

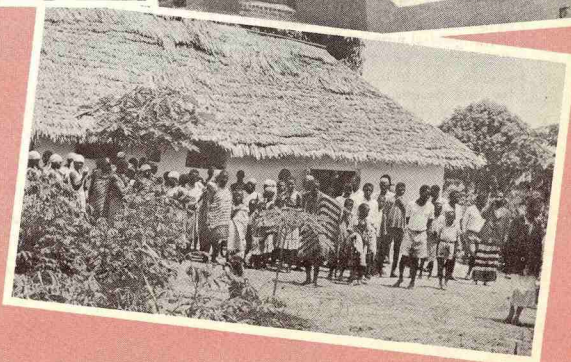
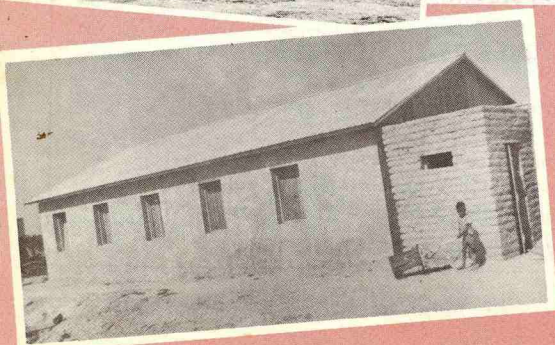
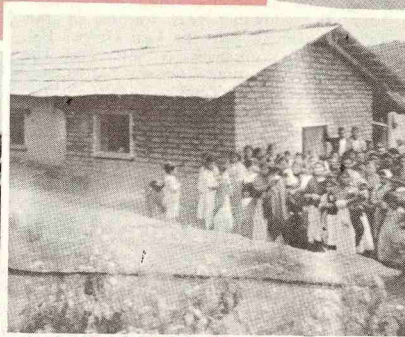
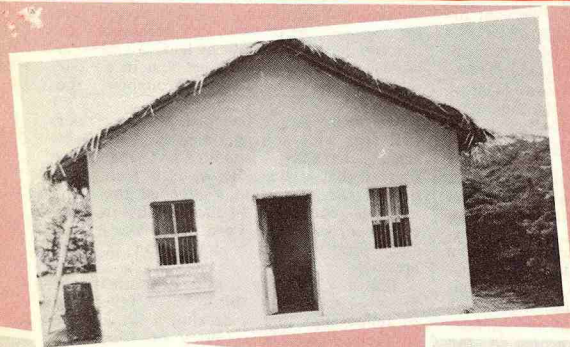


**FEBRUARY, 1963**

**THE MAGAZINE OF DELIVERANCE  
AND WORLD - WIDE REVIVAL**

# THE VOICE OF HEALING

Some of the 388 churches completed by the Native Church Crusade during the year 1962.







# Progress of the FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP of Churches and Ministers, International

Our first convention in Dayton, Ohio.

by W. A. Raiford, Sr., D.D., Executive Secretary

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." (I John 1:3) This has certainly been a reality as we have traveled across the country meeting with preachers, ministering to the people and preaching this glorious gospel. Everywhere that I have been, ministers have told me that they have been hungry to see God's people come together in such a fellowship and they wondered how it would come to pass. They definitely felt that this was of the Lord and that it was God's time for us to come together. All the ministers recognize that a fellowship is certainly needed at this time. I think Brother John put it well in I John 1:7, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

I am so conscious of the fact that this must be God's time, and that this must certainly be a move of God, that I am personally seeking a deeper walk with God. I feel that the Lord has placed me in this position as executive secretary. I personally had nothing to do with it. I took a year's leave of absence from a lovely group of people, at St. Paul Tabernacle in Dayton, Ohio, because I felt that the Lord was in this. Therefore, I am treading softly before the Lord, realizing this great responsibility that the Lord has put on my shoulders. I pray each day and night and while I am driving down the highway that the Lord will give me power with Him, that He will give me an anointing that I have never had before as I travel across this great nation of ours to preach His word and encourage the brethren to come together in the unity of the Holy Spirit. I believe that He is confirming His word with signs following because most everywhere that we have ministered, the house has been full of hungry hearted people. The Lord mightily anointed me at these Rallies, people have been saved by the score, healed by the power of God, filled and refilled with the Holy Spirit and miracles have taken place. There is a definite spirit of revival in the air. A wonderful spirit of love and unity has been prevalent not only among the cooperating ministers but among the people also. God is certainly with us because almost every-

where that we have ministered, they have invited us back for a revival or a city-wide campaign. I sincerely ask you to pray with me that the Lord will use me mightily in this work and that I will stay in the center of His divine will. I do not desire to be a big preacher in name but a true servant of the Lord.

I had the privilege of ministering at a fellowship meeting at the Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church in Topeka, Kansas, where Rev. Max Manning is the fine pastor. The Lord gave us a wonderful service there with these people and we have a standing invitation to come back for a city-wide revival; this was in connection with the local fellowship of pentecostal ministers. Then I traveled to the Beaumont, Texas area, where Rev. H. L. Gay is pastor. We ministered at a fellowship rally in the House of Prayer in Nederland, Texas, where the Holy Spirit took over in this rally and we ministered to the people with the gifts of the Spirit operating in our ministry. A fellowship was formed in this rally to affiliate with the Full Gospel Fellowship. They are listed on this page. The next Sunday morning I was invited to minister at the Bethel Temple in Port Arthur, Texas, where Rev. Slater Neal is the fine

pastor. The Lord gave us a wonderful service. We were invited to come back for a revival as soon as we possibly could. We then returned to our office to catch up on the tremendous amount of mail that is flowing into our international offices regarding the fellowship. If you would like for us to come to your city or church, do not fail to let us know at least 30 days in advance, so that we can get you in on our schedule as we travel throughout the country.

We told you in our last article of our first area wide convention at St. Paul Tabernacle in Dayton, Ohio, and the great success that it was. Below is a picture of one of the crowds that attended this convention. Would you like to see this in your church or city. The Lord can make it possible. Let us plan a convention in your area.

This is definitely not a denominational move as some may think, but a fellowship of fellowships that is seeking a broad base to include the entire Body of Christ regardless of denomination. Our constitution and by-laws definitely contend for the unity of the Body of Christ and the sovereignty of the local church. When we state that this is a broad fellowship it does not mean that

## ANNOUNCING The Full Gospel Fellowship Convention of CHURCHES AND MINISTERS INTERNATIONAL

in the Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.

June 25-28, 1963

- Every church member and minister that believes in the unity of the body of Christ should be present!
- Plan your vacation so you can be in every service!
- Hear outstanding pastors and evangelists of the nation!
- Special Films — Divine Healing Services — Holy Ghost Rally!

— THIS WILL BE THE EVENT OF THE YEAR —



anything and everything will be in this fellowship, but only those that are true believers; we certainly believe in Bible holiness, a scriptural standard and christian ethics. If you desire more information, write to Box 8990 — Dallas 16, Texas. We shall be glad to send you a copy of our constitution and by-laws.

In regards to our book that is just off the press, "From Detective Sergeant to Deliverance Preacher", we sincerely urge you to purchase one. We believe this will be a real challenge to your unsaved husband, brother or friend. I also believe you will receive a real blessing after reading it. (See ad on page 11)

The FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP of Churches and Ministers International  
The FULL GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP of Churches and Ministers International is not a denomination but a fellowship which recognizes the whole Body of Christ. It has three main purposes:

To promote fellowship, harmony, and good ethics between all members of the Body of Christ.

To emphasize, encourage, and promote apostolic ministry, with the manifestation of the gifts and fruits of the Spirit.

To assist in the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the evangelization of the nations.

## NEW FELLOWSHIPS

HARRISBURG, PENN.

Rev. Joe Johns, Pres.  
Pastor, Calvary Temple  
1818 N. 6th St.  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
Rev. Fred Munnert,  
Vice Pres.

Pastor, Lincolnway Full  
Gospel Center  
R. D. #2  
Hanover, Pa.  
Charles N. Crone Sr.,  
Sec.

Green St. Assembly  
of God  
108 E. Keller St.  
Mechanicsburg, Pa.  
Rev. Ben C. Bailey  
Calvary Temple  
1818 N. 6th St.  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
David L. Beiler  
Harrisburg Revival  
Center

1406 Ford Ave.  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
Lester S. Elersole  
Grace Chapel  
Box 136  
Bainbridge, Pa.  
Otha D. Frazier  
Lincolnway Full Gospel  
Center

East Berlin R. D. #2,  
Pa.  
Marlin J. Geesaman  
Grace Chapel  
Rt. 2, Box 191  
Hummelstown, Pa.  
Edgar M. Grisomae  
Rossville Full Gospel  
Dover York Co. Rt.  
#1, Pa.

Rev. G. C. Sanderson  
Victory Full Gospel  
Assembly of God  
R. D. #1  
Lewisburg, Pa.

