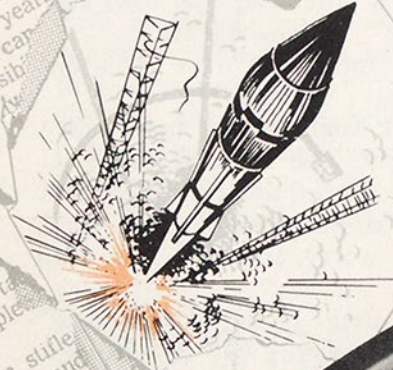


THE PENTECOSTAL Evangel

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



tax cut Hopes Almost Gone

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower's budget program... the hopes of taxpayers that in due time... budget director, Maurice H. Stanger... also said these programs... placed Eisenhower's prospective budget surplus of four billion dollars for 1 in "acute jeopardy."

ASROC is an integrated weapon system consisting of four parts — an underwater sonar computer, an electronic fire-control system, an eight-missile launcher and the missiles themselves. A salvo of medium range ASROC was shot at three targets. One was shot at long range. Visually they appeared right on target.



WHAT OF THE FUTURE?
THE BIBLE HAS GOOD NEWS FOR YOU - (SEE PAGE TWO)



What of the Future?



BY G. RAYMOND CARLSON

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, MINNESOTA ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

TROUBLED TIMES MAY LIE AHEAD, BUT THE BIBLE TELLS HOW WE MAY LIVE AS FREE FROM CARE AS DO THE BIRDS OF THE AIR AND THE LILIES OF THE FIELD.

THE HUMAN FAMILY FINDS ITSELF torn by grave fears. Great unanswered questions loom in the minds of many during their hours of serious thinking. Man is concerned about the future with its uncertainties. Poisons of pressure, worry, fear, and guilt plague people.

There is the possibility of sickness. "Will I fall prey to one of the killer diseases of our time?" Others fear calamities. For some there are major tensions in home life. They ask, "What is the solution?" Financial problems, worry about jobs, security for old age—all these add to the complexity of living.

With every move in national and international affairs our tensions increase; the cold war does its share to build up pressure. Peace and safety or sudden destruction is mankind's dilemma. It would seem that soon we shall carry the weight of the problems of the whole world on our minds.

The specter of fear of the future takes a terrible toll. Little wonder that tranquilizers and sleeping pills are being consumed by the ton. More than half of the nation's hospital beds are occupied by those who are mentally, rather than physically, ill. But dread fear of the future destroys people physically as well. It contributes to such sicknesses as high blood pressure, heart

trouble, ulcers, and a host of other afflictions. Truly the Bible is right when it states, "Fear hath torment" (1 John 4:18).

What is the answer to these needs? Can I know the future?

Men may predict and propose but God alone *knows*. We do not know what lies ahead in the next year, the next week, even the next day. Two Bible verses come to mind. The first is, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1). The other is, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is

your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

Does this mean that there is no answer to man's dilemma?

No, thank God, it does not. There is an answer! The Psalmist found it: "My times are in thy hand" (Psalm 31:15). A consciousness of this truth will banish worry and fear from our lives.

The very usage of the word "times" indicates that there will be changes. World-shaking events will transpire. The pattern of life can change drastically for any of us. During times of stress and suffering, there invariably is a quickening of interest in the future. The past is replete with instances of rulers surrounding themselves with soothsayers, crystal-gazers, astrologers, and magicians. The record stands—none of these have the answer.

Even though things may change in this world of sin and sorrow, there are some things which endure forever. They are unchangeable. "The Lord shall endure forever" (Psalm 9:7). "Thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end" (Psalm 102:27). We read further, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). How many pangs and tears would be saved if we would go to God's Word

BIBLE VERSE

LUKE 12:27



Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

in the midst of our difficulties, for the Word has an answer for every problem in life!


From this blessed Word we receive the assurance, "He that is perfect in knowledge is with thee" (Job 36:4). What a source of cheer and delight to remember that our Father knows—He knows it all! He knows the end from the beginning. In Proverbs it is put in this fashion, "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord" (Proverbs 16:33). To us it may seem that life is as a lottery. We cannot predict the future; nor can we control circumstances or the course of events. But God, the One perfect in knowledge, is with us. He knows all and controls all. Man proposes, but God disposes.

In the great Sermon on the Mount, our Lord Jesus reminds us to "Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" He reminds us also to "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin." And He concludes with, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." To leave our times with God is to live as free from care as do the birds of the air and the lilies of the field.

Remember, your heavenly Father holds all things in His hands. Why worry as though you must face the

"My Road Map to Heaven"

What the Bible Means to Youth



The Bible always has been and always will be the world's "best seller," for it contains the best code of ethics, the best rules on morals and human behavior. It maps out the road to heaven and becomes the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes its message.

The most precious moments of my day are those when I allow the Lord to talk to me through His precious Word. It is my weapon against temptation and, hidden in my heart, it keeps me from sin. It inspires me with courage and gives me hope for the future.

Therefore, the Bible means more to me than any other book in print, and I believe it is our greatest deterrent to delinquency. —Dean Baker

future without divine aid? Commit yourself, your family, and your future into His hands. He who cares for your times will care for you in eternity.

Have you placed your confidence in God? The nations seek a solution for the world's ills and devote much time to peace efforts. Summit conferences may fail. But you can have hope in the peace established at God's summit—the hill called Golgotha. There, at Calvary, God provided peace. There your future was settled for eternity. Now all you need do is to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

By accepting Jesus Christ—by re-

ceiving Him by faith and confessing Him as your personal Saviour—you can find peace and confidence for daily living and an assurance of His provision and protection for all time and eternity. Make your decision for Him today!

With such an experience you can face the future with the words of Major D. W. Whittle:

*"I have nothing to do with tomorrow;
Its sunlight I never may see.
So today, with the plow in the furrow,
In the vineyard I faithful would be.*

*"I have nothing to do with tomorrow;
My Saviour will make that His
care.
Its grace and its strength I cannot
borrow—
So why should I borrow its care?"*

Our Refuge and Strength

Apart from Christ we can do nothing. But while we abide in Him, nothing is impossible. Then let us guard against everything that would break our fellowship with Christ. Just in proportion as we do so, shall we find His strength flowing into us for every possible situation. We may not feel its presence, but we shall find it there whenever we begin to draw on it. There is no temptation we cannot master; no privation we cannot patiently bear; no difficulty with which we cannot cope; no work we cannot perform, if only our souls abide in Him. He is our refuge and strength.

—F. B. Meyer

"The Light of My Life"

What the Bible Means to a Newspaperman

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Those words in Psalm 119:105 tell what the Word of God means to me.

