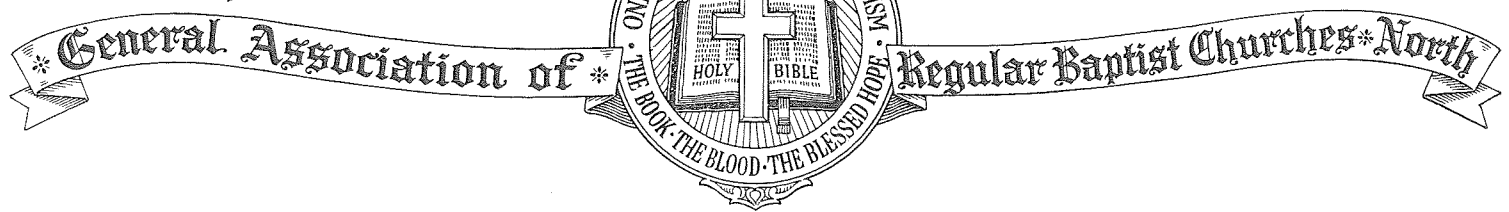


The Baptist Bulletin



WHY WAS CHRIST A CARPENTER?

By R. T. KETCHAM

Mark 6:3: "Is not this the Carpenter?"

I believe that nothing was left to chance in the life of our Lord. Every day's experience had been fore-seen and planned in the counsels of Deity before ever the incarnation took place. There were no surprises for Him. He was never caught unawares. He knew the way out of everything into which He went, even the grave, and believing thus, I can only conclude that even the environment in which He was to live His life of humiliation was definitely planned and purposed by the Father. It was no mere chance or caprice of events which determined that He should live His life in the environment of a carpenter's shop. God had planned it thus. As we seek to answer the question "Why," we shall find a real blessing to our own souls.

Had the choice been left to us we should have chosen the environment of the sheepfold and the shepherd life, for this would have so fittingly set forth in literal form the purpose of His spiritual ministry. His own favorite figure of Himself was that of the shepherd, and did He not come as David's greater Son and Heir, and was David not the Shepherd King? Then how fitting that His Son should go from the sheepfold to the throne. But He was not a shepherd.

Someone else might say, "I would have chosen the environment of a lawyer's home." I mean the lawyer in the Old Testament sense, those men who expounded the law of God. Surely no one ever lived who so capably expounds and reveals to us all that God is, as does Christ. But He was not a lawyer.

Another says, "I should have

chosen for Him the environment of a physician's office for truly He is the Great Physician." But He was not a physician.

And still another says, "I should have chosen for Him the environment of the fisherman's hut, for He spoke of Himself as the Fisher of men, and offered to teach others to become such." But He was not a fisherman.

Any one of these boyhood environments which might have surrounded our Lord shows forth in a beautiful figure the glory and the purpose of His present spiritual ministry. But He was none of them, He was a carpenter.

Now, having said that He was none of these, we make the assertion that He was the Master in all of them, paradoxical as it may seem. He is the Master Shepherd. He is the Shepherd who seeks "until" He finds. I have known shepherds who sought for a while in the storm for the poor lost sheep and failing to find it they returned to the comfort of their fireside and to the pleasure of slumber; but not so with our blessed Lord. When once He starts upon the trail of the lost sheep, He seeks "until." Surely, every one of us who is saved by His infinite grace, knows what a wonderful shepherd He is. Not only did he seek until He found us, but how our hearts rejoice in the consciousness of the place of security which we now occupy. Under various tests I have found that at least seventy-five percent of the people quote Luke 15:5 incorrectly. The ordinary quotation is "He layeth it on His shoulder,"

(Continued on page 4)

THE GOSPEL PACKED IN PEARLS

By DR. EARLE G. GRIFFITH

Scripture—Matt. 13:45, 46

A few years ago, while residing in Toledo, this interesting experience occurred in relation to the parable of the Pearl of Great Price. I read the concise word picture as presented by our Lord in Matthew 13, closed my Bible, and walked down the street with him nearest jewelry store. There was a lull in trade at that moment so the jeweler accorded me time freely, and courteously answered questions in addition to providing authentic material concerning pearls. The impressions of my interview with him have lived through the intervening years, ever serving to deepen and enrich my appreciation of redemption truth as parabolically presented by the Lord of our lives and the Supreme Teacher of our minds.

The surface force of the Parable is obvious. A merchant prince goes on a still hunt for the rarest obtainable in the pearl field. Finally, finding that which measures up to his highest exactions, he dispossessed himself of all that he owned to be the proprietor of the Pearl of Great Price.

We see no reason to depart from the generally accepted view of this parable, namely, that its Author is Himself heaven's pearl Merchant, while true believers collectively form the peerless and priceless pearl of His choice.

Let thought be narrowed down to pearls exclusively.

PEARLS CAN BE COUNTERFEITED

The untrained eye can be deceived in this sphere. There is what is known as the Japanese cultured pearl. It differs markedly from actual pearls as to composition and characteristics, but by human genius, like show window fruit, can be made to resemble what is genuine. So serious a question was this pearl in the commercial field that some years ago a Frenchman, by name Szilard, contrived a machine that would enable dealer and buyer to look through to the very core, thus detecting fakery from actuality. Able merchants are often misled as to reality in the pearl market.

That this all has application is clear. Christ conceded that counterfeiters would attain to startling success in our day. Many of them

never being truly labelled until they face Him in judgment. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?", but to these masters of fraudulence our Lord will reply, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

For some Christians we tremble. They are of the Japanese cultured pearl classification, they wear the Christian garb but they do not by virtue of a regenerative experience know the Christian's God. Mr. Szilard called his instrument a lucidoscope. Though painful the effect, let each of us use the lucidoscope of revealed truth to see if he is under the blood or under wrath. Let a salvation promise be seized and trusted.

The ten Virgins illuminate the principle in mind. All are called Virgins. The foolish and the wise freely mingle. All carried lamps. All were pre-millennialists looking for the bridegroom. All rested at the same time. All engaged in religious activity. They "arose and trimmed their lamps." All wanted a place at the wedding feast. But the door was firmly closed to half the company and a Voice from within said, "I know you not."

What differentiated the foolish from the wise? Oil-less lamps. Spirit-less lives. "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Jude 1:19.

The grandest Christian exterior, if it omits heart reception of Christ, leaves one still under aggravated condemnation. The message is not "he that acteth" but "he that believeth . . . is not condemned." John 3:18.

PEARLS ARE OF INTEREST AS TO SOURCE

They are drawn from the sea: some coming to us from the coast of Australia, from our Pacific Coast or Ceylon, India. The rarest specimens are lifted from the Persian Gulf. Pearls are a water product. The sea is their native and natural habitat.

By common consent, according to Daniel 7:2, the ever restive, never silent sea symbolizes humanity in the mass. As pearls are drawn

from the sea, the true Church, the Pearl of Great Price, is separated from common, unregenerate humanity. Our Saviour has enacted the role of a pearl diver, leaping from the heights of ineffable glory to the lowest level of human ruin to redeem and raise us.

"He saw me plunged in deep distress,
And flew to my relief;
For me He bore the shameful cross,
And carried all my grief,
And carried all my grief."

"In loving kindness Jesus came
My soul in mercy to reclaim,
And from the depths of sin and shame
Thro' grace He lifted me."

It is not irrelevant to say that every blood ransomed subject of His should emulate Him in this. Clad in such sin resistant, world resistant, spiritual armor as He gives, we should invade the ranks of the lost with the Gospel, or to revive the figure previously suggested, plunge into this rolling, tossing, rushing, dashing ocean of human souls, thus being partners with Him in His quest for a priceless pearl. Some have life-savers certificates and use them. All believers have soul-savers certificates; too few use them. "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." I Cor. 9:22.

If you have Christ holding sway in the Throne-room of your heart and His Word dwells in you richly, you are one of God's marines. Exercise the prerogatives of your office.

IN THE ORIGIN OF PEARLS THERE IS INSTRUCTION

In source we learn where, in origins we learn how. Pearls grow, they cannot be manufactured. In development they follow an onion process, layer upon layer. A sea animal is wounded, perchance in the side of the body. Then into the tiny wound drifts a grain of sand. In healing the wound the animal deposits a layer of substance, then other layers, these solidify and the first layer of pearl is formed. No enlightened believer needs to be told that the true Church would never have originated apart from the fact

and force of a wound in the Saviour's side. The Pearl of Great Price owes its origin to His Sufferings; no Calvary, no Church. Men may spin religious theories about Christ as a Pattern, His moral teachings as a basis, altruistic deeds as our goal and salvation as the reward, until they are thrice damned by their own speculations. The plain message of the Scripture is, "He was wounded for our transgressions." The Church owes its birth to His death. Furthermore, it is not being built up by mere mechanical processes, but, as the Holy Ghost proclaiming the Gospel through man to men causes spiritual corpses to live and be merged into the body of Christ, that body grows. Every case of regeneration is a new layer to the Pearl of Great Price. The New Testament assemblies had no statistical mania. They had a driving passion for the rebirth of a soul. They were building the body, not building an index.

PEARLS ARE DEFIANT OF HUMAN SKILL

It was my thought in approaching the jewelry merchant to secure suggestions that would illuminate the doctrine of Christian Discipline. I had assumed that after discovery pearls were ground, shaped and burnished. He replied, "rarely so." He stated that occasionally the outside is removed because of surface defects, but that commonly pearls defective on the outside are not otherwise within, which finds a parallel in the lives of Christians. As the pearl comes from his watery grave it is offered to the eager purchaser; as believers come from the mold of the Master Potter they are to live, stand and witness before an observant world. Every intrusion of human wisdom into the precepts and practices of the Church of God is damaging and only lessens its heavenly splendour. None can by schemes embellish Christ's Pearl of Great Price. The Church of our generation has all but exhausted human resource in its attempts to re-tone the Gospel and readorn the simplicity of the Church in its worship and work. Empty pews, spiritless Christians, lax lives are but mute protests to all this human wisdom. Paul gives caution on this point, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." II Cor. 11:3.

As celebrated a saint and servant of the Lord as David was not beyond the wiles of the devil. David never

slipped in precept but in practice, to his own burning shame, he momentarily "went modern." I Chronicles 13:7-11.

God had not left Israel to emergency suggestions for the removal of the ark from one place to another. Inspiration specified a family for the work and a mode for doing it. As a more up-to-date method David brought into action a "new cart" and a yoke of oxen with Uzzah as the star coachman. The whole procedure was a display of David's wisdom and disrespect for God's Word.

When David reentered Jerusalem, the ark left miles behind, Uzzah smitten down by divine wrath along the way, he was a wiser though not a happier man.

Where is there a community in Christendom that does not have a roll of dead Uzzahs and defeated Davids? "See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount." Hebrews 8:5.

The New Testament prescribes a pattern message to believe; pattern ordinances to keep; a pattern plan for establishment of local Churches. Departure spells defeat and death.

EVERY PEARL IS AN ELOQUENT MISSIONARY SERMON

Pearls are vari-colored. They are not commonly dead-white. Some pearls are black or blue, some purple or yellow, pink or ivory, still others are a pale bluish gray, while some are iridescent, wearing all the shades and hues of the rainbow. Does not this color grandeur inhering in true pearls suggest international, world embracing evangelism? In the design of our Lord the Pearl of Great Price as to racial elements should be Caucasian, Mongolian, Ethiopian, Indian, etc. It should be vari-colored, made of soul substance brought in from the remotest recesses of the earth. The language of the late Dr. A. C. Dixon has pertinence here, "the whole Christ and the whole Bible for the whole, wide world." Christ is to see of the travail of His soul in the salvation of men and women, of every kindred, tongue and tribe.

God had but one Son. He made Him a Minister and a Missionary. We are leagues from the heart throb of Christ until we agonize over the millions who yearly sink into unending night having never heard of Him who has risen with healing in His wings. Every one of us is summoned to go "down to the battle" or tarry "by the stuff."

Missions make four demands on us:

Intercession. First on behalf of the Lost. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer . . ." Romans 10:1. Mr. Spurgeon was asked to pray for a native of Australia. A later check on the time of that native's conversion showed it to have coincided with the day of Spurgeon's prayer. Intercession for the call and sustenance of soul harvest hands. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send." To how many ministers and missionaries could the reader truthfully say, "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not"?

