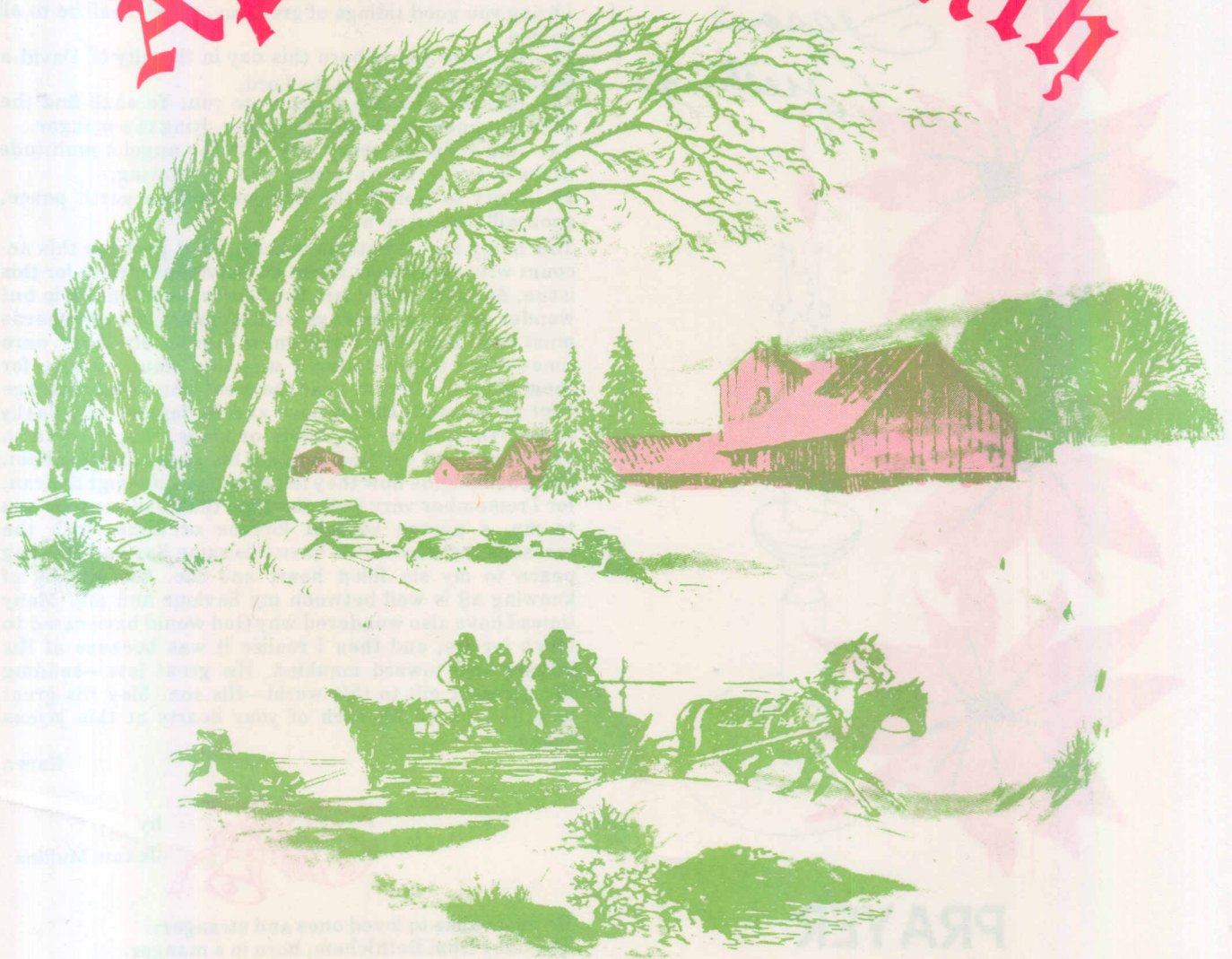


The Apostolic Faith



December 1979

Report

Vol. 26 - No. 12

Season's Greetings

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth,
peace, good will toward men."



St. Luke 2:8—"and there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9—And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10—And the angel said unto them. Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

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

12—And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13—And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

This being the Christmas season, I felt perhaps this account written by Luke might be very appropriate for this issue. As I reread the familiar verses, I couldn't help but wonder about the feelings and thoughts the shepherds must have had. Don't you know that surely there were times when they wondered why God would choose for them to be the first to hear the most wonderful message ever given—that the Saviour and Redeemer had finally come? These men, not rulers or kings, simply common shepherds and yet God sending his angel first to them: Can you imagine how they felt that beautiful night? I can; for I remember very well, the time that God sent his son to me, a person without fortune or fame, with the message that I too could have this same Saviour bringing peace to my sin filled heart and life. Oh the joy of knowing all is well between my Saviour and me! Many times I have also wondered why God would have cared to much for me, and then I realize it was because of His infinite love toward mankind. His great love—sending the greatest gift to this world—His son. May His great love and peace fill each of your hearts at this joyous season!

Karen



by
Jeanie Mullins

PRAYER

After long years in the Christian life and in the Christian ministry, I am more convinced than ever that prayer is the greatest weapon we possess.

