

In
Memory Of



Bill Briles

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Report:

Vol. 24 No. 11

November
1977

House Of Prayer

Matthew 21:13 —

"... My house shall be called the house of prayer; ..."

By Eldon Bollinger

Many churches have almost become a place for social gatherings and even the churches that are holding fast the faith and are doing all that they know to do to please God, do not seem to possess the power that has been promised to God's children.

Jesus said in St. John 14:12-14, "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall ye do . . ."

Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead and performed many miracles, and yet He said, **greater works than these shall ye do.**

ARE WE LIVING BELOW OUR PRIVILEGE? Why do we lack the power promised to us? If we look at Jesus' life, we can easily see the point at which the mighty works began.

Immediately after Jesus was baptized and the Spirit of God descended on Him in the form of a dove, Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days and nights to fast and pray.

St. Luke 4:1, "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness."

Jesus had just received a tremendous experience, was filled with the Holy Ghost and God even declared, "Thou art my beloved Son: in thee I am well pleased," yet Jesus had not received the power for His ministry and he found it necessary to spend forty days and forty nights in prayer and fasting, in the wilderness, by Himself, **seeking God.** St. Luke chapter 4 and verse 14 says, "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about."

He returned in the power of the Spirit; it was not the special experience that gave His ministry the power; it was the time He spent seeking God (Prayer and Fasting).

Throughout the ministry of Jesus, we find that he often slipped away and spent time in prayer. St. Luke chapter 5 and verse 16 from the Living Bible says, "But He (Jesus) often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer." And again in St. Luke chapter 6 and verse 12, "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray and continued all night in prayer to God."

The power in the life of Jesus did not come easily. He spent much time in prayer and fasting and seeking God.

I believe that if we as children of God will seek God for His power, as Jesus sought God, that we will indeed do the works that Jesus did and greater.

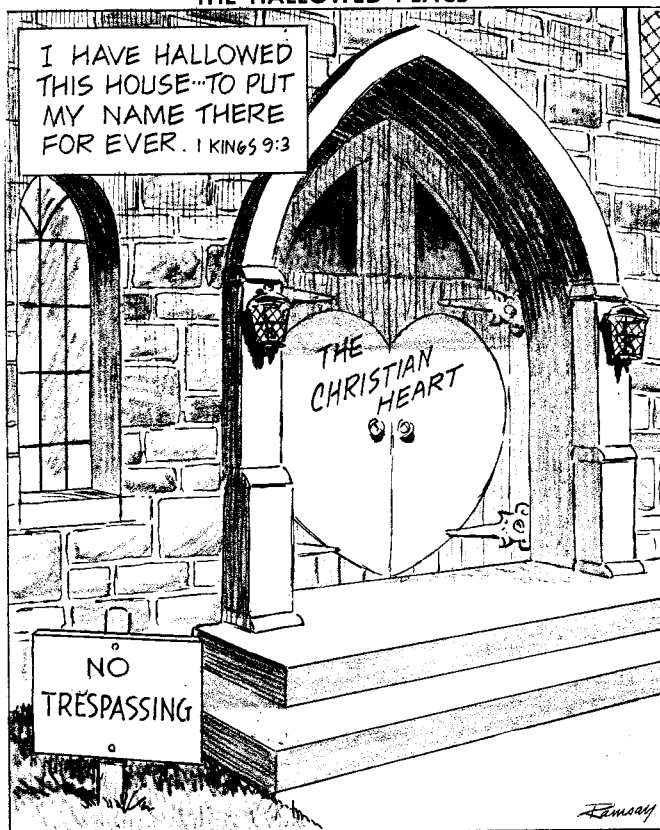
Let's not allow God's house to become just a place of social gatherings or just a place of fellowship. These are needed, but if we are to win the lost and to see the Church become effective in its ministry, then we must have the power of God in our lives individually.

God made provisions for us to have great power. He wants to give us this power, but it will not come as long as we will not take the time or spend the effort necessary to seek God for this power.

Then let our challenge be to seek God in prayer and fasting to obtain the power that He has for us to be worthy of the calling that He has placed upon our lives to never live below the privilege of all that God has for us!

Seek God in Prayer and Fasting!!

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EDITORIAL

Christians Source of Strength - Quietness-Confidence- Joy & Weakness

"Finally, my brethren, **be strong** in the Lord and in the power of his might. (Eph. 6:10) The people that do know their God shall **be strong** and do exploits. (Dan. 11:32) Say to them that are of a fearful heart, **Be strong**, fear not: behold your God. (Is. 33:4) **Be strong** therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded. (II Ch. 15:7) Have not I commanded thee: **Be strong** and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. (Josh. 1:9)

Ask any Sunday School child, or any adult for that matter, who the strongest man in the Bible was, and they will quickly tell you—Samson! And he was strong. He killed a lion with his bare hands; he killed 1,000 men with the jawbone of an ass; he carried the gates to the city of Gaza away and set them on a nearby hill; and even at his death he single-handedly pulled down the pillars of the great temple of Dagon on himself and 3,000 men and women.

But what did he accomplish with his great strength? He never even succeeded in freeing his own people from the Phillistines that overran them. And worse than that Samson was very weak where it counts the most! His **convictions** were so weak that he married a Phillistine girl against the protests of his father. He had no **self-control**. When his joke backfired on him at his wedding feast he left his new bride and went home to daddy pouting. When the Phillistines handed him a dirty deal, he took matters in his own hands to get even. He tied the tails of three hundred foxes together and put lighted firebrands on them and set them loose in their fields to burn up their corn, vineyards and olives. His **influence** was so weak that his country men had no respect for him and turned him over to the enemy to save their own necks.

His **morals** and his **testimony** were so weak that they had almost died by the time he met Delilah. I'm sure she never thought of him as the man of God that he was raised to be. No one would have suspected from his actions that he had been brought up a Nazarite unto God. He lied and played around with serious things until he was 'done-in' by a woman's nagging and completely lost the wonderful strength that God had given him, and he didn't realize it until it was too late.

What kind of strength was Paul talking about, and how does it apply to us today, when he said to us, "Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.?" Sometimes the trials, burdens, upsets, crises, routines and boredoms of life seem more than we can bear and we wonder where we can get the strength to carry on—let alone carry on victoriously.

