

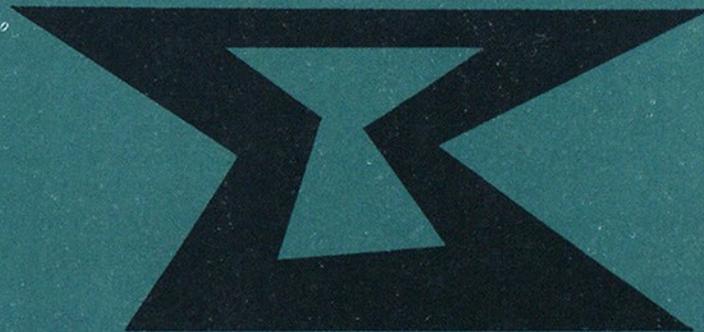
FILE COPY

# THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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

DECEMBER 18, 1966

TEN CENTS



"ARISE, SHINE, FOR THY LIGHT IS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON THEE. FOR, BEHOLD, THE DARKNESS SHALL COVER THE EARTH, AND GROSS DARKNESS THE PEOPLE: BUT THE LORD SHALL ARISE UPON THEE, AND HIS GLORY SHALL BE SEEN UPON THEE. AND THE GENTILES SHALL COME TO THY LIGHT, AND KINGS TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF THY RISING" (Isaiah 60:1-3)

# Faith at Christ's Coming



By Evangelist GUY DUTY

AT THE END of one of His parables Jesus asked, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). In this and other parables He revealed the quality and results of the faith He will hope to find when He returns.

A bishop recently stated that only five percent of his denomination's ministers believe in the second coming of Christ. This is tragic; but in us who believe in His return will Jesus find the response of faith He wants to find when he comes?

A definite emphasis is given in the Scriptures as to

the living faith that will make us ready for His return. Consider four points:

1. *Prayer and Faith.* Jesus' question was asked in a context which emphasized persistence in prayer: "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). He illustrated this with the story of the widow who annoyed the unjust judge by "her continual coming" until he avenged her of the adversary. Jesus then applied this truth:

"And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:7, 8).

Notice the connection between the first part and the last part of this parable: "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint... When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Jesus' question does not imply that He will not find *any* faith when He comes, but rather that He may not find much. Those who have faith to be ready will be "caught up... to meet the Lord in the air" when He comes (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Jesus here connected intercessory prayer with faith for His coming. The prayer life of the saints is under constant attack, and many have given up in the conflict. They have been weakened and deprived of the spiritual power that comes through prevailing prayer, and Satan has no better way to disarm them. Everywhere we find defeated believers who have little or no interest in the promised return of Christ. What Satan has done to their prayer life is obvious.

The true saints are being prepared now for their translation; they are being made ready for the Kingdom. We thus see how the present is related to the future, and how the future will be related to the past.

"The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12). Jesus attached great importance to the part that prevailing prayer has in our spiritual warfare as we prepare for His coming.

2. *Continuity of Faith.* "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death... for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5).

It was because Enoch had faith to walk with God here that he had faith to be translated. God's translation purpose was working in Enoch every day of his earthly life, and his continuous walk with God showed his living faith. It is this kind of faith that pleases God and without which "it is impossible to please him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Enoch's whole life was an obedient testimony to the revelation that the Lord was coming (Jude 14). Here

again we see the truth that the present is related to the future, and the future will be related to the past. God's eternal purpose is now at work in the hearts of His people, preparing us for our translation day. There is no promise for dropouts. We must continue to trust after we are saved and to live a life of faith if we are to be ready for the Rapture.

3. *Activity of Faith.* "Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21). An important part of the prophetic teaching of Jesus is what He taught about faithful servants and readiness for His return. Here He taught that one must not only be a "good" servant, but also a *faithful* one. This does not mean we are saved by faithful service, but it does mean that faithful service should follow our salvation. True servants of Christ who believe in His return will delight in doing what He has committed to them. Neglect of God's interests often results from unbelief.

By parable, Jesus told His followers He would go into a "far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return." He then "delivered unto them his goods," and commanded them to "occupy till I come."

Upon His return, He "reckoneth with them" (Luke 19:12, 13; Matthew 25:14-19). The good and faithful servants were rewarded with partnership in His eternal kingdom. The slothful were denied entrance into the kingdom. Their neglect of His interests, which evidenced their unbelief in the reality or importance of those interests, disqualified them for the eternal reward.

"Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find *so doing*" (Matthew 24:46). Here again we see the present related to the future. Those with faith to be faithful now are the ones who will have faith to be "caught up" when our Lord comes.

4. *Trials of Faith.* "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7).

Peter here connected the trials of our faith with our attitude toward Christ's appearing. Our faith is tested and our lives purified as gold is tested and purified by fire.

In the first-century Greek world, the word *trial* generally signified the testing of metals. When he threw ore into the smelting pot, the refiner knew it contained both gold and dross. The testing was a process of separating them.

God does not hesitate to try His people "as gold is tried," for faith that stands the test is even more precious. God proves that He might approve. Faith that stands the test will be to the everlasting praise of Christ. So our faith in God's eternal purpose makes it possible for us to "count it all joy when [we] fall into divers temptations."

The proven saints are those "that love his appearing." They will "not be ashamed before him at his coming" (2 Timothy 4:8; 1 John 2:28).

The faith for which our Lord will look when He comes is that which keeps us praying unto the end, walking continually with God, remaining concerned about our Father's business, and faithfully enduring the tests He sends. Will He find that kind of faith in your heart?

I SUFFERED A HEART ATTACK a year ago. My heart stopped beating for about five minutes. But God raised me up and also saved my soul.

It was while working on October 7, 1965, that I had severe pains in my chest. At first I thought it was indigestion. The pain persisted through the next day. On Friday I rode my motorcycle to a clinic. The doctor told me to come back on Tuesday. I was unable to keep the Tuesday appointment, but on Wednesday my wife drove me there. They took an electrocardiogram and informed me I had a bad heart. They rushed me by ambulance to a hospital in Fontana, California, where I had an acute heart attack.

The next morning my heart stopped beating. The doctor was by my side when this happened, and he massaged



**WHEN GOD HEALED MY BODY, HE ALSO  
SAVED MY SOUL.**

## I RECEIVED A DOUBLE CURE

my heart. They used every available means to bring me to. When I awoke, the whole staff was working with me.

One of the doctors asked, "How do you feel?"

I said, "Fine!" I thought I had awakened from a deep sleep.

Another doctor said, "Mac, do you know what happened to you?"

"No," I answered.

"Your heart stopped," he said.

I also realized something else had happened. I had been calling out to God, and He had heard me and saved my soul.

They moved me into the intensive care ward, and I was on the critical list for five days. But so many were praying for me only one bottle of glucose was necessary. I felt God close. He raised me up.

