

The Good News

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A Joyous PENTECOST

Thousands observed the Day of Pentecost around the world in GOD'S Church. God's work is growing in every direction—and SEVEN nation-wide baptizing tours are scheduled!

by Roderick C. Meredith

“AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1).

The recent joyous observance of Pentecost by literally thousands of brethren around this earth was certainly “with one accord” as it was in apostolic days! Although this time—as it was in the days of Paul when Pentecost was observed at Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:8) as well as other major centers—the observance of this Festival was held on several continents in various cities.

Mr. Armstrong at New York City

After spending the first part of the three-day Festival with the London church on the weekly Sabbath, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong flew on Sunday to New York City to be with God's Church there for the Day of Pentecost. He was returning to this country anyway for a much-needed visit to important radio stations, and so planned to spend this Holy Day with God's Church in America's largest city.

The pastor of the New York City church, Mr. Carlton Smith, reports: “Again I am happy to report the greatest Holy Day Festival ever held in this great city! There were 293 adults and 118 children, representing ten states plus Canada and Washington, D.C., in attendance. This was by far the greatest number of God's people ever assembled in New York City in the Philadelphia era of God's Church.

“Not only was it the greatest Festival observed here attendance-wise; but most

important of all, it was, I sincerely feel, the most profitable, spiritually speaking. Everyone just seemed to be bubbling over with enthusiasm, warmth and joy. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, whom we were very happy to have with us, said that this church is the ‘handshakingest’ group he had ever seen. Also, we were overjoyed to see and hear Mr. Armstrong in person, and a number commented to me after the services as to how much they had been inspired by his messages ‘to really do more’ in the way of spiritual progress. So, it certainly was a ‘shot-in-the-arm’ for the entire church to have Mr. Armstrong with us again for the second time since the church was started in November of 1959. I hope that this shot will last until he can return to give us another one.

“In the way of physical enjoyment we, of course, had the physical feast during the interim between the morning and afternoon services. Everyone partook of and enjoyed the delicious and healthful food prepared by God's people as only God's people can prepare it. Not only were we able to please the palate with good food, but also the ears were soothed, during the afternoon services, by a couple of beautiful and melodic songs, the 1st and 117th Psalms set to music by our own Mr. Leo Bogdanchik. Mr. Bogdanchik has studied music the greater part of his life under private instructors and now has his own music studio where he teaches piano, accordion and other instruments as his profession. However, his specialty for his own likes is the organ. He is now enthusi-

astically engaged in setting other songs to music. Oh, yes, I want to say that the two above-mentioned songs were sung by our sextet made up of Messrs. Calvin and Raymond Mickens, and their wives, plus Mr. and Mrs. Zac Challenger. It appears that we have a great deal of musical talent plus talent in many other fields here in New York.

“To illustrate just how much God really does want those who sincerely seek and obey His Commandments to enjoy and profit from the services, first let me tell you what occurred to one of our faithful women during Pentecost. Mrs. Charles Nickel, shortly after the morning service ended, was stricken suddenly with severe cramps and upset stomach. She was very sick and felt very bad. Her husband came over and asked me to anoint her, which I did. After the afternoon service had ended, she came to me and told me that as soon as we had come out of the little room that the pains in her body disappeared and that she was able to enjoy and profit from the afternoon service which I had asked God to make possible. Yes, God is a merciful God and He is very much concerned for His children as we have seen evidenced here many times.

“So, all in all, this was a most enjoyable and profitable Holy Day. Much enthusiasm was generated and all went away looking forward to the next one as usual.”

Overseas Observance

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse reports from

God's Church in Sydney, Australia, that they observed a wonderful Pentecost Festival. Mr. Waterhouse and Mr. Tony Hammer conducted an entire three-day Festival there with morning and afternoon preaching services each day. About 100 brethren were in attendance for the Festival from all parts of Australia — some having to travel many miles to be there.

Since new radio stations are now being added in "the land down under" God's work there should soon be BOOMING more than ever!

Many of you brethren will be happy to learn that we are now planning to send Mr. and Mrs. Frank Simpkins to Australia to help in the work there soon after college graduation this June. Mr. Simpkins is from near Neosho, Missouri, and is now graduating from Ambassador College. His wife, the former Bernice Stover, is a very faithful and dedicated maid-servant of Jesus Christ, and it is felt that this couple will add much to the work in Australia where so much growth is taking place.

Our congratulations and our prayers go with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Simpkins!

Reports are still incomplete from the British Isles regarding the observance of Pentecost there, but we do know that a large Festival was held with God's Church in London, England. About 150 brethren were in attendance, plus many others in the outlying churches. As reported earlier, Mr. Herbert Armstrong was there over the weekly Sabbath before flying back to New York Sunday. After his departure, Mr. Raymond McNair remained to conduct the services on the Day of Pentecost for God's Church in "Ephraim."

From the far away Philippine Islands, Mr. Pedro Ortiguero reports that 853 observed the Day of Pentecost there in the Philippines. Many people have been attracted by the preaching of God's truth in this far-away land, and are beginning to meet with God's Church and learn many things on His Holy Days. May our thoughts and prayers be with them!

