

JANUARY 7, 1978



White Wing MESSENGER

THE WHOLE MESSAGE

FOR THE WHOLE WORLD



A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

New Year's Greetings of love, good will and happiness to our people everywhere. Although the midnight hour between December 31, 1977 and January 1, 1978 was no different from any other midnight hour, many of us felt a certain sense of something being left behind and of things yet unknown lying ahead of us.

The past year held for us both victories and disappointments, which are common to man. For all of these we give praise to God. We praise Him for the joy of victories and for the lessons we learned through our disappointments.

We face the new year with anticipation of even greater victories. While none of us know what all 1978 holds in store for us, we are aware that the Lord's coming is near now, and we expect exploits to be performed as we hasten toward His appearing. The ordinary must give way to the extraordinary.

Our New Year's message is *Pleasing God*. This thought must be kept foremost in our minds as we engage in this year's work. We will never be successful in our task without the blessings of divine favor and approval. Our work must have the anointing of the Holy Ghost. And the price for such favor and anointing is our pleasing Him. Surely, we would not want to displease Him in any way. Therefore, let us live, one day at a time, so that every day of this year may be concluded with the feeling of having done all we know to bring pleasure to the One we love and serve.

YOUR GENERAL OVERSEER AND HIS WIFE wish to take this means of acknowledging the many lovely Christmas cards, gifts, expressions of love and assurance of your prayers during the Christmas season. We are humbly grateful to each one of you. We trust all of you had a blessed Christmas which renewed your love for that wonderful One who visited the earth almost two thousand years ago. Our prayers will be with you in this new year of opportunities for continuing the work He began. God bless you every one.

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON OVER, it seems that all have resumed their regular busy schedules, working with great enthusiasm at the tasks they have been assigned. Bible Training Institutes are going on this month in India, Peru, England (Bristol), and Uruguay. There will also be an extension school in Hawaii. District conventions will be starting in some areas. Local churches everywhere are working hard to spread this last-days message

far and wide. We trust there will be an outbreak of Holy Ghost revivals with many people being saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, and gathered into the Church. Tomlinson College is back in session for its Second Semester for the year. The General Workers are all busy promoting their work. What a privilege it is to be engaged in the greatest work in the world!

PROPOSED DATES for the first of the National Conventions for this year are as follows, according to information provided by the World Mission Department:

Australia, January 5-8; Bobby R. Snow and Adrian Varlack, Headquarters Representatives.

India, January 20-22; Bobby R. Snow and Benjamin J. Lawrence, Representatives.

Let us all begin to pray for the conventions as the 1978 season begins.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED to Servicemen's Representative and Mission Representative to Asia and Aus-

tralia Bobby R. Snow in the death of his father. Funeral services were conducted for him in Jasper, Alabama on Tuesday, December 13. May God especially bless and strengthen Brother Snow and other members of this family is our prayer.

WORDS OF WISDOM From THE WORD

"And what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8)

To do justly is to act with fairness: if you are a manufacturer or a salesman, it means making and selling a product which guarantees the consumer his "dollar's worth"; if you are an employer, it means treating your employees fairly and with justice; if you are an employee, it means giving your employer an equivalence of conscientious labor for the remuneration you receive.

To love mercy is to be considerate of others, remembering the effects which misfortunes, ill health, or crushing sorrows may have produced in their behavior. Notice the writer did not say to simply *show* mercy, but *to love it*. We are to delight in opportunities for extending graciousness to the weaknesses of others, knowing this is God's method of stretching forth through us to manifest His marvelous mercy and grace.

To walk humbly with God is to bring ourselves into submission, so that our steps will be ordered by the Lord. As Paul said, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5) It is to "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing," even as did Enoch, who "walked with God and was not found."

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PLEASING GOD



Even Christ Pleased Not Himself We Are to Follow His Example

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, *that he pleased God.*" (Heb. 11:5)

The Scripture does not provide a great deal of detail about the life of Enoch, but one thing stands out in the meager information we are given: *he had this testimony that he pleased God.* What a wonderful testimony this was of this seventh from Adam, "who was translated that he should not see death." And could we not suppose his translation was a type of the Church's rapture in that day when she shall have *fully pleased the Lord*; when she shall be changed, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," to ascend to the marriage supper. In that day we who are living lives *which please the Lord* will likewise not be found by those who have fallen short of God's will. What a glorious day that will be for the saints of God!

We do not know just how Enoch ascertained God's will for his life, nor how his mode of conduct was ordered; we only know of his faith in God, without which it is impossible to please Him. And this faith caused Him to *walk with God*, his steps being ordered by the Lord.

But we are not left with doubt as to the means for determining our rule of faith, practice, government and discipline. We have received a *new testament* setting forth the words of life, which was made available to us through Jesus Christ. He who came down from heaven to show us the way, chose not to simply tell us what God expected of us, but showed us, by the life He lived, exactly what is pleasing to the Father. He left us an example that we should follow His steps.

Jesus was able to say, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; *for I do always those things that please him.*" (John 8:29) It would be pleasant to suppose that Christ's disposition and nature were so heavenly that He had no will of His own and that pleasing himself and pleasing His Father were one and the same. Such was not the case, however, inasmuch as He occupied a fleshly body

which was very human, possessing human nature. Paul said, "For even Christ pleased not himself." (Rom. 15:3)

He was able to subjugate His will, His pleasure, to that of His Father. So must we. It is needful that we recognize God's infinite wisdom; to remember that our Father knows best and seeks for us only that which is for our good. How fulfilling it is when we, by His grace, are able to mortify our human desires and ambitions and can thus feel we are pursuing a course in which God is pleased. This brings a higher pleasure than that we would have initially known by following what was pleasing to us.

Jesus demonstrated a victorious life inasmuch as He was able to say, "I do always those things that please him." This was not because He had no human desires which were at variance with His Father's desires; it was that He allowed the heavenly to dominate the earthly. He was able to pray, "Not my will but Thine be done."

If the Master had followed His own human will that night in Gethsemane He would not have gone to Calvary. It was there He prayed the prayer of relinquishing His will to that of His Father, thus gaining for us the victory that will endure forever. And with this God was well pleased.

Gaining this kind of victory did not begin that night, however. It was a continuation of the pattern He had begun earlier in His life.

By the time He came to the Jordan river to be baptized by John, He had obviously established a record of pleasing His Father. For when He came up out of the water, "the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, *in whom I am well pleased.*" (Matt. 3:16, 17)

In Matthew 12:18 reference is made to Isaiah's prophecy concerning Jesus: "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, *in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him*, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles." His pleasing the Father was a prerequisite to His receiving the *anointing of the Holy Ghost*. This anointing was

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necessary for the success of His ministry. Some think this incident of the Holy Ghost descending like a dove and lighting upon Him occurred to designate the time He received this special anointing required for the ministry He was to perform.

Just as "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power," (Acts 10:38) there is an anointing for His Church to receive, and, which we must have, in order to complete the task He assigned us. It is imperative that we "well-please" Him in order to have this anointing which can come only from God who will not bestow it indiscriminately.

Paul wrote to the church at Colosse, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Col. 1:10) How honored we are to have been chosen by the Lord, to be His beloved. Maintaining an awareness of the special distinction bestowed upon us, we will surely desire to walk worthy of our high calling. *Unto all pleasing*—pleasing our Lord in everything we do—is this too much to expect of ourselves; is it too much for God to expect of us? It was a standard which Jesus met while in His earthly role. And He would not ask something of us which He was not willing to do first. Remember, He left us an example that we should follow His steps.

