

December 1977

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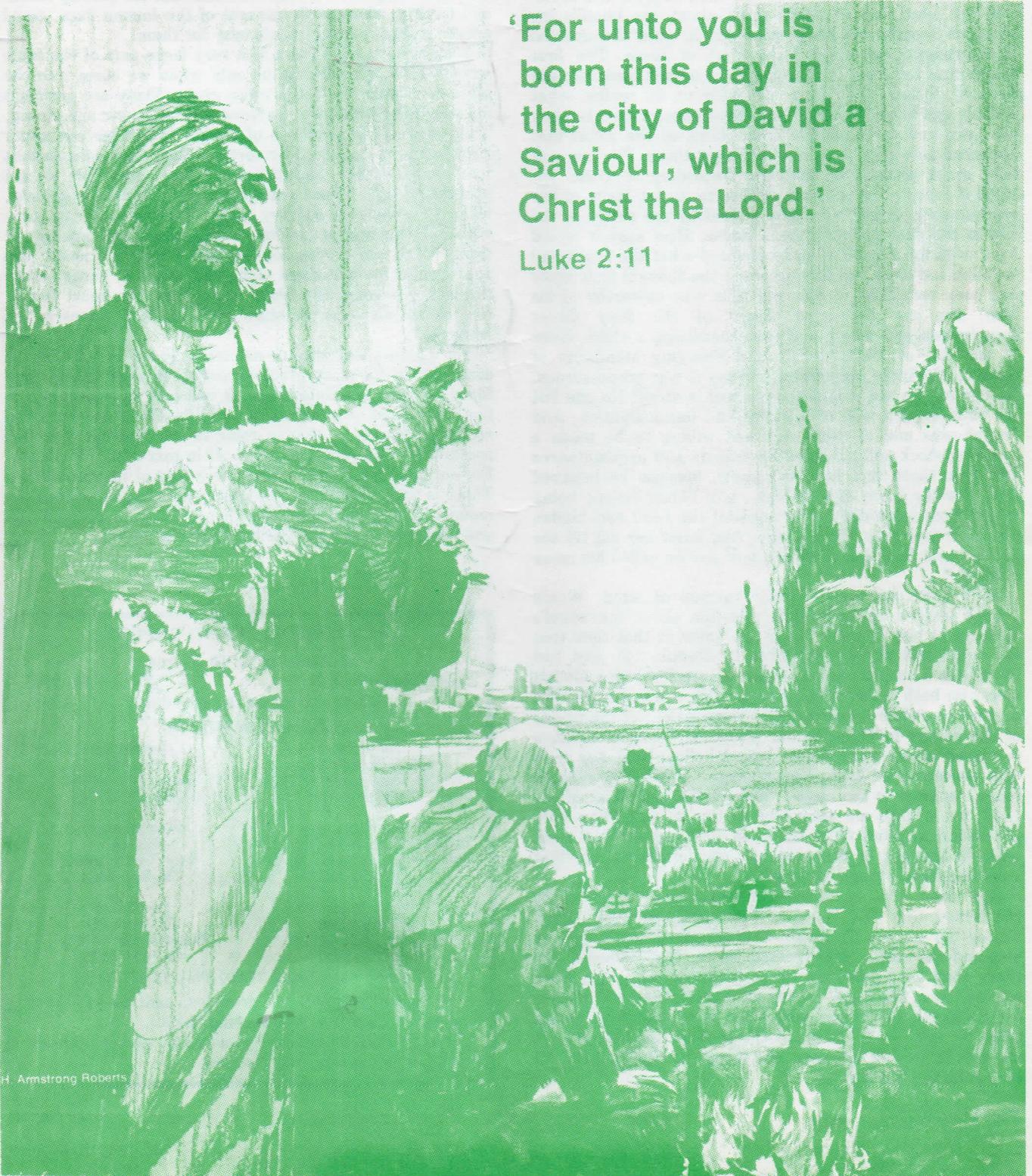
Apostolic Faith

Report

Vol. 24 No. 12

'For unto you is
born this day in
the city of David a
Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.'

Luke 2:11



H. Armstrong Roberts

EDITORIAL

God of Miracles

God is a God of miracles. He specializes in impossibilities. Never did He prove it more than in sending His Son to the earth as the Son of Man; God in a earthly body to redeem man from his sins.

The story of Jesus' birth is one that boggles the mind. Did you ever stop to really think about the humiliating situation Joseph and Mary were put in with the unusual circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The first chapters of Luke and Matthew give us a little peek into the lives of Joseph and Mary and help us to realize what ridicule and suspicion they must have encountered to obey the Lord and to follow the instructions of the angel that appeared unto both of them at different times. The law was very strict about such matters. According to Duet. 22: 13-30 if Joseph had not been willing to accept Mary in her condition she would have been stoned by the elders of the city at the door of her father's house. How easy it would have been for Joseph to have doubted what the angel had told him and have logically accepted the thought that Mary had been unfaithful to him and thus was unworthy of his love. No one had ever heard of the Holy Ghost overshadowing a virgin and thus conceiving a child. Even in our day of loose morals and decaying standards of conduct, the large majority would say it was preposterous. No one but no one would believe such a story! No one but the children of a God of miracles and impossibilities. And Joseph was one of them. He was willing to be made a laughing stock and ridiculed by friends and acquaintances and even those that he didn't know, because he believed God. For the Bible says in Matt. 1:24 "Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

Mary must have had similar turmoil of mind. Would Joseph believe her when she told him about the angel's message to her. I don't believe she knew at that time that the angel had already appeared to Joseph, too, and had given him a special message to reassure him. God always works on both ends of the line when He starts a work. But it takes us awhile to learn of His preparations of the hearts of the others involved in our situation. Mary must have pondered about who, if any, would believe that her child was conceived of God. Nevertheless, Luke 1:38 records Mary's answer to the angel, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." They both proceeded in blind trust to do as God commanded them with no thought of the personal ridicule and gossip that would inevitably come to them.

