

The Pentecostal Evangel

Weekly Voice of the Assemblies of



Sept. 19, 1954
FILE COPY

ARMAGEDDON AHEAD!

By C. M. WARD

"And he gathered them together into a place called . . . Armageddon."

THE EYES OF THE WHOLE WORLD ARE UPON THE EAST. Will we or will we not make a "do or die" stand against the Communists? When and where will this matter be resolved between East and West? God marks the spot and gives the name—ARMAGEDDON!

Five years after the close of World War II, General Robert L. Eichelberger, one of our top military commanders, said:

"If I were a praying man—I'd be praying now! . . . We lost 300,000 casualties in the Pacific. I am afraid we're liable to forget it." Then he went on to say, "If I were a praying man, I'd be praying. The Reds are progressing farther and farther. Next they'll be in Indo-China—then Burma—Siam and Malaya—and then look where we are again. . . ."

Three years have passed since Eichelberger said those words—and we've had Korea since then. We've added 35,000 American dead in Korea and the tortured and missing remind us of the most devilish crimes of war ever perpetrated against humanity. Something evil has arisen in the East that is increasing in strength and threat to civilization. "The way of the kings of the east" is being prepared just as the Bible prophesies it will. It is frightening to behold this irresistible movement of forces as they move this world toward global conflict. A "WAY" IS BEING PREPARED!

The Bible says that ". . . unclean . . . spirits of devils . . . will

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Campaign Issue

Number 2106

An Invitation

**Bert Webb, National Executive Director of
Sunday Schools in the Assemblies of God**

This is your invitation to visit the Assemblies of God church near you. There are capable, Spirit-filled teachers in the Sunday School and classes have been arranged for every age so that gospel truth in understandable language may be presented to all.



Bert Webb

You will find spiritual reality in the old-fashioned services of the Assemblies of God church. God's Word preached and taught under the anointing of the Holy Spirit will inspire faith in your heart. You will find that through Jesus

Christ there is power to change the hearts of sinners, heal the sick, baptize believers in the Holy Spirit, and meet every need in human lives.

A genuine spirit of evangelism is evident in the activities of the Assemblies of God church. You will notice that the main concern of all phases of the church program is that people may be genuinely converted and prepared for heaven. In answer to believing prayer you will witness the gracious manifestation of God's mighty power, and will have the privilege of sharing in the great blessing of the presence of the living God as people worship Him "in spirit and in truth."

A warm welcome and a friendly atmosphere await you at the Assemblies of God church.

Continued from front page—

go forth unto the whole world . . . to gather mankind to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." This is that day of devil-possession. The poison of Antichrist is entering the minds and souls of men and nothing seems safe from its inroads. Suddenly we are investigating the State Department, and then the Army, and then the schools, and now the Church. We are afraid of its insidious growth. We know by experience how rapidly it spreads. Necessary government legislation stands still while we try to isolate it and stamp out its threat to our very freedom. Men have called it "a religion from hell." We are beginning to find out what the Bible means when it says: "... unclean . . . spirits of devils . . . will go forth unto the whole world. . . ." Is there any place around the world in this hour where threat is not prevalent?

The "way" to Armageddon leads from Indo-China across Thailand, Burma, India, Iraq, to Palestine. Several years ago Sir Ian Hamilton, the noted British general, gave his views on the subject. Speaking of Asiatic penetration into Western European civilization, he predicted that:

"... the spot where Europe may attempt to halt Asiatic penetration will become the last battlefield of all time and will mark the end of civilization. I have looked carefully at the map and the best spot for Europe to meet and throw back Asia is at Megiddo—or, as written on some maps, Armageddon. . . ." This was the potential path of the "Nazis" and "Banzais" of World War II before they

were stopped at El Alamein and Guadalcanal. It is no new dream of the conqueror. The "way" has been clearly marked out in Bible prophecy. This danger arising in the East threatens to gather millions in its path as it steam-rollers over the Orient. God's hour is upon us, neighbor! Mankind is marching inexorably toward ARMAGEDDON.

This struggle between God and the devil—between right and wrong—between decency and degeneracy, began in heaven but it will end on earth. Satan's malicious lies begun in the Garden of Eden and exposed at Calvary, will be smashed at Armageddon. Satan is launching a worldwide crusade against God. Having weakened the nations in two world wars he now attempts to suffocate what religious life remains with apostasy. Apostasy destroys the conscience and the moral strength of civilization and prepares the way for bestiality. Demon-possessed men are being armed with every ingenious and scientific invention. Satan is directing this juggernaut of destruction. It is all aimed at God. By every murderous, barbaric brutality this world's hordes are gathering against Christ, the Bible, and the Church.

The prophetic words of David in Psalm 2 are before us in this hour:

"Why do the heathen rage . . . ? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then

shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure."

And my text says: "And he gathered them together into a place called . . . Armageddon. . . . And there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne . . . and there were thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, SO MIGHTY AN EARTHQUAKE, AND SO GREAT. . . ."

That is God's answer to man's rage!

This world threatens to blow up in our faces. The most risky and explosive mixture ever ingeniously devised is the mixture of the atom bomb and the apostate heart. Satan is ready to pull the trigger!

I am not a war-monger. I long for peace as much as any man, but I must read God's Bible to you—and the Bible tells us the dreadful facts in these words:

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; PREPARE WAR, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; beat your plowshares into swords . . . let the weak say, I am strong.

"Let the heathen be awakened, and come up to the valley of JEHOSHAPHAT: for there will I sit to judge. . . ."

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in THE VALLEY OF DECISION."

Neighbor, nothing was decided in World War I. Nothing was decided in World War II. Nothing was decided in Korea. BUT A DECISION WILL BE REACHED AT ARMAGEDDON.

Unsaved friend, I want you to take a look with me at the shape of things to come, the outline of which is becoming crystal-clear to us today. As civilization heads toward this appointed "valley of decision," the Bible makes it very clear that Christ shall have first of all evacuated His own. Revelation 15:5-8 tells us that these things are not determined upon earth until the temple of God is closed:

"... and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

This means that the ministration of Christ as our High Priest before the throne of God in behalf of sinners will have ceased. Then mercy no longer pleads for the sinner. Christ will bring His intercessory work to an end. He will issue a decree that will forever close the probation of all then living and fix their destinies for eternity. God proposes to bring this battle of right and wrong to a close. God proposes to establish His Son, Jesus Christ, as King of this earth. Armageddon is God's answer to doctrines of devils in our world today!

The Holy Spirit put these words of prophecy into the mouth of Joel:

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A man's salvation depends not on WHERE he prays but on HOW he prays!

On Seattle's Old "Skid Road"

A TRUE STORY BY DON MALLOWH

IT WAS A BALMY SUMMER EVENING AND folk in all parts of the city were strolling along the sidewalks and sauntering through the parks. The intersection of Washington and Occidental Streets, in a remote part of the city, was so crowded with men that it was practically impossible



Don Mallowh

for vehicular traffic to pass. Hundreds of poorly clothed men stood in large groups veritably clogging that intersection as they talked one to another or listened to self-styled public speakers and soapbox orators. Was something unusual happening? No,

should one return on any other night he would gaze upon an identical scene.

This was Seattle's infamous "Skid Road." This was the intersection often referred to as "The Four Corners of Confusion." Here uninitiated eyes get their first vivid glimpse of "life's other side." Here tender hearts are moved to tears, and unappreciative persons are made very thankful for such comforts as they possess and had before grumbled about.

For many years I had heard of the old Skid Road. Now I stood at its very core. Three of my close friends and I had come here prompted solely by curiosity. We had elbowed our way through the throng and were pushing and squirming from one spot to another so as not to miss anything that was going on.

What a mixed multitude it was. Some of these men could rightly be called fugitives from work. Others were professional panhandlers who lived in cheap hotels but frequented a better part of town when asking for a handout. No doubt some practiced petty thievery also. Most of them, however, were "drifters," human derelicts, who were there as victims of circumstances or who, having no initiative, had allowed themselves to drift

downward and were without the will power to extricate themselves from such a life.

What a strange hotchpotch of theories fell upon our ears! It was truly a babel as every man presented his own ideas. On one soapbox was a Communist advocating the overthrow of all existing forms of government. Fifteen feet from him was another speaker, apparently just as earnest, championing some other revolutionary measure which was the exact opposite. A stone's throw away was a man using his soapbox for its original purpose, to actually sell soap. From across the street could be heard the strains of the Salvation Army band. Standing all by himself was a gray-haired man with but a few listeners. No one could get heads nor tails of what he was attempting to say, but he was going at it just as vociferously as the rest. Here at one intersection were seven or eight different kinds of open-air meetings going at one time. Is it any wonder it is called "The Four Corners of Confusion"?

