

Editorials

James Gunn

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Editorial (Jan 1955)

Food For the Flock

Vol 1:1 (January 1955)

A Monthly Publication For The Sustenance Of The Flock Of God A monthly publication designed to promote the careful study of the Scriptures, to edify and instruct the Church, to comfort and encourage the people of God, and above all, to bring glory to the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Editorial

James Gunn

Herewith you are being introduced to the first issue of "FOOD for the FLOCK". This new publication has been conceived through years of prayerful exercise and deep concern and is now brought into being through the combined efforts of the group of brethren whose names appear above on this page.

Of late years there has been increasing evidence of a definite decline in personal Bible study and devotion to the Lord. During the Second World War the saints were living unsettled lives, with added work and worry, and so much rush and bustle, that they found few opportunities for the careful reading of the Scriptures or the preparation of the heart through prayer and communion with God. Since the close of the war, most Christians have lost the art of "redeeming the time" and find it hard to settle down to spiritual living. True, the World has added attractions, and has perhaps taken a larger place in the hearts of the believers. Yet, with all who are

truly born of God, there is an underlying love for the Man of Calvary. Keeping these things in mind, "FOOD for the FLOCK" is being printed with the hope of reviving the soul and feeding the inner man, so that the saints may be drawn closer to the Lord and given a renewed appetite for the reading and study of His Word.

It is planned to maintain the sections of the magazine as they are presented in this issue. First is "Devotional," with words to warm the heart, through exalting Christ. Then comes the "Doctrinal" section, where articles will appear from month to month covering fundamental truths that are the very foundations of the Faith. The first of these, in this issue, deals with the Inspiration of the Scriptures", and we feel this subject is most timely in view of the assaults of the Enemy in these days. The pages devoted to "Bible Study" are calculated to give the would-be student of the Word of God helpful instruction on how to plan and prepare his personal study of the Book of books.

The "Expository" section follows, with an unfolding of the Truth as revealed through meditation of the passage under consideration. Finally, the "Bible Forum" page gives our readers an opportunity to write in with their views of the subjects being discussed in that section, with letters, or excerpts being printed at the discretion of the editors.

And so, Dear Fellow Believer, we submit this first issue of "FOOD for the FLOCK" for your careful, prayerful reading. May it prove to be a blessing to you, and may God be glorified through this and subsequent issues.

Editorial (Feb 1955)

Vol 1:2 (February 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

Even before any January copies of Food for the Flock were placed in the mails, a number of encouraging letters came to us from those who had received an announcement of the advent of this new monthly publication for the people of God. These assured us that our periodical would have their prayerful support. One correspondent mentioned that a group of brethren had been considering the need of such a magazine, with edifying ministry suitable for those who are not instructed in the truth of God.

This February issue was prepared for press before our readers had received the first number of Food for the Flock, and therefore before their comments reached us. The editorial staff assuredly is not above accepting constructive criticism but none of the brethren are writing to obtain the praises of men. Rather, the goal is that the articles may be read carefully, their messages absorbed, and the heart and life of every reader so reached that true Godliness in fuller measure may result. In short, the exercise of those responsible is that we all may be, as James 1:22 expresses it, "Doers of the word, and not hearers only."

To provide a variety of ministry a number of brethren from various walks of life have been encouraged to write for Food for the Flock. For example, you will have noticed and enjoyed the article in the January issue

which was written by David Craig. Mr. Craig is of Scottish birth but has preached extensively in Northern Ireland and recently has visited Canada and the United States. We hope to have further articles from his pen in later months.

In February we have brought you an article entitled, The Glory of His Countenance, which you will read with pleasure and profit. The writer, Mr. F. J. Squire, was formerly a research chemist with Lever Brothers, but is now retired and living in North Weymouth, Mass.

You will also find a message from the pen of John Martin, dealing with the Genealogy of Christ. Mr. Martin conducts a Young Believer's Bible Class in Pittsburgh, Penna., and we are happy to have him on our Advisory Committee.

As you read the articles on these pages, may you enjoy with us these good green pastures, in order that the appetite for the Word of God be whetted, and that there be a deeper determination to have a life wholly devoted to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Editorial (Mar 1955)

Vol 1:3 (March, 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

As the writer was preparing the rough draft for this editorial, a subscription order came in from a lonely spot in Ontario's far North. On the desk, at the same time, lay a letter from a missionary in the heart of Africa, Mr. T. Ernest Wilson, expressing his appreciation of the new magazine and promising us some articles for future issues. Then, a glance at our growing list of readers showed that "FOOD for the FLOCK" is reaching other beloved saints who are in isolated places and not privileged to listen to a variety of oral ministry. The editors are happy to know that these fellow-members of the Body of Christ are being strengthened, sustained and cheered through the messages printed in these pages.

It has not been possible for us to reply immediately to all the letters that have been received. However, your comments and criticisms are appreciated and are given careful consideration by the editorial staff and the advisory committee.

A number of enquiries were received from subscribers who had not received their February copy on time, and we feel that an explanation is necessary. In order to serve us better, our printer was installing new typesetting equipment and certain unforeseen delays occurred, which held up production in that department. A further delay came when the Ontario Hydro Electric

Commission came into Thorold to change over to 60 cycle service, tying up the motors in the press room while this conversion was taking place.

In the makeshift arrangement for getting the February issue to our readers, a different type face was used, which took up more space than customary, and when last minute deletions of copy were made, some typographical errors resulted. We are sure, however, that most of our readers will have gathered from the context that Psalm 37 was the basis for Mr. Wilkie's article on "The Cause and Cure of Fretting."

Such are some of the problems that arise in the early stages of a new venture, and we learn by these experiences. Therefore we are confident that, through the excellent co-operation we are receiving from our printer, you will in months to come receive a more attractive "FOOD for the FLOCK"—and delivered closer to our publication date, which is the 15th of the month.

The picture which is appearing on the front cover at present, has created much interest. This is an actual photograph from the Holy Land, taken to illustrate the expression in Psalm Twenty-Three, "Thou anointest my head with oil." Have you noticed how peaceful and contented the sheep are, gathered around their shepherd?

Such happy harmony should characterize us who are the Lord's if we are conscious of His presence in our midst and if we are walking closely by His side. How tragic when we grow cold in heart toward the Beloved Master, for it is then that we wander away and find it so easy to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together." In such a backslidden condition we become critical of others, yet

so slow to judge ourselves. We trust and pray that the preparation and the reading of "FOOD for the FLOCK" will bring us all nearer to the Lord Jesus Christ and make Him more precious to our hearts.

Special attention is drawn to the article in this issue entitled "Christian Stewardship," prepared by James Kennedy of Chicago. Mr. Kennedy is a businessman who has devoted much of his time to the service of God's people; he is secretary of the monthly publication, "Letters of Interest," which many of our readers already receive.

In the Expository Section, Robert McClurkin presents the second of three articles in a series. These are based on the study of First Corinthians, chapters 12, 13 and 14. There is no need to tell you more about the contents of this issue. You may read them for yourself.

When you have enjoyed "FOOD for the FLOCK", think of some friend who is shut-in or isolated, perhaps a foreign missionary who would appreciate a copy each month. May we suggest that you send in a gift subscription for him?

Editorial (April 1955)

Vol. 1:4 (April 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

Most of our readers, in all likelihood, scan the index or take a quick glance at the headings on the inside pages before settling down to the careful perusal of the whole magazine.

If such be the case, it will hardly be necessary to point out that the current issues of "Food for The Flock" emphasizes certain cardinal facts of our Christian Faith, and follows the themes of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A few comments, however, relative to some of the writers who are featured this month may add to the enjoyment of the reading of their helpful ministry.

The first article, "The Death of Christ," is by C. H. Darch of West Monkton, Taunton, England, who is well-known to readers of the British Christian periodical, Precious Seed. It is with pleasure we introduce him to our readers, and give to them as his first paper in our publication an article on so precious and fundamental a topic.

In the Expository Section, brother McClurkin's series of lessons on First Corinthians is interrupted in order to bring a timely and important message concerning the Cross, entitled "He Gave Himself." While this is primarily an exposition of this statement as it occurs in

the New Testament, it also reveals the significance of the sacrifice of Christ in its relation to the believer.

The attention of our readers is also drawn to the devotional article "The Burial of Christ," by Gordon N. Reager, one of the valued members of our Advisory Committee. Mr. Reager and his partner, Paul Plubell, have proclaimed the Gospel and ministered the Word of God in many parts of the United States and Canada. At present they are visiting Northern Ireland and we pray that the Lord will use our brethren to the spiritual blessing of all who may hear their preaching in that country.

"The Empty Tomb," by David Leathern, presents the triumphant truth of the resurrection of the Man of Calvary. "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins." (1 Cor. 15:17).

We trust that each article in the April issue will prove to be profitable in the instructing and edifying of every reader. If you enjoy "Food for the Flock" kindly tell others and encourage them to order the magazine.

Our list of subscribers continues to grow month by month, and words of appreciation are being received constantly. Many have commented favourably on the fact that all the pages are being devoted to written ministry, without any space being given to advertising or news reports.

The Editors already have some choice ministry on hand for subsequent issues including notes, papers, and articles, from brethren in Canada, The United States, Great Britain, and the foreign field, but you will learn more of this in the May number. It is ever the hope of the Editor, to discreetly insert sound spiritual ministry in

every variety from as many gifted channels as the Lord may exercise to prepare such food for the flock.

There is another item which should be mentioned before this editorial is concluded. Kindly look at the address on your mailing envelope and advise us promptly if there is any error or omission. This will assure the safe and speedy delivery of your copy month by month. Should there be any change in your address immediate advice of this would also be appreciated.

Editorial (May 1955)

Vol 1:5 (May 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

One of the basic purposes behind the publishing of FOOD for the FLOCK is to provide help and instruction for young Christians so that they may be encouraged to study the Scriptures and become established in the Faith. With such an aim The Forum this month is discussing the Oneness of the Human Race, a topic which will be of timely interest to most High School and College students. Incidentally, letters are invited, giving added thoughts or alternative views on the propositions introduced in The Forum.

The Illustration of the Month is a regular feature which has brought favorable comment from readers, and we hope you will look for this enjoyable morsel in each issue.

The back cover, as you will have observed, is reserved for poetry and we try to select pieces that have not previously appeared in any other publication. The hymn, Be Not Dismayed, is by John Rankin, who has labored for some years as a missionary in Jamaica.

Before introducing new writers in the May issue, however, we would apologize for omitting mention of Donald Norbie, whose article, In Our Hearts, was printed last month. Bro. Norbie lives in Oklahoma City where he devotes his whole time to the Lord's service.

In this present number we are happy to have a message from Donald Taylor, of Chicago, who is Secretary and Assistant Treasurer of "Letters of Interest." It is a pleasure thus to work in co-operation with other Christian publications in the work of the Lord and in the spreading of the truth of God. Definitely would we avoid any semblance of a competitive or contentious spirit.

John Bramhall is another writer who is appearing for the first time in FOOD for the FLOCK. Living in Charlotte, North Carolina, he is well known to many saints in the United States for his ministry of the Word. His excellent article on the doctrine of the second coming of Christ is worthy of your careful consideration.

Our English brother, C. H. Darch, brings us another heart-warming paper, entitled, The Forgiveness of Sins. The unbelievers' version of the Twenty-Third Psalm, as here given, is quite impressive.

Our Devotional Editor, T. G. Wilkie, touches a tender cord of the heart in his reminder that God is Faithful. What assurance is given, amid a world of change and unrest, by the knowledge that Jehovah is unchanging and unfailing. This hope, indeed, is an anchor for the soul in the raging storms and adverse tides that threaten the believer.

As the fifth number of FOOD for the FLOCK is sent to press, it is with the earnest prayer that God will bless its pages to the edification and comfort of His beloved people.

Editorial (June 1955)

Vol 1:6 (June 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

The interest in the efforts of Food for the Flock manifested by responsible Christians not only has been gratifying, but has been most encouraging. We do appreciate their kind words of cheer and counsel.

At the last meeting of the Committee it was decided, because of suggestions by others, to develop an earlier exercise and to open a new section entitled "Lambs of The Flock." This title indicates the purpose of this department. We would solicit the constant prayers of God's beloved people for our brother Ernest B. Sprunt who has undertaken this ministry, and for our brother Aubrey Delandrea who is to assist him, that they may be used in the feeding and leading of the lambs of Christ's pasture.

The more matured among the flock are asked to encourage younger Christians to follow this particular monthly feature, as well as to study the entire contents of each issue. Bible Class leaders among young believers definitely should induce their scholars to subscribe for Food for The Flock.

At a recent conference in a large city, it was discovered that one of the modern religious cults had entered the community in which the conference was being held, and had freely distributed its heretical literature. On their leaflets such bold anti-Christian statements as the

following appeared: "The Trinity a Myth," "Jesus is not Jehovah," "Jesus is not co-equal with God." In our own day the apostolic prediction surely is being realized, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own hearts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables," (2 Tim. 4:3-4). It is therefore with much spiritual pleasure, and with profound thanksgiving to God, that we insert, in this issue, the excellent article by our esteemed brother Ernest Wilson, Angola, Africa, entitled, "The Mystery of Christ." This helpful exposition of the nature and personality of Christ deserves the closest perusal.

Words of sweet comfort as well as of instruction will be found in the doctrinal section by David Leathern, "Behold The Man." Read this article carefully and learn what the sinless humanity of our blessed Lord means to you.

Another heart warming devotional paper by David Craig, Ireland, will be found full of inspiration. "The Memorial Feast" is actually a supplement to his former contribution, "The Memorial Name." We hope to have others in this series from our beloved brother.

It has been thought proper to share with the readers of The Forum, the investigations into the purport of certain Scriptures as conducted at the Belmar, New Jersey, Bible Study Conference, March, 1955. The subject intensively studied was The Seven Letters to The Seven Churches of Asia, (Rev. 2-3). During the first session the subject was considered from the view point of its historical setting; during the second, from the angle of its prophetic

application; and, during the third, from the appropriateness of its practical principles.

Some of the questions raised during the discussion periods of this conference will be given in The Forum along with a summarization of the answers submitted by various brethren.

If you have enjoyed this number, please take an interest in your fellow-believer, and introduce to him Food for The Flock.

Editorial (Aug 1955)

Vol 1:8 (August 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

With pleasure we this month introduce three contributors who are new writers in FOOD for the FLOCK. The first of these is Harold Kesler, of Riverside, California, who gives us the devotional message, "Things Eternal." At six years of age, Harold attended Sunday School a few times but showed no further interest in spiritual things for many years. When his sister was converted, she began to bombard him with tracts (to use his own words) and through one of these printed messengers Mrs. Kesler was saved. She, in turn, saw her husband brought to Christ through her reading the Bible in his hearing. That was in 1930 and about twelve years later Bro. Kesler was led by the Lord to devote his full time to the Master's service.

Mr. E. W. Rogers, of London, England, has written extensively for The Believers' Magazine and other Christian periodicals and has prepared several books on doctrinal subjects. Our esteemed and gifted brother is in Canada and the United States this summer, ministering the Word to appreciative audiences. Our readers will be helped greatly by his timely article in this issue, "The Believer and the Future," dealing with the Church and the Tribulation. We might add that the story on page 19 was told by Mr. Rogers at the Christian Convention in Galt, Ontario, last June.

