

INTERNATIONAL



HARVEST

John 4:35

"Unto the ends of the earth"

Romans 1:5

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THINGS TO COME MISSION

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REACHING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST



Mission Director – ELDRED SIDEBOTTOM
International Representative – VERNON ANDERSON

TO BE NOTHING

BY PAUL W. FLEMING

Some five thousand have accepted Jesus Christ. Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, had been preaching. My, what overwhelming and eternal results! *"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).*

Man's Approval

Today it seems that we are not interested in whether or not a man has been with Jesus; what we want to know is what great teacher or professor has he been with, what school has he attended. The Bible may teach that God takes the things that "are not" to bring to nought the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence, but today men are striving desperately to work themselves out of the "are not" class. If Peter was nothing, who wants to be like Peter?

Too many are concerned with the passion for man's wisdom, with the hope of making themselves thus presentable before God. They are striving to become sharper tools in the hands of God. In other words, it seems foolish to just give ourselves as nothing to Christ. We feel we should get a little wisdom, a little ability, first, so we will have something to put on the altar. This way men will recognize that we are something and yet humble enough to follow Jesus Christ. No, we are living in a day when men are not content just to be with Jesus, to be simple and childlike in their confidence in God. Men work desperately to pull themselves out of the "are not" class. There is a hidden feeling that makes them believe that, if as a man they are more respectable and more capable, they will do a better job of presenting this lowly Jesus. So we are amazed at the man, we marvel at his ability, but we still find

following Christ is not very popular.

The men who are most acceptable in many pulpits today find that their acceptability is based mostly on their human ability, their human knowledge, eloquence, persuasion, and personality. Some may feel that it is all right to be filled with the Holy Spirit, but this is not the basis for having a man in most pulpits.

One can't keep a crowd coming if he really hits at the root of human failure. A lot of religious leaders have found that since Jesus Christ can't draw a crowd, they will have to find something else that will. But the kind of message that Stephen preached certainly wouldn't hold a crowd, yet nothing was ever truer nor do I believe there was ever a time when a message of the caliber Stephen preached is more necessary than today. You would lose your crowd, your popularity, and, who knows, you might even find that people can still throw rocks! We give lip praise to the Holy Spirit but we don't practice the spiritual truth that the Holy Spirit all alone has the power to do the job that must be done. *"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power"* says Paul (1 Cor. 2:4).

Training vs. Power

Today, Bible schools and seminaries are full. When young people think in terms of giving their lives for the Lord's service and want a consensus of Christian opinion as to how they should prepare themselves, the overwhelming emphasis is to "get all the training you can get." It has become a long succession of Bible school, college, and seminary, plus other specialized training. Certainly, as young men and women comply with these high religious standards, it is hard for them

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VESSELS FOR THE MASTER'S USE

ROLLIN WILSON

ROLLIN WILSON FAMILY



Rollin Mark Tim Becky
 Jetty Priscilla Faith

The late Charles H. Welch in his monumental work, "Alphabetical Analysis" opens the subject entitled; VESSELS, with these thoughts: "The first title given the Apostle Paul in Scripture provides us with another subject for study, 'He is a chosen Vessel unto me' (Acts 9:15)."

After a near life-time of being this 'vessel' Paul writes in his last letter to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:20, 21):

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour and some to dishonour.

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

Purged FROM . . . a vessel FOR the Master's use. Vessels abound in God's great house. So often we think of a vessel as something that needs to be filled. However, Paul oft spoke of the vessel as being emptied . . . 'poured out' (Phil. 2:17, where 'offered' has the sense of being 'poured out' as were the Levitical drink offerings unto the Lord).

Our experience with regard God's call to Brazil and almost two years here well illustrates this subject of vessels. First, I refer to the many God has used to bring us to Brazil. Some of you 'poured out' of yourselves, your prayer and means, to send us.

All we have seen of the work here to which we've been called again demonstrates many other vessels in God's house, who have poured out themselves unto the Lord, too.

