

August 1961

MEMORIES OF THE GOSPEL WORK

In our last memories we were in Lodi California on our way to Montana and Eureka South Dakota, to call on Sabbath keeping Brethern we had learned about at Lodi. When we left Los Angeles in company with Otto Haerber in his car, we were headed for Oregon City, Oregon in answer to a call to come thereby a man by the name of Hobbs who had recently recieved clearer light on the scriptures and as a consequence was put out of the Adventist church. Having heard about the Sabbath keeping church at Lodi, Elder Haerber offered to take me that far in his car, having a desire also to meet these people.

Upon our arrival at Oregon City, Oregon we were met by Brother Hobbs, a man in his early sixties, and very cordially entertained in his home. Having written ahead informing him of the time I expected to arrive he had all arrangements made for a meeting that night where we met Bro. Beard and his wife, and others. One evangelistic meetings lasted over a week, where a church was organized, wit Brother Hobbs and Beard ordained as Elders. This church continued on for many years, but the reaper, death, took them away one by one, including these true and faithful Elders.

Leaving Oregon City, our next stop was in Montana where we wer met by Bro. R.P. Bossert and Daniel Strobel, both former Adventists, but who like those at Oregon City, had advanced in knowledge of the Holy scriptures, and were happy to take a higher place and be recieved into the Church of God. These two men were ordained as Elders of this little group, which functioned for a number of years, until moving to Lodi California where they live at this time, and are both active faithful members of this one family according to (Rev. 12:17; Ephesians 3:14,15).

Leaving Montana, our next stop was at Eureka South Dakota, As Eureka is on a branch line, and there was no bus servine in those days, I was advised ahead of time, to buy my ticket to Roscoe. Arriving there in the early afternoon, I was met by a number of the older Brethren, and escorted in their car to Eureka. The Eureka Church of God at that time was out in the country a few miles north of town. Arriving there that afternoon, although a working day, I found the church surrounded by cars. It was quite a surprize indeed to find those people so deeply interested in religious matters to pack that church in mid-afternoon, to meet a man they had learned was also of the Church of God faith, similar to themselves.

It was indeed to me, a very happy occasion, Old Brother Brennise, the father of John Brennise, Old Bro Straub, the father of E.A. Straub, Old Bro. Dias, the father of the older Dias brethren now at Eureka and Lodi, and also Old Bro Kiesz, the father of Elder Chris Kiesz, all noble pious men, pioneers of the Eureka Church of God, but outside of a few scattered friends and relatives, knew nothing of the world wide movement of people of their same faith.

Like the other groups previously mentioned, these dear brethren had also been led into the deeper truth, and clearer light by the blessed Holy Spirit, through the

WORD. That precious afternoon meeting I shall never forget. There was Brother Chris Kiesz at the organ and such singing you seldom hear. They asked me to tell them about the Church of God. I took the floor and commenced. For nearly three hours they kept me there behind the pulpit answering their questions and giving them the scriptures, Why? They had the advantage, for I didn't know what they believed on this or that, but every question put to me that day, was answered by the Bible which required some time. When I finished each question, they gave their heads an affirmative nod, or said "AMEN"

It was indeed a wonderful meeting, and proved the working power of the blessed Holy Spirit, to bring people into unity of the faith when studying the same precious BIBLE.

There was not a single point upon which they disagreed with the main body of the church scattered over the world. It was a repeated confirmation of the fact that the Spirit through the Word, will lead people into all truth, when given the right of way, as had been in their case. Hundreds of such instances are on record, where similar groups have been found, and are still being located all over the world.

In the next series I shall tell you about a dream of Brother Jacob Dias while we holding the series of meetings at Eureka, South Dakota, and also more about these wonderful people, and their association since with the other groups of the Church of God.

SEPTEMBER 1961  
MEMORIES OF THE GOSPEL WORK

"I left you at Eureka South Dakota in our last "Memories" and mention was made in the last paragraph of a dream of Brother Jacob Dias he had during the series of meetings there. He arose in a testimony meeting at the church and told this dream.

He dreamed of being out in a big body of water with a number of other leading brethren of the Eureka church in a small boat. Several of them had hold of the oars but for some reason were going around and around in a circle, and were not getting anywhere. They all understood their plight, and didn't know what to do. Then he looked away and saw a big ship coming toward them. The ship kept coming right along until it came right to where they were. Then some one on the ship threw out a big chair, and they fastened the little boat to the big ship, and took us along with them. He told the people the interpretation. He said we have been here alone and have never gotten anywhere, but have been going around and around. "Now this man has come and informed us about the people all over the world of the same faith. We never knew about the Church of God before he came, and the church is the big ship that is going to take us with it."

The following summer the Eureka brethren purchased a big tent for camp-meetings. Their first camp-meeting was held on the church grounds there and it was a wonderful meeting. Many came from other places, and several of our ministers were there. This was the beginning of the camp-meetings there and they have not missed one season since, but have held these big meetings every summer, with an increasing interest and attendance. These brethren have come to other camp-meetings and added interest as well as financial help. Elder Christ Kiesz who played the organ at the first meeting where we first met them, (this I told you in the previous issue) has served on the board of twelve for a number of years, and carried on evangelistic meetings in many states. He still resides at Eureka.