Let us consider four places in the Bible where it tells us to look for strength. They are probably the last places we would think to ever look for it. God tells us in His word that we are to look for strength in **Quietness**, in **Confidence**, in **Joy** and in **Weakness**.

The first two are found in Is. 31:15, "In **quietness** and in **confidence** shall be your strength." When your little world turns upside down and falls in pieces at your feet—whether it be death, illness, or accident, divorce, or wayward

children, unfaithfulness in your companion or any other tragedy—you will not find strength in becoming hysterical, upset and going to pieces. When your children drive you up the wall with their disobedience, carelessness, and noise, you won't find the strength to bear it or properly discipline them by losing your self-control and shouting threats at them. When you are unjustly criticized or disagreed with, or have hurtful tactless remarks made about you, you won't find strength in defending yourself or arguing; no, not even in retaliation. But, God says, "In **quietness**" — in that deep settled inner peace that comes from God alone—in self-assurance because you are God-assured—your strength will come. Why not turn life's storms over to Him? He can do something about them and all of our efforts are just strength consuming and useless anyway. We are defeating our purpose. We can have quietness in Him if He has control of our lives.

Next is **confidence** not in human strength but in God. The opposite of confidence is worry. Worry never has helped anyone or accomplished anything useful. Worry is not strength! Worry is not trust! Worry is Sin! Lack of worry does not mean a lack of concern, common sense or precaution, for God expects us to use these things. What God is saying when He tells us to "take no thought for tomorrow"—is not to be overly anxious, not to worry. When we have done our best, and all that God has required of us, then we must turn it all over to a wise, all-knowing, caring God, and rest in Him. We all get fearful at times and that should not discourage us to the point of considering giving up. Someone has said, "There is only one way to heaven but you can go either first class or second class. If you go first class you say, 'I will trust and not be afraid' Is. 12:2. But if you are afraid you can go second class, and say, 'What time I am afraid I will trust' Ps. 56:3. Just trust! God is always there and His "everlasting arms" are always underneath to strengthen us in times of stress.

In Neh. 8:10 we read, "The **Joy of the Lord** is your strength." Strength never comes from being sad, or discouraged, or bitter. Trials are sent our way to make us strong. But we'll never find that strength with gritted teeth and our hearts overcharged with grief and bitterness. Joy is not happiness. Joy does not come from circumstances, but comes from a fountain deep within whose source is communion and fellowship with God and His Son. He is our strength. The key word is not just joy—but 'the **Joy of the Lord**.' "I can do all things through Christ which strengthenth me."

The fourth and most unlikely place to find strength is in our **weakness**. For the Lord told Paul, when he sought him three times to remove 'the thorn in the flesh,' "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in **weakness**." As long as we feel self-sufficient we cannot turn loose and let God have his way. But when we come to the end of our human endurance and our strength is gone before the day's hardly begun, then and only then can God be our complete **Source of Strength** and begin working in our behalf. Ps. 73:26 says, "My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." These are trying days and if we ever needed strength for life's battles it's **now**. If you're looking to any human, earthly source for your daily strength you're looking in the wrong place. It only comes through Jesus by the way of **Quietness, Confidence, Joy of the Lord** and our **Weakness**. "The Lord God is my strength." Hab. 3:19.

nb

Obituary of Bill Briles

Bill Briles was born February 29, 1908 and entered into rest at Modesto, California, on September 29, 1977. He had spent the last several months with his son, Ross, and family at Modesto.

Bill spent many years in building and assisting in new works. He had a deep love for the Lord and a commitment to carry out the Lord's Work. A short time before his death he said his path never looked brighter.

Services were held in the Liberal Church under the direction of Bro. G. K. Kerr and was assisted by Bro. Jack Cornell who read eulogies written by Bill's three children. The Congregation joined in the song "Victory in Jesus." Jack and Kathryn Cornell sang "The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference."

The Pallbearers were four of Bill's Grandsons, Charles, Melvin, Delbert, and Robert Simineo and two Nephews, Owen Briles and Mel Reynolds.

He had two daughters, Madeline Simineo of Paonia, Colorado, and Eula Ray of Anchorage, Alaska, and two sons, Ross of Modesto, California, and Richard, who preceded him in death in 1967.

Bro. and Sis. Briles went to pastor the church in Shattuck, Oklahoma, where Sis. Briles finished her life's battle in November, 1973.

Bill enjoyed life and his friends and a special "Thank You" to those who brightened his path with cards, letters and phone calls during the last months of his stay on earth.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, Rev. 14:13."



PREREQUISITE FOR HEALING



Divine Healing

by Edwin W. Modrick
[taken from the Guymon church bulletin]

Ex. 15:26c..." for I am the Lord that Healeth thee." Healeth—(Hebtrew)—RAPHA—*heal, repair, make whole.* Understanding divine health and healing teaches us the trinity of Iman.

1. body 2. mind 3. spirit

We must first understand our function as human beings (few do). We must then acknowledge God made us for a purpose. Thirdly, we should realize God's word tells us everything we need to know to become that whole person. We must apply the fact of the word.

III John 2 tells us about the balanced life. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Rapha means to 'repair and make whole'. We aren't whole until all three aspects are healed and functioning. Many think of healing only in a physical dimension. But notice—understanding. Medicine and the behavioral sciences are now only repeating that which is centuries old. One of the main reasons the Israelites were so fit to battle (bodily) was they followed the law of God for physical fitness.

Divine health is a preventative measure. If we have divine health, we never need divine healing. Often the need for healing arises when we violate God's basic principle of health. God demanded periodic rest by observing the

Sabbath. There were dietary rules which lessened the possibility of tape worms, etc. Laws were even given for cleanliness of body and clothing which prevented outbreak of infection and epidemic. What an advantage this was for the Israelites over their neighbors and enemies.

Negative attitude (an illness of the mind) will always cause unnecessary mental torture and usually physical illness. It's like fighting a war without knowing where the battle is.

God also wants to repair the spirit and make it whole. Healing love is the obvious answer. Even psychiatrists know love is the only antidote for the many-sided diseases produced by an evil spirit.

The redemptive work of Christ is the greatest healing force known to us. We have healing for hatred, bitterness, guilt, envy or any other negative attitudes.

