

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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

DECEMBER 22, 1968 TEN CENTS





THE INESCAPABLE CHRIST

By ERNEST KALAPATHY
Director, Shalom Center, Chicago, Illinois

JESUS IS THE ONE THE JEWS CANNOT FORGET. False Messiahs have come and gone, and they are scarcely remembered except for some rare reference in Judaistic literature. What Jew thinks much about Bar Kochba or Sabbatai Zevi? Though each in his day was

hailed by thousands of Jews as Messiah, history has buried them.

But not so, Jesus. He stands astride every Jewish pathway. Somehow, at some point, He compels the attention of every Jewish heart.

True, Israel in her blindness would like to ignore Jesus. It irritates her to be reminded constantly of One she would rather forget. But God has not permitted her that luxury. The Bar Kochbas and Sabbatai Zevis she may forget if she so wishes, but not Jesus.

How this is brought about in actual events is testimony that God's decisions are inscrutable and His techniques past being reduced to formula. The Jewish rulers of the first century set at naught the Son of God; but in fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy (1:11), His name became great among the Gentiles. So great, in fact, that they changed their heathen calendar and began to count the years again, starting at His birth. The Jews, when they were scattered again among the nations, had to conform to this reckoning of time.

But they haven't done it without squirming. They may write 1968, but not A.D. They refuse to honor Him by even so much as saying, "Year of our Lord." Instead they insist on writing C.E.—"Common Era." Likewise, they will not write B.C. for antiquity, for that means "Before Christ," and Christ means Messiah. So they go to the trouble of adding an extra letter and say, B.C.E.—"Before the Common Era."

The very fact they squirm like this shows they are struggling to escape the inescapable Christ. Their struggle is futile, however. They have to encounter Him every time they date a newspaper, a legal document, or even a letter. God has made it that way.

Yes, Christ's name became great among the Gentiles. But many of those Gentiles, not knowing in truth the Christ they lightly professed, began to persecute His kinsmen according to the flesh. It was evil and unjustifiable, and for Israel a bitter and unending ordeal. But how could she forget Him with "Christ-killer" ringing in her ears?

Nor has history allowed this to become just a bad but distant memory. In our day it seems as if God has been using current world events to bring His Anointed ever before His poor, confused people. The debates in Vatican II about Jewish guilt in the death of Jesus were important news material in the Jewish daily newspapers and a topic for hot Jewish discussion. Significantly, the Jews seemed to be deeply concerned about what position the Roman Catholic Church took in its official statements about Jewish responsibility for Jesus' death. No ordinary man who died two thousand years ago could so haunt the Jewish conscience today!

It is interesting to observe that hardly any Jewish writer who undertakes to write about their Messianic hope feels able to proceed without first "disposing" of Jesus. If He is to be ignored, why this obsession with Him?

Christmas is another instrument God uses to place His Christ before His chosen people. Let us not follow the example of one radio evangelist who, for the last two seasons at least, has devoted several broadcast days to denounce as pagan the celebration of Christmas. The apostle Paul thanked God for every way in which Christ was preached. Like him, let us thank God for every way in which Jesus is made known to Israel.

We can be especially grateful for the warm blessing of Christmas, the birthday of Him who is a Light to the Gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel. No Jew can hear these words from a carol, "Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel," without being made to ponder. Many must ask themselves, *Who is this person hailed in song by millions each year as the rightful ruler of my people?*

But to be reminded only of Christ is not enough. God's purpose is the salvation of His people, and for this something more conclusive is needed. Barriers of prej-

udice, misconceptions, groundless hatreds, and fears remain in the Jewish heart.

Only the gospel, preached in love and with the special understanding needed for Jews, can enable the Holy Spirit to break down these barriers. The gospel comes with the divinely transforming light of the truth—the truth that Jesus is indeed the One they have been looking for.

In heaven there must be rejoicing each time a child of Abraham stops running and, with dawning wonder and love, opens his arms to the *inescapable Christ*. 

BORN TO RULE



By J. L. FLEMING / Pastor, First Assembly, Okmulgee, Oklahoma

THE LOVELIEST THING about the Christmas story is not the simple faith of the shepherds, nor the magnificent song of the angels (as wonderful as both of these were), but the fact that when the Wise Men found the Baby Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshiped Him.

Jesus was born to rule! The angels announced it to the shepherds. The Wise Men recognized His lordship. He was the Son of God as well as the Son of man. It was fitting that His royal birth should be heralded by bright gleams of heavenly glory.

Jesus was born to rule because:

1. *The prophets predicted it.* His was to be a benevolent reign. Isaiah said, "Unto us a child is born." These words were inspired seven centuries before Christ. The nature of His royal administration was revealed in His names—Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace.

His would be an eternal reign. Isaiah continued, "Of . . . peace there shall be no end." Micah declared He was "to be ruler in Israel."

His would be a universal reign. It was Zechariah who said He would "speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea" (Zechariah 9:10).

2. *His ministry demonstrated it.* Christ had authority in teaching. Matthew wrote He "taught as one having authority." Mark penned, "With authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him" (Mark 1:27).

His authority included the Church. Paul explained to the Ephesians that God "gave him to be the head over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:22). Peter further declared heavenly powers, "on the right hand

of God, angels and authorities and powers being made subject."

The authority of Christ also included the natural forces, for "even the winds and the sea obey him." John declared He had "authority to execute judgment also."

3. *We must acknowledge it.* We must confess His lordship in order to be saved. Romans 10:9 tells us "that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." We recognize His lordship by crowning Him King of our hearts and giving Him authority over every part of our lives.

We prove He is our Lord by obeying His Word, for "not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

We must acknowledge His right to do with us as He wills. Self-seekers often find the Lord's dealings hard to bear. Those who truly love the King never murmur, for they know all will work for His glory.

4. *The Scriptures demand it.* He shall reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. This is why He died and rose again—Lord of the dead and of the living.

Every knee shall bow to Him, and every tongue shall confess that He is King.

Jesus was born to rule. And He longs to be Lord in our hearts, our lives, and our homes this Christmas. In many homes Santa Claus, a glittering tree, bountiful dinner, and festivity will reign in Christ's place. But may we bow as the Wise Men did on that Christmas so long ago and worship Him who was born to rule over all. 

T. F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, talks with E. F. Wagner, president of the American Bible Society, in New York last month during the 50th annual meeting of the Society's Advisory Council.



A Visit to Bible House

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY has its world headquarters in New York in a beautiful 12-story building known as Bible House. A visit to this two-year-old building located at Broadway and 61st (near the new Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts) is a thrilling experience. The visitor finds the staff at Bible House busily engaged in coordinating the work of 3,000 translators scattered throughout the earth, constantly putting the Word of God into new languages so that new tribes may read for themselves the story of Jesus.

In these offices are dedicated men and women who direct the printing and distribution of more than seven million Bibles, Gospels, and Scripture Portions each month. Last year they printed the Word in more than 450 languages and distributed it in 150 countries.

Inside the main entrance is a bookstore where visitors may buy copies of the Scriptures in English or other languages at less than cost. The sole purpose of the Society is to "encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment"—and without profit.

On the wall is a huge chart listing all the languages in which the Scriptures are available in whole or in part. It shows the whole Bible is published in 242 languages at the present time. The New Testament alone is published in 307 additional languages, and smaller Scripture Portions in 777 more, making a grand total of 1,326 tongues.

On the mezzanine there are interesting displays of rare Scriptures and other historic items, together with a unique library. It is the only library in the world where one can find 100,000 volumes in over 1,000 languages of a single book—the Holy Bible. Here Biblical scholars find priceless research materials.

The ministries of the Bible Society are invaluable to our missionaries. In the GOOD NEWS CRUSADES conducted in Africa last year, for example, tens of thousands of copies of the Scriptures were used—all furnished by the Bible Society at below cost.

Probably there is no agency outside our Assemblies of God organization that is more deserving of aid than the American Bible Society—and yet the individual members of our churches give less than two cents a year, on the average, toward its support! Brother Zimmerman has urged all our assemblies to take an offering before December 31 for this good cause, particularly for the Swahili Emergency Project (read the article on page 11 of this *Evangel*).

Thanks to the efficient services of the Bible Society, one dime will pay the cost of translating, publishing, and sending a portion of Scripture to someone half a world away. This is less than we would spend to buy a Christmas card and mail it to a friend.

If you or your Bible class or church wish to give a special Christmas offering in gratitude for God's kindness to you, this surely is a most deserving cause.

—r.c.c.

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

December 22, 1968

Number 2850

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. Hardcastle Sr., D. H. McLaughlin, Kermit Reneau, R. H. Wead.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

T. F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent; Bert Webb, H. S. Bush, C. W. H. Scott, T. E. Gannon, and J. P. Hogan, assistant general superintendents; Bartlett Peterson, general secretary; M. B. Netzel, general treasurer; E. W. Bethany, G. R. Carlson, N. D. Davidson, Joseph R. Flower, G. W. Hardcastle Sr., D. H. McLaughlin, Kermit Reneau, and R. H. Wead, nonresident executive presbyters.

Copyright 1968 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.

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

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

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Change of Address

ATTACH LABEL HERE

Moving? Please let us know four weeks before changing your address. Cut the address label out and attach it here; print your new address below. If you have a question about your subscription, place the address label here and clip this form to your letter.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

TO SUBSCRIBE: Fill in your name and address above, enclose payment (see rates in column above), and check: new subscription; renew present subscription.

THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802



THE LORD SAVED HIS HOME

By GILBERT E. SANDBERG

DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION of the 1930's jobs were scarce. The only job available to Anthony Madala was on the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Next to him worked a Christian. One day after witnessing to Anthony he asked, "Why are you so sad today?"

"My wife told me last night that she is leaving me," Anthony replied. "She will take our girl, and I'll take the boy."

It was the old story of a man enslaved by drink, a wife whose patience had ended, and a home about to be broken.

Anthony Madala and his family lived on Chicago's west side, not far from the imposing Notre Dame Catholic Church. His Bohemian parents were devout Roman Catholics. His two sisters were nuns, and a brother had studied for the priesthood. But apparently Anthony's god was the bottle.

His friend in the WPA knew Anthony's problem and had faithfully witnessed to him. Now when he heard of the impending divorce, he once again invited Mr. Madala to attend church with him. This time Mr. Madala accepted. To his friend's great joy, that very night Anthony Madala became a new creation in Christ.

At first his wife thought he was pretending, just to preserve the marriage. But as she continued to observe the change in his appearance, attitude, and habits—especially when he brought home his paychecks—she was convinced this new religion was real.

One day she asked to attend church with him.

Mrs. Madala's first impression of the Protestant church was the plainness of the building: no statues, no candles, no holy pictures. It didn't even seem like church. But the testifying and singing and preaching moved her profoundly. Within a short time she too had met the Master.

The family life was transformed. Mr. Madala took the children to Sunday school, where they also accepted the Lord. He later bought John a trumpet and Susan an accordion. They became so proficient that they played in churches and over the radio. Both children later attended Central Bible College. John has entered the full-time ministry, and Susan is teaching school. I became very well acquainted with the family while working in a mission in Chicago.

Mr. Madala has now gone to his eternal reward. His wife and children are expecting to join him in heaven someday. How different the picture might have been if the anonymous Christian working beside Mr. Madala had not been faithful in witnessing!

Season's Greetings

Once again we pause to recapture the wonder of God's gift to the world and to greet each other in the joy of Christmas. We who serve you at headquarters have received your greetings, some of them from far-off places, and they are a blessed reminder of the many ties which bind our Fellowship together.

The executive brethren and all who serve with us here join in sending joyous greetings to all the members of our great family around the world.

One of the names given to Jesus was "Emmanuel," meaning "God with us"—not only as a Babe in a manger, but always, even unto the end of the world!

Let this holy Christmas season remind you that God is with us even in this turbulent 20th century. And God is for us. "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

God is with us! God is for us! Then let us like the shepherds worship Him; let us like the Wise Men bring Him our best. And let us with renewed commitment seek Him for spiritual revival in the year ahead.

Till He comes again!

T. F. Zimmerman
T. F. Zimmerman
General Superintendent



The little town of Bethlehem is dominated by the bell tower of the Church of the Nativity.

PRE-CHRISTMAS PILGRIMAGE

By MARY TREGENZA

Editor, *"Christ's Ambassadors Herald"*

IT SEEMED LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE. With more than 30 U.S. and Canadian editors of Protestant publications, I had been invited to join an editorial pilgrimage to Israel.

Because it was my first visit to the land of the Bible, it was an unrepeatable experience. I wondered what kind of attitudes I should pack along with my 44 pounds of baggage. Should I program myself for a visit to the museum of the past: six days of sentimental and pounded-in piety at sacred shrines, include enough money for an accumulation of mother-of-pearl Bible covers and religious souvenirs, and take some empty aspirin bottles for water from the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea?

Somehow that approach didn't have the most appeal for me. Certainly these interesting subjects warrant study, but I was more eager to see a new nation coming off the drawing boards. To meet the planners. To sample the thinking in Jerusalem, the prophetic capital of the world. To stand near or on Mount Olivet and keep tryst with the Architect of the New Jerusalem, the space city which John previewed coming down from God out of heaven.

Along with packing an ugly but sensible pair of walking shoes and a borrowed camera, I prepared myself for the sheer delight of walking where Jesus walked by a devotional reading of the Gospels.

Soon I was heading for Israel.

