

The

# Apostolic Faith

NOVEMBER 1974

Volume 21, Number 11

report:

## AFBC 1974 STUDENT BODY AND FACULTY



# EDITORIAL...

## "ALTHOUGH — YET"

ALTHOUGH the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flocks shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: YET I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength . . . Habakkuk 3: 17, 18 and 19a.

The eye of the Christian should be focused on the Lord and not on things. The eye of the Christian should be on the Lord and not on the people around him. How victoriously we live for God in the days ahead will largely be determined by where our eye is focused. We may have a long list of adverse circumstances under the caption "Although" but we had better X them out with the "Yet" of faith.

The story is told of the Christian lady who was very downcast because of her earthly troubles and trials. As she walked along the street she met a Spirit-filled man of God who asked her of the state of her soul. With a sour look and a bitter shrug of her shoulders she replied, "Oh, not too bad, under the circumstances!" With frankness and discernment, he aptly replied, "Well, get above the circumstances, sister, that's where Jesus is."

These last three verses of Habakkuk really stood out to me this morning as we read them together in our family devotions. I just had to reread them. They are so good. We of this day and age with our many perplexities can identify with the feelings of Habakkuk. And we should follow in his example and Praise the Lord for everything — the good and the bad — especially the bad. We can when we call to mind that the Bible tells us "all things work together for good to them that love the Lord." If God never answers another prayer for us, if it seems all our skies from here on out are only grey, still we should continually praise Him simply because He is our strength and to whom else can we go for the rest of the way? The past blessings He has sent our way should keep us busy praising Him until eternity dawns. If nothing else works for you then try the old comparison trick. Do you see anyone around with whom you'd like to trade burdens? Oh, I know it seems there are always quite a few around that seem to be having it easier than we are. But then every once in awhile God gives us a little peek of the burdens of that seeming carefree one we envied. And we are amazed at the load they carry that we've known nothing of. The more I look around at the burdens of others the more thankful I am for the path the Lord has chosen for me. One of my older friends advised me many years ago to "Roll with the punches, it's easier that way." And I might add "Come up smiling, rejoicing — Come up Praising the Lord."

ALTHOUGH we may be surrounded by human disappointment — Faith's answer must always be "YET I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord is my strength!"

ALTHOUGH my trees are fruitless

No grapes are on the vine

YET Christ is all my fullness

And all His sweetness mine. — Anon.

November 1974

"One day we shall bless God not more for what He has granted than for what He has denied!" H. E. Manning.

nrb

## PRAISE AT ALL TIMES

O Thou whose bounty fills my cup  
With every blessing meet;  
I give Thee thanks for every drop,  
The bitter and the sweet.

I praise Thee for the desert road  
And for the riverside,  
For all Thy goodness hath bestowed  
And all Thy grace denied.

I thank Thee for both smile and frown  
And for the gain and loss;  
I praise Thee for the future crown  
And for the present cross.

I bless Thee for the glad increase  
And for the waning joy,  
And for this holy, settled peace  
Which nothing can destroy!

— Jane Crewdson

## Corrections and Additions to the Ministers' Directory

It was incorrectly printed in the October Report that Johnny Arnall was the new pastor for Roswell, New Mexico. He is not. Bro. William Briles is the new pastor. Bro. Johnny Arnall pastored the Purdy, Missouri church for a short time and is now open for calls. He and his wife are now attending Bible School. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused these two ministers and the church at Roswell.

THOMPSON, Laura  
Box 423  
Leakey, Texas 78873  
Ph. 512-233-5299  
Pastor: Leakey Apostolic  
Faith Church

BRILES, William  
611 W. 17th St.  
Ph. 505-622-5197  
Pastor: Apostolic  
Faith Church  
Roswell, N. Mex. 88201

## THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

NAOMI BUSCH, Editor

Post Office Box 658      Ph. 316-856-2626  
Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

### Editorial Board

Bill Hollis  
436 Cherokee Ave.  
Baxter Springs, Kans.  
66713

Roland Busch  
Box 1002  
Katy, Texas 77450  
713-371-3356

316-856-5301

Jim Fox, Rt. 1, Balko, Okla. 73931 (405-646-2681)

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 address, and Zip Code.

# Dear Father...

I want to thank You  
for everything;  
even for the hard things,  
for the long dark nights  
which draw my eyes upward in search of light,  
for then I can see Your face  
shining through the shadows,  
filled with such tenderness  
that I know You have suffered with me  
through my waiting.

—VIOLA JACOBSON BERG

Thank you, Father,  
for the times of silence  
which made me yearn to hear Your voice;  
for then I had to withdraw to a quiet place,  
sorting my way through all the distractions  
and confusion around me  
to cry out for You.  
And then You came to me and spoke my name,  
and I felt the sweet joy  
of Your presence once more.

Thank you, Father,  
for the rough stones in the path  
and for the steep hills which I must climb,  
for You are teaching me  
that I must hold Your hand tightly  
and lean upon Your strength.

And, Father,  
thank You too for pain;  
for in drinking of its bitter cup  
You opened my understanding  
to the depths of Your love,  
for You reminded me that Your Son has suffered  
agonies far beyond my comprehension  
that I might find the way to You.

Yes, dear Father,  
thank You even for Your fire  
which burns within me,  
making me cry out;  
but when the fire has done its searing work,  
I find that You have molded me  
and purified me  
and made me a little more like Jesus.

So for the darkness, the heartaches,  
the tears, the pain, and the fire,  
I thank You;  
for I accept these trials  
as Your tender gifts  
which show me how very much  
I need you.

November 1974

# Belated Thanksgiving

I THANK YOU, LORD,  
that You have not diminished  
the beauty of a rainbow,  
the grace of a cottontail,  
or the luminous loveliness of summer  
for lack of my praise.

I AM GRATEFUL, LORD,  
that You have not withdrawn a note  
from the haunting music of the wind,  
the excitement of the cold, wind spray  
of blowing rain,  
the enchantment of the breeze and oaks  
exchanging secrets,  
because of my negligent gratitude.

I THANK YOU, LORD,  
for not leaving unfinished one golden leaf,  
one trickling raindrop,  
one mischievous, slender moonbeam  
because of my sleeping thankfulness.

I AM GRATEFUL, LORD,  
for grumbling thunder which rattles winter stars  
together,  
for the lazy coils of morning that unwind slowly  
into a lovely day,  
for protesting jays and sequestered thickets,  
for sprinkles of stars scatter-pinned on the  
velvet folds of the heavens,  
for giddy, gay robins to announce the arrival of  
spring,  
for the glory of a young pear tree in bridal veil.

I THANK YOU for the diverse radiances of dawn,  
the crystal-ringed fishpond, the laughter  
of little children,  
the bedstead initialed by small convalescents,  
the quicksilver moments of love and happiness.

LORD, NOW I PAUSE  
in a moment of thanksgiving.  
I know it is long overdue.  
For the beauty with which You have filled my  
world  
I have taken for granted  
far too long.

ACCEPT MY GRATITUDE for Your salvation,  
a place to serve,  
friends who love and care,  
a challenge for which to work,  
a hope to hold to my heart,  
a dream to hang onto summer's loveliness.

