

The Pentecostal

5¢

EVANGEL

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

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

1945	435,502	
1955	805,182	85% increase

UNITED STATES POPULATION

1945	139,934,000	
1955	166,512,000	20% increase

There is a reason why
the Sunday Schools of
the Assemblies of God
are growing so fast.

CAMPAIGN ISSUE



The Bible itself is our textbook. . . .

YOUNG CHURCH SHOWS AMAZING GROWTH

A photographic interview with R. M. Riggs, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, reveals some reasons why this comparatively young denomination is growing so rapidly.

QUESTION: How large is the Assemblies of God?

ANSWER: We have 7,771 churches in the U. S., at last count, with a total of approximately 419,000 adult members.

QUESTION: Would you say it is one of the larger churches in our country?

ANSWER: No, not in terms of actual adult membership; others are much larger. But I believe that in terms of total churches, the 1956 Yearbook of American Churches lists only seven Protestant denominations that have more local congregations. However, our Assemblies of God churches are smaller than some. While we have some churches that are very large, we have a great many that are small.

QUESTION: Is there a reason why they are small?

ANSWER: Yes, in most cases it is because they are new. You see, our denomination is comparatively young. Compared to the large denominations, it's just an infant. It wasn't organized until 1914, and yet there are only a few towns of any size without an Assemblies of God church in them. Some consider that the rapid growth of our church is phenomenal. We are humbly grateful to God for His blessing.

QUESTION: Is it still growing?

ANSWER: Well, we started 477 new churches last year, one each day of the week and three on Sunday.

QUESTION: Do you think it will continue to grow?

ANSWER: I do. Our church puts a very great emphasis on Sunday School work. Considering the fact that the boys and girls in our Sunday Schools today will be the adult church members tomorrow, and that we now have over 805,000 persons enrolled in our Sunday Schools, the future is very bright.

QUESTION: How does this compare with other denominations?

ANSWER: Our church stands tenth among all Protestant denominations in the U. S., as far as Sunday School enrollment is concerned. I think our church has been promoting Sunday Schools more vigorously than most denominations and the promotion has borne fruit.

QUESTION: Would you say that hard work is the main reason for the growth of your Sunday Schools?

ANSWER: No, not the main reason. There are various reasons. It is true that our ministers and local Sunday School leaders have worked hard. They realize the importance of Sunday School and they really work at it. It is also true that the national headquarters of our

church is providing the tools for building better Sunday Schools. But the main reason for our growth is the spiritual dynamic that God has put in the lives of our people. That dynamic power from heaven makes them zealous workers and it gets results. It's a repetition of Mark 16:20, I think. Our people have gone out and worked, preaching and teaching, and the Lord has worked with us, confirming His promises "with signs following." God always works with people who will work with Him.

QUESTION: What do you mean by tools for building better Sunday Schools?

ANSWER: Well, I mean an evangelical curriculum, for one thing. We teach the whole Bible. The Bible itself is our textbook. We believe every part of it and we have a Sunday School course that includes every part of it. That's a wonderful tool. And good Sunday School literature is another good tool that we have. The Lord has given us a million-dollar printing plant for producing a complete line of Sunday School literature which, in our opinion, is second to none. We have a program of teacher training, too. That's a valuable tool. If public school teachers need to be trained, we think Sunday School teachers need training. Then we also have a national standard of excellence to which all of our Sunday Schools aspire. All of these things make for better, more Biblical, more aggressive Sunday Schools.

But I would like to repeat what I said a moment ago—that the main reason why our churches and Sunday Schools are growing is that God's wonderful power is in the lives of our people. They have learned by experience that Jesus is real—that the Bible is true—that God still answers prayer.

QUESTION: Would you say, then, that your church believes in the old-time religion?

ANSWER: Very definitely. We believe in heart-felt religion, the kind that makes you shouting happy. We preach repentance and the kind of conversion that changes a man's life. We certainly believe in the old-time religion—not merely the kind our parents and grandparents enjoyed, but the kind they had nineteen centuries ago. You might call it "historic Christianity."

God has given us a million-dollar printing plant. . . .



QUESTION: What do you mean by "historic Christianity"?

ANSWER: I mean the kind of Christianity the New Testament church believed. The kind the apostles of Christ preached. We believe and preach the same gospel that is described in the Book of Acts, the same doctrine that is set forth in the New Testament Epistles. We are a fundamentalist church, an evangelical church, an evangelistic church. We believe in salvation by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in separation from all worldliness and sin.

QUESTION: Would faith in "historic Christianity" include faith in miracles?

ANSWER: Yes, it certainly would. We believe in the plenary inspiration of the Scriptures—that's a miracle. We believe in the virgin birth of Christ—that's another miracle. We believe in Christ's vicarious suffering, and His physical resurrection, and His actual ascension into heaven. Those are miracles. We believe in all the cardinal doctrines of Christianity as held by the early Christian church, including the New Birth. There is no greater miracle than the New Birth, by which a person is born into God's Kingdom.

QUESTION: How about healing miracles—do you believe in them?

ANSWER: We sincerely believe that God answers prayer and performs miracles in human bodies today, just as He did in Bible days. Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you." If we do not see miracles, it is because we lack faith. If Jesus does not heal, it is because people do not expect Him to do so. But He has healed thousands of people in our churches. Sick people are being healed every week because Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

QUESTION: Do you teach it's wrong to go to doctors for medical help?

ANSWER: No, the members of our churches decide for themselves whether they will go to doctors or not. Doctors can be a great blessing to sick people. But the Bible doesn't say, "Go to a doctor when you're sick." The Bible tells us to take all our needs to the Lord in prayer. The Bible says: "Is any sick among you? Let

What Christendom needs most is more of the Holy Ghost. . . .





We started 477 new churches last year. . . .

him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." That's in the Epistle of James, chapter five, verses fourteen and fifteen. It's God's prescription for sick Christians. A lot of ministers never pray for the sick; but more and more denominations are teaching this Bible truth to their people, and God is healing their members in answer to prayer.

QUESTION: What do you think of the international situation?

ANSWER: It is evident that the world has reached a great crisis. We believe the human race has reached the end of the present age and is passing into a new era which will bring great tribulation to the non-Christians but great triumph to the Christians. Our hope is not in the United Nations, nor in any nation. We are loyal Americans. We mean to support our country and its government, its constitution, and its flag against every adversary. But our strongest hope is placed in Christ and His personal return to this earth again. The Bible says He will come back, and it contains many prophecies concerning the events that will lead up to His Second Coming. These prophecies have been fulfilled, and therefore we believe He will return to earth very soon. This is the hope that brings light into the darkest situation. It is the message people need to hear in these days when human hearts are tormented with fear.

QUESTION: What will happen to the inhabitants of the earth when Christ returns?

ANSWER: The Bible teaches that Christ will make war against His enemies and subdue them by force. Then He will rule over the nations with an iron hand, and there will be world peace for a thousand years. That will be the golden age that men have always dreamed about. But before Christ returns publicly in the role of a Con-

queror, He is going to return secretly in the role of a Bridegroom to take away His Bride. We can all be members of His Bride if we are saved, cleansed from all sin, loving Him and serving Him when He comes.

QUESTION: Do you think this doctrine is helping your church to grow so rapidly?

