

NOVEMBER 10, 1968 TEN CENTS



Who can measure the influence of one life fully abandoned to the Lord? Read the story, "God's Man on Death Row," page 2.

FILE COPY

# GUD'S TODAY IS PRISON SUNDAY Sponsored by the Prison Division of the National Home Missions Department

An anonymous Assemblies of God prison chaplain shares some incidents of his work which portray the rewarding results of prison ministry. "I'll be waiting over there to say good morning," an inmate about to be executed said to him.

WAS AWAKENED SUDDENLY in the early morning of January 14, 1964, with the feeling that someone was in my room. As I reached over to turn on the light, the Spirit of God spoke to me and said, "I have work for you in \_\_\_\_\_ Prison."

Since I had had no previous experience in prison work, I knew I would have to rely wholly on the leading of the Holy Spirit. Three days later God let me know that I was to minister on death row.

As I entered death row for the first time, I had the feeling this was God's will for my life. Here were 16 men from all walks of life, all sentenced to die in the electric chair. I preached a simple message anointed by the Spirit, and God began to work.

The first few trips to the prison were anything but pleasant. Some laughed and told jokes while I preached. Others made peculiar noises and rattled steel bars. At first some of the religious literature I gave them was misused, and they scorned my concern. I'll have to admit that doubt came into my heart. Silently I prayed, "Is this what You want me to do?"

Then the Lord spoke to my heart, and I settled it once and for all. I would follow the leading of the Holy Spirit regardless of the circumstances in which I found myself and regardless of how the inmates treated me.

Three weeks passed, and suddenly the tide turned in the other direction. As I was preaching on the row, an inmate interrupted the service to ask me to pray for him. I immediately stopped preaching and prayed. With tears streaming down his cheeks, that man prayed for God to help him and was gloriously saved. From that moment the Holy Spirit was in control. During the next 10 weeks all 16 inmates on death row were saved, and three received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The revival which broke out on death row reached other men who were confined to the "hole." The warden asked me to visit the "hole" and preach to these less-privileged men. In the next few weeks many of them were saved.

All the inmates on death row now had Bibles, and they began to have all-night prayer meetings and testimony services. One man read the entire Bible in five weeks. All the men with any education at all began to take the study courses furnished by the Prison Division of the Home Missions Department, and some made high grades.

In the midst of this great move of God, a change seemed to come over the entire prison. Men appeared to be more friendly as I passed them in the halls on my way to death row.

A convicted murderer who had spent almost four years on death row was to be executed on September 4, 1964. He was gloriously saved July 26, 1964, and received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The warden called me to this inmate's cell on September 4. He was to die at midnight.

When I arrived, the guards politely opened the door for me. Though only four hours away from death, the man was lying on his bunk fast asleep with his Bible on his chest. I awakened him, and we spent the next three hours reading the Bible and praying.

The barber came at 11:30 p.m. to shave his head, and the inmate witnessed to him and the guards. Then they closed the door, and we were left alone for the last 10 minutes. He spent those final minutes praying for God to anoint me and take care of me. He wasn't worried about himself!

Then the warden knocked on the door. Everything became perfectly still. I could feel death in the air. The guards opened the door, and the warden said kindly, "I'm sorry, but this is the end." With the warden holding the inmate's left arm and me holding his right arm, we took the last 13 steps between time and eternity. The condemned man needed no assistance, however. He walked calmly to the *chair*.

After the straps were firmly in place, the inmate told everyone good-bye. Turning to see me he said, "Brother —, everything is all right now. I'll be waiting over there to say good morning." As I was reciting the Twenty-third Psalm, they gave the signal. My Christian brother, who had been serving the Lord for only 40 days, went to meet his God. I'll never forget that night—a man filled with the Spirit calmly walking to the electric chair, wearing a smile frozen by the hand of death.

Two months later guards ushered another inmate into the same holding cell to spend his last hours. While on death row this resident also became a wonderful Christian with a ringing testimony. On the night of January 15, 1965, we followed the same procedure as when the former inmate occupied this same cell in September.

When the warden knocked on the door to tell the inmate time was up, the man sprang to his feet as if coming to attention and rushed through the door. I had to run to catch him! "Slow down," I said. "Do you realize you are hurrying to your death?"

He stopped in his tracks and said, "But you don't understand. Just think, there won't be any more steel bars to look through, no more long nights and long days, no more worry, and no more aches and pains. In a few moments I'll be Home, thank God."

The inmate hurried to the chair and sat down unassisted. He pulled off his shoes and laid them to one side. He buckled the straps around his ankles, knees, and waist. He laid his left arm on the armrest of the chair and buckled it down with his right hand.

All this time the guards were standing there watching him as if they were in a trance. Never had they seen a man fasten himself in the chair like this! Then the man told the person in charge to buckle his right arm and his head.

The warden asked the condemned man if he had anything to say before the sentence of the law was carried out. Yes, he had. For the next two minutes beautiful, comforting, assuring words flowed from this man's lips. He told how God had saved him and filled him with the Holy Spirit. Looking first at the guards standing close by, then at the news reporters, and then toward the warden, he said, "Warden, you are not killing me. You are sending me *Home*. I feel sorry for you to have to be left here to live in a world of sin, but if you will repent and confess Christ, all of you can meet me in glory."

He then turned and looked toward me (as I stood some

three feet away) and asked whether the doctors were there to get his eyes. I assured him they were. He smiled sweetly.

They dropped the black hood over his face, and soon he was gone. A few minutes later he was unstrapped and placed on a stretcher.

I walked softly ahead of the lifeless body down the flight of stairs, through the hallway to the outer gate. As I passed the warden's office, I noticed he was leaning on his desk with his head in his hands.

Attendants wheeled the body away. I had lost a Christian brother. A convicted murderer had paid his debt to society, but God had saved his soul. The man died for his crime but left something to help others. The gift of his eyes made it possible for two blind people to see. A 77year-old man received one cornea and the other went to an 11-year-old girl. This young girl is now attending school and making excellent progress.

I retraced my steps to the warden's office and found him still sobbing. I gently laid my hand on his head and prayed that God would comfort him. Through teardimmed eyes he looked up at me and said, "I hope I never live to see another man executed." One year later this warden died of a heart attack.

Two weeks before the execution the governor had talked with the inmate, inquiring whether or not he was correctly charged with the crime of murder. The condemned man stated he was guilty as charged and said he knew in making this statement he was removing all possibility of commutation of his sentence to life imprisonment instead of execution.

The governor called my home several times that night trying to reach me. When I returned home at 3 a.m. he called again, inquiring about the condemned man's last moments. I informed him of the calm manner in which he faced execution. The governor could not understand how this could be possible. He said he himself had been so nervous he could hardly stand it. I assured him only God can take away the fear and sting of death.

The year 1966 was a different story. God answered prayer after prayer. Condemned men were given new trials. Some received lighter sentences. Three who were set free are today spreading the Word of the Lord.

If I had two lives I would give them both in prison work! In 1966 I had a heart attack, and my doctor told me I should never preach in prison again if I expected to live. But God healed me, and I am well and healthy, enjoying the blessings of God.

In these short four and one-half years I have seen 26 inmates on death row get saved, nine of whom received the Baptism. What greater joy could there be than to hear these men sing the praises of God, to hear them testify, to see them pray and shed tears of joy? This is my life, my all—and all I have is dedicated to do the will of God.

*Editor's Note*: Prison ministry is promoted by the National Home Missions Department. Bible correspondence courses for prisoners are sent free on request to inmates of county, state, and federal prisons. Many prisoners have found Christ through studying these books. It costs the Prison Division approximately \$10 to supply the courses for one prisoner.

Churches or individuals desiring to engage in some type of prison ministry may write to the Prison Division for information and helps.

#### Going Beyond the Walls

WITHIN THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS of this country there is one of the most fertile mission fields of the world. Some of the people incarcerated in these places may be considered incorrigible but the Scriptures tell us there are no human lives so wicked-either inside the walls or outside-that they cannot be redeemed and renewed by the gospel of Christ.

The story on the preceding pages of this Evangel is typical of the miracles God can and does perform among hardened criminals through workers filled with the Spirit and the love of Christ.

Prison populations are growing constantly, and citizens have reason for alarm at the growth of lawlessness. The fact that crime in the U.S. rose 21 percent during the first six months of this year over the same period last year points up the need for more evangelism and Bible training in all strata of society. The object of our witness and prayer should be to keep people from breaking the law-to prevent rather than to cure-but we must not think of the people outside the walls to the exclusion of the many thousands beyond those walls who are now serving sentences for their crimes. Many of these are ignorant of the gospel and that is why they are in trouble. They need to be reached and led to Christ who can cleanse from guilt and liberate from sin,

If they do not find Christ while in prison, it is highly probable that they will get in trouble a second time. The problem of repeaters is causing great concern at the present time. The FBI has been investigating this in recent years. For example, 17,876 offenders who were released from prison in 1963 were traced and it was found that 60 percent of them were back in prison by the end of 1967.

Penologists admit they are frustrated. In spite of all their educational and sociological efforts to rehabilitate the prisoners, they cannot overcome this tendency of many former criminals to revert again and again to violating the laws. If men and women are to be changed it must be through Christ and the Word and the Spirit of God. That is why the Prison Division of the Assemblies of God is working to take the gospel beyond the walls. It is seeking to enlist ministers for this field of service, and the number is growing. There are now 28 Assemblies of God ministers serving full-time or part-time as chaplains in correctional institutions. One of these is a woman in a women's prison. Her tenure as prison chaplain is longer than that of any other woman chaplain. God is doing marvellous things through these workers.

The Prison Division works closely with chaplains of all denominations. It works also with lay leaders in the institutions. Many prisoners, after being converted, have organized their fellow-inmates into Bible-study classes. The Prison Division sends large quantities of Bibles, songbooks, and gospel literature (including the Evangel and its Spanish equivalent *Poder*) into the prisons.

The Bible courses written especially for prisoners by Arvid Ohrnel and Paul Markstrom are filling a great need. Men and women in 240 different institutions are studying these courses, hiding God's Word in their hearts that when they are released they may not sin against the Lord. Some 20,000 courses were sent out last year.

Will you pray for this ministry? God is pouring out His Spirit in many institutions. Pray that this saving work may continue, and pray that more workers from local churches may go beyond the walls to tell redemption's story in county jails. -r.c.c.

## PENTECOS

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## FOUNDATION OF EFFECTUAL PRAYER

By ERNEST S. WILLIAMS Former General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God

N THESE LAST DAYS, filled with turmoil and crises, the need of effectual prayer is being felt by the church. Pastors and laymen, sincere children of God, have the desire to pray more often and more effectively. Reading books on prayer—knowing theories—will not *create* prayer. Our souls need to be stimulated afresh to *seek* the Lord Himself.

The foundation of prayer is our Lord Jesus Christ: His person and His work. "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Ephesians 2:18).

"That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (John 15:16). As without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins, so apart from the shedding of blood there is no access to God in effectual prayer.

In Old Testament times the high priest only could enter into the holy of holies once a year. There the Shekinah glory of the Lord dwelt. It was a solemn and sacred approach. Access was made possible only by the blood which he carried in and sprinkled on the mercy seat.

The high priest was the only one who could enter the holiest of all in the tabernacle. The sacrifice of Christ was required to provide free access by *all* to the Father. When Jesus died, the veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom. Since then each cleansed believer has free access to God.

In our prayer life we are assuming the role of priests: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood . . . that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Priests must be clean. Before the priests of Aaron could enter the holy place, they first had to pass the brazen laver. Its surface reflected any defilement, and they had to wash their hands and feet in the water there. The Christian's laver is God's Word. "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:25).

Before prayer can be effectual our walk and our works must be cleansed. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18). If we bear ill will toward any, we must forgive before we can pray effectively. "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any" (Mark 11:25). Domestic relationships also must be kept on a plane of sanctification and honor. "that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7).

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully" (Psalm 24:3, 4).

Although our hearts be right, we may have times when it seems most difficult to pray. The prayer of Daniel was hindered for three weeks, but he was persistent. It would seem that even the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane was hindered until He made supplication the third time. We must not depend on how we feel. Our dependence must be on the atoning blood of Christ. It was His power which rent the veil; and since Calvary, free access to God has remained.

Satan will do all in his power to hinder a life of prayer. We must resist him in faith, wait for the answer if necessary, and trust in the merits of our Redeemer.

I remember well an occasion at a camp meeting when it seemed impossible for me to pray through. I had been in the woods trying to pray, but had met with no success. As I returned to the tabernacle, God flashed through my mind and heart the promise: "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Immediately I saw that it was not by how I felt, but entirely by what Jesus had provided, that I had access to God. With this came a wonderful sense of victory and prevailing prayer.

We need grace to persist if we are to pray effectively, but we need also a correct understanding of the foundation of prayer. This foundation is Christ and His work on Calvary. May our Heavenly Father help us to discern this truth and enable us to pray as we ought.



#### EXCITEMENT IN Alton

At the site of the former Standard Oil Company service station, Pastor Owen C. Carr (left) shakes hands with W. J. Garner, district manager for Standard Oil Division of American Oil Company. Others in the group are (left to right): David Carr, youth pastor; Dwain Grell (partially hidden), assistant pastor; Leland Hendrix, deacon; Robert Yungck, architect; Barry Serrafin, CBS news; and a cameraman.

