

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

Nov. 1982

Vol. 29 No. 11

In Memory of
Pearl A. Menke



I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

II Timothy 4:7-8

Count Your Blessings

One day I heard myself grumble and complain
 about the load I had to bear
 I said "Lord, why are there so many times
 that it seems you just aren't there?
 But then I began to realize that if anyone
 had forgotten that I'd been the one.
 So I started counting my blessings
 and began to thank him for all he'd done.
 There was the time He saved me
 and took away all of my sin,
 And since that very special day
 I'm filled with peace and love within.
 He's met my needs so many times
 He's given me friends who really care.
 And I know that he's there all the time,
 He's with me everywhere.
 So if you ever gripe or complain
 About the rotten day you've had
 Then just look to Jesus
 And you will see life's really not so bad.
 Just begin to count your blessings
 And thank him for all he's done.
 Thank him for this beautiful world
 And for Jesus, God's only son.
 You'll realize he really loves you
 And that you really love him too.
 And that he's always with you
 In everything you do.

Vanessa Oakes

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT Karen Oakes Editor

Post Office Box 653 Ph. 316-856-5281
 Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

EDITORIAL BOARD

Bill Hollis 436 Cherokee Ave. Baxter Spgs., Kans. 66713 316-856-5301	Jim Arnall Rt. 2 Box 385 Ashland, Ala. 36251 205-354-2167
Jacob Regier 1518 S. Drake Perryton, Texas 79070 806-435-4478	Ward Stanberry Box 145 Katy, Texas 77450 731-371-3464
Doyle Wiles Rt. 1 Box 226 Decatur, Ark. 72722 501-752-3937	Roland Busch Box 1002 Katy, Texas 77450 713-391-3356
Gene Hibbs 1105 N. Prospect Liberal, Ks. 67901 316-624-4400	

*Published as the Lord provides; sent to you upon request on the free-will offering basis.
 Please send all changes of address, giving both old and new addresses, and Zip Code.*

Bylaws 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 Saviour Jesus Christ who have accepted him as their personal Saviour. 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. These 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 Saviour, 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 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. Matthew 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 basic doctrines shall be adhered to in the teaching of the Apostolic Faith Bible College, which in addition to other doctrinal teachings approved by the Board from time to time if they are not inconsistent with the above listed basic doctrines.

PARHAM BOOKS

NOW AVAILABLE

- Life of Charles F. Parham now \$7.00
 - The Voice Crying in the Wilderness \$2.00
 - Selected Sermons \$1.50
 - The Everlasting Gospel \$2.00
 - Handling and Postage \$.50
- ORDER NOW!! from The Apostolic Faith Bible College Box 110 Baxter Spgs., Kans. 66713.



Thanks Be Unto God

by Patsy Waterbury

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."
(Corinthians 9:15).

As I prayerfully review the items of thankfulness that must cross the minds of Christians on this occasion, I must necessarily name Christ as the Number One Gift. He is the principal source of our Salvation. He Is our Salvation! All the prayers of thanksgiving that we may offer may well be in vain unless we have an humble acknowledgement that Christ is the Supreme Gift, the very best God had to offer, God in His love sent His beloved Son to bring redemption to all mankind. We must have a praise above all else for this "unspeakable gift".

Of course, we shall all bow our heads in praise to God for the food of which we shall partake. Across our land, we will be thankful for temporal blessings which are ours. The Lord must surely be pleased with our acknowledgement that these blessings are received from above.

Praise automatically accompanies the Christian life. The praise of the Lord must continually be in our mouth. We have so much to praise Him for. We need to praise Him for every new dawn we are permitted to see break through the darkness. Praise belongs unto Him for every breath we breathe. Praise is comely for the upright. (Psa. 33:1) Do you desire beauty in the sight of God? Praise will beautify your life! Do you desire a closer life with Christ? Do you desire the richness of His presence dwelling with you in a fuller measure? Begin to praise God and you will notice a difference in your communion with him.

Often praise can't always be expressed by mere words. Often there is simply a heartfelt gratitude that ascends to God in heaven from our lives that is unexpressible. Praise should always flow from our hearts. It accompanies continually a person's life that is wholly dedicated to God, with the single purpose of pleasing God. Praise continues on through every trial. Praise to God is the radiating force of many a Christian life which witnesses of Christ in that life.

Originating with the festival held by Plymouth colony, December 1621, in gratitude for the ending of a difficult year and for the successful harvest, Thanksgiving became a particularly popular holiday among the New England colonies. The native fruits and vegetables, wild turkeys, and pumpkin pies which constituted the fare of that first Thanksgiving feast became the traditional food for the day. What a price these first pioneers paid for us to have these blessings! The Pilgrims fought bravely. Men, women, and children worked feverishly to tear homes from the wilderness. They faced great sicknesses. It was a rough battle. March of 1621 found the Pilgrims in desperate circumstances, only a small number had survived the winter. In the same month the Pilgrims were startled by an unexpected visit from the Indians. They came to make a peace treaty, and showed the wondering colonists how to fish and plant and hunt. When the autumn of 1621 approached, it found each man helping his neighbor harvest the first most precious crops. A thanksgiving feast was

spread, and the Indian people were invited to share it with the colonists. They had built homes, and made friends with the Indians. No wonder they were thankful.