AND MOST OF ALL, LORD,  
thank You  
for taking time from engineering  
Your planets, Your moons,  
Your suns, Your stars,  
to bend above me,  
listening to my cry for help;  
and even though I am often ungrateful  
and always unworthy,  
You care for me,  
You love me,  
You answer my prayers.

THOUGH BELATED and long overdue,  
Lord,  
please accept my thanks.



from  
the  
**MAIL  
BAG**



### Faith Border Missions

Greetings! The children are in Christian School for another year. Nancy is a Senior — Cathy a Sophomore — Earledean the 8th and Depra the 7th grade. The tuition is high but we feel like its worth it. A lot of public schools have full time policemen on duty, some have said their lives are threatened every week. Besides the drug problem, many of the kids carry switchblade knives, guns or chains and fights are common. A young fellow who graduated from public school last year said it was so bad, if he had it to do over again, if he couldn't go to a Christian School, he wouldn't go at all.

Enclosed is a picture of the Sunday crowd at the new church. You can see part of the church and part of the pastor's house. (It is basically a temporary lean to until we get the rest of the church finished.) He lived across town from the church until they added the lean to on. This is a lot better with them living there. They are able to get acquainted more and have more services. We now have services every night.

We ran the foundation for the main auditorium last week. We need to get it done so we will have more room.

Remember us in prayer. We enjoy the Apostolic Faith Report very much.

In Christian Love,  
**The Sonny Brown Family**  
Box 698  
San Ysidra, Calif. 92073

November 1974

### Baxter Springs, Kansas

We have had a very busy last few weeks and the blessings of the Lord have been so abundant in our services. We enjoyed the first AFBC choir concert for this year in our church Sunday night, October 13. It was a blessing to all who attended. Our church gets to hear the first and last choir concert of each year's group. We'll now be looking forward to hearing the one at the close of Bible School in December.

Bro. F. E. Waterbury and his wife, Fran held special services at our church from Sunday, October 6 through Wednesday night, October 9. God met with us in a wonderful way. Several have been saved, sanctified and received the Holy Spirit since the school began.

Saturday night, October 12 our Ladies group hosted a birthday covered dish supper at the camp ground for Bro. Frank Wall's 85th birthday celebration. All churches of the area were invited. He has worked so faithfully around our church, school, camp and Report we wanted to show our appreciation in this manner. He was presented with a plaque and a card shower. Bro. and Sis. E. K. Cornell filled in for Bro. Jack Cornell while the choir was on tour.

**Bro. Jack Cornell, Pastor**

### Center Point, Texas

At the coming of the Autumn time, we are thankful for the goodness and mercy of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who has permitted us to live in good health to see His wondrous beauties of nature this time of year.

Bro. Jake Pletcher and his wife were with us Sunday, October 13 for services, in the absence of our pastor and his wife, who took a short trip, which they both really deserved.

Our Sis. Barfield has been in the hospital for several weeks and the doctors are planning to put a pacemaker in her to regulate her heart. Please remember her in your prayers, I know she would appreciate them very much.

We enjoy the Report very much and pray that the Lord's continued guidance and blessings will be with Sis. Naomi as she works and carries a burden in her capacity as editor.

**Donald Dibbens, Pastor**  
**Marilyn Buchanan, Reporter**

### Rockdale, Texas

The Rockdale Apostolic Faith Church people are doing fine. We are in the process of collecting finances for a heating and cooling system for the church. The goal has almost been reached.

A revival is needed and our prayers are that God will move someone to come.

The Lost Pines Youth Camp was a success this past summer with several attending from Rockdale.

Agnes Satcher has started a young people's group on Sunday night.

Fran and Tim Pitts are now living in Hearne, Texas and will be able to be in services with us a lot more often.

**Mrs. Jerry Hosek, Reporter**  
**Van Blythe, Pastor**

## Midway Country Church Logan, Oklahoma.

God is so good to us. We are rejoicing in how He has been blessing in our services. Bro. Whiteley has been bringing us such wonderfully anointed sermons. Then too, our Wednesday night Bible Study is becoming very interesting. Some Wednesday nights we can hardly get through our Bible lesson to close our service. On September 22 we enjoyed having six from the Evangelism Class of AFBC to visit with us. They were Gayle Kendrick, Mary Middleton, Truda Pinkston, Gaylon Schultz, and Jim and Kathy Russell. The singing, each testimony and Bro. Jim's message were all a blessing to us. At the Sunday night service one of our young people was saved and we just praise the Lord for that. At noon our church served dinner in honor of the Bible College students and it was enjoyed by many.

Sis. Whiteley and Lachell have started a children's choir that sings before the regular night service. The children are enjoying this.

Bro. and Sis. Roland Busch were with us on Wednesday night October 8, in behalf of the Bible College. We feel everyone enjoyed Bro. Busch's sermon and the pictures of the Bible School he showed us.

Bro. Whiteley is making plans for some special week-end services in the near future.

**Howard Whiteley, Pastor**  
**Edith Lamunyon, Reporter**

## Alvin, Texas

We are happy to have our son, Randy Wallis, helping us in the services here at the present. He will be going back to college in January. We visited the Bible College in Baxter Springs September 23-26 and also our daughter and son-in-law, Roger and Kandy Sharp in Tulsa, Okla. We thank Bro. F. W. Dickson for filling in for us while we were gone.

Saturday, September 28th about 20-25 people most of them youth joined together for a real fun-time party at the Alvin Barker home. The "YOUTH AFLAME" seem to be really catching fire. They are making plans for an exciting trip to Old Mexico this year sometime. We enjoyed having Vicki and the Royalheirs with us on September 20, 21 and 22nd. A big dinner was served in the American Legion hall on Sunday the 22nd. The AFBC choir was in concert here Sunday night, October 20, that Sunday morning Bro. Jack Cornell was our speaker and was accompanied by the Bible School quartet.

Bro. Jimmy Wallis conducted a revival in Pampa, Texas, October 21st through 27th.

**Bro. Jimmy Wallis, Pastor**

## Enid, Oklahoma

We were pleased to have a group from the AFBC Evangelism class for Saturday night, September 21, and Sunday morning, the 22. Our team consisted of Randy Dalton, Janet Lucas, and Kathy Judd. We appreciate these young people very much and we were glad to have had them in our services.

Sister Peggy Sutton also was with us in service a short time back. We welcome all visitors anytime.

**Elmer Christenson, Pastor**  
**Sue Phares, Reporter**

## Spearman, Texas

We are thankful to the Lord for his blessings, and that he hears our prayers. The church had a good vacation Bible School supervised by Mrs. Bill Watson, the ladies of the church assisting her. The children were blessed as the word was taught in story and song.

Our pastor, Bro. Winston Barker, was in charge of the Youth Camp in Laverne, Oklahoma. Several of our youth attended, and some of the adults worked in that too. Most of our church attended the Camp Meeting, and were blessed in many ways.

Bro. Barker resigned as pastor and moved to Pharr, Texas to work in Missions to Mexico.

Bro. Lowell Long filled the pulpit in August and the first part of September. Bro. A. W. Ferguson will be our pastor until after Bible School, when Bro. Jacob Regier will return to the church as pastor. We are grateful for everyone that comes to minister, and preach the Word to us.

A group from the Evangelism Class in Bible School had services here on September 22nd, and Bro. Roland Busch was here on September 30th in behalf of the Bible School.

As a small church we desire the prayers of God's people everywhere that we will be faithful and see the Work grow.