#### By JULEEN TURNAGE

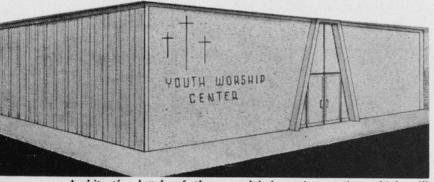
**XCITEMENT AND. EXPECTATION filled the air as the** congregation of Edwards Street Assembly, Alton, Illinois, gathered for church on September 8.

Pastor Owen C. Carr had stressed for several weeks that everyone would certainly want to be present on that day because something very exciting was going to happen. He said it would be carried in the newspapers and possibly receive national television coverage!

And as the congregation arrived, they saw the television cameras being wheeled into place.

For many months prior to this time, there had been a burden on the hearts of the pastors and church leaders to open a center for youth ministry. A piece of property away from the church seemed most desirable for such a center.

An abandoned Standard Oil Company service station



Architect's sketch of the remodeled service station which will be used for a youth center. Bible classes, vacation Bible school, after-school story hours will be conducted here by the youth of Edwards Street Assembly.

on a choice corner near a large housing project was spotted as a possible site.

Pastor Carr says, "We stood on the property and prayed that if this were God's will for us He would preserve the property until such time as we could appeal to the proper authorities, through the proper channels, to see the project come to fruition."

In the morning services on September 8, the Standard Oil Company *donated* this \$45,000 property to the Edwards Street Assembly for this proposed youth project. The keys and title to the property were given to the church at that time by a representative of the company. It was the first time Standard Oil ever made this kind of gift to any church!

There was one condition on which the property was given—that the outside of the building must be completely changed within 90 days so it would not have the appearance of a service station.

Of the \$10,000 needed for renovating the facility, the members of the church pledged nearly \$7,000 in the services that morning.

But as wonderful as was this gift and the subsequent offering, the most exciting event was yet to take place!

The pastor reminded his young people, "Standard Oil has expressed its faith in you by giving you this station as a base of operation. . . Your church has just expressed its faith in you with an offering of nearly \$7,000. Jesus Christ expressed His faith in you when He committed the gospel to you and . . . gave you the Holy Spirit."

He then called for those who were willing to dedicate

their lives to Christ for this ministry to their generation to come forward. Soon the front of the church was filled with young people weeping in God's presence as they dedicated their lives for this ministry. The entire congregation experienced a wonderful move of the Spirit.

After the service, a car caravan made the three-mile trip to the station to view the gift.

The property includes a large lot with 200-foot frontage on Elm Street, similar frontage on Henry Street, and an empty service station building.

The program to be launched in these facilities will be slanted solely to youth. It will not be a recreation or social center, but a place where young people can share their

HE BIBLE MAKES FERVOR an essential quality of effective prayer. James 5:16 states, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

You will recall that:

Abraham's servant prayed-Rebekah appeared.

Joseph prayed-he was delivered from the Egyptian prison.

Moses prayed—Amelek was discomforted; Israel triumphed.

Joshua prayed—the sun stood still; victory was gained. Hannah prayed—Samuel was born.

Asa prayed-Israel gained a glorious victory.

Jehoshaphat prayed-God turned away His anger.

Elijah prayed—the cloud appeared, and rains descended upon the parched earth.

Elisha prayed—the waters of the Jordan divided; a child was restored to life.

Hezekiah prayed-184,000 attacking Assyrians died.

He prayed again—the sundial was turned back, and his life prolonged.

Mordecai prayed—Haman was hanged; the Jews were spared.

Ezra prayed-the walls of Jerusalem began to rise.

Paul and Silas prayed—the prison shook, the doors opened, and each man's bonds were loosed.

Prayer, to be effective, must be fervent. Uncage a lark and let it fly into the air, let it mount and sing until it is out of sight; yet it cannot always rise. It will soon be battered and beaten back by the winds and so will sink with weary wings to the earth. The eagle may soar skyward; it may mount on its strong pinions and tower far above the mountains; but its daring ascent will find its limit and even the eagle will return to its nest in the rock.

But send up a prayer—a fervent prayer—and nothing can hold it back. It will rise above the hills, above the clouds, and go directly to the throne of God. Neither the stars in their courses, nor the wandering winds, nor the prince of the power of the air can prevent it from reaching its destination.

Prayer has been called the guardian of health, a staff to the limbs that totter, a mine of jewels to the poor, a healer of diseases, a haven to the storm-tossed sailor. A fervent prayer is all of these.

In December 1946 a United States senator related this incident. He said he was going by ship from Charleston to Wilmington on his first trip to Washinglives with others. The church youth will conduct Bible classes, vacation Bible school, after-school story hours, and street meetings for children and young people who are not now being reached with the gospel.

The station itself will be covered with vertical planking of rough sawed cedar and an imitation stone front, with large double doors. The gas pump islands will be made into elevated flower beds.

The renovating will be done primarily by volunteer labor. Supervised by qualified personnel, the youth of the church will invest their time and talents in this work.

The project is scheduled for completion this month (by Thanksgiving).

ton. The ship was caught in a severe storm that rendered her unmanageable. After 48 hours at sea, the captain pronounced her lost.

While the boat was aimlessly rolling, the senator called everyone together and suggested that they become acquainted so that if anyone reached land he could report on the fate of the others.

An elderly Negro woman interrupted with, "Sir, this is not a time for introductions; you had better pray."

The senator answered sadly, "I cannot; but you pray, if you can."

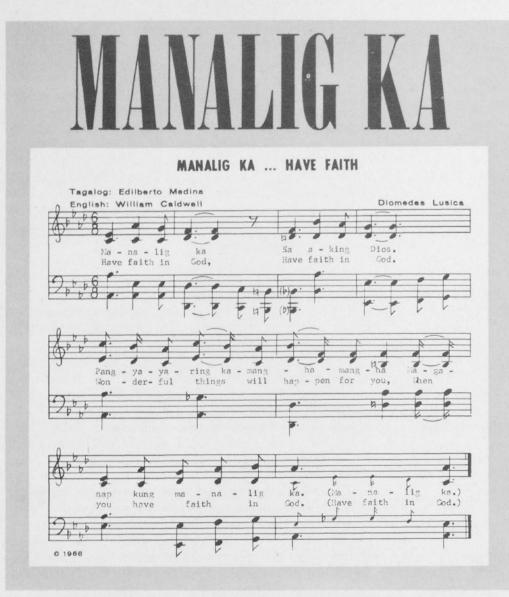
Instantly she knelt and poured out a fervent prayer to God for their deliverance. A few minutes later the lights of a rescue steamer were sighted, and they were all saved.

The captain of the steamer later stated that he had been on the verge of turning back when an inner force compelled him to continue the search for a while longer. The fervent prayer of the woman had brought help.

Fervent prayer and praise have brought victory throughout the ages. Such fervor was Jacob's at Peniel when he wrestled with the angel and would not be denied the blessing he sought. Such was the prayer of Moses when more than once he interceded with God to spare the people of Israel. Such was David's prayer when supplicating pardon for himself or pleading against impending evils. Such was the Syrophoenician woman's prayer when she besought Jesus to deliver her daughter from demonic power.

Such too should be the fervor of our prayers. Then they will reach heaven and bring peace upon our souls.





#### GOOD NEWS CRUSADE SUCCESSFUL IN SINGAPORE-LIGHT-FOR-THE-LOST 1968 TARGET CITY

#### By FRED SEAWARD / Missionary to Singapore

A S THE THEME CHORUS of the GOOD NEWS CRUSADE sounds across Singapore, we continue to praise God for guiding in the direction that led to Singapore being designated as the Light-for-the-Lost target city for 1968.

Never before had anything been attempted here on so great a scale by the Pentecostals. Singapore has given its greatest response to the full-gospel message and testimony.

We who serve the Lord in this field have felt that the days may be numbered for such a project in the future. The problems of internal and external security that face this small but very important nation are certain to be intensified by the complete withdrawal of British armed forces within the next two years.

The vacuum being created by this move must be filled by the gospel of

Christ. So we were understandably thrilled when the news came that the Men's Fellowship of the Assemblies of God would provide \$10,000 in Lightfor-the-Lost funds for a saturation literature thrust and that Good News CRUSADES would assist in a campaign.

In our prayerful deliberation as to a crusade site, we felt we should try to secure the large National Theatre, best known of all Singapore meeting places for cultural events. Open air, but with all seats under a roof, this beautiful auditorium is readily accessible to all parts of the city.

Naturally, it is booked for months in advance, and rarely is it possible to engage the hall for a full week. Yet God worked it out for us to reserve the building for seven consecutive nights, even providing for the climaxing service to be on a Sunday.

From the beginning we hoped to

have Evangelist William Caldwell as our speaker. Then we learned he would be engaged in crusades in other places in Southeast Asia and would be available the time for which we had booked the National Theatre.

For the first time all the Pentecostal churches here united in prayer, fellowship, and action. Besides the 10 Assemblies of God churches, there were four assemblies of the Finnish Free Foreign Mission and four other churches.

There were three united prayer meetings with all the churches. An intensive, round-the-clock prayer chain began one week before and continued throughout the crusade. A day of fasting and prayer was observed the day before the first service.

In the initial phase of the overall literature thrust, 142,000 gospel leaflets and 60,000 tracts were handed out, each bearing a notice of the crusade.

A number of Brother Caldwell's books were sent to the Protestant ministers of the city, together with an invitation to cooperate with us by prayer and attendance.

Light-for-the-Lost provided a copy of the Book of Acts and the Gospel of John for each new convert, together with a Scripture memorization guide and a card to enroll in a correspondence course.

When the counseling room was set up backstage, 200 chairs were considered more than enough for the converts and counselors. The people of Singapore were known to be slow to respond to an altar call—even hesitant about raising their hands in public, with the older people being unusually difficult to reach with the gospel.

Even the first service was outstanding. After the sermon, as Brother Caldwell gave the invitation, the people surged forward and overflowed the counseling room. For the second night the counseling area was enlarged, and 300 additional chairs were used.

Special Offerings for FOREIGN MISSIONS should be sent to: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD Foreign Missions Department 1445 Boonville Avenue Springfield, Missouri 65802



William Caldwell (standing, center) surveys the counseling room at the Good News Crusade.

Well over a thousand of those who came forward in response to the altar calls returned decision cards. The total number responding must have been much higher as the newspaper, traditionally conservative in estimates, reported that 500 or more came forward in one evening alone.

The services were interpreted into Chinese—the first three in Cantonese, the next three in Kokkien. In the final service Brother Caldwell used two interpreters.

The prayer room was divided into sections for English-, Hokkien-, Cantonese-, and Mandarin-speaking people. Others were counseled in Tamil, Malay, and other languages.

All religions of the city were represented among the seekers in the prayer room, including Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Taoists, and many Buddhists.

As the ministers joined Brother Caldwell in praying individually for large numbers of sick people, scores of deaf mutes received healing, plus those who were blind, paralyzed, or suffering from many ailments.

One night Brother Caldwell praved

RIGHT: The beautiful National Theatre was the site of the Singapore Good News Crusade. BELOW: A woman previously blind touches Brother Caldwell's nose as proof of her healing.

for two Indian sisters who were born deaf mutes. Both heard and spoke. Three nights later Mrs. Seaward encountered the girls, and both were still able to hear and repeat words clearly.

A Buddhist taxi driver told a pastor's wife that one of his friends, a lifelong deaf mute, was able now to hear and speak.

Brother Caldwell also ministered daily at morning seminars dealing with the baptism and gifts of the Spirit. In spite of his busy schedule, preaching and ministering in churches, public schools, and elsewhere, Brother Caldwell would go with pastors to visit the sick and needy in hospitals and homes.

Many people expressed appreciation for Brother Caldwell's preaching ministry.

There were no lengthy or embarrassing appeals for money. Offering containers were passed through the congregation at only two services, while on several other nights offering boxes were placed at the gates for those desiring to leave an offering. One man who did not attend a Pentecostal church gave a check for one thousand Singapore dollars (\$330 U.S. currency) toward the expenses.

Perhaps the most unusual and beneficial part of the crusade was the follow-up program. Brother Caldwell stayed on for three additional weeks to minister in the 18 sponsoring churches.

At most meetings the crowds overflowed the churches. People standing outside would seek to enter for the altar call. Therefore, instead of the people scattering after the Good NEWS CRUSADE in the National Theatre, they were drawn into the churches. Additional huundreds received Christ, and God wrought many more miracles.

One new church, which held its first service after the meetings in National Theatre, had already reached its seating capacity within three weeks.

This is but the beginning of the Singapore GOOD NEWS CRUSADE; it still continues in literature saturation and intensified zeal in spreading the gospel.

From the happy people of the Singapore crusade, we convey thanks to those who did so much to make it possible.







## WMC'S ADVANCE

MEMBERS OF THE Women's Missionary Council know there are "two sides of the coin." Perhaps that is why their funds go so far. The reasoning could be that "if one side is designated for the needs of everyday life, might not the other be for the work of the Lord?"