God does give us witnesses and signs to let it be reaffirmed that His Word is true. And so when Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth, God prepared her to believe also and she said, "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." After all it must have been easier for Elizabeth to believe now since a miracle was taking place for her at this time. In three short months, though she was in her old age now, she would be the mother of a son, John the Baptist.

It seems hard for us to put ourselves in the position that Mary and Joseph were in and realize what they went through. We seem to rationalize that God somehow gave them exceptional immunity to the kind of human feelings we experience. And we seem to think that it's so much harder to have faith and believe in our day. But it isn't. The Bible teaches that even Christ "was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin." Heb. 4:15. If God's own Son was thus tempted, how can we think that his earthly father and mother, along with the rest of the human race, could escape and have things made easy for them.

J. R. Miller said: "There is a very large part of the Bible which can be received by us only when we come into the places for which the words were given. There are promises for weakness which we can never get while we are strong. There are words for times of danger which we can never know while we need no protection. There are consolations for sickness whose comfort we can never get while we are in robust health. There are promises for times of loneliness, when men walk in solitary ways, which never can come with real meaning to us while loving companions are by our side. There are words for old age which we never can appropriate for ourselves along the years of youth, when the arm is strong, the blood warm, and the heart brave. God cannot show us the stars while the sun shines in the heavens."

God's plan of salvation is not free. And it is not easy. It cost heaven its most precious jewel. It cost Joseph and Mary ridicule and humiliation. It will cost us something, in fact it will cost us everything to follow Christ, to buck the stream of humanity that is going in the opposite direction and believe God. But it will pay off in marvelous dividends. For our God is a God of Miracles—a God of Impossibilities. There is nothing too hard for Him to do. He proved it in the manner in which He sent His Son to earth to redeem you and me from sin. Praise His Name forevermore!

nb

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

NAOMI BUSCH Editor

New Office Box 653

Ph 316-856-2626

Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

EDITORIAL BOARD

Bill Hollis
436 Cherokee Ave.
Baxter Spgs., Kans. 66713
316-856-5301

Jack Hopson
Box 568
Butler, Ala. 36904
205-459-3654

Howard Whiteley
1009 Lincoln, P. O. Box 110
Baxter Spgs., Kans. 66713
316-856-3283

Ward Stanberry
Box 145
Katy, Texas 77450
731-371-3464

Doyle Wiles
Rt. 1 Box 226
Decatur, Ark. 72722
501-752-3937

Lee Oakes
Rt. 3 Box 35
Neosho, Mo. 64850
417-451-0175

Jim Fox, Katy, Texas, 77450 (Ph. 731-371-3310)

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A prophetic testimony to the virgin birth

By **FRANK M. BOYD** / *Santa Cruz, California*
(from the Pentecostal Evangel)

AS A TEEN-AGE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER

more than 70 years ago, I often wondered what purpose the long list of names of Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 served. This was especially true since I found them difficult to pronounce, and since so many of the names were repeated in both lists. Why have the genealogy of Jesus in both places?

Of course, genealogical records do have a very important place in Scripture, for they establish the lineage of our Lord Jesus Christ. Luke 3:23-28 shows that Jesus was descended from Adam as the Son of man; Matthew 1:1-17 shows His descent from Abraham, the father of the faithful.

As you look at these lists, you will notice familiar names like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David. In Matthew 1:1-17 you will also find names like Solomon, Coniah (Jeconiah) and Salathiel (Shealtiel). And there is Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Christ.

This is the genealogy of the kingly line, for those who followed David until the Babylonian captivity (Matthew 1:6-11) were kings.

But in this line a very definite prophecy comes, recorded in Jeremiah 22:24-30. It concerns Coniah (shortened form of Jeconiah), an obscure and wicked king of Judah who reigned only three months and was taken captive with his family to Babylon in the second deportation in 598 B.C.

The importance of this prophecy is specially emphasized in Jeremiah 22:29: "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord." This seems to indicate the universal importance and application of this prophecy.

It does indeed stress the verse which follows, which is the prophecy concerning Coniah and guards the truth of the virgin birth.

Verse 30 indicates that Coniah is to be written in the records as if he were childless, although he did have a son Salathiel (Shealtiel), born in Babylonian captivity. The prophecy indicates that no descendant of Coniah would ever sit upon the throne of David "ruling any more in Judah."

Joseph, the foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ, as noted in Matthew 1, is a descendant of Coniah (Matthew 1:12-16) through his father Jacob. The prophecy bars any son of Coniah from "sitting upon the throne of David," and this, of course, would include Joseph. If our Lord were Joseph's literal son, it would bar Him from occupying David's throne. Consequently if Jesus were not born supernaturally of the virgin Mary, He would have no right to the throne—and we would have no Saviour and no coming King.

At this point the genealogical record of Luke 3:23-38 comes in. Here Joseph is seen to be the son of Heli. He could not possibly be the actual son of both Jacob (Matthew 1:16) and Heli (Luke 3:23), so the logical reasoning is that Heli was the father of Mary and that Joseph was the son-in-law of Heli. According to Jewish customs, sons-in-law, foster sons, and adopted sons had the same rights and privileges as full sons.

In Matthew 1 Joseph is descended from Solomon in whom lay the royal line of succession to David's throne. In Luke 3:31 we see another son of David, Nathan; so that Christ, born of the virgin Mary, is actually descended from David through His mother Mary.

