more evangelists to the world? They were stoned, cut asunder, tempted, and slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, living in dens and caves of the earth. The world refused their testimony.

The answer is that God loved man, the crown of His creation. And though the testimony of the evangelists was not universally received, three things happened. First, God was justified for He gave every generation a chance for salvation. Secondly, there have been individuals in every age who have turned to God as a result of this faithful witnessing. And thirdly, the world continued to be preserved because of the few righteous.

Hence the Old Testament closes with an announcement of the next great evangelist, John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ.

Our Lord had a balanced ministry as an evangelist. Of His pastoral ministry, He said, "I am the good shepherd." As a teacher, He was termed "a teacher come from God." Concerning His praying ministry, He often spent all night in prayer. He healed all kinds of sickness and disease and even raised the dead. And as an evangelist, "He went about. . ."

An evangelist therefore must be a man of capabilities. Paul was a gifted missionary evangelist in his turn. He preached, taught, and founded churches. There is a poor understanding among many modern-day ministers as regards the work of the ministry. Everyone seems quite satisfied to remain in his little shell claiming one small part of the ministry of Christ for his lifetime service. Some men don't want to teach the Word because, they

DOPE ADDICT FINDS DELIVERANCE IN JESUS CHRIST

ONE MORNING WHEN I WAS 19 A FRIEND CAME BY MY home and left four "bennys." What started out as a dope-induced thrill turned into a horrible nightmare.

After the first year of addiction I found that I would sometimes be taking as many as 30 dope pills a day. For three years I went through a sort of hell on earth and took my family with me.

Today, four years later, I am saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, and mine is the happiest family you could ever imagine.

During my addiction I would take any kind of pill, anything I could buy or steal to make my mind foggy or give me a false feeling of happiness. When I came down off the stuff I would swear never to take it again. But within a few days I was out looking for more.

One day when I had reached the very bottom I mustered all the strength I had to make one last try to live like a decent person. For three months I didn't take dope, but during this time my children were ill, my wife had to have an operation, and things got worse instead of better.

After her operation, my wife became so depressed she no longer smiled or laughed. Her nerves became so bad the doctor said she should not have the responsibility

of caring for the family. Life didn't mean anything to me. Many times I wished I could die.

There was a new man at work one morning. As I listened to him I knew he wasn't like the rest of us. Soon I discovered he was also a minister, the pastor of the Glad Tidings Assembly of God in Lennox, California.

The next Sunday we went to his church. While listening to the sermon I felt I would like to give my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. I did, and He took every burden and care. That same night my wife was saved. She got up from the altar smiling and praising God—leaving all her depression and nerve pills, shame and sorrow behind her.

I had been smoking for eight years but the next day I quit forever. In a few days my wife quit too. A week later I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Since then we have both been baptized in water.

If this story has touched your heart, give God all the glory. Without Him there would be no story, and I would be just another dope addict walking the streets in sin and corruption.—Chester Wilson, Buena Park, California.

(Pastor Calvin Eckard of Glad Tidings Assembly of God, Lennox, California, endorses this testimony.)

say, "I am not a teacher." Some won't obey the Lord's command to every believer to preach because, they say, "I am not a preacher." I fully agree that our experiences as ministers differ one from another, and that according to the Scriptures every minister has his own particular gift, but he should neither overlook nor neglect any part of the ministry.

Here is the thing about an evangelist that makes his call distinct from other calls. He feels compelled. A fire is burning in his soul. He must hurry to take advantage of time. Paul declared, "For necessity is laid upon me . . . a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me" (2 Corinthians 9:16). He feels as if he were the only man preaching the gospel in the whole universe; as if he must personally preach in every home, and to every individual in his generation.

This is the kind of evangelist Jesus was. "I must preach the kingdom in other cities also," He said. And again, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also; for therefore came I forth" (Mark 1:38). He realized that life is an opportunity, and His opportunity was limited by the length of His days. As the Head of the Church He issued this command: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

I was preaching one Sunday morning on the importance of evangelism and said to my audience, "What if the Lord miraculously took my place now in His physical presence, and looking into your eyes gave you the solemn command to go and preach the gospel to every creature—what would you do?" They soberly replied, "We should with trembling launch out to wherever

man may be found, to obey this command word for word." I said, "That is exactly what we ought to do now, for He is watching in silence this very moment to see how we obey His written command."