**Bro. Ferguson, Pastor**  
**Mrs. Irvin Delk, Reporter**

## Guymon, Oklahoma

We enjoyed our Lay Witness Mission the weekend of September 6-8 very much. . . It was a spiritual uplift to our church. We had cottage prayer meetings every night the week before the mission. There was a total of 59 went from our church to see and hear Vicki and The Royalheirs at the Palo Duro Canyon. Recently Bro. T. S. Abraham was with us for some services. Our Student Center group visited the ABC campus for a weekend of services and had charge of both the morning and evening services there on Sunday. Such a good time of spiritual fellowship was enjoyed by both groups of students.

**Edwin Modrick, Pastor**

## Perryton, Texas

Perryton Full Gospel Church hosted a cook-out and youth rally for the area churches Saturday night, September 21, at the Wilson canyons south of Perryton. Approximately 135 attended the rally. Devotional services were conducted by the evangelistic team from Apostolic Faith Bible College, and the Lord blessed in a special way. It was a pleasure to have five members of the team participate in our Sunday services the following day. Revival is scheduled for our church in October with Bro. Bill Sparks as evangelist.

**H. L. Waterbury, Pastor**

## Snell, Mississippi

Our new pastors are Rev. and Mrs. John Blythe. We are happy to have them. Recently Bro. O. A. Busch held us a good revival. Please remember our little church in your prayers.

**John Blythe, Pastor**

## OBITUARY OF J. OBED DOTY

(This obituary and poem were written by Bro. Bennie Stanberry)

Mr. J. Obed Doty of twelve thousand Bissonett St. in the city of Houston, Texas, was born December 4, 1900 at Tupelo, Mississippi. He moved to Alief, Texas with his parents while just a small lad. Mr. Doty passed from this present vale of activity June 26, 1974 at his home with just a few days of insecurity, concerning his health.

On October 12, 1925 he took as his companion for life, Stella Mae Hassell, also of Alief, Texas. Their children are, Odessa Mott of Sugarland, wife of Virgil Mott, president of the "Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship," Houston Chapter; Kenneth Doty, member of Apostolic Faith Church, Alvin, Texas (board member); James Doty, member of Apostolic Faith Church, Rockdale, Texas (board member); ten grandchildren, four great grandchildren, who remain a great part of the religious structure, promoting the better things in life for the community.

A deepening of their lives for God came in the year 1938. As pastor of the Community Church of Alief, he gave an invitation to the evangelist, Homer Coberly, who with his wife and family, held for us a tent meeting conducted on the Gassaway property. Obed and Stella were baptized in Buffalo Bayou in what was then called "The Norman Hole." The Dotys, Smiths of Brookshire, Busch family of Katy and many others remain responsible for the "Apostolic Faith Church" being built in the year 1941. (The Dotys also gave me the world's greatest son-in-law).

In the year 1971, after seeking for many years for the promised infilling of God's Spirit, under the ministry and direction, a Bro. Oldsteen, satisfaction in its greatest, dominated Bro. Doty's life. His church affiliation at time of his death . . . Faith Assembly of God . . . Houston.

### Full Gospel Business Men's Membership

On memory's platter, so beautifully served

Is a man's ambitions, all centered above.

His name "Obed Doty," we all knew him well

His riches in glory? No, no man can tell.

73 years, 6 months, 22 days is really not rare

All but ten. were spent in God's care.

While just a small lad, he learned how to pray

His father and mother, exemplified the way.

Three facets to mount, contending life's race

First there is faith, salvation, then grace.

His spirit was summoned, at attention he stands

Life everlasting is promised to man.

He and his wife, tho' dark was the hour

Built bridges that led to God's house of prayer.

The song they heard, bro't tears to their eyes

The sermons they preached, bro't eyes from the skies.

Camp-meetings, revivals were part of his life

In putting God first. he knew he was right.

As lengthening shadows of life seem to fall

His sense of security was greater than all.

A frequency channeled above all the rest

Is a wave length of hope, our faith to attest

This friend of the Gospel shall ever remain

And soon in God's glory, we'll see him again.

November 1974

## TWENTY-FIFTH



## ANNIVERSARY

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Max Pennington hosted a 25th Wedding Anniversary Open House for their parents at the Old Home of AFBC on Saturday, October 12, 1974, from 3:00 till 5:00 P. M. Max and Dorothy met at Bible School when they both attended as students. Their children are Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Russell and children, Shelly and Kelly; who are attending this term of AFBC; Mike, their son who lives in Arlington, Texas; and the three younger girls who are still at home, Angela, Pam, and Jeanie.



James Kelly Russell was born to Bobby Tion and Michele Russell June 28, 1974. He weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. His little sister's name is Bobby Michele.

Ron and Rita Scott are the proud parents of a baby boy, they named Aaron James (Jamie). He arrived October 10, 1974 and weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Merrell Conn, of Childress Texas and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Scott of Katy, Texas. Little Jamie's great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Stockdick of Katy, Texas. Ron and Rita Scott are presently living in Huntsville, Texas while Ron is doing some post graduate work in college there.

### OPEN FOR CALLS

ARNALL, Johnny  
907 Mower  
Duenweg, Mo. 64841  
Ph. 417-623-8839

JIM RUSSELL  
BOBBY RUSSELL  
710 Cedar  
Ph. 806-935-4874  
Dumas, Texas 79029  
(this is the home address  
of these two brothers.  
They and their wives are  
now attending AFBC).

**DEADLINE** — Copy for the Report must be in the Editor's possession by the 15th (instead of the 20th) of the month preceding the date of the issue it's to be in.



BARBARA COOPER

## Hardesty Oklahoma Youth Honored

### Christian Young People CAN Be Somebody!

Who's Who Among American High School Students honors Miss Barbara Cooper of Hardesty, Oklahoma. Barbara, a senior, was recently notified that she is to be featured in the Eighth Annual Edition of Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1973-74, the largest student award publication in the nation.

Students from over 20,000 public, private, and parochial high schools throughout the country are recognized for their leadership in academics, athletics, activities or community service in the books. Less than 3% of the junior and senior class students nationwide are awarded this recognition.

Barbara is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Cooper, Jr. of Hardesty, Oklahoma. She is active in many areas of life. This year she is serving as co-editor of the school yearbook and continues her membership in the school chorus, Home Ec plus many others.

In addition to having her biography published in the book, Barbara will also compete for one of ten scholarship awards of \$400 to \$1,000 funded by the publishers and will be invited to participate in the firm's annual "Survey of High Achievers."

#### Pastor's Note —

As Barbara's pastor for the past four years, we're thrilled at her high achievements and wish to extend our congratulations to her. Her Christian growth has kept pace with her academic growth. She never failed to keep her Christian testimony pure even when it might mean ridicule from peers and adults.

One outstanding example was when she refused to compromise her Christian ideals and wear an extremely short skirt to serve the junior-senior banquet. She advised the junior class members that they could simply count her out, but No way would she wear that at any time. A few days later they came to her and said she could wear whatever she pleased if she would just serve at their banquet.

Barbara was very faithful to church and to her service to God. This takes first place in her life. A Christian young person that is dependable, faithful, and responsible; these characteristics are adjectives that Barbara lives out. So along with her teachers, peers, friends and relatives we wish to add our congratulations for her success and our thanks for being a great Christian example in her community.