And I saw it with my own eyes—the life that is Israel. The nation has come alive with a fierce nationalism and a strong religious fervor, and it is difficult for a Bible-oriented pilgrim (and one sensitive to Bible prophecies) to recognize the difference between the two. The modern Jew, I think, would claim they are not separate. He would feel that he satisfies his religious obligations in his total involvement with his emerging nation.

I experienced so much. But in recognition of the Christmas season, let me tell you about Nazareth and Bethlehem.

To reach Nazareth, a mountain town, we passed through the plain of Megiddo, an innocent-enough looking piece of real estate considered by many to be the theater of the still-to-come Battle of Armageddon.

Nazareth nestles in a circle of cypress-studded hills. It is an Arab village, and in the interests of Israeli-Arab

relationships, an Arab guide took over our tour group here.

He took us to the Church of the Annunciation where we descended to the grotto (cave) of the annunciation. It was here supposedly that Mary received the angel and the news of her coming Child. Even if you close your eyes and attempt to reconstruct such a meeting, imagination is seriously threatened by the damp, musty odor of decay, the strong smell of candle wax and torches, and another group of pilgrims waiting impatiently to descend.

Over the grotto is a three-million-dollar Roman Catholic church. Nearby another religious order claims the site of Jesus' early home and Joseph's workshop in the Church of St. Joseph. To this day you can visit Mary's well at the center of Nazareth town.

Bethlehem, Christ's human birthplace, lies in the center of one of the most fertile regions of Judea. I was surprised to find it was only a few minutes by bus south of Jerusalem and was reminded again that access to pomp and protocol played no part in the birth of this King.

Bethlehem's tidily plowed fields, orchards, gardens, and flocks testify it still lives up to its name, "House of bread."

But Bethlehem is more than a rural town. Curio shops and cafes border its main highway. In the marketplace vendors offer coffee and lemonade from finely decorated jugs. Donkeys with bells and trappings led by somberly clad Bedouin women pass back and forth in front of tiny sweetmeat stalls and colorful mounds of delicious fruit—to the delight of photographers with color film.

In Bethlehem you see men making bold profit of the fact of Jesus Christ, and you try to ignore that the same thing could be happening in the rest of the world.

At first sight the Church of the Nativity on the vast square appears rather as a mountainous mass of buttressed masonry with an absurdly tiny aperture. The first Church of the Nativity was built soon after A.D. 321, but the Crusaders reduced the entrance to prohibit the Turks from riding their horses into the holy places to desecrate them. The walled-up entrance, supported on either side with a monastery and convent, makes it necessary for a person to stoop low to cross the threshold.

On Christmas Day there are masses and processions from Bethlehem to Shepherds' Field where the glad tidings of Christ's birth were first presented to Bethlehem's humblest citizens. Annually the YMCA holds a carol service in the modern chapel there.

The Protestant pilgrim visits these shrines with some reluctance. In the first place, he is a latecomer there, and the heavily ornate architectural settings are foreign to his concept of a religion of the spirit. The unlikely stories and legends of what happened where and the insistent hawkers of souvenirs also repel him. He is reluctant most of all to give up his beautifully aesthetic Christmas-card concept of the Nativity for the smell and clutter of the real thing.

But the fact is, the Son of God chose to be born in such a place. And He chose a primitive cattle shed in a century without benefit of air purifiers or central heating. He chose to become a Son of David too—and not all David's sons are particularly handsome!

But as soon as He entered manhood, He announced publicly who His real Father was. He proved it at Cana and at more other places than the New Testament books



Nazareth is chiefly an Arab village. The oriental flavor of the city is preserved in the open markets and the dress of the people.

could record. He offered final proof of it in death on a green hill not far away and by vacating the sealed tomb to resume His life in a resurrected body.

My pre-Christmas pilgrimage to Israel is completed as I write this. It was unrepeatable—inmeasurably more than a visit to empty shrines. I did see a nation coming off the drawing boards. I was more than once a dinner guest of some of the planners. I walked with quiet tears where Jesus walked. And I kept my appointment with Him as the Architect of the New Jerusalem one night on the Mount of Olives.

Would I recommend the trip to you? Without qualification. It is the humanity of Christ that gets to you in Israel. His willingness to choose a family and a nation of imperfect humans and to live close to the human experiences of birth, bread-making, butchering, bartering, betrothal, and burial—without the luxury of privacy.

And here's something else. Christ didn't turn on His human family when they refused to recognize Him as God's Lamb. In fact, He still makes a point of linking Himself with them. Pick up the Book of Revelation and read about Him against the background of His Father's throne in His eternal "nowness." He is overseeing the final touches on the New Jerusalem which will "come down from God out of heaven," home of Abraham's city and his spiritual seed. Is Christ's Jewishness for keeps? Emphatically yes! Among His final words to us through John the Revelator are these: "I Jesus am . . . the offspring of David." And He added: "Surely I come quickly."

Bethlehem and mangers and grottos and shepherds' fields I saw, but the most important personal discovery of my pre-Christmas pilgrimage was none of these. I will never be able to forget the shock of the discovery that the hill of His cross is not a lonely, forsaken place. It now rises up out of a busy marketplace. Does that say something to you too? 

GOOD NEWS

FOR GUYANA



THE GOOD NEWS CRUSADES program continues to produce phenomenal results on the mission field, as is evident in Georgetown, Guyana, where a recent crusade saw 6,500 people come forward for salvation.

The secret of such crusades is that Assemblies of God missionaries are using every known evangelistic method that has proved to produce positive results.

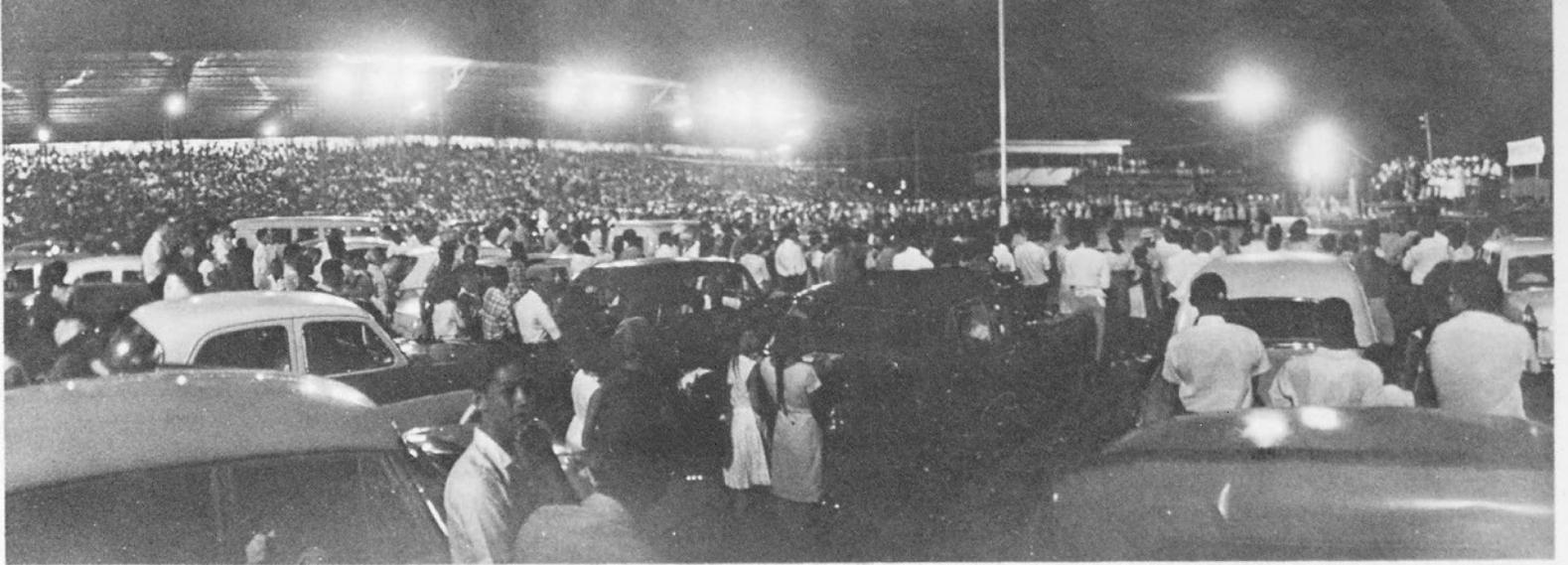
Take for example the Guyana GOOD NEWS CRUSADE with Evangelist Paul Olson.

Missionary David J. Guenther and national Pastor Richard I. Griffith



ABOVE: Morning classes were held daily for new converts during the crusade. The ministry of Paul Olson, left, encouraged many to surrender their lives to the Lord. **BELOW:** Christians sought the baptism in the Holy Spirit.





The impact of the Georgetown Good News Crusade is still being felt today.

were cochairmen. The crusade began with a promotional and evangelistic drive in which the Guyanese young people distributed some 80,000 Light-for-the-Lost pamphlets. The meetings, sponsored by seven Assemblies of God churches, were announced on the radio and in the local newspapers.

By the time the crusade began in the Queen Elizabeth National Stadium, the whole region was aware that something special was going on. Paul Olson preached in the open-air stadium for three weeks, during which time 6,500 people came forward for salvation and hundreds of sick were healed.

Following the three-week GOOD NEWS CRUSADE, the ministers continued the meetings for two more weeks in Georgetown's Central Assembly of God. These services were designed to lead the new converts into the experience of the baptism with the Holy Spirit and establish them in the churches.

Paul Olson then preached for two nights in each of the sponsoring churches. Reports from Guyana say that the revival is still going strong.

GOOD NEWS CRUSADES like this one are being held all over the world wherever we have missionaries to con-

serve the results. Right now the GOOD NEWS CRUSADES program is in critical need of additional financial support to plan the first crusades of 1969. Such offerings are deductible for income tax purposes. 

**Special Offerings for
FOREIGN MISSIONS**
should be sent to:
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Foreign Missions Department
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802



ABOVE: Paul Olson (left) and David Guenther (right) ministered on the radio. LEFT: Literature was important in the crusade. BELOW: Nelson Sammy was associate evangelist and song leader.





K. Oobiki



Y. Kimura



K. Urata



K. Uehara

What Christmas Means to Me

Testimonies written by students of Tokyo Central Bible Institute and submitted by Eileen Petersen, Japan.

"Eight years ago I went to a church for the first time. At first I could not understand the Bible, but on Christmas Eve of that year I accepted Jesus Christ. I had no hope in my life in those days because I didn't believe that there was any true love in this world. Jesus Christ appeared before me as if a light had been born in my dark heart. Then I realized we were not living by selfish desire but by the love of God. Because God loves me so deeply He gave me His only Son. Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birthday, and it is my birthday too—because I became one of God's loving people on that day! Hallelujah!"—K. Uehara

"Before I became a Christian, Christmastide was the time when my father presented his four sons with candies, cookies, cakes, etc. I looked forward to it. Since I was saved by Jesus Christ, Christmas has been the time that I thank God personally for His only begotten Son. Christmas reminds me of the time when I was saved and of the joy and peace of Jesus Christ.

"Recently I've been thinking about not only the appreciation for my salvation but also the still unsaved souls. There are a great number of persons who are going to celebrate Christmas without knowing the true meaning of it. We Christians should be more faithful to go and tell the gospel to unsaved people. Christ is coming soon!"—Yukihiko Kimura

"Past... Christmas was a merry day for me because I received some gifts from my parents. Present... I accepted Christ five years ago as my Saviour. Since then Christmas is a day of prayer to the living God. God's gift, the Son of God, was given to us about 2,000 years ago. This is the very best gift to me because I have everlasting life in Christ. Future... I don't know about tomorrow, but I want to preach about Christmas to many people."—Hatsue Kimura

"On Christmas our Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born for us. Our Lord is the Son of God, but about 2,000 years ago He became the Son of Man and was born in a manger in Bethlehem. Eight years ago I attended church at Kanazawa for the first time. It was wonderful! It was the great glad tidings for me. The Son of God—born for me! Jesus Christ is my Saviour! I will preach the incarnation of the Son of God. Most of the people in Japan do not know the true meaning of Christmas. For Christ I will work hard. Christmas—it is the expression of the love of God for this world."—H. Kubota

"For me Christmas is one of the most important facts that the Son of God was incarnated to save me and the world. Without

Christmas there would not be the cross, and without the cross I cannot be saved. The Son of God, omnipotent and omnipresent, humbled himself and became the Son of Man. He tasted all pains and all sorrows so that He can help us all the time. Christmas is the start of the mercy and grace needed for my salvation. For God so loved me that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life! Yes, Christmas is really the revelation of God's love for me, and so I also want to lay down my life for unsaved people!—K. Oobiki

"It is the most joyful day of the year. Whenever I have the Christmas season, I cannot but reconsider the great salvation of Jesus Christ. Of course, every Christian is grateful for the saving grace of Jesus at Christmas, but to me it has a special meaning because I was saved seven years ago just before Christmas. Before, I thought that Christmas was one of the festivals in European Christianity; but once I was brought to believe the Lord, Christmas had a glittering light for me like the David's star. A little child was born! What purpose? To my surprise and joy, He was born to die on the cross for me, a desperate sinner! I don't forget the Christmas Eve I had when I was saved. Candlelight service was going on... tears ran down my cheeks... I prayed in my heart, 'Oh, Lord, I will follow you all the days of my life.' Really, Christmas is a happy day, and I desire to give my best to the Lord as the three Magi did."—Kazuo Kikuyama

"If Jesus Christ was not born into the world, I wouldn't be saved; but Christ was born, and I am glad. I thank God because He loved all people of the world and gave His Son. The fact that Jesus Christ was born in a poor stable in a small town teaches me to give the gospel to poor people."—Komichi Urata

"Christmas means the memory of Christ's incarnation and for me the expectance of His second coming. In Christmas season my heart is thrilled! It makes me think of His sacrifice for my sins. It lets me think about the precious blood of Jesus Christ. There is expression of God's love for us in Christ's coming. I got acquainted with God and believed in God by Christ's first coming. Now I am waiting for His next coming. That coming will be new and wonderful to me!"—Akira Mori

"Christmas was the best thing that ever happened to me because it was the day that Jesus came to earth from heaven for my sins. As a man He was born of a virgin mother. All the persons of the earth waited for Him as their Saviour; but when He was born in Bethlehem, they did not receive Him as their Saviour. Now I am very happy because I celebrate Him that really means Christmas. He came into my heart with salvation, joy, and peace. Every day is Christmas to me."—H. Fukushima

A. Mori



H. Fukushima



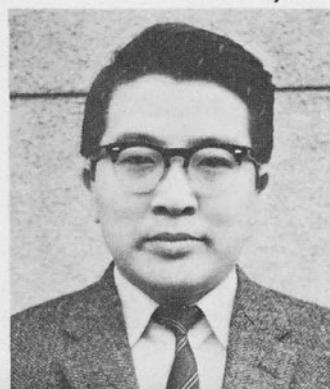
H. Kubota



H. Kimura



K. Kikuyama



THERE ARE THREE ELEMENTS that must be present in a country for a missionary to evangelize and establish churches effectively. There must be a spiritual hunger among the people; the missionary must have at least a minimal degree of liberty to preach and teach the gospel; and the Bible must be available in the local language or languages.

