

Baptist Banner

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:4

VOLUME 14

GOODLETTSVILLE, TENN. 37072

SEPTEMBER, 1979

NUMBER 4

THE STORY OF TYNDALE

AND THE FIRST PRINTED ENGLISH
TRANSLATION OF OUR BIBLE
— 1525 A. D. —

Historic Facts Everybody Ought To
Know — Tyndale, An Ana-Baptist,
Was Hanged — His Body Burned —
For Translating The Bible Into English.

NEARLY 500 YEARS AGO

Nearly one hundred years before Columbus discovered America, there was a boy named John Gooseflesh, living in the old town of Mentz. His mother helped to make a living for the family by preparing parchment for the priests to write on. John liked very much to carve and cut with his knife. One day he was sitting beside the fire watching a pot of purple dye that his mother was heating and amusing himself by carving and cutting his name in wood. Suddenly one of the pieces of wood, with a letter cut on it, fell into the dye pot. He snatched at it, caught it, but dropped it again, this time onto a piece of parchment lying nearby. It fell upside down, and when he picked it up, there on the parchment, was the letter "h" clearly printed.

PRINTING INVENTED

Years went by. The boy of Mentz did not forget what happened that day by the fire in his old home. It had given him an idea that some way could be found to make books more easily than to copy them all out by hand as had always been done. So he cut little wooden blocks and dipped them in dye, setting them this way and that, making forms for them to be placed in and he finally had the first printing press the world had ever seen. You will find his name in every history ever written — John Gutenberg, it is in German.

NO ENGLISH BIBLE

That happened in 1454. That very same year, a great battle was fought in Constantinople between the Christians and the Turks and the Christians were driven out of the city, at that time the greatest city in the world, where most of the schools of learning were located. Greek scholars came to live in all parts of Europe. All at once these wise men became very much interested in the Greek New Testament and began to read it instead of the old Latin one they had always read. They made many people think about how wonderful it would be to have the Bible in the language of the people, so everyone could read it. With the new study of the language and the new printing press, things began to happen.

(Continued on Page 2)

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO CONVENE

The Bethel Missionary Baptist Association is to convene in its twenty-second annual session with Grace Missionary Baptist Church, South Lantern Rd., Fishers, Indiana on Friday night, September 14, at 7:00 P.M. The session will continue through Saturday and Sunday.

Officers elected last year were, Elder Calvin Perrigo, Moderator; Elder John A. Keen, Jr., Clerk and Elder Carlos Gammon, Treasurer.

The Introductory Sermon is to be preached on Friday night by Elder Billy Moran. Elder James Jones is to preach the Memorial Sermon on Saturday, and on Sunday the Doctrinal Sermon is to be preached by Elder Hugh Hudson.

HOMECOMING

There will be all-day Homecoming services at Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, 1044 Trinity Lane, Nashville, Tenn. on Sunday, September 23. Sunday School will be at 10 A.M. and preaching at 11 A.M. by Pastor Edgar Copeland. Lunch will be served at the noon hour and the afternoon will be given to singing. Everyone is invited to attend.

NOTE

This publication along with others has realized the high increase in Second-Class postage rates in recent years. Since 1971 the rate had increased 418%. On July 6 it increased another 22%, making a total of 440% increase in the past 8 years.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR ELDER ALFRED COOK

Elder Alfred Cook, age 80, of Lafayette passed away Monday afternoon, July 30, at Macon County General Hospital.

He was a native of Macon County, the son of the late James and Martha Ann Brooks Cook. He was a Baptist minister and a member of the Days Cross Roads Missionary Baptist Church.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning, July 31, at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Alexander Funeral Home, Lafayette, by Elder E. G. Williams. Interment was in the Hayesville Cemetery.

Survivors include one brother, Jesse Cook, Nashville; one half-brother, Gib Cook, Nashville.



Ottis L. Jones

COLORADO MISSIONARY BAPTIST MISSION



H. C. Vanderpool to be assisted by Elder H. C. Vanderpool. Services each night at 7:00 P.M. (M.D.T.) On Sunday the Sunday School will be at 10:00 A.M. and preaching at 11:00 A.M.

