

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

AUGUST 1967

TEN CENTS



LIBERIANS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

See page 8

DAYS OF HEAVEN UPON THE EARTH

THE PROPHET JOEL paints a glorious picture of revival; but before we look at that picture I would like you to see the tragic picture that precedes it. The revival and restoration is all the brighter when seen against that awful picture of devastation and desolation.

THE DARK PICTURE

Israel had fallen away from God. Because of her backsliding the Lord had sent destruction in the land, and that destruction was brought about through multitudes of various insects: "That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten." (Joel 1:4).

The palmerworms came in multiplied thousands and attacked the fruit trees. Applying the lesson spiritually, we find that the enemy of our souls has attacked the fruit trees. The Church has let him steal away the gifts of the Spirit to a great degree, and also the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance).

What the palmerworm left, the locust ate. Not only was the fruit devoured, but also the leaves. The leaves speak of prayer, praise, testimony, and singing in the Spirit.

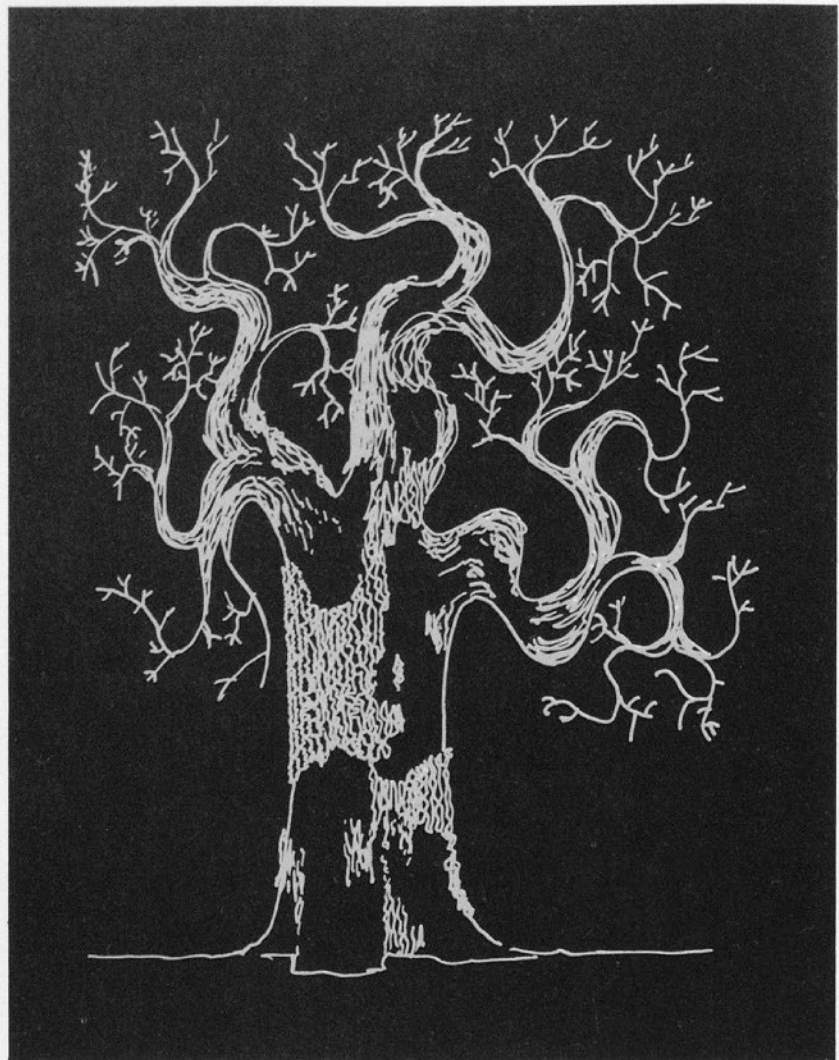
After the locusts came the cankerworms. The cankerworms devoured the branches and the tender shoots, making the trees cankerous and decayed. Spiritually it is a picture of the way the enemy can cause God's people to become so indolent and indifferent that they wander away from the path of holiness and begin to mix with the world.

After the cankerworms came the caterpillars, making their nests in the decayed and rotted heart of the tree.

What a dark picture a church presents when it loses its beautiful green leaves of testimony and its nine clusters of precious fruit through lack of prayer. No church can live without prayer—that is its spiritual breath. Nor can it live without its branches and limbs of activity through which the "sap" may flow. God needs consecrated lives through which He can pour Himself out in the world. When the Early Church failed at this point, the world entered the Dark Ages, and people lost sight of the fact that Jesus is alive, and that He is able to save all who put their trust in the cleansing power of His precious blood.

THE KEY TO REVIVAL

We have seen the dark picture. Now before we see the bright one we must examine Joel 2:12-17, for this is the key to revival. "Turn ye even to me," God says. The people were going in the wrong direction. Then He describes the manner in which they must turn to Him "with all your heart." It matters little about the head, for we read, "If thou shalt confess with



thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine *heart* that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved; for with the *heart* man believeth unto righteousness."

Then the Lord says, "...with fasting." Fasting is abstinence from food and from everything that would hinder our spiritual progress in God.

He adds, "...and with weeping, and with mourning." Many do not like to come to a church where people kneel before God and weep their hearts out, but God's children need such times of brokenness in prayer. Any church program that does not provide an opportunity for people to pray and cry their hearts out to God at times, is unhealthy. I know the world says, "Keep smiling," but you do not smile when some loved one is near death, nor when a terrible catastrophe has come upon you. Neither will you go about in a light, frivolous attitude when you realize the importance of knowing God and the horror of spending eternity without Him.

In verse 13 the Lord continues by saying, "Rend your heart." The word *rend* means to tear something in two. "Rend your heart, and not your garments." An outer holiness is not sufficient. I believe in modest dress, but I think God demands something deeper than an outward appearance that conforms to certain standards of holiness. God looks beyond the garment and He examines the heart.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion"—that is, sound the alarm to the people of God. "Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly" (v. 15). Spare yourselves from things that are light and useless, and move into that place with

THE BRIGHTER FUTURE

Having considered the requirements upon which revival is contingent, we may now turn to the brighter picture. The Lord says that if we will do certain things, He will grant deliverance and restoration. Read this glorious word picture of revival in Joel 2:18-27. What the Lord did for Israel in a literal sense, He can do for the Church in a spiritual sense. He promises a full and complete restoration.

And then notice the following words (verses 28 and 29)—“And it shall come to pass afterward.” What shall come to pass “afterward”? Here is what God says: “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the hand-maids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.”

I am convinced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the restoration of Pentecostal power has done more to turn the Church back to God than anything else in this 20th century.

