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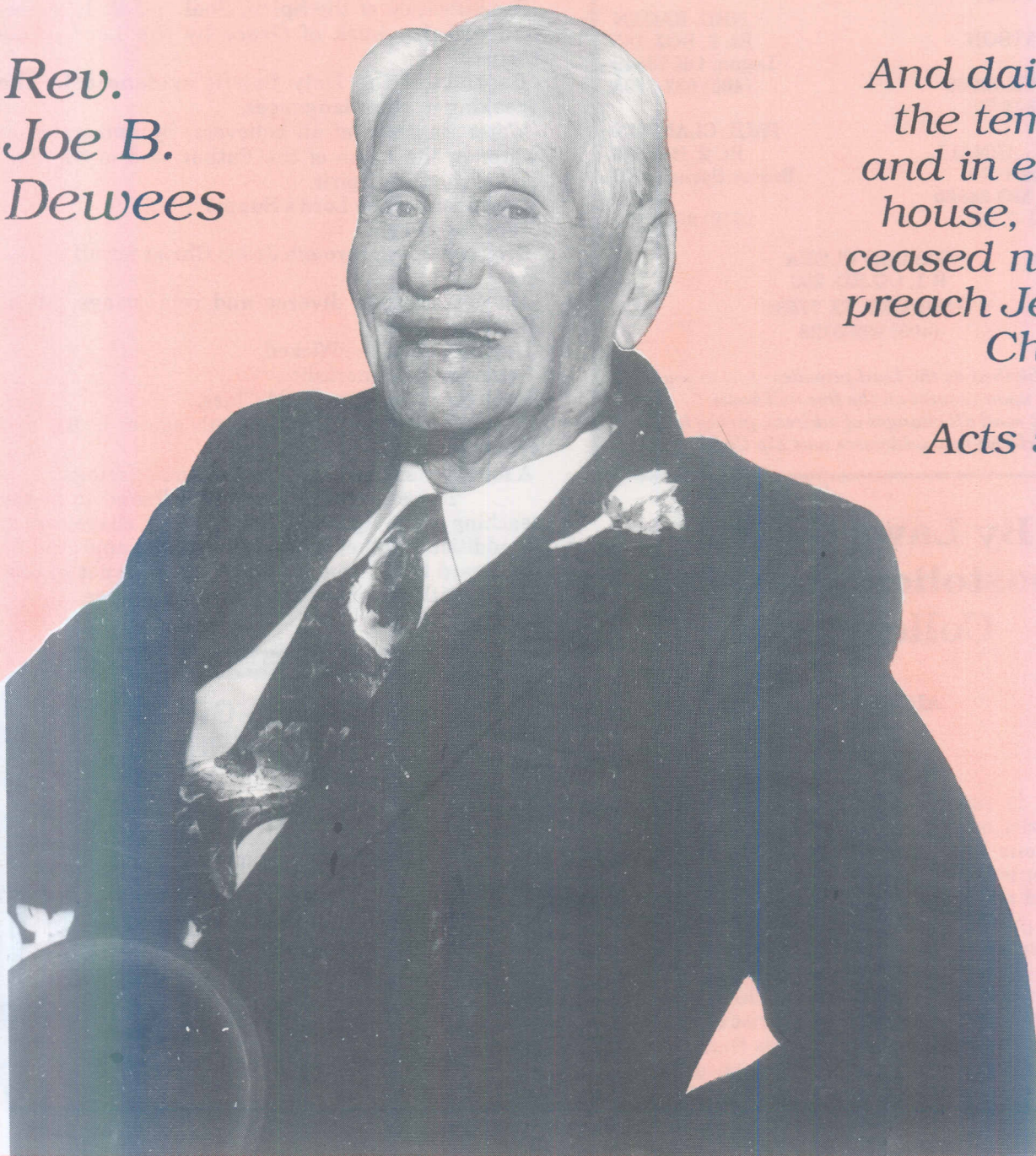
Apostolic Faith

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Report

Vol. 39 No. 10 & 11

October- November, 1993

*Rev.
Joe B.
Deweese*



*And daily in
the temple,
and in every
house, they
ceased not to
preach Jesus
Christ.*

Acts 5:42

The Apostolic Faith Report

Karen Oakes, Editor

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By Laws Of The Apostolic Faith Bible College, Inc.

ARTICLE VII

Doctrine

It is recognized that the true church of Jesus Christ consists of all believers in the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who have accepted Him as their personal Savior. It is recognized and agreed that no organization or man has been granted authority by the Lord to exclude from or accept anyone into the Kingdom of Heaven, as this is done by Jesus Christ only. It is further recognized and agreed that we as Christians are to love all members of the Body of Christ (Christians), and this love and fellowship derives from the unity instilled by the Holy Spirit. Although differences in doctrinal beliefs and interpretations should not influence our love for one another, adherence to

similar doctrinal beliefs and modes of worship have bonded together those of the Apostolic Faith Movement as founded by Charles F. Parham in the early 1900's. The scripture teaches us to adhere to the truth and proper doctrine. The common doctrinal beliefs are essentially as follows.

Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Creation and Formation.

Man is basically sinful and in need of Salvation.
Salvation by Grace upon repentance toward God and acceptance of Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior, which is the conception of Spiritual Life.

Sanctification of the Spirit, Soul and Body, A second definite work of Grace by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit; evidenced by the speaking in other languages.

Water Baptism (of all believers) by immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Washing of Feet.

Divine Healing through Jesus Christ for all believers.

Do not condone divorce and remarriage, Matt. 19:8-9.

Destruction of the Wicked.

Conditional Immortality.

Rapture of the Man Child Class.

Return of Jesus Christ to earth again; bodily and visibly.

A ministry supported by tithes and offerings.

These doctrines shall be adhered to in the teaching of the Apostolic Faith Bible College, which in addition to other doctrinal teaching approved by the Board from time to time if they are not in consistent with the above listed basic doctrines.

MINISTERS - GOSPEL WORKERS

IT IS TIME TO UPDATE THE
MINISTERS AND GOSPEL
WORKERS DIRECTORIES.
IF YOU WANT YOUR NAME TO BE
PLACED ON THESE,
PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME,
ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER
NUMBER AND TYPE OF MINISTRY, TO
THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT
P.O. BOX 563
BAXTER SPRINGS, KS 66713

AFBC NEWS

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:20

I would like to express a special *Thank-You* to the following people:

Rev. Howard Whitely for the *Christian Finance Seminar.*
Sister Lynette Brown for hosting the *Teen Beauty Retreat.*
Rev. Donald Dibbens for the *Revival Services*
Rev. Erik Cameron for the *Revival Services.*
Sister Crystal Cameron for her *secretarial help.*
Mr. Myers for the wonderful *fish dinner.*
Brother Lee & Sister Mary Oakes for a fine *Sunday dinner.*
Rev. Fred Huff for his beautiful song "*John's Testimony*"
Sister Sandra Huff for her assistance with the music for the *Choir Tour.*
Rev. Jim Boyd for his beautiful song "*The Master's On Board*"
Those who contributed to the *donation of the (2) Hogs.*
Those who donated the *Beef.*

Those who donated the *Fish.*
To all those who made our *Fall Choir Tour* such a wonderful trip.
To all those who support this *ministry* with their prayers and offerings.

