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J. A. Dennis

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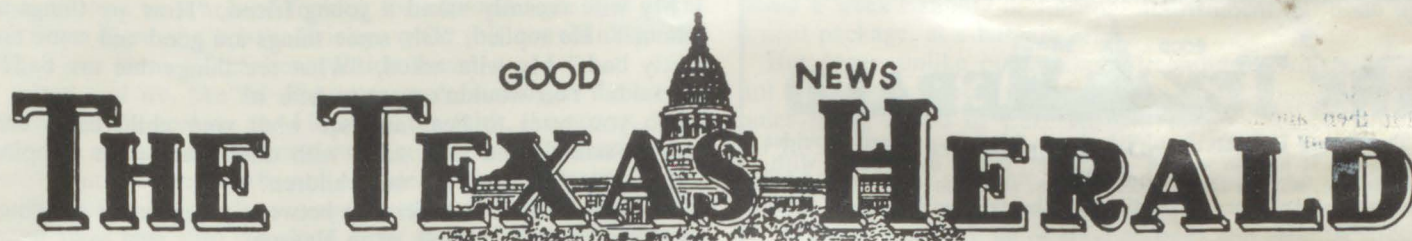
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GOOD NEWS
THE TEXAS HERALD



VOL. 32, NO. 9

AUSTIN, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER, 1981

"NEGLECT NOT—

"OUR SO GREAT SALVATION"

PROFIT OR LOSS

What will it profit, when life is o'er,
Though great worldly wisdom I gain,
If, seeking knowledge, I utterly fail
The wisdom of God to obtain?

What will it profit, when life here is o'er,
Though gathering riches and fame,
If, gaining the world, I lose my own soul,
And in Heav'n unknown is my name?

What will it profit, when life here is o'er,
Though earth's farthest corners I see,
If, going my way and doing my will,
I miss what His love planned for me?

What will it profit, when life here is o'er,
Though earth's fleeting love has been mine
If, seeking its gifts, I fail to secure
The riches of GOD's love divine?

What will it profit? My soul, stop and think,
What balance that day will declare!
Life's record laid bare, will gain turn to loss,
And leave me at last to despair!

. . . . Grace E. Troy

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Mark 8:36

GOOD NEWS

THE TEXAS HERALD

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Mail Address Post Office Box 2156, Austin, Texas 78768 U.S.A.
 Editor J. A. Dennis

"The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63).

To Christian Parents

If you have children in Grade School, Junior High, or High School, and if the reports I get from many sources are true, as I believe they are, your sons and daughters are being taught wicked and horrible things about Sex, Perversion, Humanism, Atheism, Rebellion, Scoffing at Parental Authority, and at God and the Bible.

This is part of a Satanic attack designed to destroy the American Family, our American Freedoms, and our Nation, and to send your son and daughter to hell.

And all this is being done, and paid for, by your tax dollars.

Have you ever thought of visiting the school that your child attends, and asking to be allowed to sit in some of his or her classes, and see with your own eyes, and hear with your own ears, what your children are seeing and hearing every week?

If you are hesitant about going alone to the school, perhaps you could persuade two or three other parents to accompany you, and to pray as you go.

Your teen-age or younger son or daughter may be reluctant and embarrassed to tell you what they are being taught in their class rooms.

CRITICISM

- It's easy enough to pick out the flaws
In the work that others have done.**
- To point out the errors that others have made,
When your own task you haven't begun.**
- It's easy enough to fuss and find fault
When others are doing their best.**
- To sneer at the little that they have achieved,
When you have done nothing but rest.**
- It's easy enough to cavil and carp,
To criticize, scoff and deride,**
- For few of us have ever done perfect work,
No matter how hard we have tried.**
- It's easy enough to not speak of the best,
And to dwell all the time on the worst,**
- And perhaps it is proper sometimes to find fault
But be sure that you have done something first!**

—Somerville Journal

My wife recently asked a young friend, "How are things at school?". He replied, "Oh, some things are good and some are pretty bad." My wife asked, "What are things that are bad?" He said, "You wouldn't want to hear it!"

Do you want to hear and see what your child hears and sees at school, and then unite with other parents in stopping this disgraceful attack on our children?

It could mean the difference between your son or daughter spending Eternity in Hell, or in Heaven.

J. A. Dennis

"Come Unto Me!"

"The kingdom of God cometh not with observations: neither shall they say Lo here! or, lo there!! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

"And they shall say to you, See here; or, See there; go not after them, nor follow them." (Luke 17:20, 21, 23.)