Rev. Luke Weaver  
Pastor, Grace Chapel

215 N. 40th St.  
Harrisburg, Pa.  
AREA FELLOWSHIP  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS  
Mrs. W. A. Petty,

Vidor Assembly  
Box 295  
Vidor, Texas  
H. L. Gray, Vice-  
Chairman  
House of Prayer,  
Pastor

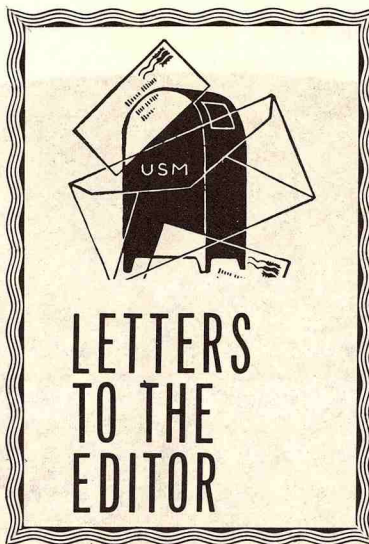
100 Third Ave.  
Nederland, Texas  
Slater D. Neal,  
Sec. & Treas.  
Bethel Temple, Pastor  
2126 6th St.  
Port Arthur, Texas  
H. T. Anderson,  
2960 Call

Vidor, Texas  
C. H. Garrison  
Sour Lake Gospel  
Tabernacle  
Box 24  
Grayburg, Texas  
Frank Hudson  
185 Weatherford Rd.  
Vidor, Texas

Luther Maddox, Pastor  
1100 Pope  
Beaumont, Texas  
J. E. Murdock  
Calcasieu Tabernacle,  
Pastor

3814 Swannee St.  
Lake Charles, La.  
Virgil H. Rich  
Vidor, Texas  
W. K. Schion  
107 3rd Ave.  
Nederland, Texas  
Eldon R. Wilson  
Emanuel Tabernacle,  
Pastor

4512 Lewis Dr.  
Port Arthur, Texas



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DENOMINATIONAL GROUPS RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST

Dear Brother Lindsay:

I attended a Camp Farther Out at Ardmore. Four hundred and fifty were present — Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodist, and Baptists. Brother Mandus, a Spirit filled Episcopalian from England, was the speaker. Tommy Tyson, a Spirit filled Methodist evangelist, and Dr. Bill Reed were also speakers at the camp meeting. Around one hundred received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

A Methodist minister from Oklahoma City, a Baptist minister, and his wife — and many others. Joel 2:28, is rapidly being fulfilled, especially in the Episcopalian Church. We definitely feel that we are in the end time.

Brother Addison  
Oklmulgee, Okla.

### SAVED FROM DIVORCE

Dear Brother Lindsay:

I've just finished reading your wonderful article on questions and answers about divorce. I had filed for a divorce from my husband. After reading your message it has made me change my mind.

My husband has asked me to accept him back. We have two small children. I would rather obey God than man on this critical matter. Please pray as we leave to make a new home, that we will be successful in our undertakings.

S. C.  
Seattle, Wash.

### THE REVELATION COURSE

Dear Brother Lindsay:

I surely did enjoy the last lesson on Revelation. I, myself, have studied for thirty-five years. I have learned many things that were new to me in these correspondence courses. Isn't it wonderful how His Word is ever new and we can always find something new there?

Sister Lindsay, I liked your book, "Our Family Physician," very much.

C. S.  
Loomis, Wash.

### THE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Dear Brother Lindsay:

These lessons have been a great blessing to me and I look forward to each month when my Voice of Healing comes. I truly love the World Correspondence Course, and I really believe they are a God-given gift to his people so they may be better informed about the word, and being informed, can become overcomers and victors through Christ.

Mrs. S. S. Walters  
Huntington, W. Va.

### ANSWER TO PRAYER FOR A RUNAWAY DAUGHTER

Dear Brother Lindsay:

Hallowed be the Name of the Lord! My daughter has written and all is well. She was a runaway — with five others. She has now dropped the ungodly friends and has a job, and is going to a night school. She is going to church (Full Gospel) with a nice friend, her boss—a clean young man. So God has heard and answered. Your kindness will long be remembered.

A Mother.

### THE VOICE OF HEALING

February, 1963

Vol. XV, No. 11

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Gordon Lindsay, Editor.

The Voice of Healing does not accept paid advertising.

#### HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE USED

Your gift of \$250.00 for sponsorship of a native church is in most cases sent one hundred per cent to the church assigned to you. If the cost of the church is around \$500, two sponsors are assigned to the church. In some cases double sponsorship is assigned in order to secure the cash needed to complete a church within the 12-month plan.

All other mission gifts are entered into the general missions fund and prorated as needed to the various mission projects after the cost of printing, publication, mailing, etc., have been met.

Every person sending a gift to THE VOICE OF HEALING will receive a prompt reply, and a receipt for their records. Your gifts to THE VOICE OF HEALING are tax deductible. If for any reason you do not receive a receipt, it is very important that you notify us at once.

With your first dollar you give you will receive a subscription to THE VOICE OF HEALING.



# Should a Christian Smoke?

(Taken from the book "Should Christians Smoke?"

Many people who fail to get their healing may discover that the reason lies in their use of tobacco. Scientific evidence shows that the habit is very deleterious to health. It can be understood that if people use something that seriously injures their body, they can hardly expect to receive healing from God. The following is the first chapter from the new book "Should Christians Smoke?". If you have a friend or a member of your family who smokes, we recommend that you secure a copy of this book and give it to them.



by Gordon Lindsay

**S**HOULD A CHRISTIAN smoke or use tobacco in any form? Today this is a question that is being frequently asked by many people. Now that so large a number of women have joined the army of smokers it might appear that smoking has become an acceptable custom, and that those who contend that the practice is wrong are quite out of date and behind the times. But is this viewpoint correct? Is the use of tobacco only an innocent pastime? Certainly we believe that the whole subject needs to be brought out in the open and thoroughly and intelligently considered.

We believe that a careful consideration of this subject is of the utmost importance to young people, who are about to make decisions which will affect for good or ill the pattern of their whole lives. The vast majority of people, once they begin smoking, no matter how they may later regret the habit, will continue it as long as they live. With the present large proportion of young women that have taken up smoking, the problem has vastly increased in importance and seriousness.

It is a well-known fact that the habit of smoking once acquired, is exceedingly difficult to break. This, as every Christian worker knows, presents a serious additional problem in establishing new converts. When a person, addicted to tobacco makes a decision to accept Christ, he usually senses, even if he is not told, that the habit is not an appropriate one for an exemplary Christian. If, however, he has been smoking any length of time, he will find upon attempting to quit, that the craving for nicotine is far more intense than he supposed. Or, he may take the position that since some professing Christians smoke, there can't be much wrong with the habit, and so continues smoking. This is the course that millions of nominal church members take. However, new converts usually have enough conscience to feel that smoking is not exactly right. They may make a resolve to break off, but when temptation comes they too often revert back to the practice.

## WE SHOULD HAVE A COMPASSIONATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SMOKER'S PROBLEM

One thing should be said before we go further. We shall never help the smoker unless we have a compassion and understanding of his problem. Harsh censure is not going to help him. There are thousands of people who wish to be good Christians, but who are bound by the cigarette habit. It would not be helpful to condemn these people. Such an attitude might only result in discouraging them, and perhaps causing them to give up their resolution to live a Christian life altogether.

However, we believe that a spiritual church should be very slow in taking smokers into active membership. It is better, in sympathy and faith, to first help these people into a place of real deliverance. Some of our finest Christians will testify that following their conversion, they continued to use tobacco for a time. Unwise tactics in dealing with them might have driven them from the church, forever. But wise and sympathetic counsel helped them over the hump, and presently they came to see that the use of tobacco was not compatible with a good Christian testimony. With God's help, they sought for and obtained complete deliverance.

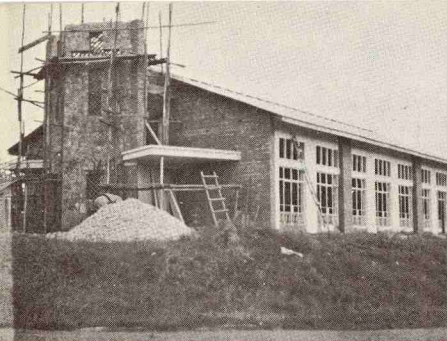
People do not naturally quit the tobacco habit. The unnatural craving induced by nicotine is so strong that few are persuaded to give it up unless powerful reasons are brought to bear upon them for breaking the habit. The smoker must know that it is a serious menace to his health, as well as a defilement of his body.

## THE BIBLE AND THE HABIT OF SMOKING

The Bible does not directly mention tobacco by name. The plant was unknown until after the discovery of America. Columbus learned of the practice of smoking from the heathen

(Continued on page 10)



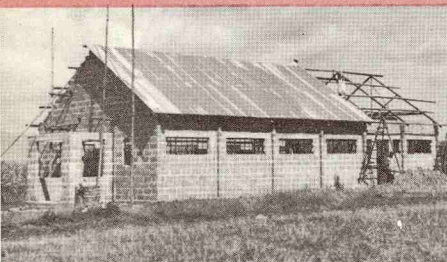


### MAKERE, UGANDA, EAST AFRICA

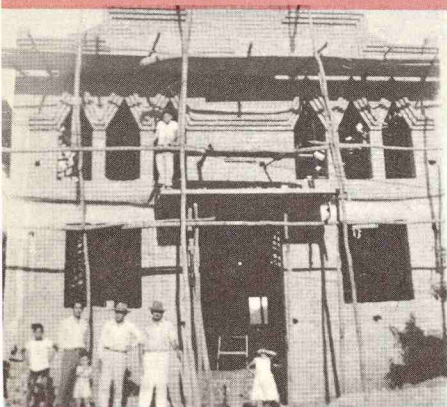
Although not yet finished, with the roof on the people are now able to worship in their new church, and 800 people were present for the first service.



