

THE PENTECOSTAL
evangel

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

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THIS YEAR? PERHAPS!

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20)



how to PLAN YOUR LIFE for 1966

By DONALD GEE

SOME PEOPLE HAVE THE IDEA that if you are really led by the Spirit, your life is a sort of jigsaw puzzle, absolutely planless; that you never know what will happen next and you are liable to the most unexpected and amazing impulses that will lead you to do all sorts of things. While we never know what may happen and our Heavenly Father *does* have all sorts of lovely surprises for us, yet this does not mean we should not live a planned life.

PLAN AHEAD

You will note from 1 Corinthians 16:5 that Paul made plans. He said, "I will come"; "I shall pass"; and, "I do pass." Let us get away from mistaken ideas about a life led by the Spirit, for God has a course for every life. At the end of his life Paul said, "I have finished my course."

When crossing the Atlantic, we were all interested in the "track chart" showing the course of our vessel from Europe to Canada. Every day we would look to see where we were that day. We noted that we kept to the course marked out till we came to our destination. So I believe God has a course for every life.

The planned life should have a special appeal to those of us who are of middle age, or older, realizing that life for us is swiftly passing by and that we cannot afford to waste a single year, a single month, a single week. Life is a stewardship, and not long hence we will have to give an account of this stewardship. May the Lord help us to pack the most possible into what is left for us of life.

When one is young, he feels something like a millionaire as far as time is concerned, and he thinks he can afford to waste a few years. I am not sure anyone can afford to waste time, but when we get to the other side of 40 we have come to a place where each year is precious.

The Methodists got their name simply because they believed so much in method. They planned their lives; they believed in being methodical in their hours of prayer, in Bible study, in their preaching and work. And when you read of Wesley's 88 busy years, you will agree that he crammed into them two or three average lifetimes. I too want to get the most out of life.

LIVE A THOUGHTFUL LIFE

Jesus taught us to live a thoughtful life. We are not thoughtful enough. We seem to think that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a labor-saving device; that when we have that we need not think, study, or meditate anymore; that we only need to open our mouths wide, and the Lord will fill them. We become lazy, and then wonder why we are unfruitful!

I like Jesus' parable of the man who set out to build a tower but did not stop to count the cost of finishing it. By the time he had it half done, he had run out of cash. Thereafter that tower stood as a monument to

his folly. So Jesus taught us to count the cost. I am not referring to a decision on salvation, for I believe that to escape from everlasting death is such a desperate matter you need to run for your life. But when talking about discipleship, the Lord Jesus says, "Sit down and consider; pause and count the cost."

Take the parable of the 10 virgins. The central application is that five were thoughtful and five were not. Five of them figured it was a risky thing to go to the marriage without having some spare oil. And because they were thoughtful, they went in; and the others were left out. This teaches us the value of planning beforehand.

But you ask, "Did not Jesus say, 'Take no thought for the morrow'?" We must remember that means, "Take no *anxious* thought; don't get overburdened with anxiety and care."

WAIT PATIENTLY

What principles should guide us in planning our lives? The first principle is that you can ask the Lord and then definitely plan to get your heart's desires. Some people have the idea that to be a Spirit-filled believer you must never get your heart's desire; that if you want something, that is the very thing you will be denied. Our Heavenly Father is not a hard taskmaster. He doesn't say, "Now if you want that thing, you shall not have it." Rather He says, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him." And, "He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Isn't that lovely! Of course, I am not referring to unsanctified, unsundered, unyielded desires.

The next principle we may follow is to be alert for open doors. What a wonderful thing opportunity is! The apostle said, "I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. For a great door and effectual is open unto me, and there are many adversaries" (verses 8 and 9). I think it is wonderful when God puts an opportunity before us, but we should beware of a constant love of change. Many a person gets out of the will of the Lord through mere restlessness, and many an assembly has made the same mistake. How easy it is to be swayed by a desire for variety and change.

One of the finest evangelists I ever knew, with such an anointing on his ministry that multitudes were saved, walked right out of the blessing and from under the anointing. He is on the shelf, out of action—and it all happened because of a natural love of change. He had a sudden desire to travel, and he did travel, and he has accomplished nothing since.

TAKE THE PATH OF DUTY

Another thing we need to take into consideration in planning our lives is to remember the path of duty. According to verses 1-4, Paul was making his plans largely because he was taking an offering to the saints in Jerusalem and he wanted someone to go with him. All the time there was that high sense of duty, a high sense of loyalty to that which means integrity of character in everything.

I am staggered and indignant when men and women insult the Holy Ghost by saying He has led them to neglect the ordinary duties of life. God does not do things that way. I meet husbands who dare to say the Holy Spirit has led them to neglect their wives. I meet children who think God has led them to neglect their parents. I find citizens who think God has led them to

neglect their proper duties in obeying the laws of their country.

God wants us to be dependable people. Every assembly is blessed when it has those who are doing their jobs from a sense of duty. What a fine thing it is to know you can depend on a certain person to be there early to open doors. You ask someone to sing in the choir, or to teach a Sunday school class. They promise; and then perhaps they break their promise and say the Lord told them otherwise. But my Bible says, "*Let your yea be yea, and your nay nay.*"

I like people who put themselves out to keep their word, people who are prepared to suffer financially in order to keep their word. *Duty* is sacred to me. When I am making plans, I must always have one eye on that which is my straightforward, simple duty, and plan accordingly.

PUT OTHERS BEFORE YOURSELF

Then we should be guided by our love for others. You will notice that Paul said, "As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren; but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time" (verse 12).

Paul and Apollos were rivals for the affection of the people at Corinth. Some said, "I am of Apollos," and others, "I am of Paul." But Paul and Apollos were loyal to one another and refused to be dragged into the personal feelings of the people. Paul knew that Apollos was his rival at Corinth and yet he said, "Apollos, you go to Corinth. You have a lovely ministry and you will be a blessing."

But Apollos said, "No, Paul, I am not going."

Some ministers in Paul's place would have moved heaven and earth to keep Apollos away from Corinth. Others in Apollos' situation would have quickly seized the chance of going. But Apollos said, "No." How lovely it is when we are guided by love and respect for one another; by a spirit of cooperation and not competition!

LET GOD CHANGE YOUR PLANS

Yes, it is quite right to make plans, but as we make them, we must always write over them in great big letters, "If the Lord permit" (verse 7). Have you done that with your plans? It will reveal whether or not you have made Christ the Lord of your heart.