"And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." (Amos 8:12)

"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (II Tim. 3:7)

This is a time when God's children are running to and fro, seeking signs and wonders. When men and women are saying to one another, "Have you heard Evangelist? Have you seen what God is doing through Brother?" We run from city to city, from tent to tent, seeking to see a miracle, seeking to hear something new, "seeking a sign" that God is real.

While it is a good thing to "go and see" if we are seeking something, this mad rushing from here to there is, of itself, a sign that we do not have WITHIN US the reality of Christ who has promised to come in and rule if we will quiet ourselves and welcome Him.

"An evil and adulterous generation seeketh a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the Whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matt. 12:39-40)

The only sign, Jesus said, he would give unto an evil and adulterous generation was his three days and nights in the earth, in other words, the sign of his death, burial and resurrection—the sign of the Cross.

We chase back and forth seeking signs to strengthen our wavering faith, to re-charge our weak convictions, to liven our jaded spiritual appetites; because of our refusal to seek these things at the only place they can be found—at the foot of the Cross.

"The Kingdom of God is within you."

The place of the Cross, for us, is within us, in our own lives. Because we have not been willing to be "crucified with Christ," been willing to die to self, been willing to forsake all that we have, and follow Him; we seek his blessings and His wonders from the outside, rather than from within. We seek to receive signs and wonders an easier way than the way of the Cross. We believe if we run fast enough, travel far enough, see enough healing lines, hear enough evangelists, we will get "healed", get "blessed", get "faith", get "peace", get "power", get whatever it is we lack within ourselves.

This is what the Pharisees were trying to do. They were not willing to pay the price, in their own surrender, for God's bless-

ings, so they went around looking for outward signs that might convince them of Christ's divinity; when this conviction could only come from a faith down inside them.

Jesus said we, like the Pharisees, were seeking in the wrong place. We are seeking the kingdom, the faith, the power, from without, at the hand of some man, some "healer", some evangelist. But the kingdom is not outside—it is "within you."

"But thou when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." (Matt. 6:6)

Of course there is a blessing that comes when saints get together to enjoy prayer, fellowship, joyful singing and the anointed preaching of the Word. But the real, lasting strength of God that sustains us day by day, comes not from these periodic "feasts"; but from the steady diet of daily, secret prayer, praise, and feeding on the bread of life: His Holy Word. There is much more to prayer than "praying."

"If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." (John 7:37)

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14)

"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

When the disciples walked the shores of Galilee with Jesus, they looked to Him for their strength, their faith, their inspiration. When He was not with them, they were inadequate to meet the needs that arose. When He was asleep on the boat, they were terrified by the storm and came running to Him for help.

"Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:38)

When Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John, the other disciples at the foot of the mountain were helpless before a devil-possessed boy. (Matt. 17:14-21)

But, before Jesus left the earth, He reassured His disciples that He would send another Comforter to take His place. And this other Comforter would not be, like Jesus, "with them"; but "within" them—inside them.

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever: Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:16-17)

Thereafter, their strength, courage, guidance and security were not to come to them from without, but from within; not from someone else, but from the Holy Spirit which dwelt within their own temples.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16)

Why all this running to and fro? This is a restless, surface-thinking age. We are accustomed to having everything done up in packages and handed to us, with little effort on our part.

No longer do we go into the restaurant and wait for the waiter to take and prepare our order. We pull into a drive-in, honk the horn and expect a nice looking car hop to hop out with our lunch.

No longer do we spend hours in a hot kitchen, mixing, broiling, baking; we simply pick up a few ready-mixes on the way home from work and expect a "meal in a jiffy."

In our spiritual lives, no longer do we feel the necessity of spending hours on our knees, or faithful trysts with the Holy Word. We run over to a church service and expect to take

home a week's supply of spiritual nourishment, all done up in a neat package, at a bargain price.

But Jesus, unlike our modern streamlined civilization, does not promise any ready-made, ready-mixed, pre-cooked, and quick-rising Bread of Life. He still says:

"Be still and know that I am God." (Ps. 46:10)

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:13)

"Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Ps. 27:14)

When we run to and fro seeking inspiration, faith, etc. from another, we are really trying to sponge off someone else's prayer, ride on someone else's ticket. For had he not spent hours on his knees and with the Holy Word, had he not fasted and prayed and paid the price of a deep consecrated faith, he would have nothing worthwhile for us when we came. We are trying to ride into heaven on his coattails, instead of on our own knees.

