
PENTECOSTAL
EVANGEL
NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD
NOVEMBER 1979 • TWENTY CENTS
INTERNATIONAL EDITION
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Photo by Fred Sieb

We thank Thee, Lord



Photo by Betty Love

For bread–that humblest of
life's necessities;
and which sometimes
the poor have not;
And for Jesus,
the Bread of Life;
true bread from heaven,
available to all.

For light–that dawning light
which filters through
the darkness of night
in the early morning;
And for Jesus,
the Light of the world.

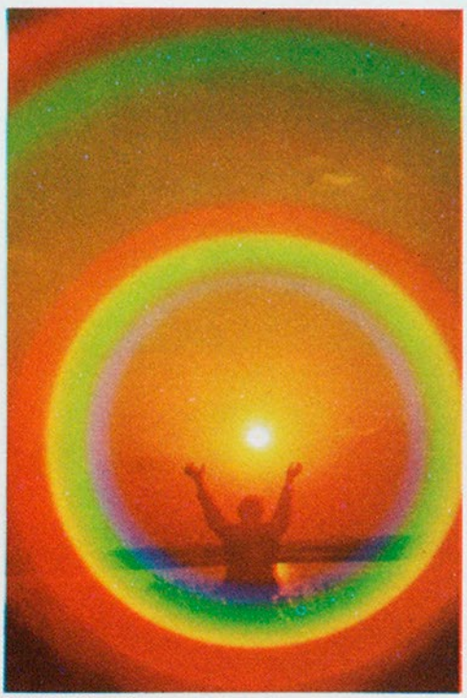


Photo by Dana Bodnar

For flowers–that take root
from our planted seeds
to bring us joy in bloom;
And for Jesus
the Rose of Sharon,
the Lily of the Valley,
the One altogether lovely.

For doors–that open up
life's opportunities;
And for Jesus who said,
"I am the door;
by me if any man enter in,
he shall be saved,
and shall go in and out,
and find pasture."



Photo by Randy Hurst

For the Bible–the written Word
which is a lamp to our feet
and a light unto our path;
And for Jesus,
the Word who was made flesh
and dwelt among us,
and who will never leave us.

For family–for sons and daughters,
for grandchildren,
for mothers and fathers,
husbands and wives;
And for Jesus,
our Elder Brother.



Photo by Dudley's Photography

For the sun–streaming through
our windows,
brightening dark corners;
And for Jesus,
the Sun of Righteousness.

For water–that quenches
our thirst and
cleans the soil of the
workaday world from our bodies;
And for Jesus,
the Living Water;
the One who cleanses us
from all unrighteousness.

For friends–who stand with us
to comfort and help us;
And for Jesus,
the Friend of sinners,
the "friend that sticketh
closer than a brother."



Photo by Mandala

For all this,
and for so much more,
O Lord, we thank Thee.

—MILDRED A. STUCK in *Wesleyan Advocate*

A false prophet in 1979
is as dangerous as one in the Bible

HOW TO TELL FALSE PROPHETS

By C. M. WARD

History offers a record of oracles predicting the future.

The clever ones hedged their bets and spoke from both sides of their mouths.

Before Maxentius left Rome to meet Constantine in that famous battle on the banks of the Tiber, he consulted the Sibylline books. A historian records: "The guardians of these ancient oracles were as well versed in the arts of this world as they were ignorant of the secrets of fate; and they returned him a very prudent answer, which might adapt itself to the event, and secure their reputation, whatever should be the outcome."

However, they failed to cover the fact that Maxentius was drowned in the river!

It is always dangerous and costly to speculate, to go out on a limb. Foreknowledge is needed to foretell accurately.

Three tests apply.

First, no one can successfully foretell that which he or she does not foreknow.

Second, no one can foreknow future events to which past events furnish no key, unless aided by divine foresight.

History does cast shadows. A careful collating and comparing of trends can lay the basis for rather accurate forecasting. Like causes produce like effects. But when past events furnish no key, then divine foresight is necessary. A guess at the future, however wise it appears, may not prove to be correct.

Third, the more such forecasting deals in details, the less possible is it to be accounted as the fruit of conjecture. Every additional detail predicted compounds the gamble, and the risk of failure increases.

Bible prophecy stands alone, unchallenged, in its accuracy in predicting what would come to pass. God's servants accurately foretold events of a remote future, events which bear no likeness to past occurrences. They foretold with minute accuracy and precision.

Sometimes they gave 40 or 50 details. If just one of those details had proven inaccurate, the whole prophecy would have failed. When all are fulfilled, the testimony is that such prophecy was divinely inspired.

It is easier to counterfeit a miracle than a prophecy. That is why Peter stated, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).

Time will expose error, fraud, or impudent presumption in any false prophecy. The Bible stands or falls by this test. Marvelous is the variety, extent, and number of Bible prophecies, yet not one of its predictions has ever failed!

Scripture invites the scrutiny and decision of history.

Besides this, there is an unmatched boldness in the Bible.

Take paganism and mythology for examples. They endeavored to bolster themselves by claiming to foresee. Their efforts are pitiful. The ends they served were often personal and selfish. Such forecasting leaned heavily toward the box-office and coffers.

No Bible prophecy is hesitant, ambiguous, or equivocal. There are no apologies. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21).

Since the Holy Spirit is the source of Bible prophecy, we must be careful to label our speculations what they are—speculations. One should be especially careful about claiming inspiration.

A prophet primarily is "one who brings to light." He or she is a person who unfolds the hidden things of God.

The Holy Spirit furnishes insight, which is even more important than foresight. A true prophet will reject any unsound teaching even if a popular propagandist of a current fad reinforces his or her teaching with wonders and predictions.

The warning has been posted early in the history of the Church: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

Moses had written God's words on the subject earlier: "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? when a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

Jesus himself warned that "false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect" (Mark 13:22).

False prophets feed and prosper on the gullible. They lead astray and will be judged by God for their influence and effect upon others.

Let us follow the "more sure word of prophecy" that Peter wrote about. Only God knows all the future. We are safe in His hands.

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Felix trembled when Paul "reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come."



STANDING TRUE IN PERILOUS TIMES

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (2 Timothy 3:1).

In picturing end-time conditions as "perilous times" the Holy Spirit chose the same word that describes two demoniacs in Matthew 8:28. The Greek word rendered "exceeding fierce" in that verse is translated "perilous" in 2 Timothy 3:1.

It was dangerous to go near those demoniacs. Their strength was beyond the natural, and they could have overpowered anyone. Great physical harm—probably death—would have been the fate of those foolish enough to come near the demon-possessed pair.

The entire third chapter of Second Timothy is a tract for end-time Christians. The picture of prevailing moral conditions is chilling. It is an expanded description of the days just before the Flood when "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

Such a universal breakdown of all barriers makes the whole world an unsafe place physically, morally, and spiritually.

The human race is having a taste now of these perilous times, and the situation is becoming almost impossible to cope with. Law enforcement agencies, government at all levels, schools, homes—every human institution is beleaguered.