Our very best plans may fail and sometimes they do. I have had plans that have gone all wrong. What happens when our plans go wrong over which we had written, "If the Lord will"? I know what we ought to do; we ought to take refuge in Romans 8:28 and realize that if our plans have failed, He has something much better in store for us.

Let us think of three of Paul's experiences. First when he was shipwrecked on the Island of Melita. That shipwreck was certainly not of Paul's planning; but it *happened* and it was a real 100 percent shipwreck; they only got to shore by swimming or clinging to broken pieces of the ship. But those barbarians on the Island of Melita had three months of Paul's ministry. Do you imagine *they* had any doubts whether or not it was God's will for that shipwreck to take place? If you have a shipwreck in your life and yet keep sweet in God, you

(Continued on page thirteen)

Year of the Bible

WHEREAS the year 1966 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the American Bible Society; and

WHEREAS the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society has requested that the churches of the United States designate 1966 as the "Year of the Bible," with special emphasis on the 150th anniversary of the American Bible Society and its work and mission of distributing the Bible to all nations and peoples; and

WHEREAS the American Bible Society and its affiliated organizations have assisted the Assemblies of God greatly in our efforts to provide the Scriptures in the languages of the people, in fulfillment of our world mission; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Council of the Assemblies of God highly commends the American Bible Society for having reached this milestone in its history, and for its outstanding ministry in the worldwide translation and distribution of the Bible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Council go on record as recommending that our Assemblies of God churches observe the 150th anniversary of the American Bible Society in 1966 by encouraging a wider reading and sharing of the Scriptures.

—Adopted by the General Council of the Assemblies of God in session at Des Moines, Iowa, August, 1965.

A number of Assemblies of God representatives attended the 1965 meeting of the American Bible Society's Advisory Council. The photo shows T. F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent, and Mrs. Mildred Smuland, Women's Missionary Council secretary, with George Amann of the Society's production department.

Dressed in the costume of 150 years ago, Mr. Amann printed a page from the Book of Romans in Burmese, using a press sent to Burma for Bible publishing in 1816.

As the year opens, the Bible Society is asking members of all churches to join in prayer that 1966 might be a year without precedent in Christian witness. Due to an extensive publicity campaign, many people will become aware of the Bible for the first time. Others will be reawakened to the power of the Scriptures to vitalize their spiritual lives.

The Society is requesting that January in particular be set aside by churches and individuals to intercede on behalf of Bible work throughout the earth.



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STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years. WE BELIEVE in the Blessed Hope, which is the Rapture of the Church at Christ's coming. WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ. WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. WE BELIEVE that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it. WE BELIEVE in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

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Office building in Los Angeles, California

Andrew's Brainchild

By LAWRENCE N. OLSON



Andrew Nelli

YOU KNOW, BROTHER OLSON, this *Leite Gloria* powdered milk factory in Brazil is actually my brainchild," Andrew Nelli said to me as we discussed his coming to Brazil. Brother Nelli is vice-president, treasurer, and director of the General Milk Company. He is also a member of First Assembly of God, North Hollywood, California.

Now he was in Brazil, and we were driving from Rio de Janeiro to Itaperuna, 250 miles inland, to visit the *Leite Gloria* plant. How this brainchild is literally blessing a nation, both materially and spiritually, is one of the great stories of how a Christian businessman can further the cause of missions when he is fully committed to God.

As the miles sped by, I learned from Brother Nelli the stranger-than-fiction success story which had brought us together.

Born in Italy, Andrew came to the United States when four years old. Eight years later the depression hit his family. His father lost everything, including his will to

win. To keep the family from starving, Andrew shined shoes after school up and down the streets of New York until he was 14, when he became the full-time family breadwinner, employed in a shoe factory.

In spite of the long hours and exhausting subways, young Andrew determined to get through high school, college, and university by studying in the evenings. He made it, plus earning the coveted Certified Public Accountant certificate. Nothing swerved him from his goal of making a business success as a Christian. As a young man he was dedicated, Spirit-filled, and attending Glad Tidings Tabernacle in New York City.

Eventually, God opened a position for him with the General Milk Company, international affiliate of the Carnation Company, where his rise to the top has been remarkable. It reminds one of what is said of Joseph, who also knew hardship in a strange land: "The Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy" (Genesis 39:21).

During the middle 50's, Andrew conceived the idea that Brazil would be a good place for a milk processing plant. On his own, he undertook the necessary research for such a project and one day submitted his findings to the directors, with the recommendation for positive action. A favorable decision was reached, and preparatory work began.

Various cities were considered as a site, but finally Itaperuna, 250 miles north of Rio de Janeiro, was chosen. But unexpected local opposition to a powdered milk factory was encountered. The city fathers would have to approve it or the whole plan would fall.

God had a "Joseph" whom He used in the situation. Jose de Carvalho, pastor of the thriving Assemblies of God church in Itaperuna, was at that time an influential alderman in the Brazilian city. Without his even knowing that this American factory which wanted to set up in his city was actually the idea of another Pentecostal brother, Jose got busy.

Sensing the unprecedented business opportunity for his community, he convinced his colleagues in the municipal chamber that they should act favorably and quickly. Opposition melted; the plan was approved; the plant was built; and in 1959 it began operating. Today, *Leite Gloria*—"Glory Milk"—is the biggest thing in the city and community, and everywhere the attractive red-and-white container is on the grocery shelves.

Providentially, our paths crossed at a missionary convention in 1960, in the First Assembly of God, North Hollywood, California. Andrew learned then that Itaperuna has a strong Assemblies of God church. He said he would someday like to visit this church and meet the pastor. This desire was fulfilled last May 16 when our Assemblies of God people, as well as civic and business groups, gave him a luncheon at which the chief political leaders, the judge, heads of banks, members of the Rotary Club, etc., were present, some 52 persons in all.

Sincere tribute was paid to Andrew as the greatest benefactor of their community. A bank president, himself a Presbyterian, spoke in glowing terms of the physi-

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Andrew Nelli visits the "Leite Gloria" plant in Brazil. Left to right: plant superintendent, Mr. Nelli, Pastor Jose de Carvalho, and a local businessman.

cal blessing Leite Gloria milk is to Brazilian people. And, of course, the Assemblies of God pastor, Jose de Carvalho, as master of ceremonies, was beaming with pride. For him it was a crowning day where he could present to his community this Christian gentleman who, though belonging to the business world and moving in top international financial circles, is also an ardent Christian and even more concerned about spiritual food for the souls of men than milk for the body—and a genuine Pentecostal, filled with the Holy Spirit.

