

The Latter Rain Kvangel

The days of Heaven on Earth

Are There But Six Years More?

FATHER'S library had a book entitled "The Approaching End of the Age," by Dr. Grattan Guinness. Four terminal dates were therein given for the closing of the Gentile Age: 1914, 1917, 1923, and 1934-5. I read that book in 1909; since, three of these dates have proved correct.

1914 the great World War; 1917 Jerusalem liberated; 1923 the Treaty of Lausanne, by which the Turks relinquished all claims to Palestine, and, the same year the British Government gave the Jews the administration of the Holy Land. The first three were accurate predictions, the last date may be too.—What will happen in 1934-5?

Recently I visited Auckland Castle, the seat of the Bishop of Durham, where the late saintly Dr. Moule ministered publicly, who endorsed this theory of Dr. Guinness'. Briefly this is the theory: The Times of the Gentiles began at four important successive years in the progressive over-throw of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. i.e. B-C. 606, 604, 597, 585-6. To each one of which dates we must add 2520 years in order to get the four corresponding wind up dates of A. D. 1914, 1917, 1923, and 1934-45, (2520 represents the seven times, or 7×360 years which Moses said God would punish Israel. LEV. 26: 18.)

1934-5 may see many things. By that time, Palestine, an independent Jewish state may enter a covenant with the restored Roman Empire, whose modern aspect is daily becoming plainer. The date, if correct, must concern the Jews as a Nation; "that wicked ONE may then be fully revealed" and the Great Tribulation break out, that year or before. In any event the Rapture may take place any hour and it behooves us to "redeem the time" and to work with all our might for whether there are six years more left us or even a longer or lesser period, everything is rapidly reaching consummation. Almost 200,000 Jews settled in their own land. The Pope is again a king. The greatest Catholic Council in history is called for 1930. Russia and Germany are drawing closer together. Feverish war preparations are unabated. Significant that Mussolini has mentioned 1935 as the critical hour. But the question, Are there but six years more? should rouse us to constant watching and prayer. Solemn serious, sacred moments are left! May every minute count in the harvesting of precious souls.

W. E. B-C.

Ask Ye of the LORD Rain in the Time of the Latter Rain

The Latter Rain Evangel

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Stone Church Convention

AS PREVIOUSLY announced, the Twenty-first Annual Convention will be held May 26-June 9, 1929. We have been praying for many months for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and we are believing that God will meet us in a very special way at that time. Nothing satisfies Pentecostal people but "rain in the time of the latter rain," and our cry is that God will open up the flood-gates of His power and work mightily in our midst. Pastor Robt. A. Brown of New York City and Bro. Joseph Tunmore of Pittsburg, Pa., will be with us. Also Miss Bernice Lee, who has just returned from India.

* * *

Miss Mary Ayres, formerly of Australia, now of Oakland, Calif., with her co-worker, Miss Louise Quitsch, held a week's meetings in the Stone Church with blessed results. Several who have been tarrying for the Baptism of the Spirit, received, and a number were greatly blessed. Miss Ayres and Miss Quitsch have a Gospel Mission in Oakland; an old theatrical building is now used for the Gospel. Here they have nightly meetings and minister to all classes, rich and poor. Their zeal for God and consecrated lives are an inspiration to all who come in touch with them.

Concerning Spiritual Gifts

A Book that has recently been published and which deserves a large circulation is entitled, "Concerning Spiritual Gifts" by Donald Gee. It is a series of Bible Studies on this most important subject, and fills a long-felt need. "If published a few years ago," writes Mr. Parr the Editor of Redemption Tidings, England, "it would have saved many meetings from unfortunate mistakes and excesses." These studies are the fruit of sixteen years practical experience in meetings where the gifts of the Spirit have been in exercise. The writer has put them in book form at the request of those who have heard them, and they are a valuable addition to Pentecostal literature. They should be read by all Pentecostal people; they will clarify many matters regarding the gifts of the Spirit which have not been understood. Some of the chapters are, "Discerning of Spirits," "The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts," "Abuses, their Cause and Cure," "Some Difficulties Considered," etc. etc. Heavy paper cover, price 75c by mail.

* * *

"Promises are receipts signed with the blood of Jesus, and if we present them in faith God has to honor them or the kingdom of heaven would fall."

The Spirit of Daniel or the Spirit of This Age

What Price Heaven's Riches?

Evangelist Frank Lindblad at the Chicago Young Peoples' Rally, Christ Church, Jan. 26, 1929



WHEN Nebuchadnezzar took possession of Jerusalem, he took the children of the nobility and brought them to Babylon; then he proceeded to educate them and make them a part of his great empire. Daniel arrived there, with his friends, and instead of being sold as a slave, as thousands of other Jews, he found favor in the eyes of the king. In other words, Daniel had a golden opportunity presented to him.

I have noticed that when fine chances for employment, good wages and promotion present themselves before young folks of today the natural tendency is for them, unconsciously perhaps, to become puffed up a bit. The other day, in Seattle, my Buick did not operate just right and I took it into a garage. While they were working with the electrical connection a young man came along, and said, "I am graduating from the university shortly. I have become a friend of a Japanese student, who is the son of a wealthy man in Japan. This friend offers to take me to Japan, pay all my expenses; we, together, are to travel the length and breadth of the land, spend a year in seeing the sights, then they want to take me into the firm, and become their American representative. What shall I do?" I was listening. The other man said, "Grab it quickly before they change their minds." Not many young men in the United States have such an offer thrown at them. I was wondering how I would have chosen if I were a young man, and how you young people would choose in the face of such an opportunity.

A wonderful opportunity lay before Daniel. He was to be educated at the Chaldean school of learning. And when he fulfilled his course he was to have an excellent position in the king's court, become a part of the ruling dynasty. "And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank"—you will notice that with every beautiful thing the devil throws you there is always a string attached, always a reason why he does it. Daniel and his friends were destined for a special place and the king appointed for them a daily portion of

his dainties. Ordinary food was not good enough; they were to have the king's food, and were to be nourished three years.

Besides Daniel there were Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Now the stage is all set and the program is ready to start. A wonderful proposition is placed before this young man who is just beginning to mold and shape his life. He is making a preparation for his life's ministry, but he did not quite see it the way the prince of the eunuchs offered it to him. He "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." As a Jew he had been taught that he should not eat certain foods, and the same with reference to drinking. It was a part of his religion. He is in a new land now. On the streets of Babylon he notices that things are different from what they were in Jerusalem. He sees statues of great winged bulls, heathen temples where gods are worshipped of which he knows nothing. There is a form of religion that is foreign to his own. He came as a young man into a foreign land as it were.

When you leave your own country and go to a foreign land you see and hear things you never saw or heard before, and under the new environment it is easy to slip or let down. Mother, with her loving sympathy, is not there; father, with his counsel and advice, is far away; the old church connections are broken up. You are a stranger, and nobody can tell on you, you can do as you please and get away with it; nobody will ever know. I have noticed that when some folks are at home they are very circumspect in their lives, but when they go to another town they are not so careful in their behavior. It often happens that when people leave this section of the country and go out to the West Coast, they leave their Christianity up on the top of the Rocky Mountains or the Cascades, and as the train glides down to the Pacific coast and they get a breath of that salt air in their nostrils, they forget nearly everything of God and religion. Never going where God is, they soon lose out.

But with Daniel, serving God was a serious proposition. Serving God in Judea was not something he did to please his parents, or to create

a good impression, or to obtain some financial or material end. Daniel served God because he loved Him. His religion was not something merely in his head, but in his heart. The trouble with ninety-five per cent of the people who backslide is that their religion is in their heads instead of their hearts. Serving God should be a serious proposition, but not necessarily long-faced. I have seen folks long-faced who didn't have any religion at all. You can be oozing full of religion and yet not be saved. The old Pharisees were so full of religion it just run over wherever they went, yet when it came to real spiritual life, they had none. I have seen folks in this good old United States of America who were full of religion, but when you talked re-birth and Holy Spirit you might just as well have spoken to a Hottentot. I believe in a religion that is within and not just tacked on the outside. It is all right to wear a pin, "*Jesus saves*" as a testimony; but I believe that true religion does not need any pins to show that it is within. It will blossom out in the life.

Daniel's religion meant something to him, and even tho he with others had been herded like sheep over to Babylon, he had taken his religion with him, and when he arrived in the old Babylonian streets he still had the love of God in his heart. I wish to say that if you really love Jesus you can go from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and you will love Him in Seattle just as much as in New York City. You will love Him just as much when you stand on a foreign shore as in the homeland.

Our salvation is a triple-barrelled affair. It is something that has happened, that is happening and shall happen. We have been saved from our past sins, we are being saved from the spirit of this age. Just a thought here: Because the spirit of this age has more of the power of the devil, and because this demon presence is far more active and in a more powerful way dominates the civilization and the activities of this time, God has sent into this present time a power beyond that of what our forefathers had, namely, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is not enough to say, "The Lord has forgiven my past sins," but real salvation results in His saving us from the desire of sin. It is not enough that we say, "He has forgiven all the lies I have told," but He touches the fountain of those lies and lying thoughts. He saves us from this present evil age.

Now this age has some things which characterize it and make it distinct from any other age in the history of the world. Paul says in his Epistle to Timothy, that in the last days perilous times shall come, and he quotes a long list of evil doers, among them, "blasphemers," "lovers of their own selves," "lovers of pleasure," "heady," "high-minded" "having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof". Friends, it is these perils that you run into in your high-school; it is this atmosphere that you meet in the University. It is that which you are running headlong into in the office down town; that is the thing that is facing you in the factory, on the street, and listen! these are the perils that cause our youth to let down and take the keen edge off their testimony.

Friends, Jesus is coming soon. Do not forget it. I know we have preached it for twenty years and He has not come. I am well aware that people are letting down, but that to me is additional proof of His soon-coming. These are the days of the Ten Virgin Parable, the days when many are asleep; the days when the oil is getting low, the days when folks are talking about the blessings of twenty years ago. When Jesus comes He will not look at your inventory of 1904 or 1907, or 1910. He will ask, "What is your stock on hand today?" So many are living on the past—"God filled me with His Holy Spirit twenty years ago." Yes, but how much have you now? "I was wonderfully born again. Oh the anointing I had!" That is fine, but how much have you now? The Ten Virgins all had oil, but as the darkness came on, it decreased until it reached a certain minimum. The *spirit of this age* is settling down like black damp in a mine that chokes the miner, like poisoned gas that hung over the battle-field. It creeps like a heavy fog that makes everything wet, shuts off the vision, shuts out the sunlight, shuts out sound. The atmosphere of this world is laying its clammy hand upon our Christian youth and leaving its mark.