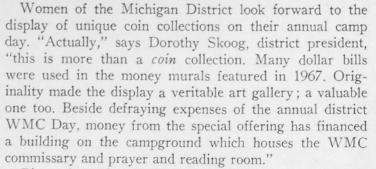
Every year WMC members turn huge collections of pennies and dimes into church property, buildings, furnishings—whatever is needed most for advancing the gospel. Using money hats, coin murals, sugar bowls, fruit jars, corsages, and floats fit for a miniature Rose Parade to gather the little pieces of money makes the project an exciting ministry.

Montana's WMC's drop a dime per member per week into a fruit jar for their savings plan called simply, "Money for Missions." In 10 years contents of the jars helped to provide places of worship for 10 missions congregations.

South Dakota WMC's at one time gave \$1,000 in their "Pioneer Penny March" toward the purchase of property for the American Indian church in Mobridge.

The women of North Dakota use floats and skits to promote coin collections that have helped buy church pews and building lots. The money is often divided among sections of the district according to current needs.

In 13 years Ohio home missions churches divided an offering of \$22,000 in WMC coins.



*Pioneering with Christ*, theme of WMC functions at the 1968 North Carolina District Council, is more than a slogan to members of the Women's Missionary Council of the state. It is a motto for ministry.

Coin collections displayed on WMC Day at North Dakota Camp.





ARLA STRADER, seven-year-old Prim of Lakeland, Florida, is the first Primary Missionette to receive the Miriam Award for outstanding courage. Her fast thinking helped prevent a tragedy last July 4.

The incident occurred when the Strader family was invited to enjoy a boating holiday with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jones and their five-year-old son Jeffy. The two families were sitting in the Jones' boat when a speedboat came too close and swamped the Jones' boat. Before the Joneses and Straders could move away, another boat came along and flipped over the boat occupied by the two families.

When the boat turned over, the Joneses and Straders were thrown clear. Mrs. Strader held on to her younger daughter Dawn. But Karla and Jeffy were trapped beneath the canvas-topped boat for more than 10 minutes. During that time Karla held Jeffy's hand and urged him to tighten his grip on the underside of the boat with its pocket of air. Finally they were rescued by two naval reservists.

An article written by Karla's father, Karl D. Strader, pastor of First Assembly in Lakeland, Florida, appeared in the August 25 issue of *The Pentecostal Evangel*. In that article he told of a number of people who were impressed to pray for the Straders and Joneses before the time of the accident and how God answered their prayers.

Karla received the Miriam Award during a special service in her honor at First Assembly on October 9. Mrs. J. Foy Johnson, Peninsular Florida District WMC president, made the presentation in behalf of the National WMC Department.

Mrs. Judd Hetrick, Karla's sponsor, reports she is an eager Prim, having earned her third achievement badge. Karla helps her mother in the home, and is an active witness for the Lord.

One hot day last summer she took cold drinks and cookies to construction workers across the street. Along with the refreshments she included colorful tracts entitled, *Where Is Happiness?* It was quite a sight to see five men stop for a cold drink, homemade cookies, and to read the tract ending with, "Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he." Karla keeps an assortment of gospel tracts in her room to use whenever possible. Within a two-year span (1966-67) women of the district saved \$2,000 to purchase their first mobile parsonage for the new church in Greenville.

"Having this good housing was the deciding factor in our being able to stay in the city to establish a church," said Mrs. Donald Hicks, wife of the pioneer pastor. "Other suitable living quarters were not available at a price we could pay." Today Greenville has a permanent church building and a WMC group that is saving coins to help another new field.

In 1968 Mrs. Esther Cookman, district WMC president, challenged local WMC groups to provide \$2,000 in one year so that a mobile home could be placed in a second area without a full-gospel witness. The pioneer spirit

Ohio WMC's with money corsages.





Pioneer Pastor and Mrs. John Belamy, Rockingham, N. C., live in the second mobile home purchased by the North Carolina WMC's.

burst into flame with an offering of \$2,786—exceeding the goal. The mobile unit is being used as a parsonage in Rockingham, where Pastor and Mrs. John Belamy say, "Our congregation has increased from 14 to 35 in four weeks."

Biennial rotation of the mobile homes gives each new assembly the opportunity to "get on its feet" and at the same time makes it possible to continually reach new frontiers.

The North Carolina District hopes to have 100 Assemblies of God churches (eight more) by its 25th anniversary in June 1969. To help with the intensive effort to advance, WMC's are squeezing the budget for extra coins to buy a portable tabernacle to pair off with the mobile parsonage.

Pennies, dimes, or dollars—put them in the coffers of the WMC's and the women will use them to advance the gospel until Jesus comes.

PRIMS



Prims from Bethel Assembly in Springfield, Mo., enjoy singing to a shut-in.

Karla Strader receiving Miriam Award from Mrs. J. Foy Johnson, Peninsular Florida District WMC President. Also pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Karl Strader and Prims sponsor, Mrs. Judd Hetrick.



Susan Lankford (left), Hobbs, N. Mex., displays a welcome sign used by her Prims club. More than 350 Prims clubs have been organized this year with about 4,000 members.

Missionettes from Northside Assembly, Springfield, Mo., display a notion doll they made for a missionary.





#### RAISING THE WIDOW'S SON

Sunday School Lesson for November 17, 1968 BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

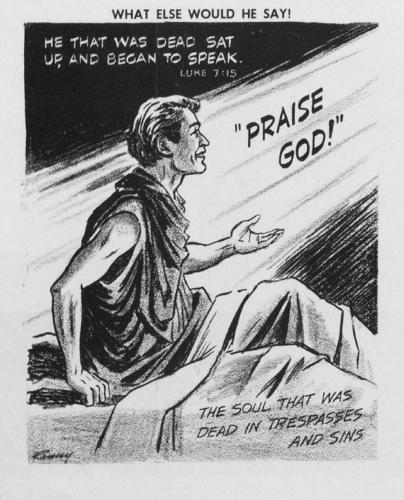
#### LUKE 7:11-17

THE RAISING OF THE WIDOW'S SON was indeed marvelous, but the event was prophetic of something far greater. Someday, perhaps soon, Christ shall appear again on the human scene. Then all the righteous of all time who are in the graves will be resurrected.

The widow's son, raised to natural life, later died again. At Christ's coming the righteous shall be raised to heavenly life to die no more! The lesser miracle in our lesson points to the greater miracle to come.

No situation is so hopeless as to preclude a miracle (vv. 11, 12). As Christ entered the town of Nain, He met a funeral procession on its way to the burial place. A poor widow had lost her only son. Her hopelessness can scarcely be equaled, yet Christ was sufficient for her. And He is still able to resurrect lost hopes, replace them by better ones, and intervene in hopeless situations.

No greater desire could have motivated the miracle. On this occasion Christ was not seeking to demonstrate



any particular truth; nor was He especially endeavoring to establish His divine authority; nor did the miracle begin with a plea from the sorrowing widow. "When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her." Here was the mighty motivating force behind all bodily healings Christ performed. How often the Gospel writers spoke of His compassion.

He has never changed. Today He is no less desirous of ministering to human suffering, sin, and sickness. Furthermore, His Word contains special promises for widows. (See Deuteronomy 10:17, 18; 14:29; 24:19, 20; Psalm 146:9; 1 Timothy 5:3, 5, 16; James 1:27.) Christ must certainly long for the members of His body on earth to be motivated by His compassion in their ministry to others.

No barriers could successfully prevent the miracle. "And he came and touched the bier." Then, as now, a funeral procession was entitled to the right of way, but Christ dared to hold it up. Not only so, but in touching the bier on which the dead lay, He violated Jewish custom and tradition and was guilty of defiling Himself. As in the case of the woman at the well, and in His eating with publicans and sinners, Jesus allowed no barriers such as race, color, creed, tradition, or public opinion to prevent Him from ministering to those in need. Oh, that this might be said of all Christians!

No faith on the part of anyone else occasioned the miracle. There is no mention of the widow's faith. The compassion and faith of Christ alone produced the healing. This fact should encourage us. We may receive healing or, for that matter, any spiritual blessing—as the result of our own faith, or as the result of others praying with us. It may be a result of the corporate faith of many believers. In any case the responsibility does not rest solely with us. We are members of the body of Christ and, as such, receive help from the rest of the body.

No simpler methods could have been employed to effect so spectacular a miracle. "And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak." The late Myer Pearlman, commenting upon the event, said: "In sleep there is a certain interruption of body and soul, but the voice of a man suffices to reestablish the connection; death is the complete separation of the body and the soul, but the voice of the Lord can reestablish that connection. Christ arouses from the bier as easily as another arouses from the bed."

No reactions could have been more disappointing than those which followed the miracle (vv. 15-17). Christ restored the boy to his mother, thus reminding the onlookers of Elijah and Elisha who performed similar miracles. It was right that a sense of reverential awe should seize the people. It was right that they should glorify God for such a miraculous display of God's love and power. Every healing Christ performed was to the end that the recipient should glorify God and thereafter walk with Him. The disappointing thing was that they went no farther than this. They recognized Him only as a great prophet like Elijah and Elisha, and not as their promised Messiah.

Christ is still calling all men, and especially young men, to arise from death in sin to walk in newness of life and service with Him. Uncompassionate Christians are a contradiction in terms.



By DONALD A. CALVIN Youth Director, Calvary Gospel Church Arlington, Virginia

HEN I ACCEPTED CHRIST at the age of 14, it was through the pleading of a soul winner at my side. It was not his words that moved me, but his weeping. I understood his tears more than his words.

Tears speak a language all their own. They cry out, "I care!" Without them, men are not always moved by the gospel. With them, heart doors are opened that otherwise would remain closed.

In 1953 when I attended Southwestern Assemblies of God College in Waxahachie, Texas, I listened to an instructor in an Old Testament class. I have forgotten much of what he said, but I shall never forget his tears. He taught from a contrite heart.

This instructor had been a missionary to India where he had acquired a deep love for the souls of mankind. Many times he wept as he taught us the Scriptures. I had just returned from military service in Korea with a rather flippant attitude toward spiritual things. My entire attitude was changed through this good man's "language of tears."

I listened to a soloist sing at Bible college. It was not the song she sang, but the feeling she put into it that moved our hearts. Tears flowed down her face as she sang of Christ the Saviour.

In 1967 I heard a pioneer pastor speak of his attempts to establish a church in a difficult California suburb. His burden was communicated to the congregation that day through tears. As a result, I was moved to carry a burden for that work.

"Tears are the windows of the soul." They give an insight words cannot convey. They are the emotions of the heart, denoting a depth of feeling that perhaps cannot be expressed in any other way.

"Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" (Jeremiah 9:1). A church without tears is a church without heart. How can children of God remain dry-eyed in a world of dying men? Love and concern need to be punctuated with tears to show we "really care." Uncompassionate Christians are a contradiction in terms.

Paul was a man whose great love moved him to weep. Moses was acquainted with tears. David prayed from a contrite heart touched by the presence of God.

The *language* of a contrite spirit, a "broken heart," is a powerful one. The Holy Spirit uses our tears of compassion. Let us pray for a tender heart which can be touched with the feeling of men's infirmities and be ready to "weep o'er the erring one."



Are we doing right when we indulge in little sins, yet say we are ready for heaven?

We ought not to indulge in anything we know to be wrong. The Bible says, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof" (Romans 13:14). Man may fail even though he does not choose to fail, but may God save us from a careless Christianity.

Do you approve of Christian people "going by their horoscopes" as some are doing?

A person should pay no attention to the relation of stars at the time of his birth. Astrology is classified as one of the forms of enchantment and is condemned by the Scriptures as a means of Christian guidance. "Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee" (Isaiah 47:13; see also Deuteronomy 18:10). Contrast guidance from such with guidance from the Lord (Daniel 2:27, 28).

Some teach that both Esau and Judas will be saved. I do not find any place in the Bible that indicates this (Hebrews 12:16, 17; Matthew 26:24; 27:3). Please explain.

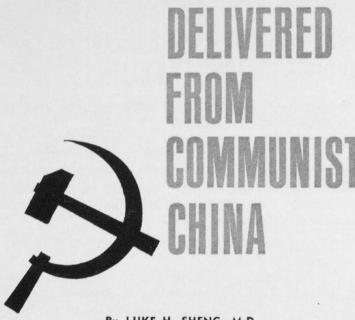
I see no hope for Judas. He is spoken of as "the son of perdition" who went "to his own place" (John 17:12; Acts 1:16-20).

Esau sold his birthright to Jacob which included his position as head of the tribes and, as we now see, his opportunity to become the head of the nation through which God would provide mankind the Scriptures and Christ. "He found no place of repentance" (Genesis 27:27-29). He was not deprived of all blessing, but his blessing was inferior (Genesis 27:38-40). As to his final destiny, this we must leave with the Lord.

In your comment on the leaven which the woman took and hid in three measures of meal, you likened leaven to a fermenting influence (Matthew 13:33). Does not the leaven in the two loaves which are typical of the blessing of Pentecost represent the impregnating power of the Holy Spirit who filled the believers, rather than a fermenting influence? (Leviticus 23:15-17).

The two loaves represent two classes of believers in the Christian church, the Jewish believers and the Gentile believers. In the meal offering, which represented our Lord Jesus, there was no leaven (Leviticus 2). In the two loaves representing the Church there was leaven. Because of this, offerings without blemish were to be waved by the priest with the bread of firstfruits (Leviticus 23:18-20). There were no imperfections in Jesus; there are imperfections in the Church.

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.



