

With beautiful simplicity, the tight bud opens - like a life yielding to God's will into a new dimension of peace and joy, praising and adoring its maker.

The
Apostolic Faith
Report

April 1980

Vol 27—No. 4

The
Lord
is
Risen
Indeed

Luke 24:34



ST. MARK 16

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and annoint him.

And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away; for it was very great.

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

And he said unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here; behold the place where they laid him.

But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed; neither said they anything to any man; for they were afraid.

Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast out seven devils.

And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

And he said unto them, "Go ye into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents: and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and conforming the word with signs following. Amen.

In the Kingdom of God, an election is always going on. Only three votes are cast. The Lord always votes for you. The devil votes against you. You have the deciding vote.

Doctrinal Teachings Of The Apostolic Faith

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

The Tomb

by J. C. Macaulay

"It is finished!" the Lord Jesus Christ had cried from the cross. Then He had dismissed His Spirit. The tragic yet incredibly meaningful events of Golgotha with which every man finds himself linked had run their course. The week of conflict and crisis was almost over.

From the shadows a secret believer, Joseph of Arimathea, a man of evident wealth and prominence, now steps forward to ask for the body. He is joined shortly by Nicodemus, the ruler of the Jews who had visited Jesus by night. Reverently but with haste the two prepare the body for burial and wind it in linen with spices, according to the Jewish custom.

Then with the dusk of the Sabbath about to descend, they reverently place His body in Joseph's new tomb in the garden. As the narrative is resumed the Jewish holy day is waning. . .

The westering sun announces that the Sabbath is almost over. Two Marys, Magdalene and the mother of James and Joses, visit the tomb; then after sundown they with Salome go to the merchant's to buy spices, intending on the next morning to add their offering of love.

Sunrise finds them already on their way to accomplish their act of devotion in anointing the body of Jesus. Suddenly the thought strikes them that they will need help to roll back the stone which guards the entrance to the tomb. But the angel has been there before them and the stone is not only rolled back, but lifted clean out of its groove.

That in itself arouses their wonder, for the stone is "exceeding great." But in addition they meet two angelic beings, one sitting on the stone and one sitting on the slab inside the tomb. From them the women receive the startling, glorious announcement of the Lord's resurrection, with an invitation to see the place where He lay.

Fear and joy are strangely mingled in the hearts of these women as they hasten to tell the good news to the company of friends, not pausing on the way to speak to passers-by. No one believes them, but Peter and John have enough control of their emotions to decide on immediate investigation.

John outruns Peter. What slows Peter? Age, or an aching remembrance of that triple denial? But nothing stops him when he reaches the tomb. He crowds past John who is hesitating at the entrance and leads the way into the sepulchre.

At once they see indisputable evidence of the resurrection. The graveclothes are there, but not thrown in a heap as by someone stealing the body, but in their folds, with the headpiece separate on the stone pillow. It is as if the body had evaporated, leaving the wrappings undisturbed. Peter's reaction is described as "wondering," while John "saw, and believed."

"Now when he was risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons." The first day of the week began at six o'clock Saturday evening, for the evening of the Jewish day preceded the morning, as in Genesis 1. Apparently the women had returned to the tomb, following Peter and John at a slower pace—except the Magdalene, whose feet were swift that day, so that, when Peter and John were departing, she was ready to take vigil. Her encounter with the two angels was followed by the unforgettable experience of meeting the risen Lord.

Her behavior indicates the paroxysm of grief which possesses her. Not recognizing Jesus' voice in the question, "Why weepest thou?" she does not even turn to look at the speaker, "supposing him to be the gardener." But when 'he speaks her name, all is changed.

"Rabboni!" she cries—"Master! Teacher!"

Alas! Mary, you are mistaken. A higher title must now be used. The rabbinic title belongs to the days of His humiliation. The resurrection is not a return to those days of teaching on the hillsides of Galilee or the courts or the temple. That order is past. You must learn the new vocabulary of the new order. "Jesus Christ is Lord."

We shall not blame Mary for using the wrong term, nor for the impulse to embrace her beloved Rabboni, an impulse which He checks, but we shall remember that while still truly man, He is more than man, and for all the precious intimacy of our communion with Him, we must come to Him with reverence and worship.

But why does the risen Lord permit the other women to hold Him by the feet right after rebuffing Mary Magdalene? Shortly we shall find Him actually inviting the disciples to touch Him. Apparently they did not require Mary's lesson. The other women held Jesus by the feet in an act of worship, while the disciples needed the double evidence of sight and touch to assure them that this was no apparition, but truly their Lord risen from the dead.

In the meantime, what are those guards doing who were authorized by Pilate to watch the tomb against any attempt of Jesus' disciples to carry off the body? (For the enemies of Jesus had paid more attention to His declaration that He would rise the third day than had His friends!) Naturally, they have to report to the chief priests from whom they received their instructions.

The report disturbs these rulers of Israel. The truth must be hidden at all costs. To induce soldiers to incriminate themselves and plead dereliction of duty requires substantial bribes, but what of that? Even the soldiers know that these Jewish priests can bend Pilate, the Roman governor, to their will.

The scene Changes. Two disciples, Cleopas and another unnamed, are walking westward toward Emmaus, sad and perplexed, discussing the events of the past few days. Suddenly they are accosted by a Stranger who asks the reason for their sadness. Their reply reveals their shattered hopes regarding Jesus as "he who should redeem Israel."

To their surprise, the Stranger begins to unfold the Scriptures as they present a suffering and glorified Christ. On arriving at their destination they invite the Stranger in. As they recline at the table the Guest takes over as Host. Suddenly they recognize Him, and just as suddenly He vanishes from their sight.

What were the marks of recognition? Some tone of voice? Some expression of countenance? The wounds in His hands seen as He broke the bread? Or something in the manner of His breaking the bread? At any rate, the news must be carried to the little company in Jerusalem. What are four miles when there is such joyful news to bear?

But their tidings only confirm what is already known. Slow to accept the report of the women, the group in the upper room can hardly dispute the testimony of Peter, who more than any of the others needs such a gracious visitation. We have no details on the meeting. One thing is sure: it prepared Peter for all that was to follow.

Surely there has been enough excitement for one day! But

the climax comes when Jesus suddenly appears among them, "the doors being shut."

"Peace," He says in salutation, and it is no mere formal greeting. The fear and inward turmoil of the group calls for a ministry of peace, and He who has bequeathed His own peace to them has come from the mighty peace-making transaction of the cross.

But faith comes hard. Even those who a moment ago were joyfully exclaiming, "The Lord is risen indeed," cannot believe the evidence of their own eyes.

"It is a spirit, an apparition," they say to each other and to themselves. So He invites them to feel as well as to see. For added evidence He eats a piece of broiled fish which His resurrection body does not need, but which it can consume.

At last they are quiet and restful in His presence, and He is free to deliver His message to them. It has four points:

1. Here is your benediction—peace.
2. Here is your mission—I send you.
3. Here is your power—the Holy Spirit.
4. Here is your authority—forgive, retain. God honors the disciplinary actions of a Spirit-filled church.

But where is Thomas? He is nowhere to be found, and when he does turn up he refuses to believe the report of the ten plus the women plus the two from Emmaus. So he spends a week in the miseries of his unbelief while the others are excitedly enjoying the certainty that "He is risen." Fortunately he does not leave the company of the disciples and when Jesus revisits them a week later he is there.

Graciously Jesus focuses His attention on Thomas, rebuking his unbelief but offering him the evidences which he demanded—the evidences of sight and feeling. In response, Thomas makes up for his stubbornness by uttering the best confession of them all. "My Lord, and my God!" Doubting Thomas has become worshiping Thomas.

Now Jesus, before His death, had appointed a place in Galilee where He would meet with His followers after His resurrection. The angelic messengers reminded the women of this appointment and the risen Lord Himself reiterates it. After some delay the eleven, and probably many more, head for the meeting place on a mountain in Galilee.

Many believe that this was the occasion of His meeting with over five hundred, mentioned by the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 15:6. Such a gathering would have to be in a remote place to avoid unwanted publicity. If this is so, then the Great Commission was given not only to the apostolic band but to the whole company of believers, and therefore comes down to all of us, not just to our ministers. The missionary mandate is to the whole church, for the whole world. It comes with "all authority"; it extends to "all nations"; it includes a comprehensive teaching ministry covering "all things" within the compass of His commands.

The Post-resurrection days in Galilee are days of uncertainty. Of His resurrection the apostles no longer have any doubt. But what comes now?

In one of those moods Peter decides to go fishing. And why not? That had been his occupation till He met Jesus and here he is by the lake.

Seven others propose to join him. But even skilled fishermen have bad days and nights and this night is a blank. As they make for shore at the break of day a voice comes through the morning mist, inquiring about their "catch."

Reluctantly they admit failure, but following the Stranger's suggestion, they have one more try, on the port side, and to their amazement, find a shoal with taxes their

strength to haul it in.

"It is the Lord," whispers John to Peter.

Like a flash Peter is in the water making for land. It is fish for breakfast, supplied partly by Jesus Himself and partly from their own early morning catch.

But the important thing is not that miracle breakfast. Listen to the conversation between the risen Lord and Peter. Before His Lord's enemies Peter had three times denied any relation or attachment to Him. Now in the presence of the Lord's closest friends Peter three times declares His love for His Master, and three times a personal commission is presented to him. It is "the recall of love."

They are back in Jerusalem. There are teaching sessions "concerning the kingdom of God" until the fortieth day. On that day Jesus leads the small group out to the Mount of Olives, "over against Bethany," the home of Mary and Martha and Lazarus.