Elder Jones, his wife and two daughters recently moved on the field from Lafayette, Tenn. Bro. and Sister Jones are members of Lafayette Missionary Baptist Church, Lafayette, Tenn. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Lafayette church. He began his work with the Colorado Mission on July 1, 1979.

The Lord willing, Elder and Mrs. Vanderpool will be flying to Denver on Monday, Sept. 3, and returning the following week at the close of the revival.

Anyone having friends and relatives in the Denver area are invited to get in touch with them and ask them to come to the revival. Should you need to contact someone, call Mr. Luther Jent at (303) 377-5050. The editor may be reached at this number during his stay in Denver. Please pray for the revival and Bro. Jones and his family as they labor in this field. This is a way that YOU can help!

Of all that thou shalt give
me I will surely give the tenth
unto thee. Gen. 28:22

**Spiritual
Economy**

Sunday School Lesson

MISSIONS

WRITTEN BY

ELDER EUGENE BROWN

Lesson Text: Acts 8:26-39

26. And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.
27. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship.
28. Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.
29. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.
30. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?
31. And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me: And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.
32. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:
33. In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.
34. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?
35. Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.
36. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch

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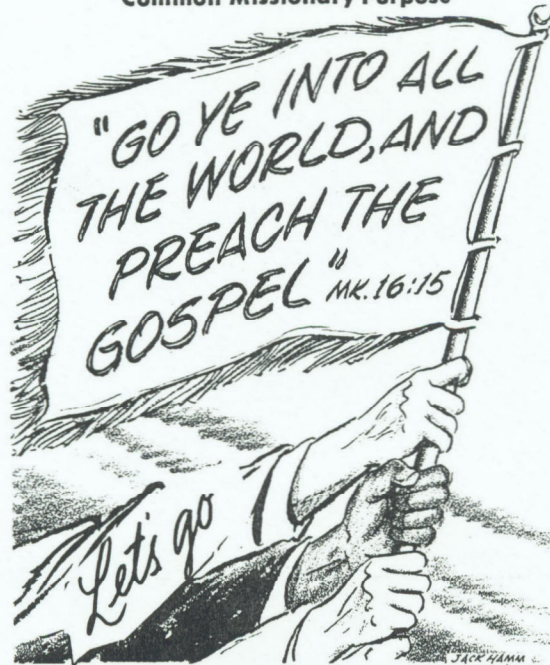
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Common Missionary Purpose



SUNDAY SCHOOL (Continued from Page 1)

said, See, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37. And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

38. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch: and he baptized him.

39. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

* * *

Memory Selection:

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. (Acts 8:35)

I. LED BY THE LORD

In this text we have the account of the conversion of an Ethiopian eunuch. It begins with Philip being directed by an angel to, "Arise, and go toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." (v.26) How unusual it must have seemed to Philip to be sent to a very remote area on a mission of God. We may also have been led by the Lord in an action which to us may seem hard to understand, but where the Lord will lead, he will have work. Philip obeyed, and came upon an Ethiopian man, who served the queen of his country in an important office. He was a religious man, for he was returning home from Jerusalem where he had been worshipping. He was reading the scriptures, so he was interested in learning about God. The scripture he was reading was Esaias' (Isaiah) writings of Jesus'. To many people today, he would seem to have needed little help, seeing he had the scripture to lead him to God. But the Spirit instructed Philip to go over to him. Philip ran to him, no doubt eager to tell him of the Lord. We too should be eager to help the lost. Philip wanted to know if he understood what he was reading. His answer shows us the need for the church, and the leadership of the Spirit. The eunuch said, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" (v.31) It is not enough to hand someone a bible, and tell them to read about the way to be saved. The bible is to be spiritually discerned. This makes it impossible for a lost man to read and understand the scriptures by himself. He cannot discern the teachings spiritually. Someone must guide the lost soul to God. This is the reason for the church that Jesus built being commissioned to work of guiding the lost to the church. This is why it is so important that you be willing to witness. If you don't instruct the lost in the way of salvation, who will help them?

