"UNT0 YOU—A SAVIOR"

Remember the Christ of Christmas,
   Whom Shepherds worshipped on bended knee;
But the One who brought us Salvation
   Is the Christ of Gethsemane.
The Angels of Heaven were singing,
   Wise Men from the East came to see;
But the One who bought our Redemption
   Is the Christ of Calvary.
The World loves the Babe of Christmas
   As they receive gifts, and they give;
But 'twas a Man who purchased our Pardon,
   The One Who died that we might live.
Yes, Jesus was laid in a manger,
   No room in the Inn for His head;
But the One Who will take us to Heaven
   Is the Christ Who rose from the dead.
Yes, Remember the Christ of Christmas,
   Let the bells of all Heaven ring;
But He's no longer a Babe in a manger,
   But Jesus Christ, our Coming King.

Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2: 10, 11, 14)
Merry Christmas

Almost Two Thousand Years ago, God gave His Best—His Son Jesus—as His Gift to a sinful world. And Jesus Gave His All, that those who Believe on Him might have Life Abundant and Life Eternal.

And for Two Thousand Years, wherever men have accepted Jesus as their Saviour and Lord and Master, they have learned to Give: Give Love, Give Gifts, Give of themselves, as did our Lord.

You—our Texas Herald Family—have given us much this past year: your Prayers, your Interest, your Letters, and your Generous Gifts. And we are deeply grateful to you, and to the Lord for you.

And now—at this Christmas Season—when everyone's heart is filled with the Love and the Desire to Give, that which they have received from Jesus—we want to Give you Something: Our Prayers that the Lord Jesus will make this Christmas Season your very best one, and the New Year ahead the most precious and fruitful of your life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Dennis

What Did Jesus Say About the Tribulation?

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.
24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.
25 Behold, I have told you before.
26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.
27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.
29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.


Some years back Jesus settled my heart and faith and gave me peace about His second coming, not from what I had heard some man say, or from what I had read in some book, but from a Prayerful study, over and over again, of what Jesus said in Matthew 24: 21-31.

I have heard some Popular Prophecy Preachers expound at length on what Ezekiel said, or what Daniel said, or some one else said; some had charts and diagrams, and thought they had everything figured out. They would describe the horrors of the Great Tribulation, and then at the close of their message would shout triumphantly, “But these things won't affect us, because we won't be here! Jesus will come and Rapture us, before the persecution or tribulation starts! And he gets a thunderous applause, because that is what his listeners want to hear.

But it seemed to me that the speaker had skipped over Matthew 24: 21-31. Read them carefully. This is Jesus, the Son of God, speaking. These eleven verses sound plain and simple enough, that even I can understand them.

Since, in Verse 21, He says there is to be no tribulation as great as this, either before or after that time, He must be talking about the Great Tribulation.

Verse 22 tells us that the Christians (the elect) will be on earth during that tribulation, for it is for their sake that the days of tribulation shall be shortened, lest they all perish.

Verse 24 tells of false Christs and false prophets, who would attempt to deceive the very elect. We see here that the saints are still on earth.
Then read carefully Verse 29, and underscore the words Immediately after the tribulation of those days. Jesus names two things that will follow immediately AFTER those days of tribulation: First, the sun and moon will be darkened, stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And Then the Son of Man shall appear.

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And then comes that Great Day the Saints have been waiting for:

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

In verse 31 you will note that Jesus says the elect will still be on the earth, they had not been previously raptured out. "With a great sound of a trumpet." Paul says this will occur at the "Last Trump".

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. I Cor. 15: 51-52.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air:


Someone sent me Oswald J. Smith's article, "Tribulation or Rapture—Which?" over two years ago. It only confirmed what I already believed, and added the rumour about a woman in Scotland, upon whose Vision and experience with Jesus, the believers in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Saints, have built their doctrine of two separate comings of Jesus—One Before the Tribulation FOR His Saints, and the second, After the Tribulation, WITH His Saints.

About a year ago I bought and read a book that probably many people have not yet heard of: "The Incredible Cover-Up", "The True Story of the Pre-Trib Rapture", by Dave Mepherson. It was first published by Logos, Int., but is now published by Omega Publications, P. O. Box 4130, Medford, Oregon, 97501, 162 pages, Price, Hardback, $7.95, Softback, $3.95.

