

## A T A S K T O D O

Glenn Willhelm

A reform movement becomes necessary when existing conditions are not satisfactory. There may be many and varied causes for dissatisfaction, and dissatisfaction is not always a mental attitude.

Causes for dissatisfaction can be a reality (realities). They may be of a moral, spiritual, financial, physical nature; or a combination of causes, any of which may cause dissatisfaction.

A reformation is begun with the purpose of improving existing, faulty conditions or abuses. For a reform movement to be effective, good planning is necessary. A just cause must exist. It must be advocated judiciously and wisely. The plan must be supported by men and women who are ready and willing to work for the success of the plan.

If a reform can be made within the framework of an existing organization, a reform that really corrects the unsatisfactory conditions existing within that organization, well and good. On the other hand a movement may be necessary that expands its efforts beyond an established sphere.

In our present reform and planning undertaking, the former LRC set forth the causes for dissatisfaction. Such causes have been published and made well-known. Everyone connected in any way with the present setup of church organization in the Church of God, 7th Day, should be aware of said causes.

The present Reform and Planning Association does not care to spend time now reviewing the causes that led to its formation, except in judicial hearings advocated by R&PA, and in which conviction and decision will be made with justice and judgment. The present task of the R&PA is to see that plans for remedying the causes are workable, and that no grounds exist for abuse of privileges and authority. To the future and not to the past; forward and not backward, the R&PA fastens its eyes, and hopes ever to apply itself except in urgent and just defense of truth.

Consequently, the R&PA Committee desires to have suggestions from those who

see area for improvement. There is Bible authority for this:

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established" (Proverbs 15: 22).

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).

With proper counseling under the direction of the Holy Spirit moral, spiritual, and financial support will come as need for such arises, and the association will be able to work without giving occasion for abuse of power or authority.

In the three months the R&PA has been working there has been evidence of progress that should be a cause for rejoicing. Some churches are in the movement and many individuals in various places are ready to render support. But it must be realized that only a beginning has been made. The R&PA Committee and Advisory Committee, nor one man cannot successfully do the task alone. Those interested in the success of the movement should seek to expand the sphere of activity. By doing so, others will be induced to co-operate with moral support, with prayers, and financial aid--though in some instances such aid may be small. Small amounts from a large number will help greatly in keeping the work going.

With the work of reform, there should also be a personal reformation, a conforming of thinking and living to the principles of life laid down in the Gospels. Such principles should be demonstrated by Christian living--by example as well as precept. Let everyone say with Paul, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:13,14).

There is the prize of eternal life before us, and within the reach of everyone dedicated to the cause of Christ--the proclamation of the Gospel of His eternal kingdom.

Los Angeles, California

Of an attendance in the eighties, some seventy-one people of the Los Angeles Church partook of the ordinances of humiliation and the emblems of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening, March 30.

The newly decorated interior of the church building and the lovely white calla lilies which banked the altar and the piano, distinguished in the candle light of the sanctuary, provided a wonderful atmosphere of calm and reverence. Hymns appropriate to the very special occasion were beautifully sung by the choir and added another note of inspiration to the evening.

Pastor Roy Marrs, assisted by local elders and deacons, conducted a very impressive service, reading Scripture and offering brief comments about the solemnity of this annual ordinance.

We were happy to have with us out-of-town guests, including the Sellmans of Kansas, the Bruce Daileys and Brother and Sister Henry Brann's daughter and family, both of northern California, the Ed Blenises of Arizona, as well as those from the suburban areas of Los Angeles who drove great distances to attend the meeting.

This is one service of the year which many people consider of utmost importance to attend, and it is joyous to see them return faithfully year after year. Each year we are saddened because we miss some of the faces who have been with us through the years, but we know we shall see them in that better land if we are faithful to the end.

We left the meeting reminded once again of the tremendous sacrifice of Christ, and thankful that He was willing to pay so great a price for our redemption.

--Betty Maynor

St. Joseph, Missouri

There were nineteen women and six men present for the Lord's Supper Services, and some homes were visited after we were dismissed at the church. Services were conducted for the brothers and sisters who were unable to come to the church building, by Brothers Wayne Bascue and Haskell Hawkins.

We have enjoyed several messages the last few weeks on the Passover and Lord's Supper, given by our pastor, Elder Haskell Hawkins, reviewing our minds on the great sacrifice our Savior made that we might have hope of eternal life. The greatest suffering and torture were for those who would not accept our Savior, as He died of a broken heart. His request was that the Father would "forgive them for they know not what they do."

