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# GOD'S MISSIONARY CHURCH STANDARD

Official Publication of God's Missionary Church, Inc.  
Penns Creek, Pa.

*"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.*

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September 1985

## Golden Anniversary Echoes

On July 23, 1985, the ministers, delegates, as well as the missionaries on furlough, gathered in the tabernacle on the Penns Creek Camp Ground to open the 50th Annual Conference of the God's Missionary Church Inc.

Rev. Straub, our General Superintendent who has served in this capacity 41 of the 50 years, welcomed everyone to the Conference Session. He said that God has certainly been gracious this half-century.

Rev. Paul Miller, the Assistant Superintendent, read Scripture appropriate for the occasion, and commented briefly.

This being our 50th year, Anniversary Books, dedicated to Rev. and Mrs. George Straub and Rev. and Mrs. Truman Wise, were published, containing the history of the Conference, as well as the histories of each church, the Camp meetings, Missions, Penn View Bible Institute, those ministers who are now deceased, and photos of those ministers currently carrying a license with us. Rev. Miller then called both ministers and their wives to the platform to present a book to each family. This was a very moving moment as each expressed gratitude to the Conference and to God for His goodness.

Following the serving of the Lord's Sacrament came the Annual Superintendent's Message to Conference, by Rev. Straub. He read from Acts 1:1-12 and St. Luke 1:1-4, and spoke to us on the subject of "Success in our day". He said we must possess the Baptism of the Holy Ghost which gives us power to be effective, power to pray and touch God, and power to be faithful. He also said, "Let

'Holiness unto the Lord' be our motto." God used the message to challenge each heart and create enthusiasm in us to labor for the Lord.

After lunch, we gathered in the tabernacle to hear the financial reports of each department, from the General Treasury to reports from each camp. Several of the reports showed an increase over last year's income, and that God is blessing.

During the report on Penn View Bi-



ble Institute's finances a question was raised as to the total indebtedness. After the amount was given, a challenge by Rev. Fred Watson was presented, that if each licensed minister in the Conference would pray in approximately \$1,700.00 till next year, for the School, the total indebtedness could be liquidated. He then pledged the first \$1,700.00. This caught fire among the Conference Body, and people started pledging, loans were forgiven, until in the 2

days of Conference a total of \$45,000.00 in cash and pledges were raised for debt reduction. Thank God for the spirit of unity that prevailed in support of the School. Glory be to God!

As we turned our attention to the election of officers, the Assistant Superintendent assumed the Chair. Although elections many times are rather boring and sluggish, this year, the proceedings moved along at a rather good pace. Testimonies and choruses were injected between ballots which helped considerably. Rev. George I. Straub was re-elected to guide the Conference another year in the capacity of General Superintendent. The General Board also remained the same, with each officer receiving strong votes. Time and space does not permit us to state each re-election or change on the various Boards. Those, however, who were placed in leadership of the different departments, do covet your prayers.

As we gathered into the tabernacle Wednesday morning, July 24, 1985, everybody seemed refreshed and ready to start a new day. God also moved in to refresh us spiritually. The morning meeting began with prayer followed by a couple of congregational songs led by Rev. Howard McKenzie. No more was this finished until some testimonies were spontaneously given, resulting in shouts of victory from the Conference Body. Several more felt the leading to testify, bragging on Jesus. Rev. Straub then called on Rev. Paul Peiffer to start a Pennsylvania Dutch song. He misunderstood Rev. Straub, stood to his feet and began singing "Will He

(Continued on Page 2)

## God's Missionary Church

1935 — 1985



## General Directory

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(All camp business and reservations should be sent to the camp secretary.)

## GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

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## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ECHOES.....(Continued from Page 1)

Remember Me". This song was used by God to deepen the sense of His presence. Shouts of victory were again heard as a wave of Glory swept over the Assembly. We finally did get to sing some Pennsylvania Dutch songs which brought back many memories to those accustomed to singing in that language.

Rev. Straub then turned to and read Psalms 150:1-6. The spirit, by this time, was so high that it didn't take much to move the crowd. Saints again praised the Lord as some took to the aisles in rejoicing.

Someone started the song "We're Marching to Zion". The next thing I knew, I saw ministers and delegates move out into the aisles, by two's and even three's, marching, singing, shouting, and weeping. It is literally impossible to put into words the actions that took place. It is almost too sacred to try. As one has said, "Seeing is believing." The Conference hadn't seen a spirit of unity prevail like this in many years. Brethren embraced brethren, sisters embraced sisters, and the love of Christ flowed freely! GLORY BE TO GOD!