On the way He issues final orders. They are to remain in Jerusalem until they receive the promised baptism of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by an endowment of power which will make them effective as His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

With that command, coupled with promise, His earthly ministry is accomplished. He lifts up His hands in benediction upon the little band who are to represent Him to the ends of the earth, and in that posture He is received up in a cloud.

Though they have known Christ after the flesh, yet now they know Him so no more. Henceforth they walk by faith, not by sight. And that is the order for us also, until the fulfillment of the promise, "This same Jesus. . . shall so come in like manner."

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus." End.

AN EASTER PRAYER

—Annie Johnson Flint

The sun mounts higher in the sky
And melts the frost upon the hills;
In leafless stalk and flowerless branch
The hope of springtime wakes and thrills.

So come, Thou Sun of Righteousness,
With heavenly healing in Thy beams;
Shine on the cold and careless hearts
And wake them from their selfish dreams;

And tell the hard and hopeless ones
Who come despairing to Thy feet
That all their marred and broken lives
Thou wilt restore again, complete.

Breathe life into the listless souls
Who think they live—yet know not God—
Till beauty dawn on barren lives
As breaks the blossom from the sod.

Till burdened hearts and sorrowing hearts
And hearts that ache beneath their pride
Shall see Thy light, and feel Thy warmth,
And hail their radiant Eastertide.

This tomb is empty



If it were not so, we would be hopelessly lost.

by Dwight H. McLaughlin

One thing that is certain in history is that there was a man named Jesus Christ. The records of His life, death, burial, and resurrection are a matter of information available to anyone who will take the time to read.

The resurrection of Christ is just as much a fact as any of the other details concerning Him. Though the meaning of the Resurrection is a theological matter, the fact of it is a historical matter. The nature of the resurrection body of Jesus may be a mystery, but the fact that the body disappeared from the tomb is a matter of historical evidence.

There can be no resurrection until someone has died. Christ actually died and was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea. On the third day He arose from the tomb and was seen to be alive (I Corinthians 15:1-8).

Jesus staked the entire future of His church on His prediction that He would rise from the dead. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). Since Jesus said that he would die and would rise again from the dead, it was positively demanded that such events should happen.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the principal fact in the believing and the preaching of the early apostles. There was no question in their minds as to whether this was the same Jesus or whether He was alive again from the dead. They were absolutely certain that he had risen from the dead.

To them, the resurrection of Jesus explained the meaning of His death. To them, it was the principal basis for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

The proofs of evidences of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead are many:

1. There is the silent testimony of the empty tomb. The tomb where He was buried was found to be empty on the third morning.

2. There were a number of persons who witnessed the fact that the tomb was empty—Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, also Peter and John (Matthew 28:1-8; John 20:1-8).

3. The angel attendant at the tomb testified to His resurrection when he said, "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6).

4. The clothes in which He was buried were found after His resurrection lying in the tomb and were identified to be the exact clothes in which He was buried.

5. There are a number of people mentioned in the Bible, whose character we have no reason to doubt, who, though they did not witness His actual resurrection from the dead, saw Him after He was raised. There are at least 14 postresurrection appearances of Jesus recorded in the New Testament.

Jesus Christ said He would die. He was fastened to the cross and there He died. Then He was buried. But Jesus Christ rose again.

Our faith is based upon the truth that One died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose from the dead. The entire Christian religion teaches of His death, burial, and resurrection. We most emphatically believe that if Christ be not raised from the dead, we are yet in our sins and we are lost.

Joy unspeakable and full of glory cannot be found by faith in a dead Christ. These fruits come only from faith in One alive from the dead and living forevermore. Peace of conscience comes only by faith in a living Christ. The Holy Spirit and all kindred blessings come only by faith in a living Christ.

A modernist said: "If the bones and dust of the body of Jesus were found somewhere today in a grave, it would not make any difference to my faith." We answer that if the bones and dust of the body of Jesus were to be found, and if it could be proved that they were genuine, it would destroy the faith of all Christendom. A positive, hopeful, objective faith can only be found in the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is because He lives that we expect to live also. How glorious is the truth of the empty tomb!

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Psalms 150:6

To Give Praise To Our Father

Hope all is well with all of you and God is blessing you as much as He has us. Kristal, age 6; Stephen, age 4; and Julie age 16 mo. are all doing just great. When Julie was born, she had a circulatory problem and was transferred immediately to Northwest Texas Hospital intensive care. Her arms and legs were black and blue in color. After following the ambulance from Canyon hospital to the Amarillo hospital and also waiting well over an hour and half, I went in to find that Julie was a perfect pink, maybe more so than any newborn. That was one of God's miracles for us.

Due to this circulation problem, Julie was very susceptible to cold and flu. At age 2 mo. and again at 6 mo. Julie got sick and developed pneumonia. She was hospitalized both times. We had insurance to cover part of the bills, but God blessed us financially through family, friends and also one anonymous gift of \$500.00 which finished paying off the long past due bills. We owed some 14 different ones including doctors, hospital, radiology, pathology and others.

Months later after Julie was strong and safe from virus or flu, the doctor suggested we have a special test run, which included a brain scan, to show whether she had hydrocephalys (fluid on the brain) or not. The symptom he felt made the test important was the rapid growth of her head, 1/4 in. every two weeks. Twice we scheduled the test. The machine was broken down. The second time we even got to the hospital at 9:00 a.m. and they told us the machine was broken and had to wait for parts. Finally in December we took her in for the test. Of course for a couple of months we were very worried and much in prayer, along with us were family, friends and our Suburban Church family. We praise God for touching Julie. The test results showed nothing wrong. I remember sitting in the waiting room talking to some other people who were waiting. When the doctor came out and said, "What were we supposed to be looking for," Lavonda and I felt such a relief. God had really done it! We can't praise Him enough.

Julie has truly been a blessing sent from God. Our family and our church has been drawn closer together through a small child.

We want to thank you for yours prayers and support. God is blessing us more each day. Our pastor, Ed Modrick and Suburban Church have really been close to us during the past 16 months.

I'd like to give a report on our church. After purchasing land, we are working on plans to build in the near future, as the Lord leads. Easter Sunday will be a special time for all of you. It will be a special time for us also. An offering will be taken for the beginning of our building program.

Thank you so much for the prayers you prayed for our little Julie. To God be the glory, great things he has done. God bless you.

We love you,
Jerry, Lavonda, Kristal, Stephen
and Julie Barker

Making Jesus Lord of All

Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

Awhile back I was watching one of Billy Graham's television programs. A young man and a young lady gave their testimonies. The young woman said that from a small child she wanted to be popular and famous and reach the climax of her desires in being someone great in this life. She said that the Lord let her fulfill and accomplish all this. After she had gone to the top of all this greatness, she was still disappointed and unhappy. It hadn't meant what she thought it would and her life was empty and void. She then asked the Lord to come into her heart and life. She told God that she wanted Him to be the Lord of her life for the rest of her life and that she would give him her desires, abilities and everything else. The glory and the presence of the Lord showed in her countenance as she gave her testimony.

Matthew 6:33 has been a blessing down through the years of my ministry. One year they were having Camp Meeting at Laverne. I had been working and I had a note that was about due. I had never worked through Camp Meeting but because of this debt I thought I would need to work this year. I became very burdened as I wanted to attend Camp Meeting so very much. The day that Camp Meeting started I was sent to a small job. It didn't take too long to finish so I took a break and went by home. I told my precious wife about my burden and feelings and we talked it over. We turned to Matt. 6:33, read this scripture and had a prayer meeting together. I didn't know if I would have a job or not, but I went to my boss and told him I sure wanted to go to Camp Meeting and he said why don't you go". So we did. When camp meeting was over I got a good job that paid the debt off, got a new set of tires for my car and had enough money left to start into the winter. God proved himself so real to me. Not one of God's promises ever fail. Another scripture that has been such a blessing to me is Matthew 6:6, "But when thou prayest enter into thy closet; and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." In 1965 we began to remodel our little two room home in Laverne. We had very little money to start with. I didn't have a job, we were making car payments and I was running out of money. Through all of my ministry we had trusted the Lord for our financial needs. I became very discouraged. I told my wife I couldn't work like I used to and I didn't learn any skilled trade because when we were young we had spent our lives in the Lord's service. We had held revivals in school houses and new fields and now we were winding up with nothing. When you become discouraged the devil always talks first. We had planned to go to camp meeting at Baxter Springs that year. I was so blue that I thought I would write them and tell them to cancel our room reservation. After all this I finally heard the still small voice of the Lord. My attitude changed. I told my wife nothing we could do would be better than give our best to the Lord's

service. When my attitude changed everything else changed also. Finances came in, we finished remodeling our home and went to camp meeting and received much from the Lord here. Bro. Neal Ragan asked me to fill in at Amarillo for him so we went and enjoyed our labor with the congregation there. When we returned home I was able to work with Bro. Jack Barker. My wife said she thought that was the greatest year of our ministry.

In conclusion I want to say that God is no respecter of persons but I do believe that God does make a difference when we are dedicated and consecrated one hundred per cent. When we do pray in secret He does reward openly. In these times of inflation I stand amazed how the Lord has provided for me when everything else has failed. My God will never leave us or forsake us. Praise His precious name!

