

The Bible and
OUR TIMES





By W. B.
Handforth

"Go ye into
all the world
and preach
the Gospel
to every
creature,"
commanded
Jesus.

"Into All the World"

★ WHILE our Lord was here on earth He uttered many remarkable prophecies. Undoubtedly the most wonderful is His declaration in Matthew the twenty-fourth chapter and verse fourteen: "This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come."

You will remember the circumstances surrounding this statement. Jesus had left the temple for the last time, and had told His disciples that it would be utterly destroyed in the very near future. So they came to Him privately and said: "Master, tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" They naturally thought that no other event than the return of Christ could destroy their temple, so they said, "When shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus' answer occupies the whole of the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew and the two parallel chapters, Luke twenty-one and Mark thirteen. And in this great prophecy He lists the signs which would announce His return in glory.

After making various predictions concerning wars and famines and pestilences and earthquakes

which would increase upon the earth, He made the striking statement which we have already quoted, that "this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." By implication then, Christ meant that the second advent will not take place until the Gospel of the kingdom has been preached in all the world for a witness.

In Mark 16:15 we read that Christ said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." He was telling the apostles, who were the nucleus of the Christian church, in very plain language that they were to go, that is, the church which they represented, the Christian church, was to go to all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. That was one of the reasons why Jesus established the church. These are the marching orders, as it were, given to us by the Founder, Jesus Christ Himself. "This Gospel of the kingdom" must go to every creature.

When the apostles were with Jesus on the mount just before His ascension, He talked to them again concerning the future and told them what is recorded in the eighth verse of Acts one: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy

Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Notice again that the Gospel was to go unto the uttermost part of the earth. What a challenge faces the Christian church today. How far have we gone in fulfilling these prophecies? We know that the Gospel has not gone to every part of the world as yet, but it will have to go before Christ comes.

God's Invitation of Mercy

Now why should this be? Why is it that God has ordained that the Gospel shall be preached unto every creature before the end? It is surely in accordance with God's character. We find as we study God's dealings with man through the ages, that very often He has had to bring judgment on a city or a nation or perhaps on an individual. He has had to do this in order to curb sin. Sin has not been permitted to have its full sway in the world. God has kept a chain on it, as it were. And God has never brought judgment upon a nation or a family or an individual, without first giving those concerned an opportunity of escaping, by repentance, the judgment

By C. R. Bonney

due to fall upon them. Such is the great love of our God who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

Just think for a moment of one or two incidents that will illustrate this. We go back to the antediluvian world. We find there, before the Flood, iniquity abounding, and the imaginations of men's hearts only evil continually. God decided that it was necessary to bring judgment upon the world at that time in order to stop the onward march of sin. And so a man was raised up in the person of Noah who preached for 120 years telling the people of the coming Flood and giving them an opportunity to repent of their sins. But sad to say only a few heeded that warning and only the few found salvation from that terrible judgment.

Then we think of the city of Nineveh, a great city which stood on the cross roads of the world of its time. It had grown so corrupt that its evil influence was going out into all the world. God saw that for the sake of the human family, Nineveh would have to be destroyed if it did not repent. So once again God raised up a man in

Jonah. At first we know he refused to go. Nevertheless the people had to be warned and eventually Jonah did as he was bidden. For forty days he preached to the inhabitants, telling them that if they did not repent, then the Lord would have to destroy their city. As a result of that preaching the people repented and the city was not destroyed at that time.

Again we think of the city of Jerusalem. That city was supposed to represent the righteousness of God, for His people lived there. But they had grown so corrupt that God declared that He would have to allow the enemy to come in and destroy it and them. So Jeremiah was raised up. He went to the king, he warned the people, but they took no heed. In fact, we read that the king took a penknife and cut up the letter of warning which was sent, and Jeremiah himself was put in prison. What happened then? The Chaldeans came in and destroyed the city just as God had told them. But the judgment did not come until every man, woman, and child in the city had had an opportunity of repenting. Can you not see, friends, the love of God, even in His judgments?

Sin and suffering are not eternal. There must be a final show-down in the conflict between right and wrong and that show-down will be at the second coming of our Lord, for when that day comes the destiny of every living soul will be sealed for eternity. Because of that fact, and because we have a God of love, this Gospel of salvation through Christ must be preached in all the world for a witness.

