

Love, from your Dad.



W. J. BURGESS

PRICE
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SHERMAN HARMON

A FIRE WAS KINDLED



Compiled by Sherman Harmon

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1. Baptists - History.

To my wife, who has deflated me when I became too exalted, encouraged me when I was depressed, challenged me by her sterling Christian life to be a better servant of the Master, a constant joy to me for 26 years, I dedicate this book.

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majority of the churches had adopted the amendment in their local conferences. Letters from the churches so stating were never allowed to be read.

The Lakeside Night Meeting

After it was apparent the officers in charge would not permit the vote, and after the Wednesday night session, hundreds of messengers, together with many sympathizing visitors, gathered by the side of Lake Mirror a short way from the auditorium to consider further moves.

The writer was chairman of this meeting, and the first speaker being Dr. D. N. Jackson; and there were many others. Elsewhere in Dr. Jackson's account of this meeting is given a resolution that was written by Dr. D. N. Jackson and adopted by the group. It must be emphasized that no association was organized at this mass meeting. In fact, a provision of the resolution adopted plainly stated that any organization must be called for by some church. The writer invited the formative meeting, after the event of the next day, to be held in Temple Baptist Church. Immediately upon returning home, and on the following Sunday, the matter was placed before the Temple Church and it voted to invite such meeting. So did Dr. Jackson and the Park Place Church, Little Rock.

The Formal Organization

The formal organization took place in the auditorium of the Temple Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Preliminary services were held on the evening of May 24, at which time Elder C. A. Darst, St. Louis, delivered the sermon. About 9 A.M. the following day, the auditorium was filled and the meeting was called to order by Elder W. J. Burgess, pastor of the Temple Baptist Church. Both the Temple Baptist Church and the Park Place Baptist Church, Dr. D. N. Jackson, pastor, had officially invited this meeting. W. J. Burgess was elected temporary chairman.

The congregation being too large for even the new and large auditorium (seating 1000) the congregation was divided for the preaching hour. Elder T. Sherron Jackson was selected to preach in the old auditorium which adjoined the new. Elder Harley L. Groom preached in the new auditorium. Brother L. S. Walker of Mississippi brought a message in the afternoon while the committee of a proposed constitution was in session.

Previous to the sermons, however, a motion prevailed that 21 men be selected to draft a Statement of Principles. In the afternoon session this Statement of Principles and Doctrinal Statement was

adopted. (it is given elsewhere.)

Permanent organization resulted in the election of Dr. Gerald D. Kellar, president. Assistants elected were Dr. J. E. Cobb and Elder J. W. Duggar. Previously elected as temporary clerks were: M. E. Childers, E. T. Burgess and Gerald Parsons. These three were made permanent clerks. Dr. W. J. Dorman was elected to preach at the evening session in the new auditorium. (Elder Jeff D. Welch was elected Secretary of Missions. Brother Welch died before the next meeting. Brother Welch did a magnificent work during the few months he was permitted to serve.)

At the Friday morning session a Publications Committee was elected. A motion carried to accept the invitation of Jacksonville Baptist College, Jacksonville, Texas, to elect a committee to confer with the trustees of Jacksonville College for the purpose of making Jacksonville Seminary a project of this association and that the Education Committee of this association be that committee.

The Committee on Education consisted of: Glen Fox, Luke Wadley, J. W. McCrackin, L. T. Simmons, D. N. Jackson, W. J. Dorman, J. W. Pope, W. E. Nunn, C. O. Strong, Alfred Jones, J. J. Johnson, C. C. Bishop, Roy McClure, M. H. Works, Ralph Brand, D. R. Raper, Tom Netherton, A. J. Schell, C. D. Barton, Johnnie Womack, R. R. Anderson, J. B. Pruitt, R. R. Stracener, R. N. Davis, J. G. Murry and C. C. Winters, honorary.

Dr. J. E. Cobb was wlected Editor of Publications. Walter Griffin was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Publications. Date for next annual meeting was set for Wednesday following the second Sunday in March and the place chosen was Laurel, Mississippi. Dr. D. N. Jackson was chosen to preach the annual sermon and Elder W. R. Speer was named as alternate. Report of Missionary Committee was adopted. Missionary Committee: W. R. Speer, chairman; L. D. McClung, M. N. Gregson, Jesse Burns, John Lee, S. F. Cruz, J. B. Vickery, J. E. James, W. S. Gordon, L. S. Walker, W. B. Duncan, James Hoover, E. B. Jones, Jodie Newton, Gordon Reddin, D. C. Dunson, Harry Darst, Walter Griffin, Elton Stewart, J. D. Hankins, G. C. Fielden, Ollie Parker, G. E. Jones, Robert Ford, Olin Wade.

Motion to elect L. H. Raney as writer and special editor to work with Dr. J. E. Cobb on Publications Committee. Motion that Publications Committee, together with Secretary-Treasurer of Publications, determine the location for Publications business. Salary for Secretary of Missions was set at \$250.00 monthly, plus traveling expenses.

Friday afternoon session. Elder C. A. Darst elected chairman of Publications Committee. Salary of Secretary of Publications to be

trailers built that could open to a width of 24 feet and fold to 10 for travel. This mobile missions unit was the first of its kind among any group. It is very modern with carpeted floors, central heating and cooling, rest rooms. Fully furnished with all needed facilities, it can be hauled to any location and set up in a matter of hours. There are now several of these in use.

The Association has also pioneered in providing for funds on a revolving basis with which mission churches can buy property. This department has been very successful the past few years and enables young and weak congregations to get started in building projects.

The Association has also a department known as the Baptist Building Savings, Incorporated. Charles McKamy is the Executive Director of this concern. It enables churches to float bonds with which to build or enlarge their plants. This department was inaugurated in 1962. All profits go into the Revolving Loan Fund and this has been a great boom to the Interstate work the past few months.

At the 1954 session in Armarillo, Texas, the Association created the office of Assistant Secretary of Missions. At the 1955 session held in Jackson, Mississippi, Richard L. Walters was elected to this work. He did a great work but at the end of the year asked to be allowed to return to the pastorate of a church he had organized on the missions field during the year. Craig Branham was nominated by the Secretary of Missions and was elected. He has continued to this date and has been invaluable. This addition to the missions office had become necessary because of the growth of the mission work.

In the 1965 session of the Association the office of Interstate Missions Secretary was created and the Missions Office was asked to nominate someone for this position. During the year this was done when Brother John W. Duggar's name was presented to the Missionary Committee at the interim committee session and he was elected.

At the same 1965 meeting the office of Foreign Missions Secretary was created and Brother Craig Branham who had been for several years Assistant Secretary-Treasurer was elected to this office. W. J. Burgess was elected General Secretary of Missions at this same meeting. He had been Secretary since 1951.

Another department of the Association is that of Research and Public Relations. This has been and still is a valuable asset in making known our principles and acquainting our own people with each other gathering statistics and publishing them in booklet form. Dr. D. N. Jackson was chosen for this work and is still the Director.

