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Apostolic Faith

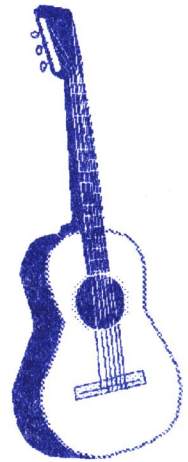
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Report

Vol. 41, No. 11-12

Nov. - Dec. 1995

In Memory of Donald Dibbens 1914 - 1995



Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. 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.

Psalms 61:1-2

The World's Saviour



The Christmas Christ is the world's Saviour. At this blessed season, let us dedicate ourselves anew to the making known a world Saviour. We are told that in the city of Madris, India, there is a chapel where on one wall there is the upper portion of a cross. On one transverse end of the cross there is a pierced hand, the skin of which is brown after the color of the skin of the people of the East. On the other side of this section is another pierced hand, white after the color of the West. It is a glorious symbol of a world Christ. The inscriptions on the cross were written in Hebrew, in Latin and in Greek, the languages of the world. The Christmas Christ is a Saviour for the whole world. At this Christmas Time let us dedicate ourselves anew to the work of making Christ known to the whole world. He is the only Peace-bringer for men and nations.

Author Unknown

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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 who believe in the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and 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.
 - 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 teachings 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.

Jesus The Miracle

The greatest phenomenon of all ages, or of any record, is found in the miraculous conception and birth of Jesus. He who ruled the universe and had all power, yet in the above act took upon Himself the form of man.

In Isaiah 9:6-7 we have a gracious prophecy and promise which reads as follows: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

It is only folly to try to deny or denounce Christ, or any miracle that was ever performed by Him or for Him or to doubt or challenge the plan of salvation.

The time of His birth, the place of His birth and the surroundings of His birth were all of promise. The scribes that read should have known and investigated. They were content and blinded to be disturbed. We must take warning and not be like them. The child indeed has been born. The Son has been given, first to the Jews then to the Gentiles and to who-so-ever will.

The plan of redemption was His to inaugurate and propitiate. The peaceful kingdom of righteousness is His now and always, the consummation of it being the Millennium when He shall reign from the Throne of David.

Jesus is wonderful, for it's beyond compare what He will do for those that call upon His name. To millions He is chief and counselor-not as a high paid lawyer, but as a friend who loves at all times and works miracles, His grace to bestow and His love to show.

He is a mighty God of power to all that call on His name-and a Father to the ones that are His children. No kinship is as close as His. He walks with the ones that believe, be that king or priests, or common folk like you and me. The rich need Him, the poor seek Him-they all follow Him and great is their reward now and forever.

We have Christmas because Jesus came to us. His birth changed the world, exalted the low and forgotten, brought to naught the lofty and pretentious. It made paths of righteousness, and broad plains of salvation, with oceans of love to all that follow on to know Him. Waves of healing engulf sick bodies and grace sufficient greets each Believer on the wings of

faith and wings of hope. Justice is His to give-meted out in truth and mercy, with "no respecter of persons" as the yard stick. Boundary lines of race or color or creed cannot bind Him nor change His decisions, for the heart is the seat of His jurisdiction.

How does all this come to us? By the zeal of the Lord-that set times, confounded nations, built kingdoms, and led prophets to perform His will-so that Jesus might come to us-as Lord and Savior. It makes glad the heart, and strong the will to serve Him and in 1995 again we can proclaim, Merry Christmas to one and all in His name whose birthday we now celebrate.

The number of miracles Jesus wrought are many and they cover a wide range and scope of display of power.

