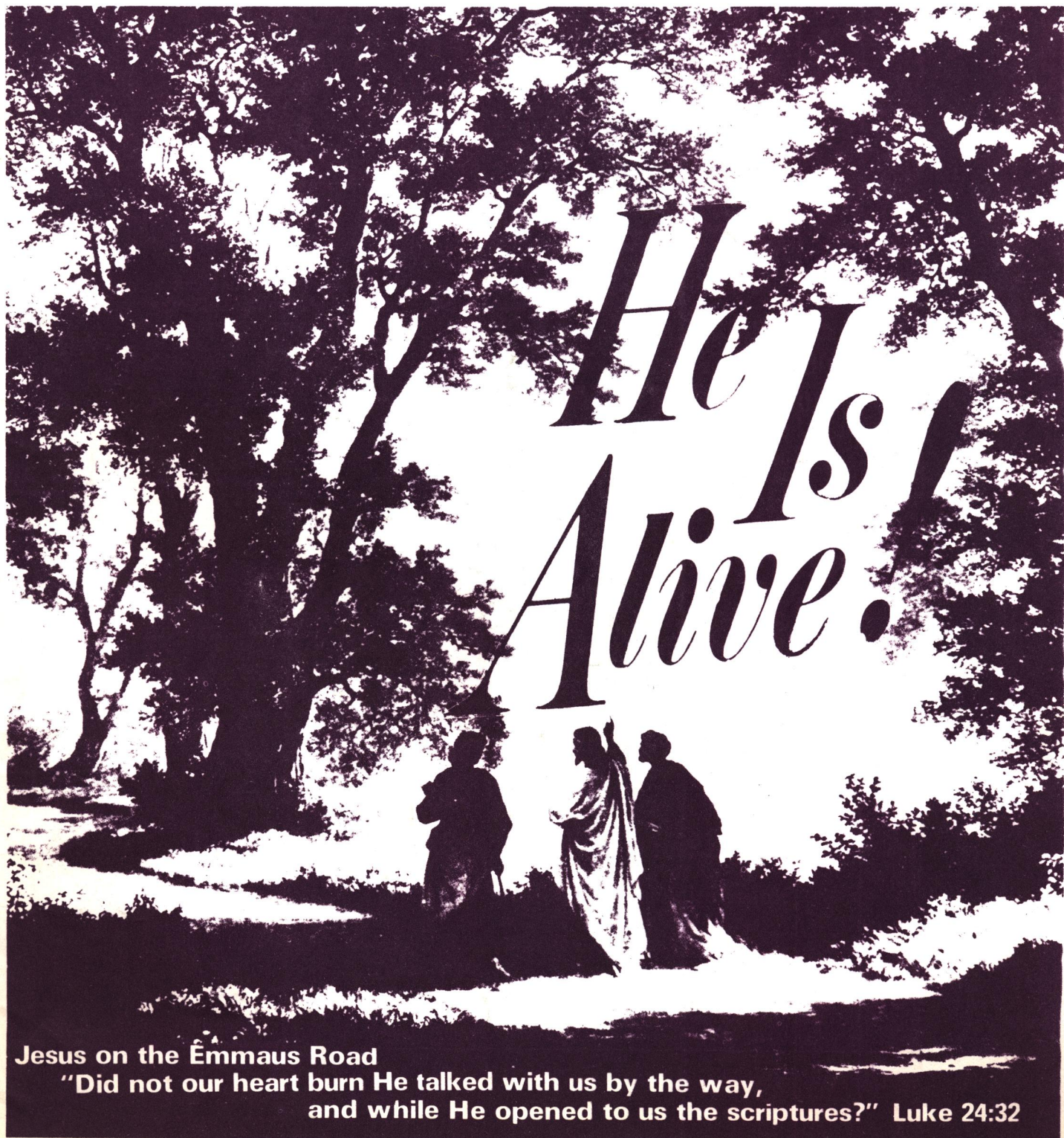


The **APOSTOLIC
FAITH**

Vol. 22, No. 3

MARCH 1975

report:



Jesus on the Émmaus Road

"Did not our heart burn He talked with us by the way,
and while He opened to us the scriptures?" Luke 24:32

A CRY FROM THE CROSS

why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why? why?

Clovis G. Chappell

(from Sermons From The Psalms)

Ps. 22:1; Matthew 27:46 "My, God my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

These words come to us out of a long gone past. We first hear them from the lips of this ancient psalmist whose name has been forgotten for many centuries. But he was doubtless not the first to utter them. They have been either articulate or inarticulate upon the lips of countless millions of perplexed men and women as the years have come and gone. Who among us has gotten very far into life without having had wrung from us this tearful cry? This is a question that has literally sobbed its way through the centuries. It is in a sense an outcry of the race. It is as old as man. It is as new as the pain of your own broken heart.

But as intensely human as is this question, we are thoroughly startled to find it upon the lips of our Lord. Yet as He hangs on the cross He takes these words from this ancient psalmist and makes them the vehicle for the expression of his agony. After terrible hours of suffering He flings out this age-old question, "My God, my God, why?" In fact, these words have become his very own. We tend to forget that anyone ever uttered them except Him whose was the tenderest heart that was ever broken and whose were the purest lips that ever spoke. Surely it is our Lord who has given to these words their immortality. Let us think of them, then, not so much as those of a long dead poet, but rather as the exceedingly bitter cry of the dying Son of God. Of course, we cannot hope to comprehend them. We can only pray that our imperfect glimpses may bring to us some spiritual enrichment.

Upon the lips of Jesus these words have two striking peculiarities.

1. Here Jesus addresses the Infinite by a name that He has never used in speaking to Him before, nor does He ever use it afterwards. When He flings out this question He addresses the Eternal as "God." "My God, my God," He

cries. Now, the one word that He uses in speaking to God everywhere else is "Father." This, too, is the name by which He most often speaks of God. When we hear Him for the first time in the temple as a lad of twelve, He says, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" When He teaches us to pray He tells us to say "Our Father." When He would enforce upon us the reasonableness of prayer He does so by reminding us of the fact that God is our Father. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him"? The first word He utters upon the cross is "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." When the ghastly fight is over His last word is, "Father, unto they hands I commend my spirit." Almost constantly did Jesus call God "Father" in speaking of Him. Always and everywhere He did so when speaking to Him, except here. Only here does He say "My God."

2. Then this text upon the lips of Jesus is peculiar because it is a question that He addresses to God. This is the lonely question, so far as the record goes, that Jesus ever asked God during His entire earthly ministry. We are full of questions. Jesus questioned only once. There were, of course, times of conflict. There were times when He looked at the will of God not without amazement that His Father could so choose for Him. But always He accepted that will without question. He never faltered in His faith that the Father's plan for Him was the best plan. Near the beginning of his ministry He said in reply to a suggestion from his mother, "Mine hour is not yet come." By this He meant to say "Henceforth the finger that points to the hour that I am to act and the task that I am to do will be that of no human hand. It will be that of my Father." At the end of the journey He prayed, "If it be possible, if there is another way, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt." But here Jesus flings out a question.

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WHY?

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I wouldn't want to have counted the number of times I have asked God "WHY?" Each time I felt guilty and questioned why I wasn't able to accept God's plan for my life without asking for reasons for the events He deemed to send my way. Then one day God opened up Matt. 27:46 to me and I suddenly realized that my precious Saviour asked that same question and God understood. And most especially does Jesus understand for He felt the same things I feel. I tried to put it in words but wasn't pleased with any efforts. Then quite unexpectedly (by God's leading) I came upon this sermon by Clovis Chappell who was able to express my hearts feelings so beautifully. So in my place I offer this sermon to you; with the prayer that it will bless your hearts as it did mine.

nrb

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THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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What does this Question on the part of Jesus indicate?

1. It indicates a sense of forsakenness. Jesus, for the moment at least, has lost his vivid realization of the Divine Presence. His Father seems no longer so real as He has been in other days. Remember That Jesus up to this time had lived His life in the most perfect realization of the presence of God. What the greatest of the saints have experienced at the transfiguration moments of their lives, Jesus experienced continuously. To Him He was always closer than breathing and nearer than hands and feet. To Him God was always the supreme reality. How confidently He speaks of this intimate association. "He that hath sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him." When near the end of His journey He said to His disciples with great sadness, "It shall come to pass that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone." Then He corrected Himself, "Yet I am not alone. The Father is with me." But now that Presence that has been His very life seems to have withdrawn from Him so that the deepest darkness He has ever known closes over Him.

2. This cry also indicates perplexity. God's strange ordering of things left Him baffled and bewildered. For mark you, this question is intensely real. Jesus never degenerated into a mere actor. In everything He did there was always perfect sincerity. When prayed He did not pray simply to set us an example. He prayed because prayer was for Him an absolute necessity. He could not keep spiritually fit without it. When He was tempted His temptation was a reality. If this is not the case, then His conflicts can be of no help to us. They only mock us. In the battles that we have to fight we may utterly lose our souls. If such is not the case with our Master, then His struggles are worth less than nothing to us. Jesus asked this question because He was sorely perplexed.