ANSWER: Yes, it gives people a hope, an expectation. There is nothing that will cheer the hearts of Christians in troubled times like the hope of the Second Coming.

QUESTION: Is there any other doctrine you would particularly like to mention?

ANSWER: I'd like to mention the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, for that is the doctrine that makes our church different from most churches. The Lord has been very kind to us. He has baptized us with the Holy Ghost, just as He did the men and women in that upper room at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. He has caused us to "speak with other tongues, as the Holy Ghost gave utterance." We have no controversy with those who do not believe in this doctrine. We will not argue with them as to whether "speaking in tongues" is the evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. But we are convinced that it is, both from our study of the Scriptures and from personal participation in the experience. We believe, as do millions of godly people, that the Lord Jesus Christ, in our day, is restoring the full apostolic gifts of the early church age. In the particular stress and strain of the present distress, as we approach the time of the world's greatest tribulation, God has provided the proper counterbalance, and counteraction, and recompense for us in this glorious Baptism of the Holy Spirit. What Christendom needs most in these crisis days is more of the Holy Ghost. We ministers and members of the Assemblies of God are seeking to honor the Holy Ghost. We know something of His power, His anointing, and His gifts, and our church has grown according to the measure in which the Holy Ghost has had His way in our lives. We give Him all the praise.

QUESTION: Then you would say that your church is different from most churches?

ANSWER: Yes, our meetings are very lively. The people join in the singing, the praying, and other parts of the meeting with all their hearts. Our worship is informal. When we go to church we expect things to happen. We expect people to get saved, or healed, or filled with the Spirit. There is an air of expectancy in our meetings, and there is a note of reality. We believe in the supernatural. We welcome the manifestation of God's presence in our churches. I think that's what makes our meetings different.

QUESTION: Are visitors welcome?

ANSWER: Yes, indeed. The public is invited to all of our meetings. Visitors will find a warm welcome and a friendly atmosphere at any church of the Assemblies of God.



No more need of crutches!

"The Lord Healed Me"

A Personal Testimony by Marian Neff, R.N.

most constantly. I noticed the staggering was worse at night. I returned to work and by being very careful not to become overly tired I was able to remain active for another four months.

Then, in November of 1954, the staggering re-appeared and was present any time I tried to walk, day or night.

Upon the doctor's recommendation I came back to the United States.

Immediately upon my arrival in Springfield, Missouri, in February 1955 I consulted a neurologist. The results of his examinations and tests, physical and laboratory, proved to his satisfaction that I was afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis.

The staggering was severe and my ability to judge distance was badly impaired. My vision was also affected.

The doctor suggested that I try walking with a cane, then with two canes, but the canes did not help. After this he suggested using crutches. The crutches helped, and with the crutches I could walk straight. But I was growing progressively weaker.

These months were a great trial to my faith. I was praying for healing. Many folk were praying for me also, and I was sure that God would heal me—but I wondered how much longer I would have to wait!

I attended summer school at Central Bible Institute and my condition continued to grow worse. I staggered when I got tired, even with the crutches. More and more often the headache seemed almost unbearable. But God knows how much we can stand and He never forgets us.

The biennial general council of the Assemblies of God was to convene at Oklahoma City just before the start of the fall semester of school, and I decided to attend. I am glad I did for it was there that the Lord healed me.

It happened on September 5, 1955. After the sermon had been preached that night, the general presbyters prayed

for all the sick folk who were present and who wanted to be healed. They anointed each sick person with oil according to the instructions in the Bible (see James 5:14), then laid their hands upon them and prayed that God would heal them.

When they prayed for me I did not notice any immediate change. Within an hour, however, I found that I could walk straight without the crutches, and my headache vanished. You can imagine my joy!

The next day I could still walk straight, and the headache was still gone. Also, my vision cleared up and I had no difficulty judging distance. Oh, how thankful I was for the kindness of the Lord to me.

About two weeks after my healing I went to see the neurologist who had examined me. He was amazed at my recovery. I am now doing full-time nursing and am so glad I can help the patients instead of being one of them!

Over eleven months have passed since God healed me and I am in excellent health. There has been no recurrence of the disease whatever. I give all the credit for my recovery to the miracle-working power of Him who answers believing prayer.

I AM A REGISTERED NURSE. IN 1949 I went to India under appointment by the Foreign Missions Department of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. After serving as a missionary in India for five years I was stricken with Multiple Sclerosis and was returned to the United States.

Medical science has not yet found any cure for this disease, but God is omnipotent and He still heals today. How do I know? He healed me!

The trouble began in March of 1954. While in Landour, U. P., India, I started having headaches. I was hospitalized for about ten days, but the headaches did not stop. I went back to work, however, and aside from the almost constant headache I felt fairly well.

In May I noticed that the headache was much more severe than at any time previously. Also I noticed that I staggered slightly when I walked. I was again hospitalized and during the next few weeks the staggering gait grew markedly more severe. I could not even stand still, to say nothing of walking straight.

After a few weeks I improved so that I did not stagger except when I became tired. But the headache remained al-

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CANCER CAN BE CURED! HERE ARE words which at once excite hope in the human heart, words which we all welcome, because even though we may not personally suffer from cancer's dread malignancy, we are all acquainted with those who do.

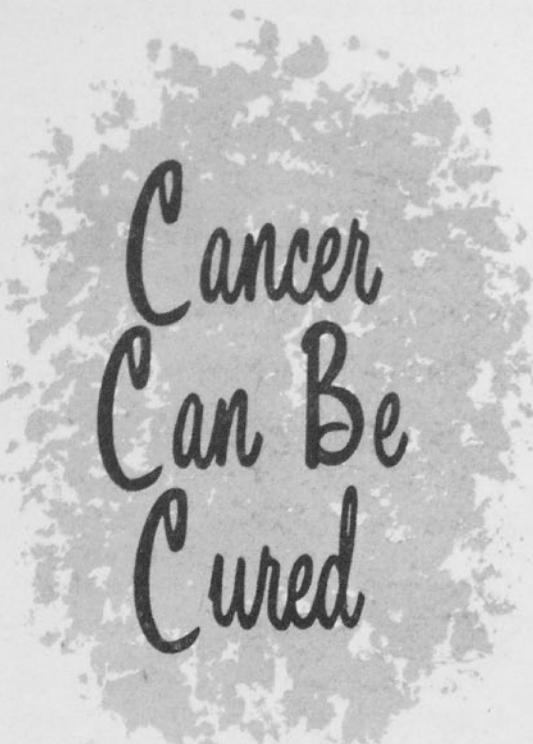
It is difficult to exaggerate the menace of cancer. The death toll left in the wake of this disease is tremendous. Only heart disease is responsible for more deaths in the United States. But even death is not cancer's most horrible aspect: the discomfort, the suffering, the excruciating agonies endured by its victims are almost beyond description.

One factor which makes cancer difficult to cure is that so often the malignant growth is discovered too late for treatment. Cancer may be active in the body long before it is recognized. An acquaintance of the author did not know she had cancer until one week to the day before it took her life. Neither did her physician realize it. He had been treating her for a nervous stomach.