John 30:12-17 concludes our basic outline. Forgiveness and cleansing from sin will bring health and healing. My prayer is you will be made whole in the dimension of your needs.

Ps. 41:3...."The Lord will **strengthen** him upon the bed of languishing."

Strengthen—(Hebrew)—CA'AD comfort, uphold, refresh and establish.

In addition to principles of health, we look to God for direct healing, especially when other avenues have failed.

Many differences of opinion have existed about healing, since the church began. Many groups, including non-christian as well as some cults, have practiced healing. Most all Christians agree the Bible teaches God can heal.

Divine healing in our day is severely criticized. Partly because many so called "healers" have proved to be false. Great crowds have flocked to buildings and tents to see people healed. At this point we should check our motives for attending a healing or miracle service! Are we stimulated by the crowd excitement? Do we, like Peter, just want to be around supernatural excitement and cheap emotionalism.?

The greatest excitement in divine healing belongs to the person being healed. Once they were in bondage and now are set free. Divine healing isn't a spectator's sport. This sacred act should never lift up a man. Our part as spectators is to praise and glorify God. Healing, also builds the faith of those in observation.

Some of the above mentioned have turned off a lot of people; even Christians. In no way, however, does this diminish the fact that God can heal.

Many weird manifestations have occurred because people and their reactions are sometimes weird. God is never weird! The Holy Spirit is never weird! Some Christians are weird, but that isn't God's fault!

Many modern lepers have never been healed. Yet, Nu. 12:10-15 and Luke 17:12-19 teaches me that no disease is exceptional when God is doing the healing. Satan has taken advantage of many to discourage the fact of healing, but God still heals.

Ps. 41:3 speaks of strength or help on the way. The Psalmist repeatedly prayed and thanked God for healing. (Ps. 6:2;) Obedience to God's word is the attitude necessary to be shown for healing and health.

Matthew 4:24...."And they brought unto him all sick people....and he healed them.' Therapeuo-to be waited upon-to be helped or healed. (We get Therapeutic from this word.) Iaomai-heal, make whole, act of curing.

Healing in the New Testament has three different aspects.

TRINITY OF MAN

1. Physical
2. Spiritual
3. Mental

The two main words used are therapeuo (which is used ten times in reference to our Lord's miracles) and iaomai, both of which contain the idea of restoration. (Psm. 23...He restoreth)

The most instances there was a demand for faith to be exercised by the sufferer. Healing was used as both signs and wonders. The first three gospels portray healing as wonders, whereas John specifies them as signs.

In the early church this healing ministry was continued by the apostles, while in I Cor. it is numbered among the gifts. (12:9, 28, 30)

The concept of restoration is an interesting one. We magnify God's creation and wonder working power. We see His majesty in towering mountains and the fruited plains. We proclaim loudly His ability to put the world in space and hang the stars in place. We know the father is omnipotent. **That we can't deny!** A God of might and miracles, it's written in the sky.

We let ourselves even believe the transforming miracle of the new birth. We readily accept the fact God made each of us. (Psm. 139) We are wonderfully designed.

Why is it so difficult to accept the pure message of divine healing? I mean for us—today? We try to find out if God can heal; or how He is going to heal, if in fact, did He heal?

Just back off and let God move. Let Him heal! His one specialty is restoration. We see restoration in Genesis. We see restoration of Israel. We see the fact of our own spiritual restoration. We accept the doctrine of millennialism as restorative. Why get hung up on one small detail—one little need for one small life? Does God perform miracles? Or not?? Does He??

If we reject physical healing and its message of restoration, we throw out the baby with the bath water. We must then reject God as a miracle God. We cut off the fact of restoration. We stop God's continuity of restoration. Most things I don't understand about healing—BUT I understand **God Can Heal**. God Can—IAOMAI—make whole: fully restore.

We talk about what God did in the New Testament or the early church. When did the New Testament stop? When did the church stop? When did the Book of Acts stop? Where is chapter 29 of the Book of Acts?

Should we not be walking in Acts chapter 29 now? When did God change? When did God die? When did the church change? Why did the members of the church change?

It is easier to have the perspective which requires little or no faith. That is the favorite stance of the modern church. The church is afraid of failure. The church has too much pride! To have real faith means—"being willing to fail." Willing to fail with God is the greatest security we have. It's the only security we have.

I'm willing to take God at his Word. He is a gentleman and never has broken his Word yet. "And he healed them." Matthew 4:24



Prayer Request
Mrs. Olive Ragan
Box 681
Boise City, Okla. 73933

Hardesty, Oklahoma

Greetings from Hardesty.

Rev. Jimmy Wallis recently held a revival with son, Randy, in charge of the song service. The Seekers and The Royalheirs provided the special music. It was such a privilege to have all these people with us.

Rev. Wallis brought some very soul-searching messages; a real growing time in the Lord. The special singers added greatly to the services.

The parsonage has new windows and siding, and carpet for the livingroom and entrance.

The church basement has been painted and three rooms carpeted, along with the office.

We are so thankful for these much needed improvements.

We are saddened by the loss of Bro. Jobby Tidrick. He is missed by all, and served the church for many years.

Jack Cornell, pastor
Mary Lorraine Jones, reporter

Katy, Texas

We have been blessed by the visitors God has sent our way. Bro. and Sis. Jacob Regier, Bro. and Sis. David McCance, and Bro. Don Hal Haney have all been with us to share in services in the past month. May the Lord bless them in their service for Him.

May the Lord bless Bro. Benny Stanberry in labors with his radio broadcasts each Sunday morning.

We enjoyed the A.F.B.C. choir as they came to minister to us in song.

The Holy Spirit blessed as Bro. Ron Martin brought the devotional at the Preacher and Laity Meeting held at our church, October 3.

Jim Fox, pastor

Granby, Missouri

Our Youth Group has adopted the motto "I can do" for their statement of faith this fall as they endeavor to work for the Lord by helping people in need with odd jobs. The Sunday School has adopted the scripture "Here am I, Send me." Isaiah 6:8 as their theme for fall.

With Revival Fires still burning in our souls we continue to feel the presence of the Lord in our services and in our lives.