I said to a minister friend who came to visit me shortly after my heart had stopped beating, "I have run from God for 36 years; but now I have found Him and I am so thankful!"

My son, Ronald, rededicated his life to God. I said to him, "Everywhere you go, whatever you do for the rest of your life, live for Jesus." He now teaches a Sunday school class, serves as a church usher, and witnesses on the job for Jesus.

My older son, Doug, was so thrilled to hear his father say for the first time, "Pray for me."

Many of God's people had prayed for me for years, and I am so grateful. The Lord does answer prayer. As the songwriter said, "God can save and God can heal, just believe and He will—God can do anything but fail."—Vernon McKinney, Norco, Calif.

(Endorsed by James L. Slentz, Fresno, Calif., who was pastor of First Assembly, Norco, Calif., when Brother McKinney was saved.)

## Week of Prayer Scheduled

THE FIRST FULL WEEK in the new year has been designated as a Week of Prayer for the Assemblies in the U.S.A., Canada, and the British Isles. The observance actually will cover eight days, January 1 to 8, 1967, including both Sundays.

This is the second year leaders of three large groups—Assemblies of God of the U.S.A., Assemblies of God in Great Britain and Ireland, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada—have called jointly for a Week of Prayer. The official call points out that “prayer revives and unites God’s people. Prayer opens doors closed to the gospel. Prayer provides means and men to advance God’s kingdom. Prayer draws the lost to God.”

Prayer is one of the mightiest weapons in the Christian’s battle gear. Without prayer we have no strength to raise the shield of faith or wield the Sword of the Spirit. Our personal and corporate victory lies in “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Ephesians 6:18).

The apostle’s choice of words in this verse is significant. *Pray*, he says. This simply means to approach the Lord with our requests as one would approach an earthly monarch to ask royal favor. What a privilege! For we know God is gracious, merciful, and benevolent toward all who bring petitions before His throne.

Praying *always*, Paul says. This means, literally, pray in every time of need, in every emergency. It suggests the idea of a very narrow place, a predicament of special extremity. In times of crisis we may come to God instantly and expect Him to help us promptly and powerfully. Hallelujah!

The apostle adds, “Praying *always with all prayer and supplication*.” “All prayer” speaks of summoning all our strength, concentrating all our energies, praying with all our being; while “supplication” carries the thought of bending. It means entreating, asking submissively, making a humble petition before the mighty God.

Furthermore Paul tells us to be praying in *the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance*. Thank the Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to guide our praying, and to give us spiritual discernment of His will as well as strength that enables us to persevere in prayer until the answer comes!

Four special targets of prayer are mentioned in the Week of Prayer proclamation: our national leaders, our spiritual leaders (including pastors, evangelists, teachers, church officers), our Pentecostal youth, and our mission of world evangelization. Each church, family, and individual will add other requests according to the local situation. Let us not be content to pray privately, but let us also join in group prayers, remembering that one intercessor shall defeat a thousand but two shall put ten thousand enemies to flight.

For there is strength in unity—and there is power in perseverance. Let us wait upon the Lord during the Week of Prayer, and not be content with presenting our petitions once or twice—*let us keep asking*. God put wings on the birds to lift them into the sky, but they have to use them. And they never rise very high if they just flap their wings a time or two! God has given us two great wings—prayer and praise. Only by exercising these wings repeatedly, persistently, believingly, can we overcome all opposing elements and win the spiritual victories we desire.

—R.C.C.

# THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

December 18, 1966

Number 2745

Official Voice of the Assemblies of God  
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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.

**H**OW PRECIOUS IS JESUS to all who know Him. As the Apostle wrote, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious" (1 Peter 2:7). What joy and peace is found in believing on Him; and how unspeakably precious He becomes to those who not only receive Him as personal Saviour but also crown Him as King of their lives.

In this holy season that celebrates His birth, let us pause to consider some of the reasons for His preciousness.

#### **HIS ETERNITY**

Our Lord Jesus Christ is precious because of His eternity. Back through all the unmeasured yesterdays He coexisted with the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Son of God was one with the Father in the development of all His stupendous purposes in framing the worlds. Eternally He was the Son of God—unique in all His unsearchable knowledge and power before the foundations of the universe were laid. "The same was in the beginning with God . . . and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:2, 3).

#### **HIS LOVE**

Our Lord Jesus Christ is precious because of His eternal and unmeasured love. When sin's black storm shattered Adam's communion with God, bringing condemnation and death, the Son of God was moved with compassion. This is why He is called "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." His love for mankind did not begin at Calvary's cross; it began before man was created. It anticipated Eden's tragedy; yes, it actually burned as a living flame in His heart before the dark hour of man's disobedience and failure. How unspeakably precious is this unfathomable love!

#### **HIS HUMILITY**

And how tenderly precious Jesus becomes as we consider His unparalleled condescension! During the Christmas season we bow in holy awe and worship Him who became God incarnate. The Creator of the universe, the Upholder of all things, humbled Himself to lie in a stable's manger, surrounded by cattle in their proper home. Behold Him—the very Lord of glory—cradled there as a helpless babe, His normal needs met by a woman's gentle hands. He was born as any other child; ministered to as any other infant.

To meet man's dire extremity He "was made in the likeness of men"; He deliberately acquiesced to the will of the Father in "sending his own Son in the likeness

of sinful flesh." As the apostle Paul said, He was "made of a woman, made under the law" (Galatians 4:4). The only way He could identify Himself with creatures ruined by the fall was to join the fallen race through the Incarnation. How rare today is the tiniest semblance of such humility! It was a part of His preciousness—our loving Redeemer.

#### **HIS MINISTRY**

And what shall we say of His ministry on earth! Was it not exceedingly precious? He lived among men as "one who serveth"—touching the blind, the sorrowing, the sinful, the leprous, the bound, and the dead. Yes, and the children. He touched all humanity.

Never did He seek preeminence, recognition, reward. Only faithful words of comfort, strength, truth, and needed reproof fell from His lips. His life was filled with loving, sacrificial service. Stooping to meet the varied needs of lowly folk, He still walked as a shining Prince among men. How our hearts thrill to contemplate those treasured days of our Christ's sojourn upon earth!

#### **HIS DEATH**

With holy hush we speak of that precious body nailed to the Cross. Every blood-drop added to the fullness of His sacrifice, the pouring forth of His redeeming love that solemn afternoon. It was the only way, for sin's deadliness required a rare offering, a peculiarly precious sacrifice, to make the atonement. Only a Lamb without spot or blemish could be the propitiation for our sin and accomplish our redemption and release. Can we ever fully realize the preciousness of God's Lamb slain for us on Mount Calvary?

