

The Pentecostal **Evangel**

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



The Happiest Families
Go To Sunday School

A Hearty WELCOME Awaits You at the Church of the ASSEMBLIES OF GOD in your community

More men and women are going to church today than at any other time in American history. This is one of the few bright spots on the national scene.

Multiplying troubles in every sphere of life baffle the wisest and greatest of our day. It is little wonder that people are worried. Disillusioned, frightened, desperate for security and hungry for something real, they are going to the house of God because there is nowhere else to go for the help they need.

Perhaps no one is better acquainted with the hard facts of modern life than J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F.B.I. This noted public servant is convinced that America's greatest need is for each individual, each family, and each community to get back to the Bible. He says:

"Religious training in this mid-century year is most vital and significant. Evil forces, hate, prejudice, and intolerance are swirling in many areas. Doubt, uncertainty, and fear are dulling men's minds and perverting their souls. The individual, the community, and the nation have great need of a reawakening to the eternal truths of life, truths found in the greatest book in history—the Bible. Religious instruction is the rod and staff which brings forth, in triumphant glory, the teachings of God. America could have no greater need."

Do you attend a place of religious instruction? Do you take your family to Sunday School and church regularly? There are thousands of parents who are neglecting their duty to their children in this regard. They are giving their boys and girls everything but God. They provide them with nourishing food, warm clothing, and a good education—but no Savior. They give them comic books to read, but not the Bible. They take them to the movies, but not to the house of God. They curse before their children, but never pray. The time may come when those children will curse

their parents for bringing them into the world and raising them without Christ.

The happiest families are those that go to Sunday School. May we extend an invitation to you to visit the Assembly of God church and Sunday School in your community? There you will find warm spiritual fellowship and good Christian friends. We believe you will enjoy the sincerity of worship and the faithful teaching of God's Word that characterize these live, growing churches.

The Assemblies of God are comparatively young, having had their beginning only 36 years ago at Hot Springs, Arkansas. They came into existence as a result of the world-wide Pentecostal revival which came early in the twentieth century. From the start they have been evangelistic and missionary-minded, with the result that today they are the fastest growing group among all denominations which have 50,000 or more members. They number more than 6,000 churches, with a total membership exceeding 275,000 and a total Sunday School enrollment of 534,000.

There are Assemblies of God churches in every State of the Union. Each local church is autonomous, yet all have banded themselves together under regional boards known as District Councils and under a national board called the General Council.

The General Council offices are at Springfield, Missouri. These offices constitute the national headquarters for the youth department, educational department, missions department, the work of the children's homes, and other branches of the Assemblies of God.

REVIVALTIME, the radio voice of the Assemblies of God, heard over scores of stations, originates at Springfield.

Here is located one of the 10 ministerial training schools of the Assemblies of God, which have a combined enrollment of about 3,000 students. Here also is the publishing house, with its staff of 300 workers, which provides periodicals, Sunday School papers, books, etc. for the Assemblies and for many churches of other denominations as well.

The Assemblies of God are an evangelical body, holding to the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Our doctrinal position may be described in the following statement.

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

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless

life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule over the nations.

We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. We further believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides for the healing of the body in answer to believing prayer.

We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is given to believers who pray for it. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

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

This issue of THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL is dedicated to those who will be reading the paper for the first time. We pray that it will be a blessing to you, and hope that you will visit the Assemblies of God church in your community in the very near future.



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ROBERT C. CUNNINGHAM
Editor

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GOOD NEWS!

Robert W. Cummings

IN ONE of the hospitals of New York City a broken-hearted father and mother were watching at the side of their little dying baby. They knew that there was no hope for her except death. They had talked it over and decided between them to ask the doctor for a favor. Soon the end came and the little eyes closed forever.

The father called the doctor and said, "Doctor, Mother and I have talked it over and we feel the same about our little girl. Isn't it true that the cornea of her eyes could be used to give sight to some blind person?"

"Yes," was the reply, "it is perfectly true."

"Well, then, Doctor, if you will take her little eyes and use them for that purpose, both her mother and I will feel that her tiny short life was not utterly in vain, and it will be a comfort to us to know that her coming into the world did help someone."

The doctor assured them that the little eyes would be used as the parents desired, and that they would give sight not only to one but to two or three blind persons.

At the same time in another place in New York there was a blind man. For years he had been deprived of his sight, and had been compelled to walk in darkness. But he had heard of the new corneal operation that would give him sight and now he was waiting for some one to give his or her eyes for him. The eyes of the little baby girl were sent for his benefit; and the doctors took two pieces from the cornea of her little eyes and grafted one into each of the blind man's eyes. Today that once blind man is no longer in darkness. The light of the sun has come into his life because of the gift of one who died, that he might see.

As far as that man's physical sight is concerned the most important thing that ever happened for him was the death of that little baby girl and the gift of part of her broken body by her father. Through that gift his whole life has been transformed.

What a true illustration of the most important event that ever took place for

you and me. Once we were blind. Once we were utterly dead to the things of God. Once we walked in gross darkness. We were born blind and without hope of sight.

But God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our "blindness pitying saw" and sent His beloved, only begotten Son into this world to be born of a woman, that we who were blind might be delivered from the power of darkness. Only a few short years He lived and then He laid down his life for us. Just before He died He called His disciples around a supper table and there they found a table spread, filled with broken bread and poured-out wine. "Now, my beloved ones," He said, "I have longed to have you eat this Pass-over supper. Thus will you remember my death. Thus will the purpose of my death be fulfilled. This is my body broken for you. This is my blood shed for you."

Still He calls men to that table. He is calling you, saying, "Child, your eyes are blind. Your eyes have never beheld reality. You look upon the world and you don't see it for what it is. You do not see it lying in the lap of the evil one. You look upon self and you do not see that you are a leper and unclean, filled with sin and death. You look upon men and women and you do not see them in reality dead in trespasses and sins, perishing in hideous and ugly moral degradation and corruption. Take my eyes that you may see the light of the world and not walk in darkness but have the light of life. These are my eyes given for you that you may see.

"On the cross of Calvary my Father gave my body to be broken. Sacrifice and burnt offering He did not desire, but a body He prepared for me; and that body I gave to Him that He might prepare it and break it for you."

* * *

In a village in England two children had been born to a young mother. Each of them had died within a short time after birth, and the doctors had ascertained that it was on account of some discrepancy in the blood of the parents that they had died. A few months ago another child was born to that mother. The doctors knew that it would die too

WHEN SURRENDER BRINGS VICTORY



if they did not give it proper blood, so they decided to give the third child as soon as it was born a complete change of blood. This they did. They gave it a blood transfusion five minutes after birth and then they drained its own blood a little at a time; and then more transfusions were given. Thus they poured into its veins blood of a different type. It was alive and flourishing as any normal healthy baby within three weeks.

The most important event that ever happened as far as that baby was concerned was the giving of blood of the right type by willing blood donors. The blood had been given and in the hour of her extremity it was provided by the doctors and poured into her veins, so that she did not perish but lived.

You and I were born in sin, conceived of corruptible seed, and were without God and without hope in this world. The blood we received from Adam and Eve was filled with sin and death. So God who is rich in mercy, for the great love with which He loved us, sent His Son into the world so that He might pour out His blood and let us have an entire change of nature if we want it. There is no other way of life. Except we (by faith) eat the flesh of the Son of God and drink His blood, we have not life. Those who receive this change of nature will live.

It is possible to have new life because Jesus Christ gave His blood on Calvary for the life of the world. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

How may this life be received? By faith. We go to the Lord Jesus in prayer and we tell Him, "Lord, we believe Thy word that 'If any man thirst, let him

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come unto me, and drink. He that drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I give him shall be in him a well of living water springing up into everlasting life. For my blood is drink indeed.' So, Lord, I come to Thee to drink. I believe Thou dost mean what Thou hast said, and I come to accept Thy blood to be my life. And I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou wilt make Thy promise good. Amen."

If feeling comes, thank God. If feeling does not come, thank God by faith alone. Stand firmly upon God's Word and refuse to be moved away from His promise and His provision.

But at the same time there is another accompanying step. In order to make room for His life, you must give up yours. We have to lose our lives for Christ's life. We do this also by faith. We say, "Lord Jesus, I take Thy life to be mine; and I give my life to Thee. I renounce self and my own will and opinions and desires, and I claim Thine in their stead." Thank God, if we are sincere and mean business, He will meet us more than half way.