But in Mary's line there is no right to the throne; Solomon inherited the royal line. As we have seen, Christ, if He were born of Joseph, would be barred from ascending the throne because of this prophecy concerning Jeconiah in Jeremiah 22:30: "Thus saith the Lord, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah."

The acceptance of Mary's Son by Joseph, according to the instructions of Gabriel, gives Christ the legal right to the throne. And because He was not the actual son of Joseph, He avoids the curse pronounced upon Jeconiah's line. But other prophecies indicate that Messiah is to be David's son. So the union of the two lines of Solomon and Nathan through Joseph and Mary completely fulfills the prophecies; Christ avoids the curse on Coniah's line and becomes heir to the throne by the union of the lines of Joseph and Mary.

Thus the great truth of the virgin birth is authenticated and guarded. This truth is a vital article of our Christian faith, and God has wonderfully ordained the fulfillment of these marvelous prophecies in a way which strengthens our faith.



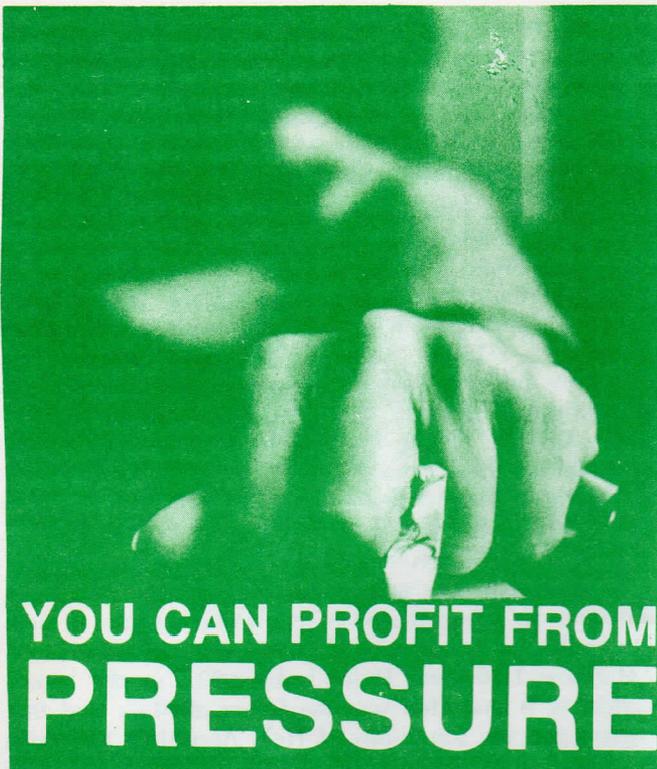


Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

PRESSED OUT OF MEASURE

Pressed out of measure, and pressed to all length;
 Pressed so intensely it seems beyond strength;
 Pressed in the body, and pressed in the soul;
 Pressed in the mind till the dark surges roll.
 Pressure by foes, and pressure by friends—
 Pressure on pressure till life nearly ends.

Pressed into knowing no helper but God;
 Pressed into loving the staff and the rod;
 Pressed into liberty where nothing clings,
 Pressed into faith for impossible things;
 Pressed into tasting the joy of the Lord;
 Pressed into living a Christ-life outpoured.

—Author Unknown

For many years scientists have been aware that the gem of gems, the diamond, was fashioned in deposits of carbon by extreme pressure of the earth's inward forces. This was demonstrated a few years ago when General Electric announced the development of a "successful synthesis of diamonds" which took pressure of more than 1,500,000 pounds per square inch at temperatures of 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit for hours at a time.

The principle of pressure is found in every aspect of natural life, for it holds the secret of power. Coal, produced by pressure upon an accumulation of dead leaves and vegetation, operates huge factories. Raging torrents wear crevasses and form beautiful waterfalls. Stored reservoirs

of water generate mighty dynamos.

Life itself depends on pressure. A butterfly can gain strength to fly only when it is allowed to push itself through the walls of its cocoon. Even the minutest seed must burst to bring forth new life. Pressure applied at the right spot can stop the flow of blood from an arterial cut and save a life.

Strength is developed through pressure. You would not receive any water from the faucet or sufficient gas to warm your home or cook a meal if it were not for pressure. Underground pressure can cause a mighty artesian stream of life-giving water to gush forth.

This thought of pressure applies also in spiritual matters. If extreme pressures are needed to form a diamond, can we wonder that God allows the heat to be turned on when He desires to develop jewel-like qualities in us?

Pressure can either make us or break us. The pressures of the world, of temptation, of persecution, and even of life itself, when yielded to, will overwhelm the soul and cause one's spiritual usefulness to cease.

We read, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." Samson was pressed by Delilah until he revealed the secret of his strength. Peter felt confident of his love for his Master, but in the hour of testing denied his Lord. And today an alarming number of our nation's hospital beds are occupied by people who have not been able to stand personal problems, financial difficulties, or nagging irritations.

Thank God, though we are forced to say with Paul, "We are pressed out of measure" (2 Corinthians 1:8), we need not lose our equilibrium if we keep our eyes on the Lord. When Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted, He returned full of power.

Instead of breaking, we can yield ourselves to God and His will (Romans 6:13). By being submissive as clay in the hands of the potter, we can resist with counterpressures of the Holy Spirit. Recognizing and appropriating God's strength in the time of pressure will win the battle. A life of self-discipline is a wonderful asset in the crucial hour.

Although some break or explode under pressure, other great souls are compressed into more useful and valuable instruments for God. Job cried, "When he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

"Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified...that Jesus was the Christ" (Acts 18:5). Oh, to be pressed into witnessing by the overwhelming knowledge of the power and deity of Jesus!

