

THE GOSPEL TRUMPETER

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

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PRAYER: If perchance you stand in need of prayer, physically or spiritually, please telephone or write the editor.

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This semimonthly religious journal is published for the benefit of The Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach the world for Christ through the means of the printed page. Our burden is to reveal the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin and error, war against apostasy, and to eradicate the long-standing traditions of men that have no biblical foundation.

Fred W. Barrows Editor
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THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

- A personal God (John 4:24)
- A divine Christ (John 1:1, 14)
- An infallibly inspired Bible (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)
- The New Birth (John 3:3, 5-7)
- A Holy Life (Luke 1:73-75; Tit. 2:11)
- Sanctification (2 Thess. 5:23)
- Unity of God's People (John 17:21; Eph. 4)
- Divine, Physical Healing (James 5:14-16)
- The Ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11)
- Eternal Life (Matt. 25:46; John 3:16)
- Eternal Punishment (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)

SOME SCRIPTURAL FACTS PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH:

- Jesus organized it (Matt. 16:18)
- On a Good Foundation (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11)
- Christ Governs It (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)
- God admits members (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12: 13-18)
- Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)
- Only the saved are members (John 15:2-6) Membership is offered to all (Rev. 22:17)
- Final Rewards (Rev. 20:12-15: 21:3-4; 22:14)
- Bible Name of the Church (Acts 20:28; Gal. 1:13; John 17:11)

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Editorial

Anniversary

On October 21, Brother and Sister Emerson A. Wilson celebrated twenty-five years of pastoring the Newark congregation. At this same time, Brother and Sister Wilson commemorated their forty-first wedding anniversary.

The members of the congregation were there to help celebrate this memorable occasion. After the Sunday morning service, everyone joined Brother and Sister Wilson for dinner in the dining hall. (We express a special thank you to Brother Homer Ritchey and all those who helped make the dinner a success.) After dinner, the saints gathered at the tabernacle for a service of song and testimony of praise unto God for His goodness. At the end of that service, each one again joined Brother and Sister Wilson in the dining hall for cake and ice cream and then presented them with gifts of appreciation.

Honoring Our Pastor

Much could be said regarding the anniversary celebration, but a little well-deserved honor bestowed upon our pastor and his wife would be of more benefit. In 1 Timothy 5:17 we read, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

We certainly want to take advantage of the opportunity to give honor where honor is due. First, and most important in my mind, is the fact that we have seen two people who have lived the victorious life before us. No greater thing could be said of an individual than that he has truly served and honored God in his living. Brother and Sister Wilson are endeavoring to set forth the right example before us, an

example that we, as the congregation, can follow without fear.

Secondly, our pastor has been faithful to the flock that God has seen fit to make him the overseer of. Brother Wilson can join the Apostle Paul as he said, "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." There have been times that preaching the straight, sound teachings of God's Word and standing firm on its mandates has brought pain, suffering, and bitter persecution, but nevertheless, he has stood true to that which God has revealed to him. Because of his dedication to God and his love for the souls of men, Brother Wilson has conscientiously proclaimed the commands of the Lord.

Divine Guidance

As we look back over the years, we can see how the hand of God has led this work forward. There have been many things accomplished since our pastor first took this work. It would be rather difficult to cover every event that has taken place within this congregation since it first began. We would, however, like to touch a few of the highlights pertaining to Brother Wilson and his father.

Sometime during the year of 1916, Brother E. E. Caldwell became the pastor of the Church of God here in Newark. In the year of 1925, the local congregation of the Church of God was without a pastor, and God heard the prayers of His people. That was when He called the late W.A. Wilson, who was a tiller of the soil, to be the next pastor. During the years of Brother W.A. Wilson's ministry, God was able to save many precious souls.

In 1940, because the building became inadequate, a building fund

[continued on page 18]

Matthew 25:31 When the son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was

sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily, I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

"Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"

Brother Emerson A. Wilson

Two Groups

There is a final day approaching, a day of complete separation. Jesus said that when He comes with all of the holy angels and sits on the throne of His glory, He shall gather all nations and separate them one from another. We just might as well get something fixed and settled within our own hearts, because when we come up to that Judgment, we are going to stand as individuals. He is going to separate one from the other, as the shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. He will set His sheep on the right hand and the goats on the left hand.

Notice verse 34: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." The Word of God lets us know plainly that there is one thing needful to be in that right-hand group.

I want you to start thinking in the right terms. As far as religion is concerned, the devil has divided

God's people into little groups. However, there are just two groups as far as God is concerned, and you are in one or the other. We had better lift our heads to the place where we can see over all the fences that men and organizations of men build and begin to look at the thing as we are going to have to look at it when we come up to the final Day of Judgment. There is just a right-hand group and a left-hand group, and Jesus Christ is in between the right-hand and the left-hand.

The Blessed of the Father

By the grace of God and with the help of God, let us study what it takes to be in that right-hand group, that group which is going to inherit the heavenly phase of the eternal Kingdom of God to enjoy throughout eternity. There are some conditions to meet. Jesus made it very plain when He said, "Come, ye blessed of my Father." He did not say, "Come and be blessed of my Father," but (paraphrased), "Come ye who have lived on the Earth and

have been blessed of my Father and inherit what God has for you. He gave you what He had for you to enjoy while you lived on the Earth. Now, come and enjoy what He has for you to enjoy in Heaven." So when we consider the Words "Come, ye blessed of my Father," we need to answer by the Bible the question: Who are the blessed of God?

What is going to separate the right-hand group from the other? Here, they are all mixed together like sheep and goats are mixed together. Jesus speaks the words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father," and out of that big group of all nations, every man that ever lived, He is going to gather out a group that is going to inherit the everlasting Kingdom of God. Therefore, it is needful to understand who are blessed of the Father.

We are blessed when God supplies all our needs, heals our bodies, and does so many wonderful works; but when we get right down to it, we can have all of those things happen and yet not be in the group

that Jesus calls the "blessed of My Father." In the first message Jesus ever preached, He began to set up who was blessed and who was not blessed, and He held right to that message all the time He was here.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount tells who are the blessed of God (Matthew 5:3-11): "Blessed are the poor in spirit . . . they that mourn . . . the meek . . . they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness . . . the merciful . . . the pure in heart . . . the peacemakers . . . they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake . . . ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you . . ."

Those are the Beatitudes, but those are not the attitudes that be. There are a lot of people sitting around the congregations who would split hell wide open if they should die now because they are not blessed of the Father, and they are not blessed of the Father because they are not meeting the conditions that it takes to be blessed of the Father. The Gospel has been so watered down, and men are so living after the flesh even in the realms of religion, that the great blessings of today are looked upon as the blessings that fall on the flesh—when God blesses materially, financially, or when He brings great healing to our bodies. However, let us see who the Bible speaks of as the blessed of the Father.

Matthew 4:23-25 reads: "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of disease among the people, And his fame went throughout all Syria . . . And there followed him great multitudes of people . . ." He was a famous Jesus, and a lot of people are presenting Him as a famous Jesus yet. When He healed their sick and delivered them from devils, they thought they were blessed.

According to Matthew 5:1, Jesus looked at that multitude that He had healed and delivered from devils, and He went up in the mountain

and sat down. Now, you would think, according to modern preachers, that He would have said, "Look at that multitude. There is a blessed people." However, He said in so many words, "Boys, do not get your thinking crossed up. Those people are not the blessed of My Father. Those blessings are just secondary blessings. They are great blessings in themselves, but they will not take you to Heaven. You can live a holy life, have a diseased body, and die with a disease and have an abundant entrance right into Heaven. On the other hand, you can be delivered from every kind of disease, and you can even be delivered from devils, yet not fall into the category of the blessed of My Father." (I am not in any way degrading divine healing. I believe it, teach it, and practice it.) When Jesus used the little clause "Come, ye blessed of my Father," He was talking about something deeper and more vivid than many people are getting hold of.

After He had healed a multitude, He was a famous Jesus. However, when He got up on a mountain and sat down and began to teach who was blessed and who was not, He lost His fame. The whole crowd left. He is not a famous Jesus yet when you preach the truth as it is in the Book. Just as they did in Jesus' day, people are looking for help in the flesh. If you want multitudes, just offer them deliverance from disease, deliverance from devils, and freedom so they can live healthily and have plenty of money, and they could not care less what Jesus says in the New Testament about living right.

Jesus taught the disciples who was blessed of the Father, and He taught them how to become a part of that blessed of the Father so they could make Heaven their home.

The Beatitudes were like a dash of cold water on the impure enthusiasm of a people who were eager for a kingdom of gross delight and vulgar conquests. The Beatitudes were used like Gideon's test when he took his army down to the water.

Jesus had a great crowd gathered, and He put the test on to see who was really with Him. The Beatitudes were given to sift out those whose appetites were for carnal good and were not interested in spiritual reality.

The Beatitudes are not pious hopes of what shall be in some future age, a future bliss, but they are congratulations for what Christians have and enjoy right here and now. At the Judgment, Jesus will not say to those on the right hand, "Come, the Father wants to bless you," but He will say, "Come, ye that are already blessed of my Father." The "blessed of the Father" enjoy something right here on the Earth.

Little by little, the reality of salvation and that which you can enjoy right here is being diverted to some future age, and people have taken up the attitude, "I will fight the good fight of faith. I will put up with things here so I can enjoy Heaven." However, right here on the Earth there are blessings that God has for you in salvation that unless you lay hold of them here you will never enjoy them in Heaven.

Inner Blessedness

Jesus spake the Aramaic language when He was here on the Earth, and the Aramaic had much within it of the original Hebrew. It would do us well to study the word *blessed* in the Aramaic. Instead of "Blessed are the poor in spirit," the original Aramaic is "Oh, the blessedness of them that stay poor in spirit."

The same Hebrew word for *blessed* is used in Psalm 1:1 where it says, "Oh, the blessedness of the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly." This blessedness I am preaching about is not something that the Christian will enter into beyond death and beyond the Judgment, but it is a blessedness that he enters into the moment he is born again and starts to live for God. This blessedness will find its fullness in

the presence of God, but it is a present reality to be enjoyed right here and now.