Many an explosive, loose and lax tongued, self assertive Simon Peter might be lifted in answer to prayer to the place of a foremost proclaimer of the Joyful Message.

Money. No apology need be given for reference to money in connection with world-evangelism. Nor is one Christian Grace a substitute for others. How often we have heard people glibly quote Philippians 4:19, "My God shall supply . . ." Examine the preceding verse and see that it was to a church that gave material support to a Gospel missionary who was in dire need that this bounteous promise was made. *Our Lord looks after Philippians while they look after His ambassador to Rome.* We should see to it that those who go forth in His Name's sake do not have to take from the Gentiles. In ancient times not only were "the trusted prophets" maintained but "Schools of the Prophets" were remembered in the dispensing of possessions. Read II Kings 4:42. While others go down into the mines of India it is still our high privilege "to hold the ropes."

Consecrated Youth. The eighteenth and nineteenth Centuries witnessed the outgoing of stalwarts from English and American Evangelical Churches to the most uninviting peoples of the earth. Think of the trail blazers Carey, Judson, Livingstone, Stanley, Brainard, Taylor and Crawford. These wrote a latter day version of Hebrews eleven. These men were not "left-overs." They were brilliant minds and granite characters whose native gifts and scholastic attainments would have made them dominant in any field. The prevailing conviction was that the best is little enough for Christ. It is encouraging to see today a resurgence of that spirit. The most brilliant lights of many of our Churches are burning out for Him in the "uttermost parts of the earth."

Parental Sacrifice. It is to any Christian parent's dispraise if he halts at having a saved, yielded child turn to a Christian calling. In the offering of Isaac there was perfect concurrence of purpose between father and son, nor would there be any symbolic beauty to the act otherwise. A parent should be glad to lay the priceless gem of a godly child at His feet. When the train pulled from the station taking Dan Caword on the first lap of his journey to Africa where he learned to "think black" one approached his mother to console her. Her only reply was "He spared not His Son."

'Give of thy sons to bear the message glorious;
Give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious;
And all thou spendest Jesus will repay."

THE PRINCIPAL CONSIDERATION IS THE PRECIOUSNESS OF PEARLS

The jeweler on that distant day said that some strands of pearls cost one a thousand dollars, others twenty thousand or twenty-five thousand dollars. The *Keystone Magazine*, March 1923, discussed the famous Thiers necklace. It included one hundred forty-five perfectly matched, finely graded pearls. Each pearl in the strand, at the time of the latest sale, brought over forty-five hundred dollars. The grand total sale price, paid by Coutier, Inc., was six hundred fifty-eight thousand two hundred forty-four dollars. It took fifty years to complete the collection. This is in step with the heart of Christ's parable. The Merchant was not a dealer in cheap wares. Only the best would satisfy. He continued his search until at last he found one that answered to the profoundest longings of his heart but, to be its possessor, what a price he had to pay! The language of the text is, "... sold all that he had, and bought it." If these words do not leave us standing amidst the rabble crowd of Calvary, while Jesus Christ drinks to its dregs the cup of divine fury for our sin, we know not the plain meaning of Scripture. The claim of the Romans is, "all roads lead to Rome." The chart of inspiration is, "all roads lead to Calvary." The Pearl Parable is an anthem on His Cross. Has the glory of it baptized your soul? Jesus Christ, so to speak, bankrupted Himself just to be

the sole owner and proprietor of such as we. The merchant had to forfeit everything, laying all that he had on the bargain counter, to be the lone possessor of the peerless pearl. "Ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price," nor is there any human standard by which to fully evaluate that price, "for ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, for your sakes He became poor that ye through his poverty might be rich." Often in our world men are forced against their strongest resistance to drop from a level of affluence to destitution. We know of none who have voluntarily pursued that course. In this, as in other things, our Sovereign Saviour is unique. He voluntarily emptied Himself, temporarily laid aside the outward insignia of His Royal Majesty, accepted the lot of a pauper, pursuing this course of spending all until at last He drained from His sinless body the last drop of His precious blood, just for the joy that was set before Him, namely, the redemption and conquest of our souls. "Know all men by these presents," do they make much of the blood as the solitary basis of a sinner's acceptance before God? It is "back, back, back, to the incarnate Christ and the atoning blood or on, on, on to Atheism and despair."

If we know our Bible, its superlative themes are His Cradle, His Cross, His Crown. The Old Testament says "look forward to the Cross." The Gospels say "look up at the Cross." The rest of the Bible says "look back upon the Cross." The Lord's supper says "fill the horizon of your vision with Calvary and never shift it 'til He come."

A dying minister remarked: "I have always kept blood in the basin." Let none forget the blood is upon every man in cleansing or wrath releasing power. Our never wearying voices for a timeless eternity are to blend in an anthem whose title is "The Lamb."

"His precious blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
In flaming words with these arrayed
With joy shall I lift up my head."

Be it said to the shame of Christians that for them any hill is too high, any night too dark, any burden too weighty, any forfeiture too great, any experience too bitter, when it is for the honor of such a Saviour. Christian service is but the grateful outgoing of the heart to that Man who "Sold All."

WHY WAS CHRIST A CARPENTER?

(Continued from page 1)

whereas the correct quotation is "He layeth it on His shoulders," and what a difference! A lamb or a sheep laid upon the shoulder of the shepherd would mean that it would be dangling about, but the oriental shepherd doesn't do it that way. He gathers the two front legs into one powerful hand, and the two hind legs into the other hand; lifts the sheep over his head and wraps it around his shoulders, and there it stays until the fold is reached. What a picture of our blessed Shepherd. There we are, held on His blessed shoulders in the eternal grip of His two mighty nail-pierced hands; He bearing all the weight and the burden, and we resting and riding, and not only so, but resting and riding until we reach "the fold." He is the Master Shepherd.

He is the Master Physician. The poor woman who had spent all she had at the hands of many physicians and was nothing bettered said, "If I can only touch the hem of His garment, I shall be whole." The hand of faith reached through the crowd and drew from the Master Physician instant healing. Bless God, He is able even to deal with cases after the undertaker is through. He stands at the grave of Lazarus and commands the broken-down life tissues to rebuild, the blood to liquefy, and the heart to begin its ceaseless pumping and send the blood tingling from head to toe, and Lazarus "comes forth." He breaks up the funeral procession of the young lad from Nain by raising the corpse. He dries the falling tear in the house of Jairus by restoring the damsel.

Jesus Christ announced Himself as the Resurrection and the Life. Why this double title? If you have life why do you need resurrection? and if you have resurrection you have life. But Jesus declared that He was both. It is a strange and startling truth which we discover in the New Testament that no one ever died in the presence of Jesus Christ, and no one who was dead remained dead in the presence of Jesus Christ. There isn't a single record in the New Testament where the Lord Jesus came into the immediate presence of a corpse that it did not result in resurrection. On the other hand, there is no record in the New Testament where anyone who was alive died in His actual presence. Even the thieves on the cross died

after He did. I have no doubt that this is the explanation of His staying away from the home of Mary and Martha until Lazarus was dead. He distinctly declares that the purpose of Lazarus' death was in order that in raising him from the dead, Christ might demonstrate His Deity. Had the Lord returned to the home of Mary and Martha *before* Lazarus died, Lazarus *could not have died*. Knowing this, Jesus stayed away. He is the Master Physician.

He is the Master Lawyer. Who has opened the heart of God to us? Who has revealed to us all His perfect and holy law? Who has expounded in life and deed the love of God? No one but Him. He is the Master Lawyer.

He is the Master Fisherman. The disciples had fished all night long and caught nothing. A stranger in the morning stands upon the shore and asks the embarrassing question, "Have you any meat?" to which these experienced fishermen must reply, "No." This stranger then dares to presume upon the good nature of these expert fishermen by instructing them how to fish. It is a most unwise thing for a man to tell an expert, but luckless, fisherman how he should have fished in order to catch something, but this stranger dared to do so. He says, "Cast your net down on the right side of the boat." I can imagine Peter saying, "We have cast this same net on the same side of the boat in the same spot a score of times during the night, and there simply are no fish there." Then I can hear him say to his fellows, "Let us cast the net and prove to this stranger that we know more about fishing than he does." The net was cast and, lo, instead of coming up empty as Peter had expected, it came up full of fishes. John was in the boat that morning, and when this happened he had sense enough to know that there was only one person on earth who could have done that, and that was the One who had made the sea, and made the fish in the sea, and knew where the fish were in the sea, and he looked at Peter and cried, "It is the Lord!" Yes, He is the Master Fisherman.

And why did not the Father choose the environment of one of these occupations for Him? Why did He choose the carpenter's shop? Because the carpenter's shop is the only figure that gathers into it all that these others set forth and blends them all into the one great picture of what our Lord really is.

Our Lord is set forth in various

New Testament references as a Builder. In Ephesians 4:16 and 2:21 our Lord is seen to be building a body which is to be His holy temple. In these varied ministries of His we see Him selecting the materials for the same.

In the building of a house the carpenter may send to Georgia for Georgia pine, to California for redwood, to the quarries for stone, etc., and so our Lord in building His temple does the same. When He goes out over the mountain-tops and down into the valleys and ravines of human sin and iniquity to find the lost sheep and bring it home, He does so in order that He might *build* it into His holy temple. When He fishes through the deep pools and murky waters of selfishness and sin to enfold the sinner fish in the loving meshes of His landing net of divine grace, He does so that He might *build* it into His temple. When He stands at the side of a soul dead in trespasses and sin and brings it back from the realms of spiritual death, He does so in order that He might *build* it into His temple; or when He stands at the side of a poor, benighted, sin-darkened soul and reveals in a mighty flood of light all the love and grace of God, He does so that He might bring the enlightened soul to Himself and *build* it into His temple. How beautifully then the figure of the carpenter shop sets forth our Lord's spiritual ministry.

But we must go deeper down and farther back than even this if we would understand the real reason for placing Jesus Christ in the environment of a carpenter's shop. Jesus Christ always was, is now, and always will be a Carpenter.

He Built The Universe

Jesus Christ built the universe. Before ever those hands wrought in the carpenter shop of Joseph, they had wrought in the carpenter shop of the Eternal Father. With the Father's blue-print before Him, He stood one day upon the platform of Eternity and flung a world into existence, decked the heavens with star-dust, shot light into yonder sun, hung the moon in the heavens at night to be a reflector of the sun's glorious light, set a compass upon the seas, created beasts, birds, fish, and man. Yes, all of the Modernists and Evolutionists to the contrary notwithstanding, Jesus Christ built the universe.

He Built The Bible

The Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the Word of the Eternal God.

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—for—

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Almost every Old Testament writer declared that what he wrote was the word of Jehovah. It is a well established fact that the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New, therefore when an Old Testament writer declared that "the word of Jehovah came unto me saying," he could with equal truth have declared that the Word of *Jesus* "came unto me, saying." Again, we say, all of the Modernists to the contrary notwithstanding, Jesus Christ built the Bible.

He Is Building Christians

Jesus Christ is building Christians. In I Corinthians 3 we are told that Jesus Christ Himself becomes the foundation, and then upon this foundation is to be built a Christian superstructure. It is this Christian superstructure, or Christian character that our Lord is building into the life of every believer. And how well and how perfectly He builds! He never forgets anything that is essential to the building. He puts in all kinds of temper extinguishers, habit eliminators and old nature controls. When a sinner comes to the Lord Jesus Christ and surrenders his life to Him, Jesus Christ enters into a contract with that soul to build in him a Christian superstructure which will be a thing of spiritual beauty.

He Is Building A Body

Ephesians 5 declares that "no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." Here we are told that just as the human body is nourished from babyhood to manhood, so Christ the Lord nourishes His church. When a baby is born into this world he is placed upon a milk diet. As he grows to become a lusty youngster he generally learns how to handle a knife and fork and eat the stronger foods, until, feasting upon strong meat, he grows into a robust man. This is what our Lord desires to bring to pass in the life of every individual Christian, and thus in the life of the church as a whole.

