

The Apostolic

Vol. 27 No. 7

July 1980

Faith Report



... I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalm 32:8

EDITORIAL VOICE



BEFORE OR AFTER?

"Before or after"-a common phrase to all of us. Magazines are full of "before" and "after" situations. We see pictures of people who have lost weight and their appearance has changed greatly. We see advertisements that guarantee a change in our looks if we just use their make-up, clothes or hair coloring. And sure enough these things do change our appearance. The appearance of our homes can be changed by buying certain paints or siding. We can even buy do-it-yourself kits to make our cars a little snappier looking. These are just a few examples of "before and after" situations.

But the most profound "before and after" situation we will ever come in contact with is when our lives are transformed by the power of God. All throughout the scriptures we read example after example of lives that were completely transformed by the power of God. In the book of Matthew we read of one of the disciples that was so much like we are today. Peter loved the Lord and desired to serve him. He vowed to always stand by Jesus even though others might forsake him. I believe Peter meant to do just that. And yet shortly we find him denying Jesus as he stands in the judgment hall of his enemies. Many have ridiculed Peter for his act but still he followed afar off while the rest of the disciples fled. We see a "before" picture of Peter. But "after" the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Christ what a change we see in Peter. Shortly before Jesus ascended to the Father, he instructed his followers to go to Jerusalem and tarry until they were endued with power from on high. Jesus knew that Peter would deny him even before he did. Why? Because Peter was a coward and fearful and weak? Not so. Peter was a strong man as far as he could go, but without the power from on high none can stand.

Jesus also knew what the disciples faced as they lived and preached the glorious gospel. He knows what you and I face each day and to us also the instruction was given to be endued with power from on high. Thank God for the precious blood of Jesus that sanctifies and cleanses us, preparing our lives for the power of the Holy Ghost that we so desperately need in these last and closing days.

Not one of us are strong enough to meet the opposing forces that are in the world today. We need the precious Holy Spirit in our lives for guidance. We need him to teach and lead us in all paths of righteousness.

Yes, truly Peter was a different man after the day of Pentecost. No longer did he buckle under pressure from his enemies but stood firm and faithful to the end.

We have access to the same power and strength just as Peter did. It's up to you and I individually—do we want the "before" or "after" experience?

God has all we need. Praise Him!

Karen

Doctrinal Teachings Of The Apostolic Faith

Trinity of the God—Head
1 John 5:7

Repentance [Act of Man]
Mark 1: 14*-15
2 Peter 3:9
Acts 3:19

Conversion [Justification] [Act of God]
Matt. 18:3
Acts 13:38, 39
II Cor. 5:17

Consecration [Act of Man]
Romans 12: 1,2

Sanctification [Act of God]
[A second definite work of grace]
Heb. 13:12,13
Ephesians 5: 25*-27
I Thess. 5:23

Baptism of the Holy Ghost
Luke 3:16
Acts 1:5
Acts 2:4
Acts 10:45, 46

Divine Healing
Matt. 4:23
I Peter 2:24
James 5: 14-16

Ordinances
Water Baptism [by immersion]
Matt. 28:19
Romans 6: 3,4

The Lords Supper
Matt. 26: 26-28
I Cor. 11: 23-30

Feet Washing
John 13: 4-5, 14

NO Divorce and Remarriage
Luke 16:18
I Cor. 7:39

Second Coming of Christ
John 14:3
Acts 1:11
Matt. 24:30

Thousand Year Reign of Christ
Rev. 20:6
Rev. 20:4

Conditional Immortality
[Life through Christ]
John 10:10
I John 5:11, 12
Romans 2:7

Destruction of the Wicked
Matt. 7:13
II Thes. 1:7-9
Romans 6:23
Mal. 4:1

Tithes and Offerings
Mal. 3:8, 10
Luke 11:42

\$ Why \$ \$ Tithe? \$

By Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Townsend

For some time we have felt a deep concern about the subject of "tithing." It is so seldom taught from the pulpit that many of our young people know little if anything about the plan and purpose of tithing. Many of the older believers seem to think that tithing is optional.

I understand why pastors and evangelists are reluctant to preach on the subject. They are fearful that the non-tithers in the church will take offense. That may be true but I don't think it is the rule for I remember when we were young Christians, the truth of God's plan of tithing was a blessing to us. We both knew that we were to tithe but when a minister came along who taught us why we should tithe and showed that all believers, when they accept Christ into their hearts, are to give Him first place in their lives. This means time, talent, home, pleasure, money, in everything that is part of me, God is to be first. When we understood that principle tithing became a blessing to us.

There are reasons for tithing. First, it is God's plan. God's plan was not made haphazardly. His plans are carefully made for our good. In Malachi 3:10-12 we read: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open up the windows of Heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of Hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightful land."