In this respect, a ray of hope on the cancer-cure horizon was sighted some months ago when a device called the *cyto-analyzer*, an electronic cancer detector, was invented. Many specialists expect this implement to bring science a step closer to conquering cancer. Since many kinds of cancer are curable when recognized early, this invention doubtless will prove a blessing.

However, the knowledge that a person has cancer can be more torturing than ignorance of his condition if there is no treatment available to arrest the disease. Thus medical men are working hard to discover new and better cures. Late in 1955 many newspapers headlined a story of one of the most recent developments in cancer research with the words, "Breakthrough on Cancer Front May Be Coming Soon." The article related to research with an anti-cancer chemical called "Tem" used in conjunction with increased body temperature. This treatment remains in the experimental stage, but the progress is very encouraging. *Tem* may soon be curing cancer on a large scale.

But cancer will not wait for an absolute antidote. Thus many victims are resorting to available cures. Many claim benefits derived from the Hoxey treatment. Others undergo X-ray and



by Raymond L. Cox

radium treatments. Still others submit to surgery, but in many cases that proves to be simply a race between Father Time's scythe and the surgeon's knife.

But there is *another* cure for cancer available. It is called *Divine Healing*. This is administered by the Great Physician.

God *can* heal cancer! He has declared, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27). "I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). No cancer is too hard a case for our Heavenly Father. God *can* heal cancer!

Moreover, God *will*. His promises of healing for the body do not exclude cancer. In Exodus 15:26 He proclaims, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." That scripture does not add, "of everything but cancer." In First Peter 2:24 we read, "By [his] stripes ye were healed"—and this statement is not qualified by the stipulation, "of everything but cancer." Indeed God "healeth *all* thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3). God will heal cancer.

But, best of all, God *does* heal cancer. The author remembers an old saint of God who carried in a bottle of alcohol the cancer God removed from his lip in answer to prayer. When he testified of his healing he said nothing; he merely displayed the bottle. It was an effective testimony, although it made many cringe. No one could tell that brother that God did not heal cancer!

And there are thousands of other Christians who have had deliverance from this foul disease. *God will heal cancer.*

The cure for cancer is included in the redemption of the body. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Galatians 3:13).

Cancer is involved in that curse! Deuteronomy 28 says so! Twelve specific sicknesses and diseases are there enumerated, and verse 61 adds: "... also *every* sickness, and *every* plague, which is not written in the book of this law." That takes in cancer!

Now if cancer is in the curse its cure is in the redemption, for "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse" (Galatians 3:13). His atonement makes available a complete deliverance. Divine healing constitutes a powerful remedy for cancer.

But there is also another kind of cancer that is covered by our Lord's redemption from the curse; namely, the noxious growth of *sin*. It is fully as dangerous and as deadly as physical cancer.

Christians rejoice whenever medical science makes progress in the fight against any disease. We are thankful for every person whose health is restored in one way or another. But deliverance from the spiritual cancer of sin furnishes a greater reason to rejoice.

Spiritual cancer is more widespread than physical cancer, for all men are afflicted until they are cured. Here is the divine diagnosis: "All have sinned." "... The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (Isaiah 1:5, 6).

In the foregoing passage the prophet was not talking about patients in a pesthouse. He did not refer to victims of a contagious disease, or the inmates of some hospital or clinic. His subject is not physical disease at all, but rather the spiritual sickness of sin. The cancer of sin is widespread, universal.

Sin, like cancer, may have a microscopic beginning, but its tentacles will reach out and invade every part of the soul. This is infinitely more *serious* than sickness of the body. If you die of

“I Shall Return!”

Christ will keep His promise—and the signs of the times indicate His second coming will be very soon.

IN THE DARK DAYS OF 1942, AS THE Japanese forces tightened their grip on the Philippine Islands, General Douglas MacArthur had to leave; but before he departed he gave his Filipino friends a promise. He said, “I shall return.” And he kept his word. After directing the victorious sweep of the American forces as they fought back across the Pacific, he returned in person. It was a dramatic moment when the General waded ashore at Manila and announced, “I have returned.”

One of the most precious statements in the entire Bible is the promise Christ made to His disciples: “I will come again.” We are still waiting for His return, but the “signs of the times” lead us to believe His second coming will be very soon. Let us notice four points concerning this great event:

1. THE PROMISE OF HIS RETURN

When Jesus was ascending back to heaven, the apostles watched him go up; and as He disappeared from their sight they heard the angels say: “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye

have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). This reminded the apostles of His promise to “come again.” It assured them that He would return in a cloud, just as He had ascended in a cloud, and that He would come in a bodily form—“this same Jesus.”

2. THE PATTERN OF HIS RETURN

The New Testament is full of references to the second coming of Christ. It teaches that He will come secretly and take away all the born-again Christians who are ready to go into heaven with Him; and that soon afterward He will make a great public appearance when “every eye shall see Him.” The pattern of His second coming is given very clearly in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. The Christians (not the sinners) will meet Him “in the air,” before His feet ever touch the earth.

3. THE POWER OF HIS RETURN

Our Lord’s coming will produce a twofold effect. It will mean rapture or resurrection for the righteous. Sorrow, crying, pain, disfigurement, and death shall be known no more by them. But it will mean terror for all who do not love Him. The Bible says that Christ is going to make war against His



Painting by Gottlieb Biermann

enemies and become ruler over all the world.

4. PREPARING FOR HIS RETURN

Jesus said, “Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not” (Luke 12:40). There will be no advance warning to give anyone time to get ready. Those who are wise will get ready now, without delay, by turning away from all sin in heart-felt repentance and by trusting in Christ as their personal Saviour. The Bible says, “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). Call upon Him this very hour. There is power in the precious blood that Jesus shed on the Cross to cleanse your heart from all sin. Ask God to give you a clean heart and a new life, so that you can rise to meet Christ when He comes and not be left upon the earth to suffer with the ungodly.

(Continued from preceding page)

physical cancer you still may go to heaven, and you won’t have cancer there! But if you die with sin diseasing your soul you will be lost forever. Far better to suffer here and have heaven hereafter than to have health here and hell hereafter.

Doctors on earth often have difficulty in diagnosing cancer. But the Great Physician of body and soul knows its existence in every case. God sees at all times the sin which ravages the human soul. But before spiritual cancer can be cured it must be recognized by its victim. Therefore, as science has its *cyto-analyzer*, so also God has *His* sin-detector, the Holy Spirit. “He will re-

prove the world of sin” (John 16:8).

Once a victim of sin has accepted the divine diagnosis he must submit to the cure—an infallible cure. “The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” Never has this remedy been applied without effecting a complete cure!

Yes, *cancer can be cured*, both physical and spiritual diseases. If your body is afflicted with cancer or any other disorder, God will heal you if you will believe. Time after time Jesus addressed the sick, “According to your faith be it done unto you” (Matthew 9:29). “Thy faith hath made thee whole” (Matthew 9:22).

God is still in the healing business. You *can* be healed if you *believe*. You

can believe if you *will*! If you *won't* believe—then by all means seek relief through the best earthly remedies. For most victims of physical cancer can be helped.

But suppose your cancer is spiritual! It is, you know, until you have recognized your condition through the X ray of Holy Ghost conviction. If sin diseases your soul, have it removed by the cleansing power of the blood of Christ. Otherwise, the results are sure to be fatal. “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). But those who are delivered from sin through the saving power of Jesus Christ will enjoy *eternal* life in a land where there is no more sickness, pain, or sin.