Suddenly above the din we heard an-

other voice. With many others we wormed our way through the crowd to see what new thing this was. There in the center of a ring stood a twelve-year-old girl preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We stood perfectly still and listened while songs were sung and testimonies were given. Then came the final word of prayer and a general invitation to attend the service which was to commence immediately in an upstairs mission.

As our excursion was somewhat of a "lark" anyway, we decided to go to this strange church. We were greatly surprised to find so large an auditorium and to see practically every seat taken. The congregation was composed entirely of men (except for the Christian workers on the platform). How they did sing! Testimonies to the saving grace of the Lord followed, and then came a Spirit-anointed sermon. When we wended our way homeward we laughed and joked about all we had seen, and felt it had been an interesting evening's entertainment.

I had laughed with the rest, but somehow a seriousness stayed with me from that service. I didn't fancy going to church, and yet there was an inward urge that took me back (secretly, of course) several times within the following weeks. Never did I make known, by word or act, what was brewing in my heart.

One night at the mission a young man spoke to me about my soul's welfare. He pleaded with me to yield to Christ. Other Christian workers gathered around. When they saw that all their efforts seemed in vain, they began to pray. Soon there was a circle of men around me praying for my salvation. That moved

—Please turn to next page



me as nothing else did, and when one asked if I wanted to go to the prayer room I answered in the affirmative. I even broke into a run to get there. Then, falling on my knees at that old-fashioned "mourner's bench," I called on God for mercy.

Oh, what joy and ecstasy flooded my heart when I made an unreserved surrender to the Lord! What peace and bliss surged through my being with the knowledge of sins forgiven! Never in my life had I been so happy. From this time there was a complete change in my ambitions, my aspirations, and my outlook in life. Vocational plans which I had cherished were shattered. I gladly threw my life open to do the will of the Lord, whatever that should be. The desire to live for Christ became uppermost and the old longings faded away.

Many years have passed since that memorable night, and the more I ponder over it the more I marvel at God's providences. I had been in many beautiful churches but He saw fit to save me in

this humble place. I had heard speakers more educated by far than those in this mission but their simple words struck a chord in my heart. In any other place I could have found a better class of people with whom to share a pew. But God knew I needed the same gospel that these derelicts of humanity needed. And every person, rich or poor, young or old, needs exactly the same old-fashioned salvation. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:23, 24).

How I do thank God that His message was being sounded out on the old Skid Road. Out of the chaos and bedlam at that spot I heard good news of salvation. At the "Four Corners of Confusion" I heard of the One who can lead us safely to heaven. I rejoice that amidst the many theories put forth from street corners God's eternal truth is being proclaimed by faithful witnesses, not only on Seattle's old Skid Road but also in like places the world around.

Healed of Meningitis

On Feb. 19, 1954, our son Ronnie suddenly became very ill. We tried to rouse him, but couldn't. Seeing that he had a high fever, we called our pastor, S. E. Bowler, to pray; and we also called the doctor. When the doctor arrived, he took Ronnie's temperature and found it to be 107 degrees. The doctor turned to us and said, "Your child has meningitis, which is brain fever, and will have to be taken to the hospital immediately."

When we got Ronnie to the hospital, four doctors came out and told us not to leave. They said, "Your child cannot possibly live more than four or five hours. He has meningitis in the worst form." The pulse had already left his arm.

The church began to fast and pray. The hours passed, but Ronnie did not die. However, he remained in a coma for seven days under an oxygen tent.

His upper lip swelled up to his nose; the doctor told our pastor that this was a sign that his brain had been burned up from the high temperature.

They said that if he did live, he would have no mind whatsoever and would always be a cripple.

But several churches continued to pray; and, praise the Lord, at the end of seven days Ronnie regained consciousness and recognized us. Although he afterwards stayed in a semi-coma for two or three days, following that he had a clear mind.

Ronnie's recovery was marvelous. He was in the hospital for 5½ weeks, and five weeks after he came home he started back to school. He is as normal as he ever was, and his teacher told us that he was ready to pass with the rest of his class. We give God all the glory. Even our doctor, who didn't believe in God, said that he would have to admit that it was something higher than man, as in all of his years as a doctor Ronnie was the dearest person he had ever seen who lived.—Mr. and Mrs. Arvo Lamar, 6016 Muller St., Bell Gardens, Calif.

(Endorsed by Pastor S. E. Bowler, Bell Gardens, Calif.)

REGARDLESS OF THE TRANSLATION

"THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING, AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— KING JAMES VS.

"IT IS A TRUSTWORTHY SAYING, ENTITLED TO THE FULLEST ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— GODSPEED TRS.

"RELIABLE IS THE MESSAGE AND DESERVING OF WHOLE-HEARTED ACCEPTANCE THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— BERKELEY VS.

"THIS STATEMENT IS COMPLETELY RELIABLE AND SHOULD BE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED: CHRIST JESUS ENTERED THE WORLD TO RESCUE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— PHILLIPS TRS.

"TRUE IS THE SAYING, AND DESERVING OF UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— WEYMOUTH TRS.

"IT IS A SURE WORD, IT DESERVES ALL PRAISE, THAT 'CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS.'" I TIM. 1:15
— MOFFATT TRS.

"THE SAYING IS SURE AND WORTHY OF FULL ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— REVISED STAND.

"FAITHFUL IS THE SAYING, AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTATION, THAT JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— MONTGOMERY TRS.

"IT IS A SAYING TO BE TRUSTED AND DESERVES OUR FULLEST ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— WILLIAMS TRS.

"FAITHFUL IS THE SAYING, AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTATION, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." I TIM. 1:15
— AMERICAN STAND.

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Juvenile Delinquency

and Its Basic Cause

DR. HENRY H. NESS

Chairman of the Washington State Board of
Prison Terms and Paroles; Member of the Governor's Cabinet

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IS A PROBLEM which is much on the lips and minds of people today. It is discussed by civic groups, clubs, and various organizations; and frequently it is the subject of newspaper articles and editorials.

In an effort to control juvenile delinquency, committees have met and discussed the problem. Boys' clubs have been organized; recreational facilities have been made available; youth centers have been built; schools have provided counselors and advisers to guide and help youth with their problems; psychologists and psychiatrists have been consulted.

From my personal experience with programs of reform schools, I am convinced that the juvenile courts have grossly overestimated the contribution which such institutions can make to delinquency prevention and control. We often refer to them as being graduate schools to crime. I have seen youngsters graduated from youth centers to the Washington State Training School, then Luther Burbank School, then the Washington State Reformatory, and finally the Washington State Penitentiary.

I have had the task of fixing the sentences on more than 6,000 criminals, and the majority of these have been graduated from the ranks of juvenile delinquents.

Some children are sent to training schools for educational purposes, and others to learn a trade, while most commitments are made because the child has a poor home or bad associates. There is scarcely a training school in the United States which does not include in its population a group of children who are committed because there are no places more suitable provided for them.

Thus, the mentally retarded are housed with those of normal capacity. The emotionally disturbed, the mentally and chronically ill, and the physically handicapped are placed in the same program with the normal youth who has a behavior problem.