However, this kind of victory over our human nature, whereby we can always place God's will above our own, is not secured cheaply. Our Lord taught us by example, though, that such victory can be ours. He was willing to pay the price. "And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and *continued all night in prayer* to God." (Luke 6:12) "And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain *apart to pray*: and when the evening was come, he was there alone." (Matt. 14:23) "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, *and there prayed*." (Mark 1:35) In these verses we may find the key to His victorious living.

When Christians fail to pray as they ought, it seems easy for them to become self-willed. It is then that they begin to exhibit a greater interest in pleasing themselves than in pleasing God. Unselfish living manifests itself in living for and serving others. Paul wrote to the saints at Rome, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and *not to please ourselves*." (Romans 15:1)

Living lives of service to others is always satisfying to the Christian. In so doing we share a fellowship with our Savior, enabling us to know Him better. To retire at the end of each day with the feeling that, "today, I have pleased the Lord," is a wonderful way to close each day. This kind of living will one day end in our not being found by those who have missed the Rapture. ❀

Bright New Year

*The new year is starting and many are happy
For new happenings in their life to begin;
But not for the man that doesn't know Jesus,
Not for the many in sin.*

*A whole new year for worshipping Jesus,
To praise Him all the year round;
But not for the man that doesn't know Jesus,
His heart does not make a sound.*

*This year is for seeking and looking for Christ
To come take us up in the air;
But not for the man that doesn't know Jesus
For these people do not care.*

*Make this year full of many colors,
Bright ones to fill your day;
And help the people that do not know Jesus
To find brightness in their day.*

—Gina Lack, Crossville, Tenn.

This Day

*This day is mine to mar or make,
God keep me strong and true;
Let me no erring by-path take,
No doubtful action do.*

*Grant me when the setting sun
This day shall end,
I may rejoice o'er something done,
Be richer by a friend.*

*Let all I meet along the way
Speak well of me tonight.
I would not have the humblest say
I'd hurt him by a slight.*

*Let there be something true and fine,
When night slips down, to tell
That I have lived this day of mine
Not selfishly, but well.*

—Selected

This Is The Day...

by Fred S. Fisher, Sr.

"Which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psa. 118:24

Early one morning two good friends walked across a dew-laden field with steam rising from the drying ground, as the dawning sun rays lapped up the rain that had fallen the night before. As the couple observed a new fresh day, the silence was broken as one spoke, "Only God can make a day such as this."

A new day spreads before us—unwalked paths and undiscovered treasures of life. Each person—in his own unique way must find those special things which God has prepared for him. The attitude one possesses determines what is found in his special day.

Humanity had nothing to do with creation of the day. God alone creates and man in his wisdom uses what is created. The knowledge of man is a marvel to behold; but, for all his designing and building, we recognize that it comes from an existing source. The Empire State Building with all its millions of brick, the Eiffel Tower with tons of steel in basket weave design, and the grand pillars of the Parthenon all came from an existing source of energy and material (only residing in another form).

Man used the raw material of ore, limestone, copper and timber, making these products into serviceable and beautiful structures. Originally, they came from the Designer.

So it is with a fresh new day. God places before us a pad and pencil, with a clean sheet of paper for us to write upon. Some seem to have been shortchanged with physical, mental and financial handicaps. However, if life has not dealt with us as fairly as we think it should have, we must remember to make the best of what we have. Historians believe Franklin D. Roosevelt's bout with polio made him a far greater man than he would have been without the handicap.

What kind of a woman would Helen Keller have been if she had been beautiful without physical flaw? We will never know, because the only Helen Keller we have record of is the one who was blind and deaf. She penned these words describing her innermost feelings, "Once I knew only darkness and stillness . . . My life was without past or future. But a little word from the fingers of another fell into my hand that clutched at emptiness and my heart leaped to the rapture of living." Her "day" had a flaw but with the proper attitude and inner strength, a tragedy became a beautiful life.

The making of the day is God's gift to us. What we do with it is our gift to Him and to others. He rejoices in the wise healthy attitude with which one faces each day. Day upon day is what life is made of. Bunch them together, they make a year; years make a decade, but attitudes are developed each day and we carry them with us through life.

The scriptural challenge David gives us is to "rejoice and be glad in it." This is a volunteer act by the one who desires to get the most out of each day. There is a secret involved in the wording, "rejoice and be glad." The *glad heart* and *rejoicing soul* finds something in every day to be happy about. It has become a way of life or an attitude of thankfulness. Regardless of what life gives to them, they are able to draw a fresh supply from the reservoir of God's goodness. Each day becomes *personally* their day and with the zest of life, effort is put forth in making every day something special. Being glad and rejoicing in it gives the strength—physically, mentally and spiritually—for the laborer. The sweetness of the blessing which comes in knowing that Christ gives us the inner ingredient that is able to make difficult situations into pleasant events causes even a greater blessing to be realized.

"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." (Isa. 12:3) The term "therefore" means a result of something. Verses 1 and 2 relate to us what the prophet means by his usage of "therefore." "And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

The prophet had such a personal relationship with God until he acknowledged Him as his salvation which gave him trust and freedom from fear. In such a state of mind, the natural recourse would be a song in the heart giving strength enough to draw from the inexhaustible supply of salvation. The joy came from the source and the prophet found it in the Lord Jehovah.

Verses 4 through 6, "And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out

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Getting Ready

When we plan a trip or hear that company is coming, there is preparation to be made. How much preparation is determined by the type of journey and the time involved. We are making preparations for an event that none has ever witnessed—the coming of the Lord. We have read the Bible about it; and many people have written with much speculations, but none of these will change God's plan.

John the Revelator looked into the future and spoke in the present, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."

We know this event is to come, because John was privileged to look through the telescope of time and see that the wife had made herself ready. There are people who look at the Church, trying to find the perfect Church now. But as yet, that mark has not been reached, but we are getting ready. We are making preparations; we are being moved of the Lord; we are being led by the Spirit to do that which is pleasing in the sight of God.

There are a few things involved in making ourselves ready. The first thing is that we must be *a separate people*. We cannot be like the world; we cannot talk like the world; we cannot act like the world. We cannot do business like the world. We must be separate from the world to glorify God.

Paul said, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate." (2 Cor. 6:17) Separation is on our part. He helps us. Through Jesus Christ we have peace with God. Through the blood of Jesus we're sanctified holy. Through the prayer that Jesus prayed, we receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. When we get these blessings, we're getting ready to make ourselves ready.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." He is saying, "Don't touch those things that are a part of the world; those things that bring a reproach, don't touch them; those things that would cause others to lose confidence in you, don't touch them." "... Touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." There are conditions for our being received of the Lord, "And I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (vv. 17, 18) If we will be a separate people then we'll be the sons and daughters of God. He will receive us.

We must be a separate people to be received of the Lord. But He doesn't stop there. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, *let us cleanse*

ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (2 Cor. 7:1) I believe that cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh goes farther than simply washing our faces occasionally. Many people are given over to the lust of the flesh, but Paul said that we are to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. So when we get rid of the things the flesh cries out for, we are cleansed of that. Then he goes on to say, "of the flesh and *spirit*." The filthiness of the flesh seems easier to get rid of than a filthy spirit. Soap and water can take away some of the filth of the flesh, but to eradicate a filthy spirit requires the power of God working on the inside of a man.

We find in Hebrews 12:14, 15, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently [being very observant, very careful] lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

If the devil can cause you to have some thought in your heart against someone and thereby a *root of bitterness spring up*, it will begin to grow and someone will say something to fertilize it, and then someone else will say something; soon somebody has been destroyed just because of a little root of bitterness. I'm talking about getting ready for the Lord's return.

There are some things we must do. We *must be careful*. If something manifests itself which is contrary to the Word of God, we must get rid of it. We must follow His Word and live thereby. That's the only way.