THIS PRESENT WORLD

NEWS AND NOTES ON OUR TIMES

The High Cost of Crime

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover reports that crime costs the U. S. \$14.00 for every dollar given to churches. The cost of crime is almost \$20 billion annually.

Hasn't Missed Once in 81 Years

Jennie Culbertson Powers, Philadelphia, who seems to be the undisputed champion for an unbroken record of Sunday School attendance, has completed her 81st year of perfect attendance. Yes, 81 years without missing a Sunday. She is a Presbyterian and is 85 years old.

Beverage Alcohol Is a Killer

A state police study of Delaware's traffic accidents revealed that intoxication played some part in 63 per cent of the fatal accidents which occurred in the state last year. Similar reports come from all parts of the U.S. How long is America going to tolerate this highway menace?

No Lung Cancer Among Yemenite Jews

For the past fifteen years there has not been a single case of lung cancer reported among Yemenite Jews. Dr. Kalman J. Mann, director of the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel, made this disclosure at a meeting in New York. He stated that Yemenite Jews do not smoke cigarettes, and that his medical organization has started a large-scale investigation among these Jews "to study their diet (and) living conditions in an effort to discover the cause of this phenomenon."

Soviets Appraise Missionary Societies

The new official Soviet Lexicon explains a missionary society as "one of the forms of religious and political activity which has been developed by church organizations. . . . The Christian missionary society is a tool for aggression and the repression of the colored races.

"In our day," the official explanation continues, "missionaries are secret agents and saboteurs in the service of imperialistic nations. The missionary schools seem to be teaching Christianity, but their purpose is to strengthen the position of capitalists in backward countries."

What the lexicon does not say is that natives who are truly converted to Christ very seldom fall for the Communist line.

Family Clinic Saves Many Homes

The Family Clinic, founded in Oklahoma City after divorces outnumbered marriages for several successive years in that state capital, has enjoyed a great deal of success in its battle to save homes threatened by divorce. Out of 438 couples who have sought help at the clinic, ninety per cent have saved their marriages and their homes. In some of these cases couples already divorced were brought back together.

The Oklahoma City agency provides a panel of four specialists, strangers to the couple having marital difficulties—a clergyman, physician, lawyer, and a businessman. The couple is invited to appear before the panel of four ad-

visors who consider the case objectively. Both the husband and wife attend together, and each must agree to keep silent while the other speaks, and then to follow as closely as possible the panel's suggestions. The average counseling session lasts four to five hours. Usually there is further counseling later, in one of the four areas represented on the panel—spiritual, medical, legal, or financial.

After nearly ten years of operation, the Family Clinic has concluded that lack of spiritual ties is the foremost factor in marital unhappiness. The Clinic says that no couple working actively together in a church has ever consulted it.

Long range aim of the Clinic is the enactment of legislation that would permit the courts to call in similar panels in divorce cases. The Clinic also hopes to see education on family life become a regular part of the curriculum in public high schools and colleges "so that young people may avoid marital pitfalls before they get bogged down in them."

Counterparts of the Oklahoma City Clinic have been set up in Tulsa, Dallas, Washington, Detroit, Chicago, and also a number of smaller communities. The marriage counseling service is provided free.

Cross Is Newest Cattle Brand

A new mark adorns livestock grazing on Montana pastures. Alongside cattle bearing old established ranching symbols such as the Lazy E L, the Bar-O, and others, there are some with a new brand—the Christian Cross. The new brand is duly registered with the General Recorder of Marks and Brands in Helena, the state capital.

The cross brand symbolizes the good will of Montana ranchers toward less fortunate people in Asia and Europe. It is the property of CROP, the Christian Rural Overseas Program. By branding a calf with a cross, the Montana rancher gives it to CROP as his contribution toward the annual CROP drive for food for hungry people overseas.

Though cross-branded cattle do not all graze together in one pasture, the people of Montana have come to call them the "Lord's Herd," since the calves are given as an expression of Christian concern. They may be seen all over Montana grazing with their native herds.

The calves are allowed to fatten up until fall round-up time. Then they are separated and marketed. The resultant meat is packed or canned and sent to Church World Service relief centers in the hunger areas of the world.

The CROP program is not confined to cattle ranchers but takes in all rural America. Farmers in 18 states are sharing their harvests again this year with needy people overseas. In more than 50 countries, hungry people have been the recipients of over 271 million pounds of food given by Americans through CROP.



Cowboys holding calf with new CROP brand (circled).

Many sincere Christians recognize the fact that the churches in general need a reviving, a complete reformation of program and policy to bring them back to the Bible pattern. Only a courageous few will dare to step across fixed barriers of sectarianism and acknowledge that the Pentecostal way is still God's will for all His children.

A Baptist Minister's Story

by ROBERT C. DALTON

I WAS BROUGHT UP IN THE MIDWEST, in a strict Baptist family, in which there were numerous Baptist preachers. My father was a leading layman in his church. At my mother's knee I was told of the Precious Blood that saves from sin, and of the promise that Christ would come again. This teaching of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ has done more than any other doctrine in the Bible to keep me walking in close fellowship with Him.

God laid His hand upon me when I was a college student. At that time I came to certain conclusions, based upon my study of the history of revivals, as follows:

1. That real religious revivals are seldom recognized as such by the established denominations at the time they occur.

2. That in religious revivals of the past many peculiar manifestations occurred, such as quaking, shaking, and falling prostrate on the ground.

3. That even though well-meaning people affected by these revivals often went to extremes and excesses, yet by far the great majority became sane, moral citizens, whose lives influenced their communities in some cases for two or more generations.

4. That we ought not to limit God as to how He must work in the event that His Spirit again begins to move in genuine revival.

5. That we ought to expect some of the same manifestations in the present.

A short time after this, I heard of the Pentecostal phenomenon for the first time. The college professor was speaking on 1 Corinthians 14, and quoted certain verses as proof that this particular phenomenon could not occur, and that if it did occur it was of Satan. As he read and taught I followed him with my own Testament, and the same scriptures which led him to think it could not occur told me it could.

After graduating from college I went to a Baptist theological seminary where I put my whole soul into my studies and into the practical work of presenting the gospel in a great metropolitan area. I firmly believed that God would send a mighty Holy Ghost revival on a world basis, so in every sermon that I preached I attempted to uphold the cause of Christ as I saw it.

However, in the practical work of witnessing for Christ to individuals and in my regular ministry as pastor, I realized a very great lack of spiritual power in my life. As I read how Spurgeon stood in his London pulpit and proclaimed the gospel with such power that people came by the thousands and were converted, I was moved to pray with tears that God would give me this power.

It was just a month or so later when I mentioned to a fellow student something in connection with my heart's cry for more power to win souls to Christ, and he invited me to accompany him to a cottage prayer meeting. There I had a firsthand contact with the thing I was seeking. A young lady did the preaching, and although I had heard some of the greatest preachers from both America and the British Isles

I had never heard anyone proclaim the gospel with such great authority and power.

At the close of the meeting two or three of us interviewed the speaker and made an appointment to meet her the next day and question her further concerning the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. She opened up the teaching of the Scriptures on this subject in such a way that I became more eager than ever to have this Baptism. From this time on I sought the experience.