The Holy Spirit says, "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye might grow thereby," but this by no means implies that a babe in Christ is to remain forever on the bottle. The shame of our churches today is that they are full to overflowing of bottle-babies, men and women who have been Christians for ten, twenty, thirty, and forty years, and are still feeding upon the "sincere milk of the Word." It was to such that Paul

wrote in Hebrews when he declared that he had something of real, deep spiritual significance to say unto them, but could not because they were still on a milk diet when they should be eating the strong meat of the Word. Many times I am called upon for Bible Conference addresses in churches which have enjoyed the ministry of some of the Nation's greatest teachers. I fully expect my audience to be ready for strong meat, and so we start out with a message dealing with some of the deeper truths of the Scripture, when suddenly we discover that we are clear over the heads of most of the people present. We immediately remove the meat platter, send in a hurry-up call for the milk wagon, set out a can of the "sincere milk," run little rubber hoses, with the attached nipples, to all the saints in the congregation, and they immediately begin to "perk up" for we are down on their level of spiritual comprehension. It is indeed a pathetic and tragic commentary on the spiritual development of our modern churches when we say that the vast majority of present day church members, even though they may have been Christians for twenty or thirty years or more, are still "on the bottle."

The reason why so many of our church members remain forever upon the "milk bottle" instead of getting a knife and fork and going down into the strong meat of the Word is easily discovered.

A few summers ago, while visiting in my wife's home in a Pennsylvania city, I discovered the reason for this inclination to stay on the bottle. My wife's sister had come to the home to spend the afternoon. During the afternoon she put her baby in the go-cart and wheeled him out onto the porch for his afternoon nap. A little later I came by, and looking down into the carriage I saw a chubby, sweet-faced youngster, lying flat on his back, a little pillow across his chest, which had been hollowed out in the center, and a nice, warm bottle of milk was lying in the hollow, with the nipple caught between two ruby lips, and he was pulling away for dear life on his bottle. At the same time in each hand he had a rattle which he was vigorously shaking to his own great amusement. In that go-cart I found the answer to this problem of Christians forever on the bottle, and never getting hold of a knife and fork, and going down into the strong meat of the Word.

In order to use a knife and fork they must let go of some other things

with which their hands are occupied. They cannot hold a knife and fork in their hands while at the same time they are occupied with card decks and theatre tickets. Just as long as we pastors will act as spiritual nurse-maids, to prepare two nice, warm bottles of milk every Sunday, and let our listeners sink comfortably into their pews while we distribute the nipples for the weekly dose of sincere milk, they will keep right on playing with the "rattles" of this world. As long as some "pastoral nursemaid" comes to his pulpit every Sunday morning with a nice, warm bottle of milk already predigested, and hands it out to his waiting congregation, they can occupy their hands with the things of the world. With one hand they can play with a deck of cards, while with the other they can play with the dance, or theatre, while the pastor faithfully holds the bottle for their weekly diet. Should they endeavor to get hold of a knife and fork and go down into the strong meat of the Word it would necessitate their letting go the playthings now in their hands. May the Lord give all such people grace and courage "to let go and let God." Oh, that the Carpenter Divine might have His way in the building up of strong, stalwart, Christian character in the life of every believer.

He Is Building A City

Jesus Christ is building a city. He said to His disciples one day, "I go to prepare a place for you."

On the Isle of Patmos we see John kneeling amidst the wave-washed rocks with his face up-turned to the glory as he sees the Holy City coming down from God out of heaven. The place that God's Divine Carpenter had gone to prepare is now before the vision of the beloved disciple, and what a place! John said that in that city God would wipe away all tears. Tears! What a word! How familiar to the human family! Oh, the tears that have burned their way across the face of the poor, old human race since Adam turned the face of the race away from the face of God! The tears that have come from broken hearts and welled up through the eyes and coursed across the cheeks of mothers as they have seen daughters go the way of sin. Tears that have streamed from the burning eyes of broken-hearted fathers as they have seen their boys go the way of hell. Tears that have flowed across the up-turned faces of countless millions as they have bade farewell to the flower of the land going forth to become fodder for the

roaring cannons on yonder battlefields. Tears that have flowed from broken hearts over the heaped-up mounds in the countless cities of the dead. Tears! I suspect if all the tears that have flowed since Adam could be gathered together they would well nigh float the United States Navy, but here we are told that our glorious Carpenter Divine is building a city where never a tear shall find its way across the cheek of one of God's immortals.

Again He says "Neither shall there be any more pain." This is another word with which the human family is familiar, but it is a word which is to be eliminated from the vocabulary of the saints of God forever in that city now being prepared by the Divine Carpenter. I think I had a foretaste of what that day will be, a few years ago. After a severe operation upon my eyes in a St. Louis hospital, the pain became so intense that for eight days and nights, wrists and ankles were strapped to the bed rail, while a steel mask was strapped over my face, lest in the fury of pain I should literally tear my eyes out of my head. Some time during the eighth night I cried out in my agony, "Dear Lord, won't you give your beloved sleep?" It was as though a voice whispered from the skies, "Neither shall there be any more pain." Seventy-eight hours later I awoke with the pain gone, and recovery assured. What a day it will be when led by the Captain of our salvation, we enter the portals of that city, built so perfectly by our Divine Carpenter, that never a shaft of pain will pierce its walls, and grip the body of one of God's immortals. Listen to the climax of it all; "Neither shall there be any more death." This is another word familiar to the human family. The Carpenter Divine is building a city so perfect that, though the black claws of the Enemy from the pit shall clutch at its walls while age tumbles into age, they shall never find a crevice through which they can reach and lay their icy grasp upon one of God's immortals.

"There'll never be crepe on the doorknob,
No funeral train in the sky;
No graves on the hillsides of glory,
For there we shall evermore die."

The Carpenter At Home

Truly, our Lord is at home in the carpenter shop.

How wonderfully sweet it is to know that the Heavenly Father planned that the earthly life of His

beloved Son should be spent in the environment of a carpenter shop. It is as though the Father had said, "My Son is going down into an alien world. He is to exchange the hallelujahs of Heaven for the harangues of earth; the songs of the skies for the sins of men; the home of holiness for the hell of suffering; He is to leave the brilliantly lighted halls of glory to walk for thirty-three years amid the Stygian midnight of gloom. He who cradled eternity in His very being is now to be impaled upon a cross of wood. In the midst of all this alien, strange, and unfamiliar surrounding, I will give my beloved Son just a little touch of something that will remind Him of Home. I will let Him grow up in a carpenter shop!"

How sweet and wonderful of the Heavenly Father thus to give His dear Son this little reminder of the days of glory which He had with the Father, when as the Carpenter of the ages, He built the universe, He built the Bible, He built redemption, He is building a body, He is building a city; and thus He was at home, as a carpenter, while here upon earth.

Do you know Him as the Carpenter Divine in your own life today, having placed Him in your life by faith as the foundation stone? (I Corinthians 3.) Are you attempting to build a Christian structure apart from Him? Having found Him as your Saviour, are you denying Him the place of Lord? Do you have a little hammer and saw of self-will at work in your life? When the Lord says, "I want a door just here," do you say, "No, I want a window there"? Do you think you have by your own management constructed a beautiful Christian character? Then I would invite you to come out of it and look upon it from the outside. The doors are all hung crooked; the windows are cut on a bias; not a single board is sawed straight; every nail is bent over; the shingles are on wrong side to and bottom side up, and it is a miserable looking hut.

As you behold the work of your own miserable hands, will you not drop your tools of self-will and say, "Come, thou Carpenter Divine, tear this miserable structure down, clear to the foundation, and build upon Thyself such a Christian superstructure in my life as will cause others to say, "I want what he has."

Are you afraid to trust your life to the hands of the Divine Carpenter? Come out with me under the stars of night and behold the glor-

ies of the heavens. Look up into those same blue skies at high-noon and behold the blazing sun. Look at the earth underneath your feet. Look at nature in all of its complexity about you, and remember that He was the carpenter who built all this perfect creation. Come with me into the corridors of this library we call the Bible. Behold all of its wonders of inspiration, beauty and perfection, and remember that *He* was the author of every word. Turn your eyes into the future, and catch a glimpse of that descending city of God, with all of its marvels and remember that it is *He* who built it.

If the Lord Jesus Christ can thus work in these realms, can you not trust Him to work thus in your little life?

WALTER CARVINS CORNER

SOFTNESS VERSUS SOUNDNESS

There's a good bit of soft preaching today, but what the Church needs is some sound teaching. Paul wrote to Timothy and reminded him the day was coming when men would not endure sound doctrine but would turn to teachers with itching ears. (2 Tim. 4:3). That day is upon us. Take that old fashioned Biblical word "repentance." My, how they have softened it so that it has become a silent note from our pulpits of today. The world, to be sure, never did like it.

"Come, fill the cup and in the fire of spring
Your winter garments of repentance fling."

So wrote Omar and now the modern preacher takes a few tablets of ethics, dissolves them in a gallon of rosewater and puts a little in an atomizer, and sprays the congregation to an accompaniment of the sweetness of Christianity and the fragrance of a benevolent life. Perhaps the reason that sound Biblical word is not used more often is the same as the colored preacher when asked what he preaches, replied, "Well, I take such subjects as Love—Purity—Honesty." "Don't you ever preach on 'chicken stealing'?" "No, No," he replied, "there comes a coldness over the congregation when I preach on such subjects."

Sound teaching is in contrast with soft essays. Sermonettes are likely to produce Christianettes. Let's get away from the essays and get to the essentials. But I hear someone say,

"Teaching divides and what we want is unity," or "Let's forget doctrine and get together to help humanity" (It appears to me I've heard something like this at our state conventions). But did you notice the early church placed doctrine before fellowship. You will find it in Acts 2:42, "And they continued in the apostles' doctrine and in fellowship". There you have it. Doctrine before fellowship. They were not softies; they were sound. They had some convictions and these convictions were foremost. Attend our conventions and notice the absence of sound teaching. They will inject a little modernism and then say, "Now let's have no controversy; let us get together." This whole thing reminds me of the little fellow on the way to the woodshed who looked up to his daddy and said, "Daddy, let's sing 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds.'" But there are times the little fellow needs a thrashing and softness will not take the place of soundness. We fundamentalists want soundness and the modernists want softness.

They have placed their feet on the soft pedal of Sin, Atonement, Miracles, Hell, Depravity, The Virgin Birth, and the Lord's Coming. The whole modern program is a compromise. They thought if only they could make the church appeal to the intellectual life of man, the church would regain what it lost. They started to take out, to minimize, to reduce, but instead of the world responding it is just the opposite. Modernism has failed. Their churches are empty. The Sunday evening service is discontinued; the prayer meeting a fizzle, and their Missionary Budget is a bag with holes.

Let the church return to sound teaching and it will regain the lost ground. The world has remained outside of the church because of Sin, not Doctrine. It is moral not intellectual. To lower the standards has not helped. Softness will never take the place of soundness.

THE HOME IN PERILOUS TIMES

By H. L. Sthengaard

"In the last days perilous times shall come—for men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, etc."—2 Tim. 3. The perilous times are here! Perilous to spirit, soul and body! But since the spiritual perils are by far the most important (see Mark 8:36 or Matt. 10:28)—we must watch

against these more zealously and pray all the more earnestly as Jesus exhorted us in Matt. 26:41, or as Paul in Eph. 6—concerning our heavenly armor! I believe we are living in the "Last Days", and the same atmosphere of depression, darkness, lethargy of soul and lack of spiritual energy which put the disciples into a drowsy stupor in the garden of Gethsemane, seems to have gripped the church of God. Is it not true that the spiritual zeal of even the leading Christians today is at a very low ebb? How many Christian families maintain daily family worship in their homes? I thank God that my father began it in 1907 when as a family we experienced the gracious visitation of God unto salvation. From then on, the first twenty minutes to half an hour every morning singing a hymn of praise, reading a chapter in the Bible and on their knees with a personal, audible prayer to God for the needs of that day. At the close of the day before retiring we again knelt in personal prayer to God. It was a rare and exceptional case which was allowed to interfere with this daily program and I shall never forget the last one Mother joined us in before she was called home in 1924, and the last one before Father was called home in 1930. My sister, who has been a missionary in Guatemala, C. A., since 1921, often refers to the godly pious home as the source of our inspiration to give all of our time to the Lord's work. Our testimonies agree with that of Matthew Henry the Commentator, who reminds us that there is a curse upon every home which neglects family worship; and consequently a blessing upon all who have it. "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." (Prov. 10:22) Jesus urged us to seek His kingdom first! (Matt. 6:33) He promised us His care in the same chapter, verses 25-34. But it looks at times as if parents were far more concerned about the material needs of the home than the spiritual, and that the former must be attended to even at the expense of the latter. Does not this show us that we do not really believe God's word? See also, 2 Cor. 6:14-18 and Phil. 4:19. Those who really believe these promises will give family worship the first place every day and arrange their home accordingly. But as I said before, and as God's word declares; we are living in perilous times!—The world, the flesh and the devil have always waged relentless war upon our spiritual needs, and

the modern complexity of life in contrast with its former simplicity has robbed many a home of its spiritual atmosphere. The scriptures declare that the children will become disobedient to parents. Some homes appear to be but boarding houses for disobedient children! Signs of the last days—we say—and God tells us—the love of many shall wax cold; because iniquity shall abound. (Matt. 24:12) But surely this is no alibi for our Christian duties. Yet the fact remains that only a small minority still retain the family altar, "ruling their children and their houses well" (1 Tim. 3:12). "Showing piety at home" (1 Tim. 5:4). The world has its pleasures and attractions but let us not forget I John 2:15-17. By faith we also must choose—and esteem the greater riches—see Heb. 11:23-26. Do you value the riches of God in your home? God expects the daily life to be an expression of our faith. Faith without works is dead—James 2. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21) "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." (John 13:17) How about the parable in Matt. 7:24-27? Will your house stand? Will your Christian home survive even the storm of adversity which tries our faith even now? Only as Christ has the preeminence (Col. 1:18) and as you contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (Jude 3) Evangelist Alexander H. Stewart recently told the sad experience of two godly grandparents. They came a long distance for their first visit to the home of their son, his wife and little daughter. Before retiring they suggested their usual family worship. Politely the son and his wife knelt with them, but the little girl ran out of the room asking—"what are they doing on their knees?" The grandfather wept when he heard it. My God, said he—has it come to this, in only one generation?—Yes—such is the situation in these perilous times. Don't blame the children, if they are disobedient to their parents. God holds the parents responsible if they fail to train and discipline their children according to the word of God.