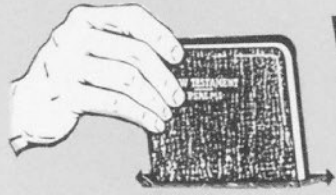
How do you feel about the regions beyond? Have you gone to preach or have you sent a preacher? For how can they hear without one? The lost world cannot find its way to heaven without a preacher. <<<

GYPSY CAMPS

(Continued from page three)

for the coming year, to promote the gypsy work as a whole, and to strengthen the ties with the Assemblies of God. Each day's activities included teaching sessions as well as children's services that reached a high of 60 in attendance. Mrs. Jo Ann Mason was in charge of the children's work, an entirely new venture among them, with very gratifying results. A number of the children were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. Adult services were also blessed of the Lord with similar results.

The outstanding feature of the convention was the New Year's Day service when five brethren were dedicated to the work of evangelism. Each received a letter of recommendation from Harold D. Chaplin and Gayle F. Lewis, executive director of Home Missions. They were: Lawrence Young, Fred Mason, Elmer Mason, James Mason, and Richard Mason. There are other workers in the field, but they were unable to attend the convention. <<<



Walking with the WORD

SCRIPTURE READING FOR MARCH 7-14

Sunday—Psalms 28, 29
Monday—Luke 2
Tuesday—Luke 3
Wednesday—Luke 4

Thursday—Luke 5
Friday—Luke 6
Saturday—Psalm 30
Sunday—Psalm 31

Living FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

(Continued from page five)

ever attitude the servants take, the point is that the master returns unexpectedly, and the servants are rewarded or punished according to their deeds.

How are we getting along with each other? Can the Lord, while He is away, trust us to do His will and be at peace among ourselves?

RELATIONSHIP TO OURSELVES

The parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 deals with the personal life of the Christian in the light of Christ's imminent return. The use of the term "virgin" in this parable applies aptly to the Christian church and is in harmony with the rest of Scripture.

The lamp reminds us that we are "the light of the world," with a responsibility to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." There is a basic principle here and it is that light and purity go hand in hand. The brightness with which we shine is in direct proportion to our purity.

A lamp depends on oil to feed the flame, and oil in the Word is a type of the Holy Spirit. When we were saved, we were "born of the Holy Spirit," "sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise," "baptized into one body by the Spirit," and given "the witness of the Spirit." Now as children of God we are to go a step farther and to "be filled with the Spirit," "walk in the Spirit," and "grieve not the Spirit."

It is as the Holy Spirit remains in our lives, lighting our own way and making us a light to others, that we keep ready for Christ's return. If the light of your spiritual life is burning low, do not despair, but turn to the unfailing source. He will not quench the smoking flax; He will not break a bruised reed. He will heal your backslidings.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD

The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) deals with increase and expansion. Business aims are taken up to their highest level by our Lord, and applied to His kingdom. "We are laborers together with God."

The parable pictures the distribution of the talents "to every man according to his several ability." None is obligated to do more than he is able, but each is to

do what he can with what he has. Two of the servants in the parable seized their opportunity, doing their best with what they had. But one failed tragically, and was rebuked for not trying. Better that our Lord come and find us making every effort to expand His kingdom, no matter how feeble our efforts may be, than that His coming find us producing nothing for fear of failure.

Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). Our attitude toward, and participation in, this worldwide task of witnessing reflects our attitude toward the second coming of Jesus.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come and will not tarry" (Hebrews 10:37).

"Be ye also patient, stablish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:8). ◀◀

INSTANTLY DELIVERED FROM ALCOHOL HABIT THROUGH PRAYER

I STARTED DRINKING WHEN I WAS 17 AND GRADUALLY let alcohol become the center of my life. For 30 years this habit kept me bound. Then God set me free! In September, 1964, I went forward for prayer at the Assembly of God in Bozeman, Montana, and put my full trust for deliverance in the Lord Jesus Christ. The desire for alcohol left immediately and has not returned.

A few weeks ago God gloriously baptized me with the Holy Spirit!

Before God delivered me from alcohol I had tried to quit drinking, but the more I tried the more discouraged I became. It seemed as if I couldn't stay out of the saloons. I lost many jobs because of my drinking. I even attended church often in those years, and many times asked for prayer, but just didn't exercise faith.

I shall always give God praise for this wonderful miracle in my life.—Richard Aldinger, Belegrade, Montana.

(This testimony is endorsed by Alfred Redmond, pastor of the First Assembly of God in Bozeman, Montana, who writes: "Richard Aldinger's deliverance has transformed the entire family. A daughter and son have been saved as a result.")

