

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

The Pentecostal **Evangel**

Weekly Voice of the Assemblies of God

FIVE CENTS NUMBER 2158

CAMPAIGN ISSUE



*There's a place
FOR YOU
in Sunday School*



There's a Place FOR YOU In Sunday School



A PLACE FOR YOU...

If you are not yet enrolled in Sunday School, there's an empty chair waiting for you at your local Assemblies of God church. And one for each member of your family.

The chair is not too large, neither is it too small. It's just right. For Sunday School is divided into departments and classes according to age, like public schools. Each person finds a class especially adapted to his age and interests. The little tots have their own small chairs and tables, with object lessons, cut-out pictures, and other things to make the Bible stories attractive, simple, and interesting for them. The older boys and girls have more advanced lessons, and teaching methods adapted to their particular age level. Whether you are a teen-ager, a homemaker, or an elderly person, you will find a class designed to answer the specific needs and interests of your own age group.



A PLACE TO LEARN...

Sunday School is the place to learn about God, about Christian living, and about the life to come. The Bible is the textbook, and the teachers are trained in the art of opening up its marvelous mysteries and making its message plain to all. You can learn a great deal by sitting in church and listening to a good sermon, but you can learn far more by sitting in a Sunday School class with people your own age. For at Sunday School you don't merely listen—you ask questions and enter into a discussion of the problems that confront people like you. Studying the lesson at home, with the help of a printed guide, is a pleasant and absorbing occupation. Participation in the class discussion—hearing the ideas of others and sharing yours with them—is the best possible way to learn the truths of God's Word and to remember what you have learned.



A PLACE TO WORSHIP...

Man's highest achievement is to worship his Creator. Christ said that God, our Heavenly Father, is seeking for people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. At Sunday School there is a period for worship, as well as a period for study. Here you may exercise your spirit, and without this exercise you cannot develop into a strong Christian.

The psychologists tell us that a person rarely changes his habits after he becomes twenty-one. If your children are to develop good habits such as praying, reading the Bible, and going to church regularly, they must do it while they are young. Tom Paine, the man who had no faith, said, "I was an infidel before I was five years of age."



A PLACE TO FELLOWSHIP...

Friendships can make character or mar it. The friends you meet at Sunday School are the kind that will make your life better, happier, and richer, whereas the friends you meet at questionable places may lead

you and your children to ruin. The Chief of Detectives in a western city once addressed a banquet gathering of twelve hundred men, and this was the advice he gave them: "Men, take your boys to Sunday School. Do not send them," he said—"take them; or we, the officers of the law, will take them to the penitentiary."

The late Gypsy Smith, one evening, sat listening to a group of men telling how they had been converted after leading a life of sin. Finally he arose and said, "It's wonderful to hear how Christ saved all of you from ruin. But don't forget, men, Christ did more for me than He did for all of you put together. He saved me before I got there." It's infinitely better to grow up in Sunday School and be sheltered from sin, than to learn by bitter experience that wrongdoing does not pay!



A PLACE TO SERVE...

There's work to be done in building up the Kingdom of God. If you will take your place in Sunday School, the story of God's great love for all will build such a fire of compassion in your own heart that before long you will be passing the message on to your neighbors, work-mates, and other associates. You, too, will be a happy worker busily gathering other folk into Sunday School.

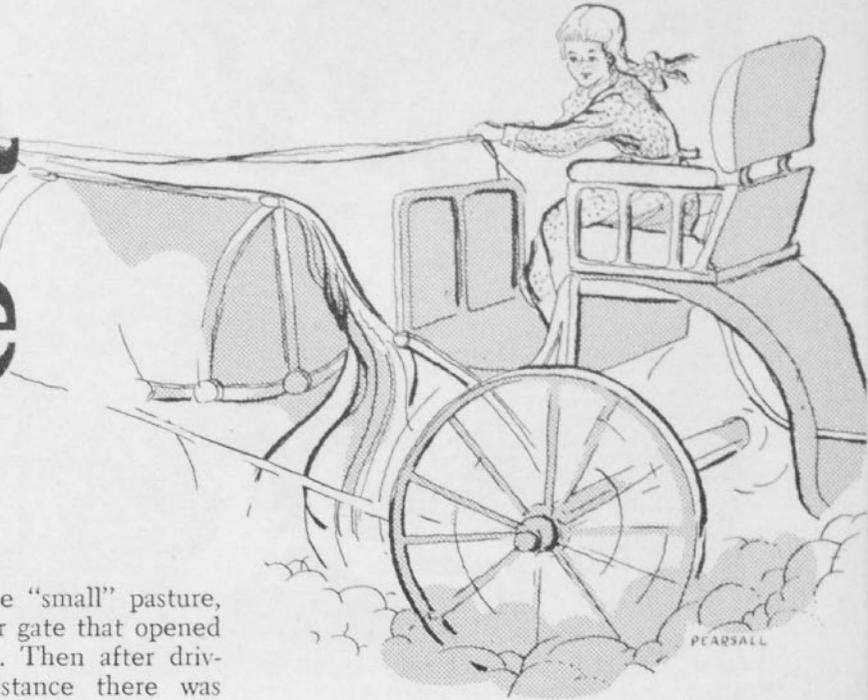
The church is the guardian of morality, righteousness, and all the values that men hold dear. The church depends on the Sunday School as the source of most of its membership. Go to church and stand in the hallway as the Sunday School ends and the children pour out of the nursery, primary, junior, intermediate, and senior classes. An immense glow of well-being will pass over you as you see those fine boys and girls trooping out of Sunday School and into the church worship service. You will say to yourself, "There is the church of tomorrow. I want to be a part of it."



GIVING YOUNG AMERICA A CHANCE

Lost in a Pasture

By Olive Evans



IT WAS FUN. THAT IS, UNTIL I GOT lost!

Father had hitched up Betsy to the old phaeton buggy, soon after noon, and I was off for adventure.

He had shut up Betsy's colt, and the other one she was raising, in the barn. Of course, the colts protested loudly. I could hear the frantic pounding of their hoofs from behind the closed barn doors, but Betsy was calm under the ordeal of separation and merely nickered twice to reassure them.

Betsy was sway-backed and old. She was no good in the field as a work animal, but she could raise her own colt and another mare's colt with little effort and so Father felt she was a good investment. I did too—for she was always handy at the pasture gate, or would quickly come when I whistled for her; and I would catch her mane and swing up on her and go after the cows, guiding her by tapping her face with a weed just under her eye. If I wanted her to "gee," I tapped her on the "haw" side. If I wanted her to "haw," I tapped her on the "gee" side! And there were always two colts of varying sizes tailing us, their manes rippling in the Kansas wind.

Yes, Betsy was as gentle as a nurse, and just as faithful. So there was no fear in the hearts of my parents that day when they saw their little girl go driving off across the prairie in the phaeton behind Betsy, to visit a married sister.

It was a good day. The sun was warming the earth to summery fragrance. The meadowlarks and bob-whites were whistling messages to each other from many directions. On the bottom land I could see Father cultivating foot-high corn. On the distant hill-slope my brother was mowing prairie hay for winter feed.

I could have gone all the way by road, but there was a short-cut. About a mile down the road from our house there was

a gate opening into the "small" pasture, then farther on another gate that opened into the "big" pasture. Then after driving a considerable distance there was another gate to be opened, and I was on my sister's farm. The short-cut saved many miles and much time. I was used to barbed-wire gates that fastened with looped baling wire, so I did not hesitate to open the gates and follow the dim, seldom-used road through the pasture.