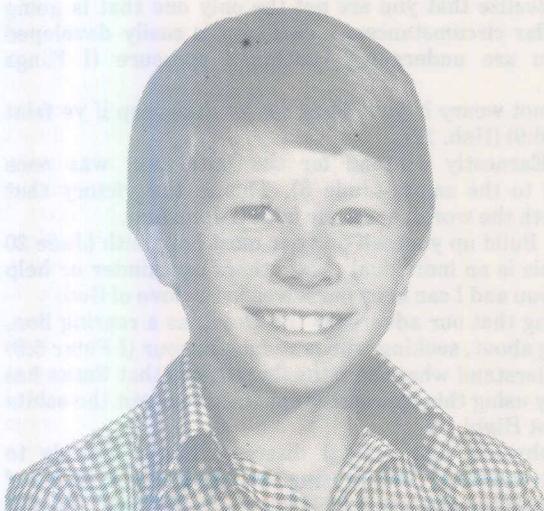
by James Hosler

It's all in the name of Jesus

A Child's Testimony

During the close of our V.B.S. my mother, who was director, needed to buy a few prizes for the closing program. My mother, sister and I went to town. When she parked the car it was across the alley from the place of business. We got the prizes and on our way out noticed it had started to rain. As little boys do I became anxious to get out of the rain and go to the car. I started on ahead of my mother and sister and without looking ran into the alley in the path of an on coming car. When I looked up my hand was on the hood of the car as if trying to hold it back. Praise the Lord the car was going slow. After turning pale and getting scolded by my mother who was also pale I knew I had been watched over. This isn't all of my story. Not knowing at the same time Sis. Wilma Wilkerson who was on a trip had felt the sudden urge to pray for one of us. She said just a short prayer and then dismissed it from her mind. Later when she returned my mother related the story to her and she told us of her feelings for praying. The Lord had His angels out watching over me. That me is Kennon Crowhurst, age 9, Roswell, New Mexico.

(written and submitted by his mother)



Born Again

by Opal Wimer

There has been a growing burden and awareness that the teachings and doctrines of the Word of God has been eroded, watered down, ignored and even turned into a lie that it has brought deep distress. We know we are living in perilous times and every thing that can be shaken will be shaken.

God has entrusted to each of us His Work. How are we handling this responsibility? Are we teaching and living the Word or are we compromising and shunning to declare the whole Word of God?

To be "Born Again" is a subject I would like for us to examine. It has been ridiculed, sneered at, people who claim to be born again have caused a reproach on this beautiful work of grace that we of God's family need to lift the blood-stained banner high that Christ might be exalted.

In John 3:3 Jesus says, "unless you are born again you can not see the Kingdom of God." Read the scriptures about those who will be in the Kingdom of God. We know the Kingdom of God is within you but there will be a literal Kingdom of God. Who will be in that Kingdom?

John 3:5 You must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of God.

John 1:12,13 As many as received Him He gave power to become the Sons of God even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Have you received Him? Then he gives you the power to become the sons of God?

Let us look at Gal. 3:16, Peter 1:23 and I John 3:9. Gal. 3:16 says Christ is the seed. I Peter 1:23 says we are born again not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible seed by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. Unless we have Christ we do not have eternal life even if the vast church world say God breathed into Adam an immortal soul, and it will live forever. I John 5:12 He that has the Son has eternal life, and he that has not the Son has not life. I John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin because he is born of God.

I John 4:7 Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. This is God's love not man's kind of love.

I John 5:1-5, 18 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and everyone that loves him that begat loves him also that is begotten of him.

Verse 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith.

Verse 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Verse 18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and the wicked one toucheth him not. The word Keepeth means to guard, watch, hold fast. We have a task to do. Watch and pray.

Being Born Again is not the sickly, spineless idea put forth by the church world. We need to get back to the Word of God. There has been too much compromising and failing to declare the whole Word of God. The blood of people will be on our hands if we do not preach and teach as the Word of God declares it.

THE SICKNESS OF OPPRESSION IN THE END-TIME

by Bob Taylor

As Daniel received a vision of the end-time, he was grieved in his body and what he saw greatly troubled him (Daniel 7:15). Daniel saw, in a vision, what we are seeing in reality today.... He viewed the rise of the great political kingdoms (Daniel 7:17) but he also saw the saints of the most high God taking and possessing the spiritual kingdom for ever and ever..

Thank God for the comfort of this vision to the real child of God.. This assurance makes us to know that Paul was correct in his statement of (Rom. 8:31)....."If God be for us, who can be against us?" We can see the rise and fall of political kingdoms but thru the troubles of our age we can know of assurance that there will be a segment of God's people who can and will maintain their integrity with God.

What we, as God's people, need to realize is that Satan, thru the efforts of the Anti-Christ and the spirit of the Anti-Christ, ..."shall wear out the saints of the most High" (Dan. 7:25). Let us not be foolish by saying that all the efforts of the Anti-Christ will be exerted during the last seven years or the tribulation period.. There is a segment of the religious people, namely those who have an experience of the Holy Spirit, who feel that they shall be accounted worthy to escape all the troubles of the tribulation period.. It is true that it is possible to escape much of it and perhaps the greater part, at least the worse part. Yet we must realize that the Anti-Christ is already in the world thru his spirit (I John 4:3). There will be a prevailing warfare waged against the saints of God after the Anti-Christ has been revealed (Dan. 7:21) but let us not forget to be alert to the spirit of Anti-Christ today.....

There was a sickness of oppression that Jesus healed during his ministry (Acts 10:38) and this same sickness is sweeping our world today.... These people were not possessed of the Devil, as some were but Jesus encountered people who had a feeling of being weighted down both with physical and mental distress.. They felt over-powered and subdued by an unjust power or authority. They felt that something heavy weighing on the mind, the spirit and the senses.

Solomon was aware of this condition among humanity and readily felt that death would be far better (Eccl. 4:1-3). Oppression of the Devil is not easy to cope with.. David, realizing that his soul was disquieted (disturbed) with him, asked himself for a reason for his feelings.. He too realized that this feeling of being weighted down and subdued was because of the enemy of his soul.. (Psa. 42:9).... Later, David, tho he knew that God was his strength, asked himself as to why he felt that God had cast him off (Psa. 43:2). After considering the matter, he decided that it was just the oppressive spirit of the Devil. This oppressive spirit became so strong that rather than be subdued by this feeling, he wished for wings, as a dove, that he might fly away and be at rest....

We may take aspirin for our headache; Roloids for our indigestion; Doans pills for our backache, but we haven't a pill on the market that will ease the weight of this physical and mental distress.... We must get and maintain victory over this type of feeling or we will surely lose possession of the kingdom of God that is within us (Luke 17:21).. The changing of localities is not the answer to our problem.... we must face the Devil head on!

From the history of Hezekiah's life, as recorded in II Kings 20, tho he was sick unto death yet thru prayer he was healed and his life was spared for another fifteen years.... However in reading of Isaiah record of the events of Hezekiah's life (Isaiah 38), we find this age old problem of the oppression of the enemy... Hezekiah felt oppressed as he prayed and prayed without seeing or feeling any victory.... He came to the place that he cried, "mine eyes failed from looking up!" You see it was not as easy as the writer of kings would have us to believe....He realized that other people also lived under similar conditions too.....As the oppressive powers crowded in, one more time Hezekiah cried out to God....."oh Lord, I am oppressed; undertake for me!" At last Hezekiah could say, with confidence, "the Lord is ready to save me"...Thanks be to our great God, who is ever willing and ready to save and rescue his people!

If Hezekiah had not had a lot of spiritual stamina, he could not have endured those oppressive times as Jesus assured us, we must (Matt. 10:22)...

The question is often asked.....What can God's people do in this day and age when Satan's forces are being particularly oppressive (Rev. 12:4)? We have listed ten important weapons to fight the oppressive spirit of the age.....

#1.... Keep under the protective blood of Jesus Christ.... The Devil is powerful but he is no match for the blood of Jesus....

#2....Resist the Devil (James 4:7)....Fight Back! It will not be easy but God's grace is sufficient for thee!

#3. Draw nigh to God (James 4:8). This is accomplished by submitting yourself to God (James 4:7).

#4. Be sober; be vigilant! It is of utmost importance to us to consider this matter very seriously and also stay alert. Satan would have us to try finding release from the pressures of the day by either filling our mind with the foolishness of earthly things or by becoming numb to the situation about us thru the use of drugs.

#5. ... Casting all our care upon Him (Christ). We must realize that Christ is the only hope of his people!

#6..... Resisting the Devil, stedfastly in the faith, as Job did..We must maintain our integrity with God at all times.. Do not allow your experience with God to become like a Yo-Yo.... up and down.. It will be at those down times that Satan will take advantage of you and steal your victory and take your possession of spirituality....(II Cor. 2:11)..

#7.....Realize that you are not the only one that is going thru similar circumstances.... Self pity is easily developed when you are undergoing continued pressure (I Kings 19:1-18)...

#8. Be not weary in well doing for ye shall reap if ye faint not (Gal. 6:9) (Heb. 12)..

#9.... Earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith (I John 5:4).

#10..... Build up yourself on your most holy faith (Jude 20 & 21). This is an individual race; others can hinder or help but only you and I can keep ourselves in the love of God.

Realizing that our adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, is walking about, seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8) let us understand what the ultimate purpose that Satan has in mind by using this oppressive spirit to wear out the saints of the most High!

Thru physical and mental distress, Satan intends to subdue the saints of God, causing them to lose possession of that spiritual kingdom that they have within them.. He will

then have accomplished his desired task of scattering the power of the Holy people, rendering them helpless and his prey and then all these things shall be finished (Dan. 12:7)....

Who then can be saved? He that endureth to the end! Let's see Satan as who he is! As to how he is working to devour! Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, 1980, and having done all to stand, stand therefore!

How Beautiful are the Feet
by Pearl Menke

I have always loved the scripture found in Romans 10:15, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace . . .". They are feet of deliverance and bring glad tidings of good things. The world is dying and many are famished for the Word of God. How beautiful are the feet of the man or woman that goes to them with the great message of Salvation and peace. Many in the world today have never heard the name of Jesus, the blessed son of God, who left His home in glory to come to earth's dark night, to die on the cross on Mt. Calvary for sinners, knowing that all had sinned and must have forgiveness or be lost. How beautiful are the feet of them that take His name to those that have never heard that Jesus loves them. It will be worth everything when Jesus comes and we look upon His precious face. If there are living gems to lay at his feet it will be so beautiful.