The spirit led Philip to go to the eunuch and teach him. How could Philip have known about the eunuch if the Spirit had not led him? The work of the church, and the individual Christian must be directed by the Spirit in order to bring about the most good. This should serve as an example to us. As the Spirit led Philip to the eunuch, we should seek to be led to the lost who live around us.

II. PREACHING CHRIST

Philip began his sermon at the very text that the eunuch had been reading. The eunuch was having trouble understanding
(Continued on Page 4)

EDITORIAL

By
H. C. Vanderpool
THE CHURCH'S MISSION

In Matthew 28:19-20, the New Testament Church received its marching orders from its head and founder, Jesus Christ. It was commissioned to evangelize all nations. Those saved through the preaching of the gospel were to be baptized into the fellowship of the church, by the authority of the church and then were to be taught to observe all things which Jesus had taught. This writer believes there is one true church, which has stood the storms of the past two thousand years and will be recognized as the Bride of Christ at the marriage supper of the Lamb, Rev. 19:7-9.

However, there have been millions saved down through the centuries that for some reason or another, were either by choice or some other reason, never scripturally baptized and never knew the fellowship of a true church. Yet, while missing rewards for not following Christ according to the command of the commission, they will live eternally with God in glory instead of burning in an eternal hell!

We read in the Bible how the preachers went throughout many countries preaching the gospel of the Son of God. Many were brought together into New Testament churches and continued the Lord's work from generation to generation. But no doubt, thousands for some reason failed to become members of the true church. If I had my way, I'd be happy to see every saved person throughout the world scripturally baptized into the true church and faithfully labor in the church and be blessed with being in the Bride of Christ. Has that ever happened at any one time in history? No! Will it ever happen in this world at any one time? No!

We the true churches and preachers have an obligation to preach the gospel to every person in the world that we can possibly reach. This means from our pulpits, on radio broadcasts, on TV programs and any
(Continued on Page 3)

TYNDALE
(Continued from Page 1)
WILLIAM TYNDALE

It began first in an old school in England where a young man named William Tyndale was studying. He was a good Greek scholar and had read the New Testament in the very language in which it was written. It had come to mean so much to him that he wanted it to mean something to all the people around him.

One day some students were talking about all this new interest in the Bible, and one man said very positively: "The Bible is not necessary. It is all foolishness to talk about translating it into English for the people to read. All they need is the word of the pope. We had better be without God's laws than the pope's laws!"

William Tyndale rose from his chair, and striking his clenched fist on the table shouted, "I defy the pope and all his laws; and, if God spares me, I will one day make the boy that drives the plow in England to know more of the Scriptures than the pope does!"

NOT AN IDLE BOAST

It was not an idle boast. William Tyndale went right to work to make an English Bible that all the people could read. A rich merchant, Humphrey Monmouth, gave him his home to work in and day and night he worked, hoping some publisher would print it when he had it ready.

POPE - VERY POWERFUL

But Tyndale had forgotten that the pope was very powerful. A Bible in the English language was just what the pope did not want. Presently all the authorities of England turned against him and soon, even his friend Monmouth dared not help him. Tyndale sadly said, "In England there is no room for attempting the translation of the Scriptures."

Did he quit? No, William Tyndale was no quitter. He just left England and went to live in Hamburg, Germany. Here he could never be sure his life was safe, for the English Catholic bishops and priests were so angry with him for going on with his work

that they hired spies to hinder him, to keep him from making friends and to prevent his ever getting his Bible printed.

There was a printing press at Cologne. So over there he went and found printers ready to go to work on his first English Bible. He tried to keep his work a secret for he knew the English Catholic bishops would arrest him, if they knew the book was nearly done.

One day a warning came to him to flee for his life. A Catholic priest had found out from a drunken printer that his English Bible was nearly off the press, and had come to arrest him. He snatched his precious sheets of paper, and fled from the town, going to Worms, where Martin Luther lived.

PRINTED IN GERMANY

There the first English Bible was printed, two sizes being made, one large and one small, for he thought if the English Catholic bishops found the large ones, he might be able to hide the smaller ones.

Now they must be gotten to England. In barrels all covered with cloth and articles for sale, in bales that looked like cloth, in sacks of flour, in every way that could be found to hide them, they were sent across to England.