Although for my stand I bore various types of persecution, I never for one moment doubted:

1. That down through history, a religious experience subsequent to regeneration has been experienced by various individuals.

2. That a genuine experience of this nature appears today among many devout Christians.

3. That the experience is for each of us today, including me.

4. That the world needs a revitalized Christianity, based upon the individual Christian's experience of the Promise of the Father (as described in the Book of Acts).

5. That I myself must have this experience at any cost.

Later there was a prayer meeting which certain students who were attending the Baptist seminary will never forget. At this meeting one of the students received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Not only was I convinced by the Scriptures that the doctrine of the Baptism was true, but now I saw the Pentecostal phenomenon displayed in one of my fellow students. The student, empowered by the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues and sang the most beautiful melody I had ever heard.

During the summer we continued to hold our prayer meetings and we attended Pentecostal services both in churches and at camp meetings. When

(Continued on page fifteen)

Come, Holy Spirit

Spirit of Power! with heavenly fire,
Our souls endue, our tongues inspire;
Stretch forth Thy mighty hand,
Thy Pentecostal gifts restore,
The wonders of Thy power once more
Display in every land.

Spirit of Life! the dead awake,
The slumbering sinner's fetters break,
And set the captive free;
Speak with the gospel's ancient power,
And let us all this sacred hour
Thy great salvation see.

—A. B. Simpson



Divorce



is NOT the Answer

BEING A MINISTER'S WIFE, I AM IN a position to see the great harm done by divorce. There are times when divorce seems to be the only way out of a difficult marital situation, but it is actually an evil of our times that has caused the greatest of heartaches and ruined numberless lives.

Take Carol and Bob, for instance. It's true that Bob was a hard sort to get along with. He had many peculiarities and was quick-tempered and moody. Carol became pregnant shortly after they were married. With Bob's moods and her own discomfort, her pregnancy was a hectic one. Carol also had reason to suspect that Bob was unfaithful to her.

But after the baby arrived, things seemed to smooth themselves out. Carol returned to work, and she and Bob purchased a new home. Bob was a model father—and the baby, a darling little girl, worshiped her daddy.

Carol, however, was not a good housekeeper. In spite of having a lovely new home, it seemed that she could never keep her housework quite caught up.

She became irritable. She and Bob began to quarrel again.

One day, after a quarrel, she was so angry she packed her belongings, took the baby, and left. While still angry and hurt, she filed for a divorce.

Bob begged for another chance. He went to a marriage counselor, but Carol had made up her mind. The divorce became final.

But the story doesn't end there, for one of the saddest parts concerned their baby girl. The child could not adjust herself to spending time with strangers while her mother worked. When Bob took his child on week ends, she screamed and begged to stay with him.

Bob remarried, happily. Carol found someone else to care for her. But what of the child? She is the one who is suffering, torn between father and mother, never able to adjust to one

parent until she is taken to the other.

It is the children involved who suffer the most. No wonder they grow into maladjusted adults.

Or take Sarah and Joe. Joe had a problem with liquor. He was not a steady drinker, but once in a while he would go on a binge, lose his job, and get into debt. But because Joe was a top-notch in a skilled field, he could always find another good position.

Sarah and Joe had two boys, both devoted to their parents. In many respects Joe was a good father. He spent time with his sons, bathed them and put them to bed at night, even though he had worked hard all day long.

But Joe's binges became one too many for Sarah. She was "fed up" and filed for a divorce. Her friends advised her to discuss her problem with the priest (she was a Catholic), but she refused.

After the divorce, realizing that even with alimony she would not be able to support herself and her children, she decided to marry again.

Sarah found out too late that her second husband could not take Joe's place in her life. Sarah lives daily with a sorrowing heart. She must also live with the conviction that in the eyes of the Lord she is sinning by taking a second husband while her first is still alive.

How can we overcome the problem of divorce? By avoiding the steps that lead to it. The marriage vows are sacred oaths made before God. We must answer to Him if we break them.

Many young people go into marriage with the idea, "Well, if this doesn't work, we can always get a divorce." Such "trial marriages" have become the curse of our civilization. If all thoughts of divorce are dismissed from

the mind, then seemingly insurmountable problems become solvable.

Some have the theory, "Better to separate than to live miserably." But this is a selfish theory. When children are concerned, can we consider only ourselves?

I knew a couple who had seven children. They had marital problems and were considering a divorce. But after taking all things into consideration, they decided, for the children's sake, to keep their home together.

Now the children are almost grown and the parents are glad of their decision. The children realize that their parents do not have the complete happiness that many parents have together. But they have a good home, their love is not divided, and though minor frictions sometimes arise, yet there is laughter heard in that home. And those seven children have had the benefit of their parents' devotion.

Often time will remedy a situation—plus prayer. Sticking things out until they straighten out, praying continually, is usually the solution. Weigh the situation you are in at present. Then consider the situation a divorce would create. Your single state wouldn't be as blissful as you've dreamed!

Probably the reason I feel so keenly about this subject is that I suffered a broken home. While I feel that my mother may have been justified in obtaining her divorce, I also know her heartaches: years of dependence on her family; suffering at the hands of unfeeling relatives and friends; giving up her home and going to work; hearing her children explain to others, "Daddy doesn't live with us."

In later years we were blessed with a wonderful stepfather, one that completely filled the need of a daddy. But still unforgotten are the eleven years of heartache and confusion that we suffered. Most of all during those years I missed the companionship of a real

family, especially when I saw my friends with their families and the completeness of the family circle. Then, of course, we always had to explain that our name was different from Mom's—a constant reminder of divorce.

Divorce is not the answer to your marital problems. It is a black evil. Think before you marry; then after you are married, don't even consider a divorce. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

—Anonymous

FOR YOUNGER READERS

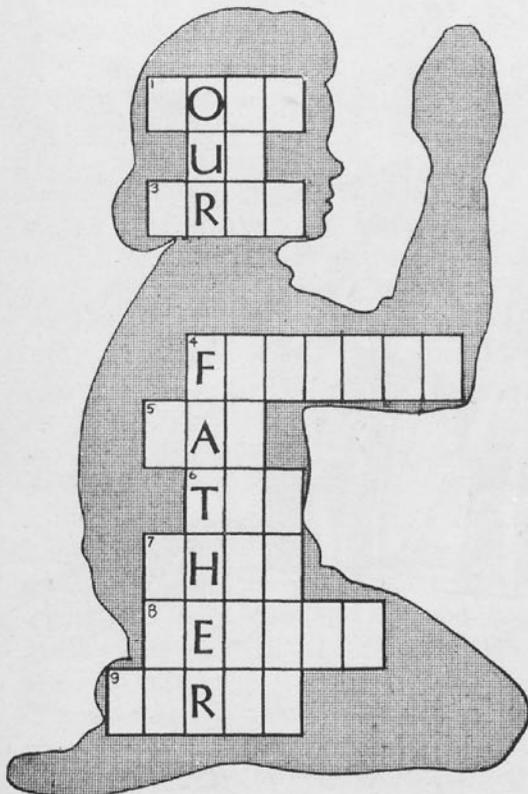
One day the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him to teach them to pray. The puzzle above is based on Jesus' answer to them.