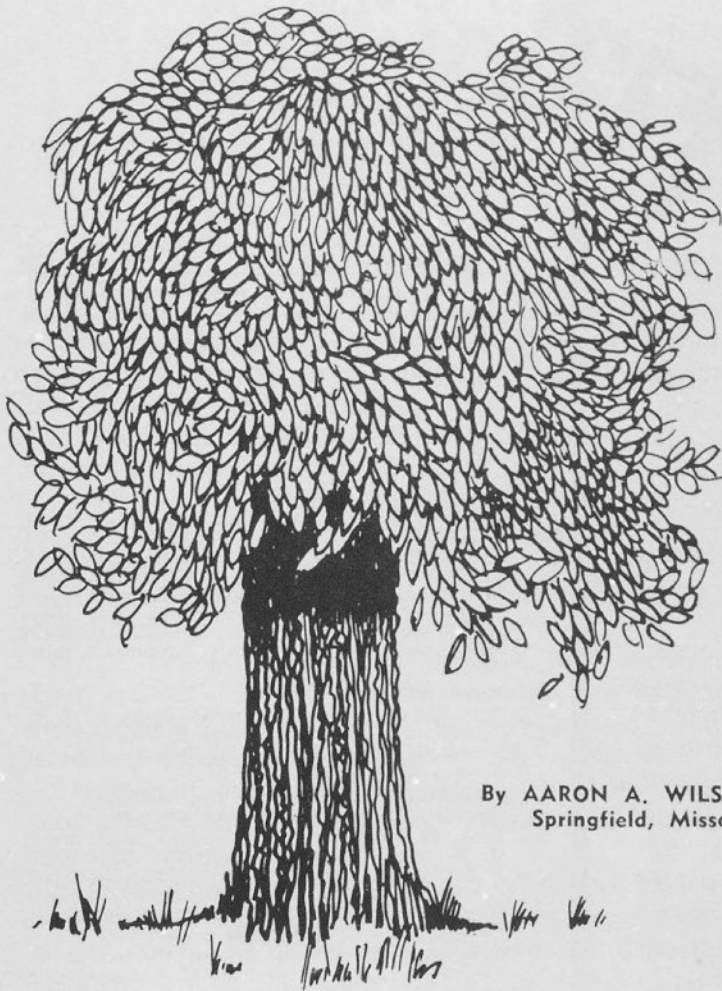
Notice verse 23: “He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.” The early rain in Palestine was to prepare the soil for sowing the seed in the fall. The latter rain was given in the spring to mature the grain and prepare it for harvest. Similarly God gave the early rain of His Spirit to the Early Church to prepare humanity for the sowing of the gospel, and He has given the latter rain in these last days to prepare the Church for the harvest when the Lord will come.

Thank God for the spiritual “rain” which we have had and which we now enjoy. If you have not yet received your portion, ask the Lord for it. In Zechariah 10:1 we read, “Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.” Do not believe anyone who may try to tell you that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not for us today. We know differently. The apostle Peter said, “The promise [of the Holy Spirit] is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:39).

In Deuteronomy 11 we have what may be called “God’s latter-rain covenant with His people Israel.” Read verses 11-15, and verses 18-21, and notice especially verse 14 which says: “I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.”

Oil is for beauty, dignity and glory. Wine speaks of exhilaration and joy. Corn is for food. Remember, when you do not feel the joy and gladness from the wine of the Spirit, and it seems you lack the oil for dignity and glory, be sure to keep eating the spiritual corn. Feeling or no feeling, corn will sustain you until the feeling returns. I know there are some folk who would take all the feeling out of salvation, but I thank God for the feeling and I want to keep it there.

So let’s stay under the refreshing showers of the latter rain, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There we may enjoy a well-rounded life of abundant blessing and fruitful service, and we may find this latter-rain experience to be to us, in the words of Moses, “days of heaven upon the earth” (Deuteronomy 11:21).



By AARON A. WILSON
Springfield, Missouri

God where you can hear His voice and can find spiritual satisfaction in His presence.

“Gather the people” (v. 16). Oh, how the Lord longs to see His people desiring to be in His house, yearning for the opportunity to attend a worship service. Not only gather the people, but “sanctify the congregation.” God wants us to be separated from all that is carnal.

“Assemble the elders”—there is a place in God’s work for the older people. The farther we go in life, the more we should desire to be in church. The Psalmist said we should still bring forth fruit in old age.

“Gather the children.” Some parents will say, “We do not take the children to church; they cannot understand.” Children grasp much more than we think they grasp. “Gather the children,” the Lord commands, “and those that suck the breasts”—nursing babies. Even babies can be taken to church. No one is too young or too old to attend the house of God.

“Let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.” The folk who contemplate marriage and those who are newly married need to go to church. God wants the whole family there.

Then God calls upon the ministers: “Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar” (v. 17)—and in their weeping let them cry out in prayer, “Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?” God grant that we ministers will sow in tears, that we may reap in joy.

His Going - Our Gain

IT IS DIFFICULT sometimes to see how "all things work together for good" as Paul affirmed in Romans 8:28.

When the nationwide railroad strike went into effect July 16, the management of the Gospel Publishing House here at Springfield began to wonder what we would do with all the church and Sunday school literature that was coming off our presses. If the strike should continue, our operations would soon be paralyzed; for we are dependent on the Post Office to deliver the literature to our subscribers, and when the railroads ceased to run the Post Office had to tell us they could not accept our second-class mail.

How could this railroad strike be one of the "all things" that work together for good? We faced the prospect of seeing the literature stack up in enormous amounts in our printing plant, undelivered and unread. Fortunately the railroads, by order of the Government, went back into operation by July 18. We trust the labor dispute will be settled in due time without another strike so we can continue to mail the *Evangel* regularly.

Jesus' disciples must have been puzzled when He said to them, "It is expedient for you that I go away" (John 16:7). How could this be? How could they possibly gain by His going away? They thought their happiness was complete just by being with Him. They loved His presence. Just to hear His voice, to listen to His teaching, to see His deeds of kindness and watch Him perform His miracles—what could be better than this! And yet He said it was expedient—actually to their advantage—that He go away.

Why? The remainder of the verse gives the reason. "For if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

Our Lord could be *with* His disciples, but He did not dwell *within* them. The Holy Spirit, who had been *with* them, was able to be *in* them (John 14:17). This made the difference.

Jesus also said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and *greater* works than these [*greater in degree*, the Greek indicates; *more*] shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). It was expedient that He go back to the Father in heaven so those who believe on Him might be filled with the Spirit and endued with power to do these "greater works."

There are other reasons why the disciples—and we today—are benefitted by Christ's departure. It is better to have an exalted Christ exercising all power in heaven and in earth, than to have One subject to the limitations of human flesh. It is better to have a glorified Christ in heaven, to whom we may pray at all times, than to have One confined to a particular spot on earth. It is better to know He is in heaven, interceding for us. Better to know His eye is upon us, and His ear is always open to our prayers. Better to know He is preparing a place for us in heaven, that eventually we might be with Him there. Best of all, when He returned to heaven He began to shed forth the Holy Ghost with manifestations which can be seen and heard around the globe (Acts 2:33). Indeed, it is expedient that He went away; His departure was for our good. Are we taking full advantage of the benefits offered?

—R.C.C.

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

August 6, 1967

Number 2778

Official Voice of the Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65802

BERT WEBB, *Executive Director*

ROBERT C. CUNNINGHAM, *Editor*

R. G. CHAMPION, *Managing Editor*

NORMAN PEARSALL, *Art Editor*

W. F. McPHERSON, *Circulation Manager*

DEPARTMENTAL EDITORS

David Womack, Foreign Missions; Ruth Lyon, Home Missions; E. S. Caldwell, Radio; C. W. Denton, Spiritual Life—Evangelism; F. Wildon Colbaugh, Men's Fellowship; Johnnie Barnes, Royal Rangers; Everett James, Light for the Lost; Verne MacKinney, Speed-the-Light; Frances Foster, Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade; Ann Ahlf, Women's Missionary Council; Charlotte Schumitsch, Missionettes.