Daniel "purposed in his heart". I like that expression. He sat down and figured it all out. I imagine he said, "I am perfectly willing to be one of the big men in the king's court. That will be fine, and I will do the best I can, but I am not willing to sell my salvation in order to get a prominent place." Do you know that the world rolls opportunities in the lap of each generation,

but each opportunity has a little price tag attached,—“If you will just let down a little; if you will not be too radical; if you will just become a little sober on this religion; if you will become less particular; if you will not hew so straight to the line,—I have something wonderful that I can offer you.” Thank God there are some people who can see thru it. They take one look at it and say, “There is nothing stirring.” But others have to nibble and nibble and soon they are hooked and have lost their hold on God. More than one young man has had the touch of God in his life blighted because the devil has come thru a business chance, plenty of money, a nice car, a fine home. How these things glitter! And thus we let down. Ah what a miserable, devilish anesthetic steals over you like this carbon monoxide gas! You can breathe that in until you drop dead and never know anything about it. So when people get under the spell of these things they are not conscious of retrograding.

A young man in the West said, “I have discovered that I do not need to pray as much as I used to. And I hardly read my Bible at all, and feel fine.” The poor fellow was backslidden and didn’t know it. We prayed for him and one day the power of God struck him and knocked him over. He woke up as in a dream and said, “That thing had me, and I didn’t know it. I was losing my grip and was not conscious of it.” Oh how many are caught in the same snare! When time comes to go to service you say, “Oh it is so slippery, I don’t think I’ll go out tonight.” But if it was a skating affair you’d be on hand. Then when the services are over, are these folks found at the altar? Alas no! They are in the rear talking to this one and that one. A young man has his eye on a young lady, and he watches her every move. That young lady has her hat set for a certain young man and she cannot pray because she has her mind on him. Listen! There is nothing wrong about falling in love, but it is absolutely wrong to let these things come in the way of keeping victory in your soul. Before they are aware they are saying, “I do not see anything wrong in it.” What has happened? The anointing has left their eyes, their discerning has oozed out, and the thing they thought wrong six months ago they are indulging in now.

At one place where I was preaching I happened to say something about tobacco. I smelled tobacco smoke in the house where I was staying. The man said, “You said something about to-

bacco every night. I do not see anything wrong about smoking.” I said, “Hold your horses, I remember the day you threw your cigarettes away and your chewing tobacco also. In those days you got down on your knees, shut your eyes and talked to God. Now I notice you are smoking your cigarettes and you get down on one knee now. Are you afraid you will spoil the crease in your trousers?” The spirit of this age is getting hold of our younger generation; the older folks are more settled, but that doesn’t mean that they are not being affected, because they are. The spirit of the age is getting hold of many of the preachers and they are losing their grip on God; men who had the anointing on their lives are now selling insurance, or canteloups or automobiles. Some are using their position to get people’s confidence and then sell them oil-stock or real estate.

And that is not all. The spirit of this age is a pleasure-seeking atmosphere, and it is the age that wants entertainment. In former days folks liked to go to church to hear a good sermon, but now they say, “Can they entertain us?” “Will there be good music? good singing?” “Is that preacher a live wire?” They want something full of “pep”. Some churches are so anxious to entertain they actually put plays on the platform. The spirit of entertaining, you hear it in the music. The old good hymns that used to thrill us are not good enough now. You have to “jazz” them up. And in the orchestra more jazz. Everything has to be at high speed. This jazz music—the last place it came from was the Red Light district of Paris, and before that it existed in the old temples of Greece, Assyria and Egypt where they played for the purpose of exciting sensual feelings among the temple girls and the heathen priests. Now the stinking stuff is on the platforms of the church, and they want it. The spirit of this age is taking hold. What was it Jude said? “Contend earnestly for the faith delivered to the saints.” Friends, it is time we wake up and shake ourselves of this incubus that is choking the life out of the Pentecostal Movement which could have swept the world if it would have stayed where God wanted it. Let us get a real hold on God and say, “Lord, here is one holy purpose in my heart. I will not submit to the spirit of the age. I cannot help if they all lose out. Here is one who will stand, by Thy grace.” Look at Isaiah and all the old prophets! Look at the apostles and martyrs! They were true to God tho they burned at the

stake. No place for spineless fish worms or oysters. It will take steel back-bones to be able to stand and if you haven't a back-bone the Lord will give you one. Daniel purposed in his heart. He knew what that old king would do and he knew he could do it, but he purposed in his heart, "I will not eat those dainties. They are an abomination to my God. I will not." Friends, we need men and women who will say, "*I will not.*" Oh there is a lot in that! It is wonderful to be able to say "*I will*" when the Lord talks to you, but it is just as wonderful to say "*I will not*" when the devil comes with his seductive arts. If you learn those two sentences and know just when to say them you will be able to save yourselves much sorrow and heartache.

A young lady said to me, "What is the use for me to try to stand in this church?" speaking of a certain church. She had gotten real salvation and was praying and weeping. Soon she said, "I know one place in town where they stand. That is the Pentecostal Mission, but they call them holy rollers. If I go down there everybody will make fun of me." Would it not be better to go," I said, "and have victory in your soul, than to lose out with God?" "You are right," she said. Now she is the pianist of that Assembly.

Young men are offered business opportunities which mean the letting down of principle. It means shading a little here and shading a little there. They say, "Bro. L. I have to have a job." Have you ever prayed for a job? We have regular prayer for our people along this line and God gives them work. A woman said to me, "I am working for an outfit that talk the vilest one would ever hear. I listen to that rotten filth and it saps every bit of strength out of me. If I stay there I will lose out." "What are you planning to do?" I asked. She said she felt like quitting. She did, and was off for three months. Then she got a position three times as remunerative, made up her lost three months, and had three months' vacation beside.

Some have companions who are a hindrance. Many a time a young man has victory in his soul, but he has a young woman on his heart. He wants to go on with God and she doesn't. Young man, if you marry that girl, you will have hell in your home as long as you live. We have heard them weeping and praying, "Oh my God, why did I ever get caught in a mess like this?" I have seen women marry ungodly men thinking

they could lift them up. If you marry a man to reform him, you attempt something that is very seldom accomplished in this world. If there is no spiritual life there before he will not have it afterwards. More than one young man has sold himself to the devil and lost the whole plan of God for his life because some unsaved young woman has glittered in his eye, and *vice versa*.

If you look back in your life just a little you will find where you lost your victory. You remember how the Spirit of God came to you and asked you to do something, you groaned and said, "I cannot." And you remember how the Spirit was grieved. Again, His Spirit said, "Son, don't do that?" And you said, "No, Lord, I will not" and yet disobeyed and grieved Him. You remember, young lady, when God's Spirit was so real, you felt if you put out your hand you would have touched the Lord. During the day nobody knew the secret of your heart, but Jesus was so real you felt His presence in the room. And how, again and again the Holy Spirit came to you, and you felt your whole being glow with the power of God. You remember when you were awakened, and heard the most wonderful music; it was so sacred you did not dare to tell a soul. Is that your experience now? Somewhere you got out of step, somewhere you slipped a cog. The chances are you know just where it happened. Listen! Jesus is coming and He will catch you right in that retrograde condition. When I think of the outcome of my losing my hold, of losing my anointing, I say, "Lord, rather than let me lose out with Thee, let a train or an automobile run over me and kill me; or let the lightning strike me. I never want it said of me that I have backslid. Listen! If you have seen things in the Spirit that no eye has seen, heard things that no human ear has heard, that ought to spur you on in your life: "Lord I have seen Thee, I have heard Thee, I have felt Thee, and this world and its money, its clothing and its complexion, its false friends I do not want. But Jesus I want all of you I can get my hands on."

* * *

On March 11, 1929, Miss Fannie Langdon of Cincinnati, O. went to be with the Lord. She was a faithful intercessor and devoted friend of the missionaries who will miss her greatly. She not only ministered to their necessities through prayer and her gifts, but the needy at home were also recipients of her bounty. Her going is a real loss to the friends in Cincinnati and the mission field at large.

Hurry Up!

How God Promises to "Cut It Short" in the Consummation Time

The Booth-Clibborn Campaign Key-Note Message, British Isles, 1929



Light travels 186,000 miles a second, and Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World". He calls us also lights in this world, and light is the essence of rapidity. We believe that God is able to speed things up and do in this day in a week what in the past others have expected Him to do in six months, and that is why, to stimulate your faith I wish to speak to you on "Hurry Up". You will find my text in the epistle of Paul to the Romans, 9:28.

There is nothing slow about God, and the manifestation of God on earth (our Lord Jesus Christ) accomplished more in three years' ministry than the greatest men have in 1,000 years of human history. The instantaneous, the sudden, the immediate is His perfect method of doing things when it comes to the work of salvation. If a revolver can kill in a moment of time, the gospel truth can give Eternal Life yet quicker. Though the physician takes hours to operate—and the patient months to recuperate yet God can perform the whole transaction in a moment of time. The Hand that directs the clock-work of the universe, that controls the stars in their courses, is able with one touch to destroy all the negative forces of disease, effecting a perfect cure.

Follow the romance and miracle of Jewish history and stop to marvel at the speed, the thoroughness, the efficiency of God's wonderful works to the children of Israel. Instantaneously, in a flash, at midnight, Egypt's first born was stricken. How swift was the sword of the angel of death! With what unsurpassed despatch did not God drown the 246,000 warriors of Pharaoh's Host; thickly strewing the strand of the Red Sea with their corpses so that Israel might strip the bodies of their implements of war. That was an appalling spectacle! And the amazing thing was the suddenness of it all! How soon it was allowed! Oh yes, the critic will remind us that it took forty years for God to bring them to the Land of Promise! May God stop his ignorant mouth! For it was their unbelief that hindered God's purpose, as the Scripture asserts, "Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said. They

do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath. They shall not enter into my rest." (Heb. 3:10). Had they understood God's ways they would have been in the Land of Promise in no time, but God destroyed that generation and taught their young His ways.

