

# Fulton County Gospel News

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## Rolling Acres Children's Home

As far back as four years ago plans for having a childrens home in West Plains were discussed. Some of us at one time or another visited different homes throughout the brotherhood and obtained information that we might use someday. We would file away this information in our minds and every time the subject would come up we brought forth the ideas we had and compared them.

Finally on January 1, 1969, the Elders announced to the congregation that we were now ready to plan for a childrens home in the near future.

By the end of 1969 we had a nice sum of money in the fund and before the year had ended six acres of land was purchased and cleared. Many in the congregation gave of their time to help clean up the property and plant grass seed.

A planning committee was named by the Elders and was composed of thirteen members of the S. Curry St. Church of Christ. Untold hours of work has been done by this committee since it was formed. Smaller committees were formed from the larger one in order that more detail work can be accomplished. One committee sets policy and draws up the by-laws, one has charge of land development, one studies different house plans and makes recommendations to the entire committee. One committee is responsible for the financial arrangements and one will do all advertising required for the home. This last committee will also obtain information for the monthly bulletin.

The home will be the cottage type with a set of house parents and six homeless children placed in it.

The home will be a five bedroom home with a full basement and a recreation room in the basement. The main floor will have approximately 2,700 square ft. of space with an attached carport on one end. The cost has not been determined as yet but will run in the neighborhood of forty thousand dollars to construct plus the furnishings. You can see it will not be cheap to build or operate once it is completed.

You may be interested to know that this home will be supervised by the Elders of the church complying with the laws, rules and regulations of the Missouri State Welfare Department. The plans for the home have been approved by the State Inspector in Jefferson City. It has to meet

state specifications as to safety etc. They will also want to know that the children placed in the home will be treated as they should be and this is as it should be. For instance, if you mistreated your own children, the state welfare has the right to see that they are taken care of properly as they will be in the childrens home. Our prime interest is to see that these children have a near normal home as we can make it. We want one thing to be very clear at this point. The operation of this home will be under the oversight of the S. Curry St. Elders as they make up the board. The church has complete control over the home and will run it as they see fit. No funds will be obtained from the State Welfare to help with the operation of the home. Money for its support will come from sister congregations, members of the Curry St. Church, church members from elsewhere and other interested individuals across the United States. At present we have monthly support coming from four churches and a fifth Sunday contribution coming from one. I am sure more will be interested in helping when the home is completed. The more money we have in the fund prior to its completion means less we have to borrow to pay it off.

At this writing the fund stands at \$14,046.00 and is growing daily. Some have been interested in helping with the support and didn't know how to handle it. Just make your checks payable to Rolling Acres Childrens Home, P.O. Box 558, West Plains, Mo. 65775. We have coin folders available too in saving quarters. If you want some of these, please contact me and I will see that you receive them. Likewise, if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive the monthly bulletin, please send me your complete name and mailing address along with zip code.

The home will be of wood frame with the exterior of brick. The interior walls will be panelled with wood paneling with the ceiling of a fire resistant tile. The floors will have a solid sub-floor with possibly a particle board over that with asbestos tile over it. A portion of the floors may have carpeting, such as the living room, but the major portion of them will be tile.

The house will be fully insulated on all sides, ceiling and possibly the floor as well.

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## Tongues and Miracles

By Clovis Ragsdale

In previous articles we pointed out that miracles and other gifts were necessary in New Testament days to conform or prove the credentials of Christ and the apostles. They proved that God was with them and their message should be needed. The apostles could and did confer on Christians in different congregations various gifts which enabled these men to teach and edify the infant church until the apostles could write letters of instructions which we now have in the form of the New Testament. Paul plainly taught in the thirteenth chapter of I Cor. that miracles, tongues, and other gifts would cease when that which is perfect should come. He was referring to the completely revealed word that James referred to in James 1:25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Paul referred to he same in 2 Tim., 3:16, 17, "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." The completed word replaced the need for all spiritual gifts of the infancy of the church. That is why the so called miracles of today are vague, never replacing withered legs, raising the dead, and other deeds that can be proven beyond a shadow of any doubt. The easing of some emotional and even physical deficiencies can be relieved by the excitement of a healing service and by mental persuasion.

