

The

January-February 1978

# Apostolic

# Faith

# Report

Vol. 25 — No. 1 & 2



Sawtooth Mountains, Idaho, American Horizons

## EDITORIAL

### Watch Out For the "Dirty Devil and His Devious 'D's' "

Of one thing you can be assured and that's "The devil is out to get you!" I Peter 5:8 warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

The other night when I couldn't sleep and I was mulling many things over in my mind, I began to ponder the devious devices and tactics of the devil and I was amazed at how many of them start with the letter 'D'. It seems his best and most successfully used tools against us are: **doubts, dread, disappointment, discouragement, deceit, disease, despair, distress, disaster, divorce, disgrace and death.** That's his "dirty dozen" and there are more. He takes the attributes of Christianity of which are belief, trust, loyalty, and honesty and adds his "devious D's" to them and steals them for his tools against us. How many have fallen through **disbelief, distrust, disloyalty, dishonesty** and even **disagreements** and **disenchantments**. Look them over. Has he ever used them against you? Everyday he uses them over and over to **destroy** all he can. His **delusions** are many and varied and he uses them time and time again.

Those that participate in any kind of sport contest will tell you that to underestimate your opponent can easily be your greatest weakness even while you feel very strong. Don't be fooled. The devil is smart and very powerful and we cannot fight him in our own strength. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." We are admonished in Ephesians to be "strong in the Lord and the power of His might." Praise God there's one big 'D' that God grants us that spells **defeat** for the devil. And that is **deliverance** through Jesus Christ alone. Satan was **defeated** at Calvary. He cannot conquer the shed blood of our Saviour. At the name of Jesus the devil has to flee. "Resist the devil and he shall flee from you." He has our **defeat** and **destruction** as his goal, but his ultimate **defeat** and **destruction** are inevitable in the lake of fire God has prepared for the devil and his followers. Praise God!

The devil also likes to make things seem so **dark** and foreboding. He likes to keep us in **darkness** so the light of God can't shine through to us. But the darker the night the brighter the light will shine. And there is no darkness that the 'Light of the World,' Jesus Christ, can't penetrate.

When all else fails for the enemy of our souls then he drags out his tool of "last resort"—**delay**. If he can't get at you through all the others he'll approach you through yet another angle. He'll say, it's alright to follow the Lord and obey His commandments, but what's the hurry? Why do it now? Let's put it off till a more convenient time. There's too many things pressing for your attention now. Tomorrow will be better. Just **delay** a little longer. But he doesn't tell you that every day that you **delay** makes it harder to obey. He doesn't tell you that tomorrow may well be too late, for today is all that we're promised.

We don't know what the year 1978 holds for any of us. But we can be assured that our **strong defense** is Jesus. The **Dirty Devil** and his **Devious 'D's'** have all been **defeated** if we submit ourselves to God. Be aware of the devil's cunning **devices**; make them of no effect through the **deliverance** purchased for us at Calvary. Remember if the devil is after you **he hasn't got you yet.**

nb

January-February 1978

## Parham Memorabilia

The books, pictures, letters, tracts, etc., of the Charles F. Parham Family that have been donated to the Movement by Esther Rardin's family and Lula Parham are now on display in the display cases at the AFBC Chapel. Be sure and take time to enjoy it when you visit the Bible College. Our special thanks to the Rardins for making it available to us.

## NOTICE!

It has been almost seven years since I became Editor of the Report. They have been rewarding years and I thank God for the privilege of getting better acquainted with the readers of the paper. God has proven himself to us over and over again in the way He has supplied our every need. Thank you for permitting me into your homes each month via the Report.

Now that our children are all through high school and away from home, I feel that it would be God's will for me to travel with my husband in Evangelistic work. So, I have resigned as Editor effective March 1, 1978. Next month's issue will be my last in that capacity. My prayers and concern for the paper will continue. I feel the written word is the most powerful and long lasting tool we have for spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I sincerely send my best wishes and prayers to the Editor who will follow. May God's very best be with the ministry of the Report.

I want to thank everyone for their help and kindnesses through the past years. My special thanks to those who helped in the actual labor of putting out the paper. There are so many I could not name them all. The staff at the Citizen Publishing Company here in Baxter Springs that print the paper for us have been so helpful and kind. They have done an excellent job and I am grateful to them.

Yours in His Service,  
Naomi Busch, Editor

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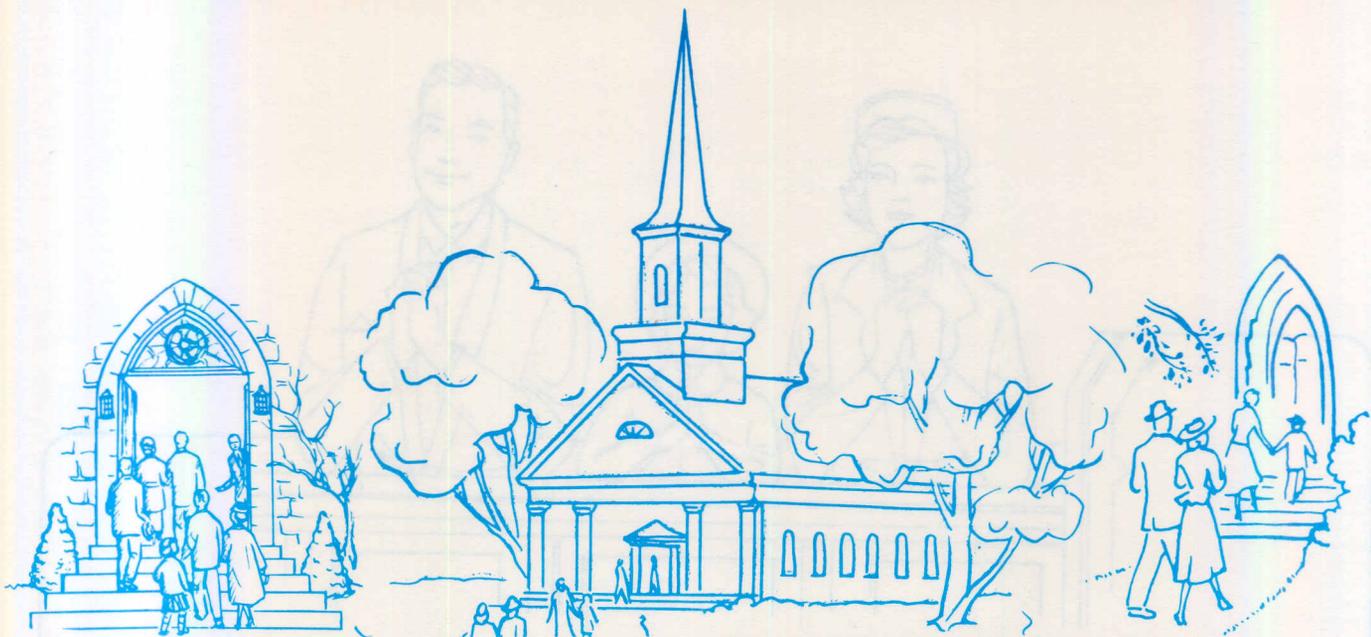
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## HOW TO MAKE A CHURCH PROSPER

There is a sure way of prosperity. It has never failed and never can. The following rules observed by all the members of any Church will insure good days. If the Church is decaying, the decay will soon be arrested. If it is standing still, it will soon begin to grow. If it is already flourishing, it will grow still more rapidly.