Now what is the message which has to go to all the world? We read that it is "this Gospel of the kingdom," in other words, the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, the message of forgiveness of sins, the message which takes from us the burden of sin and helplessness and gives to us confidence in God and for the future. It is a message which, if heeded, will bring us deliverance in the day of the world's judgment.

A Wonderful Work In Our Time

Now let us see what has happened. True to the promise of God, the last century and a half has seen a tremendous advance in the carrying of the Gospel message to the remotest corners of the earth. Just 150 years ago this year the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed to put the Bible into the hands of every nation, tribe, and people in their own tongue. It was followed a little later by the formation of the American

(Continued on page 6.)

The Good Samaritan Today



By B. Plockhorst

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In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus set forth a pattern of Christian service in every age.

★ PERHAPS one of the most beautiful and powerful utterances of Christ is His parable of the Good Samaritan. And undoubtedly it has been largely responsible for all the works of mercy and good neighbourliness which men have since shown. Many times it must have been the challenging spark which has helped dispel the selfishness and cold formality which all too easily extinguishes the fire of true love in human hearts. All too often those who profess the name of Christ lose sight of the fact that Christians are to represent Christ by practical self sacrifice for others. This wonderful story cuts at the roots of heartless formalism and provides the hallmark of spiritual living.

Perhaps one of the strongest reasons for its

great appeal is that in the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is actually giving a picture of Himself and His mission to mankind. Christ is presenting Himself and His act of seeking and saving perishing humanity as the everlasting pattern of self-denying love. Many Bible expositors from the early church fathers to the great Reformers, have seen the deeper meaning behind the parable, and used this key to unlock the full interpretation of it. When we find the key turns easily, without forcing, readily adapting itself to all the wards of the lock, we feel we have the right one. The key turns particularly on four great fundamentals of the Christian faith. And in times like ours, when not only the spirit of Christian faith, but also its very foundations are challenged, it is good for us to re-examine the claims and promises of Christ Himself such as are found in this parable.

Lost Without Christ

First of all, the parable establishes that mankind has fallen and is in a helpless plight without Christ. The "certain man" travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho is personified human nature, or if you will, Adam, as the representative of our race. Notice that he went *down* from Jerusalem, the heavenly city, to Jericho, the profane and accursed city, as described in Joshua 6:26. Man's fall into sin and his loss of original purity and perfection, as taught in Genesis, is tasteless reading to the modern evolutionist. He prefers to believe that man has battled his way *upward* through a succession of slimy, scaly, and hairy creatures to his present exalted station, deserving high praise for his achievements, and indulgence when he relapses into animal ways. Some seem to prefer to regard themselves as exalted apes rather than fallen men, because such a philosophy dispenses with accountability to God and the need of a Saviour. But Adam, though formed from the dust, "was the Son of God" (Luke 3:38) and it was

for his restoration to his full privileges in the household of God, that Christ came.

The reality of man's plight is vividly pictured in the parable. Having chosen the downward path of disobedience, mankind "fell among thieves" indeed. Satan, whom John describes in John 8: 44 as "a murderer from the beginning," stripped him of his raiment of original righteousness and robe of innocence. Genesis 3:7 declares, "And the eyes of them both were opened and they knew that they were naked," and they sought to make a covering for themselves. Worse still, the thieves wounded him, leaving him half dead. This helpless condition is described by Isaiah in his first chapter, verses 5 and 6: "The whole head is sick and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot, even unto the head, there is no soundness in it; but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Isaiah shows that this is the condition of "people laden with iniquity," who have "forsaken the Lord."

This is the state of every man outside Christ, who has been deceived, bruised, robbed, and ruined by Satan and left to perish. Are you conscious of your need of a physician for the sickness of your soul? Your state is not hopeless, even if we are personally helpless. Remember the traveller was left only *half* dead, with still a spark of life which might be fanned to flame again. So conscience and mind still witness for God, giving us the sense that we have lost something and giving us a longing for restoration. But "is there no balm

By R. A. Vince

in Gilead, is there no physician there?" Yes, thank God, there is a divine physician, Jesus, the Good Samaritan.

