

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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

JANUARY 1969

TEN CENTS

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

FILE COPY

WEEK OF PRAYER
JANUARY 5-12



THE PRAYER THAT BRINGS REVIVAL

By ERNEST M. WADSWORTH

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness...and with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:31, 33).

PRAYER FOR REVIVAL differs from every other kind of prayer. Numerous examples of revival prayers are given in the Scriptures and in them we notice factors unknown in other prayers. They have a singular power to move God. The secret of Pentecost is in them. They embrace what God most loves in prayer—greater fervency and urgency of intercession. They vocalize the Spirit’s desires. Is it any wonder that they shake heaven and bring down showers of blessing?

SEVEN EXAMPLES OF REVIVAL PRAYER

Moses by one such prayer turned back the hot displeasure of Jehovah against Israel so that the Lord received the nation again into His favor. This epochal prayer is stated in terse language: “I stayed in the mount, according to the first time, forty days and forty nights; and the Lord hearkened unto me at that time also, and the Lord would not destroy thee” (Deuteronomy 10:10).

Joshua similarly, after defeat at Ai, obtained God’s

special favor. He cried: “Alas, O Lord God...what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?” (Joshua 7:7-9). The Lord answered immediately.

Elijah, by this kind of praying, brought in days of revival blessing. He said: “Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell” (1 Kings 18:37, 38).

A revival prayer of King Hezekiah’s effected the miraculous deliverance of the nation from the domination of the Assyrians. Hezekiah prayed: “O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only” (2 Kings 19:19).

Ezra’s revival prayer obtained the purification of the nation. The priests and the people had taken the daughters of the land for themselves and for their sons. The holy seed was corrupted. The princes and rulers were chiefly responsible. Ezra prayed: “O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens... Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people

Ernest M. Wadsworth, now deceased, was director of the Great Commission Prayer League, Chicago, Illinois, for many years.

wept very sore...and said... We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God" (Ezra 9:6; 10:1-3). God therefore saved the nation.

Habakkuk prayed for revival and was answered quickly. "O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy" (Habakkuk 3:2). God visited His people. "His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise" (v. 3).

The apostles by union in prayer after Pentecost received a second Pentecostal revival. "They lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is. . . . And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:24, 29-31).

Enough has been said to show that revival prayers are in a special class by themselves. Let us notice the salient features of effectual revival prayer.

SEVEN FEATURES OF REVIVAL PRAYERS

1. *Revival prayers are groaning prayers.* Such were the prayers of Israel in the house of bondage. They "groaned" unto the Lord. This groan-filled praying was the order of the day. Samuel mentioned this in his last address to Israel: "Your fathers cried unto the Lord, then the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt" (1 Samuel 12:8). The prayers of Israel were groaning prayers. The Spirit prayed through them for deliverance "with groanings which cannot be uttered." Whenever God hears the groanings of His troubled saints He rises to their help. "As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children" (Isaiah 66:8).

2. *Revival prayers are blushing prayers.* Thus Ezra prayed: "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens" (Ezra 9:6). He confessed crimson sins with a blushing face. That is the right accompaniment for naming transgressions. Prayer that comes from a seething heart, offered with blazing zeal for the glory

of God and with shame for His dishonor, will be offered with a flushed countenance. God never passes over such prayers.

3. *Revival prayers are prostrate prayers.* Recognition of iniquity, appreciation of impotency, and a sense of inefficiency, incompetence, and dependence upon God will cause prostration before God. It is the only suitable attitude. Thus our Lord prayed in Gethsemane. Revival is near when people get down on their faces before God.

4. *Revival prayers are based upon the Atonement.* They rest upon "the finished work" of Christ. This is what is meant by His direction, "Ask . . . in my name." Revival prayers capitalize on the redemption in Christ Jesus. They plead the benefits of Calvary, knowing that "he that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). On the basis of Christ's atonement we shall prevail in prayer for the coming revival.

5. *Revival prayers are based upon the covenant.* The new testament or covenant cannot be disannulled. It is unalterable. Therefore saints interested in its terms and provisions may make legal claim for revival at the court of heaven. The new covenant has ever been the passkey by which men of faith have unlocked doors of revival blessing.

6. *Revival prayers are united prayers.* Union and agreement in prayer are essential to revival. It is given in answer to mutual prayer. Revivalists and reformers understood this necessity. Jonathan Edwards, father of the New England revival, bowed in travail of soul before God for revival. He issued a call to God's people "to come into union and explicit agreement in prayer for the revival of God's work in the churches in keeping with His holy covenant and promises." Prayer groups were formed all over the land. The spirit of prayer was upon the people. Whole nights were spent in prayer. Prior to his world-famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," his congregation spent the entire night in intercession.

We too need to travail in soul. We have greater reason for being bowed before God. It is time to seek the Lord with groanings and strong cryings. The Church is despised; the ungodly are bold; youth is indifferent; God's servants are in reproach; enemies are mocking the Church; and ungodliness prevails. In similar difficult times Daniel set his face to seek the Lord with supplication and fastings. If we will wait upon God, we shall see mighty manifestations of God's supernatural presence and power. When there are mighty wrestlings in prayer in closets, homes, and in services of public prayer, we shall see the conversion of souls.

7. *Revival prayers are selfless prayers.* They seek only the glory of God and the welfare of men. Love "seeketh not her own." To save their people Moses and Paul were willing even to be blotted out of God's book (Exodus 32:32; Romans 9:3). Can we say, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake"? (Psalm 115:1). Are our prayers as unselfish as this?

Such were the effectual revival prayers of men of old. In the proportion that these qualities appear in our intercessions, our prayers for revival will also be effectual.

WEEK OF PRAYER

JANUARY 5-12, 1969

Individually and collectively, let us seek the Lord humbly for a spiritual renewal that shall sweep across our Fellowship.

1969 - YEAR OF REVIVAL

Some Guidelines for 1969

AS WE ENTER ANOTHER YEAR we are reminded again that life is a one-way street. There is no turning back to improve our record. We can only entrust the past to God's mercy and go forward toward our eternal destination, "redeeming the time"—buying up each opportunity—"because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).

Our days are numbered. We have none to spare—only enough to accomplish God's will for our individual lives—so we can't let one be wasted. "Wherefore," the Scripture continues, "be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." And it goes on to say that God wants us to "be filled with the Spirit," always rejoicing in Him; and then it explains those relationships between husbands and wives, between parents and children, and between employers and employees that are in God's will (Ephesians 5:17 to 6:9).

There are some matters in which God's will is not readily discernible, which requires us to wait patiently for divine guidance. There are other matters, however, in which the Lord's desire for His children is obvious. What right have we to expect God to throw new light on some problem where His will is not clear, if we are not obeying Him in other matters where His will is very clear?

For example, it is God's will that we pray, for the Bible explicitly instructs us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17); that is, pray "perseveringly" (Amplified).