1. *Attend all services regularly.* If possible, be in time; you need at least five minutes after coming in to get a seat, and to compose body and mind for the service.
2. *Never miss a service needlessly.* If you have visitors, invite them to go with you; they will respect you more as a Christian if you are faithful to your duty.
3. *If it rains or snows, or is foggy, make a special effort to go.* Our Churches stand much in need of storm-proof religion.
4. *Take part in the service.* You go to worship, not to be entertained.
5. *Be devout in your attitude;* all talking and even whispering should be studiously avoided. Find the hymn and sing if you can; and share the book with your neighbour.
6. *Speak to strangers and invite them to come again.* A hearty hand-shake will add much weight to the invitation.
7. *Be friendly to all.* Remember, hand-shaking has not gone out of fashion. A hearty Christian greeting means much by way of cheer, comfort, and encouragement.
8. *Accept gladly any work assigned you.* If pastor, or someone else, is struggling under a load, take hold and help. At least, do not increase the burden.
9. *Never encourage strife, but be a peace-maker.* Peace-makers, you know, are called "the children of God."
10. *Avoid gossip as you would an enemy;* it is one of Satan's best agents for starting Church troubles.
11. *Give cheerfully, according to your ability.* The Lord has dealt bountifully with you, hence you should be liberal with His cause.
12. *Think of the services through the week,* speak of them to others, and pray that they may be attended with divine blessing.
13. *Pray for the sick and the poor.* Help the Lord to answer your prayers.
14. *Pray for the pastor.* His usefulness will be greatly increased by the daily prayers of all the people.
15. *Pray for some unsaved soul daily.*
16. *Pray, pray, pray!* Keep on praying. No Christian should be behind in his prayer accounts.
17. *It is a great deal braver to try to do something to better the condition of things than to stand and criticise.* If you mean to help along, don't get in front and block the way. Get behind and push. You will then see how little you feel like finding fault with the burden-bearers after you have shouldered your part of the load.—(Galatians 6 : 2.)

from The Pattern



## Convocation — December 1977

Psalms 107:8

Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.

That is exactly the reason we send a report of the 1977 Convocation which was held in Taneyville, Missouri, December 27, 1977-January 1, 1978; just to Praise the Lord for again "filling the tabernacle with the glory of His presence", and pouring out His spirit upon all who gathered. Every day during Convocation, the words of this chorus kept going through my mind as I witnessed and felt the power and glory of God; "WE have come into this place, and gathered in His name, to Worship Him;" "So forget about yourself, and concentrate on Him, and Worship Him". Hallelujah! for power we've never known or felt before, and for the privilege to be living in this age before Christ returns to know for sure what Christ meant when He told His disciples, "Greater works than these shall ye do".

All hearts were stirred under the anointed ministry of Reverend G.K. Rees, Webb City, Missouri, on the "Gifts of the Spirit" given each morning, and the instruction on "Marriage and Family Living," given by Reverend Dean Royce, Anderson, Missouri, in the afternoons. Sis. Ruby Rees and Sis. Joyce Royce assisted their husbands in ministry as the Spirit led and anointed. Reverend Paul Wilkerson and Reverend Edwin Waterbury gave lessons on the Ministry of Prayer which challenged our hearts towards a more productive prayer life. Other daytime ministers were: Reverend Harold Lange, Gause, Texas; Reverend Dwight Wilson, Ava, Missouri; Reverend Randy Dalton, McClurg, Missouri; Reverend Jimmy Russell, Dumas, Texas; and Reverend Frank Arnall, Katy, Texas.

The days climaxed with evening services which were extraordinary. Choir was the best ever with the accompaniment of Glowanda Quesenbury, Tammy Oakes, Belva Pennington, Rhonda Reese, with Dale and John Crouch on guitars. The messages were anointed and the glory of God fell on men of God as they brought the Word: Reverend Floyd Roberts, Bradleyville, Missouri; Reverend Bill

Sparks, Gause, Texas; Reverend Earl Blansit, Ozark, Missouri; and Reverend Don Russell, Pharr, Texas.

Everyone who came contributed to the services, and we all learned to be "Led by the Spirit". Special music was given by the McDonald Sisters, Alvin, Texas; 1977 AFBC Students, Glowanda Quesenbury and Carolyn Gum, Guymon, Oklahoma, Reverend Marlon Sparks; Reverend Barry Methvin; Shannon Clay, Bentonville, Arkansas, plus our own Taneyville Young People, and many more who came into the services.

Each morning Children's church was conducted by Shannon Clay, and evening Youth Services were led by Reverend Marlon Sparks and Shari Cook.

The congregation at every service was made up largely of young people, most of whom had attended the 1977 term of Bible College at Baxter Springs, Kansas. It was a thrill to see them moving on in the Lord and grasping hold of truths. Changes were made in lives; attitudes, feelings made right, confessions given! It was all very glorious! It would be easy to list each person and tell what God did for them individually; however, all these young people left Convocation to enter ministries of their own and we that were here know that God is going to use them and their lives are going to touch and reach out to every church who welcomes them; then you, too, will witness the changes and sense the power of God in their lives.

If you weren't at Convocation, we missed you, and you missed something wonderful, but most of all we pray that in every city, in every church, in every pastor and minister, in every home, this same renewing of Spirit, Soul, and Body which we felt in Taneyville during Convocation will be spread and continue to be felt in our lives "till Jesus Comes".

Psalms 107:9

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

Reverend and Mrs. Winston Barker, Pastors  
Shari Cook, Reporter

# Convocation Testimonies

By Glowanda Quesenbury  
Hardesty, Oklahoma

by Bobby Walker, Amarillo, Tex.  
1977 AFBC Student

Praise the Lord. God is still pouring out His Spirit upon His people. Convocation proved that to be so. The Lord's presence was so near in every service and the manifestation of the Spirit was given as stated in I Cor. 12.

I went to Convocation desiring a much needed improvement in my life, but I had no idea He would touch me as He did. As I observed new Christians who were so happy in the Lord, I realized I had lost that joy. I found this scripture, which was my prayer:

"Create in me a clean heart, Oh, God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit." Ps. 51:10-12.

People from several different denominations gathered together in Taneyville, and the Lord blessed in a miraculous way. I was ashamed of myself as I saw Baptists worshipping the Lord freely. I did not have that liberty. I was so afraid to let God move because I didn't want people to think I was only caught up in emotion. But praise the Lord. He is gradually setting me free from so many hang ups. The Lord chastened me, taught me new things, and gave me a love for His Word. Everyday I find glorious promises and it is so exciting!

I think I can speak for everyone who attended Convocation and say that God ministered to us through the wonderful messages, through the testimonies, through the anointed songs, and through the fellowship of God's family. There were changed expressions on each face as the services progressed and victories were won.

A group of us traveled back to the Panhandle of Oklahoma and Texas together and the Lord kept blessing. We were privileged to attend an Independent Church in Ozark, Missouri, where God allowed us to share our excitement and victory. One member of our group was marvelously filled with the Holy Spirit during that service. We were guests in the home of Bro. and Sis. Earl Blansit and we all were greatly enriched as he ministered to us.

I want to say "thanks" to Bro. Winston Barker and everyone who was responsible for the Convocation. May God bless this special man of God.

## Announcement

December 31, 1977 at the Apostolic Faith Convocation in Taneyville, Mo. was the place and time where Bro. Barry Methvin chose to be anointed and to make a new dedication of his life to the service of God, after acknowledging publicly his past errors and making restitution.

