

Sweet is the Story



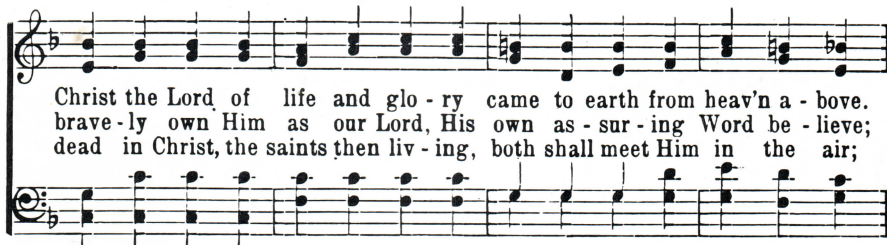
A. P. G.
Not too fast

TWO-PART SONG

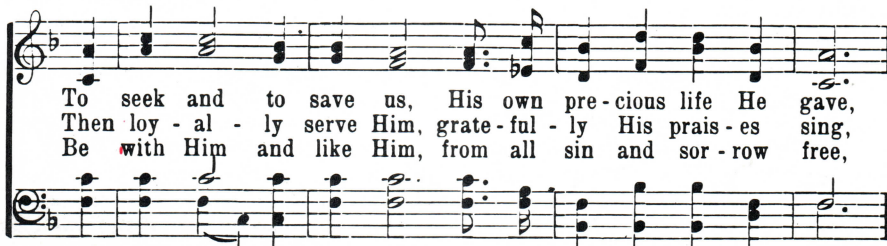
ALFRED P. GIBBS



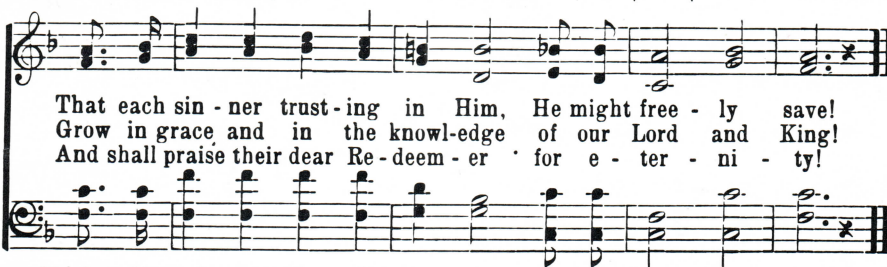
1. Sweet is the sto - ry of the Sav - ior's won-drous love, How
2. May we, this Sav - ior, now in sim - ple faith re - ceive, And
3. One day, from heav - en, shall the Lord Him - self ap - pear, The



Christ the Lord of life and glo - ry came to earth from heav'n a - bove.
brave - ly own Him as our Lord, His own as - sur - ing Word be - lieve;
dead in Christ, the saints then liv - ing, both shall meet Him in the air;



To seek and to save us, His own pre - cious life He gave,
Then loy - al - ly serve Him, grate - ful - ly His prais - es sing,
Be with Him and like Him, from all sin and sor - row free,



That each sin - ner trust - ing in Him, He might free - ly save!
Grow in grace and in the knowl - edge of our Lord and King!
And shall praise their dear Re - deem - er for e - ter - ni - ty!

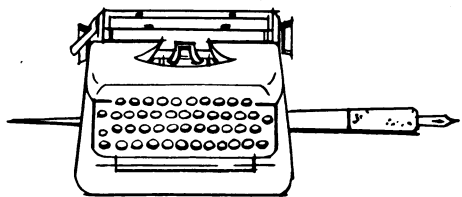
Melody in Alto, to be sung by boys. Girls to sing Soprano
Copyright, 1938, by Alfred P. Gibbs

Alfred P. Gibbs loved boys and girls and worked diligently at vocal and visual presentations of the Gospel to them. The nearest he came to a Christmas carol was "Sweet is the Story," written for their young voices. They loved him and trailed him wherever he went. Many will follow him to heaven to "praise their dear Redeemer for eternity!" This song at this season seemed a most appropriate introduction to this memorial edition.

LETTERS of INTEREST

DECEMBER 1967

VOL. 32 NO. 11



Editors' Page

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Some earnest Christians inveigh against Christmas because of its pagan background and Romish name. Not so Alfred P. Gibbs. He took it for what it had become here and in other lands: a home-coming holiday in celebration of the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

That it should have become a home-coming family event is most fitting, for the purpose of the Son of God in coming into this world is told in His words to His disciples on the eve of His departure by way of Golgotha: "In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

He came in order that those who believed on Him might be made children of God and be at home in the Father's house.

Alfred Gibbs in order to serve the Lord without distraction abstained from marriage. Yet he loved children, and he was a most welcome, delighted and delightful Christmas guest in many Christian homes; always entering wholeheartedly into the spirit of the occasion. In earlier years in America he spent Christmas in the Paul Cole home in Kansas City. In recent years and up through 1966 his Christmas home was with the Claude Brown family in Georgia, where with another bachelor preacher he was annually incorporated into the family. This Christmas he is at home in the Father's house.

HIS BEMA, NOT OURS

If there is one thing to be said for the bond servant who kept the pound his master gave him to invest wrapped up in a napkin it is this: he did not, so far as the record goes, voice any criticism of the way his fellow servants invested the money entrusted to them.

Nor did the nobleman when he called his servants to give account "second-guess" them, as we say. He did not say to the servant who had gained two pounds, "Well and good, but you shouldn't have done it just like that. I would have done it thus and so." What he did say was, "Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."

Years ago it was this writer's privilege to work closely with an army field commander who later became quite famous. Meticulous in his dress, ever insistent that officers and men be soldierly in appearance and action, when he assigned a task to an officer he never spelled out precisely how it was to be done. His concern was with results, not with methods. And when the officer reported the assignment completed he never berated him for not doing the project some other way. Rather he commended him and invested him with other tasks.

And that, I am convinced, is how the Lord treats us. True,

He has spelled out clearly in His Word how we are to comport ourselves as Christians. But He does not hedge us about with restrictions as to methods. He gives us elbow room in which to work, to use our enlightened minds, our opportunities, or circumstances.

We spend far too much time finding fault with another Man's servants. Going even beyond inquisitive Peter, we want not only to know what our fellow servant is to do, but how he is to do it, so we can judge his methods and motives.

The judgment seat of Christ, the bema, is to be a solemn event, and we may well look forward to it with some trepidation. But can we not find some encouragement in the thought that though we may have been dull students in spiritual matters, failing to learn many simple lessons, our Lord is keenly desirous of rewarding every evidence of faithfulness. At His resurrection He did not berate any of the apostles for their shameful desertion. And to Mary Magdalene, who should have been looking for a risen Saviour instead of a dead Lord, He appeared back at the tomb in response to her love, and He gave her a commission to perform.

Despite our many failures, whatever we do out of love for Him will not fail of its reward.

One more thought: While we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ we are not called upon to appear before the judgment seat of our brethren. —Donald M. Taylor

"VOICES IN THE WORLD"

"There are...so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification" (1 Corinthians 14:10). For the purpose of this editorial, these words of Paul are borrowed from context. Today, these "voices in the world" might include the cry and chant of militant leaders and marching demonstrators, the ominous report of a weapon being fired in the Far East battle field, the suggestive sounds of television and radio advertising, and the uncensored trivia found in today's publications.

These voices from Satan himself are indeed signs of the times as lawlessness, hate, greed, passion, restlessness, wars and rumors of wars proliferate. "Satan, as a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour."

Negative? Yes. But positive for the Christian. In the recent words of the articulate and much-studied Dr. Frederick A. Tatford of England, "The Lord's return is on the threshold of the door." Only His return from Heaven to claim His bride is needed to fulfill prophecy. What assurance for the Christian in these troubled times! Said our Lord Jesus, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Let us look up, Christian, *expectantly*, for our redemption (our Redeemer) draws near.

—James D. Kennedy

CORRECTION

Mr. John Smart, of Emmaus Bible School and The Fields, graciously informed us that the article on Promoting Good Relations Between Preachers and Assemblies (November LOI, page 8) was not written by himself, but rather by Harold G. Mackay. Mr. Mackay had

submitted the article to Mr. Smart, who in turn submitted it to LOI; and LOI attributed its authorship to Mr. Smart in misunderstanding. Our sincere apologies to Mr. Mackay.

In publishing LETTERS OF INTEREST its staff believes it is performing a service for the Lord's people. The work is done without charge. Because the magazine is furnished

free, friends occasionally ask about the expense involved. To such may we say that it is met mainly by voluntary gifts from assemblies and individual Christians in the assemblies, with a small portion coming from advertising revenue. If any of our fellow believers feel exercised to assist in furthering the work, their fellowship will be gratefully accepted as from the Lord.

Gift Deductible—We wish to inform our readers that gifts from individuals sent to "Letters of Interest" for expense, come within the contributions classification of the income tax returns.

This ... To Prove Him

by C. Ernest Tatham

As one reads the Holy Scriptures he cannot but be struck by the frequency of the Deity asking questions. And the inquiring student asks, Why, if God is omniscient, should He have to make any inquiries of His creature?

"Where art thou?" calls the Lord God, of Adam. But why ask? Did He not know exactly where the disobedient offender was?

The night that the honorable delegates from Moab arrived at the house of the soothsayer Balaam, God asked, "What men are these with thee?" (Num. 22:9). But did He not *already* know?

Another example is found in the searching inquiry made of the runaway prophet, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" (I Kings 19:13).

When Christ asked, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Matt. 16:13), was He actually seeking information that was hidden from Him? The same goes for His inquiry of His disciples, "What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?" (Mark 9:33). Or of Philip, "Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?" (John 6:5).

Again we repeat, If our Lord was in possession of all-knowledge, why should He *raise* these questions?

He Knew Everything

Right here let us settle this: our Lord Jesus Christ knew everything. The Holy Spirit through John writes of Him, "He knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man; for He knew what was in man" (John 2:24, 25). The Gospels abound with examples of this omniscience: His pre-knowledge of Nathanael (John 1:48), the woman at the well (John 4:17-19), and of the death of Lazarus (John 11:11). The matter of the tribute money, as recorded in Matthew 17:24-27, is another classic example of this perfect knowledge.

Let us summarize, then, as follows:

1. Our Lord was omniscient.
2. He asked many questions.
3. These were, therefore, not for His own information.
4. Hence it must have been designed for *their* benefit. But in what way?

We believe that the answer lies in His design to bring into manifestation their inward attitudes, whether of faith or of unbelief.

The partial text that heads this article exemplifies this. When Jesus asked Philip, "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" He was very far from being

in any quandary. It was not any expression of despair, or implied impotence. The Evangelist states expressly that "He Himself knew what He would do" (John 6:6). His plans were already clear. He would Himself provide a sumptuous picnic so that everyone of them would have abundance of food!

But if this was on His immediate program, why query Philip? Why worry him and his fellows over the matter?

The answer is found in the words, "*This He said to prove him*" (v. 6). It was actually examination day for this man, though he did not know it. He was being tested. Would he look to the paucity of human supply, or would he turn the whole matter over to the omnipotent Master?

Notice that Christ said "WE." "Whence shall WE buy bread that these may eat?" Had He said "YE" there might have been some excuse for Philip's answer concerning two hundred pennyworth as being insufficient for them. But no; He used the first person plural. Hence we might expect that the man would have cried, "Lord, there is no problem here whatever since *Thou* art here, and *Thou* art going to undertake. *We* men are helpless, but we know something of Thy power and Thy sufficiency, and all will come out well. You said 'We,' and that is enough."

But Philip looked away from the powerful Lord to the powerless circumstances. He failed in the test. He must have disappointed his Examiner.

He Knows Inward Attitudes

Our Lord knows perfectly, of course, the inward attitudes of our hearts, and exactly what we, His own, will do under certain circumstances. But *we* don't know. Nor does the devil, our adversary. And certainly the unbelieving world around us does not know either.