A woman in Waco, Texas, who was confined to a wheel chair, was sitting in her yard one day when a tornado approached. She got up out of the chair and ran into her home, although she had not walked in years. Terminal diseases will in rare instances suddenly terminate of themselves and doctors are at a loss as to why they do.

Come slick tongued men have posed as healers, who have used radio and television, and have made themselves rich, some even becoming millionaires, by deceiving people into sending them sums of money to enable them to spread their false doctrines. Paul speaks of such in

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... is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name, be SURE to include the Zip Code Number. It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know of its financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITORS: Clovis Ragsdale  
and James E. Henley.

### Tongues And Miracles (Cont.)

Eph. 4:14, 2 Tim., 3:13, and many other places where we are warned about following false teachers.

The gift of speaking in tongues intrigued the Corinthian brethren, and still appeals to people today. The fourteenth chapter of first Corinthians tells us that the brethren there placed to much emphasis on this gift. In verse twelve, Paul said that these gifts should be for edification of church, and when they spoke in an unknown tongue, to be sure to have what was said interpreted. This entire chapter dealt with the right use of the gift, but this gift, like miracles and all other gifts, were temporary and have been replaced by the fully revealed word. Paul specifically pointed out that if an unbeliever attended a service where tongues were being spoken and not being able to understand what was being said, he would think the speaker to be mad. 1 Cor. 14:23.

Christians in New Testament times possessed other spiritual gifts, such as wisdom, knowledge, and etc., but no one claims these gifts today. If one had the gift of prophecy or the gift of knowledge he could teach the will of God without study or help. A person could quote scripture without studying beforehand. Most who believe in spiritual gifts for us today cannot even quote the scriptures which pertain to these gifts, namely the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth chapters of 1 Cor.

Spiritual gifts served their purpose and now we have the New Testament to guide us in all things that we need to do the will of God in our time. 1 Cor. 13:8-10, teaches that gifts would end, and 2 Tim. 3:16, 17, tells what will take their place. We must accept the Bible as our guide and not depend on the feelings and emotions of men to be our guide today.

## Faith, Hope, Charity, No. 2

By James D. Jarrett  
1436 West Sixth  
West Plains, Missouri

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us...we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for: But if we hope for that we see not, when do we with patience wait for it." (Romans 8:18, 23, 24, 25)

This passage in Romans Chapter 8 is a great inspired passage concerning the Christian's hope. We would recommend you read the whole chapter. The affirmation of this article is that the believer in Christ has a hope which is far above the hope of the average man outside of Christ.

Hope is a strong expectation of something greatly to be desired. Hope is that which has given strong men of all ages courage to rise out of deepest despair. A hope for private property led medieval Europe to overthrow the enslaving bonds of feudalism. A hope for a better living led industrial workers to begin the industrial revolution, and a hope for representative government was one of the sparks which kindled the American revolution.

But even as we learned in last week's article that man's faith, if it be only faith in himself, is inadequate, even so is it true that if man only has hope in himself, he has an insufficient hope. As man contemplates the evil, destructive forces at work in our present day society; as he meditates upon the brevity of life with its uncertainties, he is often led to gloom and even to despair. Thus, Victor Hugo said, "Hope is a delusion; no hand can grasp a wave or a shadow."

But there is a greater hope for man than hope in himself. When the world had heaped its troubles on the ancient, God-fearing sage named Job, he too was led to despair, and in despair asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" But that question also contained the hope upon which Job depended. It is the hope of Job concerning a life to come. It was the dependance of Job upon his God and redeemer which gave Job this great hope. This hope in turn was the basis of his patience which has become axiomatic to us today.

The hope which Job saw darkly has been clearly revealed in New Testament teaching. Christ revealed gives a hope which transcends all other hope. "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is

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### Quiet Meditation Before Worship

I walked into a church one night,  
It was the hour of prayer.  
With burdens held within my breast,  
I looked for comfort there.