Regardless of the circumstances, the Bible is an aid, a comfort in time of need, and shows me how to live victoriously seven days a week.

As news stories herald menacing threats from across the world, and people lock themselves in waiting for the end to come, I study the Bible and understand why these things happen. And they fail to alarm me, since the Word holds out so many golden promises to all who will believe.

Seeing so many unsaved people all around me, I can find scriptures stored away in my memory with which to help these people when the opportunity comes.

And in my home, the Bible is a source of inspiration, strength, and joy to all our family.



—Emmett Maum



SUNDAY SCHOOL IS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

It would like to be your partner—to serve you by giving to your home and family the spiritual values you are wanting to give them.

BY BILLIE DAVIS

Christian Education Consultant in Latin America

THIS IS NOT PROPAGANDA. IT IS NOT a sales talk delivered for the purpose of trying to increase the attendance at anyone's church.

This is not a glowing description of the latest facilities and teaching methods and specialized departments of anyone's Sunday school.

True, there are such facilities, and they are interesting and worthwhile. The Sunday school of today does stretch itself to provide for every member of every family—to the extent of having, in some cases, classes for the deaf, physically handicapped, retarded children and adults, as well as specialized classes for such groups as career women, college students and pre-school toddlers.

Yet, the phrase "for all the family" has a deeper meaning. Emphasis is not placed on the Sunday school as such in this interpretation. The important concept is *for the family*.

The genuine issue for you is not the growth of some organization, worthy

though it may be. What matters to you is your own marriage, your home, and the well-being of your sons and daughters. The real value of the Sunday school to you, then, is not that it has certain superficial features, but that these features are *for* the family. It is not something to attract your family as a means of building attendance to mark on some record, but an out-going, wholehearted, enthusiastic and sincere effort to serve *your* family.



The Sunday school is for your marriage.

Not only is it eager to see you succeed thoroughly and happily in your married life, but it has spent much effort, study and dedication to see that you do. It offers you freely many of the essentials of joy and harmony in your marriage.

It is impossible to separate marriage from all religious considerations. Every student of sociology who has made a detailed study of marriage and its problems admits this. Every written attempt to list the qualities of a successful marriage includes references to harmony in religious beliefs and to the need for the development of altruistic attributes such as tolerance, unselfishness, tenderness, and honesty which are the practical outgrowth of true Christianity.

The Sunday school offers probably the best opportunity in existence for continuous, personal, active participation of both marriage partners in an

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with the doctrines of our church, the Assemblies of God, and evangelical Christian body having several thousand of churches in the U.S.A. and several hundreds of missionaries in foreign lands. You are cordially invited to write to the address at the left for further information and to send for a free sample copy of regular issue of this magazine.)

activity for moral and spiritual growth and development. Each partner has here perhaps his best opportunity to gain helpful, practical ideas and concepts from experienced Christians, from the discussions of Bible truths, and from the Sunday school literature. Each person has an opportunity to ask questions, to face his own shortcomings, to gain motives and strength and faith for self-improvement.

At the same time, the two partners are making common contacts and common friends. They are finding new and worthwhile topics for conversation. They are enjoying opportunities for joint participation in interesting and profitable activities. They are placed in the perfect position for gaining absolute spiritual unity as they worship God who originally declared that man and wife would be one flesh.



The Sunday school is for your family.

It exists to accomplish the same purposes for which the family exists. Or, to put it into less conventional grammar—the Sunday school is for all that the family is for. There are two elementary but important questions. First, what is a family? Second, what is a family for, or what is its purpose?

The word “family” is defined in various ways and its meaning has changed with changing cultures. However, the concept generally accepted in American culture is that the family is a group of persons related by blood or legal contract, usually consisting of father, mother and children, living under one roof. Such a group is bound together by altruism and affection and/or interdependence.

The central purpose of the family is to rear, protect and educate the young. Human families have developed stability primarily because of the long period of helplessness of the human infant. In some cultures the economic factor has been foremost in the development of more or less stable family life.

When all members of the family must contribute to making a living for the group there is a basic interdependence which leads to stability of a type.

Where there is less economic need and a highly developed culture, such as in the Hebrew civilization and in the modern United States, much of the family purpose lies in the education of the young. “Education” in this context means: (1) to pass on the heritage of the past (book learning, religious concepts, customs, skills); (2) to give stimulating and satisfying activity for the human faculties at the present time; (3) to discover and develop potentials for the future (such as the discovery and development of an “aptitude” for music).

When the economic factor is removed or weakened the family must be held together by other common interests. This leads to what is called the “democratic” family life of the present. This is to say, if the members are less dependent upon each other economically they should be less selfish in their reasons for family life. There should be more time to think of group and individual development. Each member should have certain rights, but at the same time be able to consider the rights of others. The flaw appears when “democratic” comes to mean a life that is disorganized and completely without direction, as often it does. If the economic factor is not strong, the only other factor which can keep a family stable and happy is that combination of affection and altruism which is known in the common term as unselfishness.

The Sunday school is for your children.

It provides well for the second phase of education—to supply stimulating, satisfying activity for the human faculties at present. Dad has spent much money on “educational” toys and Mom has spent much time devising games with this purpose in mind. Or, perhaps a television set has taken over the responsibility. Almost any neighborhood Sunday school offers some fascinating and worthwhile activities for the children, and good Sunday schools can keep even teen-age boys engrossed in problems and activities that make cowboy stories seem silly. Parents that do not try to obtain these advantages for their children are like folk who never use the free public library. They let good free things go to waste, as far as they are concerned, and thereby rob their families.



The third phase of education—the discovery and development of potential abilities—is a natural for the good Sunday school. Many students in high school and college who deliver reports with effectiveness and poise began by quoting memory verses in Sunday school. Skill in group discussions, democratic organization, music, art, social graces and general ability to feel comfortable and participate in class—all may be attributed to early help and guidance in the friendly informal atmosphere of a Sunday school situation.

The greatest potential that a human being has is to become a true child of God, through accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. Every good Sunday school teacher sees this high potential and works constantly toward its development. Neighbors may think a child is naughty or backward. Brothers and sisters may call him mean. Even parents may despair of him at times and wonder if he'll ever get over this or that stage. But the true Christian teacher sees him as a precious soul, a child of the King.

This is not propaganda. The Sunday school is for all the family, in that it is equipped to serve every age group. It would like to see all its chairs of different sizes and colors filled, of course. But the real point is that the Sunday school is *for you*—all the way. It is working and hoping and praying for the same things that you are—for your marriage, for your children, and for your family.





What Is The Assemblies of God?

BY THOMAS F. ZIMMERMAN

General Superintendent, Assemblies of God.

THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD IS A YOUNG, but rapidly growing body of churches. The organization was born in the fires of revival during the early part of this century.