Hence He permits us to be tested, tried and proven in order to bring our faith into open demonstration, so that He can say to the foe, "See the confidence that my child here has in Me!"

This is illustrated in business life every day. At an annual fair I stepped up to one of the booths and helped myself, at the operator's invitation, to a free shave with a certain model of electric razor. This was designed to demonstrate to me the excellent quality of the machine, and to awaken an intention of purchase. The test was not to ascertain if the razor might perhaps give me a good shave but rather to prove that it *would*. There was no doubt about it! The manufacturer knew

the excellent qualities of his product. But *I* did not. Hence he was anxious to demonstrate these to me, the idea being, of course, to bring these qualifications into clear unmistakable manifestation. (I did not buy the razor, however,—but for *another* reason!)

This was the underlying design of the temptations of our Lord Jesus Christ in the wilderness. These were not to ascertain as to whether or not He would succumb, but rather to demonstrate that He was the impeccable and perfect Son of God.

But how often in our case, also, we utterly fail to rise above the test and declare our confidence in our omnipotent Lord! Thus we let Him down, as it were, and give the enemy opportunity to slander His character.

The question put by the Lord Jesus at the beginning of John 6 was in the form of a test of Philip. He broke down and failed his examination. But the question at the close of that same chapter, "Will ye also go away?" brought entirely different results, for Peter cried, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And be believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (vv. 67-69). Peter passed his examination, and more than proved it, that day.

May the next testing that comes our way carry to our souls afresh the words, "*This He said (or allowed) to prove Him.*"

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**FEBRUARY NEWS DEADLINE—
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Alfred P. Gibbs

Man of God



At the chapel service in Augusta, Ga. George Landis described Mr. Gibbs as a man of God.

Death of a Man of God

Mr. Alfred P. Gibbs went to be with the Lord on Saturday afternoon, September 9, as the result of a one car accident. He was driving from Montreal, Quebec to Hamilton, Ontario, Near Cobourg, Ont., a doctor approaching in another car saw Mr. Gibbs' car suddenly swerve off the highway and turn over several times. Death was instantaneous. No other person was involved in the accident.

Alfred Gibbs was born in Birmingham, England on October 22, 1890. Alfred and his twin brother, Edwin, sailed for South Africa when they were boys, and lived there until after the First World War. Alfred was led to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour by his brother, on January 9, 1912, through Romans 10:9. He delighted to tell how Edwin faithfully took every bit of his selfrighteousness from him by applying God's Word.

During the First War Mr. Gibbs served in South Africa as a chaplain to the

armed forces. Then he came to the U.S. to follow his brother at Moody Bible Institute. Later, he was commended by the Austin Gospel Hall, Chicago, Illinois to full-time service for the Lord in this and other lands.

Mr. Gibbs was a man of God who, believing that the nature of his service would rob a family of his presence in the home, remained unmarried all his life for the Kingdom of Heaven's sake. However, Matthew 19:29 was true in his experience, for God gave him the comforts of many Christian homes throughout his travels in many lands, and no father ever enjoyed the love of as many children. Children adored him wherever he went, young people sought his friendship and advice, and older people were helped by his ministry.

He will greatly be missed, but he leaves behind him a legacy in his writings, gospel choruses, poems, etc. which would be hard to equal.

—from Obituary by W. G. McCartney

"My First Convert"

Edwin S. Gibbs
Natal, South Africa

The fervor of our dear brother has been an inspiration to all who knew him. We thank God for his zeal for the Lord which we all noted as the dominant note in his own life.

It was a great blessing to my own soul

to point Alfred to the Saviour, my first convert for Christ after having been saved myself for nine months. What happy and stirring days they were in Johannesburg, when we young fellows, about a dozen of us met for Bible study, open-air meetings and a tract band! I was appointed the leader of the Bible class, but Alfred soon excelled us all.

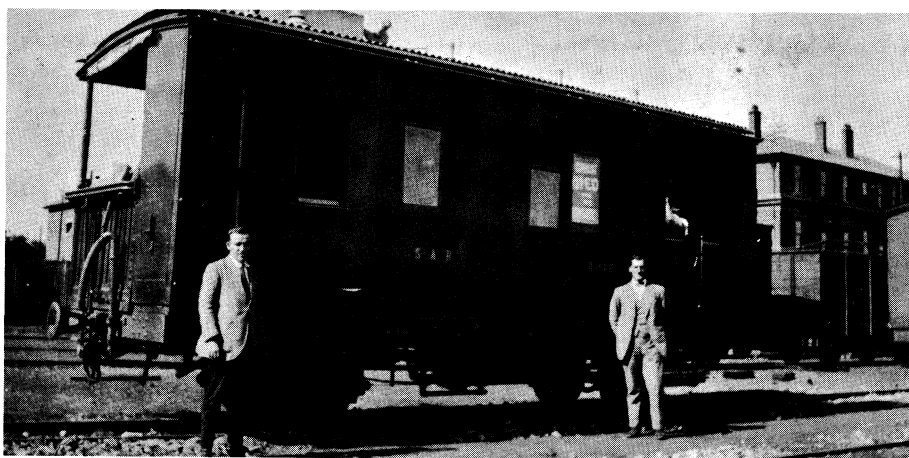
I felt increasingly my need for serious study of the Word of God and was delighted when Moody Bible Institute was mentioned to me; soon after, with the full fellowship of my brethren, I set off for the U.S. while I was studying at Moody's Alfred was preaching to the soldiers-in-training in a military camp in South Africa. I graduated, and was back in this country as a missionary when Alfred set off for the Institute and many years of happy service for the Lord in America.

Like a Father

Alfred P. Gibbs was in some respects like a father to me. In his unflagging zeal and devotion to Christ and His people, he left me a worthy example to follow.

I shall long remember him for his apt, often humorous illustrations of truth. The many hymns and choruses that he wrote, the books that he authored, and his oral ministry and godly example are part of the legacy shared by us who know him.

Alfred often said of the Lord Jesus:



A. P. Gibbs (by the number) when he travelled with the Robert Thompsons in the Cape Province, South Africa in 1927.

"Whom to know is to love, and Whom to love is to serve, and Whom to serve is the greatest joy imaginable."

—Elliot Van Ryn

A Faithful Friend

My first contact with Alfred P. Gibbs was as a boy of 12 years. I was attending some children's meetings at which Mr. Gibbs, not long saved, was giving illustrated talks. Soon after, I was saved; and at another meeting Mr. Gibbs singled me out from the audience saying, "Now that you are saved, I've something for you to do." From that day until death separated us he was a great friend.

He persuaded me to join him in Chicago at Moody Bible Institute in 1923, and while there he was always available for help and advice.

Even after I returned to South Africa he visited me and my wife, and helped spread the gospel in his own way to a few of the small groups I sought to help. Later, in the U.S.A., he visited my wife's parents at a small city near San Antonio, and gave a series there on Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* which is remembered by some to this day.

He personally supplied me with many sets of lantern slides, sometimes working with me into the small hours of the morning to get me enough to carry on the work here in Texas.

He was always careful in his life to set before us an example that could be followed. "Whose faith follow," for his firm convictions for the assembly and its good were uppermost in all his life.

—Robert I. Thompson

He Never Wavered

About the time A. P. Gibbs arrived in Chicago, some assemblies started a Rescue Mission on Madison Street. Among the better known men who took an active part in that work were Arthur B. Rodgers, Harold M. Harper, J. M. Davies, Alfred

and Edwin Gibbs, James and T. B. Gilbert, Michael Hoffman, James G. Humphrey, Charles Howard, and others. Many of us received our apprenticeship at the Mission and on the street corner.

Alfred P. Gibbs was one who always stood for and taught New Testament church principles. While at Moody he wrote one of his best pamphlets on church fellowship. He never wavered from the truth, and always regretted the sectarianism of those who professed to be carrying out the Scriptures, while refusing fellowship to known Christians. Maybe I appreciate this fact because at that time there were many who opposed his views. But Alfred P. Gibbs was steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, right to the very end.

A compassionate man, he was a great lover of children. A thorough man, he was a careful writer, and a great help in publishing both *Choice Hymns of the Faith* and *Hymns of Worship and Remembrance*. He will be remembered for his many choruses and tunes such as "A Thousand, A Thousand Thanksgivings," and others.

He often came to help us in a new field of work, and for more than 50 years was my friend.

—T. B. Gilbert

My Debt To Alfred P. Gibbs

By Geo. M. Landis

These few lines are written in deep gratitude to God for bringing Alfred P. Gibbs into my life 48 years ago. We first met in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, a few weeks after I had been married and a few days after he had landed in the United States from South Africa.

At that time married students sat on the men's side of the dining room. I was at the head of the table, Mrs. Landis at the foot, and three young men on each side. Some new students were placed at

each table and the older students were instructed to help the newcomers to get properly oriented to the Institute life. Having been at the school for two terms, I sought to discharge my responsibility in this respect, remembering how some older students had befriended me when I first entered the Institute.

One of the new men at my table was quite out of the ordinary. He had a mustache, and dressed differently from the average young man in America. He was very tanned. I thought that he probably came from one of the Balkan States, with perhaps some Arab blood in his veins. However, I learned that his name was Gibbs, that he was of English birth, but that since a lad of 13 he had lived in South Africa, and that he had a twin brother, Edwin, who had graduated from the Institute several years earlier.

Mrs. Landis and I tried to show Alfred Gibbs some kindness and courtesies. He soon became our closest friend in the school. We often had him in our room to study and discuss our lessons together. We saw eye to eye on the great fundamental doctrines. The three of us frequently took walks together along the lake shore, and visited points of interest in the city.

I had but recently left a denomination in which I had been serving as a "student pastor" while I was attending one of its colleges where I was studying for the ministry. I had then joined another denomination, the doctrine and policy of which, I believed, was very much closer to the teaching of the New Testament; I was serving as pastor of a small independent church of that denomination. Naturally, I was anxious to know the church affiliation of my new friend, Alfred. So one day I asked him to what church he belonged.

Great was my surprise to be told that he had never joined any denomination, but that by the work of the Holy Spirit he had been added to the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13), the only church recognized in the New Testament, and of which every true believer was a member, myself included regardless of any ecclesiastical affiliations I might have on earth. I had never heard such truth before and I was deeply interested.

Many conversations followed in which he unfolded other facts about the church as revealed in the New Testament. I learned that but one church was founded on the day of Pentecost; that believers were gathered by the Holy Spirit to but one name, the name of the Lord Jesus (Matt. 18:20), and that no other name was needed to add power or luster to it. He pointed out the beginning of the sectarian spirit in Corinth (1 Cor. 1:11-13; 3:1-6). He made abundantly clear that there is nothing savoring of the clerical system in the New Testament, but that there was liberty for every gift to

be exercised as the Spirit led. Then he told me of many companies throughout the world, and some in Chicago, who gathered only to the name of the Lord Jesus, and with whom he was in happy fellowship. I had never heard of such groups.

Neither then, nor in the twelve years that followed, during which he frequently visited our home, did he urge me to sever my ecclesiastical connections and to come among those who gather in New Testament simplicity. In fact he would tell me that if I came out because of his persuasion, I might fail and ultimately go back to the denominational system; but that if the Lord led me out, He would go before me and sustain me regardless of how seriously I might be tested. A number of times he said to me: "Stay where you are, George, as long as you can." Then he would cite some Scriptures, the meditation upon which would make me utterly miserable, and create in me an earnest longing to be free from the ways of men and be able to work according to the clear teachings of the Word of God. I can now see the wisdom of his advice.

My mistake was in not coming out to the truth when I first saw it. Then it would have been comparatively easy. In later years, with four children to care for during the great depression, it was not easy. When finally by faith we took the step, as the Lord led us, we found that Alfred's prediction was true; the Lord did go before us, and wonderfully met our every need.