The judge who commits a boy to a reform school to remove him from a bad gang must realize that instead of a gang

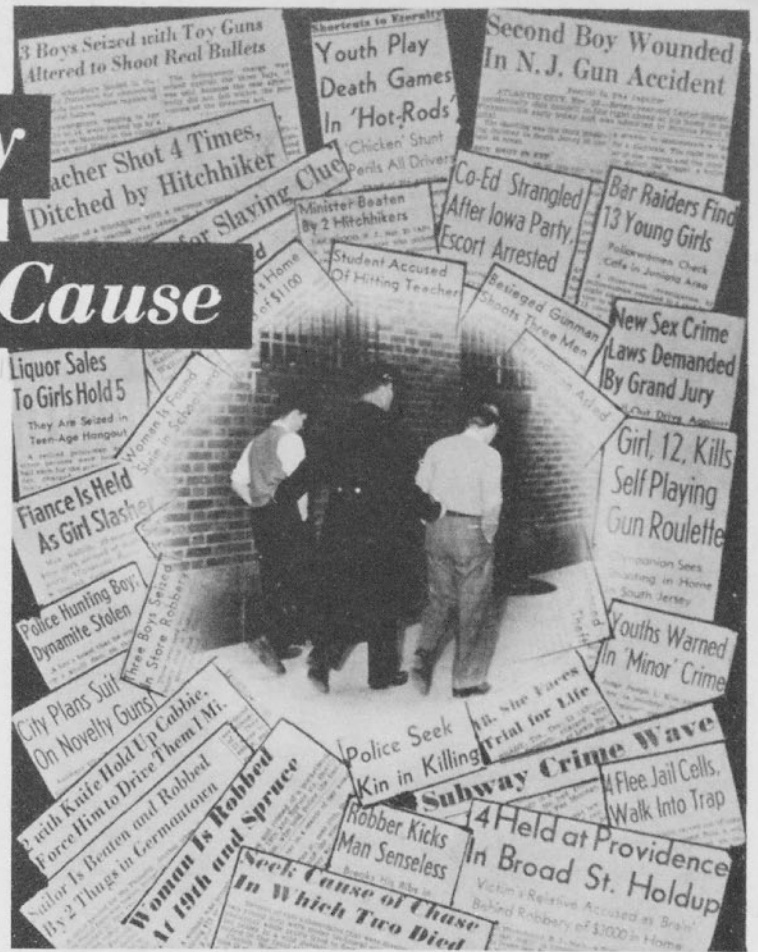
of, say four, the child will have four hundred such associates. The judge who commits a boy because he has an impossible home situation must recognize that the youth will not be in a normal environment while in reform school.

As to academic education, more and better schools are available to children in a community than are to be found in the average institution. Moreover, it is a serious indictment against our school system if a boy must be sent to a training school to obtain vocational training.

Finally, as to discipline, I have very little confidence that institutional discipline will carry over into community life. A boy may continue to say, "Yes, sir" and "No, sir" long after he has left the reform school, and yet retain the motivations which caused him to steal a car in the first place. We have found that many of those who are the best behaved in the institution are the worst behaved when released to society. These are classified as being "con-wise."

Much time, effort, and money have been expended in an effort to combat juvenile delinquency, yet the crime rate among juveniles is continuing to soar. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the F.B.I., predicts an even greater increase in juvenile delinquency in the future. This alarming situation needs a very serious and thorough study. Let us face it. Organized community effort has failed to cope with the situation. I believe that thus far the basic, underlying causes have not been recognized by those who need to know them.

The juvenile problem is not primarily economic, physical, psychological, or educational but basically moral. Moral problems can be solved only by moral law. Moral concepts can be derived only from the moral law of God, the Bible.



For either preventative or curative purposes, the child must be exposed to God's Word. Regarding juvenile problems, the most powerful and effective therapy is God's Book. I am afraid that many of us have failed to realize that the Word of God possesses unlimited creative and transforming power. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:9, 11).

It was God's Word in the beginning which created the world and all that it contains. God's first recorded command was, "Let there be light"—and light came. All of creation came into being at the sound of His voice. It was God's Word which transformed Saul of Tarsus to Paul the Apostle, and turned an alcoholic baseball star into Billy Sunday, the great evangelist.

The second most powerful force in the prevention of juvenile delinquency is the spiritual influence of a Christian father and mother. The matter of juvenile problems is not for the police, the courts, the school system, or even the church to solve, but for the home to prevent. The

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Paralyzed Child Recovers In Answer to Prayer

When Julie Thorn was hit by a car and thrown more than 75 feet last April 19, doctors glumly agreed that she didn't have a ghost of a chance for recovery. For weeks this 7-year-old girl lay paralyzed, unconscious, and blind in a bed at the Children's Orthopedic Hospital in Seattle, Wash.

But Julie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Thorn, 8053 Brooklyn Ave., serve a God who answers the prayers of His people. They often delighted in the fact that their daughter was an enthusiastic member of the Sunday School at Calvary Temple (Assemblies of God), Seattle, Wash., where Watson Argue is Pastor. She had grown up in the church and had been attending faithfully each Sunday before her accident. The parents themselves are devout Christians and faithful members of the church. They are filled with the Spirit and have been members of Calvary Temple for a number of years.

As soon as the congregation learned of the tragic accident, they began to have definite, united prayer for her recovery. Never had those people prayed more earnestly. They prayed in their homes, day or night. And during the month Julie was in a coma and for some time after Brother Argue took time in every service to have special prayer for her and to give an up-to-date report on her condition. Groups of the people also prayed in afternoon meetings in the church and in private homes. Thousands of people throughout the city, including many in other churches, began to pray, too.

After a month of unconsciousness Julie awoke from her long sleep. Her parents thanked the Lord for what He had already done. But she was still paralyzed and obviously blind in her right eye. There were no bones broken in her body, but there was serious brain damage. The Christians prayed that Julie would start talking again, and God answered. The attaches of the hospital worked doggedly at the task of helping Julie to recover, and Christian friends continued to pray for her complete healing.

On one leg was a large open sore which the doctors could not get to heal, but in answer to prayer it dried up. In the natural it seemed her legs would never respond so that she could walk again. She could not control them. The Chris-



Julie Thorn walks again after weeks of paralysis and partial blindness caused by automobile accident injuries. Her recovery was a definite answer to the prayers of hundreds of people. (Photo by Seattle "Post-Intelligencer.")

tians made this a definite object of prayer, and again the victory came. By the middle of June Mrs. Thorn announced that Julie was learning to walk again.

After Julie regained consciousness, the doctor had announced that her sight in her right eye was "zero." But the congregation at Calvary Temple rallied in prayer again for that one need, and four days later the sight came back to her eye. To some this was a mystery, but Mr. and Mrs. Thorn knew that it came in answer to the prayers of God's people.

Little Miss Thorn has now recovered completely. She walks, talks, dresses, and plays like a normal child her age. She loves to ride the tricycle which the Girl Scouts gave her on July 15, and she is especially happy because she is now able to be back in Sunday School.

Julie's case attracted city-wide attention in Seattle, and the story of her recovery has been a real testimony of the power of prayer in that city.

*"Build a little fence of trust
Around today;
Fill the space with loving work
And therein stay.
Look not through the sheltering bars
Upon tomorrow;
God will help thee bear what comes
Of joy or sorrow."*

Armageddon Ahead!

(Continued from page two)

"Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe; come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

These are the closing days for the "gospel sickle." Tomorrow that sickle will be laid aside and the "sickle of God's judgment" will be taken up.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR DECISION IN THIS HOUR, MY FRIEND?

Will you say: "My soul shall be on the side of God and His righteousness. My faith shall be in Jesus Christ, God's Son, who died for me. The forgiveness of my sins shall be through the power of His Blood shed for me on the Cross of Calvary." Will you say that? Will you let that be your decision?

Heaven is prepared for man's moment of madness. As the West and the East seek a place of final test and they edge ever closer to the battlefield of history—ARMAGEDDON—this threat of atomic warfare becomes a reality. It will be a war when one side will determine upon the other an all-out effort toward ex-

termination. When mankind shall have unloosed these lethal weapons of extinction and embarked on global suicide, my Bible tells me that in that moment a great voice in heaven will declare, "IT IS DONE."

In that moment the curtain will ring down on the age-long human tragedy, on man's attempt to govern himself without God. In the historic clash before us at Armageddon—as it gathers strength and speed and both sides gird themselves for the inevitable—God will render a decision, neither for the East nor for the West, but for Himself in that day. Armageddon is the Day of the Lord! Man may war with atomic and hydrogen bombs but God will use the artillery of heaven in that day. Christendom has prayed for nearly 2,000 years: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." That prayer is about to be answered.

I want to ask you, in closing, "What decision have you reached?" Let me ask you: Will you take your chance in that day? Will you continue to ride civilization's wild toboggan-slide? Are you putting your faith in peace conferences? Are you saying, "Indo-China is a long way from me"? Are you saying, "I don't need God yet"? Then let these words of the poet be my exhortation to you now:

"What would you think of a bird, my friend,

Which had no use for the air?

What would you say of a maiden sweet
Who had no wish to be fair?

"Or what of a pale and rain-washed
flower

Which had no use for the sun?

Of the bounding heart of a healthy child
That had no use for fun?

"What of the wanderer, lonely, faint,
Weary and sad and sore:

Who gets no throb of his homesick heart
At the sight of his father's door?

"Ah, what would you say of a germ-filled
seed

Which had no use for the sod?

And what can be said of a human soul,
Who has no use for—God?

The angels of heaven are waiting for
your answer in this moment.