Toward the latter part of the nineteenth century, and early in the twentieth, a deep spiritual hunger was engendered in the hearts of many Evangelical believers. Prayer bands met in various areas of the United States and of other countries. Bible conferences were held. In books and periodicals much was written about the condition of the church. With the awakened consciousness of the spiritual lack, cries ascended for revival.

God heard the cries for revival, for suddenly and almost simultaneously His Spirit was outpoured upon hungry groups in the United States, Great Britain, Holland, Germany, Norway, and Sweden, and among missionaries of various denominations in other foreign lands. This outpouring was accompanied by the same phenomenon—the speaking with other tongues—which characterized the effusion of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Since the beginning of that modern-day outpouring, the resultant Pentecostal movement has grown until today there are hundreds of thousands of Christians throughout the world who are filled with the Holy Ghost with the distinctive accompanying sign of speaking in languages they never learned. During these years there have been many well-authenticated instances of modern languages being spoken by those who never learned them. For example, in the late Pandita Ramabai's school in India the Hindu girls, who knew no English, spoke in clear and

grammatical English when filled with the Holy Ghost. The Assemblies of God, however, does not believe that these languages are given necessarily as a channel for gospel preaching, but as a sign of the infilling of God's Holy Ghost, and as a channel for conveying divine messages in conjunction with the supernatural gift of interpretation of tongues.

I. What Is the Organizational Structure of the Assemblies of God?

The primary unit is the local church, under the leadership of a pastor and usually a board of deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-15), who co-operate with him in the administration of the affairs of the church.

It has never been the purpose of the Assemblies of God to disassociate itself from other true Evangelical believers. This is testified by the fact that the denomination is a member of the National Association of Evangelicals, which is composed of various denominations of true Bible faith.

The first constitutional draft of the General Council, the governing body, was adopted at Hot Springs, Arkansas, April 2-12, 1914. It was recognized that the Lord Jesus Christ had already established His Church (Matthew 16:13-20) upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the head and chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20); and that He had constituted that Church as His body, inbreathed and administered in this dispensation by the Holy Ghost, the third person of the Godhead.

II. How Does the Assemblies of God Regard the Bible?

The Assemblies of God believes that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, in their original languages

of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, are the divinely-inspired revelation of God Himself and of His redemptive purpose to all mankind. The apostle Peter wrote, "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved [borne along] by the Holy Ghost." The organization further believes that the Bible is the infallible rule for the life and practice of Christians rather than the rule of an ecclesiastical hierarchy (2 Timothy 3:15, 16; 1 Peter 2:2).

III. What Does the Assemblies Believe About God?

It believes in the God revealed in the Bible and in creation; the eternally self-existent One; the sovereign Ruler of the universe, with all things sentient and physical under His control by decree or permission—the great "I AM." The denomination does not attempt to explain the mystery of God, but accepts the revealed fact of His existence (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29).

IV. What Does the Assemblies of God Believe About Jesus Christ?

It takes the conservative view of historic Christianity. Liberal theology denies the essential deity of Christ as the Son of God—God incarnate in human flesh. It merely would compliment Him by calling Him the greatest teacher who ever lived, the wayshower, the idyllic figure of humanity. The Assemblies of God rejects this view. Liberal theologians forget that if Christ was not what He claimed to be, the Son of God in a unique sense, He was obviously a liar, and one of the worst impostors the world has ever known, for He said, "I and my Father are one," and "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

The Assemblies of God believes fully

in the essential deity of the second person of the godhead, the Lord Jesus Christ.

V. What Is the Assemblies of God Position About Man, the Fall, and Redemption?

The Assemblies of God believes that man was created in the image and likeness of God, as a self-determining, self-conscious, world-conscious being, and that God endowed him with sovereign powers in relation to this earth and ultimately to the universe. Man's power of self-determination, of necessity, had to be tested and this test occurred in the Garden of Eden. He failed, but God did not abandon man; in fact, He anticipated that fall and prepared the way of reconciliation through His own Son, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Redemption was purchased by the sacrificial death of Christ, that Lamb, on Calvary, and now man (by personal acceptance of the merits of Christ's shed blood) can be forgiven of sin, and restored to God, and can have the evidence of that experience in his own inner being in the witness of God's Spirit. God took the initiative in man's redemption; now man must respond to God's grace (Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

VI. Is There Any Distinctive Doctrine That Sets the Assemblies of God Apart?

Yes, but only what is believed to be the standard for Christian experience for all time—the baptism in the Holy Ghost, accompanied by the sign of speaking in a language never learned. The Assemblies of God believes this dynamic vital experience was lost to the Church through unbelief, but that it is now restored to all who realize their privilege and who will receive it (Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28).

The Assemblies of God believes that the Church, a living organism, is charged with the responsibility of preaching the gospel to all the world, and that as God confirmed the Word in the Early Church "with signs following" He also confirms the Word today; thus, the world can and should still see miracles of healing and of supernatural deliverances from the power of sin, disease, and Satan (Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matthew 8:16-17).

VII. What Ordinances Does the Assemblies of God Practice?

Two ordinances are practiced. They are: the ordinance of the Lord's Supper under the symbolisms of bread and

"The Source of My Salvation"

What the Bible Means to an Educator



I owe my salvation to the Bible.

My father purchased a special study edition of the Reference Passage Bible when I was four years old. The Gospels were printed in four parallel columns with cross references printed in full in the otherwise blank spaces on each page. This Bible went with us as we moved from Missouri to North Dakota. There, twenty years after its purchase, this arrangement of scripture so concentrated the teachings of the Bible and so reinforced the doctrines taught, that in a time

of spiritual hunger I was thoroughly convinced of their truth and opened my heart to the gospel.

The Bible is the basis of all my spiritual experience. What I believe concerning God, as revealed in Christ, the nature of reality, personal duty, and human destiny, is based upon this book. The authority for my work and for the entire work of the church—and my personal hope in immortality and sharing the likeness of Christ in the world to come—is based upon the teachings of this book and the work of the Christ of whom it tells.

—Ward R. Williams

the fruit of the vine; and the ordinance of baptism by immersion, as the outward sign and testimony on the part of the believer to the inward work of grace, wrought by the Spirit of God in the "new birth."

The Assemblies of God does not baptize infants, but parents do dedicate their children to the Lord in public services.

VIII. What Does the Assemblies of God Believe As to the "End of the World"?

This expression, commonly used to refer to some cataclysmic destruction of all things, is more properly rendered "the end of the age." The Assemblies of God believes that this age is rapidly coming to a close. It believes that God is about to intervene in human affairs by sending judgment upon an ungodly world and an apostate church in a period called "the great tribulation." But it believes that when that judgment storm is over, Christ will set up His millennial kingdom on earth (Luke 1:32, 33; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Romans 11:26, 27; Revelation 19:11-14; Revelation 20:1-7).