Pentecost at Chicago

A three-day Pentecost Festival was held in Chicago with Mr. Herman L. Hoeh flying there from Pasadena to assist the local pastor, Mr. Dean Blackwell, in conducting services there for over 1100 people!

Mr. Blackwell sends the following report: "A warm, enthusiastic 1104 people rejoiced before God in the commemoration of the founding of God's Church 1930 years ago. Wonderful improvement was noticed in the special music by the Chicago chorale as well as the soloists.

"Mrs. Viola Peets is to be commended on her persistently near-flawless job of

managing the meals. Thanks also go to her helpers for the meals and service. In obedience to God's injunction that we rise up before the 'hoary head,' the older people always go through the food line first.

"A very enjoyable time of social fellowship was held on Saturday night. Among our colored brethren, under Mr. Elisha Crim's supervision, and among the other brethren with Mr. John Bald as Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Peets, the husband of Mrs. Peets and an interested friend of the church, cordially provided us with his personal band. Educational movies of God's creation were enjoyed by those 12 years old and under and a nursery was provided for the smaller children by Mrs. Cornelia Henderson, a Chicago church grandmother herself.

"Attendance at the all-day services on Sabbath and Sunday was 665 and 455 respectively. Everything was run very smoothly as the result of an outstanding job done by a very capable group of deacons. Additional rejoicing occurred as many new brothers and sisters were added to our spiritual family.

"Other recent cause for rejoicing took place on the Sabbath of May 6 when we were blessed in Chicago and Bloomington by the addition of two new deacons in God's service. In Chicago, Mr. Martin Filippello, a very yielded, zealous Italian member of God's Church was elevated to greater service for his brethren. His lively, helpful wife adds to his service and potential as well as being truly an helpmeet for him. This raises the Chicago group of special servants to an unusual six consisting of two Germans, Mr. Joseph Schlitt and Mr. Raymond Roenspies; two Russians, Mr. John Kreidich and Mr. Joseph Tkach; our colored deacon, Mr. Elisha Crim; and our new Italian deacon, Mr. Filippello.

"The very first deacon for the Bloomington church was ordained on the same Sabbath by Mr. Hal Baird and me. Mr. Gene Dawson, who has shown great zeal and yieldedness in God's Church, was readily recognized as qualified by all but himself.

"Having driven over 100 miles to church in El Paso for over two years in order to assemble to learn and help the newer brothers, Mr. Dawson pursued the path of higher service to others. He is helped by a very warm and spiritually growing wife, and two small daughters who will add experience in management and patience."

Pentecost at Gladewater and Pasadena

Flying back to Texas by 707 Jet, I was privileged to be at our own big tabernacle at Gladewater, Texas to join Mr. Kenneth Swisher — the local minister —

in conducting services during the three-day Pentecost Festival. Beginning with a Bible study on Friday night, five preaching services and two Bible studies were held during the three-day period.

Mr. Swisher and I were assisted in conducting these services by Mr. Frank Wilson — who led the singing, and by Mr. Cecil Battles — who brought two sermonettes. Also, a very *special* treat was given all of us when the Gladewater Imperial High School Chorus rendered two special selections on the Day of Pentecost during the final afternoon service. This group of young singers was led by Mr. Richard Rice, teacher in the Imperial School, and they sang beautifully and feelingly.

The theme of the sermons was on resisting the spirit of Satan and his demons, and on being filled with the Spirit of Almighty God. On the Day of Pentecost itself, well over 1,000 were in attendance and enjoyed a wonderful day of feasting and fellowship on the beautiful tabernacle grounds as well as in the preaching services themselves.

At Pasadena headquarters church, over 900 brethren assembled for the Feast of Pentecost — plus hundreds of others in other nearby local churches in the Los Angeles area. The preaching services in Pasadena were conducted by Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong assisted by Mr. Wayne Cole. The theme was on *knowing* the power of God and His Spirit.

God granted a beautiful day, and a wonderful feast was held out-of-doors on our own lovely Ambassador College campus grounds.

Elsewhere in the Los Angeles area, the Los Angeles and Long Beach churches met together at Gardena under the direction of Dr. Zimmerman — head of the Letter Answering Department — and Mr. Frank McCrady. Over 300 brethren joined in this service, and experienced a fine festival both spiritually and physically.

In the Sherman Oaks Church of God, about 120 brethren attended. The preaching services were conducted by Mr. Norman Smith and Mr. Selmer Hegvold.

In Redlands, California, about 125 members of the Redlands church attended Pentecost services conducted by Mr. Charles Dorothy and Mr. Al Dennis, local elder.

In Temple City, about 130 were in attendance on the Day of Pentecost. The preaching services there were conducted by Mr. Jon Hill, local pastor, and Mr. Arthur Mokarow, formerly from the Chicago church and now a zealous student in Ambassador College.

Further south, the San Diego Church of God assembled for a splendid Pentecost Festival under the direction of a visiting minister, Mr. Leroy Neff, and their