Sometimes we may hear the statement, "I just can't stand that person. I just can't help it; I know I'm sanctified; I know I have the baptism of the Holy Ghost, but I just can't stand that person." It would be good to take inventory. The scripture warns, "lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." I'm glad there is enough power and glory of God to overcome everything of the devil. We can have victory!

Being a separate people we must use the instruments approved of God. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" (2 Cor. 10:3, 4)

Though we walk in this world, and have a fleshly body we don't war after the things of this world. John said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the

or The Lord's Return

lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:15-17)

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5)

Now an imagination is a thought or a picture in the mind that is not a reality. There are things the devil would imprint upon your mind and have you think upon. He would have you think you could do a better job than your state or national secretary, than your band leader, than your pastor, than your overseer. But if you haven't been one yet, this is only your imagination. The devil will use imaginations, but Paul said "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God."

Let's think about this knowledge of God. Paul writes in Ephesians 3:10, "... might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." Through the proper channel recommendations come to the General Assembly and are accepted by the Assembly. Anything which is promoted contrary to that agreed upon by the Assembly is a *high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God*. Our safety is in the Assembly.

If I were to say I have a new revelation, that I don't believe the teachings as they are, I'd be exalting my thinking above the knowledge of God. We cannot follow fleshly or carnal knowledge and wisdom. We can't act like the world or carry on the program of the world; God has set a program for the Church of God, and if we will adhere to it we will have victory on top of victory.

"Now it just stands to *reason*," we say. This is the approach theologians take. They'll begin to *reason* things out. But God doesn't work by reason, He works by His Word.

Again we say, "Now you know some things are just not *logical*." But again, He doesn't work by logic, He works by His Word.

If we're doing something to lift ourselves up, we're doing it with the wrong motive. We must lift up Jesus Christ. He said, "If I be lifted up, I'll draw all men unto me." Not for selfish glory or gain—we must lift up Jesus.

There are those who would minimize the importance of the covenant. The General Overseer had a

wonderful section in the annual address concerning the covenant. This is the only way we may become members of the Body of Christ. We must accept the whole Bible rightly divided, the New Testament as our rule of faith. We are not made members just by the blood of Jesus. The blood of Jesus purchased the Church and the blood of Jesus will sanctify the individual, but we become members of the Body of Christ by a covenant. A person who would minimize the importance of the covenant is against the knowledge of God. Let's get down to real Bible doctrine and watch God bless the Church. The covenant is our entrance into the Body of Christ.

Anyone who would discourage the message of one Fold or one Church for all of God's children to be gathered into is against the knowledge of God. Jesus has already talked to the Father about this and He has already declared, "there shall be one fold and one shepherd." We might as well get ready and expect it. The Church must be ready. What a glorious time it will be when all of God's children come home! The children of God will be brought together.

"Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: [Now just before this time the prophet was telling about the captivity because of Israel's sin against God. He began to tell them, 'I'm going to help you out.'] . . . They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places . . . he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted . . . these shall come from afar: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Sing, O heavens; [What a time we're going to have. There's victory on top of victory.] and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. [Now aren't we peculiar people? After all these promises that God had made through the prophet—all the blessings, all the victories—then the Church or Zion begins to say, 'The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.' Doesn't that sound like us sometimes? We get under a burden or a load and say the Lord doesn't love us anymore. Well, He has already said He'd be with us alway. How much farther can He go? He's going to have a people tried as by fire.]

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Time Must Not Wear Out The Message Of The Church

Adrian L. Varlack, World Mission Secretary

Time is defined as the general idea, relation, or fact of continuous or successive existence—infinite duration or its measure. We stand now on the threshold of a new year, the year 1978. Already the media is filled with predictions for the future and speculations of various kinds and in various areas, all of which are concerned with time and the decay brought on by its passage.

But we are faced with issues which are eternal in their nature. And we must not demean or downgrade the importance of the word *eternal*. For in reality, an absence of time (which is so swiftly passing) is the presence of eternity. *Eternal* signifies everlasting or unceasing, but what philosophy, what doctrine, what inspiration, what idea of mortal can survive the test of time? Jesus is the only Son of Man, who appeared in time, lived in time, died in time, and rose again to be the advocate for the whole human race before His Father in heaven. He is as alive now as He was at this time in 1976, 1975, 1974 and all other preceding years! With the writer we can join and say:

"He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way; He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."

Man has a basic fear of the effects of time upon his work, upon his ideas and his thoughts, his beliefs, his practices, his inspirations, and his aspirations. So he strives desperately, through the creation of perpetual institutions, the construction of monuments and replicas, the writing of numerous volumes, to preserve or insure his theories against the passage of time. But in spite of all his efforts, the cherished events and happenings pass on into history; the inspiration and enthusiasm subsides, and the once spectacular occurrences take their places in some historical volume. When it becomes evident that the decay caused by the passage of time has set in, various methods are tried to keep momentum alive. Experts are called in! Policies are changed! Reforms are implemented! Buildings and equipment are modernized! New programs of a more contemporary nature are launched! But in spite of all man's efforts to arrest time or to minimize its effects upon his work, decay and decomposition continues. Soon is heard the familiar longing for *good old days*. This all relates,

or rather should relate, to the secular world. But since joining the Church of God over 18 years ago, I have heard many sighing for *the good old days*! In one way of speaking, this is an indictment against us, and we would do well to give it serious consideration.

However, the question is whether or not our message, The Last-days Message (One Church for all—Unity of Government, Unity of Doctrine, Unity of Purpose; One God, One Faith, One Mind, One Church for All), can stand the test of time. Or perhaps we are not dealing with whether the message itself can stand the test of time, but rather whether those of us to whom it is entrusted can stick with the message through the test of time. Will we go the path of other organizations who, while the organizations themselves have survived, their message has died? This is indeed a most difficult question to answer! But wait, there is another side to the question! In some cases, the organizations have survived, and while their messages have not died completely, they have had to be championed and kept alive by someone else! To put it bluntly, these groups, in time, despised the very doctrines around which they sprung up and reversed themselves completely, leaving outsiders who had embraced their doctrine to herald it abroad. In some instances, this resulted in perverted, watered-down, liberalized versions of that particular doctrine, and was passed on in that form to succeeding generations, who were again more liberal than their predecessors.

TIME HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL

Let us take for example the doctrine of justification by faith as preached and taught by Martin Luther. There is today, an organization bearing the name of this man of God, but does its character truly reflect his message? Millions who have embraced this doctrine in effect deny that faith must be evidenced by works! What perversion! Time has taken its toll! For this message which was once the essence of this organization, must now be heralded by so-called Pentecostals.

And what about sanctification as a second definite work of grace? Did not John Wesley shake the entire religious and non-religious world with this powerful

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Victory Leader

JANUARY, 1978



announcing

A
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TERRY L. MAHAN GENERAL VICTORY LEADERS



BAND DIRECTOR

At the stroke of midnight New Year's Eve God will hand you a blank check for 365 days called 1978. Over 100 years ago Horace Mann, the great American educator said: "Lost--yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset--two golden hours set with 60 diamond minutes. No reward is offered for they are gone forever." The failures, shortcomings, and mistakes or the lost yesterdays must not mar the promise of time in 1978. You may ask, "What can I write on this check for a new year?" Before you commit yourself, honestly measure the depth of your intent to achieve or cash in on that goal. If your commitment is an honest commitment, you will persist in achieving that goal until you succeed. Spending time is an important factor in achieving our goal, or cashing in the check. Richard Baxter, in echo out of the 17th century, offers this advice: "Spend your time in nothing you know must be repented of; in nothing on which you might not pray for the blessing of God; in nothing you could not review with a quiet conscience on your dying bed; and nothing you might not safely and properly be found doing if death should surprise you in the act." The Bible would sum this wisdom up with these words: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31.