When God gave Isaiah the great burden and vision as was given in Isaiah the 6th chapter He also gave him a work to do. Perhaps Isaiah rejoiced over the revelation vision and the purging with coals of fire from the altar of God. There God blessed Isaiah and said, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Isaiah said "Here am I; send me." He could have wanted the Lord to send one of the other prophets. He was to go and tell the people. how beautiful were the feet of Isaiah as he went to take the message to his generation. Most people can remember who first came to them with God's word and how thankful they were to hear the message they brought. "How beautiful are the feet. . ."

**Pearls Of
Promise**

Yet a little while,
the world seeth me no
more; but ye see me:
because I live ye shall
live also. St. John
14:19

After one of the terrible battles of the Civil War, a dying Confederate soldier asked to see the chaplain. When the chaplain arrived, he supposed the young man would wish him to beseech God for his recovery; but it was different. First the soldier asked him to cut off a lock of his hair for his mother, and then he asked him to kneel down and thank God. "What for?" asked the surprised chaplain. "For giving me such a mother. Thank God that I am a Christian. And thank God for giving me grace to die with. And thank God for the Home He has promised for me over there." And so the chaplain knelt down by the dying man, and in prayer he had not a single petition to offer, but only praise and gratitude.

—Heart to Heart Talk

Something to Think About

by Dorothy L. Maney

The Bible says, "And it shall come to pass in the last days saith God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams." Acts 2:17. In this hour we have a great army of people attending church and getting more in number. Many churches go from three hundred or less to two thousand in a very short period of time. In the days when God called Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites God said the people that are with thee are too many to give the Midianites into their hands. Now go and proclaim in the ears of the people saying, "Whosoever is fearful and afraid let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead (Judges 7:3). And there returned twenty-two thousand people, (leaving ten thousand). The Lord said there are yet too many, bring them down to the water and I will try them there. Everyone that lappeth up the water with his tongue as a dog lappeth him shalt thou set by himself, likewise him that boweth down upon his knees to drink. The number of them that lapped putting their hand to their mouth were three hundred men. Judges 7:6. In this hour of firey trials when we are put to the test will we be a part of the great army of thirty-two thousand or will we be one of the three hundred who came forth after being put to the test?

JESUS

Page Sermons By: Gail Shultz
Typed from original handwritten articles
Sermon 10

Here is the most precious name of earth, not your dearest loved one, be that husband, wife, son, daughter or sweetheart, but Jesus. It can be whispered by a child, a General or King can breath that Holy name of Jesus in prayer. He can be the heart of the most glorious song ever composed or the theme of verse, prose or sermon. Written or spoken He is still the power of God revealed to men. Without Him, I can do nothing, through Him I can do all things. in His presence the invading powers of darkness must flee and some day, some place all sin and sickness and death shall vanish. The graves shall give up their ones they now hold and all creation will worship Him at His feet anew. You may have the world, but give me Jesus.

PARHAM BOOKS

NOW AVAILABLE

- Life of Charles F. Parham now \$7.00
- The Voice Crying in the Wilderness \$2.00
- Selected Sermons \$1.50
- The Everlasting Gospel \$2.00
- Handling and Postage..... \$.50

ORDER NOW!! from The Apostolic Faith Bible
College Box 110 Baxter Spgs., Kans. 66713.



April notes

Stockton, California

"Hello" to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are still enjoying the blessings of the Lord in Stockton. Sunday School is gaining in attendance every Sunday and we are expecting greater things as the weather gets better and the flu season ends. Our best news is the location of a nicer place for youth camp near Stockton and Modesto. It is located in the mountains, about two hours drive from both places. It will be very nice as those who wish can drive up for evening services. We're expecting great things for California Youth Camp 1980. Due to the severe rains in California, the building program has slowed a little. We have had some fund raising projects to help on the building. Pray for us as we labour for the Lord.

Ken Priest-Pastor
Ella Swaim-Reporter

Alvin, Texas

Greetings from Trinity Apostolic Faith Church! We hope this letter finds you all well. How pleased we are to report we are now using our new classroom facilities. The Lord has blessed us with a beautiful place to share His Word, and the room we so desperately needed to share Christ with the community of Alvin. In February, Dr. Wilford Kent was with us a few days to share his views on many things relating to problems in our every day lives. We thoroughly enjoyed his visit and are anxious to have him back again. The Apostolic Faith Bible College Choir was here in concert with us on March 5th. Pat Hoffmaster was with us March 16 to minister in song. Afterwards we had a fellowship dinner concluding with dedicating our new building. Thank you all for all of your prayers and God bless you.

Ron Martin-Pastor
Linda Logsdon-Reporter

Roswell, New Mexico

This is the day that the Lord hath made! We praise the Lord for His wonderful blessings He gives to us each day.

Recently we started a "Family Night" once a month. This has proved to be a blessing in fellowshiping with each of our Christian friends.

Since the first of the year our church families have started a Bible Reading Program which will last the whole year. It is wonderful to read God's Word daily. There have been so many things each of us have discovered in our reading.

The Lord has been answering the prayers of the people here in Roswell. Several have testified to some very definite answers to their prayers. Praise the Lord for His love toward each of us.

We are enjoying having Linda Bard with us in Roswell.

Our church people are praying for a revival in the near future. Remember us in your prayers.

Jerome Crowhurst, Pastor
Leona Winkler, Reporter

Crosses, Arkansas

We are glad to report that the Lord is blessing our church. New victories are being received for those who are openhearted and hungry. Our Sunday school attendance has been good, usually in the forties. We feel this is a good attendance for a country church. We still see so many that need to be in church and know the Lord as their Saviour. We ask your prayers for our church that we can see some of these coming that need to know our Lord. In our adult Sunday school we have been studying in the 24th chapter of Matthew about the signs of the coming of the Lord and of the end time. We have enjoyed our study of this time we are living in. We all need to prepare for the time is short. Matthew 24:34 "Verily I say unto you this generation shall not pass, til all these things be fulfilled." Matthew 24:42 "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Are you ready? We feel the Lord has blessed us with a pastor and family that really trust the Lord for all their needs. Bro. Haney studies the word of God and brings good sermons to us. Also, we appreciate the good work he is doing with our young people. Sis. Loretta is always ready to lead in our song services and help with special singing. Their sons, Marty and Warren are also a blessing to the church. Marty is a Sunday school teacher and puts out our church paper. We feel that the church paper has been a blessing to our church. Warren is our assistant Sunday school superintendent and does a good job. We are thankful for these young men and the stand they are taking for the Lord.

We recently added two new Sunday school classrooms to our church. We have enjoyed these new rooms and thank the Lord for them.

March 9th Bro. and Sis. Howard Whiteley, Lachelle and Lynn were with us for the Sunday morning service. Bro. Whiteley brought a wonderful message and the family sang several songs. We had a basket dinner at the noon hour with afternoon singing. Bro. and Sis. Whiteley and family stayed for this service and sang several numbers. Also Bro. and Sis. J.W. DePew from Fayetteville was with us for the afternoon singing service. We were blessed with several numbers in song from them. We also enjoyed the songs that the local people brought.

We are praising the Lord for being so good to us. Christian, are you doing all you can for the Lord? Sinner-Time is short-Are you ready? God bless you all.

Roland Haney-Pastor
Winona Waggoner-Reporter

Bayard, Nebraska

Greetings from the church in Bayard! We are beginning to see signs of spring which gives us all a new inspiration. God is blessing our church in a special way. He has answered many prayers for those who are in need of healing, but continue to pray for their complete victory. We recently purchased a used organ. Thanks to all those who gave in this need. It is a real blessing to our services. At present we are having a series of studies on God's plan of the Ages. There is alot of interest as people are concerned about prophecy and future events. We have enjoyed working as pastors with this group of people. There is a good spirit among us which we praise God for. Keep us in your prayers. Let us all prepare for his coming.

Amos Harris-Pastor

Gause, Texas

Just a short word from the Kornegay's. We wish to express that the Lord is richly blessing us here in central Texas and we wish to pass on a big "hello" to all of our friends in the movement that we seldom get to see. We enjoy the Apostolic Faith Report and wish everyone the Lord's blessing until his soon return.

Alex and Rene Kornegay

A visit in Baxter Springs

At the Panhandle of Texas and Oklahoma ministers meeting in February, Bro. Ted Barker announced he was planning to drive a bus to Baxter Springs, Kansas to take anyone who would care to go for a visit to the Apostolic Faith Bible College and at the next meeting the date set was March 17 leaving Perryton, Texas at 7:30 a.m. with a stop at Laverne Okla. at 9 a.m., returning in the afternoon of March 19.

I was one of that group and felt the readers of the Apostolic Faith Report might enjoy a report of this trip.

The kindness and hospitality shown by all could in no way be surpassed. We were all given a good bed and the food was delicious. It seemed we were sitting together in a heavenly place in Christ Jesus at the Chapel service, and all following classes. The Spirit filled teachers and all students very enthusiastic in the study of God's Word to me was soul inspiring. A visit with Sis. Karen Oakes in the office of the Apostolic Faith Report made one really appreciate her labor of love in the publishing of the Report to be sent to many of the Apostolic Faith movement.

The environment of this place and the God given orderly manner in which everything is carried on seemed as heaven's border land and my exhortation to the young people after finishing high school still with a desire to be in school, this is the place to go.

In the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes we read, "Of making many books there is no end and much study is a weariness of the flesh, Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, Fear God and keep, his commandments for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing whether it be good or whether it be evil."