Note: Mt = Matthew, Mk = Mark, Lu = Luke, Jn = John

- He turned water into wine (Jn 2:1-10).
- He healed the nobleman's son (Jn 4:46-54).
- He caused the disciples to have a great draught of fishes (Lu 5:1-11).
- He delivered the demoniac (Mk 1:21-28; Lu 4:31-37).
- He healed Peter's wife's mother of a violent fever (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31; Lu 4:38-39).
- He healed a leper (Mt 8:1-4; Mk 1:40-42; Lu 5:12-13).
- He healed the impotent man (Jn 5:1-9).
- He healed the withered hand (Mt 12:9-13; Mk 3:1-5; Lu 6:6-10).
- He healed the centurion's servant (Mt 8:5-13; Lu 7:1-10).
- He raised the widow's son (Lu 7:11-17).
- He stilled the tempest (Mt 8:23-27; Mk 4:35-41; Lu 8:22-25).
- He healed a woman from an issue of blood (Mt 9:20-22; Mk 5:25-34; Lu 8:43-48).
- He gave sight to two blind men (Mt 9:27-31).
- He cast out a demon and healed a dumb man (Mt 9:32-33).
- He fed five thousand (Mt 14:15-21; Mk 6:34-44; Lu 9:12-17; Jn 6:1-13).
- He walked upon the water (Mt 14:24-27; Mk 6:45-51; Jn 6:16-21).
- He healed the Syrophenician woman's daughter (Mt 15:21-28; Mk 7:24-30).
- He cleansed ten lepers (Lu 17:11-19).
- He raised Lazarus from the dead after his body had begun to decompose (Jn 11:1-44).
- He cursed a fig tree (Mt 21:17-20; Mk 11:12-14, 20-23).
- He healed Malchus' ear which Peter cut off (Lu 22:50-51).

Author Unknown

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

Psams 23:4



Ivy Viola Cooper Obituary

BALKO, Okla - Ivy Viola Cooper, 92, died Saturday, Oct. 7, 1995.

Services were Tuesday, October 10, in the Balko Apostolic Faith Church with Rev. Jim Fox officiating. Burial was in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery by Clark Funeral Service of Beaver, Okla.

Mrs. Cooper was born in Whitney, Texas, and was a lifetime resident of Beaver County. She married William Henry Cooper in 1920 at Beaver County. He died in 1967. She was a homemaker and a 65-year member of the Apostolic Faith Church.

Survivors include three daughters, Ella Wallis of Dodge City, KS; Ruby Etta Noble of Beaver, OK; and Emma Marie Mitchell of Balko, OK; four brothers, Don Brake of Claremont, CA; and Dal Brake, Boyd Brake and Ted Brake, all of Pomona, CA; two sisters, Onah Mahanay of Wichita, KS; and Alice Day of Edmonds, WA; nine grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and 16 great-great-grandchildren.

Donald D. Dibbens

Obituary

The Rev. Donald D. Dibbens, 81, of Vanderpool, Texas, passed from this life, Sunday, November 5, 1995, in a Kerrville, Texas, hospital. He was born on May 7, 1914, in Kingman County, Kansas, the 9th child of Arthur Robert Jarman and Jessie Christine Field Dibbens.

He graduated from Cheney, Kansas, High School in 1932 as salutatorian. Bro. Dibbens started traveling in gospel work in 1933 and led the singing and sang special songs in evangelistic campaigns with Evangelists Jennie Evans, Albert L. Durham, and Chester A. Jackson in the Southwestern United States.

Bro. Donald was ordained as a minister of the Apostolic Faith Movement at the Center Point Convocation in Center Point, Texas, in 1945, by the late Rev. Ben Barker. He accepted his first pastorate in Hardesty, Oklahoma, in 1946, pastoring six churches in 40 years. He retired in 1986 on his 72nd birthday.

Rev. Dibbens directed the Apostolic Faith Camp Meeting choir 20 different years, taught in the Apostolic Faith Bible School in Baxter Springs, Kansas, edited the Apostolic Faith Report, directed convocations and youth camps, conducted revivals, and wrote articles for the Apostolic Faith Report.

Donald Dibbens and Jo Lee Polvado were united in marriage in 1936 in Uvalde, Texas. She preceded him in death in 1981. He married Martha Bloys Boone February 24, 1984 in Ft. Davis, Texas. She also preceded him in death.

