

The Apostolic Faith Report

March 1984

Vol. 31 — No. 3

In Memory Of
Jacob Hornberger Pletcher

1908 — 1984
Obituary — Page 10-11



"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints"
Psalms 116:15

Bylaws of the Apostolic Faith Bible College, Inc.

ARTICLE VII

Doctrine

It is recognized that the true church of Jesus Christ consists of all believers in the saving grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who have accepted him as their personal Saviour. It is recognized and agreed that no organization or man has been granted authority by the Lord to exclude from or accept anyone into the Kingdom of Heaven, as this is done by Jesus Christ only. It is further recognized and agreed that we as Christians are to love all members of the Body of Christ (Christians), and this love and fellowship derives from the unity instilled by the Holy Spirit. Although differences in doctrinal beliefs and interpretations should not influence our love for one another, adherence to similar doctrinal beliefs and modes of worship have bonded together those of the Apostolic Faith Movement as founded by Charles F. Parham in the early 1900's. The scripture teaches us to adhere to the truth and proper doctrine. The common doctrinal beliefs are essentially as follows:

Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Creation and Formation

Man is basically sinful and in need of Salvation

Salvation by Grace upon repentance toward God and acceptance of Jesus Christ as one's personal Saviour, which is the conception of Spiritual Life.

Sanctification of the Spirit, Soul and Body. A second definite work of Grace by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit; evidenced by speaking in other languages.

Water Baptism (of all believers) by immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Washing of Feet.

Divine Healing through Jesus Christ for all believers.

Do not condone divorce and remarriage. Matthew 19:8-9.

Destruction of the Wicked.

Conditional Immortality.

Rapture of the Man Child Class.

Return of Jesus Christ to earth again; bodily and visibly.

A Ministry supported by tithes and offerings.

These basic doctrines shall be adhered to in the teaching of the Apostolic Faith Bible College, which in addition to other doctrinal teaching approved by the Board from time to time if they are not inconsistent with the above listed basic doctrines.

Psalm 103

A Psalm of David

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

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

18 To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them.

19 The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

20 Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

21 Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts; ye ministers of His that do His pleasure.

22 Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.

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Apostolic Faith Bible College News



The spirit of the Lord has really been moving among us in the past few weeks. Again we report chapel prayer time lasting until noon. Then on a Wednesday evening we participated in a special Communion and Footwashing Service when the glory of the Lord and His presence met with us in a wonderful way. Great blessings and victories are gained during times like these.

On March 16 we will load the bus for our Spring Choir Tour. We will go first to Alabama and Mississippi and then to the South Texas area. We are anxious and excited about the trip and another opportunity to go and witness for our Lord. The choir will be gone until March 26. Upon returning we will have five Sundays to work with the choir in the local area.

Mark your calendar on the dates of May 9 & 10 and plan to be at the closing services for this term of Bible School. Please note the annual Business Meeting to be held Wednesday, May 9, at 1:00 p.m.

Our thanks to those who continue to support the Bible School and faculty with your financial support. The load of expenses becomes heavy and it takes much to keep the doors open and things operating smoothly. During the winter months the bills are high so please remember to help meet these needs.

The Bible College faculty thank you for your remembrance of them. They also need your monthly support. If you could only be here and see their work and dedication, you would know your investment is worth it all.

Keep each of us and the work at A.F.B.C. in your prayers. We need the Lord to guide us daily.

Supt. Jack Cornell

Boy's Dorm

Since coming to A.F.B.C. this semester I have seen the love of the Lord work in exciting ways. We have started devotions on Monday nights at 6:30 and the Spirit of the Lord has truly been wonderful each time.

I feel that the body of Christ we should pull together as one. I know that God has a work for us all to do if we will just yield to Him.

I would like to close with this scripture - A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24. Praise the Lord.

Russell Ball

Girl's Dorm

What a time we have been having here. The Lord has been so good to us all. We have really been having some good services. One Wednesday night the Bible School had a communion and foot washing service. The Lord really blessed in both of them. We also had a good service that morning in the girls dorm. Wrongs were made right and the desires of the hearts were turned over to the Lord. Several of the girls spoke of their desires to study and learn more here at school and to draw closer to the Lord.

Truely if we draw near unto the Lord, He will draw near unto us. James 4:8.

We also had men's prayer breakfast here at the school on Tuesday mornings during the month of February. We really enjoyed having the fellowship with the people of the community. It has really blessed our lives and hearts.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers that we may follow the Lord and what He would have us to do.