This great time of fellowship and refreshing was followed by more songs, choruses, testimonies, and shouts of victory, which continued until noon. The only business conducted in the morning meeting was the Roll Call taken by the General Secretary.

We returned to the tabernacle after another good lunch prepared by the cooks, to take up matters relating to

our stand on "war", a clean-up day at Penns Creek Camp, and authorization given to the General Board and the Penn View Bible Institute Board to do whatever is necessary during the transition period of separating the Institute from the Academy.

The evening meeting, which is usually a highlight, was no exception this year. Rev. Paul Miller preached a very stirring and challenging message to the ministers, delegates, visitors, but especially the Ordination candidates. He spoke from II Timothy 4:1-5.

The three Ordination candidates and their families, Rev. and Mrs. David Fuller, Rev. and Mrs. Dennis McCoy, and Rev. and Mrs. Stephen West, knelt at the altar as the members of the General Board laid hands upon each man, while Rev. Straub pronounced the Ordination Charge upon them, and presented each with a Bible signed from the General Board of the God's Missionary Church Inc.

This brought to close the 50th Annual Conference of the God's Missionary Church, Inc. Many have shared the sentiment that this was one of the best Conference Sessions we have ever had. We take no glory to self as individuals or as a Conference collectively. But we give all the GLORY TO GOD! We can say with the writer, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." GLORY!

John W. Zechman  
General Secretary

## Penn View BENEFIT CONCERT

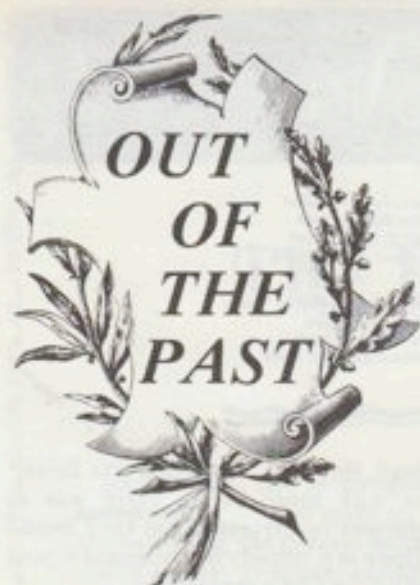
Lebanon Valley Gospel Band  
Penns Creek Tabernacle

September 28th, 1985

7:00 p.m.

Money raised this night will be given toward  
the school's debt liquidation.



**Editor's Note:**

*During this anniversary year we will be featuring articles printed in God's Missionary Standard in the early years of its publication history.*

## The Results of Pentecost

Rev. John Noll

March 1954

I recently heard local and internationally known radio preachers belittle the idea of a second definite work of grace, or a crisis experience to be had in the lives of believers, known as the baptism with the Holy Ghost. That there is such an experience cannot be denied. John the Baptist when preaching spoke, saying, there standeth one among you whom ye know not. He it is, who, coming after me is preferred before me. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. Hallelujah!

John said fire; purging, cleansing, refining, purifying fire; fire from heaven; fire from the altar of God. The Holy Ghost and fire! Bless the Lord. I am shouting in my soul. Fire! What a wonderful subject to write about. More wonderful still, what an experience to be had in our hearts and lives. How unspeakably blessed to walk through this world which is no friend to grace with this living, burning, energizing, separating fire burning in our souls.

Little wonder the heavenly sanctified people are so much misunderstood. Amen. How dry, lifeless, dead, fruitless, juiceless, loveless, joyless, and nul and void, usually sour, critical, faultfinding, and powerless are those who have not been baptized with the blessed Holy Ghost. How happy, elated joyful, and positive in their testimony are they who are (present tense) enjoying this most wonderful experience which is for believers only. Not for sinners, not for unbelievers. Jesus said, "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter . . . whom the world

cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Thank God for the Comforter; Praise God, He has come. Not only into the world on the day of Pentecost, but into the hearts and lives of all believers since that time who have believed and obeyed God, and become willing to be crucified with Christ, for this was, still is, and ever will be the death route for all who are in enjoyment of the second benefit. You say you don't believe it. Never fear then, it is not for you. It is for believers only.

