

Spring Vale News

VOL. III

MAY - JUNE, 1947

NO. 4

A Lesson From Noah

By Stanley J. Kauer

"BY FAITH NOAH, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Heb. 11:7.

When we think of the work that we believe God is calling us to do, and if we are sometimes discouraged by the problems we have to meet, it is well to consider the experiences of great men of the Bible. Noah was one who successfully met a great challenge and the record of his work is truly an inspiration.

Noah belonged to the smallest church in the world at that time. In fact, if there were any others professing to serve the true God, nothing is mentioned about them. Only Noah and his family were found righteous among all the many thousands of people on the earth. Noah brought up his three sons without the aid of church societies and entertainment groups. He probably conducted regular worship in his home and his children were taught to know and obey the Lord.

God called Noah to a very great work requiring the utmost faith. He was to build a very large boat or ship—really a large building made so it would float. There are a number of very good excuses Noah might have given for not attempting this great task: he had never built any structure of any size and was not a skilled builder; he knew nothing at all of boats or ships, having never seen one; very few people could see the need for such a boat—in fact no one except Noah and his family believed there would ever be a need for it; there were no prospective passengers to occupy the space in so large a structure; Noah had no tools except what he and his sons could make; he would have to make his materials—a difficult task.

And so we might continue with the excuses which Noah might have made but there is no record that he offered any excuse at all. The record simply says: "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." Gen. 6:22.

The work of building the ark was very slow for it took about a hundred years to complete it. It was built well but it must have often seemed like a discouraging task. Doubtless many people came to see what was being done—and not one believed that the project was worth while. As Noah worked, he preached, but he never made any converts outside of his own family. But in spite of all of these many obstacles—Noah finished the work given him to do. God had given Noah the pattern and told him of the need. Noah believed God and by faith he was able to accomplish the great task.

Let us apply the lesson of Noah to our own project of building Spring Vale Academy. We believe God has called us to do this work for Him. He has impressed us with the great need. Unfortunately all of the church people do not see this need and many who do see it are not sufficiently impressed to give any definite help. We are a very small church group—even a divided group. The Church of God has never had any experience in building or conducting schools. However, we have seen such institutions operated by others and some of us have had experience as students or workers in other such schools. In this we have an advantage which Noah did not have. We do not have many tools or equipment for the work. We cannot make all of what we will need, but must purchase much of it and that requires money, of which we have but little.

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Prospective Students Are Urged to Contact School

AT THIS WRITING the response from prospective students of Spring Vale Academy has not been large. However, in view of the fact that the school is yet in the planning stage, the student interest is encouraging. As the plans and the development of the school are announced from time to time more young people will write us about attending the school.

We wish to emphasize that by filling out the questionnaire you do not obligate yourself to become a student at the school, but merely show your interest and give us some information about yourself. This will be kept on file and serve as a guide in planning and preparing for the needs of those who may decide to become students.

Some may not have filled out the questionnaire because they see no chance of coming to the school this fall, or perhaps do not know when they could possibly come. However, if you would like to come to the school as a student—even though you do not see any chance of doing so—send in the questionnaire with the blanks filled in. And then pray that God will direct in your life, and, if it is His will, that you may get to attend the school when the best time comes for you to do so.

One sister wrote about her son who might be interested in attending Spring Vale, but he is now 21 years of age and because of sickness did not go further in school than the fifth grade. He thought he would have to go back with the fifth or sixth grade pupils in order to make up his schooling. However, such is not the case. Even in public schools,

adults who wish to continue their education are put into special classes where they quickly fit themselves for high school or college work. And in Spring Vale Academy we will be able to be of special help to older students.

The first years we prefer to have mostly mature students who can be of help in the development of the school while receiving the training they desire. We would be pleased to have several married couples attend the school and will help to arrange for living quarters for them.