#### By LUKE H. SHENG, M.D.

OR EIGHT YEARS during the Japanese occupation of China, we were away from home. In 1946 we moved back to Shanghai filled with confidence and hope for the future. China was to be a new country. The peace lasted only three years—until the Communists took over Shanghai. Immediately we encountered trouble.

At the time I was employed by the CNRRA, a postwar rehabilitation organization in Shanghai affiliated with UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. The Communists took over this organization. Even though I was just a physician taking care of sick employees and was without any political affiliation, I was not allowed to resign.

In 1951 the Communists launched a plan called the Three-Anti-Movement. The chief aim of this movement was to deal with the intellectual society. After people repented of various crimes they were supposed to have committed, the movement required a complete loyalty and obedience. The Communists do not trust anyone, so they concluded that everyone must have stolen something from them.

I worked in a medical clinic, being responsible for a stockroom where a small quantity of drugs was deposited. One day I was called before a group of 25 Communists who questioned me at length about this. I emphatically denied stealing anything from the stockroom, but not one of them would believe me.

One said to me, "Everyone steals when the opportunity presents itself. How is it you didn't?"

That was my opening. I answered, "Jesus Christ has changed me. I have been a born-again Christian for 18 years. During this time I have made restitution and asked forgiveness of those I had wronged. I have been trying carefully to live an honest life. It is Jesus Christ who changed me."

My accusers didn't like that kind of talk because they believe only Communism can change a person.

Shortly after this, two officials came to my home and arrested me. They took me to a room with just a mattress on the floor. I was held there while they went over the records of the stockroom to see if I were really telling the truth. The first day I fasted and prayed 18 hours. The infilling of the Holy Spirit accompanied by speaking in tongues sustained me for the next two days. I read constantly out of the New Testament which I carried in my pocket. When darkness came each night, fear seemed to seize me. I was questioned day and night by different individuals; but my answer was always, "I haven't stolen anything. I'm innocent."

Then one day I was again called before the group for intensive questioning. They planned to trap me by entangling me in my own words. I was told this was my last chance. I decided to remain silent and to answer only that I was innocent.

After three hours of questioning, I felt I could stand it no longer. I began to pray silently, "Lord, it is too much for me. Help me!"

Suddenly one of the men shouted at me, "Get out of here. We have no use for stubborn people like you."

I returned to my room at the prison, and no one bothered me for two weeks. In the meantime they had checked the records at the stockroom and found I had not taken anything. When I found this out, I asked to be released. To my utter amazement, they let me go.

At home I found that my Christian friends had been praying for me. I knew it was a miracle that I had arrived home safely. Many in prison had been tortured and some had committed suicide.

While I had been away, my wife also encountered much trouble. The Communists came often to confront her with the story that I had confessed the things of which I was accused. My wife simply answered, "If he did so, he told a lie."

We decided then to leave China. We had much difficulty when we told Communist officials that we wanted to leave. At first they refused to grant permission. Then we were told only one of us could go; then one parent and one of the children; then just the parents without the children. We insisted the whole family be allowed to leave together.

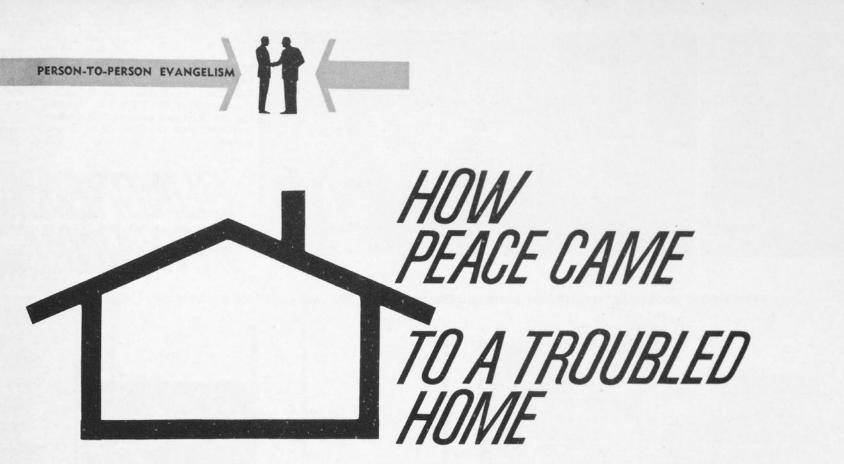
Once again God made a way for me, my wife, and



The Luke H. Sheng family

our two sons. We were allowed to come to America. Since then God has continued to bless us. We live in Brighton, Michigan, where I have set up a private practice as a doctor. My wife is also a licensed medical doctor in the field of anesthesiology.

God has permitted us to relate our testimony many times. It is our prayer that men here will be encouraged to pray for the Christians in China. We get word from the mainland that the people are oppressed. We do not know how many there die daily for their faith. But we must pray while it is yet day. The night is coming soon. -Reprinted from TEAM (September 1968)



By W. E. EMANUEL / Durant, Florida

T HAPPENED 50 YEARS AGO, but I remember the incident as vividly as though it were yesterday. World War I had just ended. The contagion of happy celebration that had prevailed for several days had ceased. The flu epidemic still gripped the town, and death was

taking its daily toll. I had just finished praying and had left my room on the second floor of the Palmetto Hotel in Tampa. As I descended the stairway leading to the lobby, a voice within whispered, "Testify to those men below." There were a dozen or more men, mostly shipyard workers, idling away a long Sunday afternoon in the hotel lobby.

I was on the point of dismissing the inner voice when it came again, "Testify to those men. It will be the last opportunity some of them will have to hear the gospel."

I obeyed the Spirit's command and testified to the assembled group. I told them of God's love for a lost world and that because of Christ's death everyone could be saved and cleansed through His precious blood.

Magazines and newspapers were momentarily forgotten. After speaking for 10 minutes, I asked those who desired prayer for salvation to lift their hands. Several hands were raised, and I prayed for the Lord to save those who responded. Three testified that they had been saved.

As I left the hotel, I was conscious that one of the men was following me. A well-dressed man in his forties, he said, "Will you go with me to my home?" His plea was so urgent that I consented.

As we walked, he told me his story—a story of domestic difficulties, accusations, recriminations; now a pending divorce was overshadowing what for many years had been a happy home. Caught in the midst of these difficulties were two young daughters.

Arriving at his home he said, "Please go in and talk to my wife as you did to those in the hotel just now." He knocked, and the door was opened by an attractive woman. He said, "Dear, this is a young minister. Will you please let him come in and talk to you for a few minutes?"

Her face reflected resentment at the sight of her husband, and her attitude was equally hostile to me. She was on the point of refusing when I said, "Please let me come in. What I have to say may be of some help." With decided reluctance she curtly invited me in.

She was stiffly resentful and unresponsive during the first few minutes of our conversation. But as I continued to tell of the mercy of God, of Jesus and His power to heal broken hearts and mend broken homes—to make husbands and wives one again through His love—I could see her face soften. The facade of defiance and rebellion melted away. Tears of submission and repentance began to flow.

Suddenly, she fell to her knees and sobbed out her confession of sin to Jesus and asked His forgiveness. Just as quickly her prayer was answered, and the Prince of Peace came in and calmed her troubled spirit, giving her a peace she had never known.

Rising, she started for the door. Standing just inside the room was her husband, his face bathed in tears. He too had surrendered to Christ. They took a quick glance at each other and with a cry of joy rushed into each other's arms.

Within less than two hours, five souls had been saved three in a hotel lobby and two in their home. A divorce had been averted, and two daughters were assured of the continued love and parental guidance of both a father and mother. There was great rejoicing in the church that night when the father testified of the wonderful things God had wrought in his home that afternoon.

How glad I was that I had obeyed God's voice.

Ed Cole (being interviewed in far left photo) and the Northwest District CA Choir were guests on a noontime program on KTVI-TV, informing the St. Louis area of "Operation Advance" and the Council on Evangelism.



YOUNG PEOPLE RING DOORBELLS, WITNESS ON STREETS, DURING "OPERATION ADVANCE" IN GREATER ST. LOUIS



Busloads and carloads of volunteers came to greater St. Louis to team up with local workers in "Operation Advance."



One of the dozens of churches participating in "Operation Advance" was South Side Assembly, St. Louis. Workers spent 5 hours each day witnessing for Christ in the area surrounding the church, visiting 2,161 homes.



Minnesota teamed up with members of South Side Assembly for "Operation Advance." Pastor Manuel Shoults is standing in the center. Director K. K. John is at the extreme left, and David Thompson, sponsor, at the extreme right.



Orientation by the pastor was followed by a brief devotional and inspirational message by Evangelist Joe Williams who preached at South Side Assembly each night.

Pastor Shoults m workers in his c minute instructio began. They ope of six—one cap assistants.

HEY WENT OUT TWO BY TWO. Some witnessed on doorsteps. Others on the sidewalks. Many in shopping centers. At a sidewalk sale. On parking lots. Over 700 persons scattered over the metropolitan area telling others about Jesus, all at the same time.

This was the scene in St. Louis, Missouri, and numerous neighboring communities one day during *Operation Advance*. Dozens of Assemblies of God churches cooperated to sponsor the week-long activities and reaped a bountiful harvest of souls.

Ed Cole, Men's Fellowship director of Northern California-Nevada District, was invited to come to Greater St. Louis prior to the Council on Evangelism to coordinate preparations for the combined efforts. Prayer links were formed. Workers recruited. Training sessions held by Sam Jordan of Ottumwa, Iowa. Simultaneous evangelistic meetings were planned for many churches. Invitations were sent out for workers to come and participate in the week of evangelistic activities (August 19-25).

And workers came. An enthusiastic Chi Alpha group from Minnesota. A great youth choir from the Northwest District. A large contingent from Kenosha, Wisconsin. A talented teen choir from Springfield, Missouri. Groups of dedicated "Ambassadors in Mission" just returned from soul winning in the Caribbean. Young people came from Iowa, Tennessee, Indiana, Montana, and other states. And older folk came too—ready to invest their time and strength in this campaign of person-to-person evangelism.

Of the out-of-town workers assigned to their churches, one pastor said, "They were wonderful"; and another, "They worked hard." Local young people teamed up with the visitors and went out witnessing to the unsaved each morning and afternoon—then all participated in the nighttime services at their church.

## WON TO CHRIST THROUGH EVANGELISM





builts met with the 36 his church for laststructions before they ey operated in teams ne captain and five



After the devotional, the workers spent time in prayer asking God's guidance and help during the day's activities.



car with gospel literature and set out for its assigned area.



The workers knocked on doors, told people what Christ had done for them, and sought to lead men and women to the Saviour right in their homes.



They found most people receptive to their witness. In three days of person-toperson evangelism they reported 26 decisions for Christ, 84 prospects gained, and 11,570 pieces of gospel literature distributed.

Hundreds were saved. All the results are not yet tabulated—but Manuel Shoults, a sectional presbyter, has reports from 22 of the 35 churches in his section indicating that 12,609 homes were visited, 306 made decisions for Christ, 443 were found to be prospects for the church, and 106,518 pieces of gospel literature were distributed. This represented about one-third of the total amount of literature distributed during *Operation Advance*.

Workers from one church fanned out over their area and returned in a short time with the report of 28 conversions.

One Christian man, concerned for years over the spiritual condition of a certain individual, went to him and won him to Christ after a few minutes of earnest conversation.

Christians who had been timid about personal evangelism won their first soul during Operation Advance. Many who had never before been willing to get involved in this kind of activity overcame the barriers of self-consciousness and fear. No longer did they say, "I just can't talk to strangers." They went out and found that with God's help they could do it.

One boy stood in church and said, "My pal and I were out on the street, looking for someone to beat up, when this guy comes up and begins talking to us. I listened, and we prayed. I guess if I hadn't, I would probably be in jail right now."

A woman stopped a group of boys returning from a football game, talked to them about the Lord Jesus Christ, and every one of them accepted Him as their personal Saviour.

Two CA's met a couple of teen-age boys on the street. They explained the simple plan of salvation and persuaded (*Continued on next page*)

#### HERE ARE JUST 16 OF 47 REASONS WHY ASSEMBLIES OF GOD YOUTH ARE SELECTING EVANGEL COLLEGE

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Springfield, Missouri 65802

#### HUNDREDS WON TO CHRIST THROUGH PERSONAL EVANGELISM

#### (Continued from page 17)

the boys they needed to be saved. But they said, "When we pray to be saved, we want it to be in our own church."

The CA's replied, "Where is your church?"

The boys answered, "That Catholic Church on the corner."

"Fine," said the CA's. "Let's go." So all four went into the church, knelt in prayer, and the boys found Christ.

One of the workers counted 27 souls she personally had led to the Lord during the week. In addition to the hundreds saved through personal evangelism, many were converted and filled with the Holy Spirit in the churches during the nightly services.

Operation Advance climaxed in a mass rally with David Wilkerson preaching. Some 6,500 gathered in Kiel Auditorium on Saturday night for this rally, and there were at least 30 clear-cut decisions for Christ. In addition 105 signed cards indicating they had been restored to fellowship with Christ.

But Operation Advance did not stop after one week. The fires lighted in many hearts continue to burn; many are still praying for souls; churches are busy conserving the results, visiting the converts, helping them to get established in the Lord. And workers who tasted the joy and thrill of soul winning declare they will never be the same again.