It is God's will also that we be diligent in reading His Word, for Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures" (John 5:39), and the apostle wrote, "Give attendance to reading" (1 Timothy 4:13).

Regular church attendance also is the will of God for all His people, for we are warned against "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25).

Another matter in which God's will is clearly revealed is evangelism, for He "will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). We are to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8) communicating Christ to others.

If we conform our lives to God's will in these and other matters where our duty is made clear, we may expect divine guidance in those situations where it is not immediately evident. Dr. Gregory Mantle suggested seven simple rules to follow when seeking divine guidance.

First, beware of a superficial life. An unsundered will exposes us to evil suggestions.

Second, beware of haste. The devil will rush us, for his time is short. God is never in a hurry, for He is working for eternity.

Third, all impressions which come from above will grow stronger as we wait and pray. Impressions from the netherworld will grow fainter and finally disappear.

Fourth, we must not expect special guidance in situations which are covered by the principles taught in the Word.

Fifth, there is never any conflict between the Spirit, the Word, the example of Jesus, and divine providences. These all agree.

Sixth, never doubt in the dark what God has shown you while in the light. If the devil cannot misdirect you, he will try to discourage you on the road.

Seventh, always choose the way of the cross. If you have to choose between two paths, one smooth and the other rugged, always take the rugged path (for the route God chose for His Son and His servants of old was seldom smooth).

"If ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:11).

—r.c.c.

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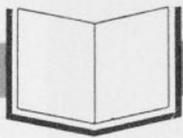
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STATEMENT OF FAITH

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



A PROMISE FOR THE NEW YEAR

By LYLE E. CURTIS

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

IT WAS IN THE SUMMER OF 1933, at the depth of the economic depression. To obtain finances was unthinkable, yet it seemed the Lord had placed an impression on my heart that I should go to Bible school and prepare for the ministry.



I decided to claim the promise of Proverbs 3:5, 6, as quoted above. I would stand upon the truth of this verse which had recently become so meaningful to me.

In a venture of faith I went to Door County, Wisconsin, to purchase a load of cherries, intending to bring them back and sell them to the farmers. When I reached a Christian fruitgrower in Door County, he informed me that the market for early cherries had closed and he was happy to

Lyle E. Curtis is district superintendent of the Assemblies of God in the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District.

have his crew pick a load for me at a very reasonable price.

I cleared much more on that load than I had anticipated, so I arranged to buy another load later. It "happened" that I struck the same situation for the late crop; I was able to get them picked very cheaply and did exceptionally well again.

This was the beginning of a series of fortunate circumstances that made it possible for me to attend Bible school in the midst of the depression and to graduate with all bills paid.

There have been other experiences since that time when other verses of Scripture have fit my needs, and they were my favorites for a while; but in many perplexing circumstances I have been helped by returning to Proverbs 3:5, 6.

In these two short verses there is a very significant word that is used twice. I think it needs to be amplified. We are told to "trust in the Lord with *all* thine heart," and again, "In *all* thy ways acknowledge him." The promise doesn't work if we only trust with *part* of our heart, or if we acknowledge Him only in *some* of our ways.

Those who put themselves entirely under divine guidance shall always have the benefit of it. 

MY WESTSIDE STORY

By JAMES P. MONSON

Pastor, Faith Assembly, Beech Grove, Indiana

WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU a modern-day miracle. I call it "my Westside Story."

One quiet afternoon after returning home from a busy day at the church office, I received a telephone call from a minister of a United Methodist Church on the westside of Indianapolis. He said he represented four churches—three United Methodist Churches and a Friends Church—who were planning a seven-night crusade for Christ.

The purpose of his call, he said, was to see if I would be available to be their evangelist. When asked what they had in mind as to the theme of my messages, he said: "Of course, we want the Spirit to direct you, but we know God is blessing Pentecostal churches in a way so different from ours. You seem to have something we don't have, and we would like to have you come and tell us what the Word of God has to say about the Holy Spirit."

What made this invitation even more significant was

the fact that I was brought up on the westside and many in the congregation were my former neighbors, newspaper customers, and classmates at public school. I had endeavored to let my light shine before them even though they didn't understand my Pentecostal testimony.

The crusade was the greatest spiritual adventure in my life. My Westside Story is replete with thrills, excitement, and spiritual drama. Night after night God blessed in a marvelous way. My song evangelist and organist were Nazarenes and served magnificently to get the people to worship God. Then with unusual anointing I preached messages on the Person, the nature, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

From night to night as the invitation was given, many came forward. We know of at least 20 who confessed Christ as their personal Saviour!

One of the churches was greatly helped as the result of the meeting, according to one of the letters I received. The pastor of that church refers often to the revival messages. He now gives altar calls with Pentecostal fervor; and even his preaching is different!

Surely this is another indelible sign of our times. God is pouring out of His Spirit upon all flesh (Acts 2:17), and I'm so glad He has chosen me to have a small part in His great plan.

My Westside Story is not complete yet. The results are still being tabulated. When the Spirit moves there is a chain reaction—and only eternity will put "finis" to my story! 



Marvelous testimonies follow World Prayermeeting

THE LORD ~~WILL~~ ANSWER!

THE LORD WILL ANSWER!" (Joel 2:19)—theme of November's *Revivaltime* World Prayermeeting—sparked faith in countless lives.

A letter came from Peggy Whitford in Bloomington, Illinois, saying: "I received your prayer reminder for the *Revivaltime* World Prayermeeting just this week, and I want to say concerning some of my requests, not that 'The Lord Will Answer,' but that 'The Lord *did* answer.'"

She went on to explain she had requested prayer for two unsaved cousins. Their father, a constant *Revivaltime* listener, suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. Peggy wrote about what happened the next day: "In the few minutes immediately before my uncle's departure to be with the Lord, his two sons were gloriously born again."

Peggy's letter was among the first reports of victory arriving after the November 17 prayer day. Every mail brings new testimonies of miraculous answers to prayer.

Those attending this year's "anchor" service sensed a spirit of earnestness among the 1,500 gathered for prayer in the Oklahoma District Auditorium in Oklahoma City. They knew the Lord would answer such intercession as they saw there. And they knew, too, that 1,285 other prayer groups with some 55,000 participants were meeting to pray over many of the same 26,500 requests.

We want to share with you a variety of the letters repeating Peggy's theme—vital proof that the Lord *did* answer:

PHYSICAL HEALING

"I want to thank the Lord for answered prayer for my sister-in-law, whose name I put in for prayer. God saved her and wonderfully healed her of an ulcer that had been there for months. She was in the hospital seven months, and the doctors had given her up. They said it was a higher power that healed her."

—Mrs. J. L., California

"A year ago I sent a prayer request to the World Prayermeeting for my little boy, Randall. For over three years whenever he would get a cold or flu he would always end up with a severe attack of asthma, and the attacks were getting worse all the time. There were several times he had to be rushed to the hospital at night.

"Since that Prayermeeting he has not had any asthma attacks at all, nor any signs of one, even though he had colds and the flu. His little body has filled out, and he has grown quite a bit these past months. He is 7½ years old."