Remember, that age or lack of lower grade education need not be a barrier to attending the Academy and securing Christian training. The school is not alone for ministerial training but for a general Christian education as may be noted from the courses described in the announcement folder. Let us hear from more young people, and older ones too, who would like to attend the academy when it is in operation—either the first year, or later.

THANK YOU!

During the past month, April 24, to May 24, we have received \$533.30 in contributions to the school. This includes the good response at the Fellowship Meeting and also in the mail as a result of the Announcement folders recently sent out. In the next issue we hope to have a more detailed financial report.

"They hurt themselves who wrong others."

Two Young Men Invited to Spend Summer at Spring Vale

AT THE LAST board meeting of the school directors it was voted to invite two young men who are interested in attending school at Spring Vale to come to Owosso as soon as possible to begin work in helping to prepare for the opening of school next September.

A great deal of work will have to be done, both in routine care of the place, gardening, and assistance with the relatively small amount of remodeling that is planned.

We feel this is another forward step in the establishing of a school at Spring Vale and are glad to pass on to our readers the knowledge that we are endeavoring to increase our personnel. Every forward step we take makes our responsibilities larger and in many cases our obligations greater. While these boys will be required to credit part of their wages on their tuition for the coming school year, we will nevertheless have to see that they are cared for and paid sufficient wages to meet their current expenses. We are depending on your regular contributions to help meet the need and your prayers that God will direct us in this work for His glory.

Farm Machinery Donated

SEVERAL ITEMS of farm machinery have been given to the school and will be a help in the work this summer. Elder A. E. Lidell has donated a made-up tractor which has a model A Ford motor. It is built on the pattern of a Farmall tractor and has rubber tires. He has also given a plow, cultivator and other machinery. One other useful item he has given is a concrete mixer with a gasoline engine. Brother Floyd Turner has given a rubber-tired farm wagon.

These items of machinery are not new and they are given with the thought that they will be a help in the work until permanent, modern equipment can be obtained. All contributions which can be a help to us in any way are greatly appreciated. There is so much to buy in getting an institution of this kind started that any expense saved is a real help.

"Opportunity never comes—it's here."

SPRING VALE NEWS

Business Opportunity Near School

THE STORE and gas station across the corner from the school farm has been offered for sale and we are wondering if some Church of God person interested in moving here would like to take it over.

It consists of a store; small barn used for auto accessories, and greasing cars; large house, completely modern; and about one acre of land. Everything is well kept and they are doing a good business.

Anyone who is interested may inquire by writing to Spring Vale Academy and we will be glad to give you any further information available.

SCHOOL FARM FOR 1947

THE SCHOOL FARM is being put to the best use possible this summer under the circumstances. Because of a lack of equipment and workers, a part of the farm is being rented out on a 50-50 basis.

Because of the unusually wet weather, it has been necessary to change the farming plans and to plant less early spring grain. We are not entirely certain about some fields as yet, but the following will give you a partial picture of the farming activities for this summer.

The land in hay crops was not rented. About 11 acres is in a good stand of alfalfa and is doing well. Seven acres is in red clover and also looks good. Another field of 12 acres is in red clover and alfalfa. This was planted with oats last year and because of the drouth last summer the stand is not as good as it could be but the board decided that it is good enough to leave for hay. Another field of 11 acres, seeded to sweet clover last year will be plowed and put into corn. 15 acres south of the farm buildings has been rented out to be planted to buckwheat.

About seven acres were planted to wheat last fall and will be combined this summer. This crop is being handled entirely by the school.

The fruit trees in the orchard look well and were dormant sprayed. In all the farm land is in good condition and the prospects are for a good yield this year in spite of the cold, wet spring.

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Encouraging Letters from Other States

THE ANNOUNCEMENT folders of plans for Spring Vale Academy which were sent out recently brought us some very encouraging letters from people in the various states who also see the great need for such a school as this. We are reproducing a few of their comments here, for we feel they will also encourage our readers who are interested in seeing the work go forward.