#### **HIS RESURRECTION**

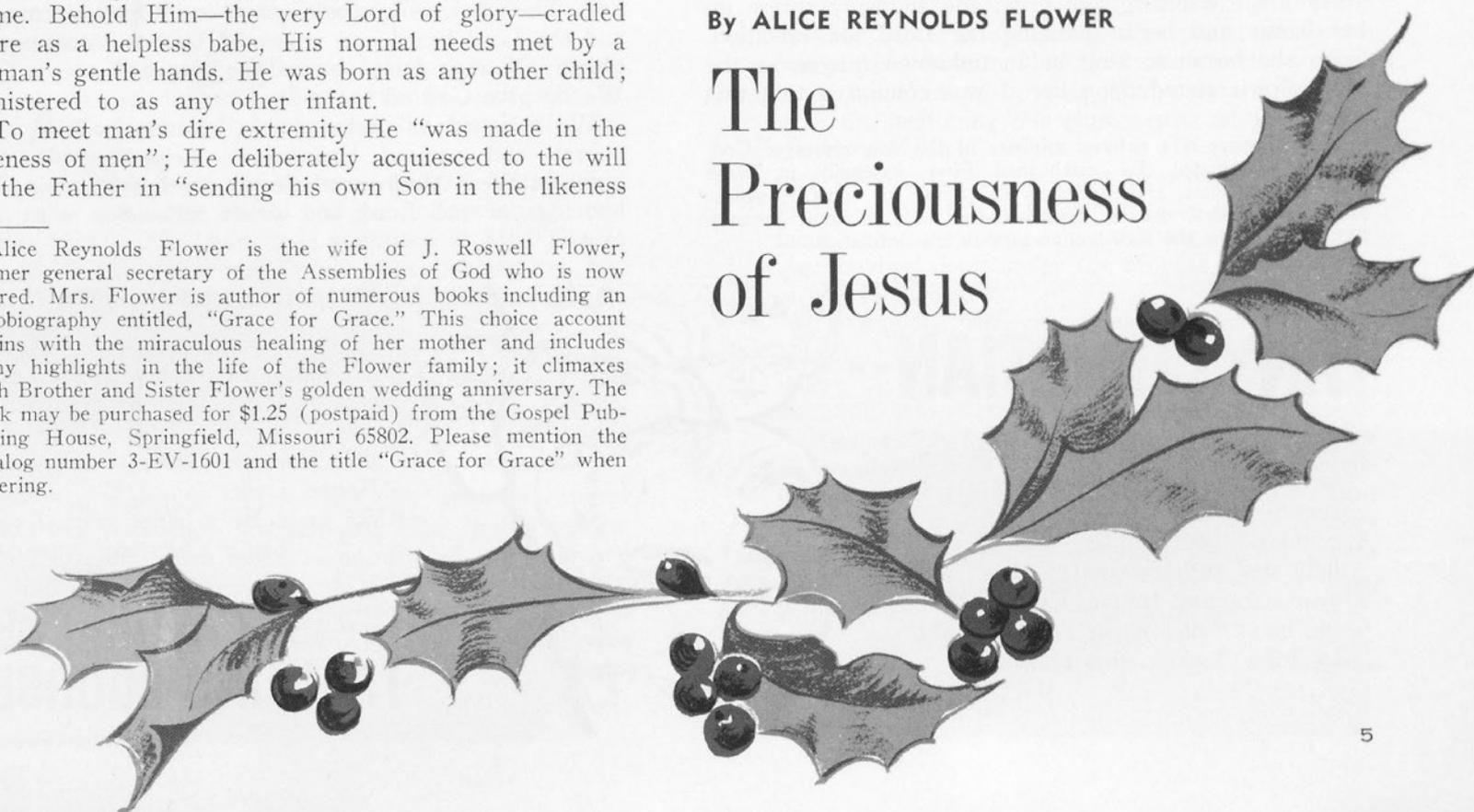
How precious also is the Resurrection. What a morning of joy as the crucified One came forth victorious from death's dark bondage! We rejoice in the triumphant testimony of the Father's acceptance of that Sacrifice

*(Continued on page eleven)*

By **ALICE REYNOLDS FLOWER**

# The Preciousness of Jesus

Alice Reynolds Flower is the wife of J. Roswell Flower, former general secretary of the Assemblies of God who is now retired. Mrs. Flower is author of numerous books including an autobiography entitled, "Grace for Grace." This choice account begins with the miraculous healing of her mother and includes many highlights in the life of the Flower family; it climaxes with Brother and Sister Flower's golden wedding anniversary. The book may be purchased for \$1.25 (postpaid) from the Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Please mention the catalog number 3-EV-1601 and the title "Grace for Grace" when ordering.



# I WAS THERE

ONE OF A SERIES OF EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF EARLY PENTECOSTAL REVIVAL DAYS, WRITTEN BY VARIOUS PIONEER PASTORS, EVANGELISTS, AND MISSIONARIES

## When the “Holy Rollers” Came

By E. L. TANNER

**M**RS. TANNER AND I were full of curiosity when we were told, “The Holy Rollers are coming!” We wondered why these strange religious people would expect folk to go to revival services through the deep mud of country roads such as we had in the little community of Summerfield, Louisiana.

The weather was cold and rainy when the strangers arrived—seven adults and one child—in January 1913. My father and two uncles, trustees of the Methodist Church, gave them permission to hold services there. None of them claimed to be a preacher, but all sang, testified, and explained the Scriptures.

Word got out that it was not a safe place for women and children, so only a few men and boys went at first. Finally one night a doctor broke the ice by bringing his wife and children, and others followed. The church was filled every night.

The first young man to respond to the altar call was picked up by two other men and carried from the altar.

A few nights later, to my great surprise, the first one at the altar was my wife! We had been married almost a year, and I knew her to be a quiet, timid person. Remembering the stories of how these folk supposedly would “hypnotize” people, I moved closer to see that nothing should happen to her.

As I sat watching her pray, she suddenly threw up her hands and began praising the Lord for salvation. Soon she began to sing in an unknown tongue as the Holy Spirit rested upon her. I was convinced that this

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E. L. Tanner is a veteran minister of the Assemblies of God, now superannuated. He established First Assembly in West Monroe, Louisiana, and served as its pastor for some 30 years. He was the first district superintendent in Louisiana. January 25, 1967, will be the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

was the work of God, although I was not saved until several months later.

In the summer of 1913 we attended a camp meeting at Malvern, Arkansas. There we met E. N. Bell whose paper, *Word and Witness*, had been an inspiration to us. When I went to pay him for a Bible I had ordered by mail, Brother Bell said to me, “I have no accounts against my brethren. Pay me what you remember the price to be.”

I marveled at this fellowship into which we had come.