November 1974

## EVANGELISM CLASS

Greetings from the 1974 Evangelism class of the Apostolic Faith Bible College. This has been a very busy year for our students.

At the beginning of our school year we advised churches in this area that we would have students available to be in churches for services. We have had a great response. Several churches have opened their doors to our students. We have reached as many churches near Baxter Springs as we could and have also had Evangelism teams go as far as Kingman, Kansas, Enid, Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Taneyville, Mo., and Cave Springs, Arkansas.

In addition to this, both Nursing Homes here in town have given us their Sunday afternoon services. This has been a wonderful experience.

The trip we made to the Panhandle area was a great encouragement to us. Our students handled the responsibility in a fine way.

The Prosperity, Missouri church has turned their Wednesday evening service over to our students. The Purcell, Missouri church also has given us free reign at their church.

At the Bible College our Evangelism students are in charge of the morning devotional services. They have done a good job. They take care of the complete service from playing the piano and leading singing to the preaching.

It is our feeling that we learn best by doing. Therefore we have felt a burden to make our year's study in Evangelism a working study. We feel that our students have done a commendable job. We have 16 young preachers in this class and we hope to be able to help them become acquainted with our churches before Bible College is over so that they may be able to carry on their work for God when they leave school.

Many churches have expressed a desire to have dedicated young people to work in their church. May we suggest that you give our Evangelism students some consideration in making your choice. We feel we have some good dedicated workers among them who will be available for service when Bible College closes.

With God's help, part of the Evangelism class will make a trip to the Alabama, Mississippi area for another working week end. We are looking forward to being in the churches in that area for services Sunday, November 17th. We will also be with them on Saturday night, November 16th for their youth rally service at Pine Crest Chapel. The Bible College bus will leave Baxter Springs early the morning of November 16th and will return to Baxter Springs November 18th.

We already have a number of requests for teams in this area as well as from churches at a distance from us. We earnestly request your prayers that God's will will be done in all of our work.

**Louise Sutton**  
Evangelism Instructor

A. F. Report

## WHAT I FEEL MY RESPONSIBILITY IS AS A CHRISTIAN TO GOD, OTHERS AND MYSELF

Louise Sutton, Teacher

by Susie Zinn, Liberal, Kansas

Dear God,

You have been so good to me and have blessed me in so many ways. You gave your Son to die on a cross that through His shed blood I could have eternal life. Lord, as I try to picture Jesus upon the cross and to feel the pain he felt, I am unable to comprehend all that he did for me. You have told me through your word that you did not want dead sacrifices but living sacrifices. I have presented myself to you as a living sacrifice and therefore I have certain responsibilities that I owe to you, to others, and to myself.

Prayer is a most important asset in my Christian walk. It is through this sweet communion of prayer that I learn of you and allow you to take hold of my life and change those things which are displeasing to you. It is at the altar of prayer that I am able to pour out my heart to you and let you minister to my needs. This is where I gain my strength so that I am able to lead the victorious life that you want so much for me.

Also, I need to read your word. There are a lot of answers for me in the Bible but it is my duty to search out these great truths. And as I learn these scriptures in my head it is important for me to learn them in my heart and manifest them through my actions. If my actions fail to follow what the Bible teaches then I have missed the point in reading your Word. So as I read your Word, I need to take heed to what it says and follow it very carefully.

Another responsibility I have to you is to thank you for being with me and for leading me and for the trials that you bring my way. Time and again I bring my requests before you and letting them all be made known, but I am lax in not giving you praise. Or if I do it's usually when I'm happy. It's really important that I learn to praise you for my trials. I know I can rest in the assurance that you have everything under control and that you are allowing me to grow stronger in my Christian life.

Also, I need to continually renew my mind. I need to be careful about what I expose myself to and what I allow my mind to take in. I need to be aware of the thoughts I think. I know my mental state can be affected and besides laying myself open for an attack from Satan, I can't be a very good witness. An example in my own life is that certain types of music can really depress me. Listening to music in itself is alright but when it affects my mind by upsetting me then it isn't alright for me. As a Christian I need to be aware of what I allow myself to come in contact with.

Another responsibility I have to you, to other people, and to myself is for me to love myself. Without love for myself, I can't love others in the way that I should. It is as I put my trust in you and allow your will to be done in my life that I have more love for myself and with more love for myself I am able to love others.

Lord, I also need to treat everyone the same. I have a bad habit of making first impressions when I meet people. These are hard to break once they have been made. I want to put everyone on the same plane and not

put some people above me and some below me. I don't want to let the outside appearance to be a factor on whether or not I try to get to know an individual. Lord, I want always to be able to go that "extra mile" for people. I want to put concern for others before myself.

Lord, I know these are only a few of the many responsibilities I owe to you, to others, and to myself. But as I have put this down on paper it has made me more aware of my obligations to you. And I know that as I give myself over to you, you will show me how to conduct my life so I can glorify your name.



Susie Zinn

Lois Harper

Randy Dalton

by Lois Harper, Logan, Oklahoma

An ambassador of Christ! Do we really know what this responsibility of an ambassador is?

Our responsibility to our Lord starts when we have heard his call. Rom. 12:1-2. "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Truly our first responsibility is to God who sent his son Jesus who took on himself the form of man and came here and suffered and died that we might have life and that more abundantly.

People of the world can tell if we really are God's children, or if we're just "another one of the crowd." If we call Jesus our Saviour we should dress, act and look like Christians at all times.

II Timothy 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

I Thess. 5:22-23 "Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

As Christians our speech should be becoming to Christ. Matt. 5:37 tells us "... let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. We should guard what we say because I believe we can't be the witness we should be with corrupt communications.

Continued on page 10



## Christian To God, Others and Myself

by Randy Dalton, Taneyville, Missouri

God is my all and my everything. My responsibility as a Christian to Him is letting Him have my life. God gave His only Son for me, in return He asks us to be a living sacrifice for Him. God loves to commune with man. In order for Him and I to do that, I have to confess all my sins and remain humble in His eyes. God cannot commune with us with sin in our lives. So I must walk as He would have me to so we can commune with each other. I don't do this because I have too, but because I love Him and want to very much. God is my Father. Whenever I have any kind of a problem I go to Him and He understands and helps me see why. If things are going bad and I'm having troubles I go to Him and He comforts me. He loves it when we talk, I love to talk to Him, too.

God will supply all of our needs if we will put Him first. We are His children and He is our Father. Just like our earthly Father, our heavenly Father will do all He can for His children if we'll let Him. God will even take up for us. God wants me to live my life each and every day for Him. God let His Son die for us sinners because He loved all of us. He expects me to love His children too. Even those who are lost. God wants me to tell others about Him and His love. In everything I do, I'm supposed to do it as Jesus would have me to. My life is my testimony for God. Not only in what I say but most importantly of all the way I live. People watch the way you live your life more than the words you speak. We must remember that the world is watching and if we live a life displeasing to God, or unchristian like, it will hurt our testimony for God. We must do everything to lift God up.

God asks us to serve Him and give our lives to Him as a living sacrifice. He doesn't ask us to perform the miracle ourselves or do it by ourselves. He just asks us to trust in Him and let Him lead the way. I love serving God, not because I was worthy or deserve too, but because I love the man upstairs. He is my all. At times my faith is very small and doubts and fears arise, but I'm still trying. God is able, we must trust and obey.