The word *terrorism* recurs in the news constantly. Every foundation appears to be crumbling.

One of the strange aspects of the end times is that despite apostasy and anarchy, "religion" will not disappear. But it is well described by the Spirit as only a form (2 Timothy 3:5).

The passage lists several characteristics of those embracing this religious form:

1. They despise those who are good (v. 3).
2. They love pleasures more than they love God (v. 4).
3. They renounce the kind of godliness that has life-changing power (v. 5).
4. They resist the truth (v. 8).
5. They have corrupt minds (v. 8).
6. They are reprobate concerning the faith; that is, they fail the test of true faith (v. 8).

Such a religion does nothing to stem the tide of moral depravity. In fact, it encourages it. Men who cling to a form of godliness while indulging in every kind of sin are a much greater threat to the truth than those who make no religious profession at all.

The Scripture indicates that once the momentum of this end-time breakdown is in full swing, it will continue to accelerate, for "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" (v. 13).

The Spirit then focuses on the atmosphere of deception, warning it will be a vicious circle since the deceivers themselves are deceived.

Deception in spiritual matters is the deadliest of all, and signs of this condition are everywhere. Never have so many people been running in so many directions in search of some kind of religion. Many are looking for one that makes no demands on them, and this kind abounds today. Eastern religions, the occult, Satanism, astrology, witchcraft—and we must include apostate Christianity—all are playing their part in deceiving and being deceived.

By KENNETH D. BARNEY

Too seldom is the clarion note of clearly defined, Scripturally based truth being heard in these perilous times.

After noting that a hatred of those who are good will be evident in the last days, Paul warns further that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (v. 12).

This does not sound strange to Christians in some parts of the world today, but it may be hard for Christians in America to comprehend. Not only is the Church not being persecuted here; it is enjoying apparent favor with nearly everyone.

Perhaps this verse should cause us to do some soul searching. Is the absence of persecution due to our message containing little reference to sin, judgment, holiness, and other themes that do not strike a responsive chord in rebellious hearts?

Felix trembled when Paul "reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come" (Acts

24:25). Have we soft-pedaled such truths because we would rather have sinners' applause?

The way Anita Bryant has been maligned shows what can happen when a Christian takes a strong position concerning sin. She has faced much verbal abuse, and some of her income was cut off because of her courageous stand.

A Texas evangelist who preached against homosexuality had his TV program taken off the air.

Persecution often assumes subtle forms, and these can be as devastating as physical mistreatment. No doubt about it—Paul said the last days will be rough on believers who stand their ground openly for truth and righteousness.

What shall a Christian do in perilous times? Surrender? Conform? Cower? Worry?

Against the dark background of the end-time picture Paul suddenly sounded this call: "Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of" (v. 14). Turn away from the siren voices of easy religion and hold fast to that which has stood the test of the centuries. The Word of God is the Christian's stronghold, no matter how fierce the times become.

The Scriptures not only show us the way of salvation; they also teach us the way of righteousness after salvation. By continuing in the Word we build a firm doctrinal foundation. We understand the way God wants us to walk day by day.

If we deviate from the straight path, the Word corrects us and gets us back on course. It quiets our fears and strengthens us for the toughest struggles.

Every Christian needs to major in the Bible because we are tempted to make all kinds of compromises and follow easier paths. Many avenues promise less self-discipline than following the Word in its simplicity. But we must decline these easy ways and stay with the Bible pattern, even though it is more costly.

We are caught in the middle of the final confrontation between good and evil. The perils of the last days will be the worst the Church has ever faced.

But God's people have come through perilous times before. By God's grace we can withstand in the evil day, and having done all, still be standing when the battle is over.

Healed of Crohn's disease

FOR NEARLY 2 years I suffered with Crohn's disease, a painful disease of the intestines, and endured the many chronic conditions that accompany it.

I had surgery to remove the disease from my body, but it didn't completely resolve the problems. I continued to have stomach cramps, weight loss, and an unaccountable blood loss.

I visited my doctor once a week. He kept telling me Crohn's disease is rather rare and the cause is unknown, so they attempt to treat the symptoms.

He experimented with innumerable prescriptions, but nothing completely took care of the problems. If the medicine worked, I would have side effects from it. If the medicine didn't cause side effects, it didn't help me.

Later I had 3 feet of intestines removed, but I had problems just the same and continued to visit my doctor regularly.

Later I consulted a specialist. He confirmed it was likely I would continue to have disease-related problems and said it was highly probable the disease would turn up in another place in my body.

Then in April 1978 I accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour. About a month later I attended a Wednesday night service, and I began thinking about healing.

After the meeting I asked Pastor Land when the next healing service would be, or if he knew of one I could attend. He said, "You don't have to go to a special service, Rhonda," and began sharing Scripture verses with me about Jesus healing people.

When he read Isaiah 53:4,5 to me and came to the words, "And with his stripes we are healed," I asked what the stripes were. He explained that Jesus had been lashed with straps that had pieces of metal tied to them, and these made wounds in His back.

I began to cry when I realized what had been done to my Lord and that he had actually gone through all that for me. As I wept, I felt a fire go through me. Then I looked at my pastor, and he said, "You know, you can be healed right now."

I just smiled and said, "I think I already am."

The next day I threw my prescriptions away. I had been scheduled for tests for 2 weeks later. They turned out negative, and the doctor said, "There is nothing wrong with you."

Since then I have received many healings for headaches, colds, sore throats, sinus infections, etc. I thank my Lord for paying the price so that we can be healed through faith.—Rhonda J. Demos, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

(Endorsed by Pastor William C. Land, Evangelistic Centre/Assembly of God, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.)



Wanderlust got the best of him
and he lost his way.
Then he came upon a unique camp . . .

LOST IN ALASKA

By BILL NOYES

Living in Alaska has been a great adventure. Climbing rugged mountains, fishing in crystal streams, canoeing exciting rivers—it was everything I expected, and more.

But these things didn't satisfy the deep desires of my heart.

Before coming to Alaska in 1977 I had drifted for 5 years from one state to another, trying to find that something that was missing. I thought I could find happiness in seeing new sights, so I visited the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, and other fabulous places. After seeing all these great sights I wasn't any happier.

I would make plans to move on, for I was never satisfied to stay in one place very long.

One day in Vermont I was talking to an elderly lady. She asked what plans I had, so I began to tell her I hoped to go to Minnesota and buy some land. In her gentle way she told me it doesn't matter how far a person travels; he can never run away from his problems. I understood, but I didn't know where to turn to find solutions. No one ever told me that Jesus Christ is the answer!

In the local bar one night a friend told me he and another fellow were going to Alaska. Within 5 minutes I said I was with them, and we began to make plans. It was a fascinating prospect! All else took a backseat as I thought of going to Alaska!

When we got there, I found a job and soon fell into a familiar rut. We would go places on weekends and have fun, but the weeks in between were always too long. I would be making plans for the next weekend even before we got back to town.

Two months went by, and I was laid off. I didn't mind. I was bored with working. I moved to an abandoned cabin 50 miles out of Anchorage.