It is for those who are crucified into the world, and the world crucified unto them. We are in the world, but not of the world. Therefore, the world knoweth us not because it knew Him not. Holiness will not only take us out of the world, but it will also take the world out of us, and give us a vision of things eternal, destroying the desires for everything sinful, until we will not desire television, shows, etc.

Daniel 12:10, "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly." We see this wickedness on every side. Paul in his letter to Titus writes saying: "(He) gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

This class are peculiar, not eccentric, but different. They are peculiar in that they are come-outers from the world and possess the mind of Christ.

The Baptism will make us different, it will take the sour spirit from our lives and give us heavenly sweetness. It will lift us out of the minors and lift us into the majors. It will graduate you out of the grade class and put you into the pure hearted class. It will destroy that mulish, carnal, kicking, contrary, cantankerous, obstreperous nature out of you, also that hard to-get-along-with attitude, and make you to be easily entreated even on the church board. It will make us willing

to agree to some things now and then, at least those things which are for the furtherance of the Kingdom. You will be different alright, when this heavenly, spiritual, dynamic of God, this Spirit filled baptism, possesses the heart and destroys the old damnable carnality.

Into this created vacuum, God will put perfect love, peace and fullness of joy, plus purity of heart that is the incentive of power, both with God and man. The more pure the pepper or salt on the table, or the gas in the tank, the more potent it is.

The same with religion, purity incites power. It will give power to witness, live, pray, and power to overcome all things in these days of compromise. It will keep you off the miff tree and make you the planting of the Lord. It will cause you to bring forth fruit into holiness, with the end everlasting life.

Instead of the works of the flesh there will be the fruits of the Spirit. It will take out the gloom and put glory in the soul. Old man grouch will leave you. Perhaps for the first time in many days you will surprise everyone by looking pleasant even at your wife, also at your pastor occasionally. You will be different for you cannot be otherwise, having that something taken out of you you always had, and putting that soul cleansing power into you which you never had.

It changed the apostles. It took indolence and envy out of James and John, making James the advocate of faith and John the apostle of love. It changed impulsive, swearing, trigger-tempered Peter. How quick he was to cut off the servant's ear in the garden and curse in the court of the judgment hall. Later, however, Paul withstood him to the face, but Peter showed no resentment or retaliation. What is the secret? Peter no longer was standing at the fire that warmed the outside only, but he now possesses the holy fire that burned out that fire-back, get

(Continued on Page 4)



## Evangelists' Slate

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Sept. 20-29 (PHC) Tioga, LA  
Oct. 4-13 New Albany, IN  
Oct. 18-27 (GMC) Lewistown, PA  
Nov. 1-10 (Indp.) Blue Knob, PA  
Nov. 15-24 (AWMC) Smithburg, WV

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Hellersstown, PA 18055

## THE RESULTS OF PENECONST . . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

even spirit.

Acts 4:33, "With great power gave the apostles witness." This will also characterize your experience when He is come. When He is come, your trouble will not be to hold out; it will be more difficult to hold in the holy joy. It will be harder for you to remain sitting in your pew, than it will be to get up and testify to what God has done for you. It will set a fire burning within us, that will deliver us from the indifference, deadness, sleepiness, coldness, easy-going religion, so prevalent in these last days. It will start us going for God here and now, and keep us going with a conqueror's tread and the shout of victory through the Blood of Christ. Yes, it will keep us going until the Captain of our salvation says, "It is enough, come up higher," then with shouting we will leave the earth, sweeping past the Milky Way, having an abundant entrance ministered unto us into the city built foursquare to receive from Him the victor's crown and final awards.

This spirit will take the timidity, the helplessness out of you, and give you a boldness in its stead, like unto the experience enjoyed by the disciples. The people marveled when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and they will marvel at you.

It delivers from helplessness like the man at the pool or the man at the Temple's gate. Oh, the helplessness of the so-called holiness people. You can ask them to do so many things and they answer, "I can't!" Poor things, helpless, impotent, powerless. If no one else would ever have an overflow of the Spirit, it is doubtful if they would ever get blessed of the Lord. They don't have enough spark to start a Ford, let alone a church fire. They are always depending on others. Those bones in the valley of Ezekiel were not only dry, but they were very dry! They like many were dead, twice

dead. However, when God was finished with those bones, there was a glorious resurrection and they lived. There is a remedy for deadness if you will take God's prescription.