### "My Responsibility As A Christian To Others"

One of the things most stressed by Jesus was to feed His sheep. Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost. He trained and taught His disciples to preach the gospel. Then Jesus, before His ascension, told them to go forth into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. We are Jesus's disciples. As a Christian I should tell others about God.

I should encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ and pray for them. Christian people often need somebody to talk to; and they want someone that will listen and share the burdens. Many times we as Christians can, and do strengthen each other, by talking and sharing our problems. Someone might be going through a trial that maybe we have had. By talking it over with them and telling them how we faced it and overcame, it helps them by just knowing that someone else has had the same problem. So as Christian brothers and sisters in

## Themes From Evangelism Class 1974

Christ, we can strengthen each other and encourage each other. We must remember that the world needs a few good listeners, it has already got enough talkers. I know myself that I must always keep telling myself that others have problems too, and that I should be helping them instead of sitting around feeling sorry for myself.

My responsibility goes beyond that of just helping my Christian friends. I must also help the lost one. Jesus dies for all of us. My life, and the way I live it, must be a testimony for God because it is the one the people really listen to. We must warn the lost and tell them about Jesus. There are a lot of things that I might be able to do that might not be sin, but because they aren't a good example or because they might hinder someone from finding God, I would rather give them up. Not because I have to, but because I love lost souls and care about their finding God. We should never compromise the things of God for the things of the world to help someone, because the world wants to see something different in our lives. If they can't see a difference then why should they change? We must live a Christ-like life seven days a week instead of just one.

### "My Responsibility As A Christian To Myself"

Jesus commanded His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they had been filled with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost would lead them and direct them into all truths. It would give them power to preach the gospel and would unite them together in one accord. As Jesus's disciples, we also should seek this power and wisdom and guidance which the Holy Spirit gives. We wouldn't start a trip across the country without filling our car up first with fuel. Even so we should be filled with God's precious Holy Spirit and be prayed up before we start. Another thing to keep in mind is that along our journey we must stop and refill our gas tanks. Many times we must go to God and ask Him to refill us or give us more strength to overcome and keep on going.

I must realize that I cannot do anything by myself or through myself, but I must let Jesus work through me or direct me. Jesus only asked me to do what I could for Him. I must turn my life over to Him, but I have to live my own life and can't expect to be somebody else. Jesus wants me to be me and let Him use me. Even though I'm not great, or rich or famous, Jesus has got a place for me. It's a place that He wants me to fill for Him. All He asks is my best, which is all I can give. I can't save the world or set it on fire, all I can do is put my hand in His and let Him lead. Though the stormy winds blow and the clouds hover I must hang on by faith and realize Jesus loves me and will lead me safely through.

In God's eyes I'm just like anyone else. Sometimes I feel like I'm the worst sinner or I have failed God the most, but He loves me and forgives me. I love God so much and the last thing I want to do is fail Him; but seems like the harder I try the harder it seems. The devil really knows my weak point and he really hits me hard. But God is able and there are many others having problems. Mine isn't unique like the devil tries to tell me. God is able. I love Him so and He loves me. My Father cares, I must trust Him.

(L. Harper's theme cont. from pg. 8, col. 2)

In dress Isaiah 61:10 "Go through, go through the gates prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." Today more than ever we face the responsibility of setting standards for the world. Remember you may be the only Bible some people read.

We have a grave responsibility to set standards on our Christian character also. Christ said in Matt. 7:24 "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon the rock."

Our character should be pure, honest and humble all the time and one most important factor that we always have self-control.

There is not one phase of life that our Christian responsibility does not touch.

We have responsibilities to work to do our share and not to depend on someone else to help us. Here too this touches another responsibility we should work to help others for we could be entertaining angels unaware.

Also we have a duty to pray for and live right before our nation. Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

We should be totally yielded to God always wanting to do what he wants us, not just part of the time because God can't use someone he can't depend on to answer "Here am I" everytime He speaks.

In order to do God's will we need to study and search the scriptures for it is through this we learn about God and what he has for us and wants us to do.

II Tim. 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth."

John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

After we study God's word and learn about Him we have a responsibility of fellowship or sharing with people we come in contact with every day but before we can fellowship with man we must first fellowship with God.

Hebrews 10:22 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled from all evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Acts 22:14-15 "And he said, The God of our Fathers hath chosen thee, thou shouldst know his will and see that just one, and shouldst hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard."

If we fail in one small part of our Christian witness this could ruin our whole testimony of what God has done for us.

So we can see our responsibility goes first to God to just follow him and whatever he bids and in following him we will find our next responsibility just falls into place helping others, and serving them by serving God.

Our responsibility comes last but not least to ourselves. We need to be true to ourselves because if we can't be true to ourselves we really can't follow God and be true to him. We must study and pray and ask God to help us have standards and convictions to live by. Our responsibilities as Christians can truly be JOYFUL when we put Jesus first, Others second and You last.

Concluded

November 1974



### Dumas, Texas

We're happy to report that God is supplying for our new building. The steel has been erected and the blocks will be delivered on October 17. The men of the church are doing the work themselves and we welcome anyone who could help to come, and receive a blessing by working on the building.

Sis. Paula Buschman has been with us since August. She has taken one of our Sunday School classes and is also working on getting a children's church started on Sunday evenings. We appreciate her work.

We feel that God has certainly met our needs and is blessing our church. Remember our building program as you pray.

We especially want to thank Bro. George Hintergardt for his efforts on the building. He has spent a week here working from early till late. We appreciate his life and efforts for God.

Austin Sutton, Pastor

## MANY RELIGIONS... ONE SALVATION!

By Dora Beydler, Canyon, Texas

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil from your doings before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now and 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." Isaiah 1:16-18.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12.

The primitive tribe of the Huichol Indians, back in the mountains of Mexico, have preserved not only their speech and their race but also their native religion and culture, relatively uncontaminated by conquest and contact. They fear the consequences of sin, not only hereafter but in the present life. They suppose that unconfessed sins and misdeeds must be purged before they can enjoy the benefits and blessings of rain, good crops and hunting. To make sure they leave nothing unconfessed, they carry a string and for each wrong doing they tie a knot in the string. They dare not leave a single one out. At the appointed time, the Indians gather at their temple and before a great bonfire, they confess the

10

A. F. Report

sin for each knot, then toss the string into the flame. When Grandfather Fire has consumed the string, the individual has been cleansed and the Indian is free to go in peace.

Around the turn of the 5th century B.C., the people of a warrior cast settled near the Himalayas and it was prophesied of the birth of a child who would renounce the world. This child was brought up in luxury but left his home at the age of 29 years. After 6 years of effort he attained what he called "the perfect knowledge" while sitting under a wild fig or Bo-tree, thus the title, Buddha — meaning the enlightened. He spent the rest of his life as a wanderer, teaching the new doctrine and died at the age of 80 years. The Buddhists are born into this religion and have a very strict moral code by which they live. This description of The Path covers the whole training of the disciple; "right views, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration."