No matter how important the daily calls may be which demand our attention, no work is of such importance as that of prayer—and it is work-work that we will neglect if we are not careful, very careful, under one pretext or another. I am not talking about saying prayer - reciting prayers - or reading prayers, helpful as that is to some - I am thinking about wrestling with God, coming into vital contact, personal, living touch with God as a daily habit.

Selected

He came alike to loved ones and stranger;
The baby from Bethlehem, born in a manger.
From the portals of glory, to earth he came to dwell,
With the love of the Father; a message to tell.

A life meek and lowly, he did then begin.
Called Jesus, his mission was to free men from sin.
All who would listen and believe on his word
Received what they asked for from the hand of the Lord.

Praise be to God, for the gift that was given,
Leading the way through this life and into heaven.
He's our strength and help from day to day,
When the gift of our life at his feet we lay.

His Star



by the late

Gail W. Schultz

WE HAVE SEEN HIS STAR IN THE EAST, AND HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM.

AND, LO, THE STAR, WHICH THEY SAW IN THE EAST WENT BEFORE THEM, TIL IT CAME AND STOOD OVER WHERE THE YOUNG CHILD WAS. WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR, THEY REJOICED WITH EXCEEDING GREAT JOY. Matt. 2:2-9-10.

The star, His star! What significance does this speak to the heart and mind? It cannot be said that the appearing of the star and the birth of Christ was coincidental. It did not just happen, but the star was sent of God as one of the signs and messengers of His arrival.

Much valuable information of the heavenly bodies are unknown to me, because I do not know the science of astronomy. The poet wrote about a star, by which his ship could be guided. God knows all the stars so well that He can call them by name. Job. 9:7-9. Psa. 147:4. The evening star and the morning star are spoken of in the Scripture, and are known to almost everybody the world over. Job 38:7. The course of the stars are known, and its graceful place, but the STAR was different.

How long had it shown? Did God make it, place it and then remove it when its message and mission was fulfilled? How long did it shine? Did it gradually come into view and then slowly withdraw its light. All these things I do not know, but I do know that it was His star, the light that guided the wise men from afar and coaxed them on to the very spot on this big earth where Jesus lay. Their knowledge of prophecy must have been scant, but inspired wisdom always leads aright.

I do not think that it was misleading that took the wise men to Jerusalem, and to the king of that land. Some

how Herod must be informed. The shepherds were too humble to be heard by him, but these wise men gained entrance to his courts and presence, and their message was taken seriously. Although Herod had no desire for worship because his concern was for his own world position, yet for evermore he knew that Jesus had arrived. How much like our old world, so many know that Jesus was born, King of the Jews, Saviour of the world, coming judge and king, and there is no other alternative, save to admit that He is the One and Only One to serve, yet they shun Him, and avoid His presence.

From the pomp of a king's palace the wise men gladly continued their journey, directed still by His Star. It, by its light led them from the main roads to the little secluded village of Bethlehem. Perhaps there were a few better homes of the rich. The inn could have been "first class" for its day, but not in such was Jesus found, but in the most humble quarters of this inn the wise men found Jesus. Here they rejoiced with exceeding great joy and worshipped Him. They did not withhold their gifts of gold, and frankincense and myrrh. Jesus was worthy of this. How much are you giving Him? What place does He hold in your heart? With how much can you be trusted with spiritual truths and strength?

By the large majority (outside of a very brief Christmas season) the Star that led the wisemen is forgotten. Worst and far more disasterous is the fact that Jesus, Star of David, Son of David is forgotten also. If the right gift is presented to the right person in the right spirit, to me, it is a representation of God's love and great Gift to the world.


But to give in thoughtless pride or for advantageous reasons does not advance the Deity of Christ. My heart grows sad and weary when I feel that Christ is forgotten. I think I hate sin more as the years go by.

That Star, now a Star of faith, must shine in our hearts in order to reflect His purpose. When faith diminishes and sacred trusts give way to the practices of men, whose idea is commerce alone, then the true worth of Christmas has vanished. I know that we do not know the exact day of the birth of Christ, for that matter, perhaps the month or year has not been fully established, yet there is a season, a day, which permits me as a Christian to worship in recognition of His Divine birth. For we who do keep that day in faith and magnify our Christ, it does have a worth.

Star of Hope shine on! The earth is groaning under present day pressures. Many nations are in trouble, and war and want. The burden of sin and misery and distress are comrades. Sickness and suffering, and wounded and dying mount high. This cannot go on forever. We who know Jesus, as the Light of the world, have a hope. Why should I let Satan destroy my soul? Why should a few short years of earthly abiding lure me to its flashing vanishing wares? A Christian has a broader scope than this, his hope is steadfast unmovable waiting until Jesus shall appear again.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. II Pet. 1:19. As the Star of David, Lord Jesus come quickly, but until that day may we wish you a very Merry Christmas with loads of spiritual gifts and treasures that will make you rich in Him.