His parents, Arthur Robert Jarman Dibbens and Jessie Christine Field Dibbens, preceded him in death and a granddaughter, Teisha Dibbens.

Survivors include: Four Daughters, Donna Jo Dibbens Mercier of Vanderpool, Texas; Becky Roberts and Elsie Boone of San Antonio, Texas; and Anne Boone of Kerrville, Texas.

Two sons: Marvin Field Dibbens of Harper, Kansas, and Roy Edward "Ed" Dibbens of Vanderpool, Texas.

One brother: Preston G. Dibbens of Cheney, Kansas. Nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

A memorial service for the Rev. Dibbens was held on Wednesday, November 8, 1995, at 2:00 p.m. at Vanderpool Community Tabernacle with the Rev. Harrol Waterbury officiating. Those who desire may make memorial contributions to the Apostolic Faith Report, Box 653, Baxter Springs, Kansas, 66713; Bloys Camp Meeting, Ft. Davis, Texas 79734; or Heart of the Hills Hospice, P.O. Box 5280, Uvalde, Texas 78802. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Grimes Funeral Chapel of Kerrville, Texas.

Donald Dibbens

An Autobiography

This is Donald D. Dibbens, youngest child of the late A. R. J. and Jessie C. Dibbens' nine children. I remember the late Rev. Charles F. Parham visiting in our home near Cheney, Kansas, and attending the Camp Meeting he conducted in Kingman, Kansas, in 1925. He and my father were young friends.

I was converted in 1933 at age 19. I felt a definite call of God to work in the great harvest field to win souls to Jesus. I consecrated my talents to the Lord's work. I had played the slide trombone in bands and orchestras. I laid this aside and took the guitar as my instrument so I could lead singing and sing specials.

I attended Camp Meeting in August 1933, at the old Elmwood, Oklahoma, site conducted by the late Rev. Ben Barker and the late Rev. Jack Barker. I helped in revivals in school houses, brush arbors, and small churches from 1933 through 1944. I led the singing and sang specials for the late evangelists: Jennie Evans, Ben Barker, Alford Whiteley, Chester Jackson, Gail W. Schultz, and Albert Durham. These were hard times right after the depression. There were times we did not have groceries for the next meal, but God always had someone to see that food came and sometimes we had to postpone a meal or fast and pray. The good part was the hungry souls we found in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. I remember several times closing a revival and having no invitation for another revival. We'd head out and have prayer at intersecting roads to ask the Lord which way to go. In every occasion we came to a school house or deserted church and were able to begin a meeting in three or four days.

During Camp Meeting one year, I conducted a singing class to help the singers in Bro. T. B. Tucker's choir. They were using Stamps-Baxter books and having difficulty with the new songs. Also, formed the Camp Meeting Quartet singing at every night service and for street meetings on Saturday afternoon in surrounding towns. After Bro. T. B. Tucker and his sons tragic plane crash, I started directing the Camp Meeting choirs.

At the 1945 Convocation in Center Point, Texas, conducted by the late Rev. Ben Barker, I was ordained as a minister. I had conducted services now and then through the years and pastored the Seneca Mission in Wichita, Kansas, until they could obtain a pastor. My first pastorate was Hardesty, Oklahoma. We stayed 6 years. During this time we finished the church building started by the late Bro. Fount

Copeland, built a parsonage, and saw the church attendance increase.

Through the years of our first pastorate until our last pastorate, we served 6 congregations. On our 72nd birthday, May 7, 1986, we resigned as pastor of the Vanderpool Community Church.... having pastored 40 years and active in the gospel work 62 years in the Apostolic Faith Movement.

I look back over 62 years of singing and preaching, and readily admit "I should have done more." By the same token there is a deep satisfaction that I have done my best for the one that did so much for me. I have not begged, and I have not merchandised the Gospel. I promised the Lord I would work for Him expecting Him to see that my needs were supplied by those of His servants that support the Gospel. I have never passed the collection plate or preached for a salary. I am not a pauper and I am not a millionaire by the world's standards. I've kept my consecration to the Lord and He has kept His part of the bargain.