Read about God's warning to Eli in I Samuel chps. 2 and 3.

But what can the church do in such times as these? I fear that the average home is more of a liability than an asset as regards any Christian training for children.

When the home became negligent God raised up the Sunday School and now as the Sunday School has lost its spiritual power along with the average church, God has raised up a new movement known as child evangelism. Christians who have the vision and the faith, trusting God for the ability, have opened their homes to weekly classes for children in their localities in order that they may learn how to be saved and kept by the power of God unto salvation. All Christians can help this worthy enterprise along, by their prayers, gifts and efforts.

The time is short. The last days are here. Jesus is coming back again soon. Let us redeem the time, because the days are evil. (Eph. 5:16) Let us do our part with the strength and vision God has given us, and we shall have stars in our crown.

Jesus said—"Behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Rev. 22:12)

Our crown of rejoicing in that day, will be those we have brought to Jesus Christ. (I Thess. 2:19)

What soul thrilling joy will be the portion of those who may then be able to say in the words of Isa. 8:18—"Behold I and the children whom the Lord hath given me."

"THE BLESSING"

To smile when all has gone to pot;
To say you're sorry when you're not;
And then go down on your knees, confessing,
It's Hard, But What a Blessing!

To bear the blame for every ill;
But trust and wait and seek His will;
And then go on when you're still guessing;
It's Hard, But What a Blessing!

To look up and smile into His face,
When cold looks fill the place,
To be kind tho' kindness you don't feel;
And then to melt and humbly kneel,
It's Hard, But What a Blessing!

To forgive when you're not asked;
To forget all that's been—but passed;
Then feel His love your soul caressing,
It's Hard, But What a Blessing!

—Selected.

ORDINATION

Brother James Hilker was ordained at Kalamazoo, Mich., on July 19. The Council was called by the Bethel Baptist Church of Kalamazoo.

TO BULLETIN READERS

As I am on the road in evangelism and unsettled, I find it very inconvenient to edit every page in The Bulletin, so herewith withdraw from the Associate editorship. I am most grateful to all who have written in or spoken to me their appreciation of my page. Anyone desiring to communicate with me may reach me at Stillwater, Okla.

Barney E. Antrobus.

TAYLOR IN OKLAHOMA ON WAY TO WATERLOO

Harvey Taylor of the First Baptist Church, Harvey, Ill., has just closed a 10-day meeting for us at the First Baptist Church, Schuler, Oklahoma. Our people literally fell in love with him and his fine expository preaching, as well as fervent spirit-filled evangelistic messages from God's Word. The last day will long be remembered. Attendance records were broken in S. S., old-fashioned dinner on the ground, afternoon services in the huge Brush arbor—and then, at the night service there were seven glorious conversions. We baptized them the following Thursday in the Deep Fork River before a great crowd of happy God-fearing people. Harvey, Ill., will surely miss Brother Taylor and Burton Ave. Baptist Church at Waterloo, Iowa, will rejoice under his able ministry.

Marion Been,
First Baptist Church,
Schuler, Okla.

"HAS MRS. ROOSEVELT LEARNED?"

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is very much surprised that the New York Youth Congress, affiliate of the American Youth Congress, opposes American defense measures. She calls its resolution against preparedness a "tragic mistake."

Mrs. Roosevelt, appearing at the New York meeting, finds that she is no longer the heroine of "fifth column" youth. She has to sit by to see a new hero installed. He is none other than Congressman Marcan-

tonio, who cast the lone vote against the first defense appropriation. Young delegates jumped on their chairs and cheered when he declared that the sums asked for building up the army and navy are really for the purpose of waging an aggressive war "in defense of the American dollar and the British pound."

It grieves Mrs. Roosevelt, as well it may, to see youth cheer a man who deliberately twists arguments to mislead. She cannot understand why this youth group is for leaving the nation defenseless.

Who through these several years has been the foremost defender of the American Youth Congress as it coddled the subversive elements within its membership? Who coddled William Hinckley, its former president, now an assistant to the Commissioner of Education, getting the job, we are told, through the influence of Mrs. Roosevelt? Who told youth to have a pacifist ideal "and stick to it"? Who has been preaching month in and month out that the young people of America did not have a chance, that America had never really tried democracy?

If these young people now believe that America is not worth defending, who is to blame, they or the leaders who have indoctrinated them? A young man or young woman could not belong to either the American Youth Congress or the American Student Union without being subjected to the influences of both Communism and Fascism, especially Communism. Not all were Communists or Fascists, perhaps not even a majority of them. But every healthy minded young American who joined had to sit with the Communists and usually had to submit to their management.

When some of the young people who managed to maintain their Americanism tried to clean house in both organizations, who was it that asserted the principle of letting the Communists stay in? Mrs. Roosevelt said that she was not afraid to talk to Communists. In fact, she seemed to bask in the publicity of having them to tea in the White House. She lent strength to these influences by a personal appearance when the Dies Committee was trying to get to the bottom of this subversion.

This is the record. It is not pleasant to say these things but Mrs. Roosevelt wonders now why the youth congress membership thinks America not worth saving. Has she learned now that you cannot encour-

age youth to certain attitudes one day and expect them to change overnight. Adult minds, seasoned by experience, may adjust themselves to changing conditions, but youth, with its intensesness, does not so readily give up its delusions.

—Milwaukee Journal.

FOR THE JEW

By Coulsen Shepherd

No modern fact is fraught with more stupendous consequences for all nations than what God has said of you Jewish people:

"Behold, thou art called a Jew." Romans 2:17.

What a name; what a privilege; what a nation to be a part of! No book of Scripture was ever written that was not written by a Jew. No nation was ever adopted by God as His peculiar people but the Jew. No man ever gave God a name, but the Jew. Jehovah is not named the God of Adam, or the God of Enoch, or the God of Noah, but the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In the New Testament we read—

"God is not ashamed to be SURNAMED their God." Hebrews 11:16 (Lit. ren.)

No race can boast that God was manifested in its flesh, but the Jew. No people ever gave Salvation to the world but the Jew, for

"Salvation is of the Jews."—John 4:22.

Every Jew can well be proud of his heritage, and a thrill of national pride should surge through your whole being, as I remind you that your God is saying,

"Behold, thou art called a Jew." Never be ashamed of it, but always be proud that you are the seed of Israel's race.

My motive, and only excuse in using these 15 minutes of valuable time is to cause many sons of Jacob to adorn their heritage, and walk worthy of their privilege, and live lives that will redound to the glory of the God of your fathers.

Following the trend of the times the great majority of you Jewish people have drifted away from the religion of your fathers. There are over 2,000,000 Jewish residents in New York City, and only 60,000 attend synagogue—less than 3%! Considering this condition, and the fact that I am not trying to get you Jewish people to change your religion, but to believe the same Gospel and the same things that your father Abraham believed—surely no one can justly accuse me of proselyting.

Another reason for this Broadcast is to remind Christians that all they are and have, from a spiritual standpoint, comes to them through your Nation. You gave us our God, our Saviour, our Salvation, our Gospel, the charter members of the Church, and the first heralds to proclaim the good tidings of great joy. My, what a debt we Christians owe to you Jewish people!

My third motive is to give true facts about you Jewish people that should prove an antidote in counteracting the venomous and ever-increasing disease of Jew-hate.

As for me, I am amply compensated by the indications coming to me practically every week that this effort is not in vain. If time and ethics would allow, I would read a letter from a Jewish listener in Connecticut just received this past week. This listener testifies of being much helped by our Broadcast and receiving the greatest blessing that can come to a human being, Jew or Gentile.

After I give these news flashes concerning Jewry, before me, I am going to tell you how to secure real and lasting happiness.

* * * *

NEWS ITEMS

In the face of these discriminations, prejudices, the knowledge of millions of your brethren facing starvation in Europe and the possibility of such things happening here, is it possible for you Jewish people to secure real and lasting happiness? Yes, it is. Don't expect me to tell you to forget your troubles and the sorrows of your brethren across the sea, and enjoy life by having a good time. No, I am not going to tell you to go places and do things that will help you forget your troubles. Such things might bring some temporary pleasure and make you laugh a bit at night, but the tears will flow in the morning. The best the world, with all its pleasures, can do is give temporary pleasure at night, but sorrow returns in the morning. The prescription I am about to give works just the opposite. Instead of giving a temporary pleasure, it gives a lasting joy.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Psalms 30:5

All of us know by sad experience that to drown troubles and sorrows by going out of an evening and having a good time, or spend a night enjoying the "pleasures of sin for a season", brings only temporary pleasure that evening or night. But how

about the morning? No pleasure or happiness then. Too often it is remorse and more intense sorrow. Can this be reversed, so that sorrows and troubles are just a brief evening experience, and a joy, which is a lasting happiness comes in the morning? Yes, it can, for listen again.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

We are living in a night-time scene, and the night is dark for Israel. It is going to get darker, but God speaks of a morning that will soon dawn, and for Israel as a Nation that will be a glorious day.

Listen to your God declare through your Prophet Isaiah. He is speaking of this new day of Israel, His beloved, covenant people:

"And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.

"Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

"Thou shalt no more be called 'Forsaken'; neither shall thy land any more be called 'Desolate': but thou shalt be called 'Hepzibah', (which means God's delight is in her, i. e., in Israel), and thy land shalt be called 'Beulah', (which means, married, fruitful): for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married." Isaiah 62:2-4

When will this day break, you ask? The last two verses of that wonderful 62nd chapter of Isaiah tell us. Listen:

"Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy Salvation cometh; behold His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.

"And they, (i. e., the Gentiles) shall call them (the Jewish people), the Holy people, the redeemed of the Lord; and thou shalt be called, sought out, a city not forsaken."

Isaiah 62:11-12

I do not know what the reading of such prophecies do to you, but I know they thrill me. They give me the hope of a new day, and the sure assurance that joy is coming in the morning for Israel.

When will this morning dawn? It is going to dawn when Messiah returns, when

"There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer."—Romans 11:26 when "thy Salvation cometh."

Notice carefully the pronouns used in that verse in Isaiah 62:

"Behold thy Salvation cometh: be-

hold, HIS reward is with HIM, and HIS work before HIM." The Hebrew word translated HIM is the name YESHUA. It is the name Joshua, Jehoshua, which means Saviour.

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Joy cometh when Yeshua comes to deliver his people. He will give,

"Beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

Isaiah 61:3

Then you will joyfully proclaim:

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of Salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with jewels."

Isaiah 61:10

And who is Yeshua? He is the One of whom Moses and all the prophets spake. All your Scriptures testify of Him. He is the Lamb pointed to by your father Abraham, when he said to his beloved son, Isaac.