GROWTH FALLS FROM BODY IN ANSWER TO PRAYER

I HAD A GROWTH ON MY CHEST WHICH THE DOCTOR examined and told me he would have to remove. But I had faith that God could remove it, without surgery.

In the Sunday morning church service when I asked for prayer the pastor laid hands on me and prayed according to the Word of God.

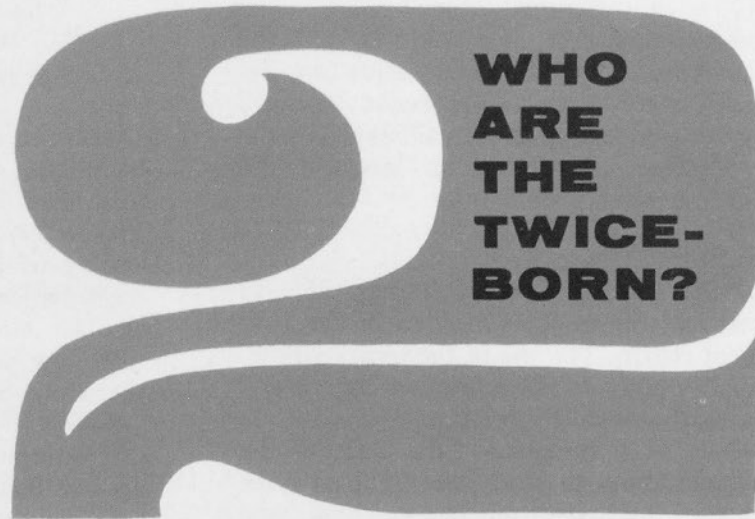
While I was dressing the next day the growth fell from my body. There is no scar today where the growth was. This healing happened February 23, 1964.—Mrs. Evelyn Johnson, Anapolis, Missouri.

(Endorsed by James Bradberry, pastor of the Assembly of God at Vulcan, Missouri.)

they were lost. Those who are living today in any such mistaken self-assurance are lost. There is only one way to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, only one way to be saved. This is not a human opinion, but the ultimatum of the Son of God and the only Saviour of men: "Ye must be born again."

And how can one be born again? Who are the twice born? Nicodemus, amazed, asked the question, "How can a man be born when he is old?" He was given the answer, and there is reason to believe that Nicodemus then or later was born again; that is, was saved.

The secret is a simple one: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." We receive the nature of our human parents; and, no matter how attractive and admirable their nature may have been from every human standpoint, in itself it is corruptible and sinful, partaking of the ruin caused by the sin of Adam, the father of the race. In the second birth, received only by faith in Christ as Saviour, we receive the divine



MR. MOODY USED TO SAY THAT IF YOU HAVE BEEN born only once, you will die twice; but if you have been born twice, you will die only once. Strange as it may sound, the statement is true. For every human being there are just two alternatives—the second birth or the second death.

A New York preacher wrote a book with the challenging title, *Twice Born Ministers*. He said that even ministers may need to be born again, and can be, to the utter transforming of their lives and their ministry. But long before him a theologian of the first century was startled by being told, "Ye must be born again." His name was Nicodemus, a proud Pharisee, "a master of Israel," and he was stunned when the Lord Jesus Christ addressed those words to him. Christ actually told him that he could not enter the Kingdom of God unless he was born again. Being a member of the Sanhedrin, a high religious council, could not save him; only the new birth.

From that day to this men have needed the same truth and the same experience. From that day to this there have been vast multitudes of "good" people, moral people, reputable and self-respecting people, members of Christian churches and of many other religious organizations, who have assured themselves that their respectable lives and their religious profession were all they needed for eternal life—and all the time, like Nicodemus,

nature, the nature of God Himself. The first birth is natural; the second birth is supernatural.

The twice born are "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." The very life of God is given to all those who, with childlike faith, receive His Son as their Saviour. God's life is given to us in His Son. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The Bible says, "God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

There are six things the new birth is not. It is not natural birth. It is not joining or attending a church. It is not learning Bible truths. It is not a resolve to do one's duty. It is not culture. It is not outward reformation of life. All these things may be good; some are vitally important; but none of them is the new birth.

There is an almost unbelievably wonderful promise to all those who have come to Christ for the new birth. There are family likenesses in our human relationships; there is a family likeness in the divine relationship. To all who have been *born again* the apostle John writes: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." —*Words of Peace*