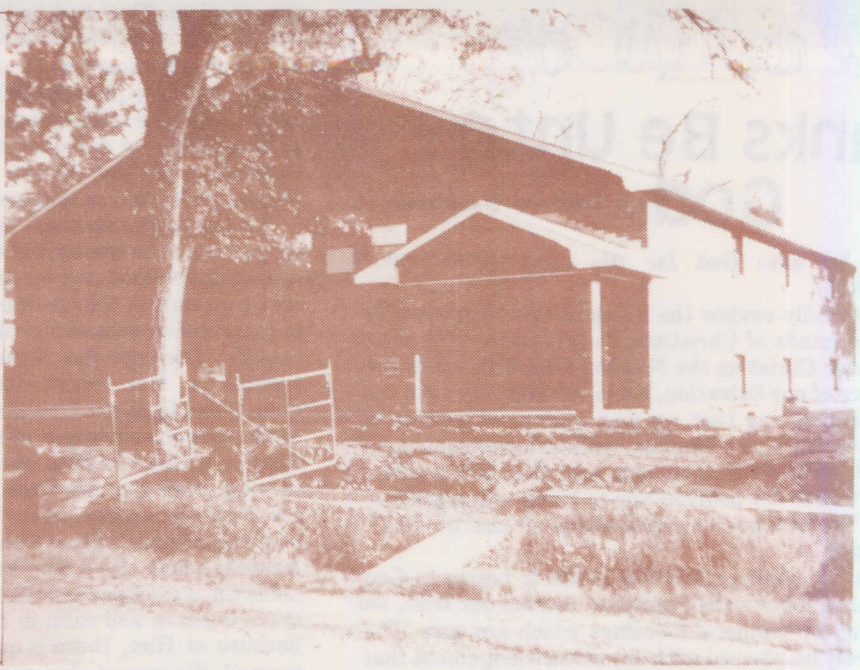
In succeeding years, President Washington in 1789 issued the first presidential Thanksgiving proclamation in honor of the new constitution. President F.D. Roosevelt in 1939 appointed a definite day, which was later changed by Congress, to the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day, a national public holiday.

There is now so much distress and despair in our nation as well as across the world, we may be facing days almost as desperate in some respects as those the Pilgrims faced. We may well look on this and become discouraged. The problem of racial differences and local condition may cause our hearts to sink. Perhaps the threat of nuclear and missile war creates a fear inside that is almost unquenchable. Sometimes family difficulties make our hearts to ache. We can look upon our people all across the nation and sometimes wonder if there is faith left in the country. We may walk through trials that are bitter and have disappointments that are hard to accept. But "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift". He is the restraining force against sin in America today. He holds the keys of heaven and of hell; He holds the way of peace and contentment. Because of this Gift there is peace and calm in the midst of the raging billows. Because of Him, there is quietness of soul in the midst of turmoil. We cannot shut our eyes and become blind to those conditions, but we can continually look to Christ for joy in our sorrows, and for the balm to heal the tormented soul.

When Christ lived on earth, he healed ten lepers. (Luke 17:12-19) They lifted their voices and cried for Jesus to have mercy on them. After he commanded them to go show themselves to the priests and they had obeyed, they were cleansed from their leprosy. Only one, with great thanksgiving in his heart, turned back and glorified God. he fell on his face at the feet of Jesus and gave Him thanks. So very often God answers our prayers and lifts us from trials we are facing. So many times He opens doors for us when the way has seemed impossible. Are we really grateful enough to God from the depths of our hearts? Do we go before Him with thanksgiving, kneeling humbly before Him, as this man did, with gratitude flowing from our lives unto Him?

No doubt across our land during this time of year there will be many prayers that go out from the lips of mankind. No doubt there will be many pompous words spoken that are for the audience's benefit. Possibly there will be prayer uttered that will reach no further than the radius of the voice that expresses them. May we, who are the children of God and who have heard and know the truths of the Gospel, and who have personally come in contact with the Supreme Gift, may we humbly, sincerely, with honest hearts praise God from Whom all blessing flow. It doesn't take flowing words of a great spokesman to praise the Lord. May we thank Him for the personal knowledge of Him, and for the spiritual heritage that men and women have taught us from the Word of God. May we thank Him for every Christian family across the land, who take time from their busy schedule to kneel and pray with one another. May we thank God for letting us be so fortunate as to have good health. May we thank Him for friends everywhere who know how to pray. May we, above all, remember in our partaking of all the good things of life that we have that Christ is the Best of all. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift!"