"There is not a single doubt in my mind

that the Lord has completely healed Randall of this asthma trouble, and I surely praise and thank God for it."

—Mrs. R. H., California

MENTAL HEALING

"God has answered! My husband is well again—he was mentally sick. Now he is his old self again and holding down a job. I want to report also that my son and his wife are now saved. Oh, God has been so good to me!"

—Mrs. J. S., Oklahoma

"I sent in my prayer request to World Prayermeeting. I had been home, unable to work due to a nervous breakdown, for 18 months.

"I do thank God for answering prayer. I have been working and I am feeling so much better. I am able to work four full days each week. In the near future I hope to work full time.

"I am so grateful for what the Lord has done for me. I give Him all the praise because I know He touched me and made me strong again."

—L. H., New York

DIVINE PROTECTION

"Last year I sent you a request to bring before the big Prayermeeting. My grandson was sent to Vietnam for a year. Well, his year is up, and he arrived back Tuesday night sound and without a scratch. Thank God."

—Mrs. H. W., Ohio

"Last year I requested prayer for protection for my nephew who was serving in Vietnam as a gunner, and God certainly answered. He came home safely and is now working in Seattle. Praise God for His goodness and mercy."

—Mrs. L. B., Washington

CHRISTIAN COMPANIONS

"A year ago I requested prayer for my brother, that God would send him the one of God's choice to be wife and mother after his wife passed away leaving four children.

"God provided in many ways the help he needed so badly at times. Godly babysitters for the 20-month-old baby—and now a lovely wife. She is the widow of an



The "anchor" service of the *Revivaltime* World Prayermeeting, with approximately 1,500 persons in attendance, was conducted in the spacious Oklahoma District Auditorium and hosted by the Greater Oklahoma City Assemblies of God Ministerial Association. Pictured at left are some of the 60 area ministers gathered at the altar which was heaped with thousands of prayer request letters. The *Revivaltime* choir (above) provided music for the World Prayermeeting and the radio broadcast origination which followed. Bert Webb, executive director of radio (center), presented Evangelist C. M. Ward with a seven-pound master list, a condensation of 26,500 prayer requests received at *Revivaltime* during the six weeks preceding the prayer day. Copies of these requests were distributed to 1,285 other participating prayer groups. After the "anchor" service was dismissed, many lingered at the altar to read and pray again over the heart-touching prayer requests.

evangelist and loves the children, and the children love her too." —Mrs. L. K., Oregon

"God miraculously answered the request I sent two years ago. I am still thanking Him for it. The answer came in such a wonderful way. I had asked for a Christian companion, and the Lord really gave me the desires of my heart. Our home is so happy, and I know we were definitely meant for each other. I know only God could have instituted such a perfect marriage." —Mrs. A. S., California

BAPTISM IN HOLY SPIRIT

"I sent in a request to World Prayermeeting for the pastor of the Methodist church and his wife to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Each of them has received—he in a prayer meeting at my home, and she a week ago in her own home. He now boldly preaches on the Baptism." —Mrs. R. M., Iowa

"God has answered the requests I sent to the worldwide prayer service. Two of my friends have returned to God; in addition, they are now planning to prepare for Christian service. And I am happy to report that I have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It has wrought many wonderful changes in my life." —T. P., Illinois

FINANCIAL NEEDS

"I sent in a prayer request that we would sell our car by November 29 because we had a bank note due that day. We had tried so hard to sell the car, but something always hindered. But the night of Novem-

ber 28 a man came and bought our car and paid cash for it. The Lord will answer! Oh, I love Him so." —Mrs. K. D., Texas

SALVATION

"I wrote and asked you to pray for the salvation of a neighbor. His wife just called me and told me he was saved yesterday. He asked her if her pastor could come and talk with him. The pastor came, and my neighbor received Christ." —Mrs. W. K., Texas

"My request was that my sister would be saved. Our church was taking an hour to pray in connection with your World Prayermeeting that Sunday night.

"Something came up that prevented me from going to the church that night, but I went into my bedroom at the hour of prayer and began to pray. It wasn't long before my husband called me and said I had a long distance phone call. It was my sister in California calling to tell me that she and her husband and one daughter had just been saved. They couldn't wait to tell me. You can realize how happy this made me!" —Mrs. J. S., Oklahoma

HOMES REUNITED

"Our request was for a mother of three—ages eight, three, and one year—to return to her family. God has miraculously answered." —L. B., California

"I would like to let you know of the immediate answer to prayer that we received from the Lord concerning a member of our family. This home had been broken for over two months; but after prayer was offered on World Prayermeet-

ing Day, the husband returned home the following Tuesday. We sincerely appreciate your prayers and we do give God all the glory for this, as there was seemingly no hope for this home." —Mrs. J. M., Texas

"During the World Prayermeeting I requested prayer for my son to get a better job. He had been working in the shop, and last week, after I sent the request in, his boss came to him and told him he was putting him on a route by himself. Also he needed dental work. He had been attacked and beaten, his four front teeth knocked out, about two months ago. He was told to see a dentist to get his teeth, and his boss would help him pay for them." —Mrs. H. H., Florida

DRINKING PROBLEM

"I would like to thank you and your prayer group because the urgent request I sent to you in November has been answered. It was for a brother-in-law to be saved. He was a wicked drunkard. My! he has changed; now he goes to church and is on fire for God. The first thing he did was to buy Bibles for all his children. Also he has won his oldest son to Christ. Praise God for answering prayer. That family is so happy." —Mrs. F. D., Tennessee

"For several of *Revivaltime's* World Prayermeetings I requested prayer for my husband and two brothers bound by alcohol. Only God could help them.

"I am so happy to report that God completely delivered my husband of alcohol and delivered my brother also. I thank God everyday for the wonderful change and peace in our home now." —Mrs. C. A., Georgia



By WESLEY R. HURST / Foreign M

TIMES OF TROUBLE — TIM

IN THE LAST DAYS . . . *I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.*"

These words electrify! Every man with the hope of Christ in his heart is lifted by them, for this is God's promise, God's prediction of a spiritual outpouring. Yet it is unqualified except that the last days actually be here—and they are!

In addition to God's prediction of the "times of the Spirit," He has also said the last days would be "times of trouble." These also are here in greater measure.

On the Day of Pentecost Peter cried, "This is that!" Together with him, we who experience this Pentecostal fullness in these last days lift our voices to join the cry, "This is that!"

Our declaration of the Year of Revival is attesting to our faith in these words. We do not wish to have these months of 1969 pass us by; therefore, let us look for our part in God's plan for the "times of the Spirit." Every church in its community witness and its missions outreach must identify actively with what God is doing in the last days.

God in His *sovereignty* is moving in the earth, fulfilling His own prediction by pouring out His Spirit as He wills and where He wills upon receptive hearts.