The Divine Physician

In the treasury room of the British Museum, among all the fabulously precious relics of ancient times, is the famous Portland vase. It was discovered many years ago in a long-forgotten tomb near Rome. Its delicate beauty has long outlived the hands that must have made it many years before Christ was born. It was blue as the sky, transparent, with inlaid flowers and human forms as

white as snow. But about eighty years ago a madman or a fool came into the museum with a stone concealed in his pocket and before he could be restrained, smashed the priceless vessel into about two hundred pieces. The loss to the artistic world was incalculable. Visitors from different parts of the world were disappointed to find this exquisite object of art broken to bits. Search was therefore made to find a man who could put the pieces together and rebuild the broken vase. At last he was found, and after seven months of work the precious Portland vase was as beautiful as before. Its restoration was declared by experts to be the most perfect work of its kind the world had ever known.

So it is with stricken humanity. Crushed and broken by Satan, he is now the object of the compassion and restoring power of Jesus Christ, the Good Samaritan of the parable. The true Samaritan, Jesus Christ, "came where" the poor man was "and when he saw him, had compassion on him, and went to him." This is a beautiful picture of Christ coming into our world where we are, making Himself of no reputation, like the despised Samaritan, taking upon Himself "the form of a servant" and being "made in the likeness" of man, so that He might humble Himself to become "obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross." Phil 2:6-8. All this He did that He might heal us and save us from eternal death. This self-denial and self-humiliation of Christ for our redemption is clearly pictured by the Samaritan setting the stricken man on his own beast, while he of necessity must walk to the inn. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." 2 Cor. 8:9.

The Church's Mission

The remainder of the parable tells us two other vital truths which are fundamental in Christian philosophy and faith.

It tells first of the inn to which the sick man was brought by the Good Samaritan. Might not this very well speak to us of the Christian church, which Christ established as a haven of refuge and healing and spiritual ministry, where He might entrust lost mankind to the inn keepers. It is a privilege indeed to enjoy the blessings of Christian fellowship in our struggle for spiritual health. The church still exists to carry on the healing ministry of Christ. If you are not yet enjoying

this blessing, why not seek out such a community where your spiritual needs can be met, and the healing graces of Christ can be administered to you?

On the morrow when the Samaritan departed, he gave two pence to the host and said, "Take care of him." Here we see Jesus giving His last commission to His early disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. "When He ascended up on high, . . ." says Paul, "He gave gifts unto men, . . . He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists, . . . for the perfecting of the saints, . . . till we all come . . . unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:8-13. Yes, it is not only a blessing to be in the church for the help it gives us, but it gives us opportunity to return our thanks in service for others. It is for this reason that the church exists, that the power of Christ's healing grace may reach others everywhere.

Till He Come

Finally the Good Samaritan said, "When I come again I will repay thee." How clearly this reiterates the statement of Jesus, when He declared, "I go and prepare a place for you. And if I go . . . I will come again, and receive you unto Myself." John 14:2, 3. Christ came once as a servant in humble garb to die for our salvation. Now He lives and waits for the great gathering day, soon to be, when as King He will give rewards to those whose faith and obedience have endured. His second coming sets the seal to the healing work He did Himself and later entrusted to the church. Now everywhere voices are raised saying, "Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come." More and more this cry will reach to heaven, as "this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."

Will you be ready to greet your Good Samaritan Saviour and to thank Him for His grace and love to you?

"Into All the World"

(Continued from page 3.)

Bible Society, and what a wonderful work has been done by them and by still other societies inspired by them! Today the Bible, or portions of it, have been printed in more than a thousand languages. It has gone into nearly every land and has been distributed in places where nothing was

before known of the true God or the way of salvation.

Contemporary with the founding of the Bible Societies have come the great Missionary Societies. The first foreign missionary society was the Baptist Missionary Society established in 1798. In just over a century, thousands of missionaries have gone out with the Gospel story and prepared the way for what is being done today. There is no doubt that over the past century God has been fulfilling that statement of Jesus that the Gospel would go to all the world for a witness, before the end should come.