To solve the puzzle, read the key verses below. When you come to a number instead of a word, look in your Bible for the word that should be there. (You will find it in Luke, chapter 11, verses 2 through 4.) When you find the word in the Bible, write it in the squares on the puzzle in the space with the same number. All words go across.

As you work the puzzle, ask Jesus to help you to learn to pray.

KEY VERSES:

"And he said unto them, (7) ye (3), (5), Our Father which art in (8), Hallowed be thy name. (6) kingdom come. Thy will be (1), as in heaven, so in (9). Give (2) day by day our daily bread. And (4) us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."



OUR FAMILY ALTAR

MONDAY

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 19:1-3, 12-26

TODAY'S GEM: "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32).

FOR THE PARENT: Two important truths from this passage are: (1) God will judge sin and sinners who persist in their wickedness; (2) God will have mercy and provide an escape from judgment for those who trust in Him. Christ is the only remedy for sin.

QUESTION TIME: Who was Lot? (Gen. 12:5) Why did God destroy Sodom? (v. 13) How many of Lot's family escaped from Sodom? (v. 16) What happened to Lot's wife? (v. 26) What lesson does this teach us? (To obey God)

PRAY for Jesus to cleanse us from all sin.

TUESDAY

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 22:1-14

TODAY'S GEM: "God will provide himself a lamb" (Gen. 22:8).

FOR THE PARENT: Point out (1) this was a severe test for Abraham because Isaac was his only son; (2) God wanted to be sure that Abraham loved Him more than anyone or anything; (3) Abraham was obedient to God; (4) God will supply all our needs.

QUESTION TIME: Who was Isaac? (v. 2) What did God ask Abraham to do? (v. 2) Why did God ask him to do this? (v. 12) Why didn't Abraham actually sacrifice Isaac? (vv. 9-13)

PRAY that we will learn that as we are obedient to God, He will supply all our needs.

WEDNESDAY

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 25:21-34

TODAY'S GEM: "Esau despised his birthright" (Gen. 25:34).

FOR THE PARENT: Esau and Jacob were the first twins. Point out how they differed. As firstborn, Esau was to have the largest share of the inheritance and a special blessing. But he despised this birthright and sold it for food. This should teach us not to take God's blessings and mercy lightly.

QUESTION TIME: Who were the first twins? (vv. 24-26) What was the birthright? (See above.) Why did Esau sell it? (vv. 29-34) What lesson does this teach us? (See above.)

PRAY that we won't despise God's blessings.

THURSDAY

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 34:1-4, 14-28, 31

TODAY'S GEM: "Those that seek me early shall find me" (Prov. 8:17).

FOR THE PARENT: Review the story of Josiah, the king who lived for God (see Sunday's Lesson page). Stress that revival came under his kingship because he sought after God. The book of the law, long lost, was found at this time, and it brought further revival to the kingdom.

QUESTION TIME: How old was Josiah when he became king? (v. 1) Was he a good king? (v. 2) What was the secret of his success? (v. 3) What important thing was discovered while he was king? (v. 14)

FRIDAY

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27:11-26 (Sunday's Lesson for Juniors)

GEM VERSE: "He was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth" (Isa. 53:7).

FOR THE PARENT: Jesus was gentle even when mistreated. Review the story of Jesus' unjust trial, stressing His gentleness. God wants us to be even-tempered and gentle at all times toward all people.

QUESTION TIME: What outstanding characteristic of Jesus is seen here? (v. 14) Why did the Jews bring Jesus before Pilate? (v. 18) Did Pilate find Jesus guilty? (v. 24)

PRAY that we may be more gentle at home, school, and in our play.

SATURDAY

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 19:11-16; 20:11-15; 21:1-8 (Sunday's Lesson for Primaries)

TODAY'S GEM: "I will come again" (John 14:3).

FOR THE PARENT: Before Jesus went to heaven, He promised to come back to earth again. His coming will have two purposes: (1) to reward those who believe on Him and are faithful to Him; (2) to judge the wicked and the unbelievers who will be cast into hell.

QUESTION TIME: How do we know Jesus is coming again? (John 14:3) Why is Jesus coming back to earth? (See above) What must we do to be ready for His coming? (Accept Jesus as our Saviour and live for Him every day.)

PRAY that we will be ready for Jesus' coming.

SUNDAY'S LESSON



THE KING WHO LIVED FOR GOD

2 CHRONICLES 34:1-5, 18-21, 26-28

“The remembrance of Josiah is like the perfume of the apothecary, and his name is like music at a banquet of wine”—so says one writer in singing the praises of Judah’s last godly king. Why such a tribute? Because Josiah rose above circumstances of great evil and “turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses.”

JOSIAH’S EARLY DEVOTION (2 Chronicles 34:1-7).

When Josiah was only sixteen he began to seek God. And when he was but twenty he began a zealous all-out effort to rid Judah of idolatry and wickedness! Yet how easily he might have excused himself from the obligation to live a godly life! For example: (1) He was the son of a dreadfully wicked father. (2) He was the grandson of a still more wicked grandfather, Manasseh. (3) He was brought up in a court full of corruption—and childish innocence is soon lost in such an atmosphere. (4) There is no record that he had any spiritual advisor. Yet Josiah rose above all disadvantages and walked unswervingly with God!

JOSIAH FINDS GOD’S WORD (2 Chron. 34:8-17).

When he was twenty-six, Josiah began to repair the temple which had been for so long neglected and unused. While this work was being done, Hilkiah the priest found in the temple the book of the Law!

How had such an important book been lost? When Manasseh abolished the worship of Jehovah and the temple furniture was removed from its place, the sacred book was mislaid and lost. But how and why is God’s Word lost today? (1) *Through sin.* If we do not wish to obey the Word, we shall not want to read it. “This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book,” is a very true saying! (2) *Through neglect.* A Bible in the home is not protection against sin; but the Bible in the heart is! (3) *Through overfamiliarity.* Unless we live in the Spirit and our hearts are tender, we shall find that familiarity with old truths may cause us to miss their blessing and power and deeper meanings!

BLESSED BY THE WORD (2 Chron. 34:18-28).

When Josiah heard God’s Word and realized how far Judah had departed from it, he rent his clothes—an outward action which typified his inward condition of heart-broken sorrow. In great concern he sent messengers to the prophetess Huldah to ask if and how judgment might be averted. Her answer was that judgment must fall upon Judah but that Josiah himself would be spared because of his attitude toward God’s Word and will.

Josiah heard God’s Word reverently, allowed it to soften

his heart, humbly recognized its authority, and put it into practice resolutely and uncompromisingly. How ought we regard it? (1) It should be read daily (Luke 4:4). (2) It should be read in dependence upon the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9-14). (3) It should be read thoughtfully (Psalm 119:97; Luke 2:19). (4) It should be applied to one’s life; its promises, encouragements, warnings, exhortations, and rebukes taken to heart (Jer. 15:16). (5) It should be obeyed implicitly (Matt. 7:24-29).

PRACTICING GOD’S WORD (2 Chron. 34:29-33).

Josiah was a doer as well as a hearer. He translated his emotions into actions. God’s Word had been ignored, disobeyed; this could continue no longer. Gathering all the people together, he read the Law in their hearing and made a covenant with the people that they should serve the Lord. The people agreed. Idolatry was wiped out; the Passover reinstated.