In the East African countries of Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda the first two elements of spiritual hunger and liberty to proclaim the gospel are evident everywhere; but the Bible translation in current use in the Swahili language is sadly inadequate.

It was to help meet this need for a better Bible for the Swahili-speaking East Africans that the Assemblies of God agreed over a year ago to sponsor a new Swahili translation of the New Testament by giving \$25,000 over a three-year period. The project is being carried out by

THE SWAHILI BIBLE PROJECT

the American Bible Society in cooperation with the other Bible societies working in East Africa.

Last year the Assemblies of God met its first commitment well, but now we face the end of 1968 without the necessary funds to match last year's contribution. If we do not provide at least \$8,000 this year, we will have a very large amount to raise next year in order to keep our agreement.

If each Assemblies of God church in the U.S. would give a special offering for this important project, we would more than reach this year's goal and be able to give further support to the very important work of the American Bible Society. Such offerings from churches and individuals should be designated **SWAHILI EMERGENCY PROJECT**.

Some 25 million people live in the Swahili-speaking region of East Africa. The Assemblies of God works in Tanzania. There we have 14 foreign missionaries who have raised up a church numbering 72 congregations with 1,570 believers. With our emphasis on the indigenous church and the ministry of national preachers, we will be among those who benefit most from the new translation.

General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman has written to all of the churches of the Assemblies of God urging them to support the helpful ministry of the American Bible Society by giving for the Swahili project. Because of our active evangelism around the world, we are one of the largest users of the ABS services; therefore we should be among the most generous of all churches in our faithful support for the production and distribution of Bibles.

Offerings for the **SWAHILI EMERGENCY PROJECT** should be sent to the Foreign Missions Department, before December 31.



Dear Friends of Missions:

Christmas is not only next Wednesday: Christmas is every day of the year. When a man or woman, boy or girl anywhere in the world accepts Christ, it is Christmas all over again, for Christ is born in a new heart. Through your support of foreign missions, you are helping to perpetuate Christmas around the world and to fulfill the purpose for which Jesus Christ came.

When you face your family across the table on Christmas Day, look past the familiar faces to the millions of individuals beyond your home and community--souls lost in the darkness of sin. They cannot share your Christmas joy, for they do not know the Christ of Christmas. It is for them that Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

When you enjoy the fellowship of your family on Christmas Day, look beyond the immediate faces to the members of our missionary family around the world. It is Christmas too for our 918 missionaries and their families on 78 far-flung mission fields. Our missionaries are there because God has called them and because you have sent them into the whitened harvest field. Please accept our sincere appreciation for your faithfulness in giving during 1968.

Your prayers and your offerings in behalf of foreign missions are essential to our world evangelism outreach. When you kneel in prayer at the close of Christmas Day, determine in your heart to continue your important ministry of perpetuating Christmas. Through your efforts the Christ of Christmas shines into darkened hearts, illuminating them with the Light of the World and hastening the day of His promised return.

May yours be a joyous Christmas!

J. Philip Hogan



THE GOADS OF GOD

By R. L. BRANDT / *Pastor, First Assembly, Billings, Montana*

JOHN FLETCHER was ready to deliver his sermon on a Sunday night, when suddenly it was swept from his mind. Try as he would, he could not recall it. Song after song was sung. Prayer after prayer was made. But still the sermon text eluded him.

The moment to preach arrived, and the inexplicable darkness grew more dense. What should a preacher do in such a moment? Fletcher could have fled in consternation and embarrassment. Instead he arose to preach, text or no text.

At that precise moment the horrifying scene of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace flashed into his mind in vivid detail. Taking this for his cue, Fletcher began to preach—and with great liberty.

The great preacher did not know that in his audience was a little woman who had taken her life into her hands to come there. Her husband hated Fletcher with a vengeance. He had sworn he would bake her in his bread oven if she ever went to hear Fletcher.

That was why the Lord had caused the well-prepared sermon to be forgotten. God had a special message for His severely tested child.

When the little lady reached home, the oven was red hot. Her husband stood in the door brandishing a knife. Undaunted she climbed the steps, ready for the worst. And then the miracle happened!

Her husband fell on his knees at her feet crying. "Oh, wife, pray for me, pray for me!"

Saul of Tarsus was that kind of man. Christianity had made him vicious and violent. Vicious men are often the product of their own rebellion at what they inwardly sense is right.

The story of Paul's life would require a book, but think with me on one chapter of his life—that which is revealed in the three statements of Jesus to him as he lay in the dust on the Damascus highway.

I

"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4, 5).

The accusation was undeniable. Both Luke, the recorder, and Paul, the accused, freely testified to it.

Listen to Luke's witness: "And the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul . . . and Saul was consenting unto his death. . . . As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. And Saul yet breathing out threatenings and

slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogue, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem." (See Acts 7:58; 8:1-3; and 9:1, 2.)

And consider Paul's confession: "I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. . . . I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished" (Acts 22:4, 5). "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities. Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests . . ." (Acts 26:9-12).

Little did God's zealot, Saul, realize he was jabbing the apple of the eye of the One whom he reckoned he was serving so well. And perhaps it is equally easy for us who claim to follow the Nazarene to unwittingly do the same. Did not Jesus say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"? (Matthew 25:40). We can't touch His people without touching Him.

Saul's question to the Lord reveals the reason for the persecution. "Who art thou, Lord?" (Acts 9:5). Failure to recognize the Lord was the whole cause. Nor is it any less the cause for mistreatment of God's children today.

Unfortunately, Saul's religion had blinded him to reality. May we take a lesson from this! Saul certainly had not seen God in Jesus, but that did not alter the facts. Much less did he see God in those disciples whom he hounded at every turn of the way.

All he had seen in Jesus was a subtle impostor, a threat to all he held dear, a false prophet, a destroyer of Judaism.

But now he was conscious that he was confronted by divinity. But whose was this clarion voice that charged him with so great an offense? Who was this obviously divine questioner?

"I am Jesus"! The words were terrifying. The giant of

Judaism drooped in stunned astonishment as though mortally wounded by a hidden sniper. In a flash he was faced with terrible truth—persecuting God! Guilty of the murder of God's own!

II

"It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (Acts 9:5).

The prick was a sharp piece of metal on the end of a stick. It was used to prod the oxen into proper action. The young ox, who had not learned well to bear his share of the burden or to take the proper course, would experience the goad. And sometimes in his ignorance, instead of quickly correcting his error, he would kick at the goad only to wound himself until the blood flowed. So it was with Saul.

God had been goading him, but he had not discerned it. Probably he was in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, for none was more devout than he. The Feast of Pentecost was a great attraction to every Jew, so that on that day Jerusalem was filled with pilgrims from every quarter. (See Acts 2:6-11.) Saul must have been in the crowd that assembled and he must have seen the 120 behaving so strangely. Can you imagine his bewilderment at hearing a Galilean glorify God in the tongue of Tarsus? The goad of God must have gotten to him, but the brilliant and prejudiced mind chalked it up to psychological phenomenon or subtle trickery. So Saul remained antagonistic.

And I think he heard Peter's sermon which followed. Surely the tone of authority, the accurate quotation of the Scripture, the logic of the explanation, the pointed application, and the fearless charge made by an unlearned fisherman must have plowed a deep furrow. God was goading the young "ox" into the way. He must have felt the ring of reality and the tug of the Spirit. But none is as blind as the man who will not see. So Saul went on "kicking."

Then came the healing of the lame man. No doubt Saul knew him and he may have flipped a coin into his cup only days before as he was about to enter this hallowed temple. He had seen the awesome and hopeless

condition. Yet now with his own eyes he saw the same man every whit whole. He couldn't doubt it, but he wouldn't believe it. With the wise elders he would attribute it to the devil. So Saul went on rebelling.

Another shocker came to his attention right on the heels of the miraculous healing. Two prominent citizens of the holy city had died at the word of one of the ring-leaders of the despised sect. The details of the shocking story stung like acid in the eye. And though Saul shuddered inwardly for an instant, he soon regained his composure and was all the more incensed and determined to destroy the culprit who had fired the distressing missile. Writing the report off as coincidence, or as psychologically-induced apoplexy, Saul went on.

It is not difficult to see how the days might have worn on the champion of Judaism. Everyday seemed to bring a new and sharper goad. And every goad seemed to say, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

But Saul became more agitated and more determined. The report of some of the followers of "the way" escaping from prison was almost unbearable. Such flagrant disregard for authority—the possibility of a miracle notwithstanding—must be accounted for. The goad said, "God did it"; but reason whispered, "Someone let them out." So Saul kept fighting.

God's best goads often come in the form of a sermon. Saul was in the crowd when Stephen, filled with the Holy Ghost, made his head-on defense and leveled his charge, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7:51). The razor-sharp edge of God's goad didn't merely nick the skin, but it "cut to the heart" (v. 54). God's goads unheeded and resisted draw blood.

But the end was not yet. In the passion-blinded eyes of Saul and his fellows, Stephen was a vicious guerrilla of the despised sect who must be silenced at once. So they stoned him. But their stones settled nothing in the Pharisee's mind. If Stephen's sermon was a goad, his dying was a goad twice sharpened. Saul may have seen other victims of stoning die with curses and blasphemy on their lips, but he had never seen one die praying for his murderers and claiming he saw heaven open and Jesus bidding him welcome. Nevertheless Saul went on persecuting the Church.

What began as stubborn opposition and containment tactics was now full-scale open war. Saul, wounded and bleeding from the goads, would wipe the slate clean or die trying. Already Jerusalem had been "cleaned up." (See Acts 8:1.) Damascus was next.

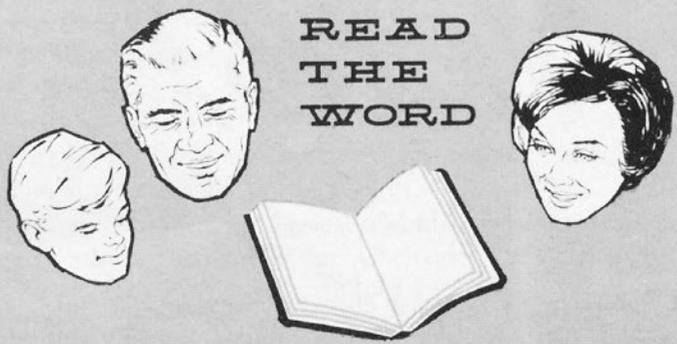
A flash of blinding light! A humiliating plunge to earth! A voice clear as a trumpet—and unmistakably divine! And in the space of a few seconds punctuated with terror, astonishment, and anguish, the chief persecutor cries, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

He is exactly where God had wanted him all along. The goading is ended. The blood no longer flows. The white flag is up. The "ox" has learned his lesson. Henceforth Jesus will chart his course.

III

"Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 9:6).

When the will of man is yielded, the will of God can be revealed. Are you experiencing the goads of God?



**READ
THE
WORD**

CHAPTERS FOR DECEMBER 22-31

Sunday	Jude	Friday	Revelation 9, 10
Monday	Revelation 1, 2	Saturday ..	Revelation 11-13
Tuesday	Revelation 3, 4	Sunday	Revelation 14-16
Wednesday ..	Revelation 5, 6	Monday ..	Revelation 17-19
Thursday	Revelation 7, 8	Tuesday ..	Revelation 20-22

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



A little girl presents Alaska Secretary of State Keith Miller and his wife with a 24-inch loaf of bread—the children's favorite—

baked by Phyllis Wion, cook at the home. The Millers were among the guests at the home's open house.

'The Van Is Here!'