The Assemblies of God sees in the modern phenomenon (after centuries) of a reconstituted nation of Israel one of the signs that the end of this present age is near.

IX. Does the Assemblies of God Believe in Heaven and Hell?

We must believe this if the Scriptures are a divine revelation. Christ said, "I go to prepare a place for you." Where did He go? Back to heaven. The same Jesus, from whose lips fell such words of love and grace, also spoke of a place "prepared for the devil and his angels," where "their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." To this place man goes only because of persistent rebellion against God. He goes there by refusing to receive grace and salvation through Christ (Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10-15).

X. In What Activities Is the Assemblies of God Engaging?

From its earliest days, the Assemblies of God has earnestly considered the spiritual development of its people through Christian education. With this in mind, the first Bible institute (Glad Tidings) was established in 1919 in San Francisco. This school, now known as Bethany Bible College, is located in Santa Cruz, California. In 1920, a Bible college was founded in Pasadena, California (now called Southern California College, located at Costa Mesa). In 1922, Central Bible Institute came into being in Springfield, Missouri.

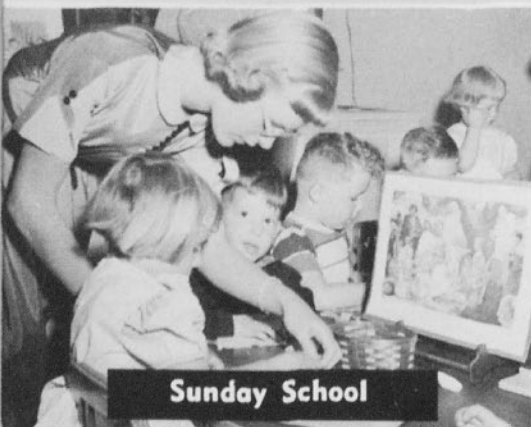
(Continued on page thirteen)

Assemblies of God -

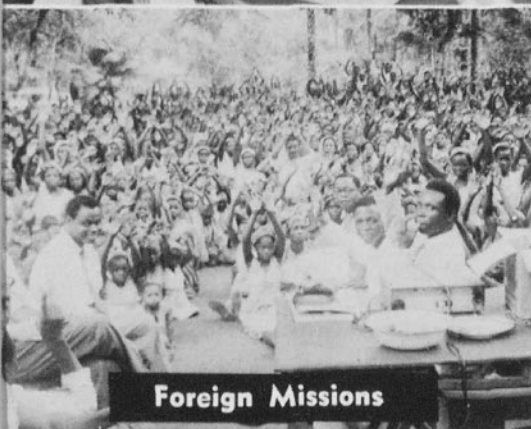
An evangelical missionary denomination



Worship



Sunday School



Foreign Missions



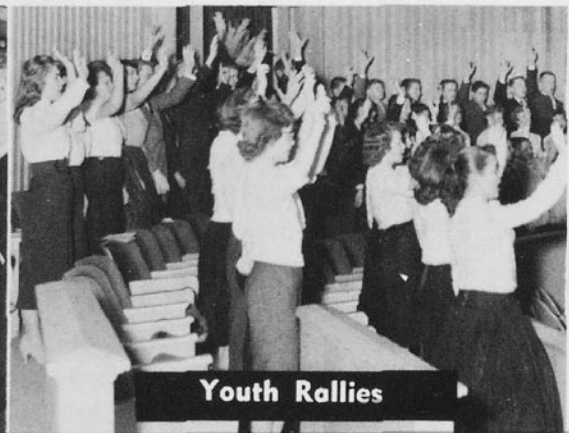
Evangelism



WMC Activities



Servicemen's Work



Youth Rallies

The thriving work of the Assemblies of God had its source among the grass roots of the nation. At the turn of the century God poured out His Spirit upon groups of people in unexpected places and with unusual, but scriptural, manifestations of His presence. Although different in so many ways, the people who received this experience had one common characteristic—they were hungry for more of God and thirsty for His blessing.

This Pentecostal revival spread like a prairie fire. There was no colorful individual to assume leadership. It was not centered in a strong personality nor was there any human being who could be called the founder of this revival. It could best be likened to spontaneous combustion.

Leaders arose, congregations were gathered together and churches were established almost overnight. It happened in metropolitan areas, in county seats, in villages and in rural areas. No one dreamed of creating a new denomination. God was blessing, souls were being saved, believers were being filled with the Holy Spirit, and who could withstand the work of God?

Eventually in April, 1914, a call was issued to the leaders of the churches where revival was occurring for the purpose of establishing a co-operative fellowship for mutual help, protection, and furtherance of foreign missions. Thus the organization of the Assemblies of God came into existence 46 years ago.

Today, the Assemblies of God still is a movement of the people. With over 8,000 churches in the United States and 12,099 churches and preaching points in other parts of the world, its program continues to be slanted to reach the people of the world with the message of the gospel. Its headquarters and nerve center at Springfield, Missouri, and the 44 district offices throughout the nation exist solely to serve the local churches and the people.

The People's Church

tion of over 8,000 growing U.S. churches

The heart of this great church beats with the throb of evangelism. Every facet of the program is geared to the purpose of winning souls. God's promise is for all the people. His commission is given to all. And those who understand this basic truth are engaged in bringing the good news to the people everywhere. Whether the specialized effort be in missions, literature, Sunday school, or among young people, the ultimate aim and the driving force is evangelism. Even the erecting of a new headquarters office building is for the purpose of making this world-wide evangelism program more effective.

As a custodian of divine Truth the Assemblies of God has a message for you. It comes from the Lord and reaches you and others through the local church in your community. There is an Assemblies of God church near you where this refreshing revival power can touch your life and you can meet God in a new way. (See coupon on page 11)

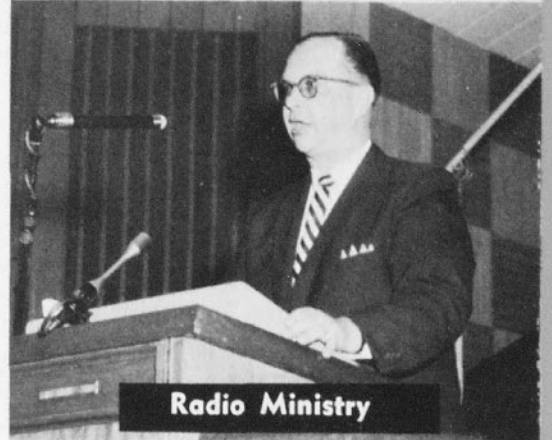
The Assemblies of God started among the people, has a message for the people, and reaches out to the people to point them to the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Rightly it can be called the people's church.