* * *

(The foregoing sermon was preached by C. M. Ward over the ABC Network recently. Tune in your local ABC station every Sunday at 10:30 p.m. and hear this dynamic gospel preacher on "Revivaltime," the world-wide radio voice of the Assemblies of God.)

"The best way to get rid of your duties is to discharge them."

PASSING and PERMANENT

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

India's Good Example

The Government of India has issued "general instructions to all our embassies abroad not to serve alcoholic drinks at official functions," it was announced in Parliament at New Delhi recently. Governments of so-called Christian nations, please note!

Religion Makes a Difference

It is reported that, although one-third of the population of New York City is Jewish, only one-tenth of the juvenile delinquents are of Jewish background. Could the fact that the average Jewish family in the city is more religious than the average non-Jewish family have something to do with this?

America's Hoarded Resources

The *New York Times* says that half the world's population is on the edge of starvation, suffering from malnutrition diseases. At the same time, the United States will soon have six billion dollars' worth of surplus foods and fibers piled up in storage, feeding and clothing no one. The newspaper urged distribution to the needy of the world through established relief and charitable agencies.

Horses Still Used in Greece

Horse-drawn machinery may be out of date in America, but it is still useful in Greece. Men of the Church of the Brethren at Union Grove, Indiana, are gathering up this machinery of yesterday and shipping it to needy farmers in Greece where it will be a boon to the rebuilding of Greek agriculture.

Millions Still in Slavery

Where Christ's gospel penetrates, the dignity of human life is comprehended and the shackles of slavery are broken. But an official in the British Anti-Slavery Society says that there are still about twelve million slaves in the world. There are half a million in the Arabian peninsula alone (and the price of a slave in Arabia is about thirty dollars!). The estimate of twelve million does not include the unnumbered millions of African women who are bought from their fathers by their husbands, and are treated as chattels.

Russia Shifting Forces to East

It is reported in *Intelligence Digest* that the Russian Army is gradually shifting toward the Middle and Far East. In the interests of secrecy, whole formations are never moved at the same time. Nevertheless the movements of units have

added up to a steady flow of troops and equipment eastward. So far the Air Force does not seem to have been involved, but the Red Navy sent twenty of its most modern submarines from the Baltic to Asia in a single month.

The report is significant to students of Bible prophecy who interpret the Scriptures as teaching that the showdown between East and West will take place in the Middle East at a place called Armageddon.

Red China is said to have far less fear of American H-bomb superiority than Russia has, and wants to strike hard in southeast Asia, but Russia wishes to avert any situation there that might lead to global war. In case Russia is compelled to enter a war in the Far East, she is building up strength there, it seems, and at the same time is making plans to command the Middle East. The Reds reportedly are building up enormous reserves of war material, including food-stuffs.

What Makes Men Strong?

J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, answers the above question by quoting a Bible verse: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

This Week magazine recently published a feature article which quoted the Chief G-Man as saying:

"Through many years of active life, and the observation of many kinds of people, I have found that the strongest, wisest, most competent and reliable man is also the first to admit his inadequacy.

"Contradictory though it may sound, he is strong because he is humble—and remembers always that man is the creation of God. No rule of life is more basic.

"When man 'leans on his own understanding'—when he lives by his own strength—when he boasts of probing the mysteries of the atom, the depths of the sea, or the secrets of outer space—he forgets God and claims he is his own master. The result is untold suffering.

"Even though one's position is maintained, even though material wealth increases, success quickly turns to failure when God has been forgotten. There is no peace of mind, no personal satisfaction, no personal experience of inward joy.

"To 'trust in the Lord with all thine heart' is a mark of strength. And it is the only path to happiness, success and true fulfillment."

WORLD-WIDE MISSION of the Assemblies of God



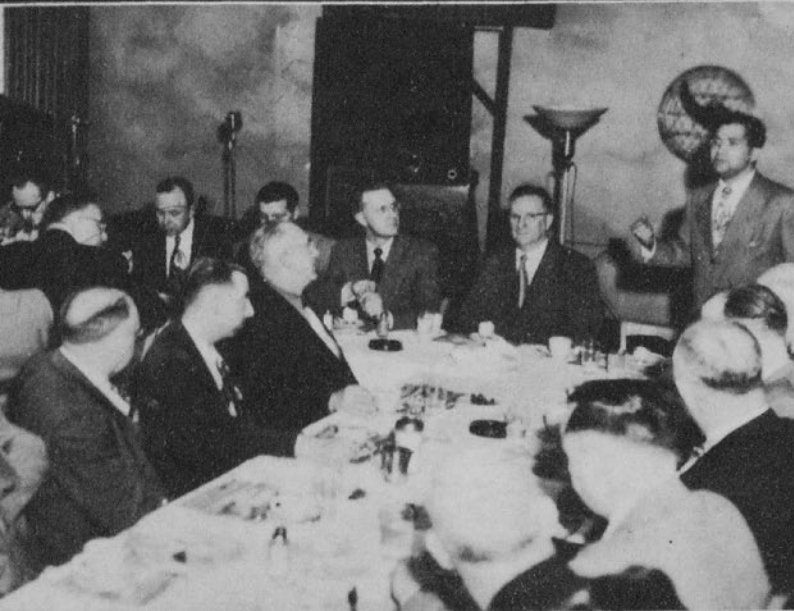
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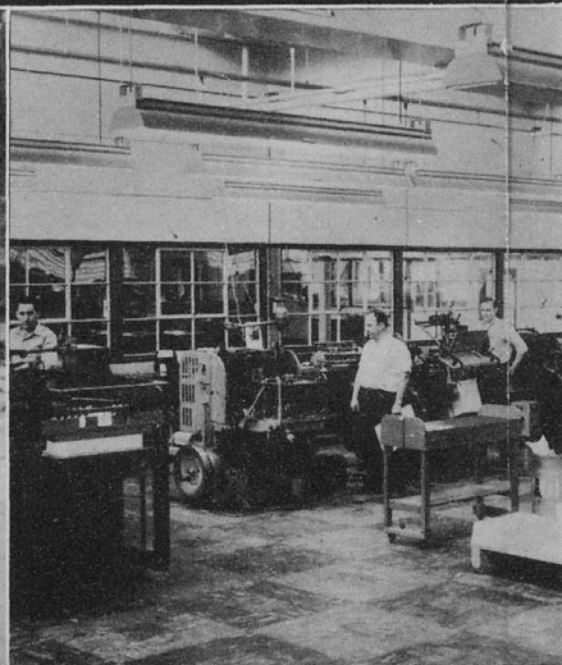
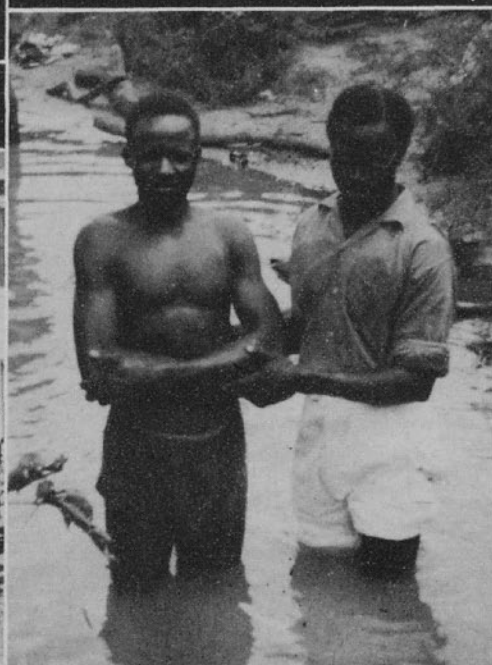
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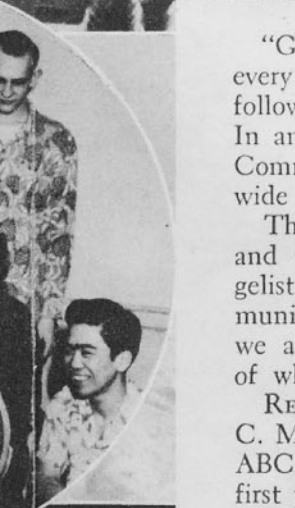
gospel truth in India



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Teaching the Easter lesson to Japanese children



literature



Translating gospel songbook into Chinese



"Speeding the Light" in Italy

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." These words, spoken by Christ to His followers, lay a solemn responsibility upon all Christians. In an endeavor to do our part toward fulfilling this Great Commission the Assemblies of God have developed a worldwide program of evangelism.