Elder E.A. Straub who was converted and baptized following the time of our first meeting there, has also held important positions, and is a man of influence and ability, having traveled in most of the states in evangelistic work. Elder John Kiesz is another among them who has also held important positions with the church and is now at the head of the school at Stanberry Missouri. Many of the Eureka people moved to Lodi California, among these we find Bro. Jacob Dias and family. His dream surely came true, and this church group has been affiliated with, and has helped much in sending the light which has shown people the way, but not just around Eureka as in former days, but its beams have reached to all parts of the earth.

While they do not all affiliate with this one particular group with which they at first became connected, because various groups have been formed from among them, Issuing various publications from different parts of the world, and thus reaching many more people with the truth, yet they all qualify according to (Rev. 12:17; Eph. 2:14, 15)

as the QEMANAT people. Like the various different groups among the Jews in Israel, all of which fellowship together, and are Jews. So it is with these various groups, while there are slight differences, yet they are "Church of God," and must fellowship as such, for they are ONE according to the Saviour's prayer of (John 17).

Leaving Eureka, South Dakota we went south to Bassett Nebr. where during the previous fall we had labored with another minister by the name of Milton Grotz, and a large church had been set in order, of over one hundred members. Plans were well under way for the building of their new church house, and they were all encouraged and made to rejoice over the good news we were able to give them concerning all these different groups of the same faith, we had been able to locate by the guiding hand of Him who has promised to be with His children, "Lo even unto the end of the world."

Oct. 1961

MEMORIES OF THE GOSPEL WORK

In the last Memories we told about some experiences with one of our ministers, Elder Milton Grotz, whom we met in California nearly forty years ago while holding a meeting in Los Angeles just after we had organized the Church there, He had fasted for 40 days in seeking for the gift of healing which was given him., and during our travels together it was my rare privilege of witnessing many miraculous healings.

We told you about the healings of Lawrence Nugent's eyes in the Reporter and I could narrate many other just as remarkable healings during that meeting I remember one very stirring circumstance that occurred . One afternoon I was in my editor's office in the Publishing House, being Editor of the Church paper at that time. Elder Grotz was at that time out in an adjoining room. A young man and his wife came and called for me. A few days before that they had lost their first baby. It seemed that it had smothered while in bed and was dead the next morning. They wanted us to raise it from the dead. I asked them where the child was. They said it was buried up in the cemetery the day before. I told them that was asking for something very unusual, so I called Elder Grotz to come talk to them. They said, "When you are doing all of the other wonderful things around here, why couldn't the Heavenly Father do that for us?"

In tears they pled for us to go and try to raise it up. Elder Grotz did not have the faith for such an undertaking, and he told them it would be against the law to dig up a grave, and take the child out. Also if it had been the Father's will for this child to be raised up. He would have directed them to us before it was buried. They went away very sorrowfully This was the only time we were called upon for to pray for the dead to be raised, and while at the present time there are many miraculous healings being performed by the ministers of the Church of God, there will be greater ones yet, and the dead are to be raised, because we have the promise, that the people of the True Religion will---"COME BEHIND IN NO GIFT AWAITING THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST(Yahshua ha Meshia) 1st Cor. 1:7.

In October following the meeting in Stanberry Mo. preparations were made for Elder Grotz and myself to hold meetings at Bassett, Nebraska, where my mother, also my brother A.F. and his wife Iva, and my sister Mrs. Paul Carpenter and family, also Effie lived with her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Carpenter. He was a prominent officer in the Methodist Church there and Effie had for several years been organist. At different times the minister in charge during my visits to the old home town of my birth, had invited me to occupy the pulpit in his absence. We were therefore hopeful of obtaining the Methodist Church for this meeting, but were sadly disappointed

in the minister and the district overseer refusing us it's use. Therefore we rented a large vacant store building on the corner of main street, and began our meetings the last part of October 1923, continuing about six weeks. Elder Grotz remaining the first three weeks before going to California. and I remained and conducted preaching services each night for about three more weeks longer. During the entire period there were 72 baptized, among whom whom were Brother C.L. Carpenter and his wife with most all members of the family. It had been a common part of the prayers of the Methodist minister for the Lord to send a revival to Bassett, and stir up the people. When this revival had gotten under way, due largely to the miraculous healings preformed by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, it is strange that this same minister got in his car and drove all about calling on people who were attending, warning them not to attend. It was not our purpose to draw people away from any other group, but the WORD is powerful and the TRUTH penetrating when the Holy Spirit accompanies it. We are very grateful to the Heavenly Father for the results of His Word going forth at Bassett and the demonstrating the same Power of healing the sick, as was demonstrated here in Jerusalem so many years ago. Healing the sick and raising the dead is a part of the gospel ministry, "As ye go, preach saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand, Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils, freely you have received, freely give." Matt. 10:7,8.