As we examine this scripture let us remember this was spoken to God's people. God had to have the people first. He loves His people and is instructing them for their good. First and foremost God wants us. We are his first concern, not our money. After we have accepted Him and become His children, then he wants us to follow His great plan for our lives so that he can bless us. The first reason for us bringing in the tithes is that there may be meat in the House of God. The priests and all who ministered in God's house must be fed. That is true today. The tithe is used to support those who minister the Gospel Message to the rest of us. Thus the gospel can be carried to the world. Our ministers should not need to work other than the Lord's house, and that includes all the work of God. Many of them must do other work in order to provide for their families.

If our pastor is doing God's work and really taking care of the church, then the laity should see that there is meat (provisions) in God's house. We should be ashamed of ourselves if our pastors and evangelists are not cared for.

Second, it is to teach people that God and His kingdom must be first in our lives. So many Christians people are afraid to tithe for fear that they won't have enough to supply their own needs. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus teaches us not to be

as the heathen who worry and fret about food and clothing. He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." So many seek the food, clothes, rent, mortgage payments, and pleasure and if any is left they give to God's work. These tendencies must be reversed. Put God's part aside first and establish a life principle of putting God first and you will become a real tither. God wants tithers then he gets the tithe.

Let's go farther and examine the scripture. He says in our way of speaking, "Try me, and see if I won't pour out blessings that is more than you will be able to receive." Who does the pouring out? Who has it to give? The gold, the silver, the cattle of a thousand hills, everything belongs to God. If we obey him in becoming a tither He will give us more than we can contain. He will assure us good income through the labor of our hands and we will be such a happy people that all nations will call us blessed.

Tithing is a form of worship. We recognize God's ownership of all things, and realize that he has made us stewards over nine tenths of it, while He only keeps one tenth. Praise Him! When we work and earn money we are putting of ourselves into that money. We use our brain, brawn and energy in earning it and when we return one tenth of it to God, we are giving of ourselves. We are worshipping God.

Some people feel they can't afford to tithe. Let me ask one question: Can a Christian afford to put God first in his life? He can't afford to do otherwise. God bless you!

Camp Meeting 1980 July 24-31 Laverne, Oklahoma

For Information Contact:

Rev. Ted Barker

R. 1 Laverne, Oklahoma

73848

Phone (405) 921-5188

Camp Pine Crest

Miss. - Ala

July 5-11

Testimonies of God's Goodness

The Lord has given me a special testimony and I would like to share it with you. All the glory of this story belongs to God, so please, when you finish reading this, give Him a word of thanks.

Matt. 9:20-22 says, "And, behold, woman, which was diseased...twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment...and the woman was made whole from that hour."

I can truly relate to this story, as, I too, had been "diseased" for twelve years; and I, too, have touched the hem of his garment and have been made whole.

When I was 13 years old, I developed what I now know was a thyroid goiter. For 12 years I carried this affliction, only because of fears and frustrations that Satan tormented me with.

I was prayed for a few times, but nothing ever happened, so I would go on my way, not really letting myself think about it unless I had to. It grew so slowly that I got used to it gradually and never really noticed much discomfort. I never considered seeing a doctor—I couldn't have handled that emotionally. That is, until last October.

I was a student at A.F.B.C., doing what I had prayed about and knew was God's will for me by being there.

One day the Lord began to deal with me about seeing a doctor for this. At first I said, "No, I can't!" I began to make excuses as to why I couldn't. In the first place I informed the Lord that I didn't even have the money for an office visit. But I made a deal with God that if He would send me the money that I would go. Well, within a week and a half I received a check for \$60. I knew what I had to do, but I still put it off for a while. Finally, when I couldn't live with myself any longer, I went to one of my dearest friends, my dorm mother, Sister Tony Bartel. She has been such a blessing to me through this whole ordeal. I did agree to go to a doctor but not without a lot of fears! But I really began to be afraid when I found out that I had to have surgery. The devil gave me a battle the none will ever totally know about except me and the Lord. But everytime I got depressed or upset, instead of going to the Lord, the first place I would go would be to Sister Tony and she was always there with words of encouragement. But, before I knew it, the devil was back again and I would have to go back for a boost. Through all of this, it seemed like the Lord was saying, "Trust me!" But I wasn't getting the message!

As the weeks went by, I thought I was ready to 'endure' all of this. But one month from the day I was to have surgery, all the fears and frustrations that I had felt earlier returned. It seemed like the whole world was falling in on me again. Then, to top it off, I found out that Sister Tony couldn't be here for my surgery. I really thought I was forsaken; after all, I had been relying on her for my strength!

Finally, I had come to the place the Lord wanted me; where I had no one to turn to except Him. I *had* to trust Him!