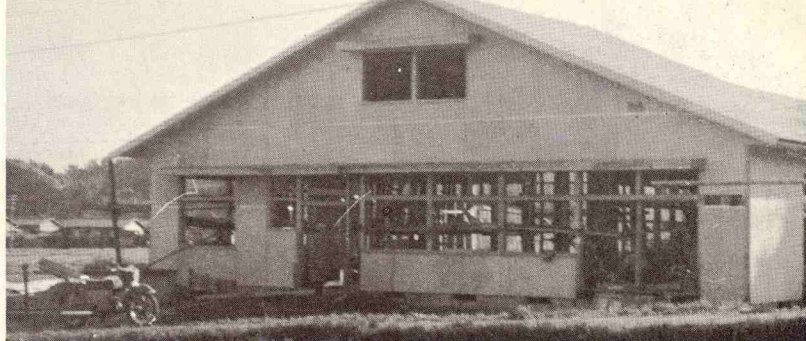
This church in Abaliki, Nigeria, is one of the larger projects of the NATIVE CHURCH CRUSADE, and when completed will accommodate about 1200 people.



This church in Thessalia, Kenya, East Africa, soon to be completed, will seat 400 people.



The work goes forward on the church in Anapolis, Brazil.



Front of the new church in Hondo, Japan, nearing completion.

Can we reach the Goal of 1,000 churches by the end of 1963?

## NATIVE CHURCH CRUSADE EXCEEDS GOAL OF CHURCH A DAY 388 Churches completed or building in 1962

**O**UR GOAL of a church a day for 1962, has been more than realized! Some 388 churches have been built or are building in about 40 nations of the world! Probably 70 of these are larger projects than the regular native churches. In other words if all the projects were normal size native churches we would have about 450 churches. May we take this opportunity to thank our many friends whose prayers and gifts have made this great advance on the mission field possible. We believe it would be a very conservative estimate to say that each church will influence for God at least 1,000 people during its existence.

For the benefit of our new friends we are explaining the enlarged program of the Native Church Crusade. This crusade is a simple plan developed by The Voice of Healing by which any American family can sponsor the building of a native church in a foreign missionary field and thus have a vital part in fulfilling Christ's command to evangelize the nations.

The basic principle underlying the plan is this: Whether it is here in America or on a foreign field, it is a fact that no matter how great a revival comes to a community, unless permanent church buildings are erected, the congregations are scattered and the revival is lost.

For many years missionaries have seen the need for trained nationals and have been preparing them. Now thousands are ready and eager to witness to their people. They will depend on their support from those they minister to, just as evangelists do here in America. What they are asking is help to erect a permanent build-

ing for their congregations.

The Native Church Crusade uses the greatest care in the selecting of applications for native churches. Sometimes quite a considerable correspondence is necessary. We require that a congregation be already formed, that it have a lot, and that the church be deeded to the people and not to a private individual.

It should be understood that the Native Church Crusade is not a plan to completely underwrite the building of a church. It requires the utmost sacrifice from the people. The usual amount of assistance to give a congregation is \$250, and with larger churches up to \$500. This money is for cement, for windows and doors, for nails and hardware, for metal roofing, and some kinds of lumber, etc. The people themselves make the bricks, build the blocks, hew timbers out of the forest, and supply all the labor. So therefore, when the church is finished, it is worth at the very least \$1,000, but usually it will be worth two, three, or five thousand and sometimes more.

*The important thing is that the \$250 or more which the sponsor gives is what in most cases makes the difference in not having a church or having a church.*

### EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY CAN SPONSOR ONE OR MORE NATIVE CHURCHES

As we have said the assistance generally required for a church is about \$250. This means that the plan is within the reach of almost every American family. *For the cost of a refrigerator, a*

*(Continued on next page)*





The members of the church in Pehuajo, Argentina, are doing all the work on their church building. Here the cement beams for the roof are being put in place.



Ribe, a village in Kenya, East Africa, known for its witchcraft, and which is a dangerous place to preach the gospel, now has a finished church in which to worship and proclaim the gospel.

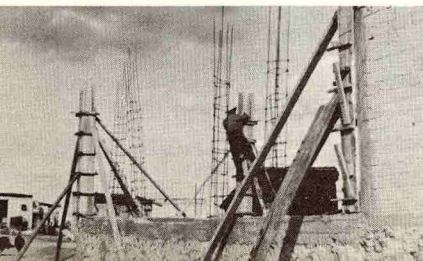


The congregation of Ikot Akpa Ekang, Nigeria, in front of their new church, now completed.



Congregation at Shihtan Village in Formosa standing in front of their rented meeting hall.

The building goes up in San Felipe, Mexico, a suburb of Mexico City.



television set, an electric stove, they can sponsor a native church!

Every effort has been made to get as much as possible out of the \$250 gift. During the past year we have streamlined the Native Church plan, so as to avoid any unnecessary expense, or unnecessary travelling by the missionary. However, when the building is finished we do require a picture to be taken (with the congregation beside it if possible), with a report of the church, and sent to us. The photograph is placed on a certificate which is sent to the sponsor to show the church that has been built. We also send a certificate to the new church with the sponsor's name, asking that the congregation pray regularly for their sponsor. We also request that the sponsor regularly pray for his church.

Many of the churches sponsored in 1962, have been completed. (See photographs of some on front page of this issue.) Some of the churches are excellent buildings. In some areas such as the Far East, the people are so poor that the money given is almost the only resource they have, and the buildings are plainer. Since God loves the poor, we are certain that the donor's gift has accomplished as much or more, with these people as anywhere it could have been given.

#### HOW YOU CAN SPONSOR A NATIVE CHURCH

Of course the quickest way to get a church built would be to advance the entire sum at once, and many are doing this. However, many people are unable to do this. The native church plan enables you to finance a church with payments as low as \$20 or \$10 per month.

On these pages you will find a coupon; just fill it out, and mail it to us. We will go to work immediately to make an assignment. We have many applications for churches coming in each week. However, there may be some delay, as we often have to write several letters to assure us that the project meets the rigid conditions of the Crusade plan, and that the people we are assisting are fully reliable. The careful planning of the crusade has paid off, since to date we have had practically no failures.

We have a requirement that projects that are accepted be completed in 12 months. However, we find that some projects are completed in less time. A few require a longer period due to unforeseen delays in building permits, titles, etc.

It is interesting to note that in some areas the churches return the money to a local revolving fund (never to us) to help in building more churches. In one country, Salvador for example, they are able to get their money back in an average of eight years, and this goes to build more churches. Thus in two ways the missionary dollar never dies.

covers the great dynamic subjects of the Bible. Over ten thousand are enrolled and other thousands not enrolled, study the courses. A new book is sent out free each month. This in time will give you a library of information that will cover every major subject of the Bible. The current course is on the Gifts of the Spirit. By enrolling now you will get every book (13) of this course.

We believe that many of our friends will be ready to sponsor a native church now. Others who have sponsored one in 1962, will want to take on another in 1963.

Still others may not yet be ready to take a project but they can help us in meeting the heavy overhead of the Crusade, which of course, is a very important part of the program. May we hear from you today?

## News of The Native Church Crusade

### A NEW CHURCH IN FORMOSA

"Your assurance of your willingness to help in building small churches for needy congregations out here gives me courage to send in another application. This is for a project in the far-away mountain village of Shihtan, where we have had an evangelist for the last year and a half. During this time he has walked over many a mountain and a path where never a preacher of the gospel was known to have gone. He has brought in a number of those scattered Hakka people, many of whom have been healed through his prayers. Twenty-one have come for water baptism. Most of these people are extremely poor. Some of them are women whose husbands are heathen and so they are unable to give anything towards the Lord's work. And the offerings that do come in all go toward the rent of a very poor meeting hall. (See picture.) If there were a building of their own, it would mean a more permanently established work. I trust this matter into God's care."