The original Aramaic word for *blessed* means: "Oh, the bliss" of being a Christian; "Oh, the joy" of following Jesus; "Oh, the sheer happiness" of knowing Jesus Christ as Master, Savior, and Lord.

The word *blessed* that you read in the King James Version comes from the Greek word *makarios*. It is a Greek word that describes a joy that has its secret in itself. It is a joy, a blessedness, which is serene, a blessedness which is untouchable, a blessedness which is self-contained, and because it came from Heaven, it cannot be affected by the circumstances of life.

Our language has done damage to many biblical truths. Take our English word *happiness*. It gives its own case away. It contains the root word *hap* which means "by chance." By chance you are happy. Sometimes you are happy, and sometimes you are not. It is just by hap. It is according to how things happen. Human happiness depends on chances and changes of life. Human happiness is something that life can give and life can take away, but the Christian blessedness that Jesus spoke of is completely untouchable and unassailable.

The word *blessed* taken from the Greek word *makarios* is a very special word. It describes the kind of joy that God has which earthly things cannot affect. It is an eternal joy beyond the sphere of this world. Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that MY joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11).

In John 16:22, after Jesus had told His disciples He was going to go away but He would come again (speaking of His coming from the grave when He would rise from the dead and meet them), He said their hearts would rejoice and no man could take away their joy. It is God's joy. It is heavenly joy. It is eternal joy. It is a blessedness the world cannot give and the world cannot

take away. No matter what men do to you, no matter what chances of life come your way, God gives you a joy that no man can take from you. It is a joy which sorrow, loss of property, loss of loved ones, pain, grief, and even death are powerless to touch. This joy will shine through eyes with tears running down because of a loss. This joy is something impeccable. It is something impregnable. It is something that chances of life cannot change. I am preaching about what Jesus was talking about when He said, "Come, ye blessed of my Father."

The world wins joy, and the world loses joy. (It looks like they are in a good siege of losing it right now!) However, right in a time when the world is losing its joy is a wonderful time for the Christian to shine forth with a joy that cannot be lost. The world loses its joy so quickly! All it takes is a change in fortune, a collapse in health, the failure of a plan, disappointment of an ambition, even a change in the weather. Jesus talked about a blessedness that God alone can put in the heart of man, an unassailable blessedness, an untouchable blessedness that no matter what man does, he cannot take your joy from you. The world's joy is very, very fickle, but Jesus spoke of something that was solid and lasting.

Jesus set definite conditions, without contradiction and without confusion, as to who was blessed of the Father and who was not. I am not endeavoring to put anybody in the left hand, because I want everybody to be in the right hand, but I am endeavoring to drive away confusion that has left people living short of the standard of the Gospel and are still made to feel that they will make Heaven their home one of these days. If you are going to be in that right-hand group, you must live right here so that when you get up there, Jesus can say to you, "Come, ye blessed of my Father."

The Beatitudes set forth the condition of blessedness, and these conditions are set forth with full-

ness. The first half of the Beatitude is the condition, and the second half is the blessedness. Jesus said that blessed are the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, the hungry for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who are unsoured because they were injured; and each of these are modes or aspects of character.

The condition of our blessedness is within ourselves. Our happiness depends upon not what we have but what we are, not on position but on disposition, not on the state of our circumstances but the state of our souls.

I think you all understand that the Kingdom of God is a position. You do not go through any literal doors to get into that Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is a position, a condition, is a state of mind and heart. We need to realize that a person can sit in the congregation of the Church of God and not be in the kingdom. Whether or not you are in the kingdom is according to the condition of your heart and mind. The real blessedness of the Father comes when a person forgets all about what the flesh desires and his aches and pains and he begins to realize that his spiritual condition is poor—he is poor in spirit.

The Meaning of Poor

To understand Jesus' words "Blessed are the poor in spirit" we have to distinguish between some things. First of all, we must distinguish between "poor in estate" and "poor in spirit." Some religions teach that those who renounce their estates and live in voluntary poverty in the monasteries are the blessed of the Father. However, when Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," He had nothing in mind about being poor in estate. Secondly, we must differentiate between "spiritually poor" and "poor in spirit." Any individual without grace is spiritually poor, but he is not poor in spirit and he is not blessed. The Laodiceans were spiritually poor,

but they were not poor in spirit. Thirdly, we must differentiate between "poor-spirited" and "poor in spirit." Many people have poor spirits. They are mean and have ugly attitudes, but they are certainly not poor in spirit, and they are not blessed of the Father.

The Beatitudes set forth the conditions of blessedness. The first condition was "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Oh, how people need to be taught about that! There are people who think they are blessed because they are poor materially; however, that Scripture has nothing to do with material poverty. Furthermore, there is not a principle in God's Word which says that those who are living in poverty are blessed. You do not have to be poor (or dirty) to be humble.

I am not preaching with wisdom of words, but it is necessary to understand some words. In Bible study, always find out who the words are written to, what the condition of the people is, who spoke the words, and what the motive is back of the words. All of these things will lead you to truth. If you do not know what the Scripture means when it says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," how do you know if you are one?

There are two Greek words which are translated into the English word *poor*. *Penes* is translated poor in lots of Scriptures. That word means "one who has to work hard for a living, one who is barely getting by." Many people are poor, just making enough to get by on. However, in Matthew 5:3, another Greek word is used. The word is *petokos*, and it describes an absolute and abject poverty.

The word *poor* here means that you have nothing at all. When Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," He actually said, "Blessed is the man who is absolutely destitute, who realizes his utter helplessness, that he can do nothing for himself, and puts his whole trust in God and keeps it there. That individual will

have the Kingdom and he will keep the Kingdom and he will enjoy the Kingdom." In other words, "Blessed is the man who is absolutely spiritually destitute." He is *petokos*.

The same word *petokos* is used in Psalm 34:6, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." He was a poor man, a *petokos* man, a man who realized that he had nothing with which to help himself, that his spirit, his will, his flesh, his strength were no good. He was in abject poverty, could not do a thing to help himself, but he cried unto the Lord, and the Lord saved him out of all his troubles. Now, it will take your whole lifetime for the Lord to save you out of all your troubles because there are some still ahead. You must keep the poor in spirit attitude. You have to stay in that abject state. You must stay down before God and let God know you can do nothing in yourself.

When a man realizes his utter helplessness and puts his whole trust in God alone, two things will enter into his life. First, he will become completely detached from things, for he knows that things have nothing in them to bring the blessedness, happiness, and security he is seeking for. Secondly, while he becomes detached from things he will become completely attached to God. He becomes completely detached from things because he knows there is nothing that he can do for himself, there is nothing anyone else can do for him, and there is no thing that he can get hold of that can help him spiritually—his help is in the Lord alone. The one who is poor in spirit is the individual who has realized that things mean nothing and God means everything.

I repeat, in no way does the Beatitudes (or the Bible) say that material poverty is a good thing. It is an aim of the Christian Gospel to remove such poverty. If poverty is a blessed thing, then we are working against the Gospel when we help relieve the poverty-stricken condi-

tion that some people are living in. (I have learned some things in my years of pastoring, and one of them is that some people have to be poor—give them a little money and they run off, so God keeps them poor to keep them home.)

We Have No Spirit

When a man realizes the utter lack of his resources to meet life and finds his help and strength is in God alone, he will reach a position of poor in spirit; and when you reach a position of poor in spirit, you are getting in a place to be blessed.

Joshua 5:1 states that when the Canaanites saw how God had backed up the river and let the Israelites come through on dry land, their hearts melted and there was no spirit in them. They were poor in spirit.

First Kings, Chapter 10, tells of the Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon. She looked at his servants and at the meat on his table. She asked him questions, and he answered them completely. Verse 5 states that there was no more spirit in her. She was poor in spirit when she saw what God could do.

This is exactly what Jesus talked about. The church must arise to her position and give the world some-

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thing to look at, not Solomon's temple, but the house that Jesus built, the Church of the living God with all its glory, with all its greatness, with all its blessedness. This is what it is going to take to bring the world to a place of the "poor in spirit" position.

"Poor in spirit" is a condition where we see the greatness of God so far beyond what we can comprehend that we quit trying to put forth effort in ourselves—we have no spirit. Thank God, He will work a blessedness in the soul and bring deliverance. Jesus said such poverty belongs to the kingdom. "Blessed are [a present tense verb] the poor in spirit for theirs is [a present tense verb] the kingdom of heaven." Therefore, if you stay poor in spirit you can retain the experience.

In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus taught the disciples to pray. I would like to clarify that it is not a model prayer for Christians today. It was a model prayer for the disciples who lived before the Holy Ghost came; but now that the Holy Ghost has come, you pray in the Spirit, and when you do not know what to say, He will tell you.

Jesus taught the disciples to pray in Matthew 6:10, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Basically, the kingdom is a position that you are brought into through salvation where God's perfect will is done in earth just as it is in Heaven. This means that only he who does God's will is a citizen of the kingdom. Moreover, we can only do God's perfect will when we realize our own utter helplessness, our own utter ignorance, and our own utter inability to cope with life. When we put our complete trust in God, we are brought into an experience of salvation, and the kingdom is ours. If you are not poor in spirit, the kingdom is not yours. What is the great danger of living a Christian life (and the longer you live, the greater the danger becomes)? It is getting lifted up in your own spirit. There would not be one division

among God's people if men were not lifted up in their own spirit.

When we realize our utter helplessness and ignorance and inability to cope with life as it is and put our whole trust in God, the kingdom is ours. Obedience is always founded on trust. People disobey because they do not trust God. Self raises up, saying, "I think it would be wiser to do this." What you are saying is that you do not trust God. In plain language the first Beatitude says, "Oh, the bliss of the man who has realized his utter helplessness and has put his whole trust in God; for thus alone, can he render to God perfect obedience, which makes him a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven." You do not need to be afraid you cannot obey God. That is not where the danger is. The thing you need to be afraid of is that you will not give up your own way, that you will not become poor in spirit.

Jesus began His teaching on blessedness by saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit" because poverty of spirit is the very basis and foundation of all other graces. When your heart becomes a valley and lies low in poverty of spirit, the springs of holy mourning will begin to run. A man must be sensible of want before he will hunger and thirst after righteousness. Until we are poor in spirit, we are not capable of receiving grace. Until we are poor in spirit, Christ is never precious to us

as He ought to be. Until we are poor in spirit, we cannot go to Heaven. Unless we remain poor in spirit, we cannot remain in the kingdom.