This lasting impact on Itaperuna was further strengthened at the service that evening at the Assemblies of God church. The crowd was so big Andrew had difficulty getting up to the platform. Hundreds of people were packed into the building to hear him, and many were standing both inside and outside. Company employees, the judge and his family, and civic leaders were again present. What a round of typical Brazilian greetings and *abracos* we had!

Andrew preached from his heart a gospel sermon that thrilled his listeners. He told sinners they needed to repent and prepare for the coming of the Lord or they would go to hell—and that forever. Coming as it did from a businessman and the greatest benefactor of their community, this message packed a powerful punch. Standing by his side as interpreter, I could feel the strong anointing of the Spirit. The message was striking home.

Surely God has taught Andrew Nelli not only "to profit," but also to be led "in the way that he should go" (Isaiah 48:17). Very unassumingly he attributes all his success to his Lord and urges everyone, including fellow businessmen, to make a full spiritual commitment to Christ.

Together with the national pastor, Jose de Carvalho, and his church, I gratefully witness to the blessing Leite Gloria, Andrew's brainchild, has been to the cause of Christ in Brazil.

Andrew Nelli (left) speaks at a luncheon given in his honor in Itaperuna. Lawrence N. Olson interprets for him.



"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13).

STAND! WITHSTAND! STAND! That is the order of the battle. Having taken his stand, all the Christian has to do is to stand fast. In three significant New Testament references to Satan we are taught the importance of standing firm:

"Submit yourselves to God: resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:8, 9).

"Stand against the wiles of the devil... Withstand in the evil day... Stand therefore" (Ephesians 6:11, 13, 14).

To withstand is to resist, and the one instruction for the day of temptation is that we are not to yield to Satan. We are to submit ourselves to God: that is our stand. We are to refuse to be either drawn or driven from allegiance to God: that is our withstanding. And if we abide in God, and resist every assault and solicitation of evil, no power of earth or hell can move us.

DON'T BUDGE

Adopt at once a no-budge policy. Plant your feet and stand fast in the faith. Temptation comes in seductive and enticing forms. It is most dangerous when its appearance is innocent and pleasant. Many a soul caught by the wiles of the devil would have fled in terror from the roaring lion. *Beware of pleasant voices and flattering promises.*

It is never safe to consent to a thing because it is pleasant or because men say there is no harm in it. Many a man has taken the first wrong step to avoid offending a friend. How often a young life has been ruined by yielding to the seductive entreaties of one who spoke in the tender tones of love.

It is hard to resist when resistance means the loss of love and an offense to a friend. But to yield means the loss of all—loss of honor, character, peace, God, and eternal life.

"If sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Be content to lose what you cannot retain without loss of principle, piety, and a good conscience. Whoever makes the surrender of these the condition of friendship is no true friend. He is a dangerous foe and an ally of the wicked one. He who tempts today will betray tomorrow. He who parades his affection and talks of trust that he may persuade you to sin will prove false the moment you yield. Hate dwells close by lust. The tempter invariably flings away his victim with contempt.

Resist! Don't parley. Don't budge. Stiffen yourself against the enticements of evil. Sacrifice anything and everything rather than yield. Stand! Withstand! Stand! *Sin cannot touch you unless you consent.*

DON'T BE AFRAID

The devil is an impressive foe, but he is not omnipotent. He can certainly roar, but my standing ground

NEW YEAR CONFIDENCE

By SAMUEL CHADWICK

is forbidden to him—and roars don't kill. Evil is not irresistible and overwhelming. That is Satan's bluff to bully men into yielding. No man is forced to sin. God is able to make the feeblest stand against the strongest assault of sin.

But one of the wiles of the devil, when pleasant temptation fails, is to put on other pressures. When the fortress of the soul is not surrendered to his wily speech, he tries to carry it with a rush. And souls that resisted enticements may fall in panic before the assault.

Never be afraid. "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19). "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (Exodus 14:13).

A lad of 15 started to work in an engineering shop. The fellows determined to make him as one of them. When he refused to drink their beer, they said they would force him to drink. They held him and tried to force it down his throat; they beat him till he was black and blue; they poured the beer all over him, but he kept his mouth shut. When he rebuked an oath, they determined to make him swear. They pinched and punched him; they scratched and slapped him till he bled. But though they could bring blood and tears, they could not make him swear. When at last they left him, he turned his bloody, tear-stained face to heaven and cried, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He stood firm in the evil day. God helped him to withstand.

JESUS WITHSTOOD SATAN

When Jesus was tempted by the subtle wiles of Satan, He repulsed him by sheer resistance. Satan sought to draw Him from His standing of simple trust in God. He suggested unlawful ways for securing good and lawful ends. Jesus took His stand upon the Word and will of God and withstood every appeal and assault. He

refused to budge. His only weapon was the Scripture—the sword of the Spirit with which He drove His enemy back. He is our example and representative. We stand in Him.

Satan's power is broken. He may coax and cajole, threaten and boast, but he is powerless if we resist. *He has power only when we concede him control. He takes no captive who does not consent to be his slave.*

Renounce his control; submit yourself to God; take your stand for God. Resist the devil, and you shall be free. *But it is useless to resist the devil if you do not submit to God.*



HEALED OF SKIN BLEMISHES

FOR MONTHS I SUFFERED with skin blemishes, but they disappeared in answer to prayer. I do thank God for bringing me through this trial of faith.

The trouble was on my face and the back of my neck. It was something like a heat rash. My skin would seem to be clearing up somewhat, and then the condition would worsen. I was tempted to worry over it. Many advised me to go to a doctor, but I decided to stand firmly on the promises: "I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26), and, "Who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3).

Thanks be to God, we walk by faith and not by sight. I kept believing in spite of the symptoms, and now the trouble is gone. I am perfectly healed. I pray God will help me to trust Him always.—Winston Clarke, Georgetown, British Guiana.

(Endorsed by Paul H. Palser, missionary to British Guiana.)





In an exchange of visits, Paulo Macalão (right) presented General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman with a church banner to remember his 1964 visit to Brazil.