The average Christian spends 2,190 hours a year sleeping, 3,650 hours working, 2,101 hours traveling, conversing, being entertained, 547 hours eating, 163 hours reading, praying, worshiping God, and 109 hours dressing. Of the total of 8,760 hours of 1978, God grants us an opportunity to excel in the time that we give back to Him. When challenged to give time to God many people give the excuse, "If only I had the time." That's hogwash, according to psychiatrist, Dr. Francis McLaughlin, president of the American Psychoanalytic Association. "Saying, 'if only I had time' makes it out that time is your master," he said. "You've got to master time." Prudent employment of time will secure a more effective and rewarding 1978.

There is an old hymn that brings us into a sharper focus: "Give every flying minute, something to keep in store; work for the night is coming, when man works no more."

So fill the blank space in with your goal resolution then actively pursue that goal to bring honor and glory to God.



Youth Week materials were mailed on Dec. 2nd to the pastors. If you haven't received yours, please write the VLB Dept. and we will send it to you.

Expressions

Dear Brother Mahan,

Just a note to let you know how things are progressing in Minnesota this year. I am excited about our youth groups. They are showing a steady growth in number as well as spiritually.

We have begun a special drive to raise at least enough money to print and have translated 2 tracts for one of our African countries. I would like to explain our boost so perhaps some others could use it. I recently wrote Brother Garcia about the cost of having literature translated and printed. He replied using Nigeria as an example: (2 tracts)

Translation	\$395.00
Miscellaneous	350.00
Printing	180.00 (500 ea)
Total	\$925.00

I believe it will be no trouble for them to raise at least \$1,000.00. Before I even had a chance to mention this promotion, my father read the letter from Brother Garcia to one of our congregations with no pitch for an offering and one brother stopped me after church to tell me he had \$500.00 for a special offering! God just let me know His inspiration was very real.

This special drive is in addition to our regular yearly state convention offering.

God Bless You,
Joyce Cannon
Minnesota State
Youth Director

If you must say
mean things, go
down into the
cellar and talk
to yourself.

A Fair Trade

Not long ago an evangelist was riding on a plane filled with people. Cigarette smoke had defiled the air.

The evangelist knew he would have to take a bath and send his clothes to the cleaners. He felt like he had been charcoal-broiled.

Suddenly he turned to a woman and said, "Would you like to chew my gum for awhile?"

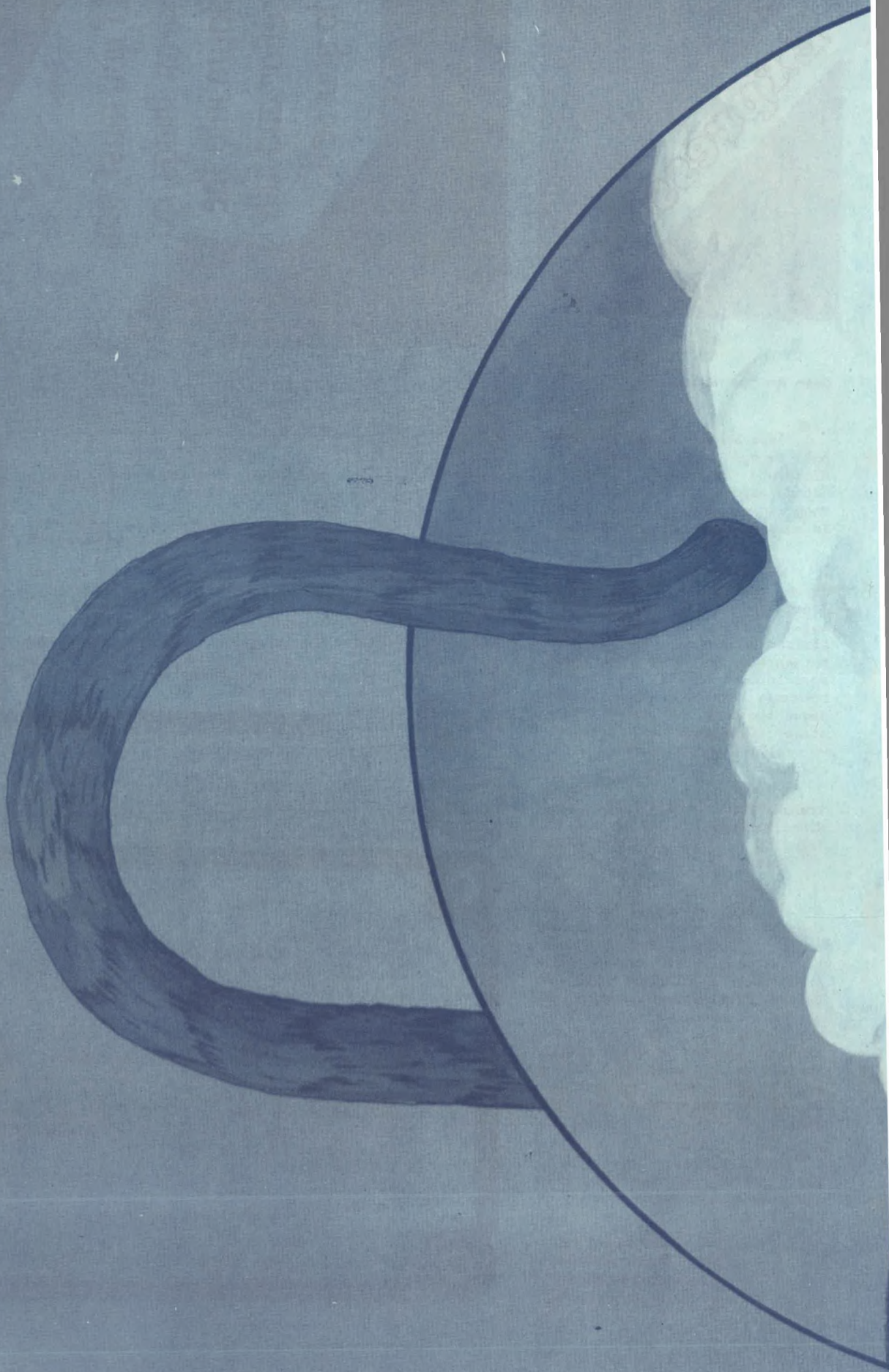
The lady was insulted. "What in the world do you mean?" she snapped.

The evangelist calmly replied, "I've been smoking your secondhand smoke ever since we left the city. I thought you might want my secondhand gum."

On this Day
Mend a quarrel,
Search out a forgotten friend,
Dismiss a suspicion and replace it with trust,
Write a letter to someone who misses you,
Encourage a youth who has lost faith,
Keep a promise,
Forget an old grudge.
Examine your demands on others and vow to reduce them.
Fight for a principle,
Express your gratitude,
Overcome an old fear,
Take two minutes to appreciate the beauty of nature,
Tell someone you love Him.
Tell him again,
And again,
And again.

--Michael Flippo

Let Them Know





...one fold, and
one shepherd.

John 10:16

YOUTH WEEK

date: February 5-12, 1978

Victory Leaders Band
Church of God of Prophecy
Bible Place
Cleveland, TN

MEMO!

January 1, 1978

TO: Victory Leaders
FROM: Ron Roudebush, Penn. State Youth Director
SUBJECT: "What 1978 Holds for Me"

Someone has stated that the New Year is somewhat like a new baby--'changes' will be necessary, some of which may be neglected. Always the New Year suggests a fresh start and brings so much promise of better things to come. The changes I'm talking about are individual--personal evaluation and spiritual cleansing of little things that hinder a one accord realm within the Body of Christ.