We are adding to this picture of our Savior by not complying with His requests as found in I Cor. 11:27-29, are we not? Have we examined ourselves? Are we partaking of the emblems of the body and blood of our Savior unworthily? If so, we are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. Let us examine James 1:22. Are we doers of the word? "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16).

Sabbath, April 8, is the District Fellowship Meeting here at St. Joseph. We are looking forward to having a large number of visitors from surrounding areas. May we have a greater number of fellowship meetings and conduct our lives in such a way that God will favor us with His blessings.

We have been having a considerable amount of sickness among our members here, and the weather has also played a part in some not attending church regularly. Brother Homer Butcher has had a little trouble with his heart and was in the hospital for a while, but is able to be back home again. Sister Hazel Crouse has been at home with the mumps, and others have had colds and discomforts, but we are still thankful for the many blessings of the Lord.

Please remember us here at the St. Joseph Church in your prayers. May we be found striving to do the Master's will.

--Burton Rodgers

Detroit, Michigan

Twenty-five people assembled together on Thursday evening, March 30, to participate in the Lord's Supper Service. Brother Sam Hassen was in charge of the song service, followed by a season of prayer.

Kaye Hassen and Karolyn Otto sang a duet before the sermon by Elder Harvey Otto. He used for his topic, "Behold the Lamb of God Who Taketh Away the Sins of the World."

The Congregation separated for foot-washing, then reassembled (Continued on p. 4)

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At Home

Local church autonomy with general association and co-operation would suit me much better. I have been rereading some of Acts, and I am again impressed by the way the Holy Spirit led individuals, so that they acted, and the church concurred with them, and did not disfellowship them nor call them disloyal members.... I'm pleased to see so many from various places writing in to support the R&PA....

We need to pray to God, that He will demonstrate His power among those of us who are really trying to serve Him, and not just an organization. That would wake up many who are undecided as to where to turn.

I feel very definitely that we are the ones who are moving in the right way. If we are, then God should bless us and give His gifts unto us.

I am also much encouraged by the fellowship with other Sabbath-keeping groups...

I would be glad to aid in any way possible. --Paul E. Heavilin, Wisconsin  
(Brother Heavilin is a member of the R&PA Advisory Committee. --Ed.)

I am enclosing---in bills to help out in the good work of the Reform and Planning Association. --Ruth Mahieu, Kansas

Abroad

Enclosed you will find a picture of the two Americans sent here by Elder Armstrong...to organize their work. You can see the pictures of Elders Benjamin Dingal and Juanito Capul of whom it was published, in the Harvest Field Messenger, that these two are the ones who firmly and truly stood true to the General Conference.... Please put this picture on the first page of the Bulletin so that the brethren will not be fooled....

Yesterday I went to Misamis to buy a little megaphone or a little loud speaker at 120 pesos (\$60). This money was sent to me by our brethren in Kiokong. The next move is to build a chapel which will cost no less than 2500 pesos (\$1250).

Please remember us in your prayers that God will give His Holy Spirit to each and everyone of our brothers and sisters...that the work will go on in success and prosperity.

Your help financially, has increased my efforts in the Lord's work, because I could go from place to place, to preach the message of salvation.

Please send us your past Sabbath School Lessons...so we can use them here.... I would like to translate the lessons into our dialect, as I did before....

--H. C. Rosell, Philippines

I highly appreciated having a copy of your report about the results of the first meeting of the R&PA. I have learned many special things from that report. I believe from my experience, that God will guide you and co-workers in promoting the Gospel of the Kingdom before Christ returns. I am thankful to God that according to the Holy Spirit the Reform and Planning Association was born to realize the dream of sincere brethren, to have unity which is taught in the Bible.

The work in the Philippines is badly in need of the care of the R&PA. We lack provisions, especially for our families. I can do the work when my family has food, but I'm sorry to say, that I was forced to stop the work when my wife sent a letter that they have no provisions. --Eleuterio Penearedondo, Philippines

(Other glances at the mail and reports to follow later. --Ed.)

ATTEND CAMP MEETINGS: Members of, and all interested in the Reform and Planning Association of the Church of God, 7th Day, are encouraged to attend camp meetings of the various Church of God groups this coming summer. Certainly, in these meetings, you will find opportunity to be helpful in promoting co-operation and unity of Spirit --requirements for unity of faith. This is good that may be done for the Cause of Christ by those who are not so confined in thinking and practice--mind and deed. Let this above mentioned work be a challenge, and allow its fulfillment to prove the benefit and soundness of the Reform and Planning Work. Those able to attend the Gen. Conference in Denver, in August, surely should be given the privilege of "standing up to be counted" in behalf of correcting evils of the present church system of work and organization.

to partake of the emblems representing the Lord's body and blood. Elder Peter Jensen assisted Elder Otto during this service.