When Josiah began his work of reform, he had not one chapter or verse of the Law to go by. He simply walked in what light he had. The result was that one day he received the entire Word! He proved the truth of the words of Jesus—“If any man will do his will, he shall *know* of the doctrine.” Many people say the Bible is not true because they cannot understand all it says. But that is putting the cart before the horse! Jesus says that if a man will obey God’s Word, assuming it to be true, he will receive assurance that it is true!

Many people get spiritually muddled and try to reason their way out. Our lesson makes it clear that the way out of spiritual muddle is not by reasoning but by obedience. If we obey the light we have, more will assuredly be given!

—by J. Bashford Bishop

GOOD GOVERNMENT



When the righteous are in authority, The people rejoice.
Prov. 29:2

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN

IT MAY BE A SHOCKING STATEMENT to say that many people living all about us do not know what it means to be a Christian, and yet a simple experiment will prove the truth of the affirmation. Go to a prominent corner of your city, stop the first ten people that pass you, and ask them the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian?" Nine out of the ten will answer in one of the following ways: They will say that it means to be honest, to be a good neighbor, to be a good lodge member, to obey the Golden Rule, to be confirmed, or to join the church. Not one of them has come within a mile of the true answer.

The tragedy of the situation is that even some of the people in the church are mistaken. They think they are right with God because of decency, respectability, membership in an organization, or mental assent to a creed. All of these four things are good and commendable, but they do not make a person right with God.

Who is a Christian, and how can a person be right with God?

A Christian is one in whom Christ dwells: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

A Christian is one who has been made a partaker of the divine nature (see 2 Peter 1:4).

A Christian is a new creation: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

A Christian is one who has had a miraculous experience of the new birth, so that he has passed from the realm of death into the realm of life and has received eternal life. "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

A Christian is one who has the witness of the Spirit in his heart that he is a child of God: "The Spirit himself

bearth witness with our spirit, that we are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:16).

A Christian is one who, by his life, reveals that he has a new nature, a new disposition, and a new objective in life. His supreme desire is to honor and glorify Christ by conduct and testimony.

* * *

It has been said that a Christian is one who believes what Christ believes, hates what Christ hates, and loves what Christ loves. *What does Christ believe?* A study of the New Testament will answer that question. The individual who has the divine nature will, of course, believe what Christ believes regarding the Bible and concerning God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. *What does Christ hate?* He hates sin in all its forms, and the person who has a new nature will share that hatred. *What does Christ love?* He loves truth and righteousness; He loves men and women, boys and girls. The one who has Christ dwelling within will love the souls of his fellow men.

A Christian is a person who has experienced Christ's miracle-working power in his life. He is right with God and in contact with God, and he is on his way to God's eternal home. Let me ask you frankly and tenderly: *Are you a real Christian?* Has the Holy Spirit done a real work of conversion in your heart?

The question naturally arises: How can one become a Christian? God has the answer: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom. 10:9).

Two conditions of salvation are stated here. First, it is necessary to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. That trust in the risen Lord involves, of course, belief in the atoning death of Christ:

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3). If the question be asked, "What does it mean to believe in Christ?" the answer is found in John 1:12: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." To believe on Christ is to receive Him as a personal Saviour.

When we so accept Christ, and repent of our sin, the Spirit of God through the Word of God performs the miracle that makes us the children of God. We then rest in the word of our Lord: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37), and we meet the second condition of salvation, which is to "confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus." For the Word of God says: "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10).

Have you received Christ and confessed Him as your Lord and Saviour?

—Selected

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**THE EVANGEL IS THE WEEKLY
VOICE OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**



We Believe in MISSIONS

by MELVIN HODGES

AT THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH century, God again poured out the Holy Spirit on His Church in Pentecostal fulness. Apostolic signs and wonders were seen again, and the zeal of the apostolic church was reborn in the hearts of humble men who had received the Heavenly Flame. Within ten years, the fire spread across North America and circled the globe.

With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit came a renewed emphasis on world-wide evangelism. By true spiritual understanding, the purpose of the great outpouring was correctly interpreted as linked with missionary endeavor. Acts 1:8 became an important text: "*And ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*"

Men and women heard and answered the call to "*Jerusalem*" as well as the "*uttermost part.*" Inspired by unquenchable zeal and armed with unconquerable faith, these pioneer preachers took the full gospel message to city and countryside. They preached everywhere. Their message was heard in mission halls, on street corners, in tents, tabernacles, schoolhouses and churches. Sometimes they were accepted as God's messengers, but often they were persecuted as fanatics. Through their labor, faith and sacrifice, church groups sprang into existence throughout the nation.

The ministry of these early Pentecostal pioneers was not limited to America alone. The Holy Spirit's call to the "*uttermost part*" could not be denied by the faithful. Men and women—without proper support and backing by church boards—left country and kindred, asking only for the privilege of giving their lives to spread the gospel among the heathen. To a great measure these individual missionaries

were successful, but wise and spiritual ministers in the homeland realized that such unorganized, hit-and-miss missions activities would only end in misadventure, and perhaps permanent loss unless an organized program were set up.

One of the principal reasons for the formation of the General Council of the Assemblies of God in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1914, was to establish an agency to encourage and guide this world-wide missionary endeavor. From this humble beginning, the Assemblies of God has advanced rapidly. Today our churches have a recorded membership in the U.S.A. of 419,000 and our membership abroad, as a result of missionary endeavor, is slightly larger than that within the States. Our missionaries are found on every continent, carrying on full gospel work in 69 areas of the world, with special emphasis on the training of national ministers in 53 Bible Schools. In comparison with other American mission boards, the Assemblies of God now stands fifth in the number of missionaries, second in the number of countries occupied, and first in the number of training centers for National workers.

"Ye shall be witnesses . . . both in Jerusalem . . . and to the uttermost parts of the earth."

"Both . . . and!" As J. Oswald Smith has pointed out: this means at one and the same time. We witness at home, and at the same time we witness abroad. Our mission is both collective and individual—to reach all men and every man. At home, it is demonstrated by intensive evangelism; and abroad, by extensive missionary advance. It is the same Spirit which burdens the heart of the Sunday School teacher, as she endeavors to lead the members of her class to Christ, and which impels her to sacrificial giving when the missionary offering is taken. To win the lost for Christ, everywhere! That is the

goal of Assemblies of God Christians in America.

World evangelism—this is the very fiber of our program. Missions and evangelism are the very core—the main interest of our church life.

Look at the *Sunday Schools!* Our efforts to reach our own communities through the Sunday School has swelled the number of Sunday School members in our churches to over 805,000. Yet even in the Sunday School the needs of others in foreign lands are not forgotten. Our *Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade* educates the children in missionary vision and activity, and at the same time is a very effective aid to the missionary, supplying him with the literature he needs to carry on his work. Last year our boys and girls contributed \$61,360.76 to this world-wide missionary enterprise.