In all military history no Campaign was ever *more rapid* than Joshua's subjugation of Palestine. Everything happened about as suddenly as the tremendous crash of the walls of Jericho at the united shout of Israel. There was nothing slow about that!

God's ways are swift, His methods rapid and sure. He who admonishes us to redeem the time does not waste it Himself! He promises "Before they call, I will answer." That's the quickest telephone exchange of which I ever heard. There's no delay because the operator got the wrong number. Think of taking the receiver off the hook and finding your party on the line! Matthew 6:8 explains it all, "For your Father knoweth the things ye have need of, before ye ask Him!" Oh glory to God! no waiting is necessary, no preparation needed for the sinner to come for salvation for "All things are now ready"! Every believer may immediately be filled with the Holy Ghost; there is no need of tarrying at all, for the Holy Spirit is *given*. They waited at Pentecost because the day was not "fully come", but now the Comforter *is* given, the only impediment is in us; we obstruct God's right of way. His will is to help and bless us instantly: Jesus saith to Zaccheus "*Make haste* to come down". To Lot the command was, "*Haste thee*, escape thither". To the Children of Israel concerning the Passover, "Ye shall eat it *in haste*" Ex. 12:11. He bids us to-day to "*Go quickly* into the streets and lanes of the city", and help "the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind". (Luke 14:21.) Oh! there's a get-up, there's a snap, there's an expeditious dash about all the exploits of the Spirit of God. The flesh always blunders, stumbles, gropes, and waits. When David heard Goliath, it wasn't long till he had his head!

God loves those that run, leap and fly. He Himself rides upon the storm and sends His words like the lightning. There's nothing inert about that! "Behold the Lord rideth upon a swift

cloud," cries Isaiah. Some of you lazy laggards need to move on, if you would keep up with David for he shouts, "By thee I have run through a troop, and by my God have I leaped over a wall—He maketh my feet like hind's feet." (Ps. 18, 29, 33.) He must have travelled some! Oh! bless God, what we need today is hind's feet to outrun all the forces of evil. One unnoticed little scripture has been a treasure to me, "And Asabel was as light of foot as a wild roe" (II Sam. 18). And what a lovely picture we find in the Song of Solomon. The Bride speaks of her Beloved coming to her "leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills. My beloved is like a roe or a young hart." (S. O. S. 2:8) Oh I'm going to pray God to make you all young roes for Him, and cause you to run so fast that you will not have time to put your feet in the low places but go skipping from one mountain top of victory to another. For did He not promise in Isaiah 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint"? *Three stages; I want the first, don't you? but if you don't fly, you can run and God promises, "When thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble" (Prov. 2:12). Christian life is more than a walk; it's running a race and the quickest get there; so strengthen your knees and lift up your hands and with patience run this race, looking unto Jesus. Oh for more runners that will not run in vain and by God's grace we will "Write the vision, and make it plain upon the tables, that he may run that readeth it," as Habbakuk says.*

It is often because we think that it will take a long time to accomplish a certain end that it is done to us according to our unbelief. There is no doubt about it, nothing in the whole of creation is as fast as God's Word. No! not the mere letter of the word, but the Living Word who is none other but the Lord Himself. Listen to five scriptures which will suffice to convince you that God is prompt and instant to perform His will. Jeremiah 1:12, "I will hasten my word to perform it." Psalm 147:15, "He sendeth forth his command; his word runneth very swiftly", Isaiah 60:22, "I the Lord will hasten it in his time". II Thessalonians 3:1 "That the word of the Lord may run and be glorified" R. V. Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword." Our confidence must be fully placed in

the Word of God. Where the Word of God is pre-eminent, things travel fast, things happen, the unexpected occurs. Tens of thousands of churches have laid it aside, and the word of man, man's opinions, man's ideas, and man's imaginations have superseded it and supplanted it; the result—death, sluggishness, inactivity, tediousness and utter ruin. Lightning is a proper type in nature for the LIVING, LIVID, LIFE-GIVING word of God. Lightning is powerful and as there cannot be the showers of refreshing in the thunderstorm without first the lightning ripping through the stifling atmosphere and shaking the water-laden clouds, so it is impossible for us to have revival with flood tides of blessing without first giving honor to God's double-barrelled bolts of lightning—God's sharp two-edged sword, His swift fire-arrows; and blessed be His Name let them hit you! Who cares where they land, as long as the Heavens split open and the Latter Rain falls in copious abundance.

Now it may have taken ages upon ages of time for God to have accomplished certain of His great purposes in this vast universe. One thousand years with Him are as but one day and His ways are past finding out. There is no limiting the Almighty one way or the other but when He expressly states that He will hasten His Word and that He will immediately perform it, then there is no more need for us to doubt! 'Tis true "he that believeth shall not make haste" but why? because he that believeth has lost confidence *in human power* and in the ability of the flesh, and he has placed it in the Word of God that "runneth very swiftly".

The true test, the best example of God's immediate working is to be seen in the Life of Christ. Here was the Living Word revealed in mortal flesh. The Will of God finds its highest expression in the life of Him who when He came into the world said, "Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: . . . Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do Thy will, O God." One glance in the Gospel of Mark will convert you to see that it is always God's will to work at once, to perform His will without any delay. Look at that little word "*straightway*"; you are never rid of it. He calls Simon and Andrew and "*straightway* they forsook their nets". He prays for Simon's wife's mother "and *immediately* the fever left her" (the words *immediately* and *straightway* are interchangeably

used). Jesus puts forth His hand and touches the leper saying, "Be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, *immediately* the leprosy departed from him". He speaks to the palsied man "and *immediately* he arose, took up the bed, and went forth." The woman with the issue of blood touched Him, "and *straightway* the fountain of her blood was dried up". When two blind men cried, Jesus touched their eyes; "and *immediately* their eyes received sight". The woman bowed together who could in no wise lift herself up—"He laid his hands on her; and *immediately* she was made straight and glorified God". Oh hallelujah! What days of supreme adventure, surprise and speedy wonder-working must the days of the Son of man have been! But He is the same yesterday, today and for ever; HE CHANGES NOT. His power is instant to save, to bless, to revive, to heal and to set at liberty. His Word is quick, His salvation prompt, His answer ready before we ask, His table prepared and spread and He says that He is not slack nor slow in coming again. No, no, no! "*Behold, I come quickly!*" and again "*Surely, I come quickly!*" (Rev. 3:11, 22:20.) He speaks of His return as the lightning flashing from the East to the West; of our Rapture as happening in the twinkling of an eye just like His resurrection.

Once I looked up the words "suddenly" in the Scriptures and found seven prominent references. When Miriam had to be disciplined, "The Lord spoke *suddenly* unto Moses and Aaron, and unto Miriam". (Num. 12:15.) When God consecrated the Temple, "The thing was done *suddenly*" (2 Chron. 29:36.) The New Testament baptism is promised *suddenly* in Malachi 3:1, "The Lord shall *suddenly* come to His temple"; and this was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. "*Suddenly* there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God". (Lu. 2:13.) There was nothing slow about Paul's conversion; "*Suddenly* there shined round about him a light from heaven". And God can give His people sudden deliverance as when He set Paul and Silas free the night they were singing His praises in prison. "*Suddenly* there was a great earthquake". Judgment is sudden. Witness how the World War started and how it ended. Indeed the whole modern method of warfare is quick. Think of the rapidity of a bullet! God said that the rebellious man shall *suddenly* be cut off and that without remedy." (Prov. 6:15.) Indeed "swift destruction", said Peter, will God bring upon false

prophets and those departing from the truth.

You know we do not realize that we are living in a day of general and amazing speed!

The pace of modern life accelerates daily. Everything is rushing to a great climax. Haste is in the air. It is so in nature; the waters of a river always travel faster as they approach the lip of the cataract. Stand with me on the edge of that colossal Niagara Falls and see how swiftly the foaming torrent flows before its final plunge. Things always go faster before they wind-up. Satan himself is hastening; he knows his time is short and what he does, he must accomplish quickly. Do not forget how the Lord Jesus Himself said to Judas, "That thou doest, do quickly". And what about heaven? Things there are a-preparing rapidly for our final entrance and the coming triumph of the people of God on earth when Christ shall return with them and all the kingdoms of this world shall belong to Him. The speeding-up of every phase of our modern life is nothing short of a sign of the Times, picturing in the natural the great hastening of God's purposes and designs for His Church.

If Paul said to the Romans, "*Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep,*" (Rom. 13:11) what language would he use now? Many of us do not *know the time*. Just as a man running a race does not expend all his strength in the first lapses but reserves his energy for the sprint that is bound to come at the end, so God, working according to supernatural law as well as natural, has reserved for this age, *the rapid sprint of consummation*. Every age in past history has closed with a speedy wind-up. Not only is this true of secular history, but it is true of the cyclic ages of Bible dispensations. The Apostle Paul, speaking to the Romans, concerning the winding up of the Jewish age, says, "*For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.*" And that is what God intends to do also at the closing of the Gentile age. The law that applies to the Jewish dispensation applies to the Gentile just the same. Hence we may expect great revivals, great multitudes turning to God and a general despatch to characterize the efforts of the final victorious saints of God. Did I say that the general speeding-up in the world is a sign of the times? Yes, it certainly is, for everyone is hurried! And the pace of modern life increases day by day. There is

no let-up. The rush is maddening, the race feverish and God help the laggards behind for no one has patience with them. There is no sympathy for the old and the faint. No compensation comes to the handicapped. This is the spirit of our times. Though as Christians we may not favor it in many respects, yet it is there and carries a solemn significance. Take for instance, the crowded streets and highways of any great metropolitan city and watch for awhile the scrambling, struggling, rushing, running multitudes that throng and surge about this way and that. It will quicken your pulses. It will make you realize that we are living in the very close of the period of grace.