Sister Woodworth Etter came for the last few nights of this camp meeting. As she prayed, both a deaf-mute child and a lady dying with tuberculosis were instantly healed.

One night we were thrilled to hear the heavenly choir join the earthly voices in a song. Sister Etter had asked the choir to stand and sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and to yield to the Spirit for she believed the Lord was going to visit the meeting in a special way. As they sang, Sister Tanner and I, as well as the whole congregation, heard a separate and distinct choir of voices blending perfectly with those of the singers before us. The sound of music and voices came in from the front, then swelled to fill the entire large tent above our heads, and finally lifted to fade away in the distance. It was truly heavenly and not of this earth.

At the beginning of our Pentecostal experience we made a complete consecration to God. Our ministry began in homes; then we held meetings in brush arbors, schoolhouses, open air, and finally tents. We had one tent in which to live and another for services. During the winters I would work, and in the summer we ministered wherever we found an open door in northern Louisiana. There are now churches established in almost all the places we preached during those early years.

In May 1924 we came to West Monroe, Louisiana, and the Lord helped us establish a church which we served for some 30 years. God performed many miracles in this city. One was the healing of my wife in 1952.

When she became very ill, the doctor X-rayed and found she had cancer too far advanced for surgical help. The whole congregation went to its knees in prayer, and the Lord heard and answered by healing her completely. X rays later showed no trace of the cancer. We do give God all the glory.

We resigned as pastor of the church in 1953. The church and various businessmen helped us build a home in West Monroe, where we continue to enjoy the blessings of the Lord and sweet fellowship with His people. 

## ANY CHRISTIAN--

who wants to give testimony to his faith or answer a questioning friend—and, of course, every Sunday school worker—will be enlightened and inspired by this year's training course. Featuring the book *Teaching as Jesus Taught*, by John Garlock, this unusual



course deals not with surface techniques, but with the real heart of Jesus' teaching approach. *Teaching as Jesus Taught* is available from the Gospel Publishing House, Order No. 2 EV 615 at \$1.25 each. Be a better teacher—a better Christian. Attend!

## -- 1967 WORKERS TRAINING COURSE

**T**HE NEW WOFFORD HEIGHTS, Calif., Assembly of God, dedicated October 17, 1966, is another church that faith built. David E. Morrison, his wife Nancy, and family moved to Wofford Heights, a community located on the shores of Lake Isabella, in June 1965 to establish a new church.

The Morrisons, both Bible school graduates, were associate pastors of Niles Assembly in Bakersfield before getting the call to pioneer a new church.

Fourteen people attended the first Sunday school ser-

## New Church Dedicated in California

vice they held in the Lake Theater. By October the growing congregation had purchased a lot for a new building. Soon they had to move to the Community Hall to conduct services. In January 1966 the church purchased a lot adjoining their property.

Community activities were constantly increasing, so the little group was forced to move again, this time to an empty building formerly used as doctors' offices.

On March 26, 1966, groundbreaking services were held for the new church building. By August 7, 1966, the little congregation moved into the new church, with 51 in attendance. Since then the attendance has continued to increase from Sunday to Sunday. The auditorium will accommodate about 110.

From the beginning, Wofford Heights Assembly has been a "miracle" church. The structure was built by Brother Morrison and members of the church who donated their time.

The building cost slightly over \$8,000. Outstanding loans now total only \$4,500 and the balance on the two lots is \$5,500. The building is appraised at \$18,000 plus the \$2,100 for furniture, (which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse May, members of the nucleus congregation).

On the night of the dedication, T. C. Cunningham, assistant superintendent of the Southern California District, was guest speaker. Over 160 people attended the service. The offering and pledges at the service totaled over \$600.

Now approximately 18 months old, the new congregation has much cause for rejoicing. The church reports that 20 people have been saved through its ministry (including jail services), several have been healed, six have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and seven have been baptized in water. And they are sure this is only the beginning!



David E. Morrison (shown with his wife and two children) is pastor of the new Wofford Heights, Calif., Assembly. The interior of the new church is shown below.



### THE PENTECOSTAL THRUST

EVEN THE BEST METHODS will not work without the dynamic of the Holy Spirit. The power of Pentecost thrusts us into New Testament methods. The Holy Spirit in missions is what makes it *go*.

In the beginning our church was an indigenous church movement—nothing else. It grew from its own resources. The strongest element of the church in Latin America is an indigenous church movement, self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating, moving along under the impulse and direction of the Holy Spirit.

I believe the basic principles on which the gospel spreads and the church grows are applicable anywhere in the world, whether it be in the U.S.A. or Latin America.

Missionaries teach each convert he should have the same spirit of sacrifice and dedication as the missionaries; that he should tithe and work for God to win souls. Churches and individual members must be made to feel responsible for winning others and for starting new works. And every church, every pastor should be producing workers.

—MELVIN HODGES  
Field Secretary for Latin America



The anointing of the Holy Spirit is evident in the dynamic preaching of "Revivaltime" Evangelist C. M. Ward. Many testify to the effectiveness of his person-to-person probing into human needs.

# REVIVAL

INTERNATIONAL RADIO BROADCAST



With the familiar words, "And now as we join in honoring Christ, our Saviour, with millions around the world, it's 'Revivaltime' everywhere!" National Radio Secretary Lee Shultz introduces the "Revivaltime" choir. The joyous, enthusiastic singing of these consecrated young people captivates the attention of millions each week.



The secret of "Revivaltime's" continued success is prayer. Visitors arriving early for the "live" broadcast service frequently discover the choir and other broadcast personnel earnestly seeking God's blessing and anointing. This Sunday's broadcast marks the beginning of "Revivaltime's" 14th year on the ABC Radio Network. Over the past 13 years God has preserved Evangelist C. M. Ward's health and enabled him to preach on 678 consecutive radio services. Scores of testimonies of salvation, healing and other miracles pour into the Radio Department each week witnessing to the spiritual impact of this prayer-motivated ministry. As "Revivaltime" reaches toward the millions from more than 460 radio stations each week, every staff member recognizes his total dependence upon the Holy Spirit. The words of Zechariah 4:6 are far more than a motto quoted at the conclusion of each "Revivaltime" altar call; they represent the heartthrob of every broadcast service: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."



A "Revivaltime" broadcast from the Assemblies of God headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. Team members shown include Lee Shultz, narrator (at table); C. T. Beem, program director (with earphones); C. M. Ward (at pulpit); and Cyril McLellan (directing choir).

# REVIVALTIME

BROADCAST OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD



Denise Power's rich contralto voice is heard on most "Revivaltime" broadcasts. After singing in the "Revivaltime" choir for three years, Denise was named soloist in 1964. Commenting on her singing, "Family Record Club Digest" recently stated, "It is evident from the tone, the quality, of her singing (indeed, that of the entire group) that she and all of the choir have spent much time in prayer, preparing for their music ministry."