Paul labored, raising up to God churches, faithful men, numerous preaching points and a life-time of sacrificial service. We can honestly say here in this field of Brazil we've witnessed a very close replica of that first century Pauline ministry. Surely every worker feels his field of service is special and we are no exception.

The Bible-School we hold among our two churches on the sea coast has borne fruit already. Our students are all mature men in the work, there. Some are ready now to move out into preaching points and establish churches. Others will remain in their locale and teach others to carry on in their respective groups.

Brother Henrique Schmidt is finding more open doors to pioneer the gospel of grace than ever were open to him previously; these are out-of-the-way regions where no gospel witness exists. Men to follow Brother Schmidt as Pastors appear ready. I'm thinking in particular of three families (those of Brother Moneco, Antonio and Jose) who have expressed readiness as the Lord provides, to move into these fertile areas and there plant churches.

We need not exaggerate what God is doing here in our part of Brazil. What we've observed has awed us to see and be a part of God's harvest here in Brazil.

Yes, Brazil is part of that 'great house' (2 Tim. 2:20) and here are many vessels of the Lord purged from self and sin, and prepared for the Master's use. Would the Lord have you to 'pour out' your vessel with these brethren?

"To be a chosen vessel to bear His

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REPORT FROM HOLLAND

PETER WIERING



Dwight Peter Lucy Etta Roy
Kenneth Vernon David

No doubt all Christian workers are encouraged and challenged by Paul's farewell message to the Ephesian elders. He told them, "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men". . . "Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

The Lord Jesus Christ knew that we would need an example of ministering the message of the cross and the resurrection in this day of grace and He gave us a unique example in the person of Paul. Really it is the Lord Jesus Himself in Paul. It is Christ we see warning those people in Ephesus night and day with tears. The question is, Is He allowed to show His love for men and women and children through us?

In July we held a one week Vacation Bible Club in our home and we held another like it in Eerbeek the following week. In the morning from nine to eleven, we had a group of about 15 age 7-9. After that, about 7 little children. Then in the evening, we had a group of 14 boys and girls age 10 and older. Attendance was steady during the week and the interest good. You can imagine it was a busy week but also a blessed week. Henk told the same Bible story in each group, adapted to the age level. Etta helped with the handwork, the music and many other things that

needed to be done. I gave a missionary story each day. There were new children that had not been in our home. We dealt with some personally and trust that the Lord spoke to many of them. We told them that we plan a Bible Club once a week when school starts again. Pray that the Lord will enable us to do this.

Henk Gerritsen and I have done some personal work using the gospel booklets we printed. One time we were at the shopping center in Dieren, talking to different persons. Henk had quite a conversation with a Roman Catholic man, who was quite open and also sought to live for God. In the course of the conversation, this man told Henk that he believed more than what he learned in his church. He mentioned that he read the articles of Wiering in the weekly paper and agreed a lot with it. He did not know that Henk worked with Wiering when he said this. To us it was one more encouragement to hold forth the Word of Life.

At the end of April we started out from Dieren in the mini-bus to attend the first grace conference organized by the friends of Birmingham, England. We drove south to Brussel where we picked up David and Marilyn Adams. We had the joy of being treated to their hospitality before we continued the journey and had a complete feast with deep fried chicken and other delicious foods. From the

time we met them till we dropped them off again the following week, the Lord gave us a very precious fellowship with this devoted couple. That first night we crossed the channel on the car ferry and the next morning early we drove on to London from Dover. It was a beautiful day. The grass on the hills was frosted but slowly the warmth of the sun took over. The hills in southwestern England (Kent) were dotted with flocks of sheep. Some of the little lambs were starting to jump and run around the trees, while the older sheep were still resting.

The conference was held at a Christian conference ground 60 miles north of Birmingham. The place was formerly built as a rich landowners estate and located in beautiful country-



CLOVERLY HALL

side. For our children it was a wonderful experience. They could discover new rooms or climb in the bell tower, or roam outside. Of course we enjoyed the good English food and thank the friends of Birmingham for the hospitality shown us.

