



NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD

The Pentecostal Evangel

THY TESTIMONIES ALSO ARE MY DELIGHT AND MY COUNSELLORS



Published weekly by The Gospel
Publishing House, Springfield, Mo.

SPRINGFIELD, MO., JUNE 9, 1945
NUMBER 1622

\$1.00 a year in U.S.A. Single
copy 2 cents. Printed in U.S.A.

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME

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"Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

The National Children's Home had its beginning in the heart of a child. From the age of thirteen I have had a definite longing to have a home for orphaned and neglected children. On through grade and high school I held fast to the idea in spite of the discouragement of loved ones and friends who laughed at my "imagination."

Entering college at seventeen, I worked my way through those busy years. Two years of this time were spent in teaching kindergarten folk. In spite of the heavy schedule, Bible study and devotions came first, then preparation of lessons. Many times I was awakened at three in the morning with heavenly music and Scriptures ringing in my soul; these became the happiest hours of my life. It was then that I gladly surrendered my all to the Lord and dedicated my life as a missionary to China.

Now my prayers and plans were centered on China. As I looked forward to the day when I should leave, I made preparation to teach our American missionaries' children, to care for little Chinese children, and to carry the gospel to the dying millions of China.

Receiving a telegram from the Foreign Missions Department in November of 1941, I made a quick trip to Springfield. The

way seemed to be opening! There was a possibility of my leaving for China in April or May. Then, just two weeks later came the Pearl Harbor disaster. Soon all passports were called in and missionaries were not permitted to enter that land.

Shortly after this, great opportunities in the schoolteaching career opened up, also government positions which paid good salaries but I could not feel free to sign a contract. I was placed where I had to know the perfect will of God. So many times while waiting before Him, "Occupy till I come" was brought forcibly to me. I was made to recognize that my burden for homeless children could be worked out here in our own land. At this time, several years of teaching in public schools, D.V.B.S.'s. etc. formed a practical background for such an undertaking.

I went to National Youth Conference in June of 1942 for one purpose—to know God's will for me. Having utmost confidence in Mother Flower, I consulted her and she brought the request before

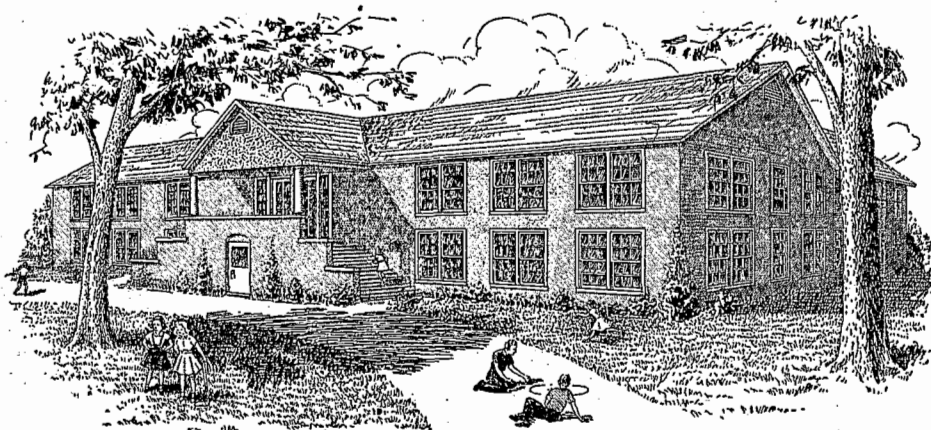
the noon prayer group. The youth of our Assemblies took the burden—and God wonderfully answered their prayers! I never shall forget the consecration of that hour: "Lord, \$75 a week or 75c; I want to do what you would have me do."

Now I *know* His will. How wonderful when we know God's will. It is then we can pray with full confidence and expect Him to answer. The way was plain now but there were the "many adversaries," as there always are when we set out to do something for God. The many difficulties and seeming impossibilities were met by believing prayer, for "All things are possible to him that believeth." I thank God He can keep our purpose strong and our faith high.

I now felt it was His time to lay the plans before the Brethren at Headquarters for I wanted this Home to be in the Council. The same afternoon God answered prayer at Youth Conference, I visited Brother Williams and was encouraged to go ahead and see how God would lead.

I started by visiting the State Board of Child Welfare in Arkansas only to be informed that there was no possibility of having such a home in the State. Prayer in this case prevailed, and in a visit the following year I was offered a little encouragement. Continuing to visit the Board I was finally rewarded by their full consent to

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New unit of Home to be erected as funds are available.

other world. We only see through a glass darkly. Why? Because if we saw clearly, we should be so taken up with the glories of the other world that it would unfit us for this side.

Paul wrote, "I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1 Cor. 15:10. Jesus said, "The Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works." John 14:10. And the Apostle says to us, "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Phil. 2:13. Get recharged, re-enforced, re-equipped. God will provide all that is necessary, for all the work, for all the time, for all the circumstances that may arise, so that a man of God may be "thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:17.

Christ said, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62. He bade us, "Remember Lot's wife." Luke 17:32. She left the scene of destruction in Sodom and went away from it. Her feet went one way, but her heart went the other. The dog turns back again to his own vomit! And men prefer "vomit" to the glories of the kingdom; and so they turn back, and then they are not fit for the kingdom. Can you say, "But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul"? Heb. 10:39.