EDITORIAL POLICY BOARD

Bert Webb (Chairman), E. W. Bethany, G. R. Carlson, N. D. Davidson, Joseph R. Flower, G. W. Hardeastle Sr., D. H. McLaughlin, Kermit Reneau, R. H. Wead.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Thos. F. Zimmerman (Gen. Supt.), Bert Webb, H. S. Bush, C. W. H. Scott, T. E. Gannon, J. P. Hogan, Bartlett Peterson, M. B. Netzel, E. W. Bethany, G. R. Carlson, N. D. Davidson, Joseph R. Flower, G. W. Hardeastle Sr., D. H. McLaughlin, Kermit Reneau, R. H. Wead.

Copyright 1967 by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Printed in U.S.A. Second-class postage paid at Springfield, Missouri.

WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription: U.S., its possessions, and U. S. servicemen abroad: \$3 a year; \$5.75 two years. Introductory offer: four months for \$1. Canada and PUAS* countries: \$4.25 a year; \$8.25 two years. Foreign: \$5 a year; \$9.75 two years. Bundle subscription (minimum of four subscriptions, all mailed to one address; prices quoted are for each subscription): U.S.: 78c for 13 weeks; \$2.75 a year. Canada and PUAS* countries: 96c for 13 weeks; \$3.50 a year. Foreign: \$1.05 for 13 weeks; \$3.75 a year.

*PUAS—Canadian rates apply to all countries in the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain. See your postmaster for a list of these.

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

Subscribers outside the U.S. only may receive the International Edition (one copy a month) for \$1 a year, postpaid.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Send both old and new addresses, including old address label if possible. Allow at least four weeks for change to become effective. The post office will not forward copies unless you provide extra postage with forwarding instructions.

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.

Left

HUMAN NATURE being what it is, there are times when we wish to be left alone. It may be a time of frustration and anger. It may be a period of pressure, or a season of sorrow or illness. Sometime, somewhere, each of us has said to someone, "Just leave me alone."

In some instances, this is good; we can work out our problem alone. In other cases, it is bad; there are times when we cannot think through a situation without another's help. All of us must encounter such experiences. Men have been undergoing similar dilemmas since time began, but some persons are more "alone" than others at such times.

If we are really *alone*, frustration may turn into anger and bitterness. Anger may develop into hate and vindictiveness. Illness and sorrow may become an unbearable burden, and the pressure may break us.

Throughout history men of God have gone through great crises alone. Yet, on closer scrutiny we find they were not really alone.

Abraham stood alone on a desolate plain; but God was there, and great and precious promises were given.

Jacob was alone in the night, but God was there; and Jacob the "trickster" became "Israel, the prince of God."

Moses was alone on the back side of the desert, but God was there; and He commissioned Moses from the burning bush.

Then there was Elijah, alone in a cave on Mount Horeb; John the Baptist, alone in the wilderness; Paul, alone in the Arabian desert; John, alone on Patmos; and Jesus, alone in the wilderness. But what a difference it made when God was at the scene and angels were ministering! And what a difference it makes today when the Lord is with us in our solitary experiences. People may not understand us, for each person has qualities and traits that make him different from all others; but God does. When we are alone with Him we can be assured we are with One who is "touched with the feelings of our infirmities." He knows. He cares. He understands just what we need. Oh, how He ministers to us in the lonely hours!

There are times when, like Jacob, we wish to be left alone in prayer. General prayer is different from "closet" prayer. Jesus said, "When you pray, go in to a room by your self, shut the door, and pray" (Matthew 6:6, NEB). There in our closet the distractions are shut out and we are shut in with God. We pour out our heart and soul to the Lord with the assurance that He sees and hears. There in the secret place Jesus enters, "the doors being shut," and applies the healing balm of Gilead to our aching hearts. He soothes our troubled souls and rests our weary spirits. How blessed it is to leave that place of prayer with renewed strength and new confidence that He has seen the travail of our souls, and that He who met us in secret will reward us openly.

In times of pressure we need to learn the value of being alone with God. Here it is that we learn the

ALONE



By **RUSSELL R. WISEHART**
Kansas City, Missouri

precious secret of God's love for His children. When Ziklag lay in ashes and David's men were ready to stone him, the Bible says that "David encouraged himself in the Lord." David was so conscious of God's presence in times of need that later he could write, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." God's Word to us through the prophet Isaiah is, "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands." What encouragement to the tense, troubled soul! Every time God lifts His hand He sees us. Every time we need help He brings deliverance.

Sometimes we find ourselves alone in sorrow. Mary, alone at the tomb of Jesus, was blinded by her tears. She did not recognize Him. Her grief knew no bounds. She thought her Lord was gone. But when He tenderly spoke her name, what a thrill it brought to her anguished heart.

Cleopas and his friend were walking slowly towards Emmaus. It was the third day. They had not seen the Lord since the Crucifixion. They were lonely. But in the midst of their despondency Jesus made Himself known to them in the breaking of the bread.

As Jesus faced Gethsemane He told His disciples, "Ye... shall leave me alone, and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

Oh, what ecstatic experiences, what rich teaching, what strength and encouragement we derive from being alone with God. He tenderly speaks our name in times of gloom. He reveals Himself to us in times of dis-

couragement. He stands by us in the place of crushing pressure. He knows just how much we can bear, and stays the enemy's hand before the breaking point is reached.

"Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him..." (Genesis 32:24). Sometimes we too will find there is wrestling to be done in the solitary place before the blessing is given. The reward, however, is well worth the struggle. We may not receive a physical handicap, as Jacob did, but we will receive something that will mark us as one who has been alone with God.

The disciples spent many hours in closed sessions with their Master. The world saw them as unlearned and ignorant men, but when they observed their boldness "they took knowledge of them, that they had been with

Jesus." This makes all the difference. To be left alone with God is to have a foretaste of heaven.

What a day it will be when we go to live forever with the Lord, never to be alone again. However, solemn warnings abound throughout the Bible concerning the indescribable fate of those who, in the end, will be left alone *without* God.

Judas went out from the Passover supper "and it was night." A short time later he was in eternity alone.

One of the tragedies of the second coming of Christ will be the fact that "one shall be taken, and another shall be left"—left alone, to face terrible times of tribulation.

Where will you be in that last day? Will you be with Jesus at the marriage supper, or will you be *left alone*?

SAMSON'S STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS

By **HOWARD CARTER**
London, England

THE STORY OF GOD'S STRONG MAN, Samson, contains lessons for us all. It is the story of a man so powerful he could carry the gates of Gaza on his shoulders, yet so weak he succumbed to the wiles of a woman.

Who has not read this man's story and been amazed at his personal weakness. For all his famous exploits, Samson was but an ordinary human when the Spirit of the Lord was not resting upon him—a man of like passions as we are, cumbered with human frailties. He was not a giant. His strength was not Herculean but comparable with that of an average man. Yet when the Spirit was upon him the Philistines were struck down in their armor, the city gates lifted from their masonry, and the great temple of Dagon utterly demolished.

From his experiences we can learn some spiritual principles to help us win our battles with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Samson's birth was supernatural. His mother had been barren until an angel of God told her she should bare a son, and the son should be a Nazarite. He was not to cut his hair, partake of the fruit of the vine, or touch a dead body, for this was the vow each Nazarite must make to God.