"Dear Brethren: We received your advertisement a few weeks ago and think it is a good plan in order that the Church of God young people and ministers may have a Christian education. I am enclosing \$_____to help on expenses."—Mrs. C. H. (Okla.)

"Enclosed is a money order for \$_____as an offering from the Eugene Church for the development of the school. We're glad to hear that you are progressing so well and hope that you may be successful in your efforts."—Mrs. F. M., Treas. (Ore.)

"Herewith find a small contribution for Spring Vale Academy. Thanks for the literature which I received several days ago."—Mrs. J. R. (Calif.)

"Your letter regarding Academy received. I regret to tell you that I am unable to help finance the enterprise though I endorse and approve it very much. You will understand when I tell you that I was a teacher for thirteen years. . . . Now I am over 85 years old.—C. D. (Wash.)

"Received your folder and letter for which I thank you very much. I am very much interested in your school and I think it is an excellent means of giving the young people of the Church of God a proper Christian education and also an opportunity in a part of gospel work."—H. S. (Canada)

"I am glad that at last we have the possibility of a school supported by our own 7th day Church of God. The Christian education of our young people is too often neglected. The program for the school as you have it outlined seems very good. I think it is a fine thing that music is included in the course of study. I shall do what I can to help support the school . . ."—M. T. (Wis.)

"I am very glad to see the development of a church school. I believe much good can result from it."—E. R. (Kansas)

"Have quite thoroughly noted your effort toward a Church school. It is a very worthy undertaking and should have the support of everyone interested. Enclosed find check . . ."—W. S. (Nebr.)

"I think you are doing a wonderful work there in starting a school for the Church of God youth, for our youth have far too long been neglected. I am very happy about the school and hope many more will follow, and also grade schools that our little ones may have the advantage of Christian schooling."—Mrs. K. B. (Ark.)

Interest Reported from Oklahoma

Hello: Yes, this is me coming your way again.

I hope all you brethren and sisters in Christ are still strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Having received one of the Announcement folders with the plans, description and outlay at Spring Vale Academy, I wish to say they impressed me very much. Apparently most of the folks who received them around here felt the same as I did about them.

I only hope the church as a whole will get behind the school there so as to speed the beginning of the work there.

May the Lord lead and bless this work to his glory is my prayer.

—Pastor K. C. Walker
Claremore, Okla.

Teachers Interested

SEVERAL TEACHERS have written of their interest in the school and it is apparent that as the need develops and the finances permit, there will be no lack for consecrated and qualified teachers.

One young man writes from Arkansas. He will graduate from a state college next year, prepared for the teaching work. A man and wife wrote from Idaho. Both are going into teaching work and if not needed here this year, they will plan to be available next year. A young man attending S.D.A. college (but a member of the Church of God) writes that after reading the folder he felt impressed to arrange his college courses to prepare himself for teaching in Church of God schools.

Michigan Church Schedule

THE FOLLOWING ministers are co-operating on a plan to visit the various church groups in Michigan, both large and small, and to hold Sabbath services with them:

C. W. Wilkinson — Vassar, May 31; Deckerville, June 7; Muskegon, June 14. Freeland all day meeting, June 21.

Stanley J. Kauer — Grant, May 31; Douglas, June 7; Freeland, June 14; Vassar, June 21.

Tiemen DeWind — Muskegon, May 31; Jenison, June 7; West Olive, June 14; Douglas, June 21.

Floyd Turner — Barryton, May 31; Mt. Clemens, June 7; Battle Creek, June 14.

A. E. Lidell — Saginaw and Freeland, May 31; Battle Creek, June 7; Detroit or Deckerville, June 14; Barryton, June 21.

This schedule is tentative and it may be necessary for some of the ministers to change their plans from time to time. However, in the past month nearly everyone has been able to keep his appointments.

* * *

At Battle Creek services are held each Sabbath from 10 a. m. to 12 noon at the G.A.R. hall on the corner of College and Champion Sts. with Elder C. J. Heywood in charge. The public is invited.