Sister and her children came out to greet me—and I felt as important stepping from the old phaeton as a queen stepping from her royal coach! After all, I had come a great distance—all alone! And I was just twelve years old!

The afternoon passed all too quickly. By the time I had helped eat some of the cake and part of the cookies that Mother had sent, it was five o'clock and I immediately started for home.

"I'll get home by six," I told them as I drove away.

After leaving my sister's farm I found myself back in the "big" pasture. I could see herds of cows grazing a long way off, but I wasn't afraid for Father had told me there were no "bad" cows in the pasture at that time.

Now, there was another short-cut and I thought I could find it. I knew approximately where the short-cut branched off the pasture road. By following this short-cut a person would come to a place at the foot of a hill that we called the "gap in the fence," where one could unhook the barbed wires from the posts and drive across them into the "small" pasture next to the road.

But grass grows quickly on the prairie when it rains—and we had been having rain. The trail was covered up. When I took the short-cut and came to the place which I thought was the "gap in the fence," I could not find it!

Old Betsy and I worried up and down

the fence for some time, but in vain. Then I decided we would start all over again; so I drove up the hill, found the road, and followed it back until I saw my sister's house in the distance. There I turned Betsy around and drove down the road to the turn-off. Now we *must* take the short-cut, for time was getting away from us. The sun was low in the western sky, and was going behind a blue-black cloud-bank that was edged in vivid orange. Shafts of sunlight patterned the sky above it like spokes in a wagon wheel. It wasn't only going to get dark—it was going to storm.

Each time-consuming circuit we made, I could see the cloud-bank climbing higher in the sky. At times I could hear a distant rumbling.

I slapped Betsy with the reins and urged her to hurry. She plodded faithfully along and turned each time I pulled the reins. I felt irritated at her. "Why doesn't she take me to the 'gap in the fence,'" I was tempted to complain. And yet I held the reins!

As time passed, the circles widened and the pasture began to look strange. I looked in vain for the familiar landmarks. The sky above was threatening. My mind seemed foggy, unable to reason. Occasionally I would catch a glimpse of my sister's house away off there in the distance, but it never occurred to me to go back and ask for help. It never occurred to me to follow the road. It never occurred to me that I was lost!

I saw the stacks of prairie hay dotting the pasture, and I planned what I would do if I couldn't find the "gap in the fence" after one more try. I would drive

—Continued on page fourteen



From painting by Murillo

Return of the Prodigal

By J. ROBERT ASHCROFT

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY MAY HAVE reached alarming proportions today but the problem is not new. Nineteen hundred years ago the Saviour gave the case history of a boy who left home and got into trouble. No doubt such stories were fairly common, even in His day.

This story of "the prodigal son" is adequate to illustrate the true nature of juvenile delinquents. It shows that the fundamental reason for running away is a young person's desire for independence.

This particular young man came to his father and said, "Give me the portion of goods that falleth to me." He wanted to be economically independent. His desire was understandable but independence was a dangerous thing in his case.

Notice what happened. Soon after he procured the money he left for a far country. No sooner had he obtained his economic independence than he wanted social independence also! Young people haven't changed in two thousand years. They still say: "I don't like all this talk about religion and prayer. Why should I always have to go to church? I want to get away from this restraint." Whether they realize it or not, the greatest asset young people can have is a mother and father who know how to pray and how to give their children sound spiritual advice.

This boy's independence led him to the brink of disaster. Sin always destroys. It breaks down every virtue. It weakens every good resolve. When this young man arrived at his destination, he began to indulge in every kind of sinful pleasure. It wasn't long until he was reduced to poverty. He lost the independence which he had been so anxious to obtain, and became a slave to a stranger in order

to have a place to stay and something to eat. He found that Satan is a cruel taskmaster. He found that once a person gives himself over to sin, there is no depth of misery and shame to which he cannot fall.

If you have rebelled against your circumstances or have grown careless in regard to spiritual things, I would urge you to return to God without delay. Kneel down today and pray, saying, "Lord, have mercy on me, for Christ's sake, and forgive my negligence." Consecrate your life anew to God. It is better to be a faithful Christian, even if you have very few of this world's goods, than to have everything this world can offer and yet be without Christ. It pays to serve the Lord.

This young fellow had sowed his "wild oats" and now he had to reap the bitter harvest. His money was gone. His friends were gone. His character was gone. He was beginning to learn that "the way of the transgressor is hard." God is a loving Father, and He does not willingly afflict His children. He showers His goodness upon us in an effort to win our allegiance; but if we persistently transgress His laws and harden our hearts against Him, He permits a measure of trouble to come upon us in order to bring us to our senses.

Happily this young man "came to himself" before it was too late. In his desperation he realized that his troubles began the day he decided to run away from home. He said to himself, "My father's hired servants are much better off than I am! They have plenty to eat, but here I am perishing with hunger."

He was so famished that he envied even the swine—he wished that he could

fill his stomach with the husks that the pigs were eating, but he couldn't do so for food was rationed due to the famine and no one gave to him. How true it is that the smallest and weakest child of God has more than any sinner on earth. The Christian has more to enjoy that all that the world can offer.

The poor prodigal said to himself, "It would be better to be a servant of my father, than to be a servant of this stranger. I won't stay here any longer. I'll arise and go back to my father." So saying, he started back toward the old homestead. The young man's salvation began the very moment he made that decision.

Did his father have to be coaxed to receive him back? Certainly not! The Bible says that "when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

It must have been a heart-moving scene. I can imagine the father looking down the road. Evidently he watched every day, waiting and hoping for the return of his boy.

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

Number 2158 September 18, 1955

Published weekly by the Gospel Publishing House, 434 West Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Mo., U.S.A.

SINGLE COPIES, 5 cents; 50 copies for \$1.50. In quarterly bundle orders, 4 or more weekly to one address, 3 cents per copy; 4 cents outside U.S.A.

BY SUBSCRIPTION: In U.S.A., \$1.00 for 8 months, \$1.50 for a year, \$3.00 for 2 years, \$5.00 for 4 years. Outside U.S.A., \$2.00 per year.

Entered as second-class matter June 25, 1918, at post office in Springfield, Mo., under Act of March 3, 1879. Accepted for mailing at special rate provided in Sec. 1103 of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized July 3, 1918. Printed in U.S.A.

One day when he looked down the road he called to his wife—"Is that our boy coming this way?" She shook her head. No, it couldn't be their son, for when he left home he was erect, and fine-looking, and dressed in new clothes. This man that was coming was tattered, and dirty, and haggard with the marks of hunger and sin! Surely it wasn't their boy! And yet, as he came closer they saw the resemblance. The man with the tattered clothes and stooped shoulders was indeed their long-lost son! With tears of joy the aged father ran down the road to greet him. He threw his arms around the boy's neck, and kissed him.

That kiss was a symbol of forgiveness. It meant that all the ugly past was forgotten. The prodigal did not have to confess in sordid detail the shameful story of how he had squandered his share of the family wealth, and dragged the family name in the mud. No doubt the father already knew about that. One look into the father's face—one kiss on the son's neck—and the past was obliterated. That is the way our heavenly Father receives each wayward son or daughter who returns to Him in humility and contrition today!

