

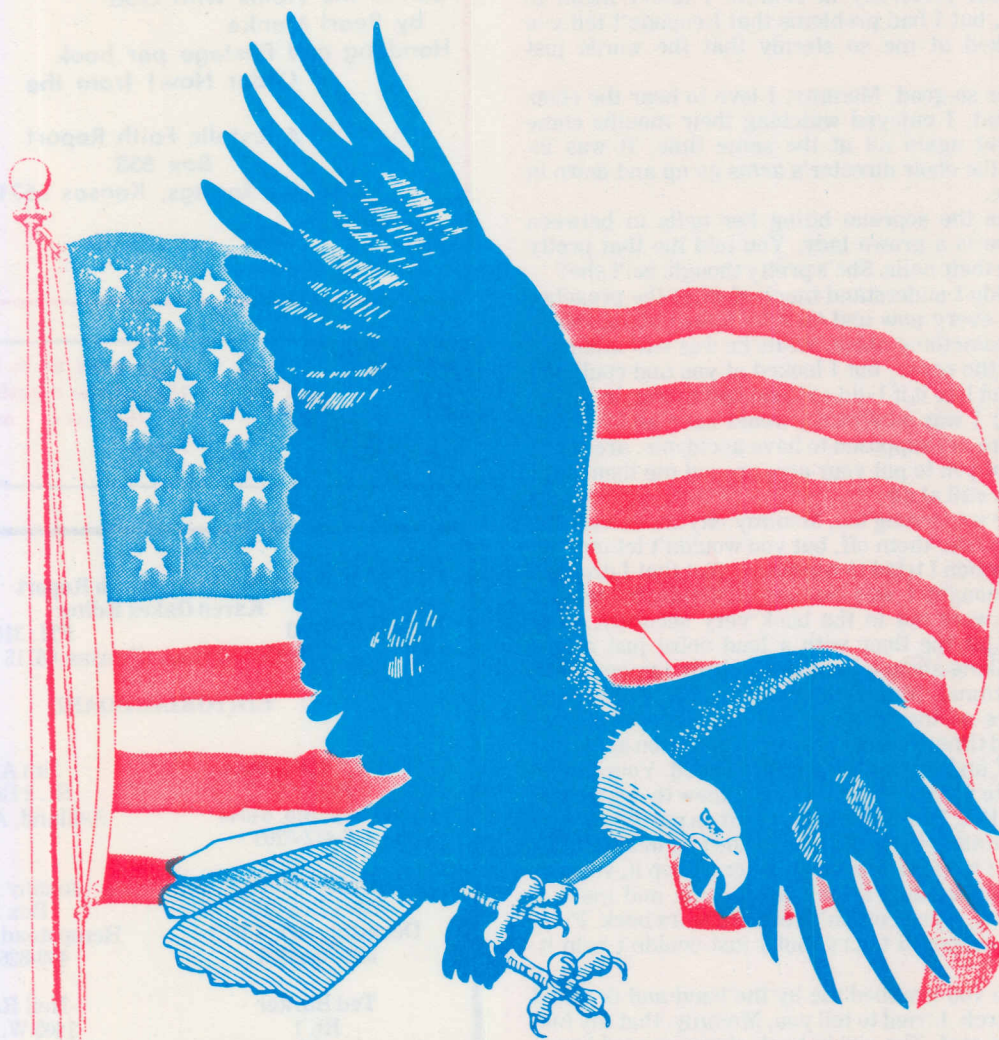
The

Apostolic Faith

Report

July-August 1986

Volume 33 Nos 7 & 8



*“ But they that wait upon the Lord
shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings
as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

DEAR
MOMMY...

FROM A WIGGLER

By IDA M. CLARK

Dear Mommy:

I'm sorry about yesterday in church. I didn't mean to wiggle so much, but I had problems that I couldn't tell you about. You looked at me so sternly that the words just wouldn't come.

The music was so good, Mommy. I love to hear the choir sing. Besides that, I enjoyed watching their mouths come open and go shut again all at the same time. It was interesting to see the choir director's arms go up and down in time to the music.

Did you notice the soprano biting her nails in between songs? I did. She is a grown lady. You told me that pretty ladies never bite their nails. She's pretty though, isn't she?

Of course, I didn't understand much of what the preacher was saying, but every now and then he talked about things that I did know something about. While he was still talking, I wanted to leave the room; but I looked at you and could tell that you would not like it if I did so I just had to wiggle, Mommy-really, I did! I was so afraid I would have an accident. Five-year-olds are not supposed to have accidents, are they? It was so sweet of you to put your arm around me then, but I just couldn't stay still at all.

Something else was wrong too, Mommy. My shoes were too tight. I wanted to take them off, but you wouldn't let me. My feet hurt. It was when I tried to wiggle my feet that I dropped the hymnal. I thought I was holding it firmly by several pages, but they were not in the book very securely, were they? The book hit the floor with a loud noise just as the preacher was talking about bombs. Everybody jumped when I dropped the hymnal. Mrs. Jones, the pianist, accidentally bumped the keys on the piano at the same time. And the pastor had a hard time getting everyone's attention again.

I looked at you, and you looked straight ahead. Your mouth was a straight line across your face, and I knew that you wanted to spank me. But, Mommy, I didn't do it on purpose.

During the invitation hymn, Mommy, the girl in back of us poked me. When I turned around to tell her to stop it, you pinched me. I guess you didn't want to slap me and make a noise, buy Mommy, I just couldn't keep the tears back. Five-year-olds aren't supposed to cry, but I just couldn't help it. That pinch hurt!

That was when you grabbed me by the hand and dragged me out of the church. I tried to tell you, Mommy, that my foot was caught in the seat. The girl in back of me was holding it down tight. It hurt so badly I cried out in pain. You just pulled harder, your face red with embarrassment. My shoe came off, but you didn't stop to get it.

You spanked me on the way home and said that you would never take me to church again.

Don't punish me that way, Mommy, please. I will try so hard to do better next time.

Your loving five-year-old,
"Wiggler"

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To God . . .

A note of thanks

Friends, this is a copy of an article I wrote Sept. 17, 1970.