In another part of the world is a city called Mecca, in Saudi Arabia. It is the Holy City of the Islam and in the court yard of the great Mosque stands a black stone, called Kaaba. The legend of this stone is that the Angel Gabriel salvaged it from the earth's primeval paradise and gave it to Abraham; but at the time it was given to Abraham, so the legend says, it was not black — it was pure white. It is a small, dark mass with an aspect suggesting volcanic or meteoric origin; fixed at such a height that it can be conveniently kissed. Mohammed followers say the color has changed to black by absorbing the sins of the many, many pilgrims who have come from all over the world and faced the harsh Arabian desert with the primary purpose of touching Kaaba!

Way back in the high Himalaya Mountains gurgles the source of the Ganges River, India's sacred stream for cleansing of sin. One legend is of a Goddess, who through her desire to save the condemned, started the river that pilgrims journeying to the holy city, Benares, might bathe in it and wash away their sins. Here the banks of the river are generally crowded with bathers and among them constantly rises the smoke of the funeral pyres. For the pious Hindu, death on the bank of the river is the door to salvation. The ashes of the cremated Hindus are often scattered on the river while those seeking purification bath in the water.

All of these religions believe there is sin; all feel the guilt of sin. They all confess that sin must be cleansed and all feel the need of a sacrifice, though the methods differ from one religion to another but we need to read again from the words of the True and Only Savior when He said in John, 14:6 "I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

Though the Indians of Mexico faithfully confess the sin for each knot to Grandfather Fire then burn the string; confessing to a fire is to no avail. In First Timothy 2:5 and 6b we read, "For there is one God, and One Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all." No matter how many strings one might burn, it is still just a way that seemed right, but a way of death.

The Buddhist, though he may live a good moral life — and certainly he does, if he lives by the Buddhist

creed — he is still traveling the parallel road of iniquity and falls short of real salvation because Isaiah 64:6 says, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Jesus said, "I am the way." There is only one road and one running in parallel will never reach the same destination. Thus the Buddhists live a good moral life but they, too, miss the mark by what may seem right to man but a way of death.

Many of the Mohammedans make great sacrifices to make their pilgrimage to Mecca, only to kiss the wrong rock. First Corinthians 10:1-4 says, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all did eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of the spiritual Rock that followed them; and that Rock was Christ." Jesus is the Christian's Rock and He takes away the sins of all who come to Him, 'And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.' First John 3:5. The Rock Christ Jesus, though, remains pure and does not change color when He takes away sin. So again, the sacrifices and pilgrimages may seem right but are just another way of death.

Many Hindus may journey long distances just to bathe in the Ganges but no river of water nor the ashes of another human being can blot out sin. There is a cleansing for man, though, through the blood of Jesus, Revelation, 1:5c, Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood." Also John 1:29 says, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.'" Therefore, bathing in the Ganges river may seem right — but another way of death.

Pilate, too, believed that he could free himself of guilt by washing his hands. Matthew, 27:24, "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.'" But he soon left Jerusalem after the crucifixion. We find records of his traveling in various places but everywhere he went to escape his conscience, he found the story of Jesus' death had preceded him. We have no record of his death in the Bible, but I'm sure he must have died a lonely man. All he needed was to believe on the Man whom he had crucified. "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew, 11:28-30.

We also read in Jesus words, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. In John, 6:37b it says, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

"Come now, and let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow through Jesus Christ our Lord who said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

# Accepting others as they are

By MRS. A. L. CLARKE

I HUNG UP THE PHONE IN DISGUST. "I don't know why Betty even bothers to call," I told my husband. "She never seems to hear a word I say."

I was tired of repeating things over and over again to her. She had become so forgetful.

A few days later her husband stopped by and mentioned that he was taking Betty to a psychiatrist. It seems she had had a complete nervous breakdown at 19. Now, 10 years later, they were trying to ward off another. Forgetfulness was one of the symptoms.

How my attitude changed! No longer was I impatient when I had to explain the same things day after day. I even made an effort to repeat myself so she would not have to ask.

Insight led to compassion. *But why, I agonized, couldn't I have been patient and understanding without this knowledge?*

Christian love does not strip another of his privacy or demand that he bare his soul, before it gives compassion. Each person has a reason for being as he is. I may not know the reason; I may not approve the resulting behavior; but in the manner of Christ I can love and accept him as he is, hoping by that to help and lift him.

My experience with Betty has helped me to befriend others I had avoided or ignored.

I now smile each time I see Mrs. B. Her stony face has never responded, but now she does acknowledge my presence with a slight nod. I may never learn the reason behind her unhappy expression, but God knows and understands.

In amazement I watched as Mr. J., a construction worker, stopped his mammoth bulldozer and with gloved hands carried a meadow lark's nest to a safer site. This gentle act was hardly in keeping with the rough man I had heard about and avoided. Never again will I shun his and his wife's company.

Mr. and Mrs. S. certainly are not a Christian family. They are bitter towards the church and toward God. Yet what better way to extend Christ's love to them than by befriending and accepting them just as they are now!

I no longer have to repeat again and again to Betty. With the support of her husband and doctor she was able to steer clear of a second breakdown. I like to think I helped in a small way by casually accepting her memory lapses.

Accepting others as they are is a way of extending Christ's love to them. With complete understanding His love reaches out to us in spite of our failures and shortcomings. With His help we can give His kind of love to others.

## Thanksgiving praise

—ALICE REYNOLDS FLOWER

### Whom shall I praise

For countless days of His rich mercies o'er my ways?

The Lamb of God—redemption bringing,  
Who fills my heart with heaven's singing—  
Jesus—to Him my song is winging.

*Jesus I praise!*

### How shall I praise

For countless days of His rich mercies o'er my ways?

With holy lips—sweet carols true;  
From heart—a full surrender new;  
In life, in love—His bidding do—

*Thus shall I praise.*

### Las Vegas, Nevada

The Lord is continuing to bless in our services and we are thankful. We have started on our new building and it seems to be going well. We now have the walls up and the Lord willing plan to have the roof on the week of October 14 - 20. We would welcome any help we could get. It would be so nice if someone felt led of the Lord to come help work on our building project. Bro. Calvin Klaus is leaving us and we are really going to miss him. Please remember us in your prayers.

Francis Dearing, Pastor

### When shall I praise

For countless days of His rich mercies o'er my ways?

Just now I joy in His bestowing  
Of strength and grace, His fullness showing;  
Just now my cup is overflowing—

*At all times praise.*

### And for what praise

For countless days of His rich mercies o'er my ways?

Praise for His love so true and deep,  
Praise for His mighty power to keep,  
Praise for the way He guides His sheep—

*For this I praise.*

### How long to praise

For countless days of His rich mercies o'er my ways?

Forever shall my glad heart sing  
His praise—my wondrous Saviour-King!  
Eternity no end shall bring

*To His sweet praise.*

### Pine Crest, Mississippi

We've been having services at the Pine Chest Chapel for six weeks now. Sister Dorothy Anderson is the pastor and we've averaged from twelve to twenty in attendance. The Lord has blessed in each service. This little church, located on our camp grounds outside Quitman, hasn't had services in several years and we desire your prayers. We would like to have anyone of the Faith to come, visit and help in our services. God bless you and the work you are doing on the Report.