Did they get across? They did, in large numbers, and the Catholic bishops found out they were being sold. Every seaport was carefully watched, and many a package of Bibles was found by the officers and burned. But more Bibles came. They could not stop them, and some of them would always get to people who wanted to read them.

ENEMIES HELP

Finally the Catholic bishop of London had a bright idea! He decided he would buy all the copies that were printed, through a merchant in Germany! Then there would be no more Bibles to come across the water. He did not know that the merchant he asked to do this was a friend of Tyndale.

This friend thought he saw a way to help Tyndale. He knew that right at that time Tyndale needed money more than anything else, to pay his printers for the work they

(Continued on Page 3)

TYNDALE

(Continued from Page 2)

had done, and start a new printing of the Bibles. So he said, "My lord, I will be glad to attend to this matter. But it will take money to do it, for the men who have these books in Germany hold them at a high price."

"My dear Sir," said the bishop, "do your best to get them for me, all of them, for they are very bad books. I will gladly pay you whatever they cost, for I intend to burn them all and end this matter."

MONEY SUPPLIES

What fun it was to the merchant! He went to Tyndale, bought his books at a good price and brought them over to England, while Tyndale went right to work on a new printing, for he now had plenty of money. The poor Catholic bishop thought when he burned all these Bibles, there would never be another English Bible! Imagine how he felt when he learned that more Bibles than ever before were coming into England. So many came that the officers simply could not stop them.

"How can this be?" a man who had been arrested for helping Tyndale, was asked.

"I will tell you truly, my lord," the man replied, "Tis yourself that gave us the money to print the Bibles!"

That's a good one. Wasn't he mad, though?

TYNDALE, AN ANA-BAPTIST, IS HANGED AND BURNED — FOR TRANSLATING THE WORD OF GOD!

He was so mad that he stirred up all England against Tyndale. All the great Catholic preachers began to preach about it, most of them thinking it would do a great deal of harm to have the Bible in the language of the people, a few very brave and wise men saying it would be much better for England. At last Tyndale won, for the Bible was everywhere. One old bishop said sadly, "It passeth my power, or that of any man, to hinder it now!"

So the Bible came to England, and from England to all the world. But the man who gave it to the world never knew what a glorious victory he had won. Away in a little German town, afraid to walk in the street for fear some spy of the English Catholic bishops, or the pope of Rome should see him, working night and day that everybody might have the Bible, he longed for his home in England. He loved England better than his life. His enemies sent men to make him believe they were his friends, and persuade him to come home. But he knew what they wanted. He knew, once in England, they would arrest and kill him.

TYNDALE'S JUDAS

Not all his enemies were in England, however. There was a man named Phillips, whom he believed to be loyal and true. But Phillips was a spy sent by the pope to trap Tyndale. One night as Tyndale walked out from his home to enjoy the evening air, a band of men set upon him, bound him, and carried him away to a dark prison.

A MARTYR

There was no trial. They knew they were going to kill him. He knew it, too. Gladly he laid down his life, for he had done the work he had set himself to do. The Bible was in England, in the language all the people could read. One day they led him out to a stake. They hanged him and then burned his body. He asked them if he might send a message to England and they told him no.

Then he closed his eyes and prayed earnestly, "Lord, open the king of England's eyes."

Brave William Tyndale! No man ever gave more than he! The Bible we read he made possible for us, for from that first translation, all the translations since have been made.

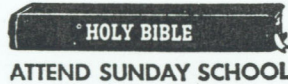
I never think of him without thinking of Jesus' words about Himself, "He laid down His life for His sheep." Surely William Tyndale followed the footsteps of Jesus.

—From Ashland Avenue Baptist

History Republished

Several years ago I found an original copy of "The Annual Register of The Baptist Denomination in North America," by John Asplund, 1791. We have had it republished. While I paid \$35.00 for the copy, the valuable volume is now offered to you for \$10.00 per copy, including handling and mailing. It has been received from the press.

All copies that were ordered in recent weeks have been mailed. The response was excellent!! There is a LIMITED NUMBER! Order from: Elder H. C. Vanderpool, 104 Hasty Dr., Goodlettsville, TN 37072. For a called in order, call: (615) 859-5780.