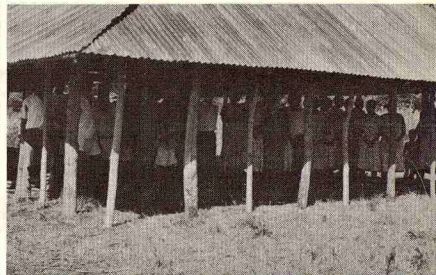
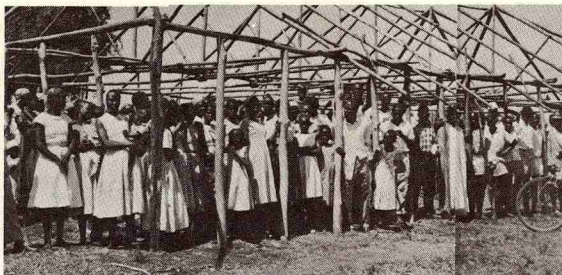
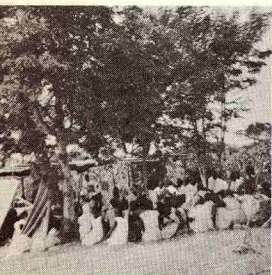
Missionary Helvi Taponen  
Formosa

### A VAST CHURCH BUILDING PROGRAM IN FORMOSA

"Our appreciation of your help is beyond words. From the large volume of applications for help which we submit to you, you will see the vast building program that we are in, and it is nothing but the Lord's direct blessing and undertaking that has sent you to give us the lift at such a time as this."

Missionary Luke R. Summers  
Formosa





### KARACHWONYO, KENYA, EAST AFRICA

These pictures show the progress of the Raongo church at Karachwonyo, Kenya, in East Africa. (1) shows the congregation in the crude brush arbor in which they were meeting. (2) shows the work begun. (3) shows the church nearing completion.

### BUDDHISTS RECEIVE THE GOSPEL

"Recently a Buddhist teacher, which is the highest rank, walked into our humble little church here and wanted to know about the Bible, and is now coming every day to learn more. It is wonderful to see the transformation in him — literally darkness turned to light — countenance and outlook on life entirely changed. He is a captive set free. Others like him are ready to come out, too. It will be wonderful to see these Buddhists saved and consecrating their lives to preach the gospel in the Buddhist worshipping island where temples are on every street and alley."

### A MISSIONARY'S APPRECIATION

"They are looking to us to help teach and train them and we intend to do so. We are praying the Lord to give us a suitable place, as this building is too small and we really should have a place for them to live, also. We ask your earnest prayers in this behalf. We need your help to draw in the net of fishes. I see that this is the beginning of the re-

vival!

"May the Lord richly bless you in your earnest endeavors for Him. I feel that He has especially chosen you to do this great work for His Kingdom throughout the world and that He has helped you find a key that will unlock doors for the gospel."

Missionary Ruth Helgeson  
Formosa

### APPLICATION FOR SPONSORSHIP OF A NATIVE CHURCH

Dear Brother Lindsay:

I want to do my part in reaching the lost of our generation. By faith I will sponsor the building of a Native Church according to the plan you have explained.

Mark X in proper place

- ☐ I will sponsor a \$250 Native Church project. I will pay ☐ \$20 per month ☐ \$10 per month.
- ☐ I will pay it all now.
- ☐ This is my offering for expenses.

Write amount \$.....

Name .....  
(Please print)

Address .....

City..... State.....

- ☐ Please enroll me in the World Correspondence Course.

### The Entire 16 Volumes of the Revelation Made Easy Series Is Now Ready - Nothing Like It in Print!



1. The Seven Churches of Prophecy (No. 1)
2. The Seven Churches of Prophecy (No. 2)
3. The Judgment Throne and the Seven Seals
4. The Day of the Lord and the Seven Trumpets
5. The Tribulation Temple and the Three Woes
6. The Two Witnesses
7. The Sun-Clothed Woman and the Man-child
8. The Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ
9. The Rise of the Antichrist and the Mark of the Beast
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11. The 144,000 on Mt. Zion and the First-Fruits
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(USE COUPON ON BACK PAGE)

THE VOICE OF HEALING

BOX 8658

DALLAS 16, TEXAS



Flash! As we go to press, word comes that Douglas Ashley is condemned to electrocution on February 28. You can help Douglas Ashley by immediately writing a letter to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Austin, Texas, requesting leniency and a reduction in sentence.

## ***The Mother of Douglas Ashley Tells Her Story***

by Sylvia Ayers

Here is a touching story of how a Jewish mother finds Christ in an hour of great sorrow and need. Her son is condemned to die in the electric chair after becoming involved in a homicide. While Douglas got into his trouble as a result of his sinful life, we believe that the evidence shows that the shooting was done in self defense. Douglas himself did not fire the shots. Last month Douglas, who has been wonderfully converted to Christ, told his story. Now the mother tells hers. We ask our readers to pray that the life of Douglas might be spared, and that his testimony might continue to go forth. Mrs. Sylvia Ayers is giving her testimony in churches, and is open for calls. She can be reached by writing Box 8084, Houston, Texas.

**S**UNDAY IS VISITING DAY at the County Jail here in Houston, Texas. There is always a long line of sad faces at the outside door. Children of all ages stand quietly in wonderment, and sense there is something terribly wrong. My visit takes me through crowded dim walls, up the elevator, to the sixth floor, directly to a row of cells known as the "Death Cells".

The tiny cells hold men condemned to die in the electric chair. The guard opens a steel trap door in the wall and turns a handle. Through the steel door, which I press myself into, is a small glass window and round steel disk with holes in it, to allow talking through.

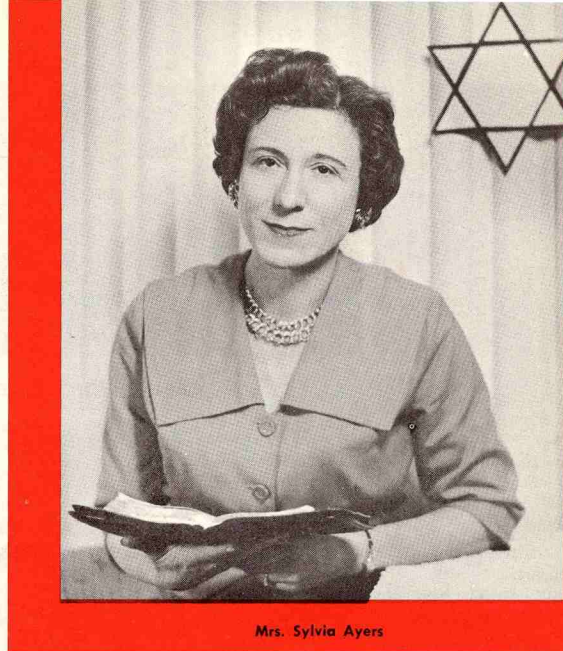
Before me stands a tall handsome, dark-haired youth, looking far younger than his years. It is inconceivable to think this young boy has been sentenced to die. He gives a cheerful greeting. We are glad to see each other. Each Sunday I look upon his face. I pray in my heart that in some way God will make a way for his life to be spared. This young boy is Leslie Douglas Ashley, my son.

I was born and raised in a Jewish home, where Jesus was never heard, or mentioned. I never saw a New Testament, for in a Jewish home there is no New Testament. I raised my son in the Jewish faith. In 1948, I was divorced from Douglas' father and moved to Houston. I remarried in 1949, and went to work to help my husband earn a living.

What I am about to write, I am not proud of, but ashamed. I, Sylvia Ayers, am the guilty one. I did not send my son to Sunday School after we moved here. What excuse do I have? None. Douglas did not receive any religious training after 1948, when he was a small boy. I never taught my son to pray. How could I? I did not know how myself. I could not really teach him about God, when I did not know Him. I was too busy, like so many mothers today. How wrong this is! Mothers and fathers, we must watch our children closely. Know at all times where they are, and who they are with. See that they get spiritual training.

### **THE COURT TRIAL AND THE DEATH VERDICT**

Due to a life of sin and running with wrong company, my son allowed himself to become involved in a homicide, along with a young girl. Panicking, they fled the scene. We are each instilled with fear. Even Moses fled. You can understand my



Mrs. Sylvia Ayers

mental anguish and how it increased each passing day as a nationwide dragnet was stretched for the apprehension of my son. The nagging fear that Douglas might be apprehended and resist arrest or attempt to continue his flight and be killed, almost drove me out of my mind. But when my son was arrested without incident, I recalled a feeling of relief, despite despair.

My son was charged with premeditated murder with malice aforethought, which carries the death penalty. The unfavorably slanted newspaper publicity did much to bring about an unfair verdict. My son Douglas, was guilty of some things, but he was not guilty of murder with malice. He was not tried on the crime but on the morals. At a time like this, I didn't know which way to turn. I thought I had hired an attorney to defend my son, but to my horror, too late I discovered he was incompetent. He appeared to prosecute the case rather than defend.

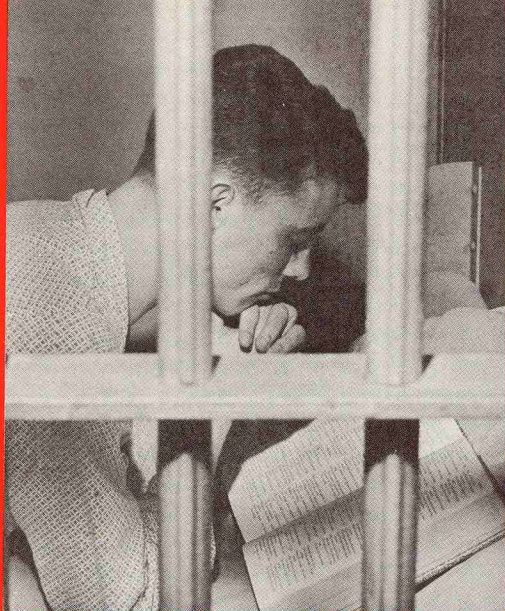
The young people were rushed to trial within six weeks, while public opinion was inflamed with the publicity. Others had been in the prison for a year and some of them have not yet come to trial. Why was my son's case rushed? I don't see how I managed to hold up through the ordeal, which was more like a three-ring circus than anything else. My son was on trial for life, and all one could see was flash bulbs popping, and newsreel cameras grinding, right inside where the people were seated.