Later, Leon Gaylor was added as assistant. Both have done a great service.

The Association established a Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, in 1956. Dr. G. D. Kellar was chosen president. The seminary has a very attractive location and very modern buildings, including administration, library and housing accommodations. This institution is widely recognized for its fundamental and orthodox teaching. Already many graduates have gone out to lead in various fields of Christian service. It is under the direct supervision, as is all other departments, of the association. In 1967, Dr. John Gregson was elected President, Dr. Kellar having resigned.

WHEN THE HEART HURTS

By Sherman Harmon

Matt. 14:14-21

Job 31:16-23

There are many hinderances to the mission of taking the message of life to a world that is dead in trespasses and sin. Yet, when we look at the pages of the New Testament we are made aware that God expects His churches to evangelize the entire world. This is a terrifying thought! When we think of the stupendous task of doing what God said do. Think of the early church and the thoughts that must have flooded their minds when Jesus said, "all the world", "everywhere", "every creature". Giving such a command to a church that had a poor membership as far as material things are concerned.

This group of church members were just not able to do anything for missions. They didn't have a car...they didn't have a plane...no there was no radio...no phone...no T.V...no printing press...no air-conditioned buildings (not even any buildings). The only means of transportation was either by boat, donkey, or by foot. Yet, Jesus said GO. Can you imagine this? He said this to a group of people that, though they were poor, they didn't even have a building. Of course by not having a building, they did not have the excuse to offer that as soon as the buildings were paid for they would consider His command. No wonder they said, "No, we can't do it". But this poor church did not say that, did they? They did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They carried the gospel to the known world.

This brings us to the question of how did they do it. What motivated them to go, to suffer, to die in order that we may hear? This brings us to our text, and I pray that God will cause us not to eat "our morsel alone", but that He will teach us what we need to have to carry out this command today. A day when we have every media of spreading this message that one could ask for. A day when the average family has such high standards of living...Have so many luxuries that we cannot use all of them, so the only thing we can do is discard it and buy something else we can't use. A day when we need a larger house with more bedrooms and baths, though our family has decreased; our children have married and gone. A day that if the kings of yesterday were living, they would enjoy more luxuries on the present "poverty program" than they enjoyed as kings of Nations. Yes, a day that souls are dying never having heard of a Saviour. Why?? Are we eating our morsel alone? What do we need that would cause us to get the job finished that Jesus told

His church to do so many years ago? Is it money? No, this is the richest nation in the world. Is it men? No, we have men who are ready to go. Is it transportation? No, men can reach any point on earth within a few hours. Why? Why? Why, have we not finished the task? If we have all the things that have been mentioned, what else do we need? We need:

1. Eyes in our heart. We can't see very much with our physical eyes. Our vision is too limited. We need eyes that can see the regions beyond. Yes, we need eyes that can see God. In the 14th verse of our text Jesus saw a great multitude. However, before our vision will reach the multitudes we must see God. We need to see Him as Isaiah did in Isaiah chapter six, High and lifted up. We need to see Him in His Holiness, Righteousness, Power and Glory. A God to be revered, worshipped, praised and obeyed.

We need eyes that will see ourselves. Isaiah saw himself and cried out, "Woe is me". He saw himself involved in "eating his morsel alone" when there was a world that needed his message. What about us? How long has it been since we have really looked at ourselves? Bro. Pastor, could it be that we are eating our morsel alone? Could we be selfish and want things plush while a world is perishing? Are we afraid to ask God's people to sacrifice because we do not want to sacrifice ourselves? Are we guilty of telling the churches that God has allowed us to pastor that due to the heavy financial obligations of the church they are doing good, when we know full well that not one member, nor have we ourselves, really sacrificed for our God? Most of us are guilty of eating our morsel alone while a world is starving for the bread of life. Yes, we need a strong vision to see ourselves. It must be the eyes of the heart, because our physical eyes always want to get. It is the eyes of the heart that will teach us to give. Then, of course, after we have seen God and have seen ourselves, we will have eyes that will see others. Isaiah in the same sixth chapter saw the people. He saw their sins, heard their voices, and realized their needs. However, before he could see their need, it was necessary for him to confess his own need. It was after his confession and cleansing that he was in a position to care for the needs of others. What is our need? This is it. We need eyes of the heart that will cause us to cry out in confession to God for cleansing and forgiveness. To do away with our selfishness and pride. We need eyes of the heart that will cause our heart to hurt. Cause us not to eat our morsel alone.

2. Then, if we are to carry out this task according to Matt. 14:14. We need a heart that hurts. "He had compassion on them".

COMPASSION!!! My what a word! (A longing, yearning, crying; anguish, a breaking up inside because of their need) So we need a heart that hurts because of the sinner. A sinner that Jesus loves, died for; yes, a sinner that He lives for and is longing to save and speak peace to. A sinner that is wandering in that world of darkness unable to find his way because he is "dead in trespasses and sin". Our hearts should hurt because of the poor sinner. Then, our hearts should hurt because of sin. Sin that terrible disease of the soul. A disease that has carried multiplied millions out into a Christless eternity. Sin that terrible disease that has plagued us all of our lives. Sin that thing that has caused every heart-broken sob, every bit of suffering, every death that man has experienced is because of sin. Sin, we see the grim reminder when we meet the hearse. See the cemetery...enter the hospital...meet the policeman...hear the scream of the siren...Sin...Sin...Sin. Oh, how our hearts ought to hurt because of sin. We dare not eat our morsel alone because of sin. Is there no escape from Sin? No, not at the present. But thank God there is an escape. There is a physician for the sinner. Our hearts ought to hurt because of the Savior. It is the same Jesus that tells us to go. It is this Savior that died for us. Died for our sins. This is the One who purchased our salvation. This is the One that brought us out of that terrible world of darkness and fear and gave us light and liberty. This is the One "Who loved us and gave Himself for us". His heart hurts more than ours can ever hurt. So our hearts should hurt because we have not shown enough love, appreciation for our deliverance, reverence, and respect to Him Who bought us with His own blood to do what He tells us to do.

3. If our hearts really hurt, we will do as He did in verse fourteen, "He went forth, He healed their sick". When we have hurting hearts, we will go forth as individuals. If we do not go as an elected missionary, we will go as a selected missionary, selected by God, Eph. 2:10. We will go with our prayers, our cooperation, our tithes and offerings, and when we have hurting hearts our offering above our tithe (you cannot give an offering until you have given the tithe) will reach the sacrificial point.

When we ask the question that the Disciples ask in that day recorded in Matt. 14-16. How are we going to feed them. Jesus said, "give ye them to eat". May God give us a hurting Heart. May we Never again be guilty of EATING OUR MORSEL ALONE with the hungry millions all around us. Please read Matt. 14:14-21, Job 31:16-40.