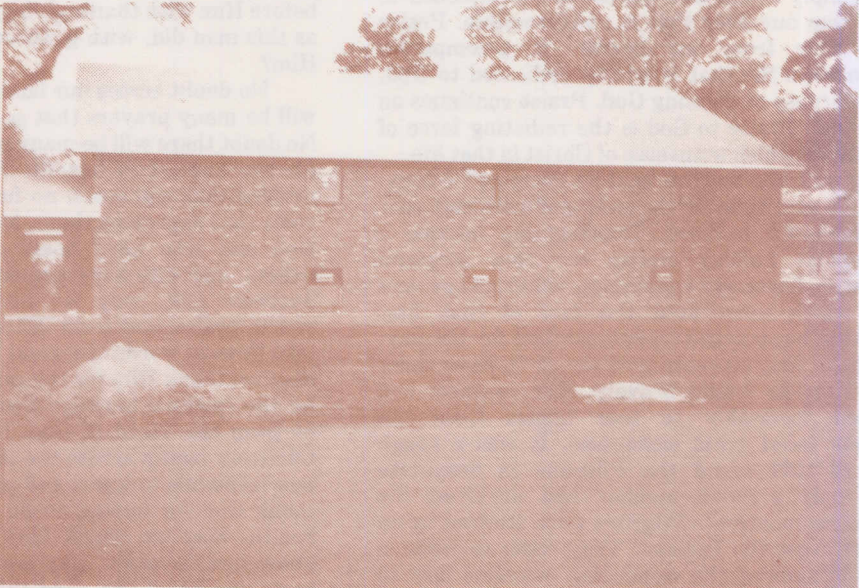
Front facing
the boy's
dorm on
10th street



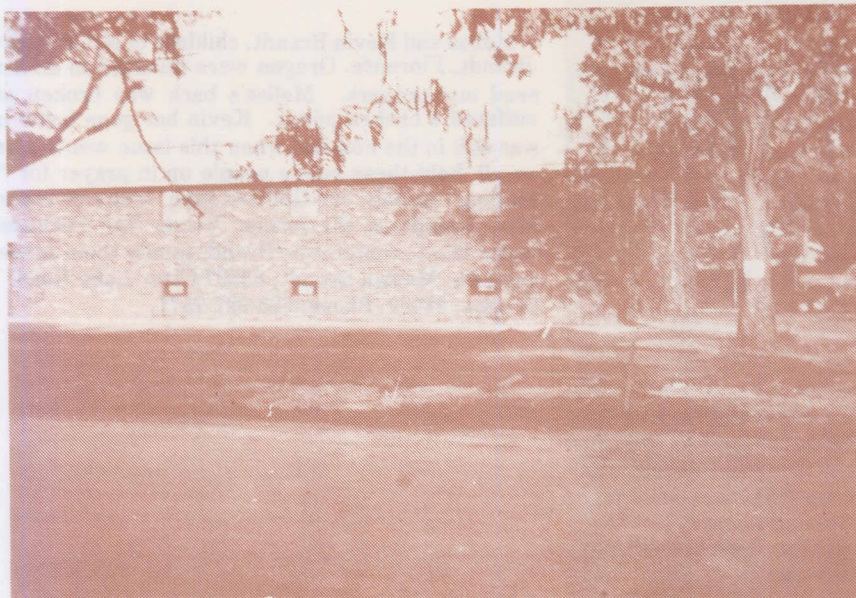
Things are progressing on schedule here at the Bible School. Bro. Jack Cornell has moved to Baxter and assumed charge of the school. He is presently on tour with a Bible School group and will make appearances at most of our churches.

The building project is in its final phase of painting, trimming, cabinets, carpeting and site work. Then equipment from the home building will be moved in. All efforts are being made to have the facility ready for use for convocation and the January '83 term of school.

West side
facing Grant
Avenue



B
I
B
L
E



Another view
of West side
facing Grant
Avenue

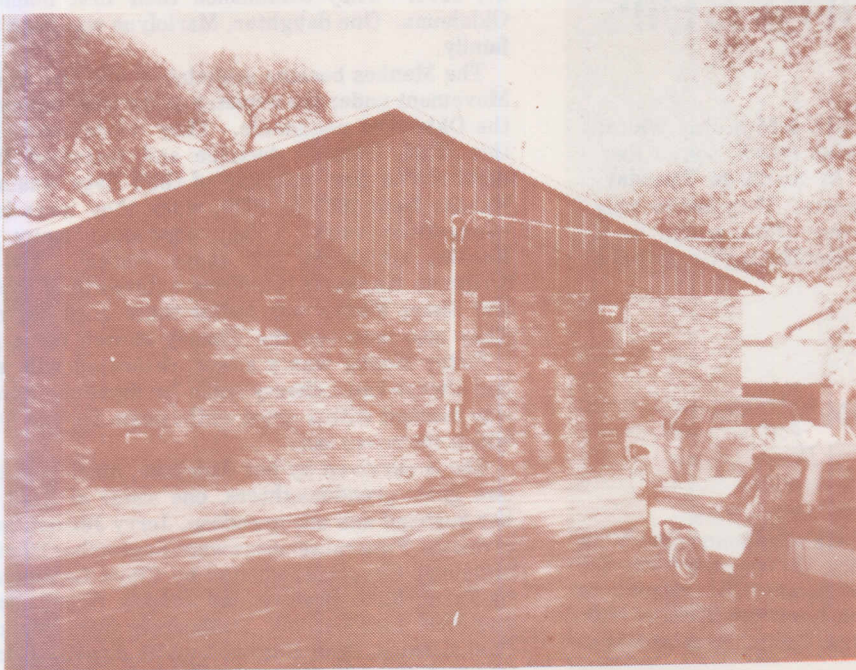
We Praise the Lord for meeting our needs. All material and labor costs have been paid up to the first of October.

Since October first we have had several large bills to pay and have gone to the bank and borrowed \$15,000.00 to pay these. We estimate it may take another fifteen or twenty thousand to complete the project.

