

The

March 1978

# Apostolic Faith Report

Vol. 25 — No. 1 & 2

"Our Saviour Jesus Christ . . .  
hath Abolished death, and  
hath brought life and  
immortality to light through  
the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10)



# "Resurrection Power"

The resurrection power of Jesus is what makes the difference in the way a Christian and a sinner faces the reality of death. Paul said in I Thess. 4:13 and 14 "Ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." The graves will open one day, "and the dead in Christ shall rise first. We which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." Praise God! And just think all of God's children shall see it. If we go the grave route we'll get to be one of those resurrected and if we're still alive at the coming of Jesus we shall get to be a front row spectator. What a beautiful sight that will be. Bill and Gloria Gaither described it so well in their song "The Resurrection Morn".

Oh, what a day! T'will soon take place,  
When the redeemed of Adam's race,  
In an instant will all be transformed;  
They'll come from near, some from afar,  
On past the moon, beyond the stars,  
What a sight! On that resurrection morn.

God's mighty angel takes His stand,  
Upon the sea, and on the land;  
And He sounds that great trumpet blast,  
Then like a thousand thunders roar,  
Declares that time shall be no more;  
Worlds stop! For this day's the last.

Then sea and land give up their dead;  
The earth too long has been their bed;  
Released, they rise through the air;  
They'll join and come as magnets drawn  
To gather 'round that Great White Throne,  
Behold! Their King waiting there.

Then row on row they'll fall in line,  
Their perfect garments snowy white,  
They'll march in and claim their own land.  
"They're home at last!", the King will say,  
"These are my own, for these are they washed-white  
In the blood of the Lamb".

The mighty band will start to play  
The Hallelujah Chorus that day,  
All glory to the King of all Kings.  
Then tears of joy will start to flow  
Because I've chosen long ago  
To be there when the Saints start to sing.

The trump wil sound! Amens resound!  
The Saints will rise up from the ground;  
Such singing—and shouting!  
We've run the race; We'll see His face;  
And start to sing Amazing Grace;  
What a sight! On that Resurrection Morn.

Jesus said, "because I live ye shall live also." John 14:19b. Because of Him I'll be there for the Great Resurrection! The graves will open! The Saints will arise! "O, death, where is they sting? O, grave where is thy victory?" I Cor. 15:55 Isn't Easter a wonderful time? God placed it in the spring of the year when new life is springing up everywhere to remind us that resurrection power is His. Isn't Jesus wonderful? Aren't you glad you're one of His chosen ones? nb

WE ARE CONFIDENT, I SAY, AND WILLING TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY, AND TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD. 2 COR. 5:6



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# NEW EDITOR

For  
**Apostolic Faith  
Report**

(Picture on back page)

We are happy to announce that Karen Oakes, of Joplin, Missouri, has been chosen as the new editor of the Apostolic Faith Report. Her first report will be the April issue. Our best wishes and prayers are with her as she starts this new work for the Lord. We feel assured that you will give her the fine cooperation and help you have given us for the past 6½ years.

Karen is the daughter, and only child, of Mrs. Wanda Allgood, of 2035 Arizona Ave., Joplin, Mo. and the late Major Tom Allgood. Major Allgood was a member of the Armed Forces, serving in the Army for 25 years. He passed away in 1975. Karen, being an "Army Brat", traveled extensively in her early years including a 'hitch' in Germany and Japan. On June 15, 1958 she married Dennie Oakes in the Joplin Original Apostolic Faith Church, located at 700 E. 4th St., where they still attend church. Dennie's parents are Mr. Lester Oakes and the late Mrs. Leon Oakes, also of Joplin, who until about 1960 made their home in the Anderson, Mo. area. Bro. Lester preached for several years and he and his wife traveled with some of the old-time Apostolic Faith preachers. Besides Dennie they also had 2 other sons and a daughter. One of Dennie's brothers, Lee Oakes, is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Bible College and the Report. Dennie has his own business, the Oakes Drywall Co.

Dennie and Karen have five daughters; Carla Ann Nordberg, their adopted daughter, who is 19 and will be helping out with editing the Report, Tamara Roxanne, also 19, who is a member of the AFBC singing group, the "Overcomers" (formerly known as the College Vibrations) who are now on tour. Both Carla and Tammy attended AFBC last term. Their third daughter, Lisa Diane, 15, is a sophomore in the Neosho, Mo. High School. The twins, Valerie Jane and Vanessa Jean are 11 years old and in the 6th grade.

Karen and Carla have been working with me on this March paper, getting used to things around the Report office. Karen is a dedicated worker for the Lord and has prayed much about accepting this job. She is worthy of your support in every way. Please remember her and Carla in your prayers. The Report mailing address will remain the same, Box 653, Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713. The only thing that will change is the phone number as 856-2626 is an extension of our home phone number. The new number will be 316-856-5281.

N. Busch

## "OVERCOMERS" (Formerly "Vibrations") ON TOUR



Back Row l. to r. Supt. Howard Whiteley, Fred Arnall, and Savoy Grimmer.

Front row l. to r. Karen Oyler, April Wolf, and Tamara Oakes.

Spring will soon be arriving and with it we will again enjoy the fresh life that God gives to our world in each form of vegetation. It was put here for our enjoyment. Let us not forget that God gives another gift to us. . . His son. . . which in turn gives new life to us individually.

I have a wonderful group of dedicated young people assisting me in our annual spring tour in behalf of the Bible College. They have been working very hard to prepare for the service which they will have in your church. We're trusting God to give us a very special time with His anointing and presence in each concert. A slide presentation of the school will be shown to give you a picture concept of life at AFBC.

Remember we still have not met our land payment quota and we will have a large insurance payment coming due in April. This is YOUR SCHOOL and each one needs to feel the responsibility. Even if you can't send a large donation. . . every small one adds to make a larger amount.

From all reports our enrollment this fall will be larger than last year. If you're planning to attend, you need to begin making your plans. The main difference in attending Bible College first, is that you are in a place to meet God personally. . . finding His will for your life before you enter college. At AFBC there is plenty of time to receive spiritually from God the strength needed to withstand Satan's snares as you enter life's busy stream. Among other Christian people in a spiritual atmosphere you find God in a special way. So, we encourage you to join us for the 1978-79 term of Bible school. Remember we will have our first full nine-month term of school.

## THE DEATH OF DEATH

One of the great preachers of the Puritan era captured the real meaning of the resurrection in his sermon entitled, "The Death of Death in the Death of Christ." The title is more than a play on words. It contains profound truth.

Only in subjecting Himself to death could Christ conquer it. And only by putting an end to the ravages of death could He assure the redeemed of eternal life. It was God's purpose "that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Heb. 2:14-15). When Jesus cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30), death itself was put to death.

C. S. Lewis was right when he called death "ambivalent," "It is," he said, "Satan's great weapon and also God's great weapon: it is holy and unholy; our supreme disgrace and our only hope; the thing Christ came to conquer and the means by which He conquered."