If you are not a Christian, let me assure you that when you come to God in the name of Christ, you will not need to spend much time begging for divine pardon. The Father in heaven already will have bent over you to place His

kiss of forgiveness upon your soul before you even have the words of repentance out of your mouth. He will tell you through His Word that all your sins are blotted out, never to be remembered against you any more forever. That is spiritual redemption.

But that wasn't all. The father not only kissed him; he also clothed his son with the best robe he had. That speaks of moral redemption. Wherever Christianity goes, it produces a high standard of morality. I would like you to notice, however, that spiritual redemption came before moral redemption. God's plan is to change us inwardly, then outwardly. First we must be "born again" by the Spirit of God, then we must live right afterwards.

The most the boy had hoped for was a servant's job. "I am no more worthy to be called thy son," he confessed. But the father did not ask his boy to atone for his sin by years of servitude. Our heavenly Father is not like that. Oh, how marvelous is His grace. His mercy and love exceed our sin and our guilt. Instantly, fully, freely our God forgives the repentant sinner and restores him to favor.

"Put a ring on his hand," said the father. The ring was a symbol of family relationship. He had forfeited that relationship—possibly had even pawned his former ring to buy wine—but now he who had sold himself into slavery

was restored to the dignity and privileges of sonship. No sinner has sunk so deep into the mire of sin that our heavenly Father cannot restore him to the path of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord.

"And shoes on his feet." He who had worn out his shoes on the paths of sin was given new shoes with which to walk the way of holiness. Only God can change a man's habits, but with God all things are possible.

"And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it." What a joyous, bounteous restoration! The young man had become economically bankrupt, but his father was providing for all his material needs and doing it so generously! Sinner, if you will come to God you will receive financial restoration, and physical restoration, as well as every other blessing. New life, new character, new friends, new health, new wealth—the Lord will make everything new.

There is redemption for all. If you need to be redeemed, simply follow the same steps that brought the prodigal home to the arms of his father. First, he saw his need. Second, he felt unfit and unworthy to return. But in spite of his unworthiness, he decided to return to his father and ask for mercy. If you will come to God, He will restore, rehabilitate, and redeem your life because His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, gave His life's blood for your sake.

A Dedicated Home

O blessed Christ—who once did grace
A lowly manger bed,
The cattle Thy companions round,
The hay beneath Thee spread—
To our abode now grant Thy peace,
Fill with Thy light each room;
A holy sanctuary make,
Dear Saviour, of our home.

Grant us Thy wisdom day by day
To guide these little feet,
Entrusted to our loving care,
In sacred service sweet.
The strength, the patience for each day
Can only come from Thee;
Examples true, in word, in deed,
We yearn to ever be.

A family altar we would raise—
A covenant to make—
For as Thy Word we honor thus
No evil power can shake.
These tender lips we now would teach
To call upon Thy name;
Lord, lay Thy hand on each young life
To guard from sin and shame.

—Alice R. Flower



The Family Altar



"The Lord Healed Me"

God promised physical healing to His people, saying, "I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). Here are personal testimonies from some who have proved the promise marvelously true.

Cancer Goes, After Prayer

I went to the hospital on June 10, 1953, for treatment of a cancer in my stomach. A physician made an incision and pronounced me incurable. He gave me from thirty days to a year to live. He said I could never work again.

Then my pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister Charles Barrett, came to see me. We prayed—and the Lord came on the scene and healed my body. Five months later I went to work and have been working ever since. The physician gave me a release saying that I show no sign of cancer. And I have had no ill effects. I give God all the praise.—Henry McClain, 619 Osull, Bakersfield, Calif.

(Endorsed by Pastor Charles W. Barrett, 525 Orchard St., Bakersfield, Calif.)

Healed in Body and Soul

After wasting half of my life on selfishness and sin, I returned to God and He transformed it completely. No longer am I unhappy, childless, a victim of the cigarette habit. I am a happy Christian mother with three darling little boys.

Many years ago, when I was a girl of sixteen, I professed faith in Christ as my Saviour; but soon after that I failed to live right and felt I was not fit to go back to the house of God any more. What a mistake that was! From then until I was thirty-five I went to church services only three or four times.

In the meantime I married but for ten years we were deprived of having children. We spent about \$1,800.00 in efforts to have children of our own, but to no avail.

Then I prayed, and promised God that if He would give us children I would serve Him. God heard my prayer. We now have three darling little boys, the oldest five years. But I did not keep my vow to God until recently, when I went to the Flat Rock Assembly of God and surrendered my life to Him.

Oh, what a change came into my life!

I was a victim of the cigarette habit—I smoked over a package a day. Now I am free from the desire to smoke. I have also received the precious Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

A few weeks before our last baby was born, I suffered severely with my side, and the pain continued after the baby came. The suffering was so intense that someone had to stay and help me with my housework. For eight weeks I had to be in bed quite a bit of the time. Sometimes I had to call the neighbors to come and care for my children when I suffered an attack. But God, in answer to prayer, healed me of this condition. He also healed me of a breaking out on my leg. How I thank Him for delivering me from all my sins and all my afflictions. I feel I can never praise God enough for all of His kindness.—Mrs. Lewis Hill, 25539 Middelbelt Road, Flat Rock, Mich.

(Endorsed by Pastor Leonard G. Cranor, 29046 Wesley, Flat Rock, Mich.)

Injured Kidney Made Well

My eight-year-old daughter became sick in April 1954. She had such pain in her side that she cried a lot, even at night. She was unable to go to school the rest of that term, and in September she was still unable to attend school. At the request of the nurse, we took her to the doctor.

The doctor said that our girl's right kidney had been hurt and was enlarged to twice its normal size. A few years ago, he said, this would have been a fatal condition, but with the aid of modern drugs he thought he might help her. We took her back to him four times.

We had trusted Jesus for years for healing in our home. We knew that He would not fail us now, so we quit taking her to the doctor. She grew worse, having pain in her back as well.

In November, L. E. Hepp of Russellville, Arkansas, came to Wayside Assembly in Bakersfield, where Archie Miller

is pastor. My daughter was prayed for and God healed her completely. The pain left while Brother Hepp and Brother Miller were praying. And she is still healed. We do thank Jesus for His goodness. He is a wonderful helper in time of need.—Lillie Lawson, 507 Castro Lane, Bakersfield, Calif.

(Endorsed by Pastor Archie W. Miller, 612 Vine Drive, Bakersfield, Calif.)

Heart Trouble Healed

I want to praise God for saving my soul and for healing me of angina of the heart, a disease with which I had suffered for three years. I had very bad attacks, and sometimes fainted and fell. My doctor forbade my doing any work. I followed his advice and took the medicine he prescribed, but I did not get any help.

I was invited to attend services at the Grace Chapel Assembly of God, where Fred Watrons was pastor. There God saved me. Shortly afterwards Brother Watrons called for all who needed healing for their body to come forward for prayer. I obeyed the call and was completely healed.

I went to the doctor for a check up some weeks after my healing. He told me my heart was healthy in every way. I have been able to do all kinds of manual labor since then. It has been two years, and my healing still holds good, for which I thank God.—Austin N. Carr, Route 1, West Canaan, N. H.

(Endorsed by Pastor Fred L. Watrons Jr., West Canaan, N. H.)