Life was beautiful! I would get up with the sun and go to sleep after it went down. There were no clocks, no

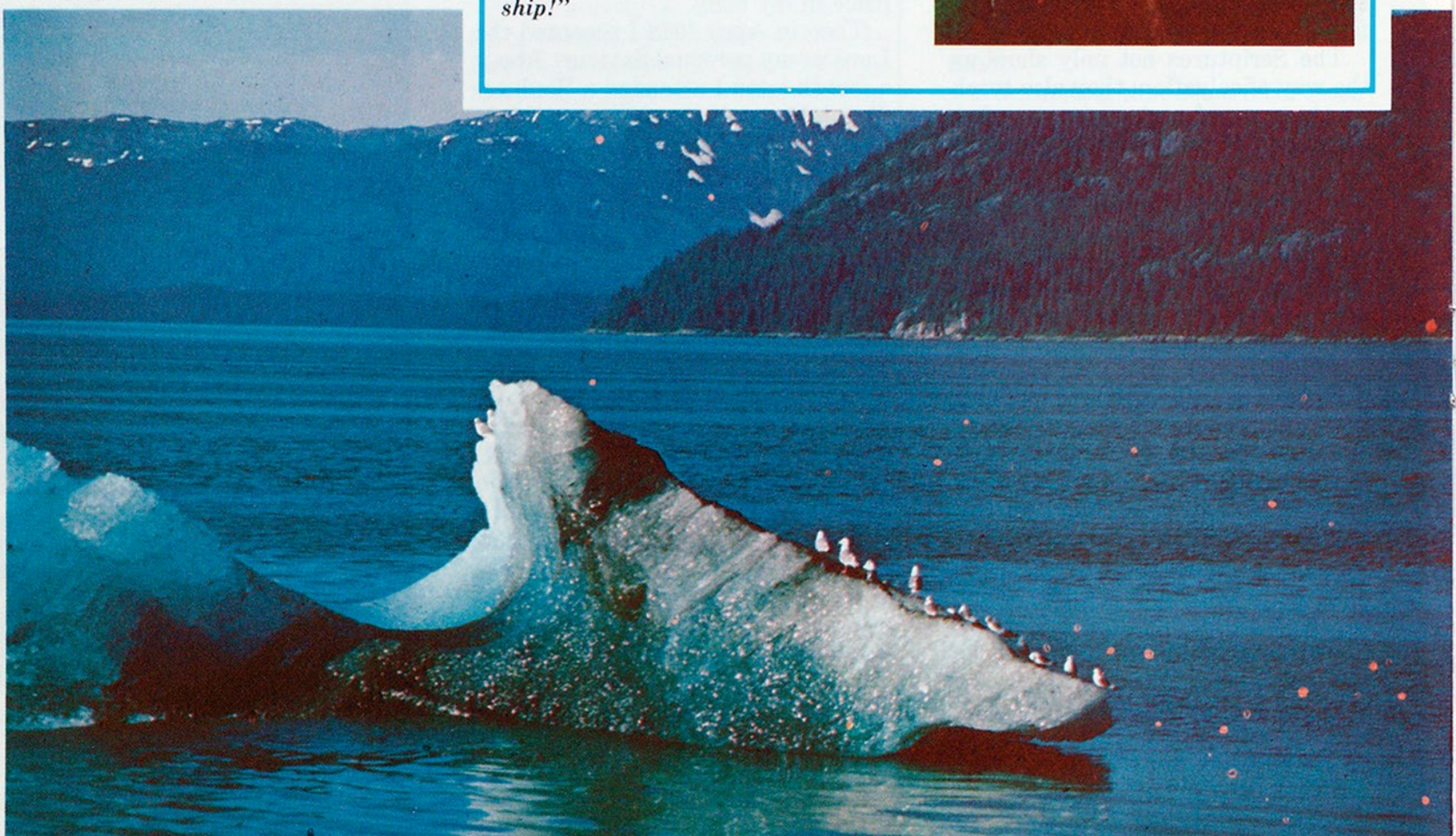
Evangelist Paul Hild (right) chats with Bill Noyes. The Hilds met Bill this summer while ministering at the Alaska District Children's Camp at Little Beaver Campgrounds north of Anchorage. He said Bill is a great asset to the camp staff.

While in Alaska the Hilds spoke in three youth camps and revivals and a children's roundup. Many were saved, filled with the Spirit, and helped during the meetings.

"Some campers came 1,000 miles at a cost of $500 for air fare and fees," Brother Hild said. "In one camp everyone came by plane. What a hunger for the Word and for Christian fellowship!"



Photo by Ray Hunold



responsibilities, no worries. I thought I had finally found peace of mind.

Then as I looked over a map of the area, wanderlust got the best of me. The next day I set out for Beaver Lake, about a 2-mile walk from the cabin. With map and gun in hand I walked 3 or 4 miles; then I checked the map and couldn't decide where I was. I didn't know east from west.

I walked more miles, until I found a lake. I walked around it looking for a road. A truck approached, so I stopped it and asked the driver for directions, but he couldn't help. He seemed as lost as I was.

I continued down the road and eventually I had the same view of the mountain as I had at the cabin. I reasoned that if I would walk straight for the mountain, I would end up at the cabin. So off into the woods I went, over fallen trees, through swamps. But somehow I felt confused.

I heard sounds as of a man building a house and turned to go in that direction. As I did so, I had a strange feeling, as if someone else was pushing me.

I walked through a swampy area and across a stream. Ahead of me I saw a unique place. It was some type of a camp, but no one was in sight. I decided it was vacant until I heard the noise of building. I walked on and found a man building a porch on a house in the camp. When I asked the man for directions, he told me how to get back to the cabin.

But I was loathe to leave, for this camp appealed to me. There was something about it that I liked. I asked what type of a camp this was. He told me it was an Assemblies of God camp, and in the same breath he said I was welcome to attend it! I was shocked! Why would he ask me to go to a church camp?

I was told that this camp was for all ages, and that the next activity would begin July 1. This caught my attention, for July 1 has always been an important date in my life—many things have happened on the day.

I asked what the camp would cost me. He replied that there would be no cost, except for meals, and these were reasonably priced.

"The camp will last 10 days," he said, adding that "a lot of people have found Jesus Christ here!"

When he asked if I would like to register for the camp, I felt afraid. I told him I would have to think about it.

As I walked out the camp driveway, there was a battle inside of me. The devil wanted my soul, but Jesus had already paid the price.

As I scuffed along the dirt road, I hung my head in thought. Who was this Jesus, after all—and what could He do for me? I decided I had to go to the camp and find out.

I began to cry as I walked, and hymns I used to sing came back to my mind. My crying mingled with songs to the Lord Jesus. I dried my eyes and looked around. It was like opening my eyes for the first time and seeing a whole new world. Everything looked so clean and beautiful.

When the time came, I went back to the camp. I could hardly wait for the pastor to give the altar call. I was the first to raise my hand to show I wanted salvation.