"My Son, God will provide Himself a Lamb for the offering."

Genesis 22:8

Yeshua! He is the One of whom Isaiah spoke in his remarkable 53rd chapter:

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him: He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

"Surely He hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to our own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 53:5-6

Yeshua! He is the One of whom Isaiah wrote again when He said,

"The Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given."

Isaiah 9:6

Yeshua! He is the One of whom Micah spoke:

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the

thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto Me that is to be Ruler of Israel: whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting."

Micah 5:2

Yeshua! Your prophet Daniel spoke of Him, even giving the time when He would come: "Messiah", he said, "shall be cut off, but not for Himself."—Daniel 9:26

A rabbi recently said at the conclusion of a very friendly discussion with a Christian about the Jewish Scriptures and the New Testament:

"You Christians" (said the Rabbi) await the return of Christ. We religious Jews await the Messiah, and I, who am a rabbi, firmly believe that it is One and the same Person."

My friend, believing in Him now as your Saviour-Messiah and accepting His Salvation, will bring joy to your heart before the new day dawns for Israel.

"Happy is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sin is covered."

Psalms 32:1

WHEN BAPTISTS CEASE TO BE BAPTISTS

By Merle T. Huffmaster

Much has been said in recent months in Michigan about loyalty to the Baptist Denomination. Some of us have been accused of disloyalty, because we have not been supporting the programs of the Northern Baptist Convention and its auxiliaries. However, now that the traditional Baptist viewpoint, namely, that a Baptist Church does not have to belong to anything to be in the Baptist Denomination, has been upheld by the courts of Indiana in the Princeton case, I feel that it is time to re-examine the question of, *When do Baptists cease to be Baptists?* The courts say, they are still Baptists after they have withdrawn from the Conventions. What then determines whether a church or an individual is or is not a Baptist?

It seems to me from my study of Baptist Church history that two things at least are involved. First the Baptists have always recognized that the New Testament is the Word of God and that it is their rule of faith and practice. Second, that the ordinance of Baptism has always been held to be essential to membership in a Baptist church and that their teaching on Baptism is a distinguishing doctrine between Baptists and other denominations.

Monday, June 10, an ordination council was called by the Baptist Church of Atlas, Mich., to assist in the ordination of its pastor. The

council was made up of delegates from the churches of the Flint River Association, the N. B. C. Auxiliary, and two or three independent Baptists invited by the church in addition to the members of the association. During the examination of the candidate some interesting things were revealed. The candidate in answer to a question by the writer stated that he believed in the verbal inspiration of the Bible. Immediately he was challenged in this stand by members of the council. One minister of advanced years said that if the Holy Spirit inspired all of the Bible, He certainly made a lot of mistakes. A pastor of one of the larger churches said that even if the original manuscripts were inspired, we have absolutely no way of knowing what was in them; that there is no proof that the copies we have today are even close to the originals. Another statement was that we do not have *the truth* but are seekers after truth. These statements went unchallenged by the Convention members of the council, but the candidate was heartily supported by the independents in his stand on this point.

Then came a question concerning Baptism, and it was revealed by the candidate that Baptism is not a requirement in the Atlas Church for membership. They have an associate membership, made up of people from other denominations, who have full voting power in all matters of the local church, even in the calling of a pastor. If the associate membership ever becomes the majority, they could vote out the Baptist pastor and call a man from another denomination. Yet this church is in good standing in the Northern Baptist Convention. The President of the Michigan Baptist Convention was present at the ordination, but neither he nor any other member of the convention made any objection to the candidate's views on Baptism.

Therefore, this ordination service is just an added proof to what I have believed for sometime, that the ex-Baptists are still in the N. B. C. and have not withdrawn. And that is the explanation as to why those looking for fellowship with old-fashioned Baptists, who still believe in the Book, the Blood the Blessed Hope, and who still insist on New Testament Baptism have been forced to withdraw from the Conventions and gather together around God's Word.

—Clipped from "The Guiding Light", published by Edwin Ave. Baptist Church of Flint, Mich., Ralph Rhodes, pastor.

FLASHES FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

PEARSONS FACE OPPOSITION BY MEDICINE MEN

Fort Crampel, Oubangi-Chari
French Equatorial, Africa.

Dear Prayer Helpers:

1 Cor. 15:58

At this time I am out in the bush preaching the Gospel of Christ and as it is noon and all the people are working there isn't much that I can do, so as I am in the writing mood, I shall try to get another general letter off to you. In our last letter we started out by telling you some of the experiences one of our evangelists (Guerembali) had and as I only mentioned two I shall go on and tell some more in this letter. The stories are as they were given to me.

A man had two daughters who had confessed Christ. He wanted one of them to marry an unbeliever but the girl refused and asked Guerembalo for help. He spoke to the father and told him that if he forced his daughter to marry an unbeliever something terrible would happen to him. The following night a big tree blew over and crushed his house. The man himself got a big gash in his head and his wife was almost killed.

A little orphan boy about six years of age had been left in the care of his aunt and uncle. They accused him of having an evil spirit which had killed his parents. They had been beating him with sticks thinking he would die; they gave him no food and he slept outside at night. One morning five men chased him outside the village and as I happened to see it I asked the reason for such treatment to which they replied that he was killing people. I told them that I wanted to take him and care for him, but they warned me not to, saying that he would kill me. I told them again that I wanted to keep him and that I was a man of God and if he could kill me, my God was of no account. They consented so I took him to a stream and cleaned him up.

A baby girl had been born into a family and her parents took her to the woods for the "family god" to give her a name. Her name became *Dakpa Indami* which means—the idol gave her this name. When she was six years old, on the first day of the moon, the father took her and some food and went to the woods to

sacrifice the food to the idols and afterward the child was asked to eat the food that had been offered to the idol. They tried to force her but in vain. They cursed her and tried again to have her eat this food but without success. Then she began to sing "Oh ndo ti ndjoni"—"Oh Buelah Land" the song our Frances used to sing while at home. They cursed her again for singing such songs and asked her who had taught her these songs. The more they tried the louder she sang until she could not hear them any more. When I (Guerembali) heard of it I said to them, "Do you see now that God has given sufficient strength to this little child to refuse your folly?"

A medicine man in the village was opposing the work done by the Evangelist, some of the people who formerly ate food offered to idols had been converted. Afterward they testified to the people as to the emptiness of the medicine man and all his doing. He had promised that he would kill them for having done this. He said that if they were not dead in three months he would come and hear about their God. They got frightened and came to the Evangelist, telling him about it. He told them that if one of them would die in three months, his God was not alive and his preaching in vain, (a daring statement of course). This medicine man sent a message to the chief medicine man some 15 or 20 miles away, saying, "All the secrets about my idols and medicine have been exposed by the man of God, so now it is of no more effect." When this chief medicine man heard this he sent word to the Evangelist that he was coming to see him for the purpose of killing him to which the Evangelist replied, "I am God's servant in this place and no medicine man is able to kill me." The message came to him as they were in the chapel for prayer so he told the believers about it and asked them to pray, adding that if God couldn't keep him, He was not a real God. Then the Evangelist had to go to Crampel and when he returned he was told by the converts that this big medicine man had died.

God is using this man and we would like to have you all pray for him that he may be kept humble and be used to God's glory.

As ever, Yours for Congo,
The Pearsons.

GARLOW'S CARRYING HEAVY BURDEN IN INDIA

Murkong Seleik, P. O.
N. E. F., Assam, India.
May 8, 1940

Report No. 6

Dear Christian Friends:

Those of you who have heard just a little about India have no doubt heard of the "rains". Our first experience with the rainy season began with a real storm Sunday, April 21. Just before our evening meal the wind started to blow and then the rain and hail came in torrents. Every door in the place was open. One door in our room refused to stay shut and we had a nice little stream through our room in no time. Everything on the verandas turned upside down and six trees on the compound tumbled to the ground; nor did the hail help the few remaining vegetables in our garden. It was certainly a good test for our new roof. It leaks in a few places but not too badly. The wind came mostly from the northwest and blew the rain in the ventilator of the gable on our side of the house. It soon soaked through the ceiling cloth and we discovered it after our beds were wet. We have had quite a bit of rain since and the rivers around us are rising. It will not be long until a boat will be our only way out of this place.

Just seven weeks ago today, Mr. Prior was called away on business. After arriving in Shillong, the capital of Assam, he took ill and was sent to the hospital. The doctor discovered he was suffering from malignant malaria and appendicitis. Mr. Prior has had a number of attacks of fever, but it is not as easy to diagnose this particular type of malaria nor is it as easily checked. The Welsh Presbyterian Hospital in Shillong offers the best medical attention in Assam, so we have much to praise God for that he had this severe attack while in Shillong. Mrs. Prior has gone to be with him and in her last letter reported that the stitches have been removed and that part of his trouble seems to be well on its way to recovery; but the malaria is not out of his system as yet

and he is quite weak. Indeed, we all need your prayers for health of body these days that we might continue in this work.

We are doing our best to take the place of the Priors with the school boys here on the compound. They have a school for 40 Abor boys. What a happy bunch they are! They do not give us many problems as far as discipline is concerned, but many of them have been sick. There is much fever this time of the year and we are kept busy filling quinine capsules. Then Kado comes running with the blood streaming down his leg, his dao (knife) slipped while cutting weeds and hit his leg. Now Bommi is limping up the path. He was running and stepped on a sharp piece of bamboo stump.

After school the boys work for awhile on the compound. At present we have them trying to make a lawn out of weed patch. Soon I heard shouts of laughter and went to see what it was all about. There stood funny little Nyato and wanted iodine on a cut he received when he sat on a brick too hard. It was a hot day and there was nothing between the brick and Nyato.

Then Emi is down with fever and a heavy chest cold, and nothing wants to stay in his "tommie". Mem-sahib must see that he gets warm milk for a day. Then I had him come to the bungalow for his meals for a few days. I gave him egg custard, scrambled eggs, well cooked rice and milk, but he tried hard to get well soon as he does not like our "sissy" food. They like their food real hot. He just could hardly drink milk. So, I decided to make him chocolate milk. At that same meal I gave him buttered string beans and a baked potato. I do not know if it was the beans or the chocolate milk he did not like—but when I went to get his plate he had eaten the potato and then put the beans into the milk and was gulping with each swallow! I walked away to give him a good opportunity to throw it over the railing of the veranda!

Three weeks ago we were holding a meeting in Dikari village. A new face was in the audience and we sensed immediately that he understood English as well as Miri. Since then we have had several long talks with him. Padmaswar Dolai has completed High School and one year in Cotton College, a government college about 300 miles south of here. His father is the only rich Miri in this section. He owns several elephants which he rents to the saw

mill. Elephants are still quite valuable, even though machinery has taken the place of many of them. Today they are valued from 3,500 to 6,000 rupees. (\$1,200 to \$2,000) Padmaswar is having his summer vacation and was visiting friends the day we met him. His home is about twelve miles from here. He offered to come to the bungalow each day to tell us the customs of his people and help us with the language. We certainly praise the Lord for this as we believe he will be able to help much.

In our talks thus far he has freely said that Hinduism is not helping his people and he does not believe it will. He likes Christianity and has had some contacts with other Christians, but talks about it as another religion. We are sure if he would know the Christ of Christianity as his own Saviour he would see the vast difference between Christianity and the non-Christian religions. He has read the Gospel of John twice from the English and is now reading the Gospels from the Assamese text.

In the last talk we had together, without Jim mentioning a word about money, Padmaswar said he did not want to be paid for helping us. He said, "My father has enough money to help me through school and I am just a student, therefore, I should help you without a salary. By me helping you, I will be helping my people." This is certainly contrary to the usual run of Indians. The most of them with just a High School education are quick to demand higher wages than others and are usually quite particular what they do.

Shortly after you receive this letter, Padmaswar will be back in college. As far as we know, there is only one Christian teacher in Cotton College. All the others are either Hindu or Mohammedan. If Padmaswar would come to know the Lord Jesus as his Saviour we believe he would be a real testimony to his people, for so few of them have had schooling. Satan will be busy—in fact he has a foothold already—as Padmaswar's father and mother are strict Hindus in their own caste. To take an open stand for the Lord would probably mean opposition from his parents. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." So when you pray for the salvation of the Miri people, please claim Padmaswar for Christ.