Sincerely,
Savory Grimmer

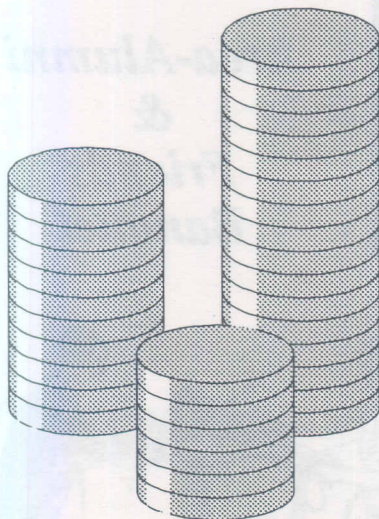
Boys Dorm Report

Thanks to the Lord and Bro. Eric Cameron we had an Anointed Revival. The Lord met us at the altars. Bro. Jason Hester, Bro. LeRoy Dolly and Bro. Kelly Russell have prayed through to sanctification. The Lord has blessed us by allowing us to see the fruit of our labor. By request of one of the students, the Bible School had a Bon Fire. The students threw in their secular music and literature.

We thank the Lord for showing the students how to break loose from the shackles that bind us to this world.

As we prepared for choir tour, the students become anxious. Most of them have never been the ones to minister but are accustomed to being ministered to. We thank the Lord for this opportunity that these students are able to share in the work of the Gospel.

Jacob Urick
Dean of Men



Christian Finances

Rev. Howard Whitely

NOVEMBER 15-19

7:00 p.m.

Apostolic Faith Bible College

Administration Building

335 West 10th

Baxter Springs, Kansas

An Adult Night Class

Bring a Friend!

THANKSGIVING ALPHABET

Count your blessings and be thankful for—

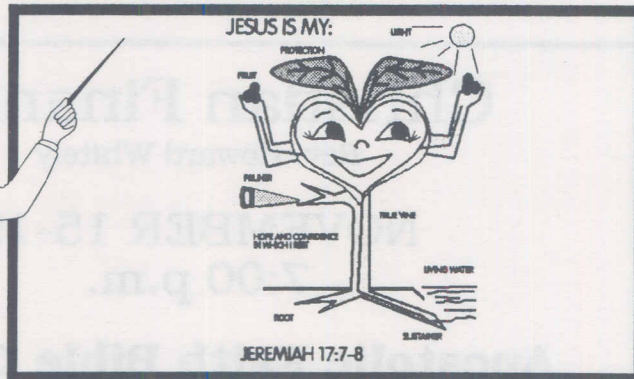
Acceptance, which can never be questioned. Eph. 1:6
 Bounty, which can never be withdrawn. I Cor. 3:21-24
 Comeliness, which can never be marred. Ezek. 16:14
 Deliverance, which can never be excelled. II Cor. 1:10
 Election, which can never be broken. Eph. 1:4 and Rom. 8:30
 Fullness, which can never be limited. Col. 2:9-10, R. V.
 Grace, which can never be limited. II Cor. 12:9
 Hope, which can never be disappointed. Heb. 6:18-19
 Inheritance, which can never be alienated. I Peter 1:3-5
 Joy, which can never be quenched. John 15:11
 Kingdom, which can never be overturned. Heb. 12:28
 Love, which can never be darkened. John 13:1
 Might, which can never be overcome.

Nearness, which can never be reversed. Eph. 2:13
 Ordination, which can never be removed. John 15:16 and Eph. 2:10
 Purity, which can never be denied. Song of Solomon 4:7
 Quietness, which can never be disturbed. John 14:27 and Isa. 32:17
 Righteousness, which can never be tarnished. II Cor. 5:21
 Salvation, which can never be cancelled. Heb. 5:9
 Triumph, which can never be clouded. II Cor. 2:14
 Union, which can never be severed. I Cor. 12:12
 Victory, which can never be altered. Heb. 2:14 and I John 3:8
 Wisdom, which can never be baffled. I Cor. 1:24
 Excellence, which can never be destroyed. Deut. 33:29
 Youthfulness, which can never be interrupted. Psm. 103:5
 Zeal, which can never be hindered. John 2:17 and Isa. 9:7
 — S. S. Times

AFBC College On The Weekend

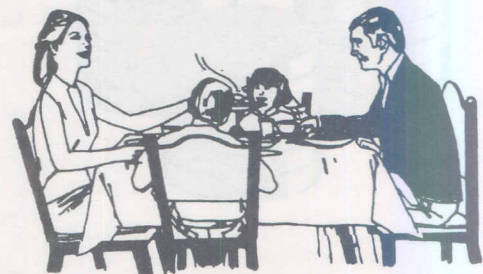
November 20, 1993

*Area-Alumni
&
Friends
Banquet*



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00-10:00	Pauline Epistles
10:00-11:00	Doctrine
11:00-12:00	Creation
12:00- 1:00	LUNCH
1:00- 2:00	Sign Language
2:00- 3:00	Teacher Training
3:00- 4:00	Gentile Times
4:00- 5:00	FELLOWSHIP
5:00- 7:00	Alumni Banquet



Rev. Joe B. Dewees

June 7, 1899 - October 5, 1992

Rev. Joe B. Dewees of Hempstead, Texas, passed away one year ago; the date being October 5, 1992. His birth day was June 7, 1899, making him 93 years of age at the time of his death. He was born in Waller County, Texas, and spent the major part of his life in that area. He was the son of Tim and Sallie Dewees.

Joe was converted in 1923 when he was in his early twenties. He was saved at his home one night after attending evangelistic services conducted by Rev. S. W. Ditto. Once he heard the gospel contained in the Apostolic Faith Movement initiated by Rev. Charles Fox Parham, he never varied from that belief which so totally changed his life. He and his wife, Mary, reared their family in a Christian atmosphere.

Bro. Dewees' call to the ministry came in 1925. His first sermon was preached in the Cedar Creek community near Hempstead, Texas. Thereafter, he held gospel services in every community in Waller County, as well as in adjoining counties. His family became accustomed to his holding services every night of the week except Monday.

