

MISSIONARY PAGE

It Could Be This Year

By E. L. Kilbourne

The greatest event of all time, next to Bethlehem and Calvary, is not wrapped up in scientific knowledge or progress. It has nothing to do with the great movements of this day which we like to call man's supreme age of highest achievement. Though we scan with eager eyes and oftentimes fearful hearts the morning headlines of our daily newspapers in this age of fast-moving and dreaded events no mention is seen of this momentous and imminent happening. The scientists, politicians, governments and rulers of the world do not take it into consideration or plan and yet this coming crisis will topple everything that has been conceived, developed and built by their combined powers. And it may happen tomorrow! Man has so far departed from and forgotten God that he has gotten the complacency and haughty idea that this is man's universe, that man is supreme and is the last authority on the programs and events both now and in the eons to come. But God began all things, all things are in His hand and when His last word is spoken all pertaining to man, HIS earth and times can and will culminate into God's full plan of HIS ages. God projects Himself and His purposes into and across man's little world and these projections change the course and plans of all that pertains to man's conceived ideas.

It seems inconceivable that with all the progress man has made in his self-sufficiency that has resulted in unrest, fears and hellish terrorism, there hangs over man's world an impending event that overwhelmingly transcends anything that man has ever conceived and yet he does not for a moment take it into serious consideration.

It is not because he is ignorant of what is to come, for God has definitely announced it in His Word and ever and anon throws out His red warning signals that man's day is going to end and God is going to change the entire order of all time and things by again taking over the government and destinies of things that man has thought were increasingly coming into his control and manipulation. And, may we repeat that this day of God's visitation may come tomorrow!

Even to the Christian this great day of the revelation of the Son of God is easily emphasized as the "coming" event—something sure, yes, but something in the hazy tomorrows. All our plannings, our cares and our foundation layings are somehow with the idea that we are going to live out our life span and we must reach out to the protection and security of our children and their children's children. We do not actually say so but we live and plan as though this that we now live is LIFE. God rebukes this with, "Oh, thou foolish servant."

The greatest tragedy of man's history has resulted from this attitude of refusing to live with the expectancy of the imminence of the second coming of our Lord and Saviour. We have wrapped all our living, our making and our expending around our securities, our families and our immediate exigencies. Some larger souls reach out into their neighborhood

or perchance even to the boundaries of their native lands but rare is the soul who, catching God's plan of the ages, risks his life and his possessions to the full vision of obedience to the heart plan of God to the fulfilling of His redemption of EVERY CREATURE.

When we do think of that "glorious hope" of His coming we love to think of the rewards awaiting us, the pleasures of an eternity with God, the saints of old and our loved ones gone before. But the picture Jesus presented pointed out the terrible tragedies that are involved in His coming. There will be two sleeping, one would be taken—a happy thought! Two would be grinding at a mill and one would be caught away to the bliss of heaven! But Jesus said "AND THE OTHER LEFT." Oh, the multiplied millions of tragedies these words involve!

It will be an inconceivable sorrow to be thus "left" after the repeated warnings and admonitions from the Word of God but how infinitely more tragic will it be for those millions, multiplied millions, thousands of millions who never knew that He was coming again because they had never been told that He had come the first time and had gone to Calvary for their redemption.

The second coming of Jesus is a glorious hope, a purifying hope, the longed for appearing of our wonderful Lord and Saviour TO THOSE WHO KNOW HIM, but it is no hope, no joy and no consolation to the greater part of earth's population because NO news of Jesus has ever penetrated their hearts and homes. And this in spite of the commission and command that you and I are to take the news to EVERY CREATURE.

He may come tomorrow!

Everything points to a very soon and glorious tomorrow when we shall see Him "as He is." "As He is" means as the Christ who died for ALL men everywhere and left the telling of His redemptive death and resurrection to those who have accepted His saving power. "As He is" involves Him as our judge if we fail to carry out to our utmost His commission TO EVERY CREATURE. When you see Him "as He is" will your hands and skirts be "free from the blood of all men?"

He may come tomorrow—1955 may be our last year to fulfill our love service to Him and our responsibility to earth's unevangelized millions. Are we prepared to stand before Him unashamed?—The Missionary Standard.

WHY DIDN'T YOU HURRY?

A missionary on the western prairie tells us that he was coming home one night, and his little boy came running through the long grass to meet him. Suddenly, the lad disappeared.

When the father got near, he heard a gurgling cry, and found that his little boy had fallen into an old well. He was barely in time to save him.

When the little fellow came to himself, he looked up and said, "Oh, Papa, why didn't you hurry?" That cry made the father a missionary.

Why don't we hurry? "We are dying," said a poor heathen chief; "why don't you send the Gospel faster?"—Selected.

NEWS FROM ERIC AND NINA HAYWOOD

Greetings in Jesus' name from this part of God's Vine yard.

Christmas has come and gone and we are well into another New Year. We do not know what the New Year may bring, but we can trust our God and go forward without fear. How good our God is to us! When we begin to count our many blessings, there is no end to them.

We wish to thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness at Christmas time. We thank you for your gifts and cards that were received. May the Lord bless you each and every one in this New Year.

We had a very good Christmas Conference in our new church in Paulpietersburg. A new church was built here in the last few months. Mr. K. had tried for years to get a site here but had failed. We do thank God that a site was at last obtained. The people here had worshipped in a small 10 x 10 building on the preacher's lot. The Sunday School here had increased and there was not enough room. There is a preacher's lot to the church and a house will be built on this.

The young people's services were well attended. Two girls who are in training as nurses were home on holidays and were able to be there. They all reported that the services were best ever. We do thank God that our youth are taking an interest.

The regular services were also well attended. The Baptism was held on Saturday with twelve being baptized and immediately after the Baptism the service was held. There were thirteen given the right hand of fellowship. We pray that these will remain true.

On Sunday the dedication service was held. The church was packed to the door with people standing. The preaching service was held outdoors. I expect there was around 400 or 500 people in attendance. It cost around \$1,000 to build and the debt was paid of except for a few dollars. This church was mostly paid for by the people of our Halifax Church. Thus another Lighthouse has been built in a needy area. This was our fourth church to be dedicated in a year.

The church at Ermelo is nearly ready and will be dedicated later in the year.

The Bible School will open in February with special services. The church there will be dedicated at Easter time. We thank God for this new project, for it is needed if our work is to go forward. Our workers and prospective workers need training if they are going to be the very best for their people.

The medical work has increased in this past week after being at a low ebb for a month or so before Christmas. The natives, too, have been busy in the fields ploughing and hoeing.

We had a very good D.V.B.S. here at Altona just before Christmas. The average attendance was around 15, but we felt that the time was profitably spent. God's Spirit was with us and there was conviction on the services. Several children seemed to have prayed through. It is so difficult for these people to step out by faith and accept the promises of God. They need your prayers.

Thanks again for every thing.

We thank God for the privilege that He has given us to work for him in this land.