So, I shall never cease to thank God for causing my path not only to meet but also to run parallel to the path of that "man of God," Alfred P. Gibbs.

A Delightful Christmas Guest

By C. Donald Cole

Not until my teens did I learn that A. P. Gibbs was not my real uncle. To us Cole kids he had always been Uncle Alf, and we thought, if we thought about it at all, that he belonged to us. You can imagine the mild shock of discovering that every other kid in gospel halls and chapels from Maine to San Diego also called him Uncle Alf.

Still, I shall always think that A. P. G. *did* belong to us in a special sense, for during the years of our childhood he spent Christmas with us. Every year Uncle Alf came to Kansas City, where I was born, and not until we moved to Chicago (in my tenth year) did he stop coming to our house for Christmas.

It was in our home that he worked out the rules of his famous C. P. C.—the Clean Plate Club. I was a charter member, and while Uncle Alf was in residence I maintained my standing, and

so did Eddie until that dark night when Mother served spinach. "Come now!" he demanded, "clean up your plates! Eat up! Eat up!" And if any of us even so much as left a nibble of corn or strand of spinach uneaten, he would fasten a stern eye upon the foolhardy culprit and say, "Junior. . . ." then sputter and grope for words as though the enormity of the offense had unnerved him. But to those who heroically persevered through a spinach wasteland he would grandly distribute butterscotch suckers.

Every year Uncle Alf took us downtown to see Santa Claus. In our young minds we assumed that he was having as much fun as we, and perhaps he was. He loved to play. Out of my mind rise images of him cavorting in our house, bashing a pingpong ball on the dining room table, or whooping with joy when he beat Dad at dominoes.

Still, that day downtown was *our* day. We rushed joyously out of the house, and trotted happily beside Uncle Alf as he strode along purposefully to the street-car stop. How well I remember the wicker seats on those old cars, and the clanging bell and the grinding of steel wheels on iron tracks. And I remember Mother's annual dismay as she sighted us returning. Ice cream cones had melted on us, butterscotch candies (his favorite) had fused our pockets together, and drops of various flavors stuck to our coats like misplaced buttons. We were unspeakably weary, and that night Uncle Alf always eased up on the rules of the C. P. C.

To us children he was utterly fascinating. "Show me your muscles," we would shout, and dangle happily from his extended arm. We used to double our fists and beat upon his midriff, only to fall back in breathless astonishment at his rock-like strength.

Of course he did more than amuse us children. During those years in Kansas City he toiled at the piano, pecking out tunes for his choruses. He wrote furiously in that period of his life as anyone can see by checking the dates of the copyrights to his songs. It's possible that many of those hymns and choruses that are dated before 1933 were written or polished in our home. As a small boy I often stood beside Uncle Alf as he tested his notes on our old upright grand piano. Those I remember best are "Precious Holy Bible" and "Remember Thy Creator." None of us who learned these from A. P. G. himself can ever forget them.

Nor can we forget *him*. He was an unforgettable man. After we moved to Chicago, for us Coles Christmas was never the same. For Uncle Alf there were other homes, and other children. It's inconceivable that he should spend his Christmases without the adoring company of small children.

I don't know where he spent his last Christmas on earth. But I do know where he is *this* Christmas.

A Perfect Gentleman

On occasion Alfred P. Gibbs would sign short articles with his initials only. One day a comparative stranger sitting near him asked what "A. P. G." stood for. With a twinkle in his eye Mr. Gibbs replied, "A Perfect Gentleman." And so he was!

As publisher of many of his manuscripts I saw how carefully he wrote, re-wrote, then typed out the copy before handing it to me for publication. He made numerous corrections in his writings, even after two, three or more printings; he wanted all of his works as nearly perfect doctrinally and grammatically as was humanly possible. II Timothy 3:17 was his standard.

—Lloyd G. Walterick

A Unique Character

An aged brother in the Lord, commenting on the home call of Alfred P. Gibbs, said: "When he was born, the mold was broken and there will never be another like him!"

His object talks and Bible story applications with colorful slides for boys and girls were perhaps his most fruitful field of service. As one said, "He had no children of his own, but his spiritual ones were legion."

Through the years he influenced many young men, including the son of the writer.

—Donald R. Parker

An Appreciation, by a Publisher

The Preacher and His Preaching by Alfred P. Gibbs is to my mind unique. This study on the art of preaching has been of immeasurable value to student preachers. True to New Testament principles, it has found its way into such schools as Moody Bible Institute, Prairie Bible Institute, Tennessee Temple College, Hub City Bible Institute and many smaller Bible schools. Well over 1200 copies a year are placed in the hand of students and about 25,000 have been sold.

Following *The Preacher and His Preaching* in sales, but not in significance, are two books: *The Lord's Supper*, and *Christian Baptism*. Both are classic works. *The Lord's Supper*, published earlier than *Christian Baptism*, is now in its second edition, and a second edition of *Christian Baptism* is predicted for the near future.

For many years one of our best sellers is *Worship, the Christian's Highest Occupation*. It is recommended by teachers



Leaving the chapel, Lester Wilson and George Landis, close friends of Mr. Gibbs.

from institutions such as Dallas Theological Seminary, and over 500 copies were once placed in homes through a Christian book club.

In these books and others God's servant, Alfred P. Gibbs, has left us an invaluable heritage.

—John D. Williams, *Walterick Publishers*

A Guelph Regular

It was my privilege to be associated with A. P. Gibbs in connection with the Guelph Bible School for at least 15 years. Always specially interested in children and young people, he was admirably fitted for our type of work. His messages were challenging but always geared to young people. Among our special classes, his Homiletics and Songleading were particularly helpful. He was an excellent song leader, and many of his hymns and choruses were in the Guelph Bible School song folder.

His athletic ability made him a special asset. Although he must have been about 50 when he joined our staff, no student could defeat him in tennis or ping-pong, and he was always willing to coach others. At volleyball his "spiking" skill made the staff team tough opponents for the student All-stars.

I had not seen A.P.G. since the close of the Guelph Bible School in 1960 and was looking forward to some wonderful reminiscing on his planned visit to us in Hamilton, September 10-22. Then came the tragic news of his fatal accident. Not long before his death he had spoken to 400 young people at the Word of Life Ranch, and I like to think that to the end of his life his ministry had a strong appeal to young people.

—H. G. Lockett

A Prince

"A prince and a great man hath fallen this day in Israel." No doubt these words flashed into many minds when news of A. P. Gibbs' sudden death was heard. A general has fallen on the battlefield, a great gap appears in our ranks never likely to be filled.

I have lost a close and true friend. The Church has lost a prince, preacher, teacher, poet, composer and author and brother beloved.

—Lester Wilson

We Entertained an Angel, Unawares

It was our privilege to entertain Mr. Gibbs in our home for the first time just before his death. During his brief stay with us he gave us a glimpse into his life and service for these many years. We felt as if we had known him intimately for years. Today Theresa and I are convinced that we entertained an angel unawares.

On Sunday, September 3, he ministered at the Lord's Table on the importance and the effect of remembering the Lord in His death, burial and resurrection; this was his last time to remember Him in this way on earth. At the Bible Hour he ministered on true discipleship and the reward of the believer for service, even one cup of cold water offered to a little one in His name. Today Theresa and I rejoice that we were privileged to be perhaps the last ones in this scene to offer him that cup of water.

On the Wednesday before he died he ministered on prayer, reading in Matthew 6, and stirred the whole assembly to a closer and deeper communion with God.

We at Ebenezer Gospel Chapel thank

A Good Teacher

Our dear brother Alf served as a visiting instructor for several years at Emmaus Bible School, first in Toronto, then in Chicago and Oak Park. He will always be remembered for his well organized lessons and his vigorous presentation. And how can we ever forget his seemingly endless capacity for work, his uncompromising stand for divine principles, his zest for living, his sparkling wit, and his proficiency in such diverse fields as preaching, poetry, photography and ping pong! He wrote the Emmaus School Hymn as well as two of the correspondence courses, "Personal Evangelism" and "Preach the Word," and was a contributor to the course "What the Bible Teaches." This valuable man accomplished much through his writings and through those whose lives he touched for God.

—William MacDonald

God for every remembrance of Alfred P. Gibbs; going back to the days of the late '30's and early '40's when he held children's meetings in our assembly, to the last moment when he left our city at about 6:30 on Saturday, September 9—the day he met his Lord.

—A. R. Lite, *Montreal*

Mr. Valiant-for-truth

At the memorial service in Augusta, Georgia, mention was made again and again of Alfred Gibbs' upright character, many gifts, effectiveness in the gospel and ministry, love for boys and girls, untiring energy, constant productive labor. Much could also be said about his prodigious memory for names and faces.

Yet with all of these abilities and attributes, with all the heritage he has left of choruses and hymns and visual gospel presentations and literary works, it might well be that his most effective ministry was his uncompromising stand for the truth as he saw it in the Word of God. He believed the open assembly position to be scriptural, and he worked entirely within that framework. Yet his outlook was not denominational. In fact, to his mind rigidity was as abhorrent as, if not more so, than looseness.

One of His better-known books is *A Dreamer and His Dream*, the story of John Bunyan and *Pilgrim's Progress*. And *Pilgrim's Progress* was one of his favorite slide presentations of the gospel for boys and girls. And if there was any one character of Bunyan's he admired above others and sought to emulate, it was Mr. Valiant-for-truth. Courteous but uncompromising, Alfred P. Gibbs took his stand firmly on the Word of God as he understood it and taught it.



Friends participated in the funeral services: August Van Ryn, Lester Wilson, George Landis, Robert Thompson, Ernest Gross, William McCartney. William Pell was absent when this picture was taken.

Close Friends Take Part in Funeral Services

The funeral for Alfred P. Gibbs was held September 15 at 4 p.m. in Augusta, Georgia. He had made no known provision for a burial place, so the R. Emil Barinowski's offered their family plot at Augusta. None of his family, all in South Africa, were present, but Mr. Gibbs' close friends gathered at the funeral parlor, then accompanied the body to Bethany Chapel.

Before Mr. William McCartney read the obituary, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gross sang "Home, Beautiful Home." Lester Wilson of Albany, Ga. led in prayer, and spoke of Mr. Gibbs as one who, "being dead yet speaks" through his writings and hymns.

Robert Thompson gave some reminiscences from Mr. Gibbs' active life. Mr. Thompson had worked with Mr. Gibbs in children's work when they were boys together in South Africa. He had followed Mr. Gibbs to Chicago in 1923, and in 1931 in Texas he followed him into work with boys and girls.

William Pell, in introductory prayer at the chapel, used the words of Psalm 15 to describe Mr. Gibbs as "A Perfect Gentleman," a title he had often referred to himself in jest. August Van Ryn spoke of him as a great man, a spiritual giant.

In 1920, while Mr. Gibbs was still a student at the Moody Bible Institute, he sent to England for a Bible. But it did not turn out to be just what he wanted, so Mrs. George Landis bought it from him for her husband. In his message at the chapel Mr. Landis said, "I used that Bible on August 10, 1923 at the funeral of a president of the United States. But I consider it a greater honor to be taking part today at the funeral of a man of God."

Mr. William Pell, called on for prayer, said he had been privileged to print Mr. Gibbs' first book, *A Dreamer and his Wonderful Dream*, and in 1931 printed his first chorus. And at a time when he needed to develop his printing business Mr. Gibbs had put his checkbook to his

account. As Mr. Pell spoke of each step in Mr. Gibbs' spiritual life, including the end of his earthly walk, he added, "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

At the grave August Van Ryn referred to David's lament over Abner, stating that a great man had fallen that day in Israel. As Abner had been a man of the sword, so had Alfred; but Alfred Gibbs had used the sword of the Word of God, and more like a healing medicine than a weapon. Then in keeping with what Mr. Gibbs would have wished, Mr. Van Ryn preached the gospel, using the notes from one of Mr. Gibbs' sermons, based on Romans 3:22-23 and titled, "For There is No Difference."