It was the reality of the Lord Jesus in our midst that made the conference a foretaste of heaven. The messages, songs, testimonies and all made it a spiritual feast. Our dear brother in Christ John Eades, did not know what it would be like, but he was so blessed that he consulted with the others and voiced the desire to have another conference next year and invite more friends so that "Cloverly Hall" could be filled up. We praise the Lord for the experience of the unity of the

THOSE PRESENT AT CONFERENCE



Spirit and the Love of Christ in our midst.

The return trip brought us a test of faith when something went wrong with the electrical system. We found out that only some big city would have parts for this German built Ford. Thoughts of missing the boat and an expired ticket loomed in our minds. After much searching we found a garage that specialized in electrical work. Within one hour and for no more than 2 dollars charge, the trouble was fixed and we went on again. We did not yet know what would happen with the boat, except that we had missed it and had an invalid return ticket, but our hearts had found the solid rock in trust and praise songs came forth while we drove on. We sang till we were all tired out. We were allowed on the next boat without any extra charge and thanked God for both the experience and the way He worked things out. Often we have found in our ministry that it is good for us to be put in a situation where we really have to trust the Lord.

We have shared with you in brief some of our experiences and a report on the ministries. If you would be willing to help us here by praying for us, and if you would like to receive our prayer letters, we would suggest that you notify our mission headquarters. We believe that blessed victories may yet be won in Holland for our precious Lord, and we would invite you to be a prayer partner in this venture of faith.

HOW TO PRAY FOR ME

"If only the people at home could pray about this with me! But how can I tell them? They may not understand."

How often have I felt that way! But I cannot do without your prayers, so let me share with you, quite openly, some of the *problems* that I face. Some are personal, some concern my work. *Understanding them will help you pray for me more effectively.*

Spiritual Pressures

Like everyone else, I begin to cool off spiritually, even to backslide, when my times of personal devotions begin to deteriorate. You know how easy it is to neglect one's quiet time. *I would like you to pray that I will maintain this daily communion with God.*

If I do not, it may result in *irritability* toward my fellow missionaries and my African colleagues. This is dangerous, particularly in behavior to racial prejudice.

It can also result in *pride*, that attitude which regards my own opinions or actions as the only right ones, or at least the best ones. Pride may show itself in high-handed treatment of others, impatience with others' shortcomings, or seeking personal popularity or status.

Losing touch with God also exposes me to *temptations*. A person who has been doing fine work for God, whether as a missionary overseas or a Christian at home, may fall morally. *Complete honesty* in handling money and goods, *truthfulness* in speech and deed, *purity* of mind and body — all of these may be attacked. The Enemy may use loneliness, or the insidious influence of the low moral standards around him to aggravate temptation.

Physical Pressures

Ill health can cause spiritual depression and inefficiency, and can be used by the devil to impede God's work, and put strain on those others who have to carry the extra load.

Fatigue is a common condition in the tropics, where humidity and temperature are high, and where physical exertion can make one drip with perspiration.

Road accidents are increasingly prevalent with the growing number of vehicles crowding the highways and public streets. Pray for my protection. Equally important, pray that I may drive with skill and caution, that I may not harm other people. How tragic, blameless or not, to maim or kill another person.

Emotional Pressures

One of the chief causes of emotional difficulties is *loneliness*. This affects single workers particularly, especially if there are no other single people for companionship. Even couples in isolated places can feel the lack of friends of their own race.

....*Anxiety* is another source of pressure. This may be anxiety over the work, or a problem in the local church, or trouble at home, so far away. In countries where there is political upheaval, there can be anxiety over friends and fellow workers.

In the case of missionary parents there can be anxiety about the children — and not just over their physical health and safety. "Should we send them home for schooling? Should we stay at home with them?" These are heart-rending questions for parents. And those who *have* left sons or daughters at home for higher education are subject to severe concern for their moral and spiritual welfare.

Other problems should be mentioned here: incompatibility with fellow workers and local conditions, *discouragement* at apparent lack of results; and the subtle *strain of just being an alien* twenty-four hours a day.

