

Baptist Banner

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:4

VOL. 4

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Number 10

BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.



History of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

By Elder Paul H. Kinnaird

The Bethel Missionary Baptist Church located at 1501 Pleasant Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, is a result of the labors of Elder D. C. Russell, who at the time was a member of New Bethel Baptist Church, Davidson County, Goodlettsville, Tenn. The Church got her name on December 3, 1944, on a motion and second which was passed by the Church.

Elder Russell started a mission October, 1943, at West Tenth and Olin Avenue, Indianapolis, Ind. Through the leadership of God's spirit and with a desire to

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REVIVAL

A revival meeting is to begin at Old Union Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., on Wednesday night, April 1. Services are to begin at 7:00 P.M. Elder H. C. Vanderpool, the pastor, will be doing the preaching and members of the church will be in charge of the singing. Everyone is invited.

SINGING

The Pilgrim Quartet of Nashville will be singing along with others on Sunday night, March 29, at Old Union Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Everyone is invited to the services. Singing begins at 6:30 P.M.

Missionary Report From Israel

P. O. Box 266
Ramallah, Israel
February 3, 1970

Dear Friends:

We send our greetings again from the land of the Bible in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has been mighty good to us and does undertake for us in a marvelous way. His presence is so very real, and His blessings are so many and full! Blessed be the name of the Lord! One of the great verses of Paul's letter to the Romans seems to have become ours in a very special way since coming to this field; and it is so fitting for our situation here. "Rejoicing in hope; patient in

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Churches

Female Attire

By Mrs. H. R. Overton
Hermitage, Tenn.

I bowed my head in shame at a gospel singing in an old fashion church when some of the singers came up to sing and their dresses were half way up their legs. There is a scripture in the book of Luke, the 8th chapter that many of the women today should read. It describes a man who had demons and who wore no clothes. After Jesus healed him it says he was clothed and in his right mind. Then God also made clothes for Adam and Eve which was right.

These incidents associates indecency and those out of their right minds with the way many women dress today. This allows men to look lustfully upon the indecent exposure of their bodies. No generation has worn less clothing while appearing in public places than this one — this morally bankrupt age. The mini-skirts are ridiculous. All this adds up to the public shame of our nation when it willingly endorses such.

I talked to a poor lost sinner girl. She told me to go first to our old fashioned churches and then come talk to her. Some, not all, of the preacher's wives and daughters are dressing this way. May God help us all to think. Pray for me.

W H Y?

By Eunice Schmalz
Pittsburgh, Pa.

(This article is continued from last issue and is completed here. — Editor)

As my interest for more answers on this question grew, I read of a person who was born a cripple and as she grew she began to ask why she couldn't run, jump and play like other children? The answers that she received from her mother and others didn't clarify her mind so she became bitter toward her fate in life.

Years passed by and the bitterness grew as she struggled into womanhood. Then one Sunday morning as she was passing a church at the hour of worship, she paused when she heard hymns being sung giving praise to God. She then thought, "Now if there is a God He will know why I am a cripple." As she entered the church she heard the pastor reading from the Gospel of John, "And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." From that moment on she became a changed person — she has found the answer. She went to college and seminary and taught in a school for crippled children, that the works of God could be manifested in their lives too.

The testimony of a famous author of "A Man Called Peter," Catherine Marshall, reads like this: "I was stricken with the awful disease — T.B. — I felt I had done nothing to deserve this so I prayed to God to heal my body of this sickness and became discouraged when it seemed my prayer was not answered. Then I read of a wife of a Foreign Missionary who was stricken with a disease yet she continued to serve God. Catherine then realized that she had had the wrong attitude in her prayer to God and again she prayed, "O God, I am desperately weary of the struggle of trying to persuade you to give me what I want; so if you want me to go through the rest of my life an invalid, here I am, do what you want to do with me." It was with this commitment that God healed her and gave her a ministry which has inspired a nation.