* * *

Some prisoners were locked in a concentration camp. Instead of being free Americans, they were slaves of the Japanese. One day they began to hear that a certain man had come into the camp who called himself "The Door." He would come to one of the prisoners and say to him, "Now trust me absolutely, do everything I tell you, and I'll get you out of this prison into freedom." Some were afraid that he was a spy and shied away from him, but every prisoner that really trusted him and obeyed him was freed from that camp. The most important thing that ever happened for those men was the coming of "The Door" into that camp.

You are a prisoner of self and sin. You were not made to be a selfish slave of sin, but a free child of God. You never can know the joy and peace of true freedom as long as you are in the concentration camp of sin. But have you not heard that a Man has come among us? He says, "I am the Door." Trust Him. Do as He says implicitly. Have faith in His cross and in His blood. Take it by faith and you will be set free from prison and become a child of God. Then you will agree with me that the most important thing that ever happened was the coming of "The Door" into our prison.

I used to believe the devil's lie that I was the freest when I was having my way. Then I heard "The Door" say, "If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed."

Is Physical Healing in the Atonement?

Evangelist Lorne F. Fox

EVERY BLESSING we receive comes through the atoning work of the Cross. Is it not true that, if the Lord Jesus Christ had not come to this earth, we would have no direct access to God? He came as God's only begotten Son, and He also came as our great High Priest. I have often thought of that wonderful moment when the veil of the temple was rent in twain; the way into the Holy of Holies was made open. Because of this, today we have direct access to the Heavenly Father through His beloved Son. Hallelujah!

The modernists today tell us that Divine Healing is not of God. I have given my testimony of healing on occasions when folk have attributed that healing to the power of the devil. My friend, if the devil is healing the sick bodies of little children, opening blind eyes, unstopping deaf ears, and healing crippled bodies, then he has been converted since the first time I got acquainted with him. Divine Healing is clearly taught in the Word of God, and I would warn all the critics of this great work of God against ascribing the works of Christ and the Holy Spirit to Satanic power.

I read in the first words of the Bible, "In the beginning God . . ." You may believe the evolutionary theory if you wish, but I take God's Word one hundred percent as the truth, and Moses literally threw the evolutionary theory out of the window when he wrote, "In the beginning God . . ." And in the beginning God's creation was perfect. I read when the Lord looked upon that creative work He was pleased with it, and He saw that it was good. If God said that it was good, it must have been good! Then tragedy struck. Into the garden there came two angels of darkness. The devil suggested the most infamous lie that has ever been invented when he asked, "Hath God said?" The purpose was to create doubt in the truth and veracity of God's Word. Even now, the demons of hell are happy and the devil himself rejoices if you can be persuaded that God's word is not

true. And so, nearly six thousand years ago, Adam and Eve fell. They fell from the heights of righteousness to the depths of sin and shame. And as they fell, two angels of darkness walked into the garden, called Sin and Sickness.

There is another side to this story. We have seen how darkness came upon the creation when our first parents fell. Now, will you catch a glimpse with me of the Sun of Righteousness arising with healing in His wings (rays); for hand in hand, these two messengers of light, part of God's great redemptive plan, called Salvation for the Soul and Healing for the Body, enter the garden! Is healing in the atonement? Let us examine the Word of God.

Sickness is caused by sin, and you will agree with me that the devil is its author. By this, I do not infer that your sickness is caused by your sin or by the sin of your parents. The fact remains, however, that if there had been no sin there would be no sickness. Every ache, pain, and tear drop is in this old world because of sin.

What Saith the Word?

Turn with me now to Luke 13:16. "Ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" In this story, you will note that our Lord directly attributes sickness to the devil. There is an interesting sidelight here. The critics found fault with Jesus for healing this woman on the Sabbath day. However, if Jesus had healed her on any other day than the Sabbath, those critics would have found some other reason to object to the mighty workings of God. Today, skeptics seek to refute the power of God, and work to antagonize the public mind against the man who dares to preach a message of deliverance. They aim their guns directly at the man who prays. But while the skeptics "sit in the seat of the scornful," as the Psalmist puts it, God's messengers go right on proclaiming the same message of Bible deliverance to those who sit in darkness; and thank God, the captive who believes is set free.

Again, in Acts 10:38, we read, "How

This address was given at a city-wide tent meeting in Springfield, Mo., which was sponsored by the ten local churches of the Assemblies of God.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." According to the Bible, sickness is the curse of the law. If you carefully read the Book of Deuteronomy you will find this Book gives a list of diseases which fasten themselves on the human frame as a result of sin. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to redeem us from the curse of the law. What are you going to do with that, skeptic? What will you do about it, modernist? My Jesus left the ivory palaces, came to this world of woe, to redeem you and me from the curse of the law, AND THE CURSE OF THE LAW IS SICKNESS.

Provision of Atonement

Secondly, in the Old Testament types where healing was provided for the body, we are given to understand explicitly that it was necessary to make atonement for that healing. If the antitype is not true to the type, then no relationship whatever can be established between the Old and the New Testament. The antitype must be true to the type, because the same Holy Spirit that inspired the writers of the New Testament also inspired holy men of old as they wrote the Old Testament. So we turn to Numbers 16:46, and we read, "And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the Lord; the plague is begun. And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people. . . . And he stood between the dead and the living; AND THE PLAGUE WAS STAYED." Please notice that the word "atonement" is used in this scripture directly in connection with bodily deliverance for the people.

Turn now to Leviticus 14:18-20 where we read, "The remnant of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall pour upon the head of him that is to be cleansed: and the priest shall make an atonement for him before the Lord. And the priest shall offer the sin offering, and make an atonement for him . . . and he shall be clean." Note that oil is used on the head of him that was to be cleansed of leprosy, and the priest was commanded to make atonement. The antitype is still directly true to the type. In our day, we obey the commission of James 5:14, 15, as oil is placed upon the forehead as a symbol of the Holy Spirit's presence, and Christ Himself has already made full atonement for all our sickness.

Not long ago, a man ridiculed the idea of there being any relationship between the types and the antitypes of the Old and New Testaments. He was virtually ridiculing the words of Jesus, for the Master Himself endorsed them. When Jesus said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up," He was referring to the story of long ago when the children of Israel had sinned in the sight of God, and the Lord allowed a plague of fiery serpents to enter the camp. When they repented, after being bitten by the venomous serpents, Moses was instructed to entwine a brazen serpent upon a pole, and to raise that pole high above the people, so that all might see it. And the promise of God was that all who were bitten with the serpents needed only to look at the brazen serpent upon the pole and they would be healed. Only one look was necessary. Looking back at that story, the Master said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, EVEN SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP." And it is true today.

In the Old Testament

Another proof that healing is in the atonement is in the fact that salvation for the soul and healing for the body have always gone hand in hand. Obeying the commandments of the Mosaic order meant full deliverance. Let us turn to the Scriptures. God said, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and will do that which is right in his sight, and will give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26.

We are also reminded of the sweet singer of Israel, David. It was David who loved to sing of the mercies of God. Many times he spoke of the Lord as being his high tower, his fortress, his rock, his salvation; but when enumerating all the goodnesses of God, please note that the first two mentioned are salvation and healing. In Psalm 103 we find him singing, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

Then we are reminded of the famous atonement chapter of the Old Testament, Isaiah 53, and we focus our attention especially on the fourth and fifth verses: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." In the original text, from which this portion of the Bible is translated, these same words can be read as follows, "Surely he hath carried away our diseases, and carried away our pains to a distance." Pray tell me, how could the Lord Jesus carry our pains and diseases away if He did not atone for them? In the fifth verse, we read, "With his stripes we are healed." I would like you to compare this with the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 8, verse 16, which says, "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Oh, thank God, He carried our sicknesses, and with His stripes we are healed.

"When I See the Blood"

When the Master instituted the Last Supper, He differentiated between the broken body and the shed blood. He gave them bread which was a token of His broken body, and then He gave them wine which represented His shed blood. It was Passover time. Long, long before on the first Passover night the angel had passed over the doors upon which the blood had been sprinkled. God had said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." The blood of the slain lamb had been caught in a basin, and had been sprinkled upon the lintels of the door posts. Then at midnight, the angel of death passed through the land, and every home where the blood of the lamb was sprinkled was



"The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct."
Constitution of the Assemblies of God

passed over by the angel of death, but where the blood mark was not found, the firstborn in every home was slain.