TRACTS

By H. C. Vanderpool

Tract Number	Subjects
Number 101	— Catechism
Number 102	— Was The Church in Existence Before Pentecost? The Christian Path. Communist Rules For Revolution.
Number 103	— Search The Scriptures.
Number 104	— The Disease of Sin. Sinner—You Are Invited.
Number 105	— Treasures.
Number 106	— Let's leave Something Behind.
Number 107	— What Is Life?
Number 108	— How Should We Dress?
Number 109	— Scriptures and Headlines Coincide.
Number 110	— World Mission of The Church. Where Art Thou?
Number 111	— Who Are The Foolish?
Number 112	— The Love of Money.
Number 113	— Ministerial Education.
Number 114	— The Hope Within Us. The Bible and Our Children.
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The Minister's Ulcers

Nearly every business man complains of at least one ulcer. We could not help thinking how many ulcers the poor business man would have if he worked under the same circumstances as the average minister.

Just suppose, Mr. Business Man, that you were overseer of 100 workers. Suppose only 50 percent of them ever showed up at work at a given time, and only 25 percent could be really relied on.

Suppose every time one of your workers had a slight headache, or company dropped in, or a flash of lightning appeared in the sky, large numbers of your workers pulled the covers over their heads and failed to appear for duty.

THE CHURCH'S MISSION
 (Continued from Page 2)

other way that we can reach them. Certainly; there may be thousands to which we can reach by radio and TV who may never become members of the local church after being saved. But to speak against such mission doors which God has opened to true Missionary Baptist churches and leave the impression that it is better to let thousands die and go to hell than it is to be saved just because they may never become members of the local church, is contrary to true Baptist teachings through the centuries.

I do not believe it "feeds the growth of the Universal, Invisible Church," because the Bible doesn't teach there is such a church, and true, sound, Bible-believing Baptists have never believed and taught such doctrine! So, how could you feed something and make it grow, if it didn't exist in the first place?

Again, let me thank God and our many ministers and Missionary Baptist Churches who are cooperating in prayer, work, money, writing, broadcasting and televising the gospel of Christ to a lost world. Support

your local church. Support your church's radio broadcasts, support the Old Fashion Gospel Hour Television services. God has opened these doors to us, let's take the advantage of them.

I agree there is a lot of so-called religious broadcasting and television programs that are trash and rotten. But, we can take the advantage of the same means to PREACH THE TRUTH! Are we going to stop using our Bible just because someone else misuses it? No! Every person on this earth that can be reached through the gospel, saved and brought into the local church, should be. I'm for it. But those who may never do so, it will be better for them to be in heaven than in hell for all eternity! They will be in company of the poor thief who was saved on the cross!

Treasures

By H. C. Vanderpool

TEXT: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matt. 6:21.

From the study of God's word and from the experience of life, we know there are worldly treasures and also heavenly treasures. The scriptures teach us that world treasures will decay and slip from our grasp, leaving one empty handed; or the one possessing them will move out of this world into eternity, leaving them behind. See Luke 12:20-21.

In contrast to the insecurity of the above mentioned treasures, we turn our thoughts to the heavenly treasures. Jesus spoke the following words in Matt. 6:19-21: Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

God wants people to have the things in life that are needed. He created them for us, but not to take all our attention and interest to the extent that we would overlook the real treasures which come to us through His Son that died to save our souls from eternal night. I would like to pass on to the readers the following information that I received some time ago.

In 1923, a very important meeting was held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Attending this meeting were nine of the world's most successful financiers. Those present were: the president of the largest independent steel company; the president of the largest utility company; the president of the largest gas company; the greatest wheat speculator; the president of the New York Stock Exchange; a member of the president's cabinet; the greatest "bear" in Wall Street; Head of the world's greatest monopoly; president of the Bank of International Settlements.

Certainly we must admit that here were gathered a group of the world's most successful men. At least men who had found the secret of making money.

Twenty-five years later let's see where these men are:

The president of the largest independent steel company—Charles Schwab—died a bankrupt and lived on borrowed money for five years before his death.