Bro. Joe, as he was called by many of his friends, had a versatile ministry. He was Assistant Superintendent and Dean of Boys at the Apostolic Faith Bible School in Baxter Springs, Kansas, where he also held a teaching position. Christian youth camp teaching was one of his favorite ministries; and for one camp he and his wife wrote the lesson material. At various times he was selected as a Sunday School teacher. Visiting shut-ins at their homes, in the hospital and in nursing homes was one of his regular projects.

Evangelistic campaigns in tents, brush arbors, old school houses and in churches were common during his early ministry. He also filled the work of a pastor, both full-time and fill-in, in several states. Home prayer meetings were very special to him; and he also shared the gospel in street meetings from time to time. In addition, he was instrumental in establishing the Apostolic Faith Church located in Hempstead, Texas.

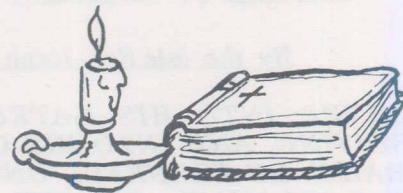
Bro Dewees' preaching ministry totaled about 67 years. His own testimony was that if he had another life to live, he would be happy and satisfied with the same ministry.

After a few weeks of weakness in his body, he finished his course. He had fought a good fight, he had kept the faith, so surely there is a crown of righteousness awaiting him.

His body was laid to rest in Salem

Cemetery, where he awaits the resurrection. The burial service was ministered by Rev. Roland Busch, Rev. Jerome Crowhurst and Rev. James Dewees.

His children, Mary Jo Elkins, Elva Dean Mathis, Claude, James and John Dewees, survive and continue to extol the greatness of God. We quote from the writings of the psalmist David in chapter 145 and verse 4: "One generation shall praise thy works to another..."



CONSIDER HIM

...Anon

"Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds" (Heb. 12:3)

*When the storm is raging high,
When the tempest rends the sky,
When my eyes with tears are dim,
Then, my soul, "consider Him."*

*When my plans are in the dust,
When my dearest hopes are crushed,
When is passed each foolish whim,
Then, my soul, "consider Him."*

*When with dearest friends I part,
When deep sorrow fills my heart,
When pain racks each weary limb,
Then, my soul, "consider Him."*

*When I track my weary way,
When fresh trials come each day,
When my faith and hope are dim,
Then, my soul, "consider Him."*

*Clouds or sunshine, dark or bright,
Evening shades or morning light,
When my cup flows o'er the brim,
Then, my soul, "consider Him."*



WE GIVE THANKS

By the late Rev. Jacob C. Regier

"ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING, AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE: BE THANKFUL UNTO HIM; AND BLESS HIS NAME. FOR THE LORD IS GOOD; HIS MERCY IS EVERLASTING; AND HIS TRUTH ENDURETH TO ALL GENERATIONS."
Psalms 100:4-5

Thanksgiving Day is being observed throughout all our good land. This day is traditional in our lives since it has been observed for many generations, yet we do not find it in our hearts to object, because we know that Thanksgiving in itself is proper and right. God is pleased with it.

In Philippians 5:18 we read, "In every thing give thanks: For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Of course we find it easy to give thanks for the special blessings that flow to us from the throne of God. We thank Him for salvation through Christ, for the sanctification and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We thank Him when our sick are healed. We thank Him for good health, for comfort of life and for the way God supplies all our needs according to His riches in Glory. But we should thank Him for our responsibilities, too. We should be thankful for being witnesses for Him and for the privilege of letting our light shine among men to glorify our heavenly Father. The apostle Paul in writing to the Philippians church gave several pointed admonitions such as: 1. Rejoice evermore. 2. Pray without ceasing. 3. See that none render evil for evil. 4. Quench not the Spirit. 5. Prove all things and cleave to that which is good and 6. Abstain from the appearance of evil. Each of these contain wonderful thoughts and a sermon could be preached from each text. But among these things he also said, "In everything give thanks."

God wants us to be thankful people. It is hard to think of the children of God as an unthankful group. In fact, the Bible classes the unthankful with the unbelieving and unholy. But the giving of

thanks is not entirely an obligation. We do not observe it as a command or a response to sheer duty. It is a willing service from the heart. It is the grateful expression of the soul. Thanksgiving is a joyful experience and is regarded as a privilege by the true Christian. We pay our debts, we pay our taxes, and we work as we are ordered, but when thanks are given it is not a payment but a gift of thanks, hence Thanksgiving. After giving thanks one feels an inner calm that comes from no other source. It is like testifying in a testimony meeting. It brings blessings three ways: First, it glorifies God; next, it blesses those who hear; and last it blesses the one who testifies. This is the basis and foundation of Thanksgiving, it gives glory, praise and honour to our God. Thanksgiving helps us believe God for the things we ask of Him. It helps us have faith. It drives away our fears and doubts. In Philippians 4:6 we read, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

The giving of thanks and special days of thanksgiving are not new. The Pilgrims did not stumble upon a new discovery. Thanksgiving always has been practiced by wholesome people. The children of God throughout the history of the Bible were thankful to God and often worshipped Him. God's people give thanks while selfish people make personal demands. When we take our requests to God, we do not approach Him and demand or command Him to fill our requests, but with humility and thanksgiving we beseech Him for our desires. In the Psalms we read, "O, that men would praise the Lord." Immediately after Noah left the ark that saved them in the flood, he builded an altar unto the Lord and offered burnt offerings to the Lord which was a sweet smell to God. (Gen. 8 20). Moses and the children of Israel sang a song of praise unto God immediately after their safe crossing of the Red Sea in which their Egyptian enemies perished. (Exodus 51). Joshua made a monument of twelve stones to show the coming generations how God dried up a path through the swollen Jordan for their safe passing. (Joshua ch. 4). Peter and John after their release from prison had a special prayer meeting with the other saints of God and worshipped Him for the privilege of being His servants. (Acts ch. 4). Likewise the pilgrims in 1621 observed a special Thanksgiving Day. Although they had suffered great losses the preceding year, they found it in their hearts to give thanks to God. Despite our losses, our hardships, and our trials and afflictions, we truly owe thanks to God for His bountiful blessings to us.