Privacy is kind of a hard thing to find around Bible College, but about 10:00 that night I knew I had to find a place to pour all of these feelings out—to the Lord! So I went to the chapel and I did just that! When I had finished telling the Lord exactly how I felt, I opened my Bible and there I found a verse that I had quoted time and time again, but it

became real to me that night. Ps. 91:2 says, "I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress, my God, IN HIM WILL I TRUST!" I had finally touched the hem of his garment. I knew the devil was going to come with more trials, but I also knew where my strength would come from when he did. Oh, Sister Tony didn't stop being my friend—she's one of the dearest there is—but, I finally realized that my strength comes from the Lord—not from friends!

Well, I've had surgery now and I can honestly say that I wasn't afraid when I went into that operating room. Physically, my goiter is gone, along with 95 percent of my thyroid, and I am feeling great. The doctor says as far as he can tell now, I won't even have to take any medication...But more exciting to me than that is that I know that I am made whole SPIRITUALLY!

Some people have said—you'll wonder why you didn't have it done years ago—But, I don't wonder, for you see, God's timing is perfect and I believe this was the perfect time! So, I praise God for using me as a vessel to bring glory to Him.

Now I can say with the Psalmist David, "For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall. As for God his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried; he is a buckler to all those who trust him!"

(Incidentally, the doctor said that it looked like one of the best incisions he had ever made, but I could tell him a secret—he had help making it)

**Donna Kinser
Laverne, Oklahoma**

Dear Ministers Wives,

I want to thank you for sending in your testimonies. I have received many wonderful reports of lives being blessed because of your testimonies. To those of you who were not able to get yours in earlier please send yours also. They will be a blessing to our readers. Thank you ladies for your dedication to the Lord and for your service to those of us that are not in the ministry. May we all keep serving the Lord and praising His name for all of His bountiful blessings unto us. Praise His wonderful name!

Karen

"My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever." Psalms 145:21

A word of appreciation to Karen for doing an excellent work with the Report. We enjoy it!

We are enjoying the Lord's work in Balko, Oklahoma. These people are very kind and loving to us. We appreciate their willingness to reach out a helping hand wherever it is needed.

I could not begin to tell how good God has been to us. He has supplied all of our needs just as Phillipians 4:19 says He will.

Danny was seriously ill last August with a bleeding ulcer and we want to praise God for giving him a speedy recovery and for keeping him well since that time. I would also like to express my thanks to all of the Christians who have prayed for my mother, Mrs. Ohma Blythe of Rockdale, Texas. She still has the cancer in her body but God has kept her from death several times. She has survived much longer than the doctors expected her to and we give God the glory.

I thank God for a praying mother. She has been an inspiration to me all of my growing up years and since I have

married and have children of my own. She not only taught us about God and His love but she lived a godly life before us and that is what counts!

I did not get an article in for the May issue along with the other minister's wives but I will share with you that part of my life also.

First, I am not ashamed of my Lord! I am happy to be a Christian and I am happy to be a minister's wife. I am not ashamed that my husband is a minister. It's a "high calling". I am thankful for a Christian husband and a Christian father to the children that God allowed us to have. I just hope I have been as helpful to him as he has been to me. He has tried to make life as easy as possible for me and I do appreciate his love and consideration shown to me and to our children.

We have been pastors now for seventeen years and there have been some bad times but the "good times" far outweigh the bad times. Praise God that He will never leave us nor forsake us. Hebrews 13:5 It is hard to find a stopping place when my heart is full of praises to my Lord.

I will close with Psalms 146:1-2, "Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul. While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being."

**In His Love,
Pat Robinson
Wife of Pastor Danny Robinson
Balko Apostolic Faith Church
Balko, Oklahoma**

MY TESTIMONY [Continued]

By Mary Abraham, India

"Happy is that people that is in such a case, yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord." Psalms 144:15.

During August 1952 we had prayer meeting in a village where a few non-Christians created noise to disturb the meeting. My husband was beaten on his left eye as he was preaching and the pain and swelling remained for a few weeks. We praise God for the souls that have been saved from that place and they are living as true Christians even to this day. It was in September 1952 that the Lord opened the way for my husband to come to the USA and study at Baxter Springs A.F. Bible College and later on stay with Brother Marcus Adair and family. The sweet time of fellowship he had with the dear ones there have inspired us very much though we had to be away from each other for about three years.

Training up young men in our Bible College and sending them to new villages where there is no Christian work has been our main responsibility. Trusting the Lord for the needs of the students and the teachers often meant fasting and prayer and sacrificing our comforts. As we see the churches established and souls being added to the churches we rejoice that our labour is not in vain.