## The King's Coming Foretold

Sunday School Lesson for December 25, 1966

ISAIAH 7:10-16; 9:2-7; 11:1, 2

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

AN ANGRY JEWISH FATHER is said to have told a rabbi who was giving private instruction to his son, "Stop teaching my boy the prophecies of Isaiah! Do you want to make a Christian out of him?"

The protest was not without justification. Putting together Isaiah's prophecies regarding the Messiah, one has a portrait of Jesus of Nazareth—the virgin-born Deliverer whose divine names speak of both His earthly ministry during the first advent and His glorious kingdom after the second advent.

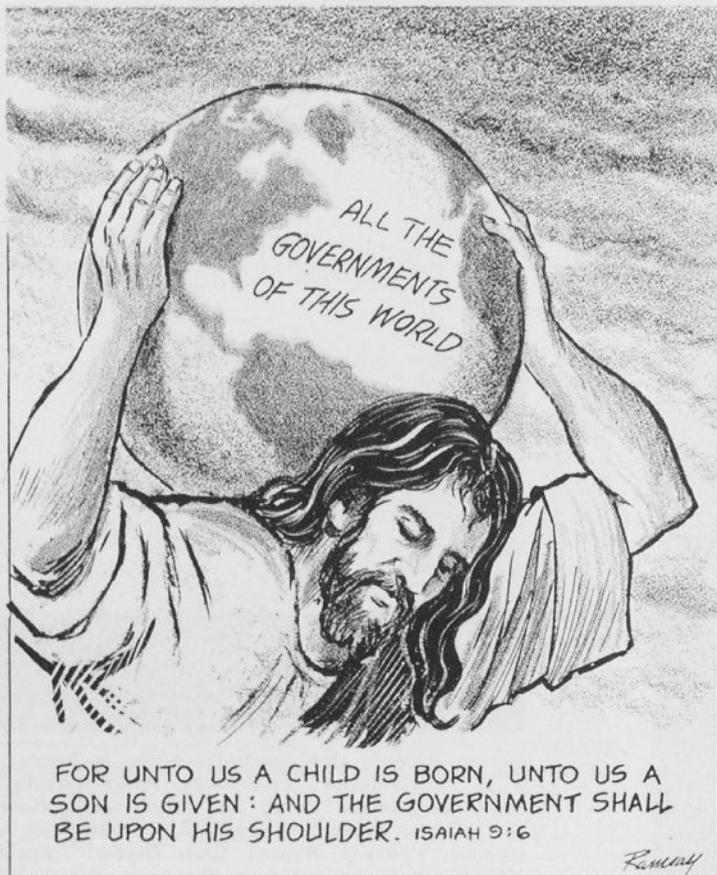
### THE KING'S VIRGIN BIRTH (Isaiah 7:10-16)

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (v. 14). This is one of Isaiah's greatest predictions. Matthew identified it with the virgin birth of Christ, to assure us it does apply to Him. Also through this prophecy Isaiah sought to reassure King Ahaz that the kings of Israel and Syria would not prevail against him.

### THE KING'S LOWLY ORIGIN (Isaiah 11:1)

This verse may be translated as follows: "A shoot

### WHEN PEACE WILL COME



shall come forth from the stump of the tree of Jesse [father of David], and a green branch shall grow out of his roots."

The meaning of this verse becomes clear when considered in the light of its context. Isaiah likened Assyria, the oppressor of Israel, to a great cedar tree which would be cut down, because the great power of Assyria would be finally and permanently broken; whereas the house of David would be almost exterminated and hewed down to a stump, yet from that stump would come a sprout, a new growth, the Branch—the Messiah—who would ultimately set up a kingdom which would never be destroyed.

It is interesting to note that the word *branch* comes from the same root word as *Nazareth*, the lowly village in which Jesus grew up.

### THE KING'S NAMES AND KINGDOM (Isaiah 9:2-6)

Isaiah saw the dawn of a new day for the part of Israel that had suffered most from Assyrian invasion. (Compare Isaiah 9:1, 2 with Matthew 4:13.) He foresaw the oppressor's power broken and warfare ended. And how has this been brought about? Because "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder" (Isaiah 9:6). Between the second and the last clause of this prophecy, however, there is an interval of over 1,900 years already. The first two clauses were fulfilled on that first Christmas Day in Bethlehem; the third will be fulfilled when Christ returns to earth, overthrows Antichrist's rule, sets up His own kingdom, and governs the earth for a thousand years.

In these verses we have a most inspiring and fitting description—both of the personal ministry of the promised Son and of the character of His rulership.

"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

The word *wonderful* may also be translated *miracle*. Christ was *the* miracle of the ages! His birth, His character, His ministry, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension were all miraculous. In His saving grace, healing power, baptizing power, sanctifying power, and keeping power, He is indeed wonderful!

He is the greatest of all counselors—able to advise and help us with every problem.

He is the mighty God with power to uphold the weak. He is not only man but God. "In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him" (Colossians 2:9, 10).

The name "everlasting Father" (or *Father of eternity*, as it is more accurately translated) does not identify Christ as the Father, for He is actually the Son in the Godhead; but it stresses His protective power and tender love.

The *Prince of Peace* is a title which reminds us: (1) "He is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14), having reconciled us to God by His atoning death on the Cross; (2) He is the preserver of our peace, enabling us—as we know Him through the Word and the Spirit—to have inner poise and calm in times of sorrow, stress, and strain; (3) He will establish upon earth a kingdom of peace—in which all injustice and sin shall be abolished. ✎

# The Preciousness of Jesus

(Continued from page five)

(Romans 1:4). What precious comfort came to those troubled, depressed disciples as they beheld their risen Lord, heard His voice, even ate of that breakfast prepared by those very hands so recently wounded for them and for all mankind.

## HIS PROMISES

Soon their precious Lord would be leaving them; but that would not be the end. Two special promises were left behind. There was to be another Comforter—the Holy Spirit—and He came to them.

There was also the promise that He would return—"this same Jesus."

This latter promise they did not see fulfilled. For us is the blessed anticipation of the return of this precious Jesus; and what a precious promise it is, bringing comfort to weary hearts, giving incentive for loving service, stimulating to holy living, and crowning all His believing followers with a blessed hope.

*Precious Christ whose precious blood  
hath brought us nigh to God!  
Chosen, called, accepted are we  
in the One beloved.*

*Opened to us is the way  
into the Holiest Place,  
Where we now may reign in life,  
partakers of His grace.*

*Precious, precious Jesus—all  
our springs in Thee arise!  
Now Thou art so wondrous, what  
will mean the opening skies?*

*Faith is now so sweet because  
it brings Thee very near:  
What will be Thy beauty when  
the mists of earth all clear?*

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# Your Questions

Answered by Ernest S. Williams

*Does the Bible say, "Spare the rod and spoil the child"?*

I do not believe that exact statement is in the Bible, but Proverbs 22:6 does read, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

We also read, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15).