James Gunn continues his series on Bible Study, under the title, "Interpretation." We urge careful notice of these helpful pointers which will be of great assistance in the correct understanding of the Scriptures. Friends will be pleased to know that our beloved editor has come through his throat operation, though he has found very trying the treatments which followed. We are all praying that God will graciously give our brother a complete recovery, if it be His will, so that he may again be able to enrich us with his oral and written ministry.

Those who are young in Christ will find profitable instruction through reading, "Under New Management," from the pen of Aubrey Dellandrea, of our editorial staff. This brother has been much used of the Lord in bringing sinners to the Saviour and therefore has a large place in his heart for the lambs of the flock.

An article about the Church at Antioch, by John T. Dickson, appeared last month and the second part of this interesting study is now printed in the Expository Section.

Before concluding this editorial, there is another matter to mention. Do you know that two dollars will pay for sixteen issues of "FOOD for the FLOCK" for a friend? Why not send us a few subscriptions to run from September through all of 1956?

Editorial (Sept 1955)

Vol 1:9 (September 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

During July the attention of an anxious world was focussed on Geneva, Switzerland, and the momentous meeting of the leaders of the Big Four. Out of the conference came no positive assurance of world peace, only the hope of future amicable talks by the foreign secretaries of these nations.

If the eyes of our mind become too firmly fixed on the chaotic political picture, the result is bound to be mental unrest or even dark dismay. Thank God, the believer can, by faith, look up and see the Supreme Sovereign as Lord over all. The aim of FOOD for the FLOCK is to present to our readers that type of ministry which will elevate the thinking toward heavenly things, thus to bring to the true child of God stability and confidence in the Unchanging One and His Word.

It is also our endeavour to provide balance and variety through printing messages from many acceptable sources. In this way we have been able each month to feature some new writers who have not previously contributed to our pages.

The students of Harbord Collegiate, in Toronto, know John Robertson as their teacher of languages. Many Christian workers are acquainted with him through his association with the quarterly, Sunday School Teachers' Lesson Manual, published by Gospel Folio Press. The

executive members of FOOD for the FLOCK esteem our brother highly as secretary and one who gives valuable assistance in correcting and revising manuscripts before they are sent to the printer. With pleasure he is now introduced to our readers through his warm, devotional message, *Three Cries from the Cross*.

The same section contains an article on *Service*, written by Neil Dougal, a born-again business man, now residing in Worcester, Mass. During the war years he served in the British Navy, being stationed most of the time in the Mediterranean and the vicinity of the Holy Land.

In August, Harold Kesler favoured us with an article entitled, *"Eternal Things."* As a follow-up, he gives us this month a complementary message, *"Eternal Salvation."* This you will find in the Doctrinal Section.

The Lambs of the Flock will find green pasture, tender and good, through reading *"Four Features of a Believer."* Regular subscribers will recall the writer, John Bramhall, from his message in the May issue.

Editorial (Oct 1955)

Vol 1:10 (October 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

The market place of Ancient Rome, like the Agora of Greece, was the place where lawyers and orators made their speeches before their proper judges in the matter of property or criminal cases, to secure or to excuse, to complain or to defend, their patrons. The market place, or forum, in the process of time came to mean the meeting place where public affairs were discussed. In our day a forum is conducted to hear all angles of a case, and to seek a proper understanding through a conclusion drawn from all the evidence. The Forum in Food for the Flock is open for friendly discussion of problems arising from the reading of the Word of God. Controversy, which generally is unprofitable, or anything that approaches that which is censorious should not be sent, but different views courteously presented are appreciated.

Our brother, David Kirk, is publishing a pamphlet, The Mystery of Divine Chastening. In this issue you may read the first chapter of this helpful exposition of the subject. We feel that if you read this carefully you will want to secure the booklet when printed by Lloyd Walterick, Fort Dodge, Iowa. We live in a day when much misunderstanding of God's ways with His people has resulted, not only in much sorrow, but in much error.

The writer of Christ in The Pentateuch, W. N. Brooks, is a business man in the city of Toronto, Ontario. We

welcome such articles from brethren who are gifts from the Risen Head of the Church and yet who do not feel led to leave their secular employment. Godly caution will keep us from the danger of insidious cleracy. The ministry in this article is Christ exalting, and should result in a heart response to the Lord, who so first loved us.

Our brother Donald Moffat, whose name appears for the first time among the subscribers to Food for The Flock, has served the Lord in Newfoundland, and is now residing in Ontario where he carries on a radio ministry in the gospel. Young believers are urged to read carefully and prayerfully the paper he has prepared especially for them. The doctrine of justification is so basic, and yet so blessed.

James Kennedy is not a stranger to the readers of Food for The Flock. We all value his contributions. There is no doubt that much exercise of heart lies behind his words of warning and advice in his article The Counsel of Christ.

During the remainder of this present year, in the will of the Lord, we hope to insert profitable and practical ministry from both old and new writers, and much highly valued material already is available, should the Lord tarry during 1956. If you are not a subscriber, it would be well to make sure now of your complete set for the year. Renewals are already being received, and to our former subscribers we send our thanks.

Editorial (Nov 1955)

Vol 1:11 (November 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

Christ Magnified ... By Life ... By Death

The home call of our beloved brother Paul Plubell, on Tuesday, Oct. 18th, is a tremendous loss to the assemblies of God's people, the world, and to the Committee of Food for the Flock. May the Lord comfort the hearts of his devoted wife and family. We commend them to the prayerful solicitude of the Lord's people.

His spiritual enthusiasm, godly counsel, and gracious tolerance, will be greatly missed. The recollection of his honourable and sincere approach to problems in connection with this publication more deeply impresses upon us our particular loss.

Paul Plubell, fervent in spirit although not physically robust, passionate for souls although curtailed by failing health, has left an example of spiritual vigour and fragrance the memory of which is a challenge and a benediction.

The contents of this issue should create inward conviction, joy, and hope in the Christian reader's heart.

The value of implicit confidence in God is set before us by Henry Fletcher in his devotional study of Hannah in his article, *Opportune Succour*. We welcome this

contribution by our esteemed brother and hope to have more from his pen in the near future.

In the doctrinal section for this month, there is a concise yet somewhat detailed presentation of the features of the Church Universal. It is hoped that this article will prove beneficial to both young and old. We contrast the Church with Christ as we do the moon with the sun. In the Word of God, the Church always has second place to Christ. We cannot overestimate the value of Church doctrine, but let us never give it primacy over Christ.

Brother Albert Upton is an Industrial Engineer with a large American Corporation. We are so pleased that he takes time to turn his analytical mind in the direction of Biblical things. He is interested vitally in young believers, and they will find sound counsel and much help in his article, Give Attendance to Reading. The second section of this paper will appear next month.

Robert McClurkin submits an excellent exposition of 1 Corinthians, chapter 15. The great importance of the resurrection is seen as one follows the logic of this article. Much profit is to be gained by carefully reading every reference, and repeatedly reading this paper.

The letter appearing in The Forum merits attention. It was sent by a highly respected elder among the assemblies. Should others feel inclined to develop this subject further, we shall be pleased to hear from them.

Editorial (Dec 1955)

Vol 1:12 (December 1955)

Editorial

James Gunn

The philosophy of humanism which has governed the thinking of so many during the last fifty years has left humanity without hope, in almost complete despair. Said Satan long ago, "Ye shall be as gods." Humanism is the satanic lie formulated into a system of thought. It disposes of God, and deifies man. Forty years ago man was supposed to be mentally and spiritually evolving, but two world wars, with the threat of an atomic war, have proved the vanity of the fantasy. Now with nothing left in the minds of many but man, man so wicked, hostile, and cruel, a hopelessness grips their hearts. What a contrast when we turn to the Christian's security, portion, and eternal destiny, when we turn to the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture.

The subject discussed in The Forum during November and December, and the article, "Give Attendance to Reading," impresses upon us the value and reliability of the Word of God. Let us ever make it our source of spiritual instruction and counsel in spite of the clamour of many conflicting voices in the world.

In the article by Thomas Wilkie, "The Master's Mind," we have the secret of happy assembly relationship. To have the mind of Christ will surely preserve us from discord, vainglory, and selfishness. This attitude, and only this, will save us from the spirit of disintegration so apparent among many of the churches of God. In this

same regard, the principles expounded in the paper, "The Church Local," are a preservative for the assemblies of God's people. That modern practice in some places, as in the seven churches of Asia, is removed from these conceptions is conceded, but it is hoped and prayed that a revival of these realities in our assemblies will protect the saints, on the one hand, from the false claims of a delusive partyism, and on the other, from the unscrupulous errors of a decadent denominationalism.

Precious and hopeful is the exposition by John Bramhall. Amidst the gloom of earth's turmoil, and the decline of the Church militant, and the general departure from simplicity toward Christ, how blessed to know that Christ has promised to return. We may lift our heads with dignity, and our hearts with praise, for our full redemption is near.

The printing of Food for the Flock has been transferred to the office of The Midland Free Press. This long-established concern guarantees prompt and efficient service.

The first year of Food for the Flock is now ended, and while we consider it improper to publish commendatory letters, we appreciate the many words of encouragement, and the many expressions of thanks. Humbly we praise the Lord that He has granted us the privilege thus to serve the household of faith. Should He tarry longer, we trust that more profitable ministry in even greater variety will reach you. If your subscription has not been renewed attend to this immediately, and assure yourself of a balance of teaching for each month of 1956.

Editorial (Jan 1956)

Vol 2:1 (January 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

As we review the kindness of God to us during 1955, like David we recall the benefits of the Lord.

What a wonderful blessing has been bestowed upon us in that we are permitted to serve Him through these pages! What an honour He has conferred upon us in that we are allowed to serve His people in ministry! What pleasure and satisfaction have been apportioned to us in knowing that many have been instructed, saints have been confirmed and comforted, and the young among believers have been encouraged to more intensive study of the Word of God!

The final triumph of the Church is assured; she will be manifested in glory with Christ. Between that ultimate glory and the present, there may be many difficulties and trials for the people of God. These may cause anxiety, but since our sufficiency is of God, we cast ourselves upon Him, for the future is in His infinite knowledge even as also was the past.

We would therefore value; that the Christians who read Food for the Flock pray constantly that the ministry in these pages be given during 1956 with a tender sympathy for the sheep of Christ's pasture, and yet with an absolute loyalty to the truth of God; with a sincere intention to edify, exhort, and comfort old and young among believers, yet without partiality or prejudice

toward any; with a set purpose for a positive expository presentation of the teaching of Scripture, yet without fear to denounce that which is contrary to the mind of God. Pray that each editor may labour, striving according to God's working in him to present every reader perfect in Christ Jesus; till we all come in the unity of the faith, unto a perfect man, unto the full measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

It is a pleasure to introduce to our readers Dr. John Boyd of Ireland. We thank God for the doctor, and for his care for the saints. Out of his busy professional life he has taken time to instruct us in the true meaning of the cross of Christ. Young and old alike should weigh his words relative to our identification with the crucified Lord.

Brother Wilkie gives us with his usual warmth an important message for the New Year, "The Christian's Walk." He calls our attention to the need of a revival of love among Christians. Why should such a word be so necessary among us? Like Ephesus, we have left (not lost) our first love. What a calamity!

Robert McClurkin's article, "The Song of Deborah" is thought provoking. In it he not only rebukes the sad condition of carnality and declension, but he presents the divine principles of revival. Let us be humble enough to acknowledge these, and to adopt them in our assemblies.

The message by Ernest Sprunt is so practical that every believer should seek grace from God to practise his suggestions.

Subscriptions, new and renewed, have been reaching this office, but if you have not attended to your own

please do so immediately. Enjoy the splendid ministry
the Lord has already graciously provided for this year.

Editorial (Jan 1956)

Vol 2:2 (February 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

We have had our attention drawn to the fact that it is possible to hold orthodoxy in the most unorthodox spirit. This charge is confirmed in the un-Christian-like and the argumentative manner in which doctrine is occasionally discussed among us; moreover, the charge is substantiated by the failure in us to make Scriptural teachings actualities in our behaviour. The Word of God teaches, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers." "Use hospitality one to another without grudging." Let us lay to heart the practical suggestion of Donald Jeffery. Incidentally, our brother is awaiting his visa for Angola; he hopes to undertake school teaching in that large mission field. Pray for him.

In this issue we are called upon once more to consider the hope of the Church, of Israel, and of the world, the second coming of Christ. David Leathem has stated his convictions very concisely. It is important to notice what he says regarding the two stages of this wonderful event.

The heart is caused to thank God when we read the letter that appears in "Lambs of the Flock." The writer of this letter had been the subject of prayer for many years. His conversion to the Lord ought to encourage the saints to continue in prayer for unsaved relatives and friends.

Few, if any of us, will ever be great preachers; nevertheless, we need the message by our brother Rogers. The material that is sometimes presented on the platform of the assembly fails to edify. There are so many stories, personal references, and shallow remarks, that the absence of the real gospel, or an exposition of the truth of God, or a Spirit-empowered appeal, becomes very obvious.

“The road of Later On leads to the city of Never,” is an old Spanish proverb. We express the same idea in the word procrastination. This is a besetting weakness with many of us.

Each assembly publication is indebted to the brother in the assembly who attends to the subscriptions and renewals. Recently, one such brother told of waiting as long as three months for the annual subscription to another magazine published for the benefit of God’s people. Let us not be negligent in this matter; let us not increase the task of those who, in love, serve us, and let us not forget the channel of ministry that has been a blessing to us in the past.

If your renewal of Food for the Flock has been forgotten please give it your prompt attention.

Editorial (March 1956)

Vol 2:3 (March 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

Jesus Christ died! There is an abundance of evidence to prove the fact. Directly, the soldiers knew it; they went to see, and He was dead already; the centurion also knew it; John knew it, "and he bare record and his record is true;" Joseph of Arimathaea knew it, for he besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; Nicodemus knew it, for he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, and helped Joseph remove the body from the cross. Indirectly, Pilate also knew it, and he marvelled that He had died so soon.

Certainly He died. Yes! But He also lives!! There is a superabundance of evidence to prove this fact. Mary Magdalene saw Him; James saw Him; the other ten apostles saw Him; Cleopas and his wife saw Him; over five hundred brethren saw Him all at the same time. No fact of history is better attested than the resurrection of Christ.

He lives! He lives in the power of an endless life! He sits on the right hand of God, and He dwells in the hearts of thousands of men and women. Heaven and earth alike, with jubilant proclamation declare that Jesus lives.

This month's devotional article, by Thomas Wilkie, warms and cheers our hearts as it reminds us of the ministry of our risen Lord, Whose advocacy and abundance meet our need. David Leathem's article also

directs us to the exalted Christ, and of the sum, this he has written, "We have such an High Priest, Who is set on the right hand of the throne of The Majesty in the heavens" (Heb. 8:1).

The lambs of the flock and older sheep of Christ's pasture will find words of warm comfort and wise counsel in the article, "Youth and the Risen Christ."

Those who have read other articles by Donald Norbie will appreciate Part I of his excellent word study. As one ponders his manuscript, he is constrained to say with the Bride, "Thy Name is as ointment poured forth."

It is admitted by every honest scholar that in a study of the Book of the Revelation, there is no room for dogmatism. While the extreme and intolerant attitude manifested by some teachers of prophecy cannot be commended, the gracious letter appearing in The Forum is submitted to all who would value a thoughtful contribution to the exposition of this interesting and difficult book in the New Testament.