Financial Pressures

I do not need to say much about financial pressures. Most of us face

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JOSEPH WATKINS FAMILY



Joe Pauline Cheryl Stephen

Joseph Watkins and family have returned to the Philippines for their third term. His ministry is to encourage the churches of the central islands of the Philippine group, and assist the National Evangelists in reaching their areas with the gospel of the Grace of God. Along with this field ministry, Joe is also in charge of duplicating tapes for the radio ministry and seeing that these tapes are delivered to the stations for the daily or weekly broadcasts.

WORK WHILE IT IS DAY

HENK GERRITSEN

Christ worked. "Go" was essential in His ministry. He went to sinners and publicans. He preached. Sometime in the synagogue, sometime when sitting in a boat, but most often right on the street. Especially on the street, power often worked out from Him. Paul worked too. He did a lot of "street work". . . "and have taught you publicly, and from house to house." (Acts 20:20)

In Holland we are also going from house to house just as 2000 years ago. When one does this "footwork," one discovers that there is more love for pleasure than for God. Also, much "power" and self denial is needed for this work. Only a message of judgment and the coming night can wake up some. We have been using a specially prepared booklet for this ministry. This booklet is now going out

by the hundreds in the Netherlands. (We have now printed the second run of 3,000.) In Eerbeek, one man came to us who was seeking. He read this booklet. His children have started to come to our Sunday School and we had a Bible study two different times in his home.

We regret the fact that so many believers in the Netherlands are divided and torn apart. We try to let the Word of God come to its full right among them—the mystery, that was made known to Paul. Many Christians are weary and tired. Materialism, worldliness and love-of-ease have done their

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ORVILLE HUNT

Orville Hunt has resigned from Things to Come Mission to take a position with Grace Mission. We have appreciated our association and fellowship in the gospel with brother Hunt and pray the Lord will bless his ministry in this new position.

JOHN SHRIVER FAMILY



John Janet Jon Juline

John Shriver, director of the International Grace Bible Institute, reports that 35 students were registered at the beginning of this school year. This year marks the first time that all the first year students are high school graduates. For those students without a high school education, we are encouraging them to attend the Mindanao Grace Bible Institute (located near Davao City) which is taught in the Cebuano dialect. There are no degrees offered at our Bible Institutes and all the students are preparing for the ministry.

WARREN KEIPER FAMILY



Warren Shirley Connie Carol Leo

The Keipers have been in Brazil two years, spending the first year in Sao Paulo in language study and the last year in the city of Campo Largo in the State of Parana. Their ministry is largely in the extension Bible school which now has two locations (three classes) where the missionaries travel to minister the Word of God rightly divided. Classes are held in each location every other week. The aim of this type of school is to reach MEN

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work in the church of Christ. We see in all this that the night is coming and soon. This drives us on to a final effort to work while it is still possible. The love of Christ constrains us. There is enough work to do. Childrens work has become my real love. Personally, I have started a cassette tape ministry which has been blessed already by the Lord. I have discovered that as the work grows there is a greater need for prayer. Christ worked, but often He was on the mountain to pray. If my Savior needed this, how much more we need it. I am thankful to all of you for your love and help and prayers. I have boldness to thank you for everything but also to ask you to keep on praying for us in Holland that the doors will open wide for the message of Gods grace in this country. The time is getting short. The night is coming. We work till the night comes for we do not belong to the night, but are children of The Light.

who have proven their spiritual leadership and desire to know the Word of God. Each student is recommended by his local church for training for a full time ministry. Along with the school ministry, the Keipers have had many opportunities to witness to different people in the city of Campo Largo . . . several of whom have come to know the Lord as their personal Saviour and some are interested in and even asking for Bible study.



VERNON ANDERSON

This year, along with his position as International Representative for the mission, Vernon Anderson has also joined the teaching staff of the International Grace Bible Institute. His teaching duties are only for two days a week which leaves time for his traveling ministry to the churches in the Philippines. Later this year, Vernon plans to visit Indonesia to try to open this country to the ministry of the Word of God rightly divided. Many other countries of the Far East are calling for someone to come, but brother Anderson can not answer all these calls. Help is needed. Could the Lord be speaking to you to enter a ministry in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia or some other country? We would appreciate hearing of your desire to enter a missionary ministry.