I will not say more about the conduct of the defense, but the worst shock came when the defense witnesses who knew all about the deceased's immoral and violent character, were not allowed to testify. Our attorney did not even preserve the testimony for the higher courts to consider. Blunder after blunder was committed, but all I will say is that my son was not defended. (Ed. This statement of the incompetency of the defense counsel is confirmed by other attorneys in Houston, one of whom I personally talked to.)

### **THERE WAS NONE TO COMFORT**

Oh! If you could only know the sorrow and loneliness that filled my heart! If you could have seen my tears, the tears of a mother crying out for help in the hour of need. But there was none to comfort me. Yes, my friends stood by me, but I was filled with hopelessness and despair. I needed more than





Douglas Ashley reading the Bible behind the bars.

made it clear to him that the Lord did not show respect of persons, but if he would act upon I John 1:9, which says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness", that he too could be saved.

On my visits to Death Cell to see Douglas he would tell me about the words that were written in that little New Testament, and say, "Mother, you said someone would help, and I think I have found him." Yes, Jesus came to Douglas when he was behind a great steel door. Truly this was a great miracle. My son sentenced to death found comfort and gave me comfort.

### MOTHER AND SON FIND CHRIST

He told me that one night there in his cell on bended knee, he called upon the Lord Jesus. In his trouble and despair he poured out his heart, and cried for forgiveness. God did hear him and forgave him. And II Cor. 5:17 says, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away and all things become new." During the latter part of June, shortly after his acceptance of Christ, he was accepted as a member in the Oaklawn Assembly of God Church, here in Houston.

It was not easy for me to accept Jesus. I didn't have the faith. I said, "How can I talk to a stranger about my problems? Why will He listen to me? I never did anything for Him." But Douglas said, "Pray mother, He listens to everyone."

Douglas told me about his new friend Hazel, and asked me to call on her. She had the dearest face, and I loved her the moment I saw her. She talked with me and invited me to attend her church. I thought to myself, "If this Jesus can have such effect on people, maybe I ought to check into it." So one night I had a terrible urge to visit her church. I walked in and saw her sitting on the front row. I went up and sat down beside her and she said, "Praise God." Well, that night I heard them praising God and speaking in other languages. I just couldn't understand it. When the service was over the people went up front to pray. She invited me to go along, but I said I didn't see how I could pray with everyone praying out loud. Actually, I didn't know how to pray that night.

The next night as I was praying at home and as I finished my prayer and still with my eyes closed, I raised my head toward heaven. In a split second I was transferred from my kneeling position to the County Jail. As I stood looking at my son behind the bars, they seemed to pull apart and his cell was open. I went through and prepared to sit down on the cot.

Suddenly, it changed to a bed of grass and beside the grass there appeared a body of water. There Douglas and I sat down beside the water. I was frightened after the vision left. I ran to the phone and called Hazel and told her what had happened. She understood that God was dealing with me, and this vision was the twenty-third Psalm. God was assuring me. Each night my son and I would pray at five minutes past nine. A few nights later I was hoping to see my son's face again, but this time it was the face of Jesus upon the Cross and He said to me, "Don't worry, everything is going to be all right."

This time I was real scared and I ran to the phone again, and called Hazel. I know I could not have imagined the twenty third Psalm, but could this be my imagination? She assured me that it was real. Because I was Jewish, this was all very strange and unreal to me. I still didn't seem to have faith. Then one night Hazel asked me to go forward and accept the Lord Jesus. I got up and walked down to the altar. I still didn't know how to pray. Then suddenly I began laughing, not a hysterical laugh, but a joyous laugh. I didn't know what happened to me, except that all the people were shouting and saying I got saved. But something happened to me. The cursing left me, and I quit taking the nerve pills.

On July 27, I witnessed the Baptism of my son in water, in the tank in the chapel at the County Jail. Something happened within my soul when I witnessed this. I began receiving poems from Douglas, the most beautiful things about Jesus. A newspaper wrote: "Ashley sweats out appeal, by penning poetry." But God had given him real peace.

(Continued on page 10)

friends. I needed more than their words. I needed someone who could help and understand me. When I sat in that courtroom on the night of May 24th, awaiting the verdict, how all alone I felt. Have you ever felt all alone? Now I can understand how Mary must have felt when they sentenced Jesus to die on the Cross. Now I can understand the hurt a mother has in her heart when her only son is to be taken from her. But Mary's Son could forgive, and my son needed forgiveness.

When I heard the verdict I was stunned. I wanted to cry out, "You are wrong, each one of you. The dead man was not an innocent victim. You do not know the kind of a man he was." How I ever managed to walk from that courtroom after looking at my son's face, so pitiful, I'll never know. I had to keep from running up to my son and throwing my arms around him, but I knew that the dignity of the court must be upheld. When I got outside the courtroom, I collapsed. When I finally came to, I cried out, "Why God, why?" You see I didn't know then that God doesn't always have the answer right then, but if you wait you will get the answer. You cannot imagine how I cried day and night at this verdict. I was put on two different kinds of tranquilizers. I could hardly stand it.

When I saw my son again in his death cell, I told him he must have hope, although there really was no hope in my heart, only loneliness and despair. I told him someone would help, when I thought no one could help. I didn't know Jesus, so all I could say, was that someone would help. Surely Douglas must have believed me, because he was soon to accept Jesus in the death cell, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

### THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The next day after sentencing, a Rev. Pemberton came by to visit with Douglas. My boy being Jewish, and not knowing about Christ, what he said was all very strange to him. The same day this minister called on the phone and prayed with me. This really touched me.

It was during the first week in June, that a wonderful Christian lady, Hazel McGarrigle, made the acquaintance of my son. She had left a New Testament for him. He began to read the little book, and on the inside cover was an address. He sent her a card for thinking of him, a sinner. This card touched her deeply and the Lord moved on her heart to visit my boy. Through corresponding with him regularly, the Lord



## THE MOTHER OF DOUGLAS ASHLEY TELLS HER STORY

(Continued from page 9)

### SHE RECEIVES THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST

One night Ward Chandler was the preacher and he was speaking on the Holy Ghost. He told how that he was a Baptist preacher for 25 years, and that something was missing from his life, until he received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I listened intently. Then Hazel who was sitting beside me told me to go forward. I did and Brother Weathers told me to stand up. He put his hands upon me and told me to yield to God. Then after a second or so, I began speaking. I didn't know what I was saying, but it wasn't English or Jewish. But I did not feel the glory like Brother Chandler said he did. I got home at 10:30 that night, and told my husband what had happened. He said that he thought I had been hypnotized.

Thursday came and that day I got home from work at about 6:30, and very tired. While I was making supper I was praying. Can you imagine having to pray right in the middle of cooking? I turned the fire down real low and began to pray that the Lord would show me about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I had no more gotten this out of my mouth when I started to speak in another tongue. I kept on talking and talking, and the only thing I can remember saying in English was, "Praise God! Praise God!" When I finally stood up on my feet I felt I was floating on air, or on clouds. I knew this was what they meant when they spoke about the glory of God coming into your heart. It was hard to explain what I felt, but I was a different person when I walked from the bedroom into the kitchen. My husband came home and I told him what had happened, that I had spoken in other tongues and that Brother Weathers wasn't there. All he could say was, "That's sure nice." God had at last revealed Himself to me.

On the tenth day of October, God took the cigarettes away from me. I smoked two packages a day for nineteen years. I was a real chain smoker. With the help of God I will never smoke another.

When Jesus came into our lives, we found peace, both of us. He lifted the burden from me. I know God has worked with my son Douglas. Jesus told me that if we would believe, all things were possible.

One morning a few weeks later, while I was laying in bed, I heard a voice say to me, "I want you to testify". I was so surprised, and I wondered what this meant. So I called Hazel, and she explained that this was God talking to me, and He wanted people to hear my testimony, that He wanted me to glorify His Name. I said to her, "How could I do this?" She said, "God will open the doors for you."

I wondered how this would come to pass. But doors began to open. I gave testimony first in Brother Frost's church. The next day I visited Brother Osteen's church. There were many preachers there from various denominations. He began speaking about Baptists and Methodists and people from many denominations who were receiving the Holy Ghost. After several preachers had testified, I stood up and said, "Brother Osteen, God wants me to tell these people how I, a Jewish lady, was filled with the Holy Ghost." He told me to go ahead. After the service, ministers invited me to their churches to testify.

Thus, did God begin to open the doors for me. Jesus has come into my heart and life. He has told me that if I trust in him everything will be all right. That God had taken something that was bad and was making it to work for good.