Pastors are making similar statements about their churches. "We thank God for this week of *Advance*," says T. Charles Wiltshire, pastor of First Assembly, Overland, Missouri. "Our church is on the move."

"This is just what every church needs to stir its members," says Pastor Owen C. Carr, of Edwards Street Assembly, Alton, Illinois.

"Our church is four years old," says Pastor Elbert J. Mason, House Springs, Missouri. "Operation Advance is the greatest thing that has happened at Faith Assembly."

"The greatest week we ever had," says A. L. Burnett, pastor of Revival Tabernacle, Maplewood, Missouri.

"There was an impact upon the St. Louis area that will count in eternity," says A. W. Pettet, pastor of First Assembly, St. Charles, Missouri.

"We counted 191 souls won," reports William N. Sachs, pastor of Berea Temple, St. Louis. "In three days of door-to-door witnessing God gave our workers 104 souls who made decisions for Christ on the streets, at their shops, or in their homes. Three nighttime revival services with J. P. Jones awarded us another 14 souls at our altars. Sunday services added another 13. Meanwhile a children's revival meeting with Bob Olsen resulted in 60 more conversions that week.

"And God so graciously poured out His Spirit in the adult services," he continues. "Fourteen received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and countless others received a refilling. Seventeen people were healed in their homes as the young people in faith believing laid their hands on the sick and asked Jesus for a miracle. Our files are bulging with the names of prospective additions to the church. We thank God for His blessings and for all who participated so zealously and unselfishly in *Operation Advance*."

## SIX C'S TO HELP YOU HELP YOUR CHURCH

By CROFT M. PENTZ / Pastor, Calvary Chapel of the Deaf, Elizabeth, New Jersey

VERY CHURCH NEEDS HELP! No church can go forward without the help of its members. Here are six ways in which you can help your church.

#### BY CONGREGATING

Many years ago, David said he was glad to attend the house of the Lord (Psalm 122:1). Later the writer to the Hebrews said, "Let us not neglect our church duties and meetings, as some people do, but encourage and *warn* each other, especially now that the day of His coming back again is drawing near" (Hebrew 10:25, *Living New Testament*).

Church attendance is a must. No radio or television program can take the place of a church service. Each time you miss church, you cast a vote to close the doors. So help your church by congregating.

#### BY COOPERATING

Pentecost came as a result of unity. (Acts 2:1). Everyone cooperated in the Early Church, and they went out and changed their world (Acts 17:6).

Indifference and a don't-care attitude hurt the church. On the other hand, cooperation has helped many struggling groups become thriving churches. There is no limit to the power of complete cooperation. Remember, it takes many drops of water working together to form a river!

#### BY CONTRIBUTING

The Bible tells us that giving towards God's work is a measure of dedication (Malachi 3:8-10). A pastor recently remarked, "I have never met a successful Christian who did not tithe." Every church needs money to operate, and a Christian who truly loves God will support his church.

The Scriptures tell us that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). A person may give without loving, but no one can love without giving. How we give and how much we give shows how deep is our love for God.

#### BY CONCENTRATING

Do you remember the pastor's sermon last week? The Bible tells us to bring into captivity every thought (2 Corinthians 10:5). How easy it is for our minds to wander during the church service. We remember all the things we have done the past week or the things we should have done. As a result, we attend church in body only.

Before a sermon reaches the heart, it must pass through the mind. If the mind is cluttered with other things, the sermon will not be able to reach the heart.

Leave home early so you can spend time in prayer before service begins. Allow God to cleanse your mind of all things and bring your thoughts into captivity, centered in Christ. Then you will be ready for the service.

#### BY CONSECRATING

A consecrated person is open to God's Word. He is open to the moving of the Spirit and he helps create an atmosphere which makes it easy for the pastor to minister.

For the one who lacks consecration, church becomes a duty and responsibility. He becomes a clock watcher; and the service had better not go past noon, even if the Spirit is moving!

The Early Church was dedicated completely to God. They sold out to Christ. As a result, they evangelized their world. The more consecrated we become today, the more we will see the lost won to Christ.

#### BY COMPLIMENTING

The Early Church could not stop talking about Jesus. When in jail they witnessed for Christ. When brought before the rulers they talked about Jesus. And the church today needs this same enthusiastic witnessing for Christ. Talk about the benefits of serving Him. Be enthusiastic and complimentary about your church's program and ministry.

The Early Church grew and prospered because the Christians talked about what Christ had done for them (Acts 8:4). If every Christian would talk about the goodness of God and the benefits of the church, they too could change the world.

You are the church! The church can only be what you make it! To have a praying church, there must be praying members. To have a soul-winning church, there must be soul-winning members.

It is only as we all work together that God's church can march forward to victory. The church needs your help! ONE BLOW HAS BEEN STRUCK; ANOTHER CAN BE ON THE WAY



A MERICANS NO LONGER HAVE TO ACCEPT "SMUT mail." However, every American is allowing the pornographic business to continue to enjoy unusual profits by subsidizing second- and third-class mailing permits for their use.

Under a law enacted in April 1968, a person who receives unsolicited advertising for obscene materials through the United States mail has a line of defense he may follow. This procedure will lead to the removal of his name and/or the names of members of his family from mailing lists used by the purveyors of such objectional materials.

According to Public Law 90-206-Title III, it is up to the one who receives the material to determine whether or not it is objectional. His judgment will not be challenged.

The following procedures may be used in protecting your home and family from unsolicited materials which arrive through the mails.

1. Contact your local postmaster for a form to fill out to have your name and address removed from the offending mailing list.

2. If this does not result in the mailings being stopped, write to the Postmaster General, Washington, D.C., and request him to remove your name and address (as well as the names of any other members of your family living at the address) from the smut peddler's mailing list.

3. If there is still a problem, ask the attorney general of the U.S. to seek a court order against the mailer.

4. If this is not enough, you may secure a court order which will make the sender of the objectionable materials subject to imprisonment.

This legal weapon, placed in the hands of the public, should begin to have an effect on the pornography business which every year dumps 100 million copies of obscene materials into the U.S. mails.

This new law is good! It is a step in the right direction! But we need further action.

So Congressman Glenn Cunningham of Nebraska, who guided the above legislation until it became law, is still working to curtail the flood of obscene materials. The American public is still subsidizing the spread of pornography; for while the individual citizen must pay full fees for his postal privileges, low government-subsidized postal rates are available to distributors of obscene materials—just as they are to other large mailers. But Congressman Cunningham's proposed bill would halt the privilege of second-, third-, and fourth-class mail rates for those who distribute obscenity.

Why should Christians and parents be required to underwrite low, inexpensive mailing rates for companies who want to pervert the minds of children with obscene materials?

Congressman Cunningham, in presenting his proposed legislation to Congress, reminded them that the greatest class of criminals in the United States today is 15 years of age, while the second largest group is 16-year-olds. He pointed out that in solving the crime problems, the problems of youth must first be dealt with. Referring to the growing crime problem, he stated, "This is a fire, and obscenity and pornography are gasoline that is splashed on this fire at the rate of 100 million pieces of objectionable material a year through the United States Post Office."

Smut peddlers will pay high prices for the names of youngsters in the 12-14 age bracket. Their obscene materials, which inflame the curiosity and imagination, are directed to these young people. A diet of obscenity soon leads a young person to believe that human beings are "subjects of physical gratification" rather than individuals made in the image of God. Obscenity teaches effectively as all literature does.

Obscenity's promises of gratification are mixed with large portions of sadism. Could this be the reason for the outcroppings of hatred and violence on our streets and college campuses? Are the verbal expressions of obscenity now being cast at our national leaders the results of hours spent with pages of pornography? Lives and attitudes that have been twisted and distorted by obscenity may require years of mental and spiritual therapy before they can be restored to a full personality.

Congress can strike a blow at the growing crime rate and roll back the tide of obscenity by supporting the Cunningham Bill. But congressional support alone cannot get the job done. Each citizen must do his part in combating this spread of smut and filth. You can do this by:

1. Sending to your postmaster or the postmaster general every piece of unsolicited advertising for obscene materials you receive;

2. Notifying your representatives in congress that you do not want to subsidize this type of mail by tolerating their low postal rates.

"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it" (Habakkuk 2:2).

**W**RITE. Many a present-day Habakkuk has heard the command that God spoke to the prophet six centuries before Christ.

Write. One million newly literate persons each week clamor for something to read. Hungry minds press into a new world of thought—a world of books and magazines, of newspapers, pamphlets, and signposts—to a different life, a life of new concepts about the world and their place in it. Hands reach out for the printed page and hearts accept as truth whatever is written there. It's up to you, Habakkuk, to give them the truth.

Write. In the words of Martin Luther, "Throw the inkpot at the devil." Don't leave unchallenged the atheistic secularism which is flooding the newsstands of the world, filling the bookstores, and captivating the minds of readers from Stockholm to Buenos Aires, from Stanleyville to San Francisco. In the age-end struggle for the souls of men, the printed page is more powerful than nuclear weapons. Write, Habakkuk.

Write. The spoken word stirs the heart and moves the spirit, but it fades quickly from memory. "What was it that he said? How did he explain it to me?" But the written word is treasured, read and reread, pondered, studied, passed on to others—without having lost any of its clarity or its power for good or for evil. So write.

"Write the vision...." Not your own ideas, Habakkuk. Write what God has revealed: a vision of pardon and peace, of healing for soul and body, of vibrant life in a dying world, of impending judgment and a world to come when "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). Let the vision fill your eyes and mind and heart, and then, "What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto ... the churches. ... Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter" (Revelation 1:11, 19). Write the vision.

"Write the vision, and make it plain." Write God's

message in language the reader can understand. Write it in English, but write it also in Spanish, French, and Portuguese. Write it in Tamil and Arabic, in Zulu, and Urdu, in Chinese and Quechua, in Cakchiquel and Hopi. Write it in 3,000 languages so every man may understand as he reads it in his own tongue.

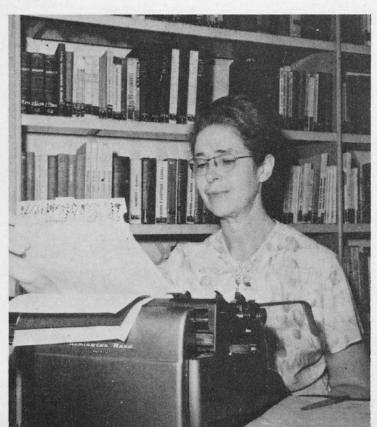
"Make it plain." Write simple words for the child and for the newly literate. And clear—so clear that 90 Buddhist priests in Thailand find Christ through a free correspondence course. So clear that a new convert in the Peruvian Andes can't lay your book down because he finds there the answers to his questions about this new life in Christ. Clear as the sunshine breaking through the clouds of doubt, error, and fear.

"Make it plain." Cut away unnecessary words. Sharpen the focus. Illustrate. Rewrite again and again until the meaning is unmistakably plain.

"Make it plain upon tables." Be careful with those tables, Habakkuk. These tables may be offset plates or mimeograph stencils, but God's command is still the same: "Don't let sloppy printing make the message difficult to read." Watch for typographical errors. Use large enough type so your readers won't suffer eyestrain. Illustrate it. Use good paper, color, and eye-appeal. The message of God deserves quality printing.

"Write . . . that he may run that readeth it." Write with a purpose. Write to grip hearts with the urgency of the message, to put fire in the soul of the reader and wings on his feet. Write so that he may run to shout the warning to those on the brink of hell, run with a message of hope to the disillusioned, and of life for a dying world.

You would rather run yourself and see the people turn to God? Wait, Habakkuk; stay here. God has called you to write so that others may run. Listen for His voice. Watch for the vision. You may sit for hours with leaden fingers trying to capture the words that elude your straining ears; but then God speaks, and you find it easy to write while His message thunders through your heart. So write, Habakkuk; write!



## WRITE, HABAKKUK

By LOUISE JETER WALKER

As editor for Christian Education for Latin America, Louise Jeter Walker has an important role in the program of the Assemblies of God Foreign Missions Department.



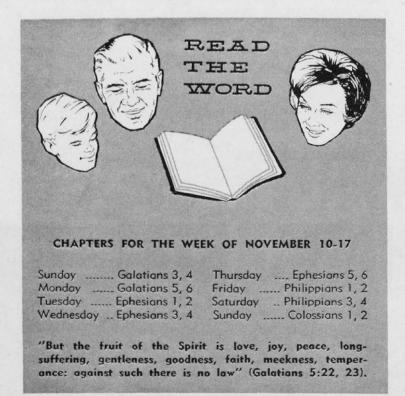
#### By VERNA B. FLOWER Editorial Assistant, Department of Education

MARRIED INTO AN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FAMILY," a correspondent recently wrote to the Berean School of the Bible. She continued, "None of them were able to tell to my satisfaction exactly what they believe. I also attend the Assembly of God with the family, but my questions have not been answered. So I decided to find out for myself."

This lady has enrolled in the Berean School of the Bible. Her first correspondence course of study will be *Pentecostal Truth* as taught by Myer Pearlman and Frank M. Boyd. She concluded her letter, "My husband's family are also looking forward to this course."

Before passing judgment on that anonymous family, let us face this question: "How many can give clear answers, backed by appropriate Scripture verses, for the four basic doctrines of the Assemblies of God?" Then add to these the many other facets of truth included in our tenets of faith. Perhaps we will realize that many would find it advantageous to increase their "tell-ability" on some of the beliefs they cherish.