Some of you have been Christians for twenty or twenty-five years. Do you feel just as utterly helpless in yourself, just as incapable of living salvation today, as you did that day you were saved? He that is poor in spirit knows there is nothing in himself that can bring salvation or keep salvation. Jesus taught that if you are going to come after Him, you must deny yourself.

If you are poor in spirit, you are a Christ admirer. When anybody mentions His name, it causes cold chills to go up and down your spine. You will not miss an opportunity to assemble yourself in the house of worship if they are going to talk about Jesus. You love Him. He is your salvation. He is your all and all. Without Him you cannot be saved another moment.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs IS the kingdom. We must keep the poor, abject position to hold the kingdom experience and be able to do the will of God. He that is poor in spirit is low in heart. He that is poor in spirit spends much, much time in prayer. Why? Poor men are beggars, and they know it. People are not praying because they do not feel the need of it; and they do not feel the need of it because they are not poor in spirit as Jesus used the

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word poor.

When you get to the place you are utterly helpless and poor in spirit, it will not take many words to be saved. I have known people who were saved when all they said was, "I will do it," and they have lived for God gloriously. It does not take much to be saved when you get to the place that you realize you are utterly helpless, that there is nothing you can do to save yourself, and then give up and put your trust in God alone.

Peter walked on the water, but he got his eyes off Jesus and went down. He was drowning, and all he said was, "Lord, save me," and Jesus reached out and saved him. Peter was in utter despair. He saw he could not help himself. His trust was in God. He was in a poor condition, and Jesus reached out and saved him. It is just that simple.

Thank God for the night I bowed at a mourner's bench, poor in spirit and in a poor shape, wrecked, my life bound with the habits of life, in despair, sinking in sin, but when I reached the position God saw that I gave up, that I was through, that I was helpless, He reached down with His great and mighty hand of power and picked me up, made a new creature out of me, gave me peace and joy, and shed His love abroad within my heart through the Holy Spirit! I am talking about the blessedness that God has given us to enjoy right here on the Earth.

When people are poor in spirit, they will take Christ at His terms. The man who does not house self has room to be his real self. What is his real self? It is what God wants him to be, and there is peace and satisfaction to that.

Blessed Assurance

The hour is soon coming when all nations—everyone that ever lived on the Earth from Adam right on through—are going to be gathered at a final Judgment. Jesus is going to be set on the highest throne He has—the throne of Judgment in all

His glory, with myriads of angels standing around that great Judgment Throne, and He is going to separate the people one from another. He is going to put one group on the right hand and one group on the left hand.

He is going to say to those on the right hand, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." He is going to say to those on the left hand, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Which group are you in? Every one of you is in one group or the other group right now, and when death comes on you, it will not change your position. When you wake up at the Judgment, you will be in whatever group you are in when you die.

Fanny Crosby wrote many hymns in her blind condition; but even though she was physically blind, she had her spiritual eyes opened up to this blessedness. If we could say, "Sister Crosby, tell us about this blessedness that Jesus talked about," she would say:

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Mount Up on Wings

Christian, you have wings by which to mount up above the storm. Said Isaiah, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (40:31).

Folk who always see the dark side of life—the negative side—may need a physical checkup as well as a spiritual. But remember this: The Lord wants us to have an optimism which is the product of faith, hope,

love, and obedience.

Don't be the victim of your environment! So long as God is God and Christ is captain of your soul, you have every reason to sing and be happy.

Don't lean upon people. Rest your heart in God. How can your world go to pieces when underneath you and your needs, every hour of every passing day, are the everlasting arms? Let's trust in God and not be afraid!

Selected



HOW TO START THE DAY

Morning Prayer

From crown of my head to soles of my feet

I give to Jesus my being complete.

For guidance and wisdom throughout this day,

Every step that I take, every word that I say.

Cause me to meet the ones I should see,
Help me to speak the words I should say,
Keep me from folks, whoever they be,
Unless I can help them or they can help me.

Help me treat others as I'd have them treat me

And as I forgive others, Dear Lord, forgive me,

Temper each word and act with Thy love
And give me the wisdom that comes from above.

Keep me from sickness, accidents and sin
And help me be patient and kind to all men,

Give faith and hope, I humbly pray,
With courage and strength throughout the day.

I thank Thee for life, for home and love,
For food and raiment—gifts from above—
For Jesus, who died to save me from sin,
For life everlasting through His name—
Amen

Selected

Especially for Young People

A Sad End of a Young Infidel

— P. J. Phillips



It is one of the saddest things in the world that in the worst tragedies we often meet with characters that possess strong traits of nobility and goodness in them. Aristotle says that the hero of a tragedy must be great and that he falls owing to certain unhappy weaknesses that undermine his character. The public conception is often found true in the drama of life as well. Human history abounds in men and women who would have done lasting good to their race but for a "little weakness." No chain is stronger than its weakest link, and no character is stronger than its weakest trait.

Alex fell, and miserably so, but not without certain strong traits of intellect and character in his life. Born in one of the respectable families of the country, possessed with a winning personality and with an intellect that showed signs of strength even in early boyhood, Alex, it seemed, was destined by God to a place of responsibility and usefulness in after years. But the hand of the evil one was busy, as in the early dawn of history, to mar the beauty of usefulness of this noble handiwork of God.

It was the writer's pleasure to be associated with the hero of this story in his high school days. We held him in admiration. He was one of the brightest boys in the school. Everybody liked him, and he was capable of deep friendship. His parents loved him with all their hearts, but unfortunately their love was not seasoned with wisdom. The boy had everything he wanted and even in those days there was to be heard the re-

mark, "That boy is spoiled." Alex took free course to things that pleased his physical senses. To intelligent eyes there were beginning to appear signs of a coming storm that was to wreck this noble vessel beyond repair. He grew self-willed and was eager to have a great time with his companions. Then the young man entered a high school owned and managed by a Hindu association, and the writer heard nothing of him for a few years.

Three years later a revival was going on in a Christian community in central Travancore, S. India. Sinners were getting saved; the worst men in the community were coming to the cross weeping; old and forgotten accounts were being settled; hopeless drunkards were becoming loving husbands and responsible fathers—there was joy and plenty of it. It was a season of rich blessings from on high. Alex came to this community visiting relatives, and one night he came to the meeting to see, what he called, the "fun." He openly declared that men and women were running mad; that there is no such thing as conversion by faith in a personality; that Christ was a good man, but so were Krishna and Buddha. The climax was reached when he declared, "There is no God." His words caused quite a stir in the community, for the people were simple folk who were prepared to stake their lives for the truth of the good old Gospel.

The young man was passing a few years in a Hindu high school, and that was the outcome of the culture he received there. Oh, the influence of houses of learning on our young

people! To any parent who may chance to read this, I would say: See to it that your children get a sound Christian education.

Returning to our hero, I must say that he left us, and for ten years I heard nothing of him. Last year while engaged in missionary work in central Travancore, I was asked by some relatives of Alex to go and see the young man, who was in the poorest of health, and worse than that, was showing signs of insanity. His own people were afraid of him. His wife deserted him in her despair. His old parents removed him to a lonely dwelling away from men. In his madness he was keeping his eldest child, a boy only five years old, with him. We found the boy at the gate, for his father had appointed him gatekeeper. Sadness and despair were written on his innocent face. How the sins of fathers mar the beauty of their own children and drag them to darkness and despair! We decided to save the child at any cost. With difficulty we managed to have him sent to his mother.

In spite of threats Alex's mother was with him. She was there risking her own life. The mother greeted us in tears. She related to us what I should call the untimely fading away of the flower of her youth, for Alex was her first-born. From the mother we passed to the son, my old school-mate and the hero of our early days. The man presented a terrible wreck. He was pale as death and so thin and weak that he trembled as he tried to stand up. He did not recognize me, as he had lost all intelligent consciousness.

His mental powers were so decayed that to him his past was a blank except for a few pictures that appeared and disappeared on the scene in quick succession. We sat near him and tried to talk to him about the infinite mercy and goodness of God. But to our deepest regret we found that the man with whom we were talking was one who had destroyed the richest possession God had endowed him with: the power of reason and understanding. His eyes were rolling as they tried to look on us and they showed a mind behind equally rolling. He laughed, the next moment he wept; he was friendly,

the next moment he was suspicious. He had lost all control of feeling, as he had lost the control of his chief muscles.

With a heavy heart we had to leave this wreck of humanity. A few days later the young man passed into eternity to face a just God whose very existence he had denied. On further inquiry we found that he had been given to pleasure and had lived a self-indulgent life for a number of years. He was only thirty-two when he passed away. Yes, sin is a stern reality, and its wages is death. "A sin without its punishment is as impossible as a cause without an effect."



Prayer Burdens

GUIDE ME

Savior, guide thy little child
When the storm is raging wild;
When the surging billows roll,
Wilt thou then protect my soul?

Thee I need in ev'ry hour
To protect from Satan's pow'r;
Many evils fierce and strong
Often tempt me to do wrong.

To thy arms of love I flee
Knowing thou wilt shelter me.
Guide me in the ways of truth,
Help me serve thee in my youth.

Without thee I can not stand;
Savior, hold me by thy hand.
Lead me safely all the way,
Let me never from thee stray.

Then when all my work is done,
When my race on earth is run,
When the storms of life are past, Let
me dwell with thee at last.

Unknown

OREGON: "Please pray that the Lord will send us a pastor. All I have is my Bible and *The Gospel Trumpeter*. We need a pastor."

OHIO: "Please remember me in your prayers."

PENNSYLVANIA: "Please remember my husband in prayer. He is in a nursing home. I have a special unspoken request. God knows and will meet the need."

ILLINOIS: "Please keep me on your prayer list."

INDIANA: "Please pray for my husband who is very ill with an asthma condition and for his soul. Also, pray for our unsaved children that God will get a hold on them before it is too late. Time is flying and we need to pray more each day. Just pray that we can be in good meetings for they keep me more encouraged."

OHIO: "I am writing to request prayer for my body, and for my loved ones to be saved. Please pray for my brother to be saved. I have two unspoken prayer requests. Pray that a

nephew will come back to his family. I have a friend that the Lord is dealing with; please pray for her."