"Where Could I Go?" was sung by Rosemarie Starks and Sherry Otto, followed by a solo by Sam Hassen.

God's powerful Spirit fell upon us as we looked to Him during the anointing and healing service.

The meeting was dismissed by the singing of "God Be with You." --Karolyn Otto

Kansas City, Missouri

Word from Kansas City, Missouri, informs us that the church there remembered the anniversary of the Lord's death at the proper time, Nisan 14. Although the number partaking was less than last year, apparently the meeting served its purpose, in that the death and suffering of Christ were emphasized and especially remembered.

We quote as follows: "There were 47 present at the Lord's Supper Service. Forty-four partook...and three that didn't. That was eight less than last year."

--John B. Westfall

Fairview, Oklahoma

There were 24 present at the Lord's Supper Service, including Elder Ennis Hawkins. Twenty-two partook of the emblems representing Christ's body and blood.

Elder Hawkins served two confined members in their homes.

Our guests were Brother and Sister Ben Waugh, their two daughters, and a grandson and granddaughter from Borger, Texas; Sister Nona Miller, Stillwater, Oklahoma; and Brother and Sister W.A. Stucker, Enid, Oklahoma.

Rain and muddy roads hindered--several were unable to attend. --Vera Burrell

Lodi, California

The Lord's Supper was observed by the Seventh Day Church of God in Lodi, at the appointed time. Elders Claude Ellis and Leo S. Merriam were in charge of the service. Our song leader, Brother Oscar Seibel opened the service by singing the hymn, "Alone." Opening prayer was then offered by Brother R. Paul Bossert. A quartet consisting of Oscar Seibel, Claude Ellis, Ruth Doyle and Marie Merriam then sang the song, "Shall I Crucify My Savior?" Elders John Brenneise and Joseph Reuscher each gave short talks on the Passover in their youth, and thankfulness to God and love for one another.

Brother Danny Marona sang a solo titled, "In the Garden," after which Brother Ellis read Isaiah 53 for the Scripture reading. Prayer was then offered by Brothers Ben Fauth and Claude Ellis.

Elder Merriam delivered the sermon on the significance of the Lord's Supper, explaining the reasons why it is observed and the importance of the emblems of the body and blood of Christ. Elder Wayne Marona also gave a short talk on this subject. We then partook of the bread and the fruit of the vine as commanded in God's Word.

After a short talk by Elder Ellis on the subject of humbleness and the significance of foot-washing, this ordinance was observed. When this ordinance was completed a few choruses were sung, and after singing the hymn, "Christ Arose," we were dismissed by Brother Oscar Seibel.

Sixty people were present at this service, with 51 taking part.--Martha Dais

S. S. Secy.

Denver, Colorado

The Southwest Denver Church of God, 7th Day, observed the Lord's Supper on the anniversary of His death, Nisan 14.

Elders Charles E. Adams and Floyd B. Merriam were in charge of the service.

Elder Adams reviewed "Six Days before the Feast of the Passover," showing Christ's activity, suffering, and death within this period. He also pointed out the importance of foot-washing.

Elder Merriam spoke briefly on the meaning and significance of the emblems representing Christ's body and blood.

Brother Glenn Willhelm (Local Elder) was in charge of the song service. He and Brother Morton Pedersen (Local Deacon) served the emblems to the congregation.

After the partaking of the emblems, the ordinance of foot-washing was observed.

Elder B. F. Marrs, being unable to attend, was served the (Continued on page 5)

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Dear Friends:

This will probably be the last "Message from Marrs" that you will receive. I have enjoyed my opportunities of writing you in times past and do not like to pass on without a "postlude."

In my previous messages I have sometimes been hard, but it was not because of personal grudges. I have realized for a long time that there needed to be reform in our organizational system, and I took the best means I knew to bring this need to the attention of the people in as forceful a way as I knew how. For those times when I have been overly harsh and sarcastic, I beg your forgiveness.

I wish to thank my many friends who understood and supported me morally and financially. There is a saying, "A friend in need is a friend in deed," and I assure you that many more people proved their friendship and loyalty in support of the goals I had in mind than may be realized.

At the time I became unable to carry on, there were considerable funds built up in contributions to support my work. I wish to assure you that every cent contributed for this cause has been well accounted for, and what remains will be used to carry on the work of reform and planning--a greater work, under a better system for the Church of God.

I wish, therefore, to urge all those who have so loyally supported me, to continue to support the work of the Reform and Planning Association. I feel this movement is in line with the work I was trying to do, except perhaps it will be carried on in a better way. This movement is now so organized, that no one man will be working without counsel, and in a multitude of counsel there is wisdom.