In writing about *Pentecostal Truth*, J. Roswell Flower, former general secretary of the Assemblies of God, says, "Every Pentecostal believer should be able always to give an answer to every man that asks for a reason of the hope that is within. This correspondence course has been de-



signed particularly for the purpose of supplying answers to a multitude of questions on the subject of the Holy Spirit. The course ... provides a scriptural groundwork for a comprehensive knowledge of a subject which is second only to the doctrine of redemption. It includes teaching on the nature of the Holy Spirit, His relationship to the believer in personal experience, His gifts and operations."

The Berean School of the Bible operates under the direct supervision of the Department of Education. The school offers 11 courses of study covering a wide range of subjects such as: Life of Christ, Old Testament Studies, Pauline Epistles, Prophetic Light, Dispensational Studies, Divine Healing, Hebrews and General Epistles, Book of Acts, Studies in Revelation, and Pastoral Theology.

Since its beginning in 1948, more than 21,000 enrollments have been recorded. For the past 10 years, new enrollments have averaged more than 100 a month.

Enthusiasm grows as individuals complete their first course of study. Here is a cross section of some of their testimonies:

"I have been saved for years but this is the first time I have studied the Old Testament. It has not been easy but in meeting the challenge I have learned so much about God and His Word."

A pastor comments, "Studying *Pauline Epistles* has proved a great blessing to me in my ministry. It has been worth every moment I have given to it."

Another correspondent writes, "Studies in Revelation has been most enlightening and thrilling. Anyone who wants a good understanding of one of the hardest books of the Bible to comprehend should take this course."

After completing the six courses necessary to earn the Standard Diploma, a student reached this decision, "I must go on and earn the Comprehensive Diploma. These courses have helped me in my teaching and witnessing to others."

A lady shares this reaction: "God has placed a call on my life to work with the deaf. Since I have not had Bible school training, these courses have been important and helpful toward reaching my goal."

A children's evangelist comments, after concluding Old Testament Studies, "I have so much enjoyed this course and feel it will enrich my ministry. I am unable to say which one of the six courses I have enjoyed the most. Each has been wonderful."

And a grateful pastor expresses himself, "There are many, no doubt, like myself who couldn't attend Bible school and who desire a clearer understanding of God's Word. I have thoroughly enjoyed each course and want



to enroll my brother-in-law in the correspondence school too."

From South Vietnam a staff sergeant in the Marine Corps declares, "I had taken another course which costs far more than those offered by the Berean School and it in no way compared to the depth of teaching which you offer."

Upon completing *Pastoral Theology*, a pastor shared his reaction, "I have greatly benefited by this interesting course of study. I feel it would be desirable for every pastor to study this set of five textbooks. The course is refreshing, stimulating, and informative."

Any pastor wishing to increase the "tell-ability" of his congregation should consider a group study plan. Some churches have followed this arrangement to good advantage and at a financial savings.

Information and a description of courses offered or group or individual study is available from Berean School of the Bible.

#### A Tribute to the Power of the Press

#### THE LAST BENEDICTION

BESS AND I WORKED TOGETHER at a school in the 40's. At that time Bess's home was breaking up.

We talked together, prayed together, and enjoyed Christian fellowship for some three years. Then we were separated. My husband and I moved away as we followed the Lord in the ministry.

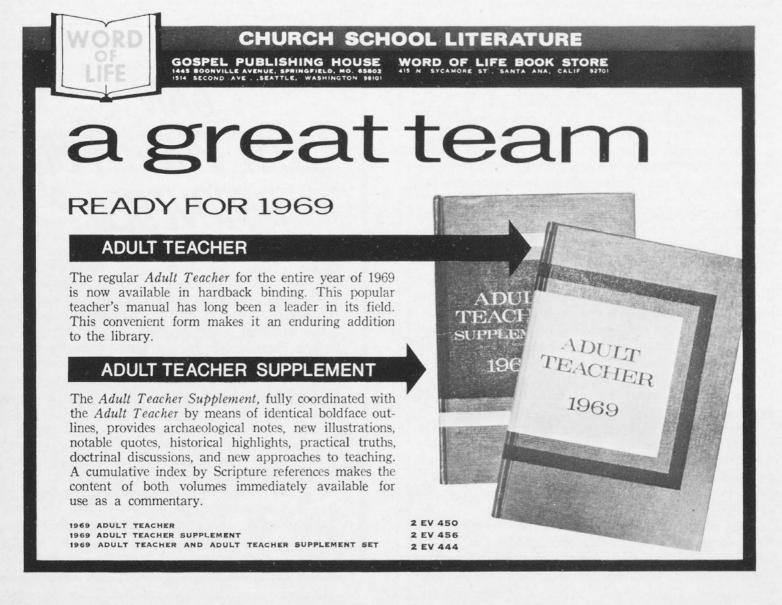
Through the years I wondered about her, until one day in our hometown newspaper we saw her death notice.

Recently I was back home on vacation and visited the school where we had worked together. I stopped by the country grocery for a cake and there was Bess's sister. As she hugged me, she told me about Bess.

"Yes, she came back here to die. In her Bible she carried clippings from *The Pentecostal Evangel*—articles you had written. She was too sick to read but she would tell me to read your articles over and over to her. As she slipped away, I was reading the last paragraph of one of these articles."

I am thankful that someone carried an *Evangel* to her door—that the press sends out the light to the lost. May we ever make an effort to give the *Evangel* every week to someone who may be near to eternity.

I am so thankful Bess slipped into eternity with fullgospel words of comfort. —A PASTOR'S WIFE



## JOEL'S PRESCRIPTION FOR AMERICA'S PLAGUES

HE ELECTIONS ARE OVER. Where do we go from here?

In a recent radio sermon called, "Locusts," *Revivaltime* Speaker C. M. Ward pinpointed some of the erosion eating at America's vitals:

"A *plague of locusts* always seems to threaten. Automobile insurance premiums have increased in this nation 44 percent in the past 10 years. The cost of mailing a first-class letter has gone up 100 percent in 10 years, from three cents to six.

"The expenses of the federal government have risen about 125 percent in 10 years. And we could go on almost indefinitely. *The locusts have been at work*. The value of pensions, savings, investments has been eaten away....

"Two prominent psychiatrists have underscored the tragic side of sexual permissiveness on the American campus. Dr. Francis J. Braceland, clinical professor in psychiatry at Yale, told a gathering of the national Methodist Convention on Medicine and Theology that the liberalized dormitory rules and more lenient attitudes toward sex have imposed on some college women stresses severe enough to cause emotional breakdown.

"The Journal of the American Medical Association reported a study made by Dr. Seymore Halleck, director of student psychiatry of the University of Wisconsin. Among 300 girls who became psychiatric patients, 86 percent had had intercourse and 72 percent with more than one person.

"Blaise Pascal once said that man was both the glory and the scandal of the universe. We apparently cannot live like *beasts* without suffering from the resulting conflict with that glory for which we were created.

"What can be done about it? Joel is a preacher with a remedy. 'I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten' " (Joel 2:25).

Joel's prescription is written for every church-going American to read: "Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children. . . . Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep . . . and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord" (Joel 2:16, 17).

Here is a call for a great national prayer meeting. This is what America needs!

But it is doubtful that the victorious candidates will switch from political rallies to altar calls. If anyone is going to pray for our nation's ills, it must be those who name the name of Christ!

Next Sunday is set as World Prayermeeting Day. *Revivaltime*, the international radio broadcast of the Assemblies of God, has gathered approximately 50,000 prayer requests. Along with interceding for a dozen or more of these personal requests, each of the 30,000 intercessors is asked to pray earnestly for God's guidance for this nation in the crucial days ahead.

As Pentecostals we should lead the way. We believe in miracles. We believe God can guide. We believe the bright promise included in Joel's prescription. He says, "The Lord will answer . . . and ye shall be satisfied" (Joel 2:19).

Next Sunday afternoon at 2:30 more than two thousand people are expected at the *Revivaltime* broadcast origination in the huge auditorium on the Oklahoma District campgrounds in Oklahoma City. They will see C. M. Ward and the *Revivaltime* choir in action. Following the broadcast these people will participate in the "anchor" service of World Prayermeeting. A huge pile of mail will be before them—the actual letters sent to *Revivaltime* by burdened people everywhere.



By GORDON CHILVERS

HAT MOST CONCERNS ME," said a Christian man, "is whether the Lord will ever use me again in His service."

He had been most effective in his Christian work, leading many people to the Lord. Then he acted unwisely and for a time had given up his work for God. He was convicted of his error, and repented. Yet would the Lord ever use him as mightily as He had in the past?

If we lose the power for Christian service, can we recover it? Is all hope of usefulness lost forever?

A teacher startled his class one morning by saying: "I have lived most of my life on God's second best." Then instead of the lesson, he told his story.

God had called him to be a missionary in his younger days, but he turned aside from this call. He gave up Christian work and began a business life as cashier in a bank. His primary purpose was to set up a nice home and make money. The Spirit of God kept dealing

Each intercessor in the anchor service-as in every other participating prayer group (more than 1,000)-will hold in his hand a list of people he probably has never met. He will discover that the addresses range from one corner of this nation to another-some will even be from foreign countries.

Those who have participated in other years tell us that when they read the prayer requests, an overwhelming sense of nearness to the burdened individuals grips their hearts. Holy Ghost-sent love wells up, and an invisible chain of compassion links the intercessor to other unseen members of Revivaltime's worldwide congregation.

This is especially the case in the anchor prayer service, but hundreds report a similar sense of involvement even when they pray in small groups, separated by thousands of miles from the anchor service.

This sense of involvement in the needs of others-and in the spiritual needs of our nation-is the pulsebeat of Christianity as Jesus intended it should be. No wonder so many miracles occur as a result of this prayer effort every year!

In the light of the crucial decisions facing our nation's newly-elected officials, every Assemblies of God believer should give prayer the preeminent place in his life. And attending a local World Prayermeeting service is a good place to start.

Only through prayer can God "restore . . . the years that the locust hath eaten" (Joel 2:25). America can find no other remedy for her moral plagues.

with him about his missionary call, but he would not vield.

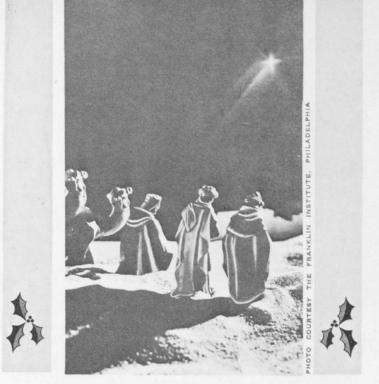
Years passed. One day he received a message at the bank that his little child had toppled over in her high chair and was dead. That bitter experience brought him to the place of surrender. After he spent a night alone with God on his knees in tears and agony, the surrender came.

It was too late then to go to the mission field, but with a broken and contrite heart he pleaded with the Lord to take up the tangled threads of his disobedient life and make of the wreckage whatever He could. God answered that prayer and gave him a useful and fruitful ministry for the rest of his days. God used him in training missionaries.

If we have been defeated, we need not despair. David was restored after his sin. So was Peter. Hope is still bright.

The return of our power comes through a penitent approach to God and the confession of our sins. After we have been forgiven, He will restore us. Power comes in answer to prayer. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31). He may not give us the same service we had earlier-that particular opportunity may be gone. But there are other ways to do a worthwhile work for Him.

Yield to the divine Potter. He can take the broken vessel and make it into a new vessel. If you will cleanse yourself, as the Scripture says, you again may be a "vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use" (2 Timothy 2:21).



### **Bearing Gifts**

Wise Men from the East, searching for the infant Saviour, brought gifts-gifts rich in spiritual significance.

Your gifts to friends, neighbors, relatives this year can be rich in spiritual significance too. Why not send Pentecostal gift subscriptions? Reduced Christmas rates make the price attractive. The convenience of ordering makes shopping easy. And you know that a full gospel message will be presented each week.

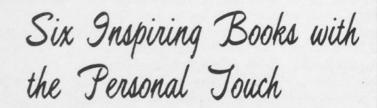
No need to send payment now. We'll bill you (after Christmas, if your prefer). Just indicate the friends to whom you wish gift cards sent. But please hurry! This offer ends December 15!

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#### WOMAN DELIVERED FROM VIOLENT EMOTIONAL TORMENTS

MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO I took by faith the victory I now enjoy in Christ Jesus. The Bible says, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague" (Mark 5:34). I praise God for His delivering power.

For many days in 1966, I had been tormented with feelings of self-pity and hatred of others. A raging tantrum would often overpower me, lasting from a few minutes to several hours at a time. I would become violent. On one occasion I had become so violent that my husband ordered me out of the house, not to return until I was changed. I sincerely wanted to be free from these emotions which controlled me. But even though I prayed, I continued to become worse.

Finally, when I could contain myself no longer, I sought help at my pastor's door, but there was no response. Moments later I was driving away and found myself turning into the driveway of a lady who was also a member of my church. She invited me in, sensed my despair, and decided to call Pastor Ralph Volpe of Bethel Assembly in Girard, Pa. She went with me to his study for prayer.

After talking and asking me several questions, Brother Volpe read portions of Scripture. He then asked, "Why do you feel you are demon possessed?" I explained to him how I was driven by uncontrollable emotions.

