

Baptist Banner

ELD. H. C. VANDERPOOL MAY 70
2303 GRANDVIEW DRIVE
BOWLING GREEN KY. 42101

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:1

VOL. 3

Tompkinsville, Ky., April, 1969

Number 11

Missionary Reports While Waiting For Return Trip To Israel

2907 Jones Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee
February 12, 1969

Dear Brother Vanderpool and Friends:

We received a letter from Brother Tajima, the Japanese pastor, in Hiroshima, Japan which might be of interest to your readers, especially to the churches. So I am enclosing the letter for publication. We are gratified by the report of progress in the work over there in Japan, that the Lord is blessing His Word and the ministry of Brother Tajima and the churches at Koi and Yamaguchi.

I have no new word from our visa application to enter Israel but just as soon as I hear anything I will inform the churches. Because of my past experience in dealing with this situation and the Israeli authorities, I am not too disappointed in delays. The authorities in Israel promised that they would give me the visa. So we continue to wait and trust in the Lord, and try to keep busy here at home visiting churches and preaching His Word. Of course with all the turmoil that exist today we can expect just about anything; this situation prevails within without, politically, socially, religiously, and just about every other way that one can think of. Some people are not satisfied unless they are trying to destroy somebody else; that is the kind of times in which we live.

(Continued on page 4)

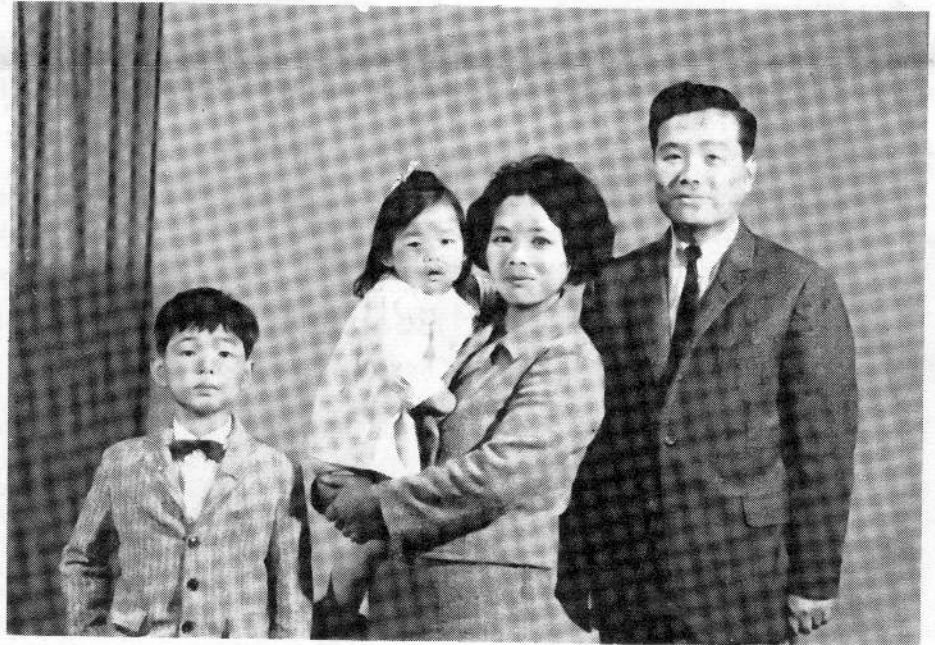
Editor Returns From Bible Lands Tour

The editor and others have just returned from a 15-day tour of the Bible Lands - Rome, Greece and Israel.

Due to the time that the copy for this month's issue of the BANNER had to be prepared and sent to the printer, a report on the tour will be made later.

If you had a report or announcement that did not get in this issue, the above mentioned situation is the reason and it will be made when possible.

Japanese Minister And Family In Japan



Elder Koji Tajima and Family

Letter From Japan To Missionary Who Is At Home At Present - BRO. J. H. SMITH

Hiroshima, Japan
February 10, 1969

Dear Brother and Mrs. Smith:

We were glad again to hear from you. We had a nice time when we got your letter with the Bible verse on it and know how God did with your service. Thank you for writing to us such a long letter. I know you are busy, yet you took such a time to write to us. We feel your Christian love.

I had the Hong Kong Flu a week ago. I am all right now. My family is fine, and my loving people of Koi Church are fine also and do their parts. Last Sunday we had three new people at the service and Mr. Hosu and his family came back to Hiroshima from Tokyo. He and his wife made a profession of faith at summer

revival. We are having a good time.