Edwin Waterbury, pastor

Four-State Area

A ladies' luncheon for women of all the area churches was held October 13 in Joplin. Sister Stella Cornell gave a demonstration on arranging flowers. The Lord blessed as Sister Naomi Busch led in choruses preceding talks given by Sister Billie Ragan on being a "Chosen One of God" and by Sister Patsy Waterbury who gave a personal testimony on "Renewing Our Strength" using Is. 40:28-31. God's Presence was felt as the meeting closed with the women sharing testimonies and praying for each other's burdens.

San Diego, California

Sunday, September 11, Master William Albert Roomsburg was dedicated to the Lord by his parents, Mark and Rebecca Roomsburg. Rebecca is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Walls of Barstow, California and the granddaughter of Rev. James Hosler and Mrs. Florence Walls. Construction has begun on a new parsonage and plans are underway for the construction of a new Church building with classrooms that will accomodate 300. We praise the Lord for His moving power.

Homer H. Allen, Pastor
1727 Donax Avenue
San Diego, California 92154

Roswell, New Mexico

God is so good! I would like to write and give Him the praise He deserves.

As we enter the fall season we want to say how much we have enjoyed all of our visitors in the past few months. Sister Zana Yeakel, Bro. Jerome Crowhurst and family, and Bro. Tom Day and family have visited us and shared in services. We feel a special love when these that have labored among us come to visit.

We were saddened at the news of Brother Bill Briles' passing. We learned to know and love Bro. Briles in the time he served as our pastor. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family.

We have had some changes the past few months. Bro. Tom Day resigned as our pastor to serve as Dean of Men at A.F.B.C. Bro. Gary Cloke and family went back to Oklahoma to work for the Lord. We wish them all the best as they labor for Jesus.

Last of all we want to say a big thank you to Bro. and Sis. Allan Hickman of Ft. Sumner, New Mexico, who are filling in for us as pastors. They are doing a great job. We pray God will bless them as only He can.

Pray for us all.
Joann Hall, Reporter
Allan Hickman, Pastor

Randy and Jane Dalton, and Shari Cook held a week-end revival in Cave Springs, Arkansas, October 21-23. Reverend Wapel Ferguson is the pastor.

Reverend and Mrs. Johnny Scruggs held a Revival in Joplin, Missouri, October 16-23. Reverend and Mrs. Neil Ragan are pastors.

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Tom and Connie Day
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WORDS FROM ALASKA

By Bill Patterson

After an eventful 12-day trip, we arrived in the beautiful state of Alaska. For quite sometime I searched for my assignment (the specific function God wants us to do in Alaska). I felt like a man who needs to go somewhere, but doesn't know how to get there.

Then about 3½ weeks ago, I received specific direction: To work towards the establishment of full-time Christian television programming. I believe, because this is God's will, that it can be accomplished in a short while. As if on a great chessboard, God is already moving men and situations into position.

NOW—What will this accomplish?

1. More unity of the local churches in a united effort for the kingdom.

2. The combination of full-time Christian television and a unity of local churches will put the enemy on notice that he has held this territory long enough.

It's time that a new kingdom takes over—One that will never be destroyed. Praise the Lord.

I'm sharing this with you, because we have felt you standing with us in prayer. We need this very much because of the spiritual oppression that is overshadowing this state.

Your partners in the kingdom,
Bill, Vicki, and Clint

(The Pattersons have been filling in for Bro. J. D. Ray while he has been on an Evangelistic trip to Poland.)

Perryton, Texas

Our church family has been growing spiritually in the past month's time. The Lord sent His Spirit on our church family during a Lay Witness Mission September 24-25 weekend. We were blessed to see souls saved, homes reunited in love, restitutions made, physically ill bodies healed by the Great Physician, broken hearts and wounded spirits mended, and much more.

Twenty-eight of our church traveled to Guymon, Wednesday, October 5, to share with these Christian brothers and sisters. Here too, the Lord truly blessed.

Our spiritual lives were also broadened and blessed by the Bible Conference with Bro. J. D. and Sis. Eula Ray and Sis. Norma Jean Doty's ministered to us in a special way.

We have recently welcomed Bro. Dewey and Sis. Sandra Flock, and their children, Kristi, and Ky to our church family. May the Lord bless you.

Harrol Waterbury, pastor

Galena, Kansas

Saturday, October 22, Dora Kraus of Wichita, Kansas, came and shared with us her slide presentation and talk on her trip to the Holy Land. Joan Cooper, of Baxter Springs, sang, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" accompanied by Naomi Busch. It was husband's night for our Ladies Group and we also invited the area churches to come be with us. Our church family had a covered dish supper that night. Bro. Olen Bachler held a revival for us November 6-13. The Lord blessed.

E. K. Cornell, pastor

Taneyville, Missouri

Our Youth Retreat was held at the General Baptist Camp Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1, and it was a great success. Marlon Sparks was the main speaker and Shari Cook, Grace Beeler, and Randy and Jane Dalton were in charge of the activities. The McDonald Sisters from Alvin, Texas, were the featured singers. They are attending AFBC this term. Others attending from AFBC were Bobby Russell, Jim Crouch, Carla Nordberg, Dwight Wilson, and Stewart Martin. There were 42 in attendance. Several of the youth received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and some were saved during the retreat. The Campfire service Friday night was especially good. The Bible School group stayed over and had charge of the Sunday morning service at our church. Bro. Earl Blancit had a revival in the Nazarene Church at Bradleyville October 9-23. Several from our church attended regularly. Sis. Shari Cook was in charge of the special music.

Bro. Winston Barker, pastor



Neil Ragan, pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church, Joplin, Missouri, and Billie Moorehead of Balko, Oklahoma, were united in marriage August 20, 1977, at the Balko Church with Bro. Danny Robinson performing the ceremony. Billie's two sons, Gary and Brent escorted her to the altar. Music was by Lora Tayler and Lee Ann Thurman with Debbie Robinson the organist. Our prayers and good wishes go with Neil and Billie as they labor for the Lord in the Joplin Church.