We firmly believe in worship. The very ear-

liest writings in the bible record how men worshipped. We are instructed in Genesis to worship God. We are also instructed to worship no other gods. There are scores of scripture passages that tell us to worship. Praise is also a Christian's privilege and obligation. In fact, praise and worship mean practically the same to us. Where shall we place thanksgiving? It seems to blend in with worship, praise and adoration to God. Malachi the prophet wrote, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord and thought upon His name." To fear the Lord then is to worship Him, to think upon Him, to praise Him, to speak to each other of Him and give thanks to His great name. Read Psalms 22:23 concerning those that fear the Lord, "Ye that fear the Lord, praise Him; all ye seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all ye seed of Israel." Often God's people are oppressed in different ways. Sometimes they are mistreated by their fellowmen. Sometimes it seems misfortune follows them everywhere. The enemy of their souls seems to camp on their trail. They could take the stand or attitude that they do not owe God praise and thanks. On the contrary they do owe God praise and thanks. Regardless of the state of our affairs we can always find others who fare worse. The Bible tells us to consider Jesus who bore such contradictions of sinners. We have not yet resisted against sin to the shedding of blood. Again we read in Psalms 74:21, "O let not the oppressed return ashamed; let the poor and needy praise thy name."

What about the unthankful? We might say, "Others never give thanks, never fear God, never make a sacrifice and never pray a prayer or bear a burden for God, yet seem to prosper more than we." The Psalmist testified he nearly backslid when he was envious of the foolish and looked upon the prosperity of the wicked. When he went into God's sanctuary and received understanding, he learned that God had set the wicked in slippery places and their destruction was sure. Instead of making man our example let God be our pattern. Let the Lord Jesus show us the way. God loved us while we were sinners. He sent His Son to die for us that we might live. Christ Jesus loved the church so much He suffered without the gate that He might sanctify and cleanse the church. Not while we were worthy, but unworthy. That is our example. We find His advice in Luke 12:35, "But love your enemies and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be called the children of the Highest; for He is kind to the unthankful and to the evil," Jesus also said that we should let our light shine among men that they would glorify God when they'd see our good works. In Philippians 2:14-15 we read, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That

ye may be blameless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world," Unthankfulness is a sign of the end-time. Paul wrote to Timothy thus: "In the last days perilous times shall come. For blasphemers, disobedient to parents, men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, unthankful, unholy, —." Unthankfulness is listed here with other evils of the last days.

The Bible says, "finally my brethren be strong in the Lord." When we think of Christians we think of spiritual strength. Unthankfulness, uncleanness, and wickedness certainly rob people of their strength in God and ultimately will destroy a Christian experience. But faithfulness, cleanliness, Christian virtue and holiness fill the humble Christian heart with satisfaction, joy, and thankfulness. We can rejoice and give thanks on a Thanksgiving Day and every other day of the year. In fact, we as God's people will enjoy life better if we make every day a day of thanksgiving. Philippians 4:4 reads, "Rejoice and give thanks on Thanksgiving Day and every other day of the year. In fact, we as God's people will enjoy life better if we make every day a day of thanksgiving. Philippians 4:4 reads, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice."

THANK YOU !

We would like to express our thanks to all those who were so kind and thoughtful during the time of Jerome's heart attack and surgery. Your prayers, calls, cards and offerings were greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Bro. Ted Barker and Bro. Edwin Waterbury and some of our church family who stayed with us during the long day of surgery. You are never quite prepared for something like this but just knowing God and others care means so much. We are trusting for a complete recovery. May God Bless you !

Jerome, Peggy, Melanie,
and Kennon Crowhurst.
Stephanie and Dannie
Tompkins.

What *Praise* can do for you

By Gordon Chilvers

How can praising God do as much for us as praying to Him or working for Him?

We have repeatedly seen how God has worked for us in response to our praying. We have received a vast variety of blessing. Our problems have been solved, burdens have been lifted, provision has been received, healing has been given.

We have also found that God has worked in our Christian service. We have given our simple witness, and the person has become a Christian. We have baked a cake for a lonely senior citizen and have seen the joy that has lighted up her life. We have spoken to a tested person and have seen hope and determination come to his face.

What can praise do that will in any way equal these tremendous results?

Paul and Silas suffering from bleeding backs in the Philippian jail, praised God at midnight and the jailer was converted Acts (16).

Jehoshaphat led the Israelites in praising God, and they had a comprehensive victory over their enemies (2 Chronicles 20). When the Jews praised God in Josiah's day, the evil power that ruled the land was broken (2 Kings 11). When trumpeters and singers praised God, His glory filled Solomon's temple (2 Chronicles 5).

This sort of outstanding event is being repeated in human lives today as people praise God.

Paul assured us that "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28). That being so, we do not allow disappointments to sour our lives. We look beyond the disappointment to see what God can do with it. We realize that these disappointments come within the scope of what He is able to make work for our good.

A brilliant Christian medical student looked eagerly forward to a career in the medical profession. Then he realized his sight was failing. Soon he understood that his sight would be completely and permanently lost. He was deeply distressed.

Yet he knew God could use this tragedy if He was the ruler of the world. The student did not despair. Instead, he lifted up his hands in thanksgiving to God for the Gift of blindness. He asked God that it might be used for His glory and to help needy people.

God heard his praise and answered magnificently. The student, Dr. Moon, lived to devise a system of reading which has helped many blind people in all parts of the world.

God's providential care had enveloped the doctor. Praise had brought blessing to himself and those he served.

Our God is wise. As Paul considered it, he cried out: "O the depth of riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

(Romans 11:33). His plans are vast and wide. They cover the whole universe as well as every detail that affects us. Every object in the world is within His grasp. Although it is remote from us, it has its part in Gods scheme for our well-being.

Because God is so wise, we need not wallow in self-pity when tragedy strikes. Instead we can concentrate on a wisdom that is so much higher than ours. How different the event looks then! We can praise Him even though we do not know why it occurred.

A woman had been looking out of her living room window to see her son on his bike. She had been waiting for him to return home from school. Just as he came into view, a drunken driver struck him. She stood frozen for a moment, then raced to the door.

Her high school honor student in science, her pride and her joy, was gone. She threw her arms around his broken body and sobbed in utter despair.

She knew he was a Christian, but what of herself? What about her heartbreak? She thought she would never be able to take her arms away from him. She felt she would be unable to move from the spot or to remove the scene from her memory.

That thought came, "Ought I not to commit this to the Lord?" For a stunned moment she hesitated. Then she said: "Father, You said we should give thanks for everything. Did you mean this too? I think you did, so right now before I try to get up, I thank you for this son of ours, for his radiant Christian life, and for what he has meant to us here. Now he is Yours." She then released him from her arms. She calmly made the necessary arrangements and carried them out.

She commented : " Ever since that moment this unfathomable peace has never left me,my husband, or my other children.

Peace has come when she thanked God. She was sure God was wise enough, though she could not claim to be wise enough herself to know why the tragedy had happened.