Love,
Tony Bartel

A Special Thanks

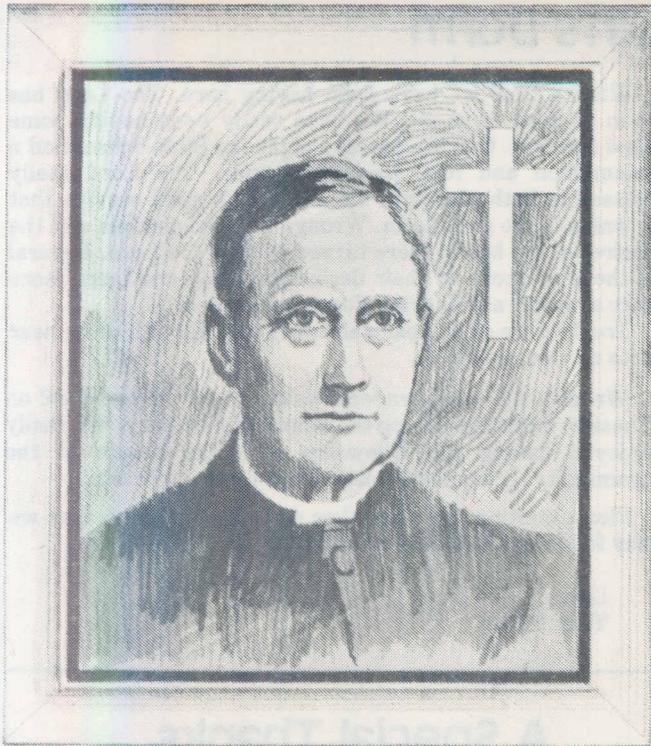
I want to say a special thanks to the students of the Apostolic Faith Bible College for all of their help in the mailing of the January - February issue. The address machine broke down and all of the Reports had to be hand addressed. The students came to school that morning with pens in their hands and by noon we were almost done. I really appreciate the faculty giving their class time so that the students could help. Thanks to all of you and may God richly bless you.

Karen Oakes - Editor

BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

Life of Charles F. Parham	7.00
The Voice Crying in the Wilderness	2.00
Selected Sermons	1.50
Everlasting Gospel	2.00
Bible Doctrine	3.00
by Jacob Regeir	
Handling and Postage per book	.75

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The Church's Marching Song

by Oscar T. Gillan

ONWARD, Christian soldiers, marching as to war," sang the school children of Horbury Bridge, England, as they marched the mile to St. Peter's Church on the hill. The song they sang that day had never been heard before, but it has become one of the most familiar marching songs in the English language. Millions have marched to its martial strains, and it has been used as the theme song of countless conventions and crusades.

The author of the hymn was a young minister, Sabine Baring-Gould, curate of St. Peter's at Horbury, who was in charge of the mission at Horbury Bridge near by. Every year at Whitsuntide, the children of the church held a procession, a service, and a festival. In 1865, it was arranged that the children of the mission should join them. Years later, Baring-Gould gave this account: "I wanted the children to sing while marching from one village to the other, but I couldn't think of anything suitable, so I sat up at night resolved to write something myself. 'Onward, Christian Soldiers' was the result. It was written in great haste. Certainly nothing has surprised me more than its popularity."

The hymn did become popular, but much of its popularity must be credited to the martial music composed for it six years later by Sir Arthur Sullivan, the eminent English musician. Sullivan also expressed surprise at its popularity, for he felt that his tune was "too brassy."

As a boy, Sabine Baring-Gould had wanted to be a soldier, but it was as a soldier of the cross that he fulfilled his mission in life. Born into a prominent family at Exeter in 1834, he graduated from Cambridge University. After a few years of teaching, he felt led to offer himself for the ministry.

His first charge was at Horbury. Along the Calder River in the valley below lay Horbury Bridge, a community of cloth mills surrounded by cottages and hovels, whose people were neglected spiritually. Here the young minister rented quarters and launched his missionary work. A room on the first floor was used for a night school, while a small room above served as a chapel for the congregation, which soon overflowed onto the stairs and filled the space below. Relief came presently, when a substantial chapel of stone was opened.

Two years later, Baring-Gould was appointed by William Gladstone, prime minister of England, to another parish, but not until a romance had developed. During one of the frequent floods of the Calder, he had saved a mill girl named Grace Taylor from drowning. Grace also attended his night school and the Sunday chapel services.

Baring-Gould was a desirable suitor. He had position, education and moderate wealth. Grace had none of these. Yet, beyond her natural beauty, he saw in her the qualities which he greatly admired, regarding her truth, trust, simplicity, and courage as precious jewels, without which the settings of fortune, position, talent, and education are worse than nothing. He sent her away to be educated and, in 1868, married her. She proved to be a worthy companion, wife, mother, and lady of the parsonage.

In the drawing room of the beautiful Elizabethan - style manor house at Lew Trenchard, where the Baring-Goulds spent many happy years, there was a portrait of Grace as a mill girl, wearing a shawl about her head and the plain dark dress of her working days. Shortly before his death in 1924, at the age of ninety, the aged minister confided to a friend that this was the picture that he loved best of all. And after Grace's death in 1916, her devoted husband had inscribed on her tomb (in Latin) *Half of My Soul*.

After his pioneer work at Horbury Bridge, Baring-Gould served several other charges. Then, when he inherited the ancestral home at Lew Trenchard, which had been a family possession for almost three hundred years, he also became the pastor of the parish church, having the spiritual oversight of a flock of some three hundred persons.