Just a few accomplishments that I humbly submit: Camp Meeting Choir Director (20 different years); Convocation Director; youth camp director; music instructor in the Apostolic Faith Bible School; Preacher; singer in quartets, trios, duets, and solos; been on radio and television; have 2 long play Sacred Albums; am known as "The Man of the Hills and Guitar;" conducted revivals, and have written many articles that have been printed in the Apostolic Faith Report through the years. Most of all, I am a servant of Jesus by choice and therefore, my fellow man.

Today I am at home 3 miles north of Vanderpool, Texas, on Highway 187. At 81 years, I have slowed down. My health is not good. I conduct revivals as I am invited and sing for nursing home residences, shut-ins, and sick folks.

When I started in the Gospel Work, you could go to school houses, (old country school houses) and conduct revivals. This is no more. They have been consolidated and torn down. It was not uncommon to build a Brush Arbor. This I have not heard of in years. You could set a tent (30 X 50 feet or larger) and draw a crowd. Now conductors of tent meetings are considered on a very low profile. It was common for preachers to make a tour visiting churches. This is almost unknown now. We need to pray for young gospel workers and ministers. They have a harder task starting than I did. In fact, we all need to pray one for another. We need each other.

In the early years of my ministry, the emphasis

was on evangelism. Go out and win souls to Jesus. Many times we had revivals in small communities with 20-50 people being converted. Some sanctified, and some praying through to an experience in the Baptism of the Holy Ghost...speaking in other languages as the Holy Ghost gave utterance. The meeting lasted 2-4 weeks. We'd leave them and drive on to another meeting. This is the reason I turned to pastoring. There needs to be a coordination of revival and church home. Evangelism is needed. A church home is needed. Souls need to be converted. Souls need to be shepherded.

Today there is an emphasis on pastoring and church building, and less emphasis on evangelism. Most revivals are for one week. Revivals were 3 and 4 weeks in the early years of my ministry. The late Bro. Bob Cooper told me: "Bro. Homer Coberly conducted a 12 week meeting in Granby, Missouri." Actually he said "He had a 3 week meeting and helped me pastor for 9 weeks." There needs to be a reasonable God called time of a revival, not too long and not too short.

Now my effort is in singing sacred songs for individuals and small groups. There is nothing as comforting and inspiring as sacred songs being sung with the anointing of the Lord. Along with this I answer calls for revivals. My ministry is in preaching and singing. Living a simple Christian life which is most beautiful and rewarding. Simple sincerity and faithfulness are especially blest of God.

This is kept in my Bible and I refer to it often. It is my philosophy of life.