NIGERIA: "My mother is seriously sick. She suffers from the hand of witchcraft men every year. Please pray for God to protect and guide her and save her from this situation.

"Pray also for my father who suffers because of our present residence. Pray for him to spend his money wisely, also for protection. . . . Pray for his enemy to abstain completely from him.

"Finally, pray for me and my family. Pray for my salvation. Pray for my urgent and suitable employment. . . ."

FLORIDA: "Pray for me that Christ may always have first place in my life, and that I may lead others to Him."

Plenty to Do

There's plenty to do in this mixed-up world,
For all of us each day,
Sweeping the dirt beneath the rug
Is not the honest way.

Let's clean up the human misery,
Hypocrisy, greed, and hate,
And practice the noble things we preach
Before it is too late.

Too long have we worshipped material things,
With our eyes on worthless goods
Improving our gadgets and machines
But not improving our souls.

Too long have we turned away from God
And disobeyed His commands;
Too many speak of serving Him
With unwilling hearts and hands.

The angels must weep as they look at man,
Now striving to conquer space
Before he has learned to conquer himself
And make earth a decent place.

What can we hope to do on the moon
Or some planet afar?
When so much good is left undone
Down here, right where we are!

Selected

Is the Day of Miracles Past?



Richard Hines

My mind goes to Jesus' words in Luke 18:8, ". . . when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" If the day of miracles has not passed, are we really seeing miracles as we need to see them and as we ought to see them? If we are not seeing miracles as we need to and as we should, is there hope that we can see miracles come to pass? God has taken me on a little safari through His Word, and I am just going to share these things with you.

Did the Day of Miracles Pass With the Creation?

There is not an individual with any knowledge of God whatsoever who will not acknowledge the fact that creation by the hand of God was a miraculous work. Consider that God, from nothing, formed this Earth that you and I are living on today, that He was able to step out somewhere in space and set this Earth into its being and spin it upon its axis, and not only spin it upon its axis, but rotate it while it is spinning, and also hold it within a given pattern so that it does not collide with any other planet or the stars in the firmament

that God has made. As we travel across the United States and consider the mountains, the valleys, the hills, the rivers, the lakes, the oceans, and the seashores, we have to step back and say, "God, you are a miraculous God! It took a miracle to do this." I have had the privilege of standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon, and it is a miraculous sight. The desert is a miraculous sight. To stand on a high mountain far above the plains and the valleys where the snow stays year round, we truly lift our voices in praise to God! Consider the ocean with waves that come and go, bounded by the seashore of sand. We drop our heads and we feel so small, and, in the words of David, we say, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visiteth him?"

We open our Bibles and consider the creation of God in the animal life and in the beautiful birds. God has dressed every single one of them in the most beautiful garments just for us to enjoy and to appreciate. He created the fish of the sea, and scientists tell us that the depths of the oceans have never been explored and

probably never will be found. Every day, we are finding things that we have never known were there before. We lift our faces and our hearts and say, "God, You are a God of miracles. It is a miraculous work that you have worked."

Consider that God created man in the image of God. I think God did a mighty fine job of what He did, don't you? Don't you think it is wonderful how He in His wisdom put our eyes right out in front where they need to be so we can see where we are going? Aren't you glad He did not put your eyes down on your knees? Don't you think it is wonderful that He put your ears where He did and gave you two arms conveniently placed so you can reach and touch and feel? He gave us our senses of smelling and hearing, and He did it just right. Thank God for all His creation and for the privilege of being a part of His creation!

Are you and I to shut our Bibles and say that after the Creation, miracles ceased? We certainly agree that miracles did not end with Creation! As we journey through the Old Testament, we find it filled with the miraculous workings of God.

Did the Day of Miracles Pass With the Old Testament?

We only have to turn a few pages until we see Noah, a just man who found favor in the eyes of God. He built an ark, and when God got ready to fill it, animals came from all around, two by two, and began to walk in there. It was a miracle of God when they went inside, and God shut the door and no man could open it.

Just a little ways farther on, we find Abraham and his wife, childless down through the years, and yet God promised that his seed would be multiplied as the sands of the sea and as the stars of the firmament. God worked a miraculous work and a son was born to them.

We go right on to Moses. He was born and hid in a cradle among the bulrushes. It was a miracle that the little thing, as it rode upon the waters, did not go under, or that some animal did not come and devour him. It was miraculous that he was

found as he was. Later in his life, we see him stand before a bush that burns but is not consumed. God blessed Moses as plagues were worked before Pharaoh because he did not want to let the Israelites leave the bondage of Egypt. We see them as they came to the Red Sea and the waters rolled back and they marched through on dry land.

God is a God of miracles! I know a lot of people do not believe that today. A little fellow came home from Sunday school one day and his daddy said, "What did the teacher teach you today?"

The boy answered: "Well, she taught us about how the children of Israel were chased out of Egypt and they came to the Red Sea. Moses was their leader. He stopped, and they quickly built a bridge across the sea. They got over on that bridge. The Egyptian army was pursuing them from behind, so they turned around and blew up the bridge, and all the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea."

Amazed, his father looked at him and said, "Did she really teach you that?"

The boy replied, "Well, if I told you what she really taught, you wouldn't have believed it!"

That is just the way a lot of people are with God. God can work miracles and miracles and miracles, and yet they will sit back and say, "I don't believe it. It just couldn't have happened that way."

We see that God sent bread from Heaven. He sent quails. Waters were brought forth from a rock. The walls of Jericho fell down. The sun and moon held still for a day. David was able to slay the giant, Goliath. Elijah visited the widow who was running out of oil and flour, and by a miraculous work of God, they never ran dry. Elijah lay upon the boy who was dead and life came back to him. We find three boys named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Book of Daniel who were cast into a furnace heated seven times hotter than usual, and as they were cast in, the heat was so hot that it consumed those who threw them into the furnace. Yet, the fire was unable to touch them, and not even the smell

of fire was upon them. We find the good Prophet Daniel cast into a den of lions that were hungry and ready to have a good meal, but God shut their mouths and they did not take a bite. We read of a man named Jonah who ran from God and a great fish swallowed him up; but Jonah, down within the belly of that fish, was able to exist for three days.

God filled the Old Testament with many, many miracles, and time would fail us to bring out every miracle that ever took place. Can an honest person shut the Book and say that with the closing of the Old Testament, miracles ceased? Can we say with the coming of Christ that miracles were no more? Would we say that they, without Christ, did more than Christ was able to do when He was here? A thousand times no! The coming of Christ, from the very beginning of His ministry until a end of it, is a constant record of the miracles of God.

Did the Day of Miracles Pass With Christ's Ascension?

"And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and, plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached" (Luke 7:19-22). One of the signs of Jesus being the Christ was the miracles that He was able to work.

We do not have to go very far in our journey through the New Testament to find the first miracle. Jesus turned the water into wine at the Canaan marriage. We go a little farther and we see the impotent man as he lay at the pool of Bethesda, not able to get into the waters, as they

were troubled. We find that just a spoken word from the Son of God made him whole. We see Jesus Christ as the multitude followed Him and out of a little lad's five loaves and two fishes, He was able to feed the multitudes, with twelve basketfuls left over. When His disciples were in distress and troubled, they found Jesus walking on the water—a miraculous work. We see in John, Chapter 9, a blind man healed. In John, Chapter 11, we read of Lazarus being raised from the dead. The woman who had the issue of blood went through the crowd until she touched the border of His garment, and she was healed. We see that everywhere Jesus went, evil spirits were cast out, bodies were healed, and great and wonderful works were accomplished.

Jesus Christ did so much that John wrote, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written" (John 21:25).

Do we close the Book and sadly say that as Christ ascended to His Father, the day of miracles passed? The Apostles, for a little while, felt it did. They were discouraged and depressed. They felt that since Christ had left them, their ministry was finished. However, just a short while later, as those men were in the upper room, the Day of Pentecost arrived.

Did the Day of Miracles Pass With the Early Morning Church?

Now, the early morning church takes the stage before our eyes. God blessed that early morning church with the working of signs and wonders and miracles. We see Peter and John, as Peter spoke to the lame man who lay at the gate Beautiful and said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee." What did they have? They had the power of Christ to set him free from his affliction. Philip worked miracles, and many followed him because of the miracles that he was working. Acts, Chapter 14, tells of Paul healing a crippled man. Paul and Silas in prison sang praises to God, and God

shook the place and set them free. Paul was healed of the viper's bite. The Book of Acts is actually a record of the early morning church and the wonders, the signs, and the moves that God made in its midst.

As the enemy warred against the church and she slipped into the wilderness, did the day of miracles forever pass away? During the Dark Ages, we do not see the glory of God manifested just as it had been before. Was the day of miracles passed?

Did the Day of Miracles Pass With the Reformation?

We see the birth of the Reformation, and once again the church begins to bud forth and blossom out. Again we see God blessing His people with miracles, signs, and wonders—everything from financial needs to healings, and devils are again cast out.

Back in the days of the late 1800s and the early 1900s, God blessed a people with signs and wonders. I have heard the older ministry tell of the rooms that were on the campgrounds where braces and crutches were hung upon the walls, and people were delivered from plagues and diseases.

As another apostasy began to work, are we to say goodbye to signs, wonders, and miraculous workings of God? Are we going to have to say that that day is forever past?

Miracles Are for Our Day.

You and I are in the seventh-seal age. Do we who are blessed with the manifestation of truth and light and understanding, sevenfold greater than it has ever been before, have to look backward and say that God's blessings and God's moving and miraculous works were for a people who are behind us? There is nothing any sadder than living in the past. We will not receive anything from God by looking back. In these closing days of time, what about miracles? Are we left dangling and hanging without the special, marvelous blessings of God? If those without the light we have today had the blessings of God, are we going to have to do

without?

Our day is unlike any other day. For us to go back and try to find a dispensation, a time, or a period that is perfectly like our day is utterly impossible. We cannot go back and say we must be exactly like the Apostles and the early morning church, for they were in a transition period. Their blessings are not to be copied today. We are a people of THIS hour, and if we receive from God, it is going to be because of what we have now, not what they had yesterday. There were things that were directly to a day and to a time, as there are things that are directly to us in our day and in our time. May God help us to hear those things and do them today!