Brother Volpe anointed me with oil and prayed, commanding the tormenting spirit to come out of my life in the Name of Jesus. I was pleading with God too, for I just knew I could not leave until I was free from Satan's power.

There was a struggle; I felt as if my tongue were being twisted off from its roots. I coughed, gagged, and nearly vomited. Then, like the calm which follows a violent storm, I became normal and calm in my spirit.

Twelve hours later as I was preparing for bed, I took

my Bible in my arms and began to pray. I asked God to give me some assurance from His Word, for doubts had begun to come to me. When I opened the Bible, my eyes fell upon this verse, "Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit" (Mark 5:8). I went to bed praising and thanking God for the assurance of His Word.

For a few weeks following there were some battles, but I was able to resist the enemy in the Name of Jesus.

My family is once again restored, and we are happy together. I am so glad Jesus is still the same today as He was in Bible days. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).—Mrs. Ruth Hasen, Girard, Pa.

(Pastor Ralph Volpe reports that Mrs. Hasen has had no recurrence of the tormenting emotional conflict. She is in good health, constantly serving the Lord, and seeking for the baptism in the Holy Spirit.)

#### INFANT'S LIFE IS SPARED

MY LITTLE SON Wesley is strong and happy today and he needs no medicine, but the story could have been much different.

My baby was born on January 28, 1967. Two days later he became very ill. He had low sugar and blood infection.

Immediately the baby was rushed to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas in an ambulance. He was receiving oxygen. The doctors didn't give much hope for his life; his mouth and feet had already turned blue.

But as soon as they took my baby away, I called Pastor Arnold F. Brown and requested prayer. The whole church prayed with me for my son's healing. God undertook for Wesley and healed him completely. He doesn't take any medicine and isn't bothered with low sugar. The blood infection is gone too. I thank God for His wonderful healing power.—Mrs. Janice Swope, Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

(Endorsed by Pastor Arnold F. Brown, formerly pastor of First Assembly, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, now moved to Lake Zurich, Illinois.)





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#### "Toll of a Tragic Summer"

While renewing my subscription I wish to comment on the article, "Pray for Your Missionaries,' which appeared in the September 22 Evangel. It was tragic that so many missionaries died during the summer, and it pointed up the need to pray for our missionaries; but as I read this article I was reminded that Jesus died that we might live, and the same may be said of some of His servants today. Maybe those Venezuelans in the bus that lived, and those who survived the air crash at Calcutta, will think about how close death came to them. Maybe it will cause them to turn to Christ.

Two years ago my own mother was killed in an automobile accident, and that was a turning point in my life. It made me realize I needed to be ready in case I was suddenly called to meet God. I turned to the Lord and found salvation.

I firmly believe that "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord," even a tragedy. I am a living testimony to this.

MRS. L. McGREGOR Phoenix, Arizona

#### Strangers to the Bible

I was so glad to hear about the Council on Evangelism and the renewed emphasis on reaching more people with the gospel. Our churches could reach every home in America if we all worked at it.

I teach school and try to reach each student with a Bible and the message of Christ. It is amazing to find the spiritual lack in many families. Some students do not even know what a Bible looks like.

MRS. CATHERINE NIDEVER Elkhart, Indiana

#### **TV** Commercials Criticized

Thank you for the editorial article about cigarettes, entitled, "We Love You Too Much" (July 28). Recently I have been noticing an increase of cigarette advertising on TV in spite of the Surgeon General's warnings about the danger to health. I think CBS is the worst offender. I made a list of all the cigarette commercials for a four-evening period and I was amazed. Even some of the children's favorite programs have cigarette ads. I watched the CBS evening news. Three different brands of cigarettes were advertised in the space of 15 minutes. Why don't all the churches support the findings of medical science and fight this thing that is ruining the health of people?

MRS. ADELL ADAMS Oak Grove, Missouri

#### **Two Timely Articles**

Just a word to thank you for bringing us two splendid and timely articles in the September 29 issue. I refer to, "Lamps Burning Low at Midnight," by Kenneth D. Barney, and "Wanted: Men Who Will Stand," by Senator Frank Carlson.

> HARRISON H. HOLTON Sacramento, California

#### Proud of His Country

In these days of draft-card burning, rebellion, and confusion, young men hardly know where to turn. Perhaps the following letter from our son at Fort Lewis, Washington (his last letter) may be of help and inspiration to others.

It began, "Dearest Mom and Dad: Greetings in the precious name of our Lord!"

It said, "Well, only six weeks to go. Man, is this a grind. We really get treated cool. It's 'trainee this' and 'trainee that'. We catch it from all sides. But when the big cannon fires at headquarters and the national anthem is played and Old Glory comes down at the end of the day, one feels proud that he's training to help this country.

"Today I almost cried as I watched the flag come down. You can't imagine the pride that swelled within me, just to think I'm a soldier. What we're training for isn't easy, but it's well worth it. When I say I put in a tough day, you'd better believe that I mean it. . . ."

The letter was postmarked September 16. That same day Pvt. James Holaday, 20, in his fourth week in the Army, died. The Army said he was asphyxiated when he became ill while running during a physical training test, but continued to run.

As a young Christian in the to ma churches we pastored, Paul (as we called him) had the usual cost.)

struggle that many a pastor's son has. At times he failed in his walk with the Lord. At times he was rebellious. He left home after graduating from high school . . . but before he enlisted he renewed his consecration to the Lord and his letters and phone conversations were filled with praises to the Saviour.

KENNETH C. HOLADAY, Pastor Madison Assembly of God Madison, South Dakota

#### Welfare Agencies and Tithing

I enjoy the question-and-answer column so much. I would like to comment on the answer Brother Williams gave concerning paying tithes on the income one receives from a welfare society. The answer was, "A welfare agency should not object to tithing if a person is still able to get along."

I was on A. D. C. (Aid to Dependent Children) for five years. The welfare department wanted receipts to show how much it cost me for rent, lights, gas, and heat. I had seven children at home at the time. I was allowed \$185 a month for our support and only 25 cents a week was allowed for church offerings.

If I tithed \$18.50 a month and it were discovered, that amount would promptly be deducted from my allowance. I know of one dear man who gave a tenth of his welfare check to the church. Someone reported him and he was docked that amount. The welfare department does not spend the taxpayers' money to support churches.

I prayed that the Lord would help me to be free from the welfare; and He did. Praise the Lord. I am so thankful as I felt so bound.

> A READER IN MINNESOTA (Name Withheld by Editor)

#### Appreciative Patients

I just wish you could go with me to the state hospital and see the happy expressions on the faces of most of the patients as we give them gospel literature and pray with them. I go once a week in my car and give out more than 50 *Evangels* each trip. My son pays for my gasoline expense; otherwise I could not go, for I pastor the Red Hill Assembly of God church which doesn't have many members and the offerings are small.

MRS. NELLIE R. CANADY Waynesboro, Mississippi

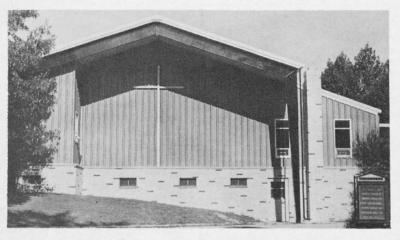
(Editor's Note: Each month 200 Evangels are sent to Sister Canady by means of the Free Evangel Fund. This Fund is supplied by freewill offerings from our readers and enables us to send the Evangel to many persons who want it but who have no funds to pay the cost.)



#### VANDALISM DELAYS DEDICATION, BUT ADVERSITY HELPS CHURCH



ABOVE: Pastor Herman Maloney views the damage done by vandals to the sanctuary of First Assembly in Flint. RIGHT: Paint was dumped on the organ, rendering it a total loss. The community donated in excess of \$500 for the church to purchase a new organ. BELOW: The exterior of the church is of partial brick construction.

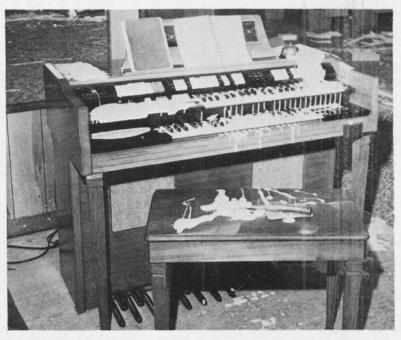


SOUTH HAVEN, MICH.—First Assembly here recently dedicated its new building to the Lord. This church had been vandalized in April, just prior to the first scheduled dedication ceremonies. With over \$10,000 worth of damage to the basement, sanctuary, pastor's office, and classrooms, it was necessary to postpone the dedication until repairs could be made.

Paint was dumped on pews, carpet, piano, and organ during the vandalism. Since the organ was beyond repair, the entire community of South Haven contributed in excess of \$500 towards the purchase of a new organ. Herman Maloney, who has pastored the church since 1966, states, "The Lord turned this adversity to His glory as this vandalism focused the attention of the community on First Assembly, the church's outreach to the community has now been strengthened. New people are beginning to attend."

Construction of the new building was begun in 1960, but completion of the structure was delayed until 1967 when worship services were first held in the new sanctuary. Everett D. Cooley, Michigan dis-

trict superintendent, was speaker for the dedicatory services.



#### FIVE RETREATS PLANNED FOR U.S. SERVICEMEN IN THE FAR EAST

SPRINGFIELD, MO. — Plans have been completed for five retreats to be conducted this year for Assemblies of God servicemen stationed in the Far East.

First of the four-day retreats will be in Tokyo, Japan, November 18-22, at the Tama Retreat Center. There will also be one on Nov. 25-28 at Misawa, Japan. These will be followed by similar gatherings in Okinawa on November 29-Dec. 1; Taiwan on December 2-6; Thailand on December 9-13; and Philippines on December 16-20.

Richard C. Fulmer, Assemblies of God servicemen's coordinator

for Europe, will be the featured speaker for each of the Far East retreats.

The retreats will also be attended by Assemblies of God missionaries in those areas.

Jim Davis, Assemblies of God missionary in Tokyo and servicemen's coordinator for the Far East, is setting up the retreats.

Those desiring to attend should make reservations through their base chaplain. Or write Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Lee, 6111 Air Base Squadron, APO 96525, S. F., for additional information concerning these retreats. NEW HAVEN, MO.—The Assembly of God here was greatly blessed by the moving of the Holy Spirit during a recent meeting with Evangelist and Mrs. Dean Heady Jr.

Two persons were saved, two were reclaimed, and two were refilled with the Holy Spirit. One of the boys who was saved had not been to church for 10 years. -Martha Duvall, pastor \* \* \*

SOUTH ROXANA, ILL. — The Assembly of God here is praising the Lord for the many who were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit during a recent three-week crusade conducted by Evangelist and Mrs. Jimmy Merritt of Garland, Tex. The meeting was well attended, and a revival spirit was evident. The choir formed by Brother Merritt is continuing to bless the congregation.

-C. M. Twente, pastor

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—A recent 10-day meeting at Highway Tabernacle here brought a refreshing through the anointed ministry of Evangelist Ernest A. Manley of Belvidere, Ill.

Many young people made new consecrations to the Lord. Several received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and others were refilled as they sought the Lord. A revival spirit is still being felt in the church.

-W. Howard Roberson, pastor





SUNDAY, NOV. 24 AGED MINISTERS ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT OF BENEVOLENCES

GIVE ON

1445 BOONVILLE SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802



Mr. Perkins of the Fair Board presents a Certificate of Quality Award to the Assemblies booth at the Canfield Fair. Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lichty, E. J. Schlossmacher, and Mr. Perkins.

#### OHIO CHURCHES FEATURE CHRISTMAS THEME FOR FAIRGROUND EVANGELISM

the second year the 11 Assemblies of God churches of this city and the surrounding area ventured into fairground evangelism.

A booth with a Christmas theme at the Canfield Fair in Ohio was the base of operations. Arrangements for the booth were made by a committee of local ministers: Raymond Taber, Paul Dear, E. J. Schlossmacher, and Salvatore Lo-Presti.

A total of 2,125 visitors registered for a gospel record album that was given away each day. Workers

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO - For | from the cooperating churches distributed about 5,500 church brochures and 1,000 copies of the Spiritual Life edition of The Pente-, costal Evangel to those who showed special interest. Also, 146 paperback books were sold.

An estimated 300,000 people viewed the exhibit.

The committee was encouraged when the booth received a "Certificate of Quality Award" from the Canfield Fair Board.

Many prayers went along with this sowing of the seed.

-Paul Dear, fair committee sec'y

#### NEW FAMILIES ATTEND CHURCH THROUGH FAIRGROUND WITNESS

sembly here sponsored an evangelism booth at the Saginaw County Fair. Since this is the largest county fair east of the Rockies, the congregation of First Assembly felt it was an excellent opportunity to witness. Members of the congregation worked in four-hour shifts for the eight days of the fair.

The booth was designed around the 1968 Sunday School Enlargement Campaign theme, "Speak Out, America." More than 2,000 people

SAGINAW, MICH. - First As- | came to the booth and filled out the Community Poll. A follow-up letter is being sent to each of these, announcing the results of the poll.

Over 8,000 of Revivaltime's Colonel Sanders and J. C. Penney booklets were distributed.

An estimated 125,999 persons viewed the booth during the eight days of the fair. As a result of the fair evangelism many new families have visited the church.