Jesus said in Luke 16:16: "The kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." It takes effort to achieve a place of greatness. It takes faith to enter the kingdom.

Paul was constrained to win souls - he was fired by an urgency and a sense of responsibility! He declared, "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). Are we under the same pressure to serve and to bear the fruit of righteousness?

Some folk seem to have a higher pressure point than others - they have fortified themselves with prayer, the Word, and a disciplined Christian life, and it takes more pressure to disturb them. But when the pressure comes, let each remember that Jesus knows just how much it will take to make us, and He will not allow more than we are able to bear!

—Full Gospel Fellowship

AFBC NEWS

From The Boys Dorm

This school year is half over with and it seems like just yesterday some of us were meeting for the first time. We have all makes and models in the school and everyone of us have different backgrounds, but thanks to the Grace of God we have had many enjoyable times together. We have had valleys to cry about and also those glorious mountain tops to shout about. Hallelujah!!! We have all enjoyed the presence of the Lord in our midst and even during our trials and temptations. Even though we are from different parts of these United States we still have some of the same problems and many times someone will have a problem that someone else has already gone through, so we can help to realize that through all things we should give praise to God.

We would like to give a vote of thanks to Ruthie Arnall, Karen Oakes and Wanda Allgood for the delicious cakes, cookies, and pickled okra that they so willingly fixed for us at the boys' dorm. I am sure I can speak for the whole dorm when I say, thank you very much and may God bless everyone of you.

As I said if it wasn't for the grace of God we wouldn't be as close as we are or we wouldn't be as we are now. Here is a poem entitled "Thanks to the Grace of God."

I am not all I hope to be;
There're paths I've never trod
But I'm not what I used to be
Due to the Grace of God.
And I'm not what I ought to be,
But seeing lost souls plod
I cry aloud, "Lord, there go I
But for the Grace of God".
God knows I'm not what I once was;
"Lord, use Thy chastening rod
'Til I become what you have planned,
Thanks to the Grace of God."

Remember to always pray for us that the Lord will bless us and teach us what He wants us to know and what He wants us to do in His service. God bless all of you.

In His Service,
Rip Yocham, Student

NOTICE

Cassette tapes on subjects taught by the instructors of the Apostolic Faith Bible College will be made available by January 1, 1978. These include:

**Doctrine I and II by Jake Pletcher
Prophecy I and II by Jerome Crowhurst
History by Lyndel Arnall
Child & Youth Evang. by Yvonna Whiteley
Evangelism by Howard Whiteley**

**For a list of the available tapes contact:
Lyndel Arnall
P.O. Box 110
Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713
Phone: 316-856-3986**

FREE UPON REQUEST AS THE LORD PROVIDES.

From The Superintendent

Dear Friends in Christ:

It is with pleasure we come to each of you through the Report. I wish we could sit down and talk to each one of you individually but this can't be done.

The Lord has been so good to us this year at Bible School. We actually stand amazed at His bountiful answers to our prayers and needs. He has gone far beyond our greatest expectations. Words can't express our thanks for the way in which you individually and as a group have stood behind the school with your finances this year. As a result, many needed repairs have been done even since school has been in progress.

School will soon be history for another year. By the time this Report is in your hands, only test days will remain and then the closing exercises. I wish you could have been here and sat in our services . . . for week after week God has blessed . . . anointing and pouring out His blessings. You would have been encouraged to witness the spiritual growth that has transpired in the lives of numerous students.

We desire your prayers for these young people as they seek God's will for their lives. It's an enormous task to find the Perfect Will of God. Often God allows us to do things we desire but it is not His will for our life. So, intercede for them that God will reveal His desire for their lives.

The next payment due on our land note will be in February in the amount of \$6400. So far around \$2000 has been sent in for this purpose. We do appreciate your interest and concern in every phase of the school.

Please continue to remember us in your faily prayers as we begin to prepare for our spring tour and for next year's term of Bible School. Only with God's wisdom and guidance will our school be the success that lifts Christ high and glorifies His name.

In Christian service,
Howard Whiteley, superintendent

From The Girls Dorm

The girls' dorm here at the Apostolic Faith Bible College has now really become home to many of our fine Christian young ladies. They can spend all day in classes and other activities, but the real learning and living many times takes place right here in our home.

It is here we relax and let our hair down so to speak and it is here we reach out to one another for help and strength. When one has a problem, there is always someone who will stop and listen to her and most of all, someone who is willing to pray with her.

We also want to praise the Lord for the blessings that have been received and victories that have been won in our recent tarry services here at school. The Lord has really blessed every one who has given of themselves in this way. We saw one saved and several who prayed through to deeper experiences such as sanctification and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We thank Him because He never leaves us wanting or needy if we'll just reach out to Him.

Thank you to each of you who prayed for us here at school and have sought the Lord for our needs.

Yours in His Service,
Paula Buschman, Dean of Women



Ashland, Mississippi

God has been so very good to us and we have felt the warmth of His Spirit in our midst. We spent a very busy summer with nine weeks of revival and we thank God for allowing us the privilege of ministering in these different areas. But one thing is common wherever you go. People are hungry for the "Old time Gospel Message." Yet it is very much up-to-date in meeting our needs.

Our attendance is showing a steady growth and we are thankful for the new people God has sent our way. Our youth group is meeting on Wednesday nights now and we have been having from 50 to 55. It's a beautiful sight to see that number of young people at an altar of prayer at the close of the service each week. And we thank God for their lives and for their witness in the schools and the community. The adults of our church have been so faithful to back and support our youth and we appreciate their lives. We all need one another as we labor for the Lord.