Bro. Don Russell read the charge of a minister from I Timothy then Bro. Barry took the vows of the ministry. He was anointed with oil and prayed over by Rev. Jimmy Russell, Dumas, Texas, Rev. Frank Arnall, Katy, Texas and Rev. Winston J. Barker of Taneyville, Mo; with all the congregation standing and praying for God's blessings over his ministry as he goes out into the field of labor in 1978.

Can a man be profitable unto God? That's a question that really burned into my heart at Convocation. Actually I didn't even want to go to Convocation, but I told a friend that I would go with them so that they wouldn't have to go alone. Little did I know that it would turn out to be one of the most important and inspiring experiences that I've ever had. I went thinking that I had a relationship with Jesus. Anybody could have asked me and I would have told them that Jesus loved me and that He was real and alive, but I'm here to tell you that there's much more to it than just saying the words. The Lord had me at Convocation for a purpose. He showed me things in my life that I hadn't completely surrendered to Him. He delivered me from the fear of worrying about what people thought about me. He put a love in my heart that's real. For the first time in my life I really know what it means to walk in the Spirit of God. I now understand what Paul meant by dying daily. When you completely surrender your life to God, and become sensitive to the Spirit so that He can rule and direct your life. Then and only then can you realize the peace, joy and love that God tells us about in His Word. "Praise the Lord".

When we left, I rode home with some friends. We were to spend the night at Bro. Earl Blansit's and go to church with him at the Oak Ridge Church. While on our way to his house I had a burning desire to share what God had given to me, but I just couldn't seem to understand how I was going to do it. Well, that night at the Oakridge Church God showed me how the mighty power of God works. We all had the privilege of testifying and while doing so the anointing of God fell like we had seen it do so many times at Convocation. After we had given our testimonies one of their young people stood and said that he had been dry and down for quite a while and that he could see that we had received something from God and he wanted it. Other young people followed him. I'll tell you we had revival in that church that night and the way the people yielded to God I'd say they're probably still having it. While I was praying with a young man that had just accepted Christ, I looked up and saw a dear close brother of mine that I had gone to Bible School with praying on the opposite side of the altar. Then I realized that we were no longer just receiving but we were also giving and that's the way a man can be profitable to God. Thank you, Jesus!

The brother and sisters in the Lord that I have the privilege of working with here in Dumas and I want to thank all the people that made the Convocation possible this year. God bless you.

## DEADLINE!!

Copy must be in by the 15th of the month to be in the next month's issue.

# News From AFBC

Dear Bible School Friends:

1978 has begun and with it comes the Christian's responsibilities to carry the gospel to all creatures. That doesn't mean just ministers . . . but each Christian is called to live for God in such a manner that his life reflects Christ's teachings. Christ said that if we lift Him up, He will draw men unto Himself. Therefore, each Christian is commanded by God to be a soul winner. Let that be our New Year's Resolution.

The blessings of God were great during the past year. Yet, we must not be satisfied with past attainments, but strive to perfect our lives in the Lord daily.

According to the vote of those present and those sending in their wishes, it was decided at the close of Bible school to prepare for a full nine months term of school. Just as in the past the curriculum will be Bible centered. It will give the students a chance to study more indepth courses of the Bible. And that is why we're here, to help people know God's word in all its fullness.

Some of the additional classes will be Paul's epistles, a study of the Major and Minor prophets, Daniel, Pastoral Problems and Counseling for the ministerial students, etc. We see a need of our young ministers being made aware of some problems they will face as they enter their new responsibility.

Pray with us that the faculty which God desires here for next year will be those chosen. We spend much time in prayer asking God to let only those come that He chooses. Put us on your daily prayer list and ask God to give us the wisdom and guidance needed for every step that is taken.

Again we wish to thank you for your marvelous support during last year's term of school. The bills were paid and I believe each faculty member received enough to keep their monthly bills paid. It takes a big load from the superintendent's shoulders if he doesn't have to worry about money being sufficient to meet the needs of the school and faculty. It couldn't have been done without each of you feeling and responding to that need. Please don't forget the general fund now that school is over as there are bills that continue. Also, in order to pay the loan payment on the Parham Book printing, \$725 was taken from the Bible School general fund which has depleted it completely.

The three Parham books are now available. ("Selected Sermons" is now in print and will be available later). "The Everlasting Gospel" and "A Voice Crying in the Wilderness" are \$2.00 each. "The Life of Charles Parham" is \$7.00. Please add .50 for postage and handling. The Board of Trustees borrowed the money for this printing which will have to be repaid each 6 months in the amount of \$1125 . . . beginning January 12. So, we encourage you to make it known among your friends about these books so enough will be sold to retire the loan. Consider giving them as gifts to those interested.

We hope to see each of you somewhere along the line during our spring tour. Travelling with us this year are April Wolf, Guymon, Oklahoma; Karen Oyler, Stockton, California; Tammy Oakes, Joplin, Missouri; Savoy Grimmer, Perryton, Texas; and Fred Arnall, Granby, Missouri.

Now may we ask you again that you keep us in your daily prayers because without God's direction and blessings, all will be in vain. We're only human but God gives the wisdom when we call on Him. The wonderful term He gave us last year in history. Now we're asking Him for a Repeat Performance and that is NOT impossible for with God . . . All Things ARE Possible.

In Christian love and service,  
Howard Whiteley  
Superintendent

We, the Faculty of The Apostolic Faith Bible College of 1977 wish to express our thanks and appreciation to those who have supported the Bible College with their prayers, finances, food and concern.

In His Service,

Howard and Yvonna Whiteley, Jerome and Peggy Crowhurst, Lyndel and Kathy Arnall, Jake and Demi Pletcher, Tom and Connie Day, Mollie Lewis, Vickie Bartel, Paula Buschman and Joan Cooper.

## Bible School Election Results

All three incumbent board members were returned to their positions in the election held in December . . . They are Bill Hollis, Lee Oakes, and Ward Stanberry.

Sis. Naomi Busch has resigned as editor of the Report. This is effective March 1st. The Board of Trustees voiced their thanks for her labors over the past years. Pray with us that the Lord will lead in the selection of a new editor.



**R**ecall your own Christian experience  
 Renew your promises to God  
 Resolve to do your best in His service.

**E**nter into worship regularly  
 Exert every effort to win someone to  
 Christ  
 Enlist him in God's service.

**V**isualize people's need for Christ  
 vow that you will do something about it.  
 voice your desire daily in prayer.

**I**nvite people to church  
 Impress upon them the importance  
 of Christ and His Church  
 Intensify your own efforts.

**V**iew the fields "white unto harvest"  
 Volunteer your services when needed  
 Visit in homes as much as possible

**A**spire to all that is good and holy  
 Attend all activities when possible  
 Allow yourself to be used by the Lord.

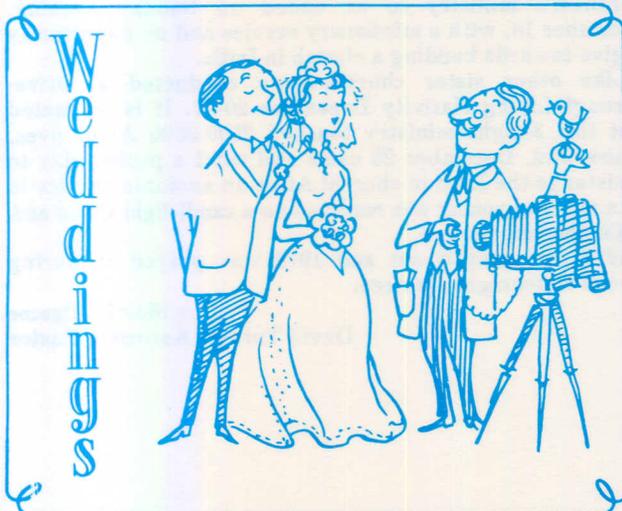
**L**ove people freely for they need love  
 Let the Holy Spirit guide you  
 Look on the world, needy and sinful.