Last Sunday at Yamaguchi Church a high school girl, Naomi Yamashita, was saved under my preaching and testified of her salvation. She will be accepted as a church member with baptism soon. I thank you for your prayers and financial help to reach people with the Gospel of Christ. You helped and had a part of her conversion. Thank you.

Both Yamaguchi and Koi Churches decided to send some money to foreign mission work. Mrs. Tanaka and Brother Hotta will send you some money.

We pay much attention when we read the newspaper about Israel and Arab. All of us remembered you in prayer that God lead you to that land and that missionary work there. We trust the Lord and His leading way. We'll continue to pray for you. Please remember us in prayer.

May God richly bless you.

Yours truly,
Koji Tajima

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Churches

Will God Confound Our Language???

By Dean Driver

God gave man a commandment in the first chapter of Genesis: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it. . . ." He repeated this command to Noah in the ninth chapter of Genesis. Yet, in the eleventh chapter, as the people were spreading over the earth, they found a place which pleased them so they decided to ignore God's command to subdue the earth and to stay in this place.

When the Lord saw that the people were disregarding his orders, He confounded their language, so they could not understand one another's speech. When this great confusion took place, the people scattered abroad as God had told them to do in the first place.

In the New Testament, Jesus gave the church a commandment: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations. . ." Apparently the early Christians followed this order. However, it would appear that we have found a place which pleases us, so we have chosen to ignore the commandment of Christ and stay here. There are true churches scattered over this country and some on foreign soil; but for the most part we have settled around in Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky. We seem to be content in one place and we don't intend to move out even though Jesus commanded it.

Will the Lord confound our language??

Will He take the matter in His hands and scatter us?? Wouldn't it be much easier to move out because He told us to rather than wait until there is so much confusion in our churches that we are forced to go??

We, as God's people, have feasted on the gospel in this part of the country for so many years that I fear we have become fat and lazy. We have become complacent and contented with our circumstances and have failed to see the needs of others which confront us on every hand. While God-called preachers and teachers are sitting side by side on our church pews, seemingly unconcerned, uncommitted and unwilling to spread the Gospel, the devil is going about seeking whom he may devour, and we are doing nothing to stop him.

People all over the world (and the people next door) are dying and going to hell because we refuse to obey the command of Christ to: "Go ye therefore and teach."

How long will God allow this to continue???? Will He confound our language???

Search The Scriptures

By H. C. Vanderpool, D. D.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life." John 5:39a.

There are many ideas in the minds of people today concerning the plan of salvation. Because of this fact there are various interpretation of the scriptures. Not only the plan of salvation but other subjects of the Bible are twisted and misunderstood. I believe much of this is due to the fact that so many people take what someone says and they have failed to search the scriptures for themselves.

How are we to search or study the scriptures? The following outline should be of help to sincere and honest people.

SERIOUSLY. We should be serious about our study. As we go into the world as ministers, deacons, Sunday School teachers or as laymen, we should have a desire to rightly divide the teachings of the Bible. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15.

EARNESTLY. In our earnest search of the word of God, we will be strengthened. It is good for our meditation and will provide a progressive way of life. "This book of the law shall not depart out of my mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt

have good success." Joshua 1:8.

ANXIOUSLY. When Thomas had doubted the person of Christ, Jesus told him later when Thomas was convinced that the Lord was alive when he was able to see him and touch His hands and His side, that he (Thomas) believed by seeing. Then Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." A record was made of this that we could study and have a knowledge of the blessings that come by faith. So John wrote the following: "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:30-31.

REGULARLY. Most everyone feels that proper food and sleep are needed daily for the body. Without these the body becomes weak and sickness is sometime the result. The spiritual man also needs to be fed. This comes through listening to the preaching of the word of God, prayer, attending church and by studying the scriptures daily. See Ps. 1:2. "These were more noble than those in

Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11.

CAREFULLY. We should be careful in searching and teaching the scriptures. This means we should prayerfully study and be sure that we get the proper meaning because the salvation of many souls will depend upon the right preaching of God's word. Jesus was careful in expounding the truths of the Old Testament. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:27. Then the apostle Paul told a young preacher by the name of Timothy, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:15-17.