### SHOULD A CHRISTIAN SMOKE?

(Continued from page 4)

aborigines and forthwith introduced it into Europe. Since the practice was not known in Bible days, the Scriptures do not mention it as it does other vices such as drunkenness. (I Cor. 5:9-10) But there are many Scriptures which, by implication, plainly show that the habit is un-Christian.

It has been definitely established that the results of heavy smoking include impaired mental efficiency, nervousness, memory loss, headaches, weakening of the will, and loss of ability to give sustained attention. In the case of youth it stunts growth, affects scholarship, results in a deterioration of physical fitness, and worst of all, fastens on a person a vicious habit which, in most cases, he will carry as a burden throughout the rest of his life.

### HOW TOBACCO HARMS THE BODY

In addition to the above, it has been conclusively proven that the use of tobacco is the cause of many serious diseases among adults, including Buerger's Disease, the circulatory diseases, "tobacco heart", angina constriction of the arteries, arteriosclerosis, respiratory diseases, bronchitis, and lung cancer. This list is by no means complete.

But more than a cause of disease, nicotine is a killer. With the statistics obtained in recent scientific surveys, we find that the mortality resulting from the use of tobacco is a shocking revelation. Of 100,000 non-smokers at the age of 30, we may expect 81,160 to still be alive twenty years later. But among heavy smokers, only 62,699 will still be alive at 50! These statistics were obtained through the survey made by Dr. Raymond Pearl (himself a smoker, so certainly unprejudiced) of the John Hopkins University, and were published in the SCIENCE MAGAZINE. Thus over 18,000 persons or nearly one out of five, heavy smokers, go to a grave premature-

ly between the ages of 30 and 50. These statistics do not take into account premature deaths at other ages.

### TOXIC POISONS IN TOBACCO

Careful chemical analysis shows that there are a number of exceedingly toxic poisons in tobacco, the chief of which is nicotine. Recent publicizing of the insidious character of the composition of cigarette smoke has caused tobacco companies to resort to the manufacture of cigarettes with filters which, according to their claims, are supposed to remove a substantial amount of the lethal compounds from the smoke. This is largely ineffective, for the nicotine is the element which satisfies the smoker's craving, and to remove it, makes the cigarette unsatisfying. Beside the nicotine, there is a considerable amount of deadly carbon monoxide in tobacco smoke which is always present where there is incomplete combustion. In addition to this, there is a small but appreciable content of methyl and wood alcohol and tars. The tobacco tars are an active agent in causing the deadly lung cancer. While the amount of these substances is not large, their poisonous effect is cumulative. Other harmful chemicals including pyridine, furfural, and arsenic, are found in cigarette smoke.

Although these facts are of sufficient importance to warrant a stern indictment of the practice of smoking, the full story is by no means told. The moral effect of smoking upon the victim is by far the most devastating. Its harmful effects upon growing children can scarcely be overemphasized. Once addicted to the habit, children will steal to buy tobacco, or they will surreptitiously purloin cigarettes from merchants' counters in order to satisfy their appetite. It is but a short step from petty thievery to that of becoming a juvenile delinquent. The use of nicotine tends to warp the nature. Moreover, smoking of cigarettes often leads young people to take the next step — addiction to liquor.

### THE HARMFUL EFFECT OF SMOKING UPON WOMEN

If the use of tobacco is harmful for adults and boys, how much more is it for young girls who are the future mothers of the race. A girl has a more highly refined nervous system, and when the poison of nicotine is introduced into her body, the craving developed may be more acute than that in a boy. Smoking may give a girl a feeling of sophistication; certainly it deprives her of the natural sweetness of girlhood which is one of her greatest assets.

It is a scientific fact that smoking is harmful to the skin of a woman. As the habit is indulged, her normal coloring disappears and wrinkles and "crows feet" take the place of the bloom of youth. Nothing is more devastating to facial beauty in a woman than heavy smoking and drinking.

Even as short a time as a generation



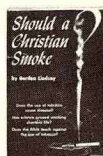
ago, any woman who took up smoking was considered a person of loose morals. If she smoked publicly, she was marked at once as a harlot. Alas that in recent decades, womanhood has been seduced into virtual slavery to the nicotine habit. One can set it down as a fact that any woman who smokes will not be found to be a spiritual person. Women have traditionally led the men in spiritual things and nobility of character. Yet, once she is brought under the sway of the lusts of the flesh, she is apt to justify her vices more quickly than a man. The use of tobacco has the effect of inhibiting the nobler instincts of motherhood. Smoking may sophisticate her, but it also equates her to the moral sensibilities of her baser nature.

A companionate practice to smoking is drinking. Many women, alas, have adopted this vice also and the cumulative effect of these dissipations have had much to do with the rapid moral decline in America. A most revealing article was recently carried in the Saturday Evening Post. In this article was published the findings of an investigation showing that a million or more female drinkers, a large percentage of whom are mothers, had become alcoholics or near-alcoholics and were hiding their shame within their homes.

From a purely medical standpoint, the tobacco industry must face a severe indictment, for producing a product that is destructive of health and an underminer of public morals. From the Christian position, the use of tobacco has no defense whatever. Nicotine makes a man or woman a slave. It defiles the body, which is the temple of God. The entire Christian conscience is against smoking. The practice, when indulged in by professed Christians, is a certain stumbling block to new converts. Smoking is also a misuse of money for which there is no adequate return. If the money spent by professing Christians for tobacco were used for world evangelization, the Communist menace would be effectively checked in many lands, where it is today gaining headway. The Scriptures teach that Christ is our example, that "as he was in the world so are we". Certainly it would be blasphemous to even imagine Christ smoking a cigarette. No more should His followers smoke. From the Church is to be revealed the Bride of Christ. That she should be the slave of such a vice is unthinkable. The Church is urged to separate herself from all these things, for she is to be presented to Christ a chaste virgin without the taint of fleshly lusts.

Perhaps it may be asked, why that the harmfulness of smoking is not more generally known. The reason is not far to seek. The tobacco companies, having vast sums at their disposal, spend heavily for full page ads in newspapers and magazines. Editors realize full well that if they carry articles exposing the adverse

effects of smoking, they may expect to be boycotted by these companies with the consequence that a sizable source of their revenue will dry up. Even the medical journals carry large cigarette advertisements and so their publications too are at the mercy of the tobacco companies. A notable exception to this has been the Reader's Digest which, until recent years, took no advertising. Not being under obligation to the tobacco companies, they impartially publicized the findings of scientific research concerning the truth about tobacco, much to the dismay of these vested interests. Since the tobacco syndicates could not refute the tell-tale evidence of these statistical surveys, they began an extensive publicizing of new filter-tip brands which were supposed to remove a substantial part of the poison from the cigarette.



## Should Christians Smoke?

by Gordon Lindsay

Here at last is a book that deals with this subject from both the Bible and scientific standpoints.

Shows from doctors' statements how tobacco harms the body and shortens life.

### Chapters Include:

- How Tobacco Impairs Health
- Is Smoking Compatible with a Christian's Testimony?
- How Tobacco Degrades Womanhood
- Tobacco a Contributing Cause to Juvenile Delinquency
- How to Stop Smoking

PRICE \$1.00  
THE VOICE OF HEALING

The campaign by the tobacco companies to put a cigarette in the mouth of every young woman of America was one of the most reprehensible and shameful acts in American history. It was a diabolically clever scheme to bring the womanhood of our land into slavery to the nicotine habit. No greater evidence of the rapid moral deterioration of our nation could be found than in the fantastic success of the campaign to fasten this abominable habit upon girls and women. Every psychological trick possible has been resorted to. During the depression, when proud society matrons found themselves in reduced straits, they were persuaded for a price, to lend their names and portraits to the cigarette ads, thus giving young girls the idea that for a woman to be sophisticated, she should

smoke. Athletes, some of whom did not even use tobacco, were lured through offers of big money to endorse this or that brand of cigarette.

The manner in which the American girl has thus become identified as a willing convert to smoking, was as subtle as it was devilish. First, she appeared in the ads and on the billboards, with a sweet-heart who was smoking. The next step was to show her alone with a cigarette, but not smoking. The final step of this shabby drama was taken when the girl was made to appear smoking the cigarette.

## HOW TO QUIT

How can one quit the use of tobacco? First, he or she must be thoroughly convinced that it is a harmful, enslaving habit. That it is a vice without one good thing in its favor, apart from the obvious fact that it soothes the craving it has artificially created. It is a habit that to be broken, must be broken off at once. To try to taper off is like "cutting off the dog's tail an inch at a time". Throw your cigarettes away and buy no more. Do not expect your smoking friends to help you. Those in the toils of this vice are notorious in their efforts to hinder those who make attempts to escape from it. Smokers seem to take a morbid delight in preventing others from freeing themselves from the chains of the habit.

Above all, ask God to help you. If you are a believer, do not expect victory without looking to Christ for help. He will strengthen you during the critical period when the break is made. Ask other Christians to stand with you in faith. Remember, there has been many a miracle of deliverance from the accursed tobacco.