We are planning a Thanksgiving banquet and our youth group will be serving tables for the adults as a way of saying "Thanks" for all they've done for us, but most of all "Thanks" for God's great love He has bestowed on each one of us.

Our Sunday evening messages on the Home and Family and God's Plan of Salvation have been outstanding and have helped each of us to draw nearer to God. It's our daily life that counts. Remember us in your prayers as we labor here.

Jim Arnall, Pastor

Beaver, Oklahoma

We of the Beaver Apostolic Faith Church are now meeting and conducting services in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Different ministers have been preaching for our Sunday services. We extend a cordial welcome to the ministers of the faith to come and minister to us at any time. The Lord has blessed us as Brother M. D. Methvin has been ministering to us on Thursday nights.

Katy, Texas

We praise the Lord for His Spirit we have felt throughout this month. We thank Him for meeting the spiritual needs of our church family during our revival held by Brother Harrol Waterbury. A chain prayer and fast held by our church family added to its spiritual success. We enjoyed the spiritual awakening and refreshing of these services. We also thank the Lord for sending Sisters Vicki Bartel, Molly Lewis, Patty Mears, and Dennis Barker, and Brother Mark Mitchell to visit and share in our services.

Jim Fox, Pastor

Taneyville, Missouri

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy name.

We are grateful for the Spirit of the Lord that has been present in our services. We are thanking the Lord for our dedicated workers in our church, Bro. & Sis. Winston Barker, Sis. Shari Cook, Grace Beeler and many of our own church people. God has really blessed those that have put forth any effort for Him.

November has been a great time for our church, the first week Bro. & Sis. Calvin Springer were in a revival with us. People were saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit. Also a great miracle happened in the life of one young man, for this we Praise the Lord. November 8-10 we enjoyed a great time in the Lord at the Fellowship Convention at Webb City, Missouri. Our annual feet washing service on Thanksgiving eve is always a great time in the Lord.

The Taneyville church is looking forward to the Holy Convocation. We would like to invite you to come and worship the Lord with us. God bless all of you.

Bro. & Sis. Winston Barker, Pastors

Pattison, Texas

In August, we had a visitation evening in which several laymen visited homes in the area, distributing tracts and inviting people to the upcoming revival. A week of fasting and prayer was conducted in preparation for the revival. Bro. and Sis. Ray Michner held our revival. Two were saved and many spiritual needs met during the revival. A baptismal service was held the last Sunday of the revival and two were baptized. Scotty Forbes from Joplin, Missouri was with us during the revival.

On September 25, a musical band from Spring, Texas ministered to us in word and song. Their testimonies and their enthusiasm was an inspiration to us. We had lunch at the church after the service. The Lord blessed us all and we had a nice fellowship together.

We would like to thank Bro. Terry Mathis for being our substitute preacher these past two weeks of October while we were in revival at Joplin, Missouri. Good reports were received concerning these home services.

Doris Scruggs, Reporter

John Scruggs, Pastor

Granby, Missouri

Through this last month, the Spirit of the Lord has continued to bless each of us. We thank the Lord for making His Spirit known in our service at Carter's Rest Home. We received a great blessing from the service in which Brother Jake Pletcher ministered from the Word and Brother Mike Brening ministered in song. We were also happy for Rip Yokum and Fred Arnall to share in our services. We enjoyed hearing these young men and the rest of the A.F.B.C. choir in concert at Joplin, Missouri. May the Lord bless them. We want to thank Brother Sonny Brown for ministering to us and sharing his experience from the mission fields. We were blessed as Brother Jacob Regier held a Bible conference sharing Bible lessons with our congregation. We are now preparing a Living Nativity Scene for the Christmas Season to share Christ's birth with our fellow brethren.

Edwin Waterbury, Pastor

Perryton, Texas

Two of our young people, Sue Brooks and Steve Apple, recently followed the Lord in water baptism. November 9-13 Bro. J. D. Ray was in a Bible Conference at the Liberal Apostolic Faith Church. He spoke in the evening service and Sis. Eula spoke to the ladies each morning at 10:00 a.m. Our church was greatly blessed by Bro. J.D.'s and Sis. Eula's ministry the first week in November.

November 20th, The Seekers were in concert at our church. Joe Randolph is a member of this group. We were blessed by their singing. November 14-20 the Harrol Waterbury's were in a revival in Katy, Texas. Sis. Barbara and Michael got to accompany Bro. Harrol on this trip. Bro. Dewey Flock was in charge of the regular services here while they were gone.

Harrol Waterbury, Pastor

Purcell, Missouri

We are so thankful for God and His great love to humanity. The Lord has been blessing us and we are seeing an increase in attendance in our services. We appreciated Brother Jerome Crowhurst filling in for us while we went to Dallas, Texas to visit an invalid brother. The folks enjoyed the good messages he brought very much.

George Hintergardt, Pastor

Enid, Oklahoma

Our thanks to Sis. Mitchell (Thelma) Modrick for presenting the church with a beautiful communion set. We are grateful for this much needed and thoughtful addition to our church.

Bro. & Sis. McCance are doing a great job as our new pastors. Our attendance is up some and we are encouraged in the Lord. We had a Halloween party at the parsonage which resulted in a good time of fun and fellowship for all ages. The ladies group is planning a fund raising bake and craft sale in December at a local bank. We are looking forward to having a quartet from the Bible School on December 11 for services. May God bless you all and help us all to be faithful unto His Coming.

David McCance, Pastor
Sue Phares, Reporter

Wimberly, Texas

Darrel Eugene Sutton writes that he and his family attend the Wimberly Christian Church, a non-denominational full-gospel church, in Wimberly, Texas. They are presently without a pastor and would like to extend an open invitation to any minister or group of ministers which the Lord might lead to visit them for services. He states that anyone, whom the Lord may lead, can call him collect at his home number to make arrangements. (512) 847-9934. An evening call would be best.