Camp has made the difference in my life. Now I'm a member of the Little Beaver Camp staff. I count it a privilege to give of my time and money in support of our Assemblies of God camp and its many programs.

Another word study from the Hebrew

SINNING BY MISTAKE

By Dr. STANLEY M. HORTON
Professor, Theology Division, Assemblies of God Graduate School

Did you ever do something wrong without realizing it until after it was done? Did you ever say, "I didn't mean to do it"?

The Hebrew has a word *(shagag)* meaning to sin inadvertently, to sin by mistake.

But ignorance or unintention was no excuse before God's Law. The person who sinned this way was still guilty before Him and had to bring a trespass offering; literally, a guilt offering (Leviticus 5:17-19).

In most cases the Law made provision for sacrifice only when the sin was done inadvertently, by mistake, without really meaning to do it. This is brought out in Numbers 15:28 where *shagag* is translated "sinneth ignorantly," but has the idea of sinning without intending to.

On the other hand, the Law had no mercy, forgiveness, or sacrifice for the one who sinned presumptuously. This is the sinner who says, "I don't care what God wants or what the Bible says. I'm going to do what I want to do when I want to do it." It is the kind of attitude that says, "If I want to park my car in a forbidden zone, I'll park it there!"

For that kind of attitude the Law had nothing but death. They had despised the Word of the Lord (Numbers 15:30,31).

Part of the good news of the gospel is that even high-handed and rebellious sin may be forgiven. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

It is good news also that the sins we commit inadvertently are covered by the Blood (1 John 1:7).

It is encouraging to know that we do not need to commit so many unintentional sins. "Before I was afflicted [bowed down] I went astray [I sinned inadvertently]: but now I have kept thy word [paying careful attention to it and obeying it]" (Psalm 119:67).

The words to a young man are thus applicable to us all: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psalm 119:9).

May the Holy Spirit quicken that Word to our hearts and keep us from sinning by mistake!

GOD GAVE ME A DREAM

Twenty-five years ago I was dying of tuberculosis. Doctors gave me only 3 months to live.

I had tried witchcraft, fortune-telling, Buddhism, but there was no hope in any of them; I was dying.

Then, in the providence of God, Jesus Christ came into my life. He not only saved my soul, but He touched my body and healed me and filled me with the Holy Spirit. He brought me into the household of the Assemblies of God and full-time ministry.

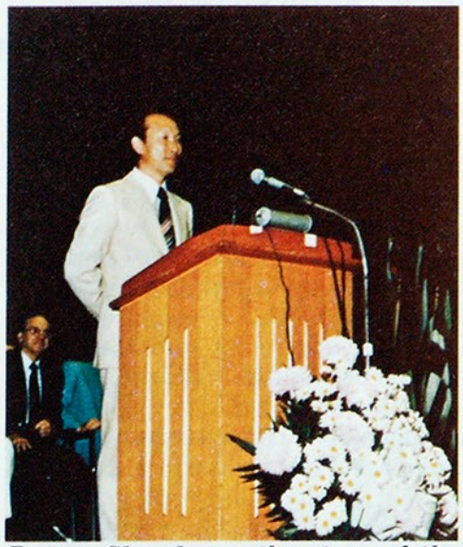
Today I want to extend my appreciation for the wonderful, sacrificial ministry of the Assemblies of God missionaries throughout the world. Because of their ministries, today in Korea we have 500 Assemblies of God churches and 300,000 members. God is blessing our Full Gospel Central Church in Seoul, and it is the largest Pentecostal church in the world.

In 1958 when I graduated from Bible college, I had a burning desire in my heart to build the largest church in Korea. I was living in the world of visions and dreams. After ministering 3 months I was completely disheartened. I had not led anyone to Christ in that time, and after 6 months I had preached all of my sermons. I began to doubt my call to the ministry. But by the mercy of God I kept that vision and dream of building the largest church in Korea.

One day I took a measuring device and went to visit the largest church in Seoul. I measured the church from front to back and from side to side. A man at the church asked me what I was doing, and I told him I planned to build the largest church in Korea. He thought I was crazy.

Soon after that the Assemblies of God of the United States formed the Global Conquest program (presently

Paul Yonggi Cho, pastor of Full Gospel Central Church in Seoul, Korea, was guest speaker for the Sunday evening rally at the 1979 General Council of the Assemblies of God in Baltimore, Maryland. He shared the story of how this church came to be the largest Pentecostal church in the world.



Pastor Cho shares the story of the miraculous growth of his church with more than 12,000 church leaders, ministers, and laymen present for the Sunday evening 65th Anniversary Rally at the General Council in Baltimore. (Photo by Phil Stovall)





Participating in the missionary parade in the Sunday Anniversary Rally were David and Becky Smith, missionaries to Kenya, East Africa (top); and Ralph Leslie and his daughter Melinda (above), representing the field of Peru. (Photos by Del Tarr)



A special camera took this photo of the Sunday evening Council crowd.

By PAUL YONGGI CHO

known as Good News Crusades). Their first foreign missions evangelism project was in Seoul, Korea, where they sponsored several weeks of crusades. They then built a magnificent church—slightly larger than the one I had measured.

As pastor, I began to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in that church, but only a few dozen people came. Sunday after Sunday I preached, and nothing happened.

Early one morning I awoke very depressed about the situation. I went to a corner of the church and sat for a while, crying and praying. Suddenly I was in the presence of the Holy Spirit. God so distinctly spoke to me: "My son, suppose the Israelites had gone out to the wilderness to catch quail. How many quail do you think they might have caught?"

I said, "Father, in the wilderness there wouldn't *be* any quail."

Then the Spirit said, "But when I sent my Spirit, how many quail did they catch?"

"The quail were falling like dust on the ground," I answered.

And He said, "Don't you think I can do the same thing for you? You have been doing everything in your own ingenuity, pushing and pulling to fill this church with people. If you will only apply the Holy Spirit, I can send sinners like dust."

When I came out of my trance, I was shaken by this revelation, and the presence of the Holy Spirit was very real to me.

Until that time I thought I had graduated from the "school of the Holy Spirit." I was born again and had spoken in tongues. But God told me I should have continual fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

He said, "The Holy Spirit is the senior partner in your ministry. You are the junior partner. Every minute you must recognize Him, welcome Him, and depend upon Him, and the Holy Spirit will flow through you and bring sinners to your church."

From that moment I began to recognize the Holy Spirit in my everyday ministry. Each time before I preached I would pray in my office, "Dear Holy Spirit, let's go!" After I finished my sermon, I would sit down and say, "Dear Holy Spirit, You did a tremendous job. I really admire You!"

Then one day while I was praying, the Spirit gave me a very strange instruction: "Close your eyes. You must start seeing this place packed with people even though right now it's empty. I am working through your visions and dreams, which are the language of the Holy Spirit. If you don't have a vision or dream, I cannot work through you."

Each Sunday after that I came to the platform, looked at those empty seats, and said, "Dear folks on the balcony, I welcome you." I called to that place as if it were packed with people.