Towards the end Mr. Van Ryn addressed his longtime friend: "Dear brother, we know you are not in that casket. And while we have had a funeral procession today, the procession that escorted you, not to burial but into Heaven, was that of angels. Whereas David said, 'A great man has fallen this day,' we can say of you, Alfred, 'A great man has risen to be with the Lord.'"

Mr. Van Ryn urged that all might be stirred to live for Christ as did Alfred Gibbs. Then he closed with prayer, and the group, led by Ernest Gross, sang one verse of "Some Golden Daybreak."

The Local CHURCH

Question 1—Would *any* meeting conducted in a Hall or Chapel be considered an assembly meeting? Or would only the Breaking of Bread meeting, or such as described in I Corinthians 14 be considered assembly meetings?

Answer—Two issues are involved here. The first has to do with the meeting place itself, and the second with the nature of the meeting convened.

The New Testament alludes to a great variety of places where First Century Christians met. They met in Jewish synagogues, in homes, in rooms rented or borrowed, and in the open air. But not until late in the Second Century did Christians put up buildings reserved for meetings of the local church.

It is inappropriate, therefore, to define either a local church or church meetings in terms of buildings. A building does not

make a church, nor does it sanctify a meeting held within its walls. Both the local church and its "official" meetings must be defined in terms other than physical surroundings.

The second issue concerns the meeting itself. Are some meetings more "official" than others? Devout Christians will be careful here, lest they minimize the sacred significance of the Remembrance Feast. But to consider this solemn observance more "official" than other church meetings is to miss the New Testament perspective.

Acts and virtually every epistle written by Paul have references to prayer meetings, and meetings for teaching. If we were to give weight to the very preponderance of such references, we'd be tempted to believe that teaching and prayer meetings were the most important of all the meetings described. Certainly these two spiritual exercises are as essential to the wellbeing of the local church as the Breaking of Bread. Fellowship is equally important.

Moreover, it seems that the meetings of the early churches were quite informal. Informality does not imply either irreverence or disorder. There was, however, a spontaneity that we often lack. The teaching was less formal, involving interaction and response considerably different from the more formal "preach-and-listen"

patterns so common in our meetings today.

With these clarifications in mind, I feel that any time a significant number of Christians in a locality meet *intentionally* for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread or prayer—assuming that the group is *unselected* and *unrestricted* except as pertinent, disciplinary Scriptures exclude certain members—such could rightfully be considered an assembly meeting.

—Daniel H. Smith

ATTENTION! Students at Urbana

Assembly missionary interests around the world will be represented at the IVCF missionary convention at Urbana, Illinois, December 27-31. Look for the booth marked CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN MANY LANDS. Messrs. Fred G. MacKenzie and John Smart, also several missionaries, will be available for conversation regarding missionary work.

Do you have any questions regarding needs and opportunities overseas or about preparation for service abroad? Be sure to meet these brethren. They will be on hand to help you in any way possible.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Albert Graham, who worked in small assemblies for years, has been unable to do anything for the past three years because of sickness, and at last report he was not well at all. Mrs. Graham expressed much appreciation for the love, care and prayers of the Lord's people. 226—18th Ave. N.E., Calgary, Alta.

Stanley Ledyard, although he was able to give ministry part of the time, was far from well at last report. P. O. Box 424, Centreville, Mich. 49032.

Lawrence London, slowly convalescing, still has much difficulty at times with emphysema. But he can do some visiting in homes, conduct Bible readings and give out tracts. Box 77, Schulters, Okla. 74460.

David Metler of Clovis, N. M., has been having some heart trouble and was recently ordered to take four weeks of complete rest. P. O. Box 383, Clovis, N.M. 88101.

Mrs. H. G. Newell recently entered the hospital for surgery. Since his recent illness **Mr. Newell** was still unable to travel; his greatest desire is to preach the Word of God again. Prayer for both Mr. and Mrs. Newell would be appreciated. 1206 LaSalle Ave., 77, Seaside, Calif. 93955.

LETTERS OF INTEREST

EDITORIAL OFFICE

127 South Wacker Dr., Chicago, Illinois 60606

A monthly magazine devoted especially to the promotion and encouragement of pioneer work in the United States and Canada in connection with assemblies of Christians who meet in the name of the Lord Jesus alone.

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It might not be worth even \$171.94 per year to each of 100 assembly reader families. But they would each pay that much if they divided the annual cost for that many copies between them.

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But with actual production and distribution well over 20,000 copies per month the cost per copy per year is only—right now—about \$2.10. So any reader or reader family wanting to pay his or her or their share of the total expense of producing, printing and mailing LOI can use the Annual Reader Survey envelope in this issue to send \$2.10—if they or she or he have (has) not already done so.

And should there be readers who think LOI is not worth even a postage stamp, the Annual Survey envelope gives them opportunity to express their thoughts postage free.

All of which is to say that we would like to hear from every reader. We appreciate their comments, criticisms and contributions. And we are delighted to serve all of you through this magazine whether you do or don't or cannot share in the expense of production and distribution.



from the States

ROBERT YOUNG, Rt. 1, Box 146A, Clinton, Wash. 98236

After 19 years in Atascadero, Calif., where we enjoyed the blessing of the Lord on the work, we have now moved to this new sphere of service. Our work will be in cooperation with the assemblies in the Northwest that sponsor the Lakeside Bible Camp. We look to the Lord to guide in the programming of camps, and helping to expand the use of the camp facilities.

It is with real anticipation that we look forward to ministering among the saints in this new area. We value the prayer interest of the Lord's people as we seek to be guided in our service for Him.

DAVID NELSON, 2621 N. Center St., Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001

Besides ministering recently at the Family Bible Hour, Palms Gospel Chapel, Phoenix, Ariz. I conducted a "Counseling Seminar" for about 15 men and women of the assembly, from 3 to 5 p.m. They want another session soon, to continue to share what we received at Emmaus Bible School in June [LOI Seminar on Counseling]. I also hope to pass on some material in the Tucson area.

RON NEWTON, Southwestern School of Missions, Box A, Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001

On Sunday afternoon four of us have been going to the Flagstaff city jail. One afternoon I visited a young man there who said he had been waiting all day to see me. He had just come to know the Lord, and now wanted to know more about the Bible. I met with him for some time while he was in Flagstaff, then he was sent to another jail. The last letter from him said that he was no longer in jail and now wants to go to Bible school. We thank the Lord for this and would be grateful for your prayers in regard to this work.

ROBERT STALEY, Immanuel Mission School, Box 218, Teec Nos Pos, Ariz. 86514

Projecting our mission school enrollments through 1974 we find that just keeping up with the families we have now means an annual increase. We expect to have over 60 in our dorms next year. This increase in enrollment (56

this year) means we must pray about very definite needs for the 1968-69 school year, if not sooner.

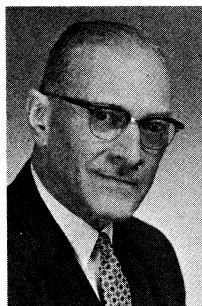
1. We must have a single woman to care for ten to twelve of our youngest children (five to seven-year-olds).
2. We must have another primary teacher as our present teacher cannot handle any more than she has now. This teaching level is a real challenge as these children do not know English when they come to us.
3. We must make plans to accommodate the increased enrollments in succeeding years or else turn away many we've already promised. This may mean another building.

I believe we turned more children away this summer because of lack of room than ever before. Many of these were of families from a distance who want their children in a Christian mission school and not in one of the 500-1000 pupil government boarding schools.

We'd appreciate prayer about these needs as it doesn't seem right to stagnate and refuse to go ahead when the opportunities are so open here and now.

F. W. SCHWARTZ, 14283 Terry, Detroit, Mich. 48227

Since my dear wife's Home going I have been enabled to get around a little and give some help here and there. The conference at Curtis Chapel, Detroit, was a happy one with good words spoken. Taking part were T. Ernest Wilson, James Gunn, David Kirk and O. E. Magee. At the Hamilton



(Ont.) conference, numbers were not what we have seen in years gone by, but helpful ministry was given and a happy spirit prevailed. Spent a Sunday and Tuesday evening at West Toronto, where there seems to be a lively interest in the Word of God and a number of young people interested in knowing more of His will for them.

J. H. HERBERT MEEKS, 4422 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46805

Let me offer this note of praise and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father, and my sincere and heartfelt thanks to those who so faithfully upheld in prayer the work of proclaiming the gospel to the boys and girls.

The Lord blessed His Word in Union City as it was ministered to the children there, and as I visited the Spanish meetings in the Bronx and 116th Street. The credit for the success of these meetings

was due to the tireless efforts of Paul Bitler.

VBS held in Middlesex, N. J. was well attended and many sought spiritual help. The Lord blessed His Word at Greenwood Hills, Pa., Pine Bush, N. Y. and Camp Good News, Ind.

Meetings held in Oshawa, Ont. resulted in some souls saved and some new children for the Sunday school. The Lord blessed the efforts of the Danforth Gospel Hall in Toronto, Ont. The Hall was filled every evening, and many stayed for further help. Attendance remained around 200 even though it rained three nights.

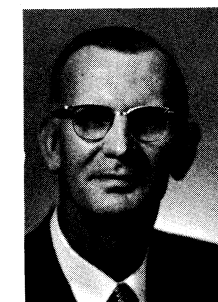
Please continue to pray that the Lord will give me the spiritual and physical strength to carry on this great work among the children for His honor and glory.

EDWARD RICHMOND, Box 298, Ocean City, N. J. 08226

I have been greatly encouraged in the work of the Lord, especially in this new undertaking where I spend most of my time. We had the best summer season since we opened the Chapel three years ago. Some 200 Christians from a number of States visited us. Many of them said they would send others here next year. A number of Christians not connected with the assemblies have been coming each Lord's day and have expressed a desire to come into fellowship.

HAROLD MACKAY, 3714 Freeman Mill Rd., Greensboro, N. C. 27407

The radio broadcast from the Greensboro station continues to be widely listened to. I recently learned of a well-known judge who is a regular listener, and has been for years.



A series of Sunday morning studies at Greensboro on the Covenants of the Bible is creating considerable interest. The local men are preaching well on Sunday nights and at the Wednesday night Bible ministry meeting. I began a class on homiletics for the men, and this will continue monthly throughout the winter months.

Thursday nights have been spent in Durham at the Northgate Chapel in a detailed study of Daniel's prophecy of the Seventy Weeks.

I spoke at the 15th anniversary of Gracemount Chapel, Cleveland, Ohio, where the Lord has greatly blessed the labors of His people through the past 15 years.

ERNEST GROSS, Box 1113, Greenville, S. C. 29602

We finished a good series of practical ministry with August Van Ryn and trust that we can "gain" some of the Christians who attended. Several families came and would be a most welcome addition to the fellowship. Mr. Van Ryn had a few more nights in the area before going on to North Carolina and then home.

JOSEPH GIORDANO, 2048 Carambola Court, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33406

We purpose being in the home area through the end of the year. We have responsibilities at Bethesda Gospel Chapel in West Palm Beach, as well as a "coffee," Bible study, and one Sunday night a month with a new work in the Jupiter-Tequesta area. We will surely appreciate prayer as we help in these two assemblies—one quite young and the other older.

from Canada

DAN SMITH, 2803 W. 14th Ave., Vancouver, B. C.

Besides the privilege of seeing some saved, this itinerary has afforded me these special joys. One is the new assembly at Golden, Tex., now housed in a remodeled barracks given by R. G. Le-Tourneau. It's commodious and comfortable enough. The singing there is lively and wholehearted to the

Lord. The believers know the truth of grace, the sweetness of the Lord Jesus, and are in love with Him and with one another.

Another special was hearing a young man burst out in a truly anointed expression of worship following a wee message I had given. It is many a day since I heard such a spirit-energized word, such bubbling spontaneity, in worship. May the Lord give us much more of this among young and old alike.