Editorial (Apr 1956)

Vol. 2:4 (April 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

The most important and eternally significant event in history since the creation of Adam, and definitely the most miraculous, is the incarnation of the Son of God. In the midst of the international confusion, the critical dissolution of formerly stable institutions, and the striking disillusion of many hearts, it is merciful of God to confirm this well authenticated fact upon which faith rests and hopes rise, the great mystery of Godliness, God manifest in the flesh. The unique mode, the primary purpose, and the ultimate objective of Christ's birth and death form the wonderful display of infinite grace.

The personality of the Lord Jesus is a miracle, for it is the mysterious combination of the full natures of God and man. The very mystery of the personality of Christ demands the absolute loyalty of the Christian. It is hoped that this number, with its emphasis upon Christ, His person and work, may create a deeper love, produce a stronger faith, and result in a more courageous fidelity toward our blessed Lord Jesus.

Lambert at the stake in 1538, underwent much suffering because of the slowness of the fire. When, but partly consumed, he was finally thrown into the fire by the guards, his last words were, "None, but Christ, none but Christ."

Oh, to feel the greatness of Christ's attraction, and to respond with a more intensive faithfulness!

Donald Taylor emphasizes the excellency of Christ in his study of comparatives, "His Matchless Worth." A. J. Crick, England, a new contributor, deals with an important aspect of the work of Christ, redemption. The second part of Donald Norbie's word study, "His Name," makes the heart rejoice, and acknowledge that God has given Him a Name which is above every name.

The article on moral purity by Aubrey Dellandrea should be pondered by, not only the lambs of the flock, but by even more mature Christians. Our brother contends, and rightly so, in the development of his subject, that mental purity is basic. Impurity in the act, is an evidence of an earlier impurity of the mind.

The hymn on the cover by our brother Ben Tuininga beautifully expresses a heart engaged and enamoured with Christ. It may be sung to "Retreat" or some other L.M. tune.

The subject of the letters in The Forum, should provoke deep exercise of heart. The absence of the high qualifications among elder brethren, and the lack of concern on the part of many for the condition of the Lord's people, is not only confusing to young believers, but perplexing to many of the spiritually minded in the assemblies.

Editorial (May 1956)

Vol 2:5 (May 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

Those who are regular readers of Food for the Flock will recall the helpful articles by brother David Craig, Ireland, which appeared in earlier numbers. We are happy to publish another of his lessons on "Memorials," The Memorial Food. May the Blessed Antitype satisfy and strengthen the hearts of His beloved people.

From the pen of Robert McClurkin we have a very important study in Bible doctrine. In the minds of God's people there exists, at times, considerable confusion regarding the doctrinal elements of the gospel. It is felt that this exposition will shed light upon a difficult subject.

This month we welcome two new contributors to our pages. Brother Hull has written especially for young Christians on the important work of Christian publicity by means of spiritual literature. Every Christian, young and old, should read and practise his suggestions.

Brother Tetstall, a business man, who frequently ministers among the assemblies throughout his part of England, instructs the mind and cheers the heart in his article, The Morning and The Night.

We hope that both of these brethren will favour us again with other such themes.

There has been considerable space devoted, not only in Food for the Flock but in other Christian magazines, to

the subject of elders in the churches of God. This upsurge of interest must have a primary cause, for the evident importance attached to the subject is but an effect. Naturally, we ask, why the concern? Surely, letters received are not merely the outcome of curiosity; much rather do they impress one as being deeply sincere. Apparently, there is a seriousness which has been accentuated by some factor. Could this be one of two possibilities? First, a general and deeply felt lack of men divinely fitted for, and spiritually led in this ministry. In second place, a deficiency of real spiritual qualifications and abilities among those who presume to act as elders and leaders among the assemblies. Whether it be the one or the other, or even some other cause, our hearts should be humbled before God, and in our exercise, we must wait upon the Lord for the proper answer to the anxiety of devout hearts.

The letter printed in The Forum may be the expression of many hearts. It is hoped that others will present the teaching of God's Holy Word upon these subjects.

Editorial (June 1956)

Vol. 2:6 (June 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

We marvel at the wonderful process of photosynthesis which combines in such a mysterious manner the moisture, elements, and organic compounds, to form the sweet esters which, through flowers, fill the atmosphere with fragrant perfume. Greater is the miracle performed by the grace of God, which quickens and converts a vile and abhorrent sinner, and makes his life a sweet savour before both God and man. The article by Thomas Wilkie in the Devotional Section, deals with the attractive fragrance and positive usefulness of godly living. The Christian's life, through the power of the indwelling Spirit, may be as victorious as that suggested by the lofty palm, and as defensive as that suggested by the replant cedar.

"What is the greatest need in the Church today?" enquired one Christian of another. "More godly living," was the prompt reply.

There may not appear too much connection between the article in the Devotional Section and the one by David Leathem in the Doctrinal Section, but there is a definite relationship. "For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ." There we shall receive either the Lord's commendation or suffer loss. The hope of His approbation should excite greater piety in our lives, and the fear of His disapproval should deter in us the spirit of carnality and worldliness.

With much profit and pleasure, the complete manuscript of another booklet by David Kirk, has been read. The title, "Joseph's Bones," does not give much indication of the contents of this excellent dissertation upon the significance and value of the Lord's Supper. A digest of the entire manuscript will be found in the Expository Section. It is hoped that this smaller article will induce readers to secure the complete work, in order to profit from it, and to use it in teaching other Christians the sweetness of the Memorial Feast. When published it may be obtained from our brother Lloyd Walterick, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Many of God's people have not learned; and, consequently, do not practise the lesson that Ernest Sprunt endeavours to teach the Lambs of the Flock. All of God's people are urged not only to read the article, but to practise the precept.

We appreciate the response made to our request that subscribers attend to their renewals. Notice should be given to the adjustment of the price, one year \$1.50, two years \$2.75, three years \$4.00.

May this publication be for the glory of God, and for the edification of the Body of Christ. To this end an attempt is made to induce Bible study, and by means of The Forum to exchange in a friendly manner thoughts upon subjects which appear difficult.

Editorial (July 1956)

Vol. 2:7 (July 1956)

Editorial

In spite of the confused thinking of many, there is a great distinction between the life force of existence which man receives from the Creator and the spiritual life which believing man receives through the Saviour. It is the failure to differentiate between these two that leads many to conclude the Fatherhood of God is expressed to all men, and that the brotherhood of believers embraces every one.

Through creation man not only became a living soul possessing a consciousness of God, but also a living soul enjoying fellowship with God.

By regeneration believing man, possessing the consciousness of God imparted to him at birth, receives a spiritual life which brings him back into fellowship with God. Moreover, this spiritual life does more than bring man back into fellowship with God, it brings him into the family of God. This fact is clarified by such statements as: "Born from above," "Born anew," and "Born of God".

This new life and relationship are brought about through the agency of God the Holy Spirit, and they are manifested by means of His residence in the believer. We are indebted to our brother Donald Norbie for preparing a detailed study on The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. We recommend a careful perusal of each part as it appears for the next three or four months in the Doctrinal Section.

The purpose of this Committee is to provide a balanced spiritual and mental diet; this month we are pleased to present such a variety of good things. Our brother David Haxton, Ayrshire, Scotland, in his typical study of Moses, warms the heart and directs our confidence and affection to The Man in the Glory.

In a day when some of the denominations are ordaining women to their ministry, the study of man's headship as found in the Bible Study for this month deserves thoughtful consideration. Speaking of ministry, the call to Modern Timothys by William A. MacNeil, Larbert, Scotland, should likewise be pondered. That more sisters than brethren are offering themselves for work in foreign lands causes much concern. It is hoped that young men who have their entire lives before them may heed this challenge.

From the pen of our beloved brother Ernest Wilson, Angola, comes an unusual exposition, a word study, very suitable for us on whom the end of the age has fallen. In the same Expository Section, Neil Dougal, Worchester, Mass. presents a rather unusual application of part of Solomon's bridal song. The picture of unity, and the call to imitate it should cause some searching of heart.

We continue to receive letters and questions regarding "elders" and their function in the assemblies of the saints. The letter in The Forum may provide an answer to some. In the will of the Lord we shall continue to discuss this matter, and at a later date summarize all the questions and answers which have appeared in these columns.

Editorial (Aug 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

One of the older commentators wrote, "It was hard for Elijah to ascend, it required chariots and horses of fire; but it was easier for Christ to ascend than to descend, there was gravitation upward."

The resurrection of the Lord declares His power (Rom. 1:4), and the ascension proves His honour (Heb. 2:9). The resurrection reveals the triumph of Christ through humiliation, the ascension displays His supremacy in glory. The empty tomb manifests the victory of Christ over sin, death, and Satan; the occupied throne, the full extent of His redemptive triumph. As the Risen Lord, Christ possesses full mastery over every foe, and as the Enthroned Sovereign He wields universal dominion.

Our blessed Lord Jesus is now corporeally seated on the right hand of the Majesty on high; nevertheless, the Divine Presence of the Lord may be felt and enjoyed by a believing soul anywhere. He Who is in the midst of the throne (Rev. 5:6) in exaltation, deigns to appear in the midst of His gathered people (Matt. 18:20).

The article in the Devotional section by Thomas Wilkie unfolds to us the significant results of Christ's return to Heaven.

Brother Wilkie has stated that one of the results of the bodily ascension of Christ is the descent of the Holy Spirit. In our last issue we had the first part of our brother Norbie's article on The Person and Work of the

Holy Spirit. The second part, which appears in the Doctrinal section this month, is equally important and should be prayerfully and carefully read. Strange doctrines are abroad in Christendom, on the one hand there are those who deny the personality of the Holy Spirit; while, on the other hand, there are some who overemphasize His personality to the point of minimising the personality of the Lord Jesus. It would be well to follow each reference made by our brother to the Holy Scriptures.

The beneficial influence of a truly Christian home is seen; first, in the early conversion of Timothy, and then in his life and ministry. There is a twofold relationship in every family, that of the parent to the child, and that of the child to the parent. Both of these are perfectly controlled by the Word of God. We commend to all Christians the article written by Ernie Sprunt, especially those of minor years.

How selfish we are even in our worship! Our minds generally are engaged with the work of Christ relevant to our own need. How gratifying it must be to the Lord when our hearts rise to the higher altitude and contemplate that aspect of the work of Christ related to the claims of God. Brother Darch, England, has given us much help in this regard. A clearer comprehension of these basic features of the work of the Lord Jesus at Calvary would deepen our appreciation of it, and expand our worship through it.

Editorial (Sept 1956)

Vol 2:9 (September 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

The conflict of the ages still rages. Rumours of war still prevail, international tension rises, fear and suspicion permeate the relationship of nations. Nationally, Labour and Capitalism struggle on. Crime increases, morals decrease, for the influence of darkness, the scourge of evil, the power of hell, dominate the thinking of unregenerate man.

The black hand of Satan is discernable in many of the obscure and inexplicable happenings of the day. His power is manifest in a departure from the Christian faith, and in the development of modern cults. Satan is not only the prince of this world, a political title, but the god of this world, a religious title.

Within the Church herself he is active, the deep things of Satan appear fully mature in the Apostate Church, and in a more immature form in every aspect of professing Christendom.

The short, but important, lesson in the Bible Study Section merits the attention of every reader, for in the existence of a real personal devil lies the hidden secret of the confusion and the ruin of man spiritually, morally, and socially.

In contrast to this, we may learn something of the power and guidance for the Christian's life through the indwelling of the Spirit of God, by the last part of Donald

Norbie's article on the Person and Work of The Holy Spirit in the Doctrinal Section.

Donald Taylor again reaches our hearts through his devotional article, Washing Feet with Tears. The heart can never be thus touched without the feet being definitely influenced for good. The process of moral action is ever the same: the heart, the seat of desire, must be moved, then the will is subdued, and, finally, action is produced.

Of Abel we read, "By it he being dead yet speaketh." This we may also say of our beloved brother, Paul Plubell. There appears in the Expository Section an address which he delivered during a visit at Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. The message is a timely one, balanced by the weights of the Sanctuary, sharp and cutting. It humbles and yet imparts strength. May it prove as great a blessing to the many readers, as it did to the more limited number of hearers.

The remarks submitted in The Forum summarize some of the statements previously made by other brethren. We are grateful to our brother for his interest and contribution.

The poem, originally from Scotland, in some respects reminds us of Galatians 5:16-24. Its lovely and necessary message should be accepted personally.

Editorial (Oct 1956)

Vol 2:10 (October 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

What a prominent place is given to doctrine in Paul's letter to Timothy! How important it was in primitive Christianity; how powerful in every period of recovery during the Church's history!

Sound doctrine wielded its influence upon the centuries of this era; in particular its strength was tremendous during the nineteenth century.

At the close of that period doctrinal preaching characterized the movement of grace that resulted in the gathering to the Lord in Christian simplicity of many of His beloved people. The power of the preaching and of the literature in those days was resident in the Holy Spirit Who expressed Himself in the expository message and in the doctrinal subject.

This is an indisputable fact; therefore, we ought to return to doctrinal and expository preaching and writing.

How impoverished is the concordance sermon, the mere linking together of passages, which generally have no connection other than that they contain the same English word or letter! How distasteful the experiential discourse, the narration of experiences which frequently direct more attention to the speaker than to the Christ! How disgusting the censorious address that finds fault with others, judges motives, denounces another's

ministry, and distresses the people of God; yet, contributes little to the edification of the saints!

Let us see that no one teaches other doctrine than sound healthful doctrine, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us insist upon the presentation of the truth of God, not the opinions of men; the exposition of the Bible, not the inferences of a fertile imagination; the great doctrines of our Christian faith, not the empty platitudes of immature thinking.

It is a whole-hearted return to the rich edifying preaching of holy men of other days and the solid doctrinal teaching of the nineteenth century that will preserve the saints, the character of the assemblies, and the testimony of the churches of God. It is this type of ministry that will guide the young, comfort the aged, establish the youth, stimulate the mature, correct the wanderer, and instruct the disciple.

A careful reading of R. McClurkin's article on the doctrine of Sanctification will preserve from any error in regard to Christian holiness. The exposition of E. W. Rogers is one of comfort and rest, one so necessary in this day of tension. Our first article by Wylam Price, a High-School teacher constantly dealing with youth, contains the very essence of practical Christianity. John Bramhall again gives us words of faith, hope, and comfort. All this variety we need to establish and direct us on our pilgrimage heavenward.

Editorial (Nov 1956)

Vol 2:11 (November 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus” (Heb. 3:1). As the Apostle of our confession, the Lord Jesus has come forth from the presence of God to represent Him before man; as High Priest He has gone into God’s presence to represent us, and to pray, in virtue of His sacrifice, for us in our weaknesses. There is another function which on our behalf He performs in this office; He offers our praise and worship before the Father. These facts have been set forth doctrinally in previous issues for the encouragement of the people of God, but it gives special pleasure to call attention to the emphasis upon the High Priestly ministry of Christ in the present number.

Thomas Wilkie reminds us in the Devotional section that Christ ever liveth to make intercession for us, and David B. Long, Angola, Africa, pictures for us the High Priestly means by which Christ sanctifies and cleanses His Church. It should be explained, that the article by brother Long, with his permission, was reduced from a tape recording. Members of this Committee consider the message both searching and edifying, and hope that more than the original audience will profit by reading it.

John Martin’s article on Sin and its Pardon in the Doctrinal section proves that man needs a Saviour, and

that the Christian needs an Advocate and a Great High Priest.

The biography of Tychicus in Lambs of the Flock presents a New Testament personality worthy of emulation.

Not only do we have sin before us in the Doctrinal Section, but also in the Bible Study. It would be well for all to acquaint themselves with these details for they indicate how extensive is the havoc caused by the Fall of man.