-Thomas E. Trask, pastor

#### WITH CHRIST

LENNIS BLACKBURN, 43, of Carlinville, Ill., was called into the presence of the Lord on Aug. 15, 1968. Brother Blackburn was ordained by the Illinois District in 1952. In addition to serving as Illinois District CA president, he served pastorates in Lincoln and Maryville, Ill. In 1966 he founded the Peaceful Valley Youth Ranch in Carlinville, a home for underprivileged boys, and he was director of this home. He is survived by his wife Jean and three children.

MARGIE WESTON, 66, of Deposit, N.Y., went to be with the Lord on August 19, 1968. Sister Weston was licensed to preach in 1953 and served as an evangelist. She is survived by one son and one daughter.

JAMES T. SMALLING, 76, of Memphis, Tenn., went to be with the Lord on Aug. 29, 1968. A member of the Arkansas District, Brother Smalling was ordained in 1922. In addition to serving as an evangelist, he served pastorates in Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, California, and Tennessee. He retired in 1958. He is survived by his wife Iva Lee, two daughters, and one son.

ROBERT T. USELTON, 70, of Ft. Worth, Tex., went to be with the Lord on Aug. 17, 1968. Brother Uselton began his ministry in 1928 and was ordained in 1934. He was a member of the North Texas District. In addition to being an evangelist, he served pastorates in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. He is survived by his wife, six children, and two grandchildren. One daughter, Mrs. Betty Foster, is an ordained minister with the Rocky Mountain District. A grandson, Jimmy Uselton, is a licensed minister with the North Texas District.

BENNIE BERT FOLLIS, 61, of Humble, Tex., was called into the presence of the Lord on Aug. 8, 1968. A member of the South Texas District, Brother Follis was ordained by that district in 1961. In addition to serving the Lord as an evangelist, Brother Follis pioneered the Assembly of God in Porter, Texas. He is survived by his wife Faye, two daughters, and one son.

CARL C. POSEY, 63, of Lake Stevens, Wash., went to be with the Lord on Aug. 5, 1968. Ordained in 1940, Brother Posey was a member of the Northwest District. He served pastorates in Washington and Idaho. He was supplying in the pulpit at Oak Harbor, Wash., and had ministered in both services the day before he died. He is survived by his wife Nellie and four daughters.



#### EVANGELISTIC EVENTS

DATE

Nov. 3

Nov. 5-

Ch.

Tab.

Temp.

STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY
Ala.	Phenix City	Rolph Survey
Ariz.	Flagstaff	First
Ark.	De Queen	First
	Malvern	Glenrose
	Marianna Sheridan	First Hedden Chapel
	W. Memphis	First
Calif.	Bakersfield	Evangel
	Burbank	<sup>1</sup> First
	Escalon Orleans	A/G First
	Rialto	First First
	San Diego	E. San Diego
	Vista	A/G
	Yucaipa	First
Colo. Del.	Burlington Wilmington	Bethel
Fla.	Bradenton	Calvary First
	Durant	Pleasant Grove
	Panama City	Bear Creek
-	Panama City	First
Ga.	Bainbridge	Evangel Temple
	Columbus Savannah	Eighth Street East Side
Idaho	Albion	Pentecostal Ch.
II1.	Carrollton	A/G
Ind.	Beech Grove	Faith
	Hammond	First
	Indianapolis Muncie	Lighthouse Tab. Northside
Iowa	Chariton	A/G
u	Keokuk	A/G
Kans.	Kinsley	First
	Oberlin	A/G
La.	Westlake W. Monroe	First
Md.	Beltsville	Luna Good Tidings
Mass.	Pittsfield	Calvary Bible Ch
	Springfield	Bethany
Minn.	Karlstad	Pentecostal Ch.
	Park Rapids	A/G
Miss.	Slayton Vicksburg	A/G Tab. Beechwood
Mo.	Bismarck	Iron Mountain
	Columbia	First
	Elmer	A/G
	Kansas City Lamar	First <sup>1</sup> A/G
	Marceline	A/G Lighthouse
	Milan	A/G
	Mountain Grove	First
	Springfield	Northside
Mont. Nebr.	Shelby Beauer City	A/G
raebi.	Beaver City S. Sioux City	A/G A/G
N. J.	Irvington	Calvary Temple
	Iselin	A./G
N. Y.	Buffalo	Evangel
N.C.	Asheville	W. Asheville
Ohio Okla.	Elyria Morrison	First A/G
Skiu.	Oklahoma City	Britton
	Spencer	A/G
	Tecumseh	A/G
Oreg.	Astoria	<sup>1</sup> First
	Hillsboro	First
Pa.	Springfield Brave	<sup>1</sup> Berean A/G
	Central City	Pentecostal Tab.
	Lancaster	Glad Tidings Te
S. C.	Greenville	First
S. Dak. Tenn.	Rapid City Chattanooga	<sup>1</sup> Bethel First
Tex.	Borger	First First
	Brenham	First
	Carrollton	First
	Coppell	First
	Dallas El Paso	Oak Cliff
	El Paso Midland	First First
Va.	Winchester	First
Wash.	Mineral	A/G
W. Va.	Beckley	First
Wis.	Waukesha Hamilton Ont	First
Canada	Hamilton, Ont.	Bethel Gosp. Tal

EVANGELIST Nov. 10-17 S. P. Bostic Ir. Bill & Myrna Laney Nov. 10-15 Ken Ross Nov. 3-10 Hoty Ming Family Nov. 3-10 Nov. 13-24 Chas. & Judy McKnight Jerry & Judie Whitener Nov. 10-Nov. 12-24 Jack Martz Team Nov. 13-24 Norman Jones Family Nov. 10-15 Christian Hild Nov. 3-10 Paul Clark Team Fisher-Cheek Team Nov. 3-17 Nov. 12-24 John & Robert Stephens L. L. & Mrs. Ferguson Nov. 10-Kenneth & Theda Wright Nov. 13-24 Marvin Schmidt Nov. 12-24 Richard & Rhoda Field Lindell Lummer Nov. 6-17 R. O. & Mrs. Denton Nov. 10-22 Victor Etienne Nov. 5-17 Don Whitlow Nov. 10-24 Bob Larson Randall A. Walker John & Dolores Franklin Nov. 11-17 Nov. 12-17 Nov. 6-17 F. R. McAdams Team Nov. 5-17 Erick Kaiser Nov. 12-24 Dan & Marty Womack Nov. 12-24 W. Glenn West Nov. 12-24 Arthur & Anna Berg Ernie Eskelin Nov. 13-25 Charles E. Crank Nov. 12-17 Larry & Mrs. Griswold Doug & Judy Maners Nov. 4-17 Nov. 12-24 Ben Brumback Nov. 3-15 Nov. 3-15 Musical Lambertsons Nov. 10-24 Darrell & Carolyn Pilcher Nov. 12-24 Nettie Parham Nov. 12-24 John & Esther Hamercheck Nov. 12-17 Werner & Mrs. Johnson Paul R. Olson Nov. 10-17 Nov. 1-10 Alvin Fischer James Boreland Nov. 3-10 Richard Schlupp Nov. 5-17 Nov. 17-22 Travis & Mrs. Corder Nov. 10-24 Glenna Byard Nov. 13-24 Don & Dixie Cox Nov. 4-17 Tom & Helen Waggoner Nov. 6-17 Arnold & Anita Segesman Nov. 10-15 Larson-Stiver Team Nov. 12-24 Ada E. Lear Nov. 10-17 Raymond Jennings Nov. 11-24 Howard Young Ward & Mary Popejoy Nov. 13-24 Nov. 11-16 Roy & Arlene Brewer Kenneth Stottlemyer Nov. 12-24 Ken Krivohlavek Nov. 10-24 Nov. 12-21 Lindell Lummer Roy & Mildred Johnson Nov. 13-24 Musical VanderPloegs Nov. 6-17 A. A. Anderson R. S. Peterson Nov. 12-17 Nov. 5-17 Branham & Steele Nov. 10-Wallace & Carol Joice Nov. 11-24 J. B. & Mrs. Essary Nov. 12-Nov. 10-24 Jim Mackey Charles Senechal Nov. 10-15 Nov. 12-17 **Richard Jeffers** Charles Senechal Walter Schell Nov. 17-22 Nov. 13-17 Don & Sharon Parker Nov. 13-24 Andrew G. Basell Nov. 12-17 Donnell-Holler Team Nov. 10-Paul Hild Nov. 12-17 Manfred Polk Nov. 10-22 John & Robert Stephens Nov. 6-10 H. A. & Mrs. Strange Nov. 6-17 Loyd & Rebecca Middleton Nov. 12-24 **Keetah** Iones Nov. 12-24 William Caldwell Nov. 13-24 Nov. 13-24 E. T. Quanabush Jimmy & Lenete Merritt Nov. 17 Nov. 6-17 Irving & Mary Lou Howard Chester Mardock Nov. 17-Ray C. Eskelin H. B. Kelchner Nov. 13-17 Nov. 12-24 Tommy Barnett Nov. 12-18

PASTOR J. T. Herring Ray A. Ford O. C. Hicks James L. Dodd Jr. Donald Nye Chas. E. Keller Geoffrey Duncombe Jim Foreman Howard Wilde Jr. Ruben Wilson Jr. Vance Reynolds Cecil O. Branson Joseph A. Higgins James E. White Ron Haus W. E. Behrman Robert Eastlake Harry Rupp H. L. Wallace Fred E. Rogers Robert Gatlin Dewey Myers S. Ben Cotton Glynn Grantham Phillip Hilliard Richard Steinbach James P. Monson Walter Hanneman William Totman Marvin L. Fulks J. C. Hook Bernard H. Reece R. G. Fredrick F. M. Hatch A. Earl M. Leonard Sapp G. J. Slye Philip R. Herrick Edward Berkey Edward Linde Claude Bratvold James F. Allen N. E. Hartshorn M. Dale Barton Charles Parker C. O. Blankenship R. A. McClure Dwaine Braddy L. V. Brown Steven Patterson Dolman E. Roderman Alvin Blackard Kenneth Ross Larry Hessler Ralph Creider John Deegan Samuel Clutter A. D. Skymer George Patterson Edwin Eliason Jr. J. Ruel Baxter W. C. Drain Dewey McDonald Robert Rider Don Jacobson Bennie R. Harris Samuel Sanders David M. Glunt Stanley Cosner Robert E. Dearborn J. Edward Blount Earl H. Harper Charles O. Lee Harold Stockton J. W. Grisbee D. W. Kyser C. A. McBride H. C. Noah Wm. F. Hageman W. D. Metzgar H. L. Wigfield Jr. Clyde Sofie Paul Brendiar Jerry A. King Hudson Hilsden

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<sup>1</sup> Children's Crusade

Due to printing schedule, announcements must reach The Pentecostal Evangel five weeks in advance.

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BY THEIR PINS YE SHALL

By CONRAD S. JENSEN / Deputy Inspector, New York City Police Department

HE WEARING OF LAPEL PINS has become very popular. Standing with a group of men one can often learn a bit about each, and his interests, by observing the little pin affixed to the left lapel of his jacket. Truly, "By their pins ye shall know them."

Some display the insignia of veterans' groups, others those of lodges or fraternities. Still others indicate religious or charitable organizations. Other pins denote faithful service in a business firm. All wearers have one thing in common, however, in displaying their membership in whatever group the insignia denotes, and that is their desire to be identified.

Behind the lapel pins may be lives dedicated to the helping of those in need. Behind some, the advantage the insignia brings in business. Behind others merely the need "to belong."

My experience has been that many men place confidence in their membership in an organization and mistake this for faith in God. Misplaced trust can be a terrible thing. The Bible declares: "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint" (Proverbs 25:19). The fact that some groups recognize God and claim to receive their structure and bylaws from the Bible does not make them Christians. Charity on our part towards others will never take the place of the real faith in God He requires.

It seems that we, in this Twentieth Century, have been overwhelmed with the philosophy that God will recognize our good deeds and somehow reward us for them. Isaiah 64:6 says: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

I would not discredit the good done by many organizations; but unless we first come to God through Jesus Christ, our good deeds are as "filthy rags" in His sight. Another human philosophy follows the reasoning that we can undo our mistakes, or atone for some of our indiscretions, by acts of charity. If we are ever to have fellowship with the living God, it must be accomplished His way. If we ever qualify to spend eternity with God in His heaven, it must be done the Bible way.

How often people say, "Well, this is how I look at it. If I do the best I can, believe in God and feel this way, I'll make it." God's Word says: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-7).

Good works have always been a stumbling block to man in his quest for justification. It is strange how men will defend the merits of an organization—and spend hours in rituals and activities—and yet know so little about their soul's destiny. How foolish, in the light of God's Word, to risk eternal damnation by mistaken allegiance. Where is your allegiance? Where is your loyalty? Is it to a man-made organization, or in the loving God who created you and sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to pay the penalty of your sins?

Whose pin are you wearing? Where is your treasure? The Bible says: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34). Does your "pin" indicate your allegiance? Will you let this devotion to an organization blind you to the claims of God? God forbid! Remember God will be the final judge, and His judgment will be in righteousness. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

God will recognize only one insignia—that of the bloodstained cross where Jesus died in your place and paid the penalty of your sin.

You are not being asked to join another organization, but the family of God—not by initiation, but by simple faith in Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

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