Who could contend with death? Only One—the Lord Jesus Christ. His resurrection showed "the exceeding greatness of his power" (Eph. 1:19). Now death has no claim on Him (cf. Rom. 6:9); and He has "the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:18).

The Duke of Wellington led the English forces against those of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. News of the history-making battle came by sailing vessel to the south coast of England, and it was wigwagged by semaphore overland toward London.

Atop Winchester Cathedral, the semaphore began to spell out the eagerly awaited message. A dense fog began to settle down just as the words "Wellington defeated" were finished. The semaphore could no longer be seen, and the heartbreaking news of Wellington's defeat spread throughout London.

Before long, the fog lifted and again the signaling semaphore atop the cathedral became visible. This time it spelled out the complete message of the battle: "Wellington defeated the enemy!"

Many years ago, on a lonely hill outside the city of Jerusalem, the sinless Son of God gave Himself willingly in a vicarious death upon a crude cross for the sin of the world. "About the sixth hour (noon), . . . there was a darkness over all the earth. . . and the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And . . . Jesus . . . cried with a loud voice, . . . Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost" (Luke 23:44-46).

For a time, it appeared that Jesus had been defeated. His followers certainly felt so. They placed Him limp, lifeless body in the borrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathea and resigned themselves to the reality of His death. The persistent thought of their troubled hearts reiterated its hopeless message: "Jesus defeated."

During the three days of His entombment, all hell was vibrant with ghoulish glee. The prince of darkness, Satan, had apparently triumphed over the Sun of righteousness.

But after those dreary days dragged to their end, the darkness and gloom suddenly lifted. The bright radiance of the first Easter morning flooded the garden, and the glad news began to spread: "Jesus defeated death!" "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (I Cor. 15:54-55).

Life characterizes our Lord now. "He shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs" (Acts 1:3). Even before His death, He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26).

Since He is alive, why should we fear? Nothing, including death, can separate us from the love of God (cf. Rom. 8:38-39). Neither the condemning past nor the anxious present nor the ominous future should cause apprehensions. We can share in the abundant life of our victorious Saviour here and now.

(both articles on these two pages are from the Gospel Herald)



## Echoes From "The Old Rugged Cross"

by W.F. McDermott

It was during World War II. A bomber on a reconnaissance flight in the Asian area was on fire. Below lay a jungle reportedly inhabited by head-hunters and cannibals. But life is dear, and to remain in the plane meant certain death for the pilot and bombardier. Although bailing out might bring something far worse than quick death in an exploding plane, it also offered a chance, however slight, for survival.

The two men landed alive. Although they had no idea where they were, they knew that they would have to move on or die. For several days they push through the jungle, hungry and bleeding.

Late one afternoon they heard a new sound, strange to their ears but unmistakably the sound of human voices. They crept closer and discovered that the weird sounds were some form of music. The jungle inhabitants were singing. Drums were beating. "What are they singing?" whispered the pilot. "It sounds sort of familiar."

The bombardier listened intently and then burst out: "It's a hymn! I remember it. It's 'The Old Rugged Cross!'"

By signs and humming, the fliers made it known that they knew the song. The natives gave them shelter and food and bandaged their injuries. More than that, these former savages offered friendship and compassion. They had been brought to Christ years before by a missionary. Eventually the fliers were returned to their outfits and went home when the war was over.

This is only one of many dramatic events that have attended the ministry of "The Old Rugged Cross." Many miracles have been associated with it. In fact, the story of its writer, Rev. George Bennard, is one that can be explained only by the working of the Holy Spirit.

Mr. Bennard died in October, 1958, at the age of eighty-five. But he had lived to see his hymn acclaimed throughout the world.

George Bennard's parents had been active church people in Scotland, but their immigration to America brought an unfortunate element into their lives. Bennard told of it at Winona Lake, Indiana, in the summer of 1958. "I learned early the heartache that rebellion against the gospel of Christ brings," he said. "My background was such that you would say I'd be the last chap in the world to preach the gospel. In the old country, my father was a faithful church worker, as my mother was. But in the new land, where he needed work, he was persuaded to engage in the saloon business.

"For a long time he never drank; then he was tempted and yielded. His drinking got worse and worse, until he lost his health and money. I can remember as a lad hearing my mother say to Father, 'I wish you would get out of this awful business. It makes me so sad. I'd rather live in the poorhouse than have you be a bartender.' Then a fire took everything we had, even our beds."

When he was fifteen, George had to go to work in a coal mine to support his widowed mother and his five younger sisters. Then the family moved to Iowa, where young Bennard again worked in a mine.

In 1895, he was attracted to a revival meeting conducted by the Salvation Army. His conversion followed. He took up Salvation Army work and eventually was commissioned as an adjutant. For three years he traveled throughout the Midwest, holding revival meetings. Later he became a Methodist minister. Meanwhile he had written several gospel songs that were well received in Salvation Army circles, and in 1910 he decided to devote his time to hymn writing and evangelism.

In 1912, Bennard was holding a revival in a small church in a Michigan town. The minister of the church heartily supported the campaign to win converts to Christ, but his wife vigorously opposed it. "She was a professing Christian but an enemy of the cross," said Bennard. "In my sermons I constantly emphasized the cross. She ridiculed it. How-

ever, the experience proved a blessing to me. It turned my mind more and more to the glory of the cross."

He began studying about the cross, realizing more and more that it is the very heart of the Christian faith. Bennard said, "I remembered an old wooden cross I had once seen. The first ten words of the hymn suddenly came to me as if by a stroke of light—'On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross.' I kept brooding upon the picture I saw of the old wooden cross of memory transformed into the cross upon which Jesus died. In two weeks I finished the hymn, both words and music, feeling that it had been given to me by the Lord."

The hymn that was to win worldwide acclaim brought comparatively little recognition to the writer in its earlier years. Bennard continued his evangelistic meetings and went on writing hymns—a total of more than three hundred and fifty. Judged by its popularity and by its effect on the lives of many who heard it, "The Old Rugged Cross" was the greatest of them all.

A famous singer had frequent spells of depression. He had wealth and popularity; yet there was an ache in his heart that he could not understand. One of the records he had made was "The Old Rugged Cross." One day when he felt unusually frustrated, he put the record on his phonograph and played back his own singing.

Suddenly it awakened him to his great need for God. It flashed into his mind that reconciliation with God through Christ was what he was groping for. Then and there he decided to give himself and his career wholly to the Master. Thus, "The Old Rugged Cross" played a large part in his conversion and the dedication of his life to evangelistic singing.

One time Bennard spoke before a group of boys, mostly teen-agers, who appeared sullen and indifferent. They were in a well-guarded room in a detention center for delinquent youth. When the chaplain in charge asked for hymn requests, one boy called out, "The Old Rugged Cross." They sang it heartily, and then Bennard was introduced as its author.

He told them the story of his own poverty-stricken life—about the influences that worked against God's coming into his heart. Then he recounted how he had found Christ and real happiness.