In view of the fact that we are approaching the end of another year, it should be understood by our many American subscribers that Cecil Batstone, 17 Spring Terrace, Shrewsbury, Mass, has full power as American Representative to receive subscriptions, and to handle financial matters related to this work. This knowledge will facilitate the difficulty with the exchange of monies.

The Postal Authorities allow special mailing rates for all paid up subscriptions. It is illegal to continue sending magazines under this rate if the subscriptions are not paid in advance. Please give this your attention and notice that the price is \$1.50 per annum or 3 years for \$4.

Editorial (Dec 1956)

Vol 2:12 (December 1956)

Editorial

James Gunn

International confusion bewilders the world! Great institutions of statesmanship shake under the impact of political chaos! Diplomatic conferences face the dilemma with tenacity but with futility! Instruments of cruelty in the hands of stronger nations subjugate weaker ones with death and destruction! Stout hearts tremble, loyal hearts hope, cowardly hearts shrink, and courageous hearts look on hopelessly or turn away in disgust! What a challenge to the Christian Church! What a challenge to each assembly of God's beloved people! What a challenge to each individual Christian!

What are we doing with our knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ? We preach Him from the platform, through the radio, and by our literature. Yes! But do we live Him before a world drunk with pleasure, drenched with blood, staggering under its load of sin, reeling before the onslaught of the powers of evil, before a world system about to collapse under the tremendous pressure of its assumed superior knowledge, its own infidelity, its own pride?

Never has there been a greater opportunity for the Christian to manifest the genuine reality and the true quality of his Christianity. The sombre close of 1956 is a plea to more godly living, more sincere piety, more whole-hearted devotion to Christ, and more sacrificial living for Him. Let us quit ourselves like men and be

strong. Let us face the confusion, the bitterness, the hatred, and the sin of the world, not with the petty differences that exist among us, not with a pharisaical attitude to suffering humanity, not with a callousness to the cry of the perishing; but with a manifestation of the peace of Christ in our daily experiences, the love of Christ in our personal relationships, the gentleness of Christ in our motives and in our actions, and with every believer proclaiming, in heavenly dignity and with spiritual fervour, the only remedy for sin, the glorious atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Said the Lord Jesus, “Ye shall be witnesses unto Me ... unto the uttermost parts of the earth.” May we throughout this New Year, already preceded by an intolerable burden of grief and woe, testify of the Saviourhood of Christ, and display by our actions His patience and His grace. This we shall be able to do only after spending time “At His Feet” as suggested by John Malcolm in the Devotional section, by identifying ourselves with the Risen Lord as taught us by William McBride in his article on baptism in the Doctrinal Section, and by learning the arts of the Christian gentleman as pointed out by Samuel Jardine’s exposition of Paul’s letter to Philemon. Every one of the spiritual virtues explained in these papers are manifested through the Christian’s body as demonstrated by Ernest Sprunt in the section, Lambs of the Flock. Face the challenge! Accept the challenge! Live the challenge!

Please attend to your renewals for 1957.

Editorial (Jan 1957)

Vol 3:1 (January 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward;” consequently, we have reached the year 1957 of the Christian era. How we thank God for His kindness throughout the past! Now, with the latent possibilities of another year before us, may we seek a closer walk with the Master, and a more definite resemblance to Him in our behaviour. Through Divine grace, may we glorify Him in our bodies and in our spirits.

True discipleship is the adherence of the soul exclusively to Christ, the continual looking to Him, and the constant following Him irrespective of where He may lead. The truest quality of Christian discipleship exists in the performance of the will of the Lord as He reveals it, the doing of His supreme will as the expression of implicit obedience which tolerates no alternatives. Decisive discipleship can only be practised through a complete denial of self, self with its vices and virtues, its peevishness and pride, its affections and aversions.

The Lord has made plain that discipleship leads to sacrifice, “If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26). He also asserted that discipleship results in suffering. “Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross,

and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). Nevertheless, discipleship with Christ enjoys many precious compensations, "Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you..., Everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matt. 19 28-29).

In the Devotional section, our brother Tetstall of England presents this matter as a challenge to the heart. It would indeed be well, if at the opening of another year, we responded to this appeal, and determined by the grace of God to be more lowly and more holy followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The thought of personal holiness receives considerable emphasis in this issue. Our esteemed contributor, F. J. Squire, in the section under "Prophecy," through his splendid article on "The Purifying Hope" lays stress upon the practical sanctification that results from living in view of the personal return of our Lord. Ernest B. Sprunt, in "Lambs of the Flock," similarly maintains the emphasis upon this moral quality that appears so rarely among the older as well as the younger Christians.

The doctrinal article, "The Holy Trinity," by David Leathem, could result only in the conviction that God desires that we be holy even as He is holy.

Please notice the arrangement to facilitate the renewal of your subscription. In Canada this may be sent to the office; in the United States, to our American Representative. Subscribers in Britain should consult our brother David Craig, whose address will be found along with the others inside the back cover.

Editorial (Feb 1957)

Vol 3:2 (February 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

At a recent meeting of responsible brethren, one made the statement that even a casual survey of the reading habits of Christians among the assemblies would show only a small percentage of the saints read the monthly magazines. In this day of high literacy, there must be some cause for this apparent decline in interest. Of course it may be that God's people are not Bible students as were their predecessors. This we lament! On the other hand, it might be the poor standards of composition which are being presented to the Lord's people. From the view point of literature alone, a periodical should be written to approximate favourably High School standards. Let us ever remember the Word of God, the Bible, is a classic in the realm of letters; therefore, anything a contributor to any magazine has to say about that Word should be couched in the best possible phraseology.

We fear that it is not among any questionable standards of literature that we must seek the answer to the problem. Is it not rather in this fact, the saints expect a higher tone of spiritual ministry than they receive? Is it not time to place the emphasis in written ministry where it belongs, upon the strictly spiritual exposition of the Word of God, and not where it sometimes erroneously is placed, upon the opinions of men?

A few decades ago, the Church of God on earth, with relish, profit, and blessing, read the writings of our forefathers; but, alas, today saints among the assemblies are turning from some types of literature given to them.

Let us arouse ourselves to the challenge, and according to the ability and the grace given by the Risen Head of the Church, let us write "sound doctrine" in "sound words," fitting spiritual things to spiritual words.

We are happy to call your attention to the articles by two new contributors to Food for the Flock. Our brother Donald C. Cole, Angola, Africa, has prepared a study on "The Significance of the Prophets." This we are publishing in two parts which we commend to the careful perusal of the Lord's people.

James Blackwood, Peterborough, Canada, in the "Devotional Section" has written on three of the special revelations of God to the Apostle Paul; in this article you will find instruction, warning, and comfort.

Dr. John Boyd, Ireland, again has favoured us with a fine message entitled "Fellowship." Thank God for the wonderful fellowship into which we have been brought! A better understanding of what this fellowship means, will result in a greater measure of experiential enjoyment.

John Robertson, in "Lambs of the Flock," has placed a challenge before youth, but in so doing he has found it necessary to administer a rebuke to maturity, a rebuke much needed, a rebuke that ought to yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness to them that are exercised thereby.

Editorial (March 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

A traveller, lost and famished in the desert, sank down with exhaustion in the sand, and resolutely prepared to meet his fate. A little green leaf came wafted by a passing breeze, and fell at his feet. He picked it up, and as a new hope possessed him it seemed to impart to his feeble limbs an unusual strength. Where it came from there was water, shade, and possibly fruit. He knew the direction as well, for the breeze had borne it to his feet.

Soon he was resting under the shade of trees, and quenching his thirst at the springs by their roots.

The words of comfort and hope from the pen of Ormer Sprunt, Publisher of Food for the Flock, in the “Devotional Section,” stir and inspire the weary pilgrims, and provide a shade from the fever of life and a refreshment from the weariness of the way.

Among the very first words penned by the Apostle Paul through Divine inspiration is the full and proper name of his Saviour, “Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 1:1). Much precious truth is revealed in this official name. The name “Lord” suggests “Jehovah,” and declares His essential Deity. The name “Jesus” belongs to His perfect humanity and the salvation that is provided through His sacrifice. The title “Christ” embraces all that is implied in the Old Testament ceremony of anointing for the office of prophet, priest, and king. Technically speaking, it belongs to Israel’s Messiah.

Not only was this full name among the first words penned by Paul, but the title “Lord” was the first word he uttered after conversion. Moreover, it was part of the closing benediction of his life and labours (2 Tim. 4:22). His entire life as a Christian and as a servant was spent in obedience to the claims of the Risen Lord Jesus.

The title “Lord” used by F. W. Schwartz in his first article to appear in Food for the Flock, a very important doctrinal article, was appropriated by the Caesars of the Roman Empire in their demands for emperor worship, it implied a divine sovereignty. Jesus, whom Paul persecuted, became to this Apostle the Sovereign Lord of his life. Paul ever recognized that the claims of the Lord Jesus upon him were imperialistic. In consequence of this, Paul was pleased to call himself the bondslave of Jesus Christ.

Let us pay earnest heed to our brother’s message, for submission to the Lordship of Christ should ever be an attitude of our hearts. Moreover, it is only in the measure that we bow in subjection to Christ as Lord that we honour and glorify Him.

John Bramhall, in “Lambs of the Flock,” reveals the secret of lost spiritual power. Young and old would do well to reflect seriously upon what our brother tells us about Samson, allowing his application of these things to grip the heart and to correct the life.

Editorial (Apr 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

"He is alive!" The shout re-echoed through the deep valley, and eventually reached the anxious group awaiting high up on the road. A few minutes before they had seen the truck, rumbling out of control down the steep serpentine road, plunge over its precipitous side and crash, rolling and tumbling down the mountain. It was a wonder to them that the driver had been found alive by two of their party who had ventured down the steep slope to where the broken truck now lay. The excited shout, "He is alive," produced hope in their hearts for the injured man.

Down into the Valley of the Shadow of death, a mightier and more triumphant voice is heard, "I am the First and the Last, and the Living One: and I became dead, and behold, I am living to the ages of the ages, and have the keys of death and of hades" (Rev. 1:17 - 18. J. N. D.). This voice and message raises hope for fallen humanity in millions of hearts. Yes, Jesus lives, lives in the power of an endless life! He died by an act of His own will, no one could take His life from Him; He laid it down, "That through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14). "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20). Such is the important message of this issue of Food for the Flock.

E. M. G. in another poem has expressed significantly the joyous results of the resurrection of Christ for all who

believe. Wylam Price has given us one of the best apologetic articles we have reproduced. It is worthy of close perusal. In these days of apostacy when every fundamental of sound doctrine is questioned by a skeptical generation, it is refreshing to read a message of such clarity and force.

Many ex-service men will recall help received from former Naval Officer William MacDonald, and many younger ones will recollect words of caution, advice, and encouragement from this friend. We are delighted that our brother has given us a practical application of the doctrine of the resurrection of the saints, of which, of course, the resurrection of Christ is the pattern and proof. Oh, for a more separate walk with Christ; a more intimate walk with Him Whom soon we shall see face to face!

Thomas Wilkie assures our troubled hearts of the deep perpetual sympathy of the Risen Lord. Praise God for the intercession of our Advocate when we fail, and for the succour, strength, and sympathy of our High Priest when we fall.

The helpful exposition of Isaiah 50 by our brother T. E. Wilson, Angola, has a definite message for every one. Let us learn from it to follow the example of God's Christ.

Editorial (May 1957)

Vol 3:5 (May 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

One can readily recognize truth when he meets her because she is clothed with clarity and simplicity, whereas error is ever shrouded in darkness, deceit, and intrigue. Error may be most convincing in her attempts to seduce, but truth is mighty and ever ready to impart her strength. It is only in the energy of truth that perversion and ignorance can be defeated.

Edwin Tharp, formerly of China, has attempted by truth to strip error of its shroud of darkness, to focus the bright light of Scripture upon the dens of occultism, and to expose the dangers of a wilful ignoring of the facts of spiritism.

We have two excellent articles on "Demonology." The one, the first part of which appears in this issue, has been written by brother Tharp from the experiential side of the subject, the other has been written as a splendid doctrinal treatise and will be published at a later date.

Scriptural knowledge is our strong defence! The Written Word is the sword for defensive as well as offensive tactics! It is ever wise in facing combat with a foe stronger than we, even Satan, to enlist the help of a strength greater than his. That strength is found in the holy words, "It is written."

There is an intuitive tendency in man to identify himself with some one whom he considers to be his superior. In

the life of a Christian this urge can be not only a blessing but a forming and reforming influence. The Apostle Paul purposely uses this inclination when he writes, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

Epaphras, whose brief biography has been reviewed for us by Thomas Hay, Japan, is a noble character. What indescribable benefit would be ours if we should identify ourselves with so great a man! If we were to emulate his example our spiritual life would be deeper and our spiritual influence would be broader.

In one sense we are all isolationists. There is one aspect of our lives into which no other human may penetrate, our thought life. Our thought life is like an inaccessible house in the centre of a vast impenetrable jungle known only to those who live within it, and open only to the sky.

Ben Tuininga has written for the Lambs of the Flock on the great importance of our thoughts, but it would be very well for those who consider themselves as sheep in the flock of Christ to ponder well his message.

The article, "Sins Forgiven," by David Kirk, while an exposition of two complementary passages of Scripture, is full of doctrinal value, and should be intently perused in order that a clearer understanding of this important matter be apprehended.

Out of a deep spiritual experience during a test in circumstances, N.R.B.P. has given us a message of hope and consolation in the poem, "His Presence."

Editorial (June 1957)

Volume 3:6 (June 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

"No, I did not go to China to convert China, I went to China to please God," was the noble reply of Dr. Brown to a friend. This friend attempted to persuade the devout missionary to remain at home, and challenged him as to why he had gone to the far East. Had he gone to convert the whole of China?

The prayer of the Apostle Paul for the saints of Colosse was, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing" (Col. 1:10). Dr. Moule suggests that Paul meant these saints to do anything to meet, to anticipate, the wishes of the Lord, because such action is not only beneficial but most absolutely right to do.

We have placed considerable emphasis in this issue upon the doing of the will of God. Two excellent articles bear almost the same title. The first one, "The Will of God Concerning You," is by a young man who has only a comparatively short experience in the work of the Lord, brother Ross Rainey of St. Louis, Miss. and he writes for the lambs of Christ's pasture. The second, "The Will of God," by Robert McClurkin, Galt, Ontario, is written by a more experienced and matured servant of the Lord, and he writes for older Christians. We are delighted with both. All must recognize, as have our two contributors, that whether we be young in Christ or otherwise, our highest objective here is to please God; His will must ever be supreme.

Our blessed Lord Jesus is the perfect example that we should follow. In anticipation of His incarnation He said, "Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God" (Heb. 10: 7); and in anticipation of His crucifixion, He said to His Father, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39).

Out of his close experience with demonism throughout the many years of his missionary activities in China, brother Edwin Tharp continues his article, "Demonology." How thankful we ought to be for the glorious light of the gospel that delivers from the fear of superstition and from the bondage of the spirit. A careful reading of this number impresses upon the mind the deep need for the Christian, even in lands of Bible knowledge and influence, to rely completely upon the Spirit of Truth.

Our brother Donald Taylor, Wheaton, Ill., has repeatedly warmed our hearts through his devotional writings. Once more he elucidates the meaning of the sufferings of our Saviour. We appreciate his keen perception of the doctrine of the cross of Christ, and value his efforts to share his knowledge with us.