A talented and prolific writer, he wrote eightyfive books on theology, history, travel, and many other subjects, as well as one novel a year on a religious theme - more titles than any other writer of his time. And back in the Horbury days he had also written the lovely children's hymn, "Now the Day Is Over," and the exquisite Easter hymn, "On the Resurrection Morning," by Ingemann, "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow," from Danish into English.

In explanation of his accomplishments, he said, "The secret is simply that I stick to a task when I begin." He never waited for "inspiration," but often did his best when he felt least inclined to work. However, despite his tremendous literary output, it is certain that he will be best remembered as the author of "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

Deadline!

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

No Man Is An Island

There is a poem that starts with this line. Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash and it is gone, but there's a hundred little ripples circling on and on. Another verse speaks Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute it is gone; But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet, and perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears is stirred."

There is also a saying "No man is an island". It is so true. Our lives, actions, words, attitudes affect others in various ways. Today God's people are carrying loads that do not need thoughtlessness or impatience of others to add to the burden.

Most of us want to do God's will but many times we act as judge and jury instead being lead of His spirit.

There are various times in the Bible where people decided to act but not just in the way God would have them. Not always does God explain in His word but as result of impatience or wrong motives it hurts rather than in results that will glorify God. How we need to pray and wait on the Lord that we do not play into the hands of Satan. And perhaps some one is hurt needlessly or even some one else weak in the Faith is driven away.

Israel was not a shining example of obedience, but God chastised in His time and His way. Too many people see all the faults in others and decide they are God's hand-picked sheep dog to whipped them in line, not waiting on God to hear His will.

David decided to number the Children of Israel, disregarding the advice of Joab, he did his own thing. Comparing II Samuel 24:1-5, I Chronicles 21:1-10 with Numbers 1. Satan was behind it all. Just what prompted David it is not spelled out but trouble to Israel and David resulted. Obedience is better than sacrifice always. How we need the Lord to cause us to see our motives. Are they self-seeking, impatient or self righteous? Oh! To allow God to examine our ambitious, motives, impatience, or judgements to see if self is not the instigator or even the devil. We can really throw a monkey wrench" in to the plan of God by being impatient or judgemental.

Pastors, ministers, board members, teachers or laymen are not exempt from the sly provocations of Satan. It is so easy to see the faults of others, lack of interest, failure of others to shoulder their part of the burden, causing us frustration. Then we feel we have to do something. Sometimes Satan can cause us to be provoked! Perhaps we are in the position where we can subtly let them know they are not doing what we think they should. Have we EVER done that? Have you ever passed judgement on someone then found out you WERE wrong? sometimes laymen withhold money that belongs to God from the one you should give it to because you are miffed at them. Sometimes preachers use the pulpit to beat the sheep into obedience. Teachers also can do the same. Board members can make life so uncomfortable to pastors and the fellow christians because they are not obeying their ideas. Impatience can cause division, discouragement or even drive people away from the church. How much better to wait before the Lord, put the problem in His hands and then WAIT on HIM. Maybe God is just trying to teach us patience! When we run ahead of the Lord we can hinder Him and others. And we are

helping Satan instead of defeating him. We can hurt someone else, perhaps a weak one in the Faith, and the one we want to obey us, did not get the warning. The Bible says if we have aught against our brother go to him. Otherwise Pray, love and commit that one to the Lord. A task may important but if we become impatient, we may find ourselves working by ourselves because our timing is wrong. PATIENCE is a virtue worth waiting for.

May the Lord give us humbleness and great love as we work for Him, for we are workers together with Him. Remember our fellow christians are God's servants too. And to our Master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be held up; for God is able to make him stand. Should I add this, make sure we do not cause him to fall.

The Bible In The Wall

Many years ago a lady in Spain wanted to do something special for the Lord and decided to give away Bibles. While seeking possible recipients she came upon a man building a wall. When she discovered he had never owned a Bible, she offered him one, writing his name in it.

The man was too embarrassed to refuse it; but when she left, he resolved, "I will never read this and I'll make sure no one else will either." He placed the book behind one of the stones and finished the wall, certain that at least this copy would be hidden forever.

A few years later an earthquake hit that area and an inspector, looking for damage, found a crack in the wall. He peered in and to his amazement saw the book. He carefully removed it, hurriedly turned the pages, and decided to take it home. That evening he was found earnestly studying the Word of God.

Soon the inspector was on his knees thanking Jesus for dying for him. He yielded his life to his newfound Saviour and became a distributor for the Bible Society in Spain, selling God's Word from town to town.

It was not long before he came upon a stonemason and offered him a Bible at a very low cost. The man told him he had sealed in a wall the only Bible he had ever owned. The distributor drew from his pocket the very Bible and glancing at the flyleaf told the man his name. The startled laborer sat down and listened to the distributor's story. Then he too decided to have a closer look at this strange book.

The stoneworker also became a Christian and eventually a missionary in a foreign land where for many years he labored faithfully for his Saviour.

Bible Society Record

Did You Know . . .