"That is why, in spite of all the surge of "revivals" and the spiritual hunger in the land, we are an unstable people; a people that can be swayed this way and that; ready to believe almost any doctrine or creed or new practice, if it comes from someone who speaks with "authority."

And we could easily be led astray into false doctrines and even into following false Christs; because we are depending on someone else for our inspiration, guidance and spiritual strength, rather than on the Christ within and on His Holy Word.

Paul saw this time coming even as it was apparent in his day, and he prayed for his followers that they might have the inner strength to stand steadfast.

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"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

"That he would grant you according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit IN THE INNER MAN;

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

"May be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height.

"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." (Eph. 3:14-19)

Realizing our need of help in reaching this place of stability, Paul explained how Jesus provided for us.

"And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors, and teachers;

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

"Till we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." (Eph. 4:11-15)

Paul said we ought to "grow up." Not be babies all our Christian lives, being spoon-fed by others. But even in his day he found many that were not yet able to stand on their own feet.

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of

the oracles of God; and are to become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

"For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Heb. 5:12-14)

Note that Paul here says that Christians of "full age" are those who "by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil." He is saying that good sense, discernment, judgment, come by "exercising" those senses! the same as strong arms or lungs come from exercising those parts of the body.

As long as we run to and fro, depending on someone else's inspiration, someone else's prayers, someone else's study of the Bible, someone else's faith, someone else's anointing, someone else's spiritual strength; so long will we have little of our own. And whenever we are not in a "spiritual group" we are at the mercy of the devil—and the devil has no mercy.

When the meeting is over and the evangelist gone, we are right back where we were before he came—weak and helpless before the attacks of the devil; because we have leaned on someone else's faith and have not gained, by experience, some vital and lasting faith of our own.

Peter, also, saw the need of being "rooted and grounded," and he left us some warning advice along with his earnest prayer.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

"Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." (I Pet. 5:6-10)

Peter does not ask that this stability, this perfectness, come quickly or easily, for he knows that it doesn't come that way. He prays that it may come to "the elect" after they "have suffered a while," after they have "humbled themselves under the mighty hand of God." After they had been "sober", been "Vigilant", after they had "resisted the devil"; after they realized that "the same affliction" came to all men.

Peter knew that this stability, this steadfastness, this "sureness in Christ," did not come over night, that it did not come as a spiritual "hand-out" or a pre-cooked, ready-mixed package from God's "drive-in." It came slowly, surely, and in progressive stages as the Christian "exercised" his faith.

First, he prayed that the God of all grace, after they suffered a while "make you perfect." This word in the Bible does not usually mean perfection as we think of it, but maturity, a grown-up personality.

Next, that God "stablish" you. Many, many Christians today are not established. They are confused, they are at sea; filled with doubts, fears, questions; and, like all sea voyagers, tossed by every wind and wave. They run to this meeting, then that. Wherever they hear of some new preacher or some new doctrine, they run to see if "this is it?" Their faith and their beliefs are subject to change overnight. Before we can do anything worthwhile for the Lord and His kingdom, we must get established, make up our minds, get our foundations set, base our faith on Jesus Christ and His Word, and get our eyes on Him rather than on men.

Second, after being established, God will strengthen us.

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and

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Many are trying to be spiritually strong in the Lord before they are established, while still on the run between this tent meeting and the next. Jesus once said to his disciples, when men were coming and going so that they didn't even have time to eat.

"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately." (Mark 6:31-32)

Many Christians today would gain much more from the Lord if they locked themselves in their room for a week, with their Lord and themselves and their Bible, than at some revival or camp or convention.

"Know thine own self."

After you have become mature enough to be established, then strengthened, God can "settle" you.

A house is established on its foundation. A fence is strengthened with braces and guy wires, but a great skyscraper, to stand the stress and strain of the elements, must be "settled."

To accomplish this, men first dig deep into the earth until they strike "bedrock." Then on that unshakeable natural foundation, they begin to lay their man-made foundation for the building. Into this excavation they pour tons and tons of concrete, until the foundation rises to the street level and the superstructure is begun. When the building is completed, no one sees the deep foundation, it is below the surface and out of sight. But they admire the beauty and strength of the building.

Down beneath the surface, down deep where men cannot see, in the dark hours of our secret prayer closet we dig down—down—to the "solid rock" which is Christ Jesus.