In Travel, the universal demand is rapid transit, the quicker the conveyance the better. The aeroplane is all the rage. The fastest trains get the patronage, the speediest liners get the tourists' trade. Have you seen the picture, "From Dawn to Dusk"? It is gotten out by the Pennsylvania Railroad and shows you one of their crack trains, "The Red Arrow" dashing from Detroit to New York. It is a sight to quicken your heart beats. Thirty thousand tons hurled at a dizzy pace thundering on to its destination. Woe to that which stands in its way! A new company has just been formed in Philadelphia of fast trans-Atlantic steamers guaranteed to cross to Europe in four days!

In Commerce, the man who can get the orders filled the quickest, gets the clients. They have not time to wait for him to send out for the material. No! No! He must have it in stock, right at his finger tips. The Service that comes to your door providing your needs gets your orders. Nowadays they even suggest your needs and wants in order to have you on their books.

In Communication. We are ahead of the clock. Some newspapers sell the extra telling of the disaster almost before it has happened. The country is a net work of live wires. Radio, telephone and telegraph have been improved to the nth degree.

In Business, any new invention, any improved device will sell almost solely on its merits as a time-saving artifice. Step into the bank and see for yourself, thousands of adding, subtracting and mechanical instruments doing quickly and neatly the work that formerly took an army of clerks to perform. And now they've invented an electric shaving machine. They'll advertize it with "No brush, no soap, no lather, no honing, no rubbing" and maybe no thinking!

In Literature, it is the same. The shortest stories and treatises get the approval and notice of the public. The shortest courses get the students. It is a modern trend everywhere. It affects art and music and education. Everyone is impatient with a slow poke. The days of the stage coach are past. They are even *speeding up nature*. They turn the electric lights on in the chicken coop at four o'clock in the morning. Then the chickens start to scratch and get busy for the day and increase the egg output one-third. Fruit everywhere is picked prematurely, is shipped to its destination and in the depth of winter is placed in enormous cellar compartments and tens of thousands of electric lights turned on, and it is ripened up in double-quick time. Just so with the hothouse flowers and plants. Anything to get ahead of nature and hurry things up.

When you cross the street nowadays you are kept on the jump. Accidents increase. Death lurks at the curves and corners. Here is a good story that is going the rounds:

Little boy, to his father: "Daddy, what does it mean in the Bible when it says, 'The quick and the dead?'"

Absentminded father: "Those who are quick get out of the way. The rest are the dead."

Since we are living in the end then let us sprint for the last lap of the race! In keeping with His Word, God has sent us the Latter Rain in order to speed the Church of the Living God on to final victory in these last days. Let our faith rise to the vision! Let us forsake the perambulating, antiquated methods of dead, back-slidden churches around about us and pattern after the Early Church! Surely it would be difficult to travel faster! Compare their jubilant happy, free and eager worship with the slow, heavy, dull, and tedious formalities of some present-day church services. Their secret was prayer! They wept and broke-up their hearts in supplication before the Lord; they gave Him no rest night nor day, imploring Him to stretch out His hand, to pour out His Spirit, and to do mighty signs and wonders. And God heard them: 3,000 were converted in one day; 5,000 turned to the Lord upon another occasion; whole cities received the Word of God with joy, and their enemies were forever wondering how they could put a stop to this marvellous band of believers that seemed to spread over-night, that multiplied by the thousands and carried everything before them.

God works quickly, man works slowly! The

more of God in the work the quicker it will go, and the more permanent will be the success. The lingering, dilatory manner in which unsanctified effort seeks to perform the will of God only exhausts, disgusts and wearies people in time. Little is accomplished and results are most unreliable. Oh! how much of God's work languishes today, and how costly and laborious church machinery has become! There is no cure without a revolution; nothing can be achieved until another Pentecost is sent from heaven.

In Pentecostal ranks there's a great slowing down. Instead of spending more time upon our knees so that the power of God could yet the more undertake for us, we seek to untangle with difficult and clumsy human ingenuity, by conference and committee endless knots that arise in the progress of the work. Our conference sessions are weighty with worry and work, and burdensome with business. Rip-roaring, red-hot prayer meetings are not the main characteristics any more; intercession burns and eats us up not as before. I have but to think of one such conference, although I could speak of many, in which two solid hours were spent in discussing how a piffling \$28 was spent two years before. And think of all the money that had been spent in bringing these hundreds of brethren together for

what should have proved a priceless, inimitable time of refreshing and blessing!

Ministerial congresses should be power-houses of re-charging and replenishment, sources of the greatest inspiration and recuperation. But you let the human element get the upper hand, and our pace becomes a funeral march. Oh! how some of us have suffered a hundred deaths in these inane sessions! No wonder my grandfather, General Booth, abolished such sieges of endless talk and adopted the autocratic principle, if for nothing else but just to save time. Today the Spirit of God desires to control; it pays to let Him have His way, it speeds up the work of God all along, faith is quick as a flash, living faith in the power of God; for He says, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," and who at any time has counseled God's mind? who has taught Him or advised Him?

In view of all this we can well believe that it is God's will "to finish the work", and "cut it short". Does He not say that He will do a quick work on the earth in the last days? Let us believe that the Holy Ghost will fall today as in the house of Cornelius. Why not believe that God can save sinners one minute and baptize them with the Holy Ghost the next! Let us prove Him true to all His Word.

From our Missionaries Overseas

FEW in the homeland realize the suffering and the hard trials some of our missionaries are called upon to pass through. Some times the sights and sounds from the perishing, dying heathen are almost beyond words to express. One missionary, seeing death and suffering on every hand, writes, "I weep all the time." A recent letter from Brother Plymire says they have passed through one of the most trying and awful times any one can imagine. He writes on Feb. 19th:

Kept Thru Blood and Fire

"On the 13th, bandits approached Tangar, burning places as they came. We could hear the gun shots and see the fires. We spent the night in prayer and watching, and the Lord gave us real peace.

"The next morning, early, they were seen on the mountains in large numbers, and approached the city, some 20,000 strong. After fighting for some hours they captured and entered the city, killing and looting. In about two hours they had

murdered about 4,000 Chinese and wounded many hundreds in a terrible manner. No words can describe the awful sights we have been facing ever since. Some are so disfigured that we hardly know friends. Heads are cut open, we see the brain as we dress them; faces cut badly, the brutality of the bandit is hard to describe. Spears were thrust through some and others all shot to pieces. In dressing wounds I cut the hand off of one, which was just hanging by the skin of the palm. Arms and legs are broken in several places. For five days now we have been doing nothing but dressing the most awful wounds one can possibly imagine. We have dressed hundreds and the number is increasing. The odor is so offensive we can hardly endure it at times. There have been times when my wife and I just looked at one another and wept at the awful sights.

"Hundreds are homeless, escaping only with the clothes they had on. No bedding for these winter nights! Nothing to eat except what they beg, which is almost nothing, as little is left. These people are coming to us for food, and the

sight of their hunger is almost more than we can endure.

"With the exception of the loss of some money, a horse, my glasses, Mrs. Plymire's pen and some shoes, all of which we needed badly, the Lord protected our belongings.

"We did not feel that we should flee. We seemed to have the assurance that we would not be touched. We stayed and waited on the Lord, and from Him we got our strength. Chinese were murdered all about us, one cut down right outside our gate. We opened the gate for the bandits and two entered. They told us that not one of them would touch us nor our people on the place. No one was injured, but it was nerve-racking, indeed, to stand there and see men murdered and not dare defend them, much as we longed to do so. We learned to know the Lord and to know what it means to have His peace when all around is confusion and heart-breaking."

Healing among the Heathen

From Poona, India, Brother Thos. Stoddart writes:

"We had a servant who, though a Roman Catholic, witnessed to the power of God to heal. If he saw any sick he would bring them in for prayer and I could see that the truth was getting hold of him and his boys. One of his boys was bitten by a snake and the village folks brought him in with his foot all swollen and the boy in a dead faint. The father prayed all day, and the villagers expected him to die, but the next day the lad was running about as usual. He is a bright boy and preaches divine healing. He brought in a villager from the jungle for prayer; the man was suffering from Gueina worm in the stomach; they had eaten through to the outside. A Mohammedan came for prayer for the same thing; the worms had eaten down through the leg, but the man was healed, and in two days the horrid things were gone.

"We have a real note of praise about the soldiers. We had a small company of Irish boys coming to the meetings. As they had to go out to camp I asked the Lord to baptize two of them in the Holy Spirit before they went, and it was beautiful to see the way He brought them through. One had had a vision of Calvary some time before that and both had precious experiences. Looking back through my term in India I see much for which to praise God, souls saved and baptized in the Spirit and various healings from time to time."

Mrs. Anna Richards Scoble, Johannesburg, So. Africa, writes of an outstanding healing, a miracle, which has stirred the natives and made them to realize that our God does wonders. It was a great encouragement to them to see a woman whom five doctors have given up, and who was wasted away to little more than skin and bone, now plump and well, and an earnest worker for God. The evangelist's little girl was also healed of fits on the order of epilepsy. Many of the natives, who had no seeming interest, have come to inquire who made her well. While the ministers are saying that the days of miracles were to open the eyes of the people in the beginning, the missionaries feel they are just as much needed today to awaken those that sit in darkness and to turn their hearts to the living God.

* * *

From Lucknow, India, Bro. Paul Andreasen, writes under date of March 21, 1929, of a work that is largely self-supporting: "The Lord has graciously blessed His work in this place. Beginning with a dozen chairs in an old shop which had been vacated, the Lord has gradually worked for us until our people have gradually been able to purchase more than eighty chairs, install a platform and a baptistry, put up signs, curtains, etc. Just before Christmas we got a lovely pulpit and then a communion set. Best of all, *souls* have found the Lord from time to time, and are still doing so. A week ago Sunday, we had another precious baptismal service, when three young men followed their Lord in baptism. This past week has witnessed a wonderful answer to prayer in the saving of a young English traveling man. His conversion has been remarkable and his experiences since have been most encouraging. We ask an interest in your prayers for him. The heat has come on with a vengeance very early this year. We had hoped to get away this hot season, for a little, but relief having failed us we shall be obliged to face our fourth season in succession on the plains,—yet we are rejoicing in His unfulfilling promises."