- 1% are saved before 4 years.
- 85% are saved between 4 and 14 years.
- 10% are saved between 15 and 30 years.
- 4% are saved after 30 years of age...

March Notes

Joplin, Mo.

Greetings from the Apostolic Faith Church in Joplin. We have been having some very good services. One Sunday morning we had the Sacrament. It turned into an old-time revival. Many hearts were blessed in the presence of the Lord. God has been real good to us here in the past few weeks. We have a new name to add to our congregation. Bob and Joyce Babst have a nice little baby boy. May the Lord bless this home.

The snow and cold weather has hindered some, but it will soon be Spring and we can rejoice because of this. The church takes this opportunity to invite ministers of the Faith to come by and worship with us. Have had 2 ministers lately to come by. Bro. Johnny Arnall and Bro. Elmer Christenson were with us in services and enjoyed having them. Appreciate them for coming by.

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Phone-417-472-3665

Union Chapel

We are all so thankful that we are able to have our regular services at the church. The snow, ice and mud kept us from meeting. Some have had the flu and we are praying that all will soon be back in service.

The church has a new organ and piano. In getting the piano located in the church Bro. Ferguson hurt his back. He was unable to come to church for awhile but thank the Lord he is able to be back with us. We thank all who prayed and helped but most of all we thank the Lord for His healing power. Those helping during Bro. Ferguson's absence were Jack and Kathryn Cornell, The Elmer Christenson's, Doyle Wills, Richard Morris and wife, Renee. We really appreciated their help and know God will bless them as they were a blessing to us.

The weather also hindered the remodeling of the parsonage but the Lord willing we hope it is completed soon and Bro. Ferguson gets settled in.

Pray much for us that we may reach those in the community that need help. Come and visit us. You are always welcome.

A. W. Ferguson-Pastor

Amarillo, Texas - Children Mission Class

The Children's Mission class of Amarillo meet very Sunday night with an average attendance of eight to ten. Mrs. George White is their teacher and Rev. Brent Blythe is their pastor. These children have been busy with projects to see that the gospel is promoted. During the past year of 1983 these children were financially responsible for over 5000 copies of the Apostolic Faith Report being mailed. They also have had projects in their home church. They mailed cards of invitation to 195 homes and also helped a family whose home had been destroyed with fire. These children are trying to reach to others in many ways.

We want to say a special thank you to these children, their pastor, their teacher and parents for the work they are doing. May God richly bless their labors for Him.

Proverbs 20:11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

Please send news about your children and young people to the Apostolic Faith Report so that we can share with others what they are doing.

Webb City, Mo.

"Happy is that people, that is in such a case; yea happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

We at the Webb City, Mo. church are truly rejoicing in the fact that our God is the Lord. He has been so wonderful to our church. It's hard to express how good He has really been.

We have had 5 saved in the past few weeks and many more received deeper experiences in the Lord.

We have also enjoyed many visitors since Christmas. They include Johnny Arnall and family, Bro. & Sis. Lloyd Kinser of Laverne, Okla., Dorothy Cook of Bentonville, Ark., Bro. & Sis. Carl Schelf of Taneyville, Mo., Mollie Johnson of Perryton, Tx., and Kevin Cornell and family of Bayard, Ne., Louise Crowhurst and Anna Merten, both of Hempstead, Tx. We would like to thank the Bible College students who visit our church. They have added so much to our services. Jana Sanger recently taught our adult class on Sunday morning. Bro. Richard Morris taught our young peoples and young adult classes. He has made known to us the dangers of rock music and how that we should watch what goes into our minds. We really have enjoyed these lessons.

On Saturday, Feb. 12, our youth group attended the Valentine banquet at the Apostolic Faith Bible College. We greatly enjoyed the fellowship and the good singing by the Royalheirs. Our youth group desires your prayers so that we can continue to grow in the things of God. There are so many people that we can reach if we'll only trust God to use us.

We'd like to welcome you to visit with us anytime that you are in our area.

O. A. Busch-Pastor
Vanessa Oakes-Reporter

A Special Thank You

Dear Friends and Church Families Across the Miles,

I cannot find words adequate enough to express how I have appreciated the cards, letters, calls and other deeds of kindness extended to me over the past few months.

Since my husband passed away in July, God's family has helped to sustain me through the sorrow and heartache and during the healing time for my spirit. It is so true that it's not just the pain of the moment, but the days of adjustment are lonely and hard too. That's where you have been so wonderful. I have heard from folks I haven't seen or heard from in years. Some who have only heard recently still respond with acts of love and comfort filled with compassion.

I'm trying to answer each one, but because there have been so many I would not want to leave any one out, for all have been a part of God's healing hand. Thank you again and again because you care and you take the time to share that caring. Indeed I found that many have touched Jesus and they are his hand extended to minister to those in need.

May God Bless you each one.

Love in Christ,
Dorothy Cook

Born In The Heart

Some folks survey life in passing,
With the hurried state in which they live;
Sadly losing the beauty of living,
Watch it disappear, as through a sieve.