Going out to visit the new converts in their homes and teaching them the Bible stories has been a method adopted by us to encourage them. Some of our converts are illiterate and as such they cannot read the Bible. A Hindu woman possessed with demon was brought for prayer. She began rolling on the ground and was beating her head with stones. After a day of fasting and prayer she became sober and we bathed her and changed her dress. She became conscious and began uttering the name of Jesus. Her husband who was

a Hindu came to threaten that he would stone us if we asked her to change her religion. The second day also several believers prayed earnestly and she was delivered from all evil spirits. She cried aloud and repeated the sinner's prayer. Later she was baptized in water and the Lord filled her with the Holy Spirit. Her husband also got saved and now they have a child born after ten years of married life. Though they are illiterate they sing songs and pray and worship the Lord.

Sharing our meal with unexpected guests is a special ministry for a Pastor's wife and I am glad to tell you that this is practiced almost everyday. From far and near people come and seek our help for various needs—food, clothing money for educating children and other family requirements. Evangelists, their wives and children also depend on the financial help we give as the income from the village church is meagre. Often we have to take care of the converted Christians as they are poor. "It is better to give than to receive" has been a real blessing in our family life.

In 1961-62 when we were privileged to visit the dear friends in the USA. Our three-year-old daughter Annie became seriously ill and it was in answer to prayer the Lord healed her. As my husband is teacher and principal of the Bible College and having the responsibility to supervise the many churches, he gets very little time to be with the family. During sickness and sorrow the Lord has sustained and guided us during the past thirty years.

Giving God and the ministry the preminence, often we trust God more for our needs. Our daughters, Starla and Shirley had an attack of chicken pox when my husband was in the USA in 1969. Often they would cry for Daddy in the sleep. It was only the grace of God that has enabled us to endure afflictions or trials and work for the Lord. We know that the many friends in the USA and other places are praying for us besides helping financially.

Construction of churches in the villages take a lot of our time to visit the places often and to supply the required finances. During 1977-78 when a church was built at Gummadidalla the work was held up for some time due to lack of funds. But in answer to prayer the Lord supplied our needs and now there are a group of believers to worship in this place who were once idol worshippers. In March this year construction of a church at Pamukunta has begun. Funds are urgently needed to complete the construction and we are praying that the Lord may help us. Around this place you can find temples and worshippers of idols only. The small group of Christians numbering about 35 gather together under the shady trees now to worship the Lord. So before the monsoon starts we have to complete the construction of the church here.

The work before us is really great as there are many more villages in our country where the Gospel has not yet been preached even once. We are praying, planning and preparing men and women to go out with this glorious Gospel. Our only desire is to serve the Lord wholeheartedly and to be humble in His sight.

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.

Hebrews 3:14

JULY NOTES

Granby Gospel Tabernacle, Granby, Missouri

The Lord blessed us in a recent revival with Brother Harrol Waterbury as the Evangelist. The blessings received from the annointed preaching will remain with us for a long time. Sister Janae Harris came over and ministered to us in music during the Revival. The property just east of the Tabernacle has become available to us, for which we really praise the Lord, and we hope to build a new parsonage on this property when we can. Our VBS will be in August smf will be conducted by Shirley and Austin Sutton. Remember us in prayer as we labor for the Lord in Granby.

Edwin Waterbury, pastor

Joplin, Mo.

The church at Joplin completed a very successful Vacation Bible School, June 2-6, directed by Brother and Sister Austin Sutton. Tony Bartel and Donna Kinser assisted them. We had 48 children enrolled and had 20 teachers and helpers. Our missionary fund went to the 4-State Youth Camp to help replace some items stolen. The Bible School closed Friday night June 6 with a program where each child participated. After the program homemade ice cream and cake was served by the ladies of the church.

Neil Ragan, pastor

Stockton, Calif.

We are excited because the Lord is moving in Stockton. Attendance is up, the building is coming along great and the Lord is blessing.

We have had several fund raising projects but we have one we are really excited about. Our pastor and some of the men bought out one night of the Stockton Ports baseball game. At the end of the game there will be a sacred music concert sponsored by Bethel Wayside Chapel. Steve and Linda Priest will be in charge of the concert. The baseball team have printed ten thousand tickets and we will have until mid July to sell them and they are going real well. Several Stockton churches and youth groups are helping and they will receive a percentage. The reason we're so excited is not for the money we will raise for our building fund, but for the people who might not otherwise hear the gospel singing. We're praying that it will bless everyone spiritually.

The church chartered a Stockton Metro bus and went to Mariots Great American near San Jose. About 47-50 went and although everyone was tired everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

We are really happy to have Kathy Shelton back home, but we are so happy that she was fortunate enough to attend the Apostolic Faith Bible College in Baxter Springs this past year.

Pray for us as we labor for the Lord.