Please remember the work here in your prayers and plan to attend Convocation scheduled for the week of December 26.

Bill Hollis
Secretary

C
O
L
L
E
G
E



Back



NOVEMBER NOTES

Kingman, Kansas

We enjoyed the blessings and presence of the Lord as the Word went forth in preaching from evangelist Dwight Wilson who was with us for a week of services this fall. His wife Carla and daughter Dawnya were with him also. May God continue to bless and use them in their ministry.

We were privileged to have Bro. and Sis. Jack Cornell and the Bible College group with us in concert in October. We appreciated their ministry in song and pray that he prospers their journey as they travel on for him.

We have a vacancy in our hearts, church and community with the passing of our friend Sis. Pearl Menke. Our lives are the richer for having known her and know we will see her again if we stay true to the Lord.

Mike Brening-Pastor
Nyla Myers-Reporter



Wedding Bells

Sandra Louise Taber, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Walton of Riverton, Kansas and Bradley Brian Busch, son of Rev. & Mrs. O.A. Busch were united in marriage Tuesday, September 28, 1982 in Miami, Oklahoma. They are making their home at 704 S. Springs in Grove, Okla. where he is employed by NEO Heating and Air Conditioning Co. and she is employed at the bank.



Mr. and Mrs. Larry Deal of May, Okla. announce the birth of a son, Chad Ryan on Oct. 1, 1982. He weighed 6 lbs. 6½ oz. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. O.K. Staudt of Okmulgee, Okla. and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Deal of May, Okla. Great-grandmothers are Mrs. Freda Deal and Mrs. Audrey Baker both of May, Okla.

Nov. 1982

Prayer Request

Melisa and Kevin Brandt, children of Mr. and Mrs. Marlan Brandt, Florence, Oregon were involved in an accident and need our prayers. Melisa's back was broken and Kevin suffered a broken pelvis. Kevin has gone home but Melisa was still in the hospital when this issue went to press. May we all hold these young people up in prayer for "Complete Healing" as only our God can give. Many of you remember Mrs. Brandt as the former Vonda Van Bethusen. If any would like to contact the Brandt family their address is: Mr. and Mrs. Marlan Brandt, 83597 Clear Lake Road, Florence, Oregon. 97439. Phone: 503-997-7571.

Obituary

MRS CHARLES G. MENKE

Pearl A. Walker was born July 4, 1896 at Sugar Grove, Arkansas, and departed this life September 23, 1982 at her home in Kingman, Kansas after an illness of several months.

Pearl's mother died when she was very young and her growing-up years were spent in two foster homes. She and Charles G. Menke were married in Paola, Kansas on August 27, 1914. They established their first home in Luther, Oklahoma. One daughter, Mariolyne was born to bless this family.

The Menkes became acquainted with the Apostolic Faith Movement under the ministry of the late Robert Girouard in the Oklahoma panhandle. They whole-heartedly accepted this "Full Gospel" doctrine and remained faithful until death. The first ministry of their lives was at Kingman, Kansas from 1925 to 1929, when they went into full-time evangelistic work. They conducted many revivals in Kansas, Oklahoma and other states. The church at Kingman, Kansas is the direct outgrowth of their ministry, and Sister Menke was pastor there until her retirement. They also pastored the Cheney church for a few years.

Sister Menke was a sweet, dedicated wife and mother, and always had a cheery smile for those she knew. Her life was marked with a great enthusiasm for the work of God, which she never lost.

She is survived by her daughter, Mariolyne of Kingman, two great-granddaughters, one sister of Enid, Oklahoma; her husband and one grandson, Jerry Jensen, preceded her in death. Funeral services were September 25 at Livingston Mortuary Chapel, conducted by Floyd LaMunyon, assisted by Pastor Mike Brening and Johnny Arnall, songs by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cornell. Pallbearers were Sherman Sutton, Paul Clanton, Neil Ragan, Lyndel Arnall, Johnny Arnall, and Jack Cornell. Burial was in Walnut Hill Cemetery.

60TH Wedding Anniversary



Bro. and Sis. George Hintergardt are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 18. Bro. and Sis. Hintergardt have been in the gospel work since 1933. It would be nice if we all would let them know how much we appreciate them by sending a card to : 815 Washington , Baxter Springs, Ks. 66713

A BIBLE CHURCH SHOULD BE ACCORDING TO PAUL IN PHILLIPIANS:

Instructed

1:9—“That your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment.”

Sincere

1:10—“That ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.”

Fruitful

1:11—“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness.”

Joyous

1:25—“That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Christ Jesus.”

Steadfast

1:27—“Stand fast in one spirit.”

Suffering

1:29—“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.”

United

2:2—“That ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

Humble

2:3—“In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Blameless

2:15—“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God.”

Expecting

3:20, 21—“We look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Praying

4:6—“In everything by prayer and supplication.”

At Peace

4:6—“And the peace of God, shall keep your hearts and

minds through Christ Jesus.

Giving

4:8—“The things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.”

—Selected

Deadline!