Darrel Eugene Sutton
Box 284, Wimberly, Texas

OPEN FOR CALLS

Bob Russell
P. O. Box 110
Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713
Phone 316-856-9620

Tom Day
P. O. Box 293
Baxter Springs, Kansas
Phone: 316-856-3825

DEADLINE!!

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

I wish to express my appreciation to Marcia Turner for her most capable help in the Report office the past two and one-half months. We have been preparing the Parham Family memorabilia for display at the AFBC Chapel. This task would have been next to impossible without her help. May God bless you, Marcia. Be sure and stop by the display cases when you visit AFBC.

ED.



Wedding Announcements

Florinda Jane Girouard, daughter of Mrs. Elmajean Stump and Mr. Robert Wayne Girouard, and David Lee Clark were united in marriage on Saturday, November 19, 1977, at 7:00 in the evening at the First Assembly of God Church in Manteca, California.

Rhonda Mahan, daughter of Paul and Marilyn Mahan of Malibu, California, and Curtis Hamner were united in marriage on Saturday, November 12, 1977, in a beautiful church wedding in Fullerton, California. They are the new youth directors in a church in Rialto, California.

Beverly Loretta Spence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Spence of Houston, Texas, and Murray Wayne Roth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip I. Roth of North Forest, Texas, were united in marriage on October 15, 1977, at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, Texas. The couple will reside in Houston, Texas.



Golden Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Lyford Freeman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at the Gospel Tabernacle of Granby, Missouri, September 4, 1977. They are the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Virginia Lentz of Pierce City, Missouri, and Mrs. Dixie Largen of Billings, Montana. They have 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Their daughters and granddaughters hosted the event.

HOW TO RELAX

By IAN R. HALL

*Running here, dashing there, tension building everywhere.
What a rat-race life's become—no rest stop beneath the sun!
Pressing on this weary road, we cry to God to lift our load,
Then with a wondrous breath of peace He takes the pressure, gives release.*

TENSION IS ONE of the greatest problems facing 20th-century man. For all the material affluence surrounding him modern man is probably the most neurotic, unhappy, and dissatisfied individual to have walked the face of the earth. Instead of increasing his ability to cope with life, man's multiplied inventions have lowered his resilience by insulating him from the normal stresses of living. Having lost his elasticity of spirit, man is unable to bounce back when the going gets rough: he just cracks instead.

The celebrated Canadian nerve specialist, Dr. Hans Selye, unequivocally names stress and tension as the root causes of most disease. Not only does the pace of life today increase the toll which nervous disorders are taking of young and old, but also the accompanying tension reduces the body's ability to fight physical disease. Worry beads and fidget stones are current countermeasures for the battle of life, indicative of the sorry state people are now in.

After a metal bar is stretched, it will regain its size and shape when released. However, once the point of elasticity is passed, it is permanently distorted; it suffers from metal fatigue. The slightest increase in tension above its tensile strength will snap it. Too many lives are already suffering from spiritual fatigue and are in acute danger from any increase in strain. The only hope of regaining that internal elasticity is to learn how to relax.

PHYSICALLY. Some people find physical relaxation by taking steam baths, others in massage. More athletic types prescribe jogging, golf, or volleyball as sure ways of easing tension. Their more sedentary counterparts prefer systematic relaxation of each part of the body while occupying the favorite armchair. Whatever method is adopted, one thing is sure: unless we learn to relax our bodies, we will be unable to get the best results from them.

A legendary saint was rebuked by a young zealot for playing with a puppy. He replied: "As you re-

lease the string of your bow that it might retain its strength, even so must a man relax in order to keep his strength."

"Your body," Paul declares, "is the temple of the Holy Ghost" (1 Corinthians 6:19). As such we must care for it by allowing it adequate relaxation.

MENTALLY. Unfortunately many find their mental tensions prevent them from relaxing physically. The tragic toll which nervous and mental breakdowns are taking of the ablest minds indicates how serious is this problem of mental relaxation. We live in such a hurly-burly of noise that we have lost sight of the value of quietness. God says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30:15). To relax our minds we need to seek a quiet place free from distraction. Then we must deliberately take our minds off the tension-creating situations that engross us. The easiest way to do this is by concentrating on something else.

Paul's prescription was: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things" (Philippians 4:8, NASB). By filling our minds with relaxing Christlike thoughts we can expel injurious stress thoughts.

SPIRITUALLY. Probably the greatest cause of tension is disharmony with God. The internal churning produced by sin will shatter one's peace of mind. "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isaiah 57:20, 21). So much tension is produced by conflict between our wills and the actual course of events. True spiritual relaxation comes through the surrender of the life in every part to Jesus Christ. "When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?" (Job 34:29). When Christ is really known as Saviour and Lord, the yielded life is filled with peace, quietness, and tranquillity; tension, stress, and nervousness pass away. Christ promised: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. . . . Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

To face up to the hectic pressure of the 20th-century living we must learn how to relax. Clearly in His Word God has given His people the key: "Great peace have they which love thy law" (Psalm 119:165).

—Elim Evangel, London

GRACE

Ed Modrick

Genesis 6:8 "But Noah found **GRACE** IN THE EYES OF THE Lord."

GRACE — Chen (Hebrew) - pronounced khane - favor or kindness

Noah survived a universal flood and became the key figure in the beginning of a new era of human history.