Damaged Eardrum Restored

On March 22, 1955, there was a severe windstorm here in Medina, and a lot of damage was done. I was standing in my front room when suddenly the wind blew open the back door. The change in air pressure was so sudden it caused something in my ear to crack, and the pain was so intense that I nearly fainted. Almost immediately my ear started bleeding and the side of my head became

swollen. I called my pastor, Martin Baxter, and he prayed for me. Instantly the bleeding stopped; however, the terrible ache in my ear and head remained.

The following night I attended our midweek service, even though the pain was so terrible that it seemed I could hardly stand it. After the service Brother Baxter anointed me and prayed. The pain left, but I still couldn't hear.

I slept all night, free from pain of any kind, and when I awoke I discovered I could hear perfectly—not only in the

ear that had been injured, but also in the other ear in which I had had less than 50% hearing for a number of years. Jesus had healed both ears!

A couple of days later I had the doctor look at my ear, and he told me that he could see evidence that my ear had been severely damaged but that my eardrum was now perfect.—Ida Mae Clark, 228 E. Howard St., Medina, Ohio.

(Endorsed by Martin H. Baxter, Pastor, Pentecostal Assembly of God, 240 S. Elmwood, Medina, Ohio.)

In Favor of Prayer at Graduation

Commencement exercises were cancelled at the high school in Beardsley, Minn. last June due to a controversy over whether prayers should be offered during the program. During the summer the Minneapolis Tribune polled the people of Minnesota to get their opinion on the subject. Four out of every five (80 per cent) said they thought clergymen should be asked to offer prayers at the graduation exercises of public high schools.

Miracles Plausible to Scientists

Scientists now admit the possibility that Christ raised the dead and that Moses parted the waters of the Red Sea. So said Dr. John R. Brobeck, professor of physiology at the Medical School of the University of Philadelphia, addressing a convention of medical doctors in Toronto.

"Science is changing," he said. "One of the results is that a scientist is no longer able to say honestly that something is impossible. He can only say it is improbable."

He told the doctors that the one factor that can account for the miracles is a source of energy unknown to the scientific system. "In the Bible," he said, "it is known as the power of God."

Questioned by reporters afterward, Dr. Brobeck said: "A miracle has happened to me which makes me accept these miracles. This miracle is the New Birth, which every one of us who is a Christian has experienced. It is the application of God's power which brings about this change which is a miracle. It cannot be accomplished by any biological or psychological force. It creates within us the will to believe."

Perfect Attendance for 80 Years

Miss Jennie Culbertson Powers of Philadelphia, Pa., recently rounded out eighty years of perfect attendance at Sunday School. Miss Powers, a chipper lady of 84, received a wire from President Eisenhower congratulating her on the remarkable record.

Ever since 1875, Miss Powers has gone to her church, the Westside Presbyterian Church in Germantown, without missing a single Sunday. There were times her record was endangered, such as driving heavy snowfalls when she had to "plow through on foot" the several blocks to church. During the World War I "flu" epidemic the church was closed for four weeks. But the pastor told her, "Jennie, you go ahead. We'll have the secretary there to mark you present, and the two of you can be the Sunday School."

This cheerful old lady tells her friends: "I have three homes—my earthly home, my church home, and my heavenly home. I've been happy in two, and know that I'll be happy in the third."

PASSING and PERMANENT

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Missing From Sunday School

While approximately three Americans out of five claim to be church members, only one out of five is enrolled in a church school. This means that 28 million children, 22 million youth, and 73 million adults are missing the Christian teaching that the Sunday School offers.

Religious Freedom Guaranteed

The U. S. Government has negotiated treaties of friendship, commerce and navigation with twelve different countries since 1946. In every case except one, these treaties have provisions guaranteeing religious freedom to nationals of either country. The 1955 treaty with Haiti is the only one without these provisions.

A Champion's Testimony

Ivan Bowen, world champion sheep shearer, has been appearing at youth meetings in New Zealand with a clear-cut Christian testimony.

"I am a humble Christian in my daily life," he declares, "and I set out to prove a man can be a Christian and a champion too. I prayed to God before I started ... and was helped by a greater power than we find anywhere on this earth."

The Binding Force

President Benjamin Harrison said, "If you take out of your statutes, your constitution, your family life, all that is taken from the Sacred Book, what would there be left to bind society together?"

Russia today is endeavoring to take out of its statutes, its constitution, its family life all traces of Sacred Writ. And how does it seek to hold itself together? One "purge" wave has followed another. Literally millions have been ruthlessly shot down or imprisoned for the sake of "social solidarity."

Contrast this ruthless human butchery with the spirit of neighborliness which characterizes a group of Bible-reading and Bible-believing people who voluntar-

ily meet together for Sunday School and church worship.

"Fugitives From God"

Judge Julius H. Miner of the Circuit Court in Chicago, Ill., says that criminals are "fugitives from God," and that America desperately needs a great religious revival to combat both adult and juvenile crime.

"Criminals are not born," he says. "They are reared in an era which has discarded morality. They are victims of spiritual starvation. Irreligion has obviously become the major contributing factor to our national juvenile crisis."

Judge Miner, an authority on divorce and crime problems, says that a spiritual resurgence is needed to draw the American people to God and prayer. He pointed out that while home religious training is important, "home training can never offer an adequate substitute in the religious education of a child for the planned instruction of the Sunday School."

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT



HUNDREDS OF WORKERS IN A WESTERN AIRCRAFT PLANT CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME TO BUILD A CHAPEL FOR THEIR OWN DEVOTIONAL USE.

Who Are the ASSEMBLIES OF GOD?

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Bastrop, Louisiana



All over the land there are churches affiliated with the Assemblies of God. There is hardly a city or town of any size that does not have at least one Assemblies of God church. And yet, because the denomination is still comparatively young, having been organized forty-one years ago, there are people who wonder who the Assemblies of God are.

corners, in prison chapels, and wherever there are people who do not know Christ.

We Believe in SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The religious training of children, young people, and adults too, is considered of paramount importance. Strong emphasis therefore is given to Sunday School and no effort is spared in making the Sunday School hour interesting and instructive. The classes are divided according to age, and the teachers are trained for their task. The Bible is our textbook. Christ-exalting study guides and story papers are given to each pupil.

Our Sunday Schools are growing by leaps and bounds. The 6,740 Sunday Schools of the Assemblies of God across America now have an estimated enrollment of 775,100 and an average attendance of 559,420. In other words, well over half a million people can be found in Assemblies of God Sunday Schools every Sunday morning.

Evangelical denominations recognize the Assemblies as a leader in the field of Sunday School work. Some of our national Sunday School conventions have had over 10,000 delegates registered.

We Believe in EVANGELISM

A fervent evangelistic spirit pervades the Assemblies of God meetings. The singing, the praying, the preaching all emphasize a heart-felt experience of God's saving grace.

The program of worship is quite informal. All the members of the congregation are encouraged to worship God in spirit and in truth, and two prominent features of many of the church services are the "testimony meetings" (when the believers tell personally what Christ has done for them) and the "altar services" (when the unsaved are invited to come forward and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour).