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institute, a children's home. Today they are working in harmony with us.

In 1943 I again visited Headquarters and was given a letter of recommendation to use in promoting interest in the different assemblies. Ahead lay traveling by faith for I had no finances with which to buy railroad tickets, etc. As I faced the future, I laid my purse with its content of 10c before God and thanked Him by faith for necessary expenses and for funds to purchase the National Children's Home.

During the year I made several trips by faith. When it was necessary to make another business trip to Springfield I had sufficient money for only a one-way ticket. No one there knew I didn't have the money to get back home, but the way was provided for my return. When God led to make a trip to St. Louis, I again had enough for only a one-way ticket although no one knew it but God. Return fare was given me a dollar at a time and when I arrived home I had sufficient to buy my supper. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him."

In March of 1944, at a special called Executive meeting at Springfield, the first recommendations were made for a National Children's Home. For several months thereafter, I made regular trips among the Assemblies in behalf of the Home.

"Faith is the substance—the evidence." The confidence that God would reveal His will in the choice of the property for the National

Children's Home was a comfort; it was substance, evidence. In May, 1944, He directed me to Hot Springs. A meeting of the board members to decide on a location was scheduled for June 6th, and the day before this 3:30 in the afternoon, the Lord directed me to the beautiful site where we are now located. And the board was unanimous in its decision.

Our opening day was September 22, 1944, when three children entered the Home. A tragic story surrounds these three fine boys, ages two three and five. The father is in the penitentiary having murdered the mother.



Within three weeks our little family had increased to five, a three-month-old baby girl and her fifteen-month-old brother having come to join us. Two weeks later, four sisters and one brother from California were brought to us; a two-year-old girl, four five-year-old girls, a six-year-old boy, and an eight-year-old girl. Then, on December 5, our family was brought to present capacity by the addition of seven children of the same family: three-year-old twin boys, four-year-old boy, six-year-old boy, eight-year-old twin boys, and a ten-year-old girl. The mother of this family is dead and the father is serving overseas in the Army. So the present total of our children is 17.

We are having to continually turn down requests for entries since we have reached our present capacity. Every effort is being made to increase floor space so as not to disappoint those who would send children to us. God has given us a vision of hundreds and thousands of neglected children, of those from broken homes, of the orphans and those who will yet be orphaned by the war. "Without a vision, the people perish"—without a vision for children, they are neglected. We want to do our best to make a Christian home here for these unfortunate little ones.

The twin brick building adjoining the present property has been bought by the Oklahoma District and will be called the "Oklahoma unit." This District is to be congratulated on their quick response to the great need. Other Districts have similar plans and the buildings they add will bear their names. Since it is a National Home it is hoped that most of our Districts will be represented as the work progresses. Some District should be prepared to build an entire unit. But others may wish to finance one or more rooms of the 32-room unit on which construction is to begin as soon as final plans can be made. The estimated cost of a single room is \$500.00. Possibly some Assemblies or District C. A.'s will wish to finance

a room. A name plate bearing the donor's name will be used on the door of each room financed in this way.

One Christmas has been spent in the Home. You would have rejoiced with us in the scene around the big fireplace Christmas Eve as our children opened their presents. They had received the very things for which they had prayed! Toys, clothing, and food had been provided in abundance by those in various parts of the nation who love the cause of little children. We wish to thank through the *Evangel* all who have had a part in this good work. Surely the Lord will be gracious unto you, for "with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

We apologize for not being more prompt in acknowledging some lovely contributions because of lack of help. Several workers are needed at this time, including a maintenance man and his wife, a cook, a secretary, and house mothers. The Home at this stage is essentially a missionary project with more than ordinary sacrifices to be made, and before workers plan to come we urge that they feel as definite a call as to a mission field. In other words, they should know this is where God wants them and that they will be happiest here "helping those who can't help themselves."

Also, we urge those who send packages to be sure to write a good plain return address, so proper acknowledgment can be made. Several packages have been received on which we could find no return address. They therefore could not be acknowledged. The best way is to send a letter at the time the package is sent, either fastened to the package itself or sent separately.

Some Sunday School class, Assembly, or Christ's Ambassador group may wish to take the support of one or more children. The support of a child runs around \$5.00 per week. This would indeed be a worthy project and one in which God would be pleased. The Women's Missionary Council of one Assembly is already "mothering" one child in this manner. Others are planning to do so. We should be glad to answer any inquiries concerning such a ministry.

To bring our story up to date, we must mention the recent outpouring. Unexpectedly, in the midst of a little Saturday "duty" of washing bathroom walls, one six-year-old boy told a worker he wanted to be saved. He was taken immediately to prayer and the older children called in. He was sweetly saved, and four others with him including our eight-year-old twin boys. Our ten-year-old girl, Betty Jo, was filled with the precious Holy Spirit. We continued before the Lord for two hours. A few days later a little boy and girl were saved at evening devotions. No pressure is placed upon the children. This is simply a work of the Spirit when He causes them to speak up and step out for Jesus.

So it will be a joy to "Occupy till He comes" here at the National Children's Home—should it be His will. But someday China's door will again open to the gospel, should Jesus tarry, and if He leads I will take up my call to this needy land.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unstained from the world." James 1:27.