God is no respecter of persons. God did not favor a people in a particular time any more than He is willing and desiring to favor His people today. Jesus said in John 14:12, ". . . He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do: because I go unto my Father." Hebrews 13:8 states that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We shorten God's hand with unbelief. God has not changed. He is a God of miracles. And miracles are real.

Faith Brings the Miracles.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). I want you to notice the little phrase things not seen. In other words, true faith, true miracles, will not come by what we could see happening before our very eyes.

For years, I rested in the thought that the day would come when we would begin to see things happen, and as we began to see the lame walk and the blind eyes opened, that, consequently, the faith of the church would begin to work and it would be so built up that there would be no stopping of the moving of God. However, miracles will not produce the church, but the church of God will produce miracles. Miracles do not bring faith, but faith does bring miracles.

Christ did not win the world from sin with the miracles He worked. Right when He was here dwelling upon this earthly terrain and the blind eyes were opened, the deaf ears were unstopped, the spirit-possessed were freed, and the dead were raised—in the face of those miraculous workings, the world rejected Him. They crucified Him right in the very face of the miracles He was able to work. As much as I believe in miracles for today, they are not the church's answer to having souls saved, and they are not the church's answer to building faith. If Christ did not win the world with miracles, neither will you and I. People are filled with unbelief, and the difference is in whether or not we have this faith, this substance, this living proof of something that is hoped for and something that is not seen.

Before we see the lame leg straightened, we will have to have the faith that will work it, not after it happens, but before it happens. Before it works, this faith has to be within us. If people come for miracles alone, they will leave as soon as they cease. If we gathered a great gathering of people to our fellowship that only came because they saw the miracles that were being worked, they would not be a heaven-ready people.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen—not the evidence of what is seen, but the evidence of things not seen. Every miracle that is recorded in the Word of God came by faith that worked previously to the miracle. Hebrews 11:2 reads, "For by it [faith] the elders obtained a good report." They operated their faith before they received anything from God.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Before you can receive, first, you must believe the evidence of things not seen.

One of the things we may be guilty of is this: God works wonderful works among us because of the faith that is existing, and we fail to record

what God has done. And as long as we fail to record it, there will be a trend in our midst to look back to another day because we do not have our "records" up to date. We are living in such a fast-moving, materialistic world, and we are so used to the tangible things we can turn on and off that we find it too easy to forget the miracles that are worked today.

There is so much unbelief, particularly among those who are lukewarm, careless, professing, and unsaved, that when God works a miracle in our midst there are people who will continually phase it out of their minds. We could see a dead man lifted off a stretcher and there would be people who would fold their arms and say, "He just wasn't dead." We could see a man limp his way to a place of prayer and God could straighten those limbs, and there would be some agnostics in the audience who would say, "He was putting it on. It isn't real."

The Greatest Miracle Is Salvation

We are stumbling right over the greatest miracle that can ever be worked, greater than a thousand bodies being healed: THE DELIVERANCE FROM SIN when Jesus Christ makes a person a new creature in Him. There is not anything any more wonderful and miraculous than that! Yet, people moan, "I don't see any miracles. If we could see a sick body healed . . ." and all the time God is saving souls all around them.

The work God does on a soul is so miraculous that Jesus sat down with Nicodemus and tried His best to explain it to him: "Nicodemus, a man must be born again. It is like the wind. You can't see it. You can't understand it. You can just see the evidence." The very Son of God could not explain it. Why couldn't He? It is a MIRACLE when a person is brought into contact with Jesus Christ and through the new birth becomes a new creation. The drunkard does not drink anymore. That person who was hooked on nicotine

has no desire for tobacco anymore. The home that is broken and wrecked is put back together and love is restored. God, open our eyes to the greatest miracle that humanity can ever see or ever experience—the blessing of the work upon the soul!

When Moses was getting ready to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, he went to God and said, "God, I don't know how to lead these people. I don't know how to convince these people. Who shall I say sent me?" And God just said, "Tell them I AM sent you."

Precious friend, that great I AM is here today. He has not changed. Miracles have not faded off the scene. Healing is a fringe benefit. You can get to Heaven with a sick body. You can get to Heaven as poor as a beggar. However, you cannot get there with a ruined and a wrecked and a contaminated soul. It takes a miracle from the power of God to set a person free from sin and make him ready to experience Heaven.

Many are like the impotent man by the pool of Bethesda waiting for the moving of the waters, when the waters are moving now. They are waiting for the great I AM when the I AM is here now and manifesting Himself real. This same God is ready to move in your life. Whatever the need is—and I do not say this as the false prophets of our day say it, but I say this as God Himself would say—He is ready to work a miracle for you right now. We do not have to look back, and we do not even have to look out to the future, but we can see a God that is working miraculous workings in our midst today. He is ready right now. His hand is extended. Your life might be ruined and wrecked by sin, and marred, contaminated, and corrupted by the things you have done, and you may feel as if there is no hope, but I point you to the great I AM who is ready right now to work a creative work in your soul and set you free.

At Prayer Meeting

There were only two or three of us
Who came to the place of prayer—
Came in the teeth of a driving storm—
But for that we did not care,
Since after our psalms of praise had risen
And our earnest prayers were said,
The Master himself was present there,
And gave us the living bread.

We knew His look in our leader's face,
So rapt and glad and free;
We felt His touch when our heads we
bowed,
We heard His, "Come unto me!"
Nobody saw Him lift the latch
And none unbarred the door,
But peace was His token to every heart,
And how could we ask for more?

Each of us felt the load of wrong
From the weary shoulders fall;
Each of us dropped the load of care
And the grief that was like a pall;
And over our spirits a blessing calm
Swept in from the Jasper Sea,
And strength was ours for joy and strife
In the days that were thence to be.

It was only a handful gathered in
To the little place of prayer;
Outside was struggle and pain and sin,
But the Lord himself was there;
He came to redeem the pledge He gave
Wherever His loved ones be,
To stand himself in the midst of them,
Though they count but two or three.

And forth we fared in the bitter rain
And our hearts had grown so warm,
It seemed like the pelting of summer flowers
And not the crash of a storm.
"Twas a time of the dearest privilege
At the Lord's right hand," we said,
And we thought how Jesus himself had
come
To feed us the living bread.

Selected

"When thou has TRULY thanked thy God
For every blessing sent—
But little time will then remain
For murmur or complaint."

Encouraging Experiences

Answer to Prayer

E. Faith Stewart

In 1933 we passed some testing times in the mission work in Cuba. Because of economic and political conditions the sufferings among the laboring people were great and these conditions brought many and varied problems in the missionary work. We reached a time when some of our brethren who were either in the active service of the ministry, or who were in the Bible training school definitely preparing for the work, were almost destitute for clothes. Together we prayed and trusted, but the answer was delayed some days. At last a group of workers met and definitely laid this need before the Heavenly Father and just committed it all away to Him.

It was necessary for some of us to make a trip to Santiago de Cuba, a city of some 800 miles from Havana. Four of us started out in the car expecting to drive to a certain place which we would have reached late in the night before stopping; but God planned otherwise. About 5 p.m. we discovered that something was wrong with the car, and we were afraid to continue traveling after night, so we pulled into a garage about 6 p.m. to see what the trouble was. To our disappointment, we learned that the mechanic was not there and would not be until the next morning; so there was nothing for us to do but to go to a hotel and pass the night. The following morning the car was rapidly repaired and we were soon on our way again. Some of the younger

ones in our group were inclined to question as to why we had been thus delayed, and had been obliged to pay a hotel bill for the night; but I reminded them of how we had at the beginning of our trip, committed every detail of the journey to the Lord, and that we should be contented with what He permitted to come to pass.

We had not been out on the highway more than a half hour that morning when we saw, right ahead of us, lying in the middle of the highway, a large package. We stopped the car and got out to look at it. For some moments we were afraid to touch it as at that time many bombs were being placed in the highway, as this happened in the days of Revolution in Cuba. However, after spending a few moments in looking at the package, we came to the conclusion that it had dropped off some truck that had passed that way with a load of materials from some factory. The package was placed in the car and care was used to inquire all along the highway at each bus station, if notice had been turned in of a lost package. We advertised in different ways but never had any response. After doing all we could to find the owner and having failed, we opened the box and to our great joy we found we had six new white drill suits (of the best material) right from some factory or store, but we found no mark any where that could serve to guide us to the original owner. The suits were of differ-

ent sizes and fitted the group of ministers and workers (who had been in such dire need) as if they had been made to order. Praise our God forever! The God of the Israelites who made their garments that they waxed not old while they were in the wilderness where they could not get any more can supply for His trusting children today, "The raiment waxed not old upon thee . . . these forty years" Deuteronomy 8:4. Thank God, "He is just the same today" (Hebrews 13:8).

Had we not had the little trouble with the car we would have passed by that place before the package was dropped. God had planned the whole thing for us. Oh, that we might learn better how to commit our ways unto Him, trust also in Him, and let Him bring to pass what should come in each day of our lives (Psalm 37:5).



Pointed Paragraphs

If we want to make progress in the Christian life we must be willing to improve and take advantage of every opportunity.

Oftentimes trials come to us as blessings in disguise.

The first step that we must take toward coming back to God may be the hardest step, but it is the most important and necessary.

The way to give the devil the slip is to keep in fellowship with Christ and the brethren.

Salvation means deliverance from sin.

Faith is responsibility put into action.

If we can get so blessed and happy at camp meeting, what will Heaven be like?

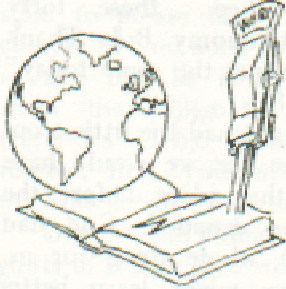
My Christian experience must glow, and grow, and go, and I will do my best to make it so.

Once I was asked if I was a Latter-Day Saint, and I replied, "No, I am an everyday saint."

I saw this epitaph on a tombstone: "It was easier for us to be good when he was with us."

The Trumpet Sounds

BROADCASTING THE GOOD NEWS AROUND THE WORLD!



Wake Up, America!

Part I of 2 Parts

Anthony Bartlette



Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.

2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.