3. This question is born of a terrible agony. There was agony of a dimmed realization of God. There was the agony of bewilderment. There was the agony of physical suffering. The cross was the most horrible torture that the fiendish ingenuity of man ever devised. But the physical agony of our Lord was as nothing in comparison with His spiritual suffering. It was this that broke His heart. It was this that wrung from Him this terrible question that sounds so little like the shout of a victor and so much like the wail of one whose dreams, instead of coming true, have only led Him into the quagmire of desolation and death. "My God, why?" This question was born of immeasurable heartache.

Now it is easy for us to understand a less vivid realization of God on the part of ourselves. It is easy for us to understand perplexity and agony on the part of ourselves. But how are we to account for these in Jesus Christ our Lord? It is not surprising that we sometimes have this question wrung from our lips, but how can we account for it upon the lips of Him who said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father?" Of course, we cannot hope fully to answer this question. At best we can but dimly grope.

But of this at least we may be sure. The agony, the perplexity, the sense of forsakenness on the part of Jesus was not due to His consciousness of the anger of God. He had no such consciousness. The old idea that God the Father was flinging the thunderbolts of His wrath at His Son is to us unthinkable. God was never more pleased with Jesus than when He hung on the cross. "God was in Christ reconciling

the world unto Himself." The perplexity and pain therefore that wrung this cry from Jesus was certainly not born of any anger or displeasure on the part of God the Father.

No more are we to assume that because Jesus uttered this bewildered and agonized question. His faith had been shattered by the torture through which He was passing. While His realization of God is not so vivid as at other times, His faith in God is still firm, triumphant, and strong. Therefore He does not lapse into sullen silence. He believes that there is One who sees and understands all that He suffers. He believes that there is One who is able and willing to make all things clear. He believes that God still lives. Not only so, but He dares to claim this God as His very own. In spite of His bitter agony, He cries, "My God." Then He proceeds to bring His perplexity up before Him and fling it down at His feet in the faith that He doeth all things well.

Why then this sense of loss and bewilderment on the part of our Lord? We find at least some light on the question, I think, in this fact, that such bewilderment is inevitable if He is to be fully identified with ourselves. The Word become flesh. Jesus is one with us. "Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren." Now since He shares our nature, He must also share our perplexities. And we have them—God knows. Strange and bewildering sorrows often overwhelm us and we cry, "Why?" There are times when the pastor has this question flung at him till he is heartsick with the bleak tragedy of it all. There are those present even now who are asking it through lips that are white and drawn with pain.

What answer can we make to these perplexed and distressed souls? What have we to offer baffled men and women who stand face to face with veils through which they cannot see, and grim doors to which they find no key? Well, we have this at least: We can offer a marvelous Saviour who has walked just their road and who is, therefore, able to enter into full sympathy with them. "For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted." We can assure them that our Christ is not angry with them because they question. He himself said "Why?" We can assure them further that this Christ of ours, when He was perplexed brought His perplexity to God and that God did not fail Him, But brought Him through in triumph. Then we can add with superb confidence this crowning word: This understanding Christ is infinitely able and infinitely eager to do the same for them, even the weakest.

Finally this agony of bewilderment and perplexity on the part of our Lord is the natural outcome of his identification with us in our sin. He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. There on the cross He is being wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. There for love's sake He who knew no sin is being made to be sin for us. Now since He shares with us the burden of our guilt, it is not only natural but inevitable that He should feel that sense of forsakenness that comes from the bearing of such a burden. His agonizing bewilderment is born of His sharing the desolation of the sheep that had gone astray. No wonder then the He cries, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" But His very suffering wins us. Lifted upon the cross, He draws all men unto Himself. Therefore His cry of agony and seeming defeat becomes a shout of victory. From this skull-shaped hill of grimest failure He marches to the conquest of the world.

Three Rows of Six Digits... Is This Revelation's 666?

Bro. and Sis. Eugene Webster from Hudson, Wyoming, have sent me several copies of the magazine "The Forgotten Men" and I quote from the article ' "The Beast" Has Been Installed in Brussels' from the February, 1974, issue the following:

"The computer would assign each citizen of the world a number to use for all buying and selling to avoid the problem of ordinary credit cards. The number would be invisibly 'laser-tattooed' on the forehead or the hand. It would provide a walking credit card system. The number would show up under infra-red scanners to be placed at all check out counters and places of business. Dr. Elderman suggests that by using **three six-digital units** the entire world could be assigned a working credit card number. Could this be what the Bible speaks of in Rev. 13:18?

We had an article on this in our last Report (Jan.-Feb. 1975, pg. 3). Please refer to it. Dr. Elderman is the Chief Analyst of the Common Market Confederacy.

THE PASTOR'S WIFE

In the shadow of the parsonage stands a figure oft obscure
Just behind the faithful Pastor is his wife, devout and pure.

She is with him every moment helping make his work progress
and you can't discount her portion in his measure of success.

Oft behind the scene of action, often never seen or heard
Yet she stands forever ready just to give a helping word.

It is not in active service that her worth is really shown
But in bearing heavy burdens that to others are unknown

With encouragement and vision she must urge God's servant on
When the shadows are the darkest and his courage is almost gone.

With her home forever open and her work quite never done
She is ever his Lieutenant in the battles fought and won.

Selected.

Deep Waters

As I go through deep waters or climb mountains steep,
The enemy forces each time there I meet.

But what of deep waters or mountains so high,
The steeper the mountains, the nearer the sky.

And as I press onward whatever I meet,
The stepping stones always under my feet,
grow stronger and firmer each step of the way.

Sufficient the evil for each passing day.
When trials are ended, the Lord says well done.

A good race for Jesus here you have run.
Such wonderful victory, such happiness there in that
beautiful country subline,

Where there's no raging waters to cross and no mountains
high to climb.

Ollie Summerfield

From the Superintendent's Desk:

Greetings from the Apostolic Faith Bible College in Baxter Springs, Kansas. Once again I would like to bring you up to date with the plans of the school and give you a progress report on school finances.

Plans are coming along well with contracts being made for a faculty for the coming term of school. I want you to continue in prayer that the Lord will help us put the right faculty together. We want only those who feel a burden for this job.

We have secured the talents of a group of young people to begin a tour the 10th of March. These are people you will enjoy having in your church and home. Please pray for us that we can be a spiritual blessing as we come to your church. Our plans call for the Tri-State area of Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas beginning the 10th of March, for two weeks. The last week of March we will be in the Alabama—Mississippi area. The first three weeks of April will be spent in the churches of the Texas—Oklahoma Panhandle and Southwest Kansas. The last two weeks of April in the South Texas Area. The first week of May in South Central Kansas and then on to the Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming areas the second week. From there to the West Coast the middle of May and then back through Nevada and New Mexico the latter part of May. Letters are in the mail to all interested churches and the date must be confirmed by the pastor.

Those making this College Vibration Tour will include; Superintendent Jack Cornell; Garold Oakes, Neosho, Missouri; Rhonda Sanger, Elmwood, Oklahoma; Nyla Smith, Meade, Kansas; Sharolyn Cox, Kingman, Kansas; and Gayle Kendrick, Springfield, Missouri.

The following is a report on the finances of the school at the time of this writing:

Building Fund	Note due \$8,654.00
	Paid Feb. 24 7,200.00
	Balance to Pay \$1,454.00

This was due on February 23. Please do your part in taking care of the Building Fund need.

General Fund	Balance in Bank \$1,400.00
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We received a personal loan in January of \$2,000.00 to pay bills of the last 1½ months of Bible School. You can see by the above statement we are still \$600 short of repaying this loan plus needed money to take care of bills in off months of school. Please do your part in taking care of this need.

I want to say thanks to all who have responded. Your prayers and interest in the school is needed. Remember this is your school. Stay behind it in all your efforts. We pray the Lord to bless and repay each of you with His best blessings.

It is a pleasure to work with each of you for our School and Movement. We want to be of service to you. Please hold us up in your prayers.

God Bless You,
Jack Cornell, Supt.

New Arrival

CODY ALLEN FRY

was born

Feb. 3, 8:10 a.m.

Wt. 8 LBS. 5 OZ.

Length: 20½ IN.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fry Parents
Katy, Texas



THANK YOU!

from your

Board of Trustees

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to you-all members of the Apostolic Faith Movement, who so graciously and generously supported our building and expansion program this past year.

Thank you for praying for us! We feel only the Lord could have so marvelously given us strength and wisdom in our efforts for 1974.