"I Wake With Peace"

Oh, what a peaceful night for seven hours my mind and body as it were unconscious of the loving kindness and watch care of a Divine Heavenly Father who never slumbers nor sleeps caring for me, neither did I know the full moon in the heavens which the Lord ordained had been dimmed by fog clouds that had crept in upon the sleeping earth. And now I wake to feel the sweet presence of this precious unseen Guest and for two hours before the breaking of a new day I can spend in meditation with a prayerful heart upon Gods Holy Word, concerning "Peace." It seem first I recall the words of the Prophet in speaking of the coming Messiah as the Prince of Peace and as the angel announced his birth there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God in the highest and on earth "Peace" good will toward men. Among the early teachings we find he said, Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God. He brought peace and comfort to all who were oppressed and even the wind and waves obeyed as he spoke "Peace by Still."

We find this recorded when He and some of his disciples were going from one side of the sea to the other.

The multitudes had thronged him and entering the ship He fell asleep. With waves covering the boat from the storm that arose he was wakened by the terrified disciples and soon all was calm. The Holy Word tells us, "Call and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not. I now think of his precious promise before going to heaven. "My Peace I leave with you." "My peace I give unto you," Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid. And men are told to teach others the words he gave unto them and he would be with them unto the end of the world. Oh, praise the Lord, I have had that peace for 60 years and it is flowing on as a river.

The disciples of the Lord are commanded to be at Peace among themselves and as much as lieth within them to live peaceably with all men.

And now Lord I think of a peaceable kingdom with Jesus the "Prince of Peace" when the knowlege of the Lord fills the earth as the waters cover the seas. Peace everywhere. The leopard, wolf and bear will feed and lie down together with the cow, calf, kid and lamb. No harm befall children by the asp or coakatrice. What a blessed thought.

Now on my bed through the window I can see darkness is disappearing and the morning light breaking and it looks so calm and peaceful in Gods great out of doors, not a stir in the tree tops and in the shrub garden not a leaf moving and when fog clouds lift the sun will burst forth helping to ripen the grain, the birds that have not left for a warmer winter home will be warbling their notes of praise the butterfly flitting from blossom to blossom all helping to make it a perfect calm autumn day. Seemingly my whole being has been lifted from an earthly to a heavenly sphere, surrounded and enveloped by Gods wonderful Peace. What blessed tranquility. Now friends, in the year 1986 for 76 years this peace with God and so far as I know with all people has been mine and this gives me blessed hope. In Isa. 32:17 we read, and the work of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever so whether I am alive or in the grave at the return of Christ for his own, is I have this same peace at that time I will be given a new body and a new life yes praise God eternal life in an immortal body. "Hallelujah praised be to God."

Mrs. E.A. Greever

Custs are False Prophets

Enslaving Organizational
Structure

Cults actually bring their followers into pshychological and spiritual slavery. Yet with Christians, belief brings freedom. (John; 8:36). The son shall make you free...or where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 11 Cor.3:17. Paul contends that the strong should support the weak - NOT CONTROL THEM. The religious leader has a solemn obligation to refuse to take advantage of those vulnerable to the dominance of others. I Peter 5:3. When the life of a religious-Christian leader illustrates arrogance, groundless authoritarianism and human imposition, he is representing another Christ than the Christ of the Bible. III John verse 9.

There was a minister in Fayetteville that we knew about that started out great...he had a large church and it was growing...it was a pentecostal church and lots of energy, activity, and truth to help. Then the pastor became puffed-up and began to take too much authority...to ridicule...and soon disharmony. From average 500-600, the church was soon 50.

Cult leaders, however, know their success is directly dependent upon their ability to trap followers into a permanent entanglement. This bond is formed with bonds of Fear. POWER CORRUPTS!

God hates for a person to exercise or become so enamored with power that he causes subjugation of people. (Rev. 2:6-15). So, the religious ascendancy of a group of spiritual elitists over the mass of the people is a program and a belief hated by God.

The cult demands total commitment by its convert to an entangling organization, enmeshing him in an impossible set of human rules. Like a fly, he moves into the web...soon come the spider.

The cultic leaders are super-organizers. It is impossible for a cult to succeed without conserving its gains and enrolling its followers with increasingly demanding obligations to the leader and the organization. The cult is usually represented to the captured devotee as synonymous with the Kingdom of God itself. One of the normal connotations of the word "cultic" is that of passionate devotion to a cause to the point of the irrational. The average cultist is as much a slave to his present religious involvement as he ever was to the sin of his former life.

This was precisely the accusation which Christ leveled at the Pharisees. "Ye bade men with burdens grievous to be borne." (Luke 11:46)

The present-day Children of God demand that their youthful followers rob their parents before disappearing into the folds of this cultic Jesus religion. Organizational initiation is followed by peer group pressure until finally the pitiful devotee is terror-stricken at the prospect of dropping out of his suspicious entanglements.

The ARMSTRONG people have repeatedly announced that ALL OTHERS beside the members of the Worldwide Church of God are lost for eternity. The JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES claim the same. They are exerting pressure for membership alligence.

The Christian has been delivered from all such nonsense. He knows that the Word LOYALTY is only applicable in a final sense when applied to our relationship to Jesus. The devotion that Christians have for one another is in loving response to the indwelling Holy Spirit not submission to an enslaving external organization.

Financial Exploitation

New Testament scriptures teach us that salvation is a free gift from God. (Rom. 6:23; Rom. 3:24) God's word teaches us that NO WORKS of any kind will give us salvation. Paul says "not of works lest any man should boast."

Cults teach that money contributed to the cause will buy privilege or gifts or powers for the followers...even escape

the many purgatories in this world and the next.

In the financial structure of the average cult tithing is but the beginning. Then comes the real pressure as the follower is exploited to the point of economic exhaustion. Enamored of his new spiritual leader, the head of the house forgets the clear teaching of Scripture. "If any provides NOT for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." I Tim. 5:8.

The consequence is that conscienceless religious leaders have provided for themselves massive homes, spacious estates, and large holdings in the commercial world. Some of them that walk uprightly." Psa. 84:11.