*Who were the sons of God, spoken of in Job 1:6? I thought Jesus was God's only begotten Son.*

It seems evident that angels are spoken of as sons of God by creation. When God laid the foundations of the earth, "All the sons of God shouted for joy" (Job 38:7). Jesus is God's only begotten Son, by direct descent of Deity from the Father.

*Will we have to give account of the sins done after we are saved? Peter says God will without respect of persons judge according to every man's work (1 Peter 1:17). Is this judgment in this life or will it be hereafter?*

Peter reminds us that we should live carefully and in reverent fear during our earthly sojourn, since our lives will come before the Lord for judgment. Should a person sin, if "we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" now. "If we judge ourselves, we shall not be condemned with the world."

But the time is coming when we shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive according to the deeds done in the body. We are responsible as children of God for our manner of life. God knows the sincerity of our hearts. Thank God for continued cleansing as we seek to walk with Him. But I would not want to meet God having professed His name but knowing my life had not been consistent and lived in reverence for God.

*We are being taught that David is to be resurrected to be king over Israel in the Millennium. Do you agree with this?*

Some have suggested this, using such references as Jeremiah 30:9, "They shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them," and, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen" (Amos 9:11). I question this.

I believe the Davidic kingdom will be restored, but with our Lord Jesus, heir to David's throne, as its ruler, "the branch of the Lord." (See Isaiah 4, 11; Jeremiah 23:5-8.)

This was the promise to Mary when the angel told her she was to be mother of the Christ: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32, 33).

*If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Brother Williams will answer if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.*



By PAUL DEMETRUS • Radio Missionary to the Russians

RUSSIA TODAY could be likened to the blind man who sat by the wayside in the Biblical story. The disciples could have said to Jesus, "Master, this poor man also needs healing." But they showed no such concern. "Who did sin," they inquired, "this man or his parents?" With a critical spirit they tried to analyze the situation.

With her masses of people, Russia sits helplessly blind to the gospel of Jesus Christ; and the critics still ask, "Who did sin?" instead of seeking to cure the blindness.

Contrast to this the four men who were determined to bring their palsied friend to Jesus. Their attempts to carry the bed through the crowd were futile, for windows and doors were blocked with humanity. However, they refused to allow apparent obstacles to bar them from their mission. Hoisting the bed up to the rooftop, they began to remove the tilings. Perhaps the owner of the house stood in the crowd muttering his threats. That we do not know. We do know that contact was made with Jesus, and the palsied man walked away with his sins forgiven and his body made whole.

For years we were hindered from bringing sin-sick Russia into contact with Christ. We cannot go into Russia and preach the gospel. A human block bars the doors. We might well have said, "We would go if we could, but it is utterly hopeless to try," and chalked it off as another closed mission field; but with God there are no impossibilities. He means what He says: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

We have but one alternative—the rooftop! We would send the message of salvation through the very roof of

Russia! Our voices, carried by radio, would seek out millions of antennas and penetrate into every home that would tune our way.

"We have been listening for years," testified a refugee from Siberia.

"We still are able to tune into that program," wrote a man who was forced to move from Siberia back into the heart of the Soviet.

"Your message is for the ignorant bourgeoisie, not for the intelligent," wrote a youth. We were delighted to know that the intelligentsia was listening.

A few years ago news trickled out that a certain area in the Soviet had

experienced a real spiritual awakening, followed by a fresh outbreak of persecution. This was the section from which most of our mail was coming. We dared believe that our radio ministry contributed to the moving of the Holy Spirit in that area.

Ever since the rise of communism in the Soviet Union, Russians have been leaving their native land. We find colonies scattered all over the world. For the past 10 years the Lord has made it possible for us to air our *Voice of Truth* Russian and Ukrainian programs through the facilities of the Far East Broadcasting Company to reach other countries with a heavy Slavic population, in addition to Russia.

Gratifying reports come from almost every country in South America, for example. We have received a steady flow of mail ever since we started our daily broadcast from radio station KGEI in Belmont, California, over four years ago.

A young convert in South America, who allowed the sound from her radio to minister to her heart, wrote that she was unwanted. Crippled from

H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS



TO

"RADIO IS THE ONLY MEANS BY WHICH WE CAN SEND THE GOSPEL INTO RUSSIA"

West side of the Kremlin in Moscow.

birth, she believed her condition was a punishment from God. She had lost all desire to live and wanted to commit suicide. Then one day she turned on her radio and listened to the Russian gospel program. It was like balm to her heart, and she turned to the Lord. One after another, members of her family were saved.

She could have had a good excuse to sit and do nothing, but she has become a missionary right in her home. In a subsequent letter she sent us a picture of a group of lovely children she invites into her home three times a week for Bible lessons. She ended her letter saying, "I am praying for your radio broadcasts. This is my only church because I am a cripple."

Another letter came from Novosibirsk, U.S.S.R. "Recently I tuned to your program. The program does not interest me, but it does my grandmother. She knows little about radio and does not know how to tune it, so I must be her technician. Her birthday is coming up, and I would like to give her something she would like. Could you send me a Russian

Bible? It is impossible to obtain a copy here in the Soviet Union."

If we could send literature, we would gladly do so; but we cannot. Christian literature of any kind is intercepted before it reaches the addressee. Radio is the only means by which we can send the gospel into Russia.

How effective is radio? Recently a Roman Catholic priest, who had made it his business to interview every refugee leaving Hong Kong, volunteered this information to our personnel at the FEBC studio there: "The underground Church is very strong in China, and the Christians I interviewed attributed this to your Christian radio programs from which they obtained spiritual life and power." What is true in China is without doubt as true in the Soviet Union.