Beauty is not just from the eyes,
As so often we've heard it said;
But beautiful things are 'born in the heart',
And not just a thought in someone's head.

Friend, I do not speak of the outward,
Like the handiwork of God we see;
But I'm thinking of more personal things,
Things close to the heart of you and me.

Things we often take for granted,
Or even forget from time to time;
Things that can't be substituted or replaced.
Or brought with a dollar or dime.

If but a minute you take to consider,
Some of the things within this rhyme;
I'm sure you'll agree the beauty of living,
Exist in moments and people,
encountered from time to time.

Things like a letter from someone you love,
Or just a note filled with cheer;
Maybe a call, a friendly gesture,
Or a compliment from someone very dear.

The touch of a hand big or small,
That may accompany a smile or a plea;
These are moments that pass so swiftly,
And hold beauty that the eye cannot see.

The special glances from mate to mate,
Or from parent to child with love;
These things can't be captured or retrieved,
But they too, are beauty from above.

Time for a friendly visit,
With a cup of coffee or tea;
Enough time to enjoy friends and family,
These are "beautiful" things to me.

If only for a minute, you find time,
To visit a shut-in or those confined;
Whether the visitor or recipient,
Sweeter, beautiful moments you'll never find.

Fellowship with God's family,
Both in worship and in fun;
For where would we be without God's children,
When all other things are said and done?

Is it true that we as Christians,
Are guilty, as the world as a whole?
We get so busy with living,
That real beauty we cannot behold.

If you don't think these things are beauty,
Or they are trivial by degree;
Try to think of living without them,
Then, I'm sure you too will agree.

Agree, that the joy of living,
Is not altogether what you see;
But much of it is, in feeling,
'Born in the heart' of you and me.

A sign by which I pass daily,
Displayed by a church, gives me a lift;
The words are simple, yet powerful,
"Life is not a right, but a gift."

To enjoy your gift of living,
Take time for each person and part;
You will know the worth of real beauty,
The kind that's 'born in the heart'.

NOTICE

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

Three Questions

? ? ?



Matt. 24:1-14

The last part of Matthew 23 lays the foundation for this first part of Matthew 24. Jesus had come to His own (Israel). He had preached to them. He fed the multitudes. He healed the sick. He cast out devils. He taught in the synagogue and by the sea shore. He had given them the opportunity to a new and better way of life. He gave them every opening to recognize that He was the Messiah. They refused.

Dejectedly He has walked out of the temple. So noticed by His disciples who tried to console Him by pointing out all the beauty of the temple, with its ornaments of gold, silver and precious stones. A building well constructed. Jesus startled them by saying, "See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down." Matt. 24:2

He left them thunder struck and headed for the Mount of Olives. The disciples hunted Him up and privately asked Him three questions - (1) "Tell us, when shall these things be? (2) And what shall be the sign of Thy coming? (3) And of the end of the world?" Matt. 24:3

Jesus never answered their first question. "When shall these things be?" This was concerning His statement, "There shall not be left one stone upon another" or specifically the destruction of the temple. Here let me insert a summary of the siege of Jerusalem A.D. 70. This was just a few years from this time.

Destruction of Jerusalem

Titus with his Roman army arrived before the walls of Jerusalem on the day of Passover A.D.70. Banks of earthwork were built, battering rams were placed, and the siege began.

The Roman army numbered 30,000; the Jewish army 24,000. The city was crowded with 600,000 visitors. After five months the walls were battered down; the Temple burned and the city left in ruins. The Roman soldiers pryed the stones apart to get the gold and silver that had melted and run into the crevices. One million Jews were killed..95,000 captives were taken. "One of the most appalling events in all history" wrote the historians.

This happened in less than 70 years so Jesus did not take time to explain their first question. The third question, "And of the end of the world?" He did not explain because this would be at least 1,000 years after He returns; because He must rule this earth for 1,000 years. Rev. 20:4 "---they lived and reigned a thousand years." Then will be the destruction of this earth and fulfill II Peter 3:10-13. This was, at least, three thousand years away. Eighteen more years and 2,000 years will have come and gone since Jesus made these statement.

The three questions: One happened real soon; one is a long way off; that leaves question two. "And what shall be the sign of thy coming?" Jesus spent most of Matthew 24

explaining things that will point to His coming back to this earth again.

May I refresh your memory, Acts 1:9-11..(99) "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. (10) And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel."

(11) "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Luke 24:50-51 records His leaving this earth from near Bethany. The Mount of Olives is near Bethany. Zechariah 14:4.

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove the north, and half of it toward the south."

Jesus is coming back to this earth. He is coming back to the same place He left this earth. He is coming in the same glorified spirit. Just like He was when He appeared to many after His resurrection. Matt 24:26-27.

"Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret chamber: believe it not."

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

I am not going into the many signs of His second coming. We are nearing that time. We are in the last days of the Gentile Dispensation and the great tribulation is nearer every passing day.