Armstrong presses his followers to triple-tithe for the support of his cult. How else could private jets be purchased and operated for his personal use in the keeping up of his image?

It is fair to say that an almost universal characteristic of the cults is an insatiable financial appetite by the leadership. They cruelly dangle their followers over the fires of hell as the punishment for NOT giving large amounts of money to them.

The false religions of the world are characterized by lavish temples, overlaid with gold and studded with diamonds. Most of them stand in the midst of a sea of poverty which the cults themselves have caused.

Denunciation of Others

When one announces himself as the true Messiah, all others of course, are false and must be put down. Some of the most bitter imprecations in print are the scathing calumny of cultic messiahs upon all who do NOT believe their views and join their organizations.

Mostly they refuse to appear in public debate or answer questions from perceptive Christian scholars concerning the nature of their faith. Expressing their persecution complex, they denounce all alternative views as being satanic and corrupt.

When relatives of a young man confronted a leader of THE WAY with questions, the leader became so roth that he began cussing. Later he gave explanations enough to still convince the young man that THE WAY was The Way to believe.

True Christians are forbidden to judge one another (Rom. 14:13) and are given the liberty to be persuaded in their own minds as to how to live unto the Lord. (Rom. 14:5)

The cultic attitude is a fearful contrast. Herbert Armstrong says: "There is ONLY one word that is preaching the true gospel of the kingdom of God...the rule and the reign of God...to the nations. This is that work. then those who have their part in this work and are converted must constitute the Church of God!...Every other work rejects the message of Jesus Christ or else rejects His rule through His laws. There is NO exception..."

Jehovah's Witnesses state: "God will destroy all false religion soon. God has given the world's religions a long time to prove what they are..."

By this they mean that ALL OTHER RELIGION'S points of view except that of the Jehovah's Witnesses are condemned.

The sincere Christian will conduct himself very carefully when it comes to criticism of others. Scripture tells us that the work of God is carried on by many individuals and no one of whom can claim a corner on the market.

We are therefore reminded in Scripture that one is guilty of the most forbidden kind of arrogance when he presumes to judge the activity of his brothers who labor for the Lord. "Who are thou that judgest?" (Rom. 14:4) "Why dost thou judge thy brother?" (Rom. 14:10).

We are often warned in Scripture to be very suspicious of those who first calling seems to be to produce divisions within the Church of Christ. When grievous wolves from the outside enter in, or when from the ranks of Christians there are those who arise "speaking perverse things." Acts. 20:30. There are bound to be those who turn their attention from the things of the Lord to a new fascination with the provocative words of

an aspiring human leader.

Much unsettlement has been caused in the ranks of Christians by those with pretended convictions who demand a hearing and who are often purveyors of a new discovery of truth. Therefore, the Apostle Paul earnestly exhorted, "Now I beseech you, brethern, MARK them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve NOT our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." Rom. 16:17-18.

by Yvonna Whiteley

Worthless Checks

"THREE AND A HALF million dollars! That's a large check. May I pick it up..."

"Certainly," the banker I was visiting, replied. So I Picked up the check. No policemen were near. I could have bolted out the door with it.

But the bank official was unconcerned-the check hadn't been endorsed.

Without the signature of the authorized officer at the company to whom the check was made, it was just another piece of paper!

It is thus with our salvation. God's check has been made out to each of us. But this check can be cashed only through personal repentance and faith. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

No bank will cash a check that hasn't been endorsed-nor will God cash His check made out to each individual for full salvation unless that individual personally "signs" it by placing his faith in the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Charles Ludwig

Our Miracle Working God

We serve a miracle working God. The creation story is about the first miracle ever performed on the earth. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1. The word create in this verse comes from the Hebrew word, "bara" and means to speak into existence; to bring into the entity from non-entity. All God had to do on each day was to say, "Let there be" and name the creation of that day and it was done. All things which God created in this first week or the creation week were good. A miracle is a wonder or marvel deviating from the known laws of nature; something transending of knowledge of these laws.

Then there is the miracle of the burning bush. "Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the backside of the deser, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." Also read verses 4-10. Certainly it was a marvel deviating from the known laws of nature. Moses was instructed to take his shoes off. This was only a symbol for you and I to know we must remove the things of earth which we have collected from day to day as we walk through this world. We cannot stand clean

before God with particles of dust and dirt from this earth upon even our shoes. But Moses desired to look into this fact that the bush was not consumed by the fire. When he got rid of the world contaminated shoes he could hear the Lord from the midst of the miracle. So many people see and hear of miracles often but fail to understand because of strings still holding to something on this earth. A miracle often doubted by people who do not know the power of our God is of the Red sea crossing. Many think the water at the crossing was not over knee deep but just a look at the other parts of the story in scripture would change their views. The water was deep enough that when the Israelites came to it they were afraid. The sea was before them and the Egyptians were behind them. God parted the waters of the Red sea (read Exodus 14:23-27) "And the waters returned and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on the right hand, and on the left." Exodus 14:28-29.

We might wonder when we consider the number of people who left Egypt "How could the wilderness support 3,000,000 people for 40 years?" It could not have been done except by the hand of God. (Page 146 Halleys Handbook) These continuous miracles are in accord with the entire Bible. The purpose of the Wilderness miracles, we may think, was to pave the way for a coming Messiah, but aside from various accompanying miracles the transplanting of a whole great nation, bodily, from one land to another, meanwhile maintaining it 40 years in the wilderness was in itself one of the most stupendous miracles of the ages.

Another outstanding miracle of the Old Testament happened at Jericho. As Joshua led the people of Israel around the walls of that city for the sixth time in one day those walls were as strong as when they went around on that first time. I can just imagine some one saying "Oh, no, not again" then when that time around was finished and the walls still stood as before don't you suppose some of the people could have murmured "My feet are tired; all that walking for nothing." Well, they were just people like we are today but their task was not finished. The Lord had said "And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn," and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down falt, and the people shall ascent up every man straight before him." (Joshua 6:5) Joshua 6:20 says "The wall fell down flat." An archaeological note in Halley's Handbook pages 159-161 says evidence shows the wall indeed fell down flat; "The two walls were about 15 feet apart; the outer wall about 6 feet thick, the inner wall about 12 feet thick, both were about 30 feet high and linked together by houses built across the top." The archaeology shows the outer wall fell outward and down the hillside, dragging the inner wall and houses with it. The streak of adobe bricks gradually get thinner down the slope.