In every printed issue of the Apostolic Faith Report we are given Apostolic Faith teaching, and as a very hungry soul in 1919 and the early 20's I heard these same things and throughout the many years since I have found them taught in the Bible and God's Word is forever settled in heaven. By much study and prayer I have found his commandments are not grievous and if kept will pour frail barque on the narrow road to life eternal.

Signs everywhere tell us Jesus is coming soon, and before he ascended to heaven we were told to be ready. May we watch and pray lest coming he find us sleeping.

Prayerfully yours,
In the Masters Service
Mrs. E. A. Greever

Wiles

Somebody new just moved into our home and into our hearts. His name is Travis Wade Wiles, born Feb. 14, 1980, weighing 8lbs. 10 oz. and 20 in. long. His parents are Delvin and Rita Wiles and he has one older brother, Jayson. The paternal grandparents are Rev. and Mrs. Doyle Wiles of Decature, Ark. and maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stephens of Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Report On Healing Service

Dear Friends,

I want to write a word of appreciation to you for your response and cooperation with us concerning the healing service conducted at the Bible College last month. We received approximately 70 requests from 10 states, from California to Georgia and from Nebraska to the Gulf coast states. Thank God for people who share our burden to pray for those who have been oppressed by the devil. We intend to gain the victory over every evil work. Several people from churches in the Baxter Springs area joined us in the healing service. Many came through the healing line and we have had some to testify to the healing received as they were anointed and prayed for.

The requests that you sent us were placed on a table and we poured the anointing oil on them and prayed with confidence that the God we love and serve is delivering you from every infirmity that you bear. I charge you by the Word of God to believe and receive.

As we continue in this ministry, we expect to witness the handiwork or God fulfilling His word in our lives. God bless you every one. Pray for this ministry.

Ollie L. Kinser Ministries
Rt. 4 Box 89
Joplin, Missouri 64801

FORSAKE NOT THE ASSEMBLY

(Hebrews 10:25)

1. My Duty is to ATTEND THE CHURCH.
Live members go to church—dead ones are hauled there.
Rev. 3:1: "Thou livest and art dead."
2. My Duty is to EXTEND THE CHURCH.
By visitation and invitation, by friendliness, by caring for new converts, by cultivating a missionary vision both at home and abroad. (Matt. 28:19,20)
3. My Duty is to DEFEND THE CHURCH.
Six great dangers face the Church:
 - a. The infiltration of error (IITim. 4:3,4)
 - b. The danger of wrong leadership (II John 9)
 - c. The snare of wordliness (I John 3:15-17)
 - d. The Peril of complacency (Rev. 1:18)
 - e. The bane of cliquishness (I Cor. 3:4-8)
 - f. The demon of disaffection (John 15:12,17)
4. My Duty is to COMMEND THE CHURCH
We commend the church by what we are, with consistent Christian lives; by what we do, with actions speaking louder than words; by what we say, words that are gracious, loving, kind, and hence glorifying to our Lord.

Manning

Danny and Patty Manning are proud to announce the arrival of their new son, Jacob James. He was born on Feb. 4, 1980 at 10:27 a.m. He weighed 8 lbs. 12½ oz. and was 21 ¼ in. long. He has a sister Duronda Dawn who is one year old. Grandparents ar Mr. and Mrs. James Arnold of Guymon, Okla. and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Deal of May, Okla. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Deal and Mrs. Audry Baker of May, Okla.

From the Superintendent

Dear Friends of the Movement;

We have just returned from our choir tour. The Lord blessed us in each concert and was with us each mile of the way. We appreciate each of you who attended our concerts and especially are grateful for the tremendous hospitality that was shown to us everywhere we went. A special thanks goes to the Katy Church who let us borrow their bus since ours was not ready.

Our bus is due to be returned to us any day now. We are anxious to see how it looks since it has been completely redone. When it is returned, we will have to pay the balance owed for the repair work. Your prayers are requested that this need will be met very soon. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,
Lyndel Arnall
Superintendent

Dean of Men

Greetings in Jesus name from the Boy's Dorm,

Another week has come and gone and there is victory in the name of Jesus. The choir had a successful tour and now the fellows are again settled into their studies. The students were all glad to get back into school routine and are praying about the will of the Lord in their lives when school is out.

The two boys I have are two of the finest young men you ever saw. We pray they can be used mightily for the Lord. I know it takes the Holy Spirit in their lives and if they stay yielded to Him, God can use them. I am happy to be their Dorm Dad. We hope when they leave this school they can convince other young men this is the place for them to gain a knowledge of the basic truths of the word of God.

We desire your prayers for the school. If we all as Apostolic Faith believers contend for the faith I am sure we will see a large number of students attending the school here next year. We need to grow and not diminish.

I missed a week from the school due to my father suffering a stroke. Then the day after we got him home my mother had to spend three days in the hospital but God has answered prayer in a wonderful way. They are both at home now and recovering nicely. They still need prayer though.

One of my Aunts also passed away My week away from school was pretty full and I'm glad to be back.

May God bless everyone of you is my prayer.

R.C.B.

Girls Dorm Testimonies

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

I want to thank the Lord for directing me to Bible School. I wanted to come, and yet desires I had tried to hold me back. Then I let the Lord completely take over in my life and I'm here. He has blessed in so many ways. First semester He filled me with his precious Holy Spirit. I feel much stronger now, there is a new joy in my heart that words can not explain. There are times when I feel low and even feel like giving up. But through the power of Jesus, it all works out. "Romans 8:37 "Even when I fail Him, He still loves me. He never gives up on me and I praise Him for that. I would also like to thank the Lord for the wonderful services we had on choir tour. For a long time I had taken many things for

granted and I didn't realize it until I was placed in a certain condition. This taught me a very valuable lesson. Praise the Lord! As we leave Bible School in a few weeks, I am trusting in the Lord to direct each step I take. I don't know exactly where I'll be, but I am giving my all to the Lord to use as He wills. I'll follow wherever He leads me. My prayer is "Not my will, Thine be done."

Yvonna Cornell

The Lord has been so good to me. I cannot think of a time when he has let me down or asked me to walk alone. When I think of His wonderful love and blessings it just thrills me to realize I'm a part of His family. The Lord has certainly blessed us at Bible School. Learning the word is so vitally important as we consider the deceptive practices of Satan. If we can just ground ourselves in the Word we will have a mighty weapon against Satan and his devices.

I'm thankful especially to the Lord at this time for the valley. A song has been on my heart recently. It's written by Dottie Rambo, entitled "In The Valley He Restoreth My Soul." It talks about the valleys in our lives and how the Lord knows we can't live on the mountain all the time, so valleys, are picked out for us to travel thru. Because He tells me "There's strength in my sorrow and there's victory in trials for me." I'm so thankful that Jesus Christ knows what's best for us and as we walk on the mountains. He will walk with us. But if it's a valley we are walking thru He will carry us.

I'm glad I know Him because I realize life would be so useless without Him. And the valleys in our lives may we always remember it's IN THE VALLEY THAT HE RESTORETH OUR SOUL.

We are more than conquerors thru Him and there is victory ahead!

Deana Fish

When I began to think of a testimony I could write for the Lord, a song we sing very often came to my mind-God is so good! He really is, isn't He! His blessings are too many to name them all. I praise God for the special privilege to come to Bible College this year. It has been a real time of growth for me.

I came to Bible College right out of high school 8 yrs. ago. The Lord allowed me to come for 3 semesters. It was a great time of fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters. But, at that period in my life, that's basically all it was. Sometimes it takes a while for us to settle down and realize the importance of really studying God's Word.

When I left here in 1974, I tried to find the place God had for me to work. I did work several places but it seemed like I was never satisfied. As I look back now, I can see that I was trying to figure my whole life out and what God wanted, instead of taking one day at a time.

Last winter the Lord began to deal with me about coming back to Bible College again. At the time it seemed totally impossible, but I began to pray about it. When I finally told the Lord that I would come, I felt a real peace about it. This wasn't the end of the problems, but I knew the Lord would work them out. I needed to sell my car in order to come. There were times when I thought this was never going to happen. But, the Lord worked a miracle and I was able to sell it.

Since I've been here this year, I've faced some things that I had refused to face before. God has taken away a lot of fears and doubts that had bound me for so long.

A door has been opened to work in some of our churches this summer with a group from the Bible College. I praise God for this. I know the Lord has a lot more in store for me. He promised to meet all my needs according to His riches in glory.

Again I say, God is SO very good!

Donna Kinser

What Really Endures?

by Jerry W. Shepperd

A commonplace "truth" of times past was that "knowledge endures." Yet almost 50 percent of the "facts" we know today were not known prior to World War II.

Much of what we learn today will be declared obsolete tomorrow. A large portion of the remainder will be rearranged or reinterpreted.

If "facts" do not endure, what remains? How can the church be so audacious as to proclaim "eternal" truths when truth apparently changes?

Should we discard yesterday's doctrines with yesterday's fashions? How can the church possibly remain current with a current message?

Styles of worship come and go. Fashionable interpretations quickly become unfashionable.

In an endless search for meaning, new translations of Scriptures are printed only to be superseded by a new and more up-to-date translation.

In a changing, present oriented society, what can endure?

John answered those questions more than 1900 years ago in the first verse of his Gospel, and the simple truth is sometimes overlooked in our search for complex truth: "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). The Word endures.

The Word is eternal. "The Word was," suggests more than past tense. *Was* indicates infinity, forever. One is reminded of Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God..."

"The Word was with God." *With* suggests that God and the Word were present together and present on an equal basis. The following phrase is a summary: "The Word was God," eternally and equally.

What is the word? Translated from the Greek *logos*, it has come to mean, to the advertising and printing industry, a unique imprint or symbol of a company or a product. A similar idea comes from the American West where ranchers branded, or put a mark upon cattle, denoting ownership.