Benevolences



Home Missions



Radio Ministry





We Believe in Christian Education

BY FRED GREVE

Instructor, Bethany Bible College, Santa Cruz, California

ASSEMBLY OF GOD PEOPLE understand well and accept intelligently their responsibility for the Christian education of their youth. Although a revival movement, this church for decades has had a dynamic emphasis on Sunday school work and upon advanced education.

The seriousness of neglecting such responsibility is illustrated in a poignant little story in Jeremiah 14. When, because of adult delinquency, God visited the people with judgment and severe drought, it was the children who suffered. It is an awful thing when children suffer because of adult sin. It is equally bad if a church movement fails to provide a climate in which its youth can be nurtured.

The roots of Assemblies of God educational convictions are, therefore, very deep: as deep as the Scriptures and Early Church practices. Present educational policies are flexible and adaptive: adaptive within the limits of intelligent understanding of the Bible.

ANCIENT JEWISH PRACTICE

The transmission of religious truth among the Jews was an act of obedience to the command of God. The Jewish viewpoint was reflected in the Hebrew vocabulary. The word "teach" was the same word as that used for "discipline." Thus educational policy was strict and demanding. Early in Jewish history, the educational institution was the home, each parent being responsible for his own children. But what if a parent failed his duty?

Since the possibility of individual failure had such deep social implications, elementary schools were attached to synagogues in some villages by the second century before Christ. In A.D. 64 Joshua ben Gamala, the Jewish high priest, ordered the establishment of an elementary school in every village. Attendance was compulsory for every male child. Scribes to teach were selected with utmost care. These were

married men of maturity and character, and were held in high esteem among the people as the true defenders of the nation. School work consisted of counting, writing, history, the poetry of the Psalms, and the memorization of the Law.

Higher education was not neglected. It was recognized that if there were to be scribes, there would have to be teachers of scribes. Thus "houses of instruction" were established in the homes of prominent scribes.

EARLY CHRISTIAN PRACTICE

Christ commanded His disciples to evangelize the world. He taught that this life was a preparation for the next. The Romans, on the other hand, taught with the aim of preserving their mundane culture. Early Christian evangelism, because of its emphasis on the better life to come, appealed to millions of slaves and other unfortunates who suffered in pagan societies. To some of these people, education seemed unnecessary. However, some instruction for entrance to the church must be given for both Jewish and pagan converts and also for children. Hence meetings were held at weekly intervals, for religious instruction, moral training, and psalm singing. Instructors were the ablest men of the local church. These were called "catechumenal schools."

For more than two centuries these catechumenal schools supplied the educational needs of the church. Christianity, however, had begun to spread to the well-to-do pagans who wished a higher education for their sons. By the end of the second century conversions had been made among the teaching class: grammarians, rhetoricians, and even philosophers. These men transferred their skills to the educational work of the church. Clement, Origen, and others advanced the "catechetical schools," the name meaning "to teach orally."

As the cities became increasingly the center of life, each church assumed the responsibility to teach those in its area. Thus the "cathedral school" was born. It is to be observed that even though the so-called "schoolman" of the middle ages was guilty of silly and needless argumentation, the church was the only repository of knowledge in the dark ages.

THE REFORMATION

Since Pentecostal churches are part of the main stream of Reformation tradition, Luther and his work must be regarded as part of our heritage. In his "Letters to the Mayors and Aldermen of All Cities of Germany in Behalf of Christian Schools," Luther outlined his views on education. He felt that the state should support elementary schools to which all parents must send their children. Education was to be in the common language instead of Latin. Its aim was to impart the knowledge of the Bible. He further believed that the brighter students should be educated in the liberal arts.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL MOVEMENT

The work of Robert Raikes in England is a very important antecedent of Assemblies of God convictions. Raikes, a Gloucester publisher and prison-reformer, discovered the tragic children who were the back-wash of the industrial revolution. Starting a school on Sunday for these ragged ruffians, Raikes paid them a penny a day to attend (and even paid his teachers twenty-five cents). Classes went for several hours and covered reading and writing as well as Bible lessons. Although ignored by the established churches, the movement was adopted by the Wesleys and their "Methodist" followers.

On the American frontier, the work of men like Stephen Paxon carried the movement on. Paxon, a stuttering cripple, rode a horse across the frontier

(Continued on page twelve)



How Does It Open?

BY DON MALLOUGH
Associate Editor, The Pentecostal Evangel

ONE OF THE INTRIGUING MYSTERIES OF OUR AGE IS THE electronic eye and the service it renders. To see a person approach an automatic door for the first time is indeed humorous. He reaches out to push but the door opens as if by magic. A sense of uselessness grips him. That which he should do is done for him by another force that he doesn't understand or see. Often it will leave the novice utterly bewildered and he will continue to go back and forth to see how it works.

In a sense the modern door to a super market depicts perfectly the simple plan of God's salvation. You cannot push open the door to heaven but when you approach Jesus Christ, who is that Door, the portals are opened to you by His power. You need not (and cannot) pry it open. By merely coming you can enter into eternal life.

Is such an idea too good to be true? Is it too simple a plan by which to reach the noblest of all human goals—heaven?

How clear and simple are the words of Jesus: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). He then tenders the invitation to all by saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:20). The basic requirement is to *come*. Nothing else is asked. It seems too good to be true and far too simple, but still, He makes a promise and we can take Him at His Word.

On one occasion Jesus stood before a group of good, sincere and even religious people. He was saddened because they did not possess eternal life. They had done and were doing many things which were commendable but still they were in a lost condition. They had failed to do the one thing that would give them eternal life. With pathos gripping His being and concern in His every ex-

pression, He said, "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" (John 5:40). By that statement He inferred what the Bible teaches throughout that men are saved only by *coming to Christ*. Good works, morality, religious activity and all human efforts to open the door are useless and vain. The door to heaven is closed to those who tug at it but opens majestically to those who *come* in obedience to the invitation of the Saviour.

When I enter an automatic door in a modern business establishment my condition or position has little bearing on what happens. It makes no difference whether I am old or young, fat or thin, tall or short. I can be loaded down with groceries or walk empty-handed. Brawn or muscle do not help. The door is no respecter of persons and does not discriminate on basis of color, class, race, position or worthiness. The basic requirement is that I *come*, and only when I do so does the portal swing open to me.

The Son of God beckons to you and says, "Come." More than that, He makes a solemn promise that guarantees what will happen if you do. He says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). The door to heaven opens to those who *come*. Will you, even now, say with the poet:

*"Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;
Into thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my want and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee?"*

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The Lord Said, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!"