HUMBLY. Finally we are to study the scriptures with a spirit of humility. The word of God is a message from the creator of heaven and earth to us the fallen race. By studying in this manner, the Lord will open our understanding of his teachings. See James 1:22. "Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures," Luke 24:45.

REASONS FOR NOT GOING TO CHURCH

"I'm not going to church today, Lord, Cause last week I saw one of the good church brethern with another woman, And I could not, in all good conscience, worship in the same building with him. I'm no hypocrite like he is Lord, so I'm not going to church today."

"I can't go to church today, Lord, Cause word's out that one of the Sunday School teachers keeps a bottle hid in her kitchen cupboard. And I could not, in all good conscience, take my children to Sunday School. I'm no hypocrite like she is, Lord, so I can't go to church today."

"I guess I won't go to church today, Lord, Cause I know for a fact that one of the deacons is telling lies all over town. And I could not, in all good conscience, listen to any testimony of his. I'm no hypocrite like he is Lord, so I guess I won't go to church today."

"I just will not go to church today, Lord, Cause I found out that the preacher preaches some things he don't practice, And I could not, in all good conscience, go and listen to him again, I'm no hypocrite like he is Lord, so I just will not go to church today."

"I guess I'll just stop going to church altogether, Lord, Cause I know that I can be as good a person out of the church as they are, In. And I just can't, in all good conscience, associate with them any more. I'm no hypocrite like they are, Lord, so I guess I'll just stop going altogether."

"I guess I'm a lot better off at home, Lord, Course, I find it's a lot harder to get my kids to go to church, and it's impossible to talk to any of my friends and relatives about their soul, But, of course my conscience is clear, And nobody can accuse me of being a hypocrite - or anything else, for that matter." -Contributed

Preach not because you have to say something, but because you have something to say.

-Richard Whately

REVIVAL

A revival is to begin at Lyons Missionary Baptist Church, 904 Gagle Ave., Louisville, Ky. on Sunday night, April 6.

Eld. L. W. Smith is the pastor and he is to be assisted in the meeting by Eld. W. T. Russell, Bowling Green, Ky. The public is invited to attend.

Christian Persecutions Of Other Days

"They shall put out of the synagogues: yea the time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God a service." John 16:2.

This prophecy was surely fulfilled. Before Paul's conversion he was a zealous Pharisee, going up and down through the land persecuting the True Church and consenting to the death of the Disciples of the Lord. He thought that he was doing God a service. As have many through the years especially in the Dark Ages when the blood of the martyrs flowed at the hands of the Roman Church.

Go back into the history of America and you will see how just this took place. On May 1, 1711, a Baptist minister by the name of John Waller was holding a service in Bowling Green, Virginia. He had already felt the heel of the established church. He had spent 43 days in prison for preaching the gospel as he believed it. As this particular service began, three men walked down the aisle. There were the parson of the established church, his clerk, and the sheriff. As the congregation stood to sing this parson stepped to the platform and began to flip Waller's song book with his whip.

When Waller began to lead the congregation in prayer, the parson struck the butt of his whip in Waller's mouth. After the prayer, when the clerk saw they were not able to stop the service, he seized Waller and dragged him back to the sheriff. The sheriff took his horsewhip and gave the preacher 20 lashes. When he had finished, Waller was covered with blood. After the parson had given him a tongue-lashing, the trio left the church. Waller dragged himself back to the platform, leaned over the pulpit, and preached a sermon. The people said that this was the most powerful message he had ever delivered. Again Christ's prophecy was fulfilled. The men who persecuted him thought they were doing God a favor.

The world even today is arrayed against the church.

MEDITATIONS

By G. H. Dillard

Probably most of you who read this have heard of the song, "A Sinner's prayer Is Never Answered." With all due respect to the author of the song, if he had added the word "Selfish" instead of "Sinner" then it would have been in accord with the Bible.

We have a picture of this in Luke 18:9-14. Note the selfish Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all I possess." You will note he used the pronoun "I" five times in these two short verses.

The publican would not look up but said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Then the Lord said, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other." So it seems from this scripture that a "selfish prayer" is never answered.

They Won't Miss Me

"They won't miss Me," said the mother as she repeatedly left her children for rounds of teas and parties. The devil did not miss the children either.

"They won't miss Me," said the soldier as he went a. w. o. l. But he spent 30 days in the guard house after that.

"They won't miss Me," said the man on the assembly line, as he slipped away without permission. But that airplane crashed and killed his brother for lack of a single part.

