



Mr. John Portune



Mr. Dennis Luker



Mr. Dave Albert

for the first three studies conducted there. Mr. Waterhouse comments that the people there manifest real zeal and fine attitudes, so he feels justified and happy in traveling a good distance to serve them even though the numbers are not large as yet.

But let us rejoice, and PRAY for God's blessing upon His Work as it begins way down in South Africa!

On the Sabbath of May 18, the Bible study in Reno, Nevada, was converted into full Sabbath services. Mr. McCrady reports that there were 67 in attendance for the first services, and a good potential for the future. Even though the area is a center of gambling and vice, the Eternal GOD has called some of His people to a knowledge of the purpose of human existence in this area. So let our prayers and best wishes be with them always!

Last Sabbath, May 25, the monthly Bible study in Atlanta, Georgia, became a full church! The brethren there in Georgia have been hoping and praying for this for a long time, and Mr. Craig reports that they really appreciate

this opportunity to worship God together. Attendance at the first services totaled 191. This is certainly a fine start for this new church, and because of Atlanta's location in the center of a new area for God's local churches, it should only be the beginning and foretaste of much growth in the future!

Meanwhile, all of God's Churches continue to show encouraging, and, in most cases, rapid growth. The Grand Rapids Church started off with 131 in attendance—still leaving well over 500 attending the South Bend Church! The recent attendance at the Minneapolis, Minnesota Bible study totaled 84—and should rise to many more if we are able to establish a church there in the future.

The two rather new churches under Mr. Carn Catherwood continue to zoom ahead in setting new attendance records. Latest attendance reported was 330 in Indianapolis, and 310 in Cincinnati! So Mr. Catherwood, as well as many of our other ministers, now has well over 600 people under his charge

to counsel, anoint and "shepherd" as his personal responsibility.

When thinking of these rising attendance records, be sure to remember ALL of God's ministers in your earliest prayers! And remember the continuing need for more Local Elders and assistant ministers who may be sent to aid them from Ambassador College.

Australian Baptismal Tour

1963

Mr. Wayne Cole, Evangelist in charge of God's Work in Australia, sends in an inspiring report of God's adding to His Church there. Mr. Cole writes:

"The most fruitful baptizing tour yet taken in Australia was completed in March of this year. The tour was very successful and a substantial increase was added by God to His Church in this 'land down under.'

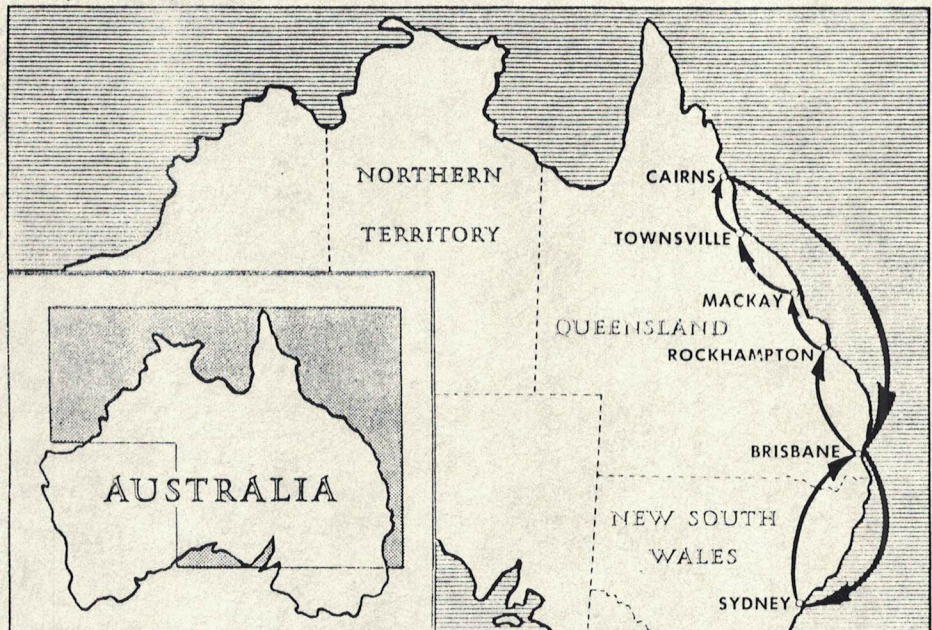
"Mr. Frank Simpkins, the leader of the tour, and Mr. Don Abraham left on March 13th by car. They visited and counseled with several groups during the next few days as they made their way to Brisbane. They arrived in Brisbane the following Sunday morning, in time to meet me at the airport as I arrived for the Brisbane Bible study.

"After the conclusion of the study, Don Abraham and I proceeded by airplane north in Queensland to Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. While Mr. Abraham and I were on this northern part of the baptismal tour, Mr. Simpkins remained in the Brisbane area to visit with some attending the Brisbane Bible studies and also to counsel with many baptismal requests.

A Good Percentage Baptized

"Having completed our trip north by the following Sunday, one week later, we flew back to Brisbane where Mr. Abraham rejoined Frank Simpkins and I returned by plane to Sydney. Frank Simpkins and Don Abraham completed the necessary visits in Brisbane and re-

The map below shows the cities in the area covered by the Australian baptizing tour—read Mr. Cole's personal report in this article.



turned to Sydney by car making several counsel stops on the way.