The imagery that the idea of *logos* brings to mind is complex. The *word* is a unique imprint upon the life of the Christian. It is the uniqueness that separates the Christian from the non-Christian. The Word to a Christian is a mark of ownership. The Christian can say, "I belong to Jesus," and have the assurance of the Word.

The word is unique in grammar. Without words there is no language.

Though there are synonyms, words are individual. No two are exactly alike. They can have similarities in meaning, but there are nuances of differences. It is the similarities and the differences that help to provide the richness of language.

Words are a linkage between our thoughts and the expression of those thoughts.

The Word is a connotation for Scripture: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet." Thy Word have I hid in my heart."

Jesus defined Scripture as Word: "Man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live" (Matthew 4:4).

God communicated life to the world through the human media of words. Jesus applied the Scripture to himself when He said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

The Word of Life



To the Christian the Word is inclusive of the various, suggested meanings but goes much deeper. Christ is the Word, the *Logos*, the mark on our lives, the uniqueness of language. Without Christ we have no ownership, no mark of quality, no meaning.

We cannot exclude one facet of meaning without losing some of the richness of the whole. We cannot have Christ without having His imprint. We cannot have Christ without having His Word. We cannot have Christ without having His language.

Just as words are linkages between thoughts and expressions, Christ as *Logos* is the linkage between God the Father and man. John reminded his readers that Christ is the expression of God in the flesh (John 1:14).

Remaining current in the Word is more than just Bible study. It is living the emerging story of the Word of God, the Saviour of the world.

When the Holy Spirit reveals the Word, He is revealing Christ. We cannot read Scripture without seeing Christ. We cannot live in Christ without living in the Word.

In God's plan we cannot separate life in Christ from life in the Word. Jesus said "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

What endures? The Word.

The meaning of *logos* is never old to the Christian. It is never outdated. New experiences, lived in the Spirit, keep meanings current. When we attempt to rely on past experiences, the *experiences* fail. But Christ is the truth that remains. The Word endures. Forever!

One thing is to be accused. Another thing is to be guilty.

Thank You

We say it so often

- when a waitress gives us good service
- when a customer buys our product
- when someone gives us a helping hand

Sometimes we *show* as well as *say* our thanks

- when we leave a small tip
- when we send a little gift to a friend or hostess
- when we give that warm, sincere hand-shake

I'd like to show my appreciation to you by telling you something that is of far greater value. It is simply that the greatest gift in the world can be yours for the asking.

That gift is the friendship of my best friend—Jesus Christ. He took away my sin and guilt and gives my joy and peace. I serve him with loving obedience and find in Him my life, my hope, my everything!

He invites you, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

He saves; He keeps; He satisfies!

Introducing Him to you is the best way that I can say
THANK YOU!

Departing from the faith

(Tim. 4-1-3) 1. "Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils;

2. Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

3. Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats which God has created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

To realize in this time how sly and subtle is the enemy of our souls is and to be in a place to understand when the spirit of error is manifesting itself and trying to manifest itself, is a blessing.

Just to know what spirit is at work or really enough spiritual discernment to be able to tell is one of the greatest blessings God's children can have in these days. Then it is we can arm ourselves with the armor of God, and be able to have a fair battle. But to be on the fence as to what spirit one is using, puts us in a place where we can't aim at the enemy of our souls.

One of the surest signs of backsliding is letting up on prayer life. We don't feel very well today, as the old story goes, and we will put off prayer until finally we would just rather no one mention going to prayer at all. Do we not remember the words of God emblazoned on the pages of the Bible; "Let us redeem the time knowing that the days are evil", and to do this we can be certain that we are not grieving our Lord if we are spending time before him in prayer.

Then omitting of reading God's word and rather reading anything else instead, such as the funnies, jokes or even the current events, and laying aside the Book of all books, the most precious of all reading matter. To read daily the current events is not enough, but we must read God's Word.

What is a Christian?

Frail arms by which Christ lifts,
Weak lips by which He speaks,
A heart through which He loves,
And feet by which He seeks;
A soul indwelt by Christ
And eyes through which He sees,
A mind that thinks His thoughts
And hands that strive to please;
A life where Jesus lives,
A will which He commands,
A yielded mind and heart,
Surrendered feet and hands.

—*Love Gifts* by Perry Tanksley;
1971 by Fleming H. Revell Co.

This article appeared in a 1931 issue. Could there be a message in it for us—49 years later?

It is the devil's business to keep us from reading the Bible, and in that way destroy our faith in God. Surely this is a most pitiful condition for one to be in. There may be times we may not understand all we read but with God's help he will open our understanding.

Another sign of backsliding, and this is evident among the ministry as well as laity is this: after having grown cold in the spiritual life, can't stand to have the Holy Spirit reprove in anything. If we are reproved for anything I find the quickest remedy is to search our own hearts, and if what we are being reproved for is the truth, then we should be thankful that the Holy Spirit is still with us to show us the way, and refrain from the error, repenting to God and take it to him in prayer. When one gets to a place where they are beyond talking to, then is when we see backsliding from God's way, and love the spirit of error rather than the spirit of truth, "For they love darkness rather than light for their evil deeds.

Jesting and joking, using the scriptures for basis, renders the Word of God none effect and is a sure sign of falling from grace. If you glance back to the time when God so marvelously saved, sanctified, and baptized you in His precious Holy Spirit, how then did foolish talking sound to you? Much less filthy jokes with double meanings? God's way is straight and narrow.

Let us seek for the old paths and not try to set up a standard other than that which has already been set. I Tim. 4-16 "Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine; continue thou in them; For in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

As Christ was taken up in the clouds into Heaven, so shall He come again. This advent of Christ is a future event, yet close at hand. His second coming is a Bible theme and a Christian's hope. The descent of Jesus will bring about the end of sin and sickness, and will usher in a reign of one thousand years of peace and righteousness.

Record Of The Four Gospels

Matt. 24:3-28. What is the sign of Christ's coming?
Matt. 24:29-35. The parable of the fig tree, or Jewish nation.
Matt. 24:36-41. No one knows the day or the hour, only the season.
Matt. 24:42-51. To every one the command is given, Watch.
Matt. 25:31-34. Christ shall gather all nations for judgment.
Matt. 26:63-64. Christ shall be seen coming from Heaven.
Mark 13:3-8. Deceivers and wars of the last days.
Mark 13:9-14. The persecution that will come to the church.
Mark 13:15-23. The Anti-Christ set up and the flight of the Bride.
Mark 13:24-31. Christ shall come in the clouds, with power and glory.
Mark 13:32-37. Again the warning, Watch.
Luke 12:37. Blessed are the ones that watch for Christ's coming.
Luke 12:40. Be ready, for He comes in an unexpected time.
Luke 12:43. Blessed are the ones that do Christ's will.
Luke 17:20-37. The coming of Christ, Remember Noah and Lot's wife.
Luke 18:7-8. Will Christ find faith when he comes?
Luke 21:7-24. Wars and trouble and God's protection to His own.
Luke 21:25-33. The signs of the elements.
Luke 21:34-36. Again the word is given, Watch.
John 14:14. Jesus has gone, but He will come again.
John 21:22. If I will that he tarry till I come.

The Account Of The Acts

Acts 1:9-11. As Jesus ascended, so shall He descend.
Acts 2:19-20. Signs of Earth and Heaven, before He comes.
Acts 3:19-21. Heaven will retain Jesus until all be fulfilled.

Paul Speaks Upon The Subject

I Cor. 1:6-8. Come behind in no gift waiting for His coming.
I Cor. 4:4-5. Judge nothing, till Jesus comes.
I Cor. 11:26. The Sacrament service is to be kept till Jesus comes.
I Cor. 15:23-24. They that are Christ's shall come forth.
II Cor. 5:10. The Judgment seat of Christ.
I Thess. 2:19-20. To be in His presence at His coming.
I Thess. 3:13. Christ is to come with all His Saints.
I Thess. 4:13-18. The meeting in the air.
I Thess. 5:1-4. His coming is as a thief in the night.
I Thess. 5:23. Preserved blameless to His coming.
I Tim. 4:1-3. Departing from the faith in the latter times.
II Tim. 3:1-5. Perilous times of the last days are enumerated.
II Tim. 4:1. The appearing of Christ and His Kingdom.
II Tim. 4:3-4. Sound doctrine will not be endured.
II Tim. 4:7-8. A crown for the ones that love His appearing.
Titus 2:12-13. Looking for the blessed hope.
Phil. 3:20-21. We look for Jesus, our Saviour, to come.
Col. 3:4. We shall appear with Christ at His coming.
Heb. 9:28. Christ shall appear or come the second time.
Heb. 10:37. At the appointed time Christ shall come.

From Other New Testament Writers

James 5:7-8. Be patient, unto the coming of the Lord.
I Pet. 1:7. Our faith to be found at Jesus' coming.
I Pet. 5:4. A crown of Glory is to be given.
II Pet. 3:1-14. Scoffers and other conditions.
I John 2:28. Be not ashamed of Him at His coming.
I John 3:2. We shall be like Him, and see Him.
Jude 14-18. The Lord cometh with ten thousand of His Saints.