The *serenity* of God sitting on His throne reflects the *certainty* of His plan. His positive declaration, "I will pour . . .," calls upon us to but recognize the times in which this prediction is to be fulfilled. The Church and her massive efforts to reach the lost must be pervaded with the serene knowledge that God has a plan that *will not be thwarted*. No matter how troubled the times, they shall be the "times of the Spirit!"

The *strategy* of the Spirit is known fully to God alone. That He has a plan we have no doubt, for many factors in His plan are revealed in part to those who follow the leading of the Spirit. But heaven alone will reveal the wonder, the beauty of this divine strategy for this outpouring of the Spirit in these "times of trouble."

Each missions team and each man on the missions team—pastor, supporter, teacher, administrator, missionary,

national worker—is a part of the master plan of the Spirit. His master strategy will unfold chapter by chapter as each member follows daily the direction of the Spirit. The final chapter will be the return of the Lord of the harvest Himself!

In answer to a practical question, "How do you enter a modern city today?" Foreign Missions Executive Director J. Philip Hogan writes, "First, God began to focus the burden on the hearts of veteran missionaries. . . ." Here's where it starts—a burden in the hearts of Spirit-led men.

Brother Hogan goes on to evaluate the story of revival in Panama. "The whole gospel was preached, including divine healing; and when the Lord performed miracles, these encouraged everybody's faith. As soon as there were converts, the missionaries started a training class prior to the evening service.

"The Panama congregation soon needed to purchase property. After a painstaking search, they found a local theater they could remodel. We are in business in Panama with a growing



Missions Home Secretary

TIMES OF THE SPIRIT

congregation well located and permanently settled.

"What is the secret of this city work? God's timing, burdened hearts, the use of modern communications and equipment, anointed preaching, hard work, and prayer. There is no city in the world that will not yield to this treatment."

In the South Pacific the "times of the Spirit" speak of the second wave of missions. The work in Fiji is one of our strongest in the South Pacific area. In fact, some of the ministers who have graduated from the Bible school there have gone out as missionaries to other island groups.

Of the breakthrough in New Caledonia, Missionary Lawrence Larson writes, "New Caledonia is a modern Ephesus through which the work of God may reach all the surrounding islands. Many New Hebrides young men, seeking employment in the island, have attended the services and been saved."

Field Secretary for the Far East M. L. Ketcham writes of revival in the Marshall Islands: "The Assemblies of

God work in the Marshalls began seven years ago with the arrival of Missionary Sam Sasser. Today more than one-quarter of the population of the island of Majuro are baptized believers, and 12 of the 15 men in the 'Council of Kings' have accepted Christ as Saviour. King Namo Hermios, king of 63 islands, is an active deacon in the Assemblies of God church in Majuro."

Seoul, Korea, is the scene of an unprecedented stir of the Spirit. The Central Church now exceeds 7,000 active members. Pastor Cho Yonggi reports that his congregation has purchased new land on which a building seating 10,000 people is to be constructed. And they have already instituted a regular missionary program!

In North India the strategic, sovereign move of the Spirit is described by Missionary Mark Buntain, who says: "Nagaland is high up in the mountains in the northeast corner of India on the Burma border. To be with the Nagas is to love them. They are among the most warmhearted, sincere, and hospitable people in the world. Once they were headhunters and warring tribesmen, but now most of them have become Christians, and the work of the Holy Spirit is marvelously in evidence all through their tribes."

Follow along as Brother Buntain tells this story. "After a steep and winding drive by Jeep from the plains



of Assam in the dead of night, we reached the village where over 4,000 believers had gathered from all over Nagaland. Some of them had walked 85 miles through jungle trails. Hundreds of these Nagas had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

"This outpouring is greatly strengthening the Assemblies of God of East

India. The assistant superintendent, Solomon Wasker, is being used of the Lord in the development of this work."

West Africa has recently been stirred mightily. Just one of the reports in brief epitomizes what has occurred in half a dozen great cities in West Africa.

"Togo is a little country by many standards, but this small African nation recently experienced a wonderful revival. The Paul Olson Evangelistic Party teamed up with missionaries William and Margaret Lovick to conduct a GOOD NEWS CRUSADE in Lome, the capital city. In all 4,375 Togolese publicly responded to the call for sinners."

Beirut, Lebanon, is where a center of outreach is developing into history-making penetrations of the Muslim world. *The Pentecostal Evangel* (June 16, 1968) reported, "Missionary Bob Hoskins recently received word of a Pentecostal revival in Egypt. A man who was a member of an anti-Pentecostal group read a copy of the Arabic *Evangel* featuring the message of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

"He believed the message and received the Pentecostal experience. This man then shared his testimony with the pastor and other members of the group. They started special prayer meetings in homes, and to date 26 persons have been baptized in the Holy Spirit."

We thrill at the move of the Spirit in Ronda, Spain, and "the church that love built" reported in the April 14, 1968, issue of *The Pentecostal Evangel*.

The strongest team we have ever put into the field of Europe is now stationed in the major cities of the continent. The indications are that the 1970's are going to be the "times of the Spirit" for Europe.

Continental Bible College, opening soon in Brussels, Belgium, will have a key role in this outpouring.

The world is shaken, and it will continue to pulsate with tremors of trouble of every kind. Social, economic, racial, political struggles lie ahead. But these "times of troubles" are the climate in which heavenly rain will fall.

What are the conditions of revival? Just like we have in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the U.S. right now!

What do we do? Appropriate the serenity of the Spirit in heaven's throne room, walk daily after the Spirit to obey what He tells us to do. You have a choice. Your church and you are challenged to be participants—not spectators—in this last-day revival. 

ETERNAL VERITIES VERSUS

PFNA CONVENTION MESSAGE

WHEN ABRAHAM LINCOLN, in his Gettysburg Address, proclaimed "that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth," he stated in clear terms a social doctrine "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Excellent as that proposition may be for the governing of human society, the democratization of man has become one of the contributing causes for the religious problem of universalism. The universalists would have us so believe in the equality of man that no sinners are to perish at all, even in the fires of hell!

The Early Church did not teach that all men are ultimately saved. To the contrary, Polycarp wrote: "And whosoever perverts the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts and says that there is neither a resurrection nor a judgment, he is the firstborn of Satan."

The first of the ancient fathers to teach a doctrine of universalism was Origen. Though the Second Council of Constantinople (553) condemned Origen's views, the idea of remedial purging after death lived on in the Roman Catholic doctrine of purgatory.

Modern Roman Catholicism has eventually come around to a more Origenistic position. Since Vatican II we are seeing an increasing emphasis in the Roman Catholic Church on the universality of the reign of Christ, a belief that the grace of God extends to all men, whether they are in the fold of the church or not.

The Protestant side of universalism is somewhat more complicated. The Augsburg Confession (1530) condemned the universalistic Anabaptists "who believe that there will be an end of punishments of the damned and the devils." In the 19th century such men as Schleiermacher, Thomas Erskine, and Andrew Jukes taught a doctrine of universalism, and in America there formed the Universalist Church.