We recognize this to be a type of the Lamb of God slain for our sin atonement. But will you consider something else? What did they do with the body of the lamb? The Bible tells us they prepared the body of the lamb and ate it. Why? Very shortly they were to go on a long journey. They were to eat in order to receive bodily strength. Not only did they need salvation from the cruelty of the Egyptians, but they also needed bodily strength for the journey which was ahead. So the body of the lamb was eaten.

Will you please look with me again at the antitype? With His stripes I am healed; with His blood I am saved. The Lord Jesus meant for His disciples to catch the significance between the broken body and the shed blood. When He broke the bread, He said, "This is my body which is given for you," and when He passed the wine, He said, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." The bread represents His broken body . . . our healing. The wine is the token of atonement for our sin.

I thank God tonight for many men who, even in this twentieth century, have believed in the message of healing for the physical body, such as A. J. Gordon, who, by the way, was one of the greatest Baptist scholars ever produced, pastor for years of Clarendon Street Baptist Church in Boston. In his book *The Ministry of Healing*, he states: "In the atonement of Christ, there is positive foundation laid for bodily healing, for He lifted our iniquities and He bore our diseases."

There is also R. E. Stanton, who for years was moderator of the great Presbyterian Church. In his book *The Atonement of Christ* he makes this statement: "The atonement of Jesus lays full basis equally for deliverance from sin and deliverance from disease."

I would like to remind you of the great commission of Mark 16:15. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: in my name . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." My friends, God fully wills that these signs shall be manifested in the church of 1950. I ask you, Is the church of the Lord Jesus Christ only a weak, sickly, puny thing devoid of supernatural power, grace, and glory? Perhaps the social modern church is; but the great church of which Jesus

FOR YOU



Christ is head marches on in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders and miracles following in its train, even in these last days.

The Apostle's Word

We refer to the words of 1 Peter 2:24, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

Pilate of Rome was afraid! He knew that Jesus Christ was innocent. Yet the multitude continued their lusty, blood-thirsty cry for the body of the Son of God. Thinking he might release himself from responsibility, Pilate said, "I will therefore chastise him and let him go . . . for I find no fault in him." Loudly the enemies of Christ demanded that Christ be scourged and crucified both. Fearful of his position, Pilate permitted this procedure. So they took Jesus to the whipping post. They bared His back as they bound Him there, and they brought the cruel Roman lash down upon Him. Vicariously, substitutionally, He took my place. He was nailed to the Cross for me.

*In my place condemned He stood,
Bearing shame and scoffing rude;
Sealed my pardon with His blood,
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

In closing, I am thinking of an experience we had very recently in our tent meeting in Waukegan, Illinois. There came a lady to the meetings from Evanston, very hungry for God. She belonged to a well-known denomination, but had never received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and was also in need of healing for her body. After we had prayed for her, and she lay prostrate under the power of God, she received a very beautiful Baptism of the Holy Spirit with speaking in other tongues.

Then for a long time she remained very quiet. We sensed that she was having an unusual experience. Finally, she arose to her feet and said, "I have had a wonderful vision of Christ," but it was not until several days later that she described the vision.

Mrs. Reider (for that was her name) had a vision of Christ at the whipping post. She saw the soldiers bring Him to the post, bare His back, and tie His hands. She saw the soldier step forward with a cruel lash, and bring that horrible thing down again and again upon the back of the Son of God. In the vision, the lashes did not only bruise His back, but those cruel leather thongs literally cut out pieces of flesh from the back of the Master, until not only did the blood drip from His back, but it flowed as a crimson stream. The Lord uttered no word of protest. When the lashing was finished, they loosed Him from the post and He turned staggering, almost falling, until one of the soldiers caught and held Him. She said that for one long moment the eyes of the Master held hers as He groaned. He spoke and said, "All this, my daughter, I bore for your healing. Thou shalt be made whole."

On the Sunday night following this, a miracle took place. We all had bowed our heads to pray God's blessing on the evening sermon that was about to be delivered; and as we did so a woman out in the audience gave a little cry. It was Mrs. Reider. It did not disturb the service, nor did it disturb me, for I recognized in that cry the touch of God. As we were praying God's blessing on the sermon, and while the heads of the people in the congregation were bowed in prayer, the Spirit of the Lord had suddenly come upon that woman in healing power. Telling me the story a few days later, she said: "We can find no trace of the cancer that I had. As the power of God touched me, it was like a searing hot iron burning into the very heart of that growth."

When Mrs. Reider visited the doctor he was amazed at the change in her condition. She then decided to tell the members of her family, all of whom were unsaved. At the evening meal, when all had gathered around the family table, she told them the story of what God had done. The food on the table was forgotten. Every member of the family bowed their heads to surrender themselves completely to God.

Is healing in the Atonement? Ah, yes, my friend; even as our Lord Jesus paid the price of bearing your sins with the shedding of His blood as He was nailed to the cross, so He paid the price for your bodily deliverance, and WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.

A QUESTION ALL MUST ANSWER

"Have Ye Received the Holy Ghost Since Ye Believed?" Acts 19:2.

R. E. McAlister

THE PERSONAL DESCENT of the Holy Spirit on the waiting disciples in the upper room on the day of Pentecost is the crowning fact in the history of God's revelation to man. Apart from the death of Christ on Calvary's cross, there is no other fact of such outstanding significance and importance in the history of the Christian church. This phenomenon might be characterized as the great consummation in the dispensational plan of God for His people. Just as Calvary was a consummation in the dispensational plan of God for a provisional redemption effectually wrought, so the fact of the Spirit's descent was the consummation of the dispensational plan of God in His provision for the Church. It was not a chance happening. It was not an afterthought in the mind of God. It is not something that is incidental to a plan but it is the consummation of that plan; consequently it is essentially fundamental.

Like every other great fundamental truth in God's Word, we find it clearly typified in the Law, prophesied by the Prophets, promised in the Gospels, fulfilled in the Acts of the Apostles, referred to throughout the Epistles, and experienced by all the primitive apostolic Church.

The Baptism in Type

In Exodus 40:33-35 we read that the cloud of God's glory settled down upon the tabernacle after Moses had constructed it according to the blueprint that God gave him in the mount. We read, "Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." This finds its antitype in the individual believer, who receives the Holy Spirit; his body is made a temple of the living God and the shekinah glory of God settles upon him.

The next type is found in 2 Chronicles 5:11-14: "And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the

holy place: . . . and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord: so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God."

Here we have a type of what took place on the day of Pentecost. One hundred and twenty priests (the same number as were present on the day of Pentecost) were all praising and blessing God in unison (the same attitude as there was on the day of Pentecost, for we read that on the day of Pentecost "they were all with one accord in one place" and that they were praising God). That this cloud referred to in Exodus and Chronicles is a clear type of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is evident.

Turning now to 1 Corinthians 10:1, 2, we read, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." This cloud was a baptism and was a type of the Holy Ghost baptism which descended on the New Testament Church on the day of Pentecost.

MODERN DELUGE



The Baptism in Prophecy

As to prophecies concerning this great event, they are many. Perhaps the one most outstanding is found in Joel 2:28: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."

Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16) clearly identifies this prophecy with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, when he said, "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" —referring, of course, to the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

The Baptism Promised

John the Baptist came on the scene as the forerunner of Jesus Christ. He said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Matt. 3:11.

Jesus confirmed the statement of John when He said, "For John truly baptized you with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Acts 1:5.

The command to tarry for this outpouring given by the Lord Jesus is found in Luke 24:49, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Again in Acts 1:4 the believers were commanded to "wait for the promise of the Father." The disciples obeyed this command and the attitude that they assumed is found in Luke 24:53: "And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God."

The Promise Fulfilled

In Acts 2:4 we read, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Read the chapter through carefully. The number present were one hundred and twenty.

In Acts 10:44-46 we find the record of the outpouring upon the Gentiles. It reads: "While Peter yet spake these

The author, a veteran of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, has had a useful Bible-teaching ministry in many American assemblies recently. His address is 59 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, Canada.

words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God."

Our next reference is found in Acts 19, where Paul met the charter members of the Ephesian Church and after inquiring into their spiritual condition found out they had not received the gift of the Holy Ghost. He laid his hands on them and prayed—and we read, in verse six, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

The Baptism in the Epistles

The incident of Acts 19 is referred to in Ephesians 1:13, 14, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."