My mind goes back approximately 2000 years to the birth of Jesus. We celebrate this event on December 25, or 7 days before New Year's Day. It was the custom that upon the 8th day following birth, all male children were to be circumcised. Therefore, using today's calendar, we could say that New Year's Day was the circumcision day of Christ. We know that circumcision was the bonding covenant between man and God; the covenant was between God and Abraham and the generations to come.

With this in mind, what more appropriate day than New Year's for our covenant with God to be renewed. In the presence of God and these witnesses I promise to take the whole Bible rightly divided.

I feel the air super-charged with the expectancy of a new spiritual explosion within--not doctrinal changes--but scriptural fulfillment. I can visualize God looking down with pride and joy and He sees His Commandos renewed in strength and spiritual determination marching forward to their ultimate goal--spreading the message of Christ to the world.

What does '78 hold for me? It holds the fulfillment of Christ's words, "...and greater things shall ye do...."

What 1978 Holds for Me

State Victory Leaders Band Secretaries

"1978 holds for me a greater spiritual realm with Christ than I have ever experienced!"
Rob Brown, IA

"1978 brings with it the awesome challenge of being prepared for the return of the Lord!"
Jack D. Carter, KY

"Astounding, Bewildering, Amazing, Confounding...I believe these terms will be among the many which will try and describe 1978!"
Pamela Cagle, WA

"I feel God has brought us to this hour for one reason or another, I feel there is much land to be possessed for Him and His Church."
L. W. Carter, VA

"As for me, in 1978 I want to reach for the power of His Spirit to Higher Heights and Deeper Depths in Christ Jesus!"
Bruce Gregory, CO

"I believe that '78 holds for me a spiritual growth with an enlightenment of the Scriptures and into a deeper maturity in Christ!"
Betty Texter, AK

"Hats off to the past--Coats off to the future!"
John Disbrow, SD

"The year 1978 will be one to see the power of God as the force that welds the YOUTH into an army that will not be repelled from it's Victory!"
Gregory L. Sullivan, ND

"Only God knows, so I asked HIM. He simply replied, 'FOLLOW ME--LET'S SEE!'"
Freddy Leist, WI

"By faith I intend to make '78 prosperous for the youth, and to instill in them the importance of fasting, praying, and unity with one another."
Jerry Martinez, UT

"I want to be of more use to my Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, so I can see souls saved and brought into ONE FOLD!"
Rose Villers, WV

"I'm looking and anticipating our Lord's soon return. We have high hopes and great faith that much will be accomplished in '78!"
Daniel Lawson, ID

"...1978 promises to be a year which God can build in me a house of faith, courage and determination because of the strong foundation and solid rock He built in me in 1977."
Mikey Jones, IN

"When we center our everything in Christ Jesus, we need not worry of what the future holds--for we know WHO holds the future!"
Malvin J. Craig, FL

"1978 is like a treasure chest, full of reality for me! Another chance to do my best, for I know who holds the KEY!"
Marshall Norris, NC

"I feel as David must have in Psalm 65:11, 'Thou crownest the year with goodness....' How much more could 1978 hold than the goodness of the Lord?"
Steven Stafford, OK

"I believe '78 holds many challenges and opportunities to be more productive in the work of the Lord."
Earl McKay, NY

"...the new year ahead is a spiritual challenge that the Lord, my faithful Guide has set before me on my journey to the NEW LAND!"
Tony Charles, TN

"We feel adventure hasn't gone to sea with the Navy, but has come to the Church with hard working spiritual commandos who have a desire for others to hear the message of Christ and His last days Church!"
Dale Vicars, SC

"1978 is the year to excel for God, REMEMBER half success is Half failure!"
Tommy Presson, WTX

"I wish I were big enough to honestly admit all my shortcomings, brilliant enough to accept flattery, without it making me arrogant, tall enough to tower above deceit, strong enough to treasure love, brave enough to welcome criticism, compassionate enough to understand human frailties, wise enough to recognize my mistakes, humble enough to be thoughtful of my neighbor and righteous enough to be devoted to the love of God. Gordon H. Taggart"
Again----that's my vindication---
J. Dwight Lawrence, CA

"The New Year means New battles and more souls being saved! I'll be there!"
Lanai J. Lewis, HI

"1978 holds for me an assurance that I CAN reach this year a depth in Christ Jesus, that I have never attained!"
Karen McKenzie, OR

"I look forward to 1978, it shall yield 365 days in which I shall be given opportunities to do the work of our Master. Thank you Lord, for the challenge of another year!"
Doris Jaquess, NM

"...I will remember that working for J and His Church is like riding a bicycle; the only time you can coast is when you're going DOWNHILL!"
Ron Craig, MI

WHO?

You!

Application in November issue
of **Victory**
Leader

WHAT?

Exciting Things
for
Youth Mission
Teams
1978

WHERE?

Sao Paulo, Brazil
Ubon, Thailand
Africa
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Cayman Island
Georgetown, Guyana
Bogota, Colombia

WHEN?

June 9-10 - Orientation

June 11 - Departure

June 30 - Return

*Deadline for Application
February 1, 1978*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8 . . .

doctrine? The rumblings of that shaking can still be heard. Its effects are everywhere to be seen! But are those who claim Wesley as their founder exponents of this doctrine? Have they not recanted long ago and denied the faith? It has been said that if John Wesley were to rise from the dead, he could not recognize the church he had founded, so far has it removed itself from the fundamental doctrines he believed. Some say that there can be no sanctification on earth; others say that sanctification is a progressive work; but thanks be to our God that there are those (and we are among them) who hold to this doctrine, and defend it in its Biblical context. But again, those who now preach it loudest are not those to whom it was originally committed, but those who have embraced it, not being a part of the original body.

Seventy-seven years ago in Topeka, Kansas, a young student, Agnes N. Ozman, went to Charles F. Parham (who ironically was a Methodist minister), and asked that he lay hands on her so that she could receive the baptism with the Holy Ghost with speaking in tongues as the evidence. That evening, after prayer, a flow of syllables came from her lips which neither she nor Parham could understand. Later another student from the school run by Parham, W. J. Seymour, began a series of Holy Ghost revival meetings at 312 Azusa Street, Los Angeles, California. On April 9, 1906, as Mr. Seymour was speaking, people listening began to receive the Baptism. The revival lasted three years, all day and all night for over 1000 days.

Now millions claim to have the Baptism without speaking in tongues, while others are emphasizing the tongues instead of the Baptism. There was a time when those who claimed these experiences showed noticeable changes in their lives. Today, many who claim to be sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost, act and speak the same as before claiming these experiences. In plain words, to be accepted as a so-called Pentecostal, one must claim these experiences. And some do this for just that reason. In fact, some churches and ministers (and we are not excepted entirely) profess and possess a powerless ghost which is referred to as the Holy Ghost, but which has neither His character nor His power. Time has once again taken its toll. And those who once burned with this mighty flame of truth are now bitterly opposed to it. But the words of John the Baptist are as fresh and as true as they were when he spoke them:

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." (Matt. 3:11)

The words *with water* and *with the Holy Ghost* are similar and equal terms. To be baptized is to be

"Instead of the once dynamic preaching of the message, we have substituted something we call wisdom."

immersed; to have water above, around and beneath. Similarly, to be baptized with the Holy Ghost is to be immersed into the Holy Ghost as if it were water, being filled on the inside and having, positionally speaking, the Spirit above, around and beneath. With this kind of Baptism, there must be change! For some groups, time has worn out this vitally important doctrine; but for us, it is still one of our most important trademarks!

THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

We come to the crux of the matter; for we are no longer dealing with the doctrines heralded by others, but with that particular doctrine which we hold dear, that without which we find no purpose for our existence, the last-days message of the Church of God. To some of us, this is already a worn-out cliché. And there are evidences that a growing number of our ministers are beginning to feel this way. If we will admit it, as indeed we must if it is to be remedied, there has been a constant erosion of momentum for this message. The message itself has not changed and cannot change, but the passage of these seventy-four years has had its effect upon prevailing attitudes in the Church, to the detriment of the effective preaching of our message.

Instead of the once dynamic preaching of the message, we have substituted something we call, *wisdom*, but which in essence is no more than sheer human diplomacy. And if we do resort to this method, what are we more than just a human organization? More and more, I have begun to notice our constant use of the word *organization* in our Church literature. We frequently refer to ourselves as the Church *organization*, or the Church of God of Prophecy *organization*. Our emphasis is on organization rather than organism. It is on the organization of the Church rather than the Church itself. This to me, is damaging evidence of the change in our attitude, toward our message. For the Church of God of the Bible can never be merely an organization, but must be a living organism, the Body of Christ, constantly growing and developing into the glorious Church to be presented to Christ.

What the religious world has been saying to us is, "Admit that you are no more than just another human organization like the rest of us. Partake of our

—TURN PAGE

goods, enjoy our meetings, make use of our talent. Let us share your facilities, perform on your stages, and fill your pulpits while you listen to us. For we are willing to accept you as our equal, no more, no less. And to prove it, we will overlook your arrogance and dogma of the past; only be one of us from now on! Forsake your one-Church message, compromise your rigid interpretations of fundamental Bible truths, just be another good Pentecostal organization!"

And do you know what? We have been listening so much to this kind of wooing, that we are beginning to lean in this direction without realizing it. And instead of facing up to the fact that something is wrong, we applaud away our embarrassment with standing ovations and apologetic language. But when the sound of the clapping has died, and the excitement of the entertainment is over, the voice of our conscience will still be heard in our ears: "What about the *last-days message*?" At these times, we tell ourselves, it won't happen again. But saints, that is not the point. The point is that if we were where we once were and where we ought to be right now, it could not have happened in the first place. I am not merely picking at an isolated incident, I am dealing with an attitude toward our message! And the root cause of this is that while in theory we still claim to be the Church of God, a living organism, in practice we are beginning to operate as a human organization.

We have come to accept ourselves as the Church of God of Prophecy, rather than the Church of God. There is more in the use of these two terms than meets the eye. To explain, at our 60th Annual Assembly, 1965, Mr. Virgil Carmichael, the attorney who ably defended the Church before the courts of Tennessee, made some remarks which are especially fitting here. Quoting, as recorded in our Assembly Minutes:

AN ATTORNEY'S REFLECTIONS

"I would like to recall with you a few memories. On the second day of May, 1952, I stood before the judge of the High Court of Chancery in the courthouse here in Cleveland. I was representing you and the church. Many of you were also there—as many as could attend—for the courtroom that beautiful spring day was very crowded.

"That was a memorable occasion, important in the history of the church, for it was then and there that the court finally determined a lengthy lawsuit. The court ordered this church to add the words "of Prophecy" as a suffix to its name, and to use this suffix in all its secular affairs. In other words, in all its worldly dealings it was to use the name, The Church of God of Prophecy.

"You and I were disappointed that morning. We felt helpless in the face of events that had happened before that day—things over which we had no control.

"I realized then that the words of prophecy signified the fact this church still has work to do."

But we did not feel defeated. Like Jacob who was disappointed at the end of his first seven years in the service of his father-in-law—Brother Tomlinson, you and the others of the church continued your work without interruption.

"Many years later I stood on the square in Cleveland watching that same courthouse being torn down. My mind was flooded with memories of events which had occurred in that building. Foremost in my mind was the memory of your case. As I was standing there, I clearly recalled the words of the judge on that morning some eleven years earlier when he had enjoined this church to use the words "of Prophecy" as a part of its name in all of its material, worldly affairs.

"As I stood there engrossed in my thoughts of yesterday, I witnessed the tower of that courthouse being pulled down. It fell down into a cloud of dust that boiled up like smoke from a consuming fire. Suddenly I was beset with the thought that material things—secular things—things of this world—all pass away. It is only the spiritual that is permanent and eternal. In that concept I saw that there would come a day when the words "of Prophecy" would no longer be necessary. For these words are purely of this world—the decree of the court said so—and things of this world pass away.

"I realized then that the words "of Prophecy" signified the fact that this church still has work to do. These words are a constant challenge to you. For so long as they are necessary, so long as they are a part of your name, your mission has not been fulfilled. Some day, like that courthouse tower, like all things of this world, those words too, being solely of this world, will fall away.

"Some day, as an egg hatches and a chick steps forth into the light leaving the shell behind—some day just as man goes through the process which we call death—when in his fulfillment the spirit of man steps out of his earthly body into a fuller life (leaving the corpse behind)—then some day this church will fulfill its mission and in that glorious day it will leave the words "of Prophecy" behind and it truly will be "The Church of God."

I am not sure that Mr. Carmichael realized fully what he was saying, nor am I persuaded that those of us who were there or who have read these minutes are fully conscious of the import of his statement. But I

believe it clearly illustrates my point. To accept the name of Church of God of Prophecy and to emphasize this as the name of the Church rather than Church of God, is to stress organization instead of organism. It is to demean our message of one Church for all and to accept equality with all others. I rather agree with Mr. Carmichael that the words of *Prophecy* are a challenge to us. I do not for one moment feel that the courts of Tennessee or any other courts for that matter, are competent to judge the Church of God. The idea of taking us to court before the unjust was in fact an effort by others to establish our equality with other organizations. It was meant to be an invitation to us to become, or rather to accept the Church as, just another religious organization of the many that already existed. The cause for this action was not in reality some trivial monetary reason, or our use of the name Church of God, but rather our message of *one Church for all*. The court action is over, but efforts are still being made to force its decision upon us. We cannot and must not let this happen. You ask why? Because if we do, it will be a denial of our message. Can we deny that which is the very life-line of our existence and expect to go on?

A GROWING CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG EVANGELICALS

Finally, there is a growing consciousness among evangelicals of the need for our message. I am not referring to ecumenism, but to what I judge to be a genuine searching of evangelical leaders for Biblical truth about the Church. In a recent issue of *Eternity Magazine*, Dr. Robert Webber of Wheaton College, wrote about six areas of concern for Christians from now to the year 2000. Foremost among these are two areas of direct concern to us, especially in relation to our message. The first deals with what he calls the Revitalization of Doctrine. Here are some of his words: "For this reason there is an *immediate* need to *recover* a Biblical theology, to admit that comprehensive truth lies beyond our feeble comprehension, to humble ourselves to recognize that we see through a glass darkly."

"In addition, Evangelicals need to *recover* a sense of historic Christian doctrine. By this I mean, we need to go back into the earliest expressions of the Christian faith to *recover* the theological perception of the early church fathers. We must reach out for a *recovery* of the church in its fullest sense, all 2,000 years of its history as well as a lively and dynamic Biblical theology."

Since the Church has no history prior to the New Testament, Dr. Webber is simply saying that there must be a full return to the New Testament. He repeatedly uses the words *recover* and *recovery*. This to me, is very significant.

"We need to take more seriously, as did the early church, this matter of Christian unity."