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

VOTE TO CLOSE THE CHURCH

Last Sunday I voted to close our church: not intentionally nor maliciously, but thoughtlessly, lazily, indifferently, I voted to close its doors. I voted to lock up the Bible in the pews. I voted to close the song books and I voted for the ministers to stop ministering. I voted for every missionary to be called home, every gospel worker supported by the church to find other work. I voted for our church camps to close. I voted for every influence of good and right and truth in our community to be curtailed. I voted for the darkness of superstition, the degrading influence of sin, the blight of ignorance, and the curse of greed once again to settle their damning loads on the shoulders of an already weak world. I voted for all this, I say, and more too— things that the human mind cannot grasp or express. Carelessly, lazily, indifferently— I voted. For you see I could have gone, and I should have gone, but I didn't. I stayed away from church last Sunday.

Jesus Heals

My dear friends, readers of the Apostolic Faith Report I declare unto you I found this was true in 1919. When first hearing a message of healing my voice had been gone in so much that I had only been able to speak in a whisper for 2½ years. I was told by a specialist he could help me to speak but it would not be permanent and I soon found that to be true, but "Praise the Lord" his work has been permanent throughout the years to 1982. I have been kept by him from the crown of my head to the sole of my feet.

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17.

St. John 3:33-34. He that hath received his testimony set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath set speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

Jesus the wonderful gift of God's love, told us he did not come to destroy the law or prophets but to fulfill. Matthew 5:17.

Through obedience on our part the Lord has promised us "good not evil" on any line concerning our life.

Exodus 15:26—If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God and wilt do that which is right in his sight and wilt give ear to his commandments I will put none of these diseases upon thee which I have brought upon the Egyptians for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

Psalms 103:3—Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

Isaiah 53:5—But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Jeremiah 17:14—Heal me o Lord, and I shall be healed; save and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

Proverbs 3:7-8—Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel and marrow to thy bones.

Matthew 4:23-24—And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

When reading Matthew, Mark and Luke I am made to believe Jesus spent much time during his short ministry healing the people. The word tells us he is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8.

In II Corinthians 11:29-30 we are told because many people do not discern the Lord's body many are weak and sickly and many sleep (Die).

The Lord's ways are far above ours. With a still small voice he speaks and the work is done and it is ours to choose as to whom we will trust when sickness lays us low, the Lord who paid it all or the earthly physicians with their various kind of instruments and medicines. (Remember Jeremiah 30:13 tells us we have no healing medicines).

Salvation and healing go hand in hand. This is plainly told us in Matthew 9:1-7. With a life fully surrendered, sanctified we are promised health.

We read in the 3rd epistle 2nd verse of John, "Beloved I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Before hanging on the cross Jesus turned his back to the smiters and was beaten with stripes. 1st Peter 2:24 says, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose strips ye were healed.

Oh now blessed in these mortal bodies as we seek for glory, honor, immortality, eternal life such a marvelous promise is ours.

God is faithful who hath promised and in the 91st Psalm we are told by dwelling in the secret place of the most high under the shadow of the Almighty he will satisfy us with long life and show us his salvation (deliverance from all the powers of satan).

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

Dear Lord help us, thy blood bought children to enjoy benefits now and throughout eternity for Jesus sake that he might see the travail of his soul and be satisfied. Isaiah 53:11.

Mrs. E.A. Greer

TO OUR LOVED ONES IN CHRIST

Loved ones, what will happen next?

Satan sure tries to stop you,

Catches you between and betwixt

There is nothing you can do.

Your desire to help others, to lend a helping hand,

Concern for your sister and brother,

Satan, this cannot stand.

Dear ones, God has touched you,

Giving you grace to stand.

Satan has to release you,

God has a better plan.

Bertha Stimson

God Heals Today

The Lord is gracious and so merciful. I praise Him for deliverance. I can not tell the many ways He showed Himself a strong help in time of great distress.

Satan is subtle. He knows our strengths and weaknesses. He very cleverly finds entrances into our minds to plant seeds of doubt, fear, and acceptance of ideas that he wants us to believe. He uses all avenues to gain your attention to accept what he wants to deceive you with. Newspapers, magazines, T.V., fears of others, are just a few of the things he uses.

For several years, I had a pink growth on my hand. Many people had shown concern, but I was not troubled about it. I had prayed many times that God would remove it. There were two other areas that had bothered me and God had answered in those needs.

One day I noticed an article in a magazine on skin cancer.

(I do not think it just happened. When my eyes had caused me trouble, I said to the devil's suggestions that the eyes do not have cancer. Not long after that, the news mentioned a boy having an eye removed because of cancer). The article described three types of skin cancer. The last one sounded like the condition on my hand. The glands of the body are invaded by cells from the place.

Later, my throat and especially my tonsils became very sore and continued such for a long time. I could even feel a lump in my throat. Often I was awakened at night with extreme pain. As I prayed, I would gain help but the lump continued to stay. How I yearned for complete victory. I wanted so much to have the faith to overcome Satan. So many others were praying for me.

I had become convinced it was cancer. Then a spirit of fear gained the upperhand in my mind. The torments of the devil gripped my life. But thank God for His mercy. One night I went into the living room to pray. I had hardly begun to pray when the blessed Holy Spirit began to speak. As He praised and glorified God, that spirit of fear left me, OH, the feeling of pure undeserved grace flooded my heart.

The devil was not through. I could not get ride of the notion I had cancer. I never thought, "Why me?", but "Why not me?" I certainly was no one special. And so many precious people had been taken by cancer, even my sister, Lillie.