I know a sister in a certain congregation who was very backward and timid, unable to get to the Lord's table and feast on His goodies. She was impotent, could not speak, but thank God she heard and felt the pull and call of God and came seeking Christ. In a few days she was sweetly saved and sanctified. Thank God she was unbelievably transformed from a helpless, bench-warming, space-filler in the church, into a shouting God-praising, singing, rejoicing, working, active saint. Today you can ask her to do anything and she will at least try to accomplish the task. Not only does she try, she usually accomplishes her task. She cleans the church, leads the prayer meetings, teaches Sunday School class and witnesses for Christ. She can now do all things through Christ. "I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Have ye received the Holy Ghost?





**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first in a series of articles on the Ten Commandments. Written by Oliver G. Wilson, Editor of *The Wesleyan Methodist*, in 1949, it will help to focus on this great moral code and bring much needed light to bear upon our needy society.

DLF

# The First Commandment

by Oliver G. Wilson

**Introduction:** Let us recognize at the beginning of our study that this law has its source in God — "God spake all these words," Exodus 20:1, and that its aim is to promote the well-being and general happiness of man. We shall discover that each Commandment states a great principle, and that the highest culture can be found only in recognizing and conforming to each principle.

Let it be emphatically said that, with all the brain girth of 30 centuries and with all the advance scientific knowledge, never has a single one of these ancient laws been discovered to be in conflict with the fundamental nature of our being.

Now, to the study of the First Commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

This commandment begins with a great assumption — God is. It offers no evidence of His existence, but His existence is announced on the basis of the native instinct of the soul which recognizes that God exists. No people or tribe has ever been found in which there is no innate knowledge of the existence of God. Men everywhere and in all lands recognize that He is. Those who have drifted into atheism have done so because of their sins. Atheism is the fruit of impious living. "When they knew God, they glorified him not as God...God gave them over to a reprobate mind," Romans 1:21, 28.

The power to know God, to commune with Him, is the one unerasable mark that separates man from the brutes. This power is the highest quality of manhood. For a man not to exercise this privilege is to cast away the crown of manhood.

*Man is to give supreme allegiance to God.* He is to find his highest good in a life lived in harmony with God's laws.

"This Commandment prohibits every species of mental idolatry, and all inordinate attachment to earthly and sensible things...whoever seeks happiness in the creature is necessarily an idolator." — A. Clarke.

He who is avaricious makes gold his god, and thus he denies supreme allegiance to God.

Sensuality makes a god out of the baser passions. That life which is lived for sensuous gratification ends in degradation and bitter sorrow.



Those who follow after fortune tellers, spirit mediums, Ouija boards, charms, crystal gazing, lucky or unlucky numbers are breaking this First Commandment. Surely to consult any of the above is to believe that they possess supernatural power. Such a course leads inevitably to darkest superstition.

This Command is an index finger pointing to the land of man's highest good. It is not a prohibition lifted up to deprive the soul of freedom or pleasure. Rather, it is an instruction, given in love, for the soul seeking the supreme blessings and the noblest accomplishments in life. —

Oliver G. Wilson





# CONFERENCE

# 19





# CAMP

## 85





# Religion Versus Salvation

Rev. C. W. Butler

The world is full of religion. There are religions many and religion much. Among all the religions of the world there is one and only one which has at its center a Saviour. This religion has as its supreme objective the personal salvation of men. Salvation is God's remedy for sin. After all, there is one "root" wrong in the world, and that is *human sin*.

The God who gave man his being, in the origin of man by special divine creation has, in his love for man, provided a remedy for his one ailment — sin. This remedy centers in and is provided for by his gift of his Son. "Jesus Christ, whom God set forth to be propitiation through faith in *His blood*, for the remission of sins which are past, through the forbearance of God, that he (God) might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" Rom. 3:24, 25, 26.

The central and essential fact in the provision of our personal salvation is the *blood of Christ*. He saves not by the life he lived, but by the *life he gave, in unspeakable sacrifice*. In his death, God judged sin, maintained law, and declared his own righteousness. In the light of this essential truth, God settled forever the false philosophy of humanism. This fact we meet in the verse, "Where is boasting then? That is in view of the death of Christ as the only means of our salvation. Where is boasting then — human sufficiency — it is *excluded, by what law, of works?* Nay but by the *Law of faith*." Rom. 3:27.