The president of the greatest utility company—Samuel Insull—died a fugitive from justice and penniless in a foreign land.

The president of the largest gas company—Howard Hopson—was insane.

The greatest wheat speculator—Arthur Cutton—died abroad, insolvent.

The president of the New York Stock Exchange—Richard Whitney—was released from Sing Sing Penitentiary.

The member of the president's cabinet—Albert Fall—was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.

The greatest "bear" in Wall Street—Jesse Livermore—died a suicide.

The head of the greatest monopoly—Ivan Krueger—died a suicide.

The president of the Bank of International Settlement—Leon Fraser—died a suicide.

All of these men learned well the art of making money, but not one of them learned how to live. Read Luke 12:16-21.

Prayer Changes Things

Baptist History



By
H. C. Vanderpool

PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION HELD AT NEW YORK October 2, 3, 4, 5, 1787

"The first church in New York queried: Whether a person applying to one of our churches for admission as a member, and satisfies the church that he has been previously baptized by immersion, on a profession of his faith in Christ; but at the same time confesses, the person who administered the ordinance was, at the time, **neither** ordained to the work of the ministry, nor baptized himself by immersion, but only chosen and called by a religious society to officiate as the teacher or minister, should be received.

"Resolved, That the above query be held over on consideration till next Association, and that our brethren Holmes, Ferris, S. Jones, D. Jones, or any of the brethren, who choose to engage in it, be requested to deliver their thoughts in writing, upon the subject at the next Association."

PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION HELD AT

PHILADELPHIA October 7, 8, 9, 1788

"In answer to a query from the first church in New York, of last year, held over to this time, respecting the validity of baptism, administered by a person who had never been baptized himself, nor yet ordained; we reply, that we deem such baptism null and void:

"First, Because a person that has not been baptized must be disqualified to administer baptism to others, and especially if he be also unordained.

"Second, Because to admit such baptism as valid, would make void the ordinances of Christ, throw contempt on his authority, and tend to confusion: for if baptism be not necessary for an administrator of it, neither can it be for church communion, which is an inferior act: and if such baptism be valid, then ordination is unnecessary, contrary to Acts 14:23; I Tim. 4:14; Titus 1:5, and our Confession of faith, Chapter 27.

"Third, Of this opinion we find were our Associations in times past; who put a negative on such baptisms in 1729, 1732, 1744, 1749 and 1768.

"Fourth, Because such administrator has no commission to baptize, for the words of the commission were addressed to the apostles, and their successors in the ministry, to the end of the world, and these are such, whom the church of Christ appoint to the whole work of the ministry." (Minutes of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, pp. 229, 236)



JERICHO

BY

Sami Awwad

Jericho lies in the Jordan valley, which is a great rift in the earth's crust, extending from Mount Hermon in the north to the gulf of Aqaba in the south, a distance of 280 miles. This rift continues through Kenya and Tanganyika to Mozambique. The lowest part of the depression is the region of the Dead Sea which is 1,300 feet below sea level, the lowest spot on earth. In the course of 25 miles, the land from Jerusalem (2,500 feet above sea level) falls 4,000 feet into the hot, sub-tropical world of the Jordan valley. The journey can lead to indisposition and temporary lack of hearing in view of the great difference in air pressure. Jericho, with its gardens, looks like a green carpet in the centre of that brown, sun-baked desert of the Jordan valley. Since very remote times, Jericho has been known for the richness of its well watered soil, its oranges, bananas and dates. In ancient times it was called the city of Palms. While in summer Jericho is very hot and airless, in winter and spring it has a wonderful climate with the odour of many different kinds of flowers.

It is considered the oldest city in the world to have been discovered so far. This stems from the result of archaeological excavations carried out in this century, mainly in 1952-56 by Miss Kathleen Kenyon. In the long course of time, the ruins of the towns which succeeded one another, have built up in Jericho a "tell" or mound which is about 80 feet high and covers approximately ten acres. Dr. Sellin, an Austrian, was the first to start digging the tell of Jericho, known as Tell-el-Sultan, in 1908. In 1936, Garstang, of the British School of Archaeology, continued the works begun by Dr. Sellin and this was further continued by Miss Kathleen Kenyon in 1952-56. The result of the final excavations was the discovery of the earliest stratified levels ever found in any part of the world.