Then the devil took sleep from me. For nearly two weeks I did not sleep. I prayed, quoted scripture, praised the Lord. Still I lay awake. I began to feel unreal, like a walking zombie. I even tried over-the-counter sleeping pills. Still I did not sleep. That troubled me. I had no experience with sleeping pills so did not understand.

Satan made me feel I was headed for a nervous breakdown. So I went to the doctor. (What the devil wanted me to do all along since I so wanted to believe for complete deliverance). They did not think I had cancer but did not seem to care about my insomnia. After a day or two I had John ask the doctor for a prescription. It gave me some sleep, but without it I did not sleep. I had to have deliverance from the Lord. I did not want to be in bondage to Satan. One night when sleep did not come, I went to the living room to pray, read my Bible, and most of all to praise the Lord. I do not know what time I went to sleep, but Praise the Lord, sleep came and the devil's hold was broken. How many times have you thanked God because you could sleep?

Satan is always busy. How important is the Word of God, prayer, and praise and the precious blood of Jesus. Many times it was a continuous praise to the Lord that made Satan retreat. Thank the Lord for the moment God said it was enough.

I am so ashamed at my lack of trust. God one time said to me, "Who told you, you have cancer?" But when the condition continued I began to doubt. Toward the last He said, "Go to the doctor." I replied, "But Lord, I want to trust you for victory." His answer was, "But you aren't trusting me." I was so ashamed. How I had hurt my precious Redeemer with my believing the devil's lies.

I pray that this will be a help to someone to be able to realize the tricks of Satan. He has lots of time to carefully lay the traps for us to fall in to. Our weapons are not carnal but they are mighty through God. The Lord is gracious and full of mercy. Praise His wonderful name.

Opal Wimer

A Vision of Jesus

by Dora Beydler

It thrills my soul to listen to the songs "I've Had a Vision of Jesus" and "It Will Be Worth It All" or to hear a sermon on the coming of the Lord. We all look forward with anticipation to that day. Recently, while at Camp Meeting we all rejoiced again in the hearing of both of those songs. Then as I pondered on the coming of the Christ, I began to think of the many other times He has already appeared both in person and in vision; also of other times He shall appear in the end of this age. He has prepared a highway and marked it by His blood," And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." He has been preparing His people to walk on that highway and the truths found in some of those appearance He has already made know His concern that no one should err along the way. He bid Abraham to "Walk before me and be thou perfect." Genesis 17:1C. Isaiah 2:5 reads, "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord." Then in Micah 6:8 we find "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" From the beginning Jesus has been the Messenger from to man. Sometimes He has spoken directly then other times He has spoken through the prophets. But all of those times He has been a Guide, a Leader, One giving comfort and cheer, full of compassion and understanding yet so full of both love and justice. It is some of those times I wish to recall and find in them a message for us of today that will help us to walk on that highway of holiness built by God.

A personal appearance was made by the Christ to Abraham when he lived in the plains of Mamre. This story is found in Genesis 18:1-15. Abraham was resting during the heat of the day when he saw three strangers approaching. He hurried to meet them and invited them to relax a while under the tree by his tent. He brought water to wash the dust of the road from their feet then hastened to have food prepared for them. When the food was ready Abraham did not eat with his guests as we would do today but he stood while waiting upon their needs. It was probably while they were eating, under the tree, one of the strangers asked, "Where is Sarah, thy wife?" Verse 9. Abraham's reply to this question may have shown a bit of surprise. First of all, these men were strangers yet one asked him about his wife, by name. He must have begun to realize this stranger was no ordinary man, By His inquiry, it was made known that Sarah was to hear this promise which had been given to Abraham a short time before, in Chapter 17, The visitor now told him that Sarah would have a son. When Sarah who was in the tent heard this, she laughed within herself. This extra-ordinary visitor then demonstrated His ability to know our secret thoughts by asking Abraham why Sarah had laughed and asked if anything was too hard for the Lord. He then rebuked Sarah, who was still in the tent, for unbelief.

Then in the same chapter verses 16-23 and 19:1-30 is another story with the insight into the justice in God's

judgments. After these three men had eaten, they arose and probably moved a short distance from the tent before making known the other reason for this visit. The Lord says he knows Abraham will instruct his children to keep the way of the Lord so He will not hide from Abraham the divine concern He has for Sodom and Gomorrah. This deep concern shown here is about social evils. He knows the situation at first hand but is willing to consider other means than destruction for the correcting of the moral decay. When Abraham heard this news of Sodom and Gomorrah, he was deeply burdened because of Lot's residence near these cities. His sense of justice caused him to plead for the righteous to be spared. He began by asking for the cities to be spread if fifty righteous souls could be found and upon the Lord's acceptance of Abraham's intercession, he continued counting down until he reached the number ten. Perhaps he was aware this number was about the size of Lot's family but I would rather think Abraham was concerned more about the righteous who would suffer because of the wickedness of the majority. The Lord assured him judgment would be withheld for the sake of ten righteous people. The two angels who had been with the Lord at Abraham's tent, went to Sodom and failing to find ten righteous people, warned Lot to take his family and flee from the city. Abraham's intercession saved Lot and those of his family who would leave but those even of Lot's family who chose to stay in the city were destroyed with the cities. This shows us the Lord is a compassionate person even in His judgments.