All over the country you will find Assemblies of God people conducting gospel meetings in big tents, and on street



HERMOSA GOSPEL TABERNACLE
Hermosa Beach, California



FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Kilgore, Texas

STAMFORD GOSPEL TABERNACLE
Stamford, Connecticut



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We Believe

THE BIBLE

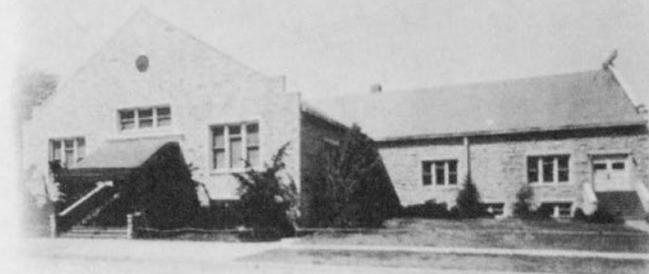
America, Alaska, and dozens of foreign lands. Some of our home missionaries are working among the American Jews; others among the American Indians, or among the Deaf. The Assemblies are pioneers in the field of evangelizing the Deaf.

Our gospel radio broadcast "Revival-time" is heard each Sunday night at 10:30 p.m. over the ABC coast-to-coast network, and in English-speaking lands all around the globe.

We Welcome Visitors

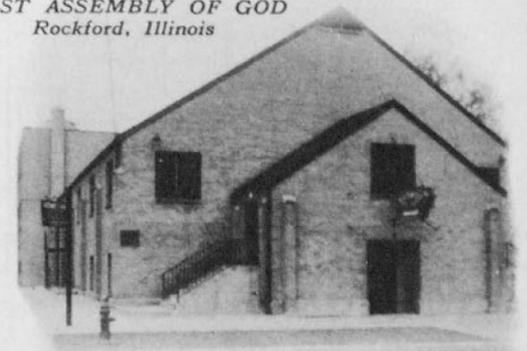
Visitors are always welcome at the Assemblies of God meetings.

The friendliness of the people is one reason why our church, though younger than most denominations, has outgrown many of them. Today there are 7,320 local Assemblies of God churches with over 400,000 members. The aggressive program of personal and corporate evangelism, coupled with true-to-the-Bible doctrine and the manifest blessings of God in the meetings, have made this one of the fastest-growing religious groups in America. You are cordially invited to attend the Assemblies of God church in your community and enjoy the live, joy-filled services.



CENTRAL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Springfield, Missouri

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Rockford, Illinois



FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Kennewick, Washington



SOUTHWEST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



SUMMERFIELD ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Columbus, Georgia



ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Lebanon, Oregon





Daily DEVOTIONS

BIBLE READINGS BASED ON NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

...they searched the Scriptures daily

MONDAY

A PSALM OF DAVID—Psalm 19:1-14

This Psalm falls into three precise divisions. In the first six verses David glories in the wonder of God's material creation. The next five verses are a brief treatise on the excellencies of Sacred Writ. In the last three verses the Psalmist acknowledges his shortcomings and covenants to live a godly life.

Three kinds of sin are cited in this Psalm. David writes of "secret faults," which includes those we are not aware of, and also those we attempt to conceal. Then there are the sins which are "presumptuous" in nature. They are those which are premeditated, those that are committed with eyes wide open, those that are violations with full knowledge of the law, and those that attempt to take undue advantage of God's merciful disposition. Finally, there is the "great transgression," which seems to connote something catastrophic. Many think that this sin compares in gravity with the unpardonable sin, which Jesus mentioned in the New Testament. The course of wisdom is to refuse to let Satan in even the smallest area of our lives.

—LLOYD CHRISTIANSEN

TUESDAY

THE HANDIWORK OF GOD—Genesis 1:1 to 2:3

"In the beginning God..." (v. 1). Yes, He must be (and shall be) first, "that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." First in each new day, first in my affections, first in all my plans, first in what I see, first in what I say.

"In the beginning was the Word... All things were made by him... In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:1-4). Wonderful creative Word! And that Word is living in you and me! For Jesus said, "If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him" (Rev. 3:20).

Jesus is not only the creative Word, but also the upholding Word. He is "upholding all things by the word of his power" (Heb. 1:3). Upholding us in spirit, soul, and body, as long as we give Him full sway. As we lay hold in strong confidence upon this Word the way is open for our mighty Lord to be unto us all we need: wisdom, strength, life, victory, sanctification, and redemption.

—ZELMA ARGUE

WEDNESDAY

GOD'S WORD IN THE LAST DAYS—2 Timothy 3

"From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation" (v. 15).

David said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." In the Scriptures we are reminded

again and again of the importance of the Word in the life of the Christian. There is no substitute for the Word. Christ is, was, and ever shall be the expression of God and His Word to man. John says (chapter 1) that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. There is a very close relationship between Christ and His Word. It is the Word that sustains the child of God. We are told, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Not only does the Word make us "wise unto salvation," but it is also food on which the Christian may feed to find power to withstand temptation.

In our text, Paul reminds Timothy that he has known the Scriptures from his childhood, and that this Word and the reproof and instruction and correction through his life will make him a man of God, perfect, thoroughly furnished, and ready to meet life. May the Lord help us to know the Scriptures, for only a knowledge of His precious Word and an application of it to our lives will bring the victory and blessing that we need in these last days.

—T. E. HOLLINGSWORTH

THURSDAY

JOSIAH RESTORES THE LAW—2 Kings 22:11-20

Josiah, the king who began to seek after God "while he was yet young" (2 Chron. 34:3), had a marked respect for the Word of God, from which he "declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left" (2 Chron. 34:2). Josiah's respect for God and His Word may be gauged from the fact that he rent his clothes when he heard what was written in the Book of the Law.

It is impossible to have regard for God without showing equal regard for the Bible. In fact it may safely be said that our respect for God may be judged by our respect for His Word. We must note that God spared Josiah from beholding

ANCHOR IN HEAVEN

"... by two utterly immutable things, the Word of God and the Oath of God, Who cannot lie, we who are refugees from this dying world might have a source of strength, and might grasp the hope that He holds out to us. This hope we hold is the utterly reliable anchor for our souls, fixed in the very certainty of God Himself in Heaven..."
--Heb. 6:18, 19 (Phillips Trs.)



READING THE BIBLE THROUGH

A strange impulse seized me some time ago. It was to read the Bible from cover to cover, and to allow no other reading whatever to interfere. Whether the impulse was of the Holy Spirit I know not. God knoweth. Anyway, I did it. I averaged four and one-half hours each day in His Holy Word. I began with "in the beginning," Genesis 1:1, and closed with "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you," Revelation 22:21.

It was a marvelously enriching and strengthening spiritual experience. My heart can never escape the power and glory of it.