The finished sacrifice of Christ, established the *law of faith* in the *realm of grace*, and furnished for all time and for all men, the *perfect object* for the *faith* by which alone *we can be saved*. We are living now in the day that the old prophet of God, General Booth, saw in his preview of the apostasy of this age when he warned his day that they were facing a time when we would have a "bloodless religion." This bloodless religion is based upon the false assumption that all men are God's children, that all the world needs is some help to save themselves.

I remember when the slogan of our modern departing from the faith was — "The Universal Fatherhood of God and the Universal Brotherhood of

man." This false unbiblical note has issued in a *practical universalism*. The literature of many years now, and, in many of the larger, older denominations has utterly ignored the blood, and sin, and retribution. The approach has been and is on challenging men to *seek to follow Christ*, and to embrace the *Christ life*, or rather the *Christ way of life*.

This change of emphasis in the approach to the whole gospel program was voiced thirty-two years ago in a great church in Cleveland, Ohio, when an outstanding missionary from India, said, "When I went out to India seventeen years ago, I went with a sense of a lost people, when I return next fall I go with the sense of a needy people, needing help." This view changed our whole missionary approach and message. Its effect at home was to substitute religious education for repentance and regeneration. The result has been filling the church with unsaved men.

It is time that the church, if she is to meet the challenge of this hour, return to the absolute authority of the inspired word of God, and call men to repentance, and to faith in the atoning blood of Christ, as the only way of salvation. Men need Christ as an almighty Saviour, before they can follow him in a life of right living and devoted service.

The only way lost men can ever become Children of God is by faith in Christ, as declared in Gal. 3:26 — "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Also, I Peter 1:23 — "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Modernism has been weighed in the balances and found wanting. The church has had to face this fact. In view of this, the church has returned to a new emphasis on evangelism. This recent return to emphasis on evangelism has however not come back to the Bible pattern for saving men as described above, but to an appeal to men as the children of God to identify themselves with the church, and adopt the Christ way of life, and become servants in the household of faith. The big drives therefore have resulted in adding members, without getting men to God for real salvation.

There are exceptions to this which we gladly recognize, where true spiritual leaders have united with the personal visitation work, the preaching of a saving gospel, and achieved real results.

The danger is that the present effort to church men is watered down to a religion of service, and works. An effort to follow Christ, before being led to really know him. "The watering down in present day evangelism adopts a new and weak terminology. Nearly all reports are, "so many decisions for Christ." You would think the dear Lord in dire need of men deciding to help him out. We need some rugged calling men to "*seek the Lord*", to forsake sin and with broken and contrite hearts turn as seekers to Christ, until he accepts them.

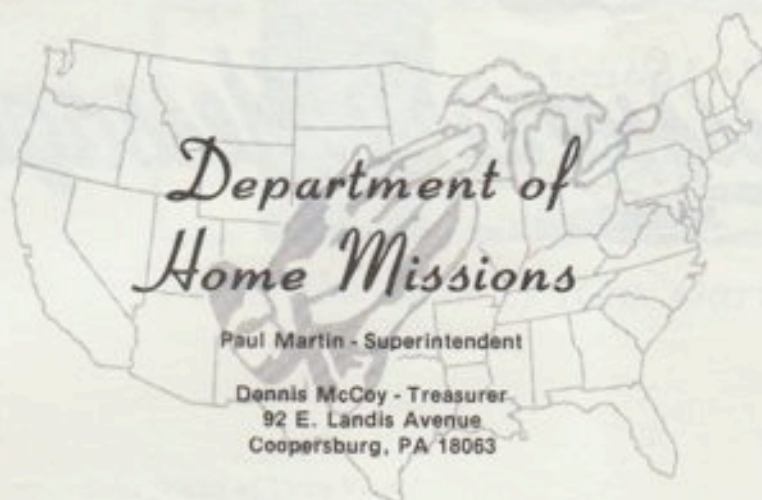
Here are some up-to-date appeals made in the literature of two different churches: — "The clearest wisdom, the sum of the duty and discipline of life, and the ideal of its dedication in the words of Jesus, "Follow men!" I am asked to "follow and obey him." I submit that such a course of life is possible only after he has been received and trusted as an Almighty Saviour. Only after we are made his by his transforming grace, can we follow him and obey him.