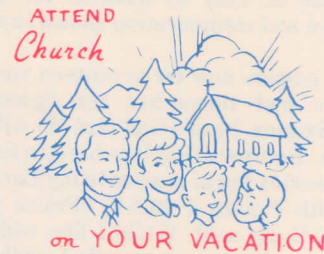
**Ken Priest, pastor
Ella Swaim, reporter**

Rockdale, Texas

Rockdale church is being blessed by the Lord. Rev. and Mrs. Andy Perry are working hard to help the congregation. Lately new carpet and song books have been added. We also have a nice wooden cross added to the front of our church building. Youth Camp was held at Lost Pines and those that attended received many blessings. Our vacation Bible School was held June 16-20.

Please continue to pray for the Rockdale church.

Andy Perry, pastor



The Apostolic Faith Church of Taneyville, Mo. is in need of a full time pastor. We are praying and know that God has a pastor for our church. If God has spoken to you concerning Taneyville, please contact one of the following of the board; John Crouch, 1-417-546-5094, Roger Sims, 1-417-796-2372, Sammy Clemans, 1-417-796-2422.



Babst

Deborah Ann Babst arrived April 3, 1980 at 5:26 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 11½ ozs. and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Robert and Joy Babst 2039 Texas, Joplin, Mo. She has a sister Ronda Lee who is 3. Paternal grandmother is Mary Babst of Joplin, Mo. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Bard of Joplin. Maternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Graves and Mittie Bard of Joplin.

Open For Calls Evangelistic Ministry

Ollie L. Kinser
R 4 Box 89
Joplin, Mo. 64801
Phone 417-623-1589

Deadline!

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



Obituary of James G. Combs

Garland Combs 64, Taneyville, Mo. died Friday Feb. 15, 1980, in St. John's Regional Center, Springfield, Mo.

Services were held Tuesday Feb. 19, 1980 at the Taneyville Apostolic Faith Church with Rev. Randy Dalton officiating. Burial was in Patterson Cemetery at Bradleyville, Mo.

Survivors include his wife, Maxine, three daughters, Mrs. Mavis Hartman, Muscatine, Iowa, Mrs. Linda Jagears, Taneyville, Mo., Mrs. Connie Fall, Idabell, Okla.; three sons, Dennis, Battleground, Wash., Lilbern, Taneyville, Mo., and Ernest, Biloxie, Miss., five sisters, Mrs. Rosie Peril, Homedale, Idaho, Mrs. Sylvia Cupp, Forsythe, Mo., Mrs. Ruby McDaniel, Taneyville, Mo., Mrs. Dovie Yeary, Bradleyville, Mo., and Mrs. Goldie Hamilton, Caldwell, Idaho, three brothers; Etcyle and Richard, both of Bradleyville, Mo. and Shade, Homedale, Idaho; 20 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

A Tribute to Garland Combs

Garland Combs was a wonderful person. There are no words to describe this great Christian man and what he meant to me and all who knew him. He was sick for many years but attended church everytime possible. He almost always sang in the choir. He enjoyed singing very much. He knew all the songs by heart, you see he couldn't see very well. We prayed for his healing several times, but I was so blessed when he prayed for me and others. The power of God was very present.

The day I got the call that Brother Garland had gone home to be with the Lord I was very broken hearted. In my grief the Lord showed me Brother Combs in a white robe in a huge choir with his hands raised singing with all of his heart. A great comfort came over me and I felt very selfish. After all Brother Combs had run his race and won. I should be rejoicing with him. The Lord is good and He can give peace even in a time of sorrow. My feelings were very different when I was getting ready for his funeral. It was as if I was getting ready for a celebration. I thought for a moment. That's what a funeral should be. A celebration of passing from life on earth to life eternal.

We miss Brother Garland at the Taneyville Apostolic Faith Church but we're all rejoicing and looking forward to seeing him again.

By Estaletta Grady

Pearls Of Promise

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phillipians 4:19

SUPPOSING . . .

Do you suppose that all who use their children as an excuse for not being able to come to church would want God to remove what hinders them from coming?



4-year-old girl praying.
photo by Florence Sharp

But Godliness with contentment is great gain.
I Timothy 6:6

From the Superintendent's Desk



Dear Friends of the Movement,

Bible School has been over now four weeks and things have slowed down enough that we have had time to reflect back over the past several months. The student body wasn't as large as we had hoped but we felt this past year of school was a success. The students we did have were very cooperative and sincerely interested in studying Gods Word.

We are looking forward to a larger student body this next year, as we have already received several applications for enrollment. The date of enrollment for the 1980 Fall Term will be Monday evening, August 18th.

Work week will begin August 11th. There are a lot of small jobs that need to be done before school begins. We would certainly appreciate your help in making things ready. With the rising costs of everything, your continued prayers and support is very much needed.

Looking forward to seeing you at Camp Meeting.

Sincerely,
Lyndel Arnall

Thy WORD . . .