God saw the weakness and willfulness of man soon after He made Adam and it was apparent of the need for a sinless one to be a sacrifice to buy back the creation satan had stolen from a merciful God. But the miracle of performing this great task was not instantaneous. The nation of Israelites first had to be formed and in so doing they had some growing pains to cope with and learn to lean on God for the knowledge to outgrow their difficulties.

As a part of their education God gave them the law at Mount Sinai and the Levitical Priesthood, but this was a time of learning the lessons of obedience.

Then the time came for the Messiah to come and make the supreme sacrifice for the man He had helped to make of the dust. There was a young virgin Jewish Maiden, a descendant of David, though she was very young she was engaged to a young carpenter in Nazareth, also a descendant of David.

Read Luke 1:23-35. According to verses 34-35 Mary was perplexed. The word "overshadowed" pictures a cloud; perhaps like the Shekinah-glory of God that appeared to be His train filling His temple, Isaiah 6:1. John saw in his vision in Revelation 15:8 the glory of God filling the temple and it appeared to be smoke, as young as Mary was she understood this and knew it had to be the power of God. In the culture of Mary's day, young girls were betrothed as soon as she entered womanhood and married before the year was out. She probably was not over 14 or 15 years old when Jesus was born. (This was taken from a short article by Marjorie Holmes written for a Christmas folder.) This indeed is a miracle -- a marvel diviating from the known laws of nature.

Jesus did many outstanding miracles while He was on earth and of those the greatest in my estimation was His resurrection from the dead and the grave. In John 11:25 Jesus was talking to Martha and said, "...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." What a glorious promise "Because I live, you shall live also." This Jesus who gave over thirty-three years time away from His place at the throne in heaven then suffered death on the cross that He might prove to mortal man "Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father." (John 10:17-18). Yes, if we serve Him in this life we can expect to live again with Him though eternity.

John writes of an amazing sight brought to his attention when he and Peter came to Jesus' grave on that resurrection morning. John outran Peter so he was first to look into the empty tomb. He saw the linen grave clothes there on the shelf where Jesus body had been placed. When Peter arrived they both went into the sepulchre then John saw the napkin that had been around Jesus head but it was rolled up in a place by itself. One writer expressed in Beacon Commentary that the meaning of "wrapped together" means turbin like just as it had been wrapped around the head. This is another evidence of resurrection. If someone had taken or stolen His body as was reported, they would have taken clothes and all.

When John saw all this he believed; Thomas said he would not believe without seeing Jesus wounds. Jesus answered, "...Thomas, because thou hast see Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29).

There are some people of today who say the day of miracles is past and still others who say "How come we don't see miracles today like they did in the Bible times?" Many do not see miracles because they are not expecting one. Others do not see miracles because they have not asked God for one -- perhaps because of unbelief.

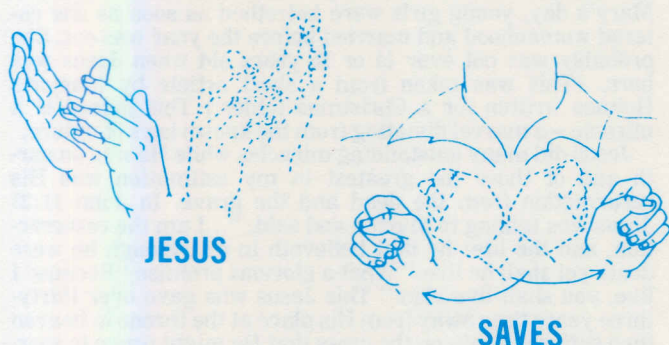
We read in Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Many miracles come from the hand of God today and we could see more if we just learn to lean completely on Him instead of turning to Him only as a last resort. There are miracles of various kinds depending on whatever the needs of the recipient. Sometimes we may need a healing for the body but we may need a special healing for the soul. But a very special miracle just as real today as it was many years ago is the changing of a heart of sin to one governed by the Christ.

"For as much as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart." II Corinthians 3:3.

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people." Hebrews 8:10.

by Dora Beydler

SIGNING



"The Afar Off Ministry"

It's becoming more and more evident daily that we're living in the "end times." Apostasy is stronger than ever, war and rumors of war are here, the list is endless but we as Christians have a duty. It's a commanded duty to go out and preach the gospel to every creature. In literal senses, no one person has the ability to preach and reach every creature. Yet, each one of us has our part of the message. A lot of people think that they don't have the ability to do the Lord's work. But praise God none of us do without His love. All we have to do is be available, God is the ability. And that's what we need availability for the kingdom of God! I want to deal with one of the most, if not the most neglected ministries in the world today. This is commissioning is to the deaf.

Consider this: God hath made every one of us; the blind, the crippled, the seeing, the deaf, etc...(Gen.1, Ex.4:11). Scripture says that every creature of God is good and beautiful in His sight. No matter the infirmity (ies) in our lives, we are all creatures of God. Therefore, why can't we realize the need. Less than 1 percent of all the hearing ministers in the world today are capable of preaching the true gospel of Jesus Christ to a deaf person. What an astounding number! Now, let's glance back into the origin of the signing language to get a foundational understanding of it.

Signing used for communication has been in effect for ages. American-Indians are where we traced most of our signs back to in the U.S. But even before this time we can take a look back into history and see that gestures have been used for communication between groups of dissimilar languages. Up until the sixteenth century, it was considered futile to attempt to educate the deaf. Many of them were scorned, ridiculed, disowned, and even feared at times for their frustrating attempts to be understood. What an illusion this brought about! People thought that they couldn't learn, think or have any human reasoning. Then, during the sixteenth century Girolamo Cardano prepared a code to teach the deaf. Although never used, his ideas were a basis of what was to come about in later years.