Revelation On The Second Coming

Rev. 1:7. Christ shall come in the clouds.
Rev. 2:25. Hold fast till I come.
Rev. 3:3. We do not know the hour.
Rev. 3:11. Behold, He comes quickly.
Rev. 16:15. Let us keep our garments till His Coming.
Rev. 22:6-7. Blessed are the ones that keep the sayings of this book.
Rev. 22:20. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

Old Testament Scriptures

Psa. 50:3-5. Our God shall come, shall not keep silent.
Psa. 96:12-13. Christ is coming to judge the earth.
Isa. 11:1-10. A reign of peace when Jesus comes.
Isa. 2:1-5. All war is over forever.
Isa. 21:11-12. Watchman of the night.
Isa. 26:20-21. The Lord cometh to bring punishment to sin.
Isa. 35:1-10. The hiding of a selected people (Bride Class).
Jer. 16:14-15. Israel is gathered for His coming.
Ezek. 9:1-11. The call and seal of literal Israel.
Ezek. 19:1-7. The rebuke against nations.
Ezek. 39:8-16. The earth is made clean when Jesus comes.
Joel 1:8-20. The dust storms and drouths of the last days.
Joel 2:28-32. The pouring out of God's spirit.
Joel 3:9-17. Preparing for the last great battles.
Zech. 8:1-15. Jerusalem restored, and the Jews regathered.
Zech. 12:1-14. The spirit of mourning is poured out.
Zech. 14:1-11. Jesus shall return to the Mount of Olives.
Zech. 14:12-16. The battle of Armageddon described.
Zech. 14:16-21. There shall be Holiness unto the Lord.
Mal. 3:16-18. The jewels of Christ at His coming.
Mal. 4:2-3. Christ shall come with healing for all.
Mic. 1:3. The Lord will come forth out of His place.
Zeph. 1:3. The guests are bidden for His coming.

Some Modern Inventions and Events of the Last Days

Hab. 1:8. Airplanes in war.
Nahum 2:3-4. The automobile.
Haggi 1:5-6. Failures in money.
Zech. 8:10. Unemployment.
Dan. 12:4. Increased travel.
Deut. 28:22-24. Sickness and dust storms.
Psa. 49:11. Naming of lands.
Isa. 5:8. Chain stores and farms.
James 5:3. The heaped wealth of the rich.
Isa. 2:20. Idols or money cast to moles and bats.

The signs are growing thicker, the days are coming nearer, so let us walk in the light until the day star arises in our hearts. Let us lift up our heads for our coming redemption, have faith and love for the appearing of our Christ. Occupy till He comes. God bless you one and all in the blessed hope of the Ages, that it may soon come to pass.

Prescription For Happiness

Dos

1. *Be helpful.* Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be ye kind one to another." Go out of your way to do a good turn! The Good Samaritan did.

2. *Be wise enough to accept help from others.* An independent spirit drives friends away.

3. *Be a gentleman or a lady at all times.* Treat an elder "as a father; and the younger men as brethren; the elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters" (I Timothy 5:1,2). This is the mark of Christ.

4. *Be quick to congratulate the deserving.* Don't be miserly with words of commendation or gratitude.

5. *Avoid flattery.* It is the worst form of deceit. Proverbs 26:28 says, "A flattering mouth worketh ruin." People who count are never taken in by insincerity.

6. *Keep you promise even though it hurts.* Psalm 15:4 says that God honoreth him "that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not." Your neighbors respect the dependable person.

7. *Cut your language down to size.* Ephesians 4:25 says, "Speak every man truth with his neighbor." Make your language as honest as your bank account.

8. *Banish sarcasm.* Proverbs 12:18 says, "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health." Watch your words! They can wound or they can heal.

9. *Control your temper.* James 1:20 says, "The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

10. *Be pleasant.* Happiness is a powerful testimony. You can be serious and happy at the same time. "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (2 Corinthians 6:10).

11. *Refrain from practical jokes.* Don't let your fun be at the cost of someone else's feelings! II Corinthians 6:3 says, "Giving no offense in any thing."

12. *Mind your own business.* God has not commissioned us to be private detectives. Romans 14:12 says, "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

13. *Help the needs of others and talk little about your own.* Philippians 2:4 says, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." A willingness to help opens doors.

14. *Close your ears to gossip.* Proverbs 16:28 says, "A whisperer separateth chief friends."

15. *Believe in people.* I Corinthians 13:7 says that love "believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

16. *Be enthusiastic.* Romans 12:11 reminds us to be "fervent in spirit." Nothing is so distasteful as lukewarmness.

17. *Be unselfish.* Why not have the Christmas spirit all year long? Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Don'ts

1. *Don't act superior.* Romans 12:3 says a man is not to think of himself "more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly." The closer you get to Jesus, the more humble you will feel and act.

2. *Don't shift the blame.* I Corinthians 11:28 says, "Let a man examine himself." Most of our troubles are of our own making.

3. *Don't belittle others.* Matthew 5:22 says, "Whosoever shall say to his brother, . . . Thou fool shall be in danger of hell fire." You are tampering with fire when you try to make someone look foolish.

4. *Don't dodge issues.* Procrastination is a thief.

5. *Don't "forget" to do the right thing.* Forgetting becomes an easy way of finding it inconvenient to do something you know you ought to do. Numbers 15:40 says, "Remember, and do all my commandments."

6. *Don't excuse your weak points by pointing out your strong points.* God doesn't judge your average; He judges your progress in Christ.

7. *Don't argue.* 2 Timothy 2:24 says, "The servant of the Lord must not strive." Nothing is ever won by argument.

8. *Don't make excuses.* Alibis are distasteful. Confess your faults if you want to get rid of them (James 5:16).

9. *Don't live in the past.* It's not whether or not you were ahead in the third or fourth inning. Where are you now? Philippians 3:14 says, "I press toward the mark."

10. *Don't be lazy.* Hebrews 6:12 says, "Be not slothful." God hates indolence.

11. *Don't make a habit of borrowing.* Debt is not faith. Proverbs 22:7 says, "The borrower is servant of the lender."

12. *Don't laugh at the mistakes of others.* Matthew 7:12 says, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

13. *Don't be boisterous.* Ecclesiastes 7:6 says, "As the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of a fool." Cutups are usually out of place.

14. *Don't talk incessantly.* Proverbs 10:19 says, "He that refraineth his lips is wise." Listen and learn!

15. *Don't be a nuisance.* Proverbs 25:17 says, "Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbor's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee." It's possible to wear out your welcome.

16. *Don't be a show-off.* Proverbs 12:23 says, "A prudent man concealeth knowledge; but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness." Don't tell everything you know!

17. *Don't be afraid.* Fear paralyzes. Faith vitalizes. Jesus said, "Fear not: believe only!"

God heals
as freely
as he forgives

Signs of the Times

Scripture translations Reach New Peak of 1,685 Languages

NEW YORK, N.Y.—By the end of 1979 at least one book of the Bible had been published in 1,685 of the world's languages and distinct dialects, according to the American Bible Society.

This represents an increase of 26 languages over the 1978 count of 1,659 in which a first publication of Scriptures has appeared. Among these are six languages spoken in Papua, New Guinea; four in Nigeria; three in Mexico; three in Ethiopia; and two each in the U.S.S.R.—Avar and Moldavian.

First publications of the entire Bible were published in five languages: Bari in Sudan, Gouro on Ivory Coast, Isindebele in Rhodesia, Lango in Uganda, and Pazande in Zaire. All these Bibles were published under the auspices of the United Bible Societies.

There were 25 languages in which complete New Testaments were published for the first time. New Testaments were the first Scriptures ever published in the languages of Bokyi of Nigeria and Moldavia of Moldavia.

Geographically speaking, Africa has the largest number of languages (492) in which at least one book of the Bible has been translated. Asia ranks second with 429 languages and Latin America third with 275. In Australia and the South Pacific, Scriptures have been published in 246 languages, in Europe 179, and in North America 62.

The complete Bible has been published in 273 languages, new Testaments in 472, and portions in 940.

Esperanto and Volapuk, commonly called international languages, are also included in the total of 1,685.

The historic language tally, dating from the "first printed Bible in 1456," is compiled from copies of the new Scriptures received from various organizations by the ABS library, the largest collection of its kind in the world, numbering more than 38,000 volumes.

Growing Population Portends Bleak World Food Picture

NEW YORK—The world's population in 1976 grew at the average rate of 9,125 persons every hour, or 219,000 persons every day. Total world inhabitants increased by 80 million during the year.

If this rate of increase continues, there will be 6.5 billion people on earth by A.D. 2,000. UN statistics indicate that already 500 million people are undernourished and on the verge of starvation.

By the year 2000 more than 61 percent of all the people in the world will live in Asia. European countries, including the Soviet Union, will account for 950 million or 15 percent of the total.

Latin America will account for 9.4 percent; Africa, 8.2 percent, and North America—currently the world's major food power—will have 5 percent.

Either the have-not nations will find new methods for feeding their burgeoning populations, or the wealthy countries will find their standard of living threatened by billions of hungry and militant people.

Many In Israel Return to Jewish Faith

JERUSALEM—Since Israel's Six Day War, thousands of Jews in the Holy Land have returned to their faith, says *The Chosen People* (February 1979). The magazine refers to Judy Siegel's report in the *Jerusalem Post* concerning the Machon Meir.

A tuition-free institution of Jewish and religious studies, the Machon Meir encourages students of any age to join and study books of religion. Evening courses are held weekly.

The school was started in one small room; it now has expanded into an independent network of eight branches with thousands of students in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Netanya, Kiryat Shmona, Rehovot, the Golan, and Eilat.

Rabbi Dov Bigon, the young founder and director of Machon Meir, said, however, "Some Jews are afraid to return to Judaism because of their fear that they will have to leave the real world."

Since there is no tuition, the groups depend on contributions from students who can afford to make a donation.