In Ipsilanti, services are conducted in the Salvation Army building each Friday evening with Elder Wm. McCann in charge. Everyone Welcome.

In Detroit, Sabbath services are held at 3716 Theodore street, beginning at 1:30 p. m., Elder Wm. McCann in charge. Everybody Welcome.

From Elder A. E. Lidell

I AM GLAD for the interest being shown in the scheduled activities of our ministers throughout the state. From all comments received, the plan of having the various licensed ministers meet certain scheduled appointments on Sabbaths is meeting with much favor on the part of the membership as well as on the part of the ministers themselves.

To carry out this program involves sacrifice and considerable driving on the part of the ministers that take part. This program, however, is not all sacrifice, for there is a definite blessing received in doing God's work and the satisfaction one has in seeing the work

go forward more than repays the efforts put forth.

For the benefit of those who may not be acquainted with this plan, I will give a brief explanation. We decided to have Elder Kauer work out a schedule of appointments, including all the ministers in the state willing to take part, these appointments to be so arranged that all parts of the field would receive a proportionate part of attention over a period of time.

My personal efforts in connection with this work have proved a blessing to me and I hope the visits of my wife and myself have been a blessing to others. So far we have kept our appointments with Vassar, Barryton and Douglas, besides the Fellowship Meeting at Owosso. We hope and pray as time goes on this plan will grow and prove more effective in blessings to all. We would like your comments, also any suggestions that may prove helpful to the success of this work.

Let us all strive toward higher achievements in spirit-filled and spirit-controlled lives individually and collectively, so the work may progress in keeping with the will of God.

—A. E. Lidell.

News Notes from Deckerville

OUR MEMBERS are meeting again more regularly since the snow has gone and the roads are passable.

Ronnie Merriam and Joseph Turner are working at the Dodge Truck Plant in Detroit and are home each week-end.

Elder Kenneth Freeman and wife and small son were with us over the Sabbath of April 26. They would like to have been able to attend the meeting at Owosso but could not drive so far and be back in West Virginia for a scheduled meeting there.

There was an all day meeting at the Bridgehampton Presbyterian church near Deckerville, May 17. Elder Freeman and Elder McMicken from West Virginia were here with us.

We enjoyed a nice visit from Elders Kauer and Floyd Turner and family in April.

We held our Lord's Supper service in the home of Brother A. C. Turner at the appointed time.

—Mrs. A. C. Turner.

Encouraging Visits Made to Detroit and Deckerville

DURING THE month of April Elder Turner and Elder Kauer went together on special visiting and missionary trips to Detroit and to Deckerville. On April 11 they drove to Detroit, stopping on the way at Novi. On this trip calls were made at twelve homes thus giving an opportunity for personal visits and a better acquaintance with those of like faith. Prayer meeting service was held on Friday evening and an excellent Sabbath school service was enjoyed the next day with Elder Kauer bringing the message. Sabbath morning Brother Lashbrook who is in the Wayne County General Hospital was visited, and although

very sick from his operation, he enjoyed the visit.

A week later, Elder Kauer accompanied Elder and Mrs. Turner and son to Deckerville. Late Friday afternoon a call was made at the home of Sister Lena Pratt. On Sabbath morning calls were made at four different homes and then in the afternoon the regular services were held at the home of Brother and Sister Calvin Harper. That night a preaching service was held at the home of Brother and Sister Wallace Cole.

It is hoped that these visits were a benefit not only to those visited, but to the cause of the Lord as a whole.

* * *

Here and There

We are glad to welcome Bennie Coulson home again after his service with the armed forces. He returned home in April and enjoyed the Fellowship Meeting at Owosso, April 26.

Brother E. E. Lashbrook of Detroit has been seriously ill and has recently undergone two major operations. According to the last report we had he was doing as well as could be expected. We certainly admire Brother Lashbrook's fortitude and faith in the Lord. He is now past 84 years old.