The New Testament Standard

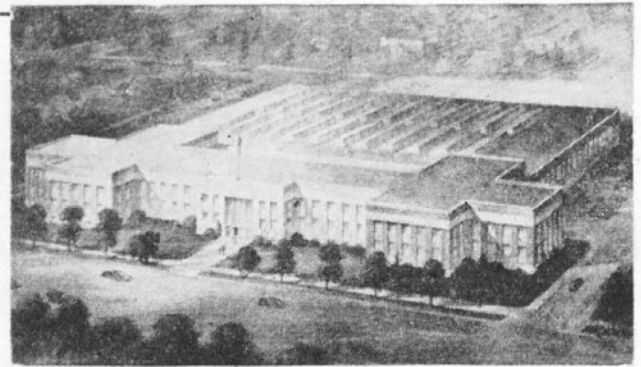
The New Testament Church was chartered by this phenomenal outpouring, and Christian experience was standardized. There was a double aspect to the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The first aspect is found in the fact that the Spirit came upon all the one hundred and twenty at one time, baptizing them into one body, by one Spirit, and thus forming the New Testament church.

In addition, each of the individuals received the Holy Spirit as a personal experience, thus establishing the New Testament standard of Christian experience and consummating God's provisional plan for the Church. What the disciples received on that day has been the common privilege of God's people since that day. It is simply God's provision, and God's provision is fundamental. It has no substitutes. No one can lay claim to a nominal New Testament Christian experience without the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the standard of Christian experience in the dispensation in which we are living.

The character of the Pentecostal Baptism is clearly defined in the Word of God. It was mighty, powerful, glorious, overwhelming, exhilarating. It was accompanied with physical manifestation, signs, wonders, miracles. It was revival-producing, God-glorifying; making the Church an invincible force that went forth clear as the sun, fair as the moon, and terrible as an army with

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banners. The power of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life or in the life of an assembly is a constant miracle and a constant surprise. There is nothing commonplace or monotonous about such. Many people are enduring a profession. When filled with God's Holy Spirit you will enjoy a possession. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, however, is NOT the end of an experience. It is the beginning of a new life. With the Baptism we enter into the spiritual realm and the avenues of our being are opened to receive the inflow of God's divine power.

A life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit will have constant and repeated anointing of the Spirit. The Spirit supplies the power for service and carries conviction to the sinner's heart when the Word of God is preached and testimonies are given. When He, the Spirit of Truth, comes He guides into truth. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He brings the things of Christ to our remembrance; and the anointing which abides in us, teaches us concerning the deep things of God.

The failures throughout the history of the Christian Church are due largely to the fact that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit has not been given its rightful place in the Church. To reject it is to reject the greatest asset for labor, service, and ministry that is the privilege of men to enjoy.

Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? If not, why not? "Tarry . . . until ye be endued with power from on high."

If Jesus Christ be God, and if He died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.—C. T. Studd.

What Prayer Has Done

"Prayer has divided seas, rolled up flowing rivers, made flinty rocks gush into fountains, quenched flames of fire, muzzled lions, disarmed vipers and poisons, marshaled the stars against the wicked, stopped the course of the moon, arrested the rapid sun in its great race, burst open iron gates, recalled souls from eternity, conquered the strongest devils, commanded legions of angels down from heaven. Prayer has bridled and changed the raging passions of man and destroyed vast armies of proud, daring, blustering atheists. Prayer has brought one man from the bottom of the sea, and carried another in a chariot of fire to heaven. What has not prayer done!"

Blessed of the Lord

The most intimate knowledge of God is possible on one condition—that we search His Holy Scriptures, prayerfully and habitually, and translate into obedience what we there find. Of him who thus meditates on God's law day and night, who looks and continues looking into this perfect law of liberty, the promise is unique, and found in both Testaments: "Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper;" "This man shall be blessed in his deed."—A. T. Pierson.

Someone has said that a little fly in Noah's ark was just as safe as an elephant. It was not the elephant's size and strength that made him safe; it was the ark that saved both elephant and fly. It is not your righteousness, your good works, that will save you. Rich or poor, learned or unlearned, you can be saved only by the blood of Christ.—D. L. Moody.

THE MISSING ONES

A Dream That May Soon Come True

ONE SUMMER EVENING, as a part of our family worship, I read the fourth chapter of First Thessalonians. Before retiring that night I seated myself in my easy chair and meditated on the last few verses of the chapter:

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

"As I mused, I fell into a deep sleep and had a most wonderful dream. It seemed I had awakened in the morning and had found, to my surprise, that my wife was not beside me as usual. At first I supposed her absence was temporary, and I waited; but when she failed to return to the bedroom I arose and dressed.

My wife's clothing was where she had placed it the previous night, and I felt sure she was somewhere about the house. So I went to the room of my daughter Julia, thinking she might know the whereabouts of her mother; but after knocking several times and getting no response, I entered and found that Julia also was missing.

"Strange!" I said to myself. "Where can they be?" Then I went to the room of our son Frank, and found him up and already dressed. I told him of the absence of his mother and sister, and asked him to look around and see if he could find them while I completed my toilet. But he soon returned with the report that the missing ones were nowhere to be found, and that every door leading outward was securely locked as on the night before.

We were perplexed and alarmed. On going again to Julia's room we found her well-marked Bible lying open, and one prominent verse attracted my attention. It read, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (This passage, my wife had always declared, referred to the coming of Christ for the Christians, according to 1 Thessalonians 4:14, 17—though I insisted it meant only preparation for death.)

Frank and I decided not to take time for breakfast. Instead, we would each take a different route and visit some of our closest friends to see if they might know where Mother and Julia could be.

I first called on my wife's sister, Mrs. E. She and her husband were respectable people, members of a Christian church, though rather worldly minded. I rang the bell several times and was beginning to be impatient when finally she appeared. She apologized for keeping me waiting by saying that she was

in no end of trouble due to the fact that she was having to prepare breakfast herself. Her colored servant girl, whom she had always considered to be a real good Christian, had played her "a mean trick," she said.

"She has gone off somewhere without even putting the kettle on the range, or saying a word to any of us. But what puzzles us is how she got out of the house—for the doors are all locked and the keys inside, just as we left them last evening on our return from a card party."

"Indeed!" said I. "That's strange!" And then I explained that my wife and Julia were likewise missing. This seemed to upset Mrs. E. so badly that I changed the subject by saying that, as I had not yet eaten, I would join her and her husband at breakfast. When Mr. E. heard my story he had a good laugh, and declared that my wife was only playing a practical joke to teach me to rise earlier in the morning. He was sure she and my daughter had hidden themselves somewhere in the house, and that when I returned home I would find them all right.

As we seated ourselves at the table, Mrs. E. said we would have to take our coffee without cream. Her milkman, who usually was so reliable, had failed to make an appearance.

The doorbell rang and Frank entered in a state of great excitement. He said he had been to many homes inquiring about his mother, and that in almost every house he had found trouble similar to our own. Almost every family was anxiously searching for missing members.

He said that the streets were thronged with excited people hurrying to and fro, many of them weeping bitterly.



At this, Mr. E. grew quite alarmed. He related a conversation he had held yesterday with a friend, whose religious ideas he had looked upon as quite heretical. His friend had insisted that a vast majority of church members in these days were but nominal Christians, "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God," and that the general "falling away" from the Christian faith was a fulfillment of sacred prophecy.

"My friend also assured me," said Mr. E., "that the Scriptures clearly taught that when the elect number of Christ's mystical church was completed, Christ would come as unexpectedly and silently as a thief in the night, and would call His saints, both dead and alive, to meet Him in the air. The change would take place in the twinkling of an eye; and although the call would be made with a shout and the sound of a trumpet, yet none would hear it but those for whom it was intended.

"Then would be realized the import of Christ's words, 'Then shall two be in the field, one shall be taken, and the other left; two women shall be grinding at the mill, the one shall be taken and the other left.' I fear the time has now come—and we are among those that are left."

Frank had been to our home and had found that Mother and Julia were still missing. I then decided to go to my place of business, as the hour was growing late. In the business parts of the city I noticed that many stores were still closed, and that those which were open did not have any customers. Every tavern that I passed was open, as usual, with groups of men outside engaged in serious discussion. As I passed by City Hall there was no perceptible decrease in the number of political "hangers on" around the building.

When I reached my own store, I found that my bookkeeper, and the faithful old janitor who had served me so long, had not yet made an appearance. My two other clerks were on hand, doing nothing—nor did I feel like asking them to do anything.

