

The Sword AND Staff

"Preach the Word." (II Timothy 4:2)

"Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)

My "Tongues" Experience



• By **BEN ALEXANDER**
P. O. Box 67
Corbett, Oregon 97019

BEN ALEXANDER was for years a spirit medium, actually involved in witchcraft. Following that before he came to the simple, undenominational New Testament position, he was taken up in the so-called Pentecostal or Charismatic movement. We ran a pictorial story of his escape from witchcraft and an article written by him in the April, 1974, issue of **THE SWORD AND STAFF**. This follow-up article should prove to be interesting and helpful. A cassette tape dealing with the same subject as this article may be gotten from brother Alexander for a nominal fee.

I RECEIVE an average of about 100 letters a month. In many of these letters, people ask me if I have been filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues; or perhaps they've heard me speak against it and tell me I am blaspheming the Holy Spirit; or they tell me of their experiences. I am continuously reading (for example, in the Full Gospel Business Men's International Magazine, *Voice*) about the testimonies of these

people who speak in tongues. Occasionally, I am requested to give my testimony, and so I want to talk in this article about my "tongues" experiences.

I have often wondered why people, when they speak in tongues, get so excited, absolutely beside themselves, telling me what a tremendous thrill it was to know that they were talking directly to God in a language which only He understands. Suddenly, one day, the reason occurred to me.

REALITY: NOT ALWAYS THE TRUTH

There was a time in my life when it wasn't the excitement of speaking in tongues that I was thrilled about, but rather it was when I went to my first materialization seance. I literally saw a spirit materialize in front of me. Many scientists have proven that this is a fact. I know it's a fact. I want to assure you that this was *reality*, but reality isn't always necessarily the truth. What I saw was, indeed, reality, but not the truth, because Satan is not the truth—he is a liar.

This excitement that I had is difficult to put into words. Knowing that I had been searching all my life for proof of life after death, literally, tangibly seeing it with my own eyes brought tremendous excitement to me. As I just said, however, it wasn't the *truth*. I really believe the same thing can happen for these people who are thrilled and excited, and no doubt sincere, that they have the truth. They are sincere, but sincerity isn't necessarily the truth. They have reality, but this is still not the truth.

Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death."

SCRIPTURES OUT OF CONTEXT

My tongues experience started February 17, 1965. I remember this day so well because the Sunday before, St. Valentine's Day, February 14, 1965, I walked down the aisle and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour (as far as I was concerned). This was in the Assemblies of God Church and even then I wasn't led to the Lord on the truth for alien sinners. I was led to the Lord on I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We know that this really was not written to the alien sinner, but it was written to the Christian who sins. I think this particular point really sums up the Charismatic movement, for they do not read the Scriptures correctly. Acts 2:38 is written to the alien

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THE SWORD AND STAFF

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Proverbs of Today

Good works alone in the life of a Christian are not grounds for salvation, but the absence of them is grounds for damnation.

"Facing adverse winds, a windmill gains more power."

The person who must be always proving to himself that he is a man is not much of a man.

"Weak men wait for opportunities—strong men make them."

People who are the most unhappy are the people who are unhappy with themselves.

"All I see teaches me to trust the Creator for all I do not see."

The fearful person is always on the defensive.

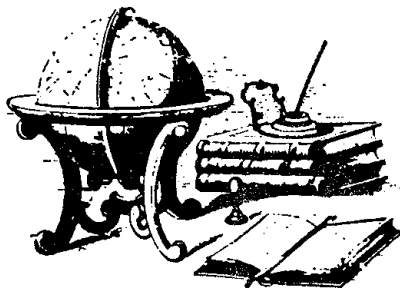
"The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention."

The jealous person is an insecure person.

"The diamond cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials."

It is always nice to be nice, and it is always wrong to be wrong.

"Humility is a strange thing; the minute you think you've got it you've lost it."



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

TRYING TIMES, BUT BACK IN THE MAIL!

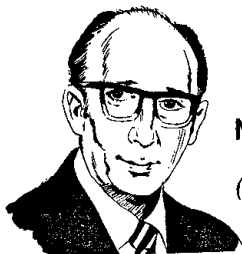
THE LAST FEW MONTHS have really been trying times for us, but at last the Lord has given us the victory. Praise His Name! And another issue of *The Sword and Staff* is in the mail. Let us explain to you. (We would have before now, but spending about a \$1,000 to write you simply is not in our budget—and beyond our means!)

The Sword and Staff has been sponsored by the Locust Grove church in Galax, Virginia, where the editor preached for a few years. After moving to Mt. Airy, N. C., the paper continued to be sponsored by the Galax church and likewise was mailed in Galax. However, we were advised early last year, since our office of publication was in Mt. Airy, to transfer the 2nd class mailing permit to Mt. Airy and mail the paper from here.

This we did, and it worked out fine until we had the annual postal review of our publication this year. We were told that we had not been properly mailing the paper under the 2nd class postal permit. We had it set up on a subscription basis, but were not taking names off the mailing list when the subscription expired. Some renewed promptly. But many would let a few years go by, then send in money for the back years. We simply didn't have time to notify everyone, considering the few involved in getting out the paper. What we were concerned about was getting out the Word of God, keeping the paper going into the mail, and simply keeping our bills paid. We were informed that names had to be dropped when subscriptions were not renewed within six months after renewal date. We could no longer use the 2nd class permit on the basis we had been mailing.

It was decided to get a different kind of permit for more flexibility in mailing so we could do the most good. We would get a non-profit organization or type of permit commonly used by churches. Our local church (although small) would sponsor it here in Mt. Airy. In order to get this permit an enabling document was needed by the church to establish that it was a non-profit organization. Since we are not a denomination with a man-made creed or constitution, this created a problem. We concluded that to incorporate the local church as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of North Carolina would be the best route to take, thus having the document needed and at the same time not writing a human creed. Having done that (becoming incorporated) the next step was to get tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service of the Federal Government. Besides the other time involved, it took 2½ months to get processed through the Internal Revenue Service. Finally it is all cleared, and finally the Post Office Department has issued us our mailing permit. And finally another issue of *The Sword and Staff* has gone into the mail. We thank the Lord and press on!