Elder K. H. Freeman of Friendly, W. Va., is taking an active part in seeing the work go forward in Michigan. He is making a trip up here once each month in the interests of churches on the eastern side of the state, especially the church at Deckerville. His efforts are greatly appreciated.

Elder W. W. McMicken, of Salem, W. Va., is working for a time in Michigan. At Freeland he helped the brethren to purchase a site for a church building. He has also made a missionary trip through the western part of the state stopping at Baldwin, Sparta, Grand Rapids, and Battle Creek. We were also happy to have Elder McMicken stop and visit at Owosso for an afternoon and evening.

Good Spiritual Feast at Deckerville All Day Meeting

SABBATH, MAY 17, was the occasion for an all day meeting held at Deckerville, Michigan. The meeting was held in the Bridgely church, east of town, with people coming from Vassar, Freeland, Detroit, Owosso and with Elders K. H. Freeman and W. W. McMicken from west Virginia.

During the morning, Sabbath School study was enjoyed, with Elder Freeman acting as teacher for the adult class, after which Floyd Turner took charge of a testimony service.

Following the luncheon hour, the Deckerville church presented a program of mixed numbers, after which Elder Freeman preached. The Detroit church then presented a program of band music and Elder McMicken brought a message from the Word of God. Detroit children gave recitations and the Freeland church sang a special number followed by a message from Floyd Turner.

The attendance and interest at this meeting were very good and we feel that all were encouraged to continue striving to please the Lord.

PASSOVER SERVICE

The Douglas Sabbath School reports that 17 were present for the Lord's Supper service at the appointed time and that 12 took part. The service was held at the home of Brother and Sister Riey Leach.

Progress thus far has been slow. It has been several years since it was first decided to start a school here in Michigan. But the work which has been done has been done well. We have laid a solid foundation of careful planning, of incorporation, and of faith and prayer.

There were thousands, perhaps millions of people who should have been eager to get into the ark. Today there are hundreds of young people—and older ones as well—who should be eager to become students of Spring Vale Academy. But thus far comparatively few have made such desires known. But we remember that when the ark was ready for occupants—they came. And we believe as the work of preparing the school is accomplished, students will be found and there probably will be more than we will be able to admit.

When it began to rain in the days of Noah, the people saw that the Ark was the answer to a very real need. This was especially true when the Ark began to float on the water. Then its value was proved. We realize full well today that the actual operation of the school will be the best proof of its ability to fill the need for Christian training for young people. But in order to come to that place some people must have faith to believe that we can really have a school. We are glad that more and more are showing their faith by doing all they can to help with the work.

In the days of Noah "the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence". Jesus said, "And as it was in the days of Noe (Noah), so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Many signs show that we are living in the last days, yes, even in the "time of the end". Again the earth is filled with violence of every kind. Today many people profess to worship the true God and to believe His Word, but few are willing to obey His precepts.

There was a need for an ark in the days of Noah and today there is a need for Christian schools. The Ark was a great type of Christ and the Plan of Salvation. Christian schools will lead young people to Christ and will teach the truth about the Plan of Salvation.

Do you have some of the faith of

Noah? Can you apply it to the development of Spring Vale Academy as a school for all the Church of God—a beginning for other schools which will also be for all the Church? "Lord, increase our faith."

Large Attendance at Owosso Fellowship Meeting

THE FELLOWSHIP MEETING held at the Academy farm, April 26, was well attended. People came from a number of places over the state including Muskegon, White Cloud, Douglas, Big Rapids, Ypsilanti, Willow Run, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Novi, Freeland, Jenison, Wayne, Decatur, and Ionia.

The Sabbath School service was held in the morning using a special lesson entitled, "Our Place in God's Program". Lessons were drawn from the difficulties, troubles and discouragements which great leaders in the Bible had to meet. Brother Floyd Turner acted as superintendent of the Sabbath School.