THE CHURCH THAT JESUS BUILT

Matthew 16:13-18

- I. SOME LITTLE THINGS ABOUT THIS CHURCH
 - A. It began with a few people, John 1, Luke 12:32
 - B. It was established in a small country
 - C. It had no property and little equipment
 - D. Its work was done by a weak people, Acts 4:13
 - E. It depended upon voluntary help

- II. SOME BIG THINGS ABOUT THIS CHURCH
 - A. It had the greatest Head of any institution ever, Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18
 - B. It was backed by the greatest authority in the universe, Matt. 28:18.
 - C. It was empowered by the greatest power ever known, Acts 1:8
 - D. It was assigned the greatest task ever given to man, Matt. 28:19-20; John 20:21; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8

-by Dr. John W. Duggar

THE CHURCH DESCRIBED

Ephesians 2:19-22

- I. IT IS DESCRIBED AS A BUILDING, verses 20, 21
 - A. A permanent building, Matt. 16:18
 - B. A Divine building, I Cor. 3:9
- II. IT IS DESCRIBED AS A BROTHERHOOD, verses 19, 21
 - A. A brotherhood to be loved, I Peter 2:17
 - B. A flock to be fed, I Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28
 - C. Members to be joined, Eph. 5:30
- III. IT IS DESCRIBED AS A BODY, verse 21c
 - A. Belonging to Him, Eph. 1:23
 - B. Having Christ as head, Col. 1:18
- IV. IT IS DESCRIBED AS A BEACON, verse 22
 - A. The light of the world, Matt. 5:14
 - B. The children of light, I Thess. 5:5
- V. IT IS DESCRIBED AS A BRIDE, verse 19c
 - A. Possessed of the Bridegroom, John 3:29
 - B. Prepared as a Bride, Rev. 21:2

-by Dr. John W. Duggar

WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH?

Ephesians 5:25-27

- I. HER MAKER – JESUS CHRIST
 - A. He is the only foundation, I Cor. 3:11
 - B. He is the chief cornerstone, Eph. 2:20
 - C. He is the Rock of Ages, Matt. 16:18
- II. HER MEMBERSHIP – BAPTIZED BELIEVERS
 - A. They are the penitent, Matt. 3:7-8
 - B. They are those who have received the Word, Acts 2:41
 - C. They are those who have believed with all their heart, Acts 8:37
- III. HER MESSAGE – GOD'S WORD: THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST
 - A. She teaches all things as commanded, Matt. 28:19
 - B. She witnesses of Christ, Acts 1:8
 - C. She preaches the Word of God, II Tim. 4:2
- IV. HER MEASURES OF FAITH – NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINES
 - A. She holds fast to the truth, Titus 1:9
 - B. She earnestly contends for the faith, Jude 3
 - C. She continues in His word, John 8:31
- V. HER MISSION – WORLDWIDE WITNESSING
 - A. She witnesses to all the earth, Acts 1:8
 - B. She disciples all nations, Matt. 28:19
 - C. She preaches to every creature, Mark 16:15

-by Dr. John W. Duggar

THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

Acts 5:12-16

INTRODUCTION: God had just demonstrated His power in the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira. The apostles revealed His power by signs and wonders, verse 12a. There are Scriptural ways whereby the influence and power of the church can grow, as with the early church in this lesson.

- I. POWER GROWS AS FELLOWSHIP GROWS, verse 12b
 - A. Fellowship is the evidence of salvation, I John 3:14
 - B. Fellowship is a proof of discipleship, John 13:35
- II. POWER GROWS AS INFLUENCE AMONG PEOPLE GROWS, verse 13; II Cor. 3:2
 - A. Church members should let their light shine, Mat. 5:16
 - B. Church members should be an example to others, I Tim. 4:12
- III. POWER INCREASES WITH THE ADDING OF BELIEVERS, verse 14
 - A. This increases the glow of the light, Matt. 5:15
 - B. This makes more certain the presence of Jesus, Matt. 18:20
- IV. POWER IS SEEN IN THE IMPACT OF THE CHURCH UPON OTHERS, verse 15
 - A. Christians should influence the world for good
 - B. Christians should impart spiritual good, Gal. 6:10
- V. POWER AFFECTS ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE, verse 16
 - A. We are to disciple all nations, Mat. 28:19-20
 - B. We are to witness to every person, Mark 16:15

-by Dr. John W. Duggar

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Acts 6:1-8

- I. THEY ARE NEEDED BY THE CHURCH, verses 1, 7
 - A. Organization promotes harmony
 - B. Organization induces growth
- II. THEY ARE NEEDED BY THE PASTOR, verses 2, 4
 - A. That he may have more time to study
 - B. That he may have more time to pray
- III. THEY ARE TO SERVE OTHERS, verse 3
 - A. Leadership requires sacrifice
 - B. Leadership requires interest in others
- IV. THEY ARE TO SERVE WITH DELEGATED AUTHORITY, verse 5
 - A. They are to be chosen by the church
 - B. They should be approved by the pastor
- V. THEY ARE TO SERVE REGULARLY, verse 1, "the daily ministrations"
 - A. They should be regular in attendance
 - B. They should be punctual in the performance of duty

-by Dr. John W. Duggar

THE CHURCH AS A KINGDOM

Daniel 2:44

- I. A KINGDOM WITH A DEFINITE BEGINNING—"And in the days of these kings" (the Caesars of Rome who followed the other emperors).
- II. A KINGDOM WITH A DIVINE ORIGIN—"shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom" for it is not founded by man.
- III. A KINGDOM WITH DEDICATED SUBJECTS—"shall not be left to other people" but is left to penitent, born-again believers.
- IV. A KINGDOM WITH A DETERMINED PURPOSE—"but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms" (the world empires).
- V. A KINGDOM WITH A DESTINED EXISTENCE—"which shall never be destroyed...and it shall stand forever" for God has given the church perpetual existence.

-by Dr. John W. Duggar

GOING TO CHURCH IS PROFITABLE AND SCRIPTURAL

Hebrews 10:22-25

- I. IT DRAWS US NEARER TO GOD, verse 22
 - A. It Is Scriptural to Invite People to Go to Church, Psalms 122:1
 1. Even kings should be invited
 2. The one inviting should plan to go with the one invited
 - B. It Is Scriptural to Plan to Go to Church, Psalms 55:14
 1. Believers should plan to go
 2. Believers should plan how to go
 - C. It Is Scriptural to Prepare to Go to Church, II Sam. 12:20
 1. The redeemed should rise from the earth and what it signifies
 2. They should cleanse themselves and put on proper apparel
- II. IT CAUSES CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS, verse 24
 - A. It Is Scriptural to Go to Church with Others, Psalms 42:4
 1. We should go with the right crowd
 2. We should go to the right place
 - B. It Is Scriptural to Exhort One Another, verse 25
 1. Members should not forsake their church
 2. Members should be challenged by the times
- III. IT STRENGTHENS OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH, verse 23
 - A. It Is Scriptural to Go for a Definite Purpose, Judges 20:28
 1. Worshipers should seek God's counsel
 2. They should be willing to obey God
 - B. It Is Scriptural to Bring an Offering, Judges 20:26
 1. God's people should prepare themselves as an offering
 2. Everyone should bring an offering of their increase