The subscription rate for *The Sword and Staff* will still be the same, although it will cost us more to mail it. We are regarding the subscription rate as a minimum offering necessary to help us keep going in this endeavor. If you wish to help more than the initial subscription offering, you are invited to do so. We are tax exempt, and all such offerings are tax deductible. Make your check out to "Church in Mount Airy." Such offerings help to stabilize us and expand our humble efforts for the Lord. All such is much appreciated. Certainly the times in which we live demand that we get more done for the Lord. Amen. □



MY "TONGUES" EXPERIENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

sinner. On February 14, 1965, I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Later I was baptized again for the remission of sins, and then I received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Wednesday of February 17, 1965, following my acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal saviour, I went to see the minister in the Assemblies of God, Orrin Kingsriter, a lovely and fine man who loves the Lord. He said, "Ben, there is something else for you. You're going to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues." He then began to explain to me that I should just babble a few words. I was to speak anything but English, almost like baby talk. This I did. I just babbled a few words, and the people there were excited. I was, therefore, encouraged to go on babbling, and the more I babbled, the more excited people got. The minister also showed me some Scriptures in the Bible that were supposed to say that speaking in tongues was a fact—a reality. As I did this, he said I was talking directly to God and I believed that I was speaking to God. When I went to the services, I noticed that sometimes 200 or 300 people would do this, and it was exciting. Then there were the interpretations.

One day in church I spoke in tongues and I was congratulated. However, the Bible said it was better to prophesy or foretell; so I decided that I was going to learn the Scriptures. I learned Scriptures, and I began to give interpretations. Therefore, people again congratulated me, and I felt good. Then I started to go through the Full Gospel Men's International. I was working for some people who were connected with the Full Gospel Men's International, and I was encouraged to go and to give my testimony. Here again, people were patting me on the back. I began going quite regularly to these Full Gospel Men's banquets. It seemed to be great fellowship with everybody hugging each other and showing, what I felt, was a lot of love towards one another.

SELF-GLORIFICATION

But one thing struck me. It seemed that everybody was giving the testimony about themselves. True, it was of what Jesus had done in their lives, but I sensed somewhere along the line there was a self-glorification. It seemed the bigger the braggard, the more glory he received. I was caught up in this, and I was as guilty as the rest. Then suddenly I realized what I was! I believe what we were witnessing there was the unholy trinity—Me, Myself, and I.

I came home one evening from one of these meetings, and I said to my wife, "Miranda, I feel we're glorifying ourselves. I feel that many of these people are looking for second blessings rather than the second coming." I stopped doing this and began to become critical as I started studying the Bible.

For example, I was concerned over the interpretations. Sometimes, the people would speak in tongues, and someone would give a translation or an interpretation. Very

often the same expressions were used, but different translations. There was no correlation between the number of words spoken and the length of the interpretation. Very often different words were used, but it was the same interpretation. The interpretations were nearly always about the fields being white unto harvest, and that the second coming of the Lord is nigh. Very often, they spoke in the King James style. I could never understand this—why it was nearly always in the King James version. Then other discrepancies took place.

SLAYING IN THE SPIRIT: UNSCRIPTURAL

People began to get "slain in the Spirit." Sometimes they were touched on their heads by the minister and they would fall back. I did this myself. It seemed like a type of mass hypnosis. In fact, I wondered if I could do this, if I had the power. I would go around touching people on the head, and they would be "slain in the Spirit" as they would say. There is nothing in the Bible that says anything of this sort took place. Here again, I felt a sense of pride when I was able to touch people, and they would be "slain in the Spirit." In fact, I almost felt like Simon the Sorcerer when I was able to do it. I began to see many discrepancies in this speaking in tongues and the Charismatic movement.

TONGUES: A LANGUAGE

It seemed to me that everybody had a prayer language, but nowhere in the Bible does it say that there are prayer languages. The strange thing was that in the Bible it is most clear that the apostles spoke *languages* which they had never learned. Yet I never came across one person who was able to do this, except in the spiritualist movement (i. e., the movement involving spirit mediums, witchcraft—Editor) and they don't believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour. They believe He is only a medium of the highest order. It seemed that the spiritualists were doing a better job! I was very puzzled why nobody could speak in languages. It was always a gibberish. One always heard the story of someone who had spoken in an unlearned language in another place, but there was never proof or confirmation. With the vast media of modern times, surely if people really had this gift of languages, we would have verification. It is strange. Everybody could babble, but nobody could speak in a language.

At one time I spoke in tongues, and a lady said to me, "Praise the Lord, Brother Ben, you just spoke in Hebrew."

I said, "Sister, do you understand Hebrew?"

She said, "No."

I said, "Well, how do you know I spoke in Hebrew? I do understand Hebrew."

I have a slight knowledge of the language, and know that I had not spoken Hebrew.

Of course, this woman didn't either, because she didn't even speak the language. This is the same thing that occurs in the "healing miracles." Some people talk about things that don't really happen. They exaggerate and exaggerating is a lie. God says liars will not enter into heaven. One of the terrible things that bothers me is that people who tell lies begin to believe them. This is frightening. I'm concerned about the people who are doing this, and I want to help them not to believe the lies.

Another thing that bothered me was that while working for a certain party, who were supposedly godly men, I was

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MY "TONGUES" EXPERIENCE

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shocked to find one of them a liar. I won't go into details. When I spoke to my minister about this, he said, "Let this be a lesson to you, Ben, that you should keep your eyes on Jesus and not on men." I wasn't keeping my eyes on men, but it bothered me that this man was internationally known. How was it that no one had told him to stop what he was doing until I found out by accident? Where were the gifts of discernment? Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, and Peter looked at them and knew that they had lied. *Nobody* can do that today. I don't believe this is the way the Lord works. We're not going to get away with anything because God is going to judge us in the end. However, it seemed strange that everybody had the gift of babble or tongues but nobody had any of the other gifts of real merit, like they did in the New Testament times—drinking poison, speaking languages, raising the dead, or the gift of discernment. Surely, if anybody wants to be convinced, they don't have to babble, they can just raise the dead and go into the hospitals to heal the sick.