The Holy Spirit began to work marvelously. But I had to learn that the visions and dreams were the language of the Holy Spirit before I could see results. "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

God applied this to the lives of Abraham and Sarah. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90 when God told Abraham they would have a son. Abraham laughed. But that evening while Abraham was sleeping, God came and shook him and said, "Come outside. Now look to the sky and count the stars." Abraham began to count.

God said, "Son, your children are going to be as numerous as those stars." Abraham was tremendously moved. The Spirit of the Lord was teaching him the language of visions and dreams. Months later he and Sarah had a beautiful son, Isaac. God would never do anything before He gave the visions and dreams.

My ministry in Seoul began with visions and dreams. In 1962 we had 1,000 new converts, and again in 1963. But in 1964 pride suddenly entered into my heart. I thought I had really become a big shot. I was in my

continued on next page



20s and I already had 2,500 church members. I said, "Look at me, what a great Cho I am." I began to be proud. But God cornered me.

One Sunday evening in church I began having problems with my heart. I fell flat on the platform. While I was going down, I complained to the Lord, "Lord, why did You punish me publicly? You could have done this in my office privately."

After this experience my heart began palpitating, and I was constantly dizzy. I couldn't preach. When I came to the platform on Sundays, I would tremble all over.

A leading doctor in Korea said I should leave my ministry. "Your heart is older than that of a 70-year-old person," he said. "Also you are nervous and completely exhausted. If you stay in the ministry, you will be a dead person."

I didn't want to leave the ministry because ministry was my life, but I knew I must somehow slow down.

One day while I was praying and reading the Bible, the Spirit of the Lord kept directing my attention to those passages in the New Testament concerning the church and how worship services were conducted from house to house. I said, "This is the answer. I can't carry out my ministry normally. I will delegate my ministry to the lay people."

I came to my deacon board and said, "Fellows, as you can see, I am now so sick that I cannot continue my normal ministry. Would you please cooperate with me? In Bible times, lay people had services from house to house and led souls to Jesus. I am going to divide the church into dozens of house cells. I will appoint you, and you can take up your swords and carry out evangelism."

They looked at me and said, "Pastor, we can't do that. We are not trained, and besides we want privacy in our homes. We pay you to do that kind of work."

I was completely stunned and discouraged. I came back home and said, "Father, no way. They won't do it."

The Spirit said, "Why don't you try a woman?"

I said, "Try a woman! This is not America; this is Korea. In Korea women cannot have leadership."

But from that moment on, every time I opened my Bible all I could see was the wonderful ministry of women in the Bible. I began to read in Romans 16 where Paul says, "I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchre-ae." Paul was recommending the woman fervently.

Then he says, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila." In the Orient we never call the woman's name first, but Priscilla was so mightily used of God that even Paul, by the Holy Spirit, recognized her before her husband Aquila.

How did these women labor in the Lord? They preached the gospel and helped people.

One night I was praying, and Jesus asked me some very definite questions.

"From whom were you born?"

"Woman."

"Who follows you and supports your ministry?"

"A woman."

"Who witnessed my resurrection?"

"A woman, Lord."

"Then, why don't you use a woman in your ministries? Go and talk with the women in your church."

So I went to the Women's Ministries group and said, "I need lay people who will help me. If I delegate my ministry to you, would you please start house cells and lead people to Christ?"

Every one of those women began to cry and say, "Yes! Yes! We'll do it, pastor! Whatever we can do to support you, we will!"

So I divided the women into groups to evangelize different sections of the city.

In a little while the plan wrought pure havoc. Those women ran and gathered people, and they began to lay hands on the men. Men stood against women, and they began fist-fighting. Women were beaten by their husbands. I knew I was losing my church.

Once again I came to God. "Father, I am losing my church. I specifically did what You wanted me to do, and it won't work."

But the Spirit said, "No, my son; persist; persist! Anything you do in a pioneer way will bring this kind of turmoil."

So I persisted, and several women began having tremendous success. They invited their neighbors to the cell services, loved them, and taught them. And their cells grew.

They came to me one day and said, "Pastor, you should tell us how to preach and give us a definite message. Teach us how to have a worship service."

I gathered them, gave them messages, and made them carriers of the message. Soon the cells began to grow very fast. Then the men were convinced, and the deacons began to volunteer.

The church continued to grow at the rate of 1,000 per year. Then in 1973 Brother Zimmerman came to Korea and dedicated our Full Gospel Central Church to the Lord. During that service the Spirit spoke to my heart, "My son, I am greater than you are thinking I am. Why don't you change your visions and dreams? Why don't you believe I can send you 1,000 souls per *month?*"

"Father, I can't believe it. That's too big."

But God said, "Dream more and pray more." So I began to pray and fast, and within the year we began to receive 1,000 converts per month into the church.

In 1978 the Spirit said to me as I was praying, "Now, my son, why don't you enlarge your visions and believe me for 3,000 new converts per month? I can do that if you can only enlarge your visions and dreams."

So I fasted and prayed, and eventually I had that vision and dream, the language of the Holy Spirit, in my heart. In March 1979 we had a total of 81,555 members at Full Gospel Central Church.

Everything starts from visions

and dreams. If you have a burning desire to build a large church, then in the name of Jesus Christ, take up the prayer brush, dip it into the ink of the Word of God, and start drawing the visions and dreams on the canvas of your imagination.

Our church is growing not because of the giant building or the pastor, but because people are leading their neighbors to Christ through cell meetings.

I tell my cell leaders:

"Don't go beyond your neighborhood. You are in the best place to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to your neighbor.

"Also don't try to preach to them when you first meet them. Instead, meet them at their point of need. When they lose loved ones, have family problems, or suffer from the failure of business, feed them. Listen to them and love them. Then invite them to the neighborhood cell meeting. At that time they are ready to receive the message of Jesus Christ."

One of our newest lay ministries is among the high-rise apartment houses. Once people move into these apartments, no one can get in to see them. If someone knocks on the door, the tenants just look through the peephole and say, "No, we don't want anything you have to offer."

But one of our cell leaders got an idea of how to penetrate the apartment houses. She rides the elevator for 2 hours every day. When people come carrying babies and baskets, she helps them to their apartments. She introduces herself and later inquires, "May I have your telephone number?"

Through such contacts she becomes better acquainted with the people and invites them to attend a prayer meeting. Now other cell leaders regularly ride the elevators 2 or 3 hours per day getting acquainted with people and leading them to the cells. At this present time we have 7,000 cell groups.

Yes, the church of Korea is rapidly growing, and God shared a prophecy with me recently. He said, "Son, the decade of 1960 was the decade of divine healing; the decade of 1970 was the decade of the charismatic movement; and the decade of 1980 will be the decade of church growth."

Because our leaders, ministers, and lay people have burning visions and dreams, the Assemblies of God will continue to experience church growth around the world. And as new converts come into the church, let us be ready to welcome them, teach them, and minister to them.



Photo by Norman Rothschild

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EVANGEL NEWS DIGEST

FROM EVANGELICAL PRESS NEWS SERVICE, CORRESPONDENCE, PERIODICALS, PRESS REPORTS
This news is reported for your information; publication does not indicate approval of persons, concepts, or actions.

ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE REACHES 440

NAIROBI, KENYA—Four hundred and forty delegates from 20 countries in Africa attended the All Africa Conference of the Assemblies of God held here in August.

Africa Field Director Morris Williams stated, "It was an experience few will ever forget. The quality of African leadership was outstanding; and the ministry of J. Philip Hogan, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, was a blessing to all."

Brother Williams also related that a pronounced sense of responsibility for reaching the continent of Africa was evident throughout the conference. National superintendents are determined to tool out a program of evangelization.

The All Africa Conference, held every 5 years, is a time when representatives gather from every African country in which the Assemblies of God is involved in ministry. A number of delegates from suffering countries attended.

"The All Africa Conference 1979 is history," said Brother Williams, "and there are a lot of exciting plans ahead."



Delegates and visitors attending the All Africa Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

African team tours North America

WHEATON, ILL.—An African musical team called "Liberation" is touring North America under the auspices of Youth for Christ International. They represent an Africa in which young people are finding peace and stability through a personal relationship with Christ.

Comprised of youth from five African nations, "Liberation" brings a "unique blend of smooth gospel music with an African touch," according to a YFC spokesman.

"Liberation" is the 50th YFC music team to minister. Nearly all the groups have gone from North America to third world countries.

Oil moneys used to spread Islamic religion

PHILADELPHIA, PA.—Muslim power structures, with the aid of oil moneys, are making plans for evangelizing "Christian" nations, according to Richard Shumaker in an article published recently in *Eternity* magazine.

He referred to a report from the recent North American Conference on Muslim Evangelization which states that "heads of 37 Muslim countries recently resolved to expel Christian missions from their lands" while encouraging the flow of Muslim missionaries to Western nations.

England's Queen Elizabeth recently attended the dedication of a $7 million mosque in London. English citizens celebrated a 3-month Festival of Islam funded by $2 million from oil profits.

In Belgium and Austria, parliaments have accepted Islam as an official religion to be taught in the schools.

In Germany, the Center for Islamic Culture recently demanded equal recognition with Christianity from the government.

In the United States, some abandoned inner-city churches are being converted into mosques. The Muslim Student Association has 150 chapters in the U.S. and 16 in Canada.

Islamic leaders are also entrenching their faith in the political power base of Arab states. Muslims are using mass communications to spread their message. Saudi Arabia has built a new radio station and projects a shortwave transmission in seven languages.

Oil is rising as the important power symbol for the advance of Arab political influence and Islamic religious fervor in the world, states Shumaker.

Pacific Garden Mission 102 years old

CHICAGO, ILL.—The Pacific Garden Mission celebrates its 102nd year of ministry this month. A rally featuring converts will commemorate the anniversary, according to Harry G. Saulnier, superintendent of the mission for 40 years.

More than 6 million persons have been aided by the mission since 1877. Decisions for Christ average 400 to 500 per month.

Unshackled, the mission's radio broadcast since 1950, is heard on more than 500 stations on five continents. This year an Arabic translation is beamed into Islamic countries.

ICI confers first college degree

NAIROBI, KENYA—Paul O. Ajah received the bachelor of arts degree at the all Africa Conference held here in August. It was the first B.A. degree granted by the International Correspondence Institute (ICI).

"It is fitting that ICI's first graduate is a West African," stated J. Philip Hogan, chairman of the board of ICI, who bestowed the Bible and theology degree. ICI's founder and president, George Flattery, was a missionary's child in West Africa when he conceived the idea of the correspondence institute.

Founded in 1967, ICI courses now reach millions of persons throughout the world. The college division of ICI was founded 5 years ago.

Ajah was born in Uburu, Imo State, Nigeria, in 1949. He began his Bible college studies at Central Bible College in Nigeria in 1967, but was interrupted by Nigeria's civil war. In 1971 he returned to CBC and graduated with a diploma in 1974.

In 1978, he graduated from West Africa Advanced School of Theology (WAAST) with a diploma.

After completing the requirements for the bachelor of arts degree in Bible and theology, Ajah immediately enrolled in another major. "Since God called me into the ministry, I have felt a need to help in the area of Christian education," Brother Ajah said. He is now a faculty member of CBC in Nigeria.

Bible is textbook in Brazilian schools

SOUTH HOLLAND, ILL.—The *Living New Testament* will soon be a required textbook for 200,000 students in a small Brazilian state northeast of Rio de Janeiro.

Edilson Amaral, secretary of education for the rural state of Espirito Santo (meaning state of the "Holy Spirit") requested recently that the World Home Bible League headquartered here print and distribute 200,000 New Testaments to be used to teach religion to public school children, ages 12 and older.

Many of the state's 400,000 predominantly Roman Catholic students have never owned or read the Bible, according to Chester Schemper, South American director of the World Home Bible League. Over 100 Baptist pastors agreed to place the Bibles and teach religion courses.

Amaral requested the New Testaments for his schools after a similar program was begun in the Rio de Janeiro school system. Several South American countries have sanctioned the use of New Testaments as teaching tools.

Teachers in Rio de Janeiro report that students are reading their Testaments and taking them home to be read by family members. When asked if the New Testaments were effective in the classroom, one teacher said, "I do not know how it is affecting the students, but I wandered far from God. After receiving the New Testament for the classroom, I began reading it myself and I have been brought back into a relationship with Christ."

PENTECOST AROUND THE WORLD

GERMANY—"Together in Christ" is the theme for the 23rd annual Assemblies of God servicemen's retreat to be held in Berchtesgaden, November 12-16, 1979. Guest speakers will be T. E. Gannon, national director of the Division of Home Missions, Springfield, Mo., and Robert H. Spence, president of Evangel College, Springfield, Mo.

AUSTRALIA—More than 2,000 Australian ministers gathered in Adelaide recently for a 3-day church growth conference. Handling the "happy problems" of church growth was the subject of the conference—growth as a result of revival sweeping Australia, according to Roy Harthern, conference speaker from Orlando, Fla.

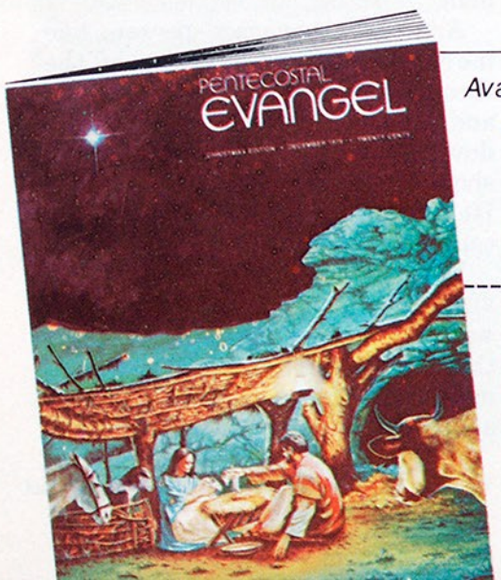
INDIA—Calcutta's Mission of Mercy Hospital received a check for $9,865 to purchase a blood/gas analyzer for the research center there. Donated by Bethesda Care Centers, Colorado Springs, Colo., the analyzer will assist in the treatment of children with hemophilia and leukemia, two diseases common among the youth of India. Mark Buntain is director of the Mission of Mercy.