DECEMBER NOTES



Bible School Board

The Bible School Board of Trustees met November 22, 1979. Votes of the General Election were counted and Bro. Doyle Wiles and Bro. Jack Hopson were elected for another three year term. The Board voted unanimously to ask Bro. Lyndel Arnall to accept the Bible College for another term. The Board approved the purchase of a new addressing machine for use at the Bible College and the Apostolic Faith Report Office as the old one is obsolete and service is getting to be a problem. The Bus Committee gave a report to the Board on their findings but did not as yet have a final recommendation to give to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE:

There has been a development arise of which we would like to inform you. Your Community Chapel in Westminster, Colorado has decided they can no longer operate their church. Due to circumstances beyond their control, they are selling the facilities. We regret to see this happen, but are praying for the Lord to undertake in this situation. We know that there have been many years of labor and many lives have been touched through this ministry, and we are thankful for that. The church has been one of the faithful supporters of the Bible School, and has again remembered our need at this time. It is with gratitude that we receive the funds from the sale of that property which has allowed us to pay off our present land/building note (s).

A committee was appointed during our last business meeting to look into updating our bus. It was decided that the bus can be restored for a much smaller cost than that of purchasing a newer bus. They have acquired an estimate for the work of approximately \$10,000. Hopefully, this work will be done the first of next year. I believe that the Lord is able to supply the needed funds to accomplish this project without going into debt. We request your prayers and consideration in behalf of this endeavor.

The bus is a very vital part of our school promotion. Over twenty-five percent of the school's income in the past year has been directly related to the tours. In this way alone we can see the asset of the school owning a bus. Also, many of our students have been encouraged to attend Bible School through these tours which were made possible by having a bus.

We also covet your prayers in behalf of the students and faculty as we endeavor together to study God's word.

Yours in Christ,
Lyndel Arnall
Superintendent

AFBC GIRL'S DORM

Greetings to you from the girl's dorm.

The Lord has certainly been good to us. He has blessed us abundantly. There are eleven girls in the dorm this semester. We have had some great fellowship together. Of course, when people live this close together there are bound to be a few conflicts, but it is amazing how the Lord works those differences out when we give it to him. The Lord truly is good.

The Lord has blessed us with a special dorm Mom, too. Sis. Tony is a special blessing to us. We all love her a lot.

We have had some great services. We had a good Revival in September. Also, we recently had several nights of tarry services. Four girls received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We have had some good dorm devotions - All of these things serve to draw us closer to God and to each other.

We enjoyed the Thanksgiving Banquet and seeing many of our friends and relatives during this time.

May God bless all of your good people. Pray for us as we study God's word and learn to serve Him better.

Donna Kinser

AFBC BOY'S DORM

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalms 27:1. I'm glad I can truly say that the Lord is my light and my salvation. The light of His marvelous gospel has shone unto me and opened my eyes to the truth and He has given me a peace in my heart that can't be found in the world. I thank the Lord for the opportunity of attending the Apostolic Faith Bible College the last year and a half. I have really enjoyed the christian fellowship between brothers and sisters in the Lord seeking to make heaven our home. The love of Christ has radiated not only from faculty members but also from fellow students. Since I have been here the Lord has richly blessed in my life and has given me a deeper and closer communion with Him. Unlike any other college I have seen, you are able to learn more about the Bible but in the same process, grow spiritually. In this world man may have a vast knowledge of the Bible but until he has experienced Christ in his heart, he cannot truthfully understand the Bible. God has given us many promises about seeking to know more about His plan and about His Holy Word. In Matthew 5:6, in the sermon on the mount, Jesus told us if we hunger and thirst after righteousness we shall be filled. I have found this to be true and this scripture has become a motivating factor in searching my Bible. As a young child I had always hoped to be able to come here and be apart of the choir. That hope became reality in the last year and a half. The psalmist David said in Psalms 37:4 to "Delight thyself in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart." I have found this true in my experience with the Lord. There have been many former students that have made a lasting influence on my life and christian service.

In closing, I would like to just say thank you, to those who have helped prepare a path for me to follow. It's my earnest desire to be more like Jesus.

Steven Douglas Arnall

AFBC BOY'S DORM

In Matthew 6:33 it says "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Of all the scriptures in the Bible, I think about this scripture more than any. It is constantly upon my mind.

I have been a Christian since early childhood. I realized how important it was that I give my heart to God and I was baptized at the age of eight. It took more than ten years for me to realize that even though I had been saved, I was not putting God first in my life."

My life went through a dramatic change during the summer after I graduated from High School in 1978 I had it all figured out. I was going to go to college and play football. There were a couple of my friends who had planned to come to Bible School. Three weeks before they were to leave, one of them was killed in an automobile accident. It made me stop and realize that my little dream world wasn't going to last forever, and that it was important that I put God's work first. Just as my friends' life had been snapped out in an instance, so could mine be.

But I went ahead to college and played football, and spent an entire year, miserably, knowing that God was not first in my life. This summer I decided to attend Bible School and put God's work first. For a long time it didn't seem like I'd be able to come, but I prayed about it and the Lord provided a way.

I thank God for the opportunity that I've had to be at Bible School this semester. I couldn't begin to count all the blessings I've received. And I know there are still more blessings to come.