There are more than six thousand Assemblies in the U.S. and every one of these local churches is intensely evangelistic. Our goal is to reach the people of the entire community with the full gospel. In addition to our local efforts we are collaborating in various nationwide projects, some of which are illustrated on this page.

REVIVALTIME is one of these projects. The voice of C. M. Ward is heard each Sunday night at 10:30 over the ABC radio network pleading with millions to give God first place in their lives.

World missions is also emphasized by the Assemblies of God. More than a thousand missionaries are laboring in America and in foreign lands, spreading the gospel.

The young people of the Assemblies, known as "Christ's Ambassadors," have raised a million and a half dollars to buy ships, planes, trucks, motorcycles, and other vehicles to speed the work of the missionaries.

Eighteen Assemblies of God Chaplains are serving in the U. S. Army, Air Force and Navy. Twenty million copies of the servicemen's gospel paper *Reveille* have been circulated.

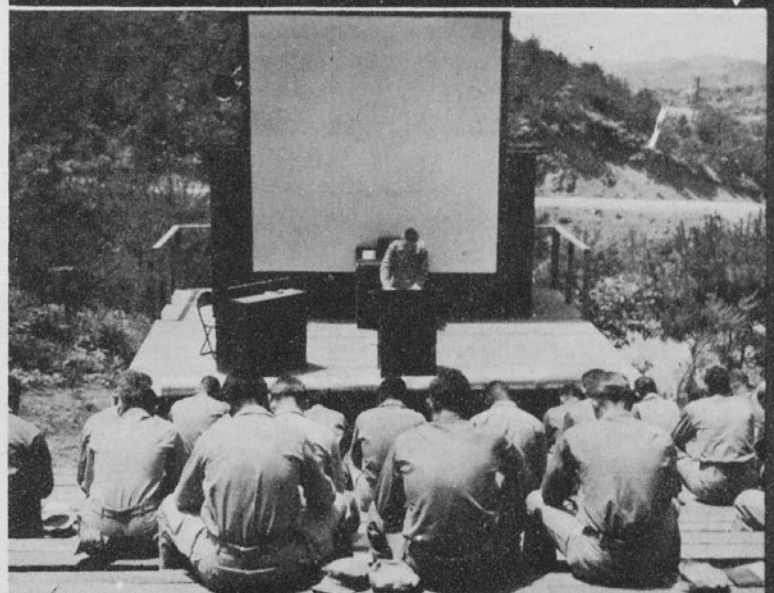
Nine Bible institutes and Bible colleges in the U.S. are training thousands of young men and women to be ministers, missionaries, and Christian workers.

A million-dollar printing plant at Springfield, Missouri, is engaged in publishing gospel literature exclusively.

These are but a few high points in the Assemblies of God work. Will you pray for these projects, and participate if possible? We welcome the co-operation of all who love the Lord Jesus Christ and who wish to take part in this program of world evangelism.



Baptizing converts in Malaya



Ministering to servicemen in Korea

SUNDAY'S LESSON

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

JOSHUA'S FINAL CHALLENGE

Joshua 24:14-25

As a young man, Joshua began his ministry by faithfully ministering to Moses. Later we find him at the head of the Jewish army when Israel was attacked by the Amalekites. Finally he was appointed to lead Israel into the Promised Land and to go before them in subduing Canaan. As the career of Joshua was nearing its end and the evening shadows were falling on him, he called the people together that they might enter a covenant to be faithful to the Lord (Joshua 24:25). Faithfulness in small things prepares the way for larger responsibilities. And when our activities must cease and we go to meet the Lord, we shall receive a just reward if we have given our best to God.

1. AN EARNEST APPEAL

a. *God's Goodness.* Joshua gathered the people of Israel to Shechem and urged them to renew their vows to God. He introduced his appeal by giving them a brief history of God's faithfulness, beginning with the call of Abraham and finishing with the entry of Israel into Canaan. It was natural for him to begin with Abraham, for he had been a faithful servant of Jehovah, as Joshua was exhorting his followers to be.

b. *Sincere Worship.* It seems strange that there were those in Israel who worshiped idols, for they had seen God's wonderful intervention for them, and God had forbidden idolatry when the law was given at Sinai. But there were idolaters among them (vv. 14, 23). Man by nature loves to worship something he can see. We have many "civilized" idolaters among us today—those to whom the church with elegant furnishings or a well-organized and stately form of worship means more than our Heavenly Father Himself. The only worship which is pleasing to God is that which is offered "in spirit and in truth."

In reviewing what God had done for His people, Joshua threw the whole strength of his character and personality into his appeal that the people might "serve Him in sincerity and in truth." How often the Church needs reviving. How easy it is for believers to become satisfied with man-made religion and material success.

c. *Voluntary Action.* Joshua could ex-

hort the people to lay aside all that was displeasing to God, but they had to make their own free choice. They must decide whether they would serve the false gods of Canaan, or the one true, living God (v. 15). The Holy Spirit may plead tenderly with people today, and God's faithful servants may urge with all fervency, but God will never coerce anyone. "Whosoever will" remains the deciding factor in every human life.

2. AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

a. *A Proper Appreciation.* When Joshua had finished his exhortation, the people responded by expressing their appreciation for all that God had done. They had not been present when God called Abraham, nor had they with their own eyes seen the miracles in Egypt. Those whom Joshua addressed were children of a second or third generation, but they believed the record. Belief in the Bible is one of the foundation stones upon which our country was built. It is lamentable that the children and youth of our present generation are receiving infidel teaching in our educational system. Under the banner of "academic freedom" ungodly men are permitted to undermine their faith and morals. This increases the responsibility of parents and the Church to ground our young folk in the things of God.

b. *An Important Decision.* To the appeal of Joshua the people answered, "God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods" (v. 16). There was much enthusiasm manifested that day, but Joshua desired more than an emotional stir. As the people declared their fidelity and expressed their appreciation of God's goodness (vv. 16-18), Joshua quieted their fervor with the words, "Ye cannot serve the Lord..." (v. 19). Did he mean by this that service of God was impossible for them? Not so. He wished only to impress upon them the fact that God is "an holy God; he is a jealous God." He warned the people that if they forsook the Lord as soon as their enthusiasm had faded, "Then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after he hath done you good." If this was true of Israel, God's covenant people, will it not

be equally true of us if we turn from God? Joshua did not mean to discourage the people, but to show them that following God required more than an emotional revival.

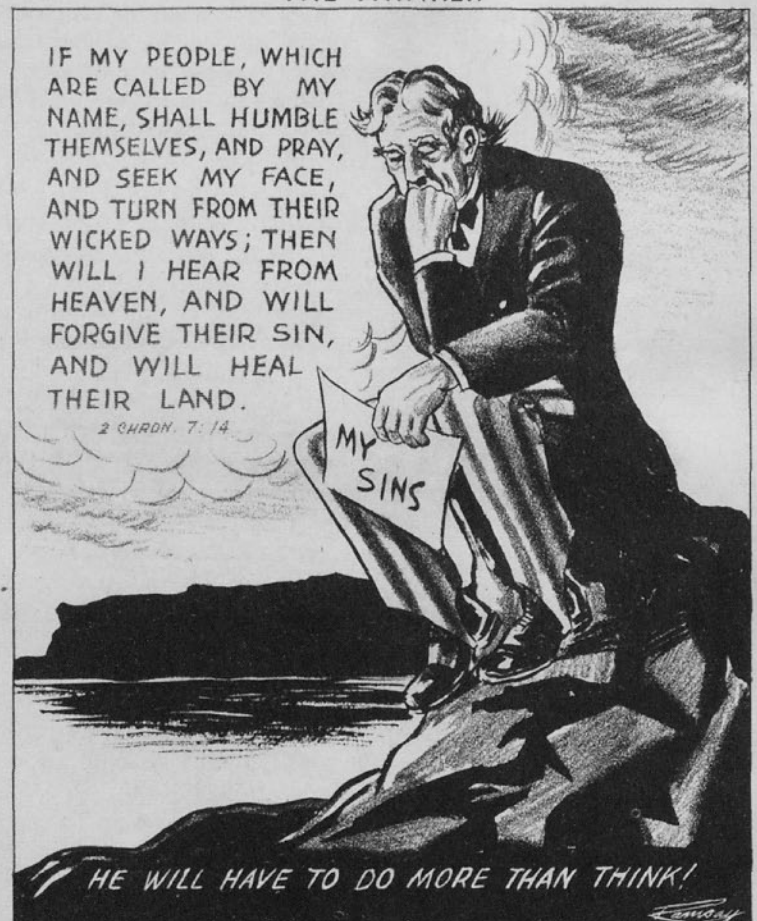
3. A SOLEMN PROMISE

The people showed considerable emotion when Joshua exhorted them, but still they lacked something. If they were determined to serve the Lord, as they said they were, they must prove it by destroying the idols which were among them (v. 23). This might be a worthwhile exhortation for us. There are some very religious and even enthusiastic people who have not yet separated themselves from worldly practices. How could Israel represent the God of holiness if she worshiped the same gods as the Canaanites? And how can Christians be ambassadors of the God of holiness if they are "conformed to this world"?