"And upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18)

A building with foundations sunk to "bedrock" is settled, immovable, permanent. So is the Christian's life that is settled in Christ Jesus.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58)

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, urged us to build our spiritual houses upon "the rock," and explained that the way to build such a foundation was to know and obey His Word.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

"And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock." (Matt. 7:24-25)

Men today are like the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. They are running to and fro, saying, "Lo, here; and Lo, "there", carried about with every wind of doctrine, dashing after every self-styled Messiaah that blows his horn; unstable, insecure, un-trustworthy, in great danger of going down like the foolish man's house, when "the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." (Matt. 7:27)

The Kingdom is within YOU. The answer to your searching is the Inner Man—Christ in you the hope of Glory. Not in some great evangelist or inspiring meeting. They may encourage and help you occasionally, but the permanent answer to your problems must abide inside you, or you are as a wave of the sea.

And this Answer is Jesus. You can find Him on your knees in your closet; you can find Him in His Holy Word as you daily feed on its Living Bread; you can get a glimpse of him at church or at some great revival; but to have peace and security and

faith and power, you must find Him for yourself, not try to lean on someone else's discovery of Him.

"Christ in you the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

"Come unto ME, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

The Great Physician

"Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?" (Jer. 8:22)

I want to tell you, not about myself, but about my Doctor. He's wonderful, my Physician. With all the sickness that is in the world, most people are spending much of their time in doctors' offices and in hospitals, and proudly telling their neighbors about the Doctor they've found, whom they are sure is going to bring them back to health.

So, let me tell you about the Doctor I've found. Let me tell you about my Physician. Let me recommend Him to you, if you are sick, or if you want to keep from getting sick.

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Many people, like the woman in Christ's day, spend all their money going from doctor to doctor, and like her, many get no better but rather grow worse.

"And a certain woman which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse. When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague." (Mark 5:25-29)

I can imagine this woman going enthusiastically to her friends and gladly telling them of the new Doctor she had found, and of His wonderful cure!

My parent's family was large: eight boys and three girls. We suffered the usual amount of sickness: measles, chicken pox, flu, etc. We took the usual amount of pills and prescriptions. We relied, as most people do, on the family physician who had ushered most of us into this world.

After I was grown, two of my brothers, in serious condition, were treated by different doctors; one with an exploratory operation, the other to an experimental treatment. Both died. Perhaps this strengthened my growing lack of confidence in human doctors.

"And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign, was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign." (II Chron. 16:12-13)

My study of God's word and my learning about Christians being healed by His Divine Power, led me to Jesus, the Great Physician for my ailments.

What was my trouble? Sinus trouble, hay fever, a nervous, touchy stomach. All of these caused me much pain and misery.

What has been the result, These three ailments have all disappeared, thanks to the Lord Jesus. And my health is fine.

I haven't missed a day's work because of illness, for the past 37 years. And 34 years ago Jesus Healed my wife of abdominal tumors that for 13 years had been sapping her life away.

My Physician does give me an occasional prescription and a few exercises to do. Here are some of them:

"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy

bones." (Prov. 3:7-8)

"My son, attend to my words, incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." (Prov. 4:20-22)

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (I Cor. 10:31)

"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." (Ps. 55:17)

Many Christian people do not yet know that Jesus, their Saviour, also paid the price for their healing, in His atonement.

"Who is own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (I Pet. 2:24)

They overlook the fact that Jesus came fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy:

"When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils; and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matt. 8:16-17)

Many people forget that Jesus spent much of His time on earth healing the sick.

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." (Matt 9:35)

Jesus considered healing the sick as an important part of the Kingdom of Heaven. He instructed the twelve and the seventy to heal as they preached.

"And as ye go preach, saying. The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matt. 10:7-8)

"And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." (Luke 10:9)

"But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you." (Luke 11:20)

Many Christians who do believe in Divine Healing, still have not realized that God has something even better for them than that. That something is Divine HEALTH. His Word definitely promises it, as much as it promises Divine Healing.

"There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

"Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

"A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." (Psalm 91)

"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandment, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee which I have brought upon the Egyptians, for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exod. 15:26)

"And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water, and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." (Exod. 23:25)

It is a sad commentary on our Christian faith that about 75% of our church congregations, both those who believe in Divine Healing and those who do not, are sick.