The basket lunch was spread on a large table set up on the glassed-in porch and all enjoyed the fellowship of eating together at the noon hour.

The afternoon services began with a preaching service in which Elder Clarence Wilkinson was the speaker. He brought an interesting and inspirational message which was followed by the young people's and children's program, and led by Sister Carrie Coulson.

Messages from the Word of God were then brought by Elder Wm. McCann of Ypsilanti, and by Elder Stanley J. Kauer. In all it was a good meeting and those who attended could get a better idea of the need of a school and the prospects for the opening this fall. The offering given for the school totalled \$166.30 with other contributions being turned in during the day amounting to another \$65.00.

OATS BRING GOOD PRICE

The latter part of April 225 bushels of oats were sold to a nearby elevator for which we received 90 cents per bushel. This money was applied on the spring payment on the place and was a substantial help.

Fund Started for Building Work

At its meeting, May 11, the Board of Directors of the school took up the matter of needed improvements, alterations and repairs to the present buildings in preparation for their use for the school. The most needed items were listed and the costs estimated. It was decided that a fund of \$2,500 would be needed to make these improvements this summer.

These needed improvements include the building of an outside stairway to the house for a fire-escape; the building of a small addition for bath-room space and the installation of equipment; a large septic tank system; and repairs to the farm buildings.

That which we work for we value most. The Lord did not give us a school plant ready to move into, but rather a very fine site which by hard work and sacrifice can be developed into a place ideal for our needs. The buildings now on the place are old, but substantial and some work and expense will make them suitable for our needs. As we give and as we work, the results of our giving and labor become concrete evidence of our faith. The school plant will really be our own—and every one who has given or worked can feel that they have an investment in it, and that it belongs to all who have thus shown their interest in this work.

The improvements mentioned are very much needed and should be made this summer before we open the school in the fall. In this case "the King's business requires haste"—the needed funds must be raised at once. Michigan brethren have continued to show their interest by regular contributions and by attendance at the Fellowship meetings. Since the announcement folder was issued, more and more brethren in other states are responding and helping with the work. Let us again do our utmost, to help make possible this building improvement and repair.

RECENT ARRIVAL

A daughter, Kathleen Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Roche, of Freeland, on March 25, 1947.

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READING THE BIBLE THROUGH Amos R. Wells

I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss,
Now a bit of John or Matthew,
Now a snatch of Genesis,
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain Psalms, the twenty-third,
Twelfth of Romans, first of Proverbs—
Yes, I thought I knew the Word!
But I found that thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.

Oh, the massive, mighty Volume!
Oh, the treasures manifold,
Oh, the beauty and the wisdom
And the grace it proved to hold
As the story of the Hebrews
Swept in majesty along,
As it leaped in waves prophetic,
As it burst in sacred song!
As it gleamed with Christly omens
The Old Testament was new,
Strong with cumulative powers,
When I read the Bible through.

Ah, imperial Jeremiah,
With his keen, coruscant mind;
And the blunt old Nehemiah,
And Ezekiel refined!
Newly came the Minor Prophets,
Each with his distinctive robe,
Newly came the song idyllic,
And the tragedy of Job;
Deuteronomy, the regal,
To a towering mountain grew
With the comrade peaks around it,
When I read the Bible through.

What a radiant procession,
As the pages rise and fall:
James the sturdy, John the tender,
Oh, the myriad-minded Paul!
Vast apocalyptic glories
Wheel and thunder, flash and flame,
While the Church Triumphant raises
One incomparable Name.
Ah, the story of the Saviour
Never glows supremely true
Till you read it whole and swiftly,
When you read the Bible through.

You who like to play at Bible,
Dip and dabble, here and there,
Just before you kneel, aweary,
And yawn through a hurried prayer;
You who treat the Crown of Writings
As you treat no other book—
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude, impatient look—
Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible through!

—The P. H. Advocate.

SPRING VALE NEWS