Another sample of present church procedure is found in the following appeal as the ends to be sought in a great program of the church. "The following ideals for Christian teachers as adapted from the National Council, why not make this affirmation your own? "We believe that God's *purpose* is to *help all men grow toward him in the likeness of Jesus Christ*." "We desire to grow and help our pupils to grow in the *Christlike way of life*." You see where the emphasis is do you not? All these ideals are good in their place, they look so good, even worth while, until we measure them by what they fail to emphasize, namely, sin, blood, faith and real salvation.

When men take the virus out of sin, and the blood atonement out of their salvation — or religion, of course it follows there is no fire of any kind in hell, no judgment day where we shall all give an account of ourselves to God. And of course no eternal separation of men based upon the standard

(Continued on Page 9)





As we begin this report we had brought to our attention the verse in I. Cor. 16:9, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." As I think of the first part of this verse and rejoice that this is true in our day as well.

Since our last report an area of outreach among Spanish speaking folk has appeared on the horizon. Carlos and Emma Cantoral with their daughter Sonja have felt a call from the Lord to their people in Donna, Texas. Thru contact with our department, and much prayer this department is planning to open a work in this Texas town with the Cantorals as workers. This work would be a completely Spanish work. I read recently that the American Stew pot is filling fast. Waves of immigrants are pouring into our country and we do have a responsibility to reach them with the "holiness" message. America is the fifth largest Spanish Nation in the World.

It is truly in order then, that we have a work among these folk. There are Spanish speaking Mexicans arriving daily in Texas as well as other border states. Please pray much for this new venture. Several brethren from this department have gone down during September and a report of their findings will be in a later issue. Pray that the Lord will open a door for a suitable place to worship as well as a place for the Cantorals to live.

We rejoice that the Lord is at work in the other areas of outreach. I would like to remind you of the work among the Indians in New York. It was our privilege to be in that area for a tent meeting in August. The Lord graciously moved in the meeting and

at this report time the meeting is in progress and we are believing for new folk to get into the Kingdom. While I am reporting of this work among the Indians I would like to share several urgent material needs. The church building is in urgent need of repair. There is a serious water problem which will require digging around the church and placing a drain system at the footer level. The roof is in need of a new coating, the front steps have settled to a point they cannot be used safely. Would you like to help in this restoration project? Please send your contribution to our treasurer now, as this work must be done before winter sets in. Also pray much for Pastor and Mrs. Mike Hoskins as they faithfully labor among these folk. The Lord is helping them and their labors are being rewarded with folk minding God. It will be a great encouragement to the folk at Steamburg for us to pitch in and help in these projects.

Investors are needed for furtherance of the Gospel in areas where there is no Holiness (conservative) church. Perhaps the Lord will speak to you about investing funds unto the work of Home Missions. An investor is a person who contributes at least \$15.00 monthly to Home Missions. In return for your investment we will forward to you monthly a book that will bring blessing to you. Just write to us and let us know that you want to help in this great work and you will desire to be an investor. Please write to us at R.D. #6, Box 196-D, York, Pa. 17404.

We had requested for youth to help in summer work at home mission churches. Well, several have responded. Missy Clark from our Lebanon

church, and Connie Kottmyer from our Liberty Valley Church near Ickesburg served for a week helping in Bible School and various duties, providing meals for the evangelist during the tent meeting at Steamburg, New York. They did a great job and the local folk appreciated very much their services of love. Thanks so much Missy and Connie, you did very well.

I would not want to close this report without a special thanks to those of you who are supporting our mission pastors, thru your monthly gifts to this department. Our pastors are reporting a good summer of advance for the Lord. Many of these churches will be having fall revivals and your prayers are needed for these revivals to be a success.

Glen Burnie folk are still seeking a place for worship. They are renting now and desire to purchase their own property. The same is true for Avon, N.Y. in that they also need a place for worship. They now worship in a home and a church building would help to gain new folk.

Friends we need not remind you, but we are in the last days and there are so many in our USA that need to be reached before the return of the Lord. Continue to labor with us to reach the un-reached!



## RELIGION VS. SALVATION.....

(Continued from Page 8)

of true salvation. Perhaps like pagan Hinduism we may hope to reach the perfection of utter annihilation, and cease to be at all. Surely a civilization to endure upon a level of any kind will need to be built out of material other than that which has wrecked the present civilization here upon earth.

Again I issue the call in the name of my redeeming Lord to return to the old paths of a religion which is truly Biblical, and which centers in a salvation which cures sin, and recovers man to righteousness and that true holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. This salvation qualifies man not only to see God, but to associate and cooperate with him forever.