By EVELYN PETERSON / *Coordinator of the Juneau Children's Home*

FOUR FORTY-FIVE P.M. is a very busy time at the Juneau Children's Home. Last-minute dinner preparations are being made; tables are being checked to make certain they are set properly; the call "wash for dinner" has resounded over the intercom; and everyone suddenly realizes his stomach is predicting it must be time for dinner.

One day a short time before Christmas last year our first blanket of snow had fallen. How beautiful it looked.

As I glanced out the kitchen window, I could see the children riding down the hill on their sleds. An unusually large boy was sitting on the back of one sled. Taking a closer look I realized the larger boy was none other than

Mr. Peterson—he was also enjoying the fun.

Suddenly the sledding ceased. Dinner had not been announced, yet, but I saw the children run up the hill.

Loud, jubilant voices cried, "The van is here! The van is here!"

All activity stopped, even in the busy kitchen.

The *van* had arrived! On it were over 6,000 pounds of canned goods and Christmas gifts as well as clothing.

Our entire family gathered around the van. Some knelt in the freshly fallen snow; others bowed their heads; and the older boys knelt on top of the crates as we lifted our hearts together in thankfulness, asking God to bless each one who had given so lovingly.

Our prayer included Ruth Crawford, Northwest District Women's Missionary Council president, and the Northwest District WMC's, as well as the Seattle Section which had promoted this project for the home.*

Our problem now was how to get the goods into our storeroom. We could not drive to the entry because of the snow. But again the children had the answer. One said, "Here, Gus, put a box on my sled"; and so he did. Thus each box of food had its first sled ride down the hill, around the corner, and right up to the storeroom door.

I held my breath as this delivery service soon developed into a game, but the job was accomplished without having one sled overturn.

As we began sorting the following morning, over and over I could hear our cook Phyllis (who was hidden behind the boxes) saying, "Oh, glory. Look at all the applesauce. Praise the Lord." I did look, but instead of seeing applesauce I saw tears of joy streaming down her face. Together we laughed and declared the goodness of the Lord. Again we prayed for our kind friends who had so generously provided for our needs.

The cost of our food was greatly reduced during the following months, thus balancing the additional cost of utilities incurred during the winter.

Before Christmas we were able to invite the community to an open house. Everyone got involved in the big preparations we made in advance of the great evening. Some of the children helped the staff members bake cookies and breads and decorate trees.

Only hours before the occasion, what scurrying there was to get baths taken and last-minute ironing of Sunday best done.

Then—suspense! What if nobody came?

Soon people began coming in droves to be charmed by our happy children. Among them were the secretary of state, Keith Miller, and his wife.

How proud you would have been of our family. We assigned each one a special duty, such as directing traffic, doorman, departmental guide, cohostess in the dining room, taking charge of the guest book.

During the evening several members of the 910th Engineering Company of the Alaska National Guard burst in with gifts for all.

Our guests seemed overwhelmed by the love and peace of Christ in our home. The true spirit of Christmas appeared to grip their hearts. The blessing of the Lord made it a wonderful time for all of us.

After Christmas a feeling of sadness swept over us as we began to dismantle our Christmas trees, remove the cedar decorations, and carefully return the lights to the storage room. The spirit of Christmas had become so real, shedding its glow and warmth in our hearts. Happiness radiated from the faces of the children, for you, all of our friends over the nation, had opened your hearts to us again.

Your gifts sent to the children seemed to give them new hope for the future. May God bless each of you who have so faithfully remembered the Juneau Children's Home.

*Late word at press time indicates that the Northwest District has planned a similar project for this year.



Phyllis Wion, cook for the Juneau Home, prepares for open house at Christmas.

Gus Peterson of the Juneau Children's Home loads the truck at the WMC commissary in Kirkland, Washington, with canned goods furnished by the WMC's. Mrs. Ruth Crawford, Northwest District WMC president, is assisting.

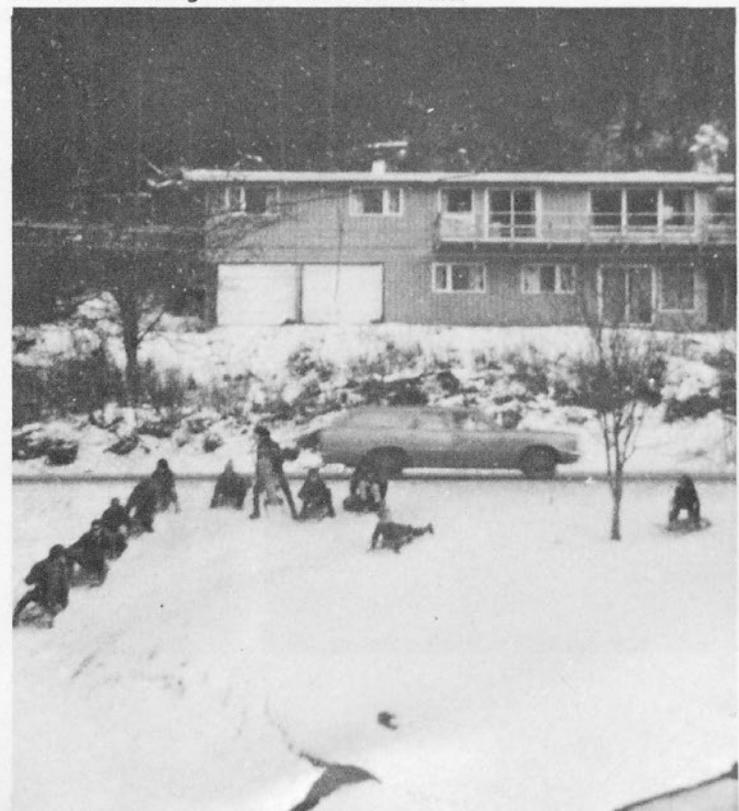


The children enjoyed making this Christmas tree.



Some of the younger girls at the home with two staff members.

Children sledding on hill near the home.



AIM!

ON TARGET TO WIN TODAY'S WORLD



IT WAS A HOT, HUMID DAY. The tropical sun hung directly overhead like a fiery ball suspended from a brazen sky, its heat reflecting in wavering light off the rusty tin roofs of the village houses. Skinny dogs lay sleeping in the sun, and little black children played in the shade of the palm trees.

It was a day like every day in the Caribbean village.

But this afternoon the village was to change. As the sun moved farther toward the horizon and people began to circulate in the streets again, a group of young people, working two by two, began to go from one house to another. There were smiles on their faces and Bibles in their hands, and

they talked excitedly to anyone who would listen to them. The literature they passed out said that any person who believed in Jesus Christ could be saved from sin.

The strangest thing about many of these youths was that they were Americans. No one in the village could figure out why young people from the United States would take time out of their busy summer to come and tell them about God; but they seemed so sincere about it. Surely they knew what they were talking about. Many of the villagers were convinced and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

All that afternoon the young people went from house to house, and that

night they held a gospel service in the local Assemblies of God church. They continued this pattern of day-time witnessing and evening evangelistic services throughout the campaign.

The village would never be the same again, for it had been invaded by the enthusiastic young people of AIM (Ambassadors in Mission)—the Assemblies of God youth program for direct, face-to-face Christian witnessing. Every summer teams of qualified Christ's Ambassadors go out to mission fields of America and other lands to win souls for the Lord in door-to-door witnessing ventures.

This dynamic new program of the National Christ's Ambassadors Department has given young people a

Light-for-the-Lost provided much of the literature for the house-to-house work.



Personal witnessing was combined with mass evangelism.



A group of happy AIMers leave Springfield, Missouri, for their witnessing mission in Latin America and the Caribbean islands.



wonderful way to take the gospel to unsaved, unevangelized humanity. AIM is on target to win today's world.

Young people from 30 states were involved in the AIM projects this past summer. These Christ's Ambassadors had unforgettable experiences that deeply affected their lives, and at the same time they produced thrilling results on the mission field. The combined total of decisions through door-to-door witnessing and the accompanying GOOD NEWS CRUSADES came to 3,122.

AIM operates both in the United States and abroad. The home activities are coordinated at the district, sectional, and local levels. The foreign, Alaska, and Hawaii projects are directed by the National Christ's Ambassadors Department. The Mobilization and Placement Service (MAPS) of the Assemblies of God coordinates the program to utilize the resources and interests of the various other departments involved, such as Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Men's Fellowship, and the Women's Missionary Council.

Light-for-the-Lost and Evangelism Literature for America provide most of the literature for house-to-house distribution and follow-up, and the Women's Missionary Council provides the meals for the five-week projects.

This past summer 121 AIMers went out on witnessing teams to Jamaica, the Bahamas, British Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Alaska, and Hawaii. Both foreign and home missionaries have reported thrilling victories wherever the teams went, and the young people themselves came back with exciting testimonies of what God had done in their lives.

In every country where the AIM teams went, the AIMers worked side by side with national youth who could carry on in their own countries after the special campaigns were over.



For example, one AIMer named Margaret Guillory said, "I have a new understanding, but yet it is hard to explain. The mission of the Church is not only to convert the lost, but to train and help these new converts to grow. I too have grown spiritually in a way I never experienced before."

Leilani Lile testified after her return, "This experience has changed my life. I've learned to love people and really care about their souls."

Donald Wood said, "One home had 13 people, mostly teens, crowded inside. We witnessed and prayed, and all 13 accepted Christ. I've never enjoyed myself so much in my life. It has proved to me that God wants us to use our faith and energy for Him."

"I can see," said Ray Krans, "how short the time is for us to witness to souls. With the Lord's help I plan on witnessing more in my own city and never pass up an opportunity."

Deloris Rykhoek declared enthusiastically, "Never before have I felt such an anointing upon my life. I said things that amazed me. God melted hearts, brought joy to the helpless, and placed a hunger for more of Him. I just thank God for AIM. It's tremendous! I'd highly recommend it to every CA."

Vern Peterson testified, "This experience has confirmed my decision to go to the mission field. I had not been there since the Lord definitely called me, so I was not sure how I would feel. Now I know the mission field is the only place for me." Vern is the son of missionaries to the Dominican Republic, Einar and Rachel Peterson.

Janet Cook said, "I know definitely I shall serve Christ on a foreign field



Daily house-to-house witnessing was followed by nightly evangelistic meetings.

and devote my life to live in His perfect will. I understand more than ever before a need to go house to house . . . heart to heart . . . and speak of the love of God. I thank God for this summer. Praise the Lord!"

When asked about any outstanding experiences, Leland Morrison said, "Well, my partner and I prayed for two people, and they were healed. It seemed like the Spirit of God was enough to knock me over in the rooms when we were praying. My most outstanding experience, though, was to see over 80 conversions and to hear the Lord calling for me to be a minister."

Everyone connected with the AIM program—young people, missionaries, national pastors and believers, adult supervisors, and AIM leaders—all share the enthusiasm of these thrilling testimonies.

AIM is an investment in Assemblies of God youth to provide dedicated Pentecostal missionaries and pastors for the future, as well as to win souls for Christ today.

Applications are now being received for next summer's volunteer missionary force in AIM. Interested young people between the ages of 16 and 24 should write for further information to:

**AMBASSADORS IN MISSION
National CA Department
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802**



AT REVIVALTIME

IT'S CHRISTMAS ALL YEAR LONG

BY E. S. CALDWELL

ALL OVER THE WORLD children's eyes are dancing in delight. It's Christmastime!

Perhaps a child in your home will turn wistfully from the gaily decorated tree and express the dream so many others have uttered: "Don't you wish it could be Christmas *all year long!*"

Of course, the child is thinking of the gifts hidden by colorful wrappings. And he is talking about beautiful lights and fragrant boughs and attractive greeting cards and the other trappings of the festive holiday.

But, in another sense, *don't you wish it could be Christmas all year long?*

Christmas is the season of love expressed in warm generosity. It is the time of year when we want to do something for someone other than ourselves. We take time to write a few words of greetings to friends of yesteryear. We smile more. A mysterious glow of happiness touches everything.

Don't you wish it could be Christmas—that spirit of Christmas—all year long?

At *Revivaltime* it is.

For example, several days after Christmas last year the following letter arrived at the Radio Department from Chicago, Illinois:

"Please forgive me for the delay in sending a Christmas present, but not being able to walk out of the house, I had to wait till I got someone to go to the bank for me.

"It was three years ago December 10 that I had the accident and have not been able to get out of the house since, even for church. But thank God, His Word gets into my room. I cannot tell you how thankful I am for *Revivaltime* broadcasts and for the books you have sent me. Everyday I read your book, *I Was Sick*, and it has been like living waters to me.

"The enclosed \$40 is from what some of my kind, lovely cousins sent me for Christmas presents, and I can think of no better way of spending this money than to give it to help you in your work for the Lord."

And who can miss the Christmas spirit in this letter written in the late winter from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania?

"I want to have a small part in advancing the kingdom of God here upon earth and so I share a portion of

my income. I am retired and receive a very small pension each month. But I give cheerfully because there is great joy in sacrificing for the Lord's work. I can surely witness to that.

"I know that many hearts are touched by Brother Ward's down-to-earth messages and that many souls will bow down in repentance and confess that they want to accept the Saviour *Revivaltime* presents. I want to do my part for this splendid ministry!"

No doubt the West Indies' Christmas looks a lot different from Missouri's. But a young lady from Trinidad gave the Radio Department "Christmas joy" with her letter last spring: "I am a college student. My father works as a taxi driver to support a family of nine. My sisters and I get \$1 every Sunday to use in buying clothing and other things we may need. I save ten cents from each of my dollars and so do my sisters. When it totals about \$5, we send the money to *Revivaltime*."