I went to the Chamber of Commerce, and found the largest gathering of merchants that I had seen there in many months. But instead of the lively, noisy bustle of business there was a gloomy atmosphere pervading the whole place. By unanimous agreement the merchants decided that, in view of the great calamity that had overtaken the community, three days' grace would be allowed on all contracts falling due on this day.

I will not attempt to repeat the various reasons and speculations that were advanced as to the cause of the trouble, but all agreed that the visitation was a supernatural one, and that somehow we who were left on earth were to blame for it.

In the evening almost every church in the city was open with overflowing crowds. Everybody was anxious to know the cause of the mysterious disappearance and to learn how lost hopes might be regained. Many of the pastors, of course, had gone with the other Christians; but some were present in their churches. All order of service was dispensed with, and noisy confusion prevailed. The people blamed their pastors for failing to do their duty and neglecting to teach their flocks the plain truths of the Bible.

(Continued on page fifteen)

INCIDENTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF OUR MISSIONARIES

THE APOSTLE PAUL wrote in his epistle to the Romans that "... the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him." Romans 10:12.

The truth of the writing has been established over and over again in Assemblies of God foreign missionary work. Today, 36 years after the Assemblies of God fellowship came into being, there are something like 217,000 persons on our 57 mission fields abroad who confess Christ, as a result of Assemblies of God missionary efforts: 27,600 in Africa; 8,000 in China; 2,500 in India and Ceylon; 156,000 in Latin America; and the remaining 22,900 in Europe, Japan and the miscellaneous fields, including the islands. They have been of every color, clime, culture, circumstance, and creed, but the Lord has been bounteous to all.

In order that you may realize the impartiality of the Lord to those who call upon Him, and His graciousness, even solicitude, irrespective of person or condition, we would like to tell you of several conversions on the mission fields, with something of the background of the individuals.

The Conversion of Mukti

(Submitted by Mrs. Sydney S. Bryant, the missionary who led Mukti to Christ. The name "Mukti" means *salvation*. She was thus called because she had been an unwanted child and had been rescued from the sand where she had been buried alive with only her head exposed.)

"The child Mukti grew into womanhood. She had been trained in a denominational school, where shelter had been found for her—trained to be a teacher; and eventually she was offered a position in a Hindu school in Lucknow. There it became her lot to tell stories to children, just as stories had been told to her, but the stories she told were of the Hindu gods. She was afraid that if she did not tell these stories she would lose her position. It also became her lot to teach children to pray, but she did not teach them to pray as she had been taught. She taught them to pray before gods of wood, stone, gold, and silver, and she bowed with them until darkness, deep darkness, filled her soul. Although Mukti had never given her heart to God, she knew that she was doing wrong. It was a compromise.

"As time went on the girl longed for something better and higher. One day she wandered into the Lucknow House of Prayer, and heard an altar call. She went to pray. Little realizing the darkness of the girl's heart, but having in mind that a girl should have Christian fellowship, a woman directed Mukti to our Hardoi Bible Training School to spend her month's vacation.

"Daily at the Hardoi Bible Training School—it was not in session, for it was our vacation time also—we had a morning Bible study, and a time of prayer. The second day of Mukti's stay at the school she came to the

office where I was writing. 'Miss-Sahib, what are the girls all talking about when they speak so much of *Najat*?' (*Najat* also means salvation.) It was with great joy that I listened to the question. For more than an hour I explained the way of salvation. After prayer the girl went to her room, but I was certain that she had not as yet found the salvation of which she asked.

"One evening, as another missionary and I sat alone just outside the dormitory we heard strange sounds from within. We were accustomed to prayer, praise, and song coming from the building, but the sounds we were hearing were different. A cold chill went through me as we ran inside, and toward the sounds. We found Mukti under what seemed to be the influence of demon power. Kneeling by her we prayed for victory. Finally from the darkness of the soul there came a cry for light: 'Are you really the Son of God? Jesus,

heaven on her face. 'Miss-Sahib, the Light has come,' she said."

(Mukti is now a teacher at our Hardoi Bible Training School, where she was saved.)

The Conversion of Gideon Chiutenge

"I was born and spent my early boyhood days in the great Mozambique country of Southeast Africa, near the banks of the wide-flowing Zambezi River. My parents died while I was an infant.

"My people believe in many gods, and ancestral spirits. They dance for days until a spirit enters into one of them.

"On three occasions I narrowly escaped death: On one occasion I found a narrow hole in the rocks of a deep pool and reached in to catch a fish. Another large fish became wedged between my arm and the side of the opening. I was held beneath the surface of the water.

RICH UNTO ALL

GOD WORKS IN LIVES ON FOREIGN FIELDS.

did you really die for my sins? Did you really rise again? Are you alive now?"

"Then came confession of compromise and pleading for forgiveness.

"Quietness and rest came that night, but not full light or full deliverance. In the days that followed we talked 'Jesus' almost constantly. I directed Mukti's reading, and she spent hours alone with her Bible.

"One afternoon I felt impressed to talk to our young guest. No one seemed to know where she was, but after a short time I found her. She was alone and her head was bowed on her open Bible. The Bible was open at Hebrews.

"When I asked how things were with her soul, she looked up with the light and glory of

GOD, LET ME BE AWARE

"God, let me be aware—

Stab my soul fiercely with others' pain;

Let me walk, seeing their horror and stain.

Let my hands, groping, find other hands;

Give me the heart that divines, understands.

Oh, keep me eager to do my share—

God, let me be aware."

—Selected

It seemed certain that I would drown, but with a great effort I pulled my arm back.

"Returning from a fishing trip, I fell headlong over a precipice. My foot caught in a vine and I hung helpless, head downward, a horrible death awaiting me on the rocks below. My uncle heard my cries and worked his way to me and saved my life.

"Making my way through tall grass one day I heard a rumbling noise. I stopped. Six lions were in the bush a few yards from me, preparing to spring. I stuck my spear into the ground and clutched my battle-ax in both hands and began to strike at them, shouting as loudly as I could. They advanced upon me three times, finally turning away. As they turned away, I collapsed, but for a third time my life had been spared.

"In 1935, I went to Salisbury, South Rhodesia, to look for work. I met one of my tribesmen there who was kind to me. One day he led me outside the village to a tree where he and one of his friends met. I found that the two men were Christians. They had been brought to Christ through Assemblies of God services conducted by missionaries at a mining compound. They told me about God, and His Son, Jesus. During the following week my heart burned within me, and I could hardly wait for the next Sunday when I was to go to their trysting place again. When Sunday came I confessed my sins, and God forgave me my sins. It was wonderful!"

(After his conversion, Gideon attended our African Bible Training Institute and is now one of our African ministers.)

The Conversion of a Japanese Attorney

(Told by Marie Juergensen, one of our Assemblies of God missionaries stationed in Tokyo, Japan.)

"I heard the testimony of a lawyer, how he had lived without God. As he lay on what he supposed was his deathbed he put a little god house beside his bed, hoping that his spirit would go into that at the time of his death. Later he felt impressed to ask a woman, a member of our Osaka Church, to pray for him.

"Even before she prayed, as she sat on the floor beside his bed and talked to him of Jesus and His power, he felt the fever leave him. He was healed and looked perfectly well when I heard him give this testimony three weeks later. He testified that he had gained twelve pounds in weight. Both he and his wife have been baptized in water."

Evert van de Molen

"I was born and reared in a Dutch Calvinist church. I thank God for my God-fearing parents who taught that it was not enough to acquire Christian habits, but that one must give his heart to the Lord. I was saved when I was 20 years of age.

"When I was 22 I went to the Indies as a teacher. I spent the war years in Japanese prison camps in Java, Siam, and Japan. I look back on those years as a time of suffering, but also as a time when many of my fellow-prisoners and I felt God's constant presence and deliverance in time of need.

"When the war was over many of the former prisoners thought the best way to catch up with life was to give oneself to drinking, and seeking other pleasures which the world has to offer. I, too, found myself

on the general downward trend, away from God. My spiritual life became more and more shallow, prayer an automatic affair. There was plenty of food and drink, so why pray any longer?

"Back in Indonesia, at Ambon, I met an American missionary of the Assemblies of God. Although I liked him very much, one thing I thought very strange—the first time I saw him, he at once, without any introduction, began to talk to me about the condition of my soul. I would have thought it quite proper had he talked about the soul of another, or about the souls of the Amboinese people, but to talk about the relationship of Evert van de Molen to Jesus Christ—well, that was just a bit too personal according to my taste, but talk to me he did anyway. A few weeks later I confessed everything that was between me and my Savior, and the joy of my salvation was restored.