The second area of interest with which he deals is the Oneness of the Church. His opening remark under this subject is *The clear and unmistakable witness of the New Testament is that the Church is one.*" He continues in another place: "We need to take more seriously, as did the early church, this matter of Christian unity." Elsewhere he says: "Secondly, we need to learn the lessons of church unity in the ancient church. Although that church did have its squabbles, there was a concerted effort to hold in tension the disagreements of the church under the umbrella of one Holy Catholic Apostolic Church. This is particularly true in the pre-Constantinian era of the church before the outbreak of theological controversies. Today, we need to *return* to this sense of the oneness of the church."

"We seem at times to aspire to be the heroes and lords of the inflow."

It is clear to me that what he is saying in these two passages is what we have been preaching all along—unity of government, unity of doctrine, unity of purpose. My point is that while others are becoming more and more excited about the last-days' message, we are failing to declare it. Ministers, we need to wake up to these realities and do something about them. It is time for us to preach the Church message without emphasis on our glorification when it is accepted. We seem at times to aspire to be the heroes and lords of the inflow. We feed our egos on the fact that time will prove that we were right and all others wrong. This is an attitude that could stand some re-thinking and readjusting; for it is based in a kind of selfish pride, which is not compatible with our message. The Church of God has one hero: Jesus Christ, her Redeemer and Lord. If we can remove or purge the organizational aspect from our message and preach the organism, the living Church of God, I believe we will be more ready for the inflow than we realize. The Holy Ghost will guide us into all truth.

"Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane; But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain; Gates of hell can never 'Gainst the Church prevail; We have Christ's own promise, which can never fail." ❀

Thank the Lord

(NOTE: We share the joy with all who send in testimonies, even though we do not have space to print them all.)

I had a very nervous condition and pains around my heart. The doctor prescribed medication three times a day, which made me very drowsy and I could not work. One night I prayed, "Lord, you can heal my body, and make me a new person," and while I was praying God blessed me with the sweet Holy Ghost and healed my body.—Marie Edwards

Recently it was said that my condition required surgery. The church prayed, and I had no surgery.—Eva Jones, Miss.

Prayer Requests

(NOTE: Requests received but not listed here have been taken to the Upper Room for prayer.)

For my complete healing, and for my parents.—John L. Hubbard, Jr., Md.

That I will be healed of stomach trouble.—Lula Mae Russell, N.C.

A reader in Kentucky needs deliverance from the smoking habit, and complete healing.

For the re-uniting of a home. The children need their father.—S.C.

Please pray earnestly for 84-year-old Mary D. Hutsell, who is in a nursing home, and is suffering severely from a back injury in the long past; and she also has cataracts on her eyes. She is unable to have surgeries for either trouble because of a heart ailment.

A reader requests prayer for her and her family. ✽

NOTICES

Anyone having friends or relatives in the areas of El Paso, Breckenridge, Plainview, Littlefield, Levelland, La Mesa, Brownfield, Brownwood, Del Rio, Dimmitt, Vernon, Mineral Wells, Paducah, Odessa or Big Springs, please contact Hector Ortiz, P.O. Box 10236, Lubbock, Texas 79408, phone (806) 762-2038.

Good opportunities and openings are available for persons, desiring to assist in some of our churches in West Texas. We are especially interested in getting young couples to assist in the work. Write to the address given above.

I appreciate the response for the sale of my book, entitled, "My Life Story." Copies are still available; order from J. W. Chapman, Rt. 1, Box 205, Charlotte, TN 37036. Price: \$3.50.

We would like to start a new work in Richlands, Virginia. Anyone having friends, relatives, or if you know members of the Church in this area, please contact Ival H. Mitchell, 534 Linwood Drive, Richlands, VA 24641 or call (703) 963-9541 after 5 p.m.

I have been appointed servicemen's representative for Southern New England (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island). If you know any servicemen in this area, please write: Harry E. Tucker, Jr., SGT. 548 90 5457, 783 H, Davao Cir., Ft. Devens, MA 01433, or write State Overseer Archibald Coble, 258 N. Quincy St., Brockton, MA 02402. We would like to plan a retreat.

A new church has been organized in Bogalusa, Louisiana. Anyone knowing former members, or having relatives or friends who live in this area, please call (504) 732-9957 or write to the Church of God of Prophecy, 1931 Riverside Drive, Bogalusa, LA 70427.—L. M. Spell, pastor

DAY CARE DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE, January 1978 in the Washington D.C. area. Needed, a reliable Church member with, or willing to take, Maryland day care training. Must have at least 2 years of college and some experience in early childhood education. Must be able to communicate on an administrative level. Salaried. For information contact: Pastor A. F. Peninger 6019 Cipriano Rd., Lanham, Maryland 20801 or call (301) 577-6087. ✽

DEATHS

Walter Eugene Bosarge, Sr., age 82, passed away July 30, 1977. At the time of death, he was a member of the Whistler, Alabama church. He leaves to mourn his wife, three daughters, one son, and other relatives and friends.—A daughter, Mrs. Semar Vaughan, Jr., 1914 44th Ave., Gulfport, Miss. 39501.

Funeral services were held on October 21, 1977 for W. S. Winters of Cascilla, Mississippi, at the Adams Arbor church. He had been a faithful member of the Turkey Foot Fork church since 1935. Survivors include two daughters, five sons and many other relatives and friends ✽

THE COMMISSION

Give us a watchword for the hour,
A thrilling word, a word of power;
A battle cry, a flaming breath,
A call to conquest or to death;
A word to rouse the Church from rest,
To heed the Master's high behest.

The call is given, ye hosts arise!
The watchword is EVANGELIZE!
To fallen man, a dying race,
Make known the gift of gospel grace.
To a world that now in darkness lies,
O Church of God, EVANGELIZE!
—Bobby Knight, N.C.

COSTA RICA MINISTERS CONVENTION

The convention started and closed on a glorious and victorious note. A spirit of reverence and sacredness was felt as everyone came expecting something from God.

The sermons by the ministers were well presented and all responded with a deep sense of surrender to the moving of the Holy Ghost.

Each staff member gave a boost, encouraging all to return to the fields of labor with a great zeal and determination to reach the lost for God and His Church.

The National Overseer climaxed the convention with a message, "Not by Might, Nor by Power, but By My Spirit Saith the Lord." (Zechariah 4:6) As the saints rejoiced and wept, waves of blessing fell again and again.

Costa Rica is looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year as we move forward for God.—Juanita Mojica, reporter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7 . . .

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; [He was saying, 'Zion, don't get discouraged, behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands.' Every time the Lord sees His hands, He's reminded of the price He paid for the purchase of the Church. So we know the Church will be victorious. The Church is before the Lord.]

"Thy children shall make haste; thy destroyers and they that made thee waste shall go forth of thee. Lift up thine eyes round about, [Saints, I believe it's time that we began to look up and quit hanging our chins over our knees.] and behold: all these gather



DEDICATION OF NEW CHURCH BUILDING Forest, Exuma, Bahamas

November 6 was a day looked forward to by all members of the Church of Exuma, Bahamas; but especially by those of the Forest church. It was the dedication day of their new place of worship.

The building, one of the most beautiful in Exuma, was constructed at a cost of approximately \$65,000, and comfortably seats 300 persons. Present for the Dedicatory Service, moderated by District Overseer Obediah Roach, were: National Overseer Brice H. Thompson and his wife, Caribbean Mission Representative Alvin S. Moss, members of the Trustees and the Bahama Brass Band. The delegation from Nassau numbered about 50. Also present were the representatives in Parliament for the Exuma District.