BY MERRILYN E. NERVEZA

ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1959, I WAS 24 years old. The Lord said "Happy birthday" in a wonderful way. While the birthday present came two days late, He did not forget. It was the best birthday gift a crippled mother ever could receive.

On September 27 I got out of bed, grabbed my crutches, and started another routine day. It was Sunday. I dressed my five children for Sunday school. My oldest son is only five and a half, so they all needed help. Ben, my husband, carried our baby, Andrew, then three months old, out to our car and handed him to me. Then off we went.

I walked on my crutches to the front of the church to put my birthday offering in the bank. The pastor smiled reassuringly. I was soon back in my seat. All too soon, Sunday school was over, and we were back home.

For a year and a half I had been a victim of multiple sclerosis, and I had been walking on crutches for about one month. The doctor said I would be in a wheel chair before December, 1959. I remember telling my pastor that I did not believe it would happen. I had to care for my five children; somehow the Lord would make this possible. I believed that God would heal me when He was ready. I would pray and wait.

I never went to Sunday evening services. I was always so tired, and I did not feel well. Since Ben could not handle all five babies alone, the entire family stayed at home. On this particular Sunday, however, I called a friend and told her I would like to go to the evening service, if I could ride with her.

I sat down about four rows from the front. After the guest speaker, Evangelist Cecil Grice, had given his message, he asked all the believers to come to pray. With the aid of my crutches I made my way to the front row, and sat down on the end chair. I laid my crutches on the floor. There was a strong feeling deep down in my heart. From the minute Evangelist Grice had taken his place on the platform I had felt that if he prayed for me I would be healed. I did not know why God had chosen to use him as the instrument, but I know now; my pastor told the church about it the morning I gave my testimony. That evangelist was discouraged and he wondered why the Lord had not been using him. No, I do not believe that it was the man who healed me. It was the Lord who did the work. He did use the man as His instrument. We give the Lord all the glory.

When the pastor walked toward me, I said, "Ask that man to pray for me."

The two men—my pastor and Brother Grice—laid their hands on me and began to pray. The minute they touched me I felt something like an electric shock go through my body. Without the crutches I stood on my feet and, with my hands above my head, began to praise the Lord. I knew the Lord

had healed me. You see, I had not raised my hands above my head for about a month.

Then I began to run back and forth across the front of the church. I was crying, and laughing for joy, and shouting, "Praise the Lord, I'm healed! I'm healed! I'm healed!" All this time the crutches lay on the floor where I had left them. I think there were tears of joy in every eye in that church. I went home on my two feet.

I told my pastor, "You can have the crutches. I do not need them anymore. I can walk again." The crutches are still at the church, silent testimonies to all who visit there; witnesses to the fact that God is still on the throne, and still in the healing business.

I went to my doctor on October 1, 1959, and he wrote a medical statement saying, in part, "I cannot understand the complete change in my patient," meaning me. The doctor does not want his name published but I read his statement at church, and a licensed practical nurse explained it to the congregation.

Someone told me, "It was not a miracle. The Lord does not work miracles anymore." Nevertheless, I know it *was* a miracle; I know because I am a walking, talking, living example of that miracle that God performed in the year 1959. I believe the Lord can and will perform many more miracles, for He is "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

Yes, the Lord said, "Happy birthday," in the nicest possible way.

(Endorsed by Pastor Edwin Jorstad, Assembly of God, Port Orchard, Wash.)

WE BELIEVE IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Continued from page ten)

and established hundreds of Sunday schools. He had been won to the Lord by his own daughter who was saved in Sunday school.

Tremendous impetus was given the Sunday school idea by the "convention" movement of the mid-nineteenth century. The Assemblies of God, perhaps more than any other contemporary church group, has revived this convention idea to inspire its people and to disseminate practical help and information.

THE BIBLE INSTITUTE IDEA
Started late in the nineteenth century

in a reaction against humanism and rationalism in higher education, the Bible institutes sought an economical means to train men and women for missionary and pastoral work and for general Christian service. Hundreds of churches found their pastors in Bible institute-trained men.

The first Assemblies of God institute was founded over forty years ago. The idea spread until there are now nine Bible colleges across the country. These schools have not been static but have molded their curriculum and methodology in accordance with the needs of the churches.

Recognizing that in our society many young people need a liberal arts education for their specialized fields of endeavor, the Assemblies of God au-

thorized the establishment of Evangel College. An accredited college with a swelling enrollment and a growing tradition of excellence, this institution stands as a capstone of the educational work of this church.

Thus the awareness of the responsibility of one generation to pass religious education on to the next generation has produced a truly "Christian" education. Utilizing the combined forces of the home, the Sunday school, Bible institutes and colleges, and its own liberal arts college, the dynamic Assemblies of God movement fulfills its God-ordained mission to lead men and women, old and young, back to the basic principles of primitive Biblical Christianity.

WHAT IS THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD?

(Continued from page seven)

Other institutes and colleges followed: Eastern Bible Institute, Green Lane, Pennsylvania; North Central Bible College, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Northwest Bible College, Seattle, Washington; South-Eastern Bible College, Lakeland, Florida; Southwestern Bible Institute, Waxahachie, Texas; and Evangel College (Liberal Arts), Springfield, Missouri.

The Gospel Publishing House, one of the largest and most modern printing plants in the United States, produces Sunday school literature, *The Pentecostal Evangel*, the *C. A.* (Christ's Ambassadors) *Herald*, the *Sunday School Counselor*, literature in Spanish, and other publications.

The Assemblies of God sponsors a weekly live radio broadcast, called *Revivaltime*, which is released over hundreds of stations.

Departments carrying on the worldwide work of the Assemblies of God include: Benevolences, responsible for the Hillcrest National Children's Home in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and for the Bethany Retirement Home for ministers and missionaries in Lakeland, Florida; Christ's Ambassadors, the youth department; Sunday School; Education; Evangelism; Foreign Missions; Home Missions; Men's Fellowship; Radio; and Women's Missionary Council.

The growth of the Assemblies of God has been so phenomenal that the organization has averaged adding a new church almost every day of the year over a period of more than ten years.

Your Questions



ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

You say we will know each other when we get to heaven (1 Corinthians 13:12). Will we know each other as husband and wife, son and daughter, etc?

We will "know even as also we are known," but our relationship will be altogether changed. We now know each other after the flesh. We will then know each other after the spirit.

What does, "there is none righteous, no, not one," mean?

It means that, by nature, we are all sinful and under the judgment of God. There is no hope for us outside of Christ.

Jesus was scourged by the Romans. How does God "scourge every son that He receiveth" (Hebrews 12:6)?

The meaning is that God checks, corrects, and disciplines us in our spiritual life that we might partake of His holiness, and be made more and more like Him. If we do not have such discipline it is evidence that we are not true children of God.