I would like to urge every person young or old, in our movement that has an opportunity, to go to Bible School, to accept that opportunity. I don't think you'll ever regret coming and studying God's word. I think that God will abundantly bless you in every way.

If it's the Lord's will, I will soon be going back home, and back to college. I would deeply appreciate everyone's prayers, that when I go back, I will put the Lord's work first, and that I will use every opportunity he gives me to serve him.

Bruce Lowery

Upon a lonely hillside,
Where the shepherds did abide,
An angel came so long ago
To tell of one who loved us so.

He healed the sick, helped the poor,
or men's lack of faith, he could do no more.
He's sitting now at the Father's side
In his shadow we can hide.

He was meek and he was mild.
He was God's son, this lowly child.
From heaven he did descend
To live among sinful men.

In a manger on the nay,
H was born on that Christmas Day.
From sin he came to free us,
For his name was Jesus.

Pearls Of Promise

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Psalms 84:11



A BEAUTIFUL LIGHT

I saw a beautiful light where cometh no night,
A rainbow aglow, colors shining so bright.
I heard prayer and song glorifying God.
"Whosoever will may come"; there's no land for nod.

One cried, "Oh my! I am left alone."
GOD answered, "My light is in the throne.
Leave all and follow; and day is far spent.
For the cares of life Jesus Christ was sent."

Obedience is in GOD; walk in His will.
A friend is Jesus: Your life He will fill.
Praise be unto GOD; glory in His name.
Our lives be sanctified; we're liberated from blame.

Refusing the shame, extolling His grace,
Believing GOD'S promise, accepting my place.
He talks with me, tells me of His love.
He has filled me with peace from above.

Thanks for the rest: In Christ Jesus I find
Unspeakable joy, and He is so kind.
Leaving all to Him Who safely keeps,
I give all to Jesus Who never sleeps.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour."
Find joy and comfort in the Saviour.
"Lo, I am with you" in all thy ways;
I have chosen you. This is the Lord's day.

CHURCH NEWS



Leaky, Texas

We have had a very good year. The Lord has blessed. Bro. Wesley Shipman and the Shannon's took ten children to youth camp in Mississippi, July 7-14. God blessed in a mighty way. Then in August Bro. and Sis. Ray Michener came and held a revival. Some were filled with the Holy Spirit. We had another revival in October with Bro. Randy Dalton of McClurg, Mo. as evangelist. Souls were saved and God was with us. Our little church is growing and we thank God for this. We are thankful that the Lord sent Bro. Marvin Boyd to help us also. Pray for us as we try to work on God's house.

Wesley Shipman, Pastor
Darlene Shannon, Reporter

Joplin, Mo.

Greetings in the name of the Lord. He is so good to us and continues to bless our church family.

Our Ladies Bible Study, which meets every Tuesday afternoon, is studying in the book of Exodus and really getting a lot out of this study.

We have had several ministers visiting our church and do appreciate them for sharing their time with us. Bro. T. S. Abraham was with us for midweek service on Oct. 4th. While we were gone on vacation Bro. Paul Clanton and Bro. Doyle Wiles had the services. On Oct. 21, Bro. Austin Sutton and Bro. Olen Bachelor ministered to us. May the Lord bless them in their work for him.

The Apostolic Faith College choir presented a concert in our church Wed. Oct. 31 and was a blessing to us. We do appreciate all who have labored in any way to make our Bible College possible.

We are praying and planning for revival in the near future.

Neal Ragan, Pastor
Billie Ragan, Reporter

Center Point, Texas

The seasons have changed since we last wrote. Time has swiftly passed since we spoke of Jesus and his returning. Anytime now we will be going home.

All is well in our area and we are looking forward to a great convocation. We have had our share of sickness in the church, but God has been present to heal. What a wonderful Lord we have! If we never became ill or had a need we would find ourselves leaning upon ourselves more and less on the Lord.

We welcome whosoever will to come and share with us in our church and services. May God bless each one of you.

Frank Arnall, Pastor

Roswell, New Mexico

Greetings from the "Land of Enchantment". Our church is rejoicing at the greatness of the Lord.

We had a good V.B.S. in August. We appreciated the boys and girls and the good helpers. Thank the Lord for willing workers.

In September the church gave a surprise birthday party for our pastor's wife. We enjoyed sharing this time with her.

Miracles, who said the day of miracles are over? We believe they are still with us. In a recent service the Lord healed a lady of a bleeding ulcer and during the time of prayer a man was healed while praying for her—Praise the Lord!

Our ladies have started a Ladies Study group under the direction of Peggy Crowhurst. We started a prayer list and it is marvelous as we see our prayers answered.

Bro. Sonny Brown stopped by on his way to Granby, Mo. and shared with us what the Lord has been doing in Mexico. May God bless his work.

In a recent Sunday morning worship service a new U.S. flag and Christian flag were given in memory of Bro. & Sis. Gray Coggin. The glory of the Lord blessed a memories were recalled and even a mention of Bro. Parham being in Roswell on Oct. 10, 1925 for a tent revival. Bro. & sis. Coggin were early pioneers of the gospel in this area.