It was a feast of good things to eat. I ate locusts and wild honey with the Baptist in the wilderness, and heaven-sent manna with the wandering Israelites in the desert. I tasted the grapes of Eshcol, and sat at the tables of King David and King Solomon. I drank of the brook Cherith and was fed by the ravens. I feasted with the disciples in the upper room, and sat down at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

It was a triumphant tour of summer trips. I crossed the desert sands with Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees. I

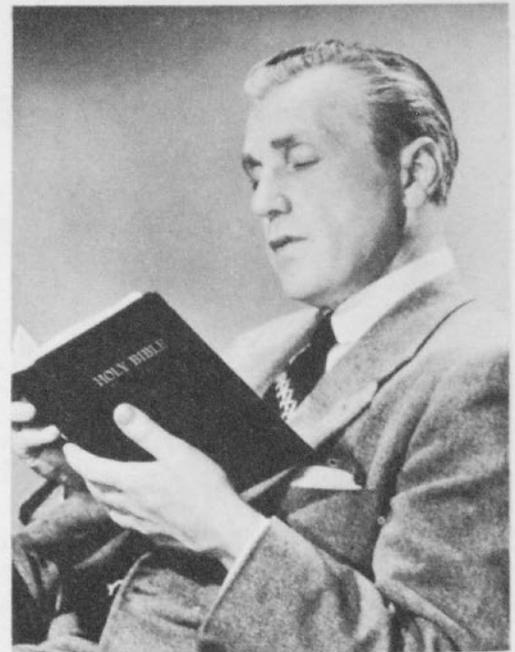
journeyed with Joseph to the land of the Pharaohs and followed Moses for forty years. I went abroad in the ships of Tarshish, and glided in fishing smacks on the placid bosom of Galilee.

It was a university course. I studied what I believe to be the most accurate science of all centuries concerning the origin of things. I delved into the world's profoundest philosophy, read classic literature, followed the divine outlines of history, and was thrilled by the tenderest and sweetest poetry of all time.

It was a Bible conference. Doctors Moses, Isaiah, and Paul were the principal speakers. I sat at their feet in rapt attention. There were classes in theology and ecclesiology and eschatology and prophecy. There were many discussions, conferences, and even debates on practical and doctrinal subjects. It was the greatest Bible conference I ever attended. King David with his harp of gold and choir of a thousand voices led the music.

Such a blessing as this, reading the Bible through without unnecessary delay! I shall reread it at least once a year the rest of my life.

—M. E. DODD



"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my pathway."

But these were not just "natural laws" set in motion automatically, like the winding of a clock. They were laws to be observed by rational beings, possessed of free will. They demanded not passive acquiescence, but positive diligence. Responsibility was placed upon man to consciously co-operate with God in the keeping of His precepts.

This, of course, proved too great a task for human flesh. Lacking the diligence necessary to actively keep God's precepts, man quickly fell into transgressions. He could not keep God's law in his own strength. David knew the commandment of God, and we can almost hear him thinking as he wrote this Psalm: "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. [But how can we? I have tried! I feel a great lack. I need a power outside myself.] O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!"

From David's seed there came One who can direct the ways of man. In fulfillment of this need for power within man to keep God's law, Christ came to earth as the living Word. The New Testament triumph is that we have not only the commandments, but the power to keep them. We have not only the Truth, as the Psalmist had, but we have also the Way and the Life.

—BILLIE C. DAVIS

the coming judgments because his heart was tender and humble.

God has regard for that man who has regard for His Word, for it is written, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isa. 66:2).

—WALTER H. BEUTTLER

FRIDAY

EZRA RESTORES THE LAW—Nehemiah 8:1-8

"All the people... spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law" and to read it (v. 1). How wise was their action! They were coming into their own once more, nationally and economically. But they realized that in order to be restored to God's favor and blessing they needed to take heed to God's Word. If only individuals and nations today would realize that the only way true progress, security, and peace can be had is by respecting God's Word and obeying it!

Attendance at this "Bible convention" was not compulsory, nor were any prevented from hearing the Scriptures. And "all the people" listened "from the morning until midday"! We are living in days when many are deprived of the opportunity to hear the real gospel. Some are deprived by godless political leaders, others by apostate religious leaders. How

appreciative we in America should be that we live in a land where there are gospel-preaching churches in every town and city!

"So they read in the book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Here is a ministry which is open to any layman who will take the trouble to study and pray over God's Word! Every Christian is under divine obligation to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you."

Not all of us can be eloquent preachers, but any Bible-loving, Bible-studying, prayerful Christian may have the glorious privilege of explaining the way of salvation to those who do not understand!

—J. BASHFORD BISHOP

SATURDAY

THE LAW OF THE LORD—Psalm 119:1-16

"Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!" (vv. 4, 5).

These words echo the heart cry of Old Testament peoples and at the same time indicate the fundamental New Testament truth. Soon after creation God made His will known to man. In a manner of speaking, man knew from the beginning the "law" or the "precepts" of his Maker.

LISTEN TO "REVIVALTIME"

The Radio Crusade of the
Assemblies of God

EVERY SUNDAY—10:30 p.m.
ABC NETWORK

“The Promise Is Unto You”

By H. J. McALISTER

A PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED IS A PATTERN to be followed. When the Heavenly Father, through His Son, gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to the waiting disciples He deliberately established a precedent of spiritual experience, which the Church has never outgrown nor ever will until she finishes her present course.

The conditions which made such a visitation necessary in the first century are present also in the twentieth century. Every Christian is in need of this baptism of power, if he is to effectively carry out Christ's commission to help bring the gospel to every creature.

In the Acts of the Apostles, God has given to us a wonderful pattern-picture showing us how the disciples received this heavenly gift. Just before their Master had ascended into heaven He had given them a definite command to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. Then suddenly He left them, and they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and “were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.” They were careful to obey the Lord's last command. That was very important. God requires obedience. Nothing else will take its place.

The disciples did not say, “Now, if the Lord has anything more for us, we are willing to receive it.” There was no “if” about it. They knew there was a definite experience for them, one of tremendous significance and importance. The Lord Jesus had taken pains to impress this fact upon them. There was only one proper thing for them to do—to obey and tarry. They did this joyfully.

These men and women apparently spent their time at the Temple and in a large “upper room.” It was while they were gathered in the latter place that the Spirit came upon them. They had been told that they would not have to wait many days, but the exact time was unknown to them. There was evidently a preparation necessary in their lives before they were ready to receive this great gift.

It was a time of prayer and supplication. I think it was also a time of confession one to another, when personal differences were settled and all bitterness was wiped out. God gives grace to the humble. For them it was no doubt a time of heart humbling. A wonderfully tender spirit must have prevailed, for

the Scripture says, “They were all with one accord in one place.”

Then the feast day of Pentecost arrived, and something happened. “Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind.” It came suddenly—almost unexpectedly. It was not the trumpet of judgment, nor the thunder of an approaching storm. It was a glorious, refreshing sound like a mighty rushing wind on a sultry day. There was nothing stale or stagnant about it. It was the breath of the Spirit. “It filled all the house where they were sitting.” It was not a quiet little experience which no one knew about. No, it filled the house. The whole atmosphere of the place was filled with heavenly life.

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.” The fire was symbolic of the nature of the experience. It was a warming experience. The inner life was set aflame with unquenchable zeal. It was also a purifying experience. Precious metals are purified of dross by fire. So the life is purified, not from sin, but from imperfections, by the operation of the Holy Spirit.

This fiery experience was not for a few, but for each one of them. “They were all filled with the Holy Ghost.”

How feeble are mere words to describe such a transcendent experience. This was the commencement of a full life. The crowd which gathered said, “These men are full of new wine.” Moffat translates it, “They are brim-full of new wine!” The crowd was almost right. They were overflowing, all right—but it was the wine of the Holy Spirit.

In its fullness this was the climax of all earthly Christian experiences until the day of the Lord's coming and the rapture of the saints. God the Holy Ghost had come and taken possession of those temples of clay, weak and worthless in themselves but cleansed and sanctified through the blood of Christ. Oh, the marvel of it! And the Holy Spirit took such complete control that He used their powers of speech to glorify God in languages unknown to the individuals who spoke them.