HIS GUIDING WORD

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
—Psalm 119:105



WHEN I READ THE BIBLE THROUGH

by Amos R. Wells

*I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss.
Now a bit of John or Matthew,
Now a snatch of Genesis;
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain Psalms [the twenty-third!]
Twelfth of Romans, First of Proverbs—
Yes, I thought I knew the Word!
But I found that thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.*

*O the massive, mighty volume!
O the treasures manifold!
O the beauty and the wisdom
And the grace it proved to hold!
As the story of the Hebrews
Swept in majesty along;
As it leaped in waves prophetic;
As it burst to sacred song;
As it gleamed with Christly omens,
The Old Testament was new—*

*Strong with cumulative power,
When I read the Bible through.*

*Ah, imperial Jeremiah,
With his keen coruscant mind;
And the blunt old Nehemiah,
And Ezekiel refined!
Newly came the Minor Prophets
Each with his distinctive robe,
Newly came the Song Idyllic
And the tragedy of Job;
Deuteronomy the Regal
To a towering mountain grew,
With the comrade peaks around it,
When I read the Bible through.*

Don't seek guidance when the Bible has already told you what to do. Just go ahead and do it.

The Bible tells you how to act under every circumstances in life.

It tells the husband how to treat his wife.

It tells the wife how to treat her husband.

It tells parents how to treat their children.

It tells children how to respond to their parents.

It tells all of us to walk in divine love. Divine love seeks not its own. It's not out for what I can get, but what I can give.

We have His Word and we can walk in the light of it. I go as much by what He doesn't say to me by the spirit, as what He does say. If He doesn't say anything, I just keep going on like I'm going. I keep doing what I've been doing. Because He'll tell me when to change. If He doesn't say anything, I don't bother about it. I don't "seek" anything. I just keep going.

Faith Food

By
Myrtle
Carney

*What a radiant procession
As the pages rise and fall:
James the sturdy, John the tender,
O the myriad-minded Paul!
Vast apocalyptic glories
Wheel and thunder, flash and flame,
While the Church triumphant raises
One incomparable name.
Ah, the story of the Saviour
Never glows supremely true
Till you read it whole and swiftly,
Till you read the Bible through.*

*You who like to play at Bible—
Dip and dabble, here and there,
Just before you kneel, aweary,
And yawn through a hurried prayer;
You who treat the crown of writings
As you treat no other book—
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude, impatient look—
Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible through.*

WHAT'S AHEAD?

Bertha Stimson

Perhaps one of the greatest questions facing our country today is what does this nation promise our children and grandchildren in the years ahead? Are these things just around the corner or many years ahead? What does the Bible say concerning the nations? Let's look and see.

Wickedness has brought down nation after nation through the years of recorded history. Will this nation be exempt from such wrath and judgment? Only time will tell. Psalms 33:12 says, Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." We read in that scripture, Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord. Is the God of this Bible our shepherd, our leader, our protector, our wisdom, the one we go to for understanding? I would say today multiplied millions do not look to God for any of these things at all. They spurn through infidelity and unbelief. Proverbs 13:34 says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to many people. "In that verse we see the fruits of both, righteous and sinful. We read in Jeremiah 6:16, "thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where is the good way, and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein. "Here the word of the Lord, unto the people is a reproach. They have no delight in the righteousness of the Lord. In this 6th chapter of Jeremiah God's terrible judgment is brought before the people. Also the terrible wickedness of people is openly made plain before God. With a watchman set over them they would not listen. Further judgment was pronounced upon the people but they would not listen. What do we have today in our land? We have the same sins, the same wrath and the same judgment hanging over us. Right before us we have multiplied millions who are not listening. We have the same Bible. God called preachers of the same Bible with the same warning messages. I am not a prophet or a preacher, far from it, but it seems to me that we as a nation are facing the judgments of almighty God as never before. What are we facing? The people of Jeremiah's day said we will not return to the old paths. Will we return or not? Very little sign of it now. God help us to be ready.

Sad farewells were being said
As the young man left Father's home.
He had taken his inheritance
And this world began to roam.

Ere he had traveled very far,
He met men of ill repute.
With their influence,
He started on the downward route.

By his careless living,
His money was soon all gone.
His "friends" then took their flight
And he was left alone.

Down in the pig pen
His senses then returned,
And for the good things he once enjoyed
At Father's house, he yearned.

Then Father saw him coming.
Trudging down the road.
His face was lined with worry,
His back bent beneath the load.

Then Father ran to meet him
And took him in his arms,
On his finger placed a ring,
Glad he was safe from harm.

"Go, kill the fatted calf,
A party we will give.
The son I thought was dead,"
Father said, "Behold he does live."

Likewise our Heavenly Father
Keeps watch upon the road,
So when he sees us coming,
Runs to lift our heavy load.