Sign Language came to the United States from France in the early Nineteenth Century. The two men who brought it here were Laurent Clerc and a young minister by the name of Dr. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. Before going to France to investigate sign language, Dr. Gallaudet, taught a young deaf girl how to communicate on an experimental basis. This enabled him to proceed to England, where after meeting up

with Abbe Siccard went on to Paris to visit Mr. Siccard's school which was founded by the Abbe de l'Epee in 1755. Mr. l'Epee is said to have been the inventor of sign language for universal modern use. On Dr. Gallaudet and Mr. Clerc's return, they established the first school for the deaf in Hartford, Connecticut in 1817. After many years and establishments of a number of schools for the deaf across the U.S., Dr. Gallaudet had an envision of a college solely for deaf students. His son, Edward Miner Gallaudet procured this envision by establishing Gallaudet College for the Deaf in Washington, D.C. This is the world's first and only college for deaf students whose charter, in 1864 was signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

The progression of sign language over the years has been tremendous. Even though there are more deaf people in the world today than ever, there is still a steadily increasing number of learned signers. I have learned that there are three terms you do not use in speaking to or referring to the deaf. They are deaf and dumb, deaf mute, and exaggerated lip and facial expressions. Each of these is a misconception initiated by the ignorant and apathetic society of today, as well as in the past.

To me, sign language is the only language that can be termed "universal." That is one advantage that the deaf or hearing-impaired have. That's an advantage they deserve! In comparison to how "status-quo" this nation is and "taken for granted" the world is, how do we even expect the infirmity-stricken to live,...or do we expect it at all? We should look at the deaf and all that are not "perfectly normal" as society labels themselves as an example of sincere devotion. It takes a lot of heeding, faithful prayer, and adhering to simple godly principles to realize what they all strive for. We all have needs, but do all respect the needs that they have? So many times if we, they, he, or she doesn't fit the stereo-type, than they just don't belong. That complacency should be reserved for no one, but should be left for the apathetic and rebellious. God is no respecter of persons and we shouldn't be either. Let's set the Christian example and walk in love. After all, once we take on the name of a Christian it must be proven for us to be worthy of that title.

Sign language has now taken off in our present day. There is still a rapidly increasing number of schools, signers, and college signing classes that are springing up everywhere. Even the very large, prestigious colleges are putting special interests into these classes. Colleges such as New York University, American University and the University of Minnesota are among a few who have accepted sign language in place of another foreign language. But no matter how advanced and widespread it becomes, we need to put it into the gospel and the gospel into it. Think of the mission fields for a moment. With learning the universal language of signs we could go to each and every country in the world and almost be perfectly on the same speech level with a deaf person. As a plus, if a missionary can also hear he can minister to both needs of the hearing and the deaf at the same time. On the other hand, a normal missionary may have to study diligently and learn many languages just to go to a few countries. Sign language for a missionary should be a must no matter where the Lord has called you to go. In the first place you can receive great blessings and secondly you have a new ability to reach needy souls for Christ.

In conclusion we need to know about the deaf or hearing-impaired Christian. Romans 10:17 declares "...faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Controversial questions have come up about this issue like, "How can the deaf be faithful Christians?" the answer is when they read the word of God. Isn't that the way we come to know God and grow in Him? When they read they are lifting Jesus up in their hearts, minds, and in their spirits even though they don't realize it when in a carnal state. Therefore, as Christ says in John 12:32, "...if I be lifted up from the earth, I will

draw all men unto me." That's an unconditional statement with promise. A blessed promise that Jesus Christ will draw the deaf as he draws all, by His Spirit. Now faith comes in since we know that promise of Christ. We cannot underestimate the power of God's Spirit! It's not the slightest bit deaf or impaired as us carnally surrounded humans are. So when His Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, our faith is definitely sustained and we are assured of it. No matter what you look like, sound like, whether you're obviously impaired or not God's grace will always abound. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is easily defined also because we must look at the Spirit of God and His omnipotence. God will give His Holy Spirit to whomever He chooses and has prepared for it. The mortal afflictions do not make a difference, but rather the sensitive spirit of the believer. In Acts 1:8 it says "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." There is no bodily function that can hinder the power of the Holy Spirit. Praise God!

In light of all there is to know and comprehend about this world's evangelizing. Let's keep our purpose in mind. To lift up Jesus and to sow seed, water, and let God alone give the abundant increase...For His word shall not return void. Amen.

by Todd Allen
AFBC Student

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A TEACHER'S RECONSECRATION

AN ARMY CHAPLAIN in World War II stood beside a dying soldier. "Is there anything I can do for you?" he asked.

"Yes, Chaplain, Write to my mother and tell her I am dying without fear. Write also to my Sunday school teacher and tell her I died a Christian, and I have never forgotten her teaching."

Some weeks later the chaplain received a letter from this Sunday school teacher, in which she wrote, "God have mercy upon me! Only last month I resigned from my Sunday school class. I felt that my teaching was doing no good. Then your letter came, informing me that my teaching had helped to win a soul to Christ. I am going to resume my God-appointed task and in Christ's enabling power be faithful!"

-WALTER B. KNIGHT

God's Work:

- Gives us hope and peace
- Increases our joy
- Shows us our authority in Christ
- Reveals to us God's tremendous love for us
- Shows us we can totally trust God for all of our needs
- Gives us direction
- Shows us God's will
- Shows us how to live, what he requires us
- Gives us wisdom and understanding
- Psalms 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
- Psalms 100:5b - His truth endureth for all generations.
- Hear it, receive it, apply it! If we are lacking in faith read more of the word.
- John 8:31, 32 - If ye continue in my word then are ye my disciples indeed, and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.



"And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." In my mind's eye, I can picture how it must have been on the day when Jesus called his disciples to follow him. And I think I know how it would have been if I would have been there,....