His first statement about that returning was "Let no man deceive you." Dates, times, places and fantastic things have been stated. We shall hear many more. Let me assure you God never does things in a secretly underhanded way. Just as lightning flashed miles and miles so everyone will know when Jesus comes back to the Mount of Olives, and He is coming back to this earth again.

One more item about the deception before Jesus Christ returns, Verse 5 "Fore many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

I have heard of Father Divine, a black minister, that claimed to God. I have heard of Elijah reincarnated in the flesh and some others but none that said "I am Christ." In studying I found Christ means God's Anointed, generally referring to the Messiah. This falls into place in these days. Many are presenting themselves as "having a special anointing from God." They do not say I am Christ" -- they say "I have a special anointing of God." Satan is using this means to deceive many. The person who has a special anointing of God doesn't go around bragging about it. They just do what God tells them to do. There will be much more of this "I have a special anointing of God" business before Jesus comes.

Just as surely as the Romans destroyed the Temple -- Jesus is coming back to this earth. Don't let Satan side track you with deception. Jesus is coming and for sure in a day and an hour they think not. We are not given the time. We do know it is in the last time and Jesus is coming--be ready.

by Rev. Donald D. Dibbens

Just Suppose

Just suppose the Lord would begin tomorrow to make people as sick as they claim to be on Sunday.

Just suppose the Lord should take away the child whom the parents use as an excuse for staying away from church.

Just suppose the Lord should make people as poor as they claim to be when asked to help finance His program.

Just suppose the Lord should have everyone stoned to death for covetousness as was Achan.

Just suppose the Lord should let some parents look into the future and see what their example and lax control did for their children.

Just suppose - and then, by the help of the Lord, go forth and live and serve as if eternity was soon coming.

It is! I come quickly says the Lord.

Unthankful Christians

by Joseph W. Schmidt

America is a wealthy nation. Here we have an abundance of food, clothing, housing and luxuries. We have a rare degree of freedom, security and opportunity. Above all, we are immeasurably benefited by the widespread proclamation of the gospel.

But Americans are basically ungrateful. Our yearly Thanksgiving Day is characterized by empty formality and gorged stomach. For the rest of the year we complain and grumble about everything from taxes to toothaches. Overeating and overspending are confusing our wants with our needs, and like spoiled children we are very hard to satisfy.

All this is a great sin, and God will judge us for it. This was the prime sin of the primeval apostasy. Paul says in Romans 1:21: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." This is what is happening to our nation.

But what about the Christians of America? Are we really thankful? How much do we complain about others, our pastor, our co-workers, our friends, our government, our health, our economic lot, our work and our problems? And how often-shame on us-have we actually spoken against the Lord?

Unthankfulness is a vicious sin because:

1. Unthankfulness represents shallow thinking. Have we forgotten the glorious salvation which drew us from the pit of sin? Have we gone to sleep and quit numbering our blessings? Are we no longer alert to the daily mercies of God? A thoughtful Christian has reason for daily praise. David said: "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence. But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and evermore. Praise the Lord" (Ps. 115:17,18).

2. Unthankfulness questions God's wisdom and authority. An unthankful Christian is really saying: "God is not treating me right." This is presumption of the worst sort, and undermines the entire relationship between God and His child. Let us say with Paul, "...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11).

3. Unthankfulness reveals a dominant self-emphasis. All self-consciousness at the expense of Christ-consciousness is sin. The unthankful person is invariably concerned about his profit, his advance and his security. But one who is filled with thanksgiving is filled with thoughts of His Lord and the daily benefits received from heaven's treasure store.

4. Unthankfulness develops covetousness. An unthankful Christian has nothing to share-either materially or spiritually. How can he? Unsatisfied with his own lot, he has neither concern nor aid for others. Many of God's works are languishing because His people are not abounding with "thanks-giving!"

5. Unthankfulness marks the beginning of apostasy. Contrary to common opinion, such things as false doctrine and unbelief seldom arise from free intellectual exercise. The source is rather in a wicked, unthankful, selfish heart. With such a foundation, theological apostasy issues forth as an inevitable process (Rom. 1:18-23).

Christians, let us repent of the great sin of unthankfulness. Then with cleansed hearts let us obey the admonition of Hebrews 13:15: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

The Weaver

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.

Oftimes he weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I, the underside.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

Author unknown

Thoughts To Ponder:

Discipline does not break a child's spirit half as often as the lack of it breaks a parent's heart.

Jacob Hornberger Pletcher

Jacob Hornberger Pletcher, of Barksdale, Texas, son of Jacob Elijah and Maria Pletcher, was born August 22, 1908 in Mill Creek, Oklahoma. He departed this life January 5, 1984, at the age of 75 years, 4 months, 13 days, in the Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. He was married to Demerita Mae Beagle on May 31, 1936 at Sharon, Oklahoma.