What a contrast was this to the confusion of tongues at Babel! At Babel there was confusion; at Pentecost, harmony. At Babel, dispersion; at Pentecost, unity. At Babel, a curse; at Pentecost, a blessing. At Babel men became foreign

one to another; at Pentecost there was a foreshadow of the gathering of many different peoples into one fold.

There are some in these days who think lightly of the sign of speaking in other tongues. Some even despise it. But it is there in my Bible and yours. And why should we think it strange that God should take the tongue, which He created for His glory, and use it to signalize the mighty Baptism by speaking in languages of the Spirit's choice the wonderful works of the Lord? James said that the tongue is an unruly member which no man can tame, but when the Spirit takes full control He tames this obstinate member and thus gives a significant testimony of His sovereignty.

No other sign distinctively belongs to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some of the manifestations which appeared on the Day of Pentecost were not repeated again, so far as it known, but this supernatural sign appeared again when the Spirit fell upon Cornelius' household (Acts 10), and it was by this distinctive sign that Peter and those who came with him knew that God had poured out the gift of the Spirit upon the Gentiles also. And about a dozen men in Ephesus spoke in tongues when they received the Holy Spirit under Paul's ministry (Acts 19).

Speaking in tongues is a Bible experience accompanying the gift of the Spirit, and is therefore to be cherished as a precious and sacred thing. And it is a distinguishing sign in these days, as it was in the days of the Early Church. I do not think that the disciples knew what to expect in the baptism of the Spirit; but when He came their needs



were met, gloriously met, and I am sure their hearts were completely satisfied.

During the past fifty years the Spirit has been widely and richly poured out upon thirsty believers; their needs have been gloriously met and their hearts satisfied. During these years this Pentecostal revival has girdled the globe. Millions have been filled with the Spirit. Uncounted multitudes have been swept into the Kingdom of God.

*God's skies are full of Pentecosts,
For you, for me, for all;
Then let us humbly, boldly press,
Our heritage in Christ possess,
That pow'r from heav'n may fall.*

In recording this glorious event which took place at the inception of the Church, I believe the Lord has fixed a form of Christian experience subsequent to conversion, an experience which He has provided for every believer. The record is a pattern for the Church age. The language of Scripture is so plain: "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." The promise indicates that it is a pattern; so if you have heard and responded to God's call this blessing is for you.

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.

The Whole Family Will Enjoy These



FOR ALL THE FAMILY—The Pentecostal Evangel . . . World Challenge . . . Family Altar Guide

"The Pentecostal Evangel" is a visitor you will welcome at your door each week. You will enjoy its rich spiritual articles, inspiring Bible studies, true stories from Christian life, and its various news features. It will keep you up to date on current events and world-wide missionary work. Inasmuch as it is the official organ of the Assemblies of God, it will acquaint you with the message and ministry of this fast-growing denomination.

"The World Challenge" presents the missionary needs of other countries as well as mission efforts in our own land. A supplement gives the birthdays of Assemblies of God missionaries and a special prayer request for each day. It is an up-to-date news digest of the onward march of Assemblies of God missions.

"The Family Altar Guide" is a quarterly booklet which contains daily Bible readings to be used in family devotions. Questions and answers for discussion are given for each day's reading. It will help maintain family worship in the home.

FOR EVERY AGE—Weekly story papers and study quarterlies

In Assemblies of God Sunday Schools, you will receive inspiring literature to take home each week. There are papers for each age group, from the tiny two- and three-year-olds on up. Die-cut "Remembering Pictures" are prepared for the Nursery children. The Beginners and Primaries both have their own full-color picture paper which contain drawings for them to color. "Junior Trails" for those nine through eleven years of age; "HiCall" for the Intermediates and Seniors; and "Gospel Gleaners" for the Young People and Adults—all these papers contain stories and articles of interest to each age group. Student quarterlies and workbooks are also provided.

FOR YOUTH—C. A. Herald

"The Christ's Ambassadors Herald" is an attractive monthly magazine designed to meet the needs of modern youth. There are stories geared to their problems, articles about other young people, and many other interesting features.

FOR MEN—Team

"Team" is a pocket-size quarterly publication of the Men's Fellowship of the Assemblies of God. It tells of the work of laymen over the country who work together to help their pastor and their church in its growth. It contains much helpful advice in its intriguing articles. The man of the house will enjoy it.

FOR S. S. WORKERS AND PARENTS—Counsellor

"Our Sunday School Counsellor" is a monthly magazine prepared especially for teachers and officers in the Sunday School. It can also be of great value to the Christian parent in understanding the child. It gives interesting information about the progress of Assemblies of God Sunday Schools.



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The Divine Imperative

By William Moody

WE ALL BELIEVE IN IMPERATIVES—you do, and so do I. If we didn't we would perish! We MUST eat or we will die. We MUST keep warm or we will freeze to death. We MUST stop at the railroad track when the train is coming or be hurled into eternity. We MUST obey the laws of the land or suffer the penalty. We MUST pay the fare on a street car or bus or we cannot ride to our destination.

And so we could go on to show that we all take these imperatives for granted. Yet, it is strange to find so many people who will not pay attention to God's divine imperative. They think they can enter heaven without meeting God's terms!

Jesus said, "Ye MUST be born again." These words are just as full of meaning today as when He first spoke them to Nicodemus (John 3:7). The Lord points out very plainly that unless a person is born again by the Spirit of God he cannot see nor enter into the kingdom of God.

Some will say, "It doesn't matter so much what you believe, so long as you are sincere." This is as ridiculous as believing, as many used to believe, that the earth is flat instead of round. We must recognize that there is truth and there is error. Many a heathen worshiper believes that his many sacrifices will please his idol-god, but we know that such an inanimate god can never know his feelings. He is sincere, all right, but he is sincerely WRONG.

Others will tell us "the way they see it." They will contend that if we do the best we can, treat everyone right, and follow what we feel is the best course in life, we will make it through to heaven all right. Such a view acts as a subtle opiate to many a conscience and leads to the damnation of the soul. To think that all roads lead finally to heaven is Satan's master lie. There is a right way and a wrong way to every place on this earth, and surely there is a right way and a wrong way to heaven.

The other evening I made a left turn on an unfamiliar road, when I should have gone straight ahead. I thought a left turn would take me into town, but instead I soon found myself several miles away from town. There is only one way to heaven and true salvation. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but

by me" (John 14:6). "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we MUST be saved" (Acts 4:12).

You ask, "How can I be born again?" Here is a scriptural directory, found in John 1:12, 13—"As many as received Him (Christ) to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Will you honestly receive Christ as your personal Saviour now? Will you truly repent of your sin, and believe that He died to atone for your sin? If so, you will be "born from above" by the Spirit of God.

Remember the divine imperative: "Ye MUST be born again." To refuse and neglect God's way of salvation is to seal our doom in hell.

Continued from page three—

Lost in a Pasture

the phaeton as close to one of the haystacks as I could get it; then I would unhitch Betsy, tie her on the other side, and I would make a "nest" in the hay and wait for daybreak!