"They won't miss Me," said the sentry as he slipped away from duty. But the enemy surprised and massacred his comrades that very night.

"They won't miss Me," said the Christian worker as he shed his responsibility in a day of crisis, and then wondered why his country gave way to softness and demoralization.

"They won't miss Me," said the church member as he omitted worship one Sunday, and then another, for trivial reasons, and then wondered why he no longer enjoyed a victorious Christian life.

MISSIONARY REPORTS

(Continued from page 1)

My wife and I have received many blessings in our visitation, renewing old acquaintances, making new ones and having good fellowship with the brethren and sisters. However, with all of this, I will rejoice when we get our visa in hand and can be on our way to Israel. The Lord opened up many doors for me while I was there for six months last year; I could witness to both Jews and Arabs. So when He opens doors for us, no man can close them; I refuse to believe that the devil can defeat the cause that the Lord has begun. I have seen Him at work too many times and have seen Him triumph over the greatest odds. We are not sufficient of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God. (II Corinthians 3:5)

The prayers and considerations of you and all our dear friends are so much appreciated, and we thank God upon every remembrance of you. (Philippians 1:3) May His richest and choicest blessings rest and abide with you, one and all.

In His love,
Henry and Annie Laura Smith

Editor To Show Slides of Bible Lands

The editor will show color slides of places visited in Italy, Greece and Israel on his recent tour of these Bible Lands, on Sunday night, April 6, at Old Union Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Time will be 7:00 p.m. Everyone who can come on this night is invited to come see the slides and hear the commentary.

Watch For Expiration Date

Each subscriber to the BANNER is asked to watch for the date at the end of your name and address on the paper. This is the month that your subscription expires. Please renew as soon as possible, for this saves time and work on the editor and the printer.

THE REVIVALS

Their first revival was held in an old Storehouse,
And the preacher was just a beginner.
The crowds were small, but the people sang songs, prayed and shouted.
Several souls were saved.
Then somebody said: "Oh, if only we had a better preacher."

The next year the preacher had improved greatly,
Still the building was old and inadequate,
The crowd was still small, but the people sang and some prayed.
Some souls were saved,
And somebody said: "Oh, if we only had a better building"

The next year the preacher was even better,
And they had a nice new building.
The crowd was a little bigger and the people still sang songs.
And a couple of souls were saved.
And somebody said: "Oh, if we could only draw bigger crowds."

The next year the preacher was so good he was wanted by several other churches,
And the new building even had a new addition.
The crowds were becoming larger and larger,
But there wasn't any souls saved that year,
And somebody said: "Oh, if we could only have good meetings like we used to have. . . ." — Contributed

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Biblical City of Dan Was Once A Fortress

TEL AVIV (AP) — Archaeologists believe the Biblical city of Dan — slowly emerging through layers of time in Upper Galilee — was a fortress and an important center for Northern Israel.

A huge city gate, a citadel and a stone pavement form the basis for their theories.

Dr. Avraham Biran, director of Israeli Antiquities and Museums, told newsmen that Dan probably served as a buffer against attack from Aramaean hordes from Damascus during the days of Jeroboam I, Ahab and Jeroboam II.

The gate, 84 by 65 feet with a paved entrance and exit, is the most important find made in the third season of excavations over 50 acres.

Other prime discoveries were an Israelite citadel, built of ashlar masonry like King Ahab's palace in Samaria; a Hyksos glacis a gradual slope leading to fortifications, designed to expose attackers to defending fire, named for the foreign kings of Egypt who formed dynasties in the 18th to 16th centuries B.C.; and a late 7th century B. C. Phoenician inscription.

The gate, similar to one unearthed in the city of Carchemish in Northern Syria, is the biggest ever discovered in Israel. It is adored with two crowns, a feature found on Babylonian city gates and never before seen in Israel.

A Successful Father

The greatest resolve a father can make is found in Joshua's decision, "As for me and my house, we will serve God."

The father who makes and leads his family to keep with him this commitment is the most successful of all.

In this highly materialistic society, we are apt to measure a man's success with his family in terms of a palatial home, how many cars he provides for them, the bills he pays, the money and social prestige he gives them.

It is still true that the greatest gift a father can give his family is his love and the finest heritage a worthy example.

Exceeding all the material things a father may be able to give his family is his teaching them the way of the Lord and leading them in service to him.