Dorothy Anderson, Pastor  
Lynette Barker, Reporter

# What will Thanksgiving mean

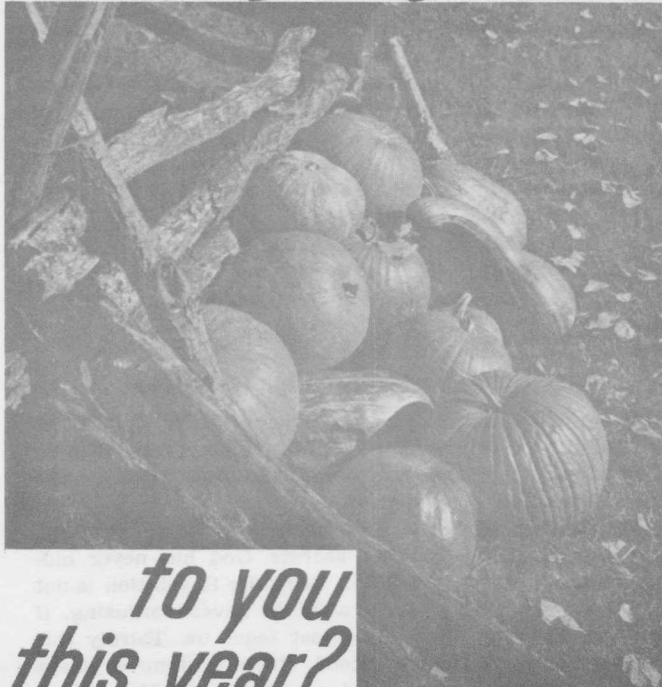


PHOTO BY BOB TAYLOR

## to you this year?

C. NEIL STRAIT

THERE IS A MARKED DIFFERENCE between our Thanksgiving and the Thanksgiving of the Pilgrims. A poverty of material goods characterized the first observance, while a wealth of material assets surrounds our observance.

It's easy to forget our inheritance and our blessings. Thanksgiving is a time to pause and remember; but we are finding it hard to remember, for so many things make us forget.

THE CLATTER OF OUR RICHES makes us forget. Abundance can corrupt or it can strengthen. Our wealth, all too many times, has become our shame and our embarrassment.

It could well be said that never before have so many owned so much when so many have so little. Riches have taught us to place too much dependence upon human ability. This clatter of riches makes us forget the Giver of every gift.

Our need is an abundance that strengthens. Riches increase our opportunity to share; and when we share, we grow. Our world has been bettered many times by our Heavenly Father. Let us look about at our in-laws, blessed with riches of wealth, riches of intelligence, inheritance and then let us lift our hearts in thanksgiving and riches of talent, who have shared their abundance. Their sharing has taught us gratitude.

November 1974

THE CLAMOR OF OUR SUFFERINGS makes it hard to remember. Again, there is a suffering that weakens or a suffering that strengthens.

Our world is well acquainted with suffering—varied and real. In suffering we must remember that God is today what He has always been. John Newton said, "His love in time past forbids me to think He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink."

Hope fades and faith retreats too many times when suffering stalks into someone's life. In such suffering the providence of the Creator is forgotten. We forget that suffering may heal. But the distraction of our suffering makes it hard to remember anything for which to be thankful.

THE COMMONNESS OF OUR BLESSINGS makes us forget. There are common blessings, commonly overlooked. In our pursuit after big things we seldom see the little things that matter so much. Who is there who makes a big ado over the five senses, for instance? Or the warmth of the sun, the perfume of a flower, or the love of a child! These are common blessings, commonly overlooked.

THE SILENCE OF OUR GRATITUDE shows that it is easy to forget. An old proverb says that "it's a poor heart that never rejoices." A French proverb reminds us that "gratitude is the heart's memory."

There is a silence that acknowledges and there is a silence that forgets. The silence that surrounds a bowed head is silence that acknowledges. The silence that characterizes our lives at Thanksgiving time, with no word of gratitude for God or man, is the silence that forgets.

The words *think* and *thank* come from the same root. It is as we think about life that we find ourselves moved to thank Him who made life possible. The apostle Paul wrote, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

John describes this great gift with the words, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Just as thoughtfulness and thankfulness go together, so do thoughtlessness and thanklessness. How many times have we heard it said, "I just didn't think"?

The nine lepers who were healed but forgot to express their thanks are reminders of the silence that forgets.

What will Thanksgiving mean to you this year? Let not the clatter of riches undermine your dependence upon God. Let not the clamor of suffering shroud your view of God. Do not overlook the common blessings of our Heavenly Father. Let us look about at our in-laws, blessed with riches of wealth, riches of intelligence, inheritance and then let us lift our hearts in thanksgiving and riches of talent, who have shared their abundance. To God, the Giver of all good things.

—Courtesy American Tract Society, Oradell, N.J. 07649

A. F. Report

## WHAT REVELATION MEANS TO ME

by Gary Kerr — Katy, Texas

When as a babe in Christ I embarked on this Christian journey I endeavored to learn the books of the Bible and the only time Revelations came to mind was in reciting the New Testament. This was not only due to my lack of understanding but due also to the "Apocalyptic" style John used in his book. Since that time I have gradually come to understand the significance of the book of "The Revelation of Jesus Christ," and yet I do not grasp many of its deep meanings and even many of the less complex symbols escape my finite understanding.

Revelations, first of all, is for the believer, although, if understood and believed by the masses it would present avenues of interest to a large cross section of the world's population, it was not meant to be. It would interest the nominal church member, for in the first few chapters he can hear Christ through John admonishing him to reject Apothetic tendencies in servitude.

The historian could find interesting data in the book, reference to Nero and the Roman history in the first century. They would gain a historical view from the eyes of a contemporary of this persecution of believers by Imperial Rome. They could be granted an insite into the attitudes of the heroic Christian; why he suffered torture and death for an abstract. They could see this attitude of consecration as John encourages the believers showing them that above all this dreadful power (Rome) was "the Lamb in the midst of the throne." Jesus, the Lamb, who had suffered an agonizing death but was now triumphant and exalted over all earthly powers. The vision of heaven showed not Caesar the imperial tirant, but Jesus, the conquering Lamb, reigning eternally. It would interest those who have a desire to know the future, for in the pages of the sacred book, he could see a time of rest and peace, a terrible time of trouble and world hunger, and finally the end itself.

There are many others it would interest. The job of naming all is impossible, however, the book of Revelations means to me all of those things previously mentioned. More than anything this great book brings hope to me and all Christians. I feel only a gladness, and my heart sings, "Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus". Hallelujah! I have hope for eternity and a promise that I'll see the one who died for me! All praise and Glory to God!

---

by Garold Oakes — Joplin, Missouri

The book of Revelation, by John the Revelator. What is it? A book of weird happenings with no meaning? No — Revelations is one of the greatest expositions ever written, spiritually and literally. Let's put value aside for a moment and look at Revelation analytically.

From a logical point of view, Revelation is a literary masterpiece. Throughout the 22 chapters you find a number of seemingly different plots woven into one central theme. Upon searching you will find the themes of many different consummations. The consummation of Israel, of nations, of evil, of the church, of Christ's second coming, and in general, of all things. You'll find the themes

of numerous dreams or visions, some partly or wholly veiled from understanding and others practically clear. All these different themes weave a central idea. Revelations is the only literary composition endorsed by Jesus Christ himself, and the only writing to begin with a blessing and end in a curse. It's also practically the only book hundreds of other volumes have been written about and no two even close in opinion. Analytically, Revelation is a masterpiece of human exposition.