When Paulo and Zelia Macalão visited Springfield recently, Brother Zimmerman gave them a commemorative plaque at a special luncheon held in their honor.

Paulo Macalão: A Fisher of men

By CARL S. HULTGRIN, Brazil

PAULO MACALÃO and his wife, Zelia, pastor the Madureira Assembly of God in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, one of the world's largest Pentecostal churches. Their story is living proof of what God can do through dedicated men and women.

As a youth, Paulo Macalão was a restless Brazilian whose quest for life brought him into contact with Buddhism, socialism, and atheism. His own father made him read Voltaire and Darwin. His heart was hungry; he was groping for something to satisfy his soul.

One day he heard of some meetings where prayer was offered for the sick. His curiosity led him to a

little house where one of the pioneer missionaries to Brazil, Gunnar Vingren, was preaching the gospel. Paulo experienced a glorious conversion and later was baptized in the Holy Ghost. His desire to serve the Lord often brought persecution and stonings, but he now had something to live for.

Zelia, whose parents had been the first to open their home to the foreign Pentecostal missionary, was to be his lifelong companion. Missionary Vingren married them.

Talking about his early experiences in "fishing" for souls, Paulo said, "I would often hit people on the head instead of using bait and a hook." Even so, the Lord began to give him

souls. And he and his wife began what we see today—the ingathering of over 100,000 souls either directly or indirectly through their ministry!

Paulo and Zelia started preaching in a section of Rio de Janeiro known as Madureira. The Lord prospered their efforts despite many obstacles. Theirs became the mother church for another 100 churches they have fostered.

Their present church building which seats about 3,000 is often filled to capacity. Several other pastors and elders help him in caring for the 7,500 members.

Brother Macalão is a member of the executive committee for the 1967

Pentecostal World Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro. His presence was required in New York City last September when the committee met to plan for this great event. Therefore, for the first time in 31 years, Paulo Macalão and his wife took a vacation.

They had never been out of Brazil and now were suddenly thrown into the whirling mass of humanity in New York City. Paulo and Zelia Macalão felt the effect of the confusion of languages as they tried desperately to make themselves understood. They despaired of being able to communicate in the committee meetings until the second day when I began to interpret for them. (My wife and I, together with our family, had served as missionaries in Brazil for several years and were then preparing to return under Assemblies of God appointment.)

I shared many experiences with Brother and Sister Macalão that I shall never forget. Committee meetings, discussions, decisions, and plans for the Pentecostal World Conference occupied several days. Visits to nearby Assemblies of God churches emphasized that Christ is the same in every land.

From New York City they went to Washington, D. C., Chicago, Illinois, and Springfield, Missouri. Memories and visions of what God has done

for His people here in the United States will linger long in their memories.

The highlight of their travel in the United States was their visit to the headquarters of the Assemblies of God in Springfield. After a tour through the facilities, they were honored by the Assemblies of God executives and their wives at a special noon luncheon.

General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman and J. Philip Hogan, executive director of Foreign Missions, presented them with a beautiful plaque commemorating their visit. Last year Paulo Macalão had similarly honored Brothers Zimmerman and Hogan on their visit to Rio de Janeiro.

The Eighth Pentecostal World Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro in July, 1967, will probably be the largest assembly of Pentecostal believers ever gathered in one place. And many of those attending will be there as a result of the work of Paulo Macalão, a fisher of men. 

For missionary information write to:

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Foreign Missions Department
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802



The Madureira Assembly of God in Rio de Janeiro can seat about 3,000 people.



Executive Director of Foreign Missions J. Philip Hogan (right) discussed the coming Pentecostal World Conference with the Rio de Janeiro pastor.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?



By CLYDE W. TAYLOR

THERE IS A GENERAL AIR OF EXPECTANCY among evangelicals around the world. Many are looking for things to get worse. Others are optimistic, believe the Lord is about to send a worldwide revival on the Church to prepare it for a last effort of world evangelism.

The wait-and-see idea, however, is holding back the Church. The events in Vietnam, Congo, Indonesia, and the Dominican Republic are clouding up their vision.

I am very much in accord with Ananias who, after giving God's commission to Saul, said, "Now what are you waiting for?" (Acts 22:16, Phillips).

Of course, we might ask why God waits. The apostle Peter answered that: "The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Most evangelicals are convinced that Christ's return is geared to world evangelism and the completion of the Church. When that "utmost part" has been evangelized, we may well look for His coming.

WE HAVE THE MESSAGE AND METHOD

Knowing this, let us return to the first question: *What are we waiting for?* We are not waiting for a message. We evangelicals have never lost the message. The message is summarized in Luke 24:46, 47, where Jesus gave the facts of our great salvation—that He died for our sins and arose from the dead on the third day. He also gave the two basic steps for salvation: "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached." Man repents; God remits (forgives).

Neither are we waiting for a method. This same passage in Luke says this message "should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:47, 48). We may not be using His method—but at least we know what it is.

We are not waiting until all the churches are united into one church so our task will be easier and the world will believe more readily in Christ. We have yet to see within the ecumenical movement one single illustration where uniting churches organizationally has made the lost people about them more willing to believe the gospel.

Dr. Clyde W. Taylor is executive secretary of the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association (EFMA), Washington, D. C., and general director of the National Association of Evangelicals.

We do believe that much time, energy, and funds may be lost in merging machinery of large churches, so that the merger exhausts their resources—as in the case of the United Church of South India.

We absolutely reject the revived heresy that salvation is universal—the doctrine of "universalism." We are aware that Christ died that all men might be saved. We know that God does not want anyone to perish. But the Bible clearly teaches that all who have not accepted the personal salvation Christ offers are lost. So we are not waiting for a reason or a motive for world evangelism. Men are lost unless they are told of the Saviour and accept Him.

WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES

Then what are we waiting for? Opportunities? Are doors to world evangelism closed or closing? Contrary to much misinformation and erroneous publicity, we are literally swamped with open doors. The fact that over one billion people are largely sealed off from direct evangelism by communism should not mislead us into concluding that this same condition prevails over the rest of the world. There are at least 100 national areas open to evangelism—not counting the huge harvest fields of Europe. And we must not ignore the fact that France, for example, has more towns and villages without a gospel witness than any free country on earth except India. No, we are not waiting for open doors.