Mr. and Mrs. Max Ollenberger and Jamie Ann of Olathe, Kansas announce the arrival of Keith Edward to their family November 21, 1977. He weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Messner, Logan, Oklahoma, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ollenberger, Enid, Oklahoma.

Keri Dawn Crosthwait came to bless the home of Kenneth W. and Sandra Crosthwait on November 14, 1977. She weighed 9 lbs, and was 21 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Lemons of Kerrville, formerly of Laverne, Oklahoma. Paternal grandmother is Mrs. Gladys Crosthwait of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Congratulations to David and Latonna Blonstein on the birth of their son, David Shad, born on December 30, 1977. He weighed 6 lbs. 8 ozs. and was 20 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Buddy and Doris Stanberry.



Cynthia Jolene Williamson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Williamson of Hereford, Texas, and Charles A. "Chuck" Wynne Jr., of Amarillo, Texas, were united in marriage on Friday, November 18, 1977, by Reverend Marcus Adair, in a beautiful home wedding of a friend in Hereford, Texas. The couple are at home at 1101-B, S. Hayden, Amarillo, Texas 79102.

Jo Christenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Christenson, of Shattuck, Oklahoma, and James Ray Routh, son of Mrs. Claude Routh Sr., of Des Arc, Arkansas, were united in marriage January 6, 1978 at 730 p.m. in the North Heights Pentecostal Church of God, Texarkana, Arkansas. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, assisted by her brother, Rick Christenson. James Ray is one of our most promising young ministers. Both he and Jo have attended our Bible College and they will be in full time ministry for the Lord. May God's blessings be with this fine young couple.



### Thank You

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Bro. Bill Hollis and the Kansas State Telephone Company for donating their fine big addressograph, stencil cutter and other related equipment to the Report. This will be a big help in mailing the paper. It will take some time to make the transition from the old one to the new as they use different sized stencils. We will have to make all new stencils for our mailing list. May God bless them for their generous gift.

Your Editor



### Greetings!

To our many friends that remembered us with such beautiful cards, cheerful letters and your kind thoughts and greetings to us. May God richly bless all of you and every reader of the Report. May we all pray for the messages to bless the multitudes that souls may be won to the Lord.

We both need healing and thank you for your prayers of Faith for us. We always enjoy hearing from any of you who would care to write us. We are, as always, in His service doing all we can, while we can, for the kingdom, and we pray your year of '78 will be the greatest for our Master and His kingdom.

Respectfully yours in Love and Prayer,  
 Homer and Pearl Coberly  
 1307 30th Street  
 Lubbock, Texas 79405



**Full Gospel Mission Church, Bellville, Texas**

We want to give thanks unto the Lord. He has been so wonderful to us. We do sincerely appreciate His many blessings.

We are grateful to the Lord for sending Bro. Leslie Hendrix to the church to be our pastor. He and his family have been a real blessing to the church. Bro. and Sis. Hendrix have two lovely daughters and a fine son.

We welcome anyone to stop in and worship with us at any time.

Bro. Leslie Hendrix, Pastor

**Joplin, Missouri**

We are glad to have our three young people from the church back home from Bible College. They are Tammy Oakes, Carla Nordberg and Donny Mullins. Also we're happy to have Dwight Wilson attending our church now. He is working in Joplin now that Bible School is over. Tammy will be traveling with the College Vibrations who will be on tour soon. Practice sessions for them are underway at the present in Baxter Springs.

Our Sunday School classes provided their parts in the annual Christmas Program. Many turned out to see and enjoy it. The Young People presented a play entitled "Christmas Comes to the Carry's" Everyone did an excellent job.

Our Pastors have just returned from taking their turn in staying with Bro. Neil's mother who has been very ill for so long. They report that she is doing so much better. She's at home in Boise City and is able to walk and get around so much better.

We are praying about a revival in the near future. We want God's will to be done in this very important effort of the church. Our prayer is that we may continue to dwell in the secret place of the Most High so that we can abide under the Shadow of the Almighty.

Neil Ragan, Pastor  
Carla Nordberg, Reporter

**Alvin, Texas**

Our warmest greeting to each believer in this new year of 1978. What a great time to be alive, and what a great year for our Lord to return for us! We have good news to share with each of you about the Lord's riches toward us. First, we would like to officially announce and welcome our new pastors, Ron and Brenda Martin, Erran and Coy to Alvin. The Martins joined our church family from Canyon, Texas early in the summer.

Secondly, we officially announce the expansion of our church staff with the mid-October arrival of our new Associate Pastors-David and Karen Turner and Amanda. The Turners are also recently from Canyon, Texas.

The Christmas month began in late November for our church family with a unanimous decision to proceed with final plans for construction of a 2-story educational wing to be adjacent to the present structure. Pray for this faith step. December 10 and 11 found us in the midst of a joyous Christian celebration with the Royal Heirs of Amarillo, Texas. What a tremendous blessing and ministry we received from these fine folks! God bless them.

December 12 through 16 was set aside for Valson and Laly Abraham's ministry. Valson spoke on "Finding Your Spiritual Gift" and "Church Growth." Then "Faith Projections through 1997" concluded the 5-day teaching. The Abraham's ministry to us ended on Sunday evening, December 18, with a missionary service and an opportunity to give towards building a church in India.

Like other sister churches we conducted a Drive-Through-Living Nativity December 20-22. It is estimated that this 3-night ministry touched 2500-3000 Alvin lives. Praise God. December 25 came and what a perfect day to minister to the Lord in church! After an anointed service in the a.m., the evening was reserved for a candlelight Come and Go Communion Service.

1977 was prayed out and 1978 was prayed in during special watchnight services.

Ron Martin, Pastor  
David Turner, Associate Pastor

**Hinton, Alabama**

Greetings from Dixieland, although the temperature outside doesn't feel much like the South. As we glance back over the year we can report victory in our church. We recently closed a revival with Bro. Billy Sparks in which we saw six souls saved and gained a new family in our church. God has certainly been good to us, because now we find ourselves in need of some more space. We are praying about the addition of a room to be used as a Sunday School room and a fellowship hall. We ask an interest in your prayers in behalf of this step by faith.

We welcome back Ken Carney, who has been at Bible College this past term. We are anxious to put him to work in the church. I see a real need for Gospel Workers today and I feel the first step toward training new ones is for the Pastors to use the ones they have in their home church. We extend an invitation for the fellowship of the Faith.

Myrtle Carney, Pastor

### **Granby, Missouri**

Our outdoor living nativity scene presented by our church on Thursday and Friday nights before Christmas was a great success as was our children's program on Sunday night, December 18. We also were privileged to take some fruit gifts to the rest home during the holidays. Some of our church family were privileged to attend the Convocation at Taneyville, Missouri. We're looking forward with great expectation to the new year and what the Lord has in store for us.