And what a great work is being accomplished today through the radio in fulfilment of this great prophecy. Just over thirty years ago, in 1920, a young evangelist by the name of H. M. S. Richards, the son of a minister in Exeter, Devon, conceived the idea of harnessing the ether waves for the preaching of the Gospel. Visualizing the

A Prayer For Harvest

This world is all Thy harvest field
But reapers here are few,
In very many different ways
Use us in service true.

Take Thou the gifts we bring to Thee
And guide each step we tread,
That we may reap Thy harvest in
The days that lie ahead.

—Pamela M. Jones.

great possibilities involved, he started to build his own transmitting set in a chicken shed. In 1929 he gave his first broadcast. Eight years later he was preaching the everlasting Gospel from ten stations. In 1942 this work was started in other countries, so that by 1947, in every continent, men and women were listening to the Voice of Prophecy broadcasts. And now in 1954, 1,005 stations carry over 900 programmes every week, presenting the supreme message of a Christ crucified, risen, and coming again. Surely in all these activities prophecy is being fulfilled today and the "everlasting Gospel" is rapidly going to the ends of the earth.

God in His great love and mercy is giving all an opportunity of repenting, and, through the great sacrifice of our Saviour, being prepared to escape the final judgment which must inevitably come upon sin. May we all take heed to this message and be ready for the universal and eternal kingdom of our Lord.

Medical Ministry in the South Seas

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand are the home bases from which supplies of men and means are drawn for a very extensive work throughout the South Sea Islands. Through this vast expanse of the Pacific are scattered scores of missionary families from these homeland countries. They are doing a noble work helped by hundreds of trained native workers from the island fields.

In some island groups, such as Fiji and Tonga, European doctors and well-trained native assistants provide ample medical services. There our missionary activities are mainly evangelical and educational in nature. But in less civilized areas, such as New Guinea, Papua, the Solomon Islands, and the New Hebrides, we conduct a very extensive medical work.

During the second World War, our converted natives, and those of other missions, did a marvellous work for the allied forces operating against the Japanese invaders, acting as guides, carriers,



Natives of the interior of New Guinea.

stretcher-bearers, hospital aids, and rescue workers. Thus they saved hundreds of European lives.

A great deal of welfare work is also done for needy native races in these areas. Early in January, 1952, Fiji experienced the most disastrous hurricane of its history. Our welfare societies of North New Zealand alone sent out 2,340 garments to relieve those in distress.

Our mission staffs and operates for the Australian Government, a large leper station at Mt. Hagan in the highlands of inland New Guinea, 180 miles from the port of Lae. Eighty-five of the 400 patients were recently discharged, as the disease had been arrested. This station is at an elevation of 5,000 feet above sea level, where it is often cold for the almost naked natives. In response to appeals, we sent in two years 1,625 garments including woollen cardigans and many winter coats in splendid condition. These brought great joy to the recipients.



Staff and patients at the
Mount Hagan Leper Colony,
New Guinea.



Beulah Training School, Tonga Islands.

A Congo Dispensary

By Nurse P. Standen

GITWE Mission Dispensary serves a population of 10,000 people, and an average of 250 come to see us every day. They come with almost every kind of disease. Malaria and tuberculosis probably predominate. There is so much tuberculosis, and treatment is so long and expensive, that at present we can do little to help. Malaria is comparatively easy to treat. Each month we examine about 1,500 blood slides, and in the majority of cases we have a positive result.

We have different clinics on different days of the week. For example, most of the very sick people come on Sundays when, being a holiday, it is easier to find men to carry their blankets. About 400 attend the dispensary every Sunday and many of these are so sick that they ought to be hospitalized, but as at present we only have two rooms, we cannot meet the demand.

On Mondays we treat especially those suffering from yaws. I am happy to say that treatment has eradicated much of this disease. We now see comparatively few bad, deformed patients. Another day is for the baby clinic, when between 350 and 450 babies attend. On Wednesdays, which is ante-natal day, I have about one hundred to examine. So our week goes quickly by in service for the suffering.



"Give Us the Med"

By J. M.