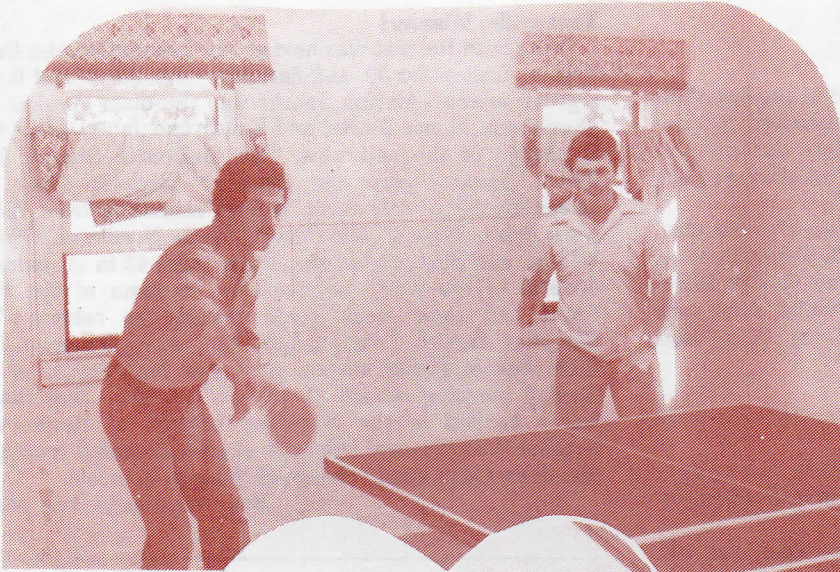
A reception was held in honor of the Ragans at the Old Home of AFBC after the September meeting of the Four-State Ministers' and Laity Group.



Terry and Rhonda Shepherd of Pierce City, Missouri, announce the arrival of their baby girl, Adrian Janae' Shepherd on October 14, 1977. She weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz. Maternal grandparents are Bill and Delpha Speaks, Neosho, Missouri. Reverend and Mrs. Bill Patterson, Sr., of Kansas City, are the great-grandparents.

Amanda Brooke came September 29, 1977 to bless the home of David and Karen Turner. She weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Crouse of Wichita, Kansas. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Turner of Joplin, Missouri.

AFBC



A bleary-eyed group (from early rising) stood waiting to board the bus early Monday morning, October 10. They had learned that their choir-director-superintendent liked to rise early and be on his way. Silence prevailed as Bro. Jerome rolled the bus along the highway until day began to break. Then the fun began.

A short stop for play at Enid since we were about 45 minutes too early to eat lunch. You should have seen the dignified superintendent crawling through the "kids" play-tunnel. With everyone rested, the group continued their journey to Follett for their first concert to be given in the Darrouzett auditorium.

Every concert was well attended and the Lord blessed the choir as they sang for His glory. Other concerts were given at the Follett School, Hardesty School, and then that night at Hardesty, Liberal, Kansas; Pampa, Texas; Hempstead Church, Alvin, Katy, Texas; then across country again to Mississippi. The choir gave a concert at South Choctaw Academy, Toxey, Alabama, and then that night at the Snell Church just out of Meridian.

We're so very thankful for God's blessings upon this tour. At several concerts the Lord blessed in a marvelous way . . . even though some were sick, God met the need and poured out his spirit upon us. At the Pampa concert God blessed with a message in another language with the interpretation given. His presence was felt in a sweet spirit upon all.

Thanks to every church that opened their doors to us.



Choir Tour



And another Big Thanks to everyone that supplied food and shelter along the way. We all appreciated it so much. I believe everyone gained weight including the director.

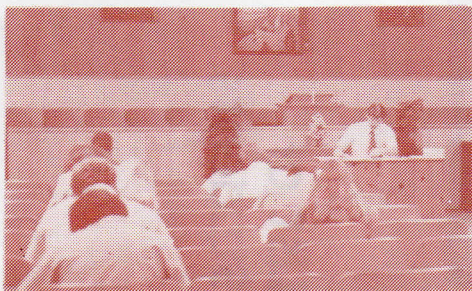
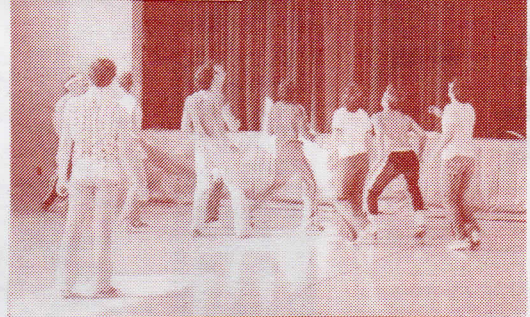
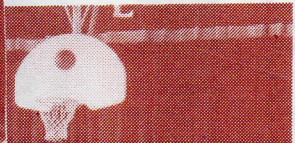
Thank you also for the financial help which was given. The school can't operate without your assistance and we do want each of you to know that your part is a big part and we thank you.

After our last concert at Snell, the group reluctantly boarded the bus to begin the all night drive toward home. As if they hadn't sung enough, their voices blended together in song as the bus rolled out of the yard onto the highway. Around midnight silence reigned again as the sandman visited the bus' passengers.

Baxter looked great about 3 o'clock when we arrived back at school. The dining room had been decorated with balloons and everyone's name hanging from the doorways. Two large decorated cakes had been placed on the table. Thank you Gayla Rose, Lachelle Whiteley, and Sis. Stella Cornell.

Classes began the next day. Soon Bible School for 1977 will be history. Our Thanksgiving banquet will be held again this year and we're hoping to see many of you then. Please continue to pray for each student and faculty member that God will anoint hearts and minds to receive His Word.

Apostolic Faith Bible School Choir and Superintendent
Howard Whiteley



AFBC Student Body

November 1977



10

List of Students

Fred Arnall, Granby, Missouri
Cecil Baker, Des Arc, Arkansas
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Daryn Beagle, Arnett, Oklahoma
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Kimberly Cantrell, Gower, Missouri
Ken Carney, Quitman, Mississippi
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April Wolf, Guymon, Oklahoma
Ronald Yocham, Guymon, Oklahoma
Bobby Walker, Dumas, Texas
Glen Webster

A. F. Report

AFBC Choir



Thanksgiving Banquet, November 24, 1977, at 5 p.m. at the First Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Those wishing a time of fellowship and thanksgiving with the students and to attend are extended a cordial welcome. Come and enjoy faculty of AFBC.