This young man who had been dedicated from birth surprised his parents one day by declaring he wanted a certain woman for a wife. The trouble was, she was a daughter of the Philistines. The shocked parents asked

if there were not a daughter of the Israelites that he could marry instead, but he was adamant. "Get her for me," he said, "for she pleaseth me well" (Judges 14:3). So preparations were made for the wedding.

Nothing unfavorable is said about this young woman except that she was not of Israel. She belonged to the enemies of God's people. No doubt she was an attractive girl, and perhaps a good conversationalist. She probably was charming and affectionate. But she belonged to the uncircumcised Philistines. Samson's mistake in marrying a Philistine girl undoubtedly was the root of his future troubles. It was not a happy marriage for it ended in tragedy for the girl and her father.

After the death of his wife Samson wandered in the country of the Philistines and entered Gaza, a walled city. There he met a woman who was a harlot. If his first love affair was a bad one, this was much worse. Samson was a man of God who knew the thrill of being endued with the Spirit of the Lord, and yet he went into the house of a prostitute. The man of the Spirit indulged in the sin-stained life of the flesh! What a warning to every Spirit-filled man. Be extremely careful where you look, and resist every temptation by which you would be robbed of God's power and God would be robbed of His glory. The Spirit warreth against the flesh, and the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, for these are contrary the one to the other.

Samson did not stay all night with the woman. He

arose at midnight and tried to leave Gaza, but found the gates of the city barred against him. His mighty achievement in carrying away the great gates and the two posts was a triumph of his faith, in spite of the weakness of his flesh.

The course of his life continued to lead downward. It took Samson into the valley of Sorek, to a woman named Delilah who was in league with the Philistines. No doubt she too was fair of appearance and pleasant of speech, fragrant with perfumes and alluring in her ways. Samson was being led unknowingly like a bull to the slaughter. The Philistines had promised Delilah 1,100 pieces of silver if she could learn the secret of Samson's great strength so that he could be destroyed.

Delilah's feminine charm, her pleasing smile, her tender embrace, her amorous whisperings all had one objective. She was out to destroy God's strong man, and she succeeded. Her fame was established in Philistia and her name a household word among the enemies of God's people.

These three women in Samson's life may be regarded as illustrations of three types of temptation we face today.

The first woman from Timnath had nothing recorded against her except that she was a Philistine. She was not of Israel. *She represents the world which tempts us.* The pleasant, attractive, glittering world is not of God but is crucified to the believer by the Cross of Christ. He that is a friend of this world is an enemy of God. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Satan is the god of this world, and to love the world is to have fellowship with God's arch-enemy.

Regarding the second woman, we are told she was a harlot. *She represents the temptations of the flesh which assail the child of God.* This woman was in Gaza, an enemy city. If Samson had not made his first mistake of compromising with "the world," he would not have been seduced by the temptations of the flesh!

Samson submitted to the temptation. He went in unto the harlot. How low can a Spirit-filled man sink if he does not watch and pray! He had not broken his

CORRUPTING GOD'S WORD

THE WORD *corrupt*, as used in the Bible, describes what street peddlers of ancient Greece did to the wine and other things they sold. These hucksters were notorious for adulterating their wine and cheating their customers.

Paul had in mind this unscrupulous practice of the peddlers when he wrote: "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God" (2 Corinthians 2:17).

Great havoc is wrought by those who compromise or water down God's Word. The inspired writers of the Bible spoke most severely of such persons. "For there are certain men crept in unawares, . . . ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4). "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:13, 14).

—WALTER B. KNIGHT in *Gospel Herald*

Nazarite vow but he had undermined his sanctification.

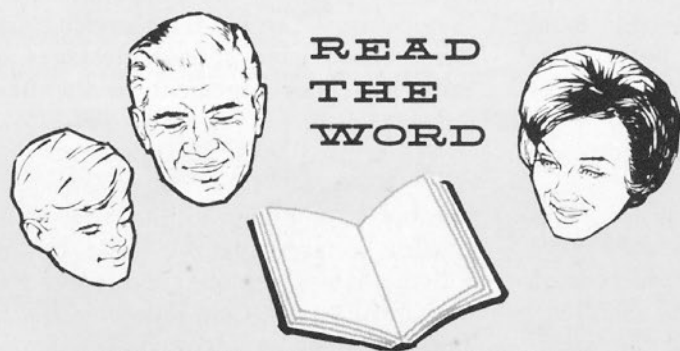
It is recorded that he left the harlot at midnight. Perhaps his conscience was troubling him. If not, it ought to have been. He arose and tried to leave the city, but found himself trapped by the barred gates. Angrily he burst through and escaped, carrying the gates and two posts on his shoulders. Some may wonder how he was enabled to accomplish this feat after sinning so shamefully. It is true that he sinned; however, he had not broken his Nazarite vow: so the Spirit of God responded to his faith, although his fleshly indulgence was a grief to the Lord.

It was the third woman, Delilah, who was the treacherous one. She was in league with the lords of the Philistines. *She represents the devil and his wiles.* Her one thought in all she did and said was to obtain the secret of Samson's strength in order to wreck him. All her talents were prostituted to that end.

Let this be a warning. The devil is after the men and women of God who are the mightiest in the Spirit. He is very deceitful. He looks for secret ways to wreck you. One would think Samson could have perceived Delilah's motive and left her before it was too late, but there is a fascination of sin which blinds the soul before it destroys it.

Men and women of God, we have three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Watch to see where danger lies, and pray for grace to overcome. If you yield to temptation, you will lose your testimony for Christ and God will be dishonored. If the devil overcomes you, you will go into darkness, as surely as Samson did. They put out his eyes and he never saw the light of day again.

Your strength depends on the Spirit of the Lord, as much as Samson's did. Keep the anointing. Be on guard. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Spirit-filled brother, watch and pray lest you enter into temptation. You have everything to gain by overcoming the world, the flesh, and the devil—and nothing to lose but shame.



CHAPTERS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 6-13

Sunday	Romans 11, 12	Thursday	1 Cor. 3, 4
Monday	Romans 13, 14	Friday	1 Cor. 5, 6
Tuesday	Romans 15, 16	Saturday	1 Cor. 7, 8
Wednesday	1 Cor. 1, 2	Sunday	1 Cor. 9, 10

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).



Somebody loves you...

Monrovia

Good News
Crusade

By PAUL OLSON • Good News Evangelist

SOMEBODY LOVES YOU—how fitting a theme for the GOOD NEWS CRUSADES being held throughout West Africa. For years much of our missionary program was directed to the small villages and bush country; but today we are reaching great metropolitan areas with GOOD NEWS CRUSADES.

During a six-week outreach, Monrovia, capital of Liberia, opened like a flower in the sunshine to the message of the gospel.

Missionary Joseph Judah, crusade chairman, and C. T. Sampson, host pastor, welcomed our evangelistic party to Liberia. Immediately we began to lay plans with national pastors and missionaries for a spiritual awakening in a country ripe for revival.

We printed 100,000 announcement tracts entitled *Somebody Loves You*. The day before the opening of the GOOD NEWS CRUSADE, our Speed-the-Light plane flew over the city scattering 25,000 tracts on all the main streets of the city. It was thrilling to watch men, women, and children run into the streets and pick up this mes-

sage of God's love and His mercy.