In His love,

Joyce and Jimmie Garlow

PRIOR WRITES THRILLING LETTER AFTER HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE

Say! Did you hear about my operation? Well, you won't either! The main reason being that I slept quite peacefully all through it. Nothing tangible to show for it, unlike the dear lady down the hall who was operated on the same day and who has all sorts of curios to show for the experience, even to the stitches, carefully salvaged and stowed away in an envelope to be displayed to all and sundry.

When we left you last month they had just popped me into the mission hospital here in Shillong. We won't dwell on the next few weeks. There proved to be two things wrong. Malignant tertian malaria and appendicitis. They were reacting on and aggravating each other. The removal of the appendix was a simple matter to skillful Dr. Roberts. The malaria was evidently of long standing and had set up peritonitis in and around the spleen. Twice the prayers of you dear ones and the God given skill of Dr. Roberts brought me back from the last boundary line. The malarial treatments will probably continue after leaving here to the time we come home on furlough. Good old spleen! I never realized I had one before.

We were able to get word to my parents and an answer back within three days. Can you imagine how long it took to notify my wife in Laimakuri and to get an answer? It took just fifteen days! It is impossible for me to put in cold type the way in which Mona stands up to the various trials that come to a woman living in an isolated place like our station. Only a supreme faith in Romans 8:28 could possibly bring out the ability to take the good and the bad as she does. Is it wrong for me to talk about my wife so openly? Forgive me if it is, but I am always being compelled to recognize her very real spiritual strength. Knowing I was ill here in the hospital, she still had to "carry on" with our schoolboys until the Doctor told her to come, after the operation. Again and again I thank God for making up for my many weaknesses by giving me a helpmate with such a reserve of strength. God bless her.

Long before coming to India, we had placed our lives in the blessed hands of God. So we know now

that whatever happens, it is in His plan for some Divine purpose. How can it be His purpose for missionaries to be kept from their work and for mission funds to be spent for hospital bills? There are several obvious answers to these queries. Do you remember the heart trouble that has been bothering your missionary from time to time? Tests up here have established that this was caused by the poisons in the blood caused by the affected spleen. Now the CAUSE has been found and will be eliminated. Praise God! If this trouble had not been checked now, a few more months would have taken the damage beyond repair. Thank God I was struck down here and now! Although I was four hundred miles from home on mission business, the Welsh Mission Hospital is the finest in all eastern India and Dr. Roberts is recognized as one of the finest surgeons in all this part of India. Its altitude of 4,500 feet insures beautiful weather at this time of the year when the plains below are sweltering in the hottest weather of the year. Then the release from the rather hectic routine of the mission station, the time for meditation and prayer, the strengthening support of your prayers, oh, need I go further to prove the hand of God! Just to think of His goodness in allowing me to come to this hospital where the bodily ills can so well be taken care of is to fill my heart to overflowing with praise and thanksgiving.

The double doors and two windows to my room are wide open this morning and looking out, a beautiful sight meets the eyes. We are on the ground level, and on the narrow terrace outside the veranda are several lovely rose bushes, in full bloom. Down a ten foot terrace we can see a semi-circular yard, completely surrounded with glowing flower beds and a summer house in the center is smothered under rambler rose bushes run riot. At the edge of the yard the ground falls steeply away into a deep valley, heavily wooded with fragrant pines and with an occasional red roof showing through the green. On the far side of the valley a 6,000 foot ridge is outlined against the sky, over which the sun reluctantly slides each afternoon, painting the sky as only God can paint it. Neither canvas nor film could ever capture such a breath taking sight.

A letter came just now from Laimakuri. It contained the always interesting word from Tamik and also a letter written by one of the school

boys, without any outside help. Mind you, these boys have only been in school for four months. They had never written a word before they came to us. So they find it difficult to put their thoughts down on paper. Perhaps you might be interested in reading this letter from a little aboriginal who has just recently found Christ. Here it is —

"Our dear father Sahib: Your beloved sons are wanting in their hearts to come up to you. That would be good. But we cannot. We are told that you are in cool place and that Doctor Sahib is caring for you. That is good and for this we have much happy thinking. Every, every day we pray for you. We know Doctor Sahib says for you to stay there but we think that to come to us would be good and for us to live together gives us much good thinking. In prayer meeting this week every one of your sons prayed to Father Jimi (God) that you would come to us soon and be all well. Now Memsahib is gone to and we are very lonely. And so I, Domar and all your Abor sons at Laimakuri Mid-Mission School send our greetings to you and memsahib."

Now, isn't that a nice letter? It just made me ache to be back with them again. They are not far wrong when they call themselves our sons. It is just like having forty-five sons of our own and to see them grow from wild little savages to little boys having a love for Christ in their hearts and to see how anxious they are to try and live according to this new, strange teaching; well, it just gives me heart trouble all over again. But this is a good kind of heart trouble to have. Are we happy? Oh dear ones, how can we ever tell you what these people mean to us! How can we ever thank you for providing the means for these boys to find a loving God to take away the former, ever present fear of the evil spirits. Our two hearts can never contain such happiness, and we want to share it with you.

These boys are all mountain boys and so the heat of the plains is hard on them. So we shall have to let them go home the first of June. During the summer Mona and Tamik and I will try to get finished the primer, arithmetic and a hymn book for next school year and to get them published. So pray for this work. Also pray constantly for these boys who are going back into heathen villages for the summer and who are going to live for Christ there. Many will be their temptations and trials

and they will need our prayers. The older lads have said that they are going to live for Christ this summer in their villages and that they wish to be baptised when they return to school next fall. We are grateful for the Garlows who have taken up the burden of the school while we are absent and have been so willing to help at all times. Two new missionaries are joining our Indian group this next month. A young man and a young woman. Pray that God will open up new avenues of service for them.

For now we must close, thanking you for the many, many cards and assurances of prayer that you all have speeded to us on the wings of the air mail. It is impossible for us to answer them all and so please accept our thanks through this letter. Some have said that we haven't answered their letters. From three to four months is the average time for a letter to reach us and for an immediate answer to get back to you. We do answer all regular letters and perhaps Hitler has sent some of them to the bottom of the sea. So write again and we will try again. Will write again next month, probably from Shillong as we will likely be here all of May.

Yours in the Joy of Christ,
Delos Prior.

NOTE—Mr. Prior had a relapse and is now on his way to the States.

A THRILLER FROM MRS. HAMMAN

Dear Mrs. Wagoner:

We received yesterday your letter of January and since it takes such a long time for letters to go back and forth I will answer it immediately. Some letters are three and four months on the way at present because of the war conditions. Mail is sometimes held up for weeks in some post office waiting to be censored. Some letters are opened but not many.

We remember well the happy time we had at Walnut St. Church in 1938. God will surely bless His testimony as it goes forth from your midst and we pray much for you and Dr. Ketcham and his family. Through the Baptist Bulletin we keep in touch with them and did rejoice to see the pictures of Lois and the baby. All praise to God for His mighty power.

As you know we are working among the Sara Kabba tribe which numbers about 30,000 people. Mr. Hamman came up in January a year ago and chose a place for the Mission

station and put up a temporary house. It had grass walls, grass roof, no doors and just the ground for a floor. I and our son Donald remained at Archambault, where we had formerly worked, until this building was done then we all moved in. For six months this was our home. During that time we were busy getting bricks made, wood

fort. Only a few have made a profession of Christ and of these there are three or four who show evidences in their lives that Christ has changed them. However, we are by no means discouraged. God called us here and He is with us! He has some from this tribe whom He wants to change unto the image of His dear Son who died for them. It

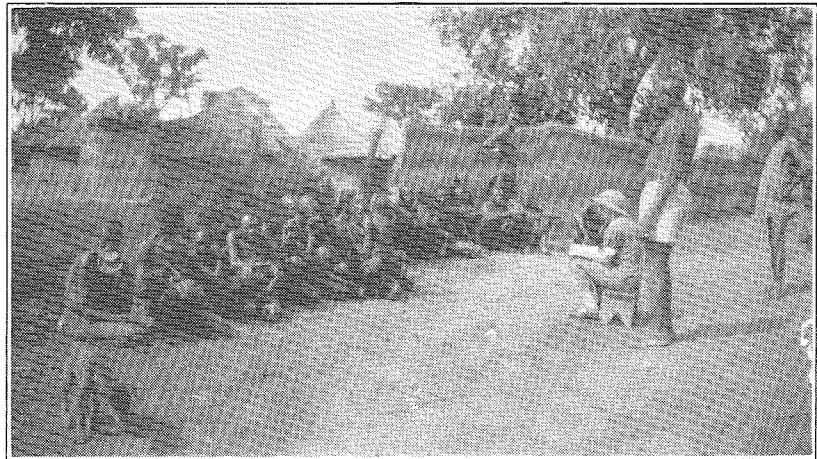
is our business to preach to all and His Holy Spirit will call out here and there a people for His Name. It may be slow work. Satan will not let them go easily. They are bound by sin of all kinds, liquor is a terrible curse; gambling is the favorite past time, and of course heathen practices of all kinds prevail. The people are naturally very lazy and the weather is so hot one can hardly get them to move from a shade tree. For two months now the temperature here in the house has been between 100° and 104°, sometimes going a bit higher and of course out in the sun it is far hotter. One cannot blame the people for not wanting to work. Some days we have little pep ourselves. Soon the rainy season will begin and last for six months and then it will be cooler.

We have a little village here on the station of natives who came from Archambault with us to help in the work. There are about 13 in all. This year four young men of the Sara Kabba tribe have said they wanted to come here and build their houses and live and learn more of

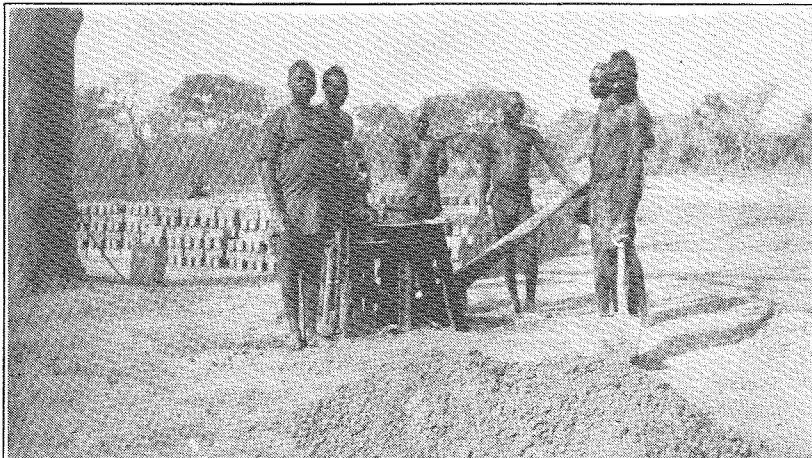


Crossing a river by ferry on our trip inland. All baggage had to be unloaded from truck first.

sawed, land cleared, gardens planted and the hundreds of other things that are necessary when one opens a station in the "bush." As much as possible we went into the nearby villages giving out the message of salvation. We did not know the language of the tribe and had to use Sango to an interpreter who changed our message into Kabba. These people had never before had the Gospel and they were interested to hear of our Lord Jesus but they seemed to have no sense of sin or of their personal need of a Saviour. For more than a year now we have been preaching Christ Jesus and from the human standpoint it would often seem a waste of time and ef-



Holding a Gospel meeting in a near-by village. The man standing in the foreground is the interpreter.



Natives making bricks for our house. Mud is put into this machine and then pressed. Afterwards these bricks are burned.



*"THE HAMMANS"
Roy, Fern and Donald Roy*

the way of God. We praise God for these for we believe they are sincere. Each day we have classes with them teaching them to read the Gospel of John in Sango and also to write. One is married but his wife refused to come here to live. Her mother and the people of her village say she will surely die if she comes to stay at the white man's village. Her husband has gone for her several times and now he says he is through. He wants the way of God and if she will not come he will come alone and she can stay behind. It is difficult for him so *please pray for his wife*. God can change her heart. If only a few come and stay and learn and go out as witnesses to their own people it will be such a help to the work.