Spiritually, Revelations is the key to our existence. Why? Without John's writings we'd have no knowledge of how Satan is going to work in the endtime, and we'd be unable to prepare our lives. By Revelations, Christ forewarned us of Satan's actions and instructed us to prepare our lives accordingly.

The Revelations of John. A book of weird happenings and accounts? No — one of the greatest literary masterpieces ever written and the key to our spiritual existence.

---

by Gary Foster — Follett, Texas

Revelation the voice of prophecy; Is it a book of secrets, a book of confusion, is it a book that will ever be understood? These are some questions that arise when Revelation is spoken of.

In dealing with the first aspect of this question, Revelation is not a book of secrets. God has never hidden the truth from his children. Secondly Revelation is not a book of confusion. God's word is never confusing, if and only if we let the Holy Ghost teach us. Thirdly this book is meant to be understood. Since God never keeps secrets about his word, and if we will let the Holy Ghost teach us, therefore we can understand the true meaning of this book.

Revelation is the book of books, the theme of themes, the words of Jesus Christ. This book is a climax study, it is a book of consumations; The Consumation of the Church, Israel, Nations, sorrows, evil, wealth, Apostasy, Christ's Coming, and all things. In it we are able to compose a vivid picture of the future.

At this point questions arise, "Is the word of God true?" "Will things happen just as they are written in this book?" Revelation can be proven by past history, and by present events; in view of these two points there should be no doubt in our minds as to its future purpose, which is to inform the children of God what will shortly come to pass.

The importance of this book can never be measured. To me it is one of the most important books of the entire Bible. In this book we find many unanswered questions, it tells us to ready our lives so that we can prepare for these devastating events, which will shortly come to pass.

Lastly the book of Revelation is a book of encouragement to the believers. In it we find promise to the overcomer, we can see how wonderful the glory of God really is. We have a picture of our future paradise, a paradise beyond our comprehension, a place where we spend eternity, without sin, suffering, pain, death, or woe. A place where we can live with God and our Saviour Jesus Christ forever and ever.

## AFBC 1974 SIX BEST THEMES ON WHAT REVELATION MEANS TO ME

from

BRO. JEROME CROWHURST'S PROPHECY II CLASS



Gary Kerr



Garold Oakes



Gary Foster



Betty Carney



Johnny Arnall



David Stollings

### by Betty Carney — Quitman, Mississippi

Revelation to me is like a fictional mystery which has enfolded in its pages probably the most gruesome fates to encounter mankind since his beginning and yet for a chosen few holds unimaginable beauties that are yet to be fulfilled.

Revelation contains a special promise to those who read it (ch.1:3) and at the same time pronounces a curse upon those who tamper with its contents. (ch. 22:18-19)

It is a book of "Consummation" and its proper place in the sacred canon is where it is placed, at the end of the Bible. It presents sharp contrasts and ends the conflict with "The Beast", "The False Prophets", and Satan and his host finding their place in the "Lake of Fire" and Christ the victor.

Revelation reveals to us scenes that range from the throne scene of God with an emerald like rainbow, a sea of glass and twenty-four elders that worship God. (ch. 1) to presenting us with precise details of the new heaven and the new earth (ch. 21, 22).

In Revelation 21:9-23 we are given a sneak preview of some characteristics of the beautiful new city of Jerusalem that will descend out of Heaven from God. Trying to imagine streets of gold, gates of pearls and precious stones that will make up parts of the city is just impossible to me.

To be able to view such a city, to walk upon those streets that are lighted by the very Son of God and to have access to the tree of life is truly a goal that should be set before each individual that comes before the throne of God. But most of all I look forward to the promise that is given to us in Revelation 22:4 "and they shall see his face and his name shall be in their foreheads."

As the last chapter of Revelation suggest: We find that The Bible begins with Paradise lost and it closes with Paradise regained.

November 1974

### by Johnny R. Arnall — Duenweg, Missouri

Like many other Christians, this last book in the Bible has been a closed book. Because I could not gain a clear understanding by just reading the scriptures. I decided it was beyond my comprehension. Then I read Rev. 1:3 "Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Now, not by merely reading, but by studying the words of God and testimony of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I'm out to claim my blessing.

To my surprise, Revelation is a book of pictures. Using symbols or signs that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit can be understood. It opens with a seven fold picture of Christ bringing a series of woes, prophetic messages and overcoming promises to the seven churches of Asia. Then turns it's attention to Israel and later to the nations. It closes with the clearest and fullest picture of the future life.

Throughout this entire book, I find it helpful in giving new insight into present day problems and trials. To me Revelation is the bringing together, or completion of God's plan. As Genesis opens the curtains of this great story. Revelation is the grand finale for some, but for others it is the dreadful climax.

I believe now, though there are wide variations in interpretations of this book, Revelation is for the benefit of all. If he is devout and spiritual minded he can find comfort, encouragement, renewed faith, hope and strength. Truly "Blessed is he that readeth"

### by David Stollings — Perryton, Texas

Revelation is without a doubt the most often misunderstood and misjudged books of the Bible. It seems strange to me that God would have something written for us that we could not understand. The first verse says that it was given to Jesus Christ to show us, His servants, the things which would soon be happening, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit I think we can know the truth of the things that are to happen in the end of time.

It is an interesting book to me for several reasons. First, because it is a book of prophecy which tells about the time I am living in, and part of the prophecies have already been fulfilled. This an encouragement to me to gain all I can from the words we are given, because I realize from the fulfilled prophecies that the rest of them will come to pass soon just like the others did. It is also interesting because so many believe that it is far above our understanding, and it is a challenge to me to study and with the aid of the Holy Spirit to realize the things of the future that the world knows nothing about, though they are actually part of the fulfillment themselves.

It is a thrill for me to look forward to the time when the Devil will be actually bound by Christ, in whose name we now bind and overcome him on this earth. Then to see the time when Satan will be ultimately destroyed and we can be with Christ and worship Him who is our Creator.

All these things plus the details of the throne of God, and a picture of the new heaven, the rewards that await us are what Revelation means to me.

15

A. F. Report

## GREETINGS FROM BIBLE COLLEGE!

We have just returned from a very successful choir trip and are settling down to the last half of this year's term of school. Time passes so fast and before we know it, the close of school will be on us again. As we look back over the first half of school we rejoice in the many blessings which the Lord bestowed upon us. Many souls were saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit. There were several healings and other victories gained which cause us all to say "Thank You Lord" for being mindful of your children.

The choir trip was great in every way. All the students enjoyed themselves so much and counted it a great privilege to minister through song and testimony. There were six souls saved during these services for which we praise the Lord. Everywhere we went the response was great. We just wish it was possible to visit every church with this group. Each place we went there were big crowds, and each church rolled out the red carpet to us. We want to say Thanks to all the pastors and churches for being so great to us. Thanks for your homes, food, finances and most of all the prayers and just standing behind us as you did. We could feel the Spirit of the Lord in every service so we feel this trip was a real spiritual uplift to all.

We ask for your continued prayers and support as we head into the last semester of school. Let us also invite you to come visit and see first hand what the school is doing for these young people.

Remember the closing date for school (December 11, 12, 13) and plan to attend.

God Bless You,  
Jack Cornell, Supt.

### THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

P. O. Box 658

Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

Address Correction Requested

Non Profit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT No. 37

Galena, Kansas 66739

Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Hollis  
436 Cherokee  
Baxter Springs, Kans. 66713