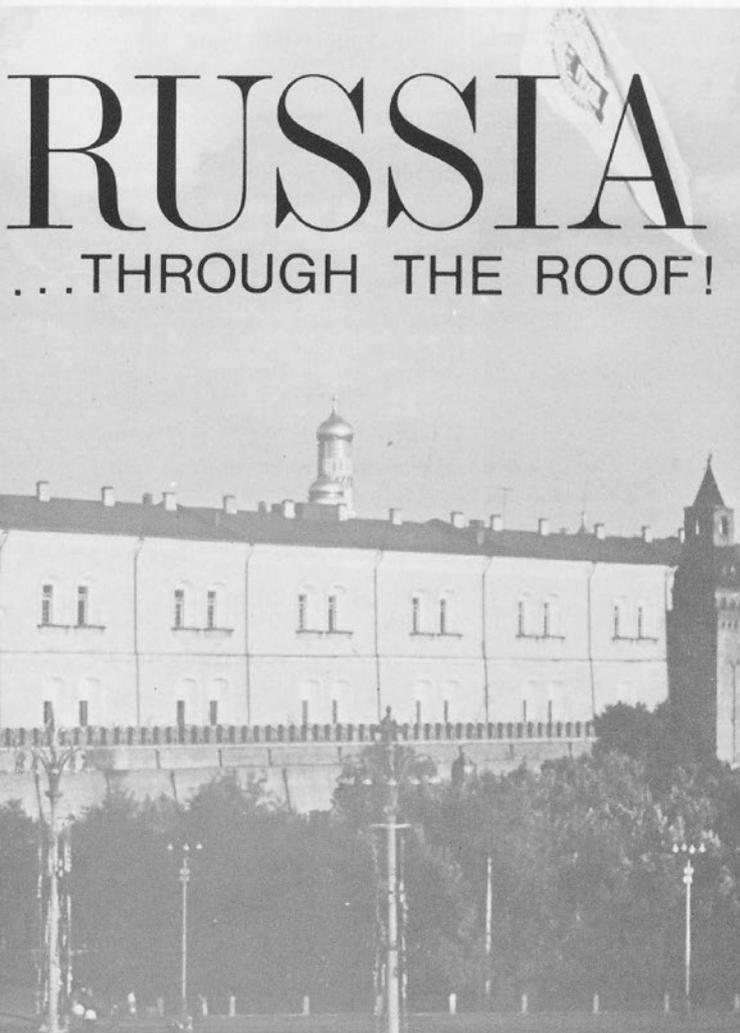
One man could have done very little for the palsied cripple in the Bible narrative. We too could do very little without help, so we thank the Lord for those who have faithfully stood behind this radio missionary outreach. There is available a transmitter donated to FEBC which can be used

exclusively to reach Russia; but we do not have sufficient funds to pay for the electrical power. Pick up a corner of the bed and help us take the message to Russia... through the roof.

Send Foreign Missionary offerings to  
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A Russian family in Argentina (photo above) receives spiritual help from the "Voice of Truth." They enjoy hearing the children's choir (below) from the Russian Gospel Temple of San Francisco and the adult choir (bottom). Joseph Lokteff (third from right in the front row) directs the radio music.



# NEWS OF THE CHURCHES



## CHURCH OBSERVES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

OSHKOSH, WIS.—First Assembly here recently observed the 50th anniversary of its founding with a week of special services.

Speakers included R. L. Scharnick, Lonnie Osborn, Carl D. Schmitt, Edward Lutz, and Robert Spencer, all former pastors of the church. Lyle Curtis, superintendent of the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District, spoke in the closing services.

The church was begun in 1916 in Brother Schmitt's home. Services were held in halls until 1920

when a building was rented and later purchased. In 1923 the church affiliated with the Assemblies of God.

Under the ministry of Elmer Bilton, the congregation purchased a lot and erected a new building which was dedicated in 1957.

God graciously poured out His blessing upon all the special services, and the church was edified.

Ortwin Hanson, the present pastor, has served the congregation since 1964.

CAIRO, GA.—Forty-five people were saved during special services at First Assembly here with Evangelist Freddy Clark of York, Pa. Nine were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Several others were reclaimed or refilled with the Spirit. Six people joined the church. Several were healed and delivered of the tobacco habit.

Several other area churches were encouraged and received the benefit from the meetings. The attendance more than doubled the regular services at First Assembly.

The church's testimony was strengthened, and it gained respect in the community. The door was opened for future opportunities.

—*I. H. Daniel, pastor*

\* \* \*

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.—Many people were blessed during recent services at Southside Tabernacle here with the Hale and Turner Gospel Team.

Six were saved and one was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Attendance was very good. The altars were filled each night with those desiring to draw closer to the Lord.

—*John W. Newby, pastor*



BAXTER SPRINGS, KANS.—First Assembly's Sunday school superintendent, Raymond Price (left), presents Mrs. Lester King with a plaque recognizing her 30-year perfect Sunday school attendance record. Pastor T. A. Gianopoulos is at the right.

HAMBURG, N. J.—The Assembly of God here recently concluded a week of meetings with Vernon Wright, pastor of Holy Temple in Hamilton, Ohio.

Eighteen people came forward for salvation, four were baptized in the Holy Spirit, and over 50 testified to definite healing in their bodies.

The church bought radio time each evening at 10 and Sunday morning at 9:45. Visitors came from Pennsylvania and New York after listening to the radio broadcasts.

Attendance increased in every service, and people continue to move forward accomplishing great things for the Lord.

—*David C. Milley, pastor*

\* \* \*

INDEPENDENCE, MO.—The ministry of Evangelist Neil Eskelin was readily received during a missionary-youth crusade at Englewood Assembly here recently.

Highlighting the services were his films of Africa and an interview on radio station KCCV. People telephoned their questions on Africa to the station for Brother Eskelin's answers and comments.

—*Bill Sharp, pastor*

\* \* \*

COTTAGE HILL, FLA.—The congregation of the Assembly of God here was blessed during services with Evangelist and Mrs. Jerry Haynes of Malden, Mo.

Eighteen were saved, four filled with the Holy Spirit, 16 baptized in water, and 15 joined the church.

—*Atha Lackey, pastor*

CHICO, CALIF.—Thousands of people visit Chico every year to see and hear First Assembly's "Singing Christmas Tree."

More than 60 carolers in the six-tiered branches of the 20-foot tree sing traditional Christmas hymns on the five nights preceding Christmas. Colorful gospel tracts are distributed to listeners at the display telling them of the Saviour and inviting them to attend First Assembly. Miniatures of the tree have been used the past two years at the church's booth at the Silver Dollar Fair to attract attention for further presentation of the gospel. George E. Elrod (at fair booth below) is pastor of First Assembly.





Congregation of the First Assembly in Lakeland, Fla., during the meeting with Evangelist and Mrs. Ernie Eskelin.

LAKELAND, FLA.—First Assembly enjoyed a wonderful crusade recently with Evangelist and Mrs. Ernie Eskelin. Many people were saved, and sick bodies were healed. Visitors from various denominations attended the meetings.

Sunday school records were broken several times with 617 people present the final Sunday.

These services were the climax to an undercurrent of revival that had been rising for a number of weeks. —Karl D. Strader, pastor

MASON CITY, ILL.—Several people were saved, sick bodies healed, and many spiritual victories were won in a special meeting at the Assembly of God here. D. F. Mosier of Fredericktown, Mo., was the evangelist.

Brother Mosier held a meeting at the church 17 years ago. The people who were saved and who received the Baptism in that meeting are still in the church and are a real asset to it.