A new feature has been added to Food for the Flock, a book review. From time to time new books, and older ones which are not well known, which are considered important and helpful in Bible study, in the development of Christian character, in the ministry of comfort, and in the establishing of believers will be reviewed. As in "The Forum," we shall endeavour through this means to comply with requests from any of the people of God.

Editorial (July 1957)

Vol 3:7 (July, 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

Humility is that spiritual culture that modestly shows its low esteem of self importance. It is so sensitive a plant that its bloom is rarely seen, for, like a certain species of lily, it flourishes best in obscurity. In fact, there are times when in the shadows, it is more discernible by its delicate fragrance than by any display of its loveliness. Only once in all the annals of their history did men see it in all the perfect fulness of maturity. So exotic was its sweet aroma, so heavenly was its surpassing charm, and so exquisite was its attractive comeliness that men could not endure the radiant splendour of its graces; consequently, they crucified it. In their haste to destroy it, they revealed to all the world, for all time, in sacrifice and death, humility personified in the only Perfect Man.

“With true humility, let every one regard the rest as being better men than himself; each fixing his attention, not simply on his own good qualities, but on those of others also. Let the same disposition be in you which was in Christ Jesus. Although from the beginning He had the nature of God He did not reckon His equality with God a treasure to be tightly grasped. Nay, He stripped Himself of His glory, and took on Him the nature of a bondservant by becoming a man like other men, And being recognized as truly human. He humbled Himself and even stooped to die; yes, to die on a cross” (Phil. 2:3-8, Weymouth).

Ugly pride asserts, "for me to live is self," to please self, to display self, to advance self; humility quietly says, "For me to live is Christ." It is the warm desire of the truly humble to live as Christ, for Christ, with Christ, through Christ, as well as in Christ.

Fred Squire, who as an industrial chemist was accustomed to probing into the components of many substances, now uncovers to us the moral qualities which are necessary to really live Christ. Some of his words are weighty and should be pondered by the spiritually minded.

May each member of the Church of our Lord Jesus learn that amidst the storms of life and the weariness of our pilgrimage only humility enables faith to rest, as Thomas Wilkie tells us, upon the words of the Master. The hidden humility of the heart is detected by an implicit obedience and by an outward calmness in trouble.

John Bramhall has given the Lambs of the Flock a timely and practical exposition of Paul's first letter to his son in the faith, Timothy. In this first article of the series the aged Apostle graciously instructs, informs, advises, and encourages this young and timid man. Our prayers follow this needed word on "The House of God"; may it prove a blessing to many.

With this issue our brother Tharp concludes his articles on Demonology. Many comments have been received regarding this subject. From these comments, it is obvious that God's beloved people have only a very meagre apprehension of Satan's influence and power.

Editorial (Aug 1957)

Vol 3:8 (August 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

“What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard Him and observed Him.” This saying, predicted of Ephraim, suggests the attractiveness of Christ to the heart, and His remarkable power to draw that heart, not only away from that which is degraded, but that which is degrading, to Himself.

The Apostle John writes, “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the First and the Last.” This vision of Christ in His glory, not only humbled John, but taught him something of his own weakness.

Constant contemplation of Christ will always result in the acknowledgment of human weakness and worthlessness, and the loveliness and the magnetism of the Lord.

High esteem of self results in pride and arrogance which are ruinous to the believer’s spiritual joy and usefulness, and is most hurtful to his fellowship with Christ and with his fellow Christians.

George Pinches, out of his observation and knowledge contrasts, in his article in the Devotional Section, these two ideas and their result upon the inward peace and assurance of the believer. The secret of spiritual health and happiness is a “Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith.”

In all things Christ must have the pre-eminence. The doctrine of Christ is by far the most important, but there are other Christian doctrines which also are very important. How significant is the doctrine of the Church. David Kirk has given us some weighty matter relative to the Church of God's choice. This article should not only be read carefully and prayerfully, but Mr. Kirk's many references to Scripture should be examined diligently.

John Bramhall continues his article on First Timothy. While especially for young believers, the message is one suitable for all, and merits an attentive reading.

That a sad decline early manifested itself within the Church is known to all. Christianity soon became Christendom, and Church testimony and order soon became lifeless and formal. Robert McClurkin teaches us that amidst such declension, in the very center of cold and formal Christendom, there is a true Church of Christ on earth, which, in spite of dreadful apostasy, will be preserved now and finally presented faultless before the Divine Presence with exceeding joy.

More letters have been received regarding the articles of our brother Tharp on Demonology. May the awakened interest lead to a more intelligent understanding of the power of the evil forces which are against us. Praise God, greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world! Some of these letters will be forwarded to brother Tharp with the hope that he will be able to give further light on some of the specific problems which have caused concern.

Editorial (Sept 1957)

Vol 3:9 (Sept 1957)

Editorial

James gunn

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psa. 126:6). This promise we might accept as a word of encouragement to an evangelist. In several respects it might be a suitable message to all soul-winners. In this work there must be a conscientious exercise for souls as one "that goeth forth and weepeth;" there must be a constant endurance as suggested by the marginal reading, "bearing a trial of seed;" there must be a concealed energy to go forth and to bear this precious seed; there must be a concerted effort to gather as well as to bear the precious (the acquired) seed. Then, eventually, there will be the culminative enjoyment, for with rejoicing the sower will return bearing his sheaves.

Throughout this summer, many Christians have been scattered in many different vacation districts. We read about the early Christians, "Now they which were scattered abroad ...travelled ...preaching (talking or gossiping) the Word." It is to be hoped that much precious seed, the incorruptible Word of God, has been sown during the summer holiday season.

Our brother Wilkie encourages our hearts in his article, "The Parable of the Seed," explaining to us the miraculous growth that follows planting, and by

assuring our hearts of a certain harvest. May we be as the blessed that sow beside all waters (Isa. 32:20).

In the "Doctrinal" section, the article by brother Albert Upton in some respects continues the teaching relative to the Church as given by David Kirk in our last issue. Let each reader be as the Bereans of old for they were noble, "in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

John Bramhall, in this issue, completes his exposition of First Timothy. It is hoped that Paul's letter to that young man in the first century A.D. may be of great help to young believers in the twentieth century.

In our "Bible Study" section, attention was drawn months ago to the profit found in the examination of Bible types. This method of Old Testament study is both fascinating and instructive. Donald Taylor's "The Supreme Test," is an example of this kind of Biblical research. This article not only guides us in the steps of such work, but it exalts the person of Christ, and emphasizes for us the sinlessness of our blessed Lord Jesus. Let this article be read carefully, and if possible more than once.

Some letters have been received that have resulted from the recent articles on "Demonology." All of these seek further explanation or amplification of various difficulties. Certain of these letters have been forwarded to brother Tharp for specific answers to some of these problems. Please watch "The Forum" for his replies.

We are always delighted to serve the Lord's people, and to investigate with them, through "The Forum," any matter relevant to the truth of God.

Editorial (Oct 1957)

Vol 3:10 (Oct 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

“Ye shall be witnesses unto Me,” the Lord Jesus said to His disciples before He left them. They apparently found it difficult to carry out this injunction, and so do the majority of Christ’s disciples today. Mr. J. N. Darby, while crossing the Atlantic ocean, wrote to a friend expressing disappointment at his own failure to testify of Christ to his fellow passengers. All do not witness for the Lord in the same manner, nor do all attain to the same degree of success; nevertheless, each effort to make Christ known by a sincere attestation of what He means to one personally results in many spiritual compensations. Ruth MacIntosh did this in her Twelfth Grade examinations. As far as academic credits are concerned, she received first class honours, but there may be even greater and more enduring recompenses at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Her examination paper is reproduced in Food for the Flock in order to encourage, not only lambs in the flock, but older ones as well. It would not be proper to copy Ruth’s method; nevertheless, her example should be followed, and opportunity seized to produce courteously and definitely the evidence of the blessed reality of a personal fellowship with Christ.

John Bramhall, in the same section of this issue, vividly pictures for “The Lambs of the Flock” the sphere in

which we all must, as lights in the darkness, testify for our Lord.

Surely, we should not find it difficult to boldly affirm our allegiance to One so great as our God! James Hutchinson, in the "Devotional" section reminds us of the greatness of His Divine Person and the greatness of His power, His wisdom and His loving care. Since we are the recipients of such manifestations and of such favours, let us not any longer be reticent in our testimony to God and His Son Jesus Christ.

Ernest B. Sprunt has presented a most thought-provoking article on the Lord's Supper. It seems a suitable complement to former contributions in the "Doctrinal" department which dealt with human responsibility in the churches of the saints.

Brother Samuel Taylor's exposition entitled "Gaius and Diotrophes" ought to stimulate deep spiritual exercise. In this we see, "He that is spiritual" in the church a contrast to the one who is carnal. Let us be followers of that which is good.

We gratefully acknowledge the interest shown in the studies of "The Book of Genesis." May we, by the grace of God, apply the principles discovered in the life of Abraham to our own. We regret so many feel that the monthly "Bible Study" is too short. It may be that in the near future more space will be available for this work.

Several have intimated that they would like an amplification in "The Forum" of certain details relative to the subject of bishops and deacons which were discussed some months ago. One asks that these be more clearly distinguished, and, if possible, viewed in their bearing upon the churches of God in modern times.

Before re-opening this inquiry we should know what particular points our readers consider difficult and in need of further development. When these are received, they will be assigned to capable brethren for clarification, after which a summarization of their answers will appear.

Editorial (Nov 1957)

Vol 3:11 (Nov 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

Plans are already being made for Food for the Flock during 1958. In the will of the Lord, there will be new features in the ministry and a change in the printing in order to extend the value of the magazine and improve its legibility.

Watch for these developments.

In compliance with the general trend of costs, it is necessary to increase the price to \$2.00 annually or three years for \$5.00. In renewing your subscription please take notice of this.

Never before have we been favoured with so many excellent manuscripts of such deep spirituality and of such high standards. We are confident that by these God will meet your need and delight your heart for all this ministry is Christ-centered.

We welcome a new contributor this month from among the members of the Advisory Committee, Cecil Batstone. This brother gives us a very profitable study of Paul entitled "I Am" This paper cannot be read sincerely without feeling the rebuke of carnality and selfishness, and at the same time without the consciousness of a greater desire begotten in the heart to follow Paul even as he followed Christ.

The article, "A Priest upon His Throne," by A. Tetstall, England, is sound doctrine full of hope and glory. In this

day of international confusion and competition, a state that produces so much fear and suspicion, it stabilizes our thinking and corrects our attitude toward current events in the Church and in the World to know that God directs all things after the counsel of His own will, and that ultimately Christ in righteousness will adjust the maladjustments of mankind.

The exposition of Paul's Epistle to Titus which John Bramhall has prepared for "The Lambs of the Flock" embraces, as readily will be seen, advice for both young and old. Happy those who comply with these words of instruction.

Dr. Arthur Stinton, a medical missionary at Boma Mission Hospital, Angola, Africa, who also is a new contributor to our magazine, gives us a Biblical and sober approach to the problems of health and disease. Each should know the will of the Lord in these matters lest, unfortunately, he be carried away by the unscriptural and extravagant claims of so called faith healers.

The letter in "The Forum" reveals the results of false doctrine, the inexperienced are perplexed and the more matured in the things of God shocked. Consequently, if the feet of the saints are to be directed aright, there must be a greater emphasis upon doctrinal and expository ministry. Vain speculation as well as pleasing platitudes must be avoided, and all who preach should do so according to the standard of the great Apostle Paul, "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus sake" (2 Cor. 4:5).

Editorial (Dec 1957)

Vol 3:12 (Dec 1957)

Editorial

James Gunn

"Beware lest thou forget the Lord," are the warning words of Moses. David stirs his spirit saying, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." The kindness of God during 1957 causes thanksgiving to Him. He has blessed us, and assured our hearts that the ministry through Food for the Flock is a blessing to many.

The challenge of 1958 results in endeavours to improve the magazine, not only in appearance and readability, but in, what is more important, the making it a better medium of ministry. On the suggestion of some, and the request of others, the Committee decided to open a department containing articles for teachers in the Sunday School. These articles will be written by brethren willing to combine their ability and experience to assist in this great service. Articles covering topics as: "The importance of the Child," "The Assembly and the Sunday School," "The Spiritual and Mental Qualifications of a Teacher," and others will appear. Much of the material will be gathered jointly by the Committee and friends, and will be assembled by a matured writer. Watch for every issue. Recommend this department. Be sure to renew your subscription, and to send gift subscriptions to young friends in work among the children.

In December our thoughts go to Bethlehem, and our reflections converge upon the first advent of Christ. By faith we look upon the scene that met the gaze of the shepherds when they saw the young Child and His mother.

Emphasis has been placed upon the person of Christ in this number.

Henry Palmeri, New York, a new contributor, gives the devotional article, "The Loveliness of Christ," which warms the heart for a consideration of the doctrinal study, "The Incarnation," by S. O. M. Dr. John Boyd, Northern Ireland, from whom we have enjoyed previous articles, provides an exposition of myrrh in the "Song of Solomon," stimulating thoughts of the person, ministry, and work of Christ.

To "The Lambs of the Flock" we introduce Alex Smith, a worker among young people in Scotland. We are certain "The Growth of a Convert" will touch the heart of the reader.

Robert Hazel, in his first article, reminds us that Christ, Who came in humility to Bethlehem, will come back again in glory.

The poem, "The Woman's Seed," by F. B. M. re-emphasizes the birth of Christ. Like the wise men of old, we bow to offer our homage, and with thousands we rejoice that "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given."

Unto Him, "The King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Editorial (Jan 1958)

Food For the Flock

Vol 4:1 (Jan 1958)

Editorial

James Gunn

The ultimate hope of redemption is a New Heaven and a New Earth in which dwells righteousness. Eventually, God Himself will declare, "Behold, I make all things new," and the old creation will pass away forever.

May spiritual aspirations after future scenes of sinless perfection create in the heart of each believer a longing to discontinue some of the old things and to press toward that high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Not that we shall attain to a state of moral perfection; nevertheless, we may become less carnal and more spiritual, less contemporary in our thoughts and more prophetic. "Beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless" (2 Pet. 3:14).

In this first number of volume four Food for the Flock lays emphasis upon the experiential results of such heart yearnings. The new photograph from Palestine on the cover might well become symbolic. Let us leave behind the failures and disappointments of the past and press into higher and holier living, into closer fellowship with God.

Such sentiments guided Thomas Wilkie in writing "The Transformed Life." A more constant renewing of the

mind will fortify it against the growing tendency of conformity to this world.

Boyd Nicolson, in his exposition, "The Potter's Portrait," enables us to understand that God can make a new and a better vessel out of a life that has been marred by sin. When it is committed into the hands of the Divine Potter He can make it again a vessel unto His honour.

Ernest B. Sprunt would stir up "The Lambs of the Flock" to go in for just such an experience. How frequently the flame of love and zeal burns low! May it be rekindled to burn more vigorously and brightly in order that we disseminate warmth and light.

Since Food for the Flock published the articles on "Demonology" by Edwin Tharpe, there has been a desire for a doctrinal statement dealing with the being and ministry of "Angels." Robert McClurkin gives us a systematic presentation of this subject. Let us become acquainted with our brother's understanding regarding the existence of these creatures so we may enjoy his thoughts relative to their ministry next month.

"Beside the Shepherds' Tents" opens the new department previously announced. We pray that it may be a blessing to all who seek to break the Bread of Life small for the children. Any questions or suggestions for this new section will be much appreciated.

