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Two New Churches! —Hundreds Baptized!

*Our greatest NEED is being fulfilled! More churches are starting.
And many more ministerial candidates are gaining EXPERIENCE.*

by Roderick C. Meredith

JOYOUS news comes of the first Sabbath services in *two new churches!*

On the Sabbath, July 8, the first services were held in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, for God's people. In both cases, attendance was even beyond expectations! There were 180 in attendance at Little Rock, and a surprising 182 people attended in Memphis.

The Details

Mr. Wayne Cole, assisted by Mr. Ronald Dart, has done the preparatory work of writing and counseling with many members in both areas before starting these local churches. Mr. Cole has had considerable experience in founding new churches and is one of the ablest ministers in God's Church today. Mr. Dart is a dedicated and thoroughly trained graduate of Ambassador College—a man we should all be hearing a great deal from in the future.

With these new churches, we are beginning to be able to reach members in the southeastern part of the United States. We hope to have local churches established even further in this direction in the near future.

Mr. Cole writes: "We had a very fine meeting in Little Rock with the attendance given above. The people of course drove from lengthy distances to be here

for the first meeting of this new church. We anticipate having from 125 to 150 in the church regularly from the start, however. As would be expected, we had many different walks of life represented. Most of these people in this church, however, are rural people.

"It is always a thrill to me to see the expressions on the faces during the first meeting of a church. This makes seven churches I have started or have been present at the start of and it is just as much a thrill today to see the enthusiasm and zeal at the start as it was during the first such new church.

"As we get into the visiting we are no doubt going to have problems arise which must be handled, but for those people who are striving to overcome themselves handling their problems is a welcomed experience.

"We also had a very fine meeting here in Memphis. There were considerably more people here than we expected. There were members here from Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee. Many came from distances exceeding 300 miles! This of course means that our regular attendance is not going to be anywhere near the figure given above. I anticipate this church will be some smaller than the one in Little Rock for the first few months, however,

I believe it will outgrow the Little Rock church.

"At this first meeting the two churches were surprisingly near the same number in attendance. We took a count by having each family represented fill out a card giving the number of adults and the number of children present. These cards also helped us in verifying addresses and getting telephone numbers.

"Everyone in this church was overjoyed at the beginning of the church, and from the first observation we have some fine stable members which should provide foundation for a growing church here."

Let us REJOICE and give God thanks, brethren, that additional *hundreds* of our brethren can have the blessing and privilege of attending a local church each Sabbath. Think how many of our scattered members would welcome and cherish this same opportunity!

Another Church in Australia

As this article goes to press, we are informed that Mr. Tony Hammer—son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hammer of Glade-water, Texas—is starting a new church at Melbourne, Australia this Sabbath, July 15. This should be a source of much *encouragement* for our Australian brethren. We should pray that the Eternal God

will *bless* and *guide* these new churches in Australia from their inception.

You may remember from this column in the June issue that we have sent Mr. and Mrs. Frank Simpkins—Ambassador College graduate and Ambassador coed-wife—down to Australia to help Mr. Waterhouse in the Sydney office and church. This has released Mr. and Mrs. Tony Hammer for the important task of raising up the new church in Melbourne. At the rate the work in Australia is growing, you can see that Almighty God must have a special interest in *speeding up* things in the continent "down under." Remember Mr. Ted Armstrong's article in THE PLAIN TRUTH some two years ago when he warned that Australia may be the first Israelitish country to go into Gentile slavery! Now that the communists have a real foothold in Laos, they are moving on to South Vietnam—then Malaya—then Singapore—Indonesia—then AUSTRALIA!

So remember to PRAY for your brethren in this land. And ask God to *call* and *inspire* those who yield to *grow* in grace and knowledge—and to *watch* and *pray*—that they may be accounted worthy to ESCAPE the tribulation which seems destined to come upon them even sooner than upon those of us here in America and Britain.

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, *redeeming the time*, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16).

Baptizing Tours Cover the U. S. and Canada

As we had reported to you, *seven* full baptizing tours are planned for this summer—with other shorter tours here in America and around the world. These tours are visiting ONLY those people who have heard the The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast, read The PLAIN TRUTH, and have written *requesting* that a tour meet with them to discuss baptism. Over 2,000 requests have come in so far, and the tours are just getting well started in reaching these many people in scattered areas.