Little Places

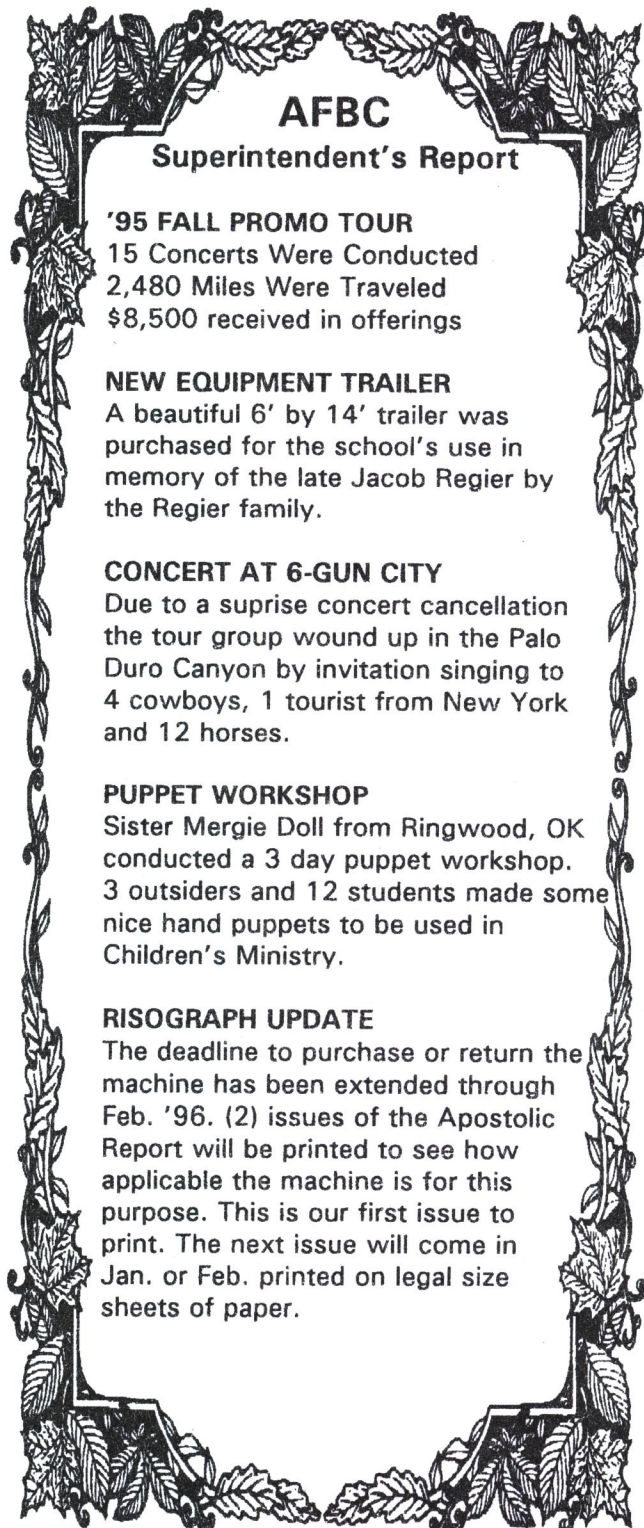
"Master, where shall I work today?
 (my love flowed warm and free)
 He pointed to a tiny plot,
 And said, "Tend that for me."
 I answered quickly, "Oh, no, not there;
 Not anyone could see,
 No matter how well it was done--
 Not that little place for me."
 His voice when He spoke -- it was not stern
 He answered me tenderly,
 "Little one, search that heart of thine,
 Are you working for them or me?
 Nazareth was just a little place
 And so was Galilee."

Favorite Scripture: Psa. 61:1,2

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.
 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."

I've used short sayings through the years. One of my favorites is:

Look for the good points in another.
 They will have to do the same with you,
 and they may be harder put than you.



AFBC

Superintendent's Report

'95 FALL PROMO TOUR

15 Concerts Were Conducted
 2,480 Miles Were Traveled
 \$8,500 received in offerings

NEW EQUIPMENT TRAILER

A beautiful 6' by 14' trailer was purchased for the school's use in memory of the late Jacob Regier by the Regier family.

CONCERT AT 6-GUN CITY

Due to a surprise concert cancellation the tour group wound up in the Palo Duro Canyon by invitation singing to 4 cowboys, 1 tourist from New York and 12 horses.

PUPPET WORKSHOP

Sister Mergie Doll from Ringwood, OK conducted a 3 day puppet workshop. 3 outsiders and 12 students made some nice hand puppets to be used in Children's Ministry.

RISOGRAPH UPDATE

The deadline to purchase or return the machine has been extended through Feb. '96. (2) issues of the Apostolic Report will be printed to see how applicable the machine is for this purpose. This is our first issue to print. The next issue will come in Jan. or Feb. printed on legal size sheets of paper.



Season's Greetings

AMARILLO, TEXAS. Greetings from Amarillo,

The last few months have been very busy for us. In September Brenda Krege, Traci Nelson, and Christina Nelson sang at a booth for the Amarillo Fair. They did a great job. We also handed out tracts from the Church.

October 8th the Cooley family gave a wonderful concert. We were sorry their son wasn't with them. We enjoyed getting to visit with them.

On Sunday October 22nd the Bible College Ensemble were with us for both services. They did a super job. A great big thanks to this wonderful group. We really enjoyed having them. God bless all of you.