In 1961 when the Universalist Church of America merged with the American Unitarian Association, the name of Jesus was omitted from their doctrinal statement. The new constitution of the Unitarian Universalist Association said: "To cherish and spread the universal truths taught by the great prophets and teachers of humanity in every age and tradition, immemorably summarized in their Judeo-Christian heritage as love to God and love to man."

The extremes to which the doctrine of universalism has carried this movement should serve as a warning to

us. It is inevitable that a position of universalism will eventually lead to a rejection of Christianity.

It must be seen also that a doctrine of universalism eventually leads to a rejection of the idea of a personal soul. Ralph Waldo Emerson, one of the leading universalists of his day, said: "The soul knows no persons. It invites every man to expand to the full circle of the universe and will have no preferences but those of spontaneous love."

A far greater threat to our position arises from today's liberal theology. Early in the 20th century we were told, "Every day in every way we are getting better and better." Two disastrous world wars and the atom bomb, however, brought an end to such delusions of grandeur. There then arose a new concern for the sinfulness of man—a position that led to neoorthodoxy.

Although theology had returned to a more scriptural view of sin, it produced a wholly inadequate idea of God. It failed to see that while we serve a God of love, we also serve a God of absolute holiness.

Many who hold to neoorthodoxy are not universalists; but given the idea of a totally benevolent and forgiving God, it is inevitable that a theological position of universalism will emerge.

Neouniversalism—that which arises out of today's

Congregation sings during the 21st annual convention of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America held in Vancouver, B. C., Canada.



David A. Womack, foreign missions editor for the Assemblies of God, presented this message to the 21st annual convention of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America, held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Brother Womack is also the author of a recently published book, *The Wellsprings of the Pentecostal Movement* (Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri 65802; order number 2-EV-628; \$1.50 postpaid in the USA).

UNIVERSALISM

By DAVID A. WOMACK

liberal theology—has grown particularly within the ecumenical movement, where there is an increasing attempt to amalgamate all religious belief into a single world-wide faith.

Nels F. S. Ferre, professor of Christian theology at Andover Newton Theological School, wrote: "But no worthy faith can ever attribute eternal hell to God, the sovereign Creator whom we meet in Christ as eternal and almighty love. . . . To attribute eternal hell to God is literally blasphemy, the attributing of the worst to the best. From such blasphemy may God deliver everyone" (*Christianity Today*, March 1, 1963).

The key to understanding such statements is the awareness of the subtle change from a God-centered to a man-centered theology. If God exists for man's welfare, then we will develop a totally good God who will ultimately save all men; but if man exists for God's purpose, then men are responsible either to fulfill that purpose or face God's infinite and everlasting displeasure. It can in no way be blasphemy to attribute eternal wrath to a holy God.

At the heart of universalism is a faulty definition of God. Though no definition of the infinite God can ever be complete, I like the attempted definition of William Newton Clarke: "God is the Personal Spirit, perfectly good, who in holy love creates, sustains, and orders all" (*An Outline of Theology*, p. 66).

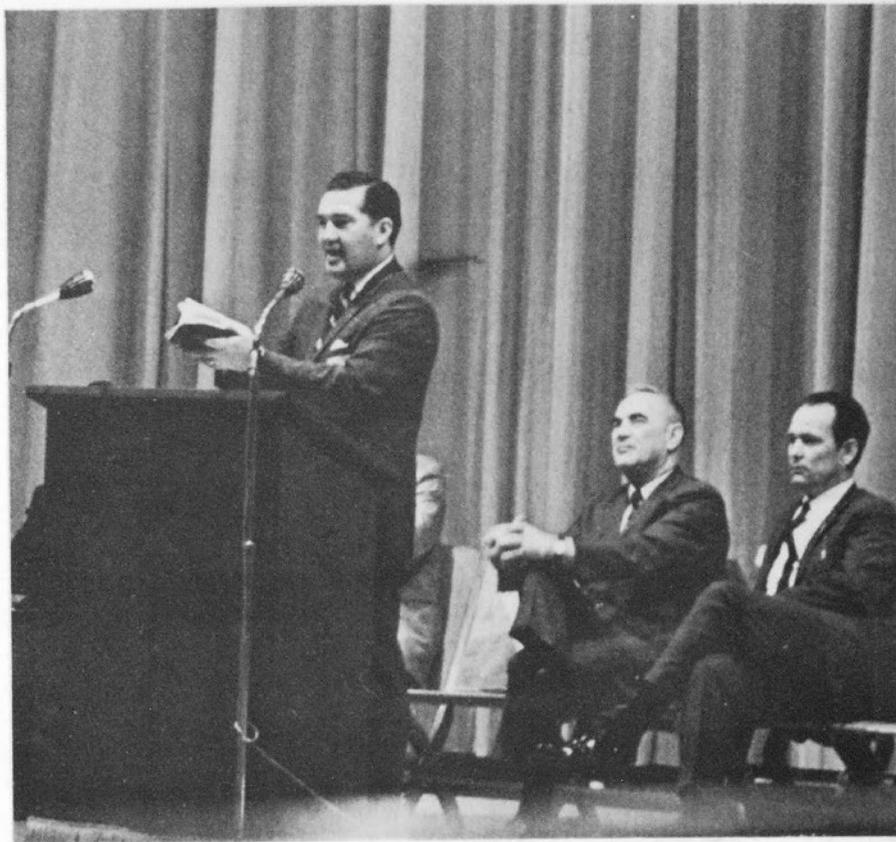
In this definition, God's love is described as "holy." It is this qualification of God's love that makes a position of universalism completely impossible.

Far from being "a good God" of limitless love and benevolence, our holy God is an inscrutable Being of self-imposed limitations—a truth seen in the tiniest atom or in the most sprawled-out galaxy. Somehow, in a logic known only to God, the redeemed will be glorified because they have chosen God's way of salvation instead of refusing to obey Him.

The fact of human choice lifts man above the level of angelic beings who praise God because it is their nature to do so and brings into the eternal realm of God a being who chooses of his own free volition to love and obey his Creator. If many men choose a way of self-imposed banishment through rejection of their Creator, it is not the responsibility of the Creator to grant them equal blessings with those who fulfill their eternal purpose and choose their destiny in His presence. In fact, it would be most inconsistent of God to accommodate those who reject Him and His way.

If all things were created for God's pleasure, and if man has really been given the power of choice between good and evil, then the choice of evil must lead to God's displeasure, thereby incurring His wrath.

It takes little imagination to see what a deadly blow universalism would give the Church if it were widely



David Womack addresses the PFNA convention in Vancouver.

accepted among evangelicals. Imagine, for example, how the story of the prodigal son would appear if Jesus had believed the doctrines of universalism!

Armed with the attributes—or at least the buying power—of his father, the prodigal son leaves the shelter of home and goes out to seek his individual fortune—to "do his own thing." But his youthful appetites and his loneliness drive him to squander his wealth in the immorality and self-destroying sins of the world.