Please explain what the Bible means when it says a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife (Genesis 2:24). Must he turn his back on his parents?

When a man marries he sets up his own home. His first duty is to his wife and family. Neither father nor mother should be permitted to come between him and his wife. This should be true also on the part of the wife. But it does not mean that love for the parents should cease. Man can be true to his wife and still "honor his father and his mother."

Where are the souls of the unsaved until the resurrection?

The unrighteous are in hades, an intermediate state. At the time of the final judgment death and hades will give up their dead (Revelation 20:13). The Bible indicates that, since the completed atonement by Christ, the souls of the righteous go to be with the Lord. They will return with Him for their glorified bodies when He comes for the Church (Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 12:2-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14).

Was it a sewing needle that Jesus had in mind when He said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 19:24)?

Jesus was using an expression in His day to set forth the naturally impossible. Adam Clarke suggests the possibility that the Greek word translated camel is so nearly like the Greek word which would be translated cable, that cable might be what Jesus meant. Another ancient expression, setting forth the impossible, was: "No man sees a palm tree of gold, nor an elephant passing through the eye of a needle." I believe, therefore, that the correct meaning is that it is as impossible for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven as for a camel to go through a needle's eye. But remember that Jesus showed that God could do even the impossible, for "with God all things are possible."

If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 434 W. Pacific St., Springfield, Missouri. Brother Williams will answer either in this column or by a personal letter (if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope).

Five Great Blessings for Everyone

By Robert C. Cunningham
Editor, "The Pentecostal Evangel"

"Have ye received the Holy Ghost
since ye believed?" *Ephesians 19:2*

SOMEONE HAS SAID, "GOD IS MORE willing to give than we are to receive." This certainly is true of the spiritual blessings that are taught in the New Testament. We need these blessings, and our generous Father in heaven has provided them in limitless measure for our benefit. Furthermore, He has put them within reach of everyone. They are freely ours for the taking, but many of us either overlook them or think we can get along without them.

BORN OF THE SPIRIT

One of these blessings is the New Birth, which is essential if we wish to enter the kingdom of heaven. The Lord Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7). Some people act as if He said, "You must join the church," or, "You must be baptized." But what He taught was this: "You need life. You are dead in your sins and so you cannot appreciate or participate in the spiritual things of God; what you need

is spiritual life, and you will get this when you are born of the Holy Spirit."

The difference between one who has been "born again" and one who merely professes to be a Christian is as sharp as the difference between a real *live* baby and a lifeless doll that merely *looks* real. Do you have this throbbing, vitalizing, satisfying life that the Spirit brings into a true believer? Have you been "born again"?

TRANSFORMED BY THE SPIRIT

Another blessing that we may have, after experiencing this spiritual rebirth, is to be changed into the image of Jesus Christ. It may seem fantastic to the casual reader to think that ordinary mortals of today can be transformed to such an extent that they will begin to resemble Christ in their actions, conversation, and even in their thoughts, but the Holy Spirit can do this miracle in us. He is the great Miracle Worker, for He is God. He is the third Person of the Divine Trinity.

The more we study the Scriptures concerning Christ the more the Holy Spirit changes us into His image, "from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Never refer to the Holy Spirit as "it." The Bible uses personal pronouns to describe Him, for He is one of the three personalities in the Godhead. He is distinct from God the Father and God the Son, but at the same time He is one with them. When God changes us by the Holy Spirit, He changes us into the spiritual image of His Son, Jesus Christ, for the Son is the image of the invisible God.

Church members do not know enough about the Holy Spirit. They recite the Apostolic Creed which says, "I believe in the Holy Spirit," but they do not know what the Bible says about Him, or what He is able to do when He indwells a human life. Without Him we cannot be true Christians or live as Christians ought to live. We need Him and we need all the blessings He offers to give us.

STRENGTHENED BY THE SPIRIT

As you travel along the country roads you often come to bridges on which there are signs saying something like this: "Danger. Bridge unsafe for heavy trucks. Limit five tons." Some Christians are like that. They have a certain load limit, and if additional burdens are put upon them they break down in one way or another. But God does not want His people to be weak. He wants them strong. The trouble is,

many are trying to carry all their load by their own strength.

The Bible says it is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord." God wants all believers to experience that extra supply of inner strength that comes from His indwelling Spirit. He wants us to be "strengthened with all might" by "His glorious power" (Colossians 1:11). He wants us to be "strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:16). Why live below our privileges? Why not let the Spirit of God take full control of our lives and keep us "on top" at all times? In turmoil He gives inward peace. In difficulties He gives supernatural strength. In times of discouragement He buoys us up by providing just the hope and faith and courage we need to win the day.

LED BY THE SPIRIT

Space will not permit us to mention all the blessings the Spirit brings to us, but one other that must be included is the privilege of having Someone to guide us along the often-baffling path of life. By day and by night, through calm and through storm, the Holy Spirit is a faithful Guide who directs us, protects us, and teaches us what we need to know. If we have been born of the Spirit we may also be led by the Spirit, for the apostle said, "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

A missionary working among the Karre people in French Equatorial Africa was trying to translate the Scriptures into the native language. When she came to John 16:7 she could not find any word for "Comforter," which is the name here given by Jesus to the Holy Spirit. She explained to the people the way the Holy Spirit encourages us, exhorts, admonishes, protects, comforts, and guides us. Finally they exclaimed, "Oh, if anyone would do all that for us, we would say, 'He's the one who falls down beside us.'" They were referring to the way in which a porter, carrying a heavy load on a long journey, sometimes gets sick and collapses along the trail, and may lie there until he is killed and eaten by wild animals; but if a passer-by stoops down, picks him up, and carries him to safety, the natives speak of such a person as "the one who falls down beside us." This is the very expression the missionary was wanting. She used it to translate the word "Comforter," for the Holy Spirit is

the One who has come to our rescue and leads us safely along the way to our heavenly Home.

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

The measure in which the Holy Spirit indwells us, transforms us, strengthens, guides, and teaches us depends entirely upon us. We can give Him only part of our lives, if we wish, or we can give Him all. Our lives may be compared to a very large house with many rooms in it. Some rooms are filled with personal ambitions. Other rooms are occupied by friendships, business, pleasures, or activities which may or may not be pleasing to God. The Holy Spirit is always very courteous and sensitive. He never will enter a room where He is not invited. You may welcome His holy presence in only a few of your rooms or, if you wish, you may throw open all the doors of your life, saying:

"Blessed Spirit of God, move into every part of me. Occupy every room. Sanctify every portion of my being with your hallowed presence. I only want to be what you want me to be. I want you to control me completely. All my love, all my ambitions, my time and talents, all that I am and have or ever hope to have, I surrender entirely to you. Take full possession of me. Fill every part, O Holy Spirit, so that my life will be a Spirit-filled life. I want to live in such a way that I will glorify my heavenly Father and my wonderful Saviour at all times."