God is powerful. He raised Jesus Christ from the dead, a demonstration of power so great that millions of people have declared it to be impossible. That power, Paul said, works in the world today: indeed it works in us (Ephesians 1;19)

A storm wiped out virtually everything a certain farmer possessed. When it was over, he made the rounds over sodden, wasted crops and counted his losses in the bloated bodies of farm animals. He then went indoors and sat down at the table. Opening the bible, he raised his hand in his customary attitude of thanksgiving. For one tense moment he waited. Then the family heard his voice firm and resonant: "Father, we thank thee that thou hast seen fit to spare our lives in this disaster."

He had seen the power of God for his benefit. As he praised God, he knew the joy of the Lord.

"God is love." While we have it as a Biblical affirmation, we also have it clearly demonstrated on Calvary. Here was the Father giving up the One He loved and valued most for those who hated Him.

A young man had just moved from the country to New York City and decided to go for a short walk. He had been out only five minutes when he was attacked by two youths who stole his wallet.

At first he was dazed. Later he wrote in his diary: "Well, this is the first time I have been mugged. Although I lost my money, I am still alive. I am glad I decided to leave most of my money in the room. So I can praise God."

He had had a personal experience of God's love. He understood that His loving Father had restrained the attackers from hurting him and from getting all his money. As he praised God for His love, the Lord seemed to be very close to him.

Why can praise do so much for us today? Because it delights the heart of God. As F. B. Meyer put it: "Praise is our highest exercise. In prayer we often approach God for more or less selfish reasons; in praise we adore Him for what He is Himself. However tired or weary you may be, see to it that the morning hour of devotion begins with the keynote of thanksgiving and adoration. It is marvelous how this quickens the pulse of the soul and reacts upon every moment that follows."

Praise delights the heart of God because it shows our faith in Him. While it consists of words, praise affects what we do, so it results in actions. When we praise God, we are affirming that God is worthy of our highest trust and that if necessary we would risk our all for Him.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). "Every thing" must include the experiences we would avoid if we could, as well as those we welcome. As we look up to God, we shall be able to see Him through our tears. The more we meditate on our God and His goodness, the fuller will be the praise that ascends to heaven from our lips and lives.

When we praise God, we gain healing for spirit, mind, and body. We gain strength as well as peace and joy. We can rise from the depths of depression.

Let us continue to pray to God and serve Him. He seeks both from us. Yet we may find that praising God can do even more for us than either praying or serving.

*

Gratitude takes Three Forms:

*A feeling in the heart . . .
An expression in words . . .
And giving in return . . .*

Thanksgiving



"In our celebrations Christmas follows Thanksgiving; this was instituted by the Pilgrim Fathers, who were Puritans in religious faith. They left England on account of religious differences. They made a ten-year stop in Holland, after which they started for America, starting with three ships, but two foundered at sea, and a hundred and two people came through on the Mayflower. On arrival, the ship was leaking and part of its sails were destroyed with the winds and storms of the voyage. They set sail for America September 6, 1620, and reached what is now called Massachusetts, December 21. They called the land of their adoption "New England" and called a great rock on the shore "Plymouth Rock" after Plymouth in England, the place from which they came.

These Puritans were the first emigrants to America (except a few English people who had settled in what is now Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607). In coming to shore, they had to wade through icy water from the ship to land. In unloading, a child fell overboard and was drowned, and at the same time, in their company a child was born.

In coming to land, there were no houses or homes for them to go to; no one to welcome them and say, "Come in, get warmed and fed and clothes dried." The only people they could meet were the half savage Indians who might kill them for all they knew — What hardships they must have suffered, especially that first winter, which was exceptionally cold, and their arrival being late in December. Yes, in six months half of their number were dead. In the summer, they buried their dead in the corn fields so that the Indians would not know that their number was reduced.

In 1621 they built seven houses and planted twenty acres of corn and six acres of barley and peas. The corn grew well, but the other grains were a failure. Still for failures and all, these people held the first "Thanksgiving" service to Almighty God for the harvest and help He had given them. George Washington recommended the annual observance of this service and set the date for November 26. Later Abraham Lincoln established it on the last Thursday of November.

The pilgrims' preaching service commonly lasted three hours. The men carried their guns to church for fear of Indian attacks. The children walked to church in their old shoes and changed and hid them somewhere near the building, and changed back again on their way home.

These Pilgrim Fathers were prayerful, devoted, spiritual, self-denying, experimental, and practical. They put religion to the front and were an example to succeeding generations. It is not so much what Christ has done for us, as to what He has done IN us, that counts. And the Pilgrim fathers had a real heart-felt religion.

SIGNS OF HIS COMING . . . By Roland Haney

Friends, I believe that the end-time is upon us. We see the Bible being fulfilled every day, the things that Jesus said would happen before His return are happening all around us. In Matthew, chapter 24, Jesus speaks of things that shall come in the last days, and of how the love of Christians shall wax cold. This also is happening today.

I would to God that we Christians could wake up to the fact that the end-time is here, and that Jesus shall soon appear in the clouds.

The world is not looking for the coming of our Lord and Savior. Some are looking for material wealth, some for pleasure, others are looking for a way to settle the problems which face the world. Jesus said: "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44.

Space does not permit us to write the entire chapter, but I wish you would take the time to read Matthew 24, I believe it will stir your heart.

Let us consider these scriptures in 2 Timothy 3:1-7.

"This know also that in the last days perilous time shall come." Friends, we are living in perilous time. Men do not know which way to turn; we do not know when we go to bed at night if we shall awaken and hear that war has been declared.

Verse 2: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy." We can look around us and see every one of these things happening today.

Verses 4-5: "Traitors, heady highminded,

lovers of God; having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." How far do we have to look to see these scriptures being fulfilled? These things are happening in many churches today. The form of godliness is in the world now, and many are turning to this form.

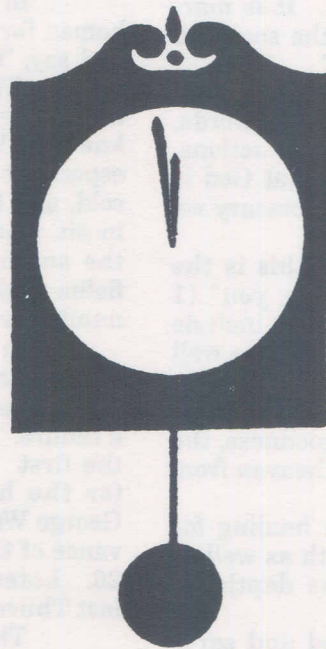
Christian, what are we doing about these things? We have "played" at Christianity long enough: it is time we get down to business with God.