During the year I have spent much time on language study, trying to get a vocabulary together. Of course it is no written language so I have to ask the words over and over and then decide how to write them. Some are almost impossible to pronounce so they can understand, having guttural and also nasal sounds. Many words sound just the same to us but have different meanings. However, there is a slight difference in intonation if one can only catch it. Well, I now have about 1200 words in the vocabulary and am trying to get a sentence for each one so we will know how they are used. This is a long tedious task, *we need prayer for patience and divine wisdom* and understanding. As Mr. Hamman has so much outside work he has little time for this kind of study. Since we do not know the language we must always have an interpreter and this is a problem. This man who has come now to stay without his wife does well as interpreter for meetings on the station. Perhaps that is why Satan would like to send him away. But *we need another interpreter* to go out with us or with our native evangelist for meetings on the road. We have an evangelist from the Arch. station but he does not know Sara Kabba either so when he goes for meetings he must have a Sara Kabba with him, one who understands Sango. *This is another need to keep before our Lord in prayer*. It is important that the message be given out clearly and with no mistakes.

Our permanent dwelling house will soon be finished. We are trying to get the roof on now before rains start and then there are the floors, windows, doors and inside finishing to do. Not much building work can

be done during the rainy season but next dry season there will be the chapel and carpenter shop to build. All this takes time, physical energy and funds so we must pray much.

We praise God for health he has given in spite of circumstances. We have no fruits and have had no fresh vegetables for six months, yet God has kept us well. Our little boy was three years old in December. He has two little black boys for playmates and speaks Sango just like they do. This picture I am enclosing was taken at home when he was only 14 months old. By the time you receive this we are expecting the blessing of another little one in our home.

This letter does not give a very cheerful picture of Mission life and work perhaps, but I have tried to picture things as they are that you may intelligently pray. We are happy in our work here and would not want to be any other place than at Kyabe, giving out the precious message to these lost in sin. This is God's place for us, for the present at least, and we rejoice in our privilege of telling these lost that Jesus died for them. We know some will be caught up to meet Him when Jesus returns. What a glorious hope and what an inspiration to spur us on. I am enclosing a few pictures. Sorry I do not have more on hand. Yours in our loving Lord,
Mrs. Roy Hamman.

A VERY PERSONAL LETTER FROM MISS BENNETT

Upata, Venezuela,
July 16, 1940.

Dear Pastor:

July 10 brought to a close another year of service in Upata. When I realize the need of workers in the unoccupied regions of Venezuela, there wells up in me a desire to tear up stakes and move on! I shall never forget however, a definition of a call heard while in Bible School, "the need and our ability to meet that need, constitutes a call." I do not believe that all that is necessary is included in that definition, however, there is much in it that ought to be considered. God does not call one armed men and women to be stenographers, or blind men and women to be tailors and seamstresses. Yes, there is NEED! How we praise God that He is calling out young, strong men and women in these last days to meet that Need.

As a young missionary coming to the Field for the first time, back there in 1925 it was my great desire to occupy some territory where no Missionary had ever resided. He gave me the desire of my heart when I came back to the field in 1933, by answering the prayers of two of the native converts, by stopping me here in Upata. That was not my plan at that time, as I was on my way back to Guasipati, as those who were on the Field at that time will bear me out. However, how true it is that God orders our steps, and He also orders our stops.

I rented a house here in Upata and carried on amidst many difficulties, most of the time alone so far as human help was concerned. Upata was and is no easy field. Yes, we do have an ideal climate here, however, Upata is also the headquarters of the Capuchino Bishop, and naturally that meant and means opposition from Rome. God did give me favor with the people, and He has called out many precious souls in this place. The first year here one hundred and one made profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Not all have had the courage to stand true, however, the work IS established in Upata, all glory to our Lovely Lord! It was hard work, for in those formative years all of the expense of hall, lights, etc., fell upon me. There were many times when remittances were mighty small, but God never failed us! Now, praise His worthy Name, the believers have learned to give, and out of their poverty they are now giving abundantly above, and the blessing of God is upon them because of their faithfulness. One of their number has been sent by them to Bible School to train for His service wherever He would have her to go. A little over seven hundred bolivares have been raised toward the building fund; they now pay the rent for the hall where the Gospel is being proclaimed, they have bought a lamp for the hall and are paying the light expense, month by month for the services; yea, all in all they are doing the very best that they can. The deacons elected by the congregation a little over a year ago are now taking their turn once a month in giving the Sunday night message, they officiate at the Lord's table the first Sunday of each month, and to the best of their ability, taught by the Holy Spirit they are living according to the rules laid down in His word for a deacon. Yes, he has blest, and now, if it is His will for me to press on into new, un-

worked territory, I am READY!

However, our ability to meet the need must be considered. Am I able to begin a new work? Would He have me to step out alone again? I am no longer as young as I was back there in 1925 when first I heard His call. I now bear in my body scars that many do not realize. No doubt I have reached the time in my life when I should be considering letting up a bit in the strenuous pioneer work, rather than plunging into it anew. Would my Lord have me to abandon this field where He has so blessed me, and where there is STILL need of a missionary, to go to another untried field, knowing my physical handicaps? Will you not pray with me that I may KNOW. Yes, I would rather DIE for Him than to LIVE in the place which would not be the very center of His will for me, but He has not convinced me that I am not in His will staying on here. I still believe that He would have me to STAY in Upata. I did not come here because this was the best climate in Guayana, but because He placed me here. Perhaps He would have me stay here, willing to hold the station, and let the new, strong, young missionaries go forward into the unworked territory, especially those who have companions to accompany them. Upata is an ideal place for workers, tired workers to come to rest for a little while, from time to time. Upata is an ideal place for new Missionaries to learn the language. Would He have me to stay on here to carry on the work, and provide a place for those who need rest? Miss Yeley is here now, and is finding the quiet of the room provided for her very beneficial. We need a rest home on the field for our Missionaries. Perhaps some could be saved a trip home were there such a place provided for them here on the field. I know of no better place than Upata for such a home. Pray with us about this, please. Please Pray! He has kept me in almost perfect health these seven years here in Upata, notwithstanding my broken health previously. To me that is another fact of approval that I am where He would have me to be. You may wonder what is back of all of this inquiry and appeal for prayer; there is nothing back of it except that which I stated at the beginning of this letter, the great need of workers in the unoccupied regions of Venezuela, and the thrill that comes to one in being permitted to open up new territory. Do you understand? Sometimes it is easier to go than it

is to stay. I want to be sure of His Divine Will ever!

I surely did enjoy the Baptist Bulletin this month. As Miss Yeley is here under the Doctor's care, and whereas she has been ordered to refrain from all reading and writing, I had the joy of reading aloud to her the report of the Convention held in Erie. In fact I have read aloud almost the entire contents of the Baptist Bulletin, also the Ohio Independent Baptist. I surely do enjoy these papers, (especially the Bulletin) and hope that my subscription (?) will never run out. Such magazines mean so much to Missionaries.

Dolores Finley is now on her way to Elyria. She left Guasipati on the plane last Friday, expecting to sail from La Guaira July 19. She is traveling with one of the Orinoco River Mission missionaries. There was thought of my accompanying her, but unless I were ordered home by the doctor I never could think of going home for furlough under a term of three years. Our three years here will not be completed before Oct. 7. No, in view of world conditions, I have no desire to be going back to the States yet awhile. We may all too soon have to disoccupy these fields even as missionaries in Europe have had to disoccupy, therefore, let me occupy a little longer. I am very well at present, so why think about furlough? No, I want to complete at least four years and more if He keeps me well and shows me that it is His will for me to stay on.

My orphan family has been reduced considerably in number. A few days ago the four Fernandez children were sent for. Their old grandmother has decided that she is now able to take care for them. Fact is I fear she has it in her head that they can take care of her. Be that as it may, four of my flock have gone from me, and although I miss them very, very much, am confident that Romans 8:28 is still in the Bible and still true. It was a privilege to have the children under my care these years, and I thank God that I could do it. And now I trust them to His care, praying that they may be used of Him, that they will not soon forget the lessons that they were privileged to learn here in the Mission home. I still have several children under my care, but feel that I should not take in any more at present, even to fill the vacancy left by the four. It is a great and tremendous responsibility, and now that my efficient helper Carmita Abaruyo has gone to Costa Rica to

Bible School, I do not have the native help that one ought to have where so many children are involved. Therefore, the ban is on: no more orphans unless He provides Native matrons to help in caring for them. I want to be free to make the regular trips out to San Lorenzo, Santa Rosa, El Japon, etc.

Now then, I have written at length. There is yet much that I might tell you about, more problems that I might put before you for you to help me solve but I guess I had better call this enough for one day, and wait for an answer to this one before burdening you down with any more.

As Ever, Yours in His faithfulness,
Grace B. Bennett
Upata, Venezuela
South America
Estado Bolivar.

IRENE PAULSON CON- FRONTS DEMON- POSSESSED WO- MAN

May 1940

Kembe, (Fourambala) par Mobaye
Oubangui-Chari, (A. E. F.)

Dear Ones in the homeland,

We send this to you across the waters trusting that it will prove a blessing to some troubled soul—may His perfect peace be your portion; His grace your sufficiency; His will your joy; and His coming your hope.

We last wrote you in April; since then, the work has been continuing with His multiplied blessings. We are now quite comfortably settled in our own mud house—and we praise Him daily for this shelter. The other little mud hut that the evangelist gave us was beginning to be dangerous as the roof nearly came down on us one night during a heavy storm.

The greatest joy of the missionary is not in receiving a big mail although it does make our hearts glad to hear from the homeland; nor in the receiving of large sums of money from friends in the homeland; or any other material blessings that humans can enjoy—the greatest joy is felt and experienced when one of these souls come to know Christ as Saviour and Lord. We praise Him that we've had many such experiences since our arrival at Kembe. Very rarely does a week go by but what two or three come to the Saviour. This morning after the Sunday morning worship, we had the joy of leading two women to Christ.

One of the two women whose name is "Yandakala" has been very much on our hearts. She's been faithfully coming to our women's class every day—until this morning, even before the message was closed, she arose to her feet and said that she wanted to accept Christ as her Saviour. We've coveted her for Christ from the very first day we saw her. She left us this morning with her face radiating the peace and joy that filled her heart. She is learning to read very rapidly and we trust that she will bear a real testimony among the women as she grows in grace and knowledge of our blessed Lord.

Several Sundays ago we had a trying experience with a demon possessed woman. Dick wasn't present at the morning worship as he was laid up in bed with a sprained foot (it is O. K. now). After the message, three women came to me and wanted to accept Christ as their Saviour and all three of them said that they were demon possessed. I dealt with them individually one by one; two of the three were truly in earnest about accepting Christ and believed that Christ would have the victory in their lives, but when I came to the third woman—I immediately sensed the devil's presence.

I dealt with her for a long time, reading different Scripture portions manifesting the power of Jesus to cast out evil spirits and her utter need of a Saviour. Other native Christians gathered about also and we began to pray for her. We prayed in the name of Jesus. We hardly uttered three sentences when I felt her body quiver and begin to tremble (as I had one hand on her shoulder). We prayed that God would free her body and save her soul and all at once she threw herself on the ground. She rolled over stones, logs and whatever was in the way, calling—"Madamo, Madamo", with her arms stretched upward in an effort to come to me. For a moment I was too dumb-founded to move but in the next moment the Lord came to the rescue. I don't know how long she would have rolled and screamed but I ordered the Christian men and women to hold her body down—my, the strength in that thin little form; of course it wasn't human strength. I was constantly praying for victory in that body. At once we had her body under control and we rubbed her arms and legs and neck and very shortly she was breathing normally again. After dealing with her some more she confessed that she didn't believe Jesus and said that now she believed that he alone is able to free

her body and save her soul. So I circled my arm tightly about her poor dirty body and we prayed once more. Other Christians lifted up their voices to God claiming victory in the name of Jesus. Her body remained calm and peaceful. She left a regenerated soul. How we praise God for the grace that was sufficient in that moment; and for the older Christians that they might walk pleasing in His sight.

May His peace and love be with you and keep your hearts and minds stayed on Him.

Yours in the bonds of His matchless love,

Dick and Irene Paulson.

MISS MANUAL SEEING SOULS SAVED

Fort Crampel
Oubangui-Chari
French Equatorial, Africa
May 20, 1940

Dear Friends in the Homeland:

Some more weeks have gone by without a letter being written to you faithful friends at home. My excuse is the same; work, and not enough hours in a day to get done all that I want to do.