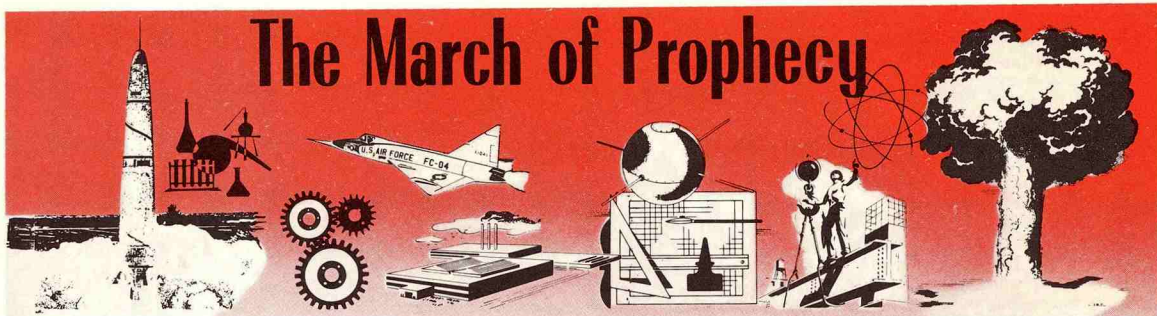
## FROM DETECTIVE SERGEANT TO DELIVERANCE PREACHER

By William A. Raiford

This book is a thrilling story of a detective sergeant who became converted to Christ while on the Tulsa, Oklahoma police force. Later he spoke regularly on the radio and gave his testimony in many of the churches of that area. He missed being police commissioner by a few votes, but God had a work for him to do. This book relates many of the thrilling incidents of his life. Just the kind of book, after you have read it yourself, to give to a sinner. (Part of the story was carried recently in the magazine.) Price 50 cents.

THE VOICE OF HEALING  
BOX 8658, DALLAS 16, TEXAS





(A FEATURE TO KEEP READERS INFORMED OF WORLD EVENTS WHICH HAVE UNUSUAL PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE.)

### FLIGHT TO VENUS

One of the greatest triumphs of science took place on December 14. A rocket had been sent on a trip of 182 million miles, in 109 days, to the planet Venus, passing it at a distance of 21,700 miles. The planet itself was just 36 million miles away. By a special coded signal Mariner was made to turn on and operate its equipment for the period of 42 minutes, that it was passing the planet. Radio signals travelling at the speed of light reached Mariner in three minutes, and returned its signal in a total of six minutes, reporting all was well. For the next three quarters of an hour Mariner fed back a coded signal which when deciphered, will it be believed, clear up many of the mysteries of Venus.

It is expected that it will take a month to analyze all the data that has been received. What is the temperature of the planet? What is the length of its day? What is the atmosphere made of? And is the planet inhabited? We are certain that this latter is not the case for being so close to the sun the temperature is estimated to be nearly 600 degrees. However, were Venus inhabited, we are certain that God would not permit fallen man to invade it and introduce sin to the people living there.

### CUBA PLANNED TO ATTACK UNITED STATES CITIES

There is an aftermath of the Cuba crisis that still makes America shudder. Ernesto Guevara, international communist of Havana, and Castro's leading henchman, disclosed that Cuba planned nuclear attacks on United States cities including New York. In an exclusive interview with an European correspondent he said, "If the rockets had remained we would have used them all and directed them against the heart of the United States, including New York in our defense against aggression." This confession was so horrible that it was suppressed by most communist newspapers.

Guevara also outlined plans for taking over such countries as Venezuela, Guatemala, Paraguay, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Peru. He declared that small groups of guerrilla soldiers at strategic points could act as a catalyst to precipitate action of the masses.

There is no doubt a ring of truth in many of the statements credited to him. It also explains why Russia felt impelled to spoil

the plans being cooked up by the Cuban madmen. Russia as a great power knew that if Castro got control of the atomic missiles and sent them against the United States, it would have meant the utter destruction of Russia. While Cubans did not actually have the missiles in their hands, there was a chance that in a crisis, Castro would take things in his own hands and his troops would overpower the Russian technicians.

The motive was there. When a man gets desperate he will do anything. Hitler when he saw his proud boasts fail, and that he had become the most loathed person in history, committed suicide. But if he had had the a-bomb he would gladly have destroyed Germany and the whole world before he died.

Castro knows his days are numbered. He knows that he is regarded as a fool by all people, including Khrushchev. He would do anything to hit back, and it was in the cards as far as he was concerned to strike at the heartland of America with atomic weapons.

He almost had the opportunity but Divine providence held it back and prevented this terrible catastrophe, thus giving the Church a little more time to fulfill its Great Commission on earth.

### WHAT IF A MAN WHO HANDLES NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD GO BERSERK?

The question has often been asked, what if an emotionally unstable military man should get an irresistible impulse to see a nuclear missile go off? This question has often been answered in lurid science fiction. But now a report comes out that such things have actually happened. It is revealed that an Air Force sergeant assigned to maintenance work on nuclear weapons "threatened to fire a pistol at a bomb for the purpose of committing suicide." He ordered his superior officers to stand next to the missile but they finally talked him out of his plan.

In another instance an airman forgot to attach a ground wire to an electrical circuit. The Titan missile exploded. Fortunately there was no nuclear warhead in the missile. It subsequently developed that the airman was suffering from severe emotional strain. As a result of this and other incidents the military are keeping a tight check on the emotional condition of all those working around these weapons. But

*there is always a chance of a misunderstanding or a blunder.*

### WHAT ARE THE RESULTS FROM THE 21st VATICAN COUNCIL

In 1870, the Vatican Council classified Protestants in the same category as infidels, Jews, schismatics and other heretics. This year it was different. They were called "separated brethren." Protestants sent observers. Dr. Stanley Stuber, a Baptist and a guest observer was amazed. After being "wined and dined" by archbishops, Stuber exclaimed: "To have a personal copy of the super secret scheme is something I never dreamed of, besides having the best seat in St. Peter's. We could not ask for better treatment."

The Protestants are impressed. They say Rome is no longer a church that never changes. It is a church on the move. There is no doubt that as the result of the first part of this Council, Rome and Protestantism is drawing closer together.

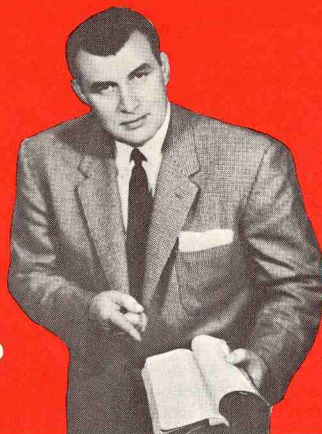
### WHAT ABOUT THAT NEW VERSION OF THE BIBLE?

It is interesting to note what a world famous scholar has to say about the New English Bible, which was so heralded a few years ago. The fact that the revisers had changed the word "virgin" referring to the mother of Jesus, to "young woman" showed that it was a dangerous version. This is what Thomas Stearns Eliot, the greatest poet of his generation writing in the London Sunday Telegraph, has to say about it:

"The age covered by the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I was richer in writers of genius. . . We should not expect a translation made in our time to be a masterpiece of our literature. . . We are entitled to expect from a panel chosen from among our most distinguished scholars at least a work of dignified mediocrity. When we find we are offered something far below that modest level, something that astonishes us with its combination of the vulgar, the trivial and the pedantic, we ask in alarm what is happening to the English language?" In showing the inferiority of the late version he in an example contrasts the words of the King James Version, "Neither cast ye your pearls before swine" with the NEB version, "Do not feed your pearls to pigs."



# PRIEST ? PRODIGAL ? OR PREACHER ?



by Evangelist Johnny Gheta

In the Bible story of the prodigal son, it was the younger son who left the way of goodness and virtue. In our family it was I, the elder son, who soon became the sinful prodigal.

As I continued my way through school and grew to manhood, I joined a gang of troublemakers in our neighborhood. Many nights we would go out dancing, and drinking. Often this led to gang fights and brawls. Late at night when I would return home my mother would be waiting for me. With kindness she would scold me, "Johnny, you don't belong with that fast crowd of drinking, dancing, fighting young people. You belong to God. You are a man of God. Please go and see the priest. Make your confession, and prepare your life for the priesthood."

My head would hang in shame. In my heart I knew that I was doing wrong, and often in times of danger it was my mother's prayer that brought me home alive and well.

Then the pattern of my life was suddenly changed, not through any choice of mine, but by the second world war.

I enlisted in the Navy and was trained in the Naval Aviation School. Soon I was flying with a B24 squadron. Many times our squadron was all set to go overseas, but at the last hour a change of orders would come, and I would be transferred to another place or group.

Even though I was not serving God, I knew that He was keeping me and limiting my wandering with His restraint.

When the war ended, and I returned home, my mother said, "It is so wonderful how God answered my prayers. He kept His hand upon you. God brought you home safely. He wants you to accept your vocation and prepare for His service."

I cannot say that I turned to God, sought His guidance or listened for His

voice. The truth is that the next chapter in my life was not dictated by my heavenly Father, but by my earthly brother.

## A NEW ADVENTURE IN ALASKA

"Why don't we take a trip to Alaska?" my brother asked. The only answer I could give was, "What? Go to Alaska in the winter time? I have heard that it gets as cold as fifty degrees below zero up there in the winter."