TONGUES: A SIGN FOR UNBELIEVERS ONLY

Finally, I began to study further and further into the Bible. One of the passages that always struck me was in I Corinthians 14:22 where it says "tongues are a sign for the unbeliever." Maybe for Sunday morning there might be some unbelievers, but Wednesday night on prayer meeting night, there were no unbelievers there. Yet, we were still speaking in tongues. It just didn't make sense.

Finally, I began to speak out against this. I used the Bible to show that what they were saying was wrong. The strange thing was that these people with the so-called fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc.—responded as they did. For instead of these fruits, I found the very reverse. I have been threatened physically ten times and once I was punched in the chest by men who supposedly love the Lord Jesus Christ! My wife, Miranda, was threatened by one man who raised his fist and wanted to hit her.

These are just a few of my experiences.

DIVISION IN THE CHURCH

I've written this article because I'm concerned by the divisions which have been caused by speaking in tongues. I have spoken in 34 states now and in practically every one I have found nothing but division when tongues were introduced into a church. I personally want to honor God's Word, and I oppose anything that causes division. Tongues cause division. Anything that causes division is of Satan.

TONGUES TO FORTUNE TELLING

I began to notice the dangerous practice of the so-called prophesying by one who spoke in tongues. Many interpreters or prophesiers would tell people what was going to happen to them in the future. The Bible tells us this is divination, the art of obtaining secret information of the future, and is forbidden of God (Deut. 18:10). At the very last Charismatic clinic I attended the speaker was prognosticating, telling the listeners their future. I spoke to this man and warned him that he was fortune-telling. His reply: "That's right. I am a fortune teller for the Holy Spirit."

If Peter 1:3 assures us that everything we need to know is written in the Bible and we don't need to go to so-called

prophets or fortune tellers to know what is going to happen. We have been given the assurance of eternal life (Ephesians 1:13, 14).

Unfortunately there is a frightening similarity between the Charismatic movement and Spiritualism. Both are looking for signs and wonders and both speak in tongues!

But tongues will not save us. We are saved by repentance, and baptism for the remission of our sins in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and then we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...not *A* gift, but *THE* gift of the Holy Spirit.

Many things are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, and all born again baptized believers do have this. We have the Word of God, and we accept Him on faith, and faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Not just plain faith in itself, but faith in the facts of the Scriptures, faith in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, and faith in the resurrection. □

EDITORIAL

By-Ways

"THANK YOU, LORD!"

OBVIOUSLY it is God's will that I print *The Sword and Staff* for it is only by His providence that this paper has been revived and continues to this day. Through different providential workings God has placed a printshop in my hands that is now almost complete. There is an offset press, Varityper, plate maker, paper folder and other equipment. But one thing that I did not have, which became more and more apparent that I needed and could make good use of, was a paper cutter.

About a year or so ago I got to thinking about this. I *could* put a paper cutter to good use, and definitely needed one, in this publishing endeavor. So, I thought privately to myself: There is *no* reason that I should not have a paper cutter. I have unselfishly committed myself to this printing project. I am simply doing it for the glory of God and the cause of His Truth, not for myself (This was quite apparent in all the hours I was putting in it with little financial return). The only holdback I could see in getting the paper cutter was that I simply didn't have the money to buy one. This could involve several thousand dollars, all depending on what kind of cutter one bought. But I remembered the Scripture which says we have not because we ask not (James 4:2, 3). Therefore, I resolved to ask, and I humbly reminded God of all these things I had been thinking. I asked a few times and just let the matter hang there. There was no reason, considering it from God's viewpoint, why I should not have one as far as I could tell.

About two months ago (I am writing July 7th) I took some paper to this certain local printer to have cut on his paper cutter. I had gotten paper cut at the other two printshops at various times, but this printer's cutter always did a better job it seemed. His huge cutter was "truer" in cutting. But to my dismay he said that he didn't think they would be able to cut the paper that day. So, jokingly, I said, "Why don't you sell me that paper cutter then?" His direct reply was: "You can *have* it. It's your's—if you'll carry it out of here." Since I was jesting, I thought he was too. I said, "Do you really mean that?" Again an immediate reply: "I sure do!"—An outright gift, and I

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Three Things Needed



in Every Home

• By DARYL LANE, 711 MAPLE, EATON, OHIO 45320

THE PROPHET ISAIAH asked of Hezekiah, "What have they seen in thine house?" (II Kings 20:15). This was asked of what the men who came from Babylon saw when the king showed them all that he had. They saw all that he had that was valuable and considered treasures.

In a very real way people today see what is in our houses (homes). What do they see? Do they see the things that are good and valuable? Do they see those things that are worthless and evil?

We, no doubt, need many things in our homes, but the three things that I now mention and point out to you are needed in every home that is going to be pleasing to God and a blessing to all that are living in the home.

I. COMPASSION IS NEEDED IN EVERY HOME.

A home without this would be worse than a prison.

The Bible teaches that husbands are to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25). The Bible makes it plain that wives are to love their own husbands (Titus 2:4). The parents are to love their children and their children are to love them. When this is found in our homes, how wonderful it is.

Listen. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth..." (I Corinthians 13:4-8).

How wonderful it would be if all these things were found in our homes. If husband and wife really have love toward one another and toward their children, and if the children have love toward one another and toward mother and father—we can all see what a good home that would

be. Let us have real love, not just in word, though it is always appropriate to say, "I love you," to one another, but in deed and in truth.

Listen to Proverbs 15:17. "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." In other words it is better to have vegetable soup and to love one another than to have beef steak with all the trimmings and to live in hate and turmoil.

I found this poem by an unknown poet, and I think it will make us show forth real love if we live it.

A LIFE RECIPE

*Plenty of patience there ever must be;
Few faults, if any, in others to see;
Armful of helpfulness to possess;
Also a cheery and gracious address;
Knack to turn out smiles by the score;
Willing to utter kind words o'er and o'er;
To bear other's burdens with your own;
Ready to suffer for truth alone;
Courage to give the weak that you meet;
If others are fretful, just keep yourself sweet.
These directions, if followed, will banish strife
And turn out the product—a beautiful life.*

II. CORRECTION IS NEEDED IN EVERY HOME.

Correction is a result of real love. The Bible teaches this in Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Correction or discipline is to be in every home. Self-discipline is needed by the father if he is to be the head of the house as God wants him to be. Fathers can't expect the children to obey and be good unless they correct themselves and bring themselves unto subjection and obedience to Jesus too. Jesus says in Revelation 3:19, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." This teaches us that to chasten is to show forth love, in spite of what some say about whipping a child. The Bible teaches that we are to do it as parents because we love our children and want the best for them.