I am sorry that I was unable to be present at the council meetings held in December, 1960, but my heart was with them and I pray God that they will cling together as never before, for the goals and ideals which they have announced.

I have spent only eight days at home since November 11, 1960. The rest of the time I have been confined to the hospital, and now am in a nursing home, never expecting home again in this life. Several thousands of dollars have been required for this emergency, and I wish to pause here to give special thanks to friends who have sent financial help. Although I have complained of my suffering, I am afraid I have forgotten that God has, through this means, undertaken to prove His continuing love and care in time of distress. Thank God for my friends! May He bless you, each and all, with more than my feeble language can express.

Cancer is slowly devouring my vital organs and I know not how long I shall survive, but so long as God gives me life and breath, I want to praise Him for His wonderful love and mercy toward me and mine.

May I meet you in the morning just inside the golden gate.

I pass without bitterness toward any of you. May God forgive us all, for we have all sinned and come short of the glory of Christ.

(\*to see-\line 28)

Sincerely,

BFM/ea

Burt F. Marrs

In Memory of His Death (Continued from Page 4)

emblems in his room in the Nursing Home by Elders Adams and Merriam. Sickness and being out of town affected attendance. Some of our church were as far away as New Mexico and Oklahoma at the time. Nevertheless this special service was a source of inspiration and strength.

Bukidnon, Philippines

I have just arrived home from Kiokong, Maramug, Bukidnon, where the Lord's Supper Service was held in the evening of March 30. Almost all our brethren attended the holy occasion, and on the following day we had our pictures taken. I will send you a copy of them. I was not able to wait for the pictures because I was in a hurry to go home, because of my approaching time to begin my tent effort in Kolambagan, the next town from Tubod.

At present, I am preparing every necessary thing for this work.

--H. C. Rosell, Tubod, Lanao

REFORM AND PLANNING ASSOCIATION

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(Return Postage Guaranteed)

NOTE: Several weeks ago the R-PA Committee began consideration of associate and contributing editors for the R-PA publications, and to serve as a literature committee. Also an advisory committee has been an item of consideration. We are now prepared to announce the names of the Associate Editors and the Advisory Committee. Contributing editors will be announced later.

Associate Editors: Glenn Willhelm and Lois Merriam, both of Denver, Colorado.

Advisory Committee: Roy A. Marrs, California; Floyd B. Merriam, Colorado; Paul E. Heavilin, Wisconsin; Jay J. Carlock, Oregon; H. M. VanderSchoor, Texas; Glenn Willhelm, Colorado; Bland Harris, Kansas; Lawrence Burrell, Oklahoma; Earl Pyle, Missouri; Owen L. Martin, Illinois; Carl Rhea, Mich.; Keith Siddens, Mo.; Morton Pedersen, Colo.; Garner Thompson, Mich.; Ray Johnson, Calif.; Leo Merriam, Calif.; E.M. Blenis, Oregon.

#### IN MEMORY OF SISTER FLORENCE E. STRAUHUN

Florence E. Strauhun was born in the State of Arkansas, January 17, 1896, and passed away March 19, 1961, in the Lark Ellen Hospital, West Covina, California, at the age of 65 years, two months, and two days.

Sister Strauhun united with the Church of God, 7th Day, many years ago in Oklahoma, to which she has been a loyal and faithful member.

Her greatest desire in life was to help others, and she was greatly loved by all who knew her.

She is survived by her husband, Lewis Strauhun of the family home in Baldwin Park, California; two sons, Dwight and Lincoln Strauhun; three daughters, Dora Strauhun, Carolyn Anderson, and Birmah Lippincott; three stepdaughters, Esther Miller, Dorothy McKeehan, and Louise Faddis; three brothers, Wallace, Haas, and Ervin Bowline; two sisters, Dora Shotterback and Louise Bowline; nineteen grandchildren and a host of friends.

Funeral services were conducted by the writer in the Baldwin Park Funeral Chapel, and she was laid to rest in the beautiful Desert Lawn Memorial Park, in Palmdale, California.

--Elder Joe B. Walker, in Fellowship Herald

(We are sure that Sister Strauhun's passing to her rest is of special interest, not only to her brothers, sisters, and friends in general, but also to those of the Reform and Planning Association, of which she was a constant and devoted supporter.

We certainly shall miss hearing from her, and we join with her many friends in expressing to her surviving family, appreciation for her commendable contribution to the Christian way of life, and sympathy in this time of sorrow and bereavement.

We believe that the future holds much for Sister Strauhun, in the way of life and happiness, but on the quality of the continued lives of those dear ones surviving her, will depend how much the eternal future holds for them. --Editor)