Supernatural Workings in China

Miss Nettie Moomau, Shanghai, China, sends out a testimony to God's faithfulness since she has returned:

"The saving power of God was wonderfully manifested in a woman who was seeking God. Such conviction was on her that she was in agony until she yielded and confessed a number of cases of theft and cheating, and promised God she

would restore. We accompanied her when restoring seven tools which she had appropriated when living with a family; they listened eagerly to the Gospel story as confession was made and property returned.

"At one of our stations there are several people who walk from sixteen to eighteen miles (both ways) on Sunday. Some are found as early as eight-thirty and earlier in the chapel on Sunday, worshipping and praising God. One who walks a long distance starts before daylight in the winter.

"A remarkable case which I wish to relate is that of a woman who had intestinal obstruction for forty days. Her only relief a few times was through vomiting. A doctor told her to eat plenty of apricots with the seeds, which she did, but with no relief. She spent over one hundred dollars in idolatrous practices and rites, and through her suffering and high fever she was almost frantic when she heard some one say that Jesus could heal her. One of our Christians, a neighbor, took her to our chapel. The workers accompanied her to her home and helped destroy the idols. Then after prayer and anointing with oil, deliverance came, which an expert doctor said would have been impossible without an operation. This woman and her husband are earnestly going on with God, and spend all day Sunday in the services.

"A sister, who had gone through deep trials and had grown cold instead of rejoicing in her trials, was quietly waiting on God during a season of prayer, and suddenly heard a loud voice saying: "*Fire and brimstone will be poured out.*" It was the means of awakening her to her real condition and the realization that God had to use this sharp threshing instrument on her to cause her to know wherein she was weak. The convicting power of the Spirit in the meetings has some times been so strong that some were weak in their bodies, and lost their appetites, and sleep was taken away from them until they yielded to God.

"Through the testimony of a woman who went through a deep trial, a young man was wonderfully saved. This young man had been persecuting the Church, especially when the tide of anti-Christian feeling was running high, but his eyes began to trouble him and he became almost blind. Being an ambitious, bright young man, he became discouraged and thinking there was nothing to live for decided to drown himself. A letter had

been written addressed to his parents to be given them explaining his purpose, and when just about to take his life he heard his friend testify. He repented at once and confessed his sins; the Lord saved him and healed his eyes and since baptized him in the Holy Spirit. He is living a real sanctified life and has a burning testimony for the Lord.

"At one of our out-door meetings a man listened with interest and wondered how he might receive this wonderful salvation. That night they were awakened and found their rooms filled with light, like sunlight. The wife arose, thinking it was day, when suddenly the light vanished and they found it was still night and wondered at the supernatural light. Some months after, this man became insane and cut his throat. The doctor worked for some time but said the cut was so deep that he could do no more. The brother of this man and the family decided to turn to Jesus and seek His help, which resulted in the four brothers putting away their idolatry, two of whom are going on with God. The man was not only healed but delivered from insanity and saved from a habit of opium of sixteen years' standing; also the tobacco habit. His family of seven are all walking in the light; also one of his brothers who was delivered from thirty years' opium habit."

* * *

Miss Alice Stewart, who went out with Miss Stephany and is working on her station in Shansi Province, writes of a remarkable conversion last fall. A man who had participated in the Boxer rebellion and helped to kill the Christians, gave his heart to the Lord in a tent meeting held in his village. He greatly rejoiced in the Lord that his sins had been blotted out. Now he holds meetings in his own home and others, saved in the tent meeting, attend."

* * *

Another missionary writes of the conversion of a former bandit chief. About fifteen years ago a general put a large sum of money on his head as a reward to those who could apprehend him. For more than ten years he has been living in the country and doing business. He tried every heathen religion in China to find peace and gave much money to idols. Now he is rejoicing in the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ.

* * *

Mr. Hermann Becker, Yuanchow, Hunan Province, writes that 238 souls were saved at

their station during the past year, in spite of the teaching of Communism and the influence of bandits. "Some 200 soldiers are coming to all the meetings; they also come four times a week from ten to eleven a. m. to learn to read and sing. One Sunday these soldiers went through the streets in the city singing the hymn they had learned." Think of 200 soldiers marching through the streets of an interior city singing the ten commandments! "The leading man in this work among the soldiers is the vice-mayor. He is a Christian and witnesses everywhere for Christ. They have Bible posters posted everywhere in the barracks, and they have asked for 60 New Testaments and 20 hymnbooks."

Two Month's Report

(March and April)

L. M. Anglin, Orphanage, China.....	\$ 20.00
J. C. Beruldsen, for China.....	50.00
J. H. Boyce, India.....	10.00
Miss Anna Hockelman, Famine, China.....	156.66
J. W. Boyyer, China (\$20 famine).....	59.10
Robt. Cook, India	10.00
Mrs. Esther Harvey, India.....	55.00
Miss Anna Hockelman, China	31.00
E. F. Juergensen, Japan	20.00
Miss Ethel King, India	40.00
F. G. Leader, Congo	10.00
Miss Bernice C. Lee, India	30.00
Missionary Rest Home, Chicago (for painting)	34.00
Mrs. Mattie Neeley, Liberia	10.00
Frank Nicodem, India	20.00
Miss Sophia Nygard, Liberia	10.00
Miss L. H. Parker, India	29.88
Charles Personeus, Alaska	10.00
V. G. Plymire, Tibetan Border	22.75
Miss Laura Radford, Palestine	17.00
Mrs. Violet Schoonmaker, India	10.00
W. E. Simpson, Tibetan Border	25.00
W. W. Simpson, China (Famine)	537.32
Miss Katherine Steidel, Congo	40.00
Thos. Stoddart, India	50.00
Benj. and Mrs. Surtees, for China	55.00
Lillian Trasher, Egypt	20.00
N. Vetter, Venezuela	10.00
Miss Jessie Wengler, Japan	10.00
Total	\$1,402.71

With the Lord

COULD the news have been flashed around the world that we laid to rest the beloved Matron of the Chicago Missionary Rest Home on April 13th, missionaries from China, Africa, Japan, India, South America and by-places would have mourned with us and joined in paying a last tribute to her who had so willingly and efficiently ministered to their needs when on furlough.

Miss Mary Droegmiller, our faithful matron, went to be with the Lord on April 11, 1929. After seven years of arduous, untiring service,

the strong body with which she had been endowed became greatly weakened, and she felt that perhaps the work to which God had so definitely called her and which she so loved, was to end with the seven years, but because of the exigencies of the work and because it seemed a part of her, she continued another year, with the exception of a few months in which Mrs. D'Esenfant was in charge, and passed away at the close of eight years of service. During the last weeks of her illness she superintended the cleaning and decorating of the Home, and died in the harness.

She had all the qualities to make her a thoroughly competent matron, which one rarely finds in one person, for with her exceptional ability to look after the temporal needs of the missionaries, splendid business management and thrift, she was spiritual and consecrated, and above everything else desired that a spiritual atmosphere should radiate from the Home, and that the prayers from that place should affect every corner of the globe.

Guests in the Home have repeatedly told us of her devotion and sacrificing labors in behalf of the missionaries who partook of the Home's hospitality. She gave of her strength, her ability and her comfort unstintedly, often giving up her own room when the Home was crowded that others might be comfortable. The committee of management feel a great loss has been sustained, by one whose services will be hard to duplicate. It can truly be said of her, she was one that served. She laid down her life for "others" just as nobly as those who have gone to the battle front. Much of her service was hidden to all eyes but the Master's, who will reward her for her unswerving faithfulness.

* * *

God has already supplied a matron for the Rest Home, a Mrs. E. R. Singer is now acting in that capacity. Mrs. Singer has had practical experience in work of this kind, and is thoroughly consecrated to the Lord. We ask our readers to pray that the mantle of consecrated, efficient ministry which clothed our departed sister, will fall upon the new matron, and that the Home will continue to be a blessing to many as in the past. For the information of outside friends the address of the Missionary Rest Home is 1848 Bernice Avenue. There was a good attendance of interested friends from the different assemblies at the ninth anniversary of the Home, on May 1st, and a blessed fellowship meeting.

When our Cry for Water Reached the Throne of God

Heaven's Outpouring only for the Thirsty

Pastor Ben Hardin in the Stone Church, March 10, 1929



In the forty-first chapter of Isaiah, seventeenth verse, we read, "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I, the Lord, will hear them, I, the God of Israel will not forsake them." Then the

Lord continues, that He will

open rivers in the high places and fountains in the valleys, make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water. There is always a stage we must reach before we can get anything from God, and that is, we must feel our need. This promise is not to the one who is full and satisfied, but to the needy soul, the one who thirsts after God. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." There is only one place where this kind of a thirst can be satisfied and that is to come to Jesus. The world can never satisfy the thirst of the human heart after God. David knew this when he said, "My soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land where no water is." You would scarcely believe that a man who could write and paint such beautiful word pictures as David painted could feel he was in a dry and thirsty land, but I believe the one reason God permits us to get into these dry places is that He may create within us a thirst for Himself.

In the natural there is no suffering greater than that created by thirst. Travelers realize this and they cross the desert and often perish in the burning sands for lack of water. Thirst becomes much greater in the heat than in the cold, and it is in the burning noon-day heat of your journey when the fires of affliction, fires of adversity are burning all around you that you seek the Lord and call upon Him to satisfy your thirsty soul. We become independent when things go well and we rely on our own human strength, but when adversity comes and God shows us how weak we are, then we turn to Him who is strong to deliver and mighty to save.

Beloved, we are in that place today, right in the heat of the day, ready to slip into the night season, and the poor and needy are seeking water.

All over the land today the needy are seeking to satisfy the thirst of their soul. They have found that the beauties and glamor of the world which have seemed so attractive in the past, do not satisfy. They attend costly edifices, hear eloquent speakers discourse on science, education and art; they go there thirsty for the water of Life, but they go out of the house of God like they went in. They hear that which feeds the intellect but never reaches the heart. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." They cause the heart to burn. The most simple sermons you ever read in your life are the messages that Jesus preached as He sat in the boat or on the mountain-side. They are so different even from Peter's, that humble fisherman. Peter's and Paul's writings are far more complicated than the words of Jesus. He said to the multitudes as He taught from the boat, "A sower went forth to sow: and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, some fell upon stony ground, some among thorns, and others on good ground," and so on. His teaching was so simple that the "poor and needy" could understand.