Some are waiting for things to settle down. "With all the little wars and rumors of wars, we'll just wait for a better time to evangelize," they say. How wrong can we be! The best time to evangelize is when people are insecure, when material values shrink and eternal values loom on the horizon. We have found that in times of peace, prosperity, and security, favorable response to the gospel declines. In times of persecution, unrest, and violence, people's hearts turn toward God.

From 1947 to 1956, during political and religious violence in Colombia when churches were burned, pastors murdered, and congregations scattered, it appeared the Church was taking an awful beating. But when the violence ended, all were amazed to find that the Church had grown about 200 percent in those 10 years. Similarly, a survey team visiting northeast Congo recently found churches jammed—twice the number in many churches as previously attended.

Conditions actually seem to be ideal in many ways

for a major push forward in reaching all mission fields with the gospel. In mass evangelism we are seeing excellent harvests, especially in areas where there has been extensive sowing of the Word. This is particularly true in Latin America, where a recent stress by the Roman Church on reading the Bible has pushed Bible sales to an all-time high. In Brazil last year Bible sales jumped 100 percent. The result has been great crowds in city-wide meetings with thousands being added to the Church.

This is further evidenced by the fact that the Church is growing as fast in Latin America as anywhere else on earth, or faster. In 1910, there were approximately 70,000 Protestant Christians in Latin America. Now there are more than 10 million. In some republics, such as Chile, government statistics indicate more than 10 percent of the population is Protestant. Well over half of these are Full Gospel people.

WE HAVE ORGANIZATION

A further encouraging factor in world evangelism is the formation of a number of nationwide fellowships and associations. Under the joint sponsorship of our USA evangelical mission agencies (EFMA and IFMA), we have an office in Nairobi to serve all Africa. Its main function is to encourage the formation of national organizations and then assist them in their evangelism programs. There are now 11 of these organized and two more in the process of formation in Africa. We have a World Evangelical Fellowship office for Asia in India. There are several new fellowships in Asia, one in the Solomon Islands, and at least two in Latin America. All of these are thoroughly evangelical—not related to the world ecumenical movement—and aimed primarily at helping the churches finish the task of reaching all for Christ.

WE NEED TO GET GOING

Perhaps more than anything else, the spontaneous return to the New Testament emphasis on individual witnessing indicates we are entering a new day of evangelization. Ananias told Saul, "Thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard" (Acts 22:15). Jesus told His disciples, "Ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48).

Witnessing is so simple, so authentic. It says, "It happened to me; I am the best authority about it." It is not debatable. It opens the door of the listener's heart so the Holy Spirit, on the basis of a witness, can convict of sin, of need to be saved. All Christ asks us to do is to get going—to be obedient.

We are not responsible for results; we are only responsible to sow the seed. When I was in Colombia in 1962 visiting the chairman of a mission, the telephone rang. The call was for me, and I immediately recognized the voice of the caller. He had been assistant manager of the largest hardware store in the city where we once lived in Colombia. He was calling to tell me the good news. Ten years after we left Colombia, this man and his family fled the slaughter of liberals. He said he found a New Testament I had given him over 10 years before that. He had promised to come to my house to discuss it, but he never had done so. Now he called to tell me that through reading the New Testament and remembering my witness, he, his wife, and his family were all baptized Christians. He said he just

wanted me to know this so I would never get weary of witnessing—because even though it had taken 25 years, the Lord was faithful, and they were saved. No human activity can pay bigger dividends than that!

EVERY BELIEVER SHOULD GIVE A WITNESS

Lay witnessing is springing up all over the evangelical world. The activity is only beginning, but what wonderful results it brings! Almost 20 years ago I visited one of the Assemblies of God missions in Central America. They had a main church, a number of smaller ones, and Sunday schools—but the work was small. Then about 1960 I began to hear of tremendous growth so that there were over 700 churches, chapels, and Sunday schools. I asked the missionaries, "How do you explain this?" I was not satisfied that their explanation was the basic reason for the growth, for I was familiar with all types of missionary work.

In 1962, Mrs. Taylor and I were returning home from South America and stopped off to visit this work. We were graciously met at the airport and taken to the mission headquarters for lunch. I reminded our missionary host that we were there to find out what accounted for the very rapid growth of the work. He said they would take us to the Bible institute and show us. Now I have visited a hundred Bible institutes. Mrs. Taylor and I founded one and ran it for years. An institute alone is not the answer.

The dean of the institute called a special meeting of the students that evening and asked me to speak. However, my main interest was in hearing from the students. So after speaking to them, I asked for testimonies. Many were given with enthusiasm and joy—but still I had no answer.

Then a short, stocky young man got up and said he had been led to Christ by an Assemblies boy in his military squad. He said this private taught him how to study the New Testament, how to pray, and how to talk to others about Christ. Then one day the private said, "Sergeant, you will be discharged tomorrow and go home. Now remember you were saved to be a witness. You must tell your family and your friends how Jesus has saved you. Then as they believe too, you get them together and teach them what I've taught you. You can get more New Testaments and hymnbooks by writing to the address in your hymnbook. If you need help, they'll send someone to help you."

He said he got home and witnessed to all his family. "Now," he said, "all my family and many neighbors are Christians. Sometimes we have 200 in our little chapel that we built. This is my second term at the Bible school. I've been a Christian for three and a half years."

I had my answer. I asked my host if they told all their converts that they had to witness. He said that is their main drive. I asked if all their students had to start a church to get admitted to the institute. He replied that they didn't, but, as a matter of fact, most had. After that it was easy to see why the church was growing. As far as could be done, every lay Christian was witnessing to his faith. Churches have to grow when that happens.

In northern Colombia a village barkeeper was won to

(Continued on page thirteen)



... NEWS AND NOTES ON OUR TIMES

THIS PRESENT WORLD

Russian Religion Forced Underground

The only "real" religion left in Russia is in a "catacomb" setting, according to Dr. W. A. Criswell, Southern Baptist pastor from Dallas, Texas, who visited the country recently. From various sources, he said, he heard about "underground" religious gatherings but was unsuccessful in attempting to attend any of them.

Although services are held frequently in Baptist churches, most are in small villages and in effect are token symbols of freedom of religion, he reported. "They (Soviet authorities) say 'Look at the church—it is open,' but they are succeeding in destroying the roots of religion."

He said that ministers he talked to would give no specifics on religion in the U.S.S.R. or say anything critical of the government, even in private. "Every word they say is guarded and weighed," he commented. "A Baptist minister of strong religious conviction was shipped from his congregation in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to a tiny church on the Polish border."