He Is Not Here

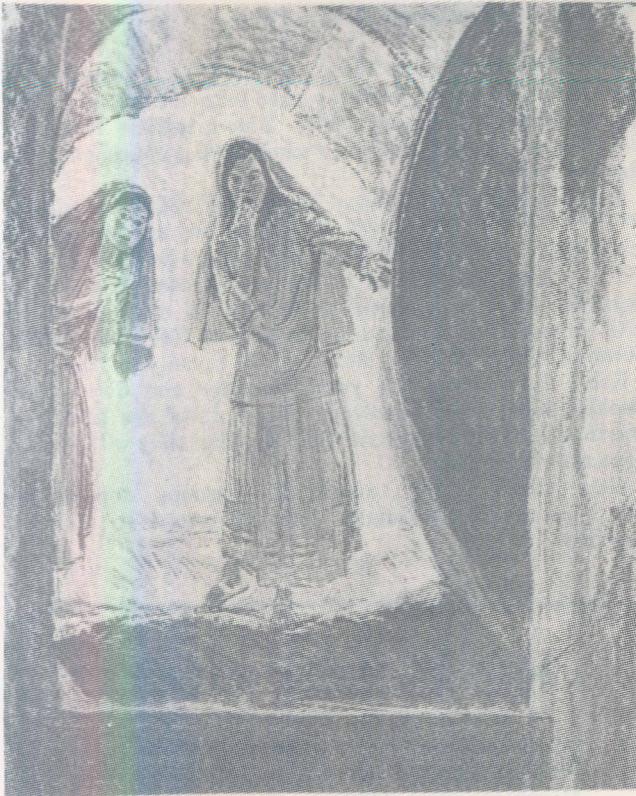
"He is not here"—what wonderful words
When spoken at Jesus' grave;
Marvelous proof of risen Lord,
One who is mighty to save!

"He is not here"—what terrible words
When spoken of human heart;
Empty, and hopeless, and bare that life
Where Jesus has no part.

"He is not here"—in many hearts
Though He died and arose, 'tis true.
If you welcome Him now you may surely know
That He died and rose for you.

"He is not here—is that true of your heart?
Have you crowded out God's dear Son?
Make room for Him now, the King of kings,
This Jesus, the Living One.

We
Need
Your
Church
News



Not Empty!

Ernest Renan, the French skeptic, sneered that "Christianity lives on the fragrance of an empty vase."

And others, speaking of the resurrection of Christ, have said that Christianity is built on an empty tomb.

This is true. The glory of the gospel is that, after Jesus had died for our sins and was buried in Joseph's tomb, He arose from the dead. He did not stay in the tomb.

Herbert Booth Smith said: "The biggest fact about Joseph's tomb was that it wasn't a tomb at all—it was a room for a transient. Jesus just stopped there a night or two on His way back to glory."

Hallelujah! Christ our Lord is risen from the dead. He left the tomb and is alive forevermore; and because He lives, we shall live also.

But when Jesus vacated the tomb, He did not leave it empty. He left something behind for His disciples to see, something that would be hardcore, conclusive evidence of His resurrection.

Let's follow two witnesses to the tomb, witnesses who have given us primary, detailed documentation of what they saw.

Like the other disciples, Peter and John were in no mood for wild, fanciful stories. They were hard-working, practical-minded Jewish fishermen. They had forsaken all to follow Jesus and had built great hopes on His mission. Now all their hopes lay buried with Him in a sealed, guarded tomb.

They themselves were now in hiding, fearing for their own lives. They were disappointed, disillusioned, cynical, even bitter.

So don't bring any rumor of Jesus' resurrection to these grim men unless you know what you're talking about!

Their minds were closed to hallucinations. The report of the women who had been to the tomb that Easter morning seemed to them like idle talk. The men simply refused to believe. They were not in a believing frame of mind.

Still, the matter could not rest without investigation, so they ran to the tomb.

John, being the younger, arrived first. But he did not go in. Instead, he stooped down and peered inside.

Peter arrived shortly afterward and hurried on into the tomb. What he saw startled him.

Remember, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had prepared the dead body of Jesus for burial (John 19:38-42). Nicodemus had about a hundred pounds of spices for the purpose. Following the custom of the time, they gently wound linen cloth around and around the body of Jesus, sprinkling in the powdered spices as they proceeded; then they wrapped the head separately.

So when the tomb was sealed, the body of Jesus was resting securely in place, tightly wrapped in spice-permeated linen, the head wrapped separately.

But what did Peter see when he went inside?

He did not see the body of Jesus. It was gone. But the linen graveclothes were still lying undisturbed exactly as the body of Jesus had been placed. The cloth and spices were still bound together exactly as Joseph and Nicodemus had combined them when they wound the body. They had sunk down under their own weight, but they had not been disturbed by human hands.

Peter's eyes must have narrowed intently as he observed the head-wrappings. They too were still resting exactly as they had been formed. They lay by themselves, still wrapped together but empty like a discarded cocoon.

Nothing, nobody could have disturbed those graveclothes without scattering the powdered spices all over the place.

Jesus Christ, resurrected, had simply slipped out of His graveclothes, leaving them intact as hardcore evidence of His resurrection.

By this time John had reverently stepped into the tomb and was standing beside Peter. He too observed the same facts, and we have his eyewitness report in John 20:5-8.

Certainly the graveclothes are not the only conclusive evidence of the resurrection of Jesus. Yet they are a major evidence with profound significance. They join the other evidences in saying something to us. Jesus is indeed God and Saviour, just as He claimed to be.

For He is risen. He is Lord, with full rights to our faith, love, and obedience.

What if your mind were like TV,
Where all your thoughts were plain to see?
While others watched, what would they
find—
An honest, pure and Christlike mind,
Or would you have to hang the sign,
Of NETWORK TROUBLE all the time?

—Selected.

The Crucifixion



The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is the most irrational fact of history!

He was the only perfect Man who ever lived. History attests to His perfection. No trace of weakness, selfishness, pride or sin was found in Him. He himself declared His sinlessness.

His enemies, who would have paid any price to obtain condemning evidence against Him, were forced to employ false witnesses—but their evidence did not hold water.

Pilate tried Him, found Him guiltless, wanted to free Him—but under pressure of political expedience allowed Him to be crucified.

No critic of Jesus has ever been taken seriously.

Christ's life was the epitome of virtue yet His generation tried Him, condemned Him and sentenced Him to crucifixion—a death reserved for the most vicious criminals.

The one perfect Man who ever lived dies as a raw criminal at the hands of His own generation. In His place they insisted on releasing a man (Barabbas) who was a traitor, a seditionist, a murderer. The number one criminal went scott free while the perfect Man died on a cross.

There is no intelligent explanation for this irrational event except the one given in the Bible!

Jesus Christ was not a martyr! He was not victimized by His enemies. He was their Master! He said, "No man taketh it [life] from me . . . I have power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it again" (John 10:18).

Many times they tried unsuccessfully to capture Him. But they could not until He was ready! "My time is at hand," He said to His disciples in the Garden. And as the soldiers came He quietly submitted to them.

To Pilate He said "You have no power over me at all except it be given you from heaven." Jesus was the master every moment.

He died because He had come to die. He was born to be crucified! The cross was not an interruption, the cross was His objective.

For this reason John the Baptist introduced Him as "the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." "Lamb" meant only one thing—sacrifice!

A man will never understand Jesus Christ until he realizes He came first and foremost as a sacrifice for sin. His teachings are meaningless apart from this supreme moment of history, the moment He laid down His life for man!

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us" (I John 3:16).

by Richard C. Halverson
from Perspective by Permission

**You're Invited To the
50th Anniversary Services
at Laverne
Apostolic Faith Church
Sunday May 4, 1980
Morning, Afternoon
& Evening Services
Covered Dish Dinner at Noon**

For Information:

Rev. Earl Malone

R 2

Laverne, Okla. 73848

Phone 405-921-5466

**Cornell Bible Tour
to Israel and Jordan
November 1-12, 1980**

For Information:

Rev. Jack Cornell

Box 133

Hardesty, Okla. 73944

Phone 405-888-4555

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 316-856-5301	Jack Hopson Box 568 Butler, Ala. 36904 205-459-3564
Jacob Regier 1518 S. Drake Perryton, Texas 79070 806-435-4478	Ward Stanberry Box 145 Katy, Texas 77450 731-371-3464
Doyle Wiles Rt. 1 Box 226 Decatur, Ark. 72722 501-752-3937	Lee Oakes Rt. 6 Box 81 Neosho, Mo. 64850 417-451-0175
Gene Hibbs 1105 N. Prospect Liberal, Kans. 67901 316-624-4400	

Published as the Lord provides; sent to you upon request on the free-will offering basis.

Please sent all changes of address, giving both old and new addresses, and Zip Code.

Deadline!

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

SUMMER SCHEDULES

Youth Camps

Lost Pines - Warda, Texas

May 30—June 6 Senior
 June 1—June 6 Junior

Chairman: Rev. Johnny Arnall
 P.O. Box 362
 Hempstead, Texas 36251
 Phone 713-826-2528

**Camp Meeting
 1980
 July 24-31
 Laverne, Oklahoma**

For Information Contact:

Rev. Ted Barker
 R. 1 Laverne, Oklahoma 73848
 Phone (405) 921-5188

Panhandle Laverne Okla

June 2—7 Teenage
 June 9—14 Junior

Chairman: Rev. Jack Cornell
 Box 133
 Hardesty, Oklahoma
 Phone 405-888-4555

**Four State
 Baxter Springs, Kansas**

June 15—20

Chairman: Rev. Elmer Christenson
 1811 S. Main
 Galena, Kansas 66739
 Phone 316-783-2433

**Camp Pine Crest
 Miss. - Ala**

July 5—11

Committee To Be
 Announced Later

"We have to live but one day at a time, but we are living for eternity in that one day."

"If you are not as close to God as you used to be, someone moved. Who was it?"

Non Profit Organization
 U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT No. 4
 Baxter Springs, KS 66713

**THE APOSTOLIC FAITH
 REPORT**
 New Post Office Box 653
 Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713

MRS. R. C. JONES
 HARDESTY, OK 73944