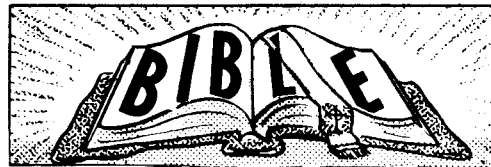
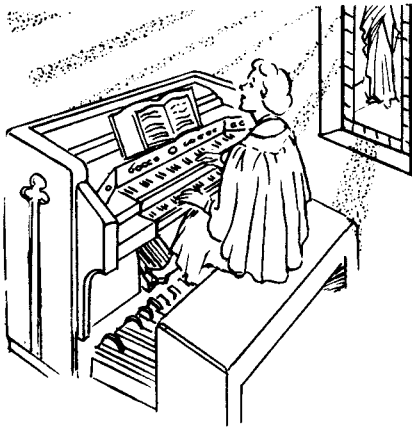
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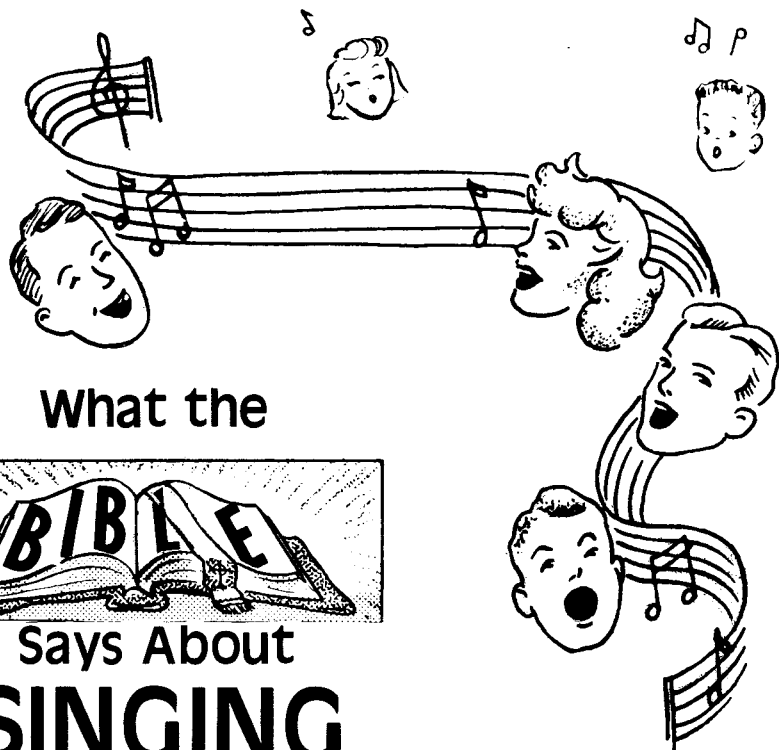
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What the Says About SINGING

by David Turner



Songs and music play a major role in worshipping God and have done so for centuries. Most types of 'religious' exercises, whether Christian or heathen, employ singing and music to some degree. Singing and music is as old as time itself. At the dawn of Creation when the foundations of the earth were laid, "The morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for Joy." (Job 38:7)

Every person, at one time or another, is influenced by music and, particularly, singing. Whether at school, on the job or just riding in the car, music has become a predominant part of our daily life.

BY DEFINITION

SINGING—To utter with musical modulations of voice. To celebrate in song. To praise in verse. To utter sounds with melody of the voice. To pipe, twitter, chirp, hum or reverberate.

SONG—Singing, poem or a piece of poetry, especially if set to music.

A song does not necessarily indicate that a person performs by singing verse set to music. A song can be a poem or poetry read aloud. However, when poetry or verse is set to music, then we recognize them as being true songs in the sense that we have come to term songs and singing.

COMMAND OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Even as the Lord God Jehovah has designed and ordained that His Creation worship him alone, we understand that singing is one of the main means of performing this duty to our God. The singing of songs shows devotion for God. Just as in the various acts of worship, the attitude of the heart is important as you sing. Our singing is to be directed alone to the Lord. This is

worship to Him as we sing to the Lord.

"Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob." (Psalms 81:1)

The writer (and the Author) of this verse did not leave singing as an option to the individual. HE said, "Sing..." This is a direct command to "Sing aloud unto God."

We discover another important Biblical truth in this simple yet wonderful verse. Our singing is to be directed to God alone. There certainly is no mention of singing to please or entertain others. Just as in worshipful acts using the body (lifting of hands, bowing, shouting, etc.) singing required that we direct it ultimately to the Father.

"Sing ye to the Lord." (Ex. 15:21a)

"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing." (Psalms 101:1)

MOTIVES FOR SINGING

Just as there are numerous songs that we know to sing unto the Lord, there are a variety of different reasons that necessitates our praising God in song.

HE IS OUR SALVATION

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." (Psalms 95:1-2)

Sing unto our SALVATION—GOD. Express joy for salvation. It is very pleasing to God to receive songs from his children. This thought seems to take on an extra dimension as we can give, as gifts, songs unto our Lord. Just as you and I are created for his pleasure, satisfaction and enjoyment, so are the songs of praise and worship that

we render unto Him. So, SING ALOUD UNTO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION. *(Revelation 4:11, "For thou hast created *all* things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.")

HE IS HOLY

"Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness." (Psalms 30:4)

"And my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness." (Psalms 51:14b)

"They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness." (Psalms 145:7)

SINGING DECLARES GOD'S MIGHT AND WORKS

"Sing praises to the Lord, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings." (Psalms 9:11)

"Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works." (I Chron. 16:9)

PETER'S FOUR-FOLD REASON FOR SINGING

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (I Peter 2:9)

Although Peter does not name singing as specifically the only manner in which we are to "Shew forth the praises of" the Lord, we understand by the Word of God that singing is certainly one manner in which we can praise Him. Wherever one might find the words sing, singing, or songs, it will be a rare instance indeed if you do not find the "praises of the Lord" connected with it in some manner.

Peter has listed four sound reasons why we should sing (praise) for the Lord: (1) We are CHOSEN, (2) We are made ROYAL by the blood of Jesus, (3) We are also made HOLY, (4) We are PECULIAR. That is, we are set apart from the 'world' by Christ Jesus. We were in the past "not a people, but are now the people of God." (I Peter 2:10) If that doesn't inspire you to PRAISE IN SONG, nothing will.