If Russian pastors were free to speak their minds, no doubt they would urge fellow-Christians throughout the world to pray for their country. Possibly they would quote the words of the apostle Paul: "Brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course... and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men" (2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2).

English Poll on Piety Produces Paradoxes

England's Gallup Poll in September came up with a curious report on religion, according to *Christianity Today*.

Most Britons think religion is out of date. Yet nearly all demand religious instruction for their children.

They consider religion irrelevant to daily life. Yet they think churches should continue because they achieve much in social welfare.

The percentage hearing sermons drops yearly. Yet the men who preach are generally respected.

Some 60 percent think one must be dishonest to get ahead. At the same time 78 percent see no connection between churchgoing and leading better lives.

Even though 94 percent identify themselves with a denomination, only about 10 percent attend church. Only 12 percent read the Bible regularly.

In spite of this, 86 percent claim to believe in God and half say they pray regularly.

Young South American Priests Call for Reform

Two young priests in Bogota, Colombia, began some months ago to make public statements calling for reforms in the Roman Catholic Church. They are calling on the church to abandon its riches and give them to the poor, to return to the simple gospel of Jesus Christ, and to dissolve the concordat between the church and the Colombian government.

Church leaders have tried to discipline them by pro-

hibiting further statements and taking away their privileges, but the young priests hold that they are acting in good faith. They deny that they "have departed from Catholic doctrine."

Leading newspapers in the country have given extensive coverage to the two priests' statements.

Increase in Foreign Bible Schools and Missionaries

The Assemblies of God established eight new Bible schools overseas and last year increased its number of missionaries from 808 to 891.

Eighty Bible schools are currently operated by the Assemblies in foreign lands, six more than the previous high of 74 schools listed in 1963. The church operates more foreign Bible schools than any other mission board. Of the 2,814 students enrolled, 67 percent are concentrated in the Far East, Africa, and South America.

New Bible schools were established last year in Senegal, Burma, Marshall Islands, British Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and two in Brazil.

The Assemblies of God has 12,927 national workers in 72 countries, a large number of whom are a direct result of the extensive ministerial training program overseas.

U. S. Senator Hails Work of American Bible Society

Joseph D. Tydings, U. S. Senator from Maryland, wrote this about the Senate Joint Resolution 101 designating 1966 as "The Year of the Bible":

"In these troubled times when a nuclear sword hangs over our heads, and religious and political freedoms are threatened around the globe, I think it is fitting that we pause and reflect upon the need for enriching our spiritual lives. The American Bible Society, established nearly 150 years ago, richly deserves recognition for its outstanding work in buttressing our spiritual heritage."

Hear of the Bible



GREAT CHAPTERS
DAILY READING
PROGRAM

GREAT CHAPTERS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1-8

Saturday	Genesis 1
Sunday	Genesis 3
Monday	Genesis 4
Tuesday	Genesis 6
Wednesday	Genesis 7
Thursday	Genesis 12
Friday	Genesis 13
Saturday	Genesis 14

PROMISE OF THE WEEK

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15).

how to PLAN YOUR LIFE for 1966

(Continued from page three)

will thank Him for the shipwreck—for He is working all things together for good.

Another time Paul's plans were changed was when he broke down with some infirmity of the flesh. He had plans all made, but God wanted to get the gospel to the Galatians and seemingly could not stop Paul in any other way. So He allowed him to have an infirmity of the flesh.

The only way God can put the brakes on some people is to let them get some infirmity of the flesh that stops them in their tracks. That is what God did with Paul. Possibly he was a bit perplexed about it, and disappointed, but those Galatians were praising the Lord because Paul had been stopped and thus had preached the gospel to them.

Then there is that other mysterious passage in Acts 16 where Paul tried to preach the gospel in Bythinia but the Spirit did not permit it. His plans were all being stopped by God, and at last that little party of four perplexed missionaries came down to Troas. That night a vision came of a man of Macedonia saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us!" All of Paul's plans had gone wrong, but God had a better one; and because of that the gospel came to Europe. So perhaps the fact we are Christians is because Paul's plans went wrong—and God had something better.

The Christian who plans ahead knows that in all things—life's appointments and disappointments—we have this assurance: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

(Continued from page eleven)

Christ through a Bible colporteur who sold him a New Testament. This man, after finding peace with Christ, closed his saloon and opened a grocery store. He witnessed to every customer until a church was formed. He was the preacher until he ran out of unreached people. Then he left some of his converts in charge and moved south to a farm where none had heard the gospel. Five years after he bought that New Testament—and without the assistance of missionaries—this man, Don Victor, barely literate, had won over 2,000 people to Christ. His converts had won 1,600 more, so that now there are 3,600 baptized Christians in that area. The work is visited by missionaries, but it is completely indigenous.

Let us get back to the methods of the Book of Acts—the Acts of the Holy Spirit through the apostles. He is waiting to work through individuals—lay Christians—who will be obedient and tell "what happened to me when I met Jesus."

What are we waiting for?

RADIO SPEAKER VISITS MANILA



Highlighting Revivaltime Evangelist C. M. Ward's visit in Manila, Philippines, during his Oriental tour, was a special rally in the University Auditorium. Brother Ward held the attention of the congregation captive as he delivered his message.



Several ministers, missionaries, and other dignitaries attended the service led by Paul Pipkin, promotional director of the Asia Missionary Radio Crusades of the Assemblies of God. Choir members were young people from Assemblies of God churches in Manila.



Max D. Atienza, acting director of the Far East Broadcasting Company, presented Brother Ward with a plaque expressing appreciation for his long-time radio ministry. The Revivaltime speaker also addressed the staff of the far-reaching broadcasting company at a breakfast.



CHRIST, MASTER OF DEATH

Next Week's Sunday School Lesson
MARK 5:21-24, 35-43

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

MAN'S EXTREMITY AND CHRIST'S OPPORTUNITY (Mark 5:22-24)

When we compare Luke's account with Mark's, we are at once struck with the faith of Jairus.

His faith was unexpected. Ordinarily, a ruler of the synagogue would have been prejudiced against Christ and far too proud to seek His help. Jairus' attitude teaches us that there are those in high places who may be brought to realize their need of Christ.