To this union were born three sons and two daughters. Jacob John married Joan of Benton, Louisiana; Ermarita married Fred Urick of Alvin, Texas; Rockney married Barbara of Dallas, Texas; Zale married Cathy of Dallas, Texas; Karen Joan married Savoy Grimmer of Dickinson, Texas. Rev. Pletcher is also survived by seven grandchildren: Demerita Joan Urick, Jacob John Urick, Stephen Pletcher, D'Ann Pletcher, Melinda Pletcher, Todd Pletcher and Bethanie Pletcher. He is additionally survived by one brother, Byron Pletcher of Perrytown, Texas and two sisters, Cora Edge of Hardesty, Oklahoma, and Vivian Taliferro of Roswell, New Mexico, as well as a number of nieces, nephews and other relations. He was preceded in death by his parents, five sisters and two brothers.

Rev. Pletcher was converted and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour as a young man of 21 years in 1929. He felt the call into the ministry and preached the gospel for 54 years as a pastor and evangelist in the Apostolic Faith Movement. In his early ministry, he traveled with Robert and Claude Parham in revivals based out of the old home in Baxter Springs, Kansas. He then went on to establish churches in New Mexico and Oklahoma and later re-established several churches in Texas. Rev. Pletcher was totally dedicated to preach the 'gospel' without money or without price.

On Sunday, January 8, 1984, at 2:00 p.m., a beautiful funeral service was conducted by minister, friends and fellowworkers in memory of Rev. Jacob Hornberger Pletcher. Officiating were Rev. Olen Bachler - Katy, Texas, Rev. Roland Busch - Katy, Texas, Rev. Neil Ragan - Alvin, Texas, Rev. Savoy Grimmer - Dickinson, Texas, Rev. Marcus Adair - Canyon, Texas, and Rev. Howard Whitely - Baxter Springs, Kansas. Pallbearers were Rev. Winston Barker, John Knolle, Stacy Botter, Cecil Boles, Andy Perry and Harry Cannon.

The service was opened with prayer by Rev. Neil Ragan, followed by two of Rev. Pletcher's favorite old hymns, rendered by the Mathis Quartet of Hempstead, Texas, accompanied by Doneva McPhetridge, Jr. Rev. Roland Busch then read the obituary and gave his heartfelt comments. Rev. Savoy Grimmer, son-in-law of the deceased, in giving the eulogy, proceeded to read a lovely poem written by Mrs. Pletcher especially for the service, given by the Holy Spirit to her following the death of her husband. He then left the congregation with very appropriate comments of how God has used Rev. Pletcher to touch his life through teaching at Bible College.

"Sheltered Safe With the Arms of God" was then sung by the Whitely family with added words and remembrances by Rev. Howard Whitely of the time and labor spent by Rev. Pletcher in the work of the Lord at Bible College. The text of the service brought by Rev. Olen Bachler was Romans 8:28 and Mark 10:29,30, giving words of comfort and encouragement to the family. Before and after the service, organ music was rendered by Mrs. Phyllis Bachler.

Interment was at South Park Cemetery, Pearland, Texas. The gravesite service was opened with Rev. Pletcher's two daughters singing "The Meeting in the Air", accompanied by Mrs. Phyllis Bachler. Isaiah 47:1,2 was read with added thoughts by Rev. Marcus Adair. After closing with prayer, an expression of thanks was given by Rev. Olen Bachler to all who had contributed in lovely friendship gestures.

Jacob Hornberger Pletcher was laid to rest awaiting the meeting of the saints in the air with Jesus Christ, his Savior. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Psalms 116:15

A memorial fund has been set up at the Alvin Apostolic Faith Church for special remembrances.

Written by
Demerita Pletcher

"MY HUSBAND"

Always faithful to his family
Always faithful to his God,
Always faithful to his calling,
When on this earth he trod.

No storm too dark
No trial so hard,
Nothing could keep him
From turning to God.

Earth's treasures were nought,
His eyes were on things above.
All of earth's caressss
Could not outshine God's love.

To be his wife
Was a great pleasure.
He never sought fame,
But reached for heavenly treasure.

The love for his children,
So obvious to see,
While the days passed by-
Prayers from his lips for their safety.

Burdens for souls
Never left his mind-
He dreamed he was preaching
That Jesus they would find.

His calling always so sure,
He trusted God of his soul;
His whole being looked upward-
God and heaven his goal.

He worked with his hands,
As did Paul of old-
Never asking for support,
Only the wealth of a soul

He never complained
when the going was tough
The road so terribly rocky,
The trial so long and so rough.

To him life was a beautiful gift
Sent from heaven above.
Earth was an arena
To expose God's great love.

He never spake ill
Of those living around
His eyes were not on people,
Just only that Jesus be found.

Fifty-four years ago,
As a young man for God,
He received in a vision
The gospel to carry on this earthly sod.

The call never left him,
So faithful was he,
That through seventy-five years.
He proved this by his life, we are able to see.

When time's clock has run down,
And earth's time is no more,
May we all meet him there
Across Jordan on that beautiful shore.

Forever together,
To always be
With Jesus, our Savior,
Through all blessed eternity.

In Memory Of . . .

With the passing of Bro. Jake Pletcher, the Apostolic Faith Movement has lost a true warrior for the cause of Christ.