The poor and needy today are seeking water, but they are not finding it in the magnificent structures. Thousands are saying, "Is there anything real on earth? Is this salvation a sham and a pretense? Is it a make-believe or a scarecrow that has been dangling before our eyes?" That is exactly the place I was in when I came to Jesus. There was something in my soul that wanted God, but I wanted to be a real Christian and I refused to profess unless I really knew Jesus. I went with a crowd of young people who professed to be Christians and not one of them had an ounce of Christianity. I used to say to them, "You are not Christians," and they would say, "Well, we know that, but we are just about as good as the rest of them." "But," I said, "how about God's standard?" "Oh," they said, "I do not know much about the Bible; I do not like to read it." The reason folks are against the Bible is because the Bible is against them.

Now you cannot go up to a man who is perishing for want of water and say, "Have you heard of the new discovery we have made?" and tell him of something wonderful some genius has in-

vented. Can you go to some one who is dying of thirst and give him a lecture on evolution? That we came from protoplasm, a kind of jelly fish, starting at the bottom of the ladder until we are what you see now? I would just like to say here that God started us out at the top of the ladder, creating us in His own image; we have come down the rounds of the ladder, round by round. When you see the condition of the world it would seem we were at the very bottom. You would not believe that sixteen women murdered their husbands this year in Chicago—mothers abandoned their babies, husbands murdered their wives. It would not look much like we were at the pinnacle, as the evolutionists say. We are just as far down and just as wicked as it is possible to get.

The needy are seeking water and there is none. Christian Science says, "Now you thirsty folks that are perishing for want of water, just believe that you are not thirsty." Pastor Russell comes with his nonsense, "Now you thirsty folks who are perishing for water, do not worry, and if you die without it you may have another chance. You may get a drink beyond the grave." Annie Besant with her theosophy says, "You who are perishing with thirst, do not worry; you may come back in another state and be much better than you are now. You may come back as a dog or a cow—transmigration."

Listen! What did Jesus say? Did He tell us to offer an excuse for not having water? Do you know that when many churches face the bar of God they will have to apologize for existing? We do not need restaurants in churches; we do not need amusement houses, we have plenty of them. We do not need social centers, and if the churches are trying to meet these needs they will have to apologize for existing.

But what did the Lord say? "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst,"—our disappointments and trials in the world create within us a burning thirst for God, and as you learn to know Jesus that thirst increases. Folks can offer you anything on earth, but there is only one thing that can satisfy, and that is Jesus. "When the poor and needy seek water . . . and their tongue faileth for thirst"—when they have gone to this church and that church, signed a card and made a resolution, joined this club and that society, and cannot find a thing to meet the need—"I, the Lord, will hear thee." What will He do? He

will come down to that crowd that is so dry. He will come into the midst of that desert, that barren wilderness. "And what will You do, Lord? Here we are trying to find water. Our tongue is failing for thirst." Then He says, "I will open rivers in high places." Away up on top of the mountain a river will spring forth. "Then I will do more than that. I will put fountains in the midst of the valleys." You would make yourself believe and try to persuade others that there is not a drop of water there, but God says, "I will put fountains in the midst of the valleys." Once you come to Jesus the problem of thirst is solved. It is in the hard places that God reveals Himself. Do you believe that God was more real to Joseph when he was upon Pharaoh's throne than He was when he was in prison? No, indeed. I believe that if Joseph could testify he could tell of wonderful experiences he had in prison; no doubt far more wonderful than on the throne. Do you believe that Jesus was more real to Peter on the Day of Pentecost as he stood there preaching, with tears of joy streaming down his face and seeing three thousand added to the church, than when he was in prison? The Lord opened the jail and delivered Peter out of prison: "Peter, they cannot tie you up here, I need you." That was more real than to see three thousand come up and get saved, was it not?

It is in the valleys that God puts the fountains. Then, too, you can only be a real help and uplift to another in the measure that you have gone through that very test. If I have a good bank account and I come to you who are "down and out" and I say, "Never mind, the Lord will supply your needs," what would you say? You would say that it was easy for me to talk with plenty of money, but if I have gone through the same experience and then tell you that the Lord will supply, it will be a comfort to you. If I have never been sick a day in my life and am healthy and strong and I try to encourage you, it will not be as acceptable as if I had been down in the valley and found the fountains there, found Jesus in the valley.

And He will also make the wilderness a *pool of water* and the dry land *springs of water*. Have you ever had a wilderness experience? Jesus had one. He was led of the Spirit into the Wilderness to be tempted, and there is where God proves whether you are going through or not. You say, "Brother, I cannot find anything to drink in the wilderness." But God says that He will make the

wilderness a pool of water. Oh you can have your thirst satisfied in the wilderness! How wonderful it is when you are in the wilderness being tempted, that God will open up springs of water! Every soul has his wilderness experience, and it generally comes after the baptism of the Spirit. After you have been on the Mount of Transfiguration where you feel like a heavenly being, walking on air, and after you have had a few shouts, a few visions, perhaps, you come down to the wilderness of this world and the devil gives you a thrust, the shout is gone. You are out in the wilderness and the devil is right by your side. But God says, "I will make the wilderness a pool of water." You can drink from God's fountain in the most barren, driest wilderness. You need never reach the place where you cannot have something direct from God.

"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, *I, the Lord, will hear them.*" I believe this is a promise for the last days. That is exactly the state we were in when God sent Pentecost. We were poor and needy, and our cry for water reached the throne of God. Some had tried everything in their search for water, and to find that which would satisfy, and when they cried to the Lord, He "opened rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys." Then He didn't stop there, but said He would make the wilderness a "pool of water, and the dry land springs of water." He promises rivers, and fountains, and pools and springs. Jesus said, speaking of the Baptism of the Spirit, "He that believeth on me, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."

Are you thirsty? "The rivers of living water" are for the poor and needy, for the poor in spirit who seek, not for those who are satisfied and have no need. A story is told about a traveler who was crossing the desert and perished from thirst. They found him and his camel, which had died with him. They could tell by his swollen lips that he had died of thirst, and when they examined him they found a belt strapped around him filled with rubies, emeralds and diamonds. He was a dealer in precious stones, journeying from India across the great desert with these costly gems to take them to the distant parts of the world. A man can have fortune, fame, education, everything the world can give, and yet perish for water. Diamonds and rubies cannot buy the water that comes from heaven.

Isaiah cries, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money, and without price."

These rivers, fountains, pools and springs are promised only to those seeking water, to those who have come to an end of themselves, who through genuine thirst for God seemingly had dried up, whose testimony, which once had a ring to it, now seems hollow, whose prayers seem to return unanswered and praises sound like clanging cymbals. The Word describes it perfectly, "Their tongue faileth for thirst." When the human fails, then God comes forth by opening rivers and by sending fountains, pools and springs.

Just as the children of Israel during their wilderness wanderings were refreshed and their thirst quenched through the smitten rock, so we find our refreshing through Jesus Christ the smitten Lamb of Calvary, from whose riven side there flowed blood mingled with water, as He closed His dying eyes to the multitude that gathered at the cross. It was a poor and needy band, dry, parched, thirsty—everything seemed to fail at Calvary, but as this needy little band assembled in the Upper Room, their thirst was quenched by the mighty outpouring of Heaven's rain, Pentecost. The Holy Spirit had come. Rivers, fountains, pools and springs were theirs now, and all they had to do was to drink. Their souls, which had fainted because of their recent sorrow at Calvary, were revived and strengthened. Floods of power and glory were poured out upon one of the poorest, one of the neediest and most thirsty gatherings on earth. And best of all, this refreshing is ours today, for we read in John 7:37: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, 'If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink'."

* * *

MIDSUMMER PENTECOSTAL RALLY AND
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Mothers who Have Moved the World

Rose Meyer



JUST a humble cottage "composed of reed and clay" it was, in the village of Epworth, England, where oftentimes there was barely enough bread in the cupboard to feed the hungry brood of ten children, but within that humble domain there reigned a queen whose influence, though now confined to a tiny home, in later years was to prove a powerful force throughout the world. For it was in this home that John Wesley received from his mother the ground work of a future career, and one peep into the Wesley home during the childhood days of John, might have revealed the secret of his later success.

Susanna Wesley began the training of her children in the cradle and for twenty years she gave six hours of each day to their education, unless hindered by illness. But her chief concern was for their spiritual

welfare and the parents carefully obeyed the wise counsel, "Let them see thee talking with thy God." At an early age the children were taught to have private prayer and a practise was made of having each one of the older children take one of the younger to have separate devotions. So it was here that John took his first lesson in

evangelism and in later years he attributed much of his success to his mother, who he said, was his companion, his guide and his ideal woman. "It was a blessing to the whole world that Susanna Wesley ever lived," and truly the whole world has reaped a harvest from the seed she had so carefully sown. John Wesley is said to have been "the greatest organizer a thousand years have produced," and through his ministry thousands were converted to Christ, churches were organized in every corner of the globe and hundreds of schools were opened for the training of Christian young men and women. It is said that his messages so gripped the people that they sat up all night in chapels for fear that they would not wake up in time for the five o'clock morning service which was a special feature of

his ministry. His name was a household word and one writer has justly said, "A greater poet may arise than Homer or Milton, a greater theologian than Calvin, a greater philosopher than Bacon, but a more distinguished revivalist of the churches than John Wesley, *never*."

Through the ministry of another man the missionary program of China was revolutionized; the Gospel of Jesus Christ invaded districts and provinces previously considered inaccessible, over six hundred mission stations were opened, nearly three hundred Christian schools established, and more than thirty-six thousand converts were buried in water baptism. All this because James Hudson Taylor placed himself at the disposal of his Lord and Master to whom he had consecrated his all. Back of the great China Inland Mission, was a life wholly dedicated to God and

back of that consecrated life was a mother's godly training.