—Kenneth C. Wallace, pastor

BANNING, CALIF.—Activity is the keynote and "Onward, Christian Soldiers" is the theme of members of First Assembly here.

The congregation is currently using the education building (which seats about 200 people) for regular

services. Construction is expected to begin soon on the main sanctuary.

The Men's Fellowship is reaching area businessmen through personal witnessing and is seeking a real old-time revival for the entire community.

Ladies of the church supplied paint which the young people used to redecorate the interior of the building.

Royal Rangers and Missionettes groups have also been organized. A junior evangelistic service is held each Sunday at 6 p.m.

First Assembly has designated times of ministry in a local hospital and in a Job Corps camp nearby. For over 20 years the church has ministered to men in the Riverside County Road Camp.

Pastor and Mrs. J. F. Walls have ministered at First Assembly for over 20 years.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.—The Assembly of God Tabernacle here recently conducted a Kids' Crusade with Andrew Maracle of Hogsburg, N. Y.

The attendance started at 45 but increased to 123. Children from several denominations attended. Many made decisions for Christ.

The Sunday school has seen an increase. Hearts have been chal-

lenged as a result of God's moving during the meeting.

—Robert Trombley, pastor

KANSAS CITY, MO.—Three were saved and one baptized in the Holy Spirit during special services at Glad Tidings Assembly here with Evangelist Leslie Smith of Springfield, Mo. Attendance for the meeting was better than average.

The services proved to be a tremendous spiritual lift to the church. The messages of practical Christianity greatly stirred the congregation. Revival continues in the hearts of the people.

—Bill Baker, pastor

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.—God is really blessing in the services at Calvary Assembly here. Eugene Thrasher is the new pastor. Many people are being saved, reclaimed, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Sick bodies are being healed by the mighty power of God. Sunday school attendance is also increasing.

—by Charles Barnett, Sunday school superintendent

### WITH CHRIST

JOHN W. B. JEFFCOAT, 38, of Antlers, Okla., was called into the presence of the Lord September 9, 1966. Brother Jeffcoat was ordained to the ministry in 1954 by the Oklahoma District. He served as an evangelist and as a pastor in Antlers, Valliant, and Ft. Towson, Okla. He is survived by his wife Geraldine and two children.

W. O. MIDDLETON, 29, of Mountain Grove, Mo., went to be forever with Christ following an automobile accident November 5, 1966. Brother Middleton, ordained to the ministry in 1963 by the Southern Missouri District, served as pastor in Essex and Mountain Grove, Mo. He was sectional C. A. director. He is survived by his wife Barbara and two children. Two brothers, Robert E. and Loyd N. Middleton, are ordained ministers.



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### GREAT CHAPTERS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 18-25

Sunday .....	2 John
Monday .....	Jude
Tuesday .....	Revelation 1
Wednesday .....	Revelation 2
Thursday .....	Revelation 3
Friday .....	Revelation 4
Saturday .....	Revelation 5
Sunday .....	Revelation 7

### PROMISE OF THE WEEK

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels" (Revelation 3:5).

The Blight of Indifference Is a Real Danger

# BEWARE

By GEORGE HOLMES

Menlo Park, California, Pastor, Community Assembly

THE CITIZENS OF A CERTAIN COUNTRY were simmering with excitement. Their king's fine young son was soon to be married. Everyone looked forward to the event, and of course many hoped they would be invited to the festivities.

In due course, the invitations were prepared. Because of the importance of the occasion, the king had them delivered by special messengers.

Moreover, the messengers were instructed to inform all those invited that elaborate preparations were being made and the celebrations would be the talk of the town for many days.

As each favored person held the written invitation in his hand and listened to the king's personal message, he realized he was being greatly honored. His monarch was offering him a rare opportunity to share his personal joy.

Of course, it was possible for a man to decline the invitation, even though it brought with it such honor, but it would be difficult to find a logical reason why anyone would want to do so.

Yet a curious thing happened. All those who received an invitation simply "made light of it, and went their ways." They treated the whole matter with indifference!

Notice, it was not a laborious duty or a demand for payment of a bill they were passing up. It was an offer to share the joy of their king and his beloved son.

When they shrugged their shoulders at the enthusiastic voice of the messenger, it was not a mere servant they were treating so lightly. They were disdainful of the voice of a great and kindly king who had honored them with a personal invitation.

One man went to his farm. There was so much to be done there he could not spare enough time to accept the great honor! Thoughts of feed, cattle, and fluctuating prices crowded out any consideration of the magnificent palace, the honored guests, the joy of the marriage.

Another man went to his merchandise. He had to look it over every day because it was all he had. In a way it was his religion and his god. He found in it a kind of consolation and security. But he had to stay with it lest the market crumble and his god vanish overnight.

No doubt these men considered themselves loyal subjects, but by their attitude they revealed where their true interests lay. Their words may have expressed devotion and loyalty to their monarch, but their actions centered in their own interests. Their constant pursuit of material things had made them insensitive to higher values, and this accounted for their indifference. The groove had deepened every day.

Though these men professed loyalty, their lack of concern for the king's interests was actually a form of disloyalty. Because they were not for the king, they were against him. So their choice determined the king's decision that "they that were bidden were not worthy."

In this Parable of the Wedding Feast, Jesus showed that indifference is as great an evil as the baser sins.

Many in our nation are guilty of the sin of indifference to God's invitation to salvation. Offered at great cost to the Divine Trinity and personally delivered by the King's messengers, the call to salvation is rarely opposed. More often it is simply neglected. Men "make light of it, and go their ways" to perdition.

How have you treated the divine invitation to be saved? Perhaps at the time of the passing of a loved one you heard the call of God in your heart, serious and persuasive. And you listened for a moment, but after a while you made light of it, and went your way—back into the old pattern of living for time instead of eternity.

You prayed on the battlefield. "A close call," you said. But your cry was heard, and you did make it back home. And after a while you made light of it and went *your* way—not God's.

Do you recall the vow you made to pay tithes and serve God—when your financial world had collapsed around you? You needed help then and you believed God would honor you if you honored Him with the tithe. You have been blessed financially in the intervening years. Have you remembered that you are God's steward? Or have you made light of your vow and gone your own way, without paying a tenth to God?

God may have invited you repeatedly, through your own children, to attend church. Have you accepted, or shrugged off, the invitation?

All you need to do to become a spiritual casualty, an eternally lost soul, is to do nothing at all—just yield to the blight of indifference.

Not all those who will be lost for eternity are unrepentant blasphemers, murderers, thieves, and such like. The sin of spiritual neglect, the blight of indifference concerning eternal things, can cause a man to be lost as surely as any other sins.

In the final analysis, it is our response to God—what we do about His invitation to salvation—that determines our eternal destiny. You have been invited to be saved. What is your response?