Editorial (Feb 1958)

Vol 4:2 (Feb 1958)

Editorial

James Gunn

The Apostle Paul frequently prayed for new spiritual crises in the lives of the people of God. His constant hope was that they might reach higher attainments through such experiences. These ideas, and similar ones, are conveyed in the verb tenses which he uses in his prayers for the saints at Ephesus.

“To know the love of Christ” is to enjoy a new and decisive increase of spiritual knowledge after the expenditure of effort. To “be filled with all the fulness of God” is to experience, as an attainment after progressive development, a filling full of all heavenly graces, virtues, and blessings.

The Divine fulness for which he prayed is not “with”, but “unto”, or better, “up to” all the fulness of God. The immeasurable limits of those supplies that we need are set only by the boundaries of the plenitude of the Divine resources.

The Lord Jesus is the sum-total of all God’s wealth in grace, love, mercy, and glory. “For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness (of attributes and virtues) dwell.” Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Divine vessel, and also the Divine content of that vessel. When Christ dwells in the heart experiences of the believer, the fulness of the Godhead is enjoyed through Him.

We are pleased that our brother Guy Cesar of Hamilton has called our attention to Paul's prayers in the Epistle to the Ephesians. Our brother recently retired from business, but he keeps occupied, not only with the work of the Committee of Food for the Flock, but with other projects through which he serves the Lord and His beloved people.

Mr. Ronald McMillan, Scotland, is another new contributor to our magazine. We appreciate his article for "The Lambs of the Flock," and hope, should the Lord tarry, that he will favour us with another manuscript.

Fred Squires needs no introduction to our readers, and we suggest that they watch for the second part of his treatise.

Another article by James Hutchinson, Ireland, deals with a very important subject, "The Fear of God." We might well remember our brother's admonition not to walk in the fear of men, but of God.

"Beside the Shepherds' Tents" John Robertson, a High School teacher and a Sunday School superintendent, teaches fundamental principles covering a most important aspect of Christian endeavour among children. Our public relations in this field of ministry have been poorly developed; it is, therefore, imperative that this subject receive very careful consideration.

In this present issue the doctrinal statement on "Angels" by Robert McClurkin is now complete, and we hope that this study has proved beneficial to our readers.

Editorial (Mar 1958)

Editorial

James Gunn

The most successful Christian life is the life that is yielded to God. Such a life lives in power, yet, it is not in natural power, but in the Spirit's life within. The supreme in Christian testimony is to do the will of God from the heart. The life of the great Apostle to the Gentiles was yielded to the Lord and everything in that life was by the dictates of the divine will, he was an Apostle by the will of God (1 Cor. 1:1), he planned his evangelistic movements by the will of God (Rom. 1:10), he anticipated a pastoral visit among distant believers by the same will (Rom. 15:32), he credited his fellow servants with living their lives according to the will of God (1 Cor. 16:12), and he exhorted the saints of God everywhere to learn the divine will (Rom. 12:2), and to fashion their whole lives according to its influence (Col. 1:9).

John Robertson, in his devotional article, calls our attention to the perfect example, the Lord Jesus who said, "Not My will, but Thine be done."

Our aged brother Haines, in the section entitled "Doctrine," reminds us in his thoughts that fellowship in the Church results from submission to the Lordship of Christ. This fact so impressed him 65 years ago that in obedience to it, he gathered with the saints in humble simplicity toward Christ, and has enjoyed that happy fellowship ever since.

David McClurkin's message to "The Lambs of the Flock" further emphasizes the blessedness that results from yielding heart and life to the Spirit of God. The Spirit of Holiness wants us to be exactly what He Himself is; moreover, as we yield to Him, He moulds our lives and enriches them with an intimate fellowship with God.

A similar strain of emphasis prevails in the article by Ernest B. Sprunt in the new section, "Beside the Shepherds' Tents." It is evident that a good Sunday School superintendent develops more efficiency as he accepts and shares the yoke of Christ.

In this issue you will find the second part of "God's Sure Foundation" by our brother F. J. Squire. In a day when few things are sure and more are shifting, it is grand to realize that the foundation of God standeth sure.

Attention should be called to the very interesting question in "The Forum," and the current answer. We are in hopes that others may contribute their thoughts and convictions on so important a subject.

The poem, "The Morning," is an expression of comfort and hope. It was given to a friend by the authoress a few days before her death.

Editorial (Apr 1958)

Editorial

James Gunn

“Fear not; I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I was dead, and, Behold, I am alive for evermore” (Rev. 1:17-18, Alford). The Living One, Whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting, is He Who has been declared to be the Son of God possessing power by the resurrection from the dead. If He, Christ, be not raised, our faith is vain; we are yet in our sins.

He was raised, and raised for our justification. Upon His triumph over sin, death, and hell rests every blessing we receive. We might well say with Peter, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pet. 1:3).

In like manner the resurrection of Christ becomes the earnest of the resurrection of the Christian, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him” (1 Thess. 4:14).

Thomas Wilkie favours us with another article for the “Devotional” section. He pictures the risen Lord as He ministered to His early disciples and then makes that very ministry contemporary to us.

An excellent doctrinal statement of the resurrection of Christ is given by Wylam Price, “If Christ Be Not Risen.” This article deserves close attention. If Christ did not

arise physically from the tomb, Christianity is without foundation.

We are delighted to welcome a new contributor, Arnold McIntee. Our brother teaches in a High School at St. Catharines, Ontario. Furthermore, he occupies his spare time in Sunday School work. His two articles appearing in the April and May issues of "Beside the Shepherds' Tents" are the result of much experience, and to all sincere Sunday School workers are of great practical value.

The evangel God has given to the world is the Gospel of the Resurrection. The article in "Lambs of the Flock" by S. O. M. is a lesson taught to a young people's Bible Class. All should notice the importance of the three elements of the gospel; the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as they are presented in this lesson.

The article by our brother J. M. Davies, a well-known missionary in India, is highly appreciated. Although this is the first article from his pen in Food for the Flock, we hope that it will not be his last. His treatise "Law and Grace" is both clear and concise, and will answer some of the difficulties which arise in the minds of God's people.

In "The Forum" we have a matter related to the section "Beside the Shepherds' Tents." We are happy to insert in this department any helpful discussion of the problems which occur in Sunday Schools. An exchange of thought on some of these might easily produce a solution.

We are indebted to E. M. G. for another lovely Easter poem. Amidst the increasing gloom, we are assured that

because Christ lives, we too shall turn from “Death to Life.”

Editorial (May 1958)

Vol 4:5 (May 1958)

Editorial

James Gunn

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me," wrote the Apostle Paul to the Galatians (2:20). Furthermore, in making reference to the experiences during his life and ministry as a servant of the Lord, he said, "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (2 Cor. 4:10).

It is from the incision in the tree that the sweet aromatic gum exudes, and it is through the crushing of the rose that its exquisite perfume is released. In like manner, it was when Gideon's men broke their pitchers that the light shone forth. Through dying the Christian lives. We, therefore, must reckon ourselves as dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When the child of God accepts these judicial facts, what a struggle ensues, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh" (Gal. 5:17)! He must, consequently, learn that since we live in the Spirit, we must walk in the Spirit.

Much of the ministry in this issue of Food for the Flock emphasizes this experiential side of the Christian life.

In the devotional article, "Life that is Life Indeed," by Robert McClurkin, there is revealed the secret to the development of a well-controlled spiritual life.

Brother Samuel Jardine, Ireland, commences this month in the "Doctrinal" section a series of articles on "The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit." This series has been prepared with much exercise and care and should be read prayerfully. Through these papers, more will be learned of the secret power of Christian living.

Arnold McIntee, in "Beside the Shepherds' Tents," give us the second part of his helpful article relative to the attendance in the Sunday School. In this issue there are some excellent suggestions.

Our "Expository" section this month does not contain an exposition of some passage of Scripture or of some Biblical subject, but a startling exposure of the occult working of evil spirits in Africa. Through a more or less intensive perusal of this treatise from Donald Cole, we may learn the power of the archenemy of God and man, Satan. Surely such knowledge will result in the casting of ourselves upon the Holy Spirit's power for protection and deliverance.

We were so happy to receive, just in time for publication, a response to our request from brother F. W. Schwartz, Detroit. He has thought very sanely upon the subject, "The Salvation of Infants," and his sound reasonings and his logical deductions appear in "The Forum." Some may be disappointed in not finding the answer to their own problems this month. We hope they will not be too disappointed. The article from our brother seemed so important that it has been given a priority over some other matters that will appear later.

Editorial (June 1958)

Vol 4:6 (June 1958)

Editorial

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ,” Paul admonished the saints of Corinth. Paul was an example to follow, but only a secondary example. During his entire life and service the Apostle sought to reproduce the behaviour and ministry of his beloved Master, the Lord Jesus. As one in the very front rank with his eye upon the leader is able to govern his way of marching by a perfect example in his captain, so, he tells the Corinthians in the ranks behind to follow him as he was following the Lord.

Donald Taylor focuses our eyes upon the perfect example, Chris’.. His article in the “Devotional” section, “How Jesus Walked,” reveals some of the moral glories of Jehovah’s perfect Servant. How we admire them! How we ought to imitate them!

Brother Jardine, in his second article of a series on the person and work of the Holy Spirit entitled “The Program of the Holy Spirit,” teaches us that the only source of power to follow the Lord Jesus in any measure is the divine power imparted by the Divine Spirit. The articles of this series have been prepared carefully and prayerfully, and merit close attention.

“Mark, a Successful Failure,” by Ross Rainey is the second biographical sketch of John Mark, a somewhat complex character in the New Testament, that has appeared in Food for the Flock. Brother Rainey has approached his subject in a very sympathetic manner,

and his analysis of John Mark's actions is constructive; consequently, he has a positive message for the young Christian of today. May each who reads learn that lesson, and live more like the Master and for the Master.

Some may disagree with Wylam Price as "Beside the Shepherds' Tents," he contends for a sympathetic study of the entire Word of God in the Sunday School. There are some who feel that nothing but the gospel should be presented to the children. There are others who feel that in as simple a way as is possible the doctrine of God, of Christ, of man, of the atonement, etc., should be taught. It would appear that a carefully prepared scheme of simple biblical expositions from the whole Bible would accomplish both of these objectives. The article, "Let Us Sow More Seed," presents a strong challenge to every worker among the children.

From time to time the question is raised as to whether or not the Church will go through the Great Tribulation. We are grateful to John Bramhall who has submitted these statements on prophecy by the highly esteemed William Lincoln, a most capable exponent among the assemblies of earlier years. May this article stablish, settle, and strengthen the readers.

Editorial (July 1958)

Vol 4:7 (July 1958)

Editorial

James Gunn

“For me to live is Christ,” wrote the great Apostle to the Gentiles as he expressed his spiritual ambition to the saints at Philippi. It has been well said that many of our English prepositions may be inserted in this statement, for Paul’s meaning is most comprehensive. Thus we may think, for me to live is in Christ, is through Christ, is with Christ, is for Christ, etc. The man who found special delight in speaking of himself as “the bond-slave of Jesus Christ” knew that Christ had to be the power of life as well as its object, the Guide throughout life as well as its Companion.

We think of Peter, James, and John as forming the inner circle of intimacy during the sojourn of Christ on earth, we also conclude that Paul was one of the inner circle which enjoyed a special nearness to the Lord of Glory.

In order to attain to that place of holy communion and warm reciprocal fellowship, there must be a practical self-abnegation, a sincere sacrificial expenditure of the comforts of life, and a definite renunciation of the claims of nature. These are the lessons which Robert Pile would teach us in his article in the Devotional Section, “The Inner Circle of Discipleship.”

The Editor heard this message given orally and felt the impact of its simplicity and power, and requested that it

be written in order that the readers of "Food for the Flock" benefit by its truth and appeal.

Brother Samuel Jardine treats with refinement and conviction the place and function of the Holy Spirit of God in the birth of our Saviour. Each succeeding article that our brother writes upon the subject of God the Spirit deepens the inward conviction that the Holy Spirit is the channel of divine influence and strength in human lives that are lived for God. Oh, that through Him there might be created anew in us, a genuine expression of the Lord Jesus!

Aubrey Delandrea challenges both young and old in regard to our public attitude toward the Lord Jesus. His ministry in this issue reaches the Christian's walk, and if prayerfully followed, will affect his testimony before the world.

We are very happy to have another article from Arnot McIntee. His former papers on Sunday School work have met a need, and a number have expressed appreciation for the help received. This practical discussion of the Sunday School picnic will provide guidance in a somewhat difficult feature of this type of Christian service.

Last month, we had a paper on prophecy relative to the Great Tribulation. We have followed this with a complementary subject, "The Nation of Israel" by Robert McClurkin. We hope to continue this teaching with a third article on prophecy next month. Let us remember that prophecy is a light that shineth in a dark place.

Editorial (Aug 1960)

FFF 6:8 (Aug 1960)

Editorial

James Gunn

Communications from Britain indicate that certain brethren from there intend to visit, in the will of the Lord, the United States and Canada this Autumn. Our brother G. Harold German, Aberdeen, Scotland, hopes to spend nine months on this continent. He may be reached c-o George Mac-Williams, 43 Garfield Ave., Hamden, Conn., U.S.A. Our esteemed contributor, Dr. John Boyd, Belfast, Northern Ireland, expects to attend a Medical Congress at the University of Toronto in September, and will at that time visit some of the assemblies in Canada.

One wonders what impressions such visitors receive when they spend a short time in our midst. One or two have written reports in which they have stated their reactions, some of which have been favourable and some unfavourable.

In a recent letter from a brother who visited on this side of the Atlantic for several months, the following statement causes exercise of heart: "I feel the lack of unity among the assemblies in the United States and Canada is a master stroke of the enemy, and is robbing the Lord of His glory and of His place in the midst of the saints. What wisdom is needed as one moves around among God's people!"

With very little imagination one could place himself in the position of a European visitor and wonder, as such,

the meaning of some of the strange and unscriptural phraseology current in certain areas. We, like any visitor, would soon sense the disunity by such a statement as, "Those walking in the old paths, welcome," especially if we learned that the "old paths" advocated were not old enough to be scriptural. We would quickly detect conceit in another similar phrase, "Those teaching the right ways of the Lord are welcome." Any group of Christians assuming the high ground that they, and very few others, are the only ones who teach the right ways of the Lord must surely be self-deceived, not having learned the frailties of humanity and that iniquity taints the Christian's most holy activity.

To learn that inter-assembly fellowship in many parts is based upon uniformity of practice rather than upon the presence of Christ in the midst of those who gather in His name, would be a great surprise to us.

Furthermore, the antipathy on the part of some claiming a superior spirituality toward other brethren who disagree with their claims, eventually, would lead us to see how foreign such an attitude is to the spirit of Christ.

Like the sister Chloe of the first century, we would probably return from our visit and report to some spiritual father, as she did to Paul, that there are contentions among us.

Would to God that the apostolic authority of Paul's word to Corinth were more felt today: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfect joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10).

Editorial (Sept 1960)

FFF 6:9 (Sept 1960)

Editorial

James Gunn

In one respect it was a delight to sit in the comfort and safety of our home and converse with a friend and brother, a missionary from the Foreign Field; but in another, it was distressing. This honoured servant of Christ who had spent many years in difficult places spreading the Evangel of Heaven was quite disturbed. Two grave problems confronted him: first, the spirit of nationalism and the infiltration of Communism in the land of his service; and second, the carnal and disunited state of the assemblies at home.