Jesus told His disciples, "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but My words shall not pass away," Mark 13:31. We do not know the day nor the hour when Jesus shall come, but He has given us the warning to be ready. In Joel chapter 3, the word of God tells us that in the last days the world will prepare for war, and the weak shall say, "I am strong." Let us not say in our hearts, My Lord delayeth His coming. That is what the devil wants us to do because he knows he has only a short time yet to work. Let us spend more time on our knees in prayer, preparing ourselves for the judgment.

Some people have the idea that they will get saved when they are ready to do so. In Matt. 25:10-12 we find these words: "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying Lord, Lord, open to us. But

He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not." It will be a sad thing to be lost, to face eternity without hope, knowing it is too late to pray.

"But, of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night," I Thess. 5:1-2



Donald Dibbens . . .

One of the many cherished scriptures in the Psalms forms the basis for our thoughts. There are no telling the many times this chapter has been read, quoted, and referred to for consolation, sustainance, hope, and general spiritual blessings; yet verses 2 and 3 chapter 23 there is an expression we want to discuss. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." HE LEADETH ME. King David was well aware of the advantage to be enjoyed by letting the Lord lead. No doubt as a young shepherd boy he learned the valuable lesson of being led by a good shepherd.

Today the popular line of thinking and teaching is to decide early in ones life the occupation and work desired, then acquaint yourself with the necessary book knowledge and basic study for this specific occupation then set your mind on a goal and go ahead. Step right out and be a leader and leave your mark on life's pages. I do not wish to take from the thought of using integrity in purpose and being forceful in ones doings, but I would desire to see everyone take advantage of the leadership of one who knows best and can see much further ahead than we and lead us in the right way to our best advantage. That leader is Christ the Lord.

King Saul in the early years of his kingship did very well but the day came when he felt he could make the decisions without consulting God. No doubt he had made accurate decisions and instead of continuing to feel himself small in God's eyes he became self confident to the place he over stepped the Lord's direction and made the wrong decision thereby losing his throne. His successor was King David, a man after God's own heart mainly because he relied on the Lord for help and though he made wrong decisions yet because of his relying upon God's guidance was given the honor of having his throne be remembered as the place where Jesus shall occupy in ruling the world. It pays to let the Lord lead. We are not promised flowery beds of ease but we have the promise of grace to help in time of need and the good Shepherd to guide, protect, and lead. Life Eternal to him that overcomes the test of life.

In spite of sorrow, loss, and pain, our course be onward still; We sow on Burmah's barren plain, We reap on Zion's hill.

God putteth up whom he will and down whom he will. It is not our part to order and give the decision. Our part is to follow in His steps who

did no sin neither was guile found in his mouth. Christ as the good shepherd and we as the sheep have the privilege of following and expecting Him to lead us in the path that is best.

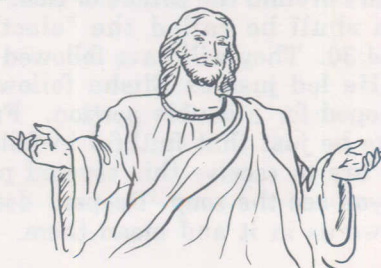
With patient course thy path of duty run
God nothing does, or suffers to be done,
But thou wouldest do the same
if thou couldest see
The end of all events as well as he.

Oh the small scope of finite mind. Men strive, toil, labor, worry, fret, and fail to find that understanding of letting Jesus lead. This does not mean one sits by the side of the road and lets the world go by. We must realize that ours is to be a light for Jesus to point men and women, boys and girls, to Jesus, the light of the world. There is a necessity of being on our toes for the Master so that we can be following where he leads.

"Footprints in the sands of time were not made sitting down."

Since Jesus ascended to Heaven and sent the Comforter as stated on Olives lofty brow fulfilled as the early rain, Day of Pentecost, and the latter rain, since 1900, we have the third person of the God-head lead us. The Comforter and director yet is dove like and must be entreated as the Ambassador or Guest from heaven. When the way is dark, you are burdened with care, and have decisions to make, ask for the direction of the Holy Spirit. In trust serene, and unfeigned faith in His Almighty power lay your problem in His care and keep on keeping on for God and right. Leave God to order all thy ways, And hope in Him, whate'er betides, Thou'll find in Him, in evil days, Thy all-sufficient strength and guide. Who trusts in God's unchanging love, Builds on the rock that naught can move.

Psalms 1:1-2. David leaves us this thought to coincide with Psalms 23. "Hear my cry, O God: attend unto my prayers. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." You too can find that inspiration, peace, and assurance by letting the Almighty, through His divine Spirit, "lead to the rock that is higher."



...By Dora Beydler

".....This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, sayeth the Lord of Hosts."

Zechariah 4:6

We often hear some one ask the question, "How many converts at a certain revival," or "How many attend this or that church," or "How many have you led to Christ recently?" These are all good questions and sometimes cause us to consider our answers but God has never resorted to numbers. In fact, God works with small numbers as much as larger numbers.

Moses led thousands of Israelites out of Egypt. Yet the family which became described as numberless as the sand of the sea shore, Genesis 22:17 included 12 tribes headed by 12 great grandsons of Abraham, yet only one of those tribes were called "His own" as a part of Christ's family. John 1:11 "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not."

We are not all called to be preachers but with our every word and deed we either preach the Word or we tell those around us that God is of none effect. We are not nor can not be in the middle of the road but are either for or against our Lord. The things we do and the way we live says who we serve—either God or satan.

Out of many who heard Jesus while He was here on earth, there were only twelve men who left all to follow Him. They left everything behind them; homes, families, and jobs were all forsaken to follow Jesus wherever He chose to lead them. One time while Jesus was talking with the disciples, He told the parable of the camel going through the eye of the needle. Then read Matthew 19:27-29. Just as Jesus expected the disciples then to forsake all and follow Him, there will be a hundred and forty-four thousand (a small number compared with the population of the world) of Christians to receive God's highest award—to be caught away from this earth before the seven years of the anti-christ reign; who have followed Jesus wherever He leads them—"...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth...." Revelation 14:4 — read v. 105. These will be deemed worthy to leave this world behind and spend 7 years around the throne of God. These are those who shall be called the "elect" of God. Matthew 24:30. They will have followed the Lamb wherever He led just as Elisha followed Elijah when he hoped for a double portion. Friends, we will need to be just that faithful in following our Lord if we are to receive this coveted prize. The next time you see the song "Deeper, deeper think about the words in it and mean them. This may

take you into trials you have never experienced but Paul said in Philippians 2:14-16. "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of Life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain."