The dedication of the building was preceded by a procession from the old church building through town, ending at the new church. Music was provided by the Bahama Brass Band. Upon arriving at the new building, the door ceremony was performed by the National Overseer. The Church flag was raised as the Band played, "Come Under The Banner Of Love." The dedicatory sermon was preached by Bishop Alvin S. Moss, and the Act of Dedication was performed by Bishop Brice H. Thompson. The presence of the Holy Ghost was felt throughout the dedication service. The pastor is Evangelist Wilbour A. Gibson.—Franklyn M. Ferguson, reporter



themselves together, and come to thee. [See the victorious promise. Just look up. People are meeting. They're gathering together in secret meetings because of barriers. They have been hindered from true worship in some places, but people are getting together and worshipping God. Yes, the time is coming that every child of God is going to be moved by the Spirit of God and they're going to come home.] As I live, saith the Lord, thou shalt surely clothe thee with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on thee, as a bride doeth." (Isaiah 49:8-18) I don't find anything more positive than that. See, God's children are coming home.

We must get ready. We need real spiritual band leaders and pastors that will be able to teach the people as they come. I believe that we must first practice what we teach. Examples are needed. Band leaders should be the most spiritual people in the local church.

You may say, "How will we ever see eye to eye, and speak the same thing?" It would be very easy and could happen very quickly if I'd get rid of my ideas and opinions, if you'd get rid of your revelations and we would take the approved doctrine just as it is. Automatically, we ministers would begin to see eye to eye, speak the same thing and work the same program. That would be God's program.

And if we did that, the members would see so much love, so much of the power of God, they would say,



TRUCK FOR COSTA RICA

The church at Indianapolis (Hoyt St.), Indiana received an offering toward the purchase of the pickup truck (shown above with two of the Mojica children) for transportation work in Costa Rica. We thank the Lord for the wonderful mission spirit that Pastor W. W. Webb and the members have shown.—Juanita Mojica, reporter

"Idea, I'm getting rid of you. Tradition, I'm getting rid of you. Self-will, I'm getting rid of you." From there we could go onward, following the same rule and believing the same thing. See, it wouldn't be hard. And this is going to happen before the return of the Lord.



and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."

Like the Prophet Isaiah we can with joy draw from the source of salvation. It is from this source that our strength and song come.

H. W. Beecher states quite well how the thankful can pick up like a magnet the goodness of God. He said, "If one should give me a dish of sand, and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet, and sweep through it, and it would draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction. The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies, but let a thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessing, only the iron in God's sand is gold."

Each day in the Christian's life should start with heartfelt praise to the Source of eternal life. With the right attitude and recognition of the goodness of God, then we can say, "This is the day which the Lord hath made." What we do with it becomes our responsibility. With prayer and praise forming the right attitude, "let us rejoice and be glad in it."

On one occasion, two men were staying in separate bedrooms in a hotel. When they retired for the night, one overheard the other break into laughter. The next morning when they met in the hallway, one was asked who the visitor was that was enjoyed so much. "No one was with me," was the reply, "I always exercise myself with hearty laughter each night before retiring. It is healthy." It is sad that so many have lost the art of engaging in a bit of light-hearted nonsense to relieve the tension of the day. Leon Hill said, "I wanted to get to the end of a good life without detouring through the insane asylum and I discovered this wonderful madness called laughter and it saved me in many a crisis." However, laughter seldom comes from an empty jug. There must be a fullness of life in order to really give it something to draw from.

On tree trunks, rocks, old boards and on the ground we often see those queer splotches of various colored plant life which we call "lichen." The uniqueness of the lichen is that it is not a single plant, but a fungus adjoined to algae to form one living organism. Separate the fungus and algae and both will die. Algae with its power to receive energy from the sun is coupled with the fungus' ability to receive moisture from the earth. In this manner, one compensates the other and both are able to survive.

The secret resources of joy is a great energy supplying one with the strength needed to live a full productive life. "The joy of the Lord is my strength" is an often quoted passage from the pen of David.

Solomon, his son, added to the same thought in Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." This attitude of life must come from a heart of thankfulness, in true, honest and deep recognition that God has been good to you. Then joy will join hands with a merry heart, forming a source from which one can draw. From this union comes healing, giving the worshipper a healthy attitude toward life. Such attitudes are physically and psychologically energizing.

Gratitude and joy have never been known to create heart trouble, headaches, or ulcers. So it is not only spiritually healthy, but physically good for one to be filled with joy.

As algae received energy from the bright sunrays, converting it into food for the moss-like fungus to receive life, so does the thankful attitude convert God's blessing into energy in the form of joy. Joy gives strength; strength makes us productive; productivity causes others to be blessed by our relationship with God.

God made the day! What we do with it is our responsibility. The proper attitude will cause us to "rejoice and be glad in it."

NEW YORK MINISTERS CONVENTION

We experienced divine blessings of God during the convention held on September 23-24 in the Capital City of Albany. There were 339 registered delegates; the first session was a record-breaker in attendance with all the district overseers present. There were outstanding messages, inspired singing, informative workshops, and enthusiastic presentations of the auxiliary work.

Bishop Herbert Ferguson delivered a sermon, entitled, "Looking Ahead," during the Friday evening session, and the divine sanction of God was felt as he urged us to grasp new opportunities to work for Christ and the Church; never allowing ourselves to be hindered by the accomplishments of the past. The Saturday session was filled with outstanding messages: "Contenders for the Faith" by Rufus Rogers; "Grace Doth Much More Abound" by Willie Peacock; "Fellow Citizens of the Household of Faith" by Nathaniel Taylor and "God's Theocracy" by Gladstone Royal. Each minister expounded the Word, rightly divided, and the inspiration of God was felt as they led us into the deep truths of God's Word.

The delegation showed much enthusiasm and overwhelming love in welcoming State Overseer Barney L. Trogdon and his family to the state. We were especially blessed by the outstanding message preached by Brother Trogdon, entitled, "The Salt of the Earth." We received indepth understanding as to what Christ meant when he called the Church of God, the salt of the earth. We were made aware of our value, and the need the world has for our existing upon this earth as the very representation of Christ himself. We were also shown the responsibility we have to maintain in our every day lives God's standard of righteousness.—I. Hutchinson, reporter

TOP COUNT SUNDAY SCHOOLS

FOR NOVEMBER

Brecksville, Ohio, Don Isaac	492
Jamaica (Maxfield Ave.), W.I., Les R. Graham	390
Toronto (Pape Ave.), Ont., Can., A. R. Morrison	384
Toronto (West End), Ont., Can., H. L. Martin	338
Nassau (East St.), Bahamas, Errol J. Simmons	335
Freeport (Pine Dale), Grand Bahamas, A. F. Williams	320
Birmingham (Peel St.), Eng., T. A. McCalla	318
St. Thomas (Gamle Gade), V.I., A. W. Carty, Sr.	310
Cleveland (Peerless Rd.), Tenn., C. L. Summerall	298
Roberts Tabernacle, Tenn., Bob Creasy	270

RUNNERS-UP

Fayetteville (Breezewood Acres), N.C., Elton Parker	249
Coweta, Okla., James Stone, Jr.	228
Cleveland (Keith St.), Tenn., Johnny Tolbert	220
Louisville (Larkwood), Ky., A. B. Woodruff	205
London (Tubbs Rd.), Eng., T. N. Powell	204
E. Rockingham, N.C., Buford Lanter	203
El Sobrante, Calif., A. B. White	202
Willisburg, Ky., Philip A. Lawson	201
Somerset (South Side), Ky., Ray Payne	194
Pelham, S.C. E. V. Cobb	193

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Lanham, Md., A. Frank Peninger	129
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Acworth, Ga., A. H. Davis	123
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Poplar Camp, Va., Robert Lanter, Jr.	122
W. Mansfield, Ohio, Benny Hart	121
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Stedman, N.C., James Harbor	120
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W. Fresno, Calif., Melvin Johnson	215
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