It was while Hudson Taylor was but a toddler in the home that the foundation stones of his career were laid, for there his saintly mother chiseled and shaped the character of her boy. Then in the crisis of his life it was again his mother who was instrumental, under God, in

the salvation of his soul. One day while enjoying a holiday with friends in a distant city, she became deeply concerned for her son and excusing herself, retired to her room, where, turning the key of the door, she interceded before God, resolving not to leave the spot till her prayers were answered. The assurance came and she began to praise God for the salvation of her son. Seventy miles away, the object of her prayer, was at that very time, strangely directed to God; having a few leisure hours he searched for something to read and picking up a small pamphlet, thought he would simply read the story part and not bother himself reading the application. But his mother's prayers had gripped God and young Taylor, against his will, read the entire leaflet. At the end he read the striking phrase, "*The*

"We applaud the artist whose skill and genius present the mimic man upon the canvas; we admire and celebrate the sculptor who works out that same image in enduring marble; but how insignificant are these achievements, tho the highest and the fairest in all the departments of art, in comparison with the great vocation of human mothers! They work, not upon the canvas that shall perish, or the marble that shall crumble into dust, but upon mind, upon spirit, which is to last forever, and which is to bear for good or evil, thruout its duration, the impress of a mother's plastic hand."

finished work of Christ", which so convicted him that he there knelt down to accept of God the finished work of Calvary for himself. When his mother returned two weeks later, he met her at the door with the good news, but to his surprise she said, "Son, I know all about it."

With such a mother and such a foundation of spiritual training as he had received, it is not surprising that James Hudson Taylor became one of the greatest forces on the mission field. Nearly fifty years later, amidst ever increasing responsibilities, he paid this beautiful tribute to his mother, "*For myself and for the work I have been permitted to do for God, I owe an unspeakable debt of gratitude to my beloved and honored mother who has now entered into rest.*"

* * *

Not since the days of the great Apostle Paul had anyone stirred the multitudes as did Chrysostom nearly three hundred years later. Having great natural abilities he was given the advantage of an education under the most learned teacher of his times, Libanius, by name. And thus well equipped he entered into the profession of law but soon left it to obey the call of God and never did pulpit boast of a greater orator than it did of this "golden mouthed" patriarch as he afterwards came to be known. Emperors and queens, governors and generals often sat under his fearless messages, but proof of his Christ-like ministry is found in the fact that the "poor heard him gladly," it was the humble class who stood by him as one man in times of bitter opposition and exilement. Chrysostom, or John, by which name he was so well known, soon became bishop of Antioch and was later summoned by the Emperor himself, to become Patriarch of Constantinople, the place of highest honor to be bestowed in the Church. As an orator he had no rival and as a preacher of the Word of God he was the most beloved and most powerful in all the Empire.

But the great potent force in the life of this man who swayed multitudes was his saintly mother, who devoted herself untiringly to the training of her only child, her husband dying when John was but an infant. It was his mother who grounded him in the Scriptures and such was the deep impression made upon him by her consistent holy life that nothing could ever erase it from his memory. For years he was under the influence of his pagan teacher who tried to swerve him from his Christian course, but he was kept from falling into the snares of the

tempter because of his early training.

- * *

Brief portraits these are of the lives of three great men whose work and influence have encircled the globe, but as one pauses to consider the vastly important part played by their individual mothers he may well stand aside and ascribe to motherhood the tribute that "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that moves the world." Methodism may truly be said to have had its birth in Susanna Wesley's nursery for it was there that the corner stone of the great movement which was to stir the world, was first laid.

And were we to trace the steps which brought about the formation of the greatest missionary movement in the history of China, the tell-tale tracks would lead us to the little cottage home where the mother of James Hudson Taylor was carefully planting his first steps in the foot-prints of Jesus Christ.

It was because of a mother's devoted Christian life that the pagan world was cheated out of one who might have been the most powerful exponent of heathen philosophy. For Chrysostom was able to stand under the fire of paganism's staunchest leader because of this mother's never-dying influence. And Libanius, upon learning of Chrysostom's godly mother, was convinced that therein lay the secret of his failure to convert his student to his own heathen philosophy and in wonder and amazement, he exclaimed, "*What women these Christians have!*"

Revivals in Belfast, Durham, Sunderland GREETINGS TO EVERY LATTER RAIN EVANGEL READER.

After short one-night visits to Glasgow and Kilsyth, Scotland, we took the steamer for Belfast, Ireland, the land of my Quaker forefathers.

Here is a city that has been repeatedly visited with a succession of glorious genuine revivals. Just a few years past my precious Mother was God's instrument to the salvation of hundreds of souls of all classes and in every walk in life. The awakening spread from church to church till the largest hall was unable to accommodate the masses which formed in queues hours before service time. We were greeted by many of these converts who rejoiced to be led into the deeper truths and greater light of Pentecost. They sought God so earnestly and pressing through were filled with unspeakable glory, talking in new tongues and magnifying their God.

During the week of our brief visit, there descended upon Europe an unprecedented wave of cold weather which lasted for days. The Daily News recorded 10,000 deaths with an appalling account of suffering and privation. Though in the United States 30 and 40 degrees below zero is often recorded, and in Canada as low as 50 below, yet it is a crisp and invigorating cold,

whereas in Europe with the prevailing humidity, 4 to 10 Degrees below Zero is unbearable, and when the cold reaches 20 degrees it is simply devastating.

The weather proved to be a very serious handicap to the attendance but nevertheless the great Drill Hall was well filled with a congregation for the most part new to Pentecost.

From the first it was introducing the message of the Latter Rain; the subject never changed and the unction never lifted. Messages in tongues and interpretation confirmed the truth whilst the visions and signs were quite common. On one occasion the languages spoken were revealed by the appearance of a fully-dressed Indian and on another a Chinaman with a pointed hand.

Altars were crowded every night, 14 receiving their Pentecost and about 45 more waiting the full chiasm of power. A new chorus was born in the conflict:

The Best is yet to come, praise the Lord!
As the Marriage Feast was ending
Jesus the best wine was sending,
And the best is yet to come, praise the Lord!

Forty subscribed to The Latter Rain Evangel which will prove an invaluable help and inspiration to them. We are glad to hear that the fire is still burning and that God continues to bless this new work.

Our next call was at Preston for one day. Brother Watson of Blackburn, Pastor Howells of Liverpool and Thomas Meyerscough greeted us with fresh news of revival fire. The Cheatham Street Mission was filled to the doors and the cloud of glory descended upon us like a blanket enveloping every one. What a panegyric of praise as souls were saved and filled with the Holy Ghost! Then to Manchester for an hour or so of consultation and prayer with Brother Parr.

We boarded the York Express for Bishop Auckland as night fell again. The reception in the Bishop Auckland Town Hall was as enthusiastic as could be. The great auditorium was crowded out, many being turned away. This is a District which has suffered greatly in the depression of the Coal Mining Industry. Poverty and want are apparent everywhere; but misfortune ever drives the masses to God, and Durham County is no exception to the rule, for bright revival fires are burning in two dozen places and we gleaned from the reports of the different pastors that a great time of reaping is on. We shall never forget the virility, life and pulsation of the revival at Bishop Auckland.

On the first night 40 crowded into the Enquiry Rooms. In the first three meetings 20 received their Pentecost and many were the outstanding healings. In three cases within ten minutes of their surrender to God, we heard them speak in tongues, the tears of joy running down their happy faces. The newspapers lent their sympathetic support.

We had called it a "HURRY UP" Campaign, and things certainly went with a clip, a vim and a go. Brother Hesleton had the great choir singing the whole galaxy of Pentecostal Revival Choruses an hour before starting time. One night, when most were thinking about going home, the power of God fell upon two, and every hungry person dropped to his knees. Another meeting was started in which six more received the fullness. It was hard to part with these precious saints the last Sunday. They had come from everywhere to bid us farewell. An immense circle of the standing lined the Hall, while children squatted on the platform about our feet. Every side room was filled up and when we drew in the Gospel Net there were 30 decisions for Christ. Forty-two had received their Pentecost during the week and we have received a letter from Pastor Taylor, telling us of the continued blessing. May God keep the work at Bishop Auckland free from friction and division. It is only two years old, the result of Pastor Stephen Jeffries' labors there, and the prayers of many faithful, persevering Saints of God.

Sunderland next, a town of precious memories where Pentecost first got a solid foothold in England, and

where two of my brothers received their Baptism in 1911. We could stay for only two days, but Pastor Hubert Entwisle was so insistent, we added an extra meeting. The Hall proved too small and the blessing flooded down the corridors into the prayer rooms. The power of God fell in the protracted meetings and 16 received the promise of the Father, speaking in tongues and magnifying God. Here as almost everywhere else it is the young, the boys and girls that first catch the fire and remind us of Joel's promise, "your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." And this is to be expected in every Revival. One does not set a match to a log of wood but the kindling is lit first.

Thank God for the kindling, the happy little children in whose mouths He delights to perfect praise!

In London we had a happy time at "Elm Woodlands" visiting with Pastor George Jeffreys of the "Elm Gospel Alliance" and his co-workers, Mr. Darrah, Mr. Mc. Whistler and Secretary Phillips. The next two evenings we were in Southend-on-Sea on the estuary of the Thames where, 20 years ago, the power of God fell in our home at Westcliffe. Oh! the joy to see so much fruit in these cities, the subject of so many earnest prayers! Let me say there is perceptibly a letting down here and there of the Pentecostal Message. Not only is this true of our American Assemblies but it is much to be noticed in certain congregations here in England. Everywhere God has laid it on our hearts to preach no lower standard than that of Acts 2:4 and Ephesians 5:18. The Church of Jesus Christ cannot pray a greater prayer than that which is recorded as the first collective petition of the Early Church in Acts 4:29, 30. The emphasis was "that with all boldness they may speak Thy word," and the result, that they were all refilled with the Holy Spirit till the place was shaken. The whole Pentecostal Church needs a renewed shaking, a re-cleansing and a re-filling of the Holy Spirit. Pray to this end, inasmuch as we feel the time is short and our Lord and Saviour is coming again.

Yours in the Purifying Hope,
William E. Booth-Clibborn.

49 Highbury Hill,
London, England

Back to South Africa

AFTER a sixteen months' furlough in America we have again set our faces toward the "Dark Continent," where we spent six and a half years on our first term.