WM. HEATH FAMILY



Tim Eunice Jon Beth William Dave

Having just completed four years as an instructor in the International Grace Bible Institute in the Philippines, brother Wm. Heath and family have returned to the States to report to the churches and interested individuals what the Lord is doing in the Philippines through the training of

young men for a life of service for the Lord. If you would like to have brother Heath present the ministry of T.C.M. in the Philippines to your church or group, contact the mission headquarters or write brother Heath at 11551 Nearing Drive, Anaheim, California 92804.

FRITZ KEIPER FAMILY



Fritz Cindy Bobby Brad Marilyn

Brother Fritz Keiper and family are continuing their deputation ministry and study of the Portuguese language in preparation for a teaching ministry with the extension Bible school in

Southern Brazil. Fritz will enroll in the summer course of Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin next June and will leave for Brazil, Lord Willing, in August, 1972.

INDIA REPORT

The Things to Come Mission has for many years assisted Indian Nationals as they minister the Word rightly divided to the masses in this "Religious" country. To hear of the thousands of followers of the cults and "isms" of India makes one wonder if anything is being done to bring any light into this darkness. The T.C.M. could not send American Missionaries to this country, but we could encourage National Christians to take the Gospel of the Grace of God to their people. As we came in contact with men who were interested in studying the Word rightly divided, we would send them books and through correspondence, encourage them in the understanding of the "Mystery" as revealed to the Apostle Paul. Also, as we found young men willing to study the Word, we have had them attend the International Grace Bible Institute in the Philippines. One man has completed his training and is now back in India ministering the Word and this year another national will complete his training at the I.G.B.I.

We as a mission assist four nations in India. Joseph Das, graduate of I.G.B.I., is ministering in Andhra

State (South India) planting churches and teaching the saints. Cherian T. Cherian is in the traveling ministry holding mass meetings all over India and has a reputation as a sound Bible teacher and forceful evangelist. His services are requested from church leaders all over India. Rev. D. James is a sound Bible student and has a deep appreciation of the gospel for this age in which we live. His ministry is in and around Bangalore. Mr. T. C. Jesudasa Prasad, editor of BE-HOLD magazine, not only has a ministry in the printed page, but also in personal witnessing and Bible teaching. These men have other assistants working with them to get the Word out to different areas of this vast country.

In the heart of Satan's religious camp one can not expect the masses to respond to the gospel of salvation, but these men are faithful in proclaiming that there is salvation in no other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The few who do respond are being taught the wonderful message of God's grace and are rejoicing in the freedom they have in Christ Jesus and the hope that is theirs as they look for His return.



Joseph Das (second from right) with members of the
Grace Gospel Fellowship Church,
Lambadipet, Vijayawada — Andhra State.



Director's Notes

The desire of the Things to Come Mission family is to reach the WORLD for Christ and to teach the child of God the Scriptures "rightly divided."

We want to thank each of you for your help in reaching that goal. Your prayers and your gifts have been used of the Lord to challenge many to stand to receive Christ as Saviour and have caused some to give their lives a "Living sacrifice" for Christ. Oh, the willingness of His servants to place their lives in His hands. Some of the national brethren have willingly given Christ their all and have sacrificed along with you to reach the WORLD for Christ.

Do you have a desire to serve the Lord in some new area? We are ready to enter into that area with you! Would you care to have an application for work with the TCM family? Why not write us of your interest in missionary work?

Our hearts are thrilled when we see the response of God's people to supply some need for our Missionary, National worker, Radio work, printing ministry, plane needs, etc. We also thank those who have supported the General Fund of the mission which pays the utilities and office supplies.