I can see myself walking on the shore of the lake when Jesus passed by. Why I was there I don't know. Perhaps I was going to see a friend or taking a peaceful walk, perhaps I was going to my day's work when he called me. I guess I'll never know or remember why I happened to be on the lake that day. But the change it has made in my life I will never forget. For my life was changed when Jesus called. I didn't know too much about this man they called Jesus. I know much more now than I did then. And in my own realistic way of figuring things out I don't see why I even stopped to listen to him. There was something compelling about this man. The authority with which he spoke, the strength in the way he walked, the love in his eyes. There seemed to be a holy hush when Jesus walked by. And not knowing him, I have no idea why I followed. It was almost as if I had to. Sure, I had a choice - but he was so compelling. In those words, "Follow Me," echoed a lifetime of beauty - a future of peace. In my past I had looked for happiness everywhere. I searched for peace. I sought for love and found it nowhere. But in this simple, compassionate man I found them all. Following Jesus to me was not normal - it was something I just could never see myself doing. To pick up my life, or shall I say, to leave my life for a future that I could not see was not normal. But oh, I'm so glad I did follow him! He has changed my life completely. And that love he has given me just has to be shared. It burns within me!

I have seen that man Jesus do so much! He's raised the dead, healed the sick, calmed the stormy seas, but most of all he's changed the lives of sin-sick souls time and time again. When Jesus spoke of following him I had no idea of what it would be to become "fishers of men." Now I know. When one leaves a life of sin and begins a life of following Jesus they will be fishers of men. Because the love that he gives to me is so great, so compelling that it shows. It shows in my attitude, my speech, the look on my face. The change he has made in my life is ever before me. To cease to share that with the others would be to say I'm not thankful, I wasn't changed. I have to be a fisher of men. I have no choice. As a true follower of Jesus Christ, he shines through me.

Has my faith in Jesus always been this strong? Oh, no. There are times I cannot share because my doubt seems to overpower me. But it's then that I remember his words, "Vanessa, follow me." He actually wanted me! His love is so amazing and so unconditional that I cannot doubt it. The feeling is so strong inside of me. At times I can't contain it. I think that's how it should be. As long as I live I shall never forget that stranger - called Jesus. For in his soft voice, in his gentle touch, I have found a lifetime of love.

Praise the Lord
Vanessa Oakes



Church News

ALVIN, TEXAS

Hello from Alvin! Graduation days have come and gone and we want to offer our congratulations to all the graduates everywhere, whether it is from high school or college. Our prayers are with you. We admonish each of you to put God first and always seek his will for your life.

Thanks to Bro. and Sis. Roland Busch for having services for us April 13 while our astors were in Granby, Mo. for revival. Also thanks to Bro. Steven Hackett who was with us June 1.

The Apostolic Faith Bible College choir presented a concert for us on April 27. Afterwards we had a covered dish supper and a time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. We look forward to having this group with us each year.

Our annual church elections were held in May. Sis. Bertie Clark was elected as Sunday School Superintendent. Bro. Winfree Wooster will join Bro. Gaylon Flora and Ronnie Coates as the new board member.

The church feels a great loss at the death of Sis. Clara Whitfield who passed away May 7. She was a dear friend and prayer warrior. We miss her very much.

Come by and visit with us any time and "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing." Romans 15-13.

Neil Ragan, Pastor
Corrie Coates, Reporter

DICKINSON, TEXAS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. He is truly mindful of His children. Praise His Name.

Brother Savoy has been having Bible Studies on Wednesday night. These lessons have been very encouraging.

We were happy to have Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna Michener for two weeks Revival in March. It was a much needed Revival. God blesses in many ways. We had good Altar services and some victories were gained. Although we were small in number, God said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I, in the midst of them." He surely heard and answered prayer.

The Haskel Cooley's were by for one night. Their music and singing was enjoyed much. Thank God for those who use their talents for Him.

Bro. and Sis. Leland Grimmer visited our church on Wednesday, April 8. We enjoyed their visit and the encouraging message Bro. Grimmer gave. It is good to have God's people stop by for a visit.

Bro. Savoy has started Cottage Prayer Meetings in his home. We meet on Friday night. An invitation is extended to all who would like to attend. We are seeing some results of these meetings.

God bless and keep you is our prayer.

Savoy Grimmer, Pastor
Yvonne Grigg, Reporter

WEBB CITY, MO.

God is still blessing us at Trinity Apostolic Faith Church. Our new Church at 45th and South Main Street in Joplin is coming along fine. Very soon we'll be ready for the brick men to come and brick our building. Our church men have been very faithful and have done most of the work themselves. Our ladies have been fixing meals and taking them to the building site. We are so grateful to the Lord for willing workers.

Mark and Iletha Bard have been working so very faithfully at our Youth Camp for many weeks. And now that it is in progress the campers are so proud of the nice new ladies rest rooms and showers.

Recently we had a lady come to our church for the first time who came up at the Invitation time and give her heart to the Lord. She had once know Him and wandered away. Praise the Lord for new blood in the church.

It is good to have our older young people back home who have been attending Bible College. They add so much to our services.

We've been happy to have the Jack Cornells, Gene Cornells and Johnny Arnall family visit our church recently along with other visitors. We're always happy to have our friends new and old to visit our services.

Bro. O.A. Busch, Pastor

GALENA, KANSAS

We are happy to report God is still blessing our church. May 11, Mother's Day we were happy to have Bro. and Sis. Jack Cornell in services with us. In June Bro. and Sis. Happy Hopper were with us in services. The Holy Spirit blessed in a special way in sermon and song. On Children's Day we honored our children and also had our promotion day.

Our parsonage has been repainted inside and cleaned. There is always work to be done to beautify God's house. Also our spiritual dwellings. God is still in the saving business. We have had conviction in every service and believe a break through will be soon.

May God richly bless our ministers in all of our churches and may the Holy Spirit anoint each message given. We pray the lost will listen to the call of God. Many have broken vows and are drifting from God instead of drawing closer to him. May the Lord help us all to have a vision of his coming because the night cometh when no man can work.

We invite our brothers and sisters to come by and visit with us anytime.

Howard Whiteley, Pastor
May Rowland, Reporter

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

It's been some time since we've written to the paper so it's time we bring you up to date. We are still going strong. Rumors are that we are closing the church, not so, as long as the Lord blesses the way he has blessed us. There is no reason to give up. We are not large in number but the Lord blesses in every service. Our finances are in great shape.