It's the spirit of the gift that counts! You are never too old to share that spirit, according to a great grandmother in San Francisco, California: "I am very thankful for my good health during 92 years. I am able to make small offerings because I am a good walker and put bus fare in the Lord's treasury."

Last summer iris blossoms took the place of holly wreaths in a Christmas-spirited letter from a gardener in Freeport, Maine:

"I have been selling a lot of iris roots lately, and I want to give the money to help send *Revivaltime* overseas, especially Vietnam.

"I feel such a sense of urgency to send the gospel out

to the ends of the earth. I know that the coming of my Lord is near."

And in autumn our hearts were touched by the sacrificial spirit of a listener in Cedar Bluff, Virginia. This 82-year-old lady wrote: "I had a loose tooth that bothered me very much. I asked the Lord if He would make it possible for me to pull it myself, then I would send the \$4 I would have to pay the dentist to help in gospel work. I am keeping my promise. I have pulled my tooth and feel just fine."

What is the motivation behind such sacrificial giving to *Revivaltime*? A listener in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania, sums it up:

"It is a glorious privilege to trade in heavenly investments which offer such wonderful returns. My offerings are given in love as unto my Heavenly Father for the blessings I receive from the storehouse of His bounty. Someday the Great Auditor will call upon me to give an account of my stewardship.

"It is so necessary to send the gospel forth while it is yet day. We are facing the greatest turning point in human history, and God has a set time for all things—'for at the time appointed the end shall be' (Daniel 8:19).

"The enclosed check is given with my prayer that our Lord will keep your broadcast on the firing line until Jesus comes."

As long as concerned Christians feel that way about the broadcast ministry, it will continue to be like Christmas at *Revivaltime* all year long.



Stori-Strips

*bring the lesson
to life!*



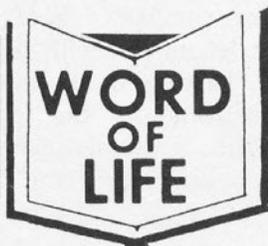
NOW YOU CAN AFFORD CORRELATED
FULL-COLOR FILMSTRIPS—READY FOR 1969

THE NEW 1969 Word of Life Stori-Strip albums are ready! Each colorful, compact album contains four Stori-Strips (one for each quarter) and costs only \$5; it serves the entire year! Stori-Strips are available for both beginner and primary curriculums. Although Stori-Strips use special Split/35

full-color film, they may be shown in all straight-throat projectors by using an inexpensive adapter. Or special low-cost projectors are available. Order now—help your Sunday school teachers achieve a more compelling and effective presentation of lesson truth. A free folder is available on request.

Beginner Stori-Strips (B5, B6, B7, B8) 27 EV 202 \$5.00

Primary Stori-Strips (P5, P6, P7, P8) 27 EV 203 \$5.00



CHURCH SCHOOL
LITERATURE

GOSPEL PUBLISHING HOUSE
1445 BOONVILLE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65802
1514 SECOND AVE., SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101
WORD OF LIFE BOOK STORE
415 N. SYCAMORE ST., SANTA ANA, CALIF. 92701



THE CHASTENING HAND OF GOD

By ARTHUR H. TOWNSEND

WHEN THE HEBREWS WERE WEARY and fainting in the Christian race, God's message came to them: "Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:3, 4). The writer did not say they would not resist unto blood. He said, ". . . not yet."

History records they did. These early Christians were martyred by the thousands.

The contradiction of sinners (wrath of man) always has come against the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. It was very much in evidence in the days of the Early Church. It is evident in these last days and it will increase more and more as we approach the end of the age. The wrath of man, inspired by Satan, will break in all its fury against the body of Christ, the Church.

The wrath of God has never, nor will it ever, come against the Church. "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep we should live together with him" (1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10).

Nevertheless, the chastening hand of God always has been and always will be the experience of the Church. There is not a Christian who escapes it. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons" (Hebrews 12:6-8).

Why must testings, trials, and afflictions come into the life of the Christian? Why must he come under the chastening hand of God?

If we do not suffer, we cannot reign with Christ. If there is no battle, there is no victory. If there is no cross, there is no crown. If there is no chastening, there is no sonship. "Ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him" (Hebrews 12:5).

Have you ever been spiritually or physically depressed because of "manifold temptations"—many testings and trials? Such testings are the lot of every Christian. Peter said, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice . . ." (1 Peter 4:12, 13).

Paul said, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" (2 Timothy 2:12).

"No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11).

When the Christian cannot break through the darkness, when he comes up against insurmountable obstacles and is at the point of spiritual exhaustion, he should not raise his hands in defeat and despair. He should raise his hands in victory! Peter said, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 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 1:6, 7).

"Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" (Hebrews 12:9).

Paul did not turn aside from either the contradiction (opposition) of sinners or the chastening hand of God. He said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecution, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10).

He took pleasure in them, but he did not magnify them. He said, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Remember, two forces are against the Christian. The *wrath of man* and the *chastening hand of God*.

This double-barrelled blast comes against us. One is from Satan, the other from God. One is given in hatred, the other in love. But both are needed in the overall plan of God for His Church. Both are working together for our eternal good. Paul said, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses . . . let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1, 2).



Marcos Murillo

Costa Rica

By **CHRISTINE CARMICHAEL**

COSTA RICA is a picturesque, mountainous country roughly the size of West Virginia. This "Switzerland of Central America" lies between Nicaragua and Panama. On a clear day one can see both the Pacific and the Caribbean from the summits of its mildly active volcanoes. Volcano Poas (9,000 feet above sea level) is reputed to have the world's largest crater.

More than three-quarters of the Costa Ricans (they like to call themselves *Ticos*) live at altitudes of 3,000 to 4,000 feet where the climate is springlike throughout the year. The

Caribbean lowlands have a tropical climate.

San Jose, the capital, a bustling city of 320,000, presides over a broad, fertile valley at an altitude of 4,000 feet.

When Columbus and his band of explorers discovered the country in 1502, they saw the Indians wearing gold ornaments and concluded that the country must have much gold. They named the country Costa Rica (Rich Coast) but were to discover that Costa Rica's riches were in agricultural products which they themselves must work to produce.

The Indians, though few in number,

refused to be enslaved, so the colonists became farmers and gradually developed Costa Rica into a land of small farms instead of large estates. Costa Rica is described as "a land of coffee and bananas." Plentiful rain and rich volcanic soil combine to produce abundant crops.

Cultural progress has surpassed Costa Rica's economic development. For more than a century the country has boasted of more teachers than soldiers and more schools than barracks. Consequently, the republic has developed one of the most efficient school systems in Latin America.

Although Costa Rica is small in area, it is a nation of 1,600,000 progressive, freedom-loving people. Ninety-five percent are of Spanish ancestry. Along the Caribbean coast are a few thousand Negroes, imported to work on the banana plantations.

Colorful, hand-painted, wooden-wheeled oxcarts are still the common mode of transportation in rural areas. People identify the village from which a cart comes by the design on its wheels.

Spanish is the official language of this predominantly Roman Catholic country. There is religious freedom, and the number of evangelicals is increasing.

The evangelical movement dates from 1890 when a pastor in Texas (Dr. C. I. Scofield, editor of the Scofield Reference Bible) encouraged a group of laymen to organize a missionary society and send representatives to Costa Rica. The result of this



effort was the founding of the Central American Mission which has continued an aggressive evangelistic program in the country. In the early 1920's the Latin American Mission was founded by Dr. Harry Strachan. Many Protestant groups now have workers in the country.

In 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Perrault were the first Assemblies of God missionaries appointed to Costa Rica. Other missionaries followed. The establishing of indigenous churches became their goal.

In 1950 a national minister was elected pastor of the San Jose Assembly. Other Assemblies followed this pattern, and now all our churches are pastored by national brethren who are supported by their respective congregations.

Marcos Murillo, a Costa Rican, has been superintendent of the conference since 1964. Missionary David Kensinger serves as vice-superintendent.

To further promote the indigenous growth of the conference, a Bible institute was established in San Jose by the David Kensingers in 1953. The school was at first conducted in the limited quarters of the San Jose Assembly. In 1956 ground was purchased and in 1959 the first unit of the school was built. Thirty-five students are currently enrolled. William Brooke is director. The present teaching staff includes Hope Brooke, the David Kensingers, the Richard Larsons, the David Tyrees, and five national brethren.

Some of the school's graduates go down to the hot, steamy lowlands, and others go to remote mountain villages. Still others are needed in the more populous areas. But all go with

the same burning message, bent on evangelizing their country.

The most rapid progress in the work has come since the Bible school was opened. Today there are 83 churches and outstations and 65 national workers. A strong youth program, with Richard Larson as national Christ's Ambassadors director, adds to the evangelistic enthusiasm of the national church.

Currently about 2,300 children are enrolled in the Sunday schools. Hope Brooke served for a number of years as national Sunday school director, and under her leadership the Sunday school program was expanded. She now serves as counselor to the Costa Rican lady who holds that office. Teams of trained workers conduct vacation Bible schools each summer.

Ruth Kensinger introduced the WMC program in Costa Rica and serves as national president. During the past three years the WMC's have contributed over 6,000 *colones* (about \$1,000) in *cinco*s (five-cent pieces) for various projects in the work. Costa Rican women are enthusiastic in the opportunity to serve. "They have chosen as their motto, 'Christian Women Who Minister with Fervor,'" says Mrs. Kensinger, "and this they do."

The most recent evangelistic outreach was the campaign by the Elmer Buenos in a new suburban area of San Jose where more than 2,000 homes have been built in the past five years. God blessed this effort with about 400 making decisions for Christ and many outstanding healings. The Sunday school reached a peak attendance of 239.

"Our most urgent need is to buy the lot where the tent is pitched," write



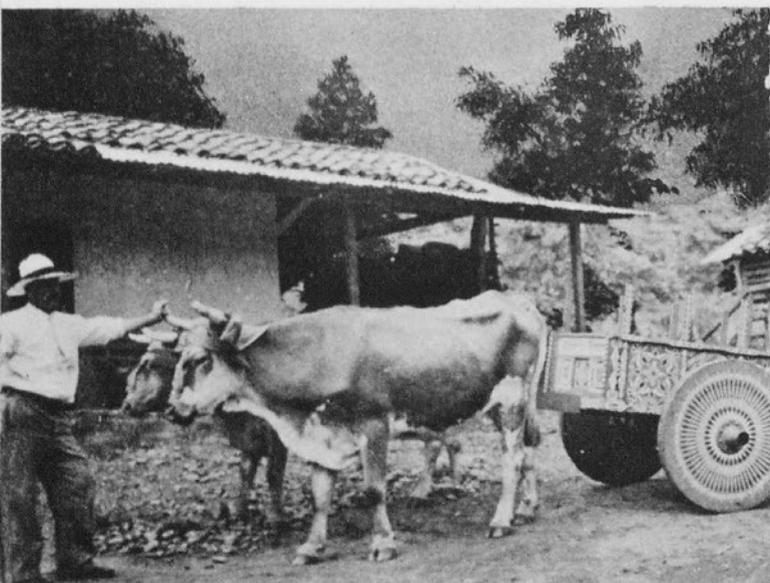
WMC's of Costa Rica enjoy some of the same type projects as WMC's in the U.S.

our missionaries. "It is located in a most strategic spot on the main street of the area."

David Kensinger sends this report: "Three years ago our Costa Rica Conference established a Missions Department to enable our Christians to contribute to total world outreach. The monthly missionary offerings received from all our churches contribute to the evangelization of not only new areas of this field, but a portion of these offerings is sent to other fields. This opportunity of giving for missions has proved a great blessing and incentive to our Christians."

Most of our Assemblies are located in the southern section of the country. Major efforts are now being made to reach the central plateau, the north-west section, and the Caribbean coast. There has been considerable growth in these areas in the past four years. "Let us go into the next towns . . . also" is the goal of our Costa Rican brethren.

Four missionary couples constitute our present appointed staff to Costa Rica: The William Brookes, the David Kensingers, the Richard Larsons, and the David Tyrees. The Elmer Buenos, appointed as missionary evangelists to Latin America, are currently stationed in Costa Rica.



LEFT: Brightly decorated oxcarts are still a familiar sight in Costa Rica. BELOW: Elmer Bueno gives an altar call during a Good News Crusade.



THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

Sunday School Lesson for December 29, 1968

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

LUKE 2:22-38

THE PRESENTATION BY THE PARENTS (vv. 22-24)

Five times (vv. 22, 23, 24, 27, 39) Luke stressed that Joseph and Mary carried out certain rites according to Old Testament Scriptures, thus emphasizing their devotion to the Law. Christ was born into a devout home.

The Law specified that a lamb and a turtledove or young pigeon be used as a purification offering. The poor, however, were allowed to substitute a second dove or pigeon for the lamb (Leviticus 12). Thus it is evident that Christ was born of poor parents. And Simeon and Anna who figured in the events of the day were obscure, humble people. How good it is to know that great spiritual privileges are available to the poor and humble!