This book confirmed all that Oswald J. Smith's article had said. The author had gone to England and Scotland, determined to track down the story of the Scottish lady, and find out if that was where the Pre-Tribulation theory originated. Haunting old book stores, and buying old books, he found the woman's name, the story of her experience, and her Vision.

In the Appendix of the book, he gives the only known written account by the lady herself of the Vision, and what she believed Jesus meant by it.

It appeared that she then began, in 1830, teaching on the two-stage coming of Jesus. It was taken up by Edward Irving, and John Nelson Darby, who made a Doctrine of it, "In direct contradiction to the teaching of the Church for eighteen hundred years" as quoted by Oswald J. Smith, from H. A. Baker's book, "Tribulation to Glory."

I kept Oswald J. Smith's message until I received the Lord's "Go Ahead" to publish it. I then wrote for Brother Smith's permission, and printed it in the July, 1981 issue of The Texas Herald.

I feel, that with the worsening conditions in the world, and a difference in the religious climate today, that God's
people were much more prepared now, to accept these truths, than they would have been five years ago.

In his new book, “Till Armageddon”, Billy Graham urges Christians to seriously prepare themselves by Bible study and prayer, for the persecution that he predicts is coming to us in the United States.

What a perilous and shaky foundation for a Christian’s faith and belief, in such an important time as this—a woman’s Vision and encounter with Jesus in 1830, as compared with the Solid Rock of Jesus and His Word.

I have read (and published) “The Coming Tribulation” by Corrie Ten Boom. She points out that in 60 percent of the world, Christians either are now, or already have, suffered Persecution and Tribulation and Death for Jesus.

To me, what the preachers of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture are really saying, is that they believe Christians IN THE UNITED STATES will be Raptured before Persecution or Tribulation begins. For that Doctrine would get little credence today in Russia, or China, or VietNam, or Uganda.

I pray that what I have written, and what we have printed, will be a help and a warning to all who will listen.

As Oswald J. Smith said, if we are wrong, we will know it then, and rejoice in being wrong, when Jesus comes.

But if the Pre-Tribulation preachers and teachers are wrong, as I believe they are, then they have lulled thousands of Christians into a false security, with no preparation or discipline for meeting the rude shock of persecution or tribulation.

One thing we can all accept and obey. That is Jesus’ Command.

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your lord doth come.”

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

Matt. 24: 42, 44.

J. A. Dennis
July 19, 1981

A Challenging Book

Jim McKeever of Medford, Oregon, has written a serious and challenging book, entitled, “Christians Will Go Through the Tribulation” and how to Prepare for it, Physically and Spiritually.

Mr. McKeever is the Editor of “McKeever’s Investment and Survival Letters”, also Editor of “End-Time News Digest”, reporting news especially important to Christians. He is an ordained minister, having served as a Baptist Evangelist, and as Pastor of the United Bible Church in Medford, Oregon. He speaks at Investment Seminars, Churches, Christian Con-
Does God Want to Heal Everybody?

By Dennis Bennett

At St. Luke's last Sunday, as people prayed and laid their hands on one another during the Holy Communion service, many were healed. A woman cried out with joy as she received her hearing, two people said they had come into church with knee injuries, and they were healed. Each time we pray like this, there are healings, some seemingly minor—sore throats and headaches, and some dramatic. Several weeks ago a person recovering from foot surgery, in great pain, experienced total healing, and walked out without crutches. These healings do not come as a result of some specially gifted person, clergyman or layman, praying for the sick one. They come as just "plain ordinary Christian" praying for one another.

This sort of thing has been going on at St. Luke's in one way or another for twenty years. This is no recent outpouring, no "crest of the wave" experience. God has not reduced His blessings to His children just because they are "maturing!"

Does God want to heal all His people? The question is very important. I know that if I am definite, if I state uncompro­misingly my conviction that God does indeed want to heal everyone, just as the Scripture says, people get healed. If I allow the idea that there are some people God does not want to heal, then not many are healed, because each person has the thought in his or her mind "Perhaps I am the one God doesn't want to heal, perhaps God has some purpose in keeping me sick" and so he or she is hindered from really taking hold of God's promise. I don't believe we are going to see more than a trickle of healing until we have really settled it in our minds that God indeed wants to heal us—that there is no doubt about it.

There's a lot of Christians who don't believe God wants to heal everyone. A movie is being widely circulated and viewed right now in the Christian community that attempts to convince us that God does not want to heal everyone—that there are some people whom He leaves sick or injured in order that they can show their fortitude under affliction, show that they love God in spite of the fact that He leaves them in pain or handicapped.