Similar exercise prevails in the hearts of many throughout the United States and Canada, only the exercise is in the reverse order. With the missionary, his first anxiety is the condition in his field of labour; with the Christian at home, his first concern is the state of the assemblies in his locality.

God has ordained that the ministry of His Word be for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of His people. The preservation, as well as the progress, of the churches of the saints depends upon the spiritual administration of the Holy Scriptures.

Notes taken at the Galt, Ontario, conference held this summer encourage the heart and indicate that there remains still an exercise among the servants of the Lord

to provide spiritual food that will fortify and sustain the sheep of Christ's pasture.

According to these notes the conference was opened by James Blackwood who based his message on prayer upon the fifth chapter of the Epistle of James. It was closed by a word from George Wilson regarding the spirit of expectancy that should prevail in view of the Lord's imminent return.

Brethren William Pell, Thomas Wilkie, William Bousfield, Joseph Darling emphasized the shepherdhood of the Lord Jesus. An expression of regret was repeated by each that the beautiful Twenty-third Psalm in metre was not included in the worship books currently used by the assemblies.

Brother Henry Fletcher spoke very plainly about church matters as he compared the seven letters to the churches of Asia (Rev. 3-4) with the sevenfold division of the narrative covering the wreck of the ship in which Paul travelled to Rome (Acts 27). He pointed out how extremes in teaching and practices have marred the expression of a united testimony before the world, but at the same time rejoiced, and caused the hearts of God's people to rejoice, that the true Church of our Lord Jesus Christ remains inviolate for "the gates of hell shall not prevail against her."

Brother Field from Wales gave an appreciated address on the importance of the Word of God. This address was an exposition of the references to the divinely written Word in the gospel according to Luke. Brother William Schwartz directed the attention of the Christians to their possession in Christ. He made mention of our Unchanging God, Unfailing Saviour, Untiring Helper, the

Holy Spirit, the Unstinted Provision, the grace of God,
and the Unfading Hope.

May the Lord preserve these brethren in their spheres
of labour, and may the Holy Spirit fit them even more for
a positive ministry that will bless and strengthen the
people of God in a day of sad deterioration.

Editorial (Nov 1960)

FFF 6:11 (Nov 1960)

Editorial

James Gunn

The United Nations! What a misnomer! What a display of disunity the fifteenth General Assembly has been!

Within this world organization there are nations whose leaders apparently would so annul its powers as to render it ineffective, if not destroy it altogether. There are other world leaders who support it thoroughly, and within its chambers strive diligently to ease international tension while bewildered humanity fixes its hopes for survival upon these efforts.

Man possesses such destructive weapons that he could destroy himself; consequently, he attempts to impose controls upon the use of his own inventions. Man's hopes for peace do not generally rise beyond these self-imposed restrictions, sanctions, and talks of disarmament.

The philosophy behind all this is not very inspiring. The human heart being what it is, imposition of limitations and penalties only results in resentment by the smaller nations and disagreement among the more powerful.

While the United Nations hopes and works for peace, within it are the very elements of war: hatred, jealousy, malice, with all their threats and counter-threats. They cry, "Peace, peace, when there is no peace."

There is no human deterrent for war; nevertheless, the Christian is enjoined to pray for kings and all who are in

authority in order that we may live in quietness and peace, with godliness and honesty (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Infidel man denies God and deifies himself arrogating the powers of survival or destruction. The Lord who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, still rules among the kingdoms of men. God will accomplish His own purpose through the United Nations before removing it.

The Armageddon will result from three of the major political blocs among the nations converging upon Palestine. Two with the possible intent of destroying the Jewish people, another, maybe, ostensibly to aid the Jews, but with an anti-semitic hatred selfishly seeking its own. When the armies representing these forces meet for battle on the fields of Armageddon, Heaven shall open, "And behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in Heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (Rev. 19:11-15).

Not until the Prince of Peace whom the world rejected thus returns, will there in reality be united nations.

Editorial (Dec 1960)

FFF 6:12 (Dec 1960)

Editorial

James Gunn

"I remember," said a minister of j the Gospel, "being invited to a party held to celebrate a wedding. I arrived late and I knew nobody there but the friend who had invited me. My part was little more than that of a spectator. Every one seemed in high spirits. They danced and sang; laughed and played games. They pranced about in funny paper caps in a state of childish gaiety.

Sitting alone in a corner, I spied a beautiful young woman. She seemed very happy and smiled pleasantly when I caught her eye, but I thought her a bit neglected. To my friend, I whispered, "Who is the young lady?"

"Do you not know? " He said somewhat startled. "I must introduce you, that is the bride."

While celebrating His birth, actually the world has little room for Christ. In all the festivities and pageantry of the occasion, few think of the purpose of the incarnation of our blessed Lord. Moreover, there is little understanding of the need for His coming. In the minds of many commercial values have displaced the values of redemption; gaiety has expelled serious thinking; and covetousness has eclipsed the divine generosity that gave a Saviour to the world.

It is wonderful that in the scheme of world affairs, God forces all to acknowledge that He did send His Son. It

may be His pleasure to keep secret the exact date, but He does divulge the fact once a year over all the earth throughout every generation.

Furthermore, men indirectly are constantly being reminded of Christ's coming into the world. Each time the date is used, it is written as being a part of the one-thousand-nine-hundred-and-sixtieth year after the birth of Christ. In Christendom all time is divided into two parts; the first, B.C. (before Christ); the second, A.D. (Anno Domini, the year after our Lord).

These facts impress us with the important place our Lord Jesus holds, in human history. He may be denied by many, and displaced by many others; nevertheless, His place in the annals of time is undisputed. He may be forgotten by the multitude, but of Him they are repeatedly reminded. God sees to it that in all things Christ has the pre-eminence.

A salutary question to raise is, what important place does Christ hold in the individuals life? Has the reader a B.C. and an A.D. in his personal history? In simple language, does the reader recall the acceptance of Christ as Saviour into heart and life? If so, the next important matter is to see that He as Lord occupies the central place in daily experiences.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." Is this gift of incalculable worth given the prominent place it merits in the heart, home, business, and assembly?

May we like those of old bow before Him and worship, offering to Him, not material things alone, but also those of greater value, spiritual things; and may we rise from worship to crown Him as Lord to the glory of God. May

the enthroned Christ be the power of all outward performance and the source of all inward joy.

Editorial (June 1962)

Editorial

James Gunn

I saw a picture in last night's paper. Nothing very technical, neither was it striking because of it's composition or artistic qualities, but it gave me a real sense of joy.

This picture showed a little clump of what looked like crocus shoots growing. "Nothing very special about that," you say, "at this time of year that's what to expect." Yes, but there was something EXTRA about those little shoots. The picture showed that these slender, tender blades had actually forced their way right through a black-top roadway and shrugged aside the black crumbs of tar as they were drawn irresistably upwards to the sun.

Not so long ago on this page was printed the picture of a massive man-made rocket. Filled with the most elaborate and highly technical equipment, it sat on the launching pad. But that product of man's ingenuity, the focal point of the keenest brains of the nation couldn't do what those little simple flowers did.

That missile-monster just sat there, and would continue to sit until some external force applied the spark of ignition.

Those tiny slivers of green tell me again the story of resurrection. They tell me that when the word goes forth... "Rise up My fair one..." there is no power on earth can stay ALL those in whom dwells the Spirit of

life. It tells me too that the products of man's workmanship, elaborate and awesome though they be, cannot elevate themselves the height of a crocus, for they are lacking—LIFE!

Editorial (Dec 1965)

Editorial

James Gunn

“What is this word, cur- curric-curriculum?” asked the Irish guest. “I find it,” said he, “difficult even to pronounce. What do they mean by a new curriculum?”

“A curriculum is a course of study, and the new curriculum is a particular course of study, which basically is a deflection from the old that taught man’s ruin by sin and God’s remedy through the sacrifice of Christ. This new curriculum has been adopted as a scheme for Sunday School lessons by some of the more liberal denominations.”

Such was the explanation given to our Irish friend. Along with this were given certain points that are vital to the evangelical Christian, points which we might review so that the policy of Food for the Flock might be understood.

We certainly love all of God true children for “every one that loveth Him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of Him” (1 John 5:1). “He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen” (1 John 4:20)?

Notwithstanding, we cannot tolerate evil, and must oppose the systems among which some of God’s children remain, systems characterized by disloyalty to the person of Christ, and disregard for the Word of God.

Would to God that His people would come out of all the organizations that adopt the new curriculum. “What

communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?"

Many of the historical facts of Holy Scripture are taught in the new curriculum as myths. Creation, the virgin birth, etc. are all treated in that manner. In fact, this new course of religious instruction teaches that the greater part of Bible history is mythological and legendary.

The history of the fall of man is treated as symbolic. Adam and Eve are symbols, so also is the forbidden fruit. It is estimated that over 600,000 orders for this printed heresy have been received by the publishers.

We need not be alarmed for long since this trend was predicted: "We are expressly told by inspiration that, in the later days, there will be some who abandon the faith, listening to false inspirations, and doctrines taught by devils" (1 Tim. 4:1-2; Knox translation). "But as for you beloved, keep in mind the warnings given you long since by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how they told you, that mocking spirits must needs appear in the last age" (Jude 17-18; Knox translation).

Thank God for His grace in salvation and for membership in the Body of Christ! Thank God for the privilege of meeting with God's people in sincerity and Christian simplicity! Thank God for the promise of the Master, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them"!

What now should be our attitude toward many who have not been as favoured as we, but who are now forced to withdraw from congregations where Modernism and Neo-orthodoxy have so blatantly expressed themselves?

The godly example of Aquila and Priscilla in their treatment of Apollos (Acts 18:24-28) is the answer. "Whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." This is what Food for the Flock seeks to do.

Recently at the close of a service in a small Canadian city, a gentleman, probably in his middle seventies, asked that we counsel him in an important matter.

"I was saved as a boy in the same congregation in which I had been a member until only a few weeks ago.

"One of the greatest honours of my life was that after my father died, the Board of Deacons sent for me and said, 'Your father was Treasurer of this congregation for over thirty years, and now he has gone to his rest, we ask that you assume his duties. We would like that the office that he filled so well remain in his family.'

"For over another thirty years I have performed those duties, but because of perversion of doctrine, a denial of the Christian faith, the preaching of only a social gospel and the adoption of the new curriculum, I am forced to withdraw. This has been so difficult at this late day in my life. My heart is heavy, but there is no alternative. Can you advise me where I should go?"

May God have mercy upon His sorely tried people scattered throughout Christendom. May He give us hearts of love and understanding.

Editorial (Mar-Apr 1969)

By The Editor

James Gunn

IT was said of a renowned statesman of a past generation that his strongest point lay in his ability to compromise. Today we wonder if compromise is an indication of strength or weakness.

Will compromise settle the war in Vietnam? Will demonstrations of power stabilize the Middle East? Will recognition cause the antipathy between Communist and National China to subside? Will political sagacity surmount the obstinacy of racial hatred? Will diplomacy establish peaceful co-existence between conflicting ideologies? What, Oh, what, can be done for the dreadful dilemma of the modern world?

Diplomacy seems so inadequate. Negotiations appear futile. Who can bring order out of the confusion? Who can speak peace over the waves of racial spite and malignity? Read W. Fraser Naismith's article, "Christ Incomparable," and learn of One wiser than Solomon. Read "An Heir of Promise" by J. M. Davies and see how the problem of Israeli will be solved. Other articles in this number bear upon the ethical life of the Christian, as for example, Fraser McKenzie's "Christian Marriage."

C. H. Darch ministers comfort to the mind and heart, and William Brown challenges us in regard to our responsibility to children.

Other writers would direct us to Christ and thus stimulate devotion toward Him. Think along with A.

Tetstall in his unusual article, "A Coffin in Egypt," and with John Funk in his pithy paragraphs, "Contemplating Christ."

Earl Miller with spiritual maturity and considerable biblical research continues his excellent exposition of the Epistle of James.

Editorial (May-June 1969)

MIF 1:3 (May-June 1969)

By The Editor

James Gunn

The pilgrimage of the Church has been strenuous, and has been characterized by much failure on her part and much grace and patience on the Lord's part.

The fortitude and courage so manifest in the early years of Church history frequently have inspired Christians in latter stages of the journey.

A modern philosopher wrote: "True courage is not brutal force of vulgar heroes, but the firm resolve of virtue and reason." This was the strength of the early Christians.

It is obvious that this same quality is much needed today. The Christian does not need the boldness of foolhardiness, but the valour of resoluteness; not the daring of self-confidence, but the virtue of tenacity; not the audacity of self-reliance, but an implicit trust in God, God as revealed in Christ and in the Bible.

In this number W. Fraser Naismith presents again "Christ Incomparable." Richard Burson exposes the foes which seek our defeat. Andrew Borland cheers the many weary travellers among us as we approach the terminus.

Our aged brother Dr. Armerding knows humanity by experience, he has discovered our besetting sin, forgetfulness. He prods our memories and directs our hearts into true devotions.

W. Ross Rainey and his uncle Leslie reveal what we have in Christ to strengthen and guide us all along the way. Angus Henderson and Earl Miller challenge us with the responsibilities we must assume in the home and in the Church until the day dawn when the shadows of earth have passed forever away.

Editorial (July-Aug 1969)

MIF 1:4 (July-Aug 1969)

By The Editor

James Gunn

“Our Western Civilization is sunk!” exclaimed one of the lawyers from our town. We had been comparing present moral conditions with those of Rome just before the collapse of that World Empire.

A great American leader has also said, so it is rumoured, “Our own moral laxity will soon destroy us, even if the Communists don’t.”

The family is that basic unit of society; the home, the corner stone of the community. If these basic units deteriorate, what hope is there for the Western Nations, or for the world at large? None whatever!

Quotations from the Press at various sources confirm these statements, and indicate the extent of this deterioration in many many homes.

“Home is the empty house to which junior returns from school; the place where the only sound he hears is the echo of his own voice when he cries in vain for his mommie.”

Marital breakdown is the break for which some persons wait, but what kind of a break is it? broken vows, broken laws, broken hearts, broken homes, broken and fragmented minds, and broken and split personalities.

Perhaps the article “Coffin Nails” by Dr. Charles Taylor will alert Christians to some of the seductive moral

hazards of today. The Lord said concerning Abraham, "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him and they shall keep the way of the Lord" (Gen. 18:19).

Today when all around us there is a sense of decadence and even hopelessness, with deep convictions relative to the power of the Spirit of God and the Word of God, we ought to order our households in such a manner as to adorn the doctrine of God in all things.

The articles on Marriage Counselling that are appearing in Ministry in Focus ought to help in properly and spiritually arranging the Christian home. The article in this number by Derek Park is quite unusual.

W. Fraser Naismith again directs our attention to Christ Incomparable, the only hope for this lost world. He reigns supreme is the substance of the article by Ernest Barker, and Andrew Borland in his second article on the Second Advent of Christ fixes our attention on a glorious future. Ross Rainey assures us of the remarkable wealth that we inherit in Christ, and Earl Miller once more predicates those principles by which we ought to live as we await the coming of our Heavenly Bridegroom.

Editorial (Jan-Feb 1970)

MIF 2:1 (Jan-Feb 1970)

Editorial

James Gunn

With childish awe and curiosity I peeped through my fingers at the form kneeling in front a me. I had seen my father in that posture before, but that night seemed different, it was the New Year.

Although we were only little tots, we were allowed on that particular occasion to be up at mid-night; I, just old enough to participate in a domestic ceremony that was traditional in my father's home, stood with him and mother, a little bewildered by the open front door. It seemed as if we were there to say a farewell to the departing year, and to extend a welcome to the new one.