I have heard it said, "Believe in God and your troubles will be over." I have come to the conclusion that the acid test of our faith is how we meet and face our troubles and trials in this life. We see those who seem to be Godly people yet they suffer one malady after another — coming out of each a stronger Christian. This is God grinding His diamond for an extra brilliancy that will attract this person's faith and love for Him to those who would never have noticed otherwise. It is believed that the light that was manifested around Stephen as he witnessed of his faith in Christ before the Sanhedrin Council that Saul of Tarsus was never able to forget even

though he gave his consent and watched him as he was stoned to death and heard his last prayer, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." When Saul was converted the Lord said, "For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." It was after his conversion that his troubles started.

He was mobbed, whipped, bound in chains and thrown into prison, stoned and was left being thought dead. God let him suffer a "thorn in the flesh" which he prayed three times that it might be removed. But Paul rejoiced in all he suffered and gave God the praise for he knew that through his sufferings the gospel was advanced to others, (Phil. 1:12). He considered it not worth comparing to the glory that would be revealed, (Rom. 8:18). Then we read from the Bible, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. — But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. — Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." I feel this is food for thought, if life is going along with nothing happening to us then we might stop and take inventory of ourselves. Satan will let you alone as long as you do nothing for God.

I heard a famous evangelist say, "I always thank God when an illness strikes me even if it puts me in the hospital. For I have more time to read my Bible, think and pray to God. I always come out of it with a stronger faith.

Also we are told in the Bible concerning Christ, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."

Life is not all sunshine. The dark days of troubles and trials will come. But what matters most isn't what happens but what we do with it when it does happen. There is a fable of a little flower that grew by the walk, "My but you smell sweet this morning," said the walk. The flower replied, "A man walking just stepped on me." The walk mused, "That's funny, people walk on me and I only grow harder." The thought comes to me that this could be the difference in a person who has Christ in his life and the one who depends solely on himself.

The consolation the Christian has is that when life is over here with its sorrows and trouble that an eternal home with God awaits and that God Himself will wipe away all tears forever. Then there will be no more troubles. This will be worth it all. I feel this is the answer to the often asked question "WHY?"



The Pilgrim Quartet

The Pilgrim Quartet is composed of members of Old-fashioned Missionary Baptist churches and enjoy singing for the glory of God. Pictured above are: At the piano, Sister Jackie Woodard; standing left to right, Bro. Danny Woodard, Ron Oldham, Mrs. Ron Oldham and Al Maynard.

They have recently cut a new album with these songs, "I'm Going Home," "Silver and Gold," "When I've Traveled My Last Mile," "Shake The Master's Hand," "Walking The Sea," "Good News," "When Morning Sweeps The Sky," "When I Step Off On That Beautiful Shore," "What A Happy Time," "Alone In The Garden," "When I Looked Up and He Looked Down," "Lo, I'm With You 'Til The End of Time." The title of the LP Album is "Gospel Favorites." The price is \$3.50.

Anyone wanting an album or wish to have the Quartet to sing in your church may write to: Mr. Al Maynard, 2101 Jade Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37210

Revival Report

Elder P. D. Ballard, Lindsay, Okla., was recently in a revival meeting at Parma, Idaho. The name of church and pastor are not reported, but a good meeting is reported with six professions of faith. It is also reported that the Parma and Wilder churches of that area are old fashioned Baptists and represent in an association around West Plains, Mo.

Bethel Sunday School Honors Aged Members

The Sunday School of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1501 Pleasant St., Indianapolis, Ind., honored two of their oldest members with fruit baskets at Christmas time. They were Sisters Mary Gammon and Martha Ida Keen.

Sister Martha Ida Keen, age 75, was born in Adolphus, Ky., January 6, 1895. On April 12, 1914, she was married to William B. Keen (deceased). To this union were born six children - 5 living, 1 deceased - 14 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren. Since the age of 14, Sister Keen has been a Christian, making it a total of 61 years. Sister Keen has not been as active since she fell and broke her hip, but she enjoys crocheting and quilting.

Sister Mary Letha (Cox) Gammon, age 91, was born April 15, 1879. On December 15, 1896, she was married to Johny Ely Gammon (deceased 1931). To this union were born nine children - three died in infancy, a daughter Mrs. Gertie Butrum died 1949, a son Eld. Willie C. Gammon died 1960. Four children living are Mrs. Effie Fishburn, Gener Gammon, Mrs. Alice Jent and Mrs. Pearl Law. Sister Gammon was saved in November 1899, under the preaching of Bro. J. F. Lambert and then joined the Missionary Baptist Church at Ebenezer, Tenn., she later moved her letter to a Missionary Baptist Church at Spring Creek in Macon County, Tennessee, from this church she moved her letter to Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

(Editor's Note: I am sorry that we were unable to use the colored pictures of Sister Keen and Sister Gammon that were sent in. We can only use black and white snapshots.)