4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

The Prophet had a picture of the nation of Israel. Once prosperous, once favored of God, once protected by God, but now it is seen in a deplorable condition. An almost irreparable condition had set upon Israel. Its national existence had become a hopeless destruction. The invasion of its captors left it cut off from any human help. There it lay, a hopeless, lifeless, helpless people likened unto a valley of dry bones. The nation had become virtually dead, abandoned and forsaken by the favor and the blessings of God. What caused such a condition to befall this nation of Israel?

In Ezekiel 36:17-18, and 20 we can find the answer: "Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: . . . Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: . . . whither they went, they profaned my holy name . . ." These people who professed to know the living God gave God a bad reputation every place

they went. They went their own selfish ways. And the same thing is happening to us today.

We can very easily extend the vision today to the condition of humanity and to the conditions in America. We pass by them, and our words are the same as the prophet's, "Behold, there are very many bones; and, lo, they are very dry." Everywhere we look, what do we see in America but the activities of godless lives? We see the energy and the zeal of Satan. We see Satan demonstrating his power in every walk of society from the top to the bottom, from one extreme to the other, from the homes of our leaders to the homes on our streets, from the intelligent to the ignorant, from the rich to the poor, from the religious to the nonreligious, from national government to the government of our local communities, from our college dorms to our elementary classrooms. Everywhere we look, everywhere we walk, we see these valleys of dried-up bones. We see these dead conditions. We see these hopeless and deplorable situations. Thousands lie dried up and scattered in the valley of ruin. The conditions surrounding us in America today are deplorable.

Would you look with me into some of these valleys of dead bones? May the Spirit of God carry us away as we look into this valley of dry bones and by the grace of God try to find some help for a lost-and-dying world!

At what particular moment does God move against a people or a nation for their sins and iniquities? How close is America, how close is our world to becoming a valley of

dry bones? How close is America to having God's fury poured out upon her? How many more of America's sins thrown into the face of God will it take to trigger judgment upon our nation?

How many more of your sins, sinner, will it take before God lets judgment fall upon you? How much longer will God put up with your rebellion, stiff neck, and hardheartedness before He lets His wrath, fury, and judgment fall upon you?

AMERICA, WE NEED TO WAKE UP! We are nearing the time of judgment in America! According to the history of God, He must bring judgment to America. He did it to Nineveh. He did it to Israel. He did it to Sodom and Gomorrah.

What are the signs of this impending doom? What are the warnings to us, as a nation, of God moving in upon us with righteous judgment? When man goes beyond the natural and steps beyond his appointed boundaries, judgment is near.

God made this world for man to dwell in, but apparently man is not satisfied with the way God created him and in the world that He created for him to live in. Man wants to go to the moon. He wants to explore the universe. He wants to go beyond his realm and get into the unknown where God said the secret things belong to Him. What about the space shuttle program spending billions of dollars when that money could be spent much more wisely to propagate the Gospel to pull men and women out of a life of sin. Friend, we are asking for trouble when we get into areas which God has not called us to get into.

When man landed on the moon and stepped off Earth's spacecraft, it was considered one giant step for mankind. Science paraded like a victor over the universe. God was minimized and mankind was exalted to the heavens. The same thing happened in Genesis, Chapter 11, when the people wanted to build the tower of Babel. They said, "Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name. That is what much of it is all about today. Man is trying to make an impression. He is trying to make a name. And he is trying to minimize God Almighty. However, God confused their languages that day long, long ago.

It is not in the will of God for you and me to get into certain realms in which we have no business. What about artificial insemination and test-tube babies? Aren't we asking for judgment? Aren't we looking for trouble when we get into these areas and go beyond these limits? Man cannot go on breaking the laws of God and boasting of his accomplishments without judgments falling upon him.

Proverbs 11:2 says, "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: . . ." Looking around in this nation of ours, we see nothing but shame and disgrace. What about ungodly sex change operations that are used and done to gratify beastly lusts? In Romans, Chapter 1, God has much to say about this: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:28).

What a situation is taking hold of America today! What is happening in America today? We are getting into realms and situations that God has not called us, and we are asking for the judgments of God upon America. The sins of man are crying out for the judgments of God. The smell has reached Heaven. In Genesis 18:20-21 the Bible says, "And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, . . ." and friend, our sins are

visiting God today. Our sins are rising up as a stench in the nostrils of God.

The pornography plague is a shame and a disgrace that is taking over our nation. The violent sins of America are blaring out.

Thirty years ago, homosexuality was denounced as sin and ungodliness. Shortly after that, they began to call it a sickness, but today society has accepted homosexuality in our government, in our schools, and in our pulpits. What a shame and a disgrace to a nation when they allow such ungodliness to have a place! Our sexual behavior has become like Sodom's. They are even coming out now with "Gay Bob" dolls for our children. It is not bad enough that homosexuals walk our streets and parade around in our nations, but now the children are given little "Gay Bob" dolls so they can play with them and have the devil infiltrate their minds!

What violence, what bizarreness, what boldness is taking over in America today! It is no longer safe to walk our American streets. Uncaged rapists, maniacs, and morons roam and haunt our cities and towns looking for victims on which to vent their ungodly lusts.

How much longer will God allow the men of this nation to parade the streets strutting like peacocks in women's clothing? How long will God allow our women to look and act like men? How much longer will God allow adults to propagate child pornography? How much longer will God permit smut, demon-inspired perversions, sadistic films and devil-possessed musicians to go freely about American cities?

God is being removed from the hearts and the minds of the American people. We have become worse than Sodom without even realizing it. Laws that at one time were made to persecute suchlike are now made to protect the ungodly and cater to their ungodly and beastly lusts.

Our nation is totally diseased with the plague of pornography. She has become Satan's dumping grounds for filth. Thousands of theaters now

show regular X-rated movies, but that is not good enough. The devil wants to pipe it right into the very living rooms of America. And the sad thing is that the American people are not aware of the danger and the destruction that are being caused because of such ungodliness.

Thousands of massage parlors, striptease joints, honky-tonks, night-clubs, and sex bookstores are destroying the minds of the American people. How much longer will these tributaries of filth flow into our nation? I ask you, friend, how much longer can America take it? How much more will God allow?

America has become another nation doomed for destruction. The shadow of Sodom hangs over us and over our society. Porn invades every segment of our society and is very obviously destroying the moral character of America. You have never seen the rate of crime soar so high. You have never read and heard about so much raping and killing and molesting as you do today. Is it not because of the pornography plague?

And what is just as sad is that the courts are standing behind the perversion. The liberals of our land now realize the trouble we are in. They pushed the Supreme Court and intimidated Congress to abolish the puritan standards, but today it is payday. They have gotten their wish and now we are reaping it. Friend, be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he reap.

May God help us today to awaken! Did the wave of smut and the giving in to ungodliness make our nation healthier? Did it make our neighborhoods healthier to live in? Did it make our children healthier? Did our court's decisions turn out to be for the best for our nation? Never! We have fallen to the bottom. We are witnessing unimaginable things because of allowing such ungodliness to have a place in our society.

Perverts of all kinds and homosexuals feel so liberated that they can abuse the rest of society. The experts and the laws have made them feel comfortable in their ungodliness and

in their sin to the place they stand up in the face of society and say they are the right ones now and the rest of society is wrong. Homosexuals now supposedly preach the Gospel. Homosexuals teach our children and govern our cities. Friend, the devil is having a revival of filth in our nation today.

May God help us to wake up! Any honest American knows what is happening to this beautiful nation of ours. Anyone with any integrity knows what is happening to our world. It is being overrun with violence, rape, murder, and rioting. We are witnessing before our very eyes a revival of Satanic influences. Violence has become the food of our society. The American public feeds its lusts on all of that garbage. Sinners eat it up. They love those programs on TV that feature blood and guts. Anything less than that is too tame for the American public. A generation today has grown up feasting on garbage. They call evil good and good evil.

Mother, Father, you hear the Gospel, and you are responsible for what your children see! You are responsible for rearing your children, and may God help you and give you the admonition and the strength and the courage you need to rear your children under the Gospel with all the fear and the reverence for God that you can muster!

What about the drunkenness of this nation? The alcohol and the liquor and the filth are destroying the minds of people. They have turned thousands into treacherous people. We have become nationally known hypocrites. While we cry out against the sins in others, we shelter the same in our lives. Men who practice hate cry that we need to have more love. What hypocrisy! Men who play with secret sins preach that we need more holiness. Judges who prosecute for immorality practice immorality themselves behind closed doors.

Brother, sister, it is time for America to wake up! It is time for you and me to roll up our sleeves and take a good punch at all of this ungodliness and let God know we do not want

America to be run over with all of this filth!

What is happening in the American homes today? Many homes have become battlefields. Many have become prisons for discontented women, adulterous husbands, and disrespectful children. They feel as if they are in cages. The women are anxious to get out of their homes. Marriage has become a mockery. God hates divorce, but America now has an epidemic divorce rate.

Things are so bad now that many in the oncoming generation do not even believe in marriage. They do not even entertain the idea of getting married. All that they want to do now is shack up. Shacking up is not considered sin anymore. It is called cohabitation, but I want you to realize it is still ungodly. It is still rotten. It is still sin and it will send you to a devil's hell.

Housewives are running away from their responsibilities. They either leave home or they get jobs and leave the children off at the commercial day care centers that do not provide the love and attention the children need. Who wants to be tied down to children when they are conniving and scheming in the flesh? Who wants to be bogged down with responsibilities when the flesh is screaming for pleasure and ungodliness? American housewives, we are in trouble! Women today have full control over their reproductive processes. They are both legally and socially free to have or do away with their children. A woman can be a mother and be single. Through the aid of the pill or abortion, she frees herself from the responsibilities or uses them for selfish reasons. She is free to have or not to have children. She is free to marry or not to marry.

The woman is free to pursue her own carnal idea of happiness that lies outside wifehood or motherhood. This is where the American women are in trouble today. Freer than any other women have ever been to pursue happiness, they have lost a clear idea of what true happiness really is. May God help you housewives! May God help you mothers!

May God help you parents to realize and fulfill the responsibilities that God has created you for! We are responsible for the way we act and the way we rear our children.