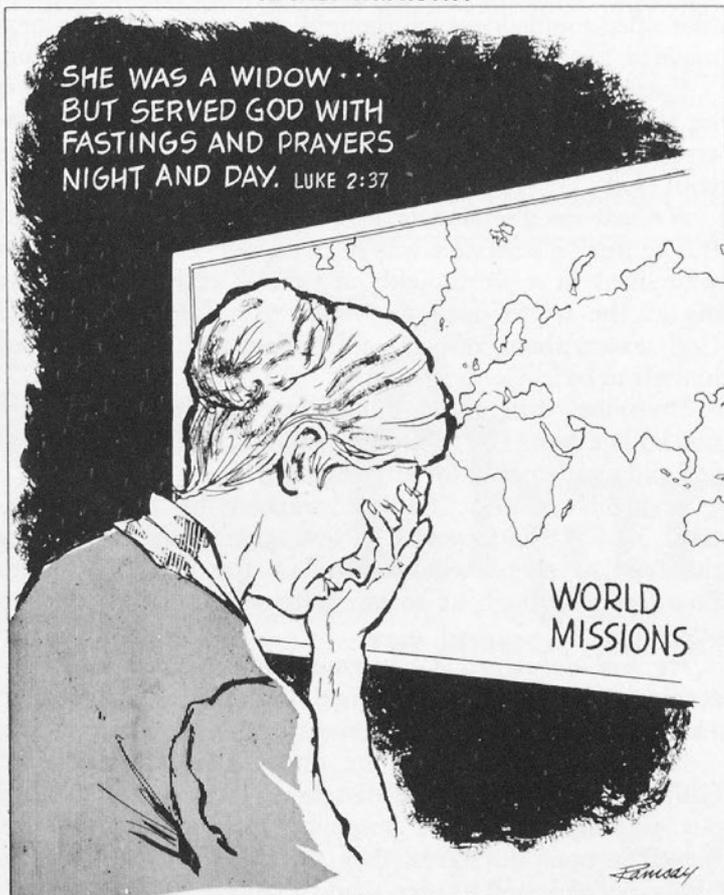
THE CHARACTER OF SIMEON (v. 25)

Verse 25 is a very short biographical sketch; yet if our record in heaven reads like Simeon's, it will certainly bring blessed eternal reward!

Simeon was "just" in relation to his fellowman. He was upright, good, kind, merciful, generous, and benevolent. In relation to God, Simeon was "devout"; that is, he lived in the consciousness of God's presence, loving him, thinking, acting, and speaking so as to please Him.

He was "waiting for the consolation of Israel"; that

SECRET MINISTRY



is, he was among those in Jerusalem who believed the Messianic age was near at hand.

"And the Holy Ghost was upon him." Here was a man who lived and walked in the Spirit in a day when the Spirit had long since departed from the religious leaders and the masses.

SIMEON'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (vv. 25-32).

1. *He was Spirit-anointed.* "And the Holy Ghost was upon him" (v. 25).

2. *He was Spirit-taught.* "And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (v. 26). We cannot dissociate Simeon's Spirit-anointed life and his Spirit-given revelation; the former was prerequisite to the latter.

3. *He was guided by the Spirit.* "And he came by the Spirit into the temple" (v. 27). If he had not received divine guidance, he undoubtedly would have missed his great opportunity. And unless he had been living in sensitive relationship to the Lord, he would have missed that guidance. Spurgeon said, "We must submit ourselves to the divine teaching and drawing, or Christ may come to His temple and we shall not perceive Him."

4. *He prophesied in the power of the Spirit.* From the lips of Simeon, as he held the infant Christ in arms, there poured forth a stream of prophetic utterance concerning the life and ministry of Jesus (vv. 28-32). If the ministry of the Spirit was thus available to Simeon, living under the old order, how much more available is the same Spirit in this dispensation when He has been poured out upon all flesh!

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace . . . for mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (v. 29). Simeon knew by the Spirit that the Babe he held in his arms was the promised Messiah. His cherished ambition thus fulfilled, Simeon was ready to die in peace. And only the man who has seen Christ as Saviour and has accepted Him as such is ready to die in peace.

"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (v. 32). It was thus revealed to Simeon that salvation was for the Gentiles as well as Jews—a truth not grasped by Christ's followers until many years later.

ANNA'S THANKSGIVING (vv. 36-38)

Anna's biographical sketch is also brief, but what a great deal it reveals concerning the nobility and spirituality of this otherwise unknown woman.

Observe concerning her: (1) She had suffered severe trial and bereavement, having been a widow for many years. (2) Nevertheless, she rose above her misfortunes and enjoyed a real spiritual ministry—she was a prophetess. (3) She possessed a deep and consistent prayer life. (4) She practiced self-denial, as evidenced by her fasting and prayer. (5) She was unceasing in her service for the Lord in the temple. (6) She was grateful for the blessing of beholding the Christ and she expressed that gratitude by testifying of Him to others. In all these things she sets a most worthy example!

YOUR QUESTIONS

ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS



The apostle Paul says we are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8,9). James says, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" (James 2:14). How do you explain this difference?

There is no contradiction. Paul was speaking about the *means* of salvation; James about the *results*. Man is saved entirely through the grace of God, by faith in the atoning work of Christ. Good works are the results which follow salvation.

We receive redemption through faith "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:4).

The Bible says the Old Testament believers could not be made perfect without us (Hebrews 11:40). In what way do we contribute to their perfection?

Perfect means "complete." God has a body of people made up of Old Testament saints and New Testament believers. Believers of the Old Testament era had the promises of God which were to be fulfilled in Christ, but it was necessary that Christ come and make atonement to fulfill their hopes and complete their salvation. We who are living since the atonement was made are said to make them perfect in the sense that we too are members of the body of believers, so that without us the body would not be complete.

In his epistles John wrote so often about antichrists. Who were these antichrists he warned against?

They were men who evidently affiliated with the Christian religion and then separated themselves, thinking they possessed superior knowledge (1 John 2:18,19). They denied the Messiahship and the atoning work of Christ; they denied also the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22). They rejected the teaching that Christ, the divine Son, had come in the flesh (1 John 4:2).

They probably were Gnostics who claimed superior spiritual knowledge, and held the view that Deity would not inhabit the human body because it is completely sinful.

Gnostic teachers held various views. One view was that Jesus was only a man since Deity would not inhabit the corrupt human body. Another view was that Jesus just seemed to have a human body.

Some Gnostics sought to crucify the flesh in every way possible, seeking to free themselves from its contamination. There were others who looked upon fleshly indulgence as natural since the body was essentially evil. These took the position that it mattered not what was done through the body; it was the spirit of man that needed cultivation.

All branches of Gnosticism claimed spiritual light beyond and greater than that taught by the apostles. They based their hope of redemption on knowledge rather than on the Atonement.

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.

EXERCISING GREAT FAITH

By WILLIAM L. THORNTON

Pastor, Bethel Temple, Hayward, California

GREAT FAITH IS SOMETIMES FOUND in unexpected places. When Jesus came to this earth, He should have found faith in the Israelites. Because of their background and understanding of the Scriptures and because of their rich spiritual heritage, they should have been a people of great faith. But He didn't find this kind of faith in them.

He found great faith instead in the heart of a Roman soldier—a man with no background to commend him for this type of believing. One can almost sense the excitement in Jesus' words: "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (Matthew 8:10).

Why was this Roman centurion capable of participating in such a great act of faith? It was a combination of qualities existing in the man himself that enabled him to become a great believer.

Each person can exercise this great faith today if he is willing to meet certain conditions. Everyone is equipped with certain faith faculties, but these function only as we develop the qualities exhibited by this centurion.

He had an open mind. This man was evidently without prejudice, bias, restriction in his thinking, or preconceived notions that were rigid and fixed. He had a flexibility of mind, a pliability of nature, and a child-like open-mindedness of thought. This open-mindedness made it possible for him to expand to a new dimension.

Each of us must have "stretch" in our minds. We must be able to expand them to the dimension of a new concept; then we can truly believe all things are possible with God.

He was an affectionate person. The record states that this centurion's servant was dear to him. Here was a man who lived in a world without fences. His heart was as big as the world itself and open to all. His concept of God was without respect of persons, and he considered himself to be in God's image.

Prejudice, differences, intolerance were things that did not bother him. He refused to raise a wall between himself and another man for any reason.

The Bible states, "Faith...worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6). If faith works by love, then we must become the type of people who will allow the love of God to flow freely through us so our faith will bring blessing to all men.

He had developed a generous nature. They said concerning this man that "he hath built us a synagogue" (Luke 7:5). They were underscoring his generous nature.

Have you noticed that the greatest manifestations of faith seem to be on behalf of others? It seems that when our personal forces are outgoing, they multiply. When turned in upon ourselves, they shrink. The Bible tells us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It is also more dynamic. The desire to help, to heal, to bless another can bring out hidden resources and greatly increase our capacity to believe.

When we speak of generosity, we speak of more than money. We speak of the flow of all our personal drives. As these dynamic energies flow outward to be expended on the behalf of others, their power is multiplied. That is because they become fused with total divine power.

He had learned humility. "I am not worthy." These

words graphically sum up another secret of being a great believer. A sense of deep humility somehow sparks the flow of spiritual power. Any sense of worthiness or merit will clog the channel through which the grace of God comes to us and flows to others through us.

Oh, the limitless grace of God which does so much for us when we are deserving of nothing. We must learn what grace is! Humility paves the way for great believing.

Does our Lord find great faith in you? 

THE LOST WALLET

IT WAS TOO BAD that such a happy occasion should end on a sour note. We had just taken our daughter to Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri, for the new semester and had remained a few days to help her get settled. As we attended the Sunday services at East Side Assembly in Springfield, I discovered my wallet was missing. Losing \$30 was bad enough, but there were all those hard-to-replace papers a man carries—social security card, driver's license, gasoline credit cards, etc.

Trying to recall what had happened, I went over our previous activities step by step. We parked our car and camper at a trailer park about seven miles from the college. And then—now I remember! Since I didn't have the correct change to pay the camping fee, I placed my wallet on the hood of the car while I secured the change from my wife. Then in a hurry to get to church, I forgot the wallet and drove away.

As we shook hands with the pastor after the service, I mentioned my loss. "Let's pray right now," he said.

As we drove back to the campsite, we examined both sides of the road carefully with no results. The owner of the grounds asked, "How can all things work together for

good, brother?" We admitted that at the moment we couldn't tell. We were pretty downcast as we began our 550-mile journey home.

Since the highway home led over the same route we had taken to church, we searched again.

About eight miles out of town, we saw a farm tractor lumbering down the road. On impulse I pulled up beside and asked the driver, "You didn't by any chance find a wallet?"

The farmer glanced strangely at me and said, "Well yes, I did." Then he dug into his pocket.

My face lit up like a Christmas tree. "Where did you find it?" I cried.

"Well," said the man, "I was driving my tractor down the middle of the road when I heard a car come up behind me, so I pulled off to the side to let him pass. Just as I did, I looked to my right and saw the wallet. I picked it up just a few minutes ago."

I sprang from the car and looked about in the place he indicated. Sure enough, strewn about were several bills and various important papers.

At this sudden turn of events our spirits lifted. After rewarding the farmer, we told him how we had prayed over this matter and how this was a wonderful answer to prayer.

Though it had seemed our trip would end on a sour note, the Lord changed that to a song of joy and thanksgiving. Besides the material help, we were blessed spiritually as we realized again how much God is concerned over the details of the lives of all His children.

—JOHN GREENE



Thank You

THE FOREIGN AND HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENTS

EXPRESS THEIR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT DURING 1968.
MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



HOW BIG ARE YOU?



By DOROTHY GAWNE COSLET

DADDY, LIFT ME! How big am I?" When I was a child, I used to beg my father to lift me to see how big I was. He would make quite a pretense of being hardly able to boost me. Then with his big strong hands he would lift me high above his head. When he had set me down again, he would always say, "Well, girl, you're getting awfully big. You weigh a whole bushel!"

Children delight in knowing that they are growing big. They are anxious to be *grown-up*. The young Christian, eager to please his Heavenly Father, should be anxious to grow up spiritually too.

Are you aware how much you've grown spiritually since you were first saved? Do you, as a Christian, ever look up and say, "Father God, lift me. How big am I now?"

There are definite indications of spiritual growth and development, just as there are evidences of maturing in physical growth. But your physical age has very little to do with your spiritual maturity. Whether you are 10, 20, or 60 years old at the time of conversion, you start the Christian life as a spiritual infant—a "newborn babe" in Christ. Is it any wonder then that Christ said, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again" (John 3:7); and, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"? (John 3:3).

If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and have accepted Him as your personal Saviour, your sins are forgiven. You have eternal life. You are "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23). Your name is recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. You belong to the family of God.

But is it enough just to be "born again": to be spiritual-

ly *alive*? No, you must do more than that. You have to grow. In fact, if you don't grow, you will surely die. Growing is essential to life.

As a "newborn babe" you have a tremendous hunger for spiritual food, desiring the "sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2). You find yourself drinking in every portion of the Word of God that comes your way. You listen to sermons. You read Christian books and tracts. You can hardly wait for the next church service. When you read the Bible, you apply its truths to your own life. Your concern for others becomes evident as you pray for the salvation of lost souls. As you grow spiritually, your understanding of God's will increases, and you find a place and a way to serve Him.

A child depends upon his parents' care for his early survival. He is usually content as long as he is fed, loved, kept clean, and allowed to stretch and to experiment with his little world.