All Day Services At McFerrin Baptist Church

Dear Bro. Vanderpool:

We, at the church here in this wicked city continue to enjoy the blessings of our Lord. Just had a wonderful service February 1, 1970, enjoyed Sunday School at the 11:00 hour. We sang some good old songs that lifted us up. Humble prayer was offered up. We had a large crowd and a number of visitors. The spirit and the presence of the Lord was felt so strongly that our Pastor didn't get to preach. Many told their experiences. Thanks was given to our Saviour for his wonderful love. "God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Many rejoiced in the Lord and surely everyone felt His presence. "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice," Phil. 4:4.

The ladies of the church prepared and served lunch at the noon hour. Thanks to God that He has permitted us to have an abundance of food. Help us to realize that everything we have comes from God.

We had an ordination service in the afternoon beginning at 2:00 P.M. for the purpose of ordaining Brother Harold Dunn to the full work of the ministry. Brother Dunn is engaged in mission work in Coffee County at this time.

ORDINATION

Elder A. G. Gregory served as Moderator. Elder Thomas Armstrong as Clerk, J. W. Hines presented the Candidate, Elder C. L. Russell interrogated the Candidate, and Elder Jessie Powell lead the prayer. After laying on of hands, Elder Eugene Brown gave the charge to the new preacher. Elder William House charged the Church and Elder L. C. Long presented the Bible. There was 19 in the presbytery.

J. W. Hines
McFerrin Missionary
Baptist Church
Nashville, Tenn.

Palace Near Hebron

An ancient Roman palace, surrounded by a thick wall with a tower, has been discovered in the season's excavation at al-Murak, near Hebron, the archaeology authority in the West Bank Military Government announced. A number of painted rooms, a bath house, a system of underground rooms, and some coins from the period of the Destruction of the Second Temple (70 C.E.) were also found there.

The Military Government also announced that, during the month of November, some 6,500 persons visited the antiquities at Sebastia (Nablus), the Qumran Caves, and the Hisham Palace, in the Jericho area. - AAJE Mag.

Report From Israel

(Continued from page 1)

tribulation; continuing instant in prayer." Romans 12:12.

We have moved to Jerusalem, but the place we have might be just for temporary use. It is a mission house of the Christian Missionary Alliance, which is furnished, and was vacant; and they let us move into it. We are maintaining our place in Ramallah, however, and we will continue to receive our mail at our P. O. box there, for the time being at least. When there is any change I will inform the churches and friends. I feel very strongly that the Lord provided this place for us while I attend Hebrew classes here in Jerusalem; and also, since we have an address in Jerusalem I could go ahead and buy our VW bus and get Jerusalem license. That we have already done, and certainly we are grateful to the Lord for this wonderful means of transportation. We thank all who had a part in making this possible for us. Please pray that we can use it for the glory of the Lord.

Where we are living in Jerusalem is about four blocks from the old city wall, and the Damascus Gate. It is just across what was No-Man's Land that separated Israel and Jordan before the war of 1967. Our street is called the Street of the Prophets.

I continue to preach at the church in Ramallah on Sunday afternoons and teach a group of young, Arab girls on Sunday morning. Almost all of those to whom I preach can understand English. The ones on Sunday afternoons are women and children, and for the benefit of those who can't understand English a woman translates for me. I enjoy the services on Sunday afternoons in a special way. Some of the hearers are elderly, and they seem to get blessings from the services.

We are seeking the Lord's will about opening a work some place and your prayers are requested very earnestly. Continue to pray for us as we try to do something for our Master in this difficult field.

Yours in His service,
Henry and Annie Laura Smith

Tour Rescheduled

March 3, was the date that I was to leave on a tour of Bible Lands with a tour group. Near the departure date there were a number of the members who were either sick or had illness in their immediate families. We have rescheduled the tour for departure on October 19, 1970.