Genesis 6:3 states "God's spirit would not always strive with men." Noah was 480 years old at this time. Mankind went on a 150 year probation. Noah was given a blue print for the ark. Noah was experienced with five centuries under his belt. The qualifications being met, however, were spiritual. He found favor in the eyes of God. He was righteous and perfect in his generation.

Genesis 6:9 . . . "and Noah walked with God." Genesis 2:5 reminds us that God had not caused it to rain upon the earth. In the Hall of Fame Chapter (Hebrews 11), Noah is mentioned as a man of faith. (v7) He also endured much scoffing. I Peter 3:20 gives us an interesting context—"while the ark was a preparing."

News of the ridiculous plan of God through Noah probably reached around the globe. He became the laughing stock of the whole world; and he kept on being faithful. After the age of 500, he fathered three sons, built the ark, gathered all the animals, followed all the instructions, and in the year of his 600th birthday entered the ark.

After land was sighted they offered animals as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. (Gen. 8:20) And the Lord was pleased. And Noah lived 350 years after the flood.

Remember our plans to build a new building? I do! You ever get discouraged? I do! You think time passes so slowly? I do! You wonder if and when it will happen? You even try to help God with his plans and eternal schedule? I have! You even become impatient? I have.

LOOK—Noah was 443 years older than I am when he started building. I've been through 6 or 7 major building programs, but never one which lasted 120 years. I've never worked on one that would have to float in something I've never seen. I've never been totally isolated in a wicked generation which constantly made fun of my project for God.

WOW! What an attitude. He probably never griped! I have. He probably never complained. I have! He never became impatient! I do. No wonder he made Who's Who in Hebrews 11! He was blameless in his generation. Think about that! Six hundred—and a blameless life. He never gave up. We will give some of God's best projects a year or two—then give up.

We are a very young, immature body. Sometimes God isn't pleased with the attitudes he sees in us. I am a very young, immature Noah. I know God isn't often pleased with what he sees in the future ark or ark builder.

When God isn't well-pleased with what he sees—he waits, graciously, but he waits. The young must become experienced. The immature must grow up. We must quit thinking and reasoning as children. The best proof of spiritual manhood is when we have put away childish things. When we are grown-up for God—we are done with childish ways and put them aside.

I Cor. 13:11 . . . "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

(from Guymon church bulletin)



Births

Travis Kyle was born October 21, 1977 weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Black of Katy, Texas. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Albert Black of Katy, Texas.

Johnny and Deena Reid of Guymon, Oklahoma, are the proud parents of a son, Cory John, born September 10, 1977. He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Stump and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Reid, all of Guymon, Oklahoma.

Joni Kathryn arrived at the home of David and Jan Paul of Perryton, Texas, on October 20, 1977. She weighed 7 lbs. 13½ oz. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Crum of Perryton, Texas.

Jimmy and Teloa Pearman are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Joshua Kenton, who was born November 1, 1977. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Stanberry of Katy, Texas.

Jeremy James Botter was born to Jimmy and Twanna Botter of Alvin, Texas, November 5, 1977. He weighed 4 lbs. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Stanberry of Katy, Texas. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Stacy Botter of Alvin, Texas.

Ron and Rita Scott of Katy, Texas, announce the arrival of their daughter, Amber Tiffany, on November 1, 1977. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Scott.

Paul and Becky Soles of Galena, Kansas, are proud to announce the arrival of their son, Justin Paul, who was born October 1, 1977. He weighed 9 lbs. 6½ oz. Maternal grandmother is Irene Cole of Galena, Kansas. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Olen Soles of East St. Louis, Illinois.

THE ACT OF WORSHIP by Harold Bollinger

Worship is to be rendered only to God. When given to God, worship involves an acknowledgment of Divine perfection. It may express itself in the form of direct address, as in adoration or thanksgiving, or in service to God; and it may be private or public.

In the Bible public worship is found in four stages of development. The first is the somewhat primitive mode practiced until the building of the Temple. During this time no sharp line was drawn between private and public worship.

In the second stage it became highly organized in the Temple ritual, which indeed had its origin in the Tabernacle set up in the wilderness. It was led by the priests assisted by the Levites and included a complex ritual and system of sacrifices.

The Third stage was that of the synagogue, which began during the Exile. This differed greatly from worship in the Temple. Worship in the Temple was centralized in Jerusalem, whereas the worship in the synagogue was found wherever there were Jews.

The fourth stage of worship was that of the early Christian churches. They were permitted to worship in the Temple and in the synagogue, although for them the whole ceremonial and sacrificial system ended with the death and resurrection of Jesus. Public Christian worship developed along the lines of the synagogue. It appears that from the first, Christians met in homes for private brotherhood meetings, and the time was the Lord's day. (John 20:19-26; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2). Christian public worship consisted of preaching (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 14:19), reading of scripture (James 1:22; Col. 4:16), baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41; I Cor. 11:18-34) and almsgiving (I Cor. 16:1,2). Sometimes there were also prophesyings and tongues.

Praise differs from worship in that praise may accompany worship. A broad term for praise could be words or deeds which exalt or honor God. This is especially true in praising God in song. Some of the Hebrew and Greek words for praise are thanksgiving, blessing and glory, and are often so translated. Not only are we to praise the God of glory, but we are to be to His praise (Eph. 1:6,12).

"To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."

The Hebrew word which is translated worship is *Shachah* (shaw-khaw') and means to homage or bow down, to crouch or fall down (flat) to humbly beseech, to do reverence, make to stoop or worship. An example of this is found in Gen. 22:5. We find it here in the sense of showing reverence to God by physically doing what God had commanded them to do.

"And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you."

In the New Testament, several Greek words are translated as worship. One such example is the word *proskuneo* (pros-koo-neh'-o) meaning to fawn or crouch, to prostrate oneself in homage, to worship. A scriptural example is found in Rev. 4:10,11.