Religion without salvation makes men servants and not sons, this dooms men to eternal disappointment for—"The servant abideth not in the house forever; but the Son abideth ever." John 8:35. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3.





## "Many Hands Make Light Work!"

Shortly after the Christmas season with all the special planning and activity over, I finally got settled down to realize, 'Oh! It's my turn to return to the United States for deputation work this year.'

And then as always, a time of fear and dread gripped my heart. How could I leave all my missionary friends and Haitian friends? Say nothing of all the work and duties that will be left to others in my absence. And besides, what will I tell all of my American people when I get there and they are all staring at me expecting me to say something after not having seen them for three years.

Let me see! How is it I must act in the American society? With all of its beautiful stores and homes with carpeting, bathtubs, and hot water?

And so, on and on my mind goes until finally I realize it's time to get my legal papers from Haiti that gives me a resident of that country, permission to leave and then later return.

All of my feelings about leaving my "beloved Island" must be kept very quiet. For if the Nationals find out too soon their words of regret and mourning make me leaving even harder.

So now it's Easter Sunday A.M., just two days before I leave the LaCroix area. I am standing before a congregation of 209 people, ready to

tell, by flannel art, the Easter Story. When I decide it's time to make my departure announcement, so casually I tell them that, per usual, every year one of the missionaries have to go to the U.S.A. for deputation work, and this year it is my turn, but I will return SOON.

Well, it just so happened we had a young man who was very sick in the congregation that morning. And he thinking the work would fold up and the clinic close, almost fell off his bench. So they quickly helped him lay down on a straw mat on the floor for the rest of the service.

And now for two days my suffering is even greater, with all the many good-bye's, farewell words, prayers, and even a 'going away gift' of two tiny roosters.

So the final hour arrives turning my books and keys over to my co-missionary, I wave 'good-bye' to many, many little and big hands, all wishing me a 'good trip' and speedy return.

Fighting tears, I leave the Mountain Mission of LaCroix to spend my remaining few days at Port-au-Prince, packing and preparing.

And now with most of the 'good-byes' said, things are looking better, for soon I will be seeing my family and all my friends in the U.S.A. And it's nearly strawberry time too!

And so with confidence in God's help and promises such as this: Psalms 26:12, "My foot standeth in an even place; in the congregation will I bless the Lord." I went up those jet airplane steps and watched out the window until my 'beloved Island of Haiti' gave way to blue sky and I could see her no longer.

Arriving in the U.S.A. and traveling in deputation work this summer, I have been very conscious of God's help and protection.

Also, I want to thank each Pastor and congregation for making my deputation work this summer a very pleasant time of Christian fellowship.

A very special note of 'thanks' goes to Rev. and Mrs. Marlin Crock, our foreign missions Superintendent for sharing their home with me this summer.

I now will leave the eastern States and visit my family in Michigan, then soon to return to Haiti.

May I say once again, 'Thanks to everyone' for all your hospitalities, prayers, and giving to make missions work in Haiti even greater in the coming year.

"Many Christian Hands Make Mission Work Light!!!!"

In Him,  
Beverly Wing





## School News, Penn View

*From the desk of Rev. Garry L. Spriggs*  
President

Dear friend of Penn View,

At the 1985 conference of the God's Missionary Church it was unanimously voted to endeavor to clear the \$242,000 debt on Penn View Bible Institute during this coming year.

There are 140 ministers in our conference. The question was asked by Bro. Fred Watson concerning how much would each one have to pay to see this cleared .... it is approximately \$1700 each. Bro. Watson pledged the first one and then other ministers, laymen, and churches began to follow until over \$48,000 in cash and pledges were given during the conferences. Another \$16,000 was pledged during camp for a total of over \$64,000.

It goes without saying that many of these 140 ministers cannot pay \$1700. This is where you can help. If everyone pulls together we will see this miracle accomplished.

It must be remembered that this is **DEBT LIQUIDATION** money and can only be used for that. Therefore, this giving **must be over and above** what you regularly give to the school.