Finally, we observe the prodigal son standing in the dirty pigpen feeding the pigs—proper companions for a man of his degraded state.

But under the promises of universalism that all men are ultimately saved, the prodigal son does not arise from the pigpen and go to his father to ask forgiveness. Rather, the father goes to the prodigal son and makes the pigpen a better place in which to live—thereby saving his son and also the pigs, not to speak of the fatted calf who was to die in the redemptive process!

Obviously, if all men are saved, there is no urgency to any kind of missionary endeavor. If it is not necessary for a man to seek God, to ask forgiveness, and to live in accordance with God's commandments, then the activities of foreign and home missions are all in vain.

If men can be saved by ignorance as well as by knowledge of Jesus Christ, then we had better close down our whole world missions program. If men can be saved through ignorance, we can spread ignorance over the earth much more speedily and more cheaply than we can spread knowledge.

If the universalists are right, then we should indeed close down our missionary endeavors and try to make this world a better place in which to live; but if Jesus Christ is right, then we had better redouble our mis-

sionary efforts with maximum urgency, knowing that we must one day stand before His judgment seat to give an answer for our obedience to the Great Commission.

Confronted with a rising belief in the ultimate salvation of all men and a general de-Christianization of 20th-century life, we Pentecostal evangelicals reply to our times with the following reaffirmations of our faith:

We reaffirm our belief in the absolute infallibility of the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God and our only rule of faith and practice.

We reaffirm our belief in the one true God, the almighty Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, who in holy love made man in His own image to love and praise Him eternally.

We reaffirm our belief in the universal lostness of men—that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

We reaffirm our belief that God Himself became Man to redeem men from their sinful state and make them sons of God and heirs of heaven. We believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son, God incarnate in human flesh, and our one and only Saviour.

We reaffirm our belief that all men who do not meet God's standards for entrance into heaven will be banished forever to the torments of hell—a place of everlasting punishment “prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).

We reaffirm our belief that the Great Commission of the church of Jesus Christ is: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). In firm belief that God's principal purpose in the world is to win men to Himself, we dedicate our-

selves to the evangelization of all nations. We dedicate ourselves to the proposition that the primary cause of Jesus Christ must never become a secondary cause in His Church.

We reaffirm our belief that God, fully knowing the limits of our abilities and the weaknesses of our nature, has sent His own Holy Spirit to fill us and give us the power to carry out the Great Commission.

We utterly reject the heresy of universalism. All men will not be saved regardless of race, color, or creed; all men will be lost unless they repent of their sins, accept the salvation of Jesus Christ, and live according to the commandments of the Lord.

Picture again the prodigal son.

Lifting up his head from the field where he feeds the pigs, he remembers his father's house. He arises from the pigpen and goes to his father. When he is yet a great way off, his father sees him and has compassion on him. He runs to meet his son and throws his arms around him, and the son cries out: “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son!”

But the father orders the best robe to be put on him, and a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet—and calls for the fatted calf to be killed. So the fatted calf is slain after all!

And the father declares: “For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”

Some may question our position, but the Bible still stands: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

T. F. Zimmerman Elected Chairman of PFNA

VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA—Thomas F. Zimmerman, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, was elected chairman of the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America at the 21st annual convention held here two months ago.

Organized in 1948, PFNA is a cooperative fellowship of 18 Pentecostal groups in the U.S. and Canada whose combined membership exceeds one million. It is an affiliate of the Pentecostal World Conference which meets triennially.

During this meeting Brother

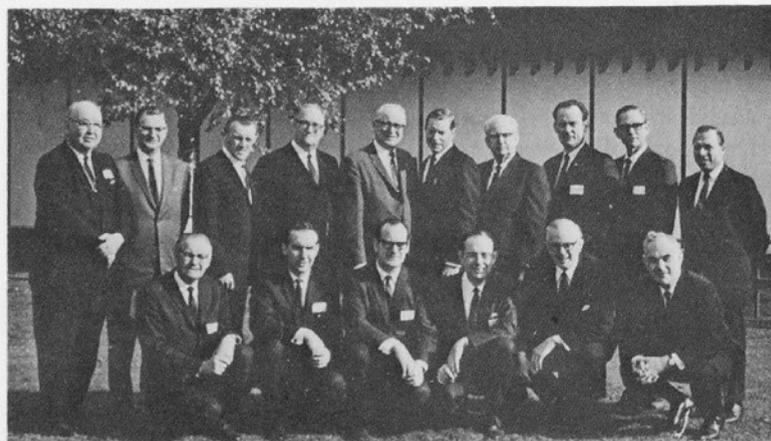
Zimmerman was also appointed chairman of the steering committee on arrangements for the ninth Pentecostal World Conference scheduled for Dallas, Texas, in November, 1970.

Other elected officers of PFNA for 1968-69 are Robert Taitinger, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, vice-chairman; Charles W. Conn, Church of God, second vice-chairman; Ray E. Smith, Open Bible Standard Churches, secretary; and Ira H. Moses, Church of God Mountain Assembly, treasurer.

Two other Assemblies of God leaders were elected to positions in PFNA. Gayle F. Lewis, retired assistant general superintendent, was reelected to the board of administration, and Norman Correll, national secretary of the Christ's Ambassadors, was named chairman of the PFNA youth commission.

The Christian Church of North America, with headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was added to the PFNA membership at the convention.

The next PFNA convention will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, October 28-30, 1969.



Members of the Board of Administration for the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America are (standing, left to right): J. A. Synan, Pentecostal Holiness Church; James Montgomery, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; O. H. Heath, Free Gospel Church; A. S. Bursey, Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland; H. P. Courtney, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; Roy H. Hicks, Foursquare (serving in absence of Rolf K. McPherson); G. F. Lewis, Assemblies of God; Herbert Carter, Pentecostal Free-Will Baptist Church; Terry Crews, Congregational Holiness Church; Costa Deir, Elim Missionary Churches (substituting for Carlton Spencer).

Kneeling are: Ira H. Moses, Church of God Mountain Assembly, PFNA treasurer; Ray E. Smith, Open Bible Standard Churches, secretary; Charles W. Conn, Church of God, second vice-chairman; R. Bryant Mitchell, Open Bible Standard Churches; T. F. Zimmerman, Assemblies of God, chairman; Tom Johnstone, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

Members of the board not present for the picture: Robert Taitinger, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, vice-chairman; W. D. McIntyre, Free-Will Baptist of the Pentecostal Faith; Lynn O'Tuel, Emmanuel Holiness Church; Chester I. Miller, Pentecostal Church of Christ; J. Floyd Williams, Pentecostal Holiness Church; Frank P. Fortunato, Christian Church of North America.



R. Bryant Mitchell (left), outgoing PFNA chairman, and T. F. Zimmerman, present chairman.



THIS PRESENT WORLD

"Bibleland" to Be Built in Israel

Construction will begin soon on a 50-acre site outside Tel Aviv, Israel, for an exhibit called "Bibleland."