We are grateful for friends who pass this way. Some of our recent visitors have been, Sis. Zana Yeakel, Bobby and Wynona Waggoner, Sonny Brown, Bro. and Sis. Alan Hickman and Sis. Marion Price.

If you are even out west we welcome you to stop and visit.

Jerome Crowhurst, Pastor
Leona Winkler, Reporter

Dickinson, Texas

The time is at hand, and Satan is working overtime on lives of Christian people. This is the time to draw closer to the Saviour; to gain the strength that only he can supply.

We were privileged to have Bro. Jake Pletcher to bring us a ten day Bible Study. Some of the topics studied were healing, sanctification, Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Church members were given assignments and were able to participate in the study. All were willing to use the talents the Lord has given to us to add to the service. The special singing was beautiful and comforting. The testimonial services were a spiritual uplift to all present.

Bro. Andy Perry was in our presence for a few evenings and shared his testimony of healings in his family. The testimony was a true declaration of faith, and made us examine our lives more carefully and desire a closer walk with the Lord.

As the congregation sang hymns each night, we were privileged to see Sis. Demirita Pletcher produce the things of her heart through chalk sketches. The sketches were so lovely, that, as the chalk met the paper it was as if the Lord had complete control of her hand.

These are only a few of the many blessings received in the revival. The Lord was very good to us. We praise his name for these blessings, and it is our prayer that we use them as testimonies.

Savoy Grimmer, Pastor
Dee Boles, Reporter

Rockdale, Texas

Rev. & Mrs. Andy Perry and children Paula, Cassi and Adam are all settled into the Apostolic Faith parsonage in Rockdale. The church feels very fortunate to have this dedicated family to be with us. Rev. Perry was associate pastor at Gray, Okla. and this is his first fulltime job as a pastor. The prayers of all the readers of the Apostolic Faith Report will be appreciated. A revival began at our church on Dec. 5 with Bro. Jake Pletcher. We are looking forward to a spiritual awakening. Please remember the following in prayer for physical and spiritual help - Mr. R. D. Busch and Mr. Julius Whitely.

Andy Perry, Pastor
Peggy Hosek, Reporter

Galena, Kansas

Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction".

Proverbs 3:13 "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding".

Psalms 139:24 "And see if there be any wicked way in me. And lead me in the way everlasting."

Proverbs 1:2 "To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding."

The Lord is still blessing our church. On Oct. 14, we were glad to have Sis. Mollie Lewis from the Bible College, also Sis. Gladys Saulters and Wilma Hamilton from Baxter Springs, Kansas. We also were glad to have Tammy Oakes and Peggy Sutton. They sang for us and Sis. Peggy preached for us at the night service. These girls did a marvelous job. Oct. 17 we were honored to have the E.K. Cornells with us. Also Margaret Yeakel from Wichita, Kansas and Madeline Rummelt of Grand Rapids, Michigan. They were visiting the Howard Whiteley family of Baxter Springs, Kansas. They also brought Bro. & Sis. Carl Clopton with them.

On Sunday night Oct. 12 we were glad to have Duane and Margaret Cox and Lisa Porter in service with us. She played the piano and sang with her grandmother Marie Rogers. Wed. night Oct. 24 we were glad to have Bro. & Sis. M. D. Methvin in service. Bro. Barry Methvin brought some good songs. Bruce Lowery from A.F.B.C. was also here, Sis. Gayla Rose from Baxter Springs brought us special singing also. Bro. & Sis. David McCance and daughter Lesa were here for services Oct. 28. The Harold McCances were here also. Our ladies met on Oct. 29 for Bible lesson brought by Sis. Ava Christenson on prayer. We entertained our youth with a Halloween supper and it was enjoyed by all.

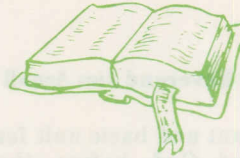
We still need your prayers for there is still a lot of sickness. Our prayer list includes Sis. Anna Wade, Mae Tackett, Birdie Noe, Ruth Brown, Bro. Ray Henderson, Carl and Nellie Clopton. Please pray for these.

Psalms 107:9 "For he satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

Psalms 119:130 "The entrance of the words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

Psalms 139:23 Search me O God and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts."

Elmer Christenson, Pastor
May Rowland, Reporter



Obituary of Myrtle Ellen Coggin

Myrtle Coggin, 81, of Roswell, New Mexico died on Sept. 15, 1979 at Lea County Regional Hospital, Hobbs, New Mexico after a brief illness. She was born Feb. 24, 1898 in Williamson County, Texas, and lived in Roswell for the past 50 years.

Survivors include two sons, David and Bob Coggin of Roswell, three daughters, Marinell Shockley of Aztec, N.M., Flora Duke of Thoreau, N.M., and Helen Hammock of Palestine, Texas, one foster daughter, Charlsie Gregory of Albuquerque, N.M., 15 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gray Coggin, one son and one daughter.