Still another special was to see a broken family reconciled to the indescribable joy of the children.

This is a selection only from many of the Lord's own works.

DAVID ADAMS, The Living Word Press, Box 310, Unionville, Ont.

The press work remains a steady obligation and opportunity in a field which is not much exploited—Spanish. With over 70 missionaries from our assemblies now on the mailing list, they receive 100,000 of each tract we print; and much more could be done. I have printed and sent out 10,000 calendars, and hope

they may reach the most distant countries in time for the end-of-the-year activities, Sunday school prizes, etc.

At the same time a steady flow of food and clothing parcels continues to go to Cuba, and numerous weekly letters tell of appreciation for this effort to alleviate some of the needs in that country. Many of the saints who formerly did not contemplate leaving the country are now very anxious to do so if at all possible.

A. JAMES DAVIES, R. R. 5, Simcoe, Ont.

I plan to conduct a children's crusade at Bethany Chapel, Hamilton, Ont. in January.

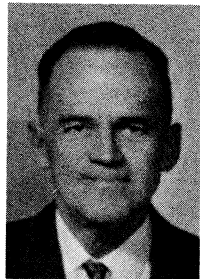
The work in Simcoe is being greatly blessed—the number in fellowship has nearly doubled in the past twelve months. I am presently doing a little pastoral work with the local, Tillsonburg and Straffordville assemblies.

Spent July and September helping Minnesota Avenue Chapel in the Washington Literature Crusade follow-up. Had the joy of starting Bible study classes in non-assembly homes, and saw the start of a very encouraging teen-age Bible club where 19 met the first night in Joseph Balsam's home.

I spent June again visiting isolated Christians in South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, and again feel that much prayer is needed for these saints.

SYDNEY HOFFMAN, 19 Kilkenny Dr., Agincourt, Ont.

We had a good week in a children's crusade with Frank Wellington, a noted children's evangelist. The assembly at Bridle Grove rented the high school auditorium, advertised the meetings well and then waited on God for His blessing. We had an average attendance of 547 for the five



nights Monday through Friday. Seventy-two confessed faith in Christ. We gathered the names

of 122 who said they don't belong to any Sunday school. All this has given us a splendid boost. Already there are quite a few new scholars at our Sunday school.

FERNAND ST-LOUIS, C. P. 5, Montmagny, Quebec

We are occasionally holding meetings in a village 70 miles east of Montmagny—St-Pascal de Kamouraska. At least three people have come to know Christ. Itinerant work is also part of my ministry since there are quite a few assemblies without a "full-time" worker.

Please also remember continually in your prayers our French radio ministry, La Foi Vivifiante, that we intend to carry on as the Lord leads. More than ever before will this ministry be important as so many French people need to be followed up.

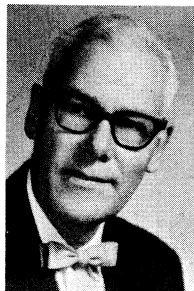
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This is not an official list and there may be unintended omissions. We will appreciate receiving from readers the names and addresses of any commended workers whose names should be added or any other corrections. This is a list of brethren and

sisters devoting full time to preaching, ministry and service among American assemblies whose names have come to our attention. Also included are pioneer workers in Canada and the United States.

- A**
- Muriel Abbott
6 W. Cheyenne Road
Colorado Springs, Co. 80906
- John E. Abernethy
Box 1751
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
- Arnold Adams
38 Pitton's Heights
Orillia, Ontario
- David Adams
Box 310
Unionville, Ont.
- John H. Adams
Box 40
Creemore, Ont.
- Edgar Ainslie
1324 West Street
Fullerton, Calif. 92633
- John D. Aitken
Rural Route 2
Shelbourne, Ont.
- John Y. M. Aitken
c/o Robert Aitken
6360 Napier Street
Burnaby 2, B. C.
- Hector Alves
338 W. King Edward Ave.
Vancouver 10, B. C.
- Evelyn A. Anderson
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Prospect Heights, Ill. 60070
- Verna Anderson
Grand Marais
Manitoba
- William F. Anderson
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Oak Park, Ill. 60303
- Dr. Carl Armerding
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Dallas, Texas 75228
- Robert M. Arthur
Route 2, Box 1415
Tacoma, Wash. 98423
- Kenneth Ashton
207 North Parkway
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- B**
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- George Baldwin
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Indiana, Pa. 15701
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29th & Atlantic Ave.
Longport, N. J. 08403
- George Barton
164 Nottawasaga St.
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- O. B. Batts
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- Abner Bauman
121 Mandel Lane
Prospect Heights, Ill. 60070
- George Baxter
Box 141
Flagstaff, Ariz. 86002
- Stanley T. H. Beasley
Burnt Point
Bay de Verde District
Newfoundland
- Myles Beers
5 Garland Road
Chelmsford, Ma. 01824
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Box 698
Bancroft, Ont.
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15 Lambert Drive
Belleville, Ont.
- William E. Belch
15 Lambert Drive
Belleville, Ont.
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- Robert L. Booth
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Scarborough, Ont.
- James K. Boswell
344 Burlington Cresc.
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- Howard Bosworth
2700 Bahama Drive
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- William C. Bousfield
Duntroon P. O.
Ontario
- Charles O. Bowen
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- Robert Boyle
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- John W. Bramhall
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- Olive Branch
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2327 Milledgeville Rd.
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CONFERENCES

Pomona, Calif., December 30, 31

Conference to be held December 30 and 31 at the Pomona Gospel Chapel, 1041 N. Weber St., Pomona, Calif.

—Correspondent: *Cornelius Donselar, 5602 Deodar, Montclair, Calif. 91763.*

Married Couples, Lake Geneva, Wis.

Annual Married Couples' Winter Holiday, Friday and Saturday, January 19 and 20, at the Conference Grounds of the Lake Geneva Youth Camp, Lake Geneva, Wis. Speaker: John Smart of the Emmaus Bible School, Oak Park, Ill.

Send \$2 deposit to W. J. Landeck, 7050 S. Tripp, Chicago, Ill. 60652.

New Year, Pottstown, Pa.

Annual New Year's Day conference of the Hillside Gospel Chapel, Pottstown, Pa., to be held January 1 at the Pottstown Youth Center building on Fireside Dr., at the extreme east end of town. Meetings start at 10 a.m., dinner served at noon, afternoon meeting of 2:30, with light lunch following. No evening meeting. Speakers expected: David Kirk of Hamilton, Ont. and Welcome Detweiler of Durham, N. C.

New Year's Day, Tampa, Florida

Annual conference of the Central Gospel Hall, Tampa, Fla., Monday, January 1, in the Hall at 2747 N. Florida Ave. Services at 10 a.m. and at 2:30 and 7 p.m. Expected speakers: J. Philip Morgan of Daytona Beach, Fla. and George Walker of Miami, Fla. Meals served at 12 and 5 p.m.

For further information contact: Stanley Hughey, 901 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, Fla. 33606.



Participants at the 1967 Workers' Conference at Cleveland, Ohio.

Open Letter to Assemblies

The 1967 Workers Conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio. Men concerned for the Lord's work came together from various parts of the United States and Canada to hear the Word, to pray and to discuss the work of God. It was a time of heart-warming fellowship and of stimulating discussion. We trust we left better men with greater zeal for our God than when we came.

Once again this year we would like to send out an appeal to God's people to spend a week during January in earnest prayer to God. We live in days of material affluence, but of spiritual poverty. Let us pray for a reviving of our own affection for our God and His Christ. Let us pray too that our lives may be marked by holiness and a love for souls. Let us pray for the elders and spiritual leaders of God's people. A great concern also of our hearts has been the need for new workers with a pioneering spirit.

Christ said: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37, 38).

*Donald Norbie
Conference Secretary*

With The Lord

Mrs. J. M. Davies

October 28, 1967

My wife (Barbara L. Davies) went to be with the Lord yesterday afternoon. The cause of death seems to have been a severe attack of coronary thrombosis. It lasted only 20 minutes or so. I had taken her up some tea, and then she had an attack of nausea, followed by the coronary. As our daughter and her husband are away this week I was alone with her at the time. We had been to the Westminster missionary meetings on the Thursday; but yesterday morning as I saw that she was not very well I cancelled arrangements to go together. How thankful I am that the Lord did not allow her to linger and suffer long.

She was 74 last October 11, and we had been married for 48 years. In the goodness of God all the seven of our family are in the Lord, but as they are so scattered only the two here will be able to attend the funeral, which will be from the Gospel Hall, Wembley. Mr. A. Smyth, a brother who has been serving the Lord in India for years, and who has been in our home there on many occasions, will be with us. He expects to return to India next week end. He was commended to the work from Belfast.

Needless to say I will be in need of the grace of God in a new way now, and would value prayer for the path that lies ahead.

—J. M. Davies, 19 Prince's Court, Park Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, England

James S. Green, elder at the Central Gospel Chapel in Des Moines, Iowa called Home October 15, age 68. After ministering at the end of the Lord's Supper and closing with prayer he entered immediately into the presence of his Lord. Attended first worship meeting of this assembly as a lad, in happy fellowship there for over 50 years, served as assembly correspondent for the last number of years. Surviving are: his widow, Mabel; one son, Bill; one grandson, Edward; one brother, John G. Green of Des Moines; four sisters, Mrs. Grace Clarkson of Hutchinson, Kans.; Mrs. Margaret Smith of Fremont, Calif.; Mrs. Lois McCully of Federal Way, Wash.; and Mrs. P. K. Duvall of Logan, Iowa.

Mrs. Andrew Hyslop, Sr. of St. Clairsville, Ohio, called Home October 15, age 86. Long life of faithfulness and devotion to the Lord, in fellowship with assemblies in Indiana and Ohio for 60 years. Survived by her husband, Andrew, Sr.; two sons, James and Andrew Jr., and three daughters, Miss Mary Hyslop, Mrs. Phil Clarkson and Mrs. Charles Heseltine.

Hospital Chaplains Report Experiences

Beside their occasional accounts of their work for the encouragement of other Christians, the chaplains visiting patients in six Stewards Foundation hospitals each half year send along reports together with those of the hospital administrators for the benefit of the trustees at their semi-annual meetings. Some excerpts from their most recent reports follow:

Some Patients Assist Chaplains

Now and then the Lord brings to the hospital a patient who is a radiant testimony for Himself. Mrs. J., who had polio as a child and remains a lifetime cripple, was one such person. She had three or four room companions while here, and whenever I came to visit, she led into a spiritual conversation and asked for prayer. Such zeal for the things of Christ truly blesses and helps the chaplain.

Of those that have professed to receive the Saviour in recent months, Mr. K. is most prominent in my mind as a glorious miracle of Christ's saving grace. The transformed life of this 63-year-old saint amazed wife, family and friends as he suffered those last months before he went to be with the Lord. Never did I hear him complain nor question the Lord's wisdom in allowing such a thing to happen to him. Mentally alert to the end, he delighted in Christian fellowship while he looked for a city whose builder and maker is God.

Living in a smaller community provides abundant opportunity for follow-up. Reading the local paper, I saw that a young man to whom we had witnessed considerably while he was a surgery patient had been killed after less than a month's service in Viet Nam. I went to his parents' home, and they gratefully received comforting words from the Scriptures, and prayer. I did not meet his widow that evening, but she was shortly hospitalized as a result of the tragedy, and the Lord gave much freedom to speak with her of eternal values.

—Richard Barada, Centralia General Hospital, Centralia, Wash.

Much Literature Taken

The tract rack next to the telephone booths has produced very satisfactory results; some 2,600 tracts have been taken in eight months. The rack near the elevators, which holds larger publications, has had a take of about 150 pieces during the same period. Each mother in the O. B. section has received either "Thoughts for Young Mothers" or "Musings of a Mother." There is no way of knowing the number of tracts, booklets and Bibles that have been given to patients and staff this year, but a fair estimate would be about 7,000.