It wasn't time for service yet,  
And so the members sat,  
And laughed and talked.  
With greatest ease,  
Of some of this and that.

I seemed to feel God's presence,  
And yet I wondered why,  
I thought, "The Lord would surely feel  
As out of place as I."

The rooms, the lights, the pulpit  
All spoke of wondrous peace,  
But how could one commune with God,  
Unless the talking ceased?

Then as I sat it almost seemed  
As if I saw the Lord,  
Come slowly through the swinging doors  
And pause without a word,

He looked around so sadly,  
With eyes yet filled with love,  
His lips moved in a whisper,  
And his look was turned above.

And as I too, arose to go  
I breathed a silent prayer,  
For those who sat and never knew,  
That Jesus had been there.

—Via Effingham, Illinois Bulletin

made manifest to his saints . . . WHICH IS CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY." It is our prayer that many who read this will allow Christ to dwell in them and thus receive the true hope of glory. Our hope of living in heaven depends on our allowing Jesus to live in us.

# Why Observe Lent?

# 1 PETER 3:18-20

Thousands are now observing the Lenten season. Is it being observed by Divine authority or by tradition?

Encyclopaedias define "Lent" as a period of fasting and penitence in preparation for the feast of Easter. In 140 A.D., Telsephorus, bishop of Rome, instituted the fast of Lent upon a pretended tradition of the apostles. The Encyclopaedia Britannica, Volume 13, Page 923, reveals the following information on Lent. "... In the time of Irenaeus the fast before Easter was very short, but very severe; thus some ate nothing for 40 hours between the afternoon of Good Friday and the morning of Easter... Of the Lenten fast, the first mention is in the fifth canon of the Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.)... Early in the seventh century the fast was made to last 40 days..."

In Matt. 6:16-18, Jesus gives some instruction on fasting, but does not tell when it is to be done or how long. To specify a certain day or time and bind this on the religious world, is to make a law where God did not make one. It is not wrong to fast, but the examples of fasting found in the New Testament were for a specific purpose. Fasting was not a once a year observance with the early Christians, but was done anytime they felt a particular need for it. The Bible teaches that the Christian should be penitent of sins daily and not just once a year. In the sight of God, which is worse, to break a law or make a law?

Lent is not a Bible theme, but a tradition accepted and enforced by many in the religious world. Jesus teaches that worship based upon the doctrines and commandments of men is vain worship (Matt. 15:9). Since Lent is not found in the Bible, one is under no obligation to observe it or bind it upon others.

The Bible does not teach forty days of penitence and self denial in preparation of Easter, but teaches daily denial and cross bearing in preparation of the Judgment. (Luke 9:23)

## CORRECTION

There was a misprint in the article by J. D. Bales in the March issue on "Renounce Thyself." Instead of "the dethronement of God involves the dethronement of self," it should be "the enthronement of God involves the dethronement of self."

## SENTENCE SERMONS

Make more friends. Almost anyone will make a better friend than enemy.

1 Peter 3:18-20: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometimes were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water".

Here it is stated that Jesus "in the spirit", preached to "souls in prison" at the time Peter wrote, and that these souls belonged to those who lived while the "ark was a preparing". SO REGARDLESS OF WHAT THIS DOES, OR DOES NOT MEAN, IT APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE WHO LIVED AT THAT TIME. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY DID, OR DID NOT, HAVE A "SECOND CHANCE", YOU AND I, ARE NOT PROMISED A SECOND CHANCE!

Let us examine this in the light of similar examples found elsewhere in the Bible, and understand it in a way that will not conflict with other PLAIN passages of Scripture.