What we often don't see is that this kind of situation does not bring glory to God, it calls attention rather to human endurance and faithfulness. It doesn't say "look how great and loving God is," but...
“look how courageous and faithful this human being is to put up with his or her suffering, and still remain loyal to God, even though He doesn't seem to be helping them.” We have to admire the strength and patience of people who continue to love and trust God in spite of chronic sickness and disability, but we cannot say that their continued suffering brings honor to God. Would it make us admire a human father to show that he had intentionally neglected his children’s health, in order to prove that they would continue to love him anyway? It is surprising how far well-meaning people will carry this idea. We were in a meeting some years ago where the chairman told us of a young lady in the community who had been cruelly injured in an auto accident, and after some weeks in pain, had died. She had been a strong believer, and all through her ordeal had testified to her love for God. Because of her faithfulness, some in the town had accepted Jesus. Our chairman expressed the opinion, that not only had God used this girl’s loyalty to bring people to Jesus, He had actually planned the whole thing—caused or allowed the accident and the terrible injury to this child. Do you believe that? My spirit cries out against it! Can you imagine Jesus planning an automobile accident in order that one of His people could be mangled for evangelistic purposes?!

How amazing it is that such ideas still thrive in the Christian world, even though Biblical evidence is totally against them. If there is one thing the Bible has to say all the way through, it is that God is ready to heal His people of all their sickness. Psalm 103:3 is one example “Bless the Lord, O my soul, . . . who healeth all thy diseases.” Even better than that, He wants to heal everyone because everyone obviously doesn't get healed. I am daily confronted with people whom I admire, and whose love for God I cannot question, yet who remain sick or handicapped, or even die. How can I believe God wants to heal everyone when two of the closest and dearest people in my own life were not healed, but died? How can I say God wants to heal everyone when close members of my own family remain unhealed; when I myself have things in my physical body that need correction, but which as yet have not been healed?

These are hard questions. I can answer them by saying that God does not do what He clearly says He will do. I can say that God is erratic and inconsistent, that He heals here and there, but only at His whim. I can say that God has some purpose in wanting these people to continue to be unhealed. I can write books, or produce movies that say it. I can say these things, and the temptation to do so is very strong, yet if I do, I contradict the clear witness and word of the Scriptures. I simply have no backing for my position at all.

We do, of course, alter our ideas to fit our experience. “God says He will heal me. I prayed and asked Him to, and He didn't, so He must have altered His policy.” Yet if you are watching television and the picture goes fuzzy, do you immediately call the TV station and say “Hey, there's something wrong with your transmitter, I'm getting a poor picture!” No, you would not even think of such a thing. You would know that the problem was not in the transmitter, but in your receiver, and you would try to adjust it. If you couldn't get it adjusted, you would call in the repairman.

But when we don't seem to be getting a clear picture from God, when we don't seem to be receiving what He says He's sending, we immediately respond, “Oh,
there must be something wrong with God’s transmission. Perhaps He’s turned the power off!” and so we invent explanations about how God stopped sending the power of the Holy Spirit after the Apostles died, or after the Bible was written, etc., etc. Recently a leading evangelist has revived the old explanation that God just uses things like healing for a sort of bait, to get people to come to Jesus, but after they have come, He doesn’t do it any more!

You can’t go around telling good Christians they don’t have enough faith!” No, you certainly shouldn’t do that! It’s simply cruel to say to someone who is seriously ill, “If you just had a little more faith you would be all right. Grit your teeth and shut your eyes, and try harder to believe! Make a positive confession!”

It’s so easy for the person who isn’t sick to say such things to the one who is. It’s like saying to a starving person, “If you just trust Jesus He’ll take care of you,” and not giving him any food. Yet it is true that the reason we don’t get healed is that we fail to receive from our Father what it is He wants to give us. There can be no other explanation that will fit what the Bible says.

If you have read the Scripture, and if you have met the Lord, and been baptized in His Holy Spirit, and know how much He loves you— if you are convinced that He does want to heal you, and you’re not healed, then obviously your attention should be given to making yourself more open to receive. You should not blame yourself and condemn yourself if you do not seem to be cured, or if you have to continue to take medication or treatment for your condition. Don’t try to force God’s hand by giving up medication or other needed helps. But on the other hand you should not blame God. He doesn’t want you sick.

