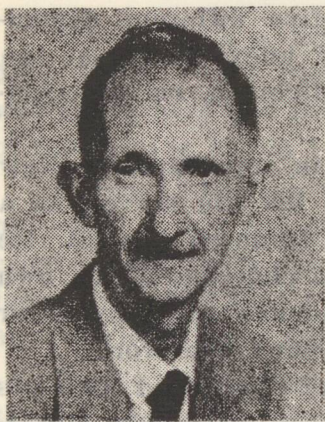


— Our Missionaries Speak —



LOVE HIS APPEARING

by Rev. C. D. M. Sanders

How clearly I remember the time in my life when the thought of Jesus' coming brought terror to my heart. I knew that I was not ready. I also knew that I would miss something tremendous. I recall looking out across the distances to the horizon, at night, and seeing a flicker of lightning. That faint flicker of lightning would send the piercing thought through my soul: "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west: so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt. 24:27). Just one moment, Jesus would have come and I, left. Friends, there will be no time to get ready after Jesus appears. I am sorry for the person who does not know about the soon coming of the Lord JESUS. One of my fears is that of cooling off spiritually, or being forgetful of this momentous event. Everything else we do should be measured, as to its value, in relation to its effect upon us, concerning Jesus' coming: will it help or hinder our preparation for His coming? And this I consider to be true because, for us living in this Holy Ghost dispensation, those who are raptured will be those who qualified for this high level of Christian perfection, like Enoch in his generation, and Elijah in his.

Matthew 25 gives us the story of the 10 virgins: five were wise and five were foolish. Five went in with the Bridegroom to the wedding feast and five were shut out. They were all virgins. The factor that made one group different from the other was oil and fire. Of the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3, only two were faultless. In both cases a much smaller proportion than would be expected. How is it today in our own lives, homes and churches? What proportion of the Holiness Church is ready, and longing for His return? "Because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold." (Matt. 24: 12.) What is more beautiful than two people genuinely in love? And what is more tragic than to see them again when one of them has lost his or her "first love"? It does not take very keen discernment, or much time to discover this change in a home, where love has died. It is not hard for other Christians to discern in us the loss of the glow and glory of the "first love." However it is hard to discover this in one's own experience. Those five virgins and those five churches did not see themselves as out of Christ's will, and without the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence.

Love is a quality that cannot be put on, or substituted for with something else. Love is like obedience. You cannot put something else in its place. Saul, the king of Israel sounded his own death knell spiritually and physically when he tried to do that. You will find the story in 1 Sam. 15. He tried to make a show of substituting fat sacrifices in the place of OBEDIENCE. Now look at this contrast: Saul of the New Testament, the man who became the great apostle Paul. After his mighty conversion on the way to Damascus, and the filling with the Holy Ghost, three days later, Paul who said: "Whereupon O king

STOP GIVING TO MISSIONS!

by Dr. G. E. Failing

Let's stop giving to missions and start being missionaries.

There is a radical difference. Giving to missions easily becomes a substitute for being a missionary, just as tithing — for some people—becomes a substitute for Christian giving.

A person can flatter himself over what he has given to missions. It is difficult for one to glory in the missionary work he has done.

A person can give to missions without ever saying a word for Christ, without offering a prayer or shedding a tear. Without sacrifice or discomfort, without surrender of home or homeland.

Missionary giving is always below what it can be and should be—until a person becomes a missionary. Wesleyan Methodists contribute \$10 per member per year for missions. At the same time we give about \$128 per member per year to support our local church programs. Does this look like we love our neighbor as ourselves? Or do we love ourselves thirteen times as much as we love our neighbor?

We could do much more for missions and church extension than we do. Members of the Christian and Missionary Alliance contribute \$60 per member per year to world missions, and membership on world mission fields is double their membership in the U.S. and Canada. Perhaps we could be provoked by their example.

This matter of being a missionary is extremely important. Individual Christian life does not reach its full development and fruitage until a person becomes a missionary. An entirely new organization has caught the vision, an organization of physicians and dentists. Discontented with a good practice and a good income here, instead of doubling or tripling their tithe they leave their practice for three or six months, go to a mission field and work there without charge or remuneration.

In giving to missions, people in other lands are regarded as the unprivileged. In becoming a missionary, needy people are people like ourselves in everything that binds men together—unlike only in regard to opportunity. The real thrill of life is doing something for people—loving, helping and inspiring people.

Let's quit this business of being missionary by proxy and dedicate ourselves to being missionary in person. Every person can find some missionary work to do nearby. Then he can pay and pray better for missions everywhere.

—The Wesleyan Methodist

Agrippa I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." (Acts 26:19). As we follow the life of this man from Damascus to Rome we see a trail of toil, sweat and blood, terminating in his execution on Nero's block. As we study the work he did we find a far flung Mission field with established churches and many outposts. Listen to his testimony as he bids farewell to this old world and is about to step across the threshold into the glory of eternity "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." (2 Tim. 4:6-8). I would rather be able to give that as my testimony than to have any, or all the treasures of this old, sin-sick world. To part from this world

(Continued on Page 8)