Thank you for your friendship! We know that you are all "Friends of Christ", but your kindness and encouragement to us, words and deeds from the heart, have sustained us in the most difficult decisions we have had to make. God bless you for this.

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in us as your Bible School Trustees. It is an honor to serve in this capacity only because you as ministers and laity have offered us your faith and confidence to conduct the school and the business of the school, and to hold firm to the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let me say that many times we have been driven to our knees in prayer that we might know the will of God concerning our school and our Gospel. Our task has been difficult because governments have changed, society has changed, social order, customs, morals, conduct, permissiveness-yes, all these have changed so drastically in the last few years. Last, but not least, homes and churches have changed. Thanks be to God, His word has not changed and will abide forever! My heart's cry is for His Word to be taught and abide in the Apostolic Faith Bible School always! without reproach-steadfast-unmovable! For His Word will judge us in the last day!

Thank you for your generous financial help. I am so amazed how the Lord has supplied our finances in 1974. First of all, let me say that our Bible School Bus is paid for. A \$13,000.00 bus paid in full in 19 months. Thank you! Thank God! We purchased a mobile home office for the Apostolic Faith Report at a cost of \$3000.00 in the month of May, 1974. Today we have a balance due of \$977.94. The Lord has impressed his people to meet this need in a gracious way. Thank you so much for your good support of the Report. Our paper is published on a cash basis, and hardly ever have we missed our quota of issues in a years time. A big "Thank You" to our good Editor who has given of herself and her time so freely in publishing the Gospel. She deserves your prayers and your contributions.

The Lord's people have so graciously met the needs of our building program in 1974. We started the year with some \$1200.00 in the building fund and a need for more dormitory space and additional land for the future. By faith we asked God for additional land. Within a few days, land was made available to us-almost one-half block at a cost of \$30,000.00.

By faith, we started plans for a new dormitory. The rough cost to be \$35,000.00. By the time it was completed, with furniture and drapes, made comfortable enough for anyone, our cost had soared to nearly \$45,000.00. In the chapel

building, we converted two piano practice rooms into a music studio; made other repairs to chapel building; repairs to old home; repairs to teacher apartments and residence; new mattresses for the boys dormitory; and other things too numerous to mention, such as improvements to the grounds. We find that in 1974 our building fund spent \$87,789.16 for improvements to our Bible School. This is an enormous sum, even in times of inflation. But THANKS BE TO GOD who giveth the victory. I can report to you today we owe the Bank \$56,300.00. I am saying over \$31,500.00 has been given to our building project. Let us not forget to thank the many who came and labored with their hands freewill. So many are in this group that should we mention some, we might fail to mention others. God knows who you are and He alone can bless and reward you. Without your help our carpentry, wiring, plumbing, painting, and decorating certainly would have suffered. Thank God for his consecrated servants!

In 1974 we had the second largest enrollment in the history of our Bible School. Students who came from every walk of life. Many were not of our Faith and did not understand our ways or how our needs were being met. This was a great financial drain on us, and also created many problems that we have not met before. We thank God for the blood that did cover. Nevertheless, with inflation running so high we closed our term of school with an indebtedness of \$3000.00 that we are trying to erase at this time. God will be good to us. Give as the Lord impresses you.

This is a resume of our activities in 1974. Thank you for the part you have had in this phase of God's work. But this is 1975 - we pray for a banner year. May God bless our efforts, and especially those who work for the Report, and the members of the staff and faculty of the 1975 term of school. We covet your prayers. Will this be the last school term? The end-time is now! Will the dawning of tomorrow be Redemption Day? Will we see more of the faithful of yesterday fall by the wayside until our hearts cry within us, "Come Lord Jesus, Come quickly!" Jesus said "Occupy until I come", therefore we must strive to do the very best we can while it is yet day.

Let me remind you that we have an obligation of \$56,300.00 divided over a ten year period payable to the American National Bank of Baxter Springs, Kansas. This money is borrowed at 8% interest and the first installment will be due February 23, 1975. This payment is in the amount of \$8,654.00, interest and principal. At this time we have on hand only about one-half of this amount. We ask that you continue to do the best you can for our school as you have in the past, and we pray God to bless you for it.

Again let me say THANK YOU! Two words so small, so over-worked, so inadequate to carry the message of appreciation from my heart to the people of God who care for the work of the Lord. May God richly bless you!

Roland E. Busch

AFBC Evangelism Themes 1974

THE IMPORTANCE OF A DIVINE CALL

By: Lois Harper

To me the divine call of God upon anyone in the different positions of the church is so very important. God not only calls ministers, but singers, song leaders, Sunday School teachers, prayer warriors. God has a special work for everyone. When I first felt the call of God on my life I really fought this because I thought it was a very serious step and I didn't want me to do it because this is what I wanted to do. I was really scared because I thought it was me and not the Lord but yet I knew better because I don't think a person just decides to become a minister because that seems like a good vocation for life.

John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name he may give it you."

The scripture assures me that God has chosen me, not I choosing this profession. It says I have ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, this tells me with the divine call on a life, God will give fruit of the labors. Without the ordination of God a person can really mess up his life and the lives of others.

2 Timothy 1:11, 12 "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things. Nevertheless, I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day."

When God has appointed workers in different areas of the church he promises to keep them. The individual with a divine call on his life need not be ashamed because God is able to direct him in the path that He has set before him. When an individual yields to that divine call and **totally** commits his life into God's hands God will **totally** keep that individual in all areas of life.

Whatever phase of ministry a person is led into that individual must first try to please God. God has placed the call on that life and God has put convictions on that life which must be answered by that person to God first. But we must watch ourselves before men also.

1 Thess. 2:4 "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust of the Gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

When God places the divine call on a life he gives that person a ministry. For the minister, for example, he calls **then to preach Christ only.**

2 Cor. 4:5 "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus sake." People who are not called of God who have just 'chosen' this profession, preach things not of God because God can't speak through a vessel that won't listen to Him.

2 Cor. 3:5-6 "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves but our sufficiency is of God. Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament, not of the letter, but of the Spirit for the letter killeth but the spirit giveth life."

One of the most important things to remember is God has placed the call and God's grace is sufficient. We can't do anything of ourselves, but we must **let** God work through the one He has called.

IMPORTANCE OF A DIVINE CALL

Randy Dalton

Jeremiah 1:4-9 "Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Then said I, Oh, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.

Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."

Jeremiah was very young when he was called of the Lord. When I was quite young, I felt the calling upon my life. As Jeremiah, I said, "Lord, I can't preach, I'm too young." The calling came one night at an altar of prayer. I was at church with my grandparents. My mother and father didn't go to church. We lived close to my grandparents and I would always go with them. My grandma was very religious and she would encourage us boys a lot. Well, while I was praying the idea came into my head that I should be a preacher. It kept bothering me, so I asked God to let my right arm hurt if he wanted me to preach. Sure enough, a sharp pain shot immediately through my right arm. At first I was happy because I would be doing something for God. But I was always very shy and wasn't too good at talking to people. This bothered me and I got real scared about it. I talked to my grandmother about it. She tried to encourage me and help me. But the more I thought on it, the more I realized I couldn't do it. From that night on my church going changed. Church wasn't the same to me any more. I couldn't come and enjoy it as before. I loved God and was very scared of Him. But I just couldn't preach. Well, I started missing church. Always before I attended church regularly, but now I could find good reasons to stay at home. Not very long after this I was missing quite regularly.

A few months later, my family and I moved away. Now I was about twenty miles from church. I wasn't old enough to drive and my grandparents weren't there to get me. I started going to a little church by us once in a while. But it was real easy for me to miss church. Now when my brothers asked me to stay home and ride horses or go hunting, I would.

But, the terrible thing, about it was that I was miserable, I had to go to church once in a while just to ease my conscience. I couldn't even go to sleep at night until I read my Bible and said my prayers. Here I was, back slidden, but every single night I read my Bible and prayed for my family. If I would go to bed without doing this I couldn't sleep. Many nights I would wake up realizing that I had forgotten to pray or read my Bible. I never paid very much attention to what I read, but I remember what I said in every prayer I prayed. "Lord, someday I pray that my family and me can all go to church together in one accord; to honor and serve you." I always prayed for my family and me to be saved.

Well, the years went by and I started playing basketball. I centered my life around it. It was my way of forgetting things. Many nights I would play until I got so tired I couldn't play anymore, just so I could go to bed and get to sleep quickly without having to stop and think.

My ball playing improved and my conscience eased up a little because I was always busy and didn't have to stop and think. But, I had an accident and had to stay in bed for a month. Being used to playing ball and being on the run day in and day out, this was very hard on me. I was now fourteen. The worst thing I had to face while I was laying there was God. He started dealing with me. I started thinking about things. I couldn't play ball, I had just lost a close girlfriend because I didn't have time for her and things started catching up with me. Many nights I can remember crying because it was going to be DARK again. I got well physically, but mentally I was very shaky. My nerves bothered me and I used to cry myself to sleep.