[Continued in next issue]



[Editorial continued from page 2]

was started for the construction of a larger one. In July of 1949, construction began on the building that is now located at the corner of Sixth and Locust Streets (the building that presently houses *The Gospel Trumpeter*). After nearly two years of labor and efforts of the pastor, the builder, and the congregation, the new church building was completed and dedicated to the Lord for the furtherance of His cause.

Brother W.A. Wilson's Vision

For several years, God had laid a vision of a campground on the heart of Brother W. A. Wilson. In this vision, he saw men and women of different colors, races, and nationalities coming together to hear the Gospel of the Kingdom of God preached. After much time in prayer, Brother Wilson's vision became a reality. In September of 1954 God worked out the purchase of a tract of land that would be called "God's Acres." Since that time, there have been other adjacent parcels of land purchased.

Although Brother Wilson was instrumental in the purchase of this land, which originally amounted to seventeen acres, he made the statement as they drove around the newly purchased ground that he would not live to see the first service. Brother Wilson spoke the truth, for on Saturday evening, October 2, 1954, his life's work came to a close, and he departed for the portals of glory. His passing left us the memory of one like that of the Apostle Paul, who ". . . was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."

The next morning, Brother Homer Ritchey, Brother Wilson's co-worker, was anointed to preach on the subject

of "Broken Pieces," which brought comfort and cheer to the people. That evening the late Brother Aubrey Mitchell preached on the topic of "All Things to Be Right." Amid broken and sorrowful hearts, God inspired enthusiasm in His people to continue on and finish the plans that had been outlined for God's Acres.

Call to Repentance and the Ministry

Brother Emerson Wilson found God in real salvation around the year of 1948. After praying through, he began building a Christian life and influence. Brother Wilson began singing in a quartet that traveled around to various revivals. The quartet consisted of Emerson Wilson, Ray Seaman, Ralph Wright, and Otis Johnson. As these brethren sang the songs of Zion, it often brought joy to the hearts of the saints and conviction to the sinners.

David of old asked the question, ". . . who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" A question very similar to that was presented to Brother Emerson Wilson: "Will you consecrate your service to Me and will you preach My Gospel?" For a period of time, there was some reluctance on his part, and he tried to get away from the call, but he soon abandoned his fears of the ministry, yielded his desires, his plans, his ambitions, and his entire life to the will of God. He was ordained into the ministry during the Springfield camp meeting in 1953.

When Brother Wilson began his ministry, his first revival was held at Brother Runyon's in Mechanicsburg, Ohio. When Brother Runyon first heard this young man expound the Word of God, he made the statement, "You can tell when God calls a man to preach, because He gives him the ability to do the job." As the days and months passed, God was little by little grooming this man for a major undertaking that, I suppose, at the time, he did not realize was going to take place. His father, W. A. Wilson, was a man who had been well used by God, but the Lord had plans of taking him home to glory.

After the death of Brother W. A. Wilson, God then laid His hand on his son, Brother Emerson A. Wilson, to become the next shepherd of the flock. Two or three weeks after his father's death, God laid a message on Brother Wilson's heart to deliver to the people. His text was taken from the first chapter in the Book of Joshua, and he read the first seven verses: "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."

As Brother Wilson began to preach on those verses of Scripture, he told of how the mantle fell from Moses and onto Joshua after Moses died. About that time, Brother Louis Stargell stood up in the congregation and said that God had shown him that He had placed the mantle upon the shoulders of Brother Wilson. From that time forth, Brother E. A. Wilson has been our pastor.

One of the things that has made Brother Wilson the man he is, is his loyalty and devotion to God, and secondly his never-dying burden for

the souls of lost humanity. He has only one greater desire than seeing lost souls weep their way to Christ, and that is seeing men and women mature in the grace and knowledge of our Savior after they are saved.

His efforts to satisfy the burning desire to see lost souls saved has caused him to preach night after night in revival services. In the early days of his ministry, he often preached out of the "Old Gospel Wagon." God only knows how many souls have been helped by his ministry. Today, at the age of sixty, his desire to spend his strength for God is as strong as it ever was. We can truly thank God for one who has been willing to be used in our day, even as Charles Spurgeon and D. L. Moody and others spent their lives for God and man in their day.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ must be carried on to the coming generation, and God is looking for men and women who will consecrate their lives to His cause. The great commission of our Lord and Savior was to go and preach the Gospel and bring in souls. God wants converts. He wants laborers to go forth into His vineyard.

God has both inspired and anointed Brother Wilson to preach the Gospel, and as a result, there have been many hundreds of souls brought to Christ in real salvation. From the men and women who have been saved under his ministry, God has called many into active service. These dear ones have gone out to be pastors, evangelists, missionaries, youth workers, radio ministers, as well as other types of workers.

Many Called to Active Service

We would like to share with you the names of those who have been called from this congregation into active service for the Lord. They are as follows: Brother Homer Ritchey; Brothers and Sisters Wilbur McKnight, Herb Dickerson, Kenny Wright, Don Atkinson, Art Fowler, Earl Wilson, David Stegmeier, David DeVoll, Charles Craig, Robert Rauch, Ralph Wright, Kirby Gayheart, Ber-

nard Wilson, Doyle Armstrong, John Vaughn, Dewey Burrell, Ray Hannah, Rube Gayheart, Doyle Martin, Charles Kline, Carl Brewer, George Gordon, Kenney Wollard, and Marco King.

Our missionaries: Brother and the late Sister Russell Drumm, Sister Willabee Curry, and Sister Evelyn Funk.

Our evangelists: Sister Faye Green, Brothers and Sisters Harry Craig, William Weaver, Anthony Bartlette, Roger Decker, Clarence Green, Doug Caudill, and Ronald Cummings. Brother and Sister Nial Ogle have served faithfully in cleaning the church building.

God's Acres

In June of 1955 God's Acres was set apart and dedicated to God. The campground has been used each year since for old-fashioned camp meetings, and men and women from various parts of the United States and some foreign countries have come in to hear the Gospel. The original meeting was a three-day weekend meeting. Today, there are three camp meetings held each year.

When God's Acres was in its infancy, the old barn and surrounding area needed to be renovated before services could be held. The sheep pen was made into the secretary's office. The cow stalls were converted to make a recording room for taping the services. The old granary was torn down, and the well house was put in its place. There was an old log house that was used for the girl's dorm, and down over the hill you found tents used for sleeping quarters for those who came to camp meeting. A corn crib was made over into a lunch stand. The old dining hall was located where the bookstore is now. The food was prepared downstairs and then carried up to be served. There were a lot of inconveniences, yet a sweet spirit of love and fellowship was manifested from heart to heart.

Today, after twenty-five years of progress, you will find great changes have been made in the appearance of

the old farm. At present, there are 17 dormitories, 10 cabins, 48 spaces for camping trailers, a newly constructed men's shower house, a dining hall, lunch stand, bus garage, and bookstore.

Because of the rapid growth of the camp meeting, there will be an additional 48 spaces prepared for campers and trailers before the June meeting.

It takes a lot of time and effort to keep God's Acres looking clean and beautiful, and the buildings maintained. Brother and Sister Carl McKnight have dedicated their lives to the overseeing of this work. We appreciate them and the burden they carry. There are a number of faithful saints who join together early each spring to help them with the task of preparing the buildings and grounds before camp meeting starts in June. Our desire is to see you enjoy yourselves when you come.

Among the many dedicated saints that donate their labors to God and His cause are that of Brother and Sister Howard Prior. Brother Prior was appointed as the church secretary-treasurer in 1937. In 1939, he and Sister Oiva Wilson were married and from that time forth they have worked together to keep the church records and finances in order.

New Construction

Many years have come and gone, and a host of souls have been gloriously saved. The church building at Sixth and Locust Streets became inadequate for the seating for the worship service. Again, after much prayer and consideration before God, Brother Wilson saw the necessity for a new and larger tabernacle to be erected where souls could come and hear the Truth. God gave Brother Wilson a message, and his text was taken from Haggai the first chapter. His thoughts centered around building a house for God.

In the fall of 1967, construction began on the new tabernacle in which we now worship. God wonderfully gave the design of the new edifice to Brother Merle Wells at about three o'clock one morning. The

Lord showed him that the tabernacle was to be a round building, that it would seat some twenty-two hundred people, and that no person seated in the sanctuary would be more than one hundred feet from the speaker. Just as God called the builder, He also placed engineers in the congregation who could lay out the plans. He called bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, cement finishers, and others. God moved on the individual hearts of His people to labor in the erection of the new building, and 65 percent of the labor was completed free heartedly by the people of the congregation.

The first service was held in the new tabernacle during the Winter Camp Meeting of 1968. In June of 1969, at the Spring Camp Meeting, the building was dedicated to God and set apart for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. Brother Harold Barber of Tampa, Florida, and Brother V. H. Lightfoot of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, were the guest speakers for the dedication service.

Each year as the camp meeting continued to grow, our dining hall became more and more inadequate to handle the people for meals. In the fall of 1971, construction began on a new ultra-modern dining hall. This facility will successfully feed 1,000 people an hour with no one being rushed.

Gospel Publication

For quite some time, Brother Wilson had felt the great need for reaching the souls of men and women with the truth of God's Word through the means of the printed page. So in March 1971, after much preparation and prayer, the first issue of *The Gospel Trumpeter* was mailed out. Brother Sheldon O. Conrad was the editor, Brother Melvin Harris was the printer, and Sister Virginia Hartman became the secretary.

The first print shop was located on God's Acres beside the bookstore. As it began to grow and the subscriptions began to increase, Brother Wilson and Brother Conrad felt the need for moving the operation into a larg-

er facility. In January of 1974, The Gospel Trumpeter was moved into the old church building at the corner of Sixth and Locust Streets. From that time forth, the paper has continued to grow, and today booklets and tracts are also published.

Brother Tom Fowler became the printer in October of 1971. Brother Ralph Seshier became the secretary and assistant to the editor in February of 1976. Brother Fred Barrows became the editor in March of 1976. To efficiently operate this missionary effort involves the help of some 85 to 100 dedicated volunteer workers. These consecrated saints are deeply appreciated.