-by Dr. John W. Duggar

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH

Acts 2:42-47

- I. STEADFASTNESS, verse 42
 - A. In doctrine
 - B. In fellowship
 - C. In the Lord's Supper
 - D. In prayers
- II. REVERENCE, verse 43
 - A. For God's house
 - B. For God's Word
 - C. For God's Person
- III. EQUALITY, verse 44
 - A. They all believed alike
 - B. They were all together
 - C. They had all things common
- IV. CHARITY, verse 45
 - A. They gave up worldly possessions
 - B. They shared with one another
 - C. They helped the needy
- V. FELLOWSHIP, verse 46
 - A. They were in one accord in the temple
 - B. They were in one accord at home
 - C. They were at peace in their hearts
- VI. PRAISE (THANKFULNESS), verse 47
 - A. God had given them an increase, verse 41
 - B. God gave them favor with the people
 - C. God kept saving souls

-by Dr. John W. Duggar

FOUR ELEMENTS OF MISSIONS

By W. J. Burgess

TEXT: Acts 14:7, "And there they preached the Gospel."

Introduction: The text concerns the ministry of Paul and Barnabas. They had preached at length at Antioch and had aroused much opposition. They were expelled and they shook off the dust of their feet as a testimony against the rejecters of the Gospel and went to Iconium. Preaching in the synagogue here they again encountered much opposition and went on to Derbe and Lystra. "And there they preached the Gospel".

THERE: The Magnitude of Missions; THEY: The Messengers of Missions; PREACHED: The Method of Missions; THE GOSPEL: The Message of Missions.

THE MAGNITUDE OF MISSIONS

THERE-

"Into all the world" - "To every creature"

These are the words of Jesus. These are commands, not mere suggestions.

The magnitude of our task is stupendous, and yet Jesus commands of us no more than we can individually do. We are told to witness, and this we can do. We are to sow the seed; we are not held responsible for the crop, if we are faithful.

The magnitude of our task is seen in the present population of the world, about 3,500,000,000 human souls. If the world's peoples could be gathered into one place, it would require a field some 50 miles wide and 50 miles long; all of the people standing shoulder to shoulder. This would be some 2500 square miles. What a congregation of people, and nearly all of them without God!

Millions of these billions worship idols and have a thousand traditional concepts of false gods. Millions have never even heard of Jesus. Yet Jesus Himself said that "No man cometh unto the Father but by me".

The nature of man makes our task of great magnitude. Man by nature is evil. "And were by NATURE children of wrath", as Paul would say. They are "dead in trespasses and sins". A dead man is helpless. There is no power within him. Any change must be wrought by an outside power. So it is with the dead in sins. They must be

operated upon by a power outside themselves. This power is not within, for only God can do this and infuse life. There is a way this can be done, and it is by belief of the Gospel. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation—but only to them that believe. Therefore our task is to take the Gospel to the three and one-half billion souls so they may have an opportunity to learn the way of salvation. Men must be apprised of their lost condition and this can only be done by them hearing the truth—the truth about themselves and about Christ.

The thousands of different languages and dialects makes the job one of great magnitude.

Everyone must hear the gospel, and this means in the tongue they understand. This calls for our American missionaries being acquainted and able to speak their tongue. Some of this can be obtained in schools; but on-the-job training is the most important, for there are dialects and idioms of speech that are strange as one goes from one country to another. Even in our own country different words and combination of words are different in different parts of the country.

Experience has taught us that it takes several years for our American missionaries to become conversant enough with a foreign language to be proficient in preaching the Gospel. This is a long, tedious and expensive process. It has cost your missions program much money, but is absolutely necessary. To understand the basic languages of the world is not enough, one must be familiar with the many dialects. This can be acquired only in the particular province of the missionary's field of service. This makes the job of missions one of magnitude, considering the many languages and variations in the world.

Financial cost of magnitude. Missionaries must live, as everyone else. The laborer is worthy of his hire. Paul made it clear that it was right for a minister to expect support while he ministered in spiritual things. A slate of over fifty missionaries requires much money. Our monthly payroll is about \$25,000. This does not take into account the hundreds of other expenses incident to the needs. We have about 3700 families in the N.A.B.A. Surely these can support 54 missionary families. Our greatest problem here is the apathy and indifference among many of our people. More is spent on ball games and other forms of recreation than is given for missions—even by our own Missionary Baptists. This should not be so, but it is. Selfishness comes in for more than its share of the money the Lord lends us. It is His, remember? We are only stewards for its use, and its use is for His glory and honor, not ours. The indifference of our people

to missions makes our job one of great magnitude. We can only do as much as our people make possible by their giving. Our experience has been that the loudest critics are those who give the least, or boost the least.

The geography is of great magnitude. Hundreds of different countries, some large and some small, dot the globe. While there is a missions field right beside us, there are places far removed. It used to be that a missionary must sail for weeks or even months to reach his chosen field. While it is no longer true in this age of jets, their fields are not "just next door". There must be change and adaptation to the field, and transportation cost money. There are thousands of islands where the Word of God has not been preached. There are languages into which the Scriptures have not even been translated. There are even spoken languages that have not been reduced to writing. But these millions are people who have souls, souls that are lost without God and hope. Can you not see them writhing in hell? Who will the Lord hold responsible except the people he has commanded to preach to them? Does such a thought stir you? Is your soul so calloused that it does not care?

Because of last-days demonism. The world has never been free of antichrists since the fall of man in Eden. Cain was the first. Yet, we are told that in the last days demonism would be rampant. We are warned of false gods, false Christs, doctrines of devils and anti-christs. The political and religious philosophy in the last days will finally be headed up in one man, who will be the incarnation of the devil himself.

Antichrists are led today by the so-called intellectual community. Many of the world's "greats" are antichrists, though they may not know it. They could, if they would go to the Bible. Then the spirit of antichrist is exhibited by the hippies, yuppies and other such of their kind. They pollute the air all over the world, yet many political and even religious leaders defend them. Drugs and every form of immorality is a part of their daily life, yet they are on most college and university campuses and seemingly nothing is done about it. Can you not envision now the generation and philosophy of that generation just a few years ahead?

Devil worship is practiced in high and low places. Adultery, homosexuality and lesbianism is the rule rather than the exception among this element, as also among others. Unfaithfulness among wives and husbands, and other things is wide spread, and among the "higher-ups", perhaps on a greater scale. Such practices are openly championed by certain "intellectuals" and leaders in education, and

the "new morality" is offered as cures for the world's society. This "new morality" is nothing but the old immorality of Sodom.

So-called ministers of so-called churches are preaching the "new morality", and practicing it. Nude women and men appear before congregations in church houses supposedly build for the worship of God. It is time for all of us to think.