CANADA—The Society for Pentecostal Studies, organized in 1970 at the 9th Pentecostal World Conference, held a 3-day meeting in Vancouver, B.C., last month. Approximately 100 scholars engaged in theological dialogue from both traditional and neo-Pentecostal viewpoints.

Spanish Eastern District ordains 12

Twelve were ordained and 34 licensed at the Spanish Eastern District Council at Swan Lake, N.Y., according to Adolfo Carrion, Spanish Eastern District superintendent. Special speakers included Joseph R. Flower, general secretary of the Assemblies of God; Hugh Corey, Southern New England District superintendent; and Stanley Michael, Benevolences Department secretary. Over 1,500 attended the ordination service held in a tent on the campgrounds.





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Photo by Richard Parker

'I CAN'T NOVEMBER'

By AGNES RODLI

It was easy to relate to Lorenzen, the shoemaker. In the first place, he wasn't a very big person, and neither am I.

As a child I was small for my age and dreamed of growing up to be tall. But by early teens I had the picture unmistakably clear: height and weight average, health average. I was a middle-of-the-roader, and I chafed against the obvious averageness of my life.

About that time the public school systems began placing emphasis on the role of the special child. They gave priorities to the handicapped as well as the gifted. Being a member of the average group didn't excite me at all, maybe because there were so many of us.

Perhaps that was part of the problem for Lorenzen, the Danish shoemaker in our town. Nobody paid much attention to him. He drank heavily, working between sprees in the shop his wife kept open for him on the days he couldn't.

The other immigrants talked about him. All had a common problem—learning the language—and Lorenzen was no better than the rest. Yet he stubbornly held to one word, a word he refused to change: *November*. Instead of saying, "I can't *remember*," he always said, "I can't *November*."

My Norwegian uncle tried to correct him, but Uncle Norman's help only annoyed Lorenzen who found new ways to *not November*. People said he was stupidly stubborn, but I secretly thought he was kind of clever.

Then Lorenzen and his wife moved to the city. Folk speculated as to the outcome: maybe he drank himself to death. I forgot about him, except sometimes in November.

About 10 years later my brother who had moved to the city came smiling home from the shoe shop. "Guess who's the shoemaker on Union Avenue?"

Without waiting for a reply, he answered, "Lorenzen! Liquor is no problem now. He's saved. God has completely delivered him from drink. He and his wife have it good."

Later I took some shoes to Lorenzen for repair and wondered if he would *November* to have them ready for me. He had them ready on time, without using his special word, *November*.

Then suddenly I understood. He didn't need *November* anymore; he no longer had to have something to single him out. Being an insignificant workman, one of thousands trying to make his way in a new land, no longer overwhelmed him.

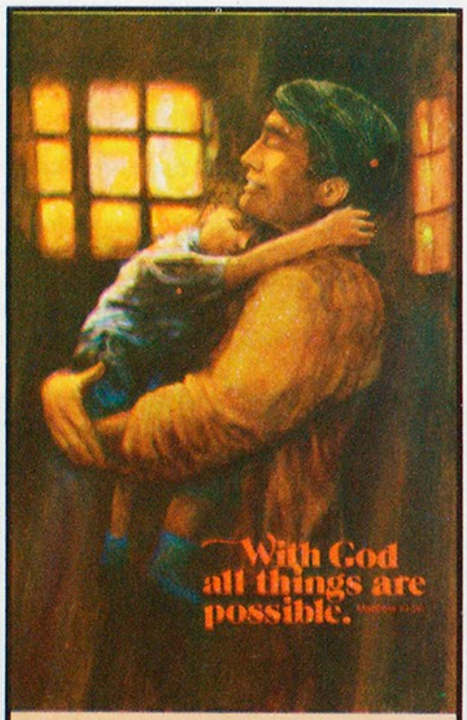
The shoemaker had come face-to-face, and then chose to walk hand in hand, with Jesus of Nazareth—Jesus the Son of God, who left the glories of heaven to take His place as a common person.

Jesus grew up like hundreds of other boys of His time and, like them, learned the family trade. When He first spoke in the local synagogue, people asked where He got His knowledge and added, probably with cynicism, "Isn't this the carpenter's son?"

Centuries before this, the prophet Isaiah had already declared, "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2). Jesus took on himself the form of an ordinary, average man.

Are you an average person, like me? Do you feel like one of the throng—sometimes joking about it and sometimes staring out the window alone? You can walk shoulder to shoulder today with Another. But He is often forgotten by the ones He came to redeem.

Don't ignore Him any longer. Invite Christ to be Lord of your life. He will give it meaning—such meaning that even the little *November* gimmicks won't seem necessary. You're a very special person to Him.



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WHY THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES ARE GROWING

A comparative report on the growth of American churches appeared in the *Evangel* 3 weeks ago. It showed that Pentecostal churches are growing faster than the U.S. population and faster than other church groups.

The report, written by William J. Petersen *(Evangelical Newsletter,* August 24, 1979) stated that while the nation's population grew 21 percent in the 18-year period, 1960 to 1978, the Pentecostal churches grew 78 percent.

Their rate of growth, he said, keeps growing. From 1960 to 1966 they increased 17 percent; from 1966 to 1972, 21 percent; and from 1972 to 1978, 28 percent.

Mr. Petersen, basing his survey on the published reports of some 30 denominations, said the Pentecostal churches are growing faster than any other group.

He said the three Pentecostal denominations he surveyed had an increase of 20 percent in Sunday school enrollment in the 12-year period, 1966 to 1978. One of the three (Assemblies of God) had a 26 percent increase. In the same 12-year period the mainline denominations lost 45 percent of their Sunday school enrollment, he pointed out.

Several books could be written, no doubt, on the reasons why some churches are declining in numbers while others are increasing. One fact is clear: the Lord wants His church to keep growing; and it will, if it follows the Pentecostal pattern.

For at the time of the Pentecostal effusion in Jerusalem there was a great ingathering of souls. When the Holy Spirit fell upon the people, the membership of the Church increased from 120 to 3,120 in a single day. (See Acts 2:41.)

And it kept on growing. As the converts continued meeting daily in the temple, praising God, and breaking bread from house to house, "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

That early church was a Spirit-filled church, and growth is inevitable in a body like that. It is as certain as the blooming of flowers in a well-watered field. It is as predictable as the bearing of fruit in a healthy orchard.

Membership in that church boomed not only in Jerusalem but in all Judea, and in Samaria, and in distant places within a very short time. People were drawn to this body of believers because God was among them. Love and unity prevailed. Social and economic distinctions were obliterated by oneness in Christ. There were no petty jealousies, no careless gossip that keeps people from joining some churches. Instead there was a preoccupation with the things of God. Spiritual worship and gospel work absorbed the attention of the members.