Dr. Baruch Ben-Yehuda, general director of Israel's Ministry of Education and Culture, said the project will be based on a four-volume work titled, *Views of the Biblical Land*, written by a team of scholars.

Black Christians' Literature Conference Scheduled

The American Tract Society, Oradell, New Jersey, will sponsor a Black Christians' Literature Conference to be held at Liberty Corners, New Jersey, April 28-30, 1969. The Tract Society's Negro Division of Evangelism will sponsor this conference to determine the most effective means of communicating the gospel through the printed page.

Preliminary plans are for a maximum of 50 delegates to participate by personal invitation, with an additional 20 to 30 invited observers. Although some white delegates will be included, the majority will be black.

The American Tract Society, instituted in 1825, is an interdenominational organization serving over 13,000 churches. Total volume last year exceeded 36,500,000 pieces of literature published.

PAOC Celebrates Jubilee Year

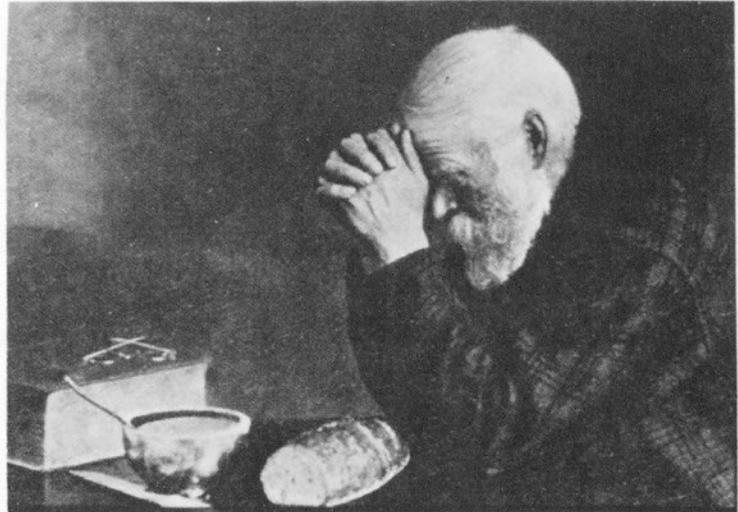
The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada will celebrate its 50th anniversary as an organization in 1969. An anniversary rally in Toronto on January 12 will be the initial event in the commemoration. Robert Taitinger, newly elected General Superintendent, will be the featured speaker at this rally.

The PAOC has shown a remarkable growth. The 1961 census showed a 52 percent increase—the greatest percentage increase of any religious group in Canada. There are 745 affiliated churches with more than 144,000 members.

Canadian Assemblies will observe Anniversary Day on Pentecost Sunday, May 25. This is within a week of the anniversary of the date when the government granted a federal charter to the PAOC.



Robert Taitinger, former pastor of the Central Pentecostal Tabernacle, Edmonton, Alberta, assumed duties as General Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada on January 1, 1969.



"GRACE" PHOTOGRAPHER DIES AT 92

This photograph, entitled "Grace," won worldwide fame for Eric Enstrom, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, who died recently at the age of 92.

Millions of reproductions have been made of the photo, taken by Mr. Enstrom in 1918 when he asked a peddler to pose for him. In 1957 he sold the copyright to Augsburg Publishing House, a Lutheran firm. In the last 11 years Augsburg has sold 500,000 prints of the picture.

Prayer a Factor in Former President's Recovery

Doctors term the recovery of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower from his seventh heart attack a "miraculous turnabout."

Lt. Gen. Leonard R. Heaton, surgeon general of the U.S. Army, told reporters at the White House that he and the other physicians were "pleased with the progress the general is making at the moment."

Asked the reason for General Eisenhower's progress, Dr. Heaton shook his head and said, "You've got me."

"Oh," Senator Everett M. Dirksen exclaimed, "I'll tell you—prayer." And to that Heaton agreed.

Amish May Leave Canada

Scores of Amish and Old Order Mennonites say they will leave Canada unless the government stops trying to force them to join Canada's pension plan.

Alvin Shatz, spokesman for the two bodies, said 300 families from Western Canada have already moved to South America because they find life in Canada no longer compatible with their religious beliefs.

Amishmen and Mennonites have been told the government would intercept their checks for milk and egg sales until the \$180 annual pension fund payment for each person is made. The two groups are willing to pay income tax because they believe the government is worthy of support, but they consider the mandatory pension plan an infringement upon their religious liberties. They believe in taking care of their own in old age.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Sunday School Lesson for January 12, 1969

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

LUKE 14:15-24

THIS PARABLE has immediate application to Israel, for while God's chosen people—so highly privileged through the centuries—have rejected Him, He has opened the door for all nations to experience the benefits of His salvation. It also has a personal application to each of us. Are we fully responding to His call? If not, what excuses are we hiding behind?

THE GRACIOUS INVITATION (vv. 16, 17)

Symbolically, God is the host in the parable; the servant is Jesus Himself, as well as those of His followers who seek, in Christ's stead, to reconcile men to God; the supper represents salvation, fellowship with God, and all the blessings of the gospel.

The invitation extended was, "Come; for all things are now ready." From these words consider the following:

1. *It is God's policy to have all things ready.* His thoughts and acts always precede man's coming to Him, and He provides in advance for man's needs to be met. Calvary was not an afterthought. Christ was indeed the

WALLING HIMSELF OUT



"Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." All of this proves how willing God is to welcome all—saint as well as sinner—who will come to Him!

2. *God is ready to impart all spiritual blessings.* This should be a constant incentive to us to keep coming continually to Him. In times of spiritual and material need, let us come and lay hold of His promises. Let us come to Him in prayer, and bring Him every detail of our daily living.

3. *God's perfect readiness is a reason for coming to Him now—not later!*

THE AMAZING INDIFFERENCE (vv. 18-20)

When we consider this story in the light of oriental custom, we realize what a great breach of etiquette these refusals were. One noted authority says, "To refuse the second summons (the original invitation of the host and the final summons by the servant) would be an insult equivalent among Arab tribes to a declaration of war."

Notice what kept these men away:

1. *The first man had bought land* and wanted to gloat over it. Here we have possessions, and pride in them, keeping a man from a great privilege. How flimsy his excuse! His land would still be there after the feast!

2. *The second man had bought oxen* and wanted to put them to work. This man was kept away from the feast not so much by possessions as by care and business. He was concerned about quickly realizing the value of his investment. How weak also is his excuse!

3. *The third man had married a wife* and could not come. He was more impolite than the rest, for he did not even beg the host's pardon. He was kept from high privilege by pleasure, emotion, and human affection. Yet could he not have brought his wife along? If she were like most wives she would have been glad to be present!

Pride in possessions, business and its care, pleasure and emotion, especially in the realm of human relationships—these things still keep sinners out of the kingdom of God and keep Christians from enjoying the blessings and power of God!