Edwin Waterbury, Pastor

### **Katy, Texas**

God was good to us, especially during the Christmas season. Our Young Adults did a fine job on presenting their living Nativity scene in front of the church on December 19, 20 and 21. Our Christmas program was on December 18. We enjoyed Valson and Laly Abraham's visit to our church the middle of December. May God bless these dedicated young people.

Jim Fox, Pastor

### **Guymon, Oklahoma**

We Praise God for the young men that followed our Lord in water baptism one Sunday evening in December. They were Scott Fowler, Jeff Fowler, John Latimer, Shane Lothman, Randy Morehead and Randy Johlman. Our Drive-Through-Nativity Scene on December 21-23 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. was a great success. The Lord really blessed in the Prayer and Praise Vigil. Fifty-six people were willing to give one hour to prayer for others and for needs of our church.

Edwin Modrick, Pastor

### **Anchorage, Alaska**

I had the joy, with Les Thornburg to minister in the nation of Poland for three weeks with our Christian brothers and sisters there. They have gripped our hearts so we ask you to share this burden in prayer with us.

The Lord in his wise providence sent to us Bill and Vicki Patterson and Clint, to bless our hearts with their ministry. They came to us in July and have now returned to Guymon, Oklahoma, to further the ministry there.

Harold and Wilburta Bollinger have left Crooked Creek, Alaska, and have blessed us with their rich fellowship. Ken and LaDonna Priest, and girls, continue to faithfully serve as the Lord directs in this work.

Paul, Joni, and Pam are living here in Alaska at present and we do enjoy them. John, Jeri and the girls (Jeni and Jessi) live in Fuita, Colorado. It was our joy to visit with them in November. Jeff and John are busy in school and the many activities afforded them.

J.D. and Eula Ray, Pastors

### **Arnett, Oklahoma**

As we begin another year for the Lord, we are rejoicing for opportunities He is allowing us to have to do His work. God has been so good to us these past few months and we thank Him for what He has done. Yet when we get a little glimpse of what He will do for us in the days ahead, we are made aware afresh and anew that God surely loves His children. Isn't it wonderful that there is always a report of victory when we begin to think on and discuss the work of God. There may have been tests, but praise His name, the Lord continues to be the sustaining force that fills our hearts. The miracle working Father is still on His throne ruling and reigning over our lives. We and the good people with whom we labor say to all who may read this paper, Come worship with us.

Ollie L. Kinser, Pastor

### **Houston, Texas**

Greetings! God is so good to us, everyday ought to be a wonderful one, for God has made it, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary November 19. We are grateful, for not everyone is able to reach that milestone. Some are taken by death and in this day there are so many divorces. But thank God our love for one another and God's keeping grace have been sufficient. Praise the Lord!

We are looking forward to having Bro. Harrol Waterbury with us for a revival in our church, Recreation Acres Full Gospel Church.

In Christian Love,  
Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Eiland

### **Logan, Oklahoma**

Greetings from Midway Country Church. We like David in Psalms 126:2 feels, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Bro. and Sis. Bob Taylor came as our pastors in July and have been very busy ministering to the needs of our congregation and community both spiritually and materially. The church building has been redecorated and looks so nice. Bro. Bob has given the Word of God in depth and the church is growing spiritually. We had a communion and feet washing service and felt God's presence with victories reported from individuals.

Lessons in the midweek services on "The Holy Spirit" are now in progress. We are praying for a real hunger to rest over us that we may see an outpouring of the true Spirit of God upon the church.

December 4, the church helped the family and friends of Mrs. Minnie Jett celebrate her 80th birthday. Her Christian life has been one of dedication and service to her community. She worked at the Newman Memorial Hospital and has witnessed to many of the healing power of Christ. We wish her many more years of health and happiness.

We are looking forward to great things in the New Year. It is so thrilling to see prophecy fulfilled and know that Jesus is coming soon.

Bob Taylor, Pastor  
Pauline Messner, Reporter



Fern Polvado

#### Obituary of Mrs. Fern Polvado

Mrs. Fern (Hunt) Polvado, daughter of A.R.J. and Jessie Dibbens, was born October 6, 1902 near Cheney, Kansas, in Kingman County and departed this life December 23, 1977 at the Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital in Kerrville, Texas.

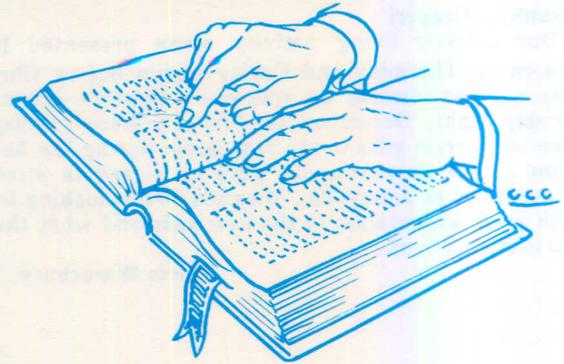
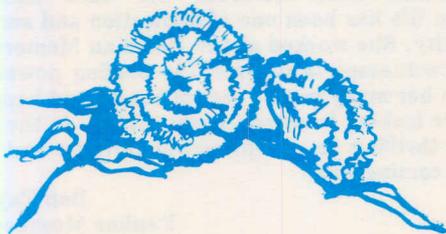
At an early age, she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and served Him faithfully through the years. Her deep alto voice will be remembered by many who heard her in Camp Meetings and Convocations of the Apostolic Faith Movement. Others will remember her singing specials with her mother, the late Jessie C. Dibbens, and her brother, Reverend Donald D. Dibbens, in singings, revivals, and services of the churches of the Apostolic Faith Movement.

The past thirty years she was a resident of Vanderpool, Texas and was very active in the community activities, especially in the church and singing for funerals in the Vanderpool and Utopia communities. She was always mindful of others.

Leaving to mourn her passing is her husband, Simon A. Polvado, of the home; one son, J. D. Hunt of Los Angeles, California; one sister, Mrs. Velma Neff of Vanderpool, Texas; three brothers, Clyde Dibbens of Garden City, Kansas, Preston Dibbens of Cheney, Kansas, and Reverend Donald D. Dibbens of Vanderpool, Texas; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She also left numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

The funeral was conducted in an open air service at the grave site in the Vanderpool Cemetery under the direction of Reverend Jake Pletcher of Barksdale, Texas, assisted by Reverend George Polvado of Vanderpool, Texas, and Reverend Olen Bachler of Katy, Texas. Special music was supplied by Mrs. Phyllis Bachler, Miss Karen Pletcher, and Reverend Donald D. Dibbens.

She will be missed but we lay her to rest in the beautiful Hill Country of South Central Texas for the short rest awaiting the first resurrection to call her to her heavenly home. So we sorrow not as those who have no hope but we await our call and press on toward the better inheritance when we'll be united with Him—Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.



#### Obituary of Arvel G. Kidd

Arvel Galdsy Kidd was born April 22, 1900 in McDonald County. At the age of 21, he gave his heart to the Lord. Soon after, he began working in Evangelistic work, traveling with Evangelists Albert and Floyd Durham. He continued with this ministry until his marriage to Lola Eurit on June 30, 1935. To this union was born two daughters. Arvel was a fine Christian husband and father and always put Christ first in his life and home. He was a faithful member of the Union Chapel Church.

He lived in the Anderson area most of his lifetime. He was a farmer and raised cattle for a living. He went home to be with the Lord on December 16, 1977 at his home in Anderson, Missouri, at the age of 77 years, 7 months, and 24 days.