As Joshua laid his hand on things which obedience to God would require, the Israelites responded wholeheartedly that they would obey the Lord. "The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey," they repeated (v. 24). The revival was beginning to get into their hearts. So Joshua made a covenant with them, a covenant which that generation continued to obey (Judges 2:7, 10).

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THE THINKER



Here's a happy family. There's Jim and Marian, the parents. Then there is Jeannette Manley; she's thirteen. And Bob Manley, her brother; he's ten. And there's Baby Jimmy, only he isn't exactly a baby any more because he's five.

These are the Manleys. And there's never a dull moment around their house, you may be sure. Happy? Yes, they are really happy. They're Christians, you know, and they do so many enjoyable things together, such as going to Sunday School.

Why, Jim hasn't missed a Sunday since the baby was born. That was a Sunday morning to remember. The lady next door had helped Jeannette and Bob with their breakfast and had taken them to Sunday School. There was a rose on the pulpit that morning, and they knew it was because they had a new little brother. The pastor had told the people that there was a new name on their Cradle Roll—James R. Manley Jr.—and then all of the people had prayed for Little Jimmy and his family.

Up at the hospital Big Jim stood looking through a window. A lump rose in his throat, and instinctively he reached out his arms to his new son before he realized that a pane of glass separated them.

"O God," he breathed, "help me to be a good father." Little Jimmy didn't know it, but right at that moment he was being surrounded by a spirit of dependence upon God that was going to make it easier for him later on to live a happy, successful Christian life.

So Baby Jim had grown up in the Sunday School, just as his older brother and sister had. The first "belonging" he had ever experienced was belonging to the Sunday School. First he was enrolled in the Cradle Roll. Then in just a short time (or so it seemed to his mommy) he was in the Nursery Class. And now he is in the Beginner Department.

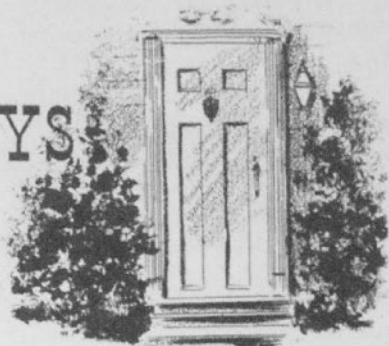
Bob is in the Junior Department—"the Junior BOYS' Class," he adds pointedly, "and it's the best one in the whole Sunday School."

"That's what YOU think, because you have never been in the Intermediate Department yet," Jeannette reminds him. And Daddy Jim is probably inclined to agree with Jeannette, for he teaches a class of Intermediate boys, and he thinks his class is "tops."

Ask Marian Manley where she goes on Sunday mornings and she'll boast

MEET THE MANLEYS

Lou Bina Townsend



"Big Jim"

about the Ladies' Bible Class. She's their loyal secretary.

One day the man next door asked Jim Manley why his family was so wrapped up in the Sunday School all the time. He answered right off: "Well, because it means so much to my family."

He thought about it a moment, and then went on:

"I guess one reason it means so much is because it makes Sunday different. All week long my wife and little Jim are concerned about things around the house and neighborhood, while the older children are absorbed in school activities, and of course I've got my mind on business. But on Sunday it's different. It's the Lord's Day. And we all start thinking about the same thing—Sunday School.

"So Jeannette puts on her ruffles and ribbons. Little Jim gets to wear his nylon shirt. Bob tries to slick down his hair. And we all have a leisurely breakfast—because Sunday School doesn't begin until 9:45. We have time to talk about our Sunday School lessons, and our friends at church, and so on. Then we gather up our quarterlies and Bibles, make sure everybody has an offering, and off we go together. It's the happiest morning of the week."

"You surely are a happy lot, I must admit," said the neighbor. "Wife and I have remarked how nice it is to see you all driving off together on a Sunday morning, all dressed up."

"We like the opportunity it gives us to associate with Christians of our own age, and with those who have the same interests and problems as we have," Jim continued. "Last week Bob asked me if it was right to play marbles for keeps. I suggested that he bring up the question in his Sunday School class. Well, evidently they had a lively discussion, for he was full of the subject at the dinner table. He said his teacher had them look up a lot of Bible verses on gambling, and then they talked about what those verses meant. The class took a vote and unanimously decided against playing marbles for keeps."

"Jeannette comes home from school

every now and then with a problem that needs serious consideration. We talk it over with her at home but it helps when she can talk it over at Sunday School, too, among girls of her own age. We encourage her to make up her own mind and then to stand up for her convictions, even though a majority may disagree with her at school."

The neighbor nodded assent. "Yes, those two know what they believe—and why they believe it," he said.

But Jim wasn't through; he kept gazing off into nowhere and went right on talking: "We consider worship in God's house and the study of God's Word a very important part of our lives, and we want the children to feel the same way about it. We want it to make such an impression on them that they'll never forget it. I guess that's another reason why we go to Sunday School—to give the children those enjoyable experiences of singing, playing, studying, worshipping, working on worthwhile projects in the house of God. We're giving them some happy memories that they can enjoy carrying through life.

"You know, the life of a child is like a photographer's film. It is sensitive to any image to which it is exposed. I've never thought of it just like that, but it's true, isn't it? At Sunday School a child is exposed to the right people, the right atmosphere, the right example. The sensitive soul of the child is quick to notice the attitude of a Sunday School teacher. His own attitude is influenced by the teacher's attitude. No doubt we would be amazed to learn the

number of children who have come to know the Saviour because they found Him mirrored in the life of their Sunday School teacher."

"I suppose so," murmured the neighbor. "Well, you've given me quite a sales talk. Maybe we ought to take our family to Sunday School, too."



Bob is ten



Jeannette is thirteen



Little Jimmy



Mother Marian

"We certainly recommend it," said Jim.

And the rest of the family, who had just joined the head of the house of Manley, chimed in.

"We're enthusiastic about Sunday School," smiled Mrs. Manley.

"But definitely," added Jeannette.

"We sure are," said Bob.

And little Jimmy said, "Mommy, when can we go to Sunday School?"

Juvenile Delinquency

(Continued from page five)

initial responsibility falls upon the parents. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

There is a prevailing disrespect for and defiant attitude toward parents. But the Bible says, "Honour thy father and thy mother . . . that it may go well with thee" (Deuteronomy 5:16). It also says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son." That was one of the favorite scriptures of my father, and he proved to me more than once that he loved me. He did not spare the rod.

As we have already noted, the Word of God is alive, active, quick, powerful. It is of utmost importance as a preventative measure that the child be exposed to this powerful, divinely given medium. It is the responsibility of the parents to see that the Bible is read and taught in the home from the child's earliest age.

The Scriptures refer to the effect of a consistent Christian life within the family. Peter speaks of the influence of a Christian wife upon the unbelieving husband, and I quote from the Phillips translation: "You married women should adapt yourselves to your husbands, so that even if they do not obey the word of God they may be won to God without any word being spoken, simply by seeing the pure and reverent behaviour of you, their wives" (1 Peter 3:1).

In 1 Corinthians 7:14 we read of the effect of the life of a Christian husband upon the unbelieving wife, and the result upon the children. I quote again from the Phillips translation: "For the unbelieving husband is, in a sense, consecrated by being joined to the person of his wife; the unbelieving wife is likewise 'consecrated' by the Christian brother she has married. If this were not so then your children would bear the stains of paganism, whereas they are actually consecrated to God."

Christian parents must not only advocate Bible training for their children, but they must themselves exemplify the Christian life in the presence of their children, to make it effective. "The just

man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him" (Proverbs 20:7). Of all those who come before the Board of Prison Terms and Paroles, the percentage from solid Christian backgrounds is practically nil. I do not recall the son of an ordained minister in good standing ever coming before the Board. In the past five years, as chairman of this Board, I have had thousands of these delinquents come before me; and, to my amazement, I discovered that only a fraction of one per cent had any concept of vital Christianity.