Many folk, who do believe in Divine Healing, go again and again to the altar or healing line for prayer. God has promised

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better things than that for His people. He has promised, not merely to heal you, but to keep you from getting sick; if you will believe Him for it and step up and claim it.

In addition to a Physician to heal us when we get sick, He promises a Physician to dwell within us, whose job, like the personal physician of the President of the United States, is to KEEP US WELL AND STRONG for our tasks, as we work for Him.

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Jesus is His Name.

J. A. Dennis

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Water Baptism - Why?

by Graham Truscott

This article has been adapted from Graham Truscott's book, *The Only Foundation*, published by World MAP.

"It is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." (Matthew 3:15)

"WHY should we be baptized? Because the Lord Jesus commanded it. Because it is the second experience of THE ONLY FOUNDATION the Bible gives upon which we are to build our lives.

So deep is the spiritual meaning of water baptism, whole books could be written about it.

(1) Baptism and a clear conscience:

"God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal (answer) to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:20, 21).

It is an historical and Biblical fact, that because of the sinfulness of mankind, God covered the whole earth with a flood of water, saving only Noah and his family in the ark. The earth was completely covered with water. Here the Bible says the immersing of the candidate in baptism "corresponds to this."

How does baptism in water "answer to God for a clear conscience"? It means, in effect, that God is asking us if our conscience is clear. The Bible says, "How much more shall the blood of Christ . . . purify your conscience" (Hebrews 9:14). If your sinful conscience has been washed in the blood of Christ and purified, you no longer feel guilty and ashamed to come into the presence of God. Your conscience is clear. Therefore in baptism you are answering God that your conscience has been purified by the blood of Christ and is now clear. Praise the Lord!

(2) Baptism is a Testimony to the world of the Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ:

"Baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3).

Each time someone is baptized in the Biblical way, they are testifying to the

world that God's son, Jesus Christ, was crucified on the cross, and shed His blood and died for their sins. His dead body was placed in the grave. But He did not stay there. After three days He rose from the tomb, victorious over sin and death. Each time a believer is baptized, confessing faith in Him, public testimony is given to this glorious fact:

"We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

(3) Baptism is an Experience of burying the "old sinful man:"

It has often been said that "Baptism is an outward testimony of an inward experience." It is. But it is much more than this! Baptism has an inward significance too! From a study of Romans, chapter 6 and Colossians, chapter 2, we see that there is a deep and precious identification of the believer with the Lord Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection, when water baptism takes place:

"We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.

For he who has died is freed from sin.

For sin shall have no dominion over you" (Romans 6:6, 7, 14).

"Buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, Who raised Him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

What tongue can tell the blessed deliverance we have in the Cross of Christ!

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Freed from struggling! Freed from sin! Freed from condemnation, guilt and fear. Sin nailed to the Cross. The old man buried. We ourselves risen in newness of life. This is the inward experience of those who follow their Lord through the waters of baptism.

(4) Baptism and Satan's Defeat:

"Buried with Him in baptism . . .

He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in Him" (Colossians 2:12, 15).

In Biblical water baptism, the believer is laying a good and firm foundation! He testifies before Satan, the enemy of God and man, together with all his devils, that the Lord Jesus has triumphed over them all in His Cross, and has delivered the believer from their kingdom and powers. Hallelujah!

(5) Baptism is a Public Acknowledgement of Repentance and Faith in Christ:

"Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father Who is in Heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in Heaven" (Matthew 10:32, 33).

The first way a new believer acknowledges his new-found faith in Christ is by being publicly baptized in water. Baptism was no secret thing; but an open, bold testimony before others. And how this public acknowledgement and testimony strengthens our faith and determination to follow Christ! The Lord does not want secret, weak, fearful disciples, and this is the reason why He has commanded believers to "Be baptized" —to acknowledge Him before men.

(6) Baptism is a Testimony to the Oneness of True Believers in Christ:

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27, 28).

By being baptized, the believer testifies that he or she is equal and one with all other believers in Christ. By the shedding of His blood on the Cross, the Lord Jesus has made all believers in Him "one, and hath broken down the middle wall

The House of Prayer

(Written in 1955)

THE VISION

For a number of years I felt impressed of the Lord to go to Austin, Texas and there establish a house of worship where the Word would be preached every night, and where all would be welcome, regardless of denomination, race or creed.

At that time I was working during the week and preaching on Sunday as the opportunity arose. We had little money, no organization back of us, few friends or acquaintances in Austin, and it seemed an impossible task that God was assigning me. I catalogued the difficulties to Him regularly as I sought to save up a few hundred dollars towards the task.