It is impossible to know the full re-

sults of the chaplain's ministry; however we have heard sincere confessions of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord from at least twelve patients and one nurse in the past year. Not a few believers have been encouraged to renew their trust in and obedience to the Lord Jesus, having their appreciation for the Bible as the Word of God truly revived.

Follow-up letters of encouragement, with literature, have been the rule. Follow-up personal visits to homes, other hospitals and rest homes have been profitable, although these opportunities are not numerous.

—Chaplains of Maynard Hospital, Seattle

We try first to win the patients' confidence, then by word and good literature make them acquainted with the gospel. We are cheered by many asking for more of the tracts and booklets. Some have given every evidence of being born again.

We have tried to be of particular help to those in bereavement, even to conducting funerals for them. We are now working out a system whereby we can carry on an extensive follow-up program by mail.

We earnestly desire your prayers.

—Willis H. Ott, Riverton General Hospital, Seattle

250 Bedsides a Week

Spiritual opportunities have multiplied in the twelve months past. In an average week I may stand by some 250 bedsides, facing a variety of circumstances and needs which cast us upon the Lord. A casebook would have pages of interest proving again and again the adequacy of Christ for human need. The alcoholic would be there (and from at least two such I have had contrite expressions of turning to Christ), the attempted suicide, the auto wreck survivor, the terminal sufferer, the little unwed mother—and I trust that the transactions with Christ are registered in Heaven.

The work at Auburn is made the more enjoyable in virtue of an association with William Erickson, whose fellowship and sympathetic helpfulness are a constant source of encouragement.

—Robert Arthur, Auburn General Hospital, Auburn, Wash.

Not All Believe

Some have confessed Christ as Saviour. However, not all want Christ. Last week we asked a man who was to be operated on for lung cancer if he would like us to pray with him. He said he did not think it would help any to pray. The same day he was in a lost eternity.

Tragedy is much in evidence in our work. A serviceman came back after the war in Korea to find that his wife and only child had been killed in an accident. When we first met him and spoke to him about the Lord, we found him bitter about life in general. He told me his story and my heart went out to him in sympathy. He was sent home but a few months later was back again. As we spoke to him he showed some interest, but soon lapsed into a state of indifference. We gave him "God's Way of Salvation" and other tracts, but could not seem to interest him. Again he went home and came back within a few months. This last time we were unable to speak to him. He passed away a few days ago. We can only trust that he did hear and believe.

My co-worker stepped into the office to get more literature to give to two ladies who for one hour had been plying him with questions about religion, changes in the Roman Catholic church, conditions in the world, etc. Since then both have expressed a desire to know more about the way of salvation. This incident is typical of what occurs many times at Belmont Hospital.

Today we read the 23rd Psalm to two Puerto Ricans who could not speak English, but who had a Spanish Bible. Later we visited a man who with his wife are exiles from Cuba. They could not speak English, but a patient in the next bed acted as interpreter. The couple are fine born again Christians. We met their pastor, a missionary from Cuba, who had fellowship with our missionaries Mr. and Mrs. T. Smith in Cuba before Castro came into power. Again we were able to communicate by reading (to the best of our ability) the Scriptures in Spanish.

The condensed books from Good News Press and Moody Press meet a real need for patients, visitors and workers. Both patients and hospital employees have expressed appreciation for this ministry.

—David Ednie, J. Douglas Ibbotson, Belmont Community Hospital, Chicago, Ill.

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COMMENDATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick B. Long

Believers of the Gatchell Gospel Chapel in Sudbury, Ont., and of the Bible Chapel in Larchwood, Ont. have commended Mr. and Mrs. Patrick B. Long to the work of the Lord in Colombia, South America, where they expect to work especially in linguistics and Bible translation.

Roy Pell

Christians meeting at the Grand Haven Gospel Chapel, Grand Haven, Mich. have commended Mr. Roy Pell to the work of the Lord. Mr. and Mrs. Pell are in fellowship with the assembly at Grand Haven, and Mr. Pell has been ministering in Grand Haven and other assemblies in western Michigan.

ASSEMBLY CHANGES

Bethany Gospel Hall Phoenix, Arizona

New address: 4636 N. 7th Ave.

Parkside Gospel Chapel San Francisco, Calif.

New correspondent: Gordon Olver, 308 DeNardi Way, S. San Francisco, Calif. 94080; phone 589-3726.

Southside Bible Chapel Colorado Springs, Colo.

New correspondent: Jack Pegler, 312 W. Ramona Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo. 80906; phone 633-1242.

Oak Lawn Bible Chapel Oak Lawn, Illinois

New address for correspondent: John McCallum, 10709 S. Kildare Ave., Oak Lawn, Ill. 60453.

Central Gospel Chapel Des Moines, Iowa

New correspondent: James S. White, 2931-36th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50310.

Union Chapel Assembly Medford, Massachusetts

Remove from any mailing list. Assembly meeting terminated due to movement of members from this area.

Montana Gospel Center Missoula, Montana

hour-Sunday school, 11:00; evening Breaking of bread, 9:15; family Bible meeting, 7:30.

WE CAN COMPOUND YOUR INTEREST

As you are meeting with Christians who gather together in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, obviously you are interested in His work among such churches (assemblies). Your weekly offerings help maintain the assembly's operations and outreach. And quite likely your assembly is either preparing to build, has a building under construction, or is retiring a loan on its new chapel or hall. Through your weekly gifts you have a part in this.

But have you helped finance another assembly's building project? If not, a happy new experience awaits you. As a non-profit organization set up for assembly financing we can introduce you to this new experience.

The money we lend for building halls and chapels, youth Bible camps and conference grounds, homes for older Christians and for children, we obtain by selling Bonds to believers. The five kinds of Bonds available are 4½% Demand Bonds, 4½% Growth Bonds, 5% Five-Year Term Bonds, 5½% Eight-Year Term Bonds, and 6% Twelve-Year Term Bonds. Minimum Bond \$100.

Current assembly project needs exceed \$1,000,000. You may not have \$1,000,000 available to invest. But probably you do have \$100 or \$500 or \$5,000 or \$10,000 or even more. By selling you one or more of these four Bond issues we will compound your interest in the work of the Lord among assemblies.

And we have another way of compounding interest for Bond buyers. Interest is paid twice annually: January 7 and July 7. We invite the Bond owners to reinvest their interest, if they can spare it, in new Bonds, and we pay interest from January 1 or July 1 on all Bond orders received during those two months. That compounds their interest.

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Gospel Work Among Canadian Indians

by John Runcie, C.Eng., P.Eng.

In a previous article, an attempt was made to stimulate interest in the foreign mission field in which we live. The Canadian Indian, his thinking and pagan beliefs were briefly discussed. It is proposed now to give a resume of evangelical work which is carried on in this field, hoping that such a review will encourage evangelical Christians and local churches to consider how they can help in reaching the Indian for Christ and encouraging his spiritual growth.

With the arrival of the white man, the missionaries of the major Christian denominations came. Their influence on the Indian varied according to the "Christian" content of their message, but, generally speaking, it had little eternal value. There were many godly men and women amongst these early missionaries, but their work added to the denominational church, rather than resulting in establishing indigenous local churches, as the apostles did in The Acts. It is only within the past thirty years or so that truly evangelical work has been done in this mission field and a great deal remains to be done. The work has been mainly by non-denominational missions begun by men with a vision for the Indian for whom Christ died; although there is some work done denominationally. Unfortunately, it appears that many of the churches in locations close to the reserves and settlements in which the Indian lives have overlooked this mission field.

N. C. E. M.

Possibly the most extensive work amongst the Indians of Canada is done by the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission with headquarters at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. There are 118 missionaries in 45 locations across the country (mostly in the Northern areas), three Indian Bible schools, and five radio broadcasts in the Cree and Ojibway languages. At the language school, a group of trained linguists are working on the translation of the Scriptures and in teaching the missionaries. Native evangelism is done by 14 full-time Indian workers in and around their own villages and reserves.

The mission is the result of the vision of Stanley Collie and Arnold McIvor who, in 1939 and 1940, visited by boat a number of the villages along the Churchill and Beaver Rivers. In 1946, the N.C.E.M. came into being with headquarters at Buffalo Narrows, where the Collies had made their home. Because of its isolation

and the growth of the work, the headquarters were moved to Meadow Lake in 1951, and, in 1965, to Prince Albert, which had become the gateway to the North.

The main objective of the Mission is to build indigenous Indian churches, and to stress the role that the Indian must play in reaching his own people with the Gospel. The missionary carries on a localized work and an itinerant work, but always with the thought that those who are led to the Lord will grow in grace, and take over the work in their own villages. Already two Indian churches have been established, and others are eagerly looking forward to assuming responsibility in the near future. The three Indian Bible schools were begun to further this objective.

There are 46 different languages and many dialects spoken by the Indians of Canada, and many are not yet in writing. The linguists of the Mission are working presently on about five of these languages, reducing them to writing and then trans-



An Indian Settlements—Nelson House, Manitoba.

lating the Scriptures into them. Another important function of this department is the language school for the missionaries, so that they will communicate effectively the Gospel message.

The N.C.E.M. is evangelical and non-denominational, consisting of a band of missionaries whose activities are coordinated by a board of directors. The doctrinal statement is fundamental and must be subscribed to by each missionary and, if married, by his wife. The board does not guarantee any support to the worker, who is expected to receive it from interested individuals, churches, or other sources, recognizing always that "My God will supply all your needs, according to His riches in glory, in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4 v. 19). The work of the directors is to consider applications from candidates,

accepting those suitable, to promote interest, to be responsible for all funds whether individual or general gifts, and to secure an annual audit, to locate the workers, and to direct generally the various activities of the Mission.

Communication is maintained by the mission plane, which operates on floats in the summer and skis in the winter. The monthly publication "Northern Lights" is printed in the mission's own press, which is capable of doing work for others in addition to all the mission's printing. The radio broadcasts in the Cree and Ojibway languages go out over five stations across the country, and have been the means of salvation and blessing to many Indians.

From the small beginning of the vision of two men, the work of the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission has expanded under the hand of God in a hard and arduous mission field. The pioneers of the mission have much cause to praise the Lord as they see fruit for their labors.

C.I.M, N.L.G.M. and Others

The Continental Interior Mission, with its headquarters now in Bemidji, Minnesota, grew out of the burden of men from Canada and the U.S. for the homestead area northeast of Nipawin, Saskatchewan. A gospel mission was opened

in Carrot River and developed into a local Church. Similar work was begun in the Pas and Churchill, Manitoba, where local churches were established. These later became associated with evangelical denominations who were prepared to assist and encourage them. The mission continues this pioneer work in the North and in the Northwest Territories.

It was while opening up the mission at Churchill that Mr. Jay Jennings felt a burden for the Indians in that area and began an itinerant ministry by train and motor toboggan. He also started a paper especially for the Indians which now has a circulation of about 2,500 a month. It is called, "The Muskeg Moccasingraph" and, in its own words, "is one way the Continental Interior Mission helps to tell the truth about Jesus' death, burial

and resurrection to save men from sin and give them eternal life." It gives local news of the work, as well as Bible study and daily Bible readings. It is free of charge, the cost being met by freewill gifts.

Aircraft is used to reach ten outstations where there is no other evangelical work, and a number of other places where the mission seeks to encourage and assist the resident missionaries. The aim of the mission is to establish Gospel work in areas where there is none, and to develop self-supporting and self-governing evangelical local churches. One development of the work of the mission is the inter-mission Bible Camp at Pikwitonei, Manitoba. Here converts are trained to help in the outstations in reaching others for Christ.