It was the first city taken by the tribes of Israel after they crossed the river Jordan (Joshua 6). Joshua, after destroying and burning Jericho, cursed the man who should ever rebuild it. "And Joshua adjured them at that time saying 'Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city wall; on his eldest son he shall lay its foundations, on his youngest set up its gates.'" (Joshua 6:26). A few generations later, Jericho was rebuilt by Hiel the Bethelite, who was stricken with the curse of Joshua (I Kings 16:34). The prophet Elisha, at the urgent demands of the inhabitants, sweetened the water of one of its springs by casting into it a handful of salt (II Kings 2:19). This spring, which is the source of life of Jericho's green oasis, is located across the road from the ancient Jericho, and it carries the name of the prophet — Elisha's fountain. Jesus must have stopped in Jericho many times, certainly when he came to Jerusalem for the Passover, as Jericho was the meeting place for Jews coming from Galilee to Jerusalem at that time of the year. It was certainly in Jericho that Christ said to his disciples, "Now we are going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the chief priests and scribes; they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the pagans to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and on the third day He will rise again." (Matthew 20:17-19). In Jericho, Christ cured a blind man (Luke 18:35-42) and it was here that the publican Zacheus, who was of short stature climbed a sycamore tree so that he could see Christ, "Zacheus make haste and come down, for this day I must abide in thy house." (Luke 19).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Continued from Page 2)

whether Isaiah had written about himself, or some other man. Philip taught him about Jesus, and let him know that he was the one who was "led as a sheep to the slaughter." (v. 32) When Jesus died on the cross, he gave up his life that we all might be saved. He did this without putting up a fight to save himself. He was much like a sheep, which puts up no fight, being led to the slaughter. This is all that we are given in regards to Philip's sermon. There was in all likelihood, much more than this, but if not, a good explanation of this text was all that was needed. For in this we find Christ, and him crucified.

Notice that it doesn't take a long, profound sermon to teach someone about the Lord. Very often people make the scriptures too hard for anyone to understand. In truth some people have been confused about the plan of salvation because it is so simple. Some think that a work of some kind must be done, because repentance and faith are not enough to satisfy God. It must be harder to be saved than that, they think. They make the mistake of trying to include the works of man in salvation. This can not be, for salvation is a work of God.

We who have been saved know that when the Spirit convicted us of our sins, and drew us to God, we needed only to surrender through repentance, and trust in the Lord for forgiveness, to be saved. This makes salvation depend upon the work that Jesus did rather than the works we might do. Philip preached this to the eunuch. It was Christ, and what he did which was important to the eunuch.

This makes us realize that anyone who has been saved can tell others about what Jesus did for them. We can point souls to God just as Philip did. Telling others about Christ is the duty of every Christian. Through the preaching of the gospel, souls can find the way to God, and eternal life.

III. BAPTIZED UPON BELIEF

We come now to the request of the eunuch to be baptized. Apparently Philip had said something about baptism to this man, for upon coming to some water the eunuch said, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" (v. 36) Philip had not demanded it, but the eunuch did desire it. Some people teach that we must be baptized in order to be saved. If this were true, would you not think that Philip would have told him so? There was a requirement that had to be met before baptism. Philip answered the eunuch's request for baptism by saying, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." (v. 37) Baptism is for the believer, not for the lost sinner. It is the act which tells the world that we believe in Jesus, and that as he died, and was buried and was resurrected, we one day shall come forth from the grave also.

The eunuch told Philip, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (v. 37) His faith was in Jesus, the true Messiah. He believed Jesus was his Saviour. In Romans 10:10 we read, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." This is what the eunuch did. He believed unto righteousness, or believed unto salvation. Then he made a confession of the salvation which he had already received.

The eunuch was baptized, and Philip went his way. Philip could be thankful that God had used him to reach a lost soul. The eunuch's life had been changed, as he was now on his way to heaven, and knew God as his Saviour.