"During my stay in Ambon I met several Assemblies of God missionaries who were all faithful in testifying about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, a thing I had never heard of as being for today. At first I did not believe it, and I said so, but in my heart I had to admit that many of the things I saw in the Assemblies of God services were genuine. I kept telling myself, though, 'This is fine for Amboinese, and for Americans maybe, but not for Dutchmen. We are not that emotional.' I knew quite well that some of the Americans were no more emotional than I was.

"On October 11, 1948, I was baptized in water in the Bay of Ambon. Back on the beach I knelt down and at that same moment the Holy Spirit took possession of me. I began to utter sounds in a tongue I did not know. But one thing I did know: The Lord had to be praised, then and there. At that time kneeling on the sand, still wet by the sea water, I did not care what the nationals



Photo by K. E. Weigel

MUKTI

BORN TO DIE

It was time to retire. We were more than glad to do so, for it had been a long, hot, eventful day. But before sleep could cover us, we heard the sounds of rejoicing to the right of the mission. It could not be a wedding, we agreed, at that late hour. But what? The joyful strains grew as the neighbors gathered to join in the festivity. Finally we concluded that a boy had been born. And it was so. The drums beat out the good news, and the songs and the dancing told the story to us as we sought the answer from our balcony.

But out of the darkness just a few minutes later, piercing even the joyful cadence, came another sound, the wail of death. The singing and dancing stopped immediately. We ran to the balcony again, and off to the left—the moon helped us to see—on a roof top was a wailing woman. A crowd by that time had gathered here also, endeavoring to bring comfort. In expressing her grief the woman tossed herself about. Her loved one was gone.

Life and death! James wrote: "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." How quickly a life comes and goes!

Our hearts are crying to God that He will enable us to reach these transient souls and bring them to the reality of everlasting life. May the only true Security, the only true Life and Light to shine out of darkness, Jesus Christ, indeed be revealed.

The joy that comes to heaven's angels when one of these brown-skinned villagers is "born again" must be great, and we have had the privilege of showing many the way. You have made it possible with your offerings.

He died to free from the old life; He lives to work in the new.

Written by Florence V. Christie and Karlene M. Burt, missionaries to Egypt.

thought as they watched the Dutch teacher shout the Lord's praises at the top of his voice. Gone was my self-consciousness, gone my pride and stiffness. The Lord had to be praised. That was my only concern. In that moment I, one of God's works, was fulfilling the purpose for which I had my being—I was blessing His name with all my might.

"May God help us all as long as we live to bless His name through His mighty Holy Spirit."

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SUNDAY'S LESSON

A PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK'S LESSON BY E. S. WILLIAMS

JOHN INTRODUCES JESUS

Lesson for October 15

Matthew 3:1-17

John the Baptist is ranked among the highest of the prophets; yet he made no prediction of future events, nor did he leave us any written message. His ministry was recorded by others, not by himself. This teaches that predicting the future is not necessary to the ministry of a prophet.

As an evangelist, John preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins to all those of Israel who would listen to him. His predictive ministry seems to have been confined to the announcement concerning Jesus and the results of the ministry of Jesus. "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10.

1. Facts Concerning John

John was born to the priesthood. His father and mother were of the priestly family of Aaron. Luke 1:5. Although he was born to the priesthood, we do not have any record that John ever officiated in this capacity. He was a special child, specially born and dedicated to become the herald of the Lord Jesus.

John was an unusual child in that his birth was announced and his name given by the angel before he was conceived. Luke 1:11-13.

He was to be a Nazarite from his birth (v. 15), a winner of souls (v. 16), endowed with the spirit and power of Elijah, v. 17. Moreover he was to be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time of his birth, v. 15. He is the one prophet of Scripture concerning whom other prophets had prophesied. Isaiah 40:3.

Although so fully endowed with power, and ordained to be the forerunner of Christ, yet when pressed by unusual temptation, John was tempted to doubt concerning Christ. Matt. 11:3. In spite of this, Jesus declared, "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." Matt. 11:11. From this let us take courage. When we are sorely tested Jesus knows the state and desire of our hearts as He knew the heart of John. When we have lost courage and hope, Jesus has not.

2. John's Message of Grace

John came announcing that the kingdom of heaven was at hand, exhorting the people to repent, and assuring that repentance would bring remission of sins. He was conscious of his calling, for he announced that he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah.

Concerning the kingdom of heaven, this is the sphere of God's rule. When an individual gives himself to Christ, the kingdom is set

up in his heart by the Holy Ghost. Rom. 14:17. The message of the kingdom is, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." The purpose of the grace of God is to bring men to repentance and remission of sins that the way of the Lord in their hearts might be prepared. Christ in human lives was the objective of the preaching of John. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" should be the objective of all Christian preaching.

3. John's Message of Warning

When the Pharisees and the Sadducees came out to John's baptizing, he warned them saying, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" Matt. 3:7. This was because he saw that they were attracted by the revival and the multitude that were being baptized for the remission of sins, and not by a sense of their own spiritual need. For them to enjoy the blessing of his ministry they must bring forth fruits of repentance; they must forsake their false hope of thinking themselves secure because they had Abraham to their father. A genuine revival knocks the props out from under conceited religion and self-esteem and provides godly sorrow for sin. 2 Cor. 7:10.

4. John's Introduction of Jesus

John declares the superiority of Jesus. He could baptize with water, but it takes Jesus to baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. The baptism with water could immerse one outwardly only; the baptism with the Holy Ghost would fill inwardly also. When the day of Pentecost was fully come, at which time the promise of the baptism with the Holy Spirit was fulfilled, "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4.

John declares the work of Christ in those whom Christ should baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. If the Spirit was given to provide power, the fire was given to provide holiness of life. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself not only outwardly, but inwardly also. One of the principal reasons for the infilling of the Spirit is "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints . . . the love of Christ . . . that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:17-19.

The heart of Christianity is inward. In salvation, "The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the

children of God." Rom. 8:16. The result of this is "the fruit of the Spirit" in our lives. Gal. 5:22. As the "Head of the Church," the "Lord of the harvest," Jesus has His winnowing fan in His hand, purging the wheat (His redeemed ones) from all the chaff, that they might be prepared for that time when He shall "gather His wheat into His garner." In other words, He will take His redeemed ones to glory, "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." Eph. 5:27.

As for the chaff, He wants nothing of it. "He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." When you feel that you are passing through the fiery furnace, recognize that the Lord is seeking to separate you only from those things which are chaff so that you may be fitted for your high calling in Christ Jesus.

5. John's Prophecy Confirmed

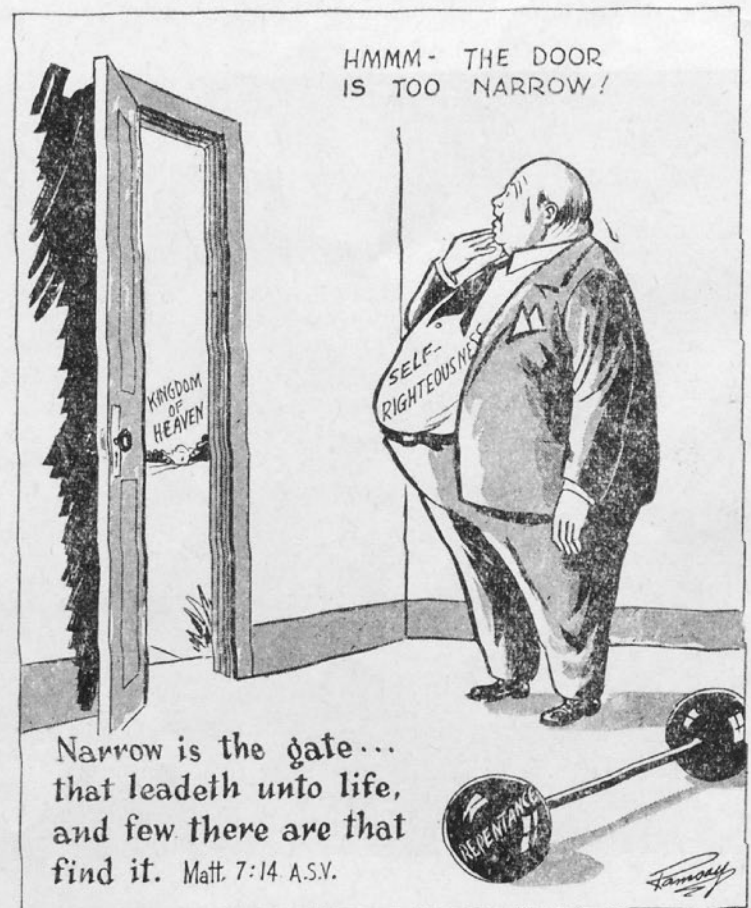
Jesus came to the Jordan to accept the baptism of John. Being baptized, and coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending. The Father's voice was heard. Matt. 3:15-17. Thus heaven witnessed to the truthfulness of the message of John concerning our Lord Jesus.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT (lesson for October 8). Lesson text: Matthew 2:13-23

Save us from hot heads which would lead us to act foolishly, and from cold feet that would keep us from acting at all.—The late Peter Marshall, Senate Chaplain.