Let us look at some of the good results if we do. Proverbs 19:18, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Proverbs 22:15, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Proverbs 23:13,14, "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shall deliver his soul from hell." Proverbs 29:15 and 17, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest: yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

The humorous definition of child psychology is not true: "The art of applying a soft pedal instead of a hard paddle."

One of the presidents said, "Lazy parents, baby-sitters and a shortage of switches have made the teacher's role a hard one." We as parents have to face up to our jobs of bringing up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Let us do our job instead of making excuses. Let us do our job instead of blaming everyone else. Let us take this matter of raising our children right as a matter of great importance. Let us follow the Good Book and

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THREE THINGS NEEDED IN EVERY HOME

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not just the books written by man in his own wisdom.

Junior bit the meter man.

Junior kicked the cook.

Junior's antisocial now,

According to the book.

Junior smashed the clock and lamp.

Junior hacked the tree.

Destructive trends are treated

In chapters two and three.

Junior threw his milk at mom.

Junior screamed for more.

Notes on self-assertiveness

Are found in chapter four.

Junior tossed his shoes and socks

Out into the rain.

Negation, that is normal—

Disregard the stain.

Junior got in Grandpa's room,

Tore up his fishing line.

That's to gain attention.

See page eighty-nine.

Grandpa seized a slipper and

Yanked Junior across his knee.

Grandpa hasn't read a book

Since eighteen ninety three.

III. CONSISTENCY IS NEEDED IN EVERY HOME.

We must keep right after making our home one that is pleasing to God. "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). Children are a heritage of the Lord (Psalms 127:3). We are entrusted with them to care for them in the Lord. We must be faithful in small and large things. Our example must be one of consistency. We must show our children by deeds as well as by words the way of Truth. Our lives must "ring true" if they are to have a good effect on our children.

We must be consistent in our speech. If we tell our children something, it must be true and we must carry out what we say. If we don't, we make ourselves liars. Can we be pleasing to God and be lying to our children or anyone else? The parents who threaten and just talk and never act upon what they say are doing harm to their children, as well as to themselves.

Let us be consistent in our compassion for our children, and let us be consistent in our correction. God has required of pastors to rule well their own houses in order to take care of the church (I Timothy 3:4, 5). How much more should we rule well our homes so that we will be good examples in order to win the lost and dying world. We must be concerned and take great diligence to take care of our children. Remember that we are to provide not only material and physical needs, but spiritual needs also.

Our love for the Lord will "rub off" on our children if we really walk in His ways. We will teach and live the right way. We will learn to show forth piety first at home (I Timothy 5:4).

If we want a home that is happy, then we will have to be working to have that kind of home. Homes don't just pop into existence without effort.

By the grace of God, and through the guidance of His Word, we can build and make a home that is pleasing to Him. □

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PATHS IN THE SEA

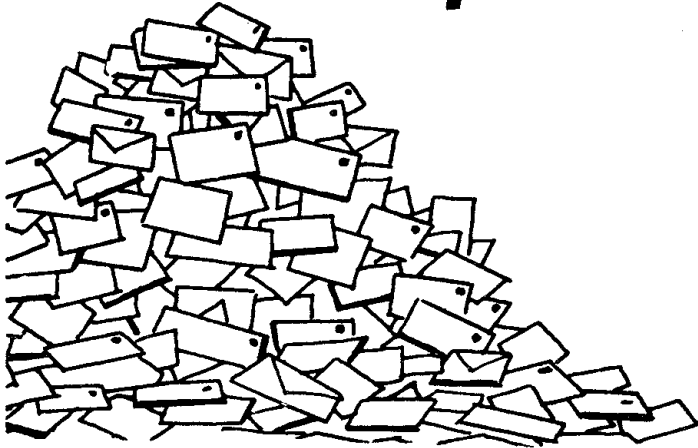
Matthew Fontaine Maury is called "The Pathfinder of the Seas." This American is the father of today's oceanography and responsible for the establishment of Annapolis Academy. A statue of Maury stands in Richmond, Virginia; charts of the sea in one hand, Bible in the other. Until Maury's efforts there were no charts or sailing lanes. One day during a temporary illness, his eldest son was reading to him from the Bible, and read Psalms 8:8. Maury stopped him and said, "Read that again." After reading it again, he exclaimed, "It is enough, if the Word of God says there are paths in the sea, they must be there, and I am going to find them." Within a few years he had charted sea lanes and currents. His *Physical Geography of the Sea* (1855) was the first textbook of modern oceanography.

—A. O. Schnabel

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

READERS'

... Response



MONTANA:

■ "I enjoy the SWORD AND STAFF very much; it adds much to our Christian life. The SWORD AND STAFF truly puts Christ first and holds fast to His truth. Praise Jesus! He truly is the Truth, the Way, and the Life."

KANSAS:

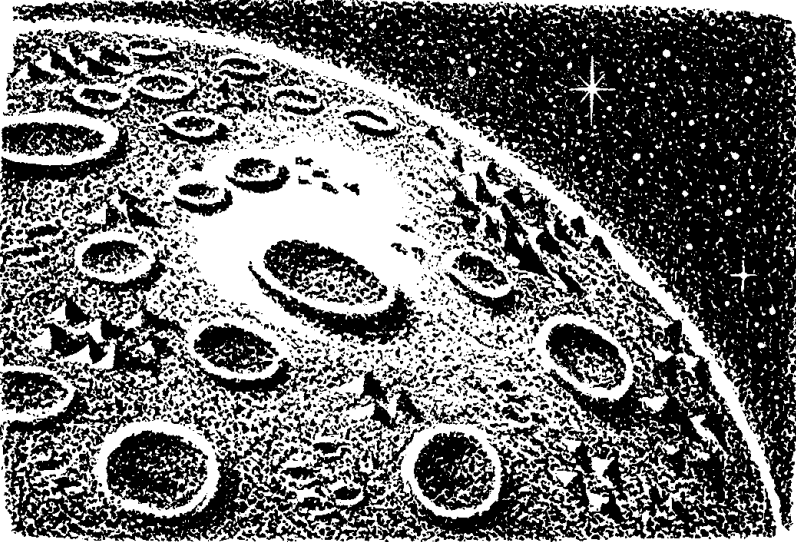
■ "I received your sample copy of The SWORD and STAFF yesterday and was thrilled with each article. It has been a long time since I have received any paper that hit to the point on issues of our day as did the articles in this issue. It seems as if those who are preaching and writing today are afraid to speak out against sin and to challenge our people to take a firm stand for the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that those who write for your paper will continue to present the Gospel as they did in this sample you sent me."