When Assyria took the inhabitants of northern Israel to be captives there was a remnant of the Israelites left in the land ". . .Ye children of Israel turn again unto the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria." II Chronicles 30:6. Then again when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians that was a great portion of the people of Judah taken captives over a period of about twenty years, but when the last were taken there was a remnant left in the land. "But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen." II Kings 25:12.

Then the word remnant is usually applied to a short piece of material left over after the main yardage has been sold but in Old Testament times the meaning is a bit varied from our meaning today. Then it implied a catastrophe or judgement had removed or destroyed most of the people and those who remained were called the remnant.

In the case of either of these two remnants, God had saved them for the purpose of a witness for Him and to care for the land. The northern remnant inter-married with the peoples Assyria transplanted there from other lands and as usual the Israelites adopted the foreign gods instead of being a witness for the true God. They became some of the ancestors of the Samaritans who were so hated by the Jews at the time Jesus was on earth.

Over one hundred years later the people of Judah fell to the Babylonians. Again God hoped the people left in the land would be a people for Himself. "Hear, O Heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the holy One of Israel, they are gone away backward. Isaiah 1:2-4. Then verses 16-20, "Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes: cease to

do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

The Midianites were destroying the crops before Israel could harvest them as well as taking captives—some to become slaves, so God called a man called Gideon to lead an army against them. The story of Gideon's callings is in Judges chapter 6, but we must see the humility he felt in verse 15. The Amalekites and the children from the East joined the Midianites to all confront Israel but numbers do not bother the Lord. When Gideon called for volunteers many responded but God said the number is too many; send all who are afraid home. there were still too many—read the story in Judges 7:1-6 then verses 7-23 tell the story of how God gave the battle into Gideon's hands with only three hundred men.

Another time when God used only a small number against an army is in II Kings 7:3-18. Because of their leprosy the four leprous men were outcasts among humanity but God used them—just four with God's help routed the Syrian army and found food in the Syrian's tents to feed the starving population of Jerusalem. God is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34 "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." These are Peter's words when he saw the blessings of God had come to even a Roman and his household. The Jews hated the Romans and felt they could be any kind of person and still be one of God's elite. But in the time of the prophet Jeremiah one of God's messages to the Elders of Judah said, "thus saith the Lord, God get a potter's earthen bottle, and take of the ancients of the priests; and go forth into the valley of the son of Hinnon- - - and proclaim there the words that I shall tell thee." Jeremiah 19:1-2(a&c). "Then shalt thou break the bottle in the sight of the men that go with thee, and shalt say unto them, thus saith the Lord of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury." Jeremiah 19:10-11. It indeed takes more effort to swim up stream than to float down with the current but Hebrews 4:1-2 reads, "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

Today Israel (some from all the tribes but

often referred to as "the Jews") is a small nation but in 1967 they fought a six day war and won over armies much larger in numbers. Again God used a small number to accomplish His purpose.

Jesus used just 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish to feed about five thousand. "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, make the men sit down, in number about five thousand." John 6:6-10. Then the disciples gathered twelve baskets of left-over food. This was another time Jesus used only a small number—one lad and his lunch to feed a multitude.

There has been many times through the years that miracles have been wrought through the power of God with the smaller numbers. We need to get our eyes and our thoughts away from looking for something big and lift our eyes a little higher to the strength in the spirit and power of God.

There will be, in time yet to come, another remnant of Israel. The sealing of one hundred forty four thousand true Israelites can be read in Revelation chapter 7. We copy in part verses 2-4, "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed a hundred and forty and four thousand. . ." These people are sealed in the natural body and protected by God from the troubles caused by the anti-christ.

Due to a promise given to Abraham, and we copy in part from Genesis 15-18, "Unto thy seed have I given this land." And again we copy in part from Genesis 17:6-8, " And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." They will be servants to cleanse the land after the battle of Armageddon. Read Isaiah 65:21-23, and again we copy in part, "And mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." These Israelites will not be sealed because of their righteousness but because of their race. They will have until the age of 100 years to accept Jesus who will be the Ruler of this earth during that thousand years. "There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die a hundred years old: but the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed." Isaiah 65:20. They will stand in the judgement on that day when we must all face our own records.

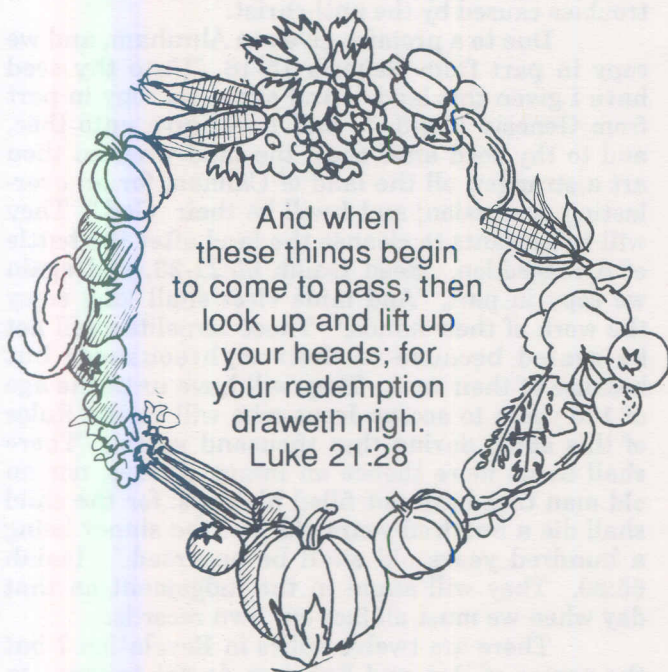
There are twelve tribes in Revelation 7 but the names of Dan and Ephriam do not appear. In Deuteronomy is a warning not to turn from God

cont. on page 14

A. F. Report

and go serve the false gods of the land. Read Deuteronomy 29:18-21. In the days when Jeroboam was King the tribes of Dan and Ephraim helped Jeroboam to keep the ten tribes from going to Jerusalem to worship by introducing idolatry and placing a golden calf in each of these two tribes. God kept His word and Dan and Ephraim will not be among those sealed. Thus the number in the remnant will be one hundred forty-four thousand and made up of twelve thousand from each of twelve tribes. These sealed Israelites will be able through the power of God to go through the time of Jacob's Trouble. Jacob's trouble will affect all who have worshipped the beast or have taken his mark as well as the Israelites who are not sealed. Jacob's trouble will extend from the time of the mark of the beast in the middle of the antichrist's reign to the end of that time or until the Lord comes to put an end to the battle of Armageddon. It will take in the terrible sufferings caused when the seven vials are emptied but God's remnant will be spared the horrors of that day to be servants of the King of the earth under His rule.