BEFORE
The result of one year

THIS is the cry of every leper in the leper colonies in Africa. The old method of treating leprosy by injection was most painful. It took much longer to arrest this dreadful disease.

The injection of certain oils in the treatment of leprosy was uncertain, and has always presented many obstacles when treating the masses of Africa. Today, medical science has discovered something better. This new discovery of using certain *sulphone* drugs has brought great hope to the lepers. This treatment is given by mouth, and that is why the lepers cry: "Give us the medicine that we

Native
Christians
of the
Pacific
Islands.

There are over 7,000,0

Help us to hea

icine that We Eat"

natyshyn



d, AFTER treatment for leprosy.

eat." There is no more painful ordeal for them to go through now.

This new treatment is very effective, and many already have been helped and sent home. It takes less time to cure one of these unfortunate cases. Today five guineas' worth of this new drug will cure one leper in Africa. This is your opportunity to give, and thus help the many who are crying for this new treatment. Because of shortness of funds, not all lepers have been put on this new treatment. We are confident that your liberal support will help us to do this. *Give that they too, may live.*

lepers in the world. Some of them.

The medical mission launch "Luzeiro" on the Amazon.



Victims of the Korean War find timely help at the Mission's orphanage, Seoul.

"Savage Fire" Hospital

By T. R. Flaiz, M.D.

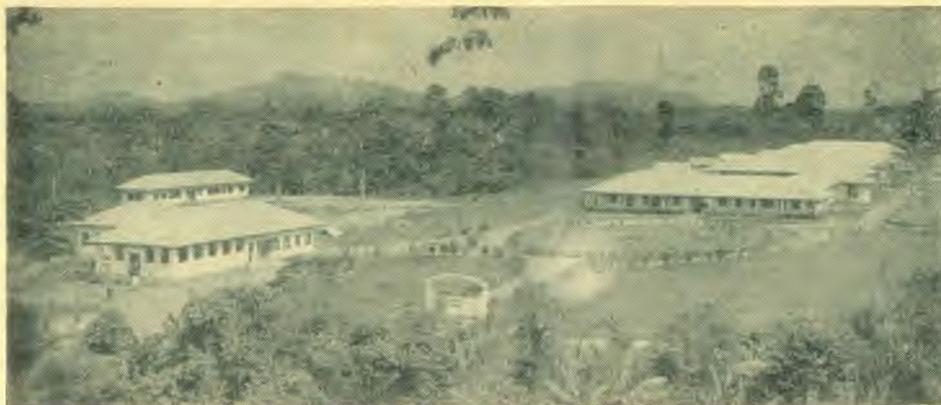
LIMITED more largely to Central and Southern Brazil is one of the most cruel diseases known to man, *fogo selvagem*, Portuguese for "savage fire." This term is most descriptive of the torment of those afflicted with it.

Until recently it has been a disease of life duration, often running into many years. All ages are affected, from small children to aged people. The onset of the disease is slow, requiring perhaps three to six months to spread over the entire body. Once fully established, the entire skin surface including the soles of the feet and the palms of the hands, is an itching, burning, blistering, and revolting condition, so tragically punishing as to make the lot of the average leper seem more like a delightful dream in comparison.

At whatever age the disease is contracted, the tendency is for the victim to assume a squatting, hunched-over position, since this requires the least skin surface to be touched. Lying down is too painful to the skin, which would thereby touch the bed. After two, three, or five years in this position, the patient is unable to stand erect or straighten



ZEIRO



Nigeria

Left.—Ile-Ife Hos-
pital.

Below. — African
nurses treating a
patient at Ile-Ife
Hospital.

the spindling arms and legs. He merely sits on his feet in this hunched position, attempting on the one hand to prevent any clothing from touching his burning, sensitive flesh, and on the other, striving to keep his blanket about him, because even on warm days he feels cold and chilly, even though his fiery skin seems to burn.

By what seemed a providential circumstance an effective treatment for this disease came into our hands four years ago. Several of these pathetic sufferers were successfully treated.