Don’t stop praying. Don’t stop trusting God for your healing no matter if it seems not to come right away. Is it that you don’t have enough faith? That depends on what you mean by “faith.” Faith is simply openness to receive what God has promised. The reason we are so hesitant to imply that someone doesn’t have the faith to be healed, is that we think that they don’t love Jesus, or that they don’t trust God. No, no! It just means they’re not yet open to receive the particular healing they need. Faith is a focussed thing. You have to have faith, that is, openness to God, to receive for a particular need. For example, I have great faith about getting healed from a cold in the head. I haven’t kept a head cold for years and years, because I ask someone, usually my wife, to pray for me, and I get healed. If I get a chest cold, however, I have a harder time. You know why? I’m more scared about the chest cold, and I have a harder time being open to receive God’s healing for it. The same is true of more serious things. If a doctor has told someone they have a condition that is critical, or even potentially fatal, they may find it difficult to cope with. Can even God heal such a thing??

Healing is a tender subject. I’ve been through enough in my own life-time not to want to put anyone under pressure or condemnation about it. Yet if I allow myself to say, for myself, or anyone else, “I guess God doesn’t want you healed.” I am inviting him to stop praying about it, to resign himself to his condition. Even if I allow myself to say “I guess it isn’t God’s time for you to be healed” I am wrong, because again there is nothing in the Scripture that would say God delays healing us. Jesus never put anyone off, “I’ll heal you later.” To say “God will heal me some day” can be a way of avoiding the challenge to trust Him for healing now. I don’t ever want to encourage people to think that God has refused them, or that He would ever refuse them, because Jesus refused no one. Jesus said, “Ask and you will receive.” The Greek can be translated in the progressive present tense, “Be asking, or “keep on asking” and you will receive.

I know of a woman who prayed for five hours that her sight might be healed, and at the end of five hours she received the healing. Those of you who have read Guy Bevington know that he would sometimes fast for days about some sick person’s healing. He wouldn’t stop until they were healed! Smith Wigglesworth was the same way. Why is this persistent prayer necessary? Is it because God is unwilling, and has to be persuaded, finally giving in just to get rid of us? That, again, would be a strange way of a loving Father to behave, wouldn’t it? No that’s not the reason. We need to continue to pray because we need to break through the barriers that are keeping us from receiving. What kind of things? We’re getting some vitally important insight on that today. We are coming to realize that often the reason we cannot open ourselves to receive the good things God has for us, is that we are sub-consciously prevented. We are hampered, not by our conscious thoughts and attitudes, but by the hurts and fears that lie hidden deep in the recesses of our souls, where Jesus has not yet been allowed to reach. We are finding that as people allow the Lord to penetrate those areas, there is often not only a new release of Spiritual joy and freedom, but physical healing follows, sometimes dramatically as happened this year in Victoria when one of God’s children was instantly healed of two fatal diseases, as her friends stood ‘round her and helped Jesus heal her soul. If you are seeking physical healing, and can’t seem to break through to receive, you would be wise to seek healing for your soul as well as your body. A large number of people at St. Luke’s, and in many other places, are involved in praying for this type of healing.

Jesus healed people, first of all because He “had compassion on them.” He was sorry for them, and didn’t want them sick. His second reason for healing was so that the world could see the Kingdom of God at work. “If I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the Kingdom of God is come upon you!” said Jesus. (Luke 11: 20) Some may believe that watching the courage and endurance of people in sickness leads people to Christ, and I do not deny that they is true, but I think a far greater number will come when they see Jesus working through His people to heal the sick, and set the captives free. As in the New Testament, when people see God’s healing love at work, they will accept the Savior. Who wants to save or rescue not only our spirits, but also souls and bodies. The salvation Jesus offers includes the health and strength of the physical body. Let us not be satisfied until we have received that gift, too.

**REPRINTS**

We will send up to 10 Reprints of Captain John M. LeVrier’s Testimony—How God miraculously healed him of cancer—Postpaid, to anyone who will prayerfully distribute them for God’s Glory.

**WORDS OF LIFE, INC.**

Box 2156. Austin, Texas 78768

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(Written in 1955)
(Continued from last month)

WORDS OF LIFE

Not long after the House of Prayer was started, the Lord seemed to be telling me to write some radio messages, that I was going on the air. We had no money, in fact could barely pay the rent, and indeed soon after this we gave up our rented house and moved our meager belongings into the back of the House of Prayer, back of a curtain partition in the building.