He is survived by his wife, Lola of the home; two daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Beaver, Kansas City, and Mrs. Norma Sumlee, Anderson; one sister, Miss Laura Kidd, Anderson; three grandchildren, David and Dana Beaver, and Mark Sumlee; and one nephew, Leon Sluder, Quenemo, Kansas.

#### Obituary of George Goodwin, Sr.

George Allen Goodwin Sr., 44, Alvin, Texas, passed away Tuesday, November 8, 1977, in a Texas City, Hospital.

He was a lifetime resident of Alvin, a veteran of the Korean conflict and was employed at J and J Constructors and Fabricators of Alvin. He was a member of the Apostolic Faith Church.

Services were held Thursday, November 10, 1977 at the Apostolic Faith Church with the Reverend Ronnie Martin officiating. Interment was in the Confederate Cemetery of Alvin under the direction of Froberg Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Curtis Phipps, Robert Vilerio, Billy Smith, Garland Gilbert, Tony Vasquez and Jack Jones. Honorary pallbearers were Whitt Smith, Joe Farrow, Paul Tuttle, Roy Brown and Dale Dunn.

Survivors include his wife, Pauline Goodwin, of the home; a son, George Allen Goodwin Jr., Alvin; two daughters, Pamela Shafer and Georgianna Lemaster, both of Alvin; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Goodwin, Alvin; a sister, Mrs. Juanice Wingard, Alvin; two brothers, Buddy Goodwin and Al Goodwin, both of Alvin; two grandsons, Michiel Lemaster and Richard Shafer, both of Alvin; also a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.



## Sing Us One Of The Songs Of Zion

Ollie L. Kinser

A few weeks ago I and several others of my family were entered into a discussion of some of the conditions that we now contend with as we work for the Lord. The question was asked, "Why don't the people in charge of church services have more choir singing, more special songs, and more testimony services like we used to have?" I suppose this question has been asked recently as much if not more than any other. Some laymen say it is the fault of the ministry. Some ministers will say it is the fault of the laymen who are unwilling to participate in the services as they once did. Others may excuse this condition with, "it is the sign of the times." Whatever the reason or excuse, I have become more concerned with the great need that rests upon all of God's people to renew their consecration and faith with a determination to give our very best in the service and worship of our Lord and Savior.

The Psalmist writes of a condition that came among the Israelites. "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" Psalms 137:1,2,4 God's people came to a time of saying, "What's the need of being excited about what God has done for us and what He will do for us?" They were sitting down crying because things had become different than they used to be. Their harps were hanging on the willows and they were saying "we can't go on rejoicing in the work of the Lord because times have changed. It is not the same as it used to be." Their only other thought was how happy they would be when God would bring a terrible judgment upon the people of Babylon. Psalms 137:8-9. As a matter of fact it seems they couldn't hear the cry of the Babylonians, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" Psalms 137:3. Lamentations of Jeremiah 5:14-16 records that the "elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their music. The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning. The crown is fallen from our head." This entire chapter seems to be a pitiful complaint of the conditions of Zion. Joel 1:8-12 calls for a time of lamenting because the conditions all around seemed to be bleak and desolate. Even the joy had withered away from their hearts. As I have read these words over again, it seemed I was reading what we are hearing from those who have taken the name of the Lord. The conditions and problems of this old world are so disheartening that there seems to be no room for joy in the hearts of men. Those who possess the harps seem to be sitting down and weeping. "How can we take our harps off the willows and sing the songs of Zion when things are not like they used to be and nobody cares anyway? All the

while a sin laden world is crying out, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

Of course, we may sometimes attempt to "comfort" ourselves with the thought that "the day of the Lord will not come except there come a falling away first." Yet, that kind of consoling will simply bring us to becoming a part of the falling away.

As a minister, I can recall incidents when members of the congregation absolutely refused to take part in the service when called upon. To wit, a church board member who would not lead a testimony service. However, we must also remember the times that ministers have been called upon and they also refused to do their part to declare God's word and promote an atmosphere of worship unto the Lord. With this in mind, it seems that the Lord's church is suffering defeat. As one man put it, "The way things are going now, it looks like heaven may be for rent." Oh that God would prompt us again to look into His word and His will to see what He has determined to do.

Paul writes to the Ephesians (5:25-27) that "Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Hallelujah! The church of the living God is not defeated! It is not becoming less spiritual! It is not falling away! But the true church is alive and glorious and filled with the Spirit of Christ. God's people are unspotted from the world. James 1:27 We may hear it said that the church just isn't doing what it should be doing, but Daniel 11:32 records that people that surely know their God are "strong and doing exploits." Praise God's holy name! I pray that we will retain a vision of Christ's church as He described it. For He said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18 Christ's admonition to us is to take the keys of the kingdom that will set the captive free and bind the forces of sin and satan, that we may be more than conquerors through Him that loved us. I am so glad in my heart today to know that defeat will not come to the church. Surely, some who have known the Lord will turn back, but God's people are going to finish this age in power and victory. The message rings out again and again that God through the Spirit will manifest Himself to give good and perfect gifts to them that love His appearing. The Psalmist again declares that the church "shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalms 1:3 The prosperity of the church is certain. Even though men may not testify as they once did, or sing as they once did, and even though we may hear it said that "things are not like they used to be", we can be sure that God's people will be triumphant. The song writer's words ring out:

This old ship's been through some battles before,  
Storms and tempests and rocks on the shore,  
Though the hull may be battered, inside it's safe and dry,  
It will carry its cargo to the port in the sky.  
Let the church be the church, let the people rejoice,  
For we've settled the question and we've made our choice;  
Let the anthem ring out, songs of victory swell,  
For the church triumphant is alive and well!

William J. Gaither  
Praise God!! WE ARE ALIVE AND WELL!

# EVANGELISTS — DO WE REALLY NEED THEM?

By JERRY NOBLE

*"And He gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."*

(Ephesians 4:11)

Christ gave evangelists! He gave them to the whole body of Christ, the Church. Evangelists are exactly as much in the plan of God as are apostles, prophets, pastors, and teachers. It is my firm belief that the Church can never do without evangelists. Evangelists are intended to edify and build up the body of Christ, to prepare the saints for service.

There are those voices being heard today which are saying that "times have changed". "People are different." "The Church must up-date." "Revivals are no longer effective." "The role of the evangelist is fading."

Those who may possess such opinions, (and I don't believe there are many) should possibly answer some pertinent questions. Such as:

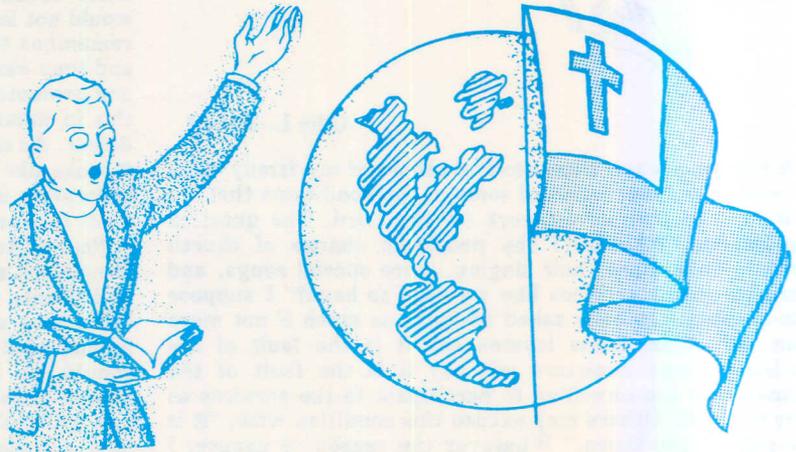
Is there still a need for conversion?