As to the new year of the Native Training School; of which we are always talking; and why not, as it is our biggest work at Crampel; we have 35 in the school this year. Fourteen of these are second year students, another staying over for a third year, and the rest are all new ones, five of which are wives of the men in the school. I have Old Testament Bible Story Telling class with them one hour a week and every other week I give them a new story, so you can see how much time is spent in typing for this class. Mr. Nimmo, who has charge of the school, has several classes in a week and has taught one of the native boys to type, so he can keep caught up on his notes. Then one hour a week I have a writing class and that is work too; there are four groups in the class, from advanced down to very beginners. I spend about two hours a week in preparation for this class and in correcting what they do in the village during the week; most of their writing is done in the village. Our object is not to make them expert writers, but only that they can know how to keep records when they go out into village work, and in case of need they can write a note back to the station. How we do enjoy working with these men who have given themselves to the Lord

for His work. They bring us many lessons in faith and humility. One young man was in the school only about a week, having come here from a nearby village, when someone took a sack of kaffir corn from his house, and then a couple days later someone stole his new clothes that he had just bought. And that means something to these men as cloth is quite expensive just now and they work only half days. God tests their faith in many ways; pray for them, and for us as teachers, that we may have wisdom in knowing how to teach them to the best advantage.

Mamadou, about whom most of you have heard, (our converted Mohammedan) has had a burden on his heart all during the four years he has been saved, to go back to Marabout, his former home, up north of Fort Lamy. He has wanted to see his father and brother again and to tell his people about the Saviour he has found. In March that wish was granted and he made the trip; he was gone about six weeks, traveling both ways in a truck. He spent three weeks with his own people but they would have nothing to do with his Christ or the Word of God; in fact, tried every possible way to get him to go back to the Mohammedan religion. But Mamadou stood true to his Lord and although his heart is sad because they would not believe the Word, yet he knows he has fulfilled Ezekiel 3:18, 19. "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 shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." And we are praying that the seed sown will some day bear fruit. He was happy to be back among us again and the natives showed how much they think of him by the joy expressed at his being back. He is a true, humble servant of the Lord and used of Him in quiet ways, and we trust will be more used here among the Arabs.

We have had the joy of seeing several of the children come to the Lord lately; there have been five in the last week and a half. Two of these are boys who came here with some of the student evangelists this month; then last Thursday in children's Gospel meeting there were three boys came; one of which is from a Hause village and if he takes

an open stand for the Lord, will no doubt, suffer for it. But he comes with another lad from a Mohammedan home who was saved some time ago and who has suffered some for his stand, but who through answer to prayer is now free to come to the classes and meetings, and who I trust, will be a real help to this last boy. Monday of last week we had 113 children, that is the most that I remember ever having in the four and one-half years that I have had the children's work. This is the season of the year when they will begin dropping off though as they are beginning cotton gardens, and their own food gardens. At least they will if rains ever begin; it was 136 in the sun Friday around 2 P. M. and all of that Saturday and Sunday, but last night we had a good rain and it was somewhat cooler this morning. How welcome the cooling rains.

May Philippians 4:6, 7 prove true for you in America as it is to us here in Africa in these days.

In Him in Africa
Bertha Manuel.

GOD MOVES MIGHTILY IN PHOENIX

Dear Co-Workers and Prayer
Helpers:

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for many answers to prayer. We rejoice as we write and try to share these blessings with you.

The Tabernacle

One of the crying needs of our work was an adequate place to worship God and where we could teach the Word and preach the gospel with more freedom from the noise and the inevitable hindrances of outdoor meetings.

The winter had found us working away on the building at the same time carrying on the rest of our evangelistic endeavours, so that when at last we finished the painting of the buildings, for we joined the Tabernacle to the older and smaller building, we all rejoiced in the dedication of this place to the glory of our God.

The Baptisms

It was the Saturday before the dedication. Our regular monthly meeting in Florence at the Arizona State Prison was set for the afternoon. Two carloads of us were going down, and then to insure the completion of the baptistry it was decided to leave the assistant pastor and others, and just the director and

a good carload went to the Prison. After the fine meeting, with hearts filled with joy we returned to Phoenix to find that the tin tank for the baptistry had not been delivered as promised, and our hearts were heavy because we could not think of dedicating a Baptist Church building without a Baptistry. But God put it in the heart of one of our friends that evening to finish the baptistry in his own way. He called us late and said, "Just say the word and you will have water in the wooden box or Baptistry by 3 o'clock tomorrow." We were glad to say the word and more than happy when on Sunday night we had the privilege for the first time to baptize six more converts in our own church building. We had a wonderful meeting. Some three hundred in attendance and the Power and Presence of God's Holy Spirit among us.

The Converts

The little girl, smallest candidate that was baptized, was nearly eleven and she was so anxious to be baptized it was gratifying to see. She surprised us with her ready answers to the questions regarding her reasons why she wanted baptism and how did she know she was a Christian. To this last question she said, "I don't like to do the bad things I did before and I want to live for Jesus." Her faith was so simple yet so strong that we trust God will use her in coming days.

There were a father and son, objects of the wife and mother's prayers for years. How faithfully that Mother witnessed to both. This man would bring his wife and family to church, leave them there and then go on to the movies himself. Sometimes he would come after them and sometimes they had to find some other way home. But the Christian wife and mother kept praying. Then the man lost his job, the family became destitute and the little Christian wife as radiant as ever showed her husband the power of an inward peace and confidence in Christ. Her faith brought him another job, a better one. Then he yielded, his boy following. Great thing this faith when we place it in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Radio Ministry

We have completed 3 years of continuous Sunday morning broadcasts over KOY. We praise God for these all Spanish Gospel services which have been a blessing to thousands. In many a small town where no gospel testimony can be maintained,

the radio brings the gospel to hungry hearts. Our young people have stood by us ever since we began and are a part of this ministry.

One of our last candidates was brought to the Lord as she heard our broadcast. A despised and forsaken woman, but the mother of a fine girl, she wanted her girl to live a clean life not like herself. Her desire to heed to the gospel call brought her timidly to our tabernacle and later after she found Christ she brought her girl and we baptized both of them the same night. Living witnesses they are for Christ.

Praise—Prayer—Requests

1—Praise God for a special loud-speaker installed in one of the mining towns for the broadcasting of our radio programs on Sundays.

2—The increase in power and range of the Radio Station, 300 per cent more coverage.

3—The souls that have come to know our blessed Lord.

4—The open door in Mexico.

Pray For

1—Means to clear the Mission property, \$2,600.

2—Means for the advance into new fields white unto harvest.

3—Strength, wisdom and grace for the Directors and workers as we present the claims of Christ to men. Special prayer for the Directors on their eastern trip.

4—For the new Missionaries whom the Lord is calling to work with us. For their support and for their health, that God may use them here.

Pray for the Evangelistic group of Young People that during the summer months are endeavoring to take the blessed gospel to the Fields where we do not have a building

Trusting our God to bless and prosper you

We are
Gratefully yours,
Lenoardo and Hazel Mercado

AN APOLOGY

We are sorry for the lateness of the September issue but six weeks' absence from our desk made it impossible to go to press on time.

—THE EDITOR.

CLEANINGS

Edited by R. F. HAMILTON

HAROLD PALMER, former pastor of the First Roseland Baptist Church of Chicago, is expecting to sail for the Philippine Islands in October as a missionary under the A. B. W. E. During the month of August, Brother Palmer and family vacationed in Michigan. On Aug. 18 he supplied the First Baptist Church of Pana, Ill., during Brother Hamilton's vacation. The Pana church is aiding in the support of Brother Palmer. Additional support is still needed as well as about \$1,000 on their passage.

ROBERT RYERSE, pastor for the past five years or so of the First Baptist Church of Valparaiso, Ind., has recently resigned the Valparaiso church in order to take up his new duties on Aug. 25 as pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of Grand Rapids, Mich. Calvary church has been pastorless since William Headley resigned to become pastor at Gary.

AN ALL DAY SESSION OF prayer is engaged in by the Central Baptist Church of Gary, Ind., once every month in addition to their regular prayer meetings held at other times. This day of prayer is usually held on Wednesday so that it consummates in their regular mid-week prayer meeting. We think that the "day of prayer" practice is a mighty good one for our churches these days of confusion and uncertainty.

H. LEROY WORTMAN, formerly pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church of Columbus, Ohio, was the young people's evangelist at the Pacific Palisades, in California, Aug. 19 to Sept. 1.

PASTOR R. T. KETCHAM was absent from his pulpit in the Walnut St. Baptist Church of Waterloo, Iowa, from July 26 to Sept. 6. This time was taken up with conference work in the middle west and east. His conference schedule this summer included the Winona Lake Bible Conference in Indiana, the Broadwalk Bible Conference of Atlantic City, the Hawthorne Bible Conference of Hawthorn, N. J., the Haddon Heights Bible Conference of Haddon Heights, N. J., the Pinebrook Bible Conference of Pocono Mts., Pa., and the Victorious Life Conference of Keswick, N. J.

DR. DAVID OTIS FULLER of

Grand Rapids, Mich., has recently completed and had published a condensed exposition of Spurgeon's seven volume set "The Treasury of David". The seven volumes have been reduced to two and sell at \$7.50. Spurgeon's "Treasury of David" has long been accepted as one of the finest expositions ever penned on the Psalms.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of the G. A. R. B. C. has scheduled their next quarterly council meeting with the Baptist Church of Glendenin, W. Va., the church of which E. V. Howell is pastor. The private sessions of the Council will be held during daytime, Sept. 3, 4, and 5 with public meetings in the evenings which various members of the council will address.

BROTHER PAUL Y. WATANABE, of the Independent Japanese Baptist Mission in Los Angeles has had a very profitable trip among the independent Baptist churches of California in July. This Japanese work is in need of a building in which to carry on their work successfully. The present building they are using can be purchased for about \$3,500. Remember this work in your prayers; this money for a building needs to be raised soon.

* * * *

TWELVE GOOD REASONS

Why the tobacco habit in any form—chewing, smoking cigars or cigarettes, or the using of snuff—is a sin

1. *Because it is heathenish.* It was first discovered when Columbus came to America. The Indians were its first users. When first exported to England, religious and civil society rebelled.

2. *Because it is filthy.* The breath, teeth, mouth, beard, shirt fronts, sidewalks, carpets, floors, stoves, and spittoons are proof of this.

3. *Because your own system is against it.* The body does not want it, and rebels in paleness, sickness, vomiting. Usually it is forced on the helpless system.

4. *Because your better judgment is against it.* You do not want your boys to chew tobacco nor smoke cigarettes, neither do you want your daughters to dip snuff.

5. *Because it is wholly selfish,*

used alone to gratify a self-made lust; benefits no one, and is therefore wholly contrary to the Christian spirit.

6. *Because it breaks the first commandment.* It is an idol, for most people pay vastly more to the tobacco god than to the God who gave them their being, and are therefore more devoted to it and are idolaters.

7. *Because medical science condemns it.* Its evils are shown in surgical books and rooms. No intelligent physician, void of prejudice, but what will say it is the enemy of the heart, lungs, nerves, eyes, blood, digestion, mind, etc.

8. *Because intellectual science is against it.* Every state in the Union but Utah and Georgia have declared against it in public schools. Some colleges will not accept a student that uses it.

9. *Because even the semi-civilized see the evil.* The Japanese government and schools have enacted laws against it.

10. *Because it leads to drinking on the part of many.* It is a false stimulant that drives the appetite to other excesses.

11. *Because its sale is solely to gratify the lust for gold.* It supplies no need of life whatsoever; neither clothes nor enlightens; is wholly a non-essential.

12. *Because God's Word is against it.* Read carefully the following scripture texts: Gal. 5:19, Tobacco is unclean and a lust of the flesh; Rom. 8:13 (Tobacco is living after the flesh); Rom. 12:1, 2 (Tobacco use is conforming to the world); Rom. 14:21 (People are offended at those who use it); 1 Cor. 3:16, 17 (Tobacco defiles the bodies); 1 Cor. 10:31 (Tobacco is not used to God's glory); 2 Cor. 6:16, 17 (Tobacco use is not separateness from worldliness); 2 Cor. 7:1 (You cannot use tobacco and be clean in flesh and spirit); Isa. 55:2 (Tobacco is spending money for that which is not bread); 1 Thess. 5:22 (Tobacco use is not abstaining from the appearance of evil); 1 Pet. 2:11 (Tobacco use is a fleshly lust, nothing short of it); Jas. 1:21, 22 (Tobacco is filthy and a superfluity); Phil. 4:8 (Tobacco is not lovely, has not a good report, is not pure, and has no virtue).

—Wealthy St. Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.