The time has come when parents, especially fathers, must take their stand like Joshua of old, who said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Originally, Christianity was a religion of the home, just as Judaism was. Each Jewish family had its own altar. The Pass-over Feast was celebrated in each household, as it is even today, when the father gathers the entire family around the table, takes his place as priest, reads and explains the Scriptures, and prays.

Saying grace at the table is not sufficient. There must be an impartation of the knowledge of the Scriptures, coupled with sound counselling by the parents.

The church should be not a substitute, but rather a supplement, for religion in the home. And while we all appreciate the great work done by the Sunday School, it must never become a substitute for family religion.

Too often parents have a tendency to shift the responsibility of bringing up their children to the Sunday School, public or private schools, boys' clubs, Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, or other agencies. That is the basic cause of our juvenile problem today.

Juveniles do not have minds mature enough to guide themselves. They are definitely in need of the right guidance by parents in the home. What can we expect of juveniles today when they have no parents to whom they can look for guidance, help, and love? Their parents are divorced or perhaps both parents are working and are more concerned about making money than about providing the proper home life; and they hire baby sitters so that they can be free to attend dances, clubs, and taverns for their selfish enjoyment's sake! Unless our family life is restored upon Christian principles, all efforts to stem the rising tide of juvenile delinquency will be in vain.

I believe that the schools, civic authorities, and community can also contribute much. In our schools, I should like to see the Bible read daily by members of the faculty without comment and with a simple prayer. I would recommend specifically the Psalms and Proverbs, to which there could be no objection from any religious group.

It should be the responsibility of civic leaders to clean up the newsstands of all sex and criminal magazines, to impose a heavy penalty upon those found guilty of supplying alcoholic beverages to minors, and to provide ample playfields with facilities for all types of wholesome recreation.

Here, then, are the three most powerful media in the world to combat juvenile delinquency: the Bible, parents, and the church. I call this the "ABC" program: A for "Almighty God"; B for "bringing up your children right"; and C for the "church in action." Vital religious training and spiritual life are the greatest heritage anyone could receive and the most valuable treasure anyone could pass on to future generations. It is my earnest, sincere conviction that if we will all join forces, with the strongest emphasis on the "ABC" program, the juvenile problem can be solved.

Miraculously Healed

Until recently I had less than five per cent vision in my left eye, for a calcified cataract had penetrated the lens. My vision in that eye was so poor that I could detect only a faint outline of an object even when it was held before a bright light.

An eye specialist in Big Spring, Tex. told me in 1947 that the cataract had been there since I was born, and advised me against ever having anyone try to correct the situation. It was almost an impossibility, he said. The only thing that could be done was to replace the lens with a glass one, and that should be done only in the event that I lost the use of my right eye. He said the glass lens would be very unsatisfactory, inasmuch as objects would appear three to four times normal size during times of eye adjustments.

But on Friday evening, May 7, 1954, something wonderful happened to me! Jesus restored the sight in my left eye as Evangelist Woodrow Oxner of Mobile, Ala. laid his hands on my head and prayed for my healing. It happened at the Wayside Assembly of God. I felt as though an electric current had passed through my left forehead and eye. For the first time in my life I could see well enough with that eye to count Brother Oxner's fingers as he held them up. The following day at the office (I am an engineering draftsman) I read a typewritten letter with this eye for the first time in the 26 years of my life. I praise God for this wonderful healing.—M. F. McCordle, 1447 Whiteside St., Springfield, Mo.

(Endorsed by Carl C. Haas, 2301 Roanoke, Springfield, Mo., Pastor of Wayside Assembly of God.)

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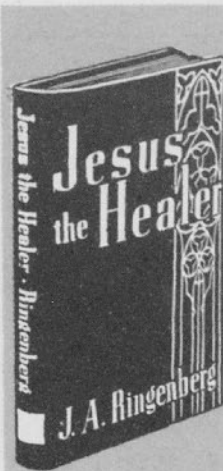
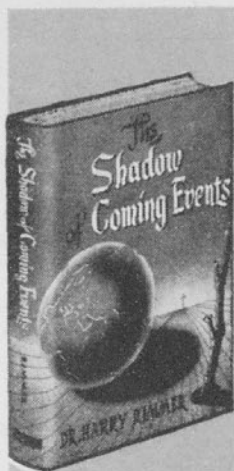
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TWO BAPTISMS

Donald Gee

"I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost" (Mark 1:8).

IN THIS VERSE, YOU WILL NOTICE, TWO baptisms are mentioned. You will also see that there are two baptizers, John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus Christ. The two are put in contrast to each other.

When we teach people about something they have never seen, the best way is to start with something they do know about. Christ did that. For example, in Luke 11:13 He said, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him (Luke 11:13)?" We don't know much about our Heavenly Father, but some of us are earthly fathers. We know how to give good gifts to our children; how much more shall our Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him! We learn about the Heavenly Father from what we know about earthly fathers.

Then let us look at the two baptisms. The one helps us to understand the other. John said, "I have baptized you with water." (I am a confirmed believer in baptism by immersion. The meaning of the root word is *dip*. Another reason for my belief is found in Luke 12:50—"But I have a baptism to be baptized with"—where our Lord was referring to His awful baptism of suffering for our sakes. We know that His sufferings were absolutely overwhelming; and baptism in water means an overwhelming with water.) Let us notice a few things about baptism in water:

1. It is something one can *feel*.
2. It is something which is *manifest* to the people who are looking on.
3. It is a *definite experience*. The baptized person knows when and where it happened. No Christian can be baptized and be unaware that he is going under the water.

So John taught what the baptism in the Spirit would be like, by using the baptism in water as an illustration. It would be something which could be felt; furthermore, everybody would be able to see it; and the person himself would know that it had happened to him. The Bible records instances of people receiving the baptism in the Spirit, in order that we might check up; and we find it exactly as John had said. It was *felt*, it was *mani-*

fest, and it was a *definite experience*. How could Simon have seen that the Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of hands if there wasn't some immediate manifestation at that time?

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word" (Acts 10:44). And relating this experience to the saints at Jerusalem, Peter said, "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning" (Acts 11:15). Peter identified this with the baptism in the Holy Spirit that he and the rest received on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

Someone said to me, "The trouble with you Pentecostal people is that you live in the Acts of the Apostles. We live

This We Believe

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule over the nations. WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through faith in the precious blood of Christ.

WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. WE BELIEVE that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. WE BELIEVE in the 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, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

in the Epistles." I replied, "We live in it all." Some people forget that the Acts and the Epistles are contemporary. Look at the Epistles and see what they have to say: "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" (Eph. 1:13). Paul himself had a definite experience. The Ephesians also knew when it happened to them.

John wanted everyone to know that the baptism in the Spirit would be felt just as much as when he baptized them in Jordan. Everybody watched John bring the believers up dripping, and so you will see those who are baptized in the Spirit come up saturated with the Spirit, and those all around will hear them speak in tongues. When anyone is baptized in water he can write down in his diary that on such and such a day he was baptized, and he will know who baptized him. Everyone who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit knows just when and where it happened to him, and he knows Christ did the baptizing.

Now let us look at the two baptizers. John said, "I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." John was a man. When you go to a minister of the gospel who is a real man of God, he will inquire as to your fitness for baptism. What was it that Philip was anxious to know about the man he was to baptize (Acts 8:36-38)? He said to the eunuch, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest [be baptized]." The fitness required for baptism in water is a condition of heart. John said, "Repent." Repentance and faith are both conditions of heart.

One time a lady came to be baptized, but she had never seen a baptismal service in her life, so she was very cautious. She put one foot in the water. I said, "Come on, sister, into the water." I had quite a job getting her down onto the floor of the pool. When I undertook to baptize her she grew nervous. She struggled and tried to baptize herself, but finally I got a good grip on her shoulder and put her under properly.

When you come to the divine Baptizer, He will inquire first of all about your fitness. The conditions of fitness are found in Acts 2:38—"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." To be fit for the baptism in the Spirit one must come to repentance, an absolute stand against sin. Then there must be faith in the blood of Jesus. Then you must have a believing heart. Why did the Holy Spirit come upon those who were in the house of Cornelius? Peter explained this by saying, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness,

giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8, 9). The thing that is important is the condition of your heart. Are you repentant? Do you hate sin? Have you decided that you will have nothing more to do with it? Is your heart purified by faith in the blood of Jesus? If it is a clean heart, and a repentant and humble and believing heart, you can come to the Baptizer.