Radio Broadcast

In addition to the need of a religious periodical, Brother Wilson saw the necessity of reaching men and women over the airwaves. In answer to prayer, the church began its first radio broadcast on Wednesday, December 13, 1972, at 10:45 a.m. It was only a ten minute broadcast, once a week, but it was a start. The original broadcasts were tape-recorded in Brother Sherm Romine's living room. Within four months, on April 2, God opened the door for a ten minute program that would be aired five days a week. The potential listening audience of the Newark station was 50,000 people. Several spiritual brethren took the burden of getting a message from the Lord. Each week they met in a brother's basement that had been made into a broadcast room. Brothers Emmett Maggard, Bill Green, Roger Decker, and Tony Bartlette faithfully labored to proclaim the truth to the city.

Almost two years ago, the Lord burdened Brother Sherm to check around for a new radio station in which we could sound forth the Gospel message in a greater way. Finding a good station involved seeking divine guidance, travel, and correspondence. At last, Brother Sherm was successful in securing a half-hour program every Sunday morning. Brother Wilson asked Brother Tony Bartlette to prepare the

messages for this broadcast. On Sunday, November 13, 1977, "The Trumpet Sounds" radio broadcast was heard at 8 a.m. The signal of this radio station would reach over the greater Columbus area and surrounding counties. The potential listening audience was now over 500,000 people.

Very shortly, God began opening other doors to reach more and more people with the truth. Today, "The Trumpet Sounds" radio broadcast is heard over several 50,000 watt stations. The potential listening audience is now up in the millions. The broadcast is reaching over the United States and into Canada and Mexico. It is also penetrating into the continent of Europe and parts of South America.

Helping to make the program sound its best is Brother Charles Dumm who has felt the burden to do the engineering, and he is doing a fine job. This trio of dedicated brethren, under the hand of the Holy Spirit, are making a great impression on the hearts and minds of their listening audience.

Complete Dedication

The secret to growth and success in the realms of spirituality is brought about by prayer, obedience, and humility. Letting God know that you realize your insufficiency to do the great task that lies before you will surely bring God to the rescue. Many of the great exploits that have been performed in past generations can be attributed to the fact that those who have been involved have fallen on their faces before God and admitted their inability to do the job.

Look at Moses and what God performed through him. At the first, he said, ". . . Who am I, that I should go . . .?" He felt his inability and utter dependency upon God. Look at Joshua, Gideon, and others that God performed mighty works through. Look at the outstanding work that Paul did for God. His words were, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The Apostle Paul knew that within himself he

could do nothing, but with the strength of Christ, he could do anything.

We can see the past reformers and the mighty things that were accomplished through their lives. Hundreds and even thousands of souls were reached with the Gospel. God has always wanted people to render to Him all the honor, the praise, and the glory. He is ready to work through anyone or any people that will exalt Him to the position He desires and demands. When we exalt Him, He then exalts us. Proverbs 15:33 bears witness to this fact with these words, "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility."

I personally believe that Brother Emerson A. Wilson is another man that the Lord is using for the furtherance of His cause and kingdom. His consecrated life in the ministry has been very active. Every available moment has been devoted to prayer, fasting, and studying God's Word. He has taken heed to Paul's admonition, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Because of his intense study of the Bible, God has rewarded him with a deep revelation of the Scriptures. Along with this understanding, God has anointed him to preach the Gospel in an outstanding way. Among the many messages that he has preached there have been a number of them printed in booklet form.

During the years of Brother Wilson's ministry, he has made several missionary journeys into foreign lands. He has traveled to Cuba, the Cayman Islands, Haiti, and the Philippines. His heart has always been enlarged toward men and women of other lands who needed help, both physically and spiritually.

As the Lord has used this consecrated life, He desires to use yours also. In 2 Chronicles 16:9 we read, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." The question is, "Will you fully

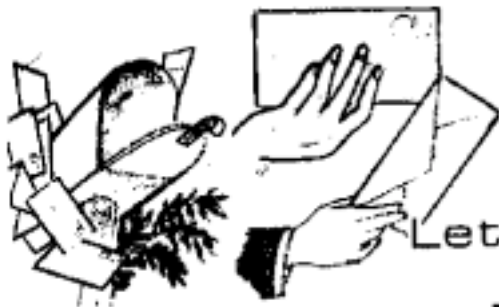
consecrate your life to the Master?" The ripened grain is ready to be harvested. Oh, dear one, can you see the great task that lies before you? Can you see the souls of men that need you? God has a place and position

that only you can fill.

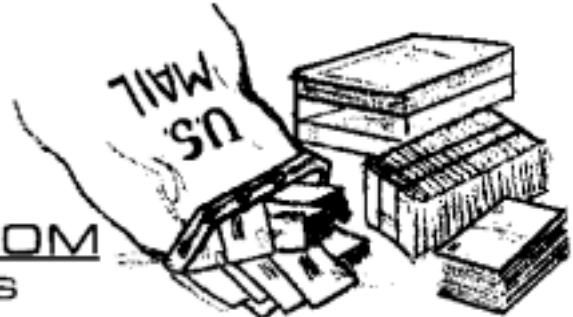
The Lord asked the Prophet Isaiah the question, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah's reply to Him was, ". . . Here am I: send me" (Isaiah 6:8). Will you be the one

that will go for the Lord? He is patiently waiting for your commitment.

Brother Fred



Letters FROM
Readers
TO Readers



OHIO: I am writing to let you know we are still enjoying *The Trumpeter* and all the good messages. Here is an offering to help . . . Thanks so much for your faithfulness.

FLORIDA: It's time again to send some money for the Lord's work.

I am so happy for the many ways He touches my life, and I want to be a blessing to Him . . . Each issue is a real blessing. Thank God for people who care and are trying to reach the lost. Don't give up!

NORTH CAROLINA: Greetings to you all once again in the blessed and lovely name of Jesus. I hope you all are well, happy, and rejoicing in the good Lord. As for myself, I am feeling some better today than I had been. Praise the good Lord for His great love and mercy to me! I truly thank and praise the Lord for His salvation, and for His many, many wonderful blessings. He is so merciful and so good to me in keeping me able to get around and wait on myself. I can never praise Him enough for what He does for me. Praise His dear worthy name!

VIRGINIA: . . . We never knew who sent our name in, but we have enjoyed the magazine and want to continue getting it. Also to thank the one who sent our name in.

Here is a small donation, and I would like the paper sent to a dear new convert. She knows nothing of the real truth but seems hungry to learn. They have no real church in that area.

MISSISSIPPI: I just want to thank you once again for *The Gospel Trumpeter*. I enjoy it so much that I would like others to receive it and enjoy it . . .

Enclosed please find a donation to help with the cost of *The Trumpeter*.

OHIO: Enclosed a small check to use wherever needed.

We are still enjoying *The Trumpeter* and look forward to the mailman bringing it each time.

Glad to see that it has not been "conformed" to the world.

MISSOURI: I enjoy reading *The Gospel Trumpeter* very much, and I am learning more about God's Word and His way. Thank God for truth He has let us understand and love.

May God bless each one that has a part in putting out the paper.

OHIO: I am a new born-again Christian and eager to read and understand the Word of God.

This week I found your magazine lying on the table in the lobby of the hospital I work in. I truly feel that it is a blessing.

I cannot send you a donation today, but I will be sending your paper something as soon as I have it.

FLORIDA: Have been enjoying your paper for some time now. Use the enclosed check as needed. Please send a subscription to my brother . . .

Thank you, and God bless you in your work.

INDIANA: I enjoy the good paper I receive twice each month. I read them as soon as I receive them. It is just like being in a meeting. I like Brother Bartlette's writings each time, and each and every one that writes . . .

OHIO: Just a line to let you know I'm still enjoying *The Trumpeter* . . . May our wonderful God continue to bless each one of you. Sorry I can't write more now. God has done wonderful things. Praise the precious name of the Lord! How great He is.

Announcements

DOVER, OH
Nov. 28-Dec. 9

REVIVAL: Wooster Highway Church of God, Rt. 2, Dover, OH
Evangelist: Bro. Ira Amburgey, Dayton, OH. Service time: 7 p.m.
For information contact Pastor John L. Vaughn, 1104 Walnut St., Dover, OH 44622

BANNAWAG, Kabacan,
N. COT., P.I.
Dec. 19-23

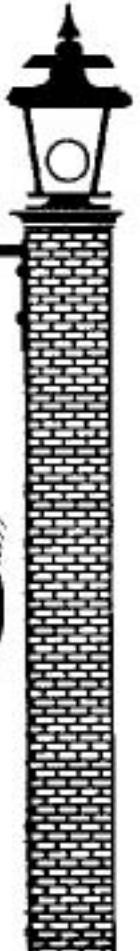
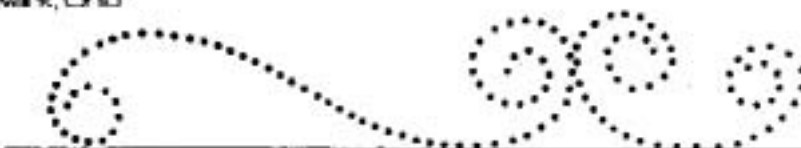
HOLINESS CAMP MEETING, Bannawag, Kabacan, N. Cot., Philippine Islands
Three services daily: 8 a.m., 2 p.m., & 8 p.m.
For information contact Pastor D.B. Luzan, Jr., Church of God, Bannawag,
Kabacan, N. Cot., Philippine Islands.



ARE YOU PLANNING TO MOVE? If so, please fill out the REQUEST OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM that is on the backside of this *Trumpeter*. We need to know both your OLD and NEW addresses. The return cost of every undelivered issue is now 25 cents. Your assisting us in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

God's Acres

St. Rt. 79 N.E. Newark, Ohio



CAMP MEETING

December 26-30

Holy Ghost Preaching - Fellowship With The Saints
Prayer For The Sick - Inspirational Singing

HEATED DORMITORIES - DINING HALL - BOOK STORE

Meals reasonably priced - Lodging free will offering basis

THREE SERVICES DAILY
10 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.
7 P.M.

FIRST SERVICE 7 P.M.
Wednesday

Send your reservations to: DAVID L. BUSH, 10345 Baker Rd. NE, St. Louisville, Ohio 43071

NAME _____ ARRIVAL DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

No. of persons in family _____ No. of rooms needed _____ No. of beds in each room _____

No. for women's dorm _____ No. for men's dorm _____ (Bring your own bedding, if possible.)