■ "Last night at my church's Bible study one of the men was telling us of an article he read in your paper on church

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SOME PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF CREATION SCIENCE

• By W. M. OVERN



HOW DO Bible-believing, creationist Scientists react and answer the many "way out" concepts found in today's world? Concepts having to do with geology, methods of earth-dating, the prospects of life being created in a test-tube...etc.? (And all of this in the context of the evolutionary theory). The following article should prove helpful and very interesting along this line.

I WILL DISCUSS three subjects, giving you only an introduction to each, hoping that this will stimulate you to further study. These three subjects are: (1) How geology and palentology operate together, (2) The age of the earth and methods of measuring such age, (3) Experiments of modern science with regard to the origin of life.

THE GEOLOGIC RECORD

The creation model predicts that the geologic record should indicate that the various life forms existed contemporaneously. Let us examine the evidence in the field. Human footprints and prints of other types of life are found together in the same strata. One example is what appears to be a shoe or sandal worn by a human, embedded with trilobite (said to be a primitive form of life). Another example is bare-foot prints, or shoe prints, along with artifacts found in coal beds. One geologist has stated that if these footprints were made by a human, or by a human mammal ancestor, or even the remotest ancestor of a human mammal ancestor, then geologists would have

to give up their profession. Therefore, they reject that ancient man made these footprints. From the mountains of Virginia, through the Midwest, to the Rocky Mountains, in the limestone beds between the seams of coal are found footprints which apparently are human, but they are being rejected as such because they do not fit the accepted ideas.

It is common practice to throw out data which do not conform to the known laws and principles, and among geologists it is a known principle that coal beds were laid down millions of years before man appeared on the scene. Creationists contend that geologist ought to reexamine their principles because apparently a majority of the data is anomalous. Individual geologists have been sufficiently frustrated over having to discard their own field data as anomalous, that they have adopted the creationist position.

Dinosaur tracks and human footprints have been found together in many places. A good documentary of the search and discovery, in prolific quan-

tity of such prints is the movie *Footprints in Stone*. These footprints are undoubtedly pre-Flood, perhaps made on the morning of the Flood as people walked through mud, either chasing or being chased by dinosaurs. The Flood inundated the area so rapidly the tracks were preserved in stone. As the river erodes, the tracks are disclosed. In the area of fossil tracks, the preponderance of evidence fits the creation model.

MICROSCOPIC FOSSILS

An interesting type of fossil exploration, because it makes use of some of the newest technological tools, is the search for plant pollen. Sometimes sedimentary rocks contain no apparent fossils of organisms, but if you look for fossilized plant pollen, you will probably find these. Special techniques are used to obtain microscopic fossils. You drill into the rock to get a virgin piece of the rock, then run this sample through 17 processes: chemical detergents, ultrasonic agitation, high speed centrifuge, acid etching, etc. Then it is boiled down to one "delicious drop" which is placed under a microscope. If pollen is present, it will show up in this sample.

In a program instituted by the University of Arizona at Tucson, samples were collected from the rocks in the Grand Canyon, from top to bottom, the bottom being the pre-Cambrian rocks where, it is claimed, life had barely started. In each sample modern pine pollen was uniformly found. This is as much a problem to evolutionists as trilobites in shoe prints.

It was charged that daily pollen count had contaminated the samples, but (1) highly qualified individuals had done the experiment and had guarded against such contamination, (2) the pollen are recognized as modern pine but are of an extinct variety, and (3) the pollen which are normally honey-wheat in color, when taken from the Hakatai shale, (the pre-Cambrian rocks at the very bottom), were stained deep red from having lain in the red rock for several thousand years. This is evidence that life forms were contemporaneous and they are not stratified from lowest to highest forms.

You may ask, is it not true that the simplest forms of life are found in the earliest layers of rock and that complex forms are found in more recent strata? Indeed, this is true, but it is true by definition. How do you decide to which age-era a rock belongs? Regardless of their composition or position in the strata, the only method used

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for dating sedimentary rocks is by their index fossils; (these are the water-distributed rocks laid down by water as sand and hardened into rock). The types of fossils they contain determines their age; this is the one and only method used for dating. Built up as a science over the years, it is the index fossils which determine, for example, that a rock belongs to the Pleistocene age. It is a series of postulations built up and crystalized by time.

If I go to a university to ask the age of a rock which I want dated I will be referred to the Geology Department. A geologist will date the rock (only if it contains a fossil), according to the age of the index fossil assigned by biologists. If you go to the Biology Department with the same rock and the same question, a biologist will give you the same age because, according to him, this is the age determined by geologists. Creationists ought to get this point across: this is circular reasoning and is not valid.

RADIOACTIVE DATING

Rather than dating by these assumptions, why not use radioactive dating techniques, you may ask, and these do deserve attention. These methods only apply to crystalline (non sedimentary) rocks, and have been used to clinch long age-dates for moon rocks. However, radioactive clocks are the worst methods we could choose. Here are some of their problems.

Let us begin by supposing that on the table are three hourglasses. In the first the sand has run all the way through to the bottom. In the second the sand is halfway through—one-half on top and one-half on the bottom. In the third the sand is just beginning to run through to the bottom. Time represented for the three is: one hour, one-half hour, and ten minutes. Tell me, how long has the table been here? This represents an important question which confronts a person trying to date the age of the earth by dating rocks. By using radioactive dating techniques some rocks are dated 4.5 billion years old, others 500,000 years, still others 10,000 or 5000 years. But how long has earth been here?