Jeanie Mullins

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THE CURSE OF SIN

By Dora Beydler

The Garden of Eden must have been a beautiful place because Genesis 2:8,9 reads "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil." When we see the flowers, shrubs and fruit trees which make the beauty of our world and then to read that God made every tree that is pleasant to the sight to grow in that garden; how magnificent it must have been. And God placed man whom He had formed from the dust of the earth in that beautiful place! When we view some of the places God has created, such as the Yellowstone Canyon, the towering Teton Mountains, the Cathedral Spires and the Needles in the Black Hills, The Niagra Falls and the Redwood forests it makes us feel the greatness of God. Then we can feel

[Con't next page]

the rejoicing that must have been in the heart of the writer of the song "This land is your land, this land is my land—this land was made for you and me!" Then we can remember—the Garden of Eden had to be destroyed because of the sin of Adam and Eve and we read in Isaiah that in the end this whole earth will have to be destroyed because of it being polluted from the sins of man, Isaiah 24:1-6.

God made this beautiful Garden especially for the man He had formed and placed him there with only the work of dressing the garden. Then God told Adam that he might eat of all the fruit except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Just one thing Adam could not have, only one restriction and that was to not eat of that one tree. Then God made Eve from one of Adam's ribs that Adam might have a companion and make his joy complete. It must have been a joyful time and place. But then came the day which resulted in a series of curses placed upon a part of God's creation and the man whom God had formed plus his being driven from the Garden.

There has been much controversy about what kind of animal talked to Eve that day in the garden. Some have even believed it to be an allegory but due to proven facts of the story of creation and formation as related in the Bible we must accept the story of the serpent talking to Eve as a historical fact. There are a number of words translated to serpent in English which all come from the same Hebrew word. We need to remember that there was a perfect trust between man and all of God's animals and birds at that time, so whatever animal confronted Eve, she was not afraid. The Bible does not say what this animal looked like and all we know is that the Bible calls it a serpent. We do know that until the flood in the days of Noah, there were animals upon the earth which God created on the 6th day which were destroyed in the flood. It is the bones of these animals that are sometimes found which are often of such gigantic size and we have no such animals today. The animals we have today are descended from those God formed out of the ground and let Adam name them before God made Eve. Both kinds of animals (created and formed) were upon the earth until the flood the same as the created and formed people. The Bible does not say, but it is this writer's opinion that it is possible the serpent which talked to Eve could have been an animal of the created kind and not one of which we would know among the animals of our world today. Genesis 3:1a says, "The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made." Subtle means cunning, crafty, or quietly active. The serpent which was before Eve appeared to converse with her.

Satan was, at one time, an annointed angel before the throne of God but due to his trying to exalt himself above God, he was cast out from among God's angels and from his place before the throne of God. From that time Satan has been an enemy of God and when man was made, Satan began to make a plan to destroy the relationship between God and man. Whether Satan entered into the serpent or whether he merely hid nearby, Satan talked through the serpent and deceived Eve. Now, God had told Adam before He made Eve, that he, Adam, was not

to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Since Eve knew of that command, Adam probably related God's word to her that they would die in the day they disobeyed, if they should eat of it. Satan, however, speaking through the serpent, appealed to the subconscious desires of the human being to become as great and as powerful as those who are over them, and persuaded Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. Eve, in turn gave some of the fruit to Adam and he also ate of it. They became aware that they had no clothes and made themselves girdles from fig leaves. This however, did not ease their conscience of their disobedience and they were afraid to meet God when He came to walk with them in the cool of the day.

Since the serpent allowed Satan to use him, he is the recipient of the first curse, "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, 'because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life,' Genesis 3:14. As we read this verse it appears that the serpent became as what we now know as a snake. There is no evidence, however, as to what kind of snake. There are many species in the reptile family and if we believe this serpent to have become the same as the snake we have today we will have to say the curse effected the entire reptile family from the smallest grass snake to the largest of the boa constrictor and the python. But whatever the serpent looked like, he received the first curse and was to be considered the most contemptible of all animals.

In verse 15 of the same chapter, we come to the second part of the two-fold curse. The first part in verse 14 was to the serpent but here we come to the part directed to Satan. This verse is commonly used to apply to the enmity between man and reptiles but really other noxious animals such as rats, mice, the weasel and the covote are hated in much the same degree. But we are not to look for merely literal meanings here. This is the first promise of a Savior to be given to redeem man from his fall into sin and this promise is given through the curse placed upon Satan. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel," Ch. 3:15. It is evident here that Satan, who actuated the serpent, is alone intended in this part of the curse as it becomes a prophetic declaration. God in His boundless mercy has put an endless enmity between men and satan. A great point gained in winning a soul to Christ is to convince him that it is Satan he has been serving; that it is Satan he has been yielding his body, soul and goods. When this thought actually penetrates the mind, the thought of being in league with the old deceiver and murderer makes the average person to shudder. But these words have a deeper meaning when it says the seed of the woman shall bruise his head. This One who is to bruise the serpents head is to come by the woman and her alone, without the concurrence of man. Therefore this declaration was not made to Adam and Eve but to Eve alone and in consequence of this promise of God, Jesus Christ was born of a virgin.