Funereral services were conducted by Bro. Jerome Crowhurst of the Apostolic Faith Church at the Ingram Funderal Home. Burial was in South Park Cemetery. Pallbearers were Andy Anderson, Kenneth Esslinger, Claudie Esslinger, Bruce Giles, Dee Morrow, and Ira Winkler.

Mr. and Mrs. Coggin were a part of the Apostolic Faith Movement from its beginning. Their home was always open to evangelists and those that loved the Lord. Their children knew many of the pioneer Apostolic people, by their being in the Coggin home: Bro. Charles F. Parham, Homer, Alfred, Ruth and Sis. Whiteley, the Mac Wyatts, Phillip Kerr, the Gail Schultzs, H.L. Watkins and family, Homer and Pearl Coberly and family, Otis Bailey, the Dittos, along with many others.

The Coberlys (now shutins) at Lubbock, Texas are about the last of those pioneers. Their ministry continues by phone and mail. They would be thrilled to hear from those who love the Lord.

Myrtle Coggin, will be missed by all who knew and loved her but based on the love of God reflected from her life we know she was ready to meet her Heavenly Father.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MYRTLE E. COGGIN

"I know you are going through a sad time, realizing your loss and feeling sorry for yourself and other members of the family. This will pass, then the glorious happiness and appreciation will come, that you were one of the blessed ones who had a holy and righteous mother and father.

You will always miss her, that's for sure, but this too will be replaced with the satisfaction of having loved her and cared for her in her declining years. And you will count your blessings for all her teachings, devotion and abiding faith that she passed on to each of you as an example for life. When I think of her it brings tears of joy, that I had known her and that she contributed to my own faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. She opened a view of the scriptures that had been almost a blank, until I saw their message thru her deep understanding and her ability to discern the word of God.

The older I grow the more I realize that very little else matters except the Word, its promises and its teachings.

by Lavora Fisk
Pottsville, Ark.

Formerly Principal of Valley View
Elementary School Roswell, N.M.

THE HOME

by Reverend Jim Arnall

The family is God's most important and basic unit for all society. It was instituted of God before the establishment of human government or the local church.

Each of these two institutions, therefore, rest upon the foundation of the family. A nation or a church can be no stronger than the families that make it up.

Genesis, the second chapter, records the history of the first family. This family failed because of sin. When Satan is permitted to become a part of the family it will fail.

Over one million couples will divorce during the coming year. Over 40% of all new marriages will end in divorce. Sociologists now estimate that by 1990 the national divorce rate will climb about 60%. No nation in history has ever had as high a divorce rate as America has today. When we study the conditions of the world before the flood we find that the family concept had almost been destroyed. Sin had become so much a part of their way of life, just as it has today. When man turns away from God one of the first places it shows up is in the home.

Many couples today feel that they may have married the wrong person. Many feel they will be better off to divorce and to try again, rather than to work out their problems. If man could only realize there is no problem too big for God. With God all things are possible.

God can take a person that appears to be unlovable and mold that individual into a very lovable creature. Galatians 5:22a "the fruit of the Spirit is love." Jesus even tells us to love our enemies. Surely then we can love our companions. Satan knows that if he can destroy the love of the family then he has things going his way.

The news media, television, movies, education, literature and even so-called religious organizations are against the family. They promote divorce and sexual immorality. We have the playboy philosophy that presents a lifestyle that says down with the family: the ERA, which is the counterreaction to the playboy philosophy; the gay movement, which has swept across our nation and into many churches. We are being told how we need to socialize with all of these different groups. Society says we are not to preach against any of these sins. If so, we don't have love for our fellowman. We are not to ask if it is morally or spiritually right. No wonder the family is having problems.

--HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE--

Building a successful marriage begins with an attitude of repentance--being able to say "I'm sorry" and "I forgive". We all have faults and it is so easy for one to see the faults and failures of the other while failing to recognize the faults within our own lives.

In order to be successful as a family, it is absolutely necessary to know God's order for authority. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." There is no real freedom in the world except that which is found in servanthip to Christ and His order of authority.

Spiritual Authority

God established the home, the church, and the state. God is the highest authority and all human authority

derive their power from Him. Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."

The Bible teaches the separation of church and state. This means the church is to have authority over the spiritual affairs of our life while the government is to rule the civil affairs. If you try to mix the two it leads to disaster. Matthew 22:15-22 we, as parents, rebel against the authority that we are under then there is a good possibility that our children will rebel against our authority as parents. Our example will determine our children's attitude.

Hebrews 13:7a "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God." The idea is to remember those with spiritual authority such as ministers, teachers, and leaders with an attitude of respect for their position. The reason so many young people lose interest in the church is because they often hear negative points concerning their pastors and leaders from their parents. Everything we say and do has an effect on our children.

Parental Authority

The success of the parents' authority over their children will be determined by their attitude toward authority over them. Parents who criticize and contradict spiritual and civil authority are setting the example of rebellion before their children. Children must learn to respect the ability of their parents to follow others, so that they may have confidence in the parents' leadership. God has placed the greatest responsibility upon the head of the family, which is the man. No where in the scriptures does it command the wife or the children to lead the family.