"The encouraging totals for the tour are: On the North Queensland trip, Mr. Abraham and I met 24 and baptized 15 and solid seed was sown in those not baptized. An amazing thing was that 100% of those we had on our list as definite baptismal requests appeared for the counseling.

"On the tour to and from Brisbane and the work in the Brisbane area, Mr. Simpkins and Mr. Abraham met 49 and baptized 27. Altogether we counseled with 73 people and baptized 42. The Brisbane Bible study has been given a fine boost by this tour and the attendance has now climbed to nearly 20 in attendance at each meeting.

"One inspiring way in which God intervened for the tour was in the weather. This past March was one of the "wettest" Marches for the coastal regions of New South Wales and Queensland in many years, with the most rain since 1942. In Sydney it rained 26 days during the month. However, in spite of all the adverse weather and flooded road conditions, etc., God intervened in such a way that not a single group or person had to be missed due to weather or flood hindrance.

"In many cases there were storms ahead of the tour or storms and closed roads behind the tour but never at the place of contact. On the trip north from Brisbane to Cairns, Mr. Abraham and I had fine warmth and sunshine all the way and then after our last contact on the Sabbath in Cairns it began to rain and Saturday night we had a genuine tropical storm. The next morning it was still raining but had cleared up sufficiently for us to leave on the flight to Townsville and Brisbane. It truly is encouraging and inspiring to see the intervention of an Almighty God in seeing to it that His Work can be accomplished."

Ministerial News and Changes

For the first part of this summer, Mr. Raymond Cole and his wife are visiting Ambassador College in Bricket Wood and also seeing some of the important cities on the Continent, in the Middle East and in the Holy Land particularly during this overseas visit. Mr. Cole is Evangelist in charge of all of God's Churches in the Pacific Northwest—and, by the first of August—will be switching with Mr. Carlton Smith to become District Superintendent over the churches in the North-east District of the United States.

Word comes from England that they are having a wonderful and profitable visit, and have just returned from a

most enlightening tour of Rome, Cairo, Jerusalem and other important cities in the Middle East and the Holy Land. On this trip, they were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hunting—now stationed at Ambassador College in England.

News of another overseas transfer came to light recently. Mr. John Portune received the shocking news just the day after his ordination that he was being sent to England within five or six weeks! After receiving word from Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and Mr. Chapman in England, Mr. Ted Armstrong found it was necessary to have Mr. Portune to go to England right away in order to be there at least a week or so before Mr. Chapman returns here around the 10th of August.

This is in order that Mr. Portune may be familiarized with the radio studio and the entire broadcasting setup there in England. He will be replacing Mr. Chapman in this responsibility. So Mr. John Portune and family will only get to be in the Oakland-Sacramento area for about five weeks before turning it over to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Luker! In this Work, you never know what's going to happen tomorrow!

But their friends and brethren will certainly be glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Ben Chapman back in this country after their stay of some three years at God's

College in England. They will be returning for a visit to Pasadena, and perhaps later will be traveling to Big Sandy, Texas, where Mr. Chapman will oversee the establishment of the radio studio there at the new college as he did at the college in England.

Time marches on. And God's WORK goes forward with increasing power!

As your part, brethren, be sure to really PRAY for these newly ordained ministers and *thank God* for making possible their ordinations! *Pray earnestly* for all the men going out this summer in the summer *harvest season* in God's Work. Many of you will recall that when the summer harvest is being reaped Satan often strikes more than ever!

It seems also that *demon problems* seem to manifest themselves more during the warm summer months. And often *family quarrels, sex problems* and just plain *human nature* in EVERY aspect seem to come to the surface more than ever during the summer doldrums.

So don't let down!

Let us unitedly beseech our Father that He will *protect, guide* and *empower His servants* this summer more than ever in reaping the bountiful harvest that He is making possible!

Your Bible Questions Answered

Please address any questions YOU would like answered in this column to the editor.

Was Jesus Christ Under a Nazarite Vow?

In Numbers 6:1-27, Almighty God gives the requirements of a Nazarite vow. By comparing these with the life of Jesus Christ we will see whether Jesus was or was not under a Nazarite vow.

First of all, a Nazarite was FORBIDDEN to use *any product* obtained from the grape vine. This prohibition specifically included *wines*. Notice it in Numbers 6:3-4. "He shall SEPARATE HIMSELF from *wine* and *strong drink*. . . ALL THE DAYS OF HIS SEPARATION SHALL HE EAT NOTHING THAT IS MADE OF THE VINE TREE, from the *kernels* even to the *husk*."

Jesus Christ, however, drank wine! In His *final supper* with His disciples, Jesus DRANK WINE—just before He was led away by the religious leaders.

At this time He said, "I will not DRINK henceforth of THIS FRUIT OF THE VINE, until that day when I drink it new with you in my FATHER'S kingdom" (Matt. 26:29).

Matthew 11:19 tells us that the Pharisees accused Jesus Christ of being a "winebibber"! But Jesus didn't use wine in *excess* as the Pharisees implied. He DID DRINK IT. He encouraged the use of wine at the wedding feast at His *first* public miracle (John 2:1-11)!

There was a *second restriction* placed on the Nazarite. His hair had to grow without being trimmed or cut for the FULL DURATION of his vow (Num. 6:5). This *change* in his outward appearance would identify *anyone* who was under a Nazarite vow ON SIGHT!

But there was NOTHING about Christ that would distinguish Him on sight! Luke 22:47 illustrates that Jesus had to be *specifically identified* by Judas. Otherwise, the soldiers who

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