These tracts, provided by Light-for-the-Lost funds, were also distributed from house to house and in all the city markets.

We hung colorful street banners on every main street, and pasted 3,000 large advertising posters on store buildings and telephone poles. The national television and radio stations interviewed our party, and all three city newspapers gave the crusade marvelous news coverage.

The president of Liberia, Dr. William V. S. Tubman, personally gave us the use of the newly redecorated Antoinette Tubman Sports Stadium.

The large attendance in the opening service exceeded all our expectations. From the city and villages, by bus and taxi, thousands made their way to the sports stadium to hear the gospel. Some came from as far as 300 miles interior. Several flew in from Ghana and Sierra Leone as reports of the revival spread. Total attendance for the three weeks reached 110,000. On the closing night 15,000 filled the stadium.

One special highlight of the crusade was the Kru tribe choir which delighted the congregation with gospel songs sung in tribal dialect.

Morning services were held in the Assemblies of God church which was filled to capacity each day. Associate Evangelist Herris Heidenreich and Mrs. Olson gave special messages of faith and encouragement to the new converts.

We printed 5,000 decision cards and used them all the first week. The number responding to the altar calls became so large that we began to call for the ladies on one night and the men on the next. One Sunday evening 1,500 men came forward to commit their lives to Christ. An estimated 2,000 young people came forward on the closing night.

An uncompromising call was given to sinners, "Are you ashamed of your sins? Are you truly sorry for them? Are you prepared to stop your drunkenness, stealing, adultery, and witchcraft? Do you really want Christ to change your life?"

Night after night people came by

the hundreds. During the three weeks well over 10,000 came forward and prayed, "Lord be merciful to me a sinner."

Many influential people of Liberia have come to a personal experience with Christ. Cabinet members, senators, and high government officials opened their homes to us.

One night we had a special healing service for children. At the close of the service more than a thousand children came forward to accept Jesus as their Saviour. Following the altar call the pastors and missionaries personally prayed with over 2,000 children for healing of their bodies.

One outstanding miracle was the healing of an old man who had been a cripple for nine years. When he was healed and began to walk all by himself, the people in the stadium rejoiced in the reality of Jesus Christ. This man walked back to the crusade

every night for the next five weeks—a living testimony of God's healing power.


On Monday following the closing of the meetings, we launched a vital follow-up phase of the GOOD NEWS CRUSADE by conducting a special converts rally in the stadium. More than 6,000 new converts received instructions for being a true Christian.

After closing the open-air crusade, we then moved the services to the Assemblies of God church and for three more weeks conducted Holy Ghost-anointed services. We experienced a modern Pentecost—an outpouring that the people of Monrovia will long remember. One wave of glory after another came over the congregation as they tarried for the power of the Holy Spirit. Several hundred people received the glorious baptism in the Holy Spirit.

At the close of the crusade Presi-

dent William V. S. Tubman honored our party by entertaining us in the beautiful executive mansion, where he personally thanked us and all the dedicated gospel workers in Liberia for the crusade and the marvelous work of God done in the lives of his people.

Mrs. Dash Wilson, wife of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, also contributed to the success of this GOOD NEWS CRUSADE. She is a Spirit-filled Christian and has been a friend of the Assemblies of God in Liberia for many years.

This report would not be complete without a final word of deep appreciation for the outstanding job that is being done by the Assemblies of God missionaries and national pastors in Liberia. A crusade of this proportion would not be possible without their many years of teaching and "sowing the seed." God bless them all. 



Above, man crippled for nine years tells Paul Olson how God healed him.



ABOVE: Dr. William V. S. Tubman, President of Liberia, entertained the Olsons in the executive mansion where he expressed his appreciation for their ministry to his people. LEFT: Missionary Joe Judah, crouched at center, and Associate Evangelist Herris Heidenreich, second from right, work with national believers to prepare banners and literature for the Good News Crusade.

THIS PRESENT WORLD

UNITED STATES

Enrollment in Catholic Schools Declines

The United States Catholic Conference reports that 1966-67 enrollment in the Roman Catholic parochial school system fell off nearly 250,000 from the previous year, a decline of 5.5 percent. It is predicted the decline next year will be as great; and the trend is expected to continue, Catholic educators say, unless they receive substantial government subsidies.

A number of dioceses have already begun dropping the first grade from their school curriculums. The dropping of additional grades—in time, perhaps, all those below the high school level—is forecast.

This Catholic shift to the public schools brings some disturbing results, reports *Church and State* magazine. Not only are entire grades dropped, but many of the problem children, and those who cannot afford to pay tuition, are being eliminated from the Catholic school system to boast of “quality performance,” the magazine states.

On the other hand, however, the thousands of Catholic children who will be entering public schools will be exposed to a more open education, and will have the advantage of working and playing alongside children of other faiths.

Religion Losing Its Influence in the U.S.

Gallup Poll surveys show the majority of Americans feel religion is losing its influence in their country.

The question, “At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life, or losing its influence?” was asked of people embracing all religious groups in proportion to the number of followers and of those having no religious affiliation. In 1957, 69 percent of the people answered that religion was gaining, and 14 percent that it was losing influence. This year only 23 percent believed religion was gaining influence, while 57 percent felt it was losing.

The latest survey reveals three interesting facts: First, young adults are more inclined to minimize the influence of religious organizations—63 percent, as against 53 percent of persons age 50 or older. Second, Protestants are more pessimistic regarding the effects of religion than Roman Catholics—60 percent of Protestants and 48 percent of Catholics. Finally, survey results parallel church attendance per week. On a typical Sunday in 1958, 49 percent of the adult population went to church, but only 44 percent made it in 1966.

California Psychiatrist Hospitalizes 50 from LSD

A psychiatrist in Glendale, California, reported to a city coordinating council that he has hospitalized 50 young people in the last four years who were “totally psychotic from LSD.”

“The thing that concerns me,” Dr. Carl Younger said, “is that young people don’t know that taking LSD one time can have lifetime effects...that they are doing something once that may cause irreparable damage.” He told about one student who took one dose and was hospitalized for two years.

To disseminate facts about the dangers of LSD, a group is attempting to set up a telephone service center which would have someone on duty 24 hours daily to talk authoritatively about LSD, marijuana, and other drugs.

Negro Churches to Emphasize Evangelism

At the fourth annual convention of the National Negro Evangelical Association, Howard O. Jones, president, stated the NNEA will put top priority on evangelism in its fourth year.

“We will strive to send out Negro missionaries to foreign fields and to recommend qualified Negro candidates to white mission boards.” This declaration came from the realization that *both* Negro and white churches have failed to evangelize Negroes. “I am convinced that Negroes are the most spiritually neglected group in the U.S. and the world,” he said.

Brother Jones, an associate evangelist in the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, also stressed the danger of further racial explosions in America. Such turmoil threatens Negro churches as never before. The roots of this social unrest, he said, can be traced to the spiritual poverty of both Negro and white church members.

“With voices of extremists calling for ‘black power’ and ‘white supremacy’, the hour of grave decision is near for the Negro,” he declared.

ISRAEL

Israel Announces Policy on Holy Places

Premier Levi Eshkol has told heads of religious denominations in Israel “that all the holy places in Jerusalem are now open to worship by members of all faiths without discrimination. The Government of Israel has made it a cardinal principle of its policy to preserve the holy places, to insure their religious and universal character, and to provide free access to them.”