Well, I started playing ball again and started running. I wanted to play basketball in college and that's what I worked for. Things went pretty good. But, every time I got going real good, I would get hurt. It never was anything serious, but just enough to keep me from doing my best. Well, I kept going anyway. Then came my final year of high school. By this time I was quite a ways from God. But I never could cuss or do things I knew was wrong, because every time I did I felt so bad about it that it was terrible. Things started happening this final year that were unbelievable. At the first of school I was running cross country. My side got something wrong with it and I had to go to the hospital for tests. Well, I had to quit running and I was doing so good. I had worked all summer and I won the first and only race that I ran in when I was healthy. Then it was time for basketball. This was my final year and I had to do good. Well, every thing started off real good. The only thing I had to go to the doctor for my back the first half of the season. Then came the last half which was the most important. Things really messed up then. Something happened to my feet. The doctor said it was from hitting too hard. I played anyway. I had to have padding in my shoes and I couldn't stand to stop while I was playing because of the pain. It got so bad that the school started letting me stay home the day after our ball games because I couldn't stand to walk. Naturally I couldn't do my best. So it looked like my dream was shattered.

All through my high school years of playing ball things happened to keep me from reaching my goal. But, all down through the years I tried to live a decent and respectable life. My grades were always good and I worked hard. Through my ball playing and everything I obtained or met a lot of friends. Now that I look back it seems like God was directing my life, even then, I never did cut loose and go wild and I always did what I could for my fellowman. I always RESPECTED God and I even think I loved Him even then. I didn't like for people to use His name in vain or make fun of Him. But that was a bad excuse for the way I had left Him.

On March 17, 1974, I found my way back to God. I still tried to hang on to a few things of the world including my hair. Then on April 19, 1974, things changed. The next day my hair was cut and my life was set for His will. On this night I had a vision at a small country church. (It would take four or five pages more to tell you about that so I will not go

into detail). Because of this vision I surrendered to preach. To make a long story short, I believe for my life that this is what it took. Often I wonder why God was so patient with me after I rejected or refused to preach and quit going to church. But after that vision, I couldn't refuse. I loved God very much and I didn't realize that it was that important or necessary for me to preach until this. I always felt like he could get someone else that could do a lot better.

Well, my life has changed. Now instead of running from God, I'm running for Him. I'm unworthy to preach God's precious work, but I love Him and that's what He wants me to do for Him.

Why He loved me, I'll never know. God is first in my life. Jesus said a lot to me the night of my vision. I don't want to hurt Him anymore. I want to do all I can for Him. Because you know, God didn't owe me anything. I owe Him everything. I count it my greatest privilege to be called a child of the true and living God.

Jeremiah 1:17-19 "Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

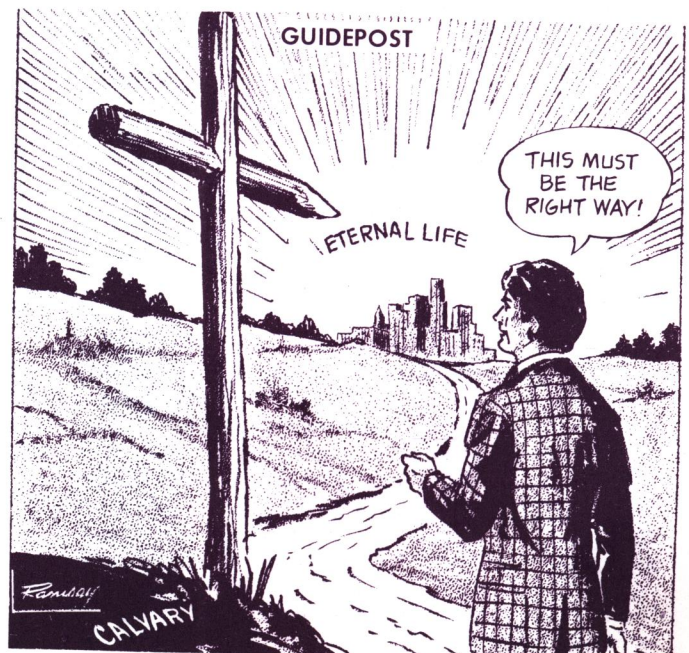
For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priest thereof, and against the people of the land.

And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee."

Well, I have never been a preacher before. There is a lot that I don't know. But one thing I do know for sure, God means everything to me and I'm trying to do my best for Him. He deserves nothing less.

II Timothy 1:9

"Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."



A CUP OF WATER By: Karen Waybright

The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words." Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, Oh house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand. O house of Israel." (Jeremiah 18:1-6).

These scriptures are relevant today to me because I am a vessel and I can choose whether I want to be a vessel spotted and marred by the words; or whether I want to be a yielded vessel; like clay in the potter's hand; a vessel that has been remade and molded by Jesus. Only then can Jesus use me, when I yield myself to him.

I believe Jesus can use me, he has a divine purpose for my life, and if I allow him, as I am trying to, Jesus purpose will be fulfilled in my life. No matter how small and insignificant I may feel, I am a child of the universe and am loved by God. Even though I feel I have few talents, Jesus can use and multiply the ones I do have. I believe Jesus can love through me. I can be concerned and talk to or listen to people that need it. Many times we hear world-wide evangelists, and we think they have a world-wide ministry that is touching the lives of many individuals, which they are, but in God's eyes even the little man is just as important. And little things which are done in the name of the Lord are important. In Mark 9:41 the scripture says: "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward. In Matthew 25:40 the scripture says: "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." With these scriptures in mind we can see that Jesus sees the little accomplishments, and too, we see that we will not be called on to do more than we are capable. But through the help of Jesus Christ, we will accomplish what we must. For Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness—(2 Cor. 12:9).

Even though a seed is small and has very small beginnings, it begins to grow, and in time it grows into a very large plant or tree. So it is with the person that will allow Jesus to work freely through Him. The little things in life do not go unnoticed and are blessed and multiplied according to the Father's good pleasure.

And as one takes responsibility, more will be added and required of that individual.

Jesus is preparing me, he is allowing experiences, good times, hardships and trials to come into my life for the purpose of molding me into a well rounded person with experiences behind me that maybe can be shared with another who needs help. An experience that I learned from and could share with another, or a special understanding and concern for another who is going through a trial I once faced. A trial that came my way for a reason. Or I can pray because I have contact with heaven and Jesus hears me.

And in answer to the question: Can Jesus use me, My answer is yes, there is a lot that can be done through me and Jesus can use me.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL WITNESSING By J. Parker Craig

When I think of witnessing I think of one definition of witness which is "That which serves as or furnishes evidence, or proof." Then comes the question what evidence do I show forth? What does my life prove? And so it is that all men everywhere are watching to see what evidence we bring forth and by that our lives are proved in their sight, or their way of thinking, whether it is intentional or not. Jesus said "Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them" Matt. 7:20.

This fact, that everyone of us is bearing some kind of a witness to those that we come in contact with, we must always remember, we show ourselves to others to be "opinionated" by them. Just the other day I heard a young teenager say of one who said she was a Christian, "Boy is she a sourpuss!" This woman by habit gave forth an uninviting distasteful expression of what being a Christian is. On another occasion I saw a teen-age girl stand up in Church to testify and first she giggled, then she looked around and shrugged her shoulders, and then she giggled some more and finally said, "I think I am a Christian and I think Jesus loves me". Then she sat down and 3 or 4 young people giggled. An elderly gentleman whispered rather loudly "Not an ounce of brains in a car load of them". Perhaps as far as spiritual knowledge and wisdom was concerned the gentleman was right, but was his testimony any better than theirs? Did he attempt to contribute help for spiritual growth in the name of Jesus?

I know that Jesus also said "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" Matt. 5:16 but we find two of the listed fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22 is love and gentleness and a third one is goodness. How can we help youth of any age if we cannot love them enough to be gentle with them even if we must be stern and some times rebuke.

Many more examples could be used to show how we can witness negatively. Our general every day behaviour is our biggest witness. What does it say? What of the places we frequent with our presence? What kind of company do we keep? How is our conversation? And I do not only refer to vulgarity or even slang. How do we handle remarks made to us about others? Remarks of slander? Remarks of discredit? Old skeletons? I mean by this, digging up the wicked past of a spiritually growing convert to Christianity. How many men and women who have been converted, made a new start, made restitutions, sought forgiveness from God above through Jesus His Son have been injured and put to difficult task and heart ache, because of an unkind word or phrase that dug up a skeleton. This type of negative witnessing speaks of the carnal works of the flesh as found in Gal. 5:19-21 variance, wrath, strife, envyings, murders and revellings.