The husband and the wife are to submit one to another under the authority of God. Ephesians 5:21 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Husbands Responsibilities

The father is intended of God to be the head and leader of the home. As the husband or father takes the pressure of various decisions, he protects his family by relieving them of that pressure.

Leadership always carries with it great responsibilities. Many husbands expect their wives to submit to their leadership but yet they themselves will not submit to the leadership of God. If the husband is not willing to submit to God how can he expect his wife to submit to him. The Bible gives forth the responsibilities of the husband or father. They are: 1) To love, Ephesians 5:25—"Husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it." 2) To provide, I Timothy 5:8—"But if any provide not for his own and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 3) To protect, Mark 3:27—"No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first find the strong man; and then he will spoil his house." 4) To be the spiritual leader, Deuteronomy 6:6-7—"And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." 5) Leadership in honor, The husband should respect his God-given position of authority by treating those under him with respect. 6) Leadership in sharing. Being heirs together of the grose of life, indicates the responsibility

in the matter of spiritual growth.

What wives expect from their husbands: 1) Security—steady, dependable, trustworthy, reliable 2) Affection—the normal expression of genuine love; wives crave affection; they were made to be loved 3) To feel needed—Eve was a helpmate to Adam. He needed her, his life was incapable without her. She was necessary to him. It should bring happiness to the wife by supplying that need.

Paul says in Ephesians 5:22-23—"Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church."

Wives Responsibilities

I Peter 3:1—"Likewise ye wives be in subjection to your own husbands, that if any obey not the word they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives."

Submission may not be popular in our generation but the Bible guarantees that it works. The mother is the key to the children since she is in the middle of the family. Her submission to her husband's leadership "teaches" the child respect for their father and builds a sense of security in the family.

If you as a wife will submit to your husband's leadership it will encourage him to lead. If you resist his leadership it will discourage him and may even drive him away.

The wife who tries to lead the family (deliberately or out of necessity) finds herself under great emotional strain that God never intended her to bear.

The wife is to submit to her husband as unto the Lord. God has given wives the opportunity to choose freely the submissive role, even as Jesus chose to be submissive to the Father. Phillippians 2:5-7—"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man." God honors not those who cling to their rights, but those who choose freely to obey Him. A submissive wife is a happy one, just as we are happy when we submit ourselves unto the Lord.

Many wives and mothers have left their role in the home. 75% of women under the age of 35 and 60% between the ages of 35 and 45 work away from home in public work. These are the crucial years in the home. Many children are left to raise themselves. This is why our crime rate is so high today. This is why there are so many divorces and unfaithfulness. One needs to stop and count the cost and also the loss. There is no possible way for a woman to be mother and wife and a laborer all at the same time. Something has to go undone and someone has to suffer. And when one suffers the whole family suffers. The family must be built around God and each other. It is the most important unit that one can be a part of. Yet today it has become one of the most neglected.

Children

Today we hear so much about child abuse, and child rights. This is the international year of the child. This is another sign of the decay of the home.

The Bible gives certain commands for us as parents

concerning our children. If we fail to follow these we will suffer the consequences. Proverbs 13:1 "A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke." Proverbs 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Proverbs 23:13a "Withhold not correction from the child." Proverbs 29:15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Colossians 3:20 "Children obey your parents in all things."

Children will not respect their parents unless they carry through with their word.

So-called modern methods of child raising have proven unsuccessful. We hear so much about letting them make their own decisions, but we must realize they will have a lifetime of making their own decisions.

Parents do not spend enough time with their children. If your children are involved in some activity then you should all, also, be involved. Preacher's children are one of the most neglected. Billy Sunday said one of the biggest mistakes he made was concerning his own family. While he was out trying to save others, he had lost his own. Too many times all their personal conviction of the congregation are passed upon the ministers' family. Our personal convictions are well and good but those we pass on to others must come from God's word and the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes we as parents make wrong decisions and give wrong commands. Whenever this occurs and is recognized by the parents, it should be confessed and corrected. We should never hesitate to confess a mistake and ask forgiveness of our children.

The authority of parents is not their own authority but one given by God.

Deadline!

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

The Empty Pew

Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty. 1 Sam. 20:18

The empty pew has an eloquent tongue. Though its message is unpleasant, it is one that all may hear.

TO THE PREACHER, the empty pew says, "Your sermon is not worthwhile."

TO THE VISITOR, it whispers, "You see, we are not quite holding our own."

TO THE TREASURER, it shouts, "look out for a deficit!"

TO THE STRANGER, who is looking for a church home, it suggests, "you had better wait awhile."

TO THE MEMBERS, who are present it asks, "Why don't you go visiting next Sunday too?"

The empty pew speaks against the services. It kills inspiration and smothers hope. It dulls the fine edge of zeal. The empty pew is a weight. The occupied pew is a wing.

CRUSADERS FOR CHIRST

QUESTION: Does being responsible for our spare time mean we cannot enjoy recreation?

ANSWER: Recreation is defined as refreshment of mind or body after toil or weariness, with such synonyms as, pastime, diversion, and play. In this light everyone, younger or older should enjoy recreation.