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse", Malachi 4:5-6. Here it is stated that Elijah WOULD COME TO EARTH BEFORE CHRIST CAME IN THE FLESH AND JESUS CONFIRMS THIS MEANING Matt. 17:11. Therefore the disciples of Jesus KNEW that the Scriptures taught that Elijah must FIRST come, then the Christ would come. So when God acknowledged Jesus as His Son and told the disciples to HEAR HIM, Matt. 17:5; they were CONFUSED, for this could not be the Christ, for Elijah (Elias in the New Testament, Greek) HAD NOT COME, if so they would have KNOWN IT! YET JESUS TOLD THEM THAT ELIJAH HAD COME FIRST! BUT ELIJAH WAS

JOHN THE BAPTIZER, Matt. 17:10-13. How can this be? John came in the power, mission and spirit of Elijah? Thus fulfilling the Scripture that said that Elijah must first come.

In Ephesians 2:17, it is stated that Jesus, "came and preached peace to you that were afar off (Gentiles) and to them that were nigh" (Jews). Yet Jesus, in person, DID NOT preach to the Gentiles but ONLY through those WHOM HE SENT! Jesus teaches that whatsoever we do, or do not do, to his followers, we do, or do not do, it TO HIM, Matt. 25:40, 47.

Then what does this passage REALLY MEAN? It means simply that Jesus (by the spirit, like John in the spirit of Elijah) preached to those who were lost during the flood THROUGH THE AGENT OF NOAH! Peter said that Noah was "a preacher of righteousness", 2 Peter 2:5. So Noah DID PREACH to these people. These SPIRITS WERE IN PRISON WHEN PETER WROTE, BUT HE DID NOT SAY THAT THEY WERE IN PRISON WHEN THEY WERE PREACHED TO!

If we take another view we CREATE problems We contradict other PLAIN Scriptures. We make God a respecter of persons, which he is NOT, Acts 10:34-35, if we give these a second chance. We know that God gave the ones of Noah's day time to repent while Noah BUILT the ark, which seems to have been 120 years, Gen. 6:3. The "spirits" were in the Bodies then, but at the time Peter wrote, the LOST SOULS (spirits) were in the Devils prison where lost souls CANNOT LEAVE, Luke 16:26 AND NO ONE CAN GO TO THEM! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THAT THIS SCRIPTURE CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AND NOT CONFLICT WITH THE REST OF THE BIBLE! ANY TIME THAT A PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE SEEMS TO CONTRADICT ANOTHER, IT MEANS THAT WE NEED TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND IT, SO THAT THE WHOLE BIBLE IS IN HARMONY! DO YOU DO THIS?

Glynn Purdy.

## News!

The Church of Christ which meets at Camp, Arkansas, will conduct a gospel meeting May 10-16 with brother Don Reaves as the speaker.

The Church of Christ which meets at Mammoth Spring, Arkansas, has just concluded a very successful Lectureship. One was baptized, and eight were restored.

The Welcome Hill Church of Christ, Highway 9 West, Mammoth Spring, will conduct a lectureship beginning April

26-30; Theme: The Bond of Perfection; Time, 7:30 p.m. Speakers: April 26, 1971—Harlan Hurd-CHARITY rejoiceth in the Truth, Jonesboro, Arkansas; April 27, 1971—Charles Wilson-CHARITY suffereth long, Hardy, Arkansas; April 28, 1971—Art Smith-CHARITY vaunteth not itself, Salem, Arkansas; April 29, 1971—Bill Richarson-CHARITY is not easily provoked, Mountain Home, Arkansas; April 30, 1971—Charles Leonard-The Greatest of these is CHARITY, West Plains, Missouri.

**Rolling Acres Children's Home  
(Cont.)**

The recreation room in the basement will probably have a file floor with panelled walls. The basement walls will be constructed of concrete at least ten inches thick.

It will be heated with two forced air, oil fired furnaces and will be completely air conditioned within the furnace system.

The furnaces and water heater will have a fire proof wall surrounding them and will have solid core doors for better fire protection.

The following is taken from the policy manual written by the planning committee for Rolling Acres Home. We hope after reading this you will have a better understanding of the operation of the home. This policy manual is set forth clearly the general philosophy of Rolling Acres Church of Christ Childrens Home. Its rules are general in nature but aims and goals are to be clearly defined. More specific directives will be written concerning specific areas such as finance, administration, house parents rules, childrens rules etc.