How long has the table been in the room? Maybe the answer is one hour and the first hourglass is correct. I offer the explanation that two of the three hourglasses have been overturned by somebody within this hour. Therefore I have selected the oldest and explained the younger.

Now we apply this to rocks. Uranium ore turns into lead through intermediate processes—as sand in an hourglass passes from the top portion to the lower portion. In a 4.5 billion-year-old rock, obviously most of the uranium has turned to lead and in a 5000-year-old rock most of the uranium is still there. Such high-concentrate rich uranium ore rocks do exist. But no one has yet proposed a method whereby nature “upset” 4.5 billion-year-old rocks on a 4.5 billion-year-old planet, pulling together and concentrating uranium in some of the rocks. A volcano is not likely for there is no known process whereby it could do this. Although it is all right to select the oldest for dating if you can explain the younger, it is not proper to select the oldest if you cannot explain the younger. And why is the oldest selected? It is because a lot of time is needed for evolution to take place. Evolutionists have zoomed in on radioactive dating because it provides the long ages. However, further thought should lead you to see the sense in choosing the youngest as the earth's age.

There is no scientific reason for choosing the oldest

rock, but it's even worse. I mentioned a simple hourglass and uranium converting to lead. However, if I were to construct an hourglass to resemble the uranium/lead clock, I would need to put a leak in the bottom so that some of the sand could continually leak out, in an unknown amount. Daughter elements, whether in uranium/lead or in other radioactive processes, have unknown leaks. Ground water leaches away or dissolves quantities of the material. It is like an hourglass with a leak which permits some of the sand to escape from the bottom.

This is not all. There must be another port in which other sand comes into the bottom section, so we need a tube coming up to another funnel, bringing more sand into the bottom. If it can leach out, it can leach in. In the top part of the hourglass we would need a separate leak to the side, diverting sand from the bottom portion, and we would need another source of prime material coming into the top. So here we have an hourglass with a leak at the top that doesn't count, a new source at the top that doesn't count, a new source at the bottom that doesn't count, and a leak in the bottom that doesn't count. Could you read that hourglass? And that is the true situation with regard to radioactive dating. Obviously you can get a reading if you have good assumptions for calibrating out all these errors (not just four errors, but many combinations of these four).

How well has this been done? Is there any known prime rock whose age is known on which our new instrument can be tested? Indeed, there is. In Hawaii there was a volcanic eruption about 200 years ago, with some of the lava landing on the surface and some underwater. This lava has been dated by various radioactive dating methods. Those rocks on the surface have been dated at around eight million years and those under water at about 20 million years. This is the only example of a rock of known age being tested by radiometric dating methods.

OTHER DATING METHODS

There are at least 70 other types of dating methods which have been used with more-or-less good results. Essentially no two agree. Each one is sound scientifically, but each has unknown errors which need to be calibrated. For example, many different types of salt enter the ocean from streams, and you can measure the rate at which streams are picking up the salts and depositing them in the ocean. You assume that the ocean was devoid of this particular salt in the beginning, and can then determine the age by measuring the present concentration. These ages range up to two and one-half million years and range down to 100 years. Obviously, the 100 year date is wrong. This date is from aluminum salt and has been carefully examined, but the scientific error cannot be found. Obviously aluminum salt is being taken out of the ocean by methods which scientists have not yet discovered.

It is of interest that a large number of these dates concentrate in the 10,000-year area. Simply because there are so many of them, we can be comfortable in assuming that some of these may well be scientifically correct.

Oil pressure is a significant dating method. Oil creates pressure as it is formed and pressure is evidently still there; you tap the oil well and oil gushes out. This pressure is contained within a porous vessel. The earth is full of pores, cracks, fissures and as the oil is seeping out, pressure is diminishing. Studies indicate that oil could not have been there much more than 6000 years and still have this pressure remaining. Sediments on the ocean bottom also indicate an age less than 10,000 years.

My favorite is dust on the moon. When I was working with NASA, I predicted that we would find about 10,000 year's worth of dust on the moon. This was in contrast to preparations made to protect astronauts from disaster when the LEM would tip into the dust. You know from watching TV, that the flag which was designed to be mounted into the dust, could not be mounted. It took pounding and pounding to get it into the hard rock and finally some improvising to get it to stand up.

Most of the good methods for estimating the age of the earth indicate a young earth. So does the Bible. The creationist scientist predicted data for a young earth and the evidence upholds him.

MAGNETIC FIELD

There is another method of time measurement that is interesting. About the year 1830 the well known physicist, Gauss, persuaded several countries to cooperate in measuring the earth's magnetic field all over the globe. He invented a magnetometer, the device used to make this measurement. Every tenth year these measurements are made and recorded, the data being available in government publications. If you analyze these data you will find that the earth's magnetic field has been diminishing at a very uniform exponential rate for this period of time. This means that it exhibits the full property of something that has been started and is coasting to a stop. What causes the earth's magnetic field? Is it because the earth's core is made of iron and is magnetized? This is not the case. The earth's core is thought to be made of iron, but it is molten iron, and molten iron cannot be magnetized. In fact, any magnetic material loses its magnetic properties as soon as its temperature is above a certain point, well before melting, the so-called Curie point. There is only one other known source of such a field and that is an electric current circulating through the conductive molten iron.

How long can electric current last if you take away the source? If we were to magnetize a ball-bearing of approximately one inch in diameter and were to pull the magnet away suddenly, the electric current generated would tend to keep that magnetic field there, but because of resistance, it would dissipate and disappear in about one millisecond (about one/thousandth of a second). However, if that ball were as large as the earth, it would dissipate pretty much at the rate at which it has been measured to be dissipating. In other words, it fits everything we know about electromagnetic phenomena. If there had been a large horseshoe magnet applied to earth and pulled away some time ago, we would have the kind of diminishing earth's field which we have. It has a half-life of about 1400 years and is therefore disappearing quite rapidly. There are ramifications to this. By taking this field and the rate at which it is dissipating, one can determine how much resistance there is; it comes out to be a very reasonable number and completely compatible with what we know about the earth's core. The resistivity comes out exactly right; everything comes out exactly right.