But my objections or arguments availed little. God (I took it to be Him) kept urging me to go to Austin and open up the work as outlined. One day the Holy Spirit quickened this verse to me as I read the Scriptures:

"Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." (Acts 9:6).

In obedience to that directive, I quit my job and moved to Austin.

The Spirit impressed me to look for a house "with a large living room, a fireplace, with trees around it, and the rent will be \$50.00 per month." Rents are rather high in Austin, and this looked like another impossibility, to find a house of this description for \$50.00 per month.

I advertised in the newspaper, answered all the likely looking ads, and daily trudged over the city and rode for miles on the city busses—looking, looking, looking. Most houses that might be suitable were \$75.00 to \$125.00 a month.

Day after day the search went on. The devil would taunt me with the foolishness of giving up a good job to go on a "wild goose chase."

One day I started on the bus to look over a certain section of town. Watching the houses as I passed, I saw a "For Rent" sign on a house. The sign had not been there a few days before. I quickly got off the bus and walked back. Yes, it was a nice looking house, with large living room, fireplace, and trees. Would the rent be \$50.00? I phoned the number given, met the owner, told him what use I wanted of the house, and asked him the rent.

"Sixty dollars," he replied.

Was this the house? I drew a deep breath and said, "I will give you \$50.00 a month and pay you 6 months in advance!" I almost held my breath while he debated. Then he phoned his wife and gave me his answer. He would take it!

The guidance was authentic! I praised the Lord, and we moved in.

No sooner had we gotten settled, bought a few items of second hand furniture and planned to open services in the living room, than the Voice said, "This isn't big enough for the purpose. Rent a store building."

Well, that was another task. Again I watched the ads and trudged the streets. Store buildings were high, most renting from \$125.00 a month and up. Weeks went by, our small bank account dwindled as we dipped into it for groceries and utilities.

Again the devil plagued me with doubts. "How do you know that is God's voice? How do you think you can pay rent on two places? Who will come to hear you preach, anyway?"

During this time, in much prayer, we were given the name and the plan for the work. It was to be called the "House of Prayer for all people." (Isa. 56:7). We would have services each week night, no services on Sunday, no church organization, no membership, a place where all who would might feel free to come for study, for prayer, for worship, without any obligation to "join anything, or to "come out" of their present church.

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The Spirit led us to adopt the four principles by which George Mueller had run his faith orphanages in England.

1. Never ask anyone for money, only God.

2. Never buy on time or go in debt; wait until God supplies the need.

3. Never hoard up money for the future. "Take no thought for the morrow.

4. Do not take a salary for your ministry. Live by faith on what God, through his people, supplies.

These rules raised new difficulties. Now I couldn't ask anyone to help out or tell them our needs.

Day after day I walked and rode the busses and drove our used Ford over Austin. Some building owners were not interested in renting for church services, wanting a business lease, others, were higher in price than we felt we could pay.

Our money was being used up, our patience exhausted, our faith growing thin. Had God really told us to start the House of Prayer, or had it been a deceiving "voice"?

What to do?

PREPARE YE VICTUALS!

I spent considerable time each morning in prayer and in reading the Bible before starting out to find the building for the House of Prayer for all people. Almost daily I read the first chapter of Joshua, especially verses 2 and 3:

"Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give them, even to the children of Israel.

"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses."

(I had walked over most every section of Austin in my search for a house and a building, and claimed it for Christ.)

One morning as I read this chapter in Joshua, verse 11 stood out at me:

"Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it."

I began to ask myself, "What are my victuals in this case? The answer was immediate: "What would you do today if you KNEW you were to have a building in a few days, or even a few weeks?"

That made it simple. I immediately went into the kitchen and said to my wife:

"Get on your hat, Freda, we are going to town to buy a piano for the House of Prayer!"

We went to town, bought a good used piano and the man asked where we wished it delivered.

I said, "Could you just keep it a little while until I let you know? I don't have a building yet."

He said he would keep it.

What else would we do if we KNEW God was going to provide us a building in the near future?

Since we were not to ask anyone for money it was made clear to me that we were not to "take up offerings" or collections at the House of Prayer, but rather, like George Mueller, we should place a tithe box near the door where anyone who wished could leave their gifts, without urging or compulsion.

I pictured in my mind, for a tithe box, a miniature lighted church that could be placed in the window beside the door, with a slot in the back to receive the gifts. I had seen one somewhere in a window and had read an ad about one.