However, remembering the lesson, "Prepare ye Victuals," I said, "Alright, Lord. I'll get the messages ready." I don't suppose my faith was too strong. I thought that would do for a start and when I really got on the air I would have more inspiration to write.

These radio talks laid in my desk for a year, unused, un-needed. Then, after I had gone to work and had received a bonus at Christmas for overtime hours, the Voice said, "That is for the radio."

I had already inquired about radio time and prices, so was ready to begin our program, except the Lord had not given it a name. The name I had expected to use, "Good News Hour," was already in use in Austin. I prayed much about it, made up a list of possible names and prayed over them, but nothing came. When I took my introduction script to the radio station they asked me what I was going to call the program. I said I had left it blank and would have to tell them when I came for the first broadcast, which was the following Sunday afternoon.

Sunday morning the Voice said it was, "Words of Life." That afternoon I went to the radio station, had them fill in the blank spaces in their announcement, and launched out on the air with "Words of Life."

That night a friend of ours, a great soul in prayer, phoned and said she had not been able to listen to the program but had been praying for a name for it and wondered what I had decided on for a name. She said the Lord had given her the name it should be. I asked her what name the Lord had given to her. She said, "Words of Life!"

This program went on for a full year. "Words of Life" carried messages of Faith, Love, Divine Health, The Holy Spirit, The Kingdom of Heaven. A number of listeners testified to the inspiration and faith and courage it brought them.

THE TEXAS HERALD

The Christian magazine, The Texas Herald, begun at the opening of the House of Prayer, continues to go out on faith, month after month, each printing made possible by the love gifts sent in by those who receive it.

Many readers have written their appreciation of its messages, of the renewed faith and courage and understanding of the Scriptures it brings them.

The Herald mailing list grows steadily. It now goes to 36 states, with a few readers in Canada, India, England, South America, and other countries.

We consider the sending out of the Texas Herald, the most important part of our ministry. Through its pages we minister to many more people than we have in the House of Prayer or on the Words of Life radio program.

"THISTLEDOWN"

"In scattering divine literature we liberate this seed, laden with precious seed, which blown by the winds of the Spirit, floats over the world. The printed page never flinches, never shows cowardice; it is never tempted to compromise; it never tires; never grows disheartened; it travels cheaply, and requires no hired hall; it works while we sleep; it never loses its temper; and it works long after we are dead. The printed page is a visitor which gets inside the home, and stays there; it always catches a man in the right mood, for it speaks to him only when he is reading it; it always sticks to what it has said, and never answers back; and it is bait left permanently in the pool."

—D. M. Panton, from a tract printed by Pilgrim Tract Society, Randelmen, N. C.

CHRISTIAN BOOKLETS

In 1952 I was led to write a series of articles on the Holy Spirit, print them in The Texas Herald, then to publish this series in a booklet. It has taken my study of this subject, and my testimony, to many who were hungry to know the truth about the Holy Spirit.

Next, the Voice said, "Write a series on the Spiritual side of Tithing, and print it in a second booklet. "I did, and it was published under the name of "The Golden Wedge." (It is now out of print.)"

As I reviewed the work and expense of printing and distributing these booklets, I thought to myself, "Well, I'm not in the book business! I won't bother with writing any more booklets."

About the time the third booklet was to be printed and I was sighing with relief at that financial hurdle accomplished, I was again directed: "You will write another booklet," "The Kingdom of Heaven," I said, "Yes, Lord," arranged for some hours of privacy and proceeded to obey.

We take no "salary" for preaching, praying, writing. We receive with thanksgiving whatever gifts the Lord impresses His people to give or send in.

We dedicated our lives completely to Jesus Christ and to His service, trusting in His promises:

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

Our testimony for these years is that we have been healthier and happier than ever before in our lives. We have never gone hungry or uncared for. We have travelled, met many dear Christian friends and been marvellously received in their lovely homes.
Living by faith has been adventurous, thrilling, amazing, wonderful!

Each day we rise and thank God for the glad surprises of that day. We are always expecting some new blessing, some new assignment. Our “bags are packed” to go here or there at a moment’s notice, or can be quickly packed with our few possessions.

We have learned the joy and freedom of “travelling light,” of “letting the shore lines go,” of “launching out into the deep,” of obeying literally, “Trust and Obey.”

And so we thank everyone who has contributed in any way, through your prayers, friendship, and loving gifts, to make our adventure possible.