The people of Israel had lived a nomadic life for 40 years in a land called a wilderness. Their wandering began when they were so doubtful of the Lord helping them to possess the promised land that they would rather have returned to slavery in Egypt than to face the unknown and trust the Lord. Part of this wilderness was a desert land a part was mountainous. It was deficient of water so God sent the miraculous stream from which they quenched their thirst. There was also a deficient supply of food for man, but apparently there was food for cattle, so God fed the people with manna which they gathered every morning. A whole new generation had grown since they left the land of Egypt. All who were above the age of twenty years at the time of leaving Egypt had died in the wilderness except Caleb and Joshua who had wanted to enter the promised land forty years before. Moses also was dead and Joshua was their new leader. Now under Joshua's leadership, they had crossed the Jordan river, swollen and flooded from the spring rains and melting snow. This in itself was a miracle. When the feet of the priests carrying the ark of the covenant were in the edge of the water, God caused the flooded river to stand in a heap and all of Israel passed over on dry ground. Read this in Joshua 3:3-17. God says there that He wanted them to know He was among them. After they were across Jordan they celebrated the passover then ate of the corn of the land. The manna from which they had eaten all these years in the wilderness ceased to fall and now they must face a new way of life in this new land. Joshua was faced with the responsibility of not only leading this multitude of people into their new homeland but to help them to know how the Lord would have them do it. Perhaps he went to look at Jericho or maybe he was praying and meditating about his new role. Joshua 5:13,14 says, "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him. Art thou for us, or for our

adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host, of the Lord am I now come, And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant?" The Lord then proceeded, as Captain of the Lord's host, to tell Joshua how the Israelites should take Jericho. By doing it God's way, it became a powerful testimony of what God can and will do for His people when they obey him.

Isaiah began prophesying during the reign of Uzziah. This was a time of both political and spiritual decay. Judah was living in a time of luxury and material prosperity but this brought about a spiritual corruption that involved especially the Royalty and Religious Leaders. King Uzziah was under a sentence of death from leprosy which came as a divine judgment because of his willful presumption that he could burn incense upon the altar of incense instead of letting the priests do it. II Chron. 26:16-21. Pious hypocrisy was everywhere. Isaiah pointed out the sacrifice of sacrifices without obedience in the heart and life. He told the people that incense and invocation are an abomination when lacking in sincerity. When we come to worship, God recalls what our hands have been doing at other times than prayer times. Then Uzziah died. The young prophet was shaken in his concern and hopes for the nation and God sent the vision in Chapter 6. Isaiah saw the Lord, the true King eternal, sitting upon His throne and the seraphim were crying "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts." As Isaiah looked at this vision of Jesus on His throne and the song of holiness rang out from the temple of his heavenly scene, he realized his own spiritual condition. He had answered God's call to be a prophet, he had preached to others of their sins; but there in the presence of the Eternal King he was deeply conscious of his own nothingness. His cry was "Woe is me!" He knew, too, he was unclean and realized a man with unclean lips which also meant an unclean heart, cannot sincerely preach of the Holiness of God. One of the seraphim brought a coal from off the altar and touched his lips then proclaimed. "Thine iniquity is taken away and thy sin purged." Because Isaiah saw the vision of Jesus, he could see himself as God saw him and was ready to let God cleanse his lips and heart. He could now be a volunteer and receive the divine commission to "Go and tell his people . . ." Though this commission was difficult, he went, he witnessed, he reprov'd, he suffered and died; but the seed he scattered still bears a harvest.

There is another vital truth to be learned from the account given in Daniel chapter 3. Nebuchadnezzar had just been given a dream which Daniel interpreted, giving an insight into much of the future of the governments and nations of the world. We must remember Nebuchadnezzar was a pagan and often in the religions he would have known, kings were deified. Daniel had told him that in his dream of this great image the head of gold was the king, himself. He failed though to fathom the real meaning of the insights of God and, instead, let his vanity rise. It is possible, in his pagan way of thinking, to make colossal statue and to order obeisance to it was the only way he knew to react. Whatever his motive, his edict summoned all the political leaders of his kingdom to the dedication of the enormous statue and at the given signal, every man was to fall in worship before the image. Anyone failing to do so would be cast into the furnace and the decree was irreversible. The fact that Daniel is not mentioned here perhaps could mean he was elsewhere on business for the king at this time. Shadrack,

Meshack and Abednego, though, were not exempt and their refusal to do homage to the statue meant immediate execution of the decree. True faith is not limited to circumstances nor consequences. It is founded upon faithfulness to God. Their refusal greatly enraged the king and his anger was in sharp contrast to the poise and calm of the three servants of the most high God. The daring of their faith was matched by their self-possession when they told Nebuchadnezzar that if God did not deliver them from the furnace, He could and would deliver them from the hand of the king. I can almost hear Nebuchadnezzar as he shouted, "Who is that God who can deliver you out of my hand?" The threatened punishment came immediately. The furnace was so hot the heat killed the soldiers who threw the bound Hebrews into the flames. At this point the enraged king became very astonished. He saw four persons walking in the furnace. Even though the king served a pagan religion he said this fourth person looked like a God. In verse 28 he calls Him the Angel of God. His surprise caused him to re-evaluate the power of this God in whom the Hebrews trusted and he called them from the furnace.