We received a letter recently asking, "Do you help people in Communistic countries or enemies of our United States? What per cent of each dollar goes for office supplies, personnel, etc.?" We have never sought to help the enemies of our United States, nor do we help people in Communistic countries. We have stated before and will repeat that the Things To Come Mission's policy is to send 100% of every designated gift to the person or project to which it was designated. The home office does not

take anything for needs on the home front. Individuals and churches support the general fund which provides supplies for the office. Needs of the foreign field often come from this fund also. The Director and Secretary of the mission, who work at the office, are considered as missionaries and their support comes from designated gifts from churches and individuals. Be assured that though it may not be as glamorous to support some one in the States, we do appreciate your gifts for the work here at the office even though we have not done deputation work. In traveling to various churches or Mission board meetings, we pay our own travel expenses as do our missionaries. We want the Lord's money to reach out as far as it will go for His glory.

The Lord has given us two Bible Institutes in the Philippines, an extension type Bible school in Brazil, a number of radio broadcasts, a printing ministry, etc.; but we support no public schools or hospitals or agriculture works. Our purpose is not so much the physical man but the Spiritual man. We desire to reach people for Christ and train them to reach and teach others according to II Tim. 2:2. The Lord has blessed this ministry and many national workers are aided thru the mission for work as Evangelists, Pastors and Bible teachers.

Your concern thru gifts (present) and Wills (future) are much appreciated and we know the Lord has blessed you for it. Don't forget to pray for His work thru TCM DAILY!

SIDEBOTTOM FAMILY



Phyllis
Daniel

Linda
Ronald

Beverly
Eldred

IT IS THE MESSAGE

MARVIN DUNCAN FAMILY



Marlene Derek Athana
Marvin Darrell

Our ministry in the headquarters of the mission is not as glamorous as being on a mission field, but the need is just as great in the over-all effort of getting the gospel into the regions beyond. Someone is needed to keep information, equipment and funds flowing from the churches and individuals as well as seeing that they receive news and prayer requests from the missionaries on the fields. We praise the Lord for His call to this ministry which is not just "office work," but offers many opportunities to travel to churches and conferences to represent the Mission and to proclaim the message of God's Grace for this age.

Even in "letter writing" there can be a ministry of encouragement and

teaching the Word rightly divided. We have on occasion received letters asking about the mission . . . its background and purpose. What an opportunity to declare that the ONLY reason for the Things to Come Mission to exist is to proclaim the blessed truth which was committed to the Apostle Paul for this age in which we live. It is the message that we preach using Pauline methods which makes our existence meaningful.

How we praise the Lord that we can be missionaries (presenting Christ to others) wherever the Lord has placed us in this world. How we rejoice in the knowledge of the Word rightly divided and in our position of being an ambassador for Christ.

Your continued prayers and support for those of us working in the headquarters is both needed and appreciated as we seek wisdom from the Lord in the directing of the work to which He has called us. Your partnership with us in this ministry is an encouragement to us and can accomplish much for the cause of Christ in proclaiming the message of salvation to those who have never heard.

MARVIN H. DUNCAN
Secretary, T.C.M.

PURPOSE AND POSITION OF THINGS TO COME MISSION

Things To Come Mission is an Evangelical, Faith, mission founded upon the Message and Methods of the Apostle Paul. He is the only New Testament writer who says, "FOLLOW ME EVEN AS I FOLLOW CHRIST." Therefore, to follow Paul is in reality following Christ. We believe that we must not only be Pauline in doctrine, but in practice if we are to produce an abundant harvest for our Lord. It is our desire to follow Christ and Paul who would gladly "SPEND AND BE SPENT" for the

sake of the Gospel. Anything short of total effort will automatically limit our ministry of EVANGELISM, BIBLE TEACHING, AND THE TRAINING OF CHRISTIAN WORKERS to reach the lost with the message of Salvation and the message of the Grace of God. Ephesians 3:1-10

The Board of our mission has decided against membership in or affiliation with either group within the Grace Movement in order to be free to act

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to remain in the "are not" class. They are usually well impressed with themselves. They have the best man has to offer. By man's standards they must be in the "are" class. Their preparation and ability should cause us to expect something from them.