"Boys, I'm an old man now, past eighty years of age," he said to them, "but I want to tell you that Jesus is the Best Friend any man ever had or ever could have. Let Him come into your life, and you will live again."

The simple but earnest talk did not visibly move the boys, but later Bennard received reports that thirty-seven of the sixty-three boys had sought out the chaplain for counsel.

Bennard never did retire, although he reduced the number of revival meetings held each year. He and his wife settled in a little home in the village of Ashton, Michigan, near Reed City. The Reed City Chamber of Commerce erected a rustic wooden cross in front of their home. It was patterned after Bennard's description of the crude cross that inspired the hymn.

A few years ago, a well-known radio broadcast invited listeners to send in the names of their favorite hymns. More than forty thousand people responded, and more than four hundred hymns were listed. One stood out head and shoulders above all others, winning more than twenty-six thousand first choices. It was "The Old Rugged Cross."

## OTHERS MAY, YOU CANNOT.

If God has called you to be really like Jesus He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christian ministers who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull wires, and work their schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it; and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their success, of their writings, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than Gold, namely a helpless dependence on Him, that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

He may let others be honored and put forward, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others be great, but

keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing; and then to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem distressed over. So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign, and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be His love slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle.

SETTLE it forever, then, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the vestibule of heaven.

C. D. Watson, in *LIVING WORDS*.

Found in the Parham Memorbelia



Mrs. Viola Harper

## My Own Special Angel

I was born in Oklahoma on a farm, married a local man and moved to Wichita, Kansas in 1954.

I taught all type of handicapped children, cerebral palsy, deaf and aphasia for ten years at the Institute of Logopedics. Then I went into hospital work for ten years, working with young men and women with broken necks or back, any type of spinal cord injury. I also worked part time on cardiac floor—therefore I had helped with many cardiac arrests, never suspecting that I myself would one day suffer four of them.

Then three years ago I became very interested in psychiatry and have been helping drug addicts, psychotic patients, alcoholic patients or any mentally disturbed patient. I have enjoyed my work so very much.

I am a Christian and found my salvation with the Lord, and felt I was going to spend eternity in heaven. I have not been a lukewarm Christian nor have I been on fire for the Lord. I am what you might call a steady Christian, who tries to let my life witness for me and live close to God. That is why **only** God knows why He chose me for this wonderful experience.

On October 13, 1977 I suffered chest, arm and throat pain for several hours. I awakened my husband to drive me to the hospital, by then I could no longer lift my arms, so he called for an ambulance.

The trained ambulance drivers helped me all the way to the hospital—they are such wonderful people.

When I arrived at the hospital, the emergency room doctor said, "Take this patient at once to the cardiac care unit."

By eight o'clock they had me all hooked up to a monitor to monitor my heart rate. The last thing I remember before I became conscious was turning my head to the wall and praying to God to help me bear the pain, for I am one of the rare persons who is allergic to all pain medication—stronger than aspirin. Therefore my doctor could give me nothing for pain. The next thing I knew I opened my eyes and I was fully awake. The room was full of people—my doctor was standing at the foot of my bed trying to feel my pedal pulse and my big artery pulse in my leg. Nurses were everywhere, one had a bag over my mouth. I could feel the hard board under my back that they put under all patients who arrest. I saw I.V. bottles hanging and other equipment. I was hearing doctors and nurses giving orders. At this point I looked down at my chest and I saw two round red paddle marks and I said to myself—"You have had a cardiac arrest but thank God you made it!"

Then I saw **him**—he passed in front of me from right to left as if in a big hurry and just melted or went into the wall. It struck terror into my heart for I had no doubt who just passed through my room. It was the Devil, Satan or Lucifer. I can't begin to tell you how ugly he was.

My pardon to goat lovers, but he had the face of a man and yet he looked like a goat with long white chin whiskers and two long straight horns. The thought came to me—I am going to hell, the devil is here for me. I was petrified

with fright. I said, "He wants what doesn't belong to him,—me!" Yet I must have been mistaken why else would he be here? How could I have been so wrong?

My minister told me I saw Satan called Pan or Satyr. The two words are synonymous, it means devil or demons. The Bible described the Devil as having legs, ears, and the horns of a goat at times.

I then turned my face to the right prepared to die and full of unspeakable terror. The nurse then moved my head back and said, "Mrs. Harper, I want you to breath deep for me." As she turned my head back my eyes caught the ceiling above me and there floating just above me was the most beautiful angel anyone could imagine looking down at me. To his left were four baby angels like little cherubims. I had always thought angels were dressed in white but these were in a very soft pastel pink, with wings that came up even or higher than their heads and each had on a soft flowing gown that blended in with their wings. There were no hands or feet that were visible. Their gowns flowed as if a soft breeze were moving them.

JOY—flooded my heart—the Devil was gone and now here were angels, a higher power in a warfare hovering over me. Then I knew I was going to die but I was going to heaven. For I felt the angels had come to take me home. I said to the nurse standing behind my head, "I am going to die now—I am going to heaven." My doctor still at the foot of my bed said to the nurse, "What did she say?" The nurse repeated what I had just said and the doctor playfully hit me on the foot and said, "O, no you aren't Mrs. Harper, I am not going to let you die."

I again turned my face to the right to die and I am positive I did die for a brief time. I felt myself move out of my body and I did not go far away but stayed close to my body. All pain stopped! And I was in the most beautiful place—there are no words in the English language to describe the peace and the beauty of the place where I had gone. Everything was perfect! This is where I wanted to stay, I did not want to come back ever. The nurse said, "Cough Mrs. Harper" and I thought (Don't you understand I am dead and in Heaven—I can't cough). Again—the nurse moved my head so my eyes came in contact with the beautiful angel still hovering over my head. He did not speak to me in words, but it was as if his brain spoke to my brain by a thought process. "I am not here to take you to heaven. I am your guardian angel and I am here to help you. You must do everything I tell you to do." He was in full command of my life at that point. At last I understood—He was here to protect me.

His features were so clear and distinct, he had beautiful eyes. I can not tell you their color—I only remember their warmth and how they penetrated my eyes. I knew I was going to live. My angel had assured me.

I was to learn later that my wonderful doctor had told my family that he felt I would die and could not live due to the massive heart attack I had suffered. They had placed a pace maker in my heart to keep my heart beating.

The faces of the four little angels were dim and not distinct like "My Angel". They hovered in a group over to the left side as if they were attendants to the guardian angel. They gave me no directions nor did they speak to me at any time.

At this point I re-entered my body as "My Angel" I guess I should say Gods Angel, for I knew God had delegated him

to me—He was God's messenger. As I re-entered my body all pain returned. I hit my body from the top of my head and became very much alive again and full of earthly pain. The pain again became unbearable. I could not help but think that I hadn't really wanted to return to earth and yet I knew I would not disobey my guardian angel. His power was very strong. I did everything he told me do, deep breath, cough, and kept trying very hard to live.

Remember I was under the influence of "NO DRUGS", my mind was clear. I was able later to quote all conversation that went on in the room. Four weeks later I told my doctor what had happened and he urged me to write my story. He stated that he felt it would help many people.