SINGING LEADS TO VICTORY

"And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were done against Judah; and they were smitten." (II Chron. 20:21,22)

The above verses relate to a very interesting story of how the Lord God administered victory and deliverance unto His People when they were threatened by the invading armies of the Moabites and the Ammonites. As the story is unfolded we learn some very important things: (1) The children of Judah (Praise) were outnumbered, (2) They fasted and prayed for victory, (3) Their eyes were on the Lord alone, (4) They exalted God and reminded Him of his promise to Abraham, (5) God answered them and

assured them that He had everything in control. (They were told that the battle was not theirs' but God's. Set yourselves and see the salvation of the Lord. These were His instructions.), (6) As they obeyed and trusted alone in the divine arm of God, they began to SING and PRAISE Him and, (7) God gave them victory by setting ambushes against the enemy.

NOTICE THAT IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE CHILDREN OF JUDAH HAD BEGUN TO PRAISE AND SING UNTO THE LORD THAT GOD FULFILLED HIS PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE AND VICTORY UNTO THEM. IT WAS PURELY SIMULTANEOUS ACTION.

There is an important lesson here for us as trusting Faith-Christians. When our lot in life gets rough it seems that God is not fulfilling his role as provider and deliverer, after you apply the WORD and PROMISES of the Lord to the situation, begin to sing and praise Him for His promise. See if He does not intervene and simultaneously, perhaps, solve our problem just as He simultaneously delivered Judah while they SANG AND PRAISED.

IT PAYS TO CONTINUE TO SING, EVEN IN ADVERSITY.

SINGING BRINGS DELIVERANCE

"And at midnight, Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shake: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed" (Acts 16:25,26)

Instead of complaining about their situation, (Paul and Silas had been imprisoned for the Gospel) they prayed and sang praises unto God far into the night. This act of submission and worship led not only to their deliverance (remember the above story?) but also to "the opening of the doors." By singing praises they had doors opened that would have ordinarily been closed and, as a result, a man and his entire household were saved. ADDITIONALLY, "every one's bands were loosed." By singing about the BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST men that are under the influence of Satan's attack and are in spiritual bondage can have that band loosed and broken for ever. "Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance." (Psalms 32:7)

For Paul and Silas as well as for you and I today, it certainly is profitable to continue to "sing aloud unto the rock of our salvation." (Psalms 32:7b)

SINGING TEACHES THE WORD OF GOD

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." (Col. 3:16,17)

Public singing of songs is an effective and scriptural means of teaching and encouraging others to further service for Jesus Christ. Many congregations have adopted the practice of singing the blessed scriptures out of a PSALTER. This corresponds directly to Paul's command to Christians.

"Thy statutes have been my songs." (Psalms 119:54)

A song that teaches or instructs is said to be DIDACTIC. A DIDACTIC SONG contains, PRECEPTS, DOCTRINES AND OPINIONS. The song of Moses in the 32nd chapter of Deuteronomy is a prime example (verses 3 and 4).

"Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Lord, his work is perfect; for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."

This simple song teaches: (1) the greatness of God, (2) we should recognize His Greatness, (3) He is the Rock (of our Salvation), (4) His work is perfect, (5) Judgment is His way, (6) He is a God of truth, (7) He has no iniquity, (8) He is right, and, (9) He is just.

(The entire 12th chapter of Isaiah is another excellent example of a DIDACTIC SONG.)

Congregational singing, next to direct teaching from the Bible, is one of the best features of a religious service or gathering. It is one of the most effective means by which one can teach a group of persons to learn the basic truths and doctrines from the Word of God. A singing church is generally well attended and people love singing. A SINGING CHURCH COMPLIMENTS A TEACHING PULPIT.

HE IS BOUNTIFUL

"I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me" (Psalms 13:6).

Has God dealt with you in a bountiful manner? Has He blessed you with riches? Has He given you good health? Has He been ever so merciful with you? Have you a wonderful family because of Him? Has He given you a True Friend? Sing aloud unto the Lord! Make His Praises known! Sing to the Lord!

HE IS MERCIFUL AND GOOD

"And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel (or, His people)." (Ezra 3:11).

By this verse we can also see that it is scriptural to sing as a congregation.

JESUS SANG

"And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives" (Mark 14:26).

This scene took place immediately after the Last Supper and immediately preceding the capture of our Lord by his Betrayer. Jesus, knowing his soon approaching fate at the hands of his murderers, still acknowledged that God deserves PRAISING AND SINGING. Despite his surrounding circumstances, Jesus continued to worship his Father.

A SONG IS AN ACT OF CELEBRATION

"I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him" (Ex. 15:1b, 2 and the entire chapter).

Moses wrote down this song for the people to sing as a means of celebration of their divine deliverance from the toil and strife that accompanied the bondage in Egypt.

THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR HEART PROVOKES SINGING

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13).

"Behold, my servants shall sing for joy fo heart" (Isa. 65:14a).

In the first scripture given, the parallel is drawn between grief and joy and the human response to both of these emotions: IF YOU'RE HAVING A PROBLEM, PRAY ABOUT IT. IF YOU'RE MERRY, SING ABOUT IT.

SINGING IS RELATED TO GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the Spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (I Cor. 14:15).

In this particular chapter of the Corinthian letter, Paul is instructing the Church of Jesus Christ to live and WORSHIP in the Spirit (the Holy Spirit). In the 12th verse of this chapter, he tells those Christians that desire the manifested gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate in their lives to let them operate so as to edify (build up or charge up) the other members. Paul continues on to instruct us that if we PUBLICLY pray in the Spirit, or in another language, or tongues, we are to INTERPRET that prayer in our native language. This is what is meant by "praying with the understanding." And if we SING in the Spirit (again, sing in another language PUBLICLY) we need to SING with our understanding also. Follow any public singing in the Spirit with the interpretation so that those present will understand what is being given and thereby be edified. It should be noted that an interpretation is not necessarily needed if singing in the Spirit takes place in one's devotions.