How do we dress? How do we respect the laws of our government? How do we behave in church and in other gatherings? How do we treat the home folks? How do we use our money? How do we treat God Himself? It is important to know God's word about these things and many more. Now let us look at some scriptures on some of these matters.

1 Peter 3:3 "Whose adorning (the wives) let it not be that outward adorning--But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife."

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work."

Matthew 21:13 "And said unto them, It is written, by house shall be called house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

Acts 5:42 "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

1 Timothy 5:8 "ut if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Isaiah 55:2 "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labours for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

Matthew 6:9-10 "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

So we can see that a negative witness is displeasing to God, misleading and destructive to others and injurious and often times very damning to our own souls and even our life on this earth.

We find we must be concerned about the importance of a proper witness for Jesus Christ who is the only hope of a sin cursed world John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." We must walk the way of holiness here on this earth. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" Heb. 12:14

Some one will say what can I do, what can I say? I have been a Christian only for a short time. He can do like the young man that was healed by Jesus in Chapter 9 or St. John when the Pharisees tried to discredit Jesus. The young man states, "Whether he be a sinner no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." We can always tell what Jesus has done for us and if it is genuine it will be convincing.

We must be concerned about those who are lost and witness to them. Jesus said in Luke 24:47-48 that the remission of sins should be preached in his name and that we are witnesses to these things. We must be sure to witness that it is Christ that saves and not we ourselves Eph. 2:8 "For by grace ye are saved through faith; and that no of ourselves it is the gift of God:"

We must sing praises unto God like we meant it. We must give thanks in everything 2 Thess. 5:18 God does not make mistakes. 2 Thess 5:16 Rejoice evermore Be a faithful steward. Do not stand before Him as a thief Mal. 3:9 "ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

May we in our Christian witness never fall into the trap that caught the Church of Ephesus in Rev. 2:4 "Nevertheless I have some what against thee, because thou hast left thy first love", or the church Laodicea. Rev. 3:15-66. "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would that thou wert cold or hot so then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff thy comfort me." Psalms 23:4

Truly He sustains in sorrow, in disappointment, yes in loss of loved ones and I myself when dying may I so have lived as to glorify my Jesus even then.

THERMOMETER or THERMOSTAT?

By CHARLES FITE

A THERMOMETER and a thermostat may look alike, but the difference in them could mean being comfortably warm or freezing on a winter night. Though both measure the presence or absence of heat, the thermostat goes a step further and activates a power source which can change the temperature.


Christians are like that. While some act only as thermometers to register the presence or absence of the warmth of God's Spirit, others act as thermostats to activate the power of God and change the spiritual climate.

Before we praise too highly the thermostat-type Christians, let us remember that the thermostat in itself has no ability to warm. It can only activate the heating unit.

I will always remember a tremendous truth stated by a thermostat-type Christian on her deathbed. Mother Allison was poor in material things, but she was rich in faith and the fellowship of Christ. Her last words to me were, "Don't ever forget that the Lord is our Source of power."

These words have often come back to me. Even if I am a thermostat, God is still the Source of power. I may activate His power by faith, but it is still His power.

Today's church is overpopulated with thermometers. They do not change the spiritual climate. Too many are willing to register how cold the church has become, but too few are capable of turning on the source of power to warm the spiritual atmosphere.

Thermometer or thermostat? The choice is ours. We may either react to surrounding circumstances or act to change and control the environment around us. But remember, there is no source of power in a thermostat. To be effective it must be connected to the source of power. And as Mother Allison said, "The Lord is our Source of power." 



Midway Country Church, Logan, Okla.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. The Lord is so good to all of us and blessing in every service.

Our Sunday morning attendance is on the upward trend. We have some new families who started a few weeks ago and are coming pretty regular. We are praying to exceed our attendance goal.

Bro. Whitely has been delivering some very anointed sermons on restitution. Also some messages on old time sanctification. We fell like these subjects are never preached too much in our churches in these days.

Our Wed. night lessons on demonology is lasting several weeks as Bro. Whitely is also bringing many other subjects along this line too. We feel this study is very beneficial to all in making us aware of such spirits.

We are planning a revival to begin on Easter Sunday with Bro. Roland Busch and gospel party. We know God's store house will be open for all of us.

Bro. Howard Whitely, Pastor
Mrs. Deryl Lamunyon, Reporter

Guymon, Okla.

The students from the Apostolic Student Center in Goodwell had our Sunday morning service on January 19.

The Deer Valley Adult Retreat dates are Feb. 28-March 1-2. Everyone enjoyed the one last year so much.

Wednesday nights we have started a "Teleois" Clinic, starting on the subject "The Family." We just finished the subject "The Self-Acceptance of Self". Rev. Modrick's class is studying Ephesians. Through the month of February we had teachers' training for the Sunday School, Good News Club, Children's Church Sponsor and etc. It was held by Mr. Ross White from Texas State Child Evangelism Fellowship Director on Monday mornings from 10-12 a.m.

Bro. Edwin Modrick, Pastor

Alvin, Texas

Bro. Billy Sparks held our revival which began Jan. 20th. The "Spares and Pairs" class had charge of the Sunday night services January 19 preceeding the revival. The Evangelist's son, Marlon was the speaker for that service.

We have a new arrival, Stephen James Bowman, born Jan. 18, to Sonny and Aline Bowman. We welcome the new comer.

The "Spares and Pairs" Sunday School class had a Valentine Banquet Feb. 15. The "Peacemakers" from Tulsa, Okla. furnished the entertainment.

Bro. Jimmie Wallis, Pastor

Katy, Texas

Our attendance has been excellent and we're praising God for it. February 16 we had a water Baptismal service; also that same day began our series of Bible Lectures By Bro. Jacob Regier, pastor of our church in Spearman, Texas. We are beginning a Ladies Bible Study, our first one was January 28th at 1:00 p.m. Bro. Raymond Barker is giving lessons on the book of Revelations in Youth service and there is almost 100% attendance. The Christian Neighbors had their secret pal revealing party on Feb. 14 at the home of Martha Handley. Bro. and Sis. Roland Busch had a revival in Enid, Oklahoma. It began February 9.

The Tomball Church hosted the Laymen and Preachers' Meeting January 20. A wonderful meal was enjoyed by all. Bro. Hap Blythe and his wife, Rose, were elected President and Secretary of this fellowship. It was decided to have a combined camp the first week in June for one week. The president was given the authority to select a committee for this camp.

Bro. G.K. Kerr, Pastor

Evansdale, Iowa.

Since I left AFBC in 1965 I have preached a few sermons in several churches as the Lord has led. In the fall of 1973 the Lord opened a door for us in Evansdale, Iowa. The Lord led us to the Deliverance Temple where we met Sis. Hazel Cook and a few other faithful servants of the Lord trying to rebuild a church. The church is growing and the blessings of the Lord are many and wonderful, Praise the Lord!

I have been taking the roll of Bible teacher for Thursday night service. We have been studying Bro. Jacob C. Regiers book on Bible Doctrine. We wish to thank Bro. Jacob and the 1974 AFBC class for their prayers, for Satan threw a snare at our group trying to tear us apart. Our wonderful God answered prayer. I send special thanks to Bro. Regier for his words of wisdom, on the matter.

From November 24 through November 27 a young singing group held services for us. They sang, gave their testimonies and witnessed to us about the Lord. The Lord blessed the services greatly and eight people came to the altar.

Paul H. Shonk Jr.
Hazel Cook, Pastor
Evansdale, Iowa

Roswell, New Mexico

God is still blessing us. Bro. and Sis. Sherman Sutton came to be with us after Bible School. Sis. Sutton's sermons have been a blessing and Bro. Sherman is a wonderful help in our services.

Bro. Bill Briles was with us for a while. We pray God will bless Bro. Bill and supply his every need.

Kathy Judd was with us after Bible College. We enjoyed her messages and all her help in our services.

We are praying for a revival. Pray for us that God will send us an old time revival where souls find Christ real to their hearts and begin to grow in grace and knowledge.

Again we would like to give God praise for all He has done for us and ask for His guidance in the future.

Sis. Louise Sutton, Pastor
Joann Hall, Reporter

Faith Chapel, Canyon, Texas

We are so grateful to God for His blessings on our services here. Consistently during our regular services souls are being saved. In the first semester of school we had around 80 saved in our regular meetings and the first 4 weeks of the current semester we've had between 12 and 15 saved. This is not counting the souls that have been won to Christ right on the campus by 3 or 4 of our very dedicated student personal workers, who are always at the job—witnessing to those with whom they come in contact everyday. We have had 150 in Sunday School and morning worship service and our Sunday night and Wednesday night crowds are consistently good. We have quite a number in our church now that are not college students and we are happy to building a stronger local congregation. There are several older couples that are good prospects to become active members of our congregation. New families are becoming interested.