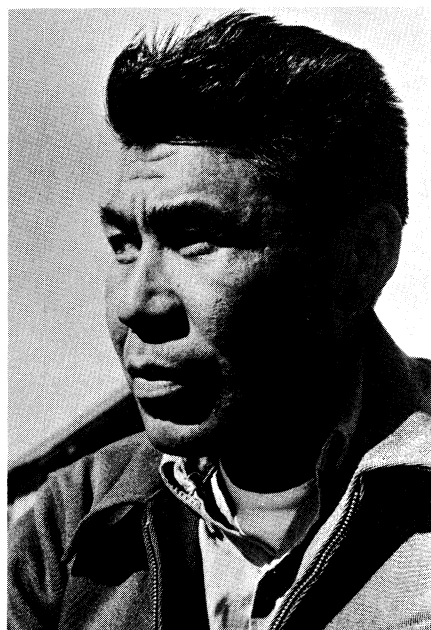
The Northern Light Gospel Mission originated in Minnesota in 1938, and entered the Canadian field in 1953. Its work is based on Red Lake, Ontario, and covers approximately 27,000 square miles. There are about 100 missionaries at eleven outstations, a residential school, a day school and a children's home. The outstations are accessible only by air, for which the mission maintains a small plane.

Not only is the aim to reach souls for Christ, but the mission endeavours to

In addition to the work outlined above, there are a few smaller efforts, mainly denominational. As is now recognized generally, the most effective work is indigenous, making it essential that the missionary train native workers to take the responsibility as soon as possible. But when a local work becomes wholly indigenous, there is the question of fellowship with other Christians. Since there are so few Indian churches, non-Indian churches must be prepared to extend the hand of fellowship. If we believe that we are "all one in Christ Jesus," by whom "the middle wall of partition has been broken down," our attitudes and actions must support our beliefs. The Lord's command was to witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth. We may be active in our "Jerusalem" and "Judea," and interested in the "uttermost parts of the earth," but what about "Samaria"? The events in the world today indicate that time is short—"The coming of the Lord draweth nigh!"

Wise...and Harmless

Too frequently our efforts in the Gospel are ineffective because of poor planning. We are admonished to be as "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10 v. 16). The reason is apparent



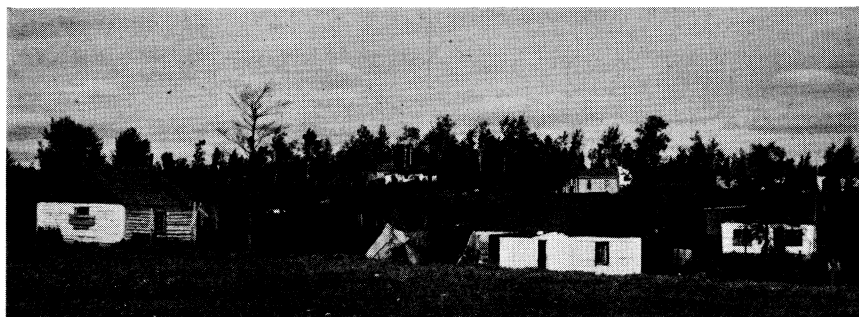
A modern Canadian Indian.

Photo: Dept. of Canadian Affairs

benefit lands have been set apart. The governing body of a band is the Band Council which consists of a chief and a number of councillors, elected by the people, either by the normal democratic process or according to their own tradition. A Reserve is land that is set apart for the use and benefit of an Indian Band, and to trespass without authority is a punishable offence by law. The Band Council is the authority, except that an individual Indian may invite someone to his own home. If these points are remembered, embarrassment can be avoided.

The writer knows of a gentleman who held classes for children, similar to the Good News Clubs of C.E.F., in a number of homes on one Reserve. Another Reserve adjoining this one, however, was closed to him since he did not have permission to enter it. He prayed much about it. One day when he came to the home where he held a club, there were no children around. The good lady of the house said that a neighbour, a few hundred yards away, had asked for the club to be held in her home. There he found the children. After the class, he was overjoyed to find that he had crossed into the other Reserve—by invitation! An answered prayer!

It is wonderful to realize that "if we will be led, we shall be led" and by the might and power of the God of the universe. No obstacle but our own will can withstand that power. This is the privilege that God gave when He gave man a will and, as with every privilege, there is responsibility. Are we willing to be used by Him in reaching the Canadian Indian for Christ and Eternal Life?



Indian Homes—Nelson House, Manitoba.

show love in action and to foster Christian living. An upgrading programme, in which vocational training intersperses academic subjects, is carried in the residential school. The children's home cares for children from broken homes, mothers-in-waiting, and hospital outpatients. It also offers temporary accommodation for Indians awaiting transportation home.

For a six weeks period each summer, Bible schools are conducted in twenty different locations. About 1,400 students are taught by between 30 and 40 teachers. Over the years, 179 believers have been baptized and many others helped spiritually. This is essentially a faith work, looking to the Lord to meet the needs. This He has done, much to the encouragement of Irwin Schantz and those who work with him in the mission.

when we consider our Spiritual opposition, but we should also remember that the Power that is available to us is ever victorious and ever with us (Matt. 28:18-20). In dealing with the Indians, there are certain facts to be kept in mind.

The governing Federal legislation is the Indian Act, copies of which may be obtained readily from either the Queen's Printer in Ottawa, or through any bookseller. An "Indian" is a person who is registered as such or is entitled to be registered in accordance with the Indian Act. Not everyone with an element of Indian blood is entitled, and Metis are frequently confused with Indians. The distinction is important to the Indian—as it is also to the non-Indian whose blood the Metis also shares! An Indian band is a body of Indians for whose use and

PIONEER EFFORTS

Homes Open to the Gospel on Northern Gaspé, Quebec

Several homes in Mont Joli and Price near the northern Gaspé coast have been open to the gospel for about two years. Four Quebec workers recently conducted children's classes on the nearby shore; some 45 children from the two towns were transported to and from the shore each day by car. In the afternoons and evenings the workers called on the homes. A good number who requested New Testaments could not be visited at that time. It was in this area that the late Jacques Jolin and his wife began to reach out with the gospel.

Vincent Davey and Joseph Darling called at homes in Matane, Amqui and smaller villages between. On the whole they found an encouraging response from many. From Price one of the first men to be called on spoke with conviction of his assurance of salvation. He gave the address of an aged couple and joined the workers for what proved to be a promising contact.

Joseph Darling writes that others on the coast remain to hear the gospel by word of mouth. The leaders hope to be directed to individuals who are reading the Word of God.

News From Montana

The young Montana Gospel Center assembly is now meeting at a new location, the Welcoma Club, 3110 Clark in Missoula, Mont. Their current meeting schedule is: Breaking of Bread, 9:15; Family Bible Hour and Sunday School, 11; Evening Service, 7:30. The assembly has begun a Thursday evening visitation program, and the Lord is also giving contacts through the week.

Several believers from the assembly at Brusett in eastern Montana recently paid a welcomed visit to the Missoula meeting. Mr. John Faugn of Missoula reported that the work of the Brusett assembly is continuing, and others in the neighborhood are showing some interest.

Fellowship Sought, Beatty, Nevada

Mr. and Mrs. W. Douglas Zander would welcome the fellowship of any Christians passing through Beatty, Nevada. Their street address: 2nd St. and U.S. 95, Beatty, Nev. 89003.

New Chapel Opened in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The assembly in Cedar Rapids, Iowa moved into a new building on Sunday, October 1. The believers held an open house for the neighborhood two weeks later. Then Willard Rodgers of Omaha,

Nebr. and Glen Plowman of Sioux City, Iowa conducted a week's series of meetings, speaking each evening and visiting in the neighborhood each afternoon. Though no large crowds attended, a few neighbors came in and others indicated interest in the new work. At least one person professed to be saved, and others showed signs of conviction. The assembly men planned a systematic visitation of the neighborhood, and children's meetings were being started in response to evident interest.

The believers extend a warm welcome to anyone passing through Cedar Rapids, as well as to any Christians who might settle there, especially those interested in helping in the work of the assembly.

Correspondent: David L. Rodges, 1208 Harold Dr. S. E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403.

Twenty Baptized Near Rock Creek, Ohio

On a beautiful sunlit afternoon a group of some 80 people gathered on the shore of a lake near Rock Creek, Ohio to witness the baptism of one older person and 19 teen-agers. Charles Evans, correspondent of the Rock Creek assembly, and Dr. Stanley Wallace officiated after a clear address on baptism by Ross Rainey. John Williams closed with prayer.

Earnest prayer for continued blessing in the Rock Creek area is urgently requested.

Help Sought in Bristol, R. I.

A believer recently moved to Bristol, R. I. with the intention of establishing a testimony in this area. He has been holding meetings on New Testament principles, and a number of people show interest. He writes that a seasoned assembly man who can help bear the brunt of the load, at least until the other Christians take hold, is needed there now. For all practical purposes such a man would need to be self supporting. The writer would be happy to discuss this matter further with any interested brother. Write to Wesley M. Gardner, 4 Roosevelt Dr., Bristol, R. I. 02809.

Request for Help, Wetumpka, Alabama

A group of Christians is meeting for worship and Bible study in the Wetumpka area, near Montgomery, Ala. The believers have constructed and equipped a modest building. They are praying that the Lord might send them help such as a full-time, experienced worker who can help them to develop a testimony according to New Testament principles. They would also appreciate prayer on their behalf. For further information write to Letters of Interest Box 12, 127 S. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60606.

90-Second Daily Message

Harry Morrison of London, Ont. who regularly shares in the ministry of the Family Bible Hour radio programs, requested prayer also for the opportunity to present Moments of Inspiration, a daily 90-second message centered around current events. Mr. Morrison also shares in the ministry of records through Living Voices of the Lord's Servants, editing, making messages for taping, etc.

MANY OPPORTUNITIES

Do you know that there are many opportunities for using the Lord's money in assembly connected activities? You do not have to go elsewhere to put these funds into places that will honor the Lord. New assemblies are being planted in Ontario, Missouri, Iowa, etc. An urgent need exists in Arizona. Rest Haven Homes in Grand Rapids and Emmaus Bible School are both seeking the Lord's guidance in connection with substantial building programs.

When Paul told the Galatians to "bear one another's burdens" he seemed to imply that they knew what these burdens were. If our Stewardship Department can help you to channel 100% of your gift into a needy area of His work please ask us to help. Contact:

Letters of Interest

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In the interest of furthering the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, I give and bequeath to **LETTERS OF INTEREST ASSOCIATES, Chicago, Illinois, a non-profit Illinois corporation, the sum of** _____ **Dollars.**

THE GOLDEN DOOR

by George Walker

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breath free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send those, the homeless, tempest tossed to me;
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

These words by Emma Lazarus adorn the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. They express an attitude, a national concern for the oppressed people of the world. Often they are forgotten by those who have doubts about letting so many Cuban refugees into this country. Since Fidel Castro gained power, over 500,000 Cubans have fled the slave state of the Caribbean Sea and have sought refuge in lands where there is still a measure of freedom.

When Castro announced in September 1965 that all who wanted to leave his "Paradise Island" were free to do so, many of us wondered about the "catch." It was obvious—he would send the blind, lame, sick and decrepit, and retain all 15-year-olds to increase his military might. The U.S. was quick to pick up the challenge and offered to put on two airlift planes a day to bring these people to the U. S. A. So it is that the political malcontents, the poor, the people apt to cost his shaky government money, came; of course, mixed in with these would be a few spies.

But the record of these people is not too discouraging. Granted they all speak their own brand of Cuban Spanish, so that wherever one goes in Miami it would seem that a new Habana is springing up. Old established neighborhoods have been taken over by them, and if they look shabby it is because the owners of such uncared for properties have not shown them the way. The houses have not been kept in good repair, and as soon as one family moves out another 20 are trying to move in.

Willing to Work

Yet the Cuban people have made a good contribution to the economy of south Florida. We have never seen one begging. Neither have we seen any that was not willing to work. There may be one occasionally, but after over seven years of working with them day and night I have yet to see any who are shiftless and beggarly. They will work; they will save; and they will take care of their own family members.