Those early Christians had more than a verbal testimony. They had a vibrant life. They did not need to say, "I was in the Upper Room and was filled with the Holy Spirit." The folk could tell it just by watching and listening.

It takes Spirit-filled members to make a Pentecostal church. May the Lord visit all of us afresh and imbue us with a new spirit of prayer, a new fervor of worship, a great love for the Word, and a strong desire to see souls saved. God wants to send His Spirit upon every believer and endue each church with that spiritual power that will draw the lost to Christ.

—*r.c.c.*

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. . . 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, in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years.

. . . in the Blessed Hope—the rapture of the Church at Christ's coming.

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. . . regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

. . . the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.

. . . the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

. . . in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.

. . . in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

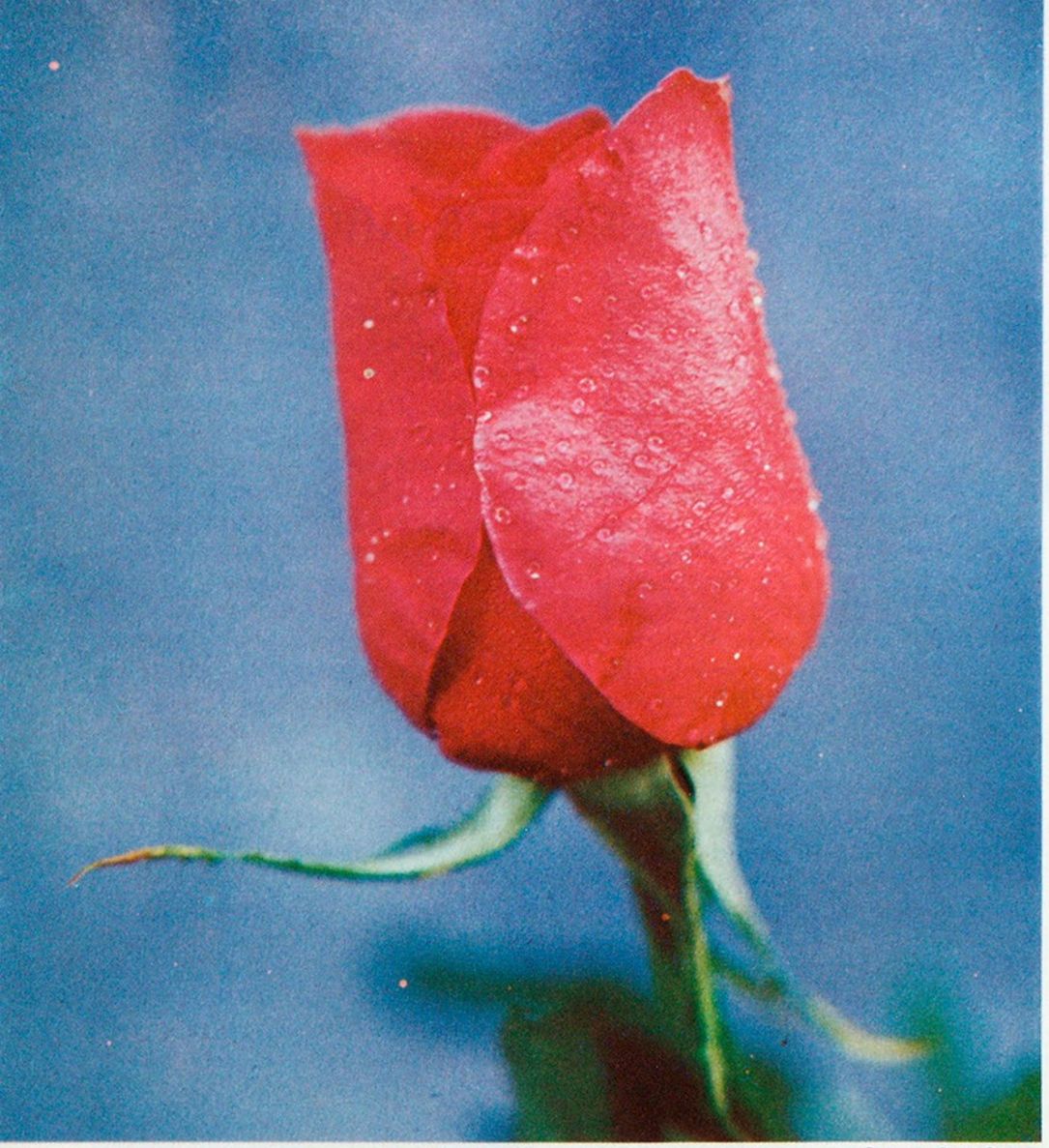


Photo by Dana Bodnar

THE ROSE THAT WITHSTOOD HURRICANE DAVID

By MAVIS B. GRIFFIN

The rains had ceased. A gentle breeze was blowing as those of us in this coastal town stepped outside. How good it was to see the sun peeking through the clouds!

Was it only a few hours ago that Hurricane David, with all its fury, sent its high winds and torrents of rain upon Fort Pierce, Florida?

Time had seemed to stand still as we waited in our darkened homes for 3 days. How often we went to the windows to look out—to see trees uprooted, utility sheds shattered, fences knocked askew. Boats flipped over at the marina. Signs were broken, and mailboxes lay on the ground.

In view of the damage and destruction all around, you can imagine my surprise to see a single pink rose blooming on one of my rose bushes! I thought, *How did you survive? Didn't you know we have been through a hurricane?*

The rose arbor had fallen, yet that one rose had weathered the storm! The rose was battered, torn, and scarred; yet its petals were intact and it still had that sweet rose fragrance. No storm could shatter its sweetness!

The Holy Spirit then reminded me of Jesus, the Rose of Sharon, who will never fade away. Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Once He too was beaten with whips, scarred with a crown of thorns, and nailed to a tree for the sins of this world. But He could not be destroyed!

Now He sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us.

The fragrance of His love is reaching out to all mankind. Nothing can take away this everlasting love. As Paul wrote, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38,39).

I can picture Jesus standing in a ship tossed about in the stormy sea and saying, "Peace, be still." At His command "the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

It is He who still calms our fears and speaks peace to our souls! It is He who causes us to be victorious over the waves of fear, trials, tests, and persecution! "We are troubled on every side, yet *not* distressed; we are perplexed, but *not* in despair; persecuted, but *not* forsaken; cast down, but *not* destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8,9).

When the eye of Hurricane David settled over our city, there was a stillness. Rains stopped; the winds quieted. Neighbors chatted briefly in the streets until the second half of the storm approached from the opposite direction. Then we had to retreat inside again.

What a beautiful picture of the peace, contentment, and safety we find when we are in the center of God's will. But when we try to go our own way and "do our own thing," we get tossed about with rough winds. Isaiah 32:17,18 says: "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

Let us strive to pattern our lives after the Rose of Sharon and stay in the center of God's will. There we can withstand any storm.

Mavis Griffin is the wife of Harold Griffin, pastor of Full Gospel Assembly, Fort Pierce, Florida.