On the basis of this theory developed by Dr. Thomas Barnes, a creationist scientist, and on the basis of what we know, we can extrapolate what could happen. This circulating current generates heat. That is what makes it dissipate. We can calculate how much of earth's temperature is due to this; it is a small but significant amount. Let's extrapolate back to 10,000 years B.C.—that current would have been great enough to have generated 150,000 times as much heat as it does now. Perhaps that would have

been enough heat to have melted the entire earth. Therefore, we can be confident that on the basis of what we know from the earth's magnetic field that the earth cannot be older than 10,000.

TEST-TUBE LIFE

We keep hearing that we are on the verge of creating life in a test tube. We also hear that it is well known that certain conditions existed years ago on the primordial earth during which life just happened to come about for the first time. We hear that a great deal is known about this. I take great pleasure in debunking this idea because it is ridiculous to suggest that life could have come about by chance.



Consider a protein. These are necessary in large numbers to constitute a cell. Proteins are built up from amino acids, relatively simple compounds of Hydrogen, Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen, and Sulphur. About 20 different amino acids make up all life-produced proteins. Each protein contains from several hundred to thousands of amino acids, each in a precise sequence. Interchanging two amino acids in sequence, for example, change a protein from a food to a poison.

I can put two things together in two ways. If I have three things, I can put them together in six different ways. With four there are 24 different possibilities. Five things can be put together in 120 different ways. Twenty things I could put together in 2.4×10^{18} different ways (2.4×10 followed by 18 zeros).

A very small protein has 12 different amino acids, 12 different building blocks, and it needs only 340 building to build it. Most others need thousands, but we will talk only about this simple one. To get a protein from scratch by chance I would have to allow that these 12 types of amino acids, building up to 340, would go in every order possible. How many different ways could I put together these 340 amino acids—the answer is 10^{300} (10 followed by 300 zeros). Suppose that I want to take over and to build up this protein. I'm looking for one specific type. I will allow nature to build them up for me, giving nature plenty of amino acids. I'm not even going to worry about how they acquire the energy to get linked together. Let it suffice that they got piled up in the right order. By chance, I will need one of each in order to be sure that I have one molecule of the type I'm looking for. I would need 10^{300} molecules, and they would weigh 10^{280} grams. How many grams is that? The earth weighs 10^{27} grams. My proteins would more than fill the known physical universe. This space would have to be filled to get just one molecule. But I would need several hundred. So I would need several hundred universes full of the stuff in order to obtain just enough protein to build the cell wall of the first living cell by chance. (How they find each other among these universes is an additional problem). All this supposedly happened on earth at some time in the past, and with this kind of probability, someone suggested that it may have happened at least once in 4.5 billion years.

No! Even with jillions and jillions of more billions of years than 4.5 you could not have the probability of even

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getting two proteins of the same type at the same place and time. The probabilities are so small that we can philosophically use the word "impossible!"

AMINO ACIDS

Remember that at the start, I allowed all the amino acids that nature would need. Let's take a quick look at the amino acids themselves. Where does a biochemist get an amino acid? You have heard that we are faced with a protein shortage on earth, so why don't we simply stoke up our factories and start building proteins? The answer is that we don't know how to make a protein. Living things create them inside the cell, but we can't seem to discover how they do it. Some protein-type materials have been built up in the laboratory, but this was done by starting with other proteins and breaking them up and reconstructing them.

Amino acids are gotten by taking formerly living material (proteins) and stripping off the amino acids and then being very careful of them because they disappear so fast. Nature is very hostile to amino acids. If I had an amino acid molecule here now it would be gone now, because of the oxygen. Oxygen breaks down amino acids just that fast. Sunlight, heat, anything having energy tends to break down these unstable building blocks. They only become somewhat stable after they have built up into proteins—and even that is relatively unstable.

If we expect life to come about by chance, we have to postulate oceans full of amino acids. But where could they possibly come from? And because of their instability, how could we preserve them? Stanley Miller performed a very famous experiment 15 years ago in which he produced some amino acids from scratch—not enough for a test tube full, but enough to detect. He built an apparatus with a pump to pump gases around a tube. He put in a couple of electrodes with a spark discharge to concentrate a great deal of energy at one spot. Then he pumped the gases around. He did not stop there because he reasoned correctly that the spark is more likely to destroy an amino acid (if it were there) than to make an amino acid that is not there. So he constructed a trap in the tube to trap and hold an amino acid if and when one should occur. This was cheating, since there is nothing in nature akin to this trap. Then he started the system and ran it for a week. When he took out the trap and examined it, he found a few simple amino acids.

There was no oxygen present, for oxygen would have destroyed the amino acid, but there was ammonia, carbon monoxide, methane and water vapor. Today in scientific journals you will read that we know the primordial atmosphere (when life was forming) contained ammonia, water vapor, carbon monoxide and methane, but no oxygen. How do we know that? Because Miller's experiment proved it? Look at the rocks. Rocks are made up of various types of oxides—aluminum oxide, silicon dioxide—all the rocks are oxides. We can surmise there was abundant oxygen at times in the past history of earth. There is no evidence that there ever was an atmosphere devoid of oxygen, but because of Stanley Miller's experiment we "know" that the primordial atmosphere consisted of ammonia, methane, carbon monoxide and water vapor!

GOD OR EVOLUTION

Evolutionists are bankrupt when it comes to offering mechanisms by which life could have started by itself. It hardly seems worthwhile to go into the lack of mechanisms

for evolution when we realize that they can't find a way to get it started in the first place.

There is no reason not to trust that God created the world and life in the way He has told us. Some people say their God is so powerful that He could have used any method of creating that He wanted. I agree. My God is so powerful that He could have used any way He wanted, but I doubt that my God would have lied to me about it! □

(NOTE: This article originally appeared in the *BIBLE-SCIENCE NEWSLETTER*, Box 1016, Caldwell, Idaho 83605—a worthwhile publication devoted to research, study and news on special creation as opposed to the theory of evolution. Subscription: \$5.00 a year.)