If you will make this kind of consecration and will live up to it, your prayer for the infilling of the Holy Spirit will be answered. The Bible says that God gives the Holy Spirit to them that "ask Him" (Luke 11:13) and that "obey Him" (Acts 5:32). He will fill you just as He filled the men and women at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. The record of that sacred event states that as these early Christians were worshipping the Lord together, "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

What a blessing they received! And what a change it made in their ability to serve the Lord Jesus Christ! The New Testament clearly shows that the Spirit-filled life is the normal pattern for all Christians. It plainly says, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). If you have not been filled yet, you may be, for the blessing is for everyone. ◀◀



THIS PRESENT WORLD

ONLY ANSWER TO CRIME IS CHRIST

In 1959 there were 1,553,922 serious crimes committed in the U.S.A. Every hour there were 45 larcenies involving more than \$50 each, besides 9 robberies and 80 burglaries. During the same hour there were 2 forcible rapes and 13 aggravated assaults, while 1,900 automobiles were being stolen.

Crime marches on at this rate every hour, day and night, and police are baffled to know how to stop it. The only answer is the gospel of Christ which can turn lawless criminals into law-abiding Christians.

AMERICAN SUNDAY CRITICIZED

An Australian evangelist, after spending a month in the United States, said that Americans "have altered the fourth commandment to read, 'Thou shalt keep the Sabbath holy until 12:30 p.m.'" He said that theaters, super-markets, clothing stores, and other enterprises have made Sunday a day of major commerce in some U. S. cities, and he expressed the opinion that the breakdown of personality in nervous disorders, one of today's greatest problems, is closely related to the loss of a day of meditation and rest.

EDUCATOR REPORTS ON RUSSIA

Survival of religious faith in Russia and its satellites in the face of bitter persecution is a modern "miracle," according to a prominent Illinois educator. Dr. Clarence W. Sorensen, dean of the graduate school of Normal (Illinois) University, reported on conditions he found in Russia during a recent two-month visit.

He said that while there are still worshipers in the USSR, "yet he who practices religion of any kind, whether it be Christian, Jewish, or Moslem, closes the door to advancement in a Communistic society." The Communist Party, which has less than five per cent of the Russian people in its membership, is in absolute control, he said.

"In spite of preachments about a people's democracy, only one name appears for each office listed on the ballot, and this name is placed there by

the Communist Party," he declared.

Dr. Sorensen was in a group of American educators who were permitted to observe all levels of education in Russia's classrooms. He reported there was "little to criticize" in some of the goals listed in Soviet teachers' manuals, such as emphasis on honesty, respect for parents, and a co-operative spirit. But there are other goals," he added, "which we cannot accept, such as the materialistic concept of the universe, and subservience of the citizen to the state."

ISRAEL NOW HAS 52,000 CHRISTIANS

Out of a total population of over two million, Israel now has 52,000 Christians, the Israeli government reports. A breakdown shows there are 32,000 Catholics of various Rites, 18,000 Eastern Orthodox, and 2,000 Protestants. There are 200 Christian churches in Israel and there are 1,000 Christian clergymen, monks, and nuns. The country offers religious liberty to all and all faiths are represented in the government.

PROTESTANT LEADER MAKES PLEA FOR SOME EMOTION IN RELIGION

A noted Protestant theologian, addressing a Presbyterian Church convention in Nashville recently, pleaded for a religion that flows from the heart and is relevant to contemporary problems.

Dr. John A. Mackay, immediate past president of both Princeton (N.J.) Theological Seminary and the World Presbyterian Alliance, said that "a crudely emotional approach to religion is preferable to religious formalism which is purely aesthetic and orderly and lacking in dynamic power."

He declared, "One of our serious troubles in the church today is that it has become legitimate to be emotional in anything but religion. The need is for something that will summon one's whole enthusiasm.

"The moment the church becomes completely program-ized and de-personalized," he added, "it becomes a monument to God's memory and not an instrument of His living power."

WITHOUT WARNING

BY C. M. WARD

International Radio Evangelist

OF ALL GOD'S CREATION MAN ALONE IS INCLINED TO gamble, and luck is a false god.

Millions are wagering that the second coming of Jesus Christ will never occur. They say this "hope" is the opiate of the believer—a shot-in-the arm, a psychological incentive—to give him a sense of meaning as a cheap reward for all the fun he is missing. So millions gamble that Jesus Christ will never return. And their Christianity is a historic reverie.

You forget, sir, that the veracity of the Bible and the very character of Jesus rest upon the fulfillment of this promise, "I will come again." Only a dishonest Christ would promise something that He had no intention of fulfilling. That would make Him a fraud and His gospel a hoax. Only an uninformed Christ would promise something that wasn't even scheduled. That would make Him a fool and His gospel a myth. Jesus Christ is an historical and living fact, and His gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." His second coming is every bit as important as His first coming.

Every Bible in the world (Catholic as well as Protestant) carries these words: "And unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time" (Hebrews 9:28). His second coming is a part of a triad of unchangeable events listed in verses 27 and 28: (1) the appointment of death, (2) the appointment of judgment, (3) the appointment of Christ's return. The second coming of Jesus is as fixed as death and judgment. Nothing is left to chance. So don't gamble on being left behind.

This is what the Bible says—"Be ye therefore ready also; for the son of man cometh at an hour ye think not" (Luke 12:40). "For yourselves know perfectly that the

day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

It will be absolutely impossible for any combination of wicked men to prevent the evacuation of God's true believers at the coming of Christ, because (1) of the surprise element, and (2) of the speed. The Bible says that the actual date of His coming is the best-kept secret of the universe. "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:32-33). The Bible also describes the speed with which the event will take place, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52).

The "dead in Christ" have a firm reservation. There is no element of risk here. The Bible says, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). But how about you? Are you ready?

There'll be no opportunity to cry out like a delinquent child, "Wait for me! I want to come too." The Bible forewarns us when it says, "So shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field: the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matthew 24:39-42).

I visited one of our big SAC (Strategic Air Command) bases the other day. Such bases are on constant alert. Airmen never know when the horn will blow. An airman does not say, "Wait until I finish my meal" or "I'll be with you just as soon as I get my sleep out." The moment the siren begins these airmen are on the double. Exercises call for them to have these heavy bombers in the air within twenty minutes.

You and I live under such an alert. "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself" (1 John 3:3). One thing is certain. You and I are closer to our Lord's return than we were at this time yesterday. No one will make it if he or she waits until the last minute to get ready. Don't gamble! Get ready!



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