THE MESSENGERS OF MISSIONS

"And there they preached the gospel."

It is most important that only the qualified man or woman undertake the sacred office of missionary, whether as an association-elected individual or lay witness in the local church.

First, one must know Christ in his heart. We fully believe that a great percentage of church people today profess Christ only academically and do not know Him experimentally. The latter is necessary even to enter heaven. The blind cannot lead the blind, or they both will fall into a ditch. It is one thing to speak the language of Israel, another thing to be a true Israelite. I am of the opinion that our churches have many unregenerate people, else there would be a greater zeal for missions to reach lost souls; there would be a great dedication and devotion in the local churches. There would be a greater unanimity, greater love, less fussing and confusion and a lesser opposition to the truth preached by the minister. There would be less worldliness among church-members.

For one to be an ordained minister, one must be Bible qualified. These qualifications are freely and tersely revealed in the Bible. Yet, many men are ordained by churches that should never be ordained. Ponder the following words from the Scriptures:

"For a bishop (elder) must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able with sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." Titus 1:7-9.

He should be firm but moderate. Paul said he was all things to all men that he might win some. The missionary's weapon is the Word of God. Catholic authorities hold their victims by fear of some sort of reprisal. But Catholicism is falling apart by its own unchristian attitudes. Priests and nuns are deserting and the authority of the pope is scorned. This could never happen to a Bible obeying minister. The world might be against him, and indeed would be, but the

faithful of the Lord would love and respect him. He that bears the vessels of the Lord must have clean hands.

In the qualifications given by Titus, not one word is said about "higher education". The first disciples of Christ were ignorant fishermen. I doubt if any of us have reached as many lost people as did they. Not to be misunderstood, let me hasten to say that one should have as much education (of the right sort) as is possible, for we do not live in the days of direct inspiration. Yet, the essential needs are set forth in the Bible qualifications.

One of the most effective missions work can be done by laymen of the local churches in evangelizing their own neighbors and nearby communities. Every member of every church should, in some manner, be a missionary. They can witness personally, they can hand tracts, they can write letters and use their telephones. There are few soul-winning church members. This important work is left almost entirely to the pastor. Even the pastor should not confine his testimony to the pulpit. Not very many of the unsaved are there to hear the Gospel message. They must go out into highways of life where the unsaved are.

THE METHOD OF MISSIONS

"And there they preached. . ."

To preach is simply to make known or to announce. Our business then is to make Christ known, to announce Him to the whole world. It is to tell about Christ as a person, whence he is; His atoning work, His ability and willingness to save lost souls.

Preaching can be done in several ways. Pulpit preaching to an established congregation is perhaps the easiest way. But this method is limited in its outreach. Not many lost people go to church, even to revival meetings. Less and less people are being reached inside church auditoriums. One can get some to a church picnic, with hot-dogs, etc., but it is harder to persuade them to go to church. We should therefore go after them with our testimony about Jesus. House to house visitation to talk about Jesus is a good way. We're not talking about a mere social call to casually invite people to church, but a visit to tell about the goodness of God and the saving power of Christ.

Literature is another way. But in some parts of the world they have no written language, so this method is limited in such places. But the great masses do have written languages and tracts can be furnished them in their own tongue. Perhaps this is the cheapest way

we can preach the Gospel. But even this is not as good as personal contact.

THE MESSAGE OF MISSIONS

"And there they preached the Gospel."

Most modern missionaries today preach a social gospel, a powerless message. Men do not need a social gospel, they need a dynamic gospel. Such is the Gospel of Christ. Paul said the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Of course, this Gospel must be mixed with faith in them that hear it.

Let us consider for a moment what the gospel isn't. It is not the ten commandments or any other commandments. It is not a law or list of laws. It is not a ritual or rituals. It is not a ceremony. It is not an ordinance or set of ordinances. All these things have human limitations and cannot always, because of circumstances, be complied with.

The very word Gospel means good news, and this we are to take to the world. The other things mentioned would not in their nature always be good news. For instance, if it were necessary for one to be baptised to be saved, and he were in the midst of the Sahara Desert, it would not be good news to tell him he must go to hell because of a lack of water. The other things would be equally faulty in some respect.

The Gospel is Good News, the good news that Christ has done for us what we could not do for ourselves, pay for our sins. Paul told the Corinthians that the Gospel was the story of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Thus, the Gospel is news that something had been done FOR us, not something we must do for ourselves, and which would not always be possible. But it is possible for every one to be saved by just believing. He that believeth is not condemned already. So, the Gospel is a declaration of something already done. Christ died for us on the cross. The Gospel is like a telegram from heaven to each individual saying some great thing has been done for them and that they can be saved by merely accepting the free gift.

We can do many things for lost people that would be good, but which could not save them. We can teach the heathen how to farm, or some other occupation or trade. Materially, he would be better, but spiritually no better. Men can go to hell behind a plow, or in a factory or at any other work, but he cannot be saved without the Gospel of Christ being preached to him. Yet, much missionary activity today is nothing more than a glorified Peace Corp proposition.

Men need something more than that, they need the pure, unadulterated Gospel, "That Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures," as Paul would say.

The disciples in the days of Jesus, and after, did not waste their time teaching men to fish, they told them of Jesus and His power to save. They went everywhere from the persecution in Jerusalem preaching the word, not preaching a social gospel. If God needs large trees he can fell a few in the forest of men with the Gospel of Christ, nothing else needed.

Schools and clinics are alright and perhaps much needed, but the ultimate goal is to reach the students and patients about Jesus. To heal the body of a person is good, but to offer to them the gospel that will heal their souls is infinitely better.

Radio and even television is available for preaching or making known the Gospel. Millions can be reached with these mediums. The heretics are using these in a great and effective way. People who cannot be induced to go to church can often be made to know the Gospel through these channels.

Do we believe in missions or just believe in someone else doing missions, while we sit on the sidelines? Millions are going to hell, thousands each day. We are only playing at the job of being missionary. In the entire life of the N.A.B.A. we have given only about three and one-half million dollars to have the Gospel preached to benighted souls. We should do this much in one year. Now is the time for us to awaken out of sleep and give money, time, talent and self to the doctrine of missions that we boast about believing.

A PATTERN FOR MISSIONS

By Craig Branham

Several years ago a preacher stood in a meeting of an association and egotistically announced that he had been praying for the Lord to reveal the correct method of doing mission work. He then asserted that he believed "That the Lord will reveal this to me before the next annual association." Of course the implication was, Brethren, just wait a year and I will tell you how real mission work should be done. Satan has used his powerful talents through the years to divert the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ from doing real mission work. One of the prime tools of Satan has been to get us to talk about missions without participating in the practice of missions. Like the weather, in the past, and in some groups, everybody talked about it, but nobody did anything about it. One cannot question the fact that the Lord intended by His commission that we should be doing something about this marvelous work. How thankful we are that in our short history that God has given to our people a vision and zeal to at least do SOMETHING in the field of missions.