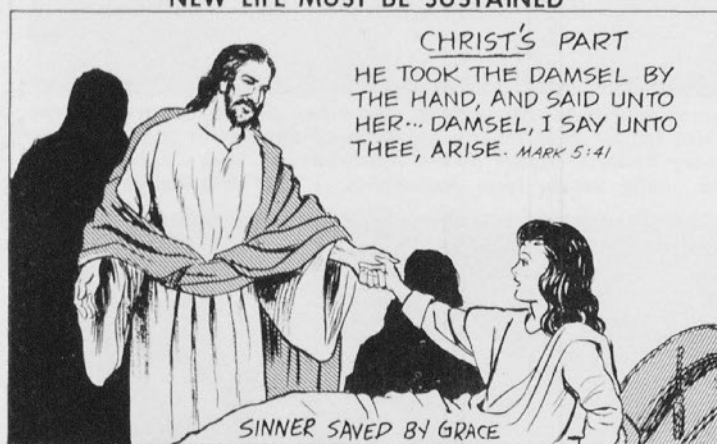
His faith was humble. "He fell at his feet" (v. 22). This was a healthy sign in one who might have been quite pompous.

His faith was the result of grief. Jairus was driven to Christ because his daughter's life was fast ebbing away! The adversities and crises of life are a challenge to us—intended of God to draw us to Him. He longs to reveal His saving and delivering power!

His faith led to earnest prayer. Jairus "besought him greatly" (v. 23). He had been accustomed to formal, ritualistic prayers. Rugged reality stirred him to prayer that was equally real—prayer that God answers.

His faith secured a response. Christ entered into the grief of Jairus and went with him to heal his child.

NEW LIFE MUST BE SUSTAINED



We have not been guaranteed exemption from life's difficulties, but the Lord promised He will be with us in the midst of them!

MAN'S HASTE AND CHRIST'S DELAY (Mark 5:25-34)

The interruption. Interruptions often occurred in the ministry of Jesus. (See Mark 2:4; 10:46-52.) Yet He was never distracted or hurried—never at a loss to know what to do.

The delay. The heart of Jairus must have been torn with the agony of suspense as Jesus stopped to meet the need of the diseased woman who had pressed through the crowd to touch Him. But Christ always knows what He is doing. His help to one never interferes with His help to another! The delay worked out for good in the end.

MAN'S DESPAIR AND CHRIST'S COMFORT (Mark 5:35, 36)

The heart-rending report. "Thy daughter is dead" (v. 35). Imagine the effect of these words! It seemed all hope was gone! Yet things are not what they *seem* if we move in the spiritual realm.

The discouraging advice. "Why troublest thou the master any further?" (v. 35). These words seemed reasonable but they did not please Christ. It troubles Him *more* when people do *not* seek Him. (See John 5:40.) He encourages us to come to Him.

The encouraging exhortation. "Be not afraid, only believe" (v. 36). These words are spoken also to each of us today. To live by them will revolutionize any life!

MAN'S EXCITEMENT AND CHRIST'S CALMNESS (Mark 5:37)

A special choice. Here is the first mention where the *inner circle* witnessed a special revelation of Christ's power. Why did Christ allow only these three disciples to enter the house? Perhaps it was because of their faith and unity with Him.

The sharp displeasure (vv. 38, 39). While some of the grief manifested was undoubtedly real, much of it was the wailing of professional mourners. Again, it was an exhibition of deep unbelief.

The authoritative declaration. "The damsel is not dead, but sleepeth" (v. 39). What did Jesus mean? Was she already made alive, and only sleeping at this moment? Or was Jesus referring to death as sleep, because she was soon to awaken?

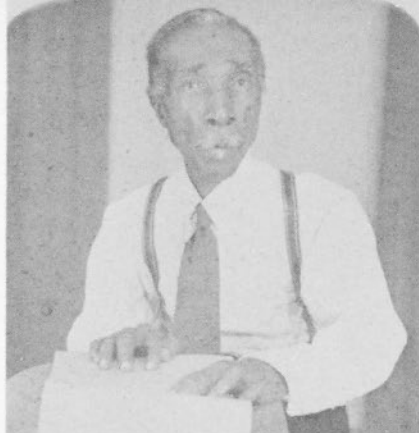
The drastic action. "He... put them all out" (v. 40). Those who laugh at Christ's Word are not worthy to behold His wonderful works. And would not the presence of these unbelievers even hinder the power of Christ from being manifested? (See Mark 6:5, 6.)

MAN'S POWERLESSNESS AND CHRIST'S STRENGTH (Mark 5:40-43)

With what simplicity Christ performed this miracle! Some practical lessons are suggested here:

Man is powerless in the presence of death. "It is appointed unto man once to die"—and no power on earth can prevent that appointment.

Christ is the Master of death. The recorded instances of His raising the dead prove His power over death. He declared, "I am the resurrection and the life." And His own personal victory over death assures us that because He lives, we also shall live. (See Hebrews 2:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57.) Death need have no terror for the Christian, because Christ has conquered death.



An 88-year-old blind Christian in the British West Indies is thankful for full-gospel Braille literature.

LIGHT

FOR THE WORLD'S SIGHTLESS

By MAXINE STROBRIDGE
National Representative for the
Deaf and Blind Ministries

DARKNESS FILLS THE LIVES of millions of men, women, boys, and girls who live in a sightless world. Greater than this physical darkness is the darkness of sin. Did you know that an estimated 99 percent of the 14 million blind persons in the world have not yet heard or read the gospel? Christ alone can satisfy their longing hearts but the blind are still groping for spiritual light.

The light of education began shining for the blind in the late 1700's when Valentin Haüy determined to raise the degraded state of the blind masses in France. He collected all the information he could about the blind and soon began teaching a blind boy who had previously made his living by begging at a church door. The boy's remarkable progress encouraged his devoted teacher. Soon Mr. Haüy had gathered other blind persons to educate them. In Paris, he founded the world's first school for the blind in 1785.

Haüy made it possible for his blind pupils to read by embossing characters on heavy paper. However, the blind could not use this method for their own writing.

In 1829, Louis Braille, a sightless teacher at the Paris School for the Blind, invented the Braille system. To read Braille, a person feels with his fingers different patterns of tiny raised dots which form letters.

Since the eighteenth century much has been done to educate the sightless. One of the needs still existing, however, is for more gospel books.