Yours for Youth,

Bro. Spriggs,

**Yes** I want to help with this momentous effort. However, I do not want to give unless the full amount is pledged. Therefore please inform me when enough money has been pledged or given to clear the entire debt (including my pledge) and I will send you the money or bring it to the "CELEBRATION DAY" program. I pledge the following amount:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please cut out and mail in*

Bro. Spriggs,

**Yes** I am going to help with this momentous effort. I am pledging the following amount and will pay it as soon as possible so that you can immediately start "catching up" thus saving on the interest that is being charged.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please cut out and mail in*



Whatever may have happened to it since, the Christian way did not begin as a broad boulevard. Our Lord said the gate to eternal life was strait and the way narrow. He said that few find it and from that to the faithful few in Sardis (Rev. 3:4), the New Testament does not give us the impression of the popular, all-inclusive movement. The early Christians were a persecuted minority group in a pagan world. It was said of certain worthies, "They were narrow, in other words *they had an edge on them*, as men that serve in great emergencies must have." As long as the church kept that edge, nothing could stand before it. But Constantine came along and the pagans flocked into a popular catch-all fellowship. That almost smothered

men. We are devising clever ways of reducing the faith to what has been called "a fleshly and flat religious neutrality."

Prayers for peace made in crazy-quilt fashion from the Koran, from Hinduism, from the Bible, may deceive some politicians, but God is not mocked. When a Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi, and a Protestant minister stage a religious rally, it does not mean that the millennium is just around the corner. Everybody is riding the religious band-wagon these days, which may mean the opposite of what some optimists imagine. "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you" might be spoken of religion.

Paul did not meet the perils of pagan Rome by working out an agree-

noble exceptions, to be sure, but this has been too true of orthodoxy generally.

The remedy is not in running to the other extreme in a smiling amiability that does little more than fit everybody with rose-colored glasses and paint the clouds with sunshine. The hour calls for transformed non-conformists, who have mastered by the Spirit the positive-negative combination of putting on Christ and making no provision for the lusts of the flesh. That will never be a popular movement. Multitudes who crowd the Lord for loaves and fishes will disperse when they face the meaning of His flesh and blood. Only a remnant will remain, the Master's minority, the few in Sardis. Their greatest peril

## Saints "With an Edge on Them"

by Vance Havner

vital Christianity and we have had revival only as now and then some group has found the narrow way again.

Today with peaceful coexistence and conformity and compromise the prevailing marks of the age, nothing is abhorred more than narrowness and differentness. As the race is leveled into one faceless mass in a world-church and world-state preparatory to Antichrist, it is considered the unpardonable sin to be distinctive. Instead of meeting the challenge of this pagan civilization with the sharp edge of a dedicated minority, scorning the pleasures of the times and living by rigid discipline, we are now supposed to hold summit conferences with the heathen to work out a religious formula acceptable to all. Such a hodgepodge built on the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man will deceive well-meaning souls who have never known how to separate truth from error, but any real work of God will be an outbreak of original narrow Christianity, foolishness to all natural

ment with Caesar. He did not dwell on how much the Gospel had in common with Rome. He did not augment his forces by taking in unrelated groups "who almost believe as we do." He would have grown tolerant in his old age and he could have advised Timothy, "After all, times have changed and perhaps we had better dull the edge a little." To the contrary, he stiffened Timothy's moral backbone and bade him endure hardness as a soldier, not negotiate as a diplomat.

Just here, however, much of orthodox Christianity has made its big blunder. It has been sound enough, strict enough, but, while nonconformity with a vengeance, it has not been sufficiently transformed by the renewing of the mind. It has been right but not radiant. Its work and labor and patience have not been a work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope. We have had ethical strictness and theological correctness without the hilarious joy of fools for Christ's sake, in love with the Lord and the souls of men. There have been

will be to become proud of it. If they stay humble and faithful and keep sweet, fear the Lord, think upon His name, and speak often one to another, they will be His witnesses, His last-minute men while the night darkens before the Day dawns.

There are subtle influences aplenty that would dull the sharp edge of this testimony. There will be persecution aplenty for those who refuse to be dulled. But persecution makes a good grindstone, and you cannot sharpen an ax on a pound of butter. You can either sharpen or dull an ax on a grindstone, however, depending on how you hold the ax.

The rough pressures of these days will do one or the other to all of us. It depends on how we meet the grindstone. A lot of people are going to be dulled until they no longer cut wood for God. Others will be made all the keener. The Saviour came to send not peace but a sword. The Scriptures are sharper than any two-edged sword. The saints should see to it that, as instruments for the Master's use, they keep an edge on them.