CHRIST OUR PATTERN FOR MISSIONS

No greater pattern can be found for our Christian activity than Jesus. For in Him we live and move and have our being. Therefore, we need look no farther than the advent, life and ministry of Jesus to know that our Savior was indeed a missionary.

(1) The plan was a missionary plan. Revelation 13:8 tells us, "... the lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Yes, the life, ministry and death of Jesus was in fulfillment of the plan established from the foundation of the world. His coming was not a post script in the plans of the Heavenly Father, it was the central part of this great plan. Webster gives as the definition of the word missionary, "especially one sent to propagate religion." Jesus fits this definition in every detail.

(2) Jesus was a missionary for he was indeed sent on an important mission for the Father. At an early age we hear him saying, "Wist ye not that I should be about my Father's business." Jesus was aware that the work he was doing was not his alone, but the entire God-head was directing his work here. It was his job to propagate religion, not just a form or ritual, but rather, it was his purpose to give to men the hope that could come only through their belief in him.

(3) Jesus mission was an urgent one we find him in the later part of his mission stating, "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work." Jesus was no idler. He spent his time, all of it, causing men to see him as the light of the world. Wherever he went, men called on him to help them. Their requests may have been of a physical nature, but his response was spiritual.

(4) The result of the Missionary Ministry of Jesus was the salvation of the lost. In Matt. 15:24 Jesus tells us, "I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Paul tells us in I Tim. 1:15 "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am Chief." The purpose of his coming was to save sinners and indeed, the result of his coming was the salvation of the lost, not only while here, but through his death on the Cross, all who believe in every generation.

THE PATTERN INCLUDES A DIVINE CALL

Surely there are none of us who doesn't recognize that every Baptist should be a missionary. That is, that we should help to propagate the Gospel among those who do not know Christ as Saviour. However, every Bible believing Christian knows that there is a higher calling which is extended to some. The ministry is one of the higher callings of the Lord and as such should be respected. The office of the pastor is an office due respect of every member of the church. Another high calling is that of the missionary. It is a calling which demands much, yet it is a calling which promises much in Divine rewards. Spurgeon once said to his students, "If God calls you to be a missionary, don't settle for such an inferior position as that of being king." Surely one is highly favored and blessed of God when His hand is laid on him to do the work of a missionary.

(1) The call to the work of missions is an ancient call. The Israelites were to be a missionary nation, they were to teach by precept and example. They were to influence others in the ways of the Lord. When they failed in this, they failed in all their undertakings. The wicked of the Old Testament even recognized the need for missionaries and actually asked for them. This is being done today in some of the lands of the world and we need to respond in every way we can to these who ask such questions of our missionaries as "When will you be back?" In II Kings 17:26-27 we see the wicked calling for missionary help; "Wherefore they spake to the

king of Assyria, saying, the nations which thou hast removed, and placed in the cities of Samaria, know not the manner of the God of the land: therefore he hath sent lions among them, and, behold, they slay them, because they know not the manner of the God of the Land. Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let him dwell there, and let him teach them the manner, of the God of the land." There is no doubt in my mind today that there are millions who are being devoured by "the Lion", Satan because they do not know of the "God of the land." In these ancient times the Lord used the king of Assyria to send a priest, a missionary if you please. God is no less able today and there are billions of souls in the world, most of them lost, who need to know of our lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.

(2) God's call for missionaries, those to send, is a call of vision. Isaiah tells us in the sixth chapter of the book that bears his name that he saw the Lord. He also tells us that he recognized himself as being unworthy. No person is worthy to carry the message of Christ until there has been a purging, a cleansing which can come only through the regenerating power of the blood of Jesus. This was typified in the scripture by the seraphim bringing a live coal from the altar, placing it on the lips of Isaiah and voice saying, "...Lo this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." What a wonderful experience for Isaiah. What a wonderful experience for us when one day the holy spirit spoke peace to our heart after we had trusted Christ as saviour. Isaiah was not to shut up this experience and ponder it in his heart only. Rather, there was a work to be done. There is a work for each of us to do today. We must listen for the voice of the Lord, though a still small one, which is still calling men and women today. In Isaiah 6:8 the prophet tells us, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Surely the Almighty still asks this question today. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah is no longer here. Paul has long since been with the Lord. The great missionaries of History are no longer among us. Our present day missionaries are at work doing their tasks. Therefore, the question must be responded to by those of us who have not yet answered.

Isaiah's response seems to have been spontaneous. It wasn't a long drawn-out process, but immediate. Isaiah had seen the Lord. He had seen himself. He had seen his people. But more importantly, Isaiah had felt the cleansing fire of the Lord. All of us who have been saved have been cleansed just as surely as had Isaiah. We need but the vision of the Lord, ourselves and those about us in the world to

respond as did he with the words, "Here am I, send me."

(3) The call is a call revealed to the churches. Acts 13:2 tells us that the Holy Ghost said, "Separate unto me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Barnabas and Saul had already been called by the Holy Spirit. There was no element of surprise in the revelation of the Holy Spirit for them. However, the church was honored by the Holy Spirit. Having called two of their number, the third person of the Trinity reveals now to the church the fact that he has called them and secondly that he wishes them to be separated by the church. No missionary is called nor should be sent whom the church does not separate for the work whereunto they have been called. Not only did the Spirit reveal the men, but he revealed that there was work to be done. The life of Paul was an arduous one. The Lord doesn't indicate that this is to reduce the obligation of Barnabas and Saul, but plainly states that I have called them to a work. Some have the mistaken idea that a missionary is at leisure, far from being true, the missionary must be on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every week of the year, for the best description of his job is the description given by the Holy Spirit when he said, "...for the work whereunto I have called them.

They were also sent. Verse 3 tells us, "They sent them away." The church SENT them away. Missionaries are to be sent. There are more missionary fields today than one can name and those whom the Spirit calls should be separated to him and sent into the fields where they are called.

Not only did the Holy Spirit call these brethren, but the Spirit sent them away. Verse 4 tells us, "being sent forth by the Holy Spirit..." The Lord's Spirit sends men forth today. Often I am asked, "Why do men leave their homes, families, country, luxuries, etc. to go to a foreign country to serve?" For some groups one might reply that they go because of their humanitarian ideals. Others might answer they have a strong desire to help to raise the living standards of the world. But, the answer for the true, GOD CALLED, MISSIONARY, is that the Spirit has called, the church has set them apart, sent them and that the Holy Spirit also has sent them forth.

No man or woman has a right to bear the name of being a missionary unless, from start to finish his going to a field wherever it may be has been motivated by the Holy Spirit.