We find that a word may mean different things to different people. The word "recreation" for example, to the fisherman would be interpreted, "fishing". Ministers have told me that a few hours on the river bank with a rod and reel was to them mental therapy.

To the hunter, it means, hunting. Out in the wilds of mountains and trees, they find real diversion from the cards of life.

To some it may mean time for reading or hobbies in the quiet of their home.

To the elderly it could mean a few hours spent with an old friend, especially one who could go with them into the past.

To the youth, no doubt it means "play", athletics, etc.

To the sinner world as a whole it means revelry of one kind or another.

Just what does recreation mean to you?

Another thing to consider is "spare time". In regard to your spiritual life, do you consider every moment outside of regular church service, spare time? Remember each one must win his own reward and there is work to be done in addition to going to church.

These and many other things are to be considered when we talk about what we can and can't do. To obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams.

We all need diversion, not from the Lord, but from cares, responsibilities, and the serious side of life.

Now comes the thought of what we can do for that enjoyment. It is impossible to name them one by one because of the attitude of each individual. One young person may participate in sports and be an example of Christianity by his cooperation, the spirit he has, etc. Another may let it come between him and his service to God.

Anything, however innocent, that interferes with our service to God should not be tolerated by a Christian.

Of course, there are those things that even a sinner knows are not tolerated by a good Christian. We might sum all of these things up in this thought. Any thing you see, hear, or do that causes feelings to stir in your heart that would give you a sense of guilt in the presence of the Lord is dangerous, to say the least.

There are so many wholesome things and beautiful relationships to be enjoyed during the wonderful years of youth, any one of which you could leave and go directly to a service of God without feeling tarnished. These are things to consider when you choose your recreation.

Do not be deceived into thinking the youth of today are different than those of other years. To be sure most of you have enjoyed privileges far greater than those of generations past. Then you should have more to be thankful for and desire to give more in return.

I hope none of you feel that the world and God owe you more than those of any other age. God is no respecter of persons.

Read Ecc. 11:10,9. This scripture definitely teaches that the young man who yields to every impulse of his heart will be brought into judgment. I cannot feel that the youth of 1966 are exempt.

You have grown up in a turbulent time, when the world as a whole have lost their bearings, morally as well as spiritually. You have grown used to seeing and hearing things that your grandparents never encountered. Unless you stay close to the WORD, things that God condemns, will not seem wrong to you.

If you truly love the Lord, pray much, keep a spiritual victory until you enjoy the service you render unto God, I have no fear that you will choose the weak and beggarly things of this world to fill your recreational hours.

Gal. 6:8. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

WANTED:

Fathers like Abraham: "He will command his children and household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord" (Genesis 18:19).

Mothers like Hannah: "As long as he (her son) liveth he shall be lent to the Lord" (1 Samuel 1:28).

Boys like Jesus. He returned with Mary and Joseph to Nazareth "and was subject to them" (Luke 2:51).

Girls like the one who told her mistress that God could heal Naaman's leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-3).

Brothers like Nehemiah and Hanani who served God together (Nehemiah 7:2).

Sisters like Mary and Martha who opened their home and

their hearts to receive Jesus (Luke 10:38,39).

Men in high places like Daniel, in whom no fault could be found (Daniel 6:5).

Preachers like Paul who, "in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling," presented the truth in the power of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Servants of God like Barnabas. "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith" (Acts 11:24).

Lovers of the Bible like the Bereans. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11).

—The War Cry

Lost wealth may be replaced by work, lost knowledge by study, but a lost soul is gone forever.

Doctrinal Teachings

Trinity of the God—Head

1 John 5:7

Repentance [Act of Man]

Mark 1: 14*-15

2 Peter 3:9

Acts 3:19

Conversion [Justification] [Act of God]

Matt. 18:3

Acts 13:38, 39

II Cor. 5:17

Consecration [Act of Man]

Romans 12: 1,2

Sanctification [Act of God]

[A second definite work of grace]

Heb. 13:12,13

Ephesians 5: 25*-27

I Thess. 5:23

Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Luke 3:16

Acts 1:5

Acts 2:4

Acts 10:45, 46

Divine Healing

Matt. 4:23

I Peter 2:24

James 5: 14-16

Ordinances

Water Baptism [by immersion]

Matt. 28:19

Romans 6: 3,4

The Lords Supper

Matt. 26: 26-28

I Cor. 11: 23-30

Feet Washing

John 13: 4-5, 14

NO Divorce and Remarriage

Luke 16:18

I Cor. 7:39

Second Coming of Christ

John 14:3

Acts 2:11

Matt. 24:30

Thousand Year Reign of Christ

Rev. 20:6

Rev. 20:4

Conditional Immortality

[Life through Christ]

John 10:10

I John 5:11, 12

Romans 2:7

Destruction of the Wicked

Matt. 7:13

II Thes. 1:7-9

Romans 6:23

Mal. 4:1

Tithes and Offerings

Mal. 3:8, 10

Luke 11:42

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THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

Karen Oakes Editor

Post Office Box 653

Ph-316-856-5281

Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

EDITORIAL BOARD

Bill Hollis

436 Cherokee Ave.

Baxter Spgs., Kans. 66713

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