Lee & Shirley Nelson, Pastors

ALVIN, TEXAS. Dear Friends,

We surely had a wonderful four days with eight services Reunion Revival. Our first service on Sunday morning was really special with the Stanberrys singing a trio and Buddy Stanberry singing a solo. Bro. Neil Ragan preached followed by a wonderful altar service.

Our noon meal was a good example of South Texas cooking. In the afternoon we had a good old fashioned singing for an hour and half.

Bro. Jack Cornell brought the evening service. Every preacher recalled some of the things that happened during their pastorate. **M o n d a y** morning Bro. Roland Busch brought the Word. Bro. Winston Barker shared church history and delivered the evening message entitled "The Prayers of the Saints."

On Tuesday morning Gary Kerr preached and recalled several things that occurred during the Kerr years at Alvin. Bro. Jimmy Wallis sang and brought the message that evening.

Sis. Pauline Parham brought the message Wednesday morning and shared the Pentecostal history. Finishing the reunion services Bro. Ronnie Martin brought the message about the "Next 90 Years."

All the sermons and songs were especially encouraging to all of us. Our hearts were stirred with the Fire of the Lord. Some people stayed in our homes, some were in campers, but everyone had a Wonderful Revival Time. Praise the Lord.

Edwin and Patsy Waterbury, Pastors

Plan of the Ages

Video Course Available

The Trinity Full Gospel Church of Campwood, Texas was the location of a recent Bible study taught by Pastor, Marvin Boyd. The church is affiliated with The Apostolic Faith Movement and Bible College in Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Taught at the Bible study was The Apostolic Faith Doctrine which covered the Plan of the Ages: Creation and Formation, The Judgment, and The New Earth.

There were five sessions lasting about two hours each for a total of more than ten hours over a three day period. The Bible study was open to the local church as well as to visitors. The Reverend Helen Brinson of Houston and Gospel Singer, Finley Duke, also of Houston, attended the complete session.

The complete session was video taped and is available by contacting:

Pastor Marvin Boyd
P.O. Box 189
Campwood, TX 78833
(210) 597-2137

Open For Fill-In

by Howard Whiteley

I announce my availability to fill-in as minister on weekends and locally for Wednesday night service during the upcoming Spring Semester at the Apostolic Faith Bible College (January '96 - April '96). During the upcoming summer months (May '96 - August '96) I am available for fill-in for a more extended period. This invitation is for any pastor who is looking for a Wednesday evening, a Sunday, a week or a month off for vacation or for just a get-a-way. I can be reached at:

Howard Whiteley
2353 Washington
Baxter Springs, KS 66713
Home: (316) 856-5438

An Open Letter to the Apostolic Movement

by Ron Noble

During the months of June and July of 1995, my family and I traveled over 10,000 miles...going through 13 different states. We went from Texas to Missouri...to Wyoming, California, east to Alabama, and then returned to Kansas.

During this time, the Lord did not once fail to supply our need (and many of our wants) through the generosity of His people. As it would be impossible to name all the individuals that assisted us along the way, I would simply and sincerely like to express our gratitude toward all that supported us in our endeavor. I realize that many people have prayed and are still praying for us, although many times we could not see.

We had such an outstanding experience. "*I Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now..*" We thank God upon the remembrance of you all.

How To Have A Truly Happy New Year

from *Gospel Tract Harvester*

H oliness (*Heb. 12:14*)
A ssembly of God's House (*Heb. 10:25*)
P rayer (*James 5:16*)
P ure Hearts (*Matthew 5:8*)
Y ield Not to Temptation (*Romans 6:19*)

N egllect Not Your Talents (*I Tim 4:14*)
E xamine Self (*I Cor. 11:28*)
W alk With God (*Genesis 5:22*)

Y ield to God (*Romans 6:13*)
E xercise Godliness (*I Tim 4:7*)
A cknowledge God (*Pro 3:6*)
R edeem the Time (*Eph 5:16*)

Luther's Cradle Hymn

Author Unknown

"...you will bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."