THE NEED FOR MISSIONS

(1) Men need to hear. It has already been pointed out that the Assyrian king saw the need of mission activities in the cities which he had captured. God's divine judgement provided the stimulus for the king to send a priest to teach the manner of the "God of the land." In Romans chapter 10, Paul sets out the simplicity of the Gospel. In verse 13 he tells us, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." This is simple, easy, yes, but Paul puts the weight of responsibility upon those who are saved when he asks the questions of verse 14: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Verse 15 continues, "And how shall they preach except they be sent?" The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is simple, yet how can we expect men to believe if they have not heard. The truth of the matter is that many people in the world today have not believed simply because they have not yet heard the beautiful, life giving, good news of the Gospel. The job of sending them the message is ours and the joy of sending the messengers is ours. We simply must send more missionary preachers into the cold indifferent world to win those few who can be won to the Lord Jesus

(2) We need to see men. The reason many of us do not do more of the work of real missions is that we fail to see those with whom we come in contact as Souls. We assume that we cannot satisfy their needs. Therefore we ignore them. Paul said to the church at Corinth in I Cor. 15:34, "Awake to righteousness and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." Scholars tell us that Paul was saying that the church at Corinth needed to awaken from a drunken stupor. In other words, they needed to see men as souls, not just walking, talking animals. We need to see men and women as being eternity bound souls, who, if they are not won will be lost and if they are not told of the Gospel of Christ will go to Hell without even having the opportunity of salvation. Ezekiel 3:18-19 shows the danger of our failing to deliver God's message, "When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thy hand." Surely this gives us ample reason to be about the work of missions. We need to see the men for whom we are responsible. Moreover, we need a vision of their eternal destiny without Christ, Hell, Then, we need to realize that God

can use me to his honor and glory.

(3) Men need to see us. God does not intend that we should become hermits when we are saved, but rather that our lives will be such as to draw men to Him. Many people seem to believe that their prime duty after conversion is staying away from others. It was not so in the case of Stephen. He became obnoxious to the religious leaders of his day, but he was also a powerful witness for Christ. It was not the case with the Apostle Paul, for even in Prison he made his presence known, His voice heard and the power of God felt. It was he who said, "Wherefore, seeing that we are compassed about by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with patience the race that is set before us." He was saying, don't run away from the world, but let the world see you and let them know by your actions that you are really one of the children of God. That you have been with Jesus and that you have something which they need. James spoke about such things when he said, "Show me your faith without your works, I'll show you my faith by my works." Other men need to see you if you are to be missionary indeed.

THE JOY OF MISSIONS

Looking at the life of Jesus, it would seem to have been one of drudgery, yet none could see the love manifested by him and believe it to be so. There were times of dark trial yet in Hebrews 12:2 we find, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame..." Through the water, blood, shame and ignomy of the cross, Jesus saw something greater and for the joy of it, he endured the cross.

There are many hardships relating to the work of missions, for there are areas where we are hated, but there is also joy, both now, and anticipated joy in Heaven.

(1) The joy of seeing souls saved. No greater joy can thrill the heart of the Christian than to see another human soul come to know Christ as Saviour. This joy however is multiplied when you know that if it had not been for your being used as God's instrument that individual would never have been saved. Such is the case of the Missionary. For in many areas of the world the word must be preached by the missionary.

(2) The joy of the growing Christian. Nowhere is the growth of a new Christian more evident than when there has not been a teaching background. Yes, these babes in Christ stumble, they fall,

but in spite of it all they grow.

(3) The joy of divine approval. Divine approval is the thing which should be sought for by every Christian. The words, "Well done thou good and faithful servant" should echo in the ears of every one of the saved, for this should be the words most desired. There is assurance that we shall hear them if we are following the Missionary Pattern as given in the word of God.

FROM TREES TO BOOKS

By T. O. Tollett

Man has developed the art of paper making until the cost makes it possible for every man, woman and child to own a number of books. Every industry depends upon the making, and use of paper. Around the use of paper has been built the publications ministry of our Association.

From the 1950 minutes we learn of the first meeting: "The congregation engaged in singing and devotional services for about an hour. After this there was much discussion about what was to be done and it was noted that there were more people present than could crowd into the new auditorium of Temple Baptist Church (Little Rock, Arkansas.) Provision had been made for such an emergency and the other auditorium of the church was thrown open and the overflow crowd was ushered into it where a loudspeaking system carried the proceedings to them."

"Motion carried to elect Editor of Publications and Secretary-Treasurer of Publications. Dr. J. E. Cobb was unanimously elected as Editor. Bro. Walter Griffin was unanimously elected as Secretary-Treasurer. Elder L. H. Raney was elected as writer and special editor to work with Bro. Cobb and the Publications Committee."

Literature was authorized and writers were elected and the publications work was established. Temporary writers had already prepared leaflets (without pay) and these were printed for the third quarter of 1950. Donations were requested by Bro. Griffin and a later report indicated \$4,379.96 was given.

Much of the credit for the success of this work should go to the first Editor and Secretary. The groundwork was laid and long hours and hard work brought forth results.

In 1952 an editorial committee was chosen and T. O. Tollett, a layman, was elected to succeed Bro. Griffin who had resigned because of ill health. The following year Bro. D. O. Silvey was elected Editor and these two remain today in these places of responsibility.

BAPTIST WRITERS

No literature will be better than the writers who prepare it. For that reason, the writers are prayerfully selected for each quarterly and book. These writers contact more people in one year than many missionaries will during their entire time on the field.

These are BAPTIST writers with convictions. The literature is

published for Baptist churches. The publications department believes a Baptist church has no business using non-denominational or inter-denominational literature which teaches the false doctrine of the universal, invisible church. Too many compromise doctrine for color or activity material, especially when working with children—a most important group.

In addition to the literature for Sunday School and Training service, the department provides THE ADVANCER for teachers and workers, GOLDEN WORDS for the youth and Training service workers, PASTOR'S QUEST magazine, activity helps, WMA and Brotherhood studies, and a variety of study courses, correspondence study courses and books.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Through ELM (Enlarged Literature Ministry) publications are issued in other languages. Donations to this fund assist this department. In countries where the wage scale is very, very low, these publications are sold for about one-third of the actual cost.

In Campinas, Brazil the printshop issues literature in the Portuguese language. Another layman, Louis Shults, supervises that work. Two other Portuguese-language publications are issued in Portugal—subsidized by ELM funds. Incidentally, Bro. Shults' salary is paid from this same account assisted by a one dollar membership fee in ELM YOUTH CLUB.

Three issues of the Adult quarterly has been printed in Spanish. Translation work is done by missionaries in Mexico and then sent to the Editor of the Spanish work, Bro. Robert Isaacs (a missionary to the people of the Lubbock area who speak Spanish). When correctly typed and paged, it is sent to Little Rock for publication and mailing.

CLINICS AND OASIS

The publication department sponsors two major educational seminars each year. The Editor is in charge of these. The Oasis for Workers is a time of spiritual refreshment under classroom atmosphere. Central Baptist College of Conway, Arkansas has offered her facilities and workers that others might come for studies in Bible, administration, homiletics, Christian doctrine and stewardship.