Realizing the need, we built in the Mato Grosso the Hospital Adventista de Penfigo, expressly for the care of these unfortunates. Dr. Edgar B. Rodrigues, a well-qualified Christian physician, is in charge of this project. He is working with the University of Belo Horizonte on research for the improvement of the treatment. Dr. Rodrigues writes:

"For the past three years the Adventists have carried on a work of great social help against the plague of Mato Grosso which has aroused the admiration of the people and awakened a great interest, because of what is being done, and because of the religious devotion with which they dedicate

themselves to helping the sick whose own parents do not desire to treat them. . . .

"The work marches steadily forward to conquer the difficulties, in the hope that more resources will arrive."



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teachers to their
own people.

Know Your Bible

THE ATONING SACRIFICE

What did Jesus declare to be the purpose of His coming?

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matt. 20:28.

"It was the purpose of Jesus to draw attention to the crowning sacrifice that was to end His mission to a fallen world."—E. G. White.

By what means are we redeemed?

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were . . . redeemed . . . with the precious blood of Christ." 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

By J. A. McMillan

What is involved in this redemption?

"In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:14.

Could sin not be forgiven without involving death?

"Without shedding of blood is no remission." Heb. 9:22.

What should we see in the death of Christ?

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." 1 Cor. 15:3.

"Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was



By
Anton
Dorph
© Camera
Clix

laid the iniquity of us all. He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. The guilt of every descendant of Adam was pressing on His heart. The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 752.

Who took the initiative in this plan of redemption?

"God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:7, 8.

Did Jesus willingly offer Himself?

"Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself." John 10:17, 18.

"It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise. He who stilled the angry waves and walked the foam-capped billows, who made devils tremble and disease flee, who opened blind eyes and called forth the dead to life offers Himself upon the cross as a sacrifice; and this from love to thee."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 755.

What amazing transaction took place at the cross?

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor. 5:21.

"He, the Sin-bearer, endures the wrath of divine justice, and for thy sake becomes sin itself."—*Ibid.*, page 756.

How often does this Sacrifice need to be offered?

"But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God." Heb. 10:12.

"It is only through faith in Christ that sinners may have the righteousness of Christ imputed unto them, and that they may be 'made the righteousness of God in Him.' Our sins were laid on Christ, punished in Christ, put away by Christ: in order that His righteousness might be imputed to us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."—*Signs of the Times*, May 30, 1895.

How did Jesus declare the uniqueness of His atoning sacrifice?

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:30.

Jesus thus triumphantly declared the finished nature of His sacrificial offering. He fulfilled all the types and shadows. Truly "sacrifice, altar, priest, temple, spake of Him." The prophet spoke of His death and said: "He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." Dan. 9:27. Indeed "there is no more offering for sin." Heb. 10:18.

How does the Lord's Supper memorialize this atonement?

"As often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come." 1 Cor. 11:26.

The Passover commemorated the deliverance of ancient Israel from Egyptian bondage. Jesus transmuted this memorial feast into the Lord's Supper to commemorate the deliverance of all God's spiritual children from sin's bondage.

What event is also linked with this memorial?

"But I say unto you, I will not drink hence-

forth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." Matt. 26:28.

How fully does the death of Christ restore all things?

"He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:19-21.

By His atoning sacrifice, our Lord Jesus Christ has provided redemption, remission of sins, regeneration, righteousness, and restoration to all who accept Him.

In what does the Christian glory?

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Gal. 6:14.

"To remove the cross from the Christian would be like blotting the sun from the sky. The cross brings us near to God, reconciling us to Him. . . . When at the foot of the cross the sinner looks up to the One who died to save him, he may rejoice with fullness of joy; for his sins are pardoned. Kneeling in faith at the cross, he has reached the highest place to which man can attain."—*Acts of the Apostles*, pages 209, 210.

What blessed assurance may be ours as we accept the atoning sacrifice?

"He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8:32.

"The revelation of God's love to man centres in the cross. Its full significance tongue cannot utter, pen cannot portray, the mind of man cannot comprehend. Looking upon the cross of Calvary we can only say, 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"—*The Ministry of Healing*, pages 423, 424.

Straws in the Wind

Lack of Purpose

☒ "The malaise of modern society," asserted the Bishop of London in a speech in Halifax recently, "is the lack of a sense of the real purpose of life. People, in their thousands, cannot see any meaning in their existence. They do not know why they are here; they do not find any reason for trying to be good. They do not see any point in work, except to get money to feed and clothe themselves and obtain amusement. They have no answer about the purpose of life. Only the Gospel of Christ," he declared, "can supply that answer."