In 1835, the American Bible Society gave the blind their first opportunity to possess God's Word. Braille Bibles and the Scriptures on records and tapes may be obtained from the American Bible Society, 450 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. A Braille Bible concordance is also available from the Society. The ABS provides Bibles without cost to the blind; however, they ask that whenever possible the recipient make a "donation of appreciation" to help provide Bibles for others.

Assemblies of God Braille work began in 1949 when Mrs. E. W. Whitney, a housewife in Wisconsin, became burdened for the blind. The National Home Missions Department has been in contact with her since the beginning of this work; and, as funds have been available, has helped to meet expenses. The work has grown rapidly. Other individual transcribers are now assisting in the work. Some work is done at the Clovernook Press in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Printing Assemblies of God Braille literature is one of the special ministries of the Home Missions Department. Available regularly are the *Adult Student*, *Teen*

Student, *Hi-Teen Student*, *Junior High Student*, *Junior Pupil*, and *Primary Pupil* 2 quarterlies. *The Pentecostal Digest*, a monthly publication, is also available. It is a compilation of articles from *The Pentecostal Evangel* and other periodicals. Special publications available are *My Personal Worker's Guide*, by C. M. Ward, and *Year of the Bible*, a daily reading guide for 1966.

Blind persons in 45 states and 16 foreign countries now receive Assemblies of God Braille literature. A missionary in South Africa recently wrote of the need for Braille literature in his country: "I have received requests for more Braille literature. I am amazed that there are so many blind people here. The number runs into several hundred thousand. If possible, please send literature for 50 students."

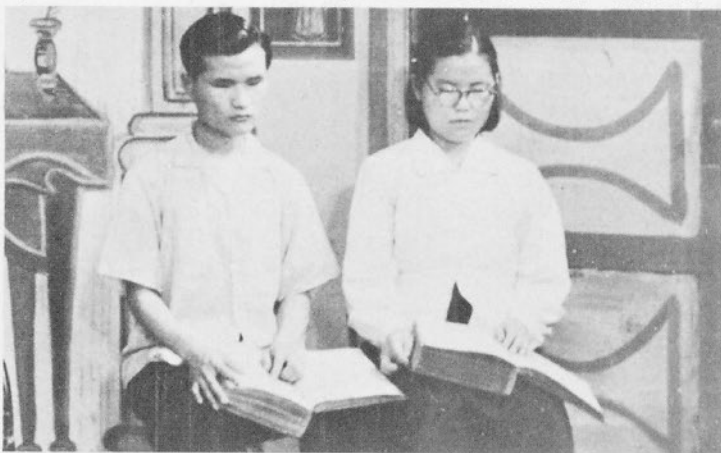
Many become blind late in life, between the ages of 50 and 80 years. At such ages few persons are able to master even the simplest form of Braille. These individuals find tape recordings a blessing.

Fred and Edna Sweeney, a blind couple in Wisconsin, operate a circulating library of gospel tapes for the Home Missions Department. These tapes are available on a loan basis.

Because of a free mail permit we send Braille literature and tapes to blind persons only. If you know of blind people in your community, send us their names and addresses and let us know which material they could use.

This ministry to the blind is made possible by contributions from interested individuals and churches. For further information, write to the Home Missions Department, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri, U.S.A.

These two blind Koreans are enjoying the Braille Bibles provided by the American Bible Society. The Bible is in 20 volumes.



What the Bible says about the future life

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SAID, "Death takes no bribes." When your time comes, all your money cannot buy you one more hour.

And it takes no holiday. It may arrive any day, any hour. Have you noticed the ages on the tombstones? They run the full span of mortal life. Some of the inscriptions are eloquent—like the tombstone that read, "I expected this, but not just yet."

The future life deserves your immediate, serious consideration. Go to the highest authority—the Bible—and see what it says about this supremely important matter.

THERE IS A JUDGE TO FACE

The Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). The principle of personal accountability runs all through life. Children are accountable for their conduct and must be disciplined. Adults are accountable to the law and to their employers. Men and women are accountable also to God. The Divine Judge will look over your record and find you have sinned.

If you are honest, you will plead guilty. For the Bible warns "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). When measured by the Bible standards of right and wrong, every human being is found wanting.

BUT THERE IS HOPE FOR YOU

The Bible says "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Could anything be clearer or simpler than that? Perishing is the one alternative. The other is "everlast-

ing life." Which fate you suffer depends on whether you believe on Christ, God's Son, who has been given to be your Saviour.

In Romans 5:8, the Bible says, "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." In other words, God wanted to emphasize how much He loves you; therefore He did not wait until you repented, but provided the Saviour in advance. So the only delay there can be in your salvation is *your* delay. God will save you instantly, the moment you ask Him to.

YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF

Some people think they can save themselves by keeping the laws, by helping their neighbors, by giving money to the poor. Others think they can be saved by joining a church. But no one can get to heaven on his own reputation—or his family's. The Bible clearly teaches the only way to heaven is to ask God to forgive your sins and to have faith that Jesus died for you and paid the full price of your salvation.

The Scriptures say: "The wages of sin is death [that is, banishment from the presence of God to a state of everlasting torment], but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Pay-day will come—you will collect the wages of sin unless you accept instead the gift of eternal life that is offered to you in Christ.

Good news? Yes, that's the meaning of the word *gospel*—good news. The good news is that salvation is available as a free gift from God. The Bible says: "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). All you need do is repent, believe, accept the gift, and thank the Giver. Turn from your sin to your Saviour. Salvation is as simple as that.

BUT DELAY MAY BE FATAL

Some say, "I will be saved at the eleventh hour," and then die at 10:30! Delay is dangerous. Without waiting a moment, close your eyes and talk to God. Tell Him you are ready to give up your sin and to accept His salvation:

"O God, I want to be saved. Here and now I accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. Please forgive my sins. By your grace I will turn my back on them and live the way you want me to live. Give me the help I need. Cleanse my life and make me a Christian in thought, word, and deed. I do believe that Jesus paid the full price of my salvation when He died on the cross, and I thank you with all my heart for answering this prayer."

If you pray, God will save you. But it will be too late to pray one moment after you die. The only opportunity to be saved is *now*—this very moment. The Bible warns, "*Now* is the accepted time" (2 Corinthians 6:2). It says that *now* is the day of salvation. "*Today* if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15).

One day's delay may be fatal—or one hour's—for death always comes before it is expected. Kneel before your Saviour this moment, while you can, and talk to Him. His Book says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).