For the Spirit-filled Christian, singing in the Spirit (Tongues) is and should be a normal part of worship, whether in public gatherings or in private devotions. This type of worship is probably one of the most beautiful and reverent forms of worship. As you sing in the Spirit you can yield more fully to God and His Precious Holy Spirit. You can give yourself more easily unto Him while doing this. God seeks such as to worship him in "Spirit and in truth."

PRIVATE WORSHIP

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Eph. 5:19)

We find that as we examine the verses that immediately precede this verse Paul has again instructed us to "be filled with the Spirit." (verse 18) Paul recognized the personal need for private worship. This verse tends to lean toward that thought of private worship and is not necessarily speaking of public worship. We easily see some things that he was trying to convey to us to help us understand how to better worship God in songs.

Paul tells us to: (1) Sing and speak to ourselves, (2) Sing PSALMS (hymns of devotion, from the Bible, scripture choruses for example), (3) Sing hymns (Songs of praise, sacred lyric, could also be written by men), (4) Worship in spiritual songs (this denotes singing in your prayer language), (5) Singing, and, (6), Making melody in your hearts (you can make melody by singing or humming a familiar tune or compose one to the Lord right there on the spot).

SINGING WILL ACCOMPANY THE LORD'S RETURN

"And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (isa. 35:10)

It is certainly no surprise that this present world will close out its existence in the same manner in which it was initiated: with SINGING. As the foundations of the world were laid by the Lord God, the morning stars were said to have been singing (see Job 38:7) As Jesus Christ will return to this wicked planet to establish his 1,000 year rule of peace, his Ransomed or Redeemed Church shall return in like manner SINGING also. Again we see that our God is not a haphazard planner but a God of Design and Pattern. Just another reason to "sing unto the Rock of our Salvation."

THE LORD GIVES A SONG IN THE NIGHT

"Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life." (Ps. 42:8)

God certainly continues to give songs for all occasions. Have you ever awakened in the middle of the night and there be a song continually running through your heart and mind? God gives that song in the nighttime.

A NEW SONG

"And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord." (Ps. 40:3)

This is the Psalmist David speaking about the new song that the Lord gives after His Salvation has gone forth to the individual. In the preceding verse David establishes the facts for the reader. The Lord has just: (1) Raised David up from a horrible pit of sin, (2) Set his feet upon a ROCK and, (3) Established David's goings.

What is that new song that is so foreign to the sinner? It is PRAISE UNTO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION. Upon Salvation the new man tends to sing praises to the God he had just yesterday cursed. God certainly puts a new song in our hearts.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PROVIDE SINGING

"Praise the Lord with harps: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings" (Ps. 33:2)

The playing of musical instruments are equally as worshipful and in order as are the singing of songs in the Church. We are instructed to use instruments as a means of expressing our praise and adoration to the Lord. Even as we can say "Amen" with our voice, we can also say, "Bless

the Lord O my soul" with the guitar, piano, drum, trumpet or any other musical instrument. Like singing, the implementing of such instruments in the course of worship should always be done with the right motive. Do it as unto the Lord. As victorious sons and daughters of the Living God, we should always welcome the playing of any instrument that is done to the glory and worship of God.

"The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after." (Ps. 68:25)

The preceding verse has been submitted for this study to once again point out that in all things, our God is a God of Pattern and Order. There is a very noticeable order found here as singers went before the players of instruments in the procession concerning the transporting of the Ark of the Covenant. It would only make sense that God would esteem that actual sound of man's voice praising Him above the sounds of any inanimate (unliving) instrument. There is no praise likened to or equal to the praises of the human voice directed to the Creator of that voice.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION*

In the heavens 10,000 times 10,000 and 1000's of 1000's of angels sing and the whole Redeemed creation will join in that chorus. Everybody will sing in Heaven, and will never grow tired of it.

In the Psalms, "Praise" was always found on the lips of David. He always thanked God with his whole soul. "Rejoice" is another favorite word in these Psalms. David's love and joy for the Lord was undaunted and undimmed by his unceasing troubles. He Praised. Over and over, he cries, "Shout for joy, and Sing." The Psalms leaves the reader with a deeper devotion for God.

Let us always seek to please and worship God as we sing. We never would want to sing just so that others might admire and applaud our talents. Let us sing as unto the "Rock of our Salvation."

Is it any surprise that the longest book in the Word of God and the most quoted and revered of Old Testament Books, The Psalms, results in songs being sung to the Lord? From the Hebrew word TEHILLIM, Psalms means "praises" and as translated from the Greek word PSALMOI, it means "Twangings of harp strings."

PSALTER is derived in the English to mean "harp songs."

Twenty-three of the Psalms are believed to have been written by Israel's singers.

The word SHIR, which means SONG, is translated "joyful melody" 30 times in the Psalms.

IN CONCLUSION

There is much more to study about what the Word of God has to say about the nature of Songs and Music. But, let us just add one simple yet dynamic and beautiful scripture from the book of Zephaniah, chapter 3 and verse 17: "The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing."

* ("For Your Information" was adapted from material taken from Halley's Bible Handbook.)

AFBC Closing Exercises

Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.
December 14, 1977

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

God in a Star

by
College Choir

Howard Whiteley, Director
Tammy Oakes, Pianist
Yvonna Whiteley, Organist

(Reception afterward at the Old Home)

Thursday, 10:30 A.M.
December 15, 1977

DEDICATION SERVICE

Master of Ceremonies.....Jerome Crowhurst
Special Music.....Girls' Sextet
Boys' Quartet
Sermon.....Bro. Jake Pletcher

Thursday, 2:00 P.M.
December 15, 1977

HOMECOMING SERVICE

Master of Ceremonies.....James Ray Routh

All music arranged and conducted by former students

Speaker.....Elmer Christenson

**Annual Business Meeting immediately following the
Homecoming Service**

Thursday, 7:00 P.M.
December 15, 1977

COMMENCEMENT

Invocation

Special Music.....Choir
Girls' Sextet
Speaker.....Neil Ragan
Presentation of diplomas.....Howard Whiteley, Supt.
Benediction

Panhandle Camp Meeting Laverne, Oklahoma

Wednesday Night, June 21 — Thursday Night June 29

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9:00 a.m. Prayer
10:00 a.m. Bible Lesson & Children's Church
2:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship
6:00 p.m. Youth Service
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

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