Now, let us notice another side of the same account. Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego were not afraid to proclaim their trust in living God. It would have been easy to have rationalized their situation ever so little. Could they not bow their knees but not bow their hearts? A small concession to the kings limited understanding would be a small matter. But NO! The very reputation of the character of the true and living God depended on this moment. Multitudes of people from many places were watching.

Whether God chose to deliver them from the flames or not, they must be faithful to the honor of His Name. The Bible does not say what they may have thought or said while walking with the Christ in that furnace but I like to indulge in a bit of imagination here. No doubt while they were being bound they could have inwardly shrank from the pain of burning. I'm sure they did not regret their boldness but they could have let themselves feel this death in the fire would be their deliverance from the king. But they knew they could not betray their God and the faith they had in Him. God is even more faithful in not betraying the faith of those trust in Him and these Hebrews had demonstrated their faith. Imagine their own amazement when they realized they were feeling no pain and to their joy, Jesus had met them there in the midst of their affliction and walked with them in that furnace in the hottest of those flames. Through their faith they had gone through the furnace of affliction and were able to come forth without even the smell of smoke upon them. It was a definite testimony of the power of God, not only to the heathen gathered there but to all yet today who read of this miracle. We are never alone. No matter whether the trial is of the severest nature or of a routine type Jesus is always there to walk with us.

Jesus demonstrated His concern and compassion for people through many appearances and visions but they became more and more rebelous through the years until they did not want to even hear a true prophet. But He tried one more time to reach out to them. He became one of the human race to live among the people He had made. Philippians 2:7,8 reads, ". . . (He) made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." He willingly gave up all

the glories of heaven for a time to become as other men and live among the trials and heartaches of His fellow man. He preached of God's love, healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, raised the dead, took time to be with the children, gave sight to the blind and hearing for the deaf. He made the lame to walk and did only good to all who would let Him but the majority were only interested in the miracles. The multitudes were willing to reap the benefits when he fed the thousands and rejoiced when He turned the water into wine, but because His preaching demanded them to turn from their selfish, greedy and sinful ways, they wanted Him silenced. Because He tried to point them to serving a loving God instead of living a life so empty and void, they shamelessly put Him to death as a common criminal, nailed to a cross. Death and the grave, though could not hold Him and He arose on the third day. Those cruel and thoughtless people who cried, "Crucify Him" and those who nailed Him to the cross, nor that soldier who pierced His side did not know nor have any understanding that through His death and resurrection, He was making it possible for not only themselves but for all who should come after them to have eternal life. The blood He shed that day was the price it took to redeem fallen man from his sins.

When Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mt. of Olives, two angels brought the message that He would come again. Many years have passed since that day but those words of the angels have been confirmed by the words and visions Jesus gave to John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:7 as well as some of Jesus words recorded in the Gospels tell us of Jesus coming in the clouds to catch away His elect. Though this event is one we all like to vision we must remember to be in that number will take a special consecration. The special requirements to be in that number are given in Revelation 14:1-5. Anyone has the privilege of striving to be one of God's elect but it all depends on how we run the race. For those who have really given everything to follow the road Jesus marked for us and if we have not let anything or anyone deter us from our goal, it will be even more joy than we have been able to imagine. I find a joy each day in anticipation of that day.

But there is still another vision of Jesus in which we see Him coming from heaven riding a white horse and the armies of heaven follow Him. He is not coming to show love and compassion in this vision but to meet our justice and judgment upon those armies who have gathered for the battle Armageddon. They will be slain with the Word of His mouth.

Let us look again. We can see another vision of another wonderful day. In this vision we see a multitude gathered for the marriage supper of the Lamb. This will be when Jesus installs His new officers as Kings and Priests to reign with Him for a thousand years upon this earth. These king and priests will include God's elect, all those Christians who have been cleansed in sanctification and all the dead who have had the baptism of the Holy Ghost and all the dead who have been sanctified. What a grand and glorious day when we see Jesus standing before us as the King of all the kings and priests in His cabinet.

All of this is the vision which fills and thrills my soul and just to know He has been concerned enough about me to make all this possible. I want to show the same kind of faithfulness as those who have been faithful before me that I too might be in that number.

Convocation and Singing School

to be held at :

Apostolic Faith Bible College

10th & Lincoln

Baxter Springs, Kansas

Dec. 28, 29, 30, 31, 1982

Prayer Service 9:00 a.m.
Bible Lesson 10:00 a.m.
Singing School conducted
by Videt Polk 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Choir singing led by Videt Polk
Apostolic Faith preaching

For more information contact:
Roland Bush or Jack Cornell
Box 1002 Box 110
Katy, Tx. 77450 Baxter Spgs,
Ph. 713-391-3356 Ks. 66713
Ph. 316-856-3282

Spring Term of the Apostolic Faith Bible College

Enrollment-Jan. 3, 1983

Classes begin-Jan. 4, 1983

Classes offered: Doctrine
Prophecy
Evangelism
Choir, Piano,
Voice

TEACHER TRAINING

History

For more information:

Apostolic Faith Bible College

P.O. Box 110

Baxter Springs, Ks. 66713

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT No. 4
Baxter Springs, KS 66713

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH
REPORT

Post Office Box 653
Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

MRS. R. C. JAMES
HARDESTY, OK 73944