You are not coming to a mere man this time, but to the Lord. Men can't baptize you in the Holy Spirit. "He [the Lord] shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." What have you to do? Exactly the same as when you went to the minister to be baptized in water. You must put yourself absolutely in the hands of the Baptizer, the Lord Jesus. When some people take their first steps down into the fullness of the Spirit they get nervous. "I am afraid I am going to say *Hallelujah!*" That is just the first step. "But—I—I—I feel as if I shall make a noise." You very likely will. "But I have never made a noise in my life." Then don't come to the Lord for the Baptism. You can't be baptized in water if you remain on dry land. You can't get the Baptism in the Spirit by means of dry formality. You will begin to tremble, but just go a little bit deeper. Now the waters begin to surge around you. You begin to feel that you are losing your foothold—but the Lord Jesus has baptized thousands before you, and you needn't be nervous. If you get a bit afraid, just look into the face of Jesus. You are always safe if you keep your eyes on Him.

Don't try to baptize yourself. Just let the praises come out of your soul, and the glory of God will come in spontaneously. When He is sweeping you right off your feet, don't become afraid. When we come to a minister to be baptized we don't worry whether he will drown us. Can't we put the same confidence in the Lord? If you will let Him, Christ will fully immerse you in the glorious fullness of the Spirit. You will feel plenty, it will be manifest; and I can promise you that it will be a definite experience. You will be able to note in your diary just where and when it happened. Moreover, when He has really given you a good Baptism, the same strong Hand will bring you to your feet and send you on your way rejoicing. After you have the Baptism you won't stay in the "water" all the while. You will come out and do some work for Jesus.

"A traveler crossed a frozen stream in trembling fear one day. Later a teamster drove across and whistled all the way. Great faith and little faith alike were granted safe convoy; but one had pangs of needless fear, the other all the joy."

How to Be Saved

WHEN PEOPLE BECOME ANXIOUS ABOUT their souls, they begin to ask the question which the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas: "What must I do to be saved?" And what a simple answer the Bible gives us—"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

But what does it mean to believe? How does faith save?

Faith means accepting salvation from Christ as a gift. It is impossible to work for a gift. You cannot earn it. You simply accept it. Faith means coming to Christ as a pauper and trusting Him as your benefactor. If you were drowning, you would not ignore a lifebelt thrown to you. You would trust it. That is how you must trust the Saviour.

Do not look for something in yourself that might be good enough to bring you salvation. You must rely on the goodness of Another. Did you ever hear of a captain trying to find anchorage by fastening the anchor inside his ship? Never. Always outside. You must anchor your trust in Christ. It is the outward look that brings the inner peace. Quit gazing dejectedly at your own dark shadow. Turn around—look at Christ, and He will give you light. When you face the Sun your shadow falls behind you!

The Bible says that "works of righteousness which we have done" can never save us. Salvation cannot come through baptism or confirmation—not by church membership—not by living a religious life. It is "not of works, lest any man should boast."

You must look to Jesus Christ as the only one who can save you. It is written, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save." "Neither is there salvation in any other." Turning over a new leaf cannot save you. A good reputation never saved anyone. There is only one way into heaven, and that is by admitting your sinfulness and asking God for mercy. Jesus Christ, God's Son, did not die for good people. He died for sinners. You must confess that you are a sinner or His death and resurrection will have brought you no benefit whatever.

This, then, is saving faith—to repent over your sins, to refuse to continue in your sins, and to receive Christ as your personal Saviour from your sins. Friend, Jesus has paid for your salvation already. He suffered death on the Cross as payment in full for all the offenses you have committed against God. All that remains is for you to open your heart to Him.

He invites you to come to Him for peace. You are a sinner, and you cannot save yourself; but Jesus Christ can save you now if you will ask Him to do so.

You can be saved by making the words of the old, well-loved hymn the words of your own prayer to Christ:

"Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

"Just as I am, and waiting not,
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come.

"Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find;
O Lamb of God, I come.

"Just as I am Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come."

A Strange Family

I know a strange family. The father has never missed church or Sunday School in twenty-three years. The mother has had a perfect record for eleven years. A son has not missed for twelve years. A daughter has been teaching Sunday School and hasn't missed for nearly seven years.

What's the matter with this family, anyway? Don't they ever have company on Sunday to keep them away from church?

Don't they ever feel tired on Sunday morning?

Don't they belong to any clubs that keep them out late on Saturdays—or that invite them out for week-ends?

Don't they ever have headaches, or colds, or nervous spells, or tired feelings, or sudden calls out of the city, or business trips, or picnics, or such things?

Don't they even have a radio, so that they could get some good sermons from out-of-town preachers?

Don't they ever get a lot more out of reading a sermon in a book?

Don't they ever get disgusted with hearing the same old Gospel Sunday after Sunday, or don't they get fed up with some of the members?

What's the matter with this family, anyway, and why are they so happy and cheerful?—Just a Minute.

“Mister, Do You Go to Sunday School?”

Paul Copeland

THE MAN facing me almost laughed at my blunt question. He muttered something about Sunday School being for “kids,” and he wanted to know just what made me think a GROWN MAN could get any good out of attending Sunday School.

It has been almost twenty years since as a young pastor I so questioned this man and other men of my community. It was my sincere conviction that when a man of our community turned his back upon the Sunday School he ignored untold riches for his own life, his family suffered from the influences of his decision, and it was a most unfortunate loss for the Church and the community. Through the years my opinion about adult Sunday School attendance has deepened, and my concern about the matter has increased.

Twenty years have brought about a noticeable change in the attitude of adults toward the Sunday School. There has been an increase in Sunday School attendance in the United States of over seven million, and there is a multitude of men in that vast increase.

What has brought about this revival of interest in the Sunday School on the part of adults? While there may be more factors which contribute to this healthy trend, I can think of at least five major reasons for it.

In the first place, more men of our time are feeling their need of God. The most reliable statistics available give evidence to this statement. Those statistics seem to tell us that more have turned toward God and the Church during these years of world crisis than during the prosperous years of the 20's, or the depression years of the 30's. When men for any reason come to see the emptiness and uncertainty of life without God, in their search for reality and security

they are led by the Holy Spirit to the fact of God's Word—the Bible. But as they begin to read the book, modern men like a man of long ago exclaim, “How can I [understand] except some man should guide me?” Many have found the Sunday School can make an invaluable contribution to confused men who want to know the Bible. Sunday School teachers whose own lives have been enriched stand ready to unfold the Scriptures.

In the second place, more men are concerned about the welfare of children, and about curbing juvenile delinquency. The appalling crime wave among the youth of our land has been spotlighted by newspapers, magazines, and radio. Statesmen have warned us of the disaster that surely will come to our nation if we neglect our children. In their concern over correcting this alarming situation many adults have realized children do not remain long under the influence of the Sunday School except as parents set the example in attendance and in living. One put it this way: “If we want to keep our boys in Sunday School, the only sure way is to build a wall of Dads between them and the door!”

In the third place, a change of attitude toward the Sunday School by Church leaders has contributed to adult attendance. No longer is the Sunday School regarded as a mere auxiliary of the Church. It has become the Church itself in the role of teacher for all age levels—children, youth, men and women. This has brought about a reconditioned Sunday School. The Sunday School of today has thrown overboard the foolish idea that adults cannot learn. Teachers are being trained to make class sessions interesting. Dull lectures have been replaced by lively discussions which lead men to discover cherished solutions to

the riddles of life which confront the modern man between Sundays. Many a man today can hardly wait until another Sunday rolls around, for no other day contributes so much to his life.

In the fourth place, more men are finding the Sunday School is an excellent place to go to make new friendships, and with the kind of men who remain friends when associates mean most. The atmosphere of informality makes it easy to become acquainted. The warm handshakes let men know on their first visit that others are glad for their presence. Life is strengthened by the association with men who because of their devotion to Christ love their fellowmen. We have been told over and over again by those who study human behavior that we cannot enjoy a complete personality except we carry a load beyond our own weight. We are incomplete until we find and use opportunities to benefit others. In the Sunday School men are discovering this universal requirement for happiness.

In the fifth place, more men know what the Sunday School means to the Church. Few men want to live in any community without a growing Church. Usually a growing Sunday School spells a growing Church. Men are reasoning thus: “If I neglect the Sunday School it is a vote against the future of the Church.” Men who believe in the value of the Church ought to identify themselves with the program that means so much to Church expansion and perpetuation.

Yes, I think you will agree with a multitude of other men that grown men need the Sunday School and the Sunday School needs them. That is why it is most appropriate today to ask every man we meet,

“MISTER—DO YOU GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL?”