The four little angels left first, just floating back and disappearing. My guardian angel stayed with me for a good thirty minutes longer. Then as my condition became more stable and the angel had assured me that I was going to be alright—he slowly backed away from me, all the way across the room, never taking his eyes off me. I was fascinated by his blond hair or silver hair and beautiful profile. He had an exceptionably beautiful nose. His gown softly rippled away from me until he reached the wall and he just disintegrated or passed through the wall and was gone. I had remember making jokes about guardian angels—I always believed in them but had at times laughingly said, "My guardian angel must have been watching over me." God forgive me.

I knew I had witnessed a miracle and as critical as my condition was I could hardly wait to tell people what I had just witnessed.

I have three reasons for wanting to share this story with every one.

First—Never doubt for a moment that we all have guardian angels, they are real. I know—I saw mine and he saved my life.

Second—I know satan is real, he does exist! He is someone to fear. I shall never forget how ugly he was and how he filled my heart with terror.

Third (but not last)—I will never fear death again. My experience took all fear of death away from me.

I realize I only got a very short glimpse of heaven, but I repeat—there are no words as we as man knows that can describe what I witnessed—perfect peace and perfection.

I am glad I am alive now—and I know God had a purpose for sparing my life. My mission here on earth is not complete yet. As you the reader read this story, know that I am sharing with you my story because God has laid it on my heart to tell you of my experience and to assure you that you should never fear death! It is far more beautiful than anything God has given us here on earth. Psalms 23:4.

I covet your prayers, for next month I have been asked to speak to a large group of Student Nurses on my experience. I also welcome letters from anyone who cares to write to me.

This has changed my life—I now make it my testimony and am so grateful and feel so very humble that God chose me for this experience.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Viola Harper  
7009 So. Ida  
Wichita, Kansas 67216



### **Spearman, Texas**

As a church we are grateful for God's blessing to us, and for the privilege of worship, and for His Word that is ministered in all of our services.

The first part of last year Bro. Roland Busch from Katy, Texas came for a revival but after a few services he was called home because of illness. Then in October Bro. Elbert Pool of Des Arc, Arkansas held a revival that blessed the church and was well attended. Bro. and Sister Bill Cornell of Perryton, Texas were in charge of the music. Bro. Pool's sister, Mrs. Bill Isaac, and his mother, Mrs. John Pool of Checotah, Oklahoma, also helped with the special singing.

Our pastors Bro. and Sis. Regier worked in the Mississippi youth camp. They also had a week of Bible lessons at each of the following three church, Balco, Oklahoma; Pampa, Texas; and Granby, Missouri. In their absence Bro. E. W. Dickson ministered to us. Also Mrs. E. A. Greever assists in the services at various times.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Reardon of Perryton, Texas have moved here, also the Benny Buschman' family of Stinnett, Texas are now attending our church. Sis. Paula Buschman has been home since the close of Bible School. We are glad for her help in the church. We are praying for revival and trust it shall begin in each of us. We would like to see our church grow.

Mrs. Irvin Delk, Reporter  
Jacob C. Regier, Pastor

### **Joplin, Missouri**

This report comes at a rather cold time for our part of the country, but we're so glad that we are fortunate not to be completely paralyzed by it like the Northeast has been. We haven't had to dismiss our services because of the weather but at times our attendance was low but still the Lord was with us.

Sunday, February 12, the young people of our church were in charge of the evening service. The Bible School Singing group, that will soon be on tour, provided the music and Bro. Dwight Wilson brought the message which was enjoyed by all. Bro. Jim Arnall of Ashland, Alabama held our revival March 14. Our church held Cottage Prayer Meetings every Friday night before this date.

Neil Ragan, Pastor  
Carla Nordberg, Reporter

### **Dickinson, Texas**

We certainly had a wonderful year in the Lord in 1977. Our cuns were filled and running over. We were blessed with some wonderful healings, some souls saved and some filled with the Holy Spirit. Our pastor has often admonished us how important it is for us to seek spiritual blessings first. "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47.

We appreciate so very much the Denton family and their work for the Lord here. Ralph and Lucille, Gary and Goldie, and Roger and Kay and their children. We had a wonderful watch night service, God abundantly blessed us all. Praise His name! The younger ones of the church have been blessed by a church school. Goldie Denton is doing a fine job with them. We have started editing a weekly news letter for the church. God is using Debbie Tyson in this field. We are expecting greater things from our Lord in 1978. God bless all of you. Please stop by and fellowship with us. We welcome all of you.

Ralph Denton, Pastor  
Mrs. Cecil Boles, Reporter

### **Granby, Missouri**

We welcome Frank, Corrie and April Arnall to Granby and the Gospel Tabernacle. We look forward to their sharing their ministry with us. We had a Fellowship Welcome for them in the Fellowship hall after church, February 12. February 16 we had a Valentine Banquet for our Young People. Special guests for the banquet were the AFBC Vibration Singers. We are planning a summer revival with all the churches of our town with Bro. Larry Jones. Richard Tate was with us recently on Sunday morning in behalf of the Larry Jones Evangelistic Association. Earl and Bessie Morgan's daughter, Janelle and her children, Morgan, Curt and Dawn recently moved to Houston to be with the Morgans.

Edwin Waterbury, Pastor

### **West Purcell Apostolic Faith Church**

The Lord is continuing to bless in each service at our little church and we are grateful. Out attendance has suffered some because of the flu and the snowy, icy weather conditions, but God is a very present help in time of need.

"I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage and He will strenghten thine heart, wait I say on the Lord." "Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

George Hintergardt, Pastor

### **Guymon, Oklahoma**

Everyone enjoyed our Bible Conference January 22-27 with the Jimmy Wallis family and the Dietz Brothers Concert on January 18. We're happy to have Bill and Vicki Patterson back with us. We have two Ministry Training Classes in regular session now on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Bro. Bill Patterson is teaching the men's class and Bro. Fred Freeman the Womens'. We were happy to have the Wallis' with us on our staff retreat at Angel Fire. Bro. Wallis brought our morning Bible lessons as well as our evening sessions on Being Led By the Holy Spirit.

Edwin Modrick, Pastor



### **Perryton, Texas**

We're looking forward to our Bible Conference with the Jimmy Wallis family of Broken Arrow, Okla., March 19-26. Our Kids Choir on Sunday mornings is going great as is the Wise Old Owl Club on Sunday nights, Saundra Flock is in charge of both of these.

Harrol Waterbury, Pastor

### **Pampa, Texas**

Praise God for His abundant blessings, which he gives to us freely as we ask of Him. The past few months have been busy ones for us here in Pampa.

In October we took ten workers from our Sunday School Department to their first ICL Teacher's Training Clinic in Amarillo, and from their enthusiastic response, we plan to make this two day event an annual opportunity for all our teachers. Also in October we were blessed with a week long series of Bible Studies conducted by Reverend Jacob Regier. These were tremendous and God blessed and strengthened our church through them.