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INSTANT SHARK-KILLER

SOMETIME AGO the Johnny Carson Show featured a sea diver, a young man who goes down to the ocean floor looking for sunken treasures. While showing films of himself at work, the fellow said sharks sometimes had to be killed off before they had a chance to kill him. Using his underwater gun the diver would zero in on the shark, fire and almost instantly the shark would go limp and sink to the bottom.

Innocently, Carson said something like, "Wow! That's potent stuff! What is it?"

We use _____," said the diver; it kills them in about eight seconds!"

Carson's stunned reaction made several million viewers wonder what the missing word was, and why NBC sliced it out of the show. Was it dirty? Not really. The word was "nicotine," defined in the dictionary as a poisonous oily liquid found in tobacco. And, considering the revenue it had gotten from cigarette commercials, NBC was not eager to get that particular usage of nicotine on the air.

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READERS RESPONSE...

(Continued from Page 6)

denominations. I have a question I'd like answered. If all denominations are wrong, then what kind of a church should one go to? The man who spoke on the article on denominations didn't know what church published The SWORD AND STAFF. I would like to know what kind of church you think the Lord would want us to be a part of."

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: I am sorry for the long delay in answering your letter. In a world where there are literally hundreds of different and distinct religious denominations, what we have to say is certainly different. But God's Word is not silent on this subject.

The word "denomination" signifies a religious party, basically meaning that which has been divided and named (distinct from others). The equivalent to the word "denomination" can be found in the King James translation of the New Testament in the words "sect" and "heresy" (same word in the Greek).

Man-made religious denominations are wrong for at least two reasons: Because of division and because of doctrines of men (the last usually being the cause of the first).

One church and unity are taught in the New Testament; division is condemned. Jesus declared: "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). This shows singular and restrictive ownership, as well as being. In Ephesians 4:4

Paul says there is ONE body (church) (Colossians 1:18). Chapter four of Ephesians also says there is ONE Spirit, ONE hope, ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, and ONE God and Father of all. The Lord prayed for unity among those who would be his followers in John 17:20-22. Division and religious partyism are condemned in I Corinthians 1:10-13 and called a work of the flesh (I Cor. 3:3-5). Those who defile God's temple (the church) in this way will be destroyed by God (I Cor. 3:16-23); those who practice heresy (denominationalism) will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21). Paul wrote to the Romans, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned: and avoid them" (Romans 16:17). So, denominationalism represents a very serious thing.

As we also implied, denominations are wrong because denominational doctrines are wrong (that is basically what makes them a denomination in the bad sense of that word). To depart from the doctrines of the New Testament is to depart from Christ. Galatians 1:8 confirms this: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." John wrote: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God..." (II John 9). We are not to add or take away from God's Word (Revelation 22:18, 19). Paul admonished Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:16). Timothy not only had to live the right life, he had to preach the right doctrine to be saved; which reminds us of the Great Commission. Christ made the promise to be with His disciples, and consequently us, IF we are preaching the true gospel, IF we are baptizing in the way he said, and IF we are teaching men to observe ALL THINGS he commanded (Matthew 28:18-20). This is the implication, and if we are not doing this He is not with us. It does make a difference what we believe and practice in the name of religion.

Therefore, as you asked, what should we do since denominationalism is wrong? What kind of a church should we be a part of? We should start divesting ourselves of any traditions or doctrines not found in the New Testament that distinguishes us as human denominations. (Doctrines and traditions of men make the worship of God in vain, Matthew 15:3, 9). We should be certain that we are really born again, New Testament Christians (John 3:5; Acts 2:38)—it is not enough to be good or even religious (Titus 3:5). We could try to get the supposed church straightened out and set in order where we are, according to the principles of the New Testament. In most denominations you will find this legally impossible because of the way the property is denominationally owned and controlled (besides confronting denominational bias). Finding this out of the question to accomplish, start being a simple, undenominational, New Testament church where you are—following the Scriptures ALONE as your rule of faith and practice. You will not be another denomination, just the Lord's church—Christians only. You will find thousands of others doing this, and encouragement and help will come from them.

To be more specific, denominational names are sinful and must be discarded in favor of being simply a humble Christian (I Cor. 1:12; 3:4; Colossians 1:18). Denominational organizations must be dissolved in favor of returning to the simple, local, autonomous church (being overseen by elders, called bishops; there is not such thing as a bishop over a plurality of churches in the New Testa-

ment, but several bishops over one church—Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5-11). Man-made creeds must be cast aside in favor of the Word of God alone as our rule of faith and practice. In these creeds are preserved man-made doctrines and traditions. Being a former Methodist, I very well recall doctrines of men perpetuated in the Methodist Discipline—doctrines such as faith only for salvation, sprinkling for baptism, so-called baptism of infants, etc. Unscriptural religious organizations are also arranged for in such books. Most denominations sprinkle for baptism, which is completely out of harmony with the New Testament (Acts 8:38; Romans 6). This is a direct carry over through denominational creeds from Roman Catholicism. Most denominations unanimously preach salvation by faith only, discrediting and discarding baptism for the remission of sins (James 2:14-26; Acts 2:38; 22:16). This is a reactionary doctrine of Protestantism incorporated into their creeds.

So, there is much divesting to do. We have only suggested a few things. A study of the Scriptures and denominational positions will show that there is more divesting to be done if we are to return to the position of the New Testament church. Never be satisfied with anything less.

OHIO:

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EDITORIAL BY-WAYS

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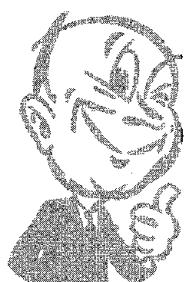
hardly knew the man.

Then I thought about my praying. The Lord had answered my prayer! As I told my friend: He really "threw" a big one at us. We had to move it with a wrecker. It weighs about two or three thousand pounds. We had to take down the wall of my printshop to get it in. It has a 36-inch blade and should do an excellent job. A spare blade and clutch were included with the gift. The three phase motor will have to be changed or replaced by a single phase before we start cutting though.

I told the benevolent giver "thank you." But I also told him that although he was giving it to me, there was more than met the eye. I had asked the Lord for such a paper cutter over a year ago.

Thank you, Lord!

□



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