HE NEEDS TO REDUCE



PASSING and PERMANENT

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

More Male Lawbreakers

The number of males arrested in the U.S.A. during 1949 was 713,444, an increase of 4.5% over 1948; whereas female arrests increased only 2.1%. Fingerprint cards showing the arrests of women made up 9.9% of all the fingerprint cards received by the F.B.I. during the year. The world is not growing better, as long as arrests increase in number and as long as one out of ten people arrested is a woman. Evil is constantly growing worse, as the Bible predicted. See 2 Timothy 3:13.

How NOT to Use the Bible

A school teacher in Southend, England, recently became annoyed at one of the pupils and threw a Bible at him. The boy was struck in the eye. Suit was brought in court, and according to a *Reuters* dispatch the boy was awarded damages of \$7,000.

The judge said it would have been better had the schoolmaster opened the Book and read some passage instead of throwing it. A good verse to read would have been Titus 2:2—"That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in *patience*."

Testimony in a Restaurant

A restaurant keeper in an Iowa town had a Scripture verse printed at the top of the menu cards, and beneath it there appeared these words: "You are invited to say grace at our tables." The menu also stated that no liquor would be served. Here was a two-fold testimony—a witness to the restaurant keeper's religious faith, and a testimony to the fact that prayer and liquor drinking are incompatible. Did you ever hear anyone ask God's blessing on a meal when liquor was served?

Streams in the Desert

"Marvels upon marvels" is what must be said of discoveries in Israel. One of the latest and of very vital importance is reported by the *Zionist Review*. It has to do with the find of underground water reservoirs in southern Israel which will revolutionize the prospect of land reclamation. In Scripture language, the Negev will soon experience "floods upon the dry ground" (Isaiah 44:3). The *Zionist Review* has this to say:

"In this area recently large quantities of fresh water have been tapped. Extensive drillings carried out by the Water Department of the Ministry of Agriculture in the tract between Sodom and Elath encountered fresh waters at a depth and in quantities which justify hopes for large-scale agricultural settlements in areas hitherto considered as utterly barren. It is believed that prospects are good for further discoveries of fresh water which would make possible the reclamation of millions of dunams in the Negev."

"... in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water." Isa. 35:6,7.

No God for Polish Scouts

All mention of God has been removed from the Boy Scout oath in Communist-dominated Poland, and the phrase, "Love for the Soviet," has been substituted instead. The change came after Polish scout leaders had visited Moscow and had then separated the Polish Boy Scout movement from the world scouts' organization.

India's Sacred Cows

Missionaries report that, since the new regime came into power, all cow-killing in India has been stopped and no beef is to be had. In the jungles, however, wild bulls are destructive to crops, and the government is carrying on a strenuous "increase the crops" campaign. What about the Blue Bull? Change its name to the Blue Horse and shoot as many as possible!

Discriminating Against the Bible

The question as to whether religious instruction should be given in public schools has been widely debated during recent months. An editorial in an Oklahoma City newspaper recently expressed a side of the issue which is overlooked by many.

The writer called attention to the action of some Lutheran ministers of Minnesota who appealed to the Governor to protect their children against the anti-Bible and anti-Christian instruction given in some public schools. Said the writer:

"According to the highest American courts, the Bible must not be taught in tax-supported

schools, but the most vicious attacks on the Bible ever written can be taught without hindrance or legal challenge. . . . Any teacher is free to teach every day of the year that the Bible is a collection of myths and that the story of the Manger Birth and the Riven Tomb are cunningly devised fables. . . . Thus the Bible can be attacked in the schoolroom, but it cannot be defended!"

SOAP AND RELIGION

Moses Kramer, a Jewish missionary, and Abe Levin, who was in the soap business, were walking together down the street. Levin had no use for Christianity and asserted that he did not see what good it had done after 2,000 years.

Kramer began to tell of the many great things it had accomplished—the emancipation of slaves, the erection of hospitals, the education of the poor and the amelioration of their condition. Levin snorted at this—"These were for the most part doubtful blessings; on the other hand, the world was still full of cruelty, anti-Semitism, war, and other evils. Christianity has done little or nothing to remove them."

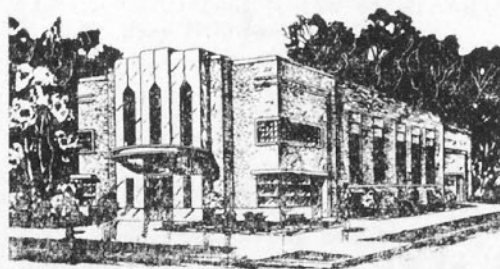
Presently they came upon a group of very dirty children playing in the street.

"Soap doesn't seem to be of much use," said Kramer, pointing to the little urchins.

"You don't expect soap to be of any good unless it is used," fumed Levin.

"Neither can you expect Christianity to be of any good to people who don't accept its message and apply it to their lives," was Kramer's reply.—*The Mediator*.

Help us to see that it is better to fail for a cause that will ultimately succeed than succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail.—The late Peter Marshall, Senate Chaplain.



ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH
IN WATERTOWN, S. D.

Our cover picture shows Pastor Grant A. Wacker shaking hands with some of the happy Christians who attend the Assemblies of God church in Watertown, S. D..

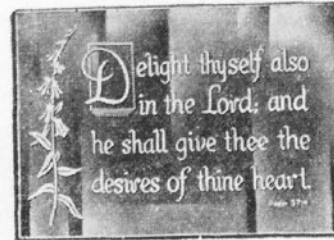
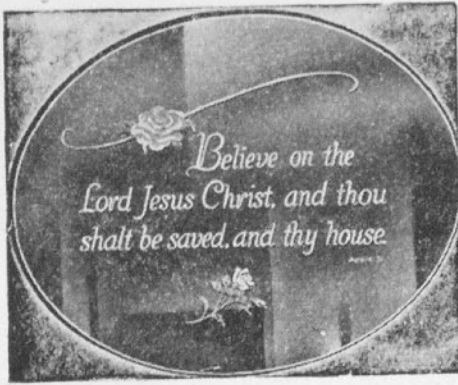
A sketch of the new church building is shown above. It is 42 x 116, having 250 cushioned seats and room for 150 more. Besides the main auditorium it has individual classrooms for Sunday School, a soundproof nursery, a church office, pastor's study, prayer room, C. A. room, etc. The entire building is fireproof, having concrete floors overlaid with tile, steel joists, aluminum windows.

Brother Wacker and his wife moved to

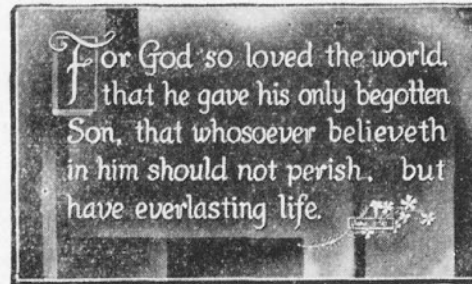
Watertown four years ago, soon after his return from Europe where he served for nearly a year with the Chaplains Corps of the U. S. Army. They began construction of the new church in October, 1948, and had the joy of dedicating it to God's service on Easter Sunday, 1950. R. M. Riggs, the pastor's father-in-law was the dedicatorial speaker. Other speakers during that same week-end were W. A. Brown, General Treasurer, and W. E. Cummings, South Dakota District Superintendent.

The congregation has had a steady growth during the past four years. Sinners have been saved, sick bodies have been healed, and lives have been baptized with the Holy Spirit. Average attendance is about 100 at Sunday School, and 150 at Sunday morning worship.