After considerable inquiry I found the man that made them. He only made them at Christmas time and it was now March. He did have one left on hand which I could have at a discount. Thanking the Lord, I bought it and carried it home. Another victual!

I ordered 100 song books. Then I ordered 100 new steel folding chairs, paying a deposit on them. This took about all the remaining cash we had. To pay the balance on the chairs, I must sell my Ford coupe and must get all cash for it. I ran an ad in the paper, shined the car up and set it on the front lawn with a "For Sale" sign on it. This went on for a couple of weeks with no buyer. Those who wanted it didn't have the cash; those who had the money didn't seem to want it.

One day I got a notice from the furniture dealer that if I wanted the chairs at the price quoted, I must take them by a certain day. Did I want them? I told him I did.

Again I had the Ford washed and polished and set on the lawn. Again I ran an ad and waited for a buyer. A buyer MUST come today for it was the LAST day to take the chairs.

Did the buyer come? He DID NOT! It poured down rain all morning. The wash job on the car was wasted, it was covered

with leaves beaten off the trees. I sat in the house and prayed and wondered what I was to do.

About 1:00 o'clock it quit raining and the sun came out. As I was praying, I was impressed to go see a certain used car dealer. I got in the car and drove to the used car lot. He looked over the car, drove it, asked the price. Fearfully, I set the price to this dealer at \$25.00 less than I had been asking retail. He made me an offer of \$50 less than I asked. We split the difference and I soon had a check in my pocket sufficient to pay for the chairs.

What led the dealer to buy the car? He said, "Because of this rain, I haven't made a deal today. Maybe this will change my luck." He had given me \$25.00 more for the car than I had given for it eight months before!

Again I thanked the Lord, and took the money to the furniture dealer. He asked me where he should deliver the chairs, I asked him to hold them until I let him know. I didn't have a building yet.

Now, we did have a lot of "victuals" on hand! But our money was practically gone. No building, no services; no services, no offerings; no offerings, no food! Lord what next to do?

The next "order" I received was to get ready the first edition of the Texas Herald, place in it a page announcement of the opening of the House of Prayer. This would take practically the last of our money.

Almost trembling, I gave the magazine copy to the printer, requesting him to get the magazine ready to print so that it could be mailed in time to announce the opening of the House of Prayer for April 16, 1951. He was to set up the announcement, all but the location. I would phone

him the location by the day of printing.

All this time I had continued to look for a building. At last I found one close to the center of town which I wanted badly. It belonged to an estate. A banker was administrator. He thought we could secure it but a sister must be asked her consent. He would write her. It would take several days for an answer. In the meantime I looked at other buildings but found only one other available and I didn't like its location.

On the morning of the day I must notify the printer of the location for the House of Prayer, I went to the bank. The banker had heard from his sister. She was opposed to renting the building for our purpose.

Next I went to see the owner of the building located at 1108 E. 1st St. He was very courteous and very willing that we should use the building as the House of Prayer. In addition, he lowered the rent from \$85.00 to \$75.00 because we were going to use it for church services. And he was a Catholic! I thanked him, thanked the Lord, phoned the printer to put in the location and print the magazine!

We had a building! Why? God had honored our faith. We had "prepared our victuals" just as if we KNEW we were to have a building.

We were led to some very nice light fixtures that could be bought at a very small cost, to a Negro electrician who installed them at a reasonable charge. Another Negro helped me build a speaker's platform. A lumber yard owner helped me get a cross made in record time. My wife bought curtains and with the help of friends put them up back of the platform. Other friends presented us with two beautiful pictures. We ran an announcement in the daily newspaper. I scrubbed and mopped the floor and washed the windows. And at last, on April 16, 1951, we opened the House of Prayer!

At the beginning of that service we had exactly \$5.00 to our name. But God had enabled us to do what had seemed impossible to do. And He had taught us some very valuable lessons in the process.

What is it you desire from God?

Is it promised in His Word

If so, then it is your "Promised Land." How get it? "Go in and possess it."

If it still doesn't come to pass?

GET YOUR VICTUALS READY!

Do what you WOULD DO if you KNEW it were coming to pass!