Of such people you don't just marvel that they have "*been with Jesus*," because He alone didn't really make them what they are. The vain and proud teachers and professors and institutes have taken care of this. While they would never say it, they make it very plain that God can't work without them, or at least without their kind. Under such conditions giving Christ place as the Son of God is like making Him head of a puppet government! Such service is a farce!

Men have worked hard to take themselves out of the "are not" class, thereby guaranteeing themselves that God is not going to use them. Getting at the core of this germ is not easy because immediately people want to confuse the issue by saying we are just running down education. No, we all know the real trouble is that education too often is taking preeminence over the power of the Holy Spirit. When are we going to worry more about selling Jesus Christ short than meeting the standards of men?

"... all is vanity"

It must be emphasized that Scriptural knowledge is a vital necessity and it is certainly not in the same category as human wisdom. God's spiritual delight is not based on how much human knowledge a man does or does not have. The Word tells us that "*... not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called*" (1 Cor. 1:26). The deduction is simple. There are very few men who are wise who know they are still weak as far as God is concerned, so that He might use them. There are few men of nobility and reputation who realize that they are

still nothing, so that God can use them. "*But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence*" (1 Cor. 1:27-29).

We are so terribly proud of our human wisdom as though it counted for something with God. But the Word says the "*... foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men*" (1 Cor. 1:25). King Solomon with all his wisdom, all his power, all his wealth, finally had to say, "It is all vanity." Certainly God does not glory in this that we glory in. We have heard so many messages and seen so little result that our tendency is to feel that the Gospel has lost its potency and effectiveness. But as man's ability seeks preeminence in the pulpit and throughout the ministry, the true working of the Holy Spirit has to be sacrificed. As far as the letter is concerned, many of today's messages are true, but we don't get the reaction that Stephen got, or Paul, or Peter, and yet we are facing the same kind of hearts. Who are we kidding?

If we can take the sting out of Christianity and preach a certain measure of truth that we are not expected to live by, but we find a large group of so-called Christians who are interested. Many religious leaders have capitalized on this spiritual weakness and given the people what they wanted. It has a religious savor because it appears to satisfy the fears of the hereafter. Many have come to believe they can go occasionally to church, live fairly much to suit themselves, and yet everything will be all right with God. It reminds me of Japan's soft soap before the attack of Pearl Harbor.

No Confidence in Flesh

Contrary to accepted belief, the apostle Paul was one of the greatest exponents of the "are not" class. Those who won't believe this don't believe his testimony. Yet his success is based entirely on God's power. Paul is a poor example of those trying to glory in man's wisdom for as Paul clearly states, "*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith*" (Phil. 3:4, 7-9).

Surely the Holy Spirit will never stoop to glorify anything that is produced by man, for the Word declares our best efforts are but filthy rags. Some people would rather believe that Paul's success was based on the fact that he sat at the feet of Gamaliel. But Paul clearly indicates that his success was based on the fact that he met Jesus Christ. From then on he was determined to know nothing save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. When he came to speak, it was not with enticing words of man's wisdom. What he had to say was given him by the Holy Spirit. "*I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power*" (1 Cor. 2:3, 4). It was quite obvious that when Paul preached, men were not awed by his speech or personality. "*For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible*" (2 Cor. 10:10). "*Knowing, brethren*

beloved, your election of God. For our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost" (1 Thess. 1:4-6).

Paul did not have a passive ministry. People did not go away in the same manner in which they had come. There was a reaction. There was either a riot or a revival. Paul wrote, "Follow me, as I have followed Christ." How can we follow Paul without getting a reaction?

Vain Worship

How can it be that we preach the word to people who we know are living short of God's best and yet have them acclaim the message as being "wonderful"? This can only happen if we fail to hit the target and touch the thing that is robbing the person of a more effective ministry for Jesus Christ. There are men to whom God couldn't trust much of anything before they would become proud of it. Human knowledge is the pride of life and most men desire it because of pride. And when pride is the basis of any desire, it will seek preeminence over God Himself. The big problem ends up with man splitting the glory with God.