Luke 1:31



It is surprising to read that the same man who wrote the rousing Reformation hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," also wrote the tender cradle hymn.

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

It was on a Christmas day over 480 years ago when Martin Luther first saw that story in the Scriptures. The other monks at Erfurt were assembled to

sing Advent hymns, but Luther was alone with his Lord, silent and rapt, reading the Biblical narrative of Christ's birth.

He was 23 years old and had received religious training, but never until he entered the monastery at Erfurt had he had opportunity to study the Scriptures. He read them at every opportunity, and there he saw the account of the manger and the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Some believe the Reformation started there, in Luther's worshipping soul, that Christmas Day. There in solitude he wrote his cradle hymn. There he caught a gleam of God's wonderful grace and knew that one day he must make this gospel known to all the world.

Finally, true to his vision, Luther the monk threw off his cowl and went forth as Luther, the reformer, preaching and singing the gospel.

His songs, as well as his sermons and writings, stirred the nation and the world. People wandered in droves all over Europe, singing as they went. The songs carried into the castles of the nobles and the cottages of the peasants. People everywhere took up the songs-singing, singing-and on the wings of those gospel songs the Reformation spread in all directions.



KING OF KINGS LORD OF LORDS

On page three of my Holy Bible I read these words, "I will put enmity between thee (the serpent) and the woman (Eve), and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." In the third chapter of Genesis any Bible student can see God's promise of a Savior through the seed of man.

It indeed is tragic that Eve yielded to Satan's temptation and drew Adam into the transgression because God had given His word, --"for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." God is good and merciful. He did not leave man to his hopeless tragic sin, but immediately set plans in motion to redeem man from his sin.

Let us take a journey, as it were through the Bible, and view a few of the sign-posts that indicate God's plan to bring forth a Savior for man, the sinner.

In Moses' time, no less than thirteen centuries before Jesus was born, God said to Moses, "I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." This prophecy was fulfilled by no other than Jesus Christ. Jesus acknowledged that He came to do and say what the Father commanded Him to do and say (Deut 18:18).

In the days of Isaiah the prophet, over seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, God gave His word about this matter as the prophet spoke to King Ahaz, the fifteenth king of Judah: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa 7:14) It is very significant that His name was to be Immanuel, which means, "God with us." This one of whom the prophet wrote was to be more than a prophet; he was to be God with us.

Isaiah, the prophet, further exclaims, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and

Save His People From Their Sins

by the late Jacob C. Regier

the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isa 9:6) This Prince of Peace upon whose shoulder the government should rest, has indeed been reigning within the hearts of Christians for over nineteen hundred years now. But when other prophecies are fulfilled, He will indeed be the literal King of Kings.

Micah, the prophet, who also lived centuries before Jesus was born, wrote concerning this birth of this holy son, "But thou, Bethlehem, Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2)

The prophet here foretold the place of the Savior's birth but more than that, the prophet Micah recognized the deity of the one to come. He said He had been from of old, from everlasting. Jesus is the Eternal Savior, the Son of God.

In the New Testament in Luke 1:26-35, is the account of the angel Gabriel's visit to the virgin Mary. Although Mary was espoused to Joseph, she had never known him in a sexual way. In verse 31 the angel announced "And, behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus." In verse 35 the angel explained, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall over shadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (The prophesied name of Jesus means Savior). In order to send a Savior, God sent Immanuel-God with us).

God also dealt with Joseph, Mary's espoused husband. We read about it in Matt 1:18-25. Let us examine verse twenty-one: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

New Testament writings further explain the coming of this Immanuel that would save sinners.

Luke gives an account of Mary and Joseph's experience in traveling to Bethlehem and finding only no vacancy hospitality and finally spending the night in a stable. He tells of the birth of Jesus. He tells of Mary giving birth--wrapping her son in swaddling clothes and laying him in a manger.