Mr. Frank McCrady and Mr. Sherwin McMichael—covering the central part of the United States—have so far baptized about 61 out of 134 met. They write: "Our tour is progressing very well and God certainly is blessing us in every way. The people in this area are hearing the program as many as three times a day over WWVA, WCKY and WLAC—getting pretty good reception. Some of these towns look like ghost towns, with people leaving because of unemployment. People are living from hand to mouth in dirty, dilapidated buildings because of wrong living."

Mr. Hal Baird and Mr. Bill Winner—

touring through the southern states—have so far baptized about 46 out of 91 met. They write: "One thing we note here in the South is the lack of education. Out of four people we met today, two had no formal education, one fifth grade and one seventh. This lack of education makes it very hard in some cases to know whether a person is ready for baptism or not. We are thankful for the prayers of everyone in the Pasadena area."

Mr. Carl McNair and Mr. Eugene Walter—covering the northern states and Canada—have baptized 69 out of 120 met. They write: "Most of Saskatchewan is suffering from severe drought and many of our people are suffering. One man whom we baptized had 480 acres of hay burned off by an irresponsible neighbor—around three or four thousand dollars worth of hay at the current price. That is probably their profit for the entire year. One man told us, 'What the drought don't get, them grasshoppers do!'"

After relating these reports, it is good to mention to you brethren—as you may have noticed—that our men do NOT baptize just anyone who asks for it. The ratio of those baptized to those met is usually about 50%. This is because most people either do not really *understand* what real repentance and conversion is all about, or else they are not simply ready or willing to REPENT totally and completely of their sins and give themselves in UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER to Jesus Christ as their Saviour AND as their Lord and Master.

So when we mention that altogether a few *hundred* people have been baptized this summer, you should realize that these people have come to a place of total SURRENDER to their God and Maker! These are not just people "joining a church" or "hitting the sawdust trail" or having some sort of temporary emotional experience. These are people who have gone through the most terrific CHANGE in their lives which it is possible for a human being to experience. They have had to surrender the *self will*—to literally GIVE themselves to God—and to begin literally LIVING by every Word of God. They are *your* baptized, converted BRETHREN!

Special Tour

Reporting on his special tour to visit most of the Negro brethren writing in for baptism. Mr. Harold Jackson, accompanied by his wife, reports that he has so far baptized 6 out of 16 met. He states: "Weather is cooling somewhat and so is the racial situation. We have experiences, however. We cannot talk to a group in a public park or along side the roadside. There must be a place of seclusion or you are 'fomenting trouble' that will not be

tolerated. Being a man of color also has its advantages. You are not expected to know anything, so when questions are asked [in a polite manner of course] people are glad to 'inform you suh.' We are enjoying the fellowship with those who hunger and thirst to see someone of like mind. Tears of joy flow their faces as they meet you with open arms—too full of emotion to speak, and often times walking away a few steps to regain their composure. While this is a pioneering trip, no vacation will ever be as rewarding or refreshing."

Brethren, after reading this report, perhaps all of you will join with us here in Pasadena in PRAYING for Mr. and Mrs. Jackson on their tour. Ask God to *bless* and *protect* them in the many trying situations they find themselves because of the current racial strife in the South.

And now to report on the short tour your author took with Mr. Dibar Apartian—voice of The WORLD TOMORROW in the French language. We baptized 13 out of 31 met. The report we turned in is as follows: "Taking the traditionally weak areas in Northern California and Southern Oregon, we encountered many who were 'almost persuaded' but not completely ready for baptism. Only 16 out of those we met have living mates, and of these 11 had a divorce and remarriage problem! The tour was highlighted by visits to the Eugene, Sacramento, and Fresno churches. With 30 to 40 members of the Salem church coming down, Eugene still had a record number in local attendance with a crowd of about 250 altogether at the Eugene services! Remembering the difficulties of the past, it was certainly inspiring to be able to meet and preach to such a large and enthusiastic congregation at the 'mother' church in Eugene. Mr. Apartian gave an inspiring and helpful sermonette there about the French work and our spiritual growth—as he also did later at the Sacramento and Fresno churches."

And I would like to add right here that Mr. Raymond Cole and the men assisting him in the area have done a fine job—with God's help and blessing—in rebuilding the Eugene church back up bigger than ever! Reading in Mr. Armstrong's Autobiography about the trials and tests he and Mrs. Armstrong went through in the Eugene area we can more deeply appreciate the fact that GOD'S Church in Eugene is now a growing, enthusiastic, zealous body of 200 or more people obedient to their Maker.

Having not been in the Eugene now for several years, I was very happy and pleased to see this tremendous growth. This local church—which was originally the "mother" church of the Philadelphia age of the Church of God—has been

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