Few people like to touch this knotty problem because the scorn will certainly come down like an avalanche. But if we emphasize being filled with the Spirit and lean heavily upon God for His power as much as we emphasize the human side, or that which appears to be spiritual but yet is human, we should see a ministry that would certainly challenge the world in short order. Talk is cheap; it is the fruit that counts. Even if the praise comes from the eloquent wavering voice of a pulpit orator, or from the simply marvelous soprano or tenor, if it doesn't come from the heart it is as

sounding brass or tinkling cymbal. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:8, 9). Christ has to be in a greater place than just one puppet praise and puppet leadership in our church.

God places no premium on human wisdom nor on human ignorance, but He does place a premium on being filled with the Holy Spirit. The only hope that the Christian Church in America has of being a force for God in the future will be based on whether it will glorify God or man. When the ministry is more concerned with how God feels than how man feels, when the people are more concerned with spiritual power than with popularity, there will be preaching that will bring revival. If Christians continue to think that this soft, palatable Christianity is approved from heaven, they are skating on thin ice. The emptiness and fruitlessness of our Christianity is with us to prove that unless we let God do something for us, we are doomed. Even communism makes the cause of Christ look weak by comparison. This is not because the Holy Spirit is unable to work, but because men are standing in His way.

"... they had been with Jesus"

Yes, we have followed man's method and used man's wisdom and we have man's result. We have placed the cart before the horse too long. So far we have had a very shabby conception of what the Holy Spirit can do. Could anything be more wonderful than to search your life and discover the only one good thing you could find was that you "*had been with Jesus*"! It is belittling to be nothing, but, against all natural tendencies, let us glorify God!

(Condensed from Brown Gold)

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, . . . we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." II Cor. 5:20

(Continued From Page 3)

Name, to be an earthen vessel to contain His treasure, to be a vessel meet for the Master's use, surely these things touch the very heights of devoted service. No wonder that the Apostle blends such dignity and greatness with so much humility."

—C. H. Welch

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them to one extent or another. But the missionary is in a situation where he *cannot do much* about the lack of money *except pray*. He cannot increase his income by changing jobs, or moon-lighting, or starting his own business.

The *cost of living* can be a source of pressure. Travel for children going to school; clothing; hospitality to travelers; repairs and replacements for equipment; the high price of imported foodstuffs; all these mount up.

The missionary expects these inconveniences, but his skill at managing financial affairs may not always be equal to them. He may *fall into debt*, if only with the Mission, but that, too, is a cause of worry.

But, *properly committed to God, all my pressures can become a source of blessing*, as I discover that He is able to supply all my needs. For this reason I ask you, my friend, to *pray for me*.—From Triumphs of Faith

(Continued From Page 12)

"INDEPENDENTLY" and "UNRESTRICTED" in our endeavor to continue the ministry of the Apostle Paul. Each missionary family, however, has freedom to join either group or both if they so desire. If you find yourself in agreement with the purpose and position of our mission we invite your participation by means of direct prayer and financial support. Ephesians 4:12 "FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS, FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY, FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST"

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VERNON BIGELOW



Vernon and Pat Bigelow

Joy Rachel Leah Mary

Vernon Bigelow (now in his second term in the Philippines) is ministering on the island of Luzon. There are several scattered locations of churches on this island and much traveling is required to visit these different groups of believers. Problems in the churches, evangelist outreach and encouraging the believers are all part of this field ministry. Vernon also has the responsibility of directing the radio ministry on the island of Luzon.

STILL AVAILABLE

The book, **THE PENTECOSTAL ERROR** by Cyril H. Maskrey (a former Apostolic pastor) is still available through the Things to Come Mission office. This book exposes the error of the Pentecostal movement as seen by a man who came out of it after years of upholding this teaching as a pastor. This book is being made available to the public at 50¢ per copy. Write Box 96, Cope, Colorado 80812.



"TOOLS" PROJECT

The Things to Come Mission has undertaken the job of supplying necessary study tools (books) for the national workers in the Philippines. To know the right books to meet the need of the Filipino minister is not without its problems. The books deemed most necessary are being purchased and shipped to the workers. You can have a part in this project by marking your gifts "TOOLS for the R. P."