"The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and

ever, and cast their crowns before the throne . . ."

For the purpose of this study we will view some of the physical forms of worship which involve the use of the body. These ways are: kneeling, shouting, clapping our hands, lifting our head, and lifting our hands. Worshipping in any of these ways should involve self abasement and surrender to Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Other ways of worship are found in the Bible, especially worship from the heart. Even as Christ meets the Christians' needs for spirit, soul and body, we find it necessary to worship Him in spirit, soul and body.

KNEELING

Kneeling is one of the most widely accepted forms of bodily worship. It is encouraged in both the Old and New Testament. The Psalmist gives the reason for kneeling or bowing down.

"O Come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand . . ." (Psalms 95:6,7).

1. The Lord if our maker.
2. He is our God.
3. We are the people of His pasture.
4. We are the sheep of His hand.

Here the Psalmist tells us that we worship Him because He is our God and is worthy to be worshipped simply because He is God. Further understanding includes that we worship Him because as His children we are meaningful to Him. We are His people, His sheep.

Isaiah the prophet prophesied that there would come a time when every knee would bow and confess Jesus as Lord. This is also confirmed by the Apostle Paul.

"I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." (Isa. 45:23).

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Rom. 14:11,12).

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:10,11).

SHOUTING

"O clap your hands, all ye people; SHOUT unto God with the voice of triumph." (Psalms 47:1).

We are told here that shouting was not sufficient or significant in itself. We are to shout unto God, and that shout is to be with a voice of Triumph. Triumph means to celebrate victory. What better way to celebrate our victory in Christ than with a Shout.

"And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid." (Ezra 3:11).

"And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again." (I Sam. 4:5).

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" (I Thess. 4:16).

LIFTING OUR HANDS

Lifting our hands is not in itself a sacred or worshipful act. It is when we lift our hands in the name of the Lord. It is an act of surrender to Jesus. It shows courage rather than defeat and is commanded of the Lord. Lifting our hands as any other kind of bodily worship is mockery when not done in sincerity, in honesty and reverence for God. When hands are raised toward heaven in honor to Christ, your blessings will be increased.

"I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." (I Tim. 2:8).

"Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name." (Psalms 63:4).

"And Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:" (I Kings 8:22).

"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;" (Heb. 12:12).

CLAPPING OUR HANDS

Hand clapping has for many years been a part of worship in many churches while others feel it to be a nuisance and an action of disrespect to the time of worship. More recently there has been a trend to give applause to the Lord; this stemmed, no doubt, from some of the ministers who refused to be applauded for a message that they felt was given to them by the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus.

In the study of Israel we find them clapping their hands in pleasure when they were pleased or showing honor.

"And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king." (II Kings 11:12).

Clapping of the hands seems to lose a worshipful tone and become more of a rhythm activity when the congregation claps on every song. Any kind of worship is to be in honor to the Deity and not for our own self-pleasure. When you clap, think seriously why you are clapping and to whom. Clapping our hands is one of the most natural forms of behaviour, especially for the very young, significantly more when they are very happy.

"O CLAP your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph." (Psalms 47:1).

"Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together." (Ps. 98:8).

"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." (Isa. 55:12).

LIFTING OUR HEAD

True believers are people who expect something from their maker. The people of Israel looked longingly for the Messiah. Many of the patriarchs died in faith looking for Christ to come. When Jesus went into heaven, the promise was given by the angel, "... this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11b).

All born again believers today believe that Jesus will return. Many of these believe that His coming shall be

during this dispensation of time. Through the study of prophecy, we are alerted to the many things which will take place prior to the coming of Christ and are seeing them happening on an almost daily basis.

Lifting our head, or lifting our eyes, is a sign of expectation and is a form of worship "even so come Lord Jesus." It is saying we cannot work out every situation on our own and saying 'I acknowledge Jesus, the giver of wisdom', to take care of each problem.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." (Psalms 121:1).

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in." (Psalms 24:7-9).

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35).

WORSHIP IN HEAVEN

In learning to worship, we could watch and adopt the pattern of others who worship, but worship to God should be adopted from the examples found in God's Holy Word.

The Book of Revelation reveals a beautiful, vivid picture of the saints before the throne of God:

"After this I beheld, and lo a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds and people and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen; blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power and might, be unto our God for ever and ever." (Rev. 7:9-12).

A perfect praise to God is a simple statement of Jesus' Lordship and Power. It has been stated that the Holy Spirit can take full control of an individual's life at the manifestation of a perfect praise. The Holy Spirit is the greatest of all teachers and has come into the world to glorify Jesus; therefore, it is the correct thing to do in worshipping the Lord to acknowledge Jesus with tones of worship through the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Now visualize a host of God's people preparing themselves for Christ's return. See these Spirit-filled saints standing in a great outdoor cathedral with hands outstretched and heads raised toward heaven, shouting with great triumph: "JESUS IS LORD!, HIS BLOOD WILL NEVER LOSE ITS POWER!, HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL!, JESUS AND THE WORD ARE ONE AND ENDURETH FOREVER!, THOU ART WORTHY, O LORD, TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOUR AND POWER: FOR THOU HAST CREATED ALL THINGS, AND FOR THY PLEASURE THEY ARE AND WERE CREATED!"

In preparation for His promised return when men may freely worship around the throne of God, Worship Him now. Worship Him in Spirit, in soul and in body.



Season's Greetings

We send our warmest greetings to all our friends and express our sincere appreciation for your generous support during 1977, both in prayers and finances. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness to us. May God richly bless you.
O. A. and Naomi Busch

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