The National Workers' Clinic meets by invitation with some church in the association. An inspired worker without knowledge is a dangerous worker! In this meeting work seminars are arranged, inter-

persed with inspirational and educational lectures by qualified speakers.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

The publications department is recognized by the government as a non-profit organization. No dividends are paid to any individual. Funds go back into the work to be used in expansion, in promotion, and assistance. Free literature is sent to a mission when it is organized. Publications in the form of foreign-language testaments and portions go to missionaries in areas where the people cannot afford them. The profit is so low that there is never enough funds for all the needs. For that reason, many churches send regular monthly offerings to ELM and to Publications.

GROWTH IN SALES

Year	Total	Monthly Average
1950-51 (8 months)	\$ 26,726.74	\$ 3,340.00
1951-52	56,996.48	4,750.00
1952-53	78,351.48	6,529.00
1953-54	102,989.76	8,582.00
1954-55	121,274.90	10,106.00
1955-56	137,956.30	11,496.00
1956-57	154,480.47	12,873.00
1957-58 (15 months)	214,801.79	14,320.00
1958-59 (9 months)	157,494.18	17,499.00
1959-60	224,763.56	18,730.29
1960-61	231,690.00	19,308.00
1961-62	261,192.00	21,766.00
1962-63	278,044.00	23,170.00
1963-64	296,508.00	24,709.00
1964-65	345,644.00	27,137.00
1965-66	371,960.00	30,997.00
1966-67	400,338.00	33,362.00
1967-68	455,374.00	37,948.00
Total	\$3,916,586.00	in 18 years!

At the time of this report a Vacation Bible School committee has met several times planning a series of unique VBS literature for the Association. It is expected to be ready for the 1970 season. The Lord continues to bless this phase of the work—along with that of all the other departments.

"SEEING IS BELIEVING"

By Evangelist Mike Harmon

Imagine yourself in the small sleepy town of Jerusalem. We are walking down a dusty street on a beautiful moonlit night. In the shadows we see two men talking. We wonder what the conversation is about, and as we walk pass them we hear one of the men say, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

The two men are Nicodemus and Jesus. It is no mystery to me that Jesus would begin talking about eyes to the Pharisee. Man has always been interested in eyes. When a young man describes his girlfriend, he tells how pretty her eyes are. A few years ago the song, "Beautiful, Beautiful, Brown Eyes", was popular. Now Elvis Presley sings, "Her Hair Is Soft And Her Eyes Are Oh So Blue." Jesus Christ, the master psychologist, used something of interest while speaking to the sinner. "Nicodemus, except a man be born again he cannot see..." The teenage world is saying, "I cannot see what is wrong with the dance." The adult world is saying, "I cannot see what is wrong with the social drink." Many times people diagnose their own case, THEY CAN'T SEE, they have never been born again. Let us do as Jesus did, and consider a lesson in OPTOMETRY for just a few moments.

SOME FAULTS WITH OUR EYES

MANY ARE NEARSIGHTED: We can easily see our own personal problems and troubles, but our eyes are too weak to behold the problems and troubles of our fellow Christians. We are all wrapped up in ourselves. My what a small package! The Bible teaches against this type of person in Galatians 6:2: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Our eyes are not strong enough to see the multitudes speeding toward hell without Jesus. The disciples suffered from this same ailment. Jesus told them to: "...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35.

We need our eyes strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit!

MANY ARE COLOR BLIND: We have such an acute case of "Color Blindness", that we cannot even tell black from white. Sin no longer looks black and sinful. Everything has become a dull gray. Drinking no longer looks black and sinful. Lying no longer looks black and sinful. Adultery no longer looks black and sinful. We now see sin with a new color,

gray! Listen, sin is still dirty, and rotten, and black as it ever was! I wish that we could hear the words of Paul when he said, "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2.

MANY HAVE A BLIND SPOT: Jesus spoke about this in Matthew 7:3: "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye." We can easily see the sins in our fellow Christians life; but we have a blind spot and cannot see the wrong in our own lives. We are all sinners. We were all made from the same mold, some of us are just a little moldier than others. You have been gossiping about someone, you undoubtedly have a blind spot and have failed to see the sin in your own body. Only Jesus can heal this tragic ailment.

SOME FINDINGS OF GOD'S EYES

CHRISTIANS SERVING: The wise man said: "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his doings." Proverbs 5:21. If we do any good work, God sees us. He pondereth all our ways. Many times we serve God for the Applaus of men. What a shame! The motive for serving God should be the realization of the fact that God's eyes are watching us. I firmly believe that the greatest man alive today is someone the world knows nothing about. Perhaps he is the faithful pastor of some small country Church. The world has never seen his Christian service; but, God's eyes have been on him all the while.

CHRISTIANS SUFFERING: Job was on the bed of affliction. He had sores all over his body. He was suffering severely. Listen to the words of this wonderful Christian man: "Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps? Job 31:4. Job was comforted to know that the eyes of the Lord had found him while he was sick. Fellow Christians, when the prison of sickness has us captured, we should feel free and undiscouraged because God is watching over us.

CHRISTIANS SINNING: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3. God sees every sin we commit. That tithe you kept back last Sunday, God saw it! That time you hit your wife, God saw it! That time you cursed, God saw it! That time you failed to attend church, God saw it! Oh, shadows of night might hide our sins from man, but the night is like a search light for the all seeing eyes of God.

SOME FATES OF PEOPLE'S EYES

WE ALL WILL SEE CHRIST AS KING: Many are like Nicodemus, we see Jesus as a good teacher. But the time is coming when every eye shall see this good teacher as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Listen to the prophesies in Revelation 19:16: "*And he bath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*" The eyes of the mockers will see him. The eyes of the procrastinators will see him. The eyes of the unbelievers will see him. Someday every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord.

SOME WILL SEE CHRIST AS JUDGE: The time is coming when the lost person will look upon Christ as his just Judge. There will be a great white throne. This gentle Saviour will now be stern. Judas will be there. Pilate will be there. Felix will be there. Drunkards will be there. Sentence will be passed and this judge will say, "*Bind them, and cast them into outer darkness, where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*" I wonder if you will be there? If you have never been born again, those sinful eyes are destined to see this Judge someday.

SOME WILL SEE CHRIST AS SAVIOUR: All who have been saved can say with Job: "*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.*" Job 19:25-26. Christ is preparing heaven right now for all His children. I have imagined how it will be when I get to heaven. There will be many beautiful sights. There will be many important people to meet. But this unworthy peacher wants to see my Jesus first of all. I want to see the face of the one who loved me enough to die for me. I shall fall at those nail-scarred feet and kiss them. Yes, Praise God, someday I will get to see Jesus as Saviour! Will you??

The wasting waves of time have washed away the foot-prints of the two men standing alone in Jerusalem on that moonlit night. But time has not marred the message of the Christ. His message is still "*Repent of your sins, and accept Christ by faith.*" The words He spoke on that night are still ringing in the air, "*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*"

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