This alone is the meaning of the promise that the seed of the woman shall bruise the head of the serpent. Jesus died that He might put away sin through the sacrifice of Himself and destroy the power and lordship Satan has over mankind. When He did this He bruised Satans head and made a way for man to find his way back to God and freed from the chains of sin. — And Satan bruised Jesus heel—for God so ordered that the salvation of man could only be brought about by the death of the Anointed One by the hand of those ruled by satan. Even the spiritual seed of our Lord often have the heel bruised when they suffer persecution, even unto death.

The next part of the curse was directed to the woman when God said in verse 16 of the same chapter, "Unto the woman He said, 'I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.'" Her sin was in two parts; first she allowed Satan to deceive her and she ate of the forbidden fruit then she also gave some of that fruit to her husband. It is one thing to sin ourselves but it is another kind of sin to cause someone else to fall. Therefore, the punishment for the woman comes in two parts. First, she shall have multiplied sorrow and in sorrow she shall her children be born. The second part—her desires shall be to please her husband for he shall have the rule over her. This does not mean she shall be his slave nor does it mean she shall have no part of their decisions but that the final decision is for the husband to make. When God made Eve and presented her to Adam, God said He made an help meet for Adam. This means she is to be an aid or assistant in decisions as well as work, and to be an assistant merely means to be a helper, not his slave to be owned an ordered by him without any rights of her own. But because of Eve's sin in persuading her husband to eat of the forbidden fruit, woman shall only help her husband, she cannot rule over him. Before the time of their sin they seem to have had equal right and the woman probably had as much right to rule as the man. I might add that even though the man has the rule over the woman, the Apostle Paul said the husband is to love and cherish his wife. He is to protect and provide for her but by that same token she must not expect that which it is impossible for him to provide.

Then in the next verse, ch. 3:17, God turned to Adam. Because he listened to the suggestion of his wife instead of remembering what God said is the same saying, "You were not deceived. She only gave it to you and you did not resist it but you ate of that which I commanded you to not eat. Therefore, I will curse the ground because of your disobedience and in sorrow and hard labor you must earn your bread." The curse upon the earth is that it shall bring forth thorns and thistles. Up to this time there had been nothing but the beauty of God's creation and now it shall bring forth thorns, thistles and weeds in an abundance with will make the labors for the tilling of the soil so much greater. Then in the final part of the curse upon both man and woman, God will keep his word and as long as man shall inhabit the earth, no

human shall live as long as one of God's one thousand year days. When man dies his body shall return to the dust from which God formed Adam.

God made garments for Adam and Eve from animal skins and though it does not say in the scriptures, it is possible that God now taught Adam and Eve of the necessity of making a sacrifice upon an altar and that he used the skins from this first sacrifice to make their clothing. God must have at some time taught them to offer sacrifices or Cain and Able would not have known to do so and it is recorded in Genesis chapter 4 of their offerings.

Though parts of these curses have come to pass at various times and God has given many promises and blessings to those who have taken advantage of the way made to overcome the power of Satan through the death of the Savior, the complete fulfillment cannot come until the consumation of all things. Jesus came at the appointed time in God's plan, born of a virgin, thus fulfilling the promise of Eve that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of Satan. Through the atonement made by Jesus on the cross, we can have forgiveness and overcoming power to live above the failures and temptations Satan would place in our way but there is still to come the final consequence of that first sin in the Garden of Eden. Many people have not and do not take advantage of the price Jesus paid for their freedom from the chains of Satans powers, therefore the curse has not yet been lifted.

Again at the appointed time, when the earth is ripe for the harvest, there will be a great sifting time. Then the Lord Jesus shall come again to this earth, not as Savior and Intercessor, but as King of kings and Lord of lords. He shall utterly destroy the wicked still on the earth and Satan will be bound for a thousand years. During this thousands years Jesus shall rule in His kingdom here upon this earth with a rod of iron for a thousand years. Those who have sincerely served Jesus as Lord of their lives will be able to reign with Him as kings and priests over a land where there is peace and safety for the curse will have been lifted. Satan will be loosed for a short season at the end of the thousand years but only for a short time then he will be destroyed in the lake of fire. This will be the consumation of the curse placed upon Satan for his part in the fall of man.

In the judgment before the throne of God the people of all ages will be judged according to the deeds they have done. Those worthy of the second death will be cast into the lake of fire and there they will be burned up; while those judged worthy of eternal life will enter the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. This will complete the curse upon the human race, both man and woman.

II Peter 3:10 says, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." This will be the finish of the curse placed upon the earth itself because of man's sin. The serpent, too, will have been destroyed and thus the consumation of the consequence of the disobedience in the Garden of Eden will have been completed.

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