There is a difference in going to Africa for the second term. It is just as hard to say farewell to loved ones and friends, and all that rich America affords in the natural, as it was the first time, and in a sense it would be harder were it not for the call of God upon us. When we went out the first time we had all the enthusiasm of new recruits; now we realize, in a measure, just what we are about to face. We go to a people who sit in gross darkness, who love their witchcraft, their heathen beer drinks, their dances and all the other allurements of the devil. We go to a country where climatic conditions are most trying and enervating, where fevers, sleeping sickness, and other diseases peculiar to Africa abound on every hand, where poisonous miasma and the blighting pestilence lurks in the darkness. But as we put these things on the scales we find that the call and

will of God in our lives over-balance all else. There is nothing in Africa that attracts outside of being in the will of God and the burden for lost and perishing souls. But in His blessed will we look forward with joy in returning to the place of His choosing.



Our Missionaries to Africa
Mr. and Mrs. Pettenger and son Vernon

We have appreciated the fellowship of the saints and all their kindness to us, and as we sail, D. V., on June 14th, we desire the continued prayers of God's children that we may be used in bringing souls to Jesus.

EDGAR AND MABEL PETTENDER.

Famine Relief that Paid

SHE was just a wee little girl of ten who had been abandoned on the streets of Shanghai. Her pathetic cry touched the heart of a passing ricksha man, and knowing those whose hearts were tender toward the unfortunate, he took her to a missionary in Nanking. She had doubtless been stolen by soldiers in the Province of Hunan at the time of the revolution, seventeen years ago, and brought to Shanghai.

The missionary wrote to the Boyyers, who have

an orphanage at Chinkiang, asking them to take in the little waif, which they did. Weak and sickly from exposure and under-nourishment, she was troubled for many years with tubercular glands in the neck. But God takes the weak things and the things that are not and accomplishes marvels through them. The power of the Gospel worked mightily in her life. She recovered of her illness through the power and grace of God, and has been in charge of the Girls' Industrial Department of the school for some time, makes the patterns for the different embroidery, and superintends the work splendidly. The girls are greatly attached to her and she has a marked influence over their lives.

At one of the meetings held recently, which was being conducted by one of the Chinese teachers, the power of God fell in a remarkable way. At the close the spirit of intercession fell upon this young superintendent who had been so wonderfully saved from a life of sin. She wept and prayed for the sins of China and that she might be prepared for the soon-coming of the Lord. After a long session of prayer, she broke out singing in English, of which she doesn't know a word. The room was filled with the glory of God and all present were refreshed and lifted heavenward. A great burden for her people rests upon this yielded one, and she often prays long into the night that China might be saved.

Did it pay to save that little waif, which otherwise would have been left in the streets of Shanghai to starve or forced into a life of sin? There are many little ones in the famine districts of China who will shine with equal lustre when the hand of the Master shapes and molds them into stones in His church.

* * *

In all sciences, the ablest professors are they who have thoroughly mastered the text. We should have the text of Scripture at our fingers' ends. When I was young I read the Bible over and over and over again, and was so perfectly acquainted with it that I could, in an instant, have pointed to any verse that might have been mentioned.—*Martin Luther.*

* * *

Ambition is the rankest poison to the church when it possesses preachers. It is a consuming fire. I much marvel for what cause preachers are proud and haughty; they are born in sin, and every moment in danger to err and to die. Should we be proud of our scars and scabs, who are altogether an unclean thing?—*Martin Luther.*

Pentecostal Singing

"With the Spirit and With the Understanding"

Donald Gee



HERE can be no doubt whatever about the overflowing joy and gladness, almost approaching hilarity at times, which marks the great Pentecostal Movement. It is a supremely happy Revival. Singing is a predominant feature, and especially in connection with its crowds of young men and women. This is Scriptural and healthy. "Is any merry, let him sing psalms" (Jas. 5:13). The joy of finding the Lord Jesus Christ as a Living Saviour to-day, the joy of receiving the Holy Spirit as a present reality, produces a "merriment divine" which bursts forth in spontaneous song.

There seems to be an insatiable appetite for new choruses, but especially anything about the Lord Jesus—Himself. All the singing most deeply appreciated centres in HIM; inspired by His matchless redeeming love and satisfying power. Wonderful Jesus!

Are we entering into all that we might do in this line, or is there still room for wise guidance into that which could be even more glorifying to Him, and delightful and profitable to ourselves?

The New Testament is our invariable court of appeal in things "Pentecostal", and there are two parallel passages that stand almost alone in direct reference to our subject: Eph. 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"; and Col. 3:16, "Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord".

(a) One striking point in this injunction deserves fuller notice, and that is that our singing should be helpful on the line of "teaching and admonishing". We take this to mean that the words we sing should have something solid and sound in them on the line of Christian truth.

We suggest that more discrimination could be exercised between hymns that are merely sentimental, and hymns with real meaning and power. A doctrinal hymn need not be "heavy". We have often admired the splendid sweep of fundamental doctrine in the well-known chorus:

"Living He loved me; Dying He saved me;
Buried He carried my sins far away;
Rising He justified freely for ever,
Some Day He's coming,—Oh glorious Day!"

As a means of imparting the "sincere milk of the Word" to young converts in Revival Campaigns there can be no doubt that the quickly picked-up chorus, and the "catch" hymn, provide an ideal medium if wisely chosen for word as well as tune.

The abiding value and appeal of so many of Chas. Wesley's hymns are probably to be found in their combining of evangelical doctrine with happy personal experience in such a rare degree. One can go back and back until we get to the Ancient Hymns of the Church, and find them very often, (as in the "*Te Deum Laudamus*") an eloquent expression of doctrinal belief, taking the form of fervent praise and prayer. A. S. Way in his translation of the New Testament finds hymns in such passages as Col. 1:13-20; or Phil. 2:6-11. Paul obviously had no room for singing for mere singing's sake,—just an expression of spiritual excitement easily turning into the purely emotional, and then the carnal. It had to have solid profit in it, genuine uplift, real soul food,—even if it was in liquid form!

(b) The other outstanding feature of both these passages lies in the fact that Christian hymn-singing is to be "To the Lord." Its objective is to please and glorify the Redeemer. The singing is to be particularly for His pleasure. The strains are primarily intended for His ear, and His alone.

A fault we can quickly drop into in hymn and chorus singing is the placing of far too much emphasis upon our own experiences, feelings, desires, etc.—and neglecting real worship and praise. We are apt to thus, all unconsciously it may be, sing about ourselves or to ourselves, or to one another, rather than "to the Lord". Singing is a perfectly legitimate expression of the sweetness of Christian emotion in the same way that honey is a real article of diet in the Promised Land: but there was to be *no honey* in the offering brought to the Lord (Lev. 2:11), and we must not confuse the expression of all our feelings of revival exhilaration with true worship in spirit and in truth. And in any case "honey" is to be taken in moderation (Prov.

25:16). Too much singing of a "sweet" type of hymn or chorus always produces spiritual nausea in the end. Real worship never tires.

* * *

One other passage suggests itself to us as having a very special connection with "Pentecostal Singing", and that is I. Cor. 14:15.—"I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also".

It is evident that this singing with the spirit is analogous to praying with the spirit in unknown tongues; and is a form of ecstatic personal worship and praise in which the believer is swept into close fellowship with God while more or less forgetful of his surroundings.

Such an experience cannot be anything but delightful and edifying to the individual; but as a whole Assembly may not be privileged at the moment to share the ecstasies of the singer, restraint is to be exercised in united public gatherings. An obvious and consistent exception would plainly be made if the whole company were swept as a harp by the unseen hand of the Holy Spirit at the same time, and such singing were in perfect chorus. Thank God we have often been present on such occasions, and shared in their heavenly anthems.

Once again, however, the balance is to be maintained by singing "with the understanding also". We must remember that inspiration can thrill the intellectual faculties of man quite as really as it can the emotional; and a service of song with "the understanding also" can be appreciated by the unbeliever present, or the uninspired. Paul always had such in view, and so should we in public meetings.

Along with this lesson concerning the manifestations of the Spirit, there is the practical application and inference that Assembly-Singing should have plenty in it for the "understanding": plenty for the intellectual part of our being as well as our mere feelings: plenty of "exhortation, edification and comfort".

* * *

Only one other question can here be discussed; and that shall be—What is the proper "Pentecostal" attitude towards good music? This is a vexed question with some.

Two extremes are to be avoided; extremes to which we are most of us prone through force of upbringing and personal taste. There is the one extreme of looking with undisguised scorn upon the simple (and sometimes worse) melodies of

the frequent Revival hymn and chorus. There is the opposite extreme of looking with suspicion and aversion upon all classical hymns and tunes as being entirely carnal. Both extremes are wrong.

Breadth and tolerance should mark our spirit in this matter; a readiness to appreciate the blessing a brother receives from a hymn for which we may personally have no time; a recognition of the fact that the Holy Spirit uses a great variety of material to accomplish His gracious purposes.

Personal taste holds most of us in rigid bondage where hymns are concerned; yet personal taste should often be the last thing to guide us in our choice here. The only principles permissible to govern our ministry of song in the Assemblies should be those of the New Testament; and these seem to come under three main heads: (1) Christian Singing is to be "to the Lord"; i.e. primarily for worship and praise: (2) Christian Singing is to be edifying; i.e. sound in doctrine and solid in character: (3) Christian Singing is to provide the proper outlet for our emotion; i.e. giving an adequate expression to the fulness of the Spirit. We submit that these three scriptural principles are the proper ones to govern all "Pentecostal Singing".

Every Revival has had its distinctive features, and not least in its hymns. The present Outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the "Latter Rain" has produced a desire for hymns and choruses expressive of overflowing joy, and especially of delight in the Person of the Redeemer. Many of the most popular choruses are crude and elementary when judged by classical standards, but they are sincere, and the Spirit of God has borne witness to them by making them the vehicle of untold blessing to thousands, while they have again lifted whole Assemblies into a place of purest spiritual worship.

On the other hand, we shall do well not to neglect or despise the priceless heritage we possess of standard hymns, rich in accurate expression of spiritual truth and experience, and set to magnificent and fitting tunes, bequeathed to us by the saints of all ages: for—

"Their joy unto their Lord we bring;
Their song to us descendeth:
The Spirit Who in them did sing
To us His music lendeth.
His song in them, in us, is one;
We raise it high, we send it on—
The song that never endeth!"

March, 1929.
Edinburgh.

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