-Editor

History of Bethel Church

(Continued from page 1)

see an Old Time Baptist Church located in this city, he operated in this capacity until November, 1944. At this time the interest demanded that a church should be organized. On November 5, 1944, the church was organized with 7 charter members with letters from Baptist churches in Davidson County and Macon County, Tennessee, and from Warren County in Kentucky.

Immediately following the organization, eight united with the church by experience and baptism and two on the credit of a letter. The church elected as its first officers Elder D. C. Russell as pastor and Brother Marlin Hargis as Clerk.

The church continued to worship at this location until in October 1948, at which time they purchased a frame building located at 1501 Pleasant Street which had been vacated by another faith. A motion and second to deed the new church to Bethel Missionary Baptist Church at Indianapolis, Ind. Dedication services were held the Fifth Sunday in October, 1955. In the fall of 1961 and the spring of 1962, the building was remodeled inside and out. Brick was added to the exterior, and a basement was added to almost all of the building instead of just a small size basement, also a conversion gas furnace and air conditioning. There was a loan taken by the church for \$14,000 with Railroadments of Indianapolis, Ind., which has been paid off. I might add that there had been plans made to build a new church, but it was decided by a majority vote one Sunday to remodel instead and as is customary in a Baptist Church the majority rules. Through prayer and the help of God there was no hard feelings expressed or any divisions of the church. In August of 1966, there was some property purchased on the southwest corner of Pleasant and Spruce Streets to build a parking lot which will be paid off in the near future, if it's the Lord's will. Just recently we had a sound system installed in the church. The Lord has greatly prospered this body. Through the years 522 persons have held membership in this body. A number of these has left to go into the organization of other churches, and others have been excluded, and others have left and joined other churches of the same faith and order, we now have 275 members. Sister Mary Gammon is the oldest living member at 90 years old. Sister Orgalean Calvert joined in 1944 which makes her the

member with the longest active years in this church and Brother Emerson Jones who joined in 1947 is the male member of the church with the longest active years. As a direct result of her labors, four churches have been organized as follows: Harmony and Freedom of Indianapolis, Faith of Franklin, and Grace of Fishers, Ind., also some of our members help to make up the church of Fellowship of Indianapolis, Ind., when it was organized. The church voted for a full time pastor in July of 1967, and the offerings have increased in size continually ever since. We were out of a pastor from August 28, 1968, until October 30, 1968, which the Lord provided leadership and guidance until we called another pastor. One of the thrilling services of our church in the last few years was on Sunday morning April 13, 1969, the church doors was opened for new members and by the time services broke there had been 16 joined, 8 by baptism and 8 by letters from sister churches. There was a lot of rejoicing in the Lord, several shouted the praises of God. In January 1962, the church voted to do away with the Sunday School material because some of the literature taught heresy. The church was first associated with the Wiseman Association of Tennessee. In 1952, for the sake of convenience the Wiseman Association agreed to divide. The church then became a member of Siloam Association of Tennessee which was then constituted. The church remained in this association until October 1957, when the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association was organized with which we are still affiliated.

The church has ordained 12 brethren to the full work of the gospel ministry and 11 brethren to the office of deacon. The following brethren have served the church as pastor: Elder D. C. Russell, 1944-46 and 1968 up until the present time. Elder Howard Taylor, 1946-1953; Elder W. T. Taylor, 1953-1958; Elder Odus Cummings, 1958-1960; and Elder Billy Moran, 1960-June 28, 1967, when he resigned, then he was re-elected in August, 1967.

Those serving the church as clerk are as follows: Marlin Hargis, Cletus Marshall, Milburn Calvert, Glenn Parrish, William A. Graves, and Paul H. Kinnaird.

I do not have any way of knowing how many of our members have gone to their reward and I cannot know them all during my lifetime, as some I'm sure died before I came to this city, I do know that this is one of the strongest churches that I know of in Thus Sayeth The Lord. We still retain the old despised mourner's bench in our church and we still believe and practice the old knee route way of salvation. We adhere to the 18 articles of faith which were formed by Newton Brown and adopted by the old Philadelphia Association of 1707.