November was a busy month as my family had the opportunity to make a trip to California for the wedding of Paul Mahan's daughter, Rhonda. Bro. Earl Malone ministered in our absence and we heard good reports of the services. Also in November, our church entered a float in Pampa's annual Thanksgiving-Christmas Parade, and to our surprise, won first place.

In December the college singers from Canyon, directed by Jacque Hocking, gave us an outstanding concert, and really ministered to us in a spirit-led service. I would encourage any of our churches to have these dynamic young Christians for a service this spring. On December 18th, I enjoyed having my dad, Winston Barker, as the guest minister in our church. Would you please continue to remember my mother, Alberta, in prayer. Our church enjoyed their annual Christmas Banquet, and we spent Sunday night Christmas caroling. As our gift to the community of Pampa, we presented for our second year a Living Nativity (Dec. 20-22) complete with a donkey, cow, goat, and several sheep, courtesy of Bro. Clifton Rasco. Next years plans include a camel, which we located this year but couldn't get in time. We also had a Candlelight service on Christmas Eve and a Watchnight service on New Years Eve.

Our major emphasis in January was a Revival with Rev. Calvin Springer and his wife Doris. The services were outstanding and Bro. Calvin couldn't have done better in ministering to our needs and challenging us to even greater service to our Lord. Special music for each night was presented by various local and out-of-town groups. Among them were Jerry Barker and J. E. and Vickee James from Amarillo. A new group, "The Seekers", sang for us twice. Members of this outstanding mixed quartet are Doug Hibbs, Joe Randolph, Glowanda Quesenbury, and Carolyn Gumm. We appreciated the soul searching and spirit controlled ministry of Bro. Springer and pray that God will continue to use him mightily.

Our plans for February and March are to let the spirit of Revival continue to multiply in our hearts as we worship and fellowship together in and out of our church. Please pray for us that God will continue to bless and that we may, in turn, be a blessing to those that we touch for Him. May God bless all of your churches as we all labor together for the cause of souls.

**Keith Barker, Pastor**

March 1978

### **Katy, Texas**

The Royalheirs were in concert in our church Friday and Saturday, January 3 and 4 at 6:30 p.m. Their inspirational music ministered to everyone. Our Sunday School prayer meetings each Sunday morning at 9:30 are a blessing to our church, also our home prayer meetings on Tuesday. God is also blessing in our monthly Men's prayer breakfasts held on Saturday at 7:30 a.m. February's breakfast was held on the 4th.

Jim Fox, Pastor

### **Kingman, Kansas**

We were pleased to have Bro. Lyndel and Sister Kathy Arnall and their daughter Lynette with us in our Watchnight Service. They stayed over for the next day's services too. Bro. Lyndel gave us an enjoyable talk on his travels to Israel. We recently had a supper to honor two couples, Jack and Jane Wimer who have accepted the pastorate of the Center Point, Texas Church, and Rick and Nyla Myers who have moved here and will be working with the young people in our church. We are sad to lose Jack and Jane but we realize their work for the Lord comes first and our prayers are with them. We welcome Rick and Nyla and wish them God's best while they are with us.

We thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed on us. Satan knows he has but a short time to work and seems to be working his hardest but we are happy that Jesus is coming soon!

Johnny Arnall, Pastor

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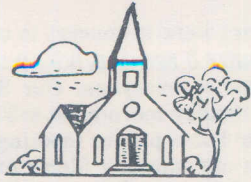
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### **Churches that sent contributions to the Report in 1977**

- |                                            |                                          |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Logan, Oklahoma<br>(Midway Country Church) | Bethpage, Missouri<br>(Union Chapel)     |
| Amarillo, Texas                            | Perryton, Texas<br>(Ladies Group)        |
| Beaver, Oklahoma                           | Joplin, Missouri<br>(Ladies Bible Study) |
| Eureka Springs, Arkansas                   | Rockdale, Texas                          |
| Liberal, Kansas                            | Taneyville, Missouri                     |
| Hardesty, Oklahoma                         | Denver, Colorado                         |
| Bayard, Nebraska                           | Laverne, Oklahoma                        |
| Cave Springs, Arkansas                     | Hinton, Alabama                          |
| Guymon, Oklahoma                           | Galena, Kansas                           |
| Snell, Mississippi                         | Dumas, Texas                             |
| Pine Hill, Alabama                         | Pattison, Texas                          |
| Stockton, California                       | Center Point, Texas                      |
| Enid, Oklahoma                             | Hempstead, Texas                         |
| Roswell, New Mexico                        | Pampa, Texas                             |
| Oklahoma City, Oklahoma                    |                                          |
| Baxter Springs, Kansas                     |                                          |
| Alvin, Texas                               |                                          |

MORE



NEWS

### Wichita, Kansas

Since the farmers seem to be having a hard time of it these days I thought I would write my testimony and maybe it would be a blessing to some of them.

During the depression days we lived in Wichita, Kansas. However, my husband, Clyde, was laid off from his work so we moved to a farm out by Cheney, Kansas. He was well known in that area so the farmers around there would come by our place and stop and visit with him, and they would ask, "Clyde, whatever possessed you to move out here? We all call it 'squable-hill'; it's such a poor farm." So while my husband planted his wheat he also prayed, "Lord, if you'll bless this wheat and give us a good crop, I'll give you the tenth of every dollar we get off of it." When harvest time came he came into the house one day and said, "Honey, come here I want to show you something." We went to the wheat field and there we saw the prettiest field of wheat that I have ever seen any place. He had not told me about the prayer until we were standing there looking at the crop. It is needless to say that every bushel of wheat we sold the first thing we did was to put the tithes aside before we spent any of the money. And here I would like to say that the same farmers that came by and said, "What are you doing here, this is just a 'squabble field'", now said, "Clyde, what in the world did you do to this farm, that is the best wheat I have ever seen anywhere." You see, if the farmers, and everyone else for that matter, would just give the Lord what belongs to Him, He would supply their needs.

After our landlord passed away we moved into town and Clyde got a job in a garage. It was during the great depression and he didn't make much money. Sometimes it was only \$3.50 to \$5.00 a week but nevertheless the tithes were always paid first, and we never missed a meal, never missed paying a bill, never charged a dollars worth of groceries, and our every need was supplied. Since my husband's death several years ago I have been faithful and have continued paying my tithes and the Lord has supplied my needs in a most gracious way His wonders to perform. And oh, how many times I have thank Him for it. In Mal. 3:10 we read, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Dora Krase



John and Marcena Hutson are the proud parents of a baby boy, named Johnathon Carl. He was born January 6, 1978. Carl and Edna Scroggs of Waka, Texas are the maternal grandparents. He has a big sister Amy.