THE RENEWED SOLICITATION (vv. 21-23)

Among the prominent features of these verses are the following:

1. *The anger of God.* The lord of the feast was angry at the conduct of the invited ones. And the anger of God, unlike our so-called "righteous indignation," is a truly righteous anger. It is the anger of outraged love; "for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." To reject that love is the greatest sin a man can commit.

2. *The grace of God.* The poor, the maimed, and the halt primarily represent the outcast Jews, the spiritually neglected, the publicans, and harlots—all of whom were despised by the Pharisees. How remarkably these verses connect with vv. 12-14, for these invited were persons whom the inhospitable Pharisees would never have invited. Thus God's grace stands out in contrast to man's narrowness of heart and human self-righteousness.

3. *The concern of God.* The lord of the feast was most anxious and determined that all who could possibly get in should have the joy of participating in the feast. What a picture of the concern of God who "is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).



HOW A FAMOUS ATTORNEY FOUND CHRIST

By **CLYDE F. WATSON**

DR. HUGH CONNIFF FISHER was employed for many years by the railroads as one of their chief attorneys. Noted for his firebrand tactics and persuasive oratory before judges and juries, he was well known in Louisiana and with the Texas Bar Association. His picture hangs in the Hall of Fame in Washington. Dr. Fisher was reared a Catholic and was a Catholic when I first met him in 1961.

I was a building, repairing, and painting contractor at the time and I did several jobs for Dr. Fisher and his wife. At that time he was retired from the railroads but was still active in the courts.

During this time I witnessed to the full gospel and told him of my personal experience of salvation. Dr. Fisher was immediately interested and questioned me many times concerning the baptism in the Holy Spirit, divine healing, and the power of God.

In 1963 Dr. Fisher suffered a severe heart attack and was under intensive care in the hospital for many days. Upon his release from the hospital, Mrs. Fisher was warned that he could expire at any time.

In a few days he became worse and asked his wife to call me to pray for him. Upon arrival, I found him very close to a coma. Approaching the bed I took his hand and asked if he could hear me. Though his lips moved, I could hear no sound. I then told him I was going to pray for God to heal his body and save his soul. I petitioned God in his behalf and was rewarded with an assurance from God that my prayer was answered.

I could see Dr. Fisher's lips moving and then I heard sounds of praise to God. I asked him if he believed that God had saved and healed him. A beautiful smile lighted his face as he nodded his head yes.

The next day when I called at the Fisher home, I found a new man! Dr. Fisher's voice was strong with praise to God for His saving and healing grace.

After this experience, Dr. Fisher enjoyed good health for three years and even practiced some law. During these years, he diligently studied God's Word and steadily progressed in spiritual maturity.

In 1966 Mrs. Fisher called me once more to pray for

her husband who was in the hospital and seriously ill. God performed another miracle, and Dr. Fisher was again sent home.

In 1968, he became ill for the last time. One day while I was visiting and praying with him, he said to me, "I've been thinking a lot the last few days, and . . . I've got a feeling I won't make it this time. While I feel good, I want to tell you some of my plans. First, I want to have you preach my funeral. I want it to be in an Assemblies of God church. Then I want my body shipped to Shreveport for burial."

About two weeks later, his condition worsened, and he was taken once more to the hospital. During the last visit I had with him the presence of the Lord was very real as we prayed together. Dr. Fisher bade me farewell with a wave of his hand and a warm smile. Two days later he was called home to be with the Lord.

I thank God for the privilege I had of witnessing to a man like Hugh Conniff Fisher and seeing him won to Christ. To God be all the praise and glory.



**SCRIPTURES
TO LIVE BY**

DAILY READINGS FOR JANUARY 6-12
Theme of the Week: **BLESSED ASSURANCE**

Monday	Psalm 23:1-6	Thursday	Psalm 118:1-9
Tuesday	Psalm 41:1-13	Friday	Romans 5:1-11
Wednesday ..	Psalm 46:1-11	Saturday ..	Romans 8:28-39
		Sunday	1 John 3:19-24

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

SOME THINGS CAN'T BE FIXED!

By ADA NICHOLSON BROWNELL

THE USUALLY BROWN FACE of the man on the hospital bed had turned an ashen color. He looked anxiously at the physician.

"But, Doctor, can't you fix it?" he said in a trembling voice.

The man was a transient. For years he had been riding freight trains. One day, feeling despondent, he had jumped from a fast-moving freight in a suicide attempt; but his unconscious form had been brought to the hospital, and gradually strength returned to his body—to all but his legs.

He was terrified at the thought he would never walk again. That is why his voice trembled as he said, "But, Doctor, can't you fix it?"

The doctor shook his head. "No, your spinal cord was severed when your back was broken. I'm afraid you will be paralyzed the rest of your days. You're lucky to be alive. For a while I didn't think you would make it."

The little man cursed. Then he stared at the ceiling silently, helplessly, for a long time after the doctor left.

Some things can't be fixed, even if we pray, as illustrated by a certain divorced man. This man was a backslider. After he divorced his wife, she married again. Sometime later he returned to God with a repentant heart, and the Lord restored to him the joy of his salvation—but he could not be completely happy, for his wife was now married to another, and he could not marry anyone else without violating the Scriptures. By his backsliding he had spoiled his married life. He had ignored his conscience, disobeyed God's Word, and now the damage was irreparable. It was too late to "fix" it.

Then there was a mother too busy to attend to the spiritual training of her children. She worked so hard to see that they won scholastic honors and achieved social status, but neglected their spiritual needs. When the children reached mid-teens, she realized her mistake. Her

daughter was expecting an illegitimate child. Later her son was killed in Vietnam without ever professing faith in Christ. She repented in bitter tears, but it was too late to "fix" things.

The Bible relates many instances where men cried to God to remedy a situation, but found it was too late to change it.

David repented bitterly after his adulterous relationship with Bath-sheba. God forgave him, but told David the child Bath-sheba was going to bear would die. When the child became ill, "David fasted and lay all night upon the earth" (2 Samuel 12:16), but all his praying did not keep the child from dying.

Esau also made a mistake that could not be "fixed." The Bible says he found no place of repentance for selling his birthright "though he sought it carefully with tears" (Hebrews 12:17).

There also was a rich man who came to regret the life he had lived, but found the past could not be undone. In hell he repented for his selfishness and his lack of compassion upon the poor, but found it was too late to change his destiny (Luke 16:26).

None of us needs to suffer the rich man's fate if we will repent today while the opportunity remains. Some things can't be fixed—we cannot relive the past, nor can we escape certain consequences in this life from the mistakes we have made—but we can enjoy complete forgiveness and eternal life if we confess our sins to Christ and trust in His mercy. He died for us, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. If we accept Him as our personal Saviour, we shall be saved from the guilt of past sins and from the compulsion to commit further sins.

But if we, like the transient, act foolishly, or if we disregard God's laws, or fail in our duty toward our family, we may damage our lives beyond repair. Some things can't be fixed.