Fully aroused by the brisk fresh air, we enjoyed the chimes, the whistles and the fireworks which announced the arrival of 19..... Joy, quietness, a sense of security and even reverence prevailed as we returned to the dining room to kneel in prayer.

The soft voice with its mild Scottish accent and the tone of deep sincerity inspired the spell that fascinated me. With wonder I listened and watched as the head of our small family poured out his heart in prayer. With fervour he thanked God for the benefits of the past, with confidence he committed each of us into the Lord's care for the future.

The voice is hushed; the form long since been removed; the years have rolled away; a retrospect of more than

half a century forces the conclusion upon me, if I, during the many intervening years have breathed a word of thanks to God, or uttered an appeal in prayer, it is because of what I learned as I knelt in that family circle.

Thank God for His love, mercy and grace throughout 1969! As a Christian minority in 1970 we face a world of distress and hunger, of crime and violence, of sadism and tyranny, of disappointment and disillusionment. The false philosophy of moral evolution so popular that half a century ago has crumbled. Suspicion grips many hearts, hatred and enmity fill others, while fear and dread dominate the attitude of hundreds. Thank God, He still hears and answers the prayers of His beloved people!

Editorial (Sept-Oct 1969)

Editorial

James Gunn

Dr. Robert Baird McClure, the first lay Moderator of the United Church of Canada, has spent most of his life as a medical missionary. He has been in China, the Gaza strip and India. We admire men of his calibre who accept voluntarily the rigour and privation of foreign missionary work, men who give their all for suffering humanity. What we do not understand is why he would consent to be the head of a professedly Christian Church, and yet deny the very fundamentals of the Christian faith.

When asked at Kingston, Ontario, if he believed that Christ rose from the dead on the third day, he answered, "No." When also asked if Jesus was conceived by a human father, he replied, "I don't know."

The physical resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the keystone of Christianity. The Apostle Paul said, "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17).

To deny the resurrection of Christ is to deny the veracity of many eye witnesses (1 Cor. 15:1-8), to deny the authenticity of the Bible, and to deny the possibility of divine forgiveness and acceptance with God.

The Anglican Bishop of Cariboo, B.C. Dr. Dean, might well lament over Christendom. His emotional outburst, "I'm not sure I believe in the Church any more ... So far as the world is concerned, it is too late," and his

prediction that the Church would be dead in ten years, should be interpreted as a reference to the professing, apostate Church. Of the true Church, the Church of the Living God, the Lord Jesus said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The Word of God predicts a "falling away first," before the manifestation of the anti-Christ (2 Thess. 2:3). That there is a general defection from the Biblical tenets of the "faith once for all delivered unto the saints," is obvious (Jude 3).

Jude says concerning those who repudiate New Testament Christianity, "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit" (V. 19). Without doubt this implies that they separate themselves from the true Church by their heresies and apostasy. They assume a superior intellectual attitude, "and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."

How essential it is to recall the words of the same New Testament author: "But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts."

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 17-21).

Editorial (Mar-Apr 1970)

MIF 2:2 (Mar-Apr 1970)

Editorial

James Gunn

High above the town, against the blackness of a moonless sky, shone an illuminated cross. Its beam and cross-beam glowed like gems glistening on display. Its shimmering rays caught the eye; the bejewelled cross claimed attention. It was the embellished cross of Christendom. What a contrast to the upright pale or stake on which our Saviour died! He "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," the most depraved, shameful, ignominious and painful of all modes of death.

Christendom, like ancient Chaldea who used a T like cross as the symbol of its pagan god Tammuz, apparently feels that she must have a symbol. Christianity needs no symbol. Her faith is firmly anchored in the empty tomb, the evidence of resurrection, of victory over death. "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; ... He was buried, and ... rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." He was thus "declared to be the son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead."

An old cathedral stood on the site of the present St. Paul's in London. It perished in the great fire of 1666. After the fire the brilliant young architect, Christopher Wren, designed a new cathedral.

The first stone Wren picked up from the ruins of the old building bore a Latin inscription whose meaning is "I shall rise again." The Lord Jesus declared, "I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself" (John 10:17-18).

Christian faith rests upon the empty tomb and Christian hope ascends from that same empty tomb. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him ... The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:14-18).

A visible cross and a tangible crucifix may appeal to the senses, but it is only the inerrant Word of God that provides a foundation for faith and hope.

"For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven" (Psa. 119:89).

Editorial (Nov-Dec 1969)

MIF 1:6 (Nov-Dec 1969)

Editorial

James Gunn

Christ A Cosmonaut?

MOSCOW (UPI): "Christ was a cosmonaut, according to a Soviet Philologist."

V. Zaitsev claims that the star of Bethlehem was actually a spaceship, and that the Lord Jesus Christ was a visitor from another planet. Zaitsev says, "The descent of God to earth is really a cosmic occurrence." He further suggests that this be considered a historical event and that we replace the title "Word of God" with a new term, Cosmonaut Jesus Christ.

The Russian government newspaper Izvestia was skeptical in its report and found it difficult to understand how a Soviet Philologist could agree with Western Philologists.

A few have accepted Zaitsev's words as a Russian acknowledgment of Christ Jesus, but to well-taught Christians his words present a miserable caricature of our Holy Lord Jesus Christ; they are the product of a fertile and atheistic imagination.

Yes, Christ came into the world, but He came not from another planet, but from the bosom of the Father (John 1:18). He did not come by a spaceship; "He was made of a woman" (Gal. 4:4); He was born of the blessed Virgin Mary (Matt. 1:23); He was made of the seed of David according to the flesh (Rom. 1:3).

Our Lord did not come into this world as a cosmonaut; angels announced to the shepherds near Bethlehem: "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). When the men of Samaria had met the Lord Jesus, they said, "This is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world" (John 4:42).

The Star of Bethlehem was not a spaceship, and in all probability not even a natural astronomical phenomenon, but in keeping with the miraculous event, a supernatural manifestation.

Well might we join with Mary in her Magnificat, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46-55).

Editorial (July-Sept 1970)

MIF 2:4 (July-Sept 1970)

Editorial

James Gunn

The word reverence as generally used in the King James Version indicates an attitude of high esteem and respect; first, toward God; and then, toward a superior, a parent or a husband.

The Psalmist uses it in a specific sense of the Lord; he says, "Holy and reverent in His name"• (Psa. 11:9). He implies more than mere esteem and respect. This deeper sense is expressed by other translators. One renders it, "Holy and terrible is His name;" and another, "Holy and awful is His name." Without doubt, there is an awesome fear about the Lord which requires a worshipful submission in His presence, a veneration of His sacred character and infinite majesty.

Another Psalmist expresses the attitude due to the Divine Presence: "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him" (Psa. 89:7).

The attitude of true reverence is seen in the case of the seraphim; of them we read, "Each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isa. 6:2-3).

Have we poor humans lost this sense of reverential fear?

Allston wrote: "Reverence is an ennobling sentiment; it is felt to be degrading only by the vulgar mind which would escape the sense of its own littleness by elevating itself into an antagonist of what is above it. He that has no pleasure in looking up, is not fit so much as to look down."

Another wrote, "Reverence is one of the signs of strength; irreverence, one of the surest indications of weakness."

Even Christians may lose a consciousness of this holy awe. The bustling entering into the congregation of the Lord, the audible whispering before and during services, and the gossip after dismissal, must be interpreted as a lack of reverence. Levity at the entrance to the auditorium suggests not only disrespect, but can only be considered as detrimental to the testimony of the Lord.

"What was your reaction in coming into a Western Nation from India?" a converted Hindu was asked.

"I felt," he replied, "that Hinduism could teach Christianity much both in reverence and ethics."

What an indictment against Christianity!

Repetition is to deepen impression, for this reason twice God said to Israel, "Ye shall ... reverence My sanctuary, I am the Lord" (Lev. 19:30; 26:2). Can God expect less of us who have received much more than they?

—J.G.

Editorial (Oct-Dec 1970)

MIF 2:5 (Oct-Dec 1970)

Editorial

James Gunn

Defensive forces are ever aware of the possibility of stealthful infiltration by the enemy. They, consequently, are always alert lest secretly the foe enter their ranks; there to sabotage their position and very existence. Under such provocative circumstance, a defective guard would be fatal.

In the face of open opposition in the first Christian century, the Apostle Paul stated, "I am set for the defence of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17). In a less conspicuous role God has raised up throughout the intervening centuries those who have been the defenders of the Christian faith.

While today open opposition is not as prevalent, the tactical enemy still seeks to destroy "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," and this by infiltration.

Materialism has already weakened the testimony of the Lord. It has diverted hearts from Christ, and in some cases has resulted in grief and remorse. How true the Word of God is! "The love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:10).

Cold intellectualism with its pride and a philosophy that elevates human intellect to a place of supremacy, has spoiled many a happy, useful Christian life. A rationality

that questions the authority, not to say the veracity, of the Scriptures is characterized by pride. "Pride draws only to itself, but unlike the magnet, it has no attractive pole."

Long ago Addison wrote, "Modesty is not only an ornament, but also a guard to virtue." A lack of this charm has led some to ignore the doctrine of divine headship (1 Cor. 11:1-15), and to expose themselves to divine discipline and human contempt.

Let us beware of infiltration by the enemy. Let us in our character and conduct be the defenders of the high and holy standards of our Christian heritage.

Editorial (Sept-Oct 1971)

MIF 3:5 (Sept-Oct 1971)

Editorial

Faithfulness

It is predicted of our blessed Lord, "Righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins" (Isa. 11:5).

Here character is symbolized by the clothing He would wear, and one of the most important parts of His limited wardrobe is mentioned, the girdle that would hold His long garments lest they impede His activities and at the same time give support to His back. In His rule as the Son of Man, righteousness will support His government as it deals with His enemies, and faithfulness will support it in the fulfilment of every divine promise and prophecy relative to His kingdom.

Inasmuch as faithfulness is a quality of character, how may it be defined? It has been implied that faithfulness is unrestricted allegiance to a person or a cause. In other words, that it is an unreserved commitment to an object.

Faithfulness is manifested by fidelity, stability, trustworthiness and constancy. In the days of Jehovah king of Judah, money was collected for the repairing of the temple, and it is said of the treasurers, "They reckoned not with the men, into whose hands they delivered the money ... for they were faithful" (2 Kings 12:15).

At times friendship suffers from disloyalty and betrayal, business from dishonour and fraud, and even our national life suffers from treachery and villainy.

Notwithstanding what goes on in the world, the Christian should be faithful toward all; his yes should mean yes, and his no, mean no.

An ancient biblical proverb reads, "A faithful man shall abound with blessing: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent" (Proverb 28:20).

The man who seeks to accumulate material wealth quickly, frequently becomes guilty of deceit and fraud, and will not go unpunished. In contrast, the faithful man who lives objectively and sacrificially will receive due compensation for his fidelity. The stable trustworthy Christian will receive multiple blessings from both God and man.

Editorial (Jan-Feb 1973)

MIF 5:1 (Jan-Feb 1973)

Editorial

“But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned He his anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath.” Psalm 78:38.

Compassion is a divine attribute and includes love, mercy, tenderness of heart and, literally, a deep “fellow-feeling.” It is frequently found in the Word of God when something above and beyond love is intended.

In Psalm 78 the long-suffering and patience of God toward rebellious and disobedient Israel is expressed as compassion. They tried Him grievously but He refrained from stirring up His holy wrath, showing instead His infinite capacity for complete forgiveness.

In His earthly ministry our Lord showed compassion, or love-plus, toward many ordinary people in times of need. Rarely was His compassion sought but He knew when to show it and follow through with healing action. He gave us the parable of the Good Samaritan to show that we should show compassion even to those who are our traditional enemies.

Peter in 1 Peter 3:8-12 applies the scriptural teaching of compassion to all men. If we would have a closer walk with God we should show compassion where we now show intolerance toward those who offend us. As far as our human limitations allow, we should show the same compassion to saved and unsaved alike that God has

shown to unbelieving and unfaithful mankind. Let us therefore walk in the Spirit of Christ, being channels of His grace in a world of sin and rebellion against God.

Paul says in Romans 12:15 that it is part of the Christian life to “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” Let us have mercy and show kindness, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven us.

Editorial (Jan-Feb 1974)

MIF 6:1 (Jan-Feb 1974)

Editorial

John Gunn

It has been suggested that Moses was the author of both Psalm 90 and Psalm 91. The idea is that Psalm 90 may have been composed while he was surveying the wilderness and thinking of the many of Israel's manhood who had been buried under its sands. Psalm 91, so it has been intimated, might have been composed as Moses was contemplating the tabernacle with its benign cloud providing a shadow for the pilgrim people, and with the wings of the cherubim woven into the curtains of its sanctuary.

In writing Psalm 90, he must have been very conscious of time. He wrote of morning and evening, of days and years and even of generations. He implied that all these passed away quickly, and that each brought its disappointments, trials and sorrows. The Psalm might have been written as a funeral dirge. The only light that penetrates its gloom appears in the words, "Lord Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations."

No matter what the past had been with all its problems and perplexities, God has always been the shelter, the hiding place for His people. He had been their protection in every circumstance, even when they did not realize it.

From his new perspective Moses did not write of what God had been, but of what He then was. He did not

write of those who lay buried under the sands of the desert, he pictured those who dwelt in the sanctuary, those that abode under the shadow of the Almighty. Moreover he assured all of God's people "He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust."

As we face another year, let us not be appalled by the conditions in the wilderness; God is even there; let us rather abide in the sanctuary, in the warm, calm, holy intimacy of God's presence, for there, and there alone, are found the shadow from the scorching rays of trouble and the tender protection from all evil.

Editorial (Sept-Oct 1974)

MIF 6:5 (Sept-Oct 1974)

Editorial

James Gunn

“Ichthus”

Concerning the early Christians we read, “Of the rest durst no man join himself to them” (Acts 5:13). It was a costly matter to be a Christian in early Church history. There was a danger of not only being censured but imprisoned and martyred. Later, during the reigns of the pagan Caesars, many of God’s people were martyred for fidelity to Christ.

One is not surprised that under those severe circumstances, God’s children used secret symbols to indicate their presence and faith. The picture of a fish or the Greek word for it was often used. The word “fish” signified, ‘Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Saviour.’ The I stood for the name Jesus; X (ch), for Christ; Th, for God; U, for Son; and S for Saviour.

Today fear does not force us to use secret symbols. We may be bold; in fact, we should be. With such distorted concepts of the divine sonship of Christ, we need to declare again, ‘Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Saviour.’

Various shades of the old “Kenosis Theory” have infiltrated Christian contemporaneous thinking to an alarming degree. How can God, being who He is, cease temporarily to know that He is God, and then through a natural circumstance discover His Deity?

In order to accomplish the work of redemption each person in the Divine Trinity assumed voluntarily and temporarily a specific position. The Father assumed the role of Sovereign; the Son, the role of submission to His sovereignty; the Holy Spirit, submission to both the Father and the Son. Yet all remained what eternally they are—God. Any apparent limitation in the early life of Christ must therefore have been self-assumed. An old Puritan writer stated: “The Father is not superior to the Son; the Son is not inferior to the Father, and the Spirit is equal to each.”

Let us make bold our confession of faith as did many of the early Christians—‘Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Saviour.’ We must realize that a comparable analysis of the personality of the Lord is impossible. The greatest theologian of all time wrote, “Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.” How great is that mystery to us!