And most of all, we daily thank the Lord for sending us to Austin and commanding us to publish The Texas Herald and to open up the House of Prayer for All People.

A HELPMATE

Much of the credit for the launching of the House of Prayer and its continued existence and success must go to my faithful wife, Freda.

Accustomed to “nice things,” she has cheerfully given up many of the things the average wife demands, that the work of the Lord receive first consideration.

I have seen her move from comfortable, modern home into the back of a store building, used for the House of Prayer, without a backward glance or a word of complaint. I have watched her bid goodbye, without a tear, to her household furniture, as piece by piece it was sold to provide money for rent or for the printing of The Texas Herald: the gleaming range, to be replaced by a decrepit hot plate; inner spring mattress, to sleep on a couch; our nice little Ford to ride the bus.

Instead of a new dress, or car or candy I have brought her monthly presents of receipts—receipts for rent on the House of Prayer, for printing bills, and postage, and utilities.

Many times money given to Freda by her friends and relatives for “personal things,” has been used for groceries, or Herald printing or for rent.

Not once has she complained. Rather it often has been I that have threatened to rebel, to quit. If she had doubts, she didn’t voice them.

We’ve learned that when we “agree together” on something we are praying for, it usually comes to pass.

“If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 18:19)

Besides making the best of things, of fixing up a homey place to live in the back of a store building, of altering donated dresses and wearing second hand shoes, Freda has led a women’s prayer group and taught the neighborhood children Bible stories, and seemed to get joy out of everything that came along.

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thess. 5:18)

Surely God did a wise and gracious deed when He recognized man’s need and made woman for “an helpmeet” to him.

“Who can find a virtuous woman? her price is far above rubies.

“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

“She will do him good, and not evil all the days of her life.

“She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

“Fame is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.” (Prov. 31: 10-13, 30)

“COME ASIDE AND REST A WHILE”

After two years we closed the House of Prayer for the summer, attended some religious gatherings, held a six weeks revival at Pharr, Texas, and spent a month in the mountains of New Mexico in prayer and study.

Coming back to Austin we reopened the House of Prayer and the following summer, 1954, again closed up to hold some meetings, speak to prayer groups, rest, study and pray.

PRAYER BAND

And, now, what of the future? The Lord has just told me—as I finished writing this story of the House of Prayer, and began to re-read the account of how He had led us into Austin—poor, trembling and alone—and how He had led us step by step to trust Him, obey His Voice, get our “victuals” ready, then wait patiently for Him to move.

I can see now that I had to be told to get the house first, THEN be told to rent a larger building, for I didn’t have faith at first for both buildings. He had to teach me step by step to trust in His Word, in His providing our every need.

So, now, He has just reminded me again of a charge He gave me early in 1954: to call upon earnest Christians who are seriously concerned about conditions in the world today, and the destruction that awaits America, UNLESS WE PENT, and who are willing to band together in prayer and ask the Lord to restore in them the passion, purity and power which made the First Century Church the earth-shaking agency it was.

We were to claim no gifts, but wait for Him to demonstrate, through us, His

(Turn to Page 11)
Power Of Pentecost

By Ivor Powell

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me" (Acts 1: 8).

In spite of the fact that my statement will probably annoy the theologians, I say with emphasis that the greatest need of the Church is another Pentecost.

It is very doubtful whether any promise of Christ is more related to the effectiveness of the Church than that "ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you.

The fulfillment of this mighty promise turned midgets into giants, and a hesitant company of believers into a machine capable of upsetting the strongholds of heathenism. Thrifty people, with an eye to the needs of the future, were utterly transformed, so that, with rare abandon, they sold their possessions and placed their money at the disposal of God's servants. Pentecost changed the world!

FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT

Let no one remind me that God sent His Spirit, once and for all, to abide in His people. Waste no time in informing me that what once was called "the baptism of the Spirit" is now more fittingly expressed by the term, "the fullness of the Spirit." All these facts I dis-covered long ago. Use whatever terms you prefer; express your doctrine as you like; I still maintain that our greatest need is another Pentecost. Pentecost was an experience given to the Church, and not something exclusively reserved for a gifted man.

We need another visitation from Heaven, when self-centered people will be consumed by a passionate passion for the Master; when human weaknesses will be obliterated by an enduement of supernatural power; when arrogant evildoers will be amazed and dismayed by the thrilling utterances of all who know the Christ.