By the time this goes to press the Ministers' Seminar here at Faith Bible Center will be history. The dates for it are March 3-6. Some of the speakers for this meeting are Dr. Lloyd Watkins, David M. Worthen, Dr. A. L. Johnson, F. E. Waterbury, Jacob C. Regier, Walter Grubbs, and James E. Wallis. Bro. Regier will be the night speaker for Wednesday and Thursday.

We send in an urgent request for the work in India and our Bro. T. S. Abraham as he has to adjust to taking on the tremendous responsibility that has become his through the death of his father, K. E. Abraham, whose obituary appeared in last month's Report. These people need our prayers.

Ron Martin, Pastor

Perryton, Texas,

Our area Ministers and Laity Meeting was January 6 in Perryton. Bro. Harold Bollinger was elected Chairman of the Youth Camp Committee. Youth Rally was held January 18th in Hardesty, Okla.

We are having a new study on Wednesday nights on "JESUS TEACHINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT." We had special services on Sunday night Feb. 9. Bro. Winston Barker showed his slides of the "Missions to Mexico" work. Sis. Alberta Barker had charge of our Young Peoples' services that night.

Sis. Pearl Parks has been ill again and would appreciate your prayers. Her new address is Mrs. Pearl Parks 73716 Sharps Creek Rd. Culp Creek, Ore. 97427.

Our Ladies Group Valentine Party was held February 6. Sis. Patsy Waterbury, Pampa Chapel pastor's wife, was our devotional speaker.

Recently our Young People had a "question and answer panel" in their regular service. We want to thank Kenneth Piersall, Evelyn Randolph, and Susan Fike for serving on the panel.

A "Come and Go" Wedding shower was held January 25 for Janice Randolph, who was married to Lonnie Bowles at our church February 8 at 2 p.m.

The Judah singers had a concert at our church Sunday night Feb. 16th. Our Jane Piersall is a member of this group.

Our Young People hosted a surprise birthday party for two of the senior members of our church family after church Wed. night. They were Sister Laura Elmore and Sister Minnie Schroeder.

Harrol Waterbury, Pastor

Granby, Missouri

We report victory in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for "we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." This is not a time to be discouraged or caught up in the cares of life. We have only tasted the vast bounty of love, blessings and answers to prayer that are available to us—we just have to put God first in our lives and love Him with all our heart then we will not be ashamed to reach out and take those gifts that He offers us.

Our revival in December with Bro. Ken Priest was unusual because it was a time of soul searching for each of us instead of the sinner. I experienced an instant healing one night during this revival and there were many other needs met also. The outstanding service to me was one on love. The love of God was flowing freely complete with manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

At Christmas time we enjoyed a Christmas Praise Service by candlelight. This consisted of readings and songs and was directed by Sis. Thelma Ross.

Bro. & Sis. Lyndall Arnall visited one service and Bro. Lyndall brought the message. We appreciate all who come to share with us.

We also enjoyed the ministry of Bro. Sam Chelladurai, Jr. who is from India and is attending Bible College in the United States. He had visited us last summer and told of his life in India and this time he ministered the Word of God. It was a thrilling time of worship and was climaxed by Bro. Waterbury telling us that Bro. Sam's message confirmed the way the Lord had been leading and speaking to him.

Most recently we saw a film on Russia today. The Christians are so eager to receive Bibles and meet to worship God just anywhere that they can.

May God help us not to play religion or take our religious freedom for granted. Jesus is coming soon and He tells us to "Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mark 13:33

F.E. Waterbury, Pastor
Faye Neff, Reporter

Enid, Okla.

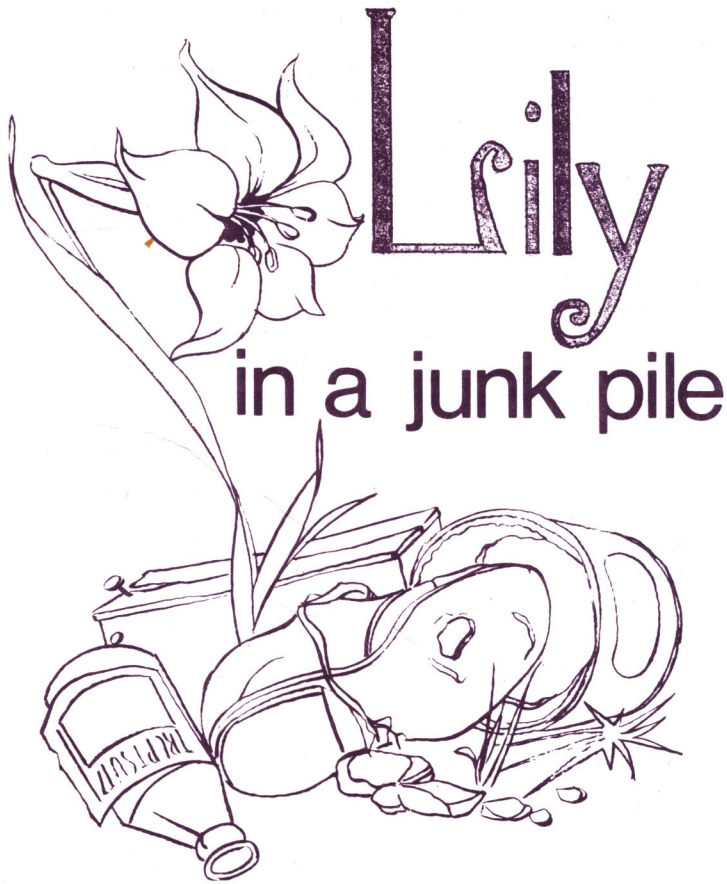
Because we failed to get a report in the last paper, we would like to catch all of our friends up on the latest. On December 15 we enjoyed viewing slides of the Missions to Mexico brought to us by Bro. and Sis. Winston Barker. We enjoyed a lovely Christmas program on Sunday night the 22nd of December. Bro. James Hosler was with us on Sunday, January 19. We enjoy having visitors whenever possible. We had a wonderful revival held by Bro. Roland Busch which began on February 9.

Elmer Christenson, Pastor
Sue Phares, Reporter

Recently, I initiated a radio broadcast here in Houston on KFMK-98 FM from 7:30 to 7:45 a.m. called "The Sounds of Victory", daily. God has blessed this work to date and has been faithful to us. Praise His name! I would like to hear from some of my friends of the movement and earnestly desire their prayers.

My address:

Terry Mathis
Box 40398
Houston, Texas 77040



By **ROGER L. CULBERTSON**
 Pastor, First Assembly, Defiance, Ohio

ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED to find a dandelion growing there, but a lily? Never! Not among the broken pieces of cement, scraps of rusting tin, and rotting lumber of that junk pile.

How out of place! I thought, as I looked down upon that lone lily, pure and white, growing out of the trash.

Of course, it had been planted by someone long forgotten who wanted to add a little beauty to the scene. That was in a better day when this was a fenced yard.

What an instant lesson that lone lily taught me! Half-smothered by circumstances beyond its control, the regal flower grew and blossomed right where it had been planted.

It had no complaints. If the lily had been a typical human being, it probably would have grumbled about the ugly surroundings; about being all alone, unappreciated, and unwanted. Of all the contagious diseases in the world, self-pity is one of the easiest to catch. Listen to the newscasts. How many problems in the world are caused by people who feel sorry for themselves.

But the lily didn't complain—it just kept on growing! The next lesson followed quickly. Only by chance had I found the lily. I certainly hadn't gone to the trash pile looking for flowers. As I stood transfixed by its beauty, I thought, *What if no one had ever stumbled upon the stately white bloom?*

Then I realized of all the flowers that grow, comparatively few are ever picked and put on display!

Again I thought of human beings. Suppose we don't get credit for our efforts! If no one notices or appreciates what we are doing and we seem to be the only one concerned about the project, it doesn't take long for us to run out of energy. How much better if we performed all our labor "as unto the Lord." He sees in secret and will reward us openly.

It occurred to me that the delicate blossom might be as fragrant as it was beautiful. Sure enough—no flower ever smelled sweeter!

What a lesson! If Christ truly lives within our hearts, it is just as natural for us to "go the second mile" as it is for the lily to put forth fragrant blossoms. The ugliness of its surroundings only made the beauty and sweetness of the flower more outstanding!

Lingering there I recalled the words of our Lord, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Matthew 6:28, 29).

LIBERAL KANSAS

The psalmist writes, "showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done." Let us praise! Let us give glory unto God almighty as He is drawing more and more people into the church of his Son Jesus Christ and making himself manifest unto them. Bless his wonderful Name.