Do churches still need spiritual refreshing?

Does God still call men to "evangelize"?

It is regretful that individuals who are imperfect, bring reproach upon a whole class of men and women whom God himself has called, and has given to the Church to help carry out His holy task.

It is true that some preachers fall into gross sins. It is true enough that some preachers are too much concerned about their bank accounts. But on the whole, the average evangelist, who believes the Bible, has been really born again and called of God to preach, is a godly man, unselfish, devoted and sincere.



from Vision

In my years in the ministry I have had the privilege of knowing a number of evangelists. I have known only a few whom I did not think were sincere and genuine. I have heard them say, "I have a burden to evangelize. God has called me to this particular ministry and I want to fulfill that calling which He has placed upon me." These were men of good report and full of the Holy Ghost.

The true evangelist has a real burden for souls. He is not seeking an "appointment". He is not in competition with the pastor for the spotlight, but is a loyal team member with the pastor. Both are on the side of righteousness fighting against Satan. Both should be working together to build up the Kingdom of God. One is not, in any way, threatened by the other for they are brethren.

How we still need, and will always need, a fresh crop of old-time Bible preaching, Spirit-filled, soul-winning evangelists! Consider Paul, the evangelist. With a powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit upon

him, he went out to ransack Asia minor, mauling its markets, stirring its synagogues, penetrating its palaces. Out he went with the war cry of the Gospel in his heart and on his lips. Paul was not merely a city-wide preacher, but a city-wide shaker. He stood before Agrippa, with an awareness that the pallbearers were not far away, and "turns on the heat" until the immoral King stammers, "Thou almost persuaded me to be a Christian."

The pastor has a varied ministry. He ministers by counseling, visiting the sick, etc., but the evangelist realizes he must win souls or his ministry is a failure. He must have a "hot heart" burning with a passion for souls.

The real evangelist stands with a host of great and mighty warriors of the faith.

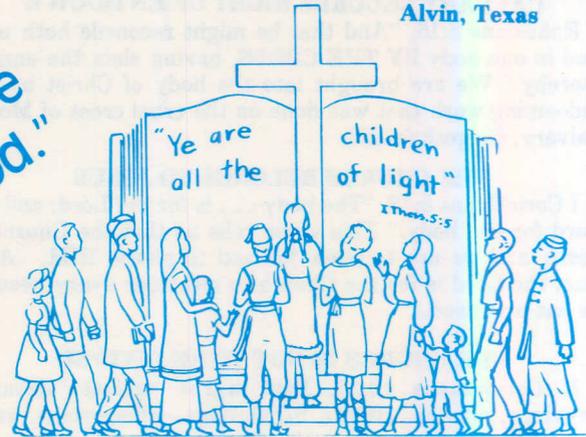
There is no doubt about it. The Bible declares it. The need is evident. The evangelist remains a vitally needed part of the Church of God in our time.

# The Family of God

By David Turner  
Alvin, Texas



"Salvation is  
entrance to the  
Family of God."



Often, we sing that familiar song, "The Family of God" without really stopping to realize what the Family of God actually is. When a person mentions the word "church" to you, do you instantly receive a mental picture of a building with red brick walls and a sparkling, white steeple? Just who is the Family of God? This paper, hopefully, will serve two purposes: (1) To give you a strong, scriptural outline concerning the Family of God, the Church of Jesus Christ and the Body of Christ; and (2) to clearly define the above mentioned to your satisfaction.

## THE BASIS FOR THE CHURCH

Ephesians 5:25, "Even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" This is the stepping stone, the building block and main foundation for the establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ. Jesus loved mankind so much that he gave his own life for it on Calvary.

## THE CHURCH DEFINED

Acts 2:47b, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." This wonderful verse does two things: (1) it tells us how a person can gain entrance into the Church—through salvation by Jesus Christ; and (2) defines those that comprise the Church—people that have accepted HIM as their Lord and Savior. If, then, you are a Christian (if you have accepted the forgiveness of sins brought about only by the shedding of Christ's blood) you are also a member of the company we call "the Church".

Entrance into the Church of Jesus Christ is gained by SALVATION and by no other means. Entrance is not gained by being voted-in, walking to the front of the sanctuary, shaking hands with the pastor and the elders and then writing your name in the church roll book. Church membership is not gained by denominational means. It should be pointed out, however, that there is absolutely nothing wrong about this type of action. But, to say that this ensures you membership in God's Eternal Family would certainly be erroneous. LET US NOT BE SO CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING OUR NAMES WRITTEN IN OUR PARTICU-

CHURCH BOOK, BUT LET US MAKE SURE THAT OUR NAMES ARE ASSUREDLY INSCRIBED WITHIN THE PAGES OF THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE.

## THE CHURCH REQUIRES FEEDING

Acts 20:28, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." For anybody, whether natural bodies or a structural-type body, nourishment needs to take place in order for it to survive and prosper. The elders of the Church were instructed to feed spiritual food unto the whole Church. This also included themselves. We require spiritual food in order to grow in the spiritual realm.

## THE WORD OF GOD IS IMPORTANT TO GROWTH

Acts 6:7, "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem." Though not thoroughly conclusive, it can be safely assumed that the membership and effectiveness of the Church will grow in proportion to the amount of the word of God that is going forth. This only makes sense. This should be coupled with persistent, intercessional prayer.

## THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS IMPERATIVE TO CHURCH INCREASE

Acts 11:21, "And the hand of the Lord was with them; and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." The Family of God can never be increased nor genuinely generated by any other means other than the prevailing hand of God touching it. Denominations can increase their membership by all sorts of methods, but this in no way ensures that the Church has gained new members as that is only gained through SALVATION BY JESUS CHRIST AND THE ACCEPTANCE THEREOF.

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS FOR EVERYBODY

Acts 5:14, "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." Gaining entrance into the Family of God is not limited to just one

sex. Whether you are boy or girl, man or woman, the Savior is patiently waiting for you to accept HIM and enter into His company of believers. There is no limitations with God.

#### **CALVARY SECURES RIGHT OF ENTRANCE**

Ephesians 2:16, "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body BY THE CROSS, having slain the enmity thereby." We are brought into the body of Christ by the redeeming work that was done on the cruel cross of Mount Calvary, Golgotha's Hill.

#### **THE CHURCH BELONGS TO JESUS**

I Corinthians 6:13, "The body . . . is for the Lord; and the Lord for the body." This verse tells us that the Church is Jesus' and we are to work for and to please HIM. And, also, the Lord is for the Church to meet our every need as he has promised.

#### **THE CHURCH IS NOT TO BE DIVIDED**

II Corinthians 12:20, Paul warns against "debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings and tumults" within the Church. The Lord does not want the members of HIS CHURCH to be entangled by warring with one another. The Church should be one as God so designed and planned.

REMEMBER: The "CHURCH" is not necessarily the structure in which Christians meet, but it is the Christians themselves. You and I as Christians (born-again) comprise the Church. When the word "church" is mentioned, one should dwell on a group of people and not a building.

#### **CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH OR BODY**

Ephesians 1:22-23, "And hath put all things under His (Christ's) feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." ANOTHER NAME FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS HIS BODY.