Mr. Eshkol’s statement was delivered June 27 at a gathering in Jerusalem attended by the chief dignitaries of Israel’s religious communities—Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, Lutheran, Anglican, Syrian Orthodox, Ethiopian, Coptic Orthodox, Armenian and Latin Patriarchates. He said the Government would “place their internal administration and arrangements in the hands of the religious leaders to whose communities they belong,” and would have regular consultations with the various religious leaders to see that the policy of freedom of worship “is scrupulously carried out.”

COMMONWEALTH

Witchery Revived in England

The London *Evening Post* reports a strange revival of witchery. Unlike many predecessors, the new cult does not even hide under high-sounding terms such as psychic manifestations, but openly admits it traffics in witchery.

Last year the Witchcraft Research Association in London recruited 1,000 members, claiming some 8,000 now belong to the cult. The depravities of its devotees are almost incredible. For example, housewives leave their homes to indulge in the most bizarre pagan rites which include frenzied dancing in the nude.

The Gospels to Appear in Scouse

R. H. L. Williams, a pastor in Liverpool, England, has completed work on a version of the four Gospels in the "Scouse" dialect of Liverpool.

The cover of the book, soon to be released, pictures Christ on the cross, wearing a flat cap, open shirt, and dungarees, against a Liverpool background. The Crucifixion scene reads: "'Come down, Kingey,' dey yelled. 'You've done some big talkin'. If yer de Son of God, get yerself out o' dis mess—den we'll believe yer.'"

New Zealand Churches Seek Unity

An "act of commitment" service, described as the first of its kind in the world, was held at St. Paul's Cathedral in Wellington, New Zealand, for members of five denominations.

More than 700 persons attended the service which sought a basis for union and ways of common action among Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and Episcopal Churches, and the Associated Churches of Christ.

BRITISH ASSEMBLIES HOLD CONFERENCE—A. F. Missen, general secretary, leads congregational singing at the 44th annual conference of the Assemblies of God in Great Britain and Ireland, held May 13-20 at Pwllheli, North Wales. Also participating in the service were, left to right, Eric Dando, newly elected chairman of the British Assemblies; W. T. H. Richards, chairman for the past year; Evangelist George Holmes of San Mateo, California, hidden by the mike, a former minister in England; Andre Nicolle, pastor of a large Assemblies of God church in Paris; and John Wildrianne, Brother Nicolle's interpreter. More than 4,000 persons attended the conference.



Your Questions

Answered by Ernest S. Williams

If a baby dies, will it remain a baby through all eternity, or will it grow up?

Since the Bible does not tell us, we will have to leave this question in the hands of God. Some believe that without maturity there could not be the expansion promised: "That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7). Others believe children who die will be children in eternity since the Bible speaks of "the whole family in heaven and earth" (Ephesians 3:15).

Where I attend church they use a songbook which contains the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed, and they read these creeds as part of their worship. These creeds include the words, "I believe in the holy catholic Church," and, "I believe in the holy catholic and apostolic Church." Is it right to quote these catholic creeds?

These creeds were adopted to correct errors in the time when they were prepared, and to set forth what was believed to be true Christian teaching. I know of nothing unsound in them. Use of the term, *holy catholic Church*, had no reference to any certain denomination. It was intended rather to mean "the universal Church"—all believers—for *catholic* means "universal."

In a sense, the Statement of Fundamental Truths adopted years ago by the Assemblies of God may be looked upon as our creed.

Of what nationality were Adam and Eve, and where did other races come from?

Adam and Eve did not represent any certain nationality for nations were not yet formed. Since all who lived before the flood perished except Noah and his family, we must go to Noah for the beginning of present nationalities. His sons and their descendants are listed in Genesis 10. "These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood" (Genesis 10:32).

We are unable to harmonize the two accounts concerning Judas. Matthew 27:3-5 says he repented and returned the silver, then went out and hanged himself. Acts 1:18 says he purchased a field with the silver. Can you explain?

Judas did not literally purchase the field. If you will read Matthew 27:6-10, you will see that the field was purchased with the money Judas returned to the chief priests. Even today, if a person has provided the money with which something is bought, we sometimes say, "He bought it." A wife might say, for example, "My husband bought this dress for me," when all he did was to pay for it.

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.



DAVID, NABAL, AND ABIGAIL

Sunday School Lesson for August 13, 1967

1 SAMUEL 25:23-31; PSALM 14:1-3

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

OUR LESSON presents some character sketches which are in striking contrast.

THE DEATH OF SAMUEL

"And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah" (1 Samuel 25:1). What a well-deserved epitaph! The will of God has been supreme in Samuel's life. He did not seek great things for himself, but by his unconscious influence and his uncompromising and selfless spirit, he left his godliness stamped upon Israel. Even those who refused to follow and obey wept at his death and recognized his worth to the nation.

THE FOLLY OF NABAL

David and his men, desperately in need of food, made a request of Nabal, a wealthy farmer, for assistance. The request was a masterpiece of graciousness, courtesy, and modesty. Nabal not only refused the request but added great insult to injury.

Consider the character of Nabal. "The man was very great." That is, he had great possessions. But as an old

Methodist used to say, "Never judge a man by the size of his house. A very small rabbit may live in a very big hole."

1. *He Was Stupid.* Even his wife admitted it: "Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he." Nabal means "fool." He was a fool because he had no regard for God, no regard for God's children, no regard for eternity, and no regard for his own soul.

2. *He Was Conceited.* He could not keep his mind off what he had accomplished and accumulated—"my bread, my water, my flesh, my shearers." It never occurred to him that God had any part in his fortune.

3. *He Was Heartless.* David was an innocent exile suffering dishonor because of a demented king's hatred. Even Nabal's men admitted that David's men had been a wall of protection to them. But this meant absolutely nothing to this personification of selfishness.

4. *He Had Uncontrollable Passions and Appetites.* An ungovernable temper, drunkenness, gluttony, and revelry held this man in a vicelike grip and perhaps were partially responsible for his untimely death.

THE WISDOM OF ABIGAIL

"She was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man [her husband] was churlish and evil in his doings." Here was a woman who had evidently married the wrong man, a good and noble woman yoked with a most despicable character. Yet she had not become bitter. By the grace of God adversity had only sweetened, refined, and ennobled her character. Thus she stands to encourage any women who are married to tyrants and brutes.

1. *Her Prudent Action.* Abigail acted with:

(a) *Prompt decision.* "Then Abigail made haste." Her decisiveness shows she must have taken an active interest in running her husband's estate. A person who acts promptly and rightly in little things will be able to act rightly and decisively in the crisis.

(b) *Amazing foresight.* She chose the right place for meeting David—his territory rather than her own—thus putting herself in the position of a suppliant.

(c) *Noble generosity.* Not only did she grant the request her husband denied, but she brought a most abundant provision.

(d) *Unaffected humility.* She "fell before David on her face." She offered to take the blame for her husband's evil behavior. Then followed one of the most eloquent speeches found anywhere in the Bible. What pacifying, persuasive, eloquent, conciliatory language she used! How completely she illustrated the truth that "a soft answer turneth away wrath."