Definition: Rolling Acres Church of Christ Childrens Home is a non-profit corporation located in or around West Plains, Mo. It's directors are the Elders of the S. Curry St. Church of Christ, West Plains, Mo. The home will operate under by-laws written under the supervision of the Elders. Other officers and members will be added to the corporation as needed and in accordance with the terms of the by-laws.

Purpose: Rolling Acres operates with the purpose of providing a Christian home for homeless children that may be assigned to it by the courts, welfare agencies, private individuals and other agencies.

Type of proposed child care: Children will be cared for in cottage type homes for example, approximately six children per cottage. Each cottage is to have as parents a Christian, married couple. Children will be admitted only after the Elders, or those selected by the Elders have determined that Rolling Acres can best meet the needs of the individual child. In general, each child received in the home will be placed in a family unit under the supervision of the house parents with living as near like a normal home as possible but flexible enough to meet individual needs and problems of the children.

In take study and admission of children: A. In Take study. The Elders as directors of the home will provide a person or persons responsible to make a careful intake study of each child before admitting them into the home. When a child is referred to the home by another

agency, such an agency will be asked to present pertinent data concerning and their diagnosis of the child's needs. Where parents or guardians are involved, care should be taken to enlist their understanding and cooperation in the admission if possible. When children are of school age it is advisable, if possible, to arrange for a conference with their previous home, civil and school officials.

B. Admission of children. Homeless children shall be accepted for care in the home regardless of geographic location, religious background, or economic ability of friends or of relatives to support them; however, preference will be shown to children who come from Christian homes and those coming from the south central Ozark region. The need of the child for this home will be the most important consideration. While no specific age limit is set it is expected that the majority of children will be between five and fourteen years of age. An effort will be made to place children from the same family in the same cottage. Under normal circumstances the home will avoid receiving those who are already considered extremely anti-social or delinquent in terms with their experiences with the law, community or school officials. Children falling far below the normal level of intelligence as determined by a standard test administered by a qualified person will not usually be admitted. In cases of doubt additional professional evaluation may be required. Physical test information and an examination by a licensed physician and certification of freedom from contagious disease will be required before admitting children. Since children and house parents will be expected to attend religious services of the S. Curry St. Church of Christ willingness of children to attend such services should be obtained prior to admission if possible. Those in legal custody of such children should be informed of this policy and permission for such attendance should be obtained.

Initiation: It is recognized that a great amount of adjustment must be made by the house parents and newly arriving children. Children should have prior preparation for the move if possible. Emotional clashes with children are to be avoided if possible and careful care exercised to assure the best adjustment possible. All problems and adjustments should be immediately reported by the house parents to the proper person or persons selected by the Elders.

This in general covers the general policy as recommended by the policy committee to the board of directors.

I hope the above has helped to explain the Childrens Home but if you still have questions we would be very happy to

**Wouldn't It Be Lovely?**

By Bob Glover

In the May, 1966 issue of Good Housekeeping magazine there is an item with the title, "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?" a sample of which is, "You're fit as a fiddle, Mrs. Hockenstin. Only I'd like to see you gain 15 pounds." Using this same approach in the church, wouldn't it be lovely to hear:

"Please give me another visitation card. I'm going to start visiting at least one night each week."

"I said that I'd give \$5 more per week to help pay for the building, but I have decided to increase my contribution more than that."

"Yes, I know we won't get along very well, but I'm going to improve our relationship by practicing the golden rule at all times."

"Thanks for the invitation. We'd love to go, but this is church night."

"Honey, wake me early tomorrow. I plan to go to church with you."

"Daddy, my friends want me to go to the movie with them. I don't think it's the kind of picture for a Christian to see. What do you think?"

"I want to offer my services one afternoon each week. Could I help by cleaning and ironing the clothes in the benevolence room?"

"Oh! We're going to have the opportunity to hear another mission report!"

"Would you recommend some books that will help me prepare my lesson for next Sunday?"

Via Hillcrest Church, Arlington, Texas

come to your congregation and explain the home in its entirety. If we can be of help to you in any way, please let us know.