There are three basic features to be recognized:

1. The sacrifice of Christ on the Cross;
2. The enthronement of God's Son at the right hand of the Majesty on High;
3. The coming of the Holy Spirit to take charge of God's Church.

Christ Crucified can be my Saviour; Christ Enthroned can be my Lord; Christ in the fullness of the Spirit can be my Sufficiency for all things.

"Ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you." These words should be written in letters of gold. They suggest three vital requirements of God's people.

POWER TO PERCEIVE

During our Lord's earthly ministry the minds of the disciples thought only of an earthly kingdom, and the boundaries of their own private ambitions. The writings of the prophets were never fully understood; the messages which the disciples preached bore the hallmark of self-desire.

And then Pentecost performed a miracle. The old Scriptures glowed with a new light and, utterances which had seemed unimportant became pregnant with new meaning. The disciples now handled parchments which had "come alive" in their souls. In all their subsequent preaching they said, "Thus was it fulfilled which was written by the prophets." Those Spiritfilled men discovered a new book!

Surely we need another Pentecost; our preachers need to make a similar discovery. Then our sermon preparation will cease to be a drudgery; a living flame will burn in our souls; new vistas of truth will fill our hearts; and we shall be like the prophet who said, "His word was as a fire shut up in my bones."

POWER TO PREVAIL

Whether we are preachers, or not, within us remains a great deal of the old Adam. It is so possible to reveal standards of truth and yet ourselves to fall short of our own lofty ideals. We may speak of the evil of anger, and yet possess a vile temper. We may denounce lust, and yet harbour base desires. A profession of holiness can easily be a cloak for spiritual bankruptcy. We may thunder against thieves, and yet at the same time rob God of what is due Him.

When Pentecost reached Peter's heart, his former failings were completely overthrown. He who had fallen before the tantalizing eyes of a maiden and gone in fear of his life, suddenly found new courage, and, in glorious abandon, preached as he had never preached before. That there was an imminent possibility of his being stoned never seemed to occur to him. The Spirit of the living God had brought victory to Peter's own heart. He was able to proclaim deliverance because it had become a reality in his own experience.

POWER TO PREACH

Sent out by the Master, there is reason to believe that Simon Peter had...
preached hundreds of times in company with other disciples; he had gone forth to proclaim the nearness of the Kingdom. Yet there is no evidence that he had ever won a single convert.

Then came Pentecost, and in one amazing service he saw 3,000 souls yielding to the claims of his Lord. Formerly his hearers seemed clothed with impenetrable indifferences; now they were cut to the heart.

There was nothing particularly beautiful about Peter's phraseology; none could claim that Peter's was perfection in preaching. Nevertheless unmistakable power made his words to be arrows reaching human hearts. Then the Church was born; then Christ saw the travail of His soul; then the kingdom was established in the hearts of men and women; then Hell trembled.

The Christians did not argue whether or not they should tithe; they did not even go the extra mile—they went all the way! They sold their possessions and brought as much as possible to pour their love and wealth into the common treasury. Then every need was supplied, and their enemies spoke of "the people who had turned the world upside down."

Yes, we need another Pentecost! I need it; my brother ministers need it; our deacons need it; our Sunday school teachers need it; the leaders of our women need it; the members in all our churches need it—another Pentecost. Then our sleepy indifference will disappear as shadows before the rising sun. Then our stubborn wills will be broken; our cheeks will be wet with tears, as we think of the former years of halfhearted service. Then our most conservative members will be possessed of a new passion and will go forth to astound their business associates as they speak of new life in Christ.

We shall then never think of asking our people to tithe for three months a year, because we shall do it regularly. Then prayer meetings will be overcrowded, drinking dens will lose their patrons, and the entire world will take notice. Pentecost was for the Church, and not merely for Simon Peter.

Do we think revival depends upon God's ability to find a special preacher? No! Once God finds the Church, it will be the easiest thing in the world to find the man—yes, hundreds of men—and women, too. Oh, for another Pentecost!

One thing can save us—Repentance. Someone must take the initiative to call America to her knees in repentance before she is knocked to her knees in judgment.

God does not want to destroy America or bring suffering and judgment upon her. Instead, He wants terribly for her people to accept Jesus Christ and all the wonders in His Kingdom—the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

Those are the two alternatives for America—not Democracy or Communism—but Judgment and Destruction, or Repentance and the Joy and Love and Peace of the Kingdom of Heaven.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14)

God is calling those men and women now—who would pay the price in prayer and fasting—and obedience—who would give their all for Him and to save their land.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt. 16:24)

One man can't do it. One little group can't do it. But someone must make a start. Other men and other groups will follow.