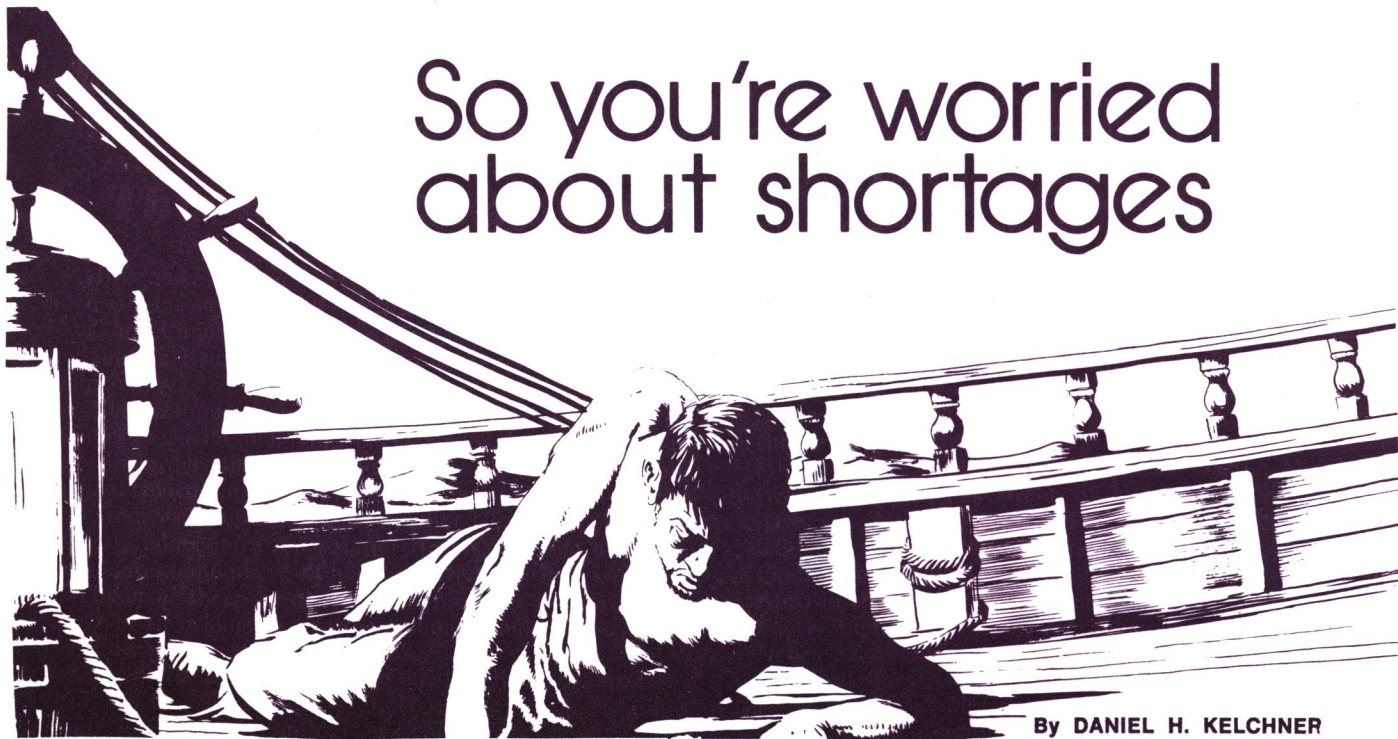
This only can be our attitude as we, in Liberal, have witnessed God blessing the ministry of our pastors, Rev. Harold and Sister Wilburta Bollinger, since their arrival here last September 15. And not just their ministry, but also that of the many faithful people of this church.

It is extremely exciting to see what God has just begun to do. A certain man, recently converted, has already brought two others to the Lord Jesus. A Sunday evening service on January 5th saw five persons filled with God's Holy Spirit and many more blessed because of the Spirit's presence. A Sunday morning service on February 2nd witnessed 5 young people accept Christ as their savior in the Junior Sunday School Class. In recent worship services, we have so witnessed the nearness of God's Spirit in testimony and prayer that no sermons were needed. It is in such meetings with the Lord that we have experienced many healings and deliverances.

Twenty-five members of our congregation acted as counselors in the Billy Graham Film "Time To Run", that was premiered in Liberal, February 2-5. As a result of the Holy Spirit's working, our area has 132 decisions for Christ.

Youth pastors—David and Karen Turner
 Pastors—Harold and Wilburta Bollinger
 A.F. Report

So you're worried about shortages



By DANIEL H. KELCHNER

THE ANCIENT MARINER drifting on the briny deep under a torturous noonday sun cried out in agony: "Water, water, everywhere, and not a drop to drink!"

The same complaint resounds in our day. The message hits us: shortages and coming shortages.

Mother complains of shortages at the supermarket. Dad complains of lessened fuel supplies, possible gas rationing, and rising costs. Grandparents remember sugar stamps, black markets, badly worn tires, and the lack of finery during the war years.

Who's to blame?

Merchants criticize the manufacturers for the shortages. Manufacturers search the world markets for raw materials to produce products for an ever-increasing demand. And the cry goes on and on, "More, more; we need more." We cannot accept the fact that we must adjust our way of living.

The children of Israel were no different during their wilderness journey from Egypt to Canaan. They complained against their leaders and against God for the lack of supplies. They went so far as to wish to be back in Egypt as slaves!

And yet when they had nothing to quench their craving thirst, God provided crystal clear water from a rock. When the people had no meat to eat, a wind from the Lord brought quails. When there was no bread, the Lord gave a daily supply of manna sufficient for each man's need.

Over the 40 years of long and rugged wilderness journeys they needed neither weaver's beam nor cobbler's bench, for God saw to it that their clothes and shoes didn't wear out!

The rugged prophet Elijah appeared in a time of shortage and despair. For a time he was fed by the ravens at the brook Cherith. But eventually the brook

ceased its babbling, and Elijah had to look elsewhere for life-giving water and food. In that hour of desperate need the Lord sent him to a widow in Zarephath.

That woman had her own special problems of shortage. Elijah found her near the gates of the city gathering sticks. She had only a handful of meal and a meager supply of oil in a small cruse. With these she planned to make a small cake for her son and herself and then die. This was her only hope of release from the famine gripping the land.

Elijah asked her to fix him a cake first. When she did, she received a glorious miracle: the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail during the time of shortages, according to the word of the Lord.

In every crisis situation, beyond the ugly blanket of despair there is always a ray of hope. Hope resounds across the pages of antiquity with beautiful words of comfort from the Master.

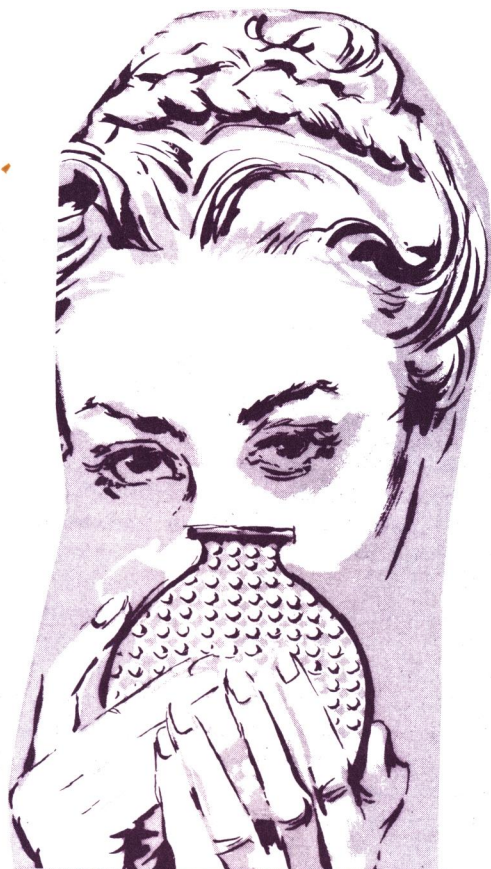
Words like: "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. . . . And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin" (Matthew 6:25-28).

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

"Take no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself" (Matthew 6:34).

In the face of shortages and impending deprivation the Christian need not worry or despair. Your Heavenly Father knows just what you need. Trust Him. He will take care of you.

THE IMMORTAL WOMAN



**WAS IT THE MERE ACT OF
ANOINTING JESUS THAT BROUGHT
IMMORTALITY TO MARY OF
BETHANY? OR WAS THERE SOME
DEEPER, MORE SIGNIFICANT REASON?**

By G. H. BOFFEY

"She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her" (Mark 14:8, 9).

MARY OF BETHANY WAS NOT AN OUTSTANDING PERSONALITY. Martha her sister far outshone her, for she possessed a force of character that made her a natural leader both in the home and in society. Yet splendid Martha is known to us only because of her relationship to Mary.

Christ immortalized Mary of Bethany. We might have expected the Lord Jesus to pay a great tribute to Mary His mother; but He did no such thing. Instead, His great tribute to a woman was paid to Mary of Bethany.