(Continued next month)

—J. A. DENNIS

IN THE MASTER'S HAND

**My life is in the Master's Hand,
Each moment like a grain of
sand;**

**Falling away, one by one,
Until my time on earth is done.**

**How much is left, He does not
show;**

**And neither do I desire to
know.**

**It is enough to be at one
With Him and His most blessed
Son.**

**John R. Johnson
13514 Louisville St.
Houston, Texas 77015**

KINDLING WOOD

By C. H. CAMPBELL
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Every true child of God is a constant seeker for more of God and for the advancement of His Kingdom. The more spiritual he is the stronger the desire for fresh new infillings. Over against this ideal state, church history, from Pentecost to the present, records a monotonous pattern of cooling off and settling down in complacency; resting under the glow of past blessings and achievements instead of seeking more and better experiences. Oh, yes, there are occasional partial revivals or there would be no life at all.

The account of the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 from our Lord's lips is unique in that it not only lists seven different types but traces the church age up to today. Five of the seven churches needed revival, and Laodicea—typifying today's church—receives the strongest rebuke. Lukewarm! Of course a dead, cold church is good for no one, but Jesus seemed to prefer Sardis—"I would that thou wert cold or hot."

What does our Head desire? What is the answer? Fire up! Dr. Vance Havner, the southern evangelist who preaches in the spirit and power of an Elijah or John the Baptist—mostly to the church, recounted recently in the Pittsburg convention that as a lad his job was to start the home fire each morning. Standing shivering on the hearthstone in his bare feet, he would clean away the dead ashes and look for an ember or two that was still red. Then reaching for kindling wood nearby which he had prepared the night before, he placed it on the embers and, with his face close, blew hard to revive the dying fire and get a spark or two.

Finally the tinder-dry wood was ignited and the little blaze set the contents

of the grate on fire. "Never," said Mr. Havner, "did I try to light the big backlog first—Now my altar call is: Who will be kindling wood for a revival in this church?"

Let us examine the properties of kindling wood as we consider ourselves as such. It could be that we have become so modern and up-to-date that we may miss the point—everything has become automatic, perhaps even our religion isn't even "old-fashioned." First, kindling wood must be cut small and from combustible material, wood shavings are the best, so that a tiny spark will ignite them. Let God cut us down to size; we're too big, at least in our own opinion. Oh that we might get the John-the-Baptist experience: "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

Another fact about kindling wood is that it is spoiled for any other use. The saints who are all out for God are spoiled for the world but eminently fitted for setting other hearts aflame. They are remnants, and "God is still in the remnant business.

Next, kindling wood must be dead—green wood resists the fire. Just so, there must be a drying out, a death to the world and its applause. The sap of worldly ambition and self-interest must be evaporated—and it will be when under the warm rays of the "Sun" of righteousness. "The body of sin" must be destroyed. Then the fibers of our souls will reach out and welcome the Holy Ghost fire which sets us aflame! And the fire will spread!

Make no miscalculation: no dead church or individual gets on fire until "ye who are spiritual" catch a fresh flame! The kindling wood set on fire does the work. Revival starts in the hearts of those closest to God. Evan Roberts, the Welsh evangelist, was riding to his Sunday appointment, Feeling cold and in-

different in his soul, he dismounted, tethered his horse and, falling on his knees under a tree, confessed his coldness and pled for a fresh infilling. The fire fell. He arose, mounted his horse and rode on to the waiting congregation, hours late; but the delay was worthwhile for one of the greatest revivals Wales had ever experienced broke out that day.

Wherever fire is there is either containment or conflagration. We spend billions of dollars and employ millions of fire-fighters to control and extinguish fire. This is repeated to the spiritual shame of us—the spiritual fire-fighters even occupying our pulpits, especially in modernistic churches, also in formal churches. Should a sanctified saint emit a fiery amen or hallelujah in their services, he and his fire would be ejected. The first church was ushered in when "tongues of fire" were evident on every head of the 120, indicating inner burning.

But how about the evangelical and especially the holiness groups? Surely we're not engaged in checking and putting out the fire—we must never seek to contain it, but spread it. Our trouble is rather the lack of it. Oh yes, we have it, but it seems so easily contained! Everywhere I meet God's chosen, there is unanimity that revival is the need—Oh Lord, send the fire!

Would that we might be an energetic band of holy arsonists, busy starting spiritual fire everywhere we go until the conflagration covers the earth. "Go ye into all the world" spreading the fire!

'Tis burning in my soul, 'tis burning in my soul;

The fire of heavenly love is burning in my soul.

The Holy Spirit came, O glory to His name;

The fire of heavenly love is burning in my soul.

—The Wesleyan Methodist

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