Yes, God does help small numbers of people who have their trust in Him but large or small numbers—we must serve Him and keep our trust in Him. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9.



THE THANKSGIVING DAY TO COME

This month we Americans will again observe Thanksgiving. This tradition has been observed for many years. Many of us will take part in family get-togethers and the traditional stuffed turkey, pumpkin pie, and other good things to eat will be served at the family table.

Thanksgiving, today, means several things to us. A vacation from school, a home-coming football game, or a chance to visit grandparents and other relatives.

However let us, as Christians, remember to be really thankful during the Thanksgiving holidays. It is always good to say, "Thank You Lord" It is also good to be thankful every day, not just one day a year.

Let us remember that Jesus gave his life that we might have a more abundant life. Truly, this is a miracle for which we should be thankful. Therefore let us add praise to our Thanksgiving. "For whoso offereth praise glorifieth me." Psalm 50:23. We can give thanksgiving in prayer. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18.

However, as Christians, we can look forward to a thanksgiving day to come. The coming thanksgiving is going to be in heaven. We will be able to give praise and thanksgiving to God every day throughout all eternity! A song that the angels can not sing! It will be a song of the redeemed! Won't it be wonderful there! This will be the thanksgiving of all thanksgivings!

Let us look forward to this thanksgiving day that is to come. Today we spend several days in preparing for our dinner. Let us begin our preparation now. Let us lay up treasures for this day. Let us watch and pray for this day. Let us give praise and honor to whom it is due, **now**. Let us prepare to sing the song of redemption, now! Let us come before His courts with thanksgiving and give due praise to the blood of the Lamb.

R-embered by Jesus while in sin
E-mpowered by His blood and
cleansed within
D-eath now has no sting for me
E-ternity's gates my glad eyes see
E-ver to be there with the Lord
M-oved by His spirit, filled with
His word
E-nabled someday a new song to sing,
on the
D-awn of that morning all heaven
will ring!

"There is always a need for more who will say — Here am I, send me."

NEW ADDITION ON MIDWAY COUNTRY CHURCH

...Submitted by Billie Jett



Left to right - Randall Bensch, Ezra Simpson, Winton Jett, Neil Ragan and J. D. Jett

They say an army marches on its stomach. Well, Sister Billie Ragan was instrumental in keeping an army of the Lord fed while they built a new addition onto the Midway Country Church. The two car garage that these men built has certainly been a blessing to the whole church.

The church men who built the garage were Randall Bensch, Steve Arnall, David Jett, Ezra Simpson, Winton Jett, Neil Ragan and J. D. Jett. The young men had to hold down jobs to support their families and so often the average age of the men working was seventy.

Elmer Conley, who is in his seventies, began the concrete work in the fall of 1992. he said, "This is the longest job that I've ever been on." The reason for the job being so long was that it snowed all winter in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Winton Jett, age 71, came out of retirement just long enough to act as consultant and worker on

the building. (He quickly went back into retirement as soon as the garage was finished.)

Work was begun on the actual building on April 12, 1993. On May 12, the work was finished. A total of seventeen days of work was accomplished by the church men. Woody Orcutt completed the siding on May 28th.

On the evening of June 20, the garage was dedicated. Afterward the church enjoyed finger food and fellowship.

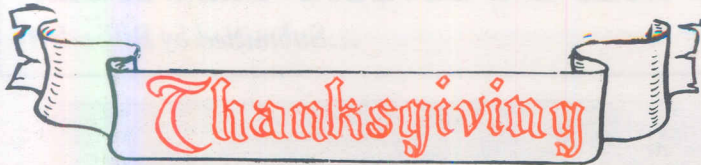
While some could not carpenter, all contributed to the work. Sister Billie Ragan fed the men at noon every day. Dishes of food were sent in by the women of the church. Money was donated and many prayers were offered.

There was a great feeling of unity and thankfulness in the church for a job well done. God is still on the throne.



Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Walters; Joplin, Missouri, announce the birth of their daughter, Jamie Renee, on August 25, 1993. She weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 inches long. She was welcomed by her sister Erin.

Paternal grand-parents are Mr. and Mrs. Dan Walters, Joplin, Missouri. Maternal grand-parents are Mr. and Ms. Jim Whitlock, Bailey, Colorado. Great grand-parents are Harold Hammond, Lenexa, Kansas Mary Hammond, Overland Park. Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Walters, Paola, Kansas Jeanie Mullins, Joplin, Missouri and Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Whitlock, Grove, Oklahoma.



Thanksgiving

...Mrs Chester Cobble

1st Thess. 5:18
In everything give thanks.

Do you ever stop and thank Him,
as you journey through life?
Or always come complaining of
the toils and of the strife?
Yes! I know it's hard to thank Him
for the trials, for the tears.
But your faith grows ever stronger
with some struggle through the years.

If the path were always easy,
we would never learn to grow.
Mountain peaks may take us higher
but rich valleys lie below.
So our Father sends the blessings,
but for our good He sends the rain.
Climbing, stumbling up the hillside,
into sunshine once again!

He who clothes the fairest lily - -
He who sees the sparrow's fall,
Doeth he not care more for His children?
He will hear the faintest call.
Going through the firey furnace,
with thankful heart in faith abide.
No alarm, no hurt befall thee,
Another walks close by your side.

"Giving good gifts to his children - -
would he give to thee a stone?"
"Ask - - seek, it shall be given - -
knock and find you're not alone.
Thankful tho the storm clouds gather - -
trusting never asking why.
"When hearts fear distress is greater,
our redemption draweth nigh."

Do you ever stop and praise HIM,
just for mercy, for His grace.
These trials compared, are nothing
to the cross that took our place.
Yet He prayed unto His Father,
"Not my will but thine be done."
so when you think you're sacrificing,
think of He who gave His Son!

"In all points He was tempted,
Like as we, yet without sin.
Had all the trials and temptations
that are common unto men."
Now look up and cease complaining,
you've so much to thank Him for.
As the trial seems much greater,
remember "He was here before."

When the shadows gather 'round you,
there is none who seem to care,
just starting thanking Him for mercy
for the grace your cross to bear.
"Coming to His throne boldly,
You'll find grace in time of need."
Singing praises,, shouting victory,
all the darkness will recede.

So be thankful this Thanksgiving,
it will bring the Father's smile.
Pouring out abundant blessings
on a grateful, humble child.
Then face to face we'll kneel to Thank
Him,
for the trials that pressed us sore.
For in these we gained the courage,
pressing on to Heaven's shore.

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