He was a man that refused to "water-down" God's word in order to gain popularity or prestige. If the word of God stated a fact, Bro. Jake heralded it and lived it. One of the most important scriptures to him was study to show thyself approved unto God."

For 2 years Bro. Pletcher taught Bible Doctrine and Bible Prophecy for 1 year in our Bible College. Those who studied under him were privileged indeed. His main concern was that they individually dig - study - and dig some more into God's word. He wasn't concerned if they made an F or an A; his concern was that they study and hunt for answers in God's word which would cause them to grow spiritually. He purposely worded questions so the student would have to search and think about God's word.

Another thing Bro. Pletcher insisted upon was that a Bible reference was given for every answer. "You must have a Bible reference for ANY answer," he would say.

After visiting in Bro. Pletcher doctrine class, Doug Hibbs and Joe Randolph said to me, "I wish I had studied under him; I would know a lot more. He's a great teacher."

That he was! But not only did he teach God's word, he lived it. He was a real man of prayer and of God's word.

Thanks Bro. Pletcher for touching lives and giving guidance to many people. The world is a better place because you were here.

Howard & Yvonna Whitely

Thank You

Words cannot express our deep appreciation to all for the many calls, cards, flowers, lovely dinners and many condolences of friendships. So very much needed at this time of deep sorrow to our family.

Your prayers from far and near were so uplifting, supporting us up to the throne of God. It made it so much easier.

May our precious Saviour reward and richly bless every one of you as you shared your caring with our grief and sorrow in the passing of our loving father and husband.

Thank you also for the Memory contributions in deep respect for him.

With prayers,
The Jacob H. Pletcher Family



The Bible

Author unknown

Study it carefully,
Think of it prayerfully,
Deep in your heart let its pure precepts dwell!
Slight not its history
Ponder its mystery,
None can e'er prize it too fondly or well.

Accept the glad tidings,
The warnings and chidings,
Found in this volume of heavenly lore;
With faith that's unfailing
And love all prevailing,
Trust in its promise of life evermore.

With fervent devotion
And thankful emotion
Hear the blest welcome, respond to its call;
Life's purest oblation,
The heart's adoration,
Give to the Saviour who died for us all.

May this message of love
From the tribune above
To all nations and kindreds be given,
Till the ransomed shall raise
Joyous anthems of praise-
Hallelujah! On earth and in heaven!

THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE:

1. Those who make things happen.
2. Those who watch things happen.
3. Those who haven't the slightest idea what happened!

Teacher Seminar

April 5-7

We are conducting a Teacher Seminar April 5-7. Below is a schedule of classes and workshops. Please encourage your present Sunday School staff and prospects to attend. This is for men as well as ladies.

Please let us know how many you will be bringing so we can find housing and know how many study books to assemble. Each should bring a loose leaf notebook, paper, pens and Bible. If you prefer staying at the school in dormitory rooms you will also need to bring bedding and towels. These rooms will be set up in the basement of the church as our regular dormitory buildings are full to capacity with AFBC students.

If your group is interested in making a tour to the "Mystery Destination House" in Joplin, Mo, I will need to know this in advance. This is a retired couple who have worked in children's ministry for 20 years. They have a fantastic supply of teaching materials which they are willing to demonstrate to us. This would be well worth your time. They have many ways in which they have re-done flannel backgrounds, sand boxes, made bible characters from miniature dolls such as GI Jo, etc. If there are enough interested in this we would need to set this up at 2 p.m. Thursday.

This seminar will be conducted from our new building at AFBC located at 335 W. 10th Street, directly W of the church building. We are enjoying working at our new location very much. It is so much more convenient. You will be sharing meals with our Bible College students and faculty unless you desire to do otherwise.

We will be looking forward to hearing from you. May the Lord richly bless you as you minister for His glory.

In Christian Service,
Kathryn Cornell
Teacher Training AFBC

THURSDAY 2-5 P.M. MYSTERY DESTINATION
HOUSE TOUR
THURSDAY 7-10 P.M. PREPARATION FOR THE
MINISTRY OF TEACHING
FRIDAY 9-12 A.M. SESSION OBJECTIVES -
"A MODEL SESSION"
FRIDAY 1-4 P.M. TEACHING METHODS
OF BIBLE LEARNING
ACTIVITIES
FRIDAY 7-10 P.M. STAFF MEETINGS -
RECRUITING - OUTREACH
SATURDAY 9-12 A.M. PLANNING A SESSION -
LEADING A CHILD TO
CHRIST
SATURDAY 1-? P.M. WORKSHOPS - PUPPETS -
Mergie Doll
BIBLE CHARACTER -
Kathryn Cornell

MARK THESE DATES!

Lost Pines Youth Camp
Warda, Texas
June 3-8

Mid-west Youth Camp
Laverne, Oklahoma
June 11-16

4-State Youth Camp
Baxter Springs, Ks.
June 17-22

Mississippi-Alabama Youth
Camp
Camp Pine Crest, Quitman, M.S.
June 23-28

Camp Meeting 1984
Laverne, Oklahoma
July 23-29

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