Thousand Tongues Still Need Bible

☒ Despite the fact that the Scriptures have been translated in whole or in part into more than 1,100 tongues, "there are at least a thousand languages and dialects into which no part of the Bible has yet been translated, and at least 240 million people who have no part of Scripture in their own

tongue," states a *Times* leader commenting on the Bible Society's 150th birthday.

What Talk Costs

☒ The U.S. State department estimates that the cost to the United States of the Geneva Conference on Korea and Indo-China will be about £10,000 a day.

Scandinavian Pipe Line

☒ The Swedish government is to finance the building of an oil pipe line from Trondheim in Norway seventy-five miles across the mountains into Sweden so as to give her access to the West if the Baltic Straits were to be closed by war.

Latest Nerve Gas

☒ A new nerve gas is being produced in the United States, of which one drop will kill a man in half a minute. One bomb could kill everything within a cubic mile.

Fishing For Coelacanth

☒ Interest in the discovery of coelacanth fishes supposed to have been extinct fifty million years has resulted in the sending out of a scientific expedition to search for more. Four have been caught and preserved, two being now on exhibition in Paris.



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THE CHILDREN'S Pages



The Missionary Donkey

By Lockie Gifford

THE last few stars winked goodbye as the sun peeped over the hills. A tiny red rooster flapped his way to the edge of an overhanging roof. From there he gave his early morning alarm, the cock-a-doodle-doo known the world over. Coolies hurried down the muddy street, carrying loads of firewood. Their singing cries of "Heigh ho, heigh ho" echoed along the street, awaking the sleepers who had not been aroused by the rooster's efforts.

In a tiny hotel at the end of the street, Missionary Peter heard the sounds of the waking world, and he, too, hurried to be about his business. After a

quick breakfast, he prepared for the day's work. Missionary Peter must travel to a far-away village before the sun set that evening. He had medicines with which to treat the sick along the way, and he had books telling of the love of Jesus. He had Bibles and papers, too, and even a bundle of clothing for any cold, crying baby he would find on his journey. Missionary Peter had so many things to carry with him that he needed two donkeys to carry them all.

It took only a few minutes to load the donkeys, and then he stood ready to start his journey. The Chinese guide appeared, and they were on their way.

Up and down the hills the donkeys plodded, while Missionary Peter and his guide walked behind them. Up and down, up and down, up and down. The sun shone brighter. The road became steeper. The villages were farther apart. The donkeys' heads drooped, and their feet slowed. The missionary's head drooped, too, as his feet dragged along behind the donkeys.

In the middle of the afternoon, Missionary Peter called to the guide. "The sun is still far above the hills. Let us stop and rest for a while. Then we will hurry on."

"Oh, no! No, no, no!" the guide replied. "We must not rest here. Bandits are in these hills and they will find us and take our supplies. Perhaps they will kill us. No, no! Do not stop now. Hurry on!"

Of course Missionary Peter tried to hurry the donkeys then, for he realized the guide had spoken the truth. The little caravan moved faster for a few turns in the path, then missionary and donkeys slowed again. The sun shone brighter, and even the insects along the way seemed sleepy. Missionary Peter was almost dozing himself, when suddenly, as he rounded a curve in the trail, a single gunshot rang from the quiet countryside.

"Bandits!" cried the guide. "The bandits have seen us! Hold up your hands so they can see you have no guns."

Indeed, it was the bandits. The wicked men quickly surrounded the missionary and his



The donkey lay down, breathing heavily for a minute, and then closed his eyes.