From the obscurity of her Eastern home, the character of this demure woman has shone to the ends of the earth. We do well to mark her sweet character; but we do better if we grasp the significance of her spiritual understanding.

On three occasions the Scriptures record that Mary came to the feet of Jesus. In each instance it was Martha who brought her there.

Martha was the warmhearted woman who first invited Christ and His disciples to enjoy the hospitality of their home. She evidently made a success of entertaining them, for the Bible mentions her zeal in serving. But the big thing is that Christ made her home His home whenever He passed that way on future occasions. Martha deserves every credit as a hostess.

THE FIRST VISIT

The outstanding incident of Christ's first visit is that Mary sat at His feet. Evidently Mary found in Christ the One who satisfied her soul's deepest longings—that great spiritual yearning which finds no satisfaction in purely physical or mental pursuits; that passionate longing and hunger of heart which no one knows we possess but we ourselves.

She found in Him the hidden Stream of Life, the Heavenly Manna in a desert world, the shelter of a Great Rock in a weary land. As a tired sheep she entered into a 23rd Psalm experience: while her body reclined at the feet of the Great Shepherd, her inner being wandered through green pastures and beside the still waters of His inspired words.

After that meeting, life for Mary was wrapped up in the person of Jesus. He had become the center of her world and the answer to her problems. He was both her sunrise and her sunset, and beside Him there was no other.

THE SECOND VISIT

The second occasion upon which Mary came to the feet of Jesus was vastly different. Again it was Martha who brought her there.

Tragedy struck at the heart of the happy home. It came like an evil storm. They felt its hot breath and saw the thunder-laden clouds before the storm broke. Lazarus their brother was ill and growing rapidly worse. It was a matter of life or death. They believed that Christ would come at their urgent request and heal him. They believed that the Christ who had stilled the turbulent waves of Galilee would still this storm. They dared believe that the storm would not really break upon them.

But it did. Lazarus, the breadwinner, died.

When Mary eventually rose up from beside the lifeless form of her brother, there was an agony in her heart and a pathos in her eyes that no tears could fully express.

Lazarus, her only brother, was dead. That was grievous. *But it was not the death of her beloved brother which was the deepest wound. It was that Christ had seemingly failed her.* Her world had gone to pieces because it had

suddenly lost its center. She was now a weak and lonely soul facing a cruel world outside and an empty world within.

This bitter emptiness and hopelessness still prevailed when Christ eventually arrived, and it had only intensified with reflection.

Martha went to meet the Master. She felt it was her duty—so she stifled her sorrow and rose to the occasion.

Mary still sat in the house. She did not go to meet the Master because she could not. She had visualized Him arriving in time to restore her brother. But He had not come, and Lazarus had died. To her, Jesus had failed—and failed when they needed Him most. He was no longer the center of her life. She was blank and gray of heart with the mystery of desolation. The impact of events had turned the garden of her heart into a wilderness, scorched by fiery winds, and without a single flower to cheer. She had spent hours mentally stumbling through those desert wastes—beyond strength, beyond tears, and beyond hope.

Martha returned to say that Christ had asked for Mary. That news brought her to her feet. She arose and went. It was as automatic as a weary child gravitating to its mother's arms. She had lost faith in Him, but strangely, very strangely, He had not lost faith in her.

Christ seemed to take her by the hand and conduct her step by step out of the dark valley until she stood upon a plain of faith she had never known before. Her soul knew the exhilaration akin to standing on some lofty mountain where one catches his breath at the sight below and the sense of the rarefied atmosphere around.

She now recognized that the death of her brother had precipitated a spiritual conflict because it involved the honor of the Master.

It slowly dawned upon her that she was the main subject of the test, and that it was an honor to have been trusted to face such a fiery trial. The pain of it still remained—like wreckage after a stormy night; but a new light was dawning.

Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus. He stood alone amid the atmosphere of unbelief, for, after all, who could raise the dead? But if there was a kindred soul who dared believe, it was the woman whose faith had been shattered and then restored.

THE THIRD VISIT

The Lord was moving into the deeper shadows of Calvary when He called at their home for the last time.

That supper which Martha prepared must have been one of the happiest occasions of their lives. The disciples undoubtedly were present and they were good company. The home circle was complete, for Lazarus, who had been dead, was sitting at the table with them—what a thrill! And then there was the Master Himself.

It was a custom of Eastern hospitality to anoint the head and feet of guests. We are sure this courtesy was not overlooked. But during the course of the evening Mary went further; she came and anointed Jesus with a

box of costly ointment—perfumed oil she may well have been keeping in anticipation of her wedding day. This she poured upon her Lord.

Jesus accepted this loving act, but He also perceived the motive which inspired it and said, "She is come to anoint my body to the burying." He went further and said that because of this act, Mary's name would be mentioned wherever the gospel was preached.

Why was it that Christ immortalized Mary? Was it that He gave preference to a reticent, devotional character in contrast to the practical, strong personality of Martha? No. Was it that He was moved over a generous act? No. Then what was it that Christ had to recognize and honor?

When Mary, in her deep sorrow, had learned that Jesus still loved her despite her bitterness, her love for the Master had been born afresh; and with that love had come faith.

When the corrupted body of her brother Lazarus had come forth from the tomb, animated with new life and inspired by the words of Jesus, her faith had been forever established.

When Jesus spoke of coming events—the Cross and His death—she was inspired to believe that He would rise again as her brother had done. She saw that His greatest triumph was going to come out of what would seem His greatest defeat.

This tremendous experience through which she had just passed had performed a quickening and illuminating work of grace in her own soul. She was now able to sense the nature of coming events, the isolation, the suffering, and the ultimate triumph which the Lord was about to experience. It was her desire to convey to her Lord and Master that she had begun to understand what He was about to go through, and she did so by anointing His body beforehand for the burial. She believed that when He died, He would not need to be anointed and embalmed *because He would rise again!*

When Christ was placed in the tomb a few short days later, loving friends came to embalm Him and they came early to the sepulcher. There was Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome—but not Mary of Bethany. She had already anointed the Lord.

Christ valued the spiritual insight and faith He found in Mary of Bethany above all else. She had clearly grasped the truth that He was immortal, living in the power of an endless life, and knew that was why He had been able to impart life to her brother.

Because the revelation of Christ's immortality was understood by this frail woman, she became immortal. This was the message that all men needed to know. It was an essential part of the gospel—and in telling it her name would be mentioned, and so Mary would be immortal too.

Her name lives on with the gospel. She lives on with her Lord. She who shed the light of her faith upon the Lord in the hour of His temporary eclipse now abides in the eternal, sustaining light of His resurrected presence.

—*Elim Evangel*



The family of Eva Modrick would like to express their deep appreciation and thanks to all the wonderful friends and acquaintances, who were so kind, thoughtful and helpful during the illness of our loved one. Also for the way you stood with us in our hour of sorrow and bereavement. Your many expressions of sympathy through cards, letters, phone calls, and most of all, your prayers in our behalf were a great encouragement to us. May God richly bless you for everything. Thank you so very much.

Mitchell Modrick Family

OBITUARY OF EVA MODRICK

Mrs. Mitchell (Eva) Modrick was born at Aline, Oklahoma on July 11, 1908 and departed this life February 5, 1975 at Enid, Oklahoma at 66 years of age.

On September 20, 1929 she married Mitchell Modrick in Liberal, Kansas.

Eva was converted at an early age and attended churches at Spearman and Perryton until 1948. She and Mitchell attended the Apostolic Faith Bible College, then went into the ministry and worked for the Lord until her health forced their retirement. She attended the Enid Church.

Funeral services were held Saturday February 8th. at 10 a.m. at Ladusau - Evans Chapel with Rev. Elmer Christenson and Bro. George Hinterfardt assisting. Edwin Modrick sang "Beyond the Sunset". A quartet consisting of Ollie and Anna Kinser, Sue Phares and Clark Rutter sang "Precious Memories". Graveside service followed at 3 p.m. at Mountain View Cemetery at Logan, Oklahoma where she was buried.

Survivors are her husband, Mitchell, of the home, one daughter Mrs. George M. (Romona) Phares Jr., Enid. Two grandchildren Michael and Linda, both of Enid and one great grandchild Michael Phares Jr. One sister Mrs. Clark (Faye) Rutter of Burlington, Colorado.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, a daughter, and a grandson.

4-STATE July 25 -
CAMP MEETING August 3
 Baxter Springs, Kansas
 (Committee To Be Announced Later)

4-STATE June 15 - 21
YOUTH CAMP
 Baxter Springs, Kansas
 Ollie Kinser, Chairman
 Joplin, Missouri

Panhandle TEENAGERS
Youth Camp June 29 - July 4
 JUNIORS July 6 - July 11
 Harold J. Bollinger, Chairman
 904 W. 7th. Liberal Kansas 67901
 Phone 316-624-5266
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