The head is the central part of any body. It is from the head that the remainder of the body receives its directions and thoughts. The head is the main part of the body. Jesus, our Head, gives unto us the direction and thought that we deem necessary for living and prospering as part of His Church. He should always be held in esteem over any and every part of the Body. He is Lord. Jesus should never be allowed to take a back seat to our whims and desires, building programs, attendance drives, parties for church members, sales, fellowships or anything else connected with the modern-day church. Christ is the Head. He should always be the central figure in the life of the Church. Revelation depictus HIM as standing in the middle of the seven golden candlesticks. These candlesticks, as we are later told in the book, are the seven churches. CHRIST SHOULD ALWAYS BE IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR PLANS AND OUR LIFE. Also see Ephesians 4:15 and 5:2. We should always be subject unto Jesus.

Ephesians 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body." The Bible compares our relationship to the Head of the Body, Jesus, as much as the same as the standards it sets forth concerning a wife's duties and relationship to her husband. In fact, later on in the text of the Word of God, the Church, or the Body, is referred to as the Bride.

#### **CHRIST IS TO BE PREEMINENT IN THE CHURCH**

Colossians 1:18, "And he is the head of the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." Because of his exalted position in the Body, we should always bestow upon Jesus the highest place of glory and honour. If we are faithful to perform this in our own lives, then the probability is that it will be found this way in our mode of worship and church services.

#### **THE CHURCH OR BODY IS HELD TOGETHER BY JESUS**

Colossians 2:19, ". . . The head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God." It is only through our highly exalted HEAD (JESUS) that the whole Church is held together, knit together as ONE, and fed both spiritually, physically and mentally. All things come from the Head to the Body.

#### **CHURCH COMPARED UNTO THE HUMAN BODY**

Please read Romans 12:4-8.

—There are members of the human body and Christ's Body, the Church.

—All members of both these types of bodies do not do the same jobs.

—We (anyone that is a born-again Christian) are all one Body in Christ.

THIS REALLY DOES AWAY WITH DIVIDED, DENOMINATIONAL-TYPE ORIENTED THINKING, DOESN'T IT?

—We are members of each other. No one person can be said to be self-contained or doesn't need the fellowship of other earnest Christians of the Body. This gives us the unity that we experience in Christ.

—We all have different jobs, gifts, talents and duties to perform for the furthering of the work of the Body of Christ.

THERE ARE MANY, MANY, MANY MEMBERS THAT MAKE UP THE WHOLE BODY OF CHRIST, AND THEY ARE FOUND IN VARIOUS LANDS, NATIONS, TONGUES, COLORS OF SKIN, AND DIFFERENT CHURCHES. WE ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON THOUGH, WE ARE ALL FOUNDED UPON OUR "HEAD"—JESUS CHRIST. Also read the remainder of this chapter (Romans 12:9-21) for additional duties and standards of living for the Body Members.

#### **SALVATION IS ENTRANCE INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD**

John 1:12, "But as many as received him (Jesus), to them gave he power to become the sons of God." You and I are granted a power to become literal sons (and daughters) of the Living God. When God becomes our Father as we accept his Son, we become a "child of God".

Romans 8:15, "But ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Spiritual adoption is ours as we receive his Son. The Lord adopts us and this gives us right to call him our Father. Instantly, we are transformed from children of the Devil (I John 3:10) unto the Children of God. From Death unto Life, from darkness unto Light. Transferred to the very Family of God.

### **BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

I Corinthians 6:18, "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Galatians 4:5-6, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

By Christ we can no longer claim to be only a servant but we are made as a son and daughter and an heir to the throne of the Almighty God the Father. Oh, the Family of God. We all are part of this great eternal family. That is why we can rightly call one another, "Brothers and Sisters." We become brothers and sisters through Jesus who first loved us and gave Himself for us.

### **CHRIST OUR ELDER BROTHER**

Hebrews 2:11, "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." Jesus becomes our **ELDER BROTHER AS YOU AND I ENTER THE FAMILY OF GOD, THE CHURCH OF JESUS AND CHRIST AND/OR THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

### **OBEDIENCE ENSURES CONTINUED ADOPTION**

Matthew 12:50, "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Luke 8:21, "And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it." To obey the whole word of God is to remain in fellowship with the Father and to be a part of the Family. Obedience guarantees us the inheritance of Children.

Ephesians 2:19, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;" We are made the children of the very **HOUSE OF GOD.**

### **FAITHFULNESS IS A KEY ATTRIBUTE OF THE CHURCH OF THE BODY**

Matthew 25:1-13, please read this account. We are to be as wise as the five virgins that were faithful unto the coming of the bridegroom, the Lord Jesus.

### **TO ENTER INTO THIS BODY IS TO ENTER INTO A SPIRITUAL MARRIAGE**

II Corinthians 11:2, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to **ONE HUSBAND**, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." Even as a young, unmarried girl is to keep herself for the man she is about to marry and then remain faithful to the Head of us, Jesus. We would be committing a type of spiritual adultery if we were to renege and sell out to worldliness and self and sin afterwards.

### **THE CHURCH IS MARRIED TO JESUS**

Romans 7:4, "That ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." To enter into the Body of Christ, or the Church, is to enter into a union with **HIM**. Being **SAVED** is applied to being married to Jesus. This union, **WHEN KEPT INTACT BY OUR FAITHFULNESS, CANNOT HELP BUT BRING FORTH FRUIT UNTO OUR GOD.** That being Love, Joy, Peace, and so on.

### **WE BECOME PART OF JESUS**

I Corinthians 6:15, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?"

Ephesians 5:30, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."

The Members of the Church become part of Jesus Christ, a particular member of his Body upon Salvation.

### **CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST**

Deuteronomy 14:2, "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth." When two people are married, they soon cultivate a relationship where they learn about each other and depend and trust each other. This should also be the case after we become part of Jesus Christ. We should desire to get to know him better, learn to lean upon him as our **SOURCE.**

### **CHRIST'S BODY ACCORDING TO I CORINTHIANS, 12**

Please read I Corinthians 12:12-31

- The Body is one.
  - Many members make up that **ONE BODY.**
  - Members are **ONE** in Christ.
  - There is **ONE SPIRIT.**
  - All members of the Body have purpose.
  - God has placed each member in the Body as it has suited Him.
  - The stronger instruments need the supposed weaker ones.
  - Feeble members are very necessary.
  - God has tempered the Body together.
  - There is no room for **SCHISMS** or **DIVISIONS** with the Body of Christ, the Church.
  - When one member suffers, the rest should be sympathetic.
  - When one is exalted, the other members should also be glad and esalted.
- Order of the Members' Duties:
- (1) Apostles, (2) Prophets, (3) Teachers, (4) Workers of Miracles, (5) Gifts of healings, (6) Gifts of helps, (7) Governments, (8) Different kinds of tongues.

### **A WARNING TO THE BODY OF CHRIST**

James 3:6, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

This passage of scripture is referring to, I believe, our natural bodies. But, when applied to the whole body of Christ, it has tremendous depth and meaning. If we allow our tongues to run rampant among the other members, they (our tongues) will have a disastrous affect. There is nothing worse than an entity that is warring against itself and divided. From the scriptures we can see that there is not any place for such behavior within the Church of Jesus Christ. Let us guard our tongues well.

### **THE MAIN TASK OF THE CHURCH**

Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit of the Birde say, Come," It would seem that the main job of the Body of Christ is to invite others to join it and so increase its size and power.

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