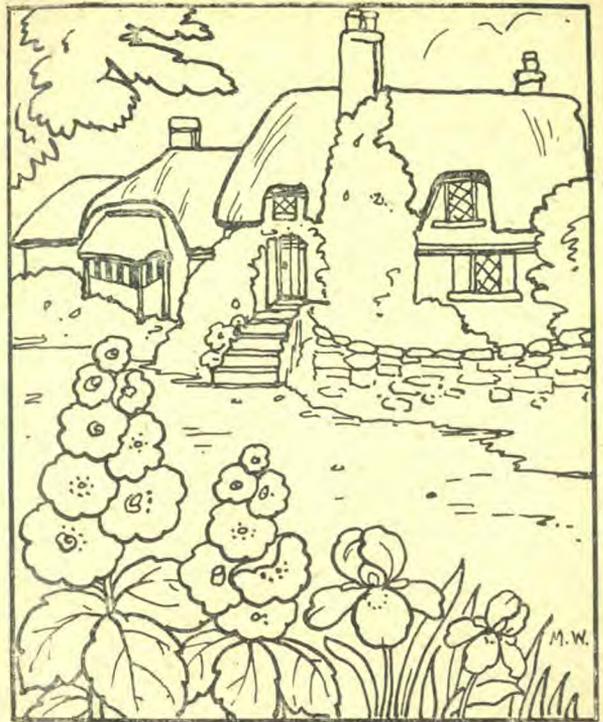
donkeys. They looked through the suitcases. They looked through the bags and bundles. They even looked in Missionary Peter's pockets. They would have looked in the guide's pockets, but he had only one tiny one on his shirt, and anyone could see that it was empty. Of course they found only a few coins, for Missionary Peter was poor. They did find the books telling of the love of Jesus, but they weren't interested in books; nor did they care for the Bibles and papers and baby clothing. After searching everything they turned and went away in disgust, leaving the guide to help Missionary Peter fasten his bags and bundles together again.

When everything was in order once more, Missionary Peter called to his donkeys to start. One donkey stepped forward, but the other did not move. The guide walked ahead and tried to pull the donkey forward. As he touched the bridle the donkey lay down, breathed heavily for a minute, and then closed his eyes. While the guide and the missionary were wondering what to do to help him, the donkey's heart stopped beating, and both men knew that it was too late to do anything.

Sadly they removed the bags and bundles, so they could see what had killed the faithful burden bearer. When they reached the last bundle, they found a bullet hole. That one shot, fired by the bandits, had gone in under the bundles and reached the donkey's heart. How sad they were to realize that the hard-working helper would never get up again. They gathered the bundles and bags and put them on their own backs, and went on their way to the village. While they felt sad to lose the donkey, they were thankful that their own lives had been spared.

Missionary Peter says he doesn't know if there will be donkeys in heaven, but he hopes

See how nicely you can paint this picture and send it with your name, age, and address to Auntie Pam, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts., not later than May 27th. In case OUR TIMES arrives late, still send your entry. All attempts will be considered.



there will be; for some donkeys, like some persons, have been good missionaries.

Your Letter

My Dear Sunbeams,

HAVE you noticed that this issue of OUR TIMES contains mission articles and pictures? On our own pages too, we have a mission story, and as we read how Missionary Peter and his donkey were attacked by fierce bandits it will help us to realize the dangers which a missionary faces as he leaves his home and friends and goes to work in strange lands. Not only is there danger from bandits, but also from wild animals and diseases. However, the missionary does not fear these things, because he loves Jesus and has a great desire to tell heathen boys and girls and men and women all about Him and His love for them.

How thankful we should be that we live in a Christian land! When we are sick we are given good treatment and medicine, and soon all is well again. But not so with the black children before the missionary comes. These poor people believe that sickness comes because they have been wicked and that

evil spirits are inside the sick body which must be beaten out. Of course the more beatings the patient has the weaker he becomes and very often he dies.

How sad it is to hear about these cruel practices! Don't you wish that you could do something to help, Sunbeams? Maybe when you are older some of you will be missionaries and follow in the steps of those of our grown-up Sunbeams who are now in the mission lands. But right now you can help by sending your spare pennies along to our Missionary Fund, c/o The Sunbeam Band, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. I know that Sunbeams will be happy to have a part in this good work.

Yours affectionately,
AUNTIE PAM.

The Bible and OUR TIMES

(Formerly "Present Truth")

Vol. 70. No 10. Price 3d.

Printed and published in Great Britain fortnightly on Thursday by

**THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LTD.,
WATFORD, HERTS.**

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON
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