Luke tells of the shepherds hearing the good news from the angel and the song of the heavenly host, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Lu 2:1-19)

Luke also tells of old Simeon's blessing on the eighth day about the Christ child, and the prophecy shared with Anna puzzled the heart of Mary (the Christ child's mother).

Luke further tells of the boyhood of Jesus. When He was twelve years old, he astonished the doctors in the temple with His answers to their questions.

Once more, at Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus who was prophesied to be the Savior of men.

He indeed is the Savior of men, as is attested in this prophecy to Joseph, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."



I Must Go Shopping

Author Unknown

One of these days I must go shopping! I am completely out of self-respect ... I want to exchange the self-righteousness I picked up the other day for some humility, which they say is less expensive and wears better; I want to look at some tolerance which is being used for wraps this season. Someone showed me some pretty samples of peace ..., we are a little low on that and one can never have too much of it.

And, by the way, I must try to match some patience that my neighbor wears ... it is very becoming to her and I think it might look well on me.

I might try on that little garment of longsuffering they are displaying. I never thought I wanted such, but feel myself coming to it.

Also, I must not forget to have my sense of humor mended and look around for some inexpensive everyday goodness. It is surprising how quickly one's stock of goodness is depleted.

Yes, I must go shopping soon.



Ten Commandments For Christmas

Author Unknown

1. Thou shalt not leave Christ out of Christmas.
2. Thou shalt not value the gifts by their cost, for many shall signify love that is more blessed and beautiful than silver and gold.
3. Thou shalt give thyself with any gift; thy love, thy personality, and thy service shall increase the value of the gift an hundredfold, and he that receiveth it shall treasure it forever.
4. Thou shalt not let Santa Claus take the place of Christ, lest Christmas become a fairy tale rather than a spiritual reality.
5. Thou shalt not burden thy fellowmen. The shop girl, the mail carrier, and the merchant shall have thy consideration.
6. Thou shalt not neglect thy church. Worship, evangelism, and stewardship shall be preeminent in the Christmas season for thee and thy family.
7. Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Let thy bountiful blessing be shared with the many who will go hungry and cold unless thou art generous at Christmas.
8. Thou shalt be as a little child. Christmas is the day of the Christchild; not until thou hast become childlike in spirit art thou ready to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.
9. Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas. Verily, most spend many hours getting other things ready, but few seconds in preparing their souls.
10. Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. Let thy Christmas list have Christ at the top and thy heart as the gift. In so doing thou art as the Wise Men who brought gifts to Christ.

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1996 Movement-Wide Announcements

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*'96 Celebration
In Song and Verse*
May 1, 2:00 PM
Contact: Savoy Grimmer

AFBC Graduation
May 1, 7:30 PM

AFBC Business Meeting
May 2, 9:00 AM

AFBC Alumni Banquet
May 2, 6:00 PM
Contact: Yvonna Whiteley
316-856-5438

Midwest Youth Camp (Senior)
June 2-7, Laverne, OK
Chairman: Ron Brening

Midwest Youth Camp (Junior)
June 9-14, Laverne, OK
Chairman: James Brown

Bolton Youth Camp
TBA, Bolton, AL
Chairman: Jim Arnall

South Texas Youth Camp
June 3-7, Sealy, TX
Chairman: Tim Barker

Four-State Youth Camp
June 16-21, Baxter Springs, KS
Chairman: Joel Dorris

Pine Crest Youth Camp
TBA, Pine Crest, MS
Chairman: Michael Brening

Peaceful Pines Youth Camp
July 21-26
Chairman: Ross Briles

Camp Meeting
July 22-28, Laverne, OK
Co-Committee: Jack Cornell
Co-Committee: Neil Ragan

1996 Announcements

AFBC

Advisory Board Meeting

February 9, 9:00 AM
Trinity Apostolic Faith Church
Alvin, TX
Contact: Lyndel Arnall

Easter Convocation, Katy, TX

April 22-25
Contact: Ted Barker

AFBC Final Concert

April 30, 7:00 PM

AFBC

Ordination/Dedication Service

May 1, 10:00 AM

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THE APOSTOLIC FAITH
REPORT

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