2. *Her Prudent Advice.* The most significant fact in the story is not that Abigail saved her husband and household from death, but that she saved David from himself! She appealed to David's enlightened conscience, to his spiritual principles, and to the best that was in him. She persuaded him to weigh his proposed actions in the light of future values. "And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day... and blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood." God grant that all of us may act with such prudence that men and women shall rise up and call us blessed for having helped them do the will of God.

ABIGAIL'S RESTRAINING HAND



IT ALL BEGAN with a request voiced at the Tuesday morning prayer meeting. "Pray for my niece from Mexico who will be visiting us. We want her to be saved." Earnest prayer was offered—and in due time Alice arrived for a visit with her Mexican-American relatives.

Alice is a charming young woman with demure and gracious manners. In Mexico the longing had come into her heart to spend her vacation with her aunt "north of the border." The Peralez family welcomed her warmly, and *si, si*, her religion would be respected, of course.

Her request concerning religion was made sweetly clear: nothing must pull her away from her church. She wanted nothing to do with Protestantism. But Christ is so prominent in the Peralez household that she could not help noticing.

The first thing that impressed Alice was the meaningful giving of thanks at mealtime. She herself knew many prayers by heart, but she didn't think people really talked to God.

She heard the family chatter. The boys were off to Royal Rangers. What are they? And Missionettes, what is that? She was surprised to learn there is church on Wednesday nights and Sunday nights, besides prayer meeting, Sunday school, WMC, choir rehearsal! Why, the week was full of church activities, and everyone in the family was involved! She was struck by how busy, happy, God-centered the family life was.

Sunday came. "May we take you to your church?" they offered. But Alice replied, "No, thank you; I think I should go with the family and not make an extra trip for you." But really she was curious. She must see for herself this church which meant so much to her relatives.

So she went to Bethel Assembly and sat in the service. Her aunt guided her with whispered translations—what the songs were about, a sentence now and then from the sermon, a scripture. Alice was pleased to be greeted so cordially by the people and smiled shyly as she said, "*Gracias*."

At home they discussed it all. Why did the people clap their hands sometimes when they sang? What did it mean when a man in the congregation spoke out in a language that didn't sound like English?

And so the days flew by. Alice came to services with her relatives, each time more eager, learning little by little. Many were praying for her.

Then came the evening when the Southern California College choir had the service. Young people with happy faces and loving hearts spoke to Alice in the universal language of music. She was moved.

In the choir was an alert soul winner, Janice Kornelsen, whose parents are missionaries in West Africa. During the altar call this young lady slipped to Alice's side. But the language barrier thwarted her, so she beckoned to Bob Turnbull, son of missionaries in Haiti. Carefully, in the Spanish he knew so well from growing-up years in the Caribbean, Bob led the young Mexican woman to Christ. Alice was born again.

Many were the discussions and happy searchings in the Word with Auntie and her cousins. Now she became hungry for the gift of the Holy Spirit. One Sunday morning Brother Everett Hale, missionary on furlough from Bolivia, who knows her language so well, led Alice into a beautiful experience. God baptized her in

the Holy Spirit and gave her a wonderful freedom to pray and praise the Lord in other tongues.

The visit was nearing an end. Alice was supremely happy in the knowledge of Jesus, the Friend "that sticketh closer than a brother." How good it would be to tell her loved ones in Mexico about this wonderful salvation that was available for all. But she needed a

Mexican Visitor

FINDS CHRIST NORTH OF THE BORDER

By JANE PARKER
Riverside, California

Spanish Bible from which to teach them—and to learn more herself.

God had foreseen the need and had supplied it. Someone had given Pastor John C. James a very nice Spanish Bible. There had been no use for it at the time, but now its purpose was clear: it would go to Mexico with Alice.

What a beautiful picture this young woman made on her last Sunday "north of the border" as she stood in the waters of baptism giving her testimony in fervent Spanish. Brother Hale gave the translation.

"I was born in an Apostolic Roman Catholic home," she said, "and naturally, as my parents are fervently devoted to this religion, I was taught to faithfully do all the things that are required, like baptism, confirmation, and, all dressed in white, present myself to the church for the first communion. Before doing this last thing, I had learned many man-made prayers, but I do not remember ever learning even one single Bible verse.

"When I had finished doing this last requirement of the church, I became a Catholic—not because my parents forced me to, but because I believed this was the only true religion, and I sincerely believed in my heart that I was pleasing God. You see, I was taught that all other religions were in error, and therefore I was satisfied with my own.

"No one had talked to me about my salvation until I had the opportunity of visiting my aunt and uncle. They told me about the Bible, and there was born in my heart the desire to visit this church. Now I have accepted Jesus Christ as my only sufficient Saviour, for which I am very happy. I have received the most precious gift that I have ever received—which is the Holy Spirit. This has given me strength and confidence and has made me feel like a different person.

"My greatest desire is that when I return to Mexico I can tell my family and friends of this precious knowledge, because the majority of them are priests and nuns. I kindly request that you will pray for me without ceasing, so that God may use me as an instrument in His hands."



PHOTO BY UNITED NATIONS

RADIO IS A MATCHLESS MEDIUM FOR CARRYING THE GOSPEL—

'Into ALL the World'

FOR THE FIRST TIME in the history of the Church, literal fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission is within the grasp of Christians.

Ours is the first generation provided with the technological tools to go "*into all the world*." The proliferation of transistor radios in this decade presents an opportunity to "*preach the gospel to every creature*" never before afforded.

Current statistics indicate that there are now more than four hundred million radio receivers—an average of 13 for every one hundred people. In America there are more radios than people.

Radio possesses the unique ability to subtly break through the brittle shell of human emotions. It is this mind-infiltrating quality that prompted Maurice Mitchell, president of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., to describe the medium as "the greatest communication instrument available until they change the human race."

Penetrating every crack and crevice of society, radio offers limitless possibilities for evangelism. Over 523 key stations, *Revivaltime* is taking advantage of these opportunities, reaching into many of the world's English-speaking areas. Latest estimates suggest that 600 million people—nearly one in four—understand English to some degree. From 69 foreign releases *Revivaltime* is currently reaching more than 50 countries. Only God knows how many lost souls are listening to His Word behind closed

doors each week. *No computer could determine the number.*

From tropical jungles to frozen northlands and teeming metropolises, *Revivaltime* travels from time zone to time zone at the speed of light. It is evident (from thousands of letters received from around the globe) that *Revivaltime* is many things to many people.

To missionaries in distant lands it is a welcome breath of home. So often they have written that when they reached the point of despair, their spirits were lifted by the jubilant sound of *Revivaltime*, crackling over a short-wave radio set.

In some cities it is a traveling companion in the midst of rush-hour traffic. In other time zones it brings comfort from God near the midnight hour.

From the counter of a crowded hamburger stand to a lonely forest ranger's fire tower, the broadcast service continually ministers to millions of individual needs.

Through radio, God's Word enters and becomes a part of the private world of the mind. Discouraged and confused teen-agers lose themselves in the intimate person-to-person communication between speaker and listener. *What a fertile field for the gospel seed!*

Revivaltime's full-gospel radio voice is willing to go as far as we will send it. Certainly the world has never needed to hear its message more desperately than in these troubled times.

DRINKING HABITS

A LITTLE BOY from a large, poor family was injured while playing in the street. He was taken to a hospital, bathed, put to bed, and given a glass of cool milk. He began drinking hungrily. Then, remembering that at home he had to divide the milk with other members of the family, he turned to the nurse and asked, "How far down can I drink?"