### Dear Christian Brethern

We would like to take this opportunity to tell You of Our plans to do some writing of Gospel Sermons and Bible Lessons. We are no longer able to travel around as we used to. So we hope that in this way we can carry on Our Ministry in Writing and having some Bible Lessons printed. Especially on the doctrines of The Apostolic Faith Movement. We will send anyone who would like to have these all you want, No charge. Our address is:

Reverend and Mrs. Ted Jackson  
1524 Galena Avenue  
Galena, Kansas 66739

### Dear ones in Christ:

Greetings in the name of Jesus. My wife and I come to you with rejoicing in our hearts just thanking Him for His many past blessings He has bestowed on our lives.

The Lord certainly has abundantly blessed our hearts here of late. God has heard and answered so many prayers for us, for which we do want to give Him all the praise. We have been working here at the Language School for two years now. We also help some at the orphanage. My wife is the cook's helper here at the school. When we retired the Lord laid it on our hearts to come here and lend a helping hand, and we have enjoyed it very much.

The school is progressing very nicely. The sweet fellowship that exists among the students and faculty does not exist everywhere these days as it does here. We desire your prayers for each of these students that they will know the will of God in their lives. We feel that we have a part in their welfare as God has laid the burden on our hearts for them. There is a great need for more missionaries on the harvest field today.

The orphanage is progressing very nicely. The Lord has provided a new diesel power light plant, for which we give thanks to God. The Lord has provided four new overhead furnaces for the orphanage, and they are all hooked up. We would like to ask you to pray with us for better farming equipment, it costs so much to keep these repaired.

We are working with Brother and Sister Don Russell and the rest of the faculty, they know how to make you feel welcome; they are the best.

Please pray for us all in the work we do here. It may seem small, what we do, but it must be done. We are expecting greater things to be accomplished than ever before from the hand of God.

"Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom, for with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38.

"Without him we can do nothing." John 15:5.

"We can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us." Phil. 4:13.

We want to thank you for your prayers and support. Grace and peace be with you is our prayer.

Lyford and Opal Freeman  
401 South Kings Highway  
McAllen, Texas 78501

# AFBC "OVERCOMERS" Itinerary

(picture and story on page 3)

## MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> Cave Spgs., ARK	<b>2</b> Crosses, ARK	<b>3</b> Des Arc, ARK	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Ashland, ALA	<b>6</b> Ashland, ALA	<b>7</b> Pine Hill, ALA	<b>8</b> Pine Crest, MISS	<b>9</b> Snell, MISS	<b>10</b> Hinton, ALA	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> (AM) Alvin, TEX (PM) Dickinson, TEX	<b>13</b> Tomball, TEX	<b>14</b> Hempstead, TEX	<b>15</b> Katy, TEX	<b>16</b> Open	<b>17</b> Bellville, TEX <small>St Patrick's Day</small>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> (AM) Rockdale, TEX (PM) Gause, TEX <small>Patrol Summary</small>	<b>20</b> Center Point, TEX	<b>21</b> Vanderpool, TEX	<b>22</b> Big Spring, TEX	<b>23</b> Snyder, TEX	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Home
<b>26</b> Home <small>Easter Sunday</small>	<b>27</b> Home	<b>28</b> Home	<b>29</b> Baptist Ford Fayetteville, ARK	<b>30</b> Purcell, MO	<b>31</b>	

## MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Open	<b>2</b> Open	<b>3</b> Open	<b>4</b> Open	<b>5</b> Open	<b>6</b> Open
<b>7</b> Open	<b>8</b> Open	<b>9</b> Open	<b>10</b> Enid, OK	<b>11</b> Open	<b>12</b> Ralls, TEX	<b>13</b> Open
<b>14</b> Roswell, N.M. <small>Michael's Day</small>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Las Vegas, NEV	<b>18</b> Las Vegas, NEV	<b>19</b> Las Vegas, NEV	<b>20</b> Open
<b>21</b> Imperial Beach, CAL	<b>22</b> Imperial Beach, CAL	<b>23</b> Imperial Beach, CAL	<b>24</b> Open	<b>25</b> Open	<b>26</b> Modesto, CAL	<b>27</b> Modesto, CAL
<b>28</b> (AM) Modesto, CAL *** Stockton, CAL (PM) <small>Memorial Day</small>	<b>29</b> Stockton, CAL	<b>30</b> Stockton, CAL	<b>31</b> Travel			

## APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b> Home
<b>2</b> Home	<b>3</b> Home	<b>4</b> Centerton, ARK	<b>5</b> Joplin, MO	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Canyon, TEX	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> (AM) Woodward, OK (PM) Laverne, OK	<b>10</b> Arnett, OK	<b>11</b> Shattuck, OK	<b>12</b> Midway, OK	<b>13</b> Beaver, OK	<b>14</b> Follett, TEX	<b>15</b> Gray, OK
<b>16</b> (AM) Balko, OK (PM) Hardesty, OK	<b>17</b> Dumas, TEX	<b>18</b> Perryton, TEX	<b>19</b> Spearman, TEX	<b>20</b> Pampa, TEX	<b>21</b> Amarillo, TEX	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> (AM) Liberal, KS (PM) Kingman, KS 30--Prosperity MO	<b>24</b> Open	<b>25</b> Union Chapel Church	<b>26</b> Galena, KS	<b>27</b> Tom's Station Church	<b>28</b> Granby, MO	<b>29</b> Open

## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> Open	<b>2</b> Open	<b>3</b> Open Hudson WYO
<b>4</b> Hudson, WYO	<b>5</b> Hudson, WYO	<b>6</b> Hudson, WYO	<b>7</b> Bayard, NEB	<b>8</b> Bayard, NEB	<b>9</b> Bayard, NEB	<b>10</b> Denver, COLO
<b>11</b> Denver, COLO	<b>12</b> Denver, COLO	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

(They were in Taneyville, Mo. Feb. 22 and in Fayetteville, Ark. Feb. 27 & 28)

## NOT "WHY" BUT "TO WHAT END"?

By Keith Barker

How do you personally feel concerning this statement:

"We know that God causes all things to work together for good."

Romans 8:26-39 is one of the most moving and meaningful passages Paul wrote when it comes to encouraging Christians in times when things do not seem to be going well. These verses, and vs. 28 in particular, bring up a problem that is very real for most of us. It is often hard to reconcile tragedies that range from the death of loved ones to personal calamities with the idea that everything is working for our good.

(1) Let's take a closer look at Romans 8:28. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God. . . ." The promise is not for everyone; it's for Christians who love God. Problem is, it's easier to love God when things are going well than when things are going wrong. Is Rom. 8:28 trying to tell me that God is in my circumstances? That he has allowed this thing to happen, this disappointment, this frustration, perhaps even a tragedy. But if I know that God loves me and I love Him, then my question is not "why," but "to what end?"

(2) Romans 8:28 says that, "all things work together for good," but that "good" is God's good. Most of us enjoy a good cake! However, many of the ingredients are not good by themselves, but you put them together and the end product is good. In a similar way God is seeking to make something of you and your life. He has a purpose. Some of the ingredients are unpleasant, but God is working them together for your good.