The initial immigrants were political refugees in the truest sense. Then came the landowners, the businessmen, the elite of the Cuban commerce. After that

came the professional men, the doctors, the lawyers, the architects. But in 1963 the working people started to pour into Florida. These were not so much the political exiles, but those that would not live under communism and expose their children to the atheistic brainwashing in the schools. In the U. S. they could at least try for a better way of life.

Called to a People

To the repatriated missionary this all posed a real challenge. After over 20 years of service for the Lord in Cuba, one's roots well established in his chosen "foreign field," it was not easy to start over again. Yet is it not to the *people* of these lands that the Lord sends His servants, rather than to a country? We have indeed left the Island of Cuba, but the people of that land have come to us!

The language we know, the people we know, and the brethren at the 29th Street Gospel Hall and the Bible Truth Chapel have encouraged us in the use of their buildings for Spanish meetings. The Lord has saved a number, and in each of these places believers gather in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to remember Him in their own language. We would be reluctant to say that revival fires are ablaze and that the people crowd upon us to hear the Word of God. Many do come at first for the "loaves and fishes." Some acknowledge the claims of Christ, only to fall off later, especially when they become a little prosperous. In this they are not unlike many of our own language.

In the establishment of any new work the obstacles and difficulties one has to overcome are many. The language is a tremendous barrier and some of these people will never learn English. But their children are now bilingual and so can interpret for them. Our Latin friends are most demonstrative when they greet each other. Usually it is one on each cheek even though they have met just the day before. Strangely some of our brethren and sisters have looked on this with disdain and have wondered why we do not try to change these people. Moral lives do change, but national customs seem to remain.

Though every day brings new experiences and problems, there is a certain

sameness to all the stories one hears. Mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters still in Cuba, their loved ones on this side desperate to get them out. Many have husbands and children rotting away in Castro's dungeons. Others tell of their's being executed by Castro's firing squad.

A refugee woman came crying to me in my office at Freedom House. Castro had just sent three of her sons to the firing wall. But before their lives were snuffed out, seven pints of blood were taken from each one to be sent to the Viet Cong. What word of comfort can the gospel preacher give such a person? "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid!" Here is a woman who needs the Saviour, the "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Such are the opportunities we are able to grasp, and many of these dear souls really touch the hem of His garment.

For the last several months I have been asked to meet the airlift planes twice a day, which bring over 1000 refugees to Miami a week. These people have been waiting for years to leave Cuba. Many have already had loved ones in this land, who have sent hundreds of dollars to get them out. Though over 500,000 have been able to make it to freedom, over a million more have made application to come. Some are fortunate to escape in small boats, the smallest being a metal kayak made of old automobile metal and powered by a converted lawn mower motor. Some have come on rafts made of bamboo and inflated inner tubes; such rafts have taken ten days to come the 90 miles.

The Door Is Open

Already two of our valued colleagues have been called into God's presence: Miss Kathryn Hamilton and Mr. Ralph Carter. To date no replacements have been forthcoming.

South Florida now promises to become the most prominent Spanish-English community in the U. S. A. And with the advent of Interama which will bring tens of thousands to Miami every week, we think that young people with a zeal for the Lord and an interest in real missionary work in our own land should take a good long look at the tremendous potential here.

To the evangelist Philip, "Arise and go toward the south" meant Gaza, a desert place. To many it might mean Tierra del Fuego, the utmost part of South America. To others it could mean south Florida. Certainly none are exempt from praying for this Golden Door of opportunity that is wide open. "Behold I have set before you an open door!" so perhaps while other doors are closing, this is it.



Help Greatly Appreciated at Fairbanks, Alaska

We do want to thank all the dear folk everywhere for their prayers and generous material help at this time. We have felt the Lord's presence in many ways, and have been able to share what the Lord has sent to us with others.

Several improvements have been made at the Denali Chapel. A new furnace has been installed which is much more efficient than the old one. The inside has all been painted, new kitchen cabinets have been ordered, and after all this, progress is going ahead on the upstairs addition also. The inside sheetrock is on the walls, carpet has been ordered for the floor and much more has been considered. It should not be too much longer before we will be able to make use of that auditorium.

We have ordered 50 new chairs for the Chena Gospel Chapel—we are getting a good buy on some good chairs through Penny's here in Fairbanks.

During the flood and for six weeks meetings were held at the Chena Chapel in the hill country that was untouched by the flood. We had a great time around the person of Christ during this time. I suppose everyone went through some portion of the valley of the shadow of death, but He was with us.

The folks in Anchorage, Cordova and Nome and around the States everywhere have been so considerate of the needs and have shared with the Lord's people up here. It is like it was in the days of the early Church (Acts 11:29).

Alaskan assemblies need your prayers. We are short of laborers and of those earning their own way. We have been personally exercised about giving more time to the Word there by being cleansed and able to share greater, fresher things with needy, materialistic hearts. I would be happy to correspond with any that would like to come over and help us for His sake.

—Douglas Crabb, 1747 Caribou Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Editors Note:

By mid November individuals and groups had sent \$12,895.70 through Letters of Interest for Fairbanks area relief, including \$1,402 which LOI forwarded through Workers Together.

House to Rent Needed by Commended Worker

A commended worker has had to sell his house, and seeks a house to rent, preferably within 100 to 200 miles of Toronto, Ont. He seeks a location where he can assist a local assembly with his ministry. Write to Letters of Interest Box 12, 127 S. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60606.

Dorothy Barker

For personal health reasons, Miss Dorothy Barker of the Northeast Gospel Chapel assembly, Minneapolis, is no longer assisting at the Colorado Springs Children's Home. She is now residing with her sister, Mrs. James G. Walden, 2719 Garfield St. N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55418.

Medford, Mass. Assembly Terminated

The assembly formerly meeting in Medford, Mass., in the Union Chapel, terminated the testimony after a witness of some 75 years at the same place. The population movement to the suburbs so depleted the numbers that it was impossible to continue the assembly with the remaining Christians, most of whom were in advanced years. Please remove the address of the Union Chapel assembly, Medford, Mass. from mailing lists for bulk mail and circular letters. Any enquiries concerning the assembly may be directed to Robert L. Bennett, 3 Samoset Rd., Woburn, Mass. 01801.

Persons Saved, Baptized at Harrisburg, Pa.

Many young people and adults have been saved at the Paxtang Manor Bible Chapel, near Harrisburg, Pa., and have been baptized and have joined in fellowship at the Lord's table. About 50 persons are in fellowship, and prayer for their testimony is appreciated. The ministry has been carried on by local men, and recent ministry by the following men has been appreciated: Robert McConnell of Florence, Italy; Elwood Schonely of Boyertown, Pa.; and George Rainey of Sorrento, Fla.

Three Seek Baptism at Victoria, Va.

Gordon Reager of Rosemont, Pa. gave a good week of special meetings at the Northside Gospel Chapel, Victoria, Va. Believers were strengthened and unsaved persons brought under conviction. Three young people recently expressed their desire to be baptized. The assembly meeting there has been encouraged with an average Sunday school attendance of about 80. Tommy Steele, Jr. works with the assembly in this area.

Persons Saved at Burlington, N. C.

A man accepted the Lord as his Saviour 15 minutes before the close of the first meeting in a series by Worth Ellis at the Ireland Street Chapel, Bur-

lington, N. C. After that a number of others professed faith also.

Philip Bomberger, self supporting worker who helped begin a new testimony in Lebanon, Pa., moved to Burlington some time ago. Here he has been giving help, sharing in platform ministry and doing visitation work.

Prayer Requested for Grand Old Gospel Fellowship

The Grand Old Gospel Fellowship, Inc. requests the prayers of God's people everywhere, as they seek to maintain their endeavors, reaching souls for Christ:

1. The Grand Old Gospel Hour, heard coast to coast and around the world on radio.
2. The Grand Old Gospel Camps in the summertime for boys, girls and teenagers.
3. Gospel crusades in many places.
4. Sharing fellowship with, encouraging and helping pioneer workers in the U.S.A. as the Lord enables.
5. Seeking to establish sound assemblies which will seek to win and welcome Negroes into their fellowship.

The Grand Old Gospel Fellowship was founded by B. Sam Hart in 1961, as the first home missionary organization among our assemblies concerned with reaching especially the colored people for Christ.

Visitors Welcomed at Remodelled Zephyrhills, Florida Chapel

The Christians in Zephyrhills Florida have completed an extensive program of enlarging, remodeling and decorating their chapel, on the corner of 4th Ave. and 8th St., and will be happy to have believers from other areas visit us when in this vicinity. Meetings are: Sundays—Breaking of bread, 9:30; Bible hour, 11 a.m.; evening service, 7:30; Wednesday—prayer and Bible study, 7:30 p.m.

—Carol D. Mays, correspondent, 1701 Mays Dr., Zephyrhills, Fla. 33599

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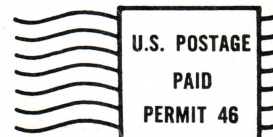
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NEWS BITS

Murdy Getty conducted cottage meetings at **Rocky Mountain House, Alta.**, where interest was shown. There is no assembly in that town.

Eleven persons were baptized recently at **Angus, Ont.** Wallace Cudmore writes that the testimony there has proved encouraging, with good attendance at gospel meetings and a number saved this year.

David Stiefler of **Blasdel, N. Y.** recently conducted a week of children's meetings at **Simcoe, Ont.** There were 249 out on the Wednesday night, and by the close of that evening seven had stayed behind, one for assurance of salvation and the other six for salvation.

Sam Stewart of **Cosmopolis, Wash.** wrote that he was having good meetings with a model of the Tabernacle. Also, over 100 children attended a weekly Happy Hour meeting.

Several men on the **Glendale, Calif.** assembly who are from South America have started a Sunday afternoon meeting for teaching and preaching the gospel to some of the many Spanish speaking people in the area.

David and John Horn had good meetings in **Atchison, Kans.** with persons professing Christ as Saviour.

Attendance was excellent during a week of children's meetings at **Knox, Ind.** with John Phelan of Nashville, Tenn. Some professed faith in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

Paul Shaw of **Barrington, R. I.** reports that a Thursday morning Coffee Hour has been resumed. New people are attending this, and there is good interest,

almost wholly from people outside of the assembly.

During a recent week of ministry meetings with the assembly in **Bridgeport, Conn.**, Robert Booth was encouraged to see some who had professed when he was there before now going on in assembly fellowship. Mr. Booth and James Blackwood expected to begin gospel meetings at the Olney Gospel Hall, Phila-

delphia, on October 22.

A man from Honduras, Central America was saved recently at the **Bronx, N. Y.** Spanish meeting. Paul Bitler has been feeling better again, but finds that he must move carefully.

Harry Pilkington of **Hinton, W. Va.** wrote that a mother of 14 confessed Christ as Savior as a result of hospital visitation.

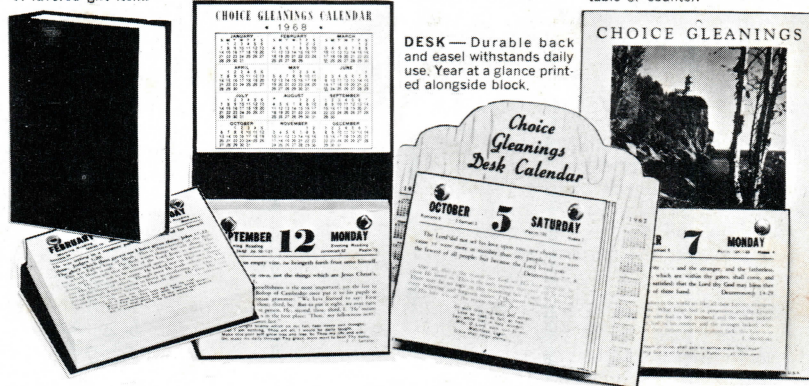
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NOTE: Several of the meditations in 1968 Calendar are from the pen of our late brother A. P. Gibbs (approximately 400,000 daily sheets). Some also from the late H. K. Downie.