We were blessed to have Bro. Ted Barker hold a few services in May. The only thing wrong was that he didn't stay long enough, everyone really enjoyed the services.

We've made several improvements on the church. We've put iron bars and doors to keep the vandals out and we're planning to put a steel fence up also.

We appreciate the Brock's and ask your prayers for both of them.

We thank the Lord for all of his blessings and especially the love and unity we feel in our church.

Lee Brock, Pastor
Ella Swaim, Reporter

Obituaries

Nona Mae Cumbie

Nona Mae Cumbie went home to be with our Lord and Saviour April 14. Mrs. Cumbie was a believer of the Apostolic Faith almost her entire life. She was 83 years of age, and was a life long resident of Polar in Kent County and a 46 year resident of Snyder, Scurry County, Texas, where she was active in church (Apostolic). Services were held at Belt-Seale-Cypress Chapel with the Rev. Buck Hatfield officiating. Burial was in her family plot in the Snyder Cemetary. Pallbearers were her grandsons. She was born Nona Mae Ford, at Polar in Kent County, Texas. She married Simp Cumbie on Dec. 20, 1921 in Snyder. He preceded her death in 1938. Also preceding her death were her only daughter, Verda Mae Gore, and one son, Willis Elbert, both of Snyder, Texas. She was retired from the Snyder Public School System where she had worked for 26 years as a cafeteria manager. She had worked with the Boy Scouts of America for 18 years. After her retirement, she cared for the sick and elderly until she was unable to do so, often caring for two or more at the same time.

Survivors include two sons, Othel Cumbie of Odessa, Texas, and Bobby Cumbie of Snyder, Texas, four sisters, Bonnie Lyons, and Alma Fowler, both of Snyder, Eula Clanton of Leslie, Ark. and Cecil Hughes of Fresno, Calif. Also one brother, Ernest Ford of Polar, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Also preceding her in death were six sisters and one brother. Service was closed with congregational singing - "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder," as was done at her Papa's service in 1924.

TO: Members of the Apostolic Faith Churches.

In 1966 each of Mrs. Cumbie's 11 brothers and sisters wrote their life's history and combined them to make a book, "The Fords of Kent County." This is a small paragraph from Mrs. Cumbie's story.

"I have had real good neighbors and couldn't get along without them. I have lots of friends. I've been very fortunate all my life. Things haven't been too good at times, and I've had lots of heartaches and will probably have lots more, but God has been good to me and my family and I thank him every day for his goodness to me."

POLAR TABERNACLE, THE LAST SINGING

This is just a reminder of the Polar Tabernacle Old Time Gospel Singing, August 16 at 7:30 p.m. until ??? This is an un-denominational singing, and has been an annual affair for the past years. But due to health reasons this will be the last singing. It is held under a large open air tabernacle and has always been cool and comfortable. It is held as the old time singing were some 50-60 years ago. Songbooks are furnished - "Songs We Sang." But anyone or everyone is invited to bring their own books or instruments and sing for and with us. We trust you will make your plans now and can arrange to be a part of this service. It is "Polar Tabernacle's Last Singing." Polar is located in Kent County, (West Texas) and is 25 miles north of Snyder, Texas - County Seat of Scurry County. It's out where the highway ends and the west begins. Sunday the 17th is Polar Homecoming Day, with dinner on the grounds. An all day affair. The weekend of August 16 and 17 all roads lead to the Polar Tabernacle. Hope to see you there - You'll hate yourself if you miss it!

Othel Cumbie



Mittie Bard

Mittie Pansy Bard, 92, of 611 Park Avenue, Joplin, Mo. died at 3:30 a.m. June 8 at the home of her daughter, Bonnie Clanton, Baxter Springs, Kansas, after an illness of one year.

Mrs. Bard was born Sept. 22, at Belleville, Missouri. She had lived in the Joplin area all of her life. She was a homemaker and attended the Original Apostolic Faith Church of Joplin. Sister Bard was active in the Joplin church and for years attended the Ladies Bible Study. Along with her husband, Claude Bard, she helped found the church in Joplin. Sister Bard loved talking about the Lord and telling her grandchildren and great-grandchildren about Jesus. "Deuteronomy 6:7 - And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

She had lived with her daughter for the past two years. She married Claude Bard June 19, 1915 at Webb City, Mo. He died January 4, 1967. She is survived by three sons, E. Clay Bard and James Bard, both of Joplin, and Max L. Bard of Wyandotte, OK., her daughter, Bonnie Clanton of Baxter Springs, Kansas. One son, Jack Bard, preceded her in death. She had 19 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

Services were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10 at the Mason-Woodard Mortuary in Joplin. The Rev. Paul Clanton and the Rev. Onal Nunn officiated. Music was provided by Bro. Jerome Crowhurst with Sister Peggy Crowhurst at the organ. Burial was in the Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery in Joplin with the Rev. M.D. Methvin officiating at the committal. Pallbearers were her grandsons; Mark Bard, Wayne Bard, Jimmy Bard, Gary Bard, Charles Bard, John Bard, David Bard, Daniel Clanton and Max Clanton.

OPEN FOR CALLS,

I will be open for calls for revivals, seminars, teaching sessions, etc. Our new address is 1504 West Oak Ridge Ct., Broken Arrow, Okla. 74012. Our new phone number is (918) 251-2880.