(3) There is more to Romans 8:28. ". . . all things work together for good to them. . . who are the called according to His purpose." According to vs. 29 one of God's purposes is that Christians become like Christ. God knows our weaknesses, our problems, and our sins. He sends circumstances into our lives that work much as a sculptor works on stone—chipping away that temper, trimming away the pride, deceit, the jealousy. Each Christian is a different creation, but God works on us all, for our good, with His Son as the model.

(4) We read on to find out that, in fact, God's love is so strong and so consistent that **nothing** can separate us from His love. It is through this love that we become conquerors in **all** situations. Can you believe this? Will you believe this? If you will, God can change your life. You will be able to live confidently: No matter what happens, nothing can change God's love for you.

(5) **How will a person live if he really believes these verses?** In meeting problems he will turn to God in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to intercede according to God's will. He will ask what good God is trying to accomplish. He will ask in what way he can be more like Jesus through meeting this situation God's way. In times of trouble, our question should not be, "Why, God? Aren't You in control?" It should be, "God, to what end are You doing this? What are You trying to accomplish in my life?"

There's an old saying worth noting here:

"Christianity does not exempt a person from being human. It makes him capable of living within problems and situations by meeting them with peace and assurance because of God's love."

## NEWS ITEMS

From

### "The Church Around the World"

The World's Jewish population is now estimated at 14,145,000 down 86,000 from a year ago. **The United States has 5,845,000 Jews, more than any other nation.** Israel has 2,935,000, and the Soviet Union has 2,680,000.

**Noted atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair has just opened a million-dollar American Atheist Center** in Austin, Texas. Monthly income for her organization, American Atheists, has doubled since the first of last year. Her latest project: trying to get "In God We Trust" removed from U. S. currency and "under God" taken out of the Pledge of Allegiance.

China was closed to missionary work in 1949. Church buildings were closed 20 years later and no formal services have been allowed since then. **But Chinese Christians have not stopped meeting**, and reliable sources report Christian gatherings in various parts of the country. **In one large city, an estimated 50,000 believers worship regularly in small house fellowships.** Gospel broadcasts are beamed in daily by missionary radio and can be heard in every part of China.

**Gospel music is now big business.** Professional full-time gospel singing groups have increased from 30 to more than 100 in the past 20 years, and at least 1,100 radio stations carry six or more hours of Christian music each week. **Paid attendance at gospel concerts is estimated at more than \$7 million annually**, and the Gospel Music Hall of Fame will soon be built in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Roman Catholicism is no longer the state religion of Italy.** An agreement signed in early November between the church and the Italian government swept away many church privileges, among them exemption from taxes for Catholic churches and from military service for priests. Many of the now canceled privileges were originally granted in a 1929 agreement between Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and Pope Pius XI.

**6,000 protest letters a week against the perverted TV series "soap" are being received at ABC.** All the original sponsors of the show withdrew their support; the network has lost \$1 million from unused and reduced commercial time, and has been offering reduced rates in an attempt to attract advertisers.

## DEADLINE!!

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

# AFBC TAPES AVAILABLE

The following tapes are made available upon request. Cost per tape is approximately \$2.00 per tape due to the fact that we do not have our own reproducer. Order through:

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- 6. Whole Armour
- 7. Baptism of the Holy Spirit

## AN EASTER THOUGHT

by J. O. Ferry

At Easter time our minds and hearts are turned  
From sorrow, confusion, and despair  
To an empty tomb, and Mary standing there  
Her sorrow makes her blind and sore her spirit burned

She weeps and stoops and looks into the grave  
Her grieving spirit droops, she sees no power to save  
Her master speaks but still her mind is numb  
And she supposed the gardener had come

But JESUS speaks her name—she turns and sees HIS face  
RABONI! all her lips can frame in ecstasy at HIS redeem-  
ing grace  
She bows and worships at HIS feet  
Her sorrow turned to joy—in HIM complete

Let us, like Mary on that day, in sorrow, so burdened and  
forlorn  
Turn from empty earth and vain despair  
Hear HIS voice and see HIM standing there  
The RISEN CHRIST, THE ONE AND ONLY WAY, and  
spread HIS message—  
Of that EASTER morn.

St. John, chapter 20

### THE EMMAUS ROAD

by J.O. Ferry

Have you ever traveled the Emmaus road  
With an anxious heart and a heavy load  
Have you communed together and reasoned there  
Still finding no answer to your prayer

Are your eyes so "holden" you cannot see  
When JESUS draws near to walk with thee?  
"Oh fools and slow of heart" he said  
And made known HIMSELF by breaking bread.

St. Luke, chapter 24

APPLICATION FOR



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Education \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Background \_\_\_\_\_

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Photo by Israel Government Tourist Office



Western view with Roman ramp in center foreground.  
(from Dimension)

## THE AMAZING RISE OF ISRAEL

His name was Jake—twenty-five years old and a symbol of the new Jew in Israel today. Assigned by the Israeli government to be our guide, the handsome, rugged, ex-paratrooper first talked with us over bagels and creamed cheese in a hot Tel Aviv restaurant.

I explained why we wanted to make a film to be called, "The Return."

"The Bible says some pretty strange things about the future of Israel—and the world. We want to go to the places where these predicted events are to occur. We also want to look at prophecies that have already been fulfilled. We want to check them out historically."

Jake, I was sure, knew what I was talking about. Portions of the Bible written more than two thousand years ago say categorically that, although the Jews would be scattered and cut down, they would be brought back to their land, even given the city of Jerusalem. The world has watched in amazement during the last quarter century as a Jewish state has arisen and even taken control of the historic Jewish capital.

Jake was listening intently, so I asked him:

"Do you believe that the Bible prophecies are being fulfilled?"

"Yes, because the Bible says that Israel will be borne by wings of eagles back to this land. I myself was two years old when our family resettled in Israel in 1948. We flew in."

"Do you think that was a fulfillment of prophecy?"

"Yes. But at the same time I am an agnostic. I believe God is just a Supreme Power. And I don't believe in the prophecies of the future of Israel."

I looked at Jake, considering his statement. With this paradox and irony surrounding us, we began our search.

TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO Israel had scattered and disappeared. Moses, Isaiah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and many other prophets had foretold the impending tragedy. Jesus Christ Himself had made final prediction when He had told His disciples:

There will be a great distress upon the land and wrath to this people, and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all nations.

In A. D. 70 the might of the Roman empire under Titus swept over the Jewish nation, destroying Jerusalem and

killing and enslaving 100,000 Jews. The temple was torn down, stone by stone.

A handful of survivors fled forty miles to Masada, a natural fortress which stands starkly at the eastern edge of the Judean desert. There atop a rock with sheer dropoffs on all four sides, Israel made its last stand. It was 960 men, women and children against the Roman empire.

For three years they held. Finally the Roman Tenth Legion broke through. According to the historian, Josephus, a witness, the victory was a hollow one indeed. For when the invaders entered the fortress they found all the defenders had ended their lives at their own hands the night before rather than become slaves of the conquerors.

But the prophecies had been fulfilled. Israel was a nation no more.