I would like to so surrender my life to the Master's use, that He could use me to show His love and power to a sin-sick world and to a church that is in the sleep of death.

I offer myself to Him as a disciple—to be taught, endured, sent, used,—as He will.

I invite you to do likewise, if you see the need and feel the call.

The story of the House of Prayer is ended—except as it lives in the hearts of those who came, and prayed, and gave to make its work and testimony possible.

My present assignment is to call for earnest Christians who will so consecrate themselves in prayer and fasting and obedience to Him, that He can use them to warn America of her approaching judgment, and point the way back to Him—in Repentance, and Prayer, and Obedience.

Will you be one of those disciples?

J. A. Dennis

PAGE ELEVEN
What Does It Mean To You?

Evangelist T. L. Osborn

The theme of our ministry around the world has been Heb. 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

Practically every campaign we have conducted among the underprivileged has been opened with a message on that Scripture.

Almost always we hang a large banner across our crusade platform bearing the words of Heb. 13:8 in the language of the people.

We generally teach the people a chorus putting this Scripture on their lips in song.

Heb. 13:8 is the starting point for ministering to the unevangelized. Jesus Christ will do the same things today that He did in Bible days.

Night after night I read some Gospel portion in which Jesus performed a miracle. Then I apply the case step by step, to the multitude.

"If we want Bible results, we must have Bible faith," is always my message.

"If you will do like they did in the Bible, come to Jesus as they came, call upon Him as they called, pray as they prayed, believe like they believed, act like they acted and do as they did, then you will receive like they received, because Christ will do for you what He did for them."

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

This Scripture has brought faith to hundreds of thousands of underprivileged souls. What does it mean to you?

Not, what does it mean to your pastor, your Sunday School teacher or your leader? Not, what does it mean to your denomination or how is it interpreted in your book of doctrines? But what does Heb. 13:8 mean to you?

I. Heb. 13:8 means that what Christ did in Bible days, He will do today. He is no respector of TIMES.

The blind and lame do not benefit from what Christ did for the needy in Bible days unless He will do the same in our days.

The sick need healing today. Sinners need forgiveness today. The world needs Jesus today. Christ is not a dead prophet—a historic hero. He lives today! His power is the same in our day. "His compassions fail not."

Today is the day of miracles. Today God is on the move. Today He is answering prayer. Today He is healing the sick and saving sinners.

II. Heb. 13:8 means that what Christ did in Jerusalem, He will do in your town. He is no respector of PLACES.

Thousands journey to Bible lands pondering the wonders of Christ in those places. Shrines are erected where people review the accounts of history.

But His wonders are being wrought in your city—wherever there is faith.

Heb. 13:8 means that we do not have to journey to some far off land or distant shrine to speculate on the marvels wrought there. Jesus Christ wants to dwell at your house as your miracle worker. He longs to be your family physician so that "no plague shall come nigh thy dwelling."

Your church can be His miracle sanctuary where the sick, the lame, the sinners and the poor can gather to be blessed.

III. Heb. 13:8 means that what Christ did for others, He will do for you. He is no respector of PERSONS.

If He forgave sinners in the Bible, He will forgive you. If He cleansed the repenting harlot, He will cleanse you.

If Christ restored the deaf and the blind in Galilee, He will restore you who are deaf and blind now.

If the Master cleansed the leper and raised the cripples in Jerusalem, He will do the same for you.

If He ever heard anyone's prayer, He will hear your prayer.

If He ever blessed anyone else, He will bless you.

What does Heb. 13:8 mean to you?

Look at the sun, the moon, the stars. They are still there aren't they? God made them. They shine for you don't they? Just that sure is God's promises for you. They cannot fail.

See the rainbow? Brilliant in color; perfect in form. God made it. Its appearance is God saying "My covenant will I not break nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

Gaze at the mighty ocean! So vast; so fathomless. God spoke and it was. He set its bounds and they are not changed. Just so faithful are God's promises for you.

Breathe His air. Drink His water. Smell the fragrance of His flowers. Plant His seeds. Reap His harvest. Behold His creation. Read His Word. Know God! He is there!

If He did it then, He will do it today!

If He did it there, He will do it here!

If He did it for anyone, He will do it for you!

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today, and forever." Amen!

—Faith Digest