Building this beautiful church has been a bold adventure of faith for pastor and congregation alike. There were times of testing but God has graciously supplied each need. With full confidence in Him they are pushing ahead to greater triumphs in Christ. A weekly radio program, broadcast Sunday morning from 9 to 9:30 o'clock, helps to reach new people whose hearts are hungering for the same spiritual reality which the members of this church have found.



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- 21 EV 8690 The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble. . . . Nahum 1:7.

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- 21 EV 8696 For there is one God and one mediator between God and man. 1 Tim. 2:5.
- 21 EV 8697 Delight thyself also in the Lord and he shall give thee the desires. . . . Psa. 37:4.
- 21 EV 8698 My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. Ex. 33:14.

4x6 inches—\$1.00 each

- 21 EV 8708 The gift of God is eternal life. Rom. 6:23.
- 21 EV 8709 In the Lord is everlasting strength. Isa. 26:4.
- 21 EV 8710 God giveth songs in the night Job. 35:10.

- 21 EV 8711 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. 2 Cor. 9:15.

OVAL

Large 9¾x7¾ inches—\$2.00 each

- 21 EV 8692 Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Acts 16:31.

- 21 EV 8693 The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Psalm 103:17.

- 21 EV 8694 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God. 1 Thess. 5:18.

5x7¼ inches—\$1.25 each

- 21 EV 8700 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart. Prov. 3:5.
- 21 EV 8701 In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths. Prov. 3:6.

- 21 EV 8702 Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe. Prov. 29:25.

5¾x3¾ inches—85c each

- 21 EV 8713 Fear thou not; for I am with thee. Isa. 41:10
- 21 EV 8714 Be not dismayed; for I am thy God. Isa. 41:10.
- 21 EV 8715 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious. 1 Peter 2:7.
- 21 EV 8716 Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he. Prov. 16:20.

CIRCLE

6 inch diameter—\$1.25

- 21 EV 8704 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Heb. 13:8.

- 21 EV 8705 The joy of the Lord is your strength. Neh. 8:10.

- 21 EV 8706 Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 2:1.

4¾ inch diameter—85c each

- 21 EV 8718 My help cometh from the Lord. Psalm 121:2.
- 21 EV 8719 The eternal God is thy refuge. Deut. 33:27.
- 21 EV 8720 Teach me thy way, O Lord. Psa. 86:11.

- 21 EV 8721 Rejoice in the Lord alway. Phil. 4:4.

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HEALED

EPILEPSY

When our baby was three years old, she began to have spasms. Five doctors including a brain specialist said that she had epilepsy. In January, 1949, God healed her in answer to definite prayer. Two months later she had a light spasm. We called our pastor and wife, and together we stood on God's promises. We rebuked the spasm in Jesus' name. She went to sleep and has not been bothered with epilepsy since. We cannot thank our Lord enough.—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Odum, 1204 Parker St., N. Little Rock, Ark.

(This testimony is verified by Pastor T. J. Gotcher, 2201 Franklin, N. Little Rock, Ark.)

HIGH FEVER AND PARALYSIS

In March, 1949, my ten-year-old boy Lloyd came home from school very sick. The joints in his ankles, knees, and hands began to swell. All of his joints became so sore that he could hardly bear to be touched. He had a high fever and was paralyzed from the waist down. We asked the church people to pray, and we all kept praying for him. The Lord healed him completely, without the aid of doctors or medicine.—Mrs. A. P. Happing, Rt. 2, Box 134, Garfield, Ark.

(This testimony is confirmed by Herman F. Williams, Pastor in Busch, Ark.)

MEMORY RESTORED

God has again answered prayer in our home. The healing testimony of our youngest daughter, Gladys, was published in the Evangel of April 9, 1949. She was sick for 11 months. We had seven doctors and three specialists, but nothing could be done for her. She had the symptoms of either sleeping sickness or brain tumor. She was out of school a whole year with the exception of 25 hours in December, but even that proved too much for her. Her name was taken off the school list.

In the summer of 1948 God completely healed her. It was a wonderful day when Gladys again registered in school. The school authorities and those who knew her marveled over what had taken place. They said, "This surely is a miracle. This is an answer to prayer. Only God could do something like this."

While Gladys was sick she forgot everything she had learned at school. A year ago last May, towards the end of the 6th grade term, we were told that she would have to remain two years in the 7th grade to graduate into the 8th, and would never get to high school. Gladys was also told this. As a family we said, "Let's really pray about this. God healed her, and we know that He can undertake in her schooling." Not a day or night went by but our hearts cried out to God for this. Every time I visited the school I was told the same story.

Last May, a month before school was out, we were told the wonderful news. God had

answered prayer. Gladys was on the promotion list. After graduating from grammar school she will be going to high school. I cannot explain how I felt as I walked home from school that day. What a wonderful God we have!

I would like to leave with you this verse given to our family by our pastor, Brother Norman T. Spong, at a time when we were very much disturbed over sickness. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me." Revelation 3:20. Jesus is standing at the door of your home. Open the door, ask Him to enter, and have Him sit down with you. Tell Him just what your need is, then fully believe, and your need will be met. Praise God, we have proved this to be true.—Mrs. Alfred O. Chellman, 72 Coolidge St., Hartford 6, Conn.

(Pastor N. T. Spong writes, "All that Sister Chellman has written is true, and we are rejoicing with her and Gladys.")

THE MISSING ONES

(Continued from page nine)

In my own church the pastor was present, along with scores of persons whom I had rarely seen at meetings. The pastor was speaking when I entered. "None of you can realize the keen disappointment I feel," he was saying. "I am accused of having preached too much about the affairs of this life, and too little about the heavenly state and the things to come; and of having kept you in ignorance of the imminency of the awful visitation which has manifested itself among us this day. In reply to all these accusations, I can only say that I have taught you the same theology that was taught to me; that is, to treat the Bible as a book largely of spiritual symbols and allegories. But now I confess that I was sadly mistaken; for, after what has occurred, I cannot help believing that God's Word means just what it says."

Here the electric light suddenly went out, and there arose such fearful screams that I sprang to my feet in terror—and AWOKE!

My wife was in the adjoining room. When she heard me jump, she hastened in to see what was the matter. Oh, how glad I was to see her, and to realize that my terrible experience in my easy chair was only a dream. But the more I thought of it afterwards, the more solemn seemed the Scripture truths which it contained, and the more I was impressed with the importance of being ready to meet Christ when He comes.—J. W.

(The foregoing article, "The Missing Ones," is available in tract form. Price 50c per hundred copies. Order from The Gospel Publishing House, Springfield 1, Missouri. Ask for Tract 4 FO 4648.)

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The Assemblies of God offer eight correspondence courses for those who wish to study the Bible at home. They cover such subjects as Divine Healing, Pentecostal Truth, Prophecy, etc. For information write Correspondence School, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield 1, Missouri.

A LOVING SACRIFICE

While I was boarding at a farmhouse in the first year of my ministry, early in the morning before breakfast Jonas came to the door and beckoned me to follow him. He led me to the chicken house. A hen sat on a nest, with a brood of chickens peeping out from under her wings. "Touch her, Louie," Jonas said, "she's cold. Look at that wound in her head. A weasel sucked all the blood from her body and she never once moved for fear the little beast would get her chickens."

Jonas wasn't a Christian. His wife had been praying for him. I had been hunting for some illustration to make plain Christ's sacrifice for him. "Oh, Jonas," I said, "that was just like Christ. He endured all that suffering on the cross. He could have moved and saved His own life, but He wouldn't because you and I were under the wings. If He had moved, we should have been lost."

Jonas saw the point, and gave his heart to the Lord.—L. S. Bauman.

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To Those Who Are Left makes a timely appearance, as the Second Coming of Christ was never more imminent.

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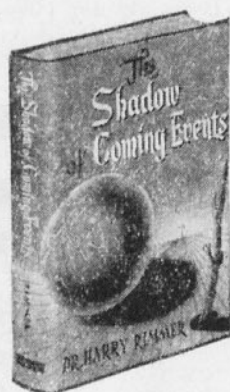
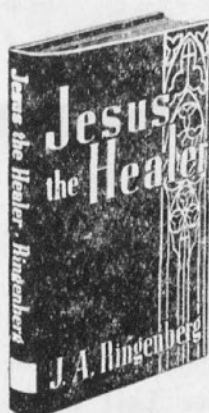
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