Our camera crew visited Masada, now harshly quiet in its desert setting. We were in a helicopter circling the incredible rock fortress, panning back and forth with the cameras, struck by the fact that at this spot Israel ceased to be. I yelled through the noise.

"It was all foretold, Jake!"

"I know," he said. Then he pulled out an Israeli coin and handed it to me. On the one side was a picture of Masada. Along with it was the inscription, "Never again!" To Jake, Masada was a rallying cry—a battle cheer to excite the blood as a paratrooper leaps from his plane to the attack.

For nineteen centuries the Jews wandered homeless and afraid. The lost children of Israel stumbled through the ancient, medieval and modern worlds, tortured, enslaved, burned, broken, driven from one country to the next. The oppression of Babylon. . . Russia. . . the Nazi ovens of World War II when six million Jews died—pick a country and with very few exceptions, the Jews have been mistreated there.

Among many prophets, Moses had foretold:

Your sons and daughters shall be given to another people. . . and there shall be no power in your hands to prevent it. And the Lord shall scatter you among all peoples from one end of the earth to another. . . and among these nations you will find no ease. . . You will watch as your sons and daughters are taken away. Your heart will break with longing for them.

But the same Bible that told of all the destruction also predicted Israel's rebirth and the return to the land of the Jews.

And when all these things have come upon you. . . the Lord your God will restore your fortunes, and have compassion upon you, and will gather you again from all the nations where He has scattered you. . . And the Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it.

IT ALSO HAD BEEN PREDICTED that Israel would be reborn in "one day." Historians of Zionism document the return of Jews to Palestine over portions of the past two centuries. But on a single momentous day in 1948 the United Nations, by one vote, cleared the way for establishment of a Jewish nation. Within days all the Arab nations around Israel declared war on the newly formed country. But, incredibly, Israel won.

Surrounded by bitter foes, the tiny state has somehow survived overwhelming odds. In 1956 and again in 1967 Israel found herself fighting for her life. In each case Israel stood alone and—from the human standpoint—she was defeated before those wars began. But each time Israel won.

Meanwhile a land of desolation was transformed. Everywhere we went we saw renewal. The desert is blooming as the prophets had predicted. Swamp lands have been turned into blossoming harvest stores. Trees spring up. Rich mineral deposits are mined. Irrigation systems reclaim arid, forsaken terrain.

A culture which, according to the fates of other vanquished nations, should long ago have been forgotten is blossoming too. The Hebrew language is the only pre-biblical language that is still spoken today, even though linguists predicted it would be impossible to bring the language into the twentieth century. But Jewish scholars did it.

Jack could read the Hebrew Scripture but now that his student days were over, he didn't have the interest.

"It's irrelevant," he would always say. But once he didn't answer when I countered:

"If the ancient prophets were able to predict the destruction, exile and seemingly impossible rebirth of Israel in precise detail, sometimes even down to the exact year and day, what of the other prophecies they made? Are they to be ignored?"

WE HAD BEEN TRAVELING TOGETHER for nearly two weeks when we visited the Valley of Megiddo. There are many names for this place. Along this natural land bridge between Africa and Asia have marched the armies of most of the great generals of the world—the Pharaohs of Egypt, Alexander the Great, three Roman emperors, Napoleon. And the prophets say the great armies of the world will gather here once more in the war at the end of the days.

On the way to Megiddo we passed a sign that told of the "belief" that some day on this spot there will be a final "battle that will end the world."

Something had happened to Jake during the two weeks, for after we finished shooting footage at Megiddo, instead of packing up as he usually did, he stopped and looked out over the valley. Centuries of history had demonstrated that this was the strategic gateway to the north. Jewish heroes had fought at this very place to protect their country, for once past Megiddo, an invading army could launch a full-scale invasion of Israel.

But apparently Jake was thinking more of the future. "Here's where the battle will be fought, all right," he said slowly.

Nothing about a legend. No mention of it being a "belief."

Jake jammed his hands into his pockets and was kicking away at an embedded stone like a schoolboy. Finally he stopped, turned and picked up some camera equipment. We left and headed toward Jerusalem.

ON THE WAY BACK nearly all of us were thinking the same thing: *How close are we to the end?*

The prophets pinpoint three events before the Messiah's second coming: (1) return of the Jewish people and rebirth of a nation, (2) repossession of Jerusalem by the Jews, and (3) rebuilding of the temple.

Just as incredible as the rebirth of the nation in 1948 was

the repossession of Jerusalem in the astonishing Six-Day War in which Jake had fought.

One of these three major events is still to take place—the rebuilding of the temple. All that remains of the temple in Jerusalem today is one wall of the ancient foundation. This is the western or Wailing Wall. According to the prophets, however, Israel's temple will need to be rebuilt.

Between the time of Israel's re-establishment as a nation and the rebuilding of the temple, there will be a great invasion of Israel which will lead to several battles. Bible prophecy indicates that it will come from a great power from the North (Moscow lies almost due north of Jerusalem). Incredibly the invaders will be completely destroyed in such a manner that Israel will have to acknowledge the victory as being from God.

The well-known army hero, General Moshe Dayan, commented back in 1968: "The next war will not be with the Arabs but with the Russians."

According to prophecy, after the defeat of this power from the North, another force will emerge. This powerful group is described as "the great horde from the land of the rising sun" and will destroy one-third of the world's population. Prophecies declare that this horde will number 200 million and will finally be confronted at Megiddo by a force of many nations from the West (seemingly Europe) where there will be an incredible slaughter, to such an extent that "unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved" (Matt. 24:22 NASB).

The prophets tell us that just as mankind is on the brink of total destruction, the Messiah will miraculously intervene, conquer and remain to walk among the few who survive.

Across from the Mount of Olives is the East Gate of Jerusalem. It has been sealed for centuries as Ezekiel predicted, and will remain so until the Messiah's return. It is through the East Gate, the prophets say, that Jesus Christ will enter.

And the golden days after the end of days will begin. . .

We photographed the Wailing Wall. . . the East Gate. . . other scenic shots. Then it was over. We headed back to Tel Aviv, totally exhausted.

Jake's attitude toward the Bible had changed.

The last night in Israel the two of us settled down in the hotel room and traced all of these prophecies from the book of Genesis to the book of Malachi. After about two hours I stopped and asked:

"Does this make sense?"

He shook his head and said, "I've never heard any of this before. And the trouble is that it makes too much sense." For the first time in all our time together, Jake had tears in his eyes. He took the pencil from my hand and tapped on the Bible.

"If these prophecies are true, then this is the Word of God."

Sensing his interest, I offered, "Jake, if you want a copy of the Bible, I'll give you this one of mine." He did not answer and I prepared to pack the Bible with my things.

The next morning we loaded the equipment into a car heading for the airport. Jake didn't say anything until he finally got me off out of earshot of the rest of the crew.

"I'd like to have your Bible." It was almost a whisper.

I located the Book and placed in it his hands.

The last time I saw Jake, he was standing in front of the hotel, holding the Bible.

END

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