Then there are the *Christ's Ambassadors.* Here are thousands of young Christians who exemplify the same spirit of missions. Not satisfied with limiting themselves to activities within the church building, the C.A.'s have spearheaded such soul-winning efforts as the One-Eight Crusade, a tract distribution campaign. They have also organized groups of Christian youth in high schools and colleges for the purpose of reaching their companions for Christ. But perhaps their missionary vision is most clearly seen in their enthusiasm to put the gospel on wheels by their Speed-the-Light program, which supplies motor vehicles for missionaries. By last August they had provided over 1,050 vehicles for missionaries. Missionary giving for this one phase of our work has passed the two-million-dollar mark.

Missionary zeal is further reflected in the activities of the *Women's Missionary Council* which provides equipment for workers at home and abroad. One very important phase of W.M.C.

work is the canning and shipping of food for overseas missionaries. In these and a hundred other ways the true missionary spirit is manifested by our Assemblies of God women—all for the purpose of spreading the gospel around the world.

No occasion provides a better opportunity to sense the importance of world evangelism to the Pentecostal believers than when the regular monthly missionary offerings are received. These monthly offerings, are more than just gifts of money; they represent the outreach of hearts and lives to the ends of the earth. The people know the joy of giving generously and sacrificially to this great cause—to which so many have dedicated their entire life.

Today, thousands upon thousands of Spirit-filled Christians in the Assemblies of God share in this great ministry of world evangelism. They share in it because they have all partaken of the same Spirit of God which caused Jesus Christ Himself to give His life for others on the cross. They share in this ministry because they are close to the heart of God; and a church that stays close to God's heart must reflect His concern for perishing humanity.

This is missions—and this is our mission: *the realization of God's redemptive purpose in Christ Jesus for every creature*, and that purpose carried out in the power of the Holy Ghost by Spirit-empowered, consecrated men and women.

A BAPTIST MINISTER'S STORY

(Continued from page nine)

we returned to classes at the seminary in the fall, we were called before a faculty committee to answer questions concerning our experiences of the summer. The professors were very kind. They asked each of us to write a statement about the meeting in which one member of our group had received the Baptism. A short time later we were all placed on probation, pending our withdrawal from any further contact with the Pentecostal movement. At this time I made no promises, nor did I retract any of my Pentecostal views. Eventually I was removed from probation along with the others. For my Bachelor of Divinity degree I wrote a thesis on the Pentecostal phenomenon of speaking in tongues and its connection with the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

After seminary graduation I served a circuit of five Baptist churches, and thrilled at the opportunity to teach God's Word to people who through modernism were spiritually half-starved. As God moved among these people and as spiritual revival came to them, I began to preach the Pentecostal experience, even though I had not received it myself.

It was not until later, after I had become a chaplain in the U.S. Army, that I received the Baptism. My travels in military service back and forth across America and down to the Isthmus of

Panama gave me opportunity to meet Pentecostal people in many different places. Whenever I was free from my duties as chaplain I attended Pentecostal churches, staying for the after-meetings and praying at the altar. While stationed in the Northwest I regularly visited the local Assemblies of God church every Sunday night to "tarry" for the Baptism. I also set aside Tuesday nights for seeking God in the same church.

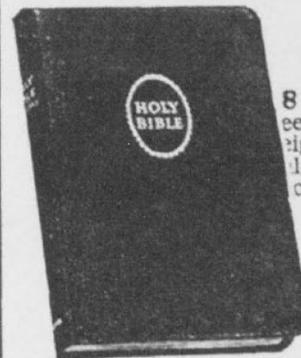
Finally while dining with some Pentecostal friends late one evening and while discussing the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for our sins, I became overwhelmed with the blessing of the Lord. Then and there God graciously and wonderfully filled me with His Spirit to the point of overflowing, and I myself received the promise of the Father with the same signs as recorded in Acts 2.

From that day to this there has been a new presence of God in my life. Whereas before I had walked entirely by faith, I now had within me a glorious supernatural proof of the fact that God was walking with me. There is a new spiritual power in my life. A fountain of joy and praise springs up within me again and again, refreshing my spirit. My only desire is to keep very close to the Lord Jesus Christ and to win many precious souls to Him.

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by Charles W. Denton



We Live in a Non-stop World

WE SPEAK OF SPENDING TIME, LOSING TIME, WASTING time, killing time, saving time, budgeting time. All of these are figures of speech but they tell us that time can be employed in constructive or destructive ways. Actually, it is not time which is wasted or budgeted, it is life itself. Time has no meaning apart from human beings.

A New York physician says that the greatest destroyers of human life are not heart disease or cancer but the telephone, the calendar, and the clock. The *telephone* "tyrannizes with its interruptions." The *calendar* reminds us of bills due, contract deadlines, and engagements to be met. And in this age of split-second timing the *clock* is always urging us to hurry.

There is a sign that appears every few miles on the Merritt Parkway in Connecticut, "*Stopping on pavement strictly forbidden.*" After seeing about twenty of these signs, the motorist gets the idea that he must keep going. These signs are symbols of the sad truth that we live in a nonstop world. No time is left for relaxation, meditation, and spiritual development.

There is only one answer to this situation and that is a well-ordered life in which first things come first. There must come a sense that, "I am responsible before God for my time." The Bible says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." In selecting the good things for your life, give priority to God's work. It is the only thing that will matter a thousand years from now.

And to help you cultivate your spiritual needs, don't overlook the Sunday School hour. It will bring blessing to your life because:

1. IT WILL ANSWER THE THREE MAJOR QUESTIONS OF LIFE. *First*, where did I come from? *Second*, Why am I here? *Third*, Where am I going? The Sunday School will teach that you came from the hands of God; that you are here to make preparation for the life to come; that Christ has gone to prepare a place for all who accept Him as Saviour. In brief, these are the only satisfactory answers to these three profound questions.

2. IT WILL HELP YOU TO BECOME A BETTER PERSON. The editor of a noted newspaper says, "It has been my experience

that youth of both sexes, and men and women in adult life, are in almost every instance better citizens because of the influence of the Sunday School classes."

The Bible is the textbook of the Sunday School. Consequently, by taking time to study God's Word you will be sound in doctrine; you will be led to see your sins and put them away. You will find discipline for the Christian life and training for all good works. The apostle Paul substantiates this by declaring to Timothy (2 Timothy 3:14, 15), "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

3. IT WILL BRING YOU IN CONTACT WITH CHRISTIAN PEOPLE. Your friends have a great deal to do with determining your character. The friendships that you form create an intellectual, moral, and spiritual atmosphere that you are constantly breathing, and your spiritual health is helped or hindered by it. In Sunday School you have opportunity to mingle with people of your own age who love to study the Bible, who can converse on spiritual themes, and who know how to pray. In addition, they are interested in working and bringing others to Christ. The spiritual and social aspects of life are satisfied, and life is made worth living.

4. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL IS THE GATEWAY TO THE CHURCH. It has been said that "Christ must be intelligently apprehended before He can be devotionally worshiped." The study of the Sunday School hour will help you in the apprehending experience and the church service will provide opportunity to worship God "in spirit and in truth." There is no worship apart from a revelation of Christ through the Word. Consequently, the Sunday School becomes a gateway to the church.

Take *time* next Sunday to attend Sunday School and enjoy some of the blessings that are in store for you. Everyone should have a deep concern for his eternal destiny. As someone has said, "My interest is in the future, because I am going to spend the rest of my life there."