

OCCUPY TILL I COME

by Uta Chase

These are days of crises in Africa. Every news broadcast and headline in the paper has something to tell us of the turmoil and strife; of nationalism and apartheidism which is common almost throughout the length and breadth of this great Continent. Truly it would seem that the devil has his great Cauldron heated to the boiling point with all the ingredients mentioned above.

Needless to say this situation has sent Christians to their knees around the world. We are praying that the hand of Communism, Nationalism and Racialism will be stayed and that Christ and His church shall have free course for many years to come.

I was thinking about the situation the other day. I was wondering should one put all their "pounds" into a country that is in such upheaval. However the thought was quickly replaced with the words "Occupy till I Come." Then I reread the parable; and the servant who laid up his money in a napkin was the one who had everything taken from him. The message was clear and simple "Occupy till I Come."

Let us as a Church not fold up our pound in a napkin because the clouds look dark over this great Continent. Let us spend wisely what Christ has given us for His cause that when He returns He will find that we have been faithful and that we have done what we could while it is day.

As the storm clouds roll round about, let us as a church remember that the situation is not a warning to retreat but a challenge to go on and Occupy all the Land for Christ.

This is a day when we need to pray as the "company of believers" in Acts 4-29 prayed "grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word".

THE SAVIOUR IN THE SHADOWS

by Judson A. Sanders

Our hearts tremble and shudder under the blue shadows of the shape of things to come. Dark clouds of sinister portent boil up from behind every horizon. The slaving dogs of war are straining at their leashes and baying harshly through the deepening gloom. Sleek guided missiles are crouching impatiently on their launching pads, fevered to be off, pinpointed with deadly accuracy targets half a world away. The very thought of effective defence in the next war is a bitter farce.

All security, all liberty, peace and happiness that has been built up in the years that are gone, is swaying and tattering on its foundations. Dark powers, hidden and sinister, are gaining crushing leverage behind the scenes, threatening to bring down in crashing ruin all that the human heart can call precious, true, and dear. One by one the candles of civilization are winking out.

Man goes out beneath the stars, and, spreading his arms wide, asks many questions. There comes no answer, except a mocking laugh, and a sneering slogan, "there is no God". Failing to find without that which is to be found only within, he looks upon his empty hands, bows his head, and groans. Then comes a ray of ineffable splendour, knifing irresistibly across the cheerless gloom, a ray of light from the bruised countenance of one who hangs on a scaffold, dying alone, though the throng jostles shoulders at his feet. In that ray of light ineffable, in that face so brutally marred, in that great pulsing throbbing heart, stilled by ultimate heartbreak, and sundered by the glittering point of the harsh Roman spear — from these come the one answer to all the questions, the anguish, and the

tears of all the heartache, shadows, blood, sweat, tears, and death, that has plagued the human race all down the years.

Though dark clouds may loom on every horizon, and man may cover and cringe, seeking a refuge for his soul, there is a sanctuary of safety. There is a voice that can still the voice of mocking scorn, that flings out into darkening, surging chaos that harsh slogan, "there is no God". There is, in scorching sun and drifting sand, a riven rock, a sanctuary in the wilderness, a desert rendezvous with safety. There is a God! There is a Savior! There is a refuge for man, and an answer for his gropings, and questions. We have a Father in heaven, an older brother on earth, and a Cross to guide us on our way!

RELIGION AND EVERYDAY LIFE*

by J. B. Chapman, D. D.

A thoughtful man of affairs advises us to be careful about trusting a man of unsound religion. He says that a man who is not true to his God cannot be depended on to be loyal to his fellowmen. Ambassador Kennedy, speaking at a dedication service in Scotland, urged a renewal of faith as the remedy for the world's fundamental difficulties.

Soon after the upheavals in France following the Commune of 1871, a distinguished American visiting Paris was asked why the American Republic was so stable. His answer was that on the whole our people believed in and practiced the Ten Commandments. "The Ten Commandments!" exclaimed his French friend; "and what are they?" "That", said the American, narrating the incident, "is what ails France." And that is what ails any country whenever there is a moral and spiritual collapse.

When men cease to fear God, property and human life lose their value. When men cease to believe in God, they become hard and indifferent toward their fellow men. The old Huguenot was right when he demanded a receipt of the Paris landlord as soon as he found out the landlord did not believe in God. Religion is not that detached and indifferent thing that many worldlings would have us believe. It is at the foundation of stable civil government. It is the constitution of successful business. It is the "sheet anchor of our liberties."

The preface to every ethical, political, economic and educational collapse the world has suffered has been moral and spiritual neglect. People worry about the collapse of civilization, but they are hard pressed when they are asked, What is civilization? The reason for this is that civilization as we know it is but a by-product of Christianity, and when man reject or neglect the source from which it springs, there is little reason for wanting to preserve the by-product. Christ came that we might have life, and that we might have more abundant life. And when He is sent away, life in all its essential content goes with Him.

But we would not generalize. We would come to the personal element and the personal responsibility. The religion of our Lord Jesus Christ is intended to meet the needs of a work-a-day world. It is intended to give us courage to meet the momentous and the disagreeable. It is intended to restrain us in popularity and prosperity that we become not intemperate. It is intended to purify all human relations and make us better members of society in every sense of the word. It is intended to elevate our motives and enable us to live for the good of others, and for the glory of God. It is intended to console us when we are sick, and to assure us when we are dying. Christ

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