But before I did that, help came. My brother-in-law happened to look my way just as we passed over the hill, and he

RELIGIOUS SPOTLIGHT



GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES HAVE BEEN ALTERED IN THE EASTERN ZONE OF GERMANY TO OMIT ALL ALLUSIONS TO RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

suspected something was wrong. He came riding to my rescue. He guided me down the road that I should have followed, had I not been looking for the short-cut.

"Why didn't you follow the road when you saw you were lost?" he asked.

"Because I wanted to save time and take the short-cut," I answered. "And anyway, I didn't know I was lost."

"You should have turned Betsy loose," he said, as we rode along. "She would have taken you home, for she has colts to feed."

"Oh, I thought I had to guide her," I wailed, as I watched the lightning zig-zag among the on-coming clouds, like children playing hide-and-seek.

He opened the gate and I drove into the "small" pasture. "Now, can you follow this road all right to the main road?" he asked.

"I'm sure I can. It's nearly dark but I can see, I think," I answered meekly.

"Stay on the road, and don't go looking for any more short-cuts," he called, as I drove off. I slapped Betsy into a trot.

As I closed the last gate and started down the road leading home, I turned and saw my brother-in-law silhouetted against the skyline just before he turned back to his home. I felt a warm glow of gratitude for his timely help.

How happy I was to see the lights of home reaching out to me in the thickening gloom. My father came down the road to meet me—he was worried. I gladly handed the reins over to him, and leaned confidently against him as he drove the phaeton into the yard.

Minutes later, the wind came and the slashing rain. But I was home. I had been lost but I had been rescued. The storm was on but I was secure.

Years before, when I was two weeks old, my parents began taking me to Sunday School and church services. I grew up in the church, and I was as much at home there as when I was guiding Betsy over the Kansas prairie. I listened to the sermons. I sat through the revival meetings. I memorized the Bible verses. To please my father, I was baptized, though it had little more meaning to me than a plunge off the springboard into the old swimming hole.

I belonged to the church, and later began playing the organ and teaching a Sunday School class. One day a little boy in my class said to me:

"Why don't you ever tell us about Jesus?"

"Don't you like the stories I tell you?" I countered. "They teach you good moral truths. And anyway, the preacher tells you about Jesus."

I liked the church songs. They moved me the same way the song of the cardinal or the warbling of the mocker did. They were beautiful melodies and my soul re-

sponded to the beautiful. I knew some beautiful poems that meant more to me than the Psalms.

Each night Father read the Bible to us. Often my mother would use her spare time to pore over its pages. I would notice that there were tears on her cheeks, and I never could understand it. Somehow God always seemed nearer to me when I was walking in the woods beside the creek—the stately trees for a cathedral, the bird-song for an anthem.

The pastor and the church people said I was a good little Christian, and I really tried to be one. Was it deception? No, I hated deception the way I hated slimy, creeping snakes! But I was a product of training and environment. I had learned to act like a Christian because I grew up in the church—just as I had learned to act like a farm girl because I grew up on the farm. I guess there are many in that same position.

Yes, the pastor and the evangelists were good men. I'm sure they faithfully pointed to the Way, and plainly laid out the Road home, but my mind was foggy. I was *lost in the church*, yet it never occurred to me that I was lost!

There I was, worrying along the "fence rows" until I was a grown woman, always hoping to reach Home—and yet far, far from the Road.

But one day my Saviour came to my help. He guided me across the "pasture" and through the "gates." He set me on the homeward road, with the Cross silhouetted against the skyline behind me and the Heavenly Father's Home before me.

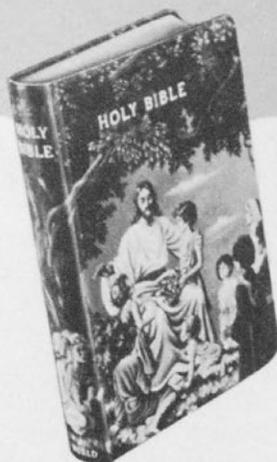
I knew from memory the verse, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost," but it had no meaning until I realized that I was lost. I had memorized the text, "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin," but it didn't mean very much to me until the truth dawned on me that I was a sinner and that I needed to be cleansed through His precious blood.

If you are in the same predicament that I was in, I pray that you too will awaken to your true spiritual state. The Lord Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." Have you experienced this New Birth? He also said, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Do you have Christ, the Son of God, living in your heart? I do. And I can enjoy the beauties of creation all the more, now that I know the Creator.

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Examine that word COME. C stands for Children. O stands for Old people. M stands for the Middle-aged. E stands for Everybody.

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Hear, O Is'ra-el; the Lord our God is one Lord:
30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all

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Civilization's Most Crucial Hour

By the Honorable Ernest C. Manning

Premier of Alberta, Canada

WE HAVE REACHED AN HOUR IN THE history of civilization which I believe is one of the most crucial mankind has ever been called upon to face. We are living in an age in which we see the accumulative consequences of the defects inherent in human nature coming to their climax. Today when you talk to men in the business world, the scientific world, the field of economics, politics or whatever it may be, you find that most thinking, serious minded people agree that present circumstances are such that they cannot continue very much longer without precipitating a crisis on the greatest scale humanity has ever known.

I am convinced that the solution is to be found in the application of true Christianity to the lives of individuals and nations.

The world of today is divided into two great opposing camps. In one are the individuals and nations whose philosophy of life is wholly materialistic, who not only reject spiritual and moral values, but who have become openly aggressive

in their repudiation of all things that in any way recognize the sovereignty of God, the deity of Jesus Christ and the true Christian way of life. In the other camp are those who still retain at least a nominal recognition of spiritual and moral values. These are the remaining peoples and nations which today comprise our so-called Christian civilization. I use the word "so-called" purposely, for one of the great tragedies of this generation is the fact that so much of our so-called Christian civilization is entirely undeserving of the name.

What are we going to do about it? It is clear that the solution lies in a return to the place where we make our professed Christianity real. When I say "make our Christianity real," I mean, in the first place, make it personal—take it out of the realm of mere abstract ideologies and bring in down to the basis of a personal, heart relationship with Jesus Christ as a real living Saviour and Divine Lord.

Let's stop merely calling ourselves



Christians and do the things that need to be done. Let us get the Bible down from the shelf, and give the counsel of God its rightful place of priority in our lives and homes, and in the councils of our land.

In recent years, Alberta has become known internationally as the great oil producing Province of Canada; but every time I look at an oil well and see the pump going up and down and the oil flowing from the pipe, I say to myself, "Some day that well will be pumped dry, but there is a cruse of oil which will never run dry, but which will flow on forever and ever." We should be anxious for people to know about that oil which in the lamp of God's Word produces a light that shines across the darkness of this world that men may find their way to Jesus Christ, the One who alone can save and who can solve their problems, whatever they may be.

—Courtesy, American Tract Society.

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

Mayor George Dempster disclosed that the motto, "In God We Trust," will soon be placed on the public buildings in Knoxville, Tennessee. He said he acted on a suggestion by a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34).

THE WAITING CHRIST

A child, holding her father's hand, stood before W. H. Hunt's great painting and gazed upon it. The look of grief and ill-requited kindness on the worn face of Christ touched her tender heart.

At length, with slowly filling eyes, she asked, "Daddy, did He get in?"

That is the question. On it hang the issues of the Judgment Day. The Scriptures plainly teach that when we stand before the Throne of God, the one great question will be, "Did this man accept Christ as his personal Saviour, or not?"

Christ is still saying, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Will you let Him in?