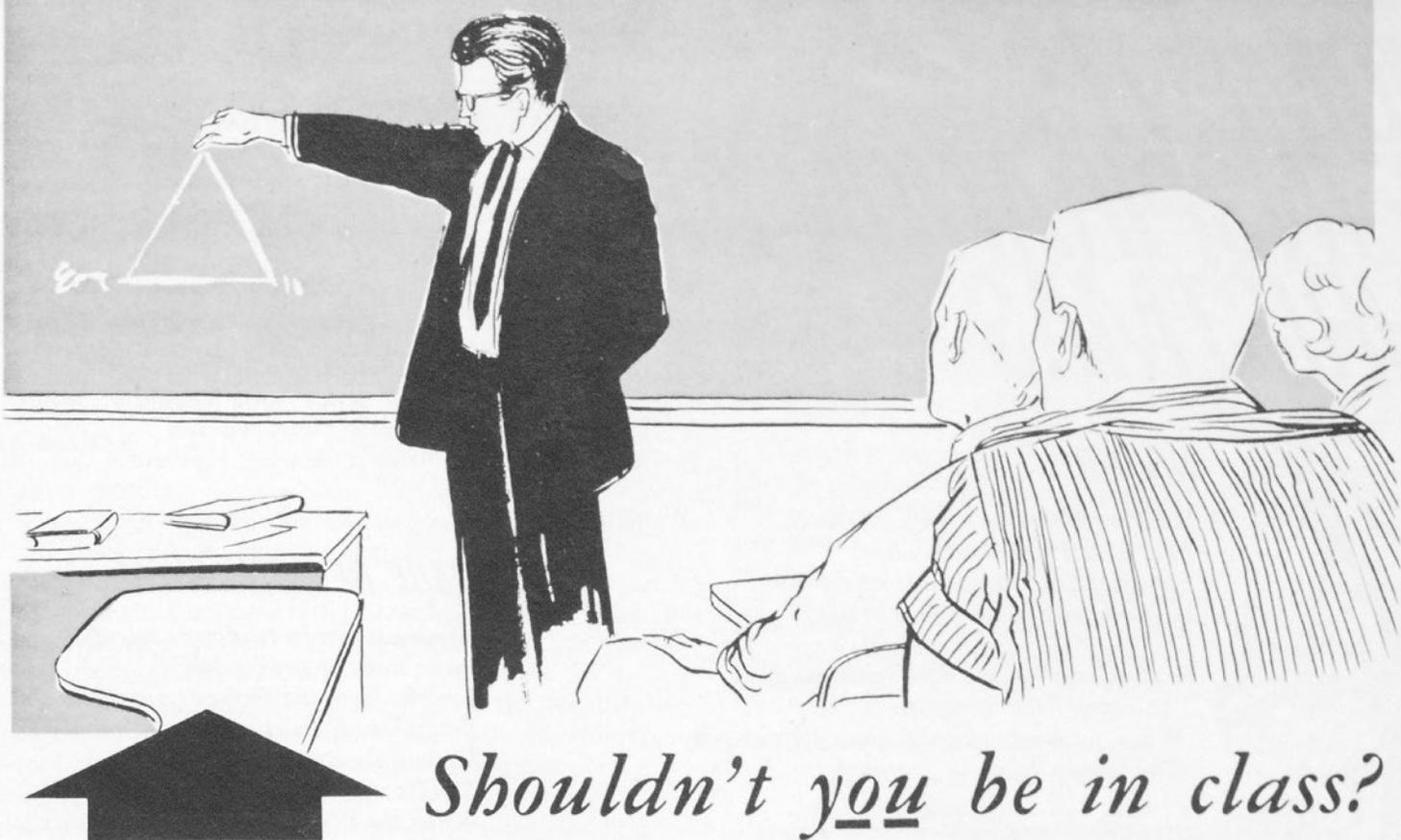
The early part of your Christian life corresponds with natural babyhood. You require loving care from God and your Christian brethren. As a child of God you learn that the Father understands you. You learn to depend upon Him. You enjoy your newfound freedom in Christ. As long as your soul is fed, loved, kept clean, and allowed to grow and to venture into this "more abundant life," you are content.

Like any growing child a Christian may make mistakes. Sometimes he assumes that he is more capable than he is. He falls. He cries. But he will get up and try again to be a faithful witness for Christ. He has to learn to stand up and walk, to find and to do the will of God. The apostle Paul wrote, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6, 7).

How big are you spiritually? Are you still a child, or are you approaching maturity? "For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who *by reason of use* have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:13, 14).



STUDY THE BIBLE AT HOME
WRITE FOR FREE DETAILS
PENTECOSTAL TRUTHS
ALSO 10 OTHER COURSES
BEREAN SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE
1445 BOONVILLE AVE., SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802



Shouldn't you be in class?

Let's narrow the question: Shouldn't you be in an Assemblies of God college class? Have you made the decisions about your education you should have made? Perhaps circumstances are different now than at the beginning of the school year, and you feel you should change your plans. If you are interested in enrolling or transferring to an Assemblies of God college of Bible, or arts and sciences, you can still make it for the second semester if you hurry. Send for information. Use the coupons below.



If it is God's will for you to be in an Assemblies of God college, nothing should stop you.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION • ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

1445 BOONVILLE, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802

FOR INFORMATION. SEND COUPONS TO THE SCHOOLS OF YOUR CHOICE

BETHANY BIBLE COLLEGE

800 Bethany Drive, Santa Cruz, Calif. 95062
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

NORTH CENTRAL BIBLE COLLEGE

910 Elliot Ave., So., Minneapolis, Minn. 55404
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COLLEGE

2525 Newport Blvd., Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

EVANGEL COLLEGE

1111 N. Glenstone, Springfield, Mo. 65802
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

CENTRAL BIBLE COLLEGE

3000 N. Grant, Springfield, Mo. 65802
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

NORTHEAST BIBLE INSTITUTE

Maranatha Park, Green Lane, Pa. 18054
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

SOUTH-EASTERN BIBLE COLLEGE

1000 Longfellow Blvd., Lakeland, Fla. 33801
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

NORTHWEST COLLEGE OF THE A/G

11102 N.E. 53rd St., Kirkland, Wash. 98033
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

SOUTHWESTERN A/G COLLEGE

1200 Sycamore St., Waxahachie, Tex. 75165
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION TO:

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE GRADE
DEPT. EDUC. P.E.

MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION AT CHRISTMAS



GIVING

How precious is the truth, my God,
That I may minister to Thee!
For grief would tinge this lovely life
If Thou could'st only give to me.

When Christ within doth outward shine,
The loving heart is satisfied.
When faith has clasped some offered gift,
The giving heart is gratified.

When meek and quiet, hearing hearts
Are Spirit-led in some new task,
Then creature gives Creator joy.
What more can any mortal ask?

Thy glory and Thy love for me
Do all my powers of praise employ;
And wonderful it is to me
That e'en my praise doth give Thee joy!
—From Poems of Personal Experience

MY PRAYER AT CHRISTMASTIME

Let my life, O Lord, be a Christmas song
Of Thy peace in its deepest flow,
A river of quiet, unending calm.
Midst tumult of sin and woe;
Bespeaking a confident rest in Thee.
While other foundations shake.
Let my life be a Christmas song of peace
Holy praise evermore to make.

Let my life, O Lord, be a Christmas song
Of the joy that followeth peace,
The joy of a full-surrendered will.
That bringeth Thine own increase.
Dark night with its pall of depressing gloom
Is spreading on every side;
Let my life be a Christmas song of joy.
Cheering others both far and wide.

Let my life, O Lord, be a Christmas song
Of love in its fullest strain,
What other message can bring relief
To this earth with its sin and pain?
The love Thou didst show when in Bethlehem.
Thy Dearest was laid on the hay—
Let my life be a song of that same love,
Making Christmas of every day.

—ALICE REYNOLDS FLOWER

CHRISTMAS ACROSTIC

Christ came, a Babe; rejoice, O earth!
Heav'n gave its rarest, choicest gift
Redemption's truth to make secure.
In thanks our grateful hearts we lift.
Send forth with joy the angels' word—
There's peace, good will for ev'ry man!
Make ready; sing in one accord;
And praise the One who has become our
Saviour, King, and gracious Lord.

—MABEL BACON

BABE OF BETHLEHEM

Coming down from glory's splendor,
Little Babe of royal birth;
Coming from the Father's presence,
To a wicked, cruel earth;
Little Babe who nestled closely
To His wondering mother's breast,
When the Wise Men came to worship,
Could that mother then have guessed?
Holding wee small hands so tender,
Did she see them nailed and torn?
Could she trace upon His forehead
Where the thorn-crown would be worn?
When the angels sang the chorus,
"Peace on earth, good will to men,"
Did she see the world's Redeemer
In that Babe of Bethlehem?

Born to be a Man of sorrows,
Born to carry all earth's grief,
Born to be despised, rejected,
By a world of unbelief;
Ne'er to dwell in earthly mansions,
But for man to be a curse;
Little Babe without a dwelling,
Yet He made the universe,
Spoke the mountains into being,
Rolled the planets into place;
Sin of others heaped upon Him
Caused the sun to hide its face.

Little Babe, how oft we wonder
How You could have loved us so,
Leaving heaven's golden portals
For a world so filled with woe:
But we're glad you came, dear Jesus,
Though our sin You had to bear;
And we're glad You were obedient,
For our names are written there
On the book of pure white pages,
Making us joint heirs with Thee,
That we too might share Your heaven
Throughout all eternity—
When again from glory's splendor
Comes the Christ of Bethlehem,
Wearing not a piercing thorn-crown,
But a jeweled diadem.

—ELDORA E. TAYLOR

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

1. Thou shalt not leave Christ out of Christmas.
2. Thou shalt not value the gifts by their cost, for many shall signify love that is more blessed and beautiful than silver and gold.
3. Thou shalt give thyself with any gift; thy love, thy personality, and thy service shall increase the value of thy gift an hundredfold, and he that receiveth it shall treasure it forever.
4. Thou shalt not let Santa Claus take the place of Christ, lest Christmas become a fairy tale rather than a spiritual reality.
5. Thou shalt not burden thy fellowmen. The shop girl, the mail carrier, and the merchant shall have thy consideration.
6. Thou shalt not neglect thy church. Worship, evangelism, and stewardship shall be preeminent in the Christmas season for thee and thy family.
7. Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Let thy bountiful blessing be shared with the many who will go hungry and cold unless thou art generous at Christmas.
8. Thou shalt be as a little child. Christmas is the day of the Christchild; not until thou hast become childlike in spirit art thou ready to enter into the kingdom of heaven.
9. Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas. Verily, most spend many hours getting other things ready, but few seconds in preparing their souls.
10. Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. Let thy Christmas list have Christ at the top and thy heart as the gift. In so doing thou art as the Wise Men who brought gifts to Christ.

BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE SONS OF THE MORNING

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid!
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid!*

*Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.*

*Say, shall we yield Him costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us Thine aid!
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid!*

—REGINALD HEER

I WISH THEE JOY

*I wish thee joy! much joy, around this season;
Not joys but joy—joy deep and strong and true;
Joy—inward joy—since surely heart hath reason
To taste much joy where He hath made things new.*

*I wish thee joy! the joy of sins forgiven;
The joy which comes from having Christ as thine;
The joy of knowing after earth comes heaven,
For evermore the Father's house divine.*

*I wish thee joy! the joy of His near presence,
Though shadows fall, and trials tend life's way;
He is Himself, of joy, the changeless essence,
Joy ever fresh and new; joy every day.*

*I wish thee joy; yea, something more than gladness,
That quiet joy the Holy Spirit gives;
The joy which, e'en through things and days of sadness,
Upsprings within; flows on; sustains and lives!*

—J. DANSON SMITH in "Sharing"



CAN THE LORD USE STOCKS AND BONDS?

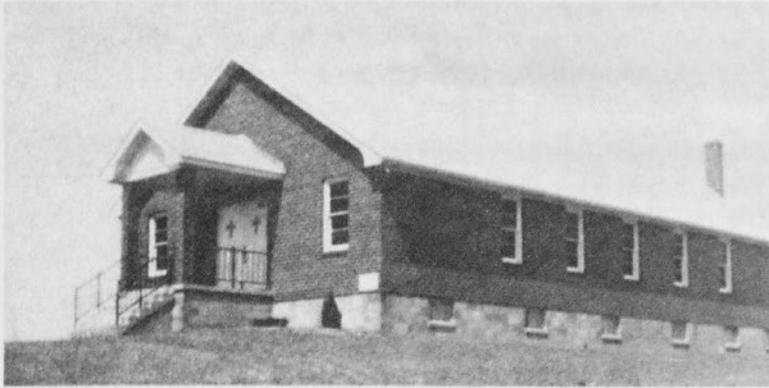
Gifts of stocks and bonds to the work of the Lord constitute an unusually fine channel for Christian stewardship. Properly made, a gift of stocks or bonds may well be of substantial benefit to the donor as well as to the church and its ministries. The donor may have various purposes in view, such as making the maximum contribution to the work of the Lord; providing a life income for himself or a loved one; gaining the largest tax deduction possible; or establishing maximum security for the future.

Careful planning suggests the possibility of various procedures in donating securities. Here are some:

- Outright Transfer
- Transfer Subject to Life Income
- Transfer Under the Standard Life Income Gift Plan
- Transfer Under the Gift Annuity Agreement Plan
- Transfer Subject to Return

If you wish additional information, please clip and return this ad. Just check the box or boxes for which you desire information. Send to: Division of Stewardship, Assemblies of God, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65802.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES



WEST VIRGINIA CHURCH DEDICATES NEW FACILITIES

PATTERSON CREEK, W. VA.—This year Pastor Wilbur Elliott led the congregation of Bethel Tabernacle here in dedicating their new facilities to the Lord.