In His Service,
James Wallis

OPEN FOR CALLS, Pastorate, Assistant Pastorate, Youth Pastor. Contact Ginny Stafford, P.O. Box 110, Baxter Springs, KS 66713

OPEN FOR PASTORATE

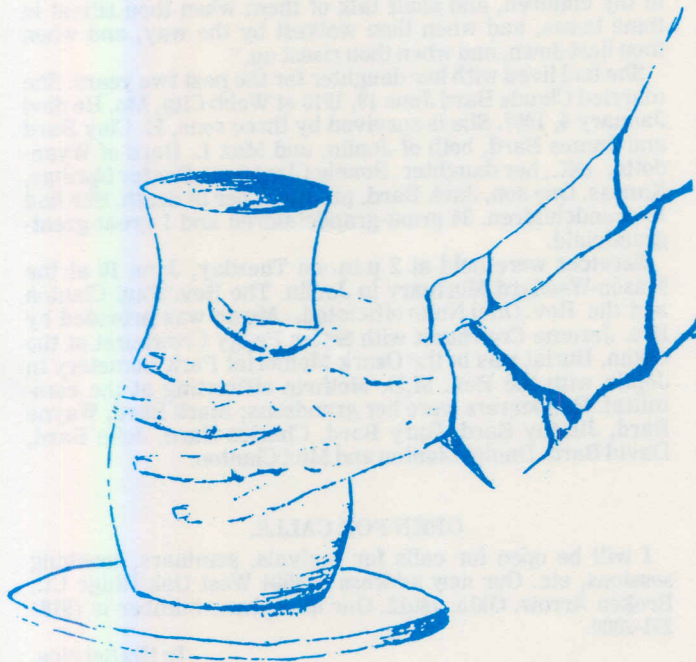
We will be open for pastoral work and can be contacted at Logan, Oklahoma 73849 until Camp Meeting. Our phone number is (405) 837-5595.

Bob and Hazel Taylor

New Arrivals

Marissa Breann Robinson was born May 19, 1986, to Rae Mona and Danny M. Robinson. She weighed 9 lbs. and 1 oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. The proud grandparents are Pat and Danny Robinson of Balko, Okla., and the late Lora Arnall Boyer.

Apostolic Faith Bible College 1986-1987



Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so
are ye in mine hand. *Jeremiah 18:6*

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announces its

FALL & SPRING SEMESTER

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A high academic, college level standard is maintained through 9 months of concentrated study.

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Bible Doctrine	Prophecy
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Entrance Requirements

1. In harmony with the Spirit and purpose of the school.
 2. Be willing to accept detailed work.
 3. Abide by school regulations.
 4. Each student will be required to take at least four subjects. Two of these must be Bible subjects.
- ALL students are required to maintain a passing grade.



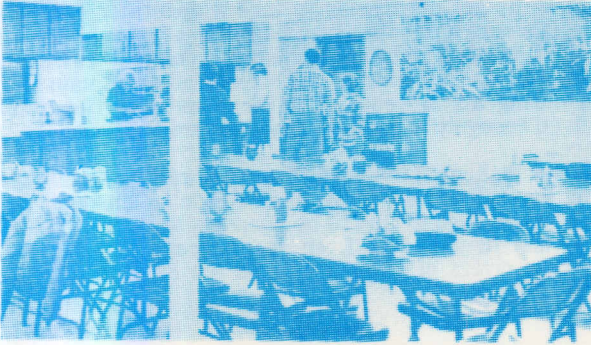
Accommodations

This school is supported entirely by free will offerings and gifts, without solicitation or collections.

Meals are served to all as the Lord provides.

Students furnish personal effects including linens.

Dormitories for single students provided.



The Apostolic Faith Bible College is nestled at the foothills of the Ozarks.

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Mail to: Jack Cornell, Box 110, Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

CAMP MEETING 1986 Laverne, Oklahoma July 28 - Aug. 3

Chairman: M.D. Methvin
Box 278
Follett, Tx. 79034
PH: 806-653-2801

Camp meeting time is just around the corner! We are writing this to all the pastors and churches, and sincerely asking you to pray that God will send us a Holy Ghost filled camp meeting. The only way this camp meeting can be a blessing to all of us is by His Spirit moving on our hearts, and directing his ministers in each service. It is our utmost desire that God will be lifted up and His name be praised.

Camp meeting will begin Monday night, July 28, with the 8 p.m. service, and will close Sunday night, August 3, with the 8 p.m. service.

We hope all of our pastors and other ministers can attend at least part of camp meeting, and we need laymen too. You are also important to the camp meeting. Lets everyone come with a desire to draw closer to the Lord, and be ready for his second coming. We never know what another year might bring. God's children truly feel that the Last Days are upon us.

We are going to ask that we open our camp meeting with the first full day, Tuesday the 29th, as prayer and fast day. You who can't come, please set aside this day to fast and pray for our camp meeting, our churches, and individual needs. There are some people who need salvation, healing, and other spiritual help. Please fast and pray Tuesday, July 29th.

Now, some information regarding rooms. There are three motels in Laverne. I talked with the managers, and if you desire a room you will need to make your own reservations. They ask that you make them about the middle of July. Here are the names and phone numbers of the motels: On the North side of town in the Laverne Motel, (405) 921-3325; In the Central part of town is the Deluxe Motel, (405) 921-3314; On the South side of town in the Budget Motel, (405) 921-3351.

There will be dorms for women and for men on the campground. We also have adequate hook-ups for campers and trailers. If I can be of help to any of you, please let me know.

Your Servant in Christ,
M. D. Methvin, Chairman

NOTICE!

Thirty cents a time is what the Post Office charges us whenever a copy of the Report is returned with a reader's new address. If you are moving, won't you tell us at once, allowing at least 4 weeks for the change? Send the mailing label from the back page so we will know your old address.

Running Water

Someone has said, "When I'm thirsty, I don't care what kind of cup I drink out of - paper, china, or gold. What I'm interested in is the water, not the cup."

But I would prefer a clean cup to a dirty one, wouldn't you? And I want the water to be pure too.

Water from a fountain usually is safer than from a lake. Disease is not found as often in running water.

I was reading about a soldier who in civilian life was a refrigeration repairman. When his unit left for summer training, he got permission to take a generator and other materials with him with which he set up a water fountain in the field, to the delight of all the men. The unit's evaluator said it was the first time he had seen a water fountain in the field during his 21 years of military service. The soldier received recognition in the Army Reserve Magazine for his project.

Oh, for dedicated lives which are as water fountains, offering the water of life to the parched souls all around. May we offer our lives to God to be channels through which His Spirit may flow, so that from our inner-most beings there may flow rivers of living water as the Saviour promised (John 7:38).

**He that believeth on me as
the scripture hath said, out
of his belly shall flow rivers
of living water.**

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