I yielded to my brother's persuasion. We drove to Seattle, Washington, then took a boat to Anchorage, Alaska. It surely was cold when we arrived in Anchorage! The first thing we did when we stepped ashore was rush to a clothing store and buy two large heavy winter coats.

We looked over this interesting town with its miners, fur traders, eskimos, and fishermen. We were especially impressed with the fishing in the nearby streams where we caught rainbow trout weighing as much as twenty pounds. This was a sportsman's paradise, even if it was very cold in the wintertime and the snow would often be as much as ten feet deep.

We had to find employment or else go into some kind of business to earn our living. After scouting around for about three months we decided on our own business and opened up a loan company. From the beginning it was very successful; and soon we were making money, lots of money.

Then I made another mistake, a big mistake. I bought a nightclub. It prospered, and I bought a second establishment, a tavern. This brought me into daily contact with the wild, immoral, drinking, gambling element in this wide-open city of evil.

My conscience rebelled against my own wasted life, and soon I found myself drinking more and more. My drink-

ing habit soon required five fifths of whiskey every forty-eight hours.

Each day I promised myself that I would drink less. In reality I drank more. The devil had taken over my life.

In desperation I went to a physician and asked, "Is there any medical treatment that can cure this dreadful habit?" He answered, "Just quit drinking. Don't drink anymore."

I was seized by horrible fears. I couldn't quit. I tried it for two days, broke into a cold sweat and suffered the tortures of the damned. I couldn't live with the whiskey. I couldn't live without it, so I went back to drinking again.

God alone knows what I went through as an alcoholic. It was a living hell! Finally I decided to go home to visit my mother who was then living in Michigan. On my trip home I began drinking, lost my memory, and ended up in Wilmington, Delaware. When I sobered up I started out again, bought a ticket to Michigan. It was Sunday morning when I reached Jonesville, Michigan. No liquor stores were open. Every cell of my body screamed out for liquor. I was seized by the shakes. I would have paid any amount for just one bottle of whiskey, but there was none to be had.

As I stumbled up to the door of my mother's home, she took one look at me, and almost fainted. I was like a living skeleton. The last time she had seen me I weighed 215 lbs. Now I was down to 150 lbs. Being six feet and four inches tall, I looked thin indeed. I could not bear to tell mother that I had become a drunkard. I struggled and suffered through two drinkless days, and then left to return to Alaska. I bought a bottle of whiskey on the way to the depot, and started drinking as soon as the train pulled out of the station.

When I reached Anchorage again I was like the prodigal son at the end of sin's road. I reasoned with myself, "I cannot go on like this. I am too sick to live, and afraid to die. Someway, somehow there must be a way out." I looked up, and my eyes fell on a Bible. Ever since I made my first trip to Alaska it had been there on my dresser, unopened. It had been given to me several years before, a gift from my brother. I remembered now that when he gave it to me he said, "Johnny, I want to give you this gift—a Bible. Some day this may be able to help you."

## THE PRODIGAL COMES TO HIMSELF, AND TO GOD

I had come to the end of myself. I stumbled over to the dresser, picked up the Bible, and clutching it to my heart, I fell down on my knees, and cried, "If there is a God, please reach me NOW, FOR SOON IT WILL BE TOO LATE."

As I tried to open the Bible it seemed that an invisible enemy wrestled against me. I know now that it was the devil

(Continued on page 14)



## PRIEST? PRODIGAL? OR PREACHER?

(Continued from page 13)

making his last determined effort to keep my soul in his control. I struggled with all the power of my will and the strength of my weakened body. Finally, the Bible lay open in my hands. Before me were the words of David in Psalms 101. With trembling hands and racing heart I eagerly read, "I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within thy house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes . . ."

As I read God's Holy Word, the power of the enemy was broken. The dark cloud lifted off my life. Peace, wonderful peace flooded my whole being. It was so wonderful, and it seemed so long, so very long since I had known peace within.

I cried aloud, "Praise God, Praise God." O the joy of being free from the slavery of sin and fear and alcohol.

Every time the devil tempted me to take a drink of whiskey I would run to my room, and begin to read the Bible. It was my point of contact with God. Immediately new life and strength would flow into my being, and praises would fill my heart until I would shout aloud, "Praise God for the victory. Praise God!"

Then I thought, "Why should I have to run to my room for the Bible? I will carry it with me, then the devil can never tempt me to do wrong." So I left my room with the Bible in my hand. Before entering my nightclub I tucked the Bible under my coat, and for several weeks I continued to manage my nightclub with God's Bible next to my heart, but hidden. Whenever I was tempted to take a drink, I would run to the back room, get on my knees and read God's Word.

A few weeks later something very wonderful happened. As I was praying, God came to me in a vision and said, "Johnny, you shall give your life to serving me and ministering to men in need."

God had spoken. I was to be a man of God, and serve my fellowmen, especially those in need. Surely God was answering my wonderful mother's prayers.

### MY FAITH IS TRIED BY FIRE

I still did not understand how I could possibly do this, for I had been successful in business, I drove a Cadillac, I had my own private plane. My clothes were the most expensive. Preachers and ministers were poor. How could I go into God's work?

As a first step I sold my nightclubs. Then I decided that I would stay in business, but in a different business. I bought a sporting goods store. It was my plan to make as much money as I could honestly, and give generously to support ministers and missionaries. That way I could still

live in the good style I was accustomed to.

Soon afterward on a fateful day that was to explode with fire and fury around me, I drove my car into a gasoline service station. I asked the attendant, "Where shall I park this car for service?" He answered, "In the second stall."

Just as I turned off the ignition and stepped out of the car a terrific gasoline explosion covered me with flames. It was horrible. My hands and face suffered third degree burns. The loose flesh dripped from my face. My clothes were on fire. The flames seared into the flesh on my chest. In a moment my lips and eyes swelled until I could hardly move them. I was sure I would be horribly disfigured and blind for life.

Throughout that first long night of pain and darkness, I cried out to God from my heart, "Lord, Lord be merciful to me a sinner. Heal me."

The words kept coming to my mind, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever." Each time I started to pray I would get out of bed and down on my knees. The nurse would come in, find me on my knees praying, and put me back in bed. This went on all through the night.

I soon knew that the doctors could not restore my face as it had been before. It would require much plastic surgery and skin grafting, or else a miracle from God.

Again and again I blamed myself. I should have gone all out for God. He had called me to minister to the needs of others, not to operate a sporting goods store. If I had obeyed His call this would not have happened.

I promised God that I would obey Him fully. I would dedicate all of my life to serving the needy.

On the third night the miracle happened. As I prayed, the power of God came upon me as lightning from heaven. In a split second I was completely healed. My face and eyes were perfectly restored, even my left ear which had been partly burned away was completely restored.

Only one small portion of my right hand remained scarred. I would not have it any other way. Every day it reminds me of how my face and body would have remained disfigured if God had not healed me. It helps all I witness unto to realize visually what a wonderful miracle God did for me.

My faith was literally tried by fire. The God who saved me from the demon of alcohol delivered me from the burning flame.

### SERVING THOSE IN DEEPEST NEED

I disposed of my store, gave all my money to the cause of Jesus Christ. What a blessing to give your all to Him! Praise God!

Immediately I started witnessing for Christ. As I preached on street corners and in jails, hundreds of alcoholics came to Christ. God helped me to rehabilitate

many of them. Many families that had been broken up through drunkenness were reunited. Some of these redeemed and rescued men are now preaching the gospel, some as evangelists, others as missionaries.

All things are possible with God.

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Ike Davis

I'm Happy Now,  
Ask and Receive,  
The Road of Life,  
He came in That  
Home Above, In-  
side the Gate, I

Shall Be Like Him, His Hand In Mine,  
I Have That Song, In the City of God, My  
Lord Is a Friend and Follow Me.



### 806 AT THE END OF THE JOURNEY IS GOD

Ike Davis

At the End of the  
Journey Is God,  
Teach Me Lord to  
Wait, How About

Your Heart? Take My Hand Precious Lord,  
An Evening Prayer, Take Time to Pray,  
You're Not Alone, A Mother's Prayer,  
There's No Other Friend Like Jesus, You'll  
Never Lose God, Why Walk Alone? and  
On the Other Side of the Valley.



### 801 THE LIGHT OF THE DAY

The Inspirational  
The Light of the  
Day, It's Different  
Now, When He  
Reached Down His  
Hand for Me, I

Know He Heard My Prayer, Need Thee,  
Ten Thousand Angels, Teach Me Lord to  
Wait, I'll Meet You In the Morning, He's  
All I Need, Wonderful Savior, He Set Me  
Free, How Great Thou Art.

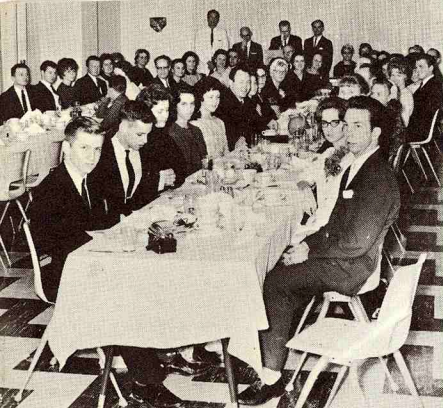


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