The new building has over 3,600 square feet of floor space and contains five Sunday school rooms, a CA chapel, Sunday school office, nursery facilities, and rest rooms.

SPARTA, WIS.—Evangelist Don Cole of Springfield, Mo., recently held a successful series of services in the Assembly of God here.

There were 20 saved or reclaimed. Attendance was excellent with many visitors present.

—Robert Eidsor, pastor

The sanctuary, with seating for 150, is carpeted in red. A new piano was purchased for the sanctuary.

The exterior of the new church is of red brick. Total cost of the structure was \$30,000. Pastor Elliott reports that all attendance records were broken on the day of dedication.

VERSAILLES, MO.—Attendance was above average almost every night of the recent meeting held by Evangelist and Mrs. Tom Waggoner of Farmington, Mo., at First Assembly here.

Sixteen were saved, and six were baptized in the Holy Spirit. The

entire church was encouraged and blessed by Brother Waggoner's anointed ministry. Ten persons were baptized in water, and four united with the church as members.

Sister Waggoner's ministry in music was a special blessing. She directed the choir each night.

The Sunday School increased from 127 to 160 on the Sunday after the crusade.

—Robert S. McGarity, pastor

TAHOKA, TEX.—A successful five-day meeting was held recently in the Assembly of God here by Evangelist and Mrs. Danny Rogers of Lamesa, Tex. Two persons were saved, two were reclaimed, and several testified of healing after being prayed for.

The Lord is still moving on hearts and people have been accepting Christ as Saviour in the regular services. On a recent Sunday there was one saved and another filled with the Holy Spirit.

—E. L. Tyler, pastor

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA—God has blessed recent evangelistic meetings in the First Assembly here.

Services held by Evangelist R. S. Peterson from Orlando, Fla., were followed a month later by meetings with Iowa District CA President Norman Wenig.

Fifteen were saved, three were

filled with the Holy Spirit, and many were refilled. Several were healed. The whole church has felt the revival spirit.

—Fred R. Gottwald, pastor

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.—Special meetings with the Stephens Brothers were extended a third week at Southside Faith Tabernacle here because of a definite move of the Holy Spirit.

Many filled the altars each night. About 15 persons were saved, and six or more were filled with the Holy Spirit. Many visitors attended the services.

Many young people rededicated their lives to Christ. Several persons were delivered from the smoking habit, including a man who had been bound 23 years.

—John W. Newby, pastor

WITH CHRIST

RUTH E. HARRINGTON, 68, of Wichita Falls, Tex., went to be

forever with Jesus on September 1, 1968. Sister Harrington was licensed by the North Texas District in 1958. She served the Lord in child evangelism and home missionary work. She is survived by one brother and two sisters.



----- for **YOUR** information



OUR MISSION IN TODAY'S WORLD

Now read about the recent Council on Evangelism. The official papers and reports—the 13 major messages—the 35 seminar presentations—here is **total information** in one volume. The tremendous response to this Council "will let us project specific goals and objectives to help us meaningfully fulfill our mission in today's world and let us address ourselves to the needs and challenges of contemporary society" stated General Superintendent T. F. Zimmerman. This important book should be added to every church library. **Order yours today.**

Cloth 2 EV 563 \$3.95

GOSPEL PUBLISHING HOUSE > 1445 BOONVILLE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65802
1514 SECOND AVENUE, SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98101

WORD OF LIFE BOOK STORE > 415 NORTH SYCAMORE ST., SANTA ANA, CALIF. 92701

POSTPAID IN U.S.A. PRICES OUTSIDE THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES SLIGHTLY HIGHER

* A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF "OUR MISSION IN TODAY'S WORLD" WILL BE SENT TO ANY CHURCH OF INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTING \$10 OR MORE TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE COUNCIL ON EVANGELISM. MAIL YOUR CHECK, WITH A REQUEST FOR THE FREE BOOK, TO: SPIRITUAL LIFE—EVANGELISM, 1445 BOONVILLE, SPRINGFIELD, MO. 65802.

EVANGELISTIC EVENTS

STATE	CITY	ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Hawaii	Wahiawa	A/G	Dec. 15—	E. Howard Anderson	Edward Decker
Idaho	American Falls	A/G	Dec. 25—	Linfield Crowder	Peter Petersen
Ill.	Kankakee	First	Dec. 10-22	E. A. Manley	S. L. Thompson
Mo.	Caruthersville	First	Dec. 9-22	Howard & Mrs. Young	John Bell
Ohio	Salem	First	Dec. 22—	Arnold & Anita Segesman	Paul C. Taylor
Canada	Senmeterre, Que.	Cree Indian Ch.	Dec. 10-22	Wayne & Vi Marshall	Ray Beahm

Due to printing schedule, announcements must reach *The Pentecostal Evangel* six weeks in advance.



Over 537 attended the Sunday morning worship service on the last Sunday of the crusade with the Musical Vanns.

ADRIAN, MICH.—During a recent two-week meeting with the musical Vanns, 114 families visited Bethany Assembly of God here for the first time.

There were 70 decisions made for Christ as a result of Brother Vanderploeg's ministry. Seventeen

persons followed the Lord in water baptism.

Records show that week-night attendance exceeded 200 and reached a high of 379. There were 537 in the morning worship service on the last Sunday of the crusade. —Arthur G. Clay, pastor

SPIRIT OUTPOURED AT TRINITY BIBLE INSTITUTE

JAMESTOWN, N. DAK.—The Holy Spirit came down upon the students and faculty at Trinity Bible Institute here like rain during Spiritual Emphasis Week.

President Roy H. Wead writes: "I've been speaking at chapel morning and evening, and I've met 181 students and a faculty that has been filled and refilled with the Holy Spirit."

Brother Wead preached at a nearby church, and when the people were invited to kneel at the altar, a number responded. One of them was a young college student. The next day he came to TBI and announced he wanted to transfer from his college to the Bible institute to prepare himself for Christian service.

"His testimony in chapel so thrilled his sister, who is a student at TBI that she got under conviction and witnessed to the junior class, which sparked a move of the Holy Spirit. This led to a real old-fashioned revival for the whole class."

Morning chapel services often continued until noon, and evening services went on to midnight or later. Many students were filled with the Holy Spirit during these days of revival. Some who were

unsaved or backslidden got right with the Lord. There were healings and other miraculous answers to prayer. Over and over again the services or classes were broken up with personal testimonies of the wonderful working of God in lives.

Young men and women received the baptism of the Spirit while praying alone in their rooms, or in class, in chapel, or even (as happened to some) after returning to the building from work as late as 11:30 p.m. "Pray with us for a continuous spiritual move throughout the school year," is President Wead's request.

Brother Wead became president of TBI this fall after resigning from the pulpit of South Bend Gospel Tabernacle. W. H. Kesler is dean of the institute, which formerly was known as Hub City Bible Institute and was situated in Aberdeen, S. Dak. It moved to Jamestown, N. Dak., in the fall of 1967 to take over a former hospital facility.

Trinity Bible Institute is sponsored by the North Dakota and South Dakota District Councils of the Assemblies of God. It offers a three-year course with six months of school each year.

TULSA, OKLA.—The first anniversary of the Carbondale Assembly here was marked by two weeks of special meetings held by Evangelist and Mrs. Lindell Ballenger of Springdale, Ark.

The Holy Spirit moved each night in such a way that the entire church responded to the music and ministry of the Ballengers. Eight persons were saved and six reclaimed. Five were filled with the Holy Spirit and seven refilled.

The attendance was good with an average of 160 during the week and 350 on Sunday. Since the church moved to its new location one year ago, the Sunday school attendance has increased by 100.

—H. D. Pieratt, pastor

HUDSON FALLS, N. Y.—Evangelist and Mrs. E. T. Quanabush of Costa Mesa, Calif., ministered to near-capacity crowds during a recent crusade at the Gospel Lighthouse Church here.

Fifteen persons accepted Christ as their Saviour, and 13 were filled with the Holy Spirit. Many testified of healing, and many experienced a spiritual refreshing.

The revival spirit continues as three more souls were saved on the Sunday after the meeting.

—Robert A. Canterbury, pastor

NORTH OLMSTED, OHIO—The Assembly of God here has recently been experiencing a unique move of the Holy Spirit. Each Sunday the congregation includes those from various denominational churches.

At a recent water baptismal service eight from other denominations were baptized. These included people from the Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, and Episcopalian churches.

All of these have been filled with the Holy Spirit. These people have remained in their churches and are being instrumental in leading others into the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Kenneth Canfield states, "I join many others as we thank God for His hand of love and power upon the Assemblies of God. The scripture, 'Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?' (Esther 4:14), comes to mind as I reflect on God's blessings upon our Movement."

FOR EXTRA COPIES OF THIS ISSUE

If this issue of the *Evangel* has been a blessing to you, why not share it with your friends? For extra copies, send \$1, and we will mail you 15 copies. Order number 2850. Our address is *The Pentecostal Evangel*, 1445 Boonville Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65802.



PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK IN GOD'S WORK—

6% INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES

NOW AVAILABLE FROM

Church Extension Loan Investment Plan

Your funds invested in Church Extension Loan Investment Plan will assist new and established churches in all phases of their building programs. And you can earn a good return on your money, with the peace of mind of participating in a sound investment program.

General Council, Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville,
Springfield, Mo. 65802

PE 122268

I am interested in investing in the expanded Church Extension Loan Investment Plan. Please send information on:

- 4½% Passbook-type savings (demand deposits)
- 6% Investment Certificates (6-10 year maturities)

Name

Address

City

State Zip



WATCH THAT BOOMERANG!

By DON MALLOWH / Pastor, Bethel Assembly, Fremont, California

LAST SUMMER I stood on the sand dunes along the Oregon coast engaging in a very interesting pastime. My youngest son, his friend, and I were practicing the Australian art of throwing boomerangs. When thrown properly that ancient weapon rises slowly in the air, whirling around and around in a curved line until it reaches quite a height. Then it begins to fly back again, sweeping over the head of the thrower and falling behind him. Although aimed at a distant object, it often comes back to endanger the thrower himself. Many times I had to hurriedly sprawl on the white sand to escape the whirling object I had thrown in another direction.

The wise man Solomon records a statement that is profoundly true, and yet too often we close our eyes to it. He writes, "He that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul" (Proverbs 8:36). Standing by itself, that sentence sounds as if it came from the lips of Jehovah. Considering the context one would surmise that it is the voice of wisdom speaking. Even if the *me* were alluding to Solomon himself, the utterance would be true. It matters not who voices the words, the truth remains the same.

The history of mankind is one of rebellion against God. Sinful man defies his Creator and lashes out at Him at any provocation.

The atheist vilifies the One he claims does not exist, and his efforts are as harmless as a dog baying at the moon.

The critic belittles the One who formed him and thus demonstrates his foolish reasoning.

The cynic exercises contempt for the One to whom he owes his very existence and merely hardens his own spirit.

The profligate would do God harm by rejecting His precepts of righteousness and following his own whims and appetites.

Each has his own way of boycotting God and sinning against Him. It is as if God were an archenemy and man would destroy him by any available means. But what we so often forget is that sin operates like a boomerang. Instead of striking its distant target it returns to endanger the thrower. The injury to the sinner can be greater than to the God against whom the sin is pitted. By defiance, rebellion, transgression, or indifference we would harm and belittle God. We foolishly suppose we can be the victor in a conflict with the Almighty. With a smirk we defy the principles and

precepts God lays down. Because judgment does not come immediately, we gloat with satisfaction. Such reasoning is childish. The truth is that we don't break God's commandments—we break *ourselves upon them*.

Allow me to emphasize another facet of the truth by slightly altering that sentence from Proverbs. It could well read, "He that sinneth against *another* wrongeth his own soul."

Sin against God reacts as a boomerang, and sin against a fellow being does the same. He who would harm another will eventually feel the force of his own blow. The gallows Haman prepared for Mordecai became his own deathtrap.

Pharaoh had all the male Hebrew children thrown into the river. Then he lived to join the wail of his own people when the death angel took the eldest son in every Egyptian household—including his own.

Cunning Jacob stooped to many practices to gain his own ends. He deceived his father and brother—and later was deceived by Laban and his own sons. He lied to his aged father and afterward suffered heartbreak as his sons showed him Joseph's blood-stained coat and told him a cruel lie. Like many of us, he may have thought he could sin with impunity. But the boomerang came sailing back.

The apostle Paul used another metaphor in expressing an inexorable law of God. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). No one escapes the reaping process. Wishful thinking contrives a different answer, but there are no loopholes in the law of retribution. Then too, the reaping process always multiplies the results. The harvest of wild oats is much greater than the seed sown. Many an aged person complains about life's dealing him continued cruel blows. With a better memory, and a knowledge of God's laws, he would realize that he is merely reaping what he has sown.

A boomerang is not a toy but a weapon. Although sometimes used as a plaything, it is a dangerous one. Neither is sin against God or our fellowman anything to amuse ourselves with.

Frisk with a lion, if you will, and put your head in his open mouth. Demonstrate your bravado. Try to out-guess the writhing high tension wire as it maneuvers on the wet ground—if you enjoy the challenge. Do any foolhardy thing your mind can think up, *but don't trifle with sin*.

Watch that boomerang!