Just so by force of habit we limit ourselves to poverty of the soul when spiritual luxuries and the abundant living of which our Lord spoke are our heritage.

—BLANCHE L. KING

EVER-LAUGHING LIFE

A FEW MONTHS AGO in family devotions around the breakfast table we were quoting John 3:16. I asked our four-year-old to repeat it. She responded: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have ever-laughing life."

Life is not always easy. There are times when we feel we cannot take another step. However, it is impossible for me to believe that a person can possess the salvation which Christ died to bring to us all and live a life that never has any joy, or blessing, or true happiness.

There is some truth at least in the misquotation of our little four-year-old.

—PAUL E. HESS in *Herald of Holiness*

WATCH THE LITTLE THINGS

A MAN WHO HAD WALKED all the way across the United States was asked, "What was the hardest thing about the trip?"

Immediately he replied, "The thing that irritated most was the little grains of sand in my shoes."

Satan knows the value of little things. He doesn't tempt most Christians to murder, to steal, or to commit other flagrant crimes. If he is to spoil the Christian's influence and sap his peace of mind, it must be done with little things. Little resentments, petty criticisms, bits of gossip, smallness of spirit—these are the grains of sand that hinder a Christian's walk with God.

"Let us strip off everything that hinders us, as well as the sin which dogs our feet, and let us run the race that we have to run with patience, our eyes fixed on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1, Phillips).

—IDA F. KILLIAN

TRAVELING WEST?

ATTEND THE

32nd GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 24-29, 1967

HOUSING: Write: General Council, Assemblies of God, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, Calif. 90802

SHOWING WHAT GOD IS LIKE

AS DR. IDA SCUDDER made her morning rounds in a hospital in India, a Muslim woman said to her, "Tell me: why didn't you lose your temper with me the time I spoke so abusively to you?"

Before the doctor could reply, a Hindu woman in the next bed said, "Don't you know why? Her God is long-suffering and slow to anger, and she is like her God."

—WALTER B. KNIGHT in *Gospel Herald*

WHEN I AM DYING

When I am dying, how glad I shall be

If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee!

I shall not mind then whatsoever I gave—

Of labor or money—one sinner to save;

I shall not mind then if the way has been rough—

If Thou, Lord, hast led me, it will be enough.

When I am dying, how glad I shall be

If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee!

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

NOTHING SHOULD BE "SECULAR"

WHATEVER POSITION a man or woman occupies should be one in which Christ is the Lord of life.

A Christian cannot be a mere teacher; he cannot be a mere lawyer; he cannot be a mere carpenter. He must be a Christian businessman; he must be a Christian teacher; he must be a Christian lawyer; he must be a Christian doctor; he must be a Christian carpenter.

Whatever his vocation may be, and whatever his sex, color, or location, he must recognize, accept, and practice the Lordship of Christ in respect to his calling. He must bring Christ to bear upon his lifework. "The secular" does not exist in the life of the Christian. Everything is sacred.

—SELECTED

THE FIREMEN CONVICTED ME

OUR NEW LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT recently held an open house and proudly displayed its equipment. There before us in tangible form was the shining result of hundreds of hours of hard labor and many dollars in contributions. All of this was made possible through a mutual desire to save our homes and barns and families from possible destruction by fire.

But while we are glad to have this protection for our property, at the same time it makes me uneasy.

Frankly, as a Christian I am convicted by the dedication, sacrifice, and cooperation put forth to provide protection for things that will perish with the using.

I keep remembering that the Bible says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell," where the fire will never be quenched, night or day, forever and ever.

I am concerned because we who know this can live with so little burden for those who do not.

Should not Christians be at least as willing to sacrifice, work, and pray together to save eternal souls from the fire of hell as dedicated firemen are to save that which is temporal? Yet—am I? Are you?

—BELVY C. WHITE

who "water down" the gospel on the assumption that it is not relevant, with the feeble hope of winning people to a more flexible or tolerant gospel.

Among this number are those who would scrap the Sermon on the Mount and offer a do-as-you-please standard of conduct. The "faith once delivered to the saints" is too aggressive and demanding, they say, for 20th-century man wallowing in materialism and tasting the freedom of the so-called new morality.

Modern translations of the Scriptures have helped to make the Bible easier to read, but not easier to heed. The meaning behind the words remains the same, so even the new translations do not suit those who are convinced the gospel is irrelevant. For example, the King James Version says in Hebrews 12:14: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." It is no more palatable to the natural man to read the *Living Letters* rendering: "Seek to live a clean and holy life, for one who is not holy will not see the Lord."

No, it takes more than a Bible in modern language, helpful though this is, to satisfy those who scorn the gospel as irrelevant.

A certain church group recently packed a spacious hall in a large English city with typical "mods" and "rockers." The main attraction was a "combo" of guitarists who played gospel music in swing time. This attempt to make the gospel relevant appeared to be successful until some of the young people who had attended decided to visit a regular meeting in the church.

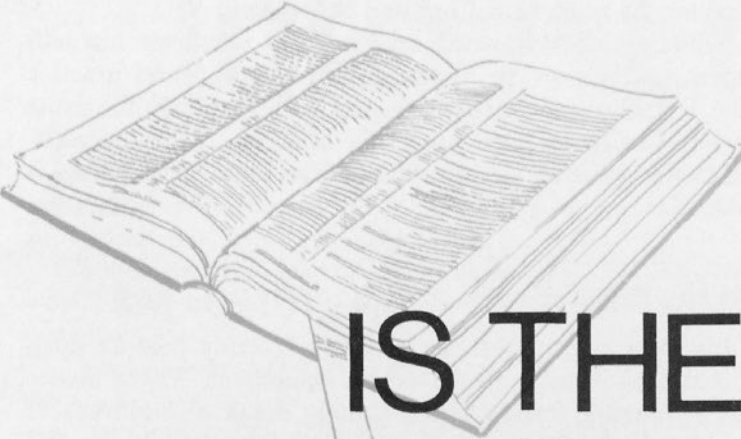
Disappointed in the service, they demanded, "Where's those rock-and-rollers?" When told that the "combo" presentation had been something special and not the regular music of the church, they slouched off in disgust. The gospel had been put into their language, but that had not made it relevant to them.

The question of relevance is not new. Paul dealt with it by going to the heart of the problem—"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: because they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

So then it is the Christian—the one who has acknowledged the claims of Christ—who knows that the gospel is relevant. He is living by it, proving it every day. He knows that Christ's rule of love works in the modern world. Forgiveness works wonders today as it did when Christ walked on earth. Going the second mile will win a callous heart in our time as it did then.

On the negative side, lust still leads to immorality today. The way of the transgressor is still hard, and sin when it is finished still brings forth death.

Yes, the gospel is still relevant, but its relevance is only fully grasped as men allow God by His Spirit to enter their hearts. No man who has felt this power of God transforming and cleansing him so that he is truly "born again" can say that this gospel is irrelevant. It has been related to him by experience and continues to relate to his everyday experiences as he lives for God.



IS THE GOSPEL RELEVANT?

THERE IS A GREAT DEAL being said today about whether the gospel is relevant or applicable to 20th-century man. Naturally the unbeliever does not like to think of it as relevant. He has a great deal more peace of mind if he can convince himself that the world has outgrown the Christian religion.

More pathetic yet are the attempts of some ministers