

The
PRESENT TRUTH
 and
Herald of Christ's Epiphany

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"The Lamb opened the seventh seal." "Ye have approached Mount Zion, and the City of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem. . . See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh . . . saying . . . 'Yet once more I shake not the earth only but also heaven' . . . Wherefore, receiving a Kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear." "Christ being come an High Priest . . . by a greater and more perfect Tabernacle . . . obtained eternal deliverance."—Rev. 8: 1; Heb. 12: 22, 25, 26, 28; 9: 11, 12.

Saul's Failures

1 Samuel 14: 1-46


PART ONE

THE ARMY WHICH GATHERED TO SAUL, and which accomplished the victory of 1 Samuel 11: 1-15, was disbanded; and subsequently the king had a standing army of three thousand men. One thousand of these were under command of his son Jonathan. The remainder constituted a royal guard and were immediately under Saul's own directions. Apparently the land of Israel was completely dominated by the Philistines, who here and there had garrisons. These were content to take a certain amount of tax from the people.

The Israelites were poorly armed; for the Philistines

would not permit them to have weapons of war lest they should rebel. When Jonathan made an attack upon the garrison of the Philistines and wiped it out, it raised a hubbub that meant war. The Hebrews trembled at what might be the result. The Philistines increased their army of occupation; and the Israelites—unarmed, except with agricultural implements,—were terrorized by the warlike Philistines. Saul's army of three thousand dwindled to six hundred; yet the word which reached him from the Prophet Samuel was, to wait seven days for his arrival, apparently with the intention that the people should thoroughly feel their impotence, and cry unto the Lord for assistance. King Saul did as directed to the extent of waiting seven days; and with the expiration of the time, seeing how his army was dwindling and that Samuel had not returned, he on the seventh day undertook to be his own priest. He offered up sacrifices to God without authority.

Just as he had finished the sacrifices, the Prophet Samuel appeared, reproved him sharply, and told him that because of his failure fully to obey the Lord, his family should not be continued as the Lord's representatives in the Kingdom of Israel. The king apologized, explained the circumstances—thought it necessary to do something, and what he did was the only thing he could think of. Very few kings or generals of our day would be prepared to do any nearer the will of the Lord than did King Saul. Very few would have waited seven days at all, or would have paid any attention to the Prophet. Very few would have apologized to the Prophet afterwards, and explained why they attempted to offer sacrifice to God. We might think that if King Saul had been given further opportunities he might gradually have learned the lesson of implicit obedience to God; but the record shows us that he again failed along the very same lines. It requires many experiences to teach some of us the lesson of complete reliance on the Lord and full obedience to His every requirement. Perhaps the Lord was wishing to teach a special lesson along this line—that any king sitting upon the typical throne of the Lord must be implicitly obedient, not merely to the letter of the command, but also to its spirit; for Israel's kings to a considerable extent foreshadowed



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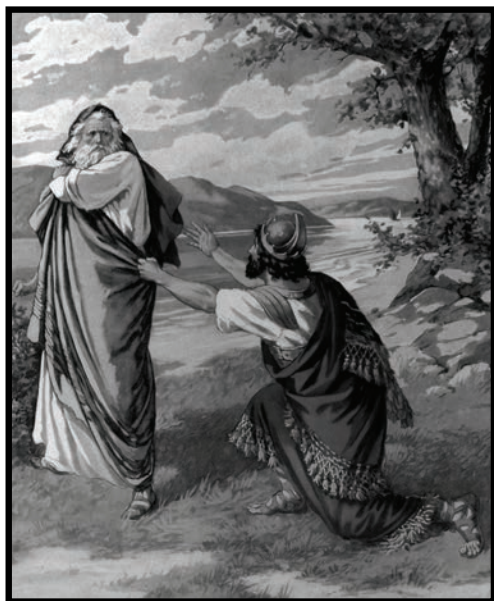
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Free from all sects, parties, organizations, and creeds of men, but bound to God as it understands His Word, this magazine stands for —

- The defense of the Parousia Truth, given by the Lord through "that Servant," as basic for all further development of the Truth;
- The defense of the arrangements, charter and will given by the Lord through "that Servant," as binding on controlling corporations and associations among Truth people; and for
- The exposition and defense of the unfolding Epiphany-Basileia Truth, as meat in due season for the Lord's people, as He is pleased to provide it.

the Kingdom of Christ and His Church. Those who will be joint-heirs with Messiah in His Kingdom of glory must learn obedience; else they will not be accounted worthy of the honors of the Kingdom. They must not only be outwardly obedient, but inwardly obedient to the spirit or intent of the Lord's Law, His whole Word.

We do well to note why King Saul's sacrifice of burnt offerings to the Lord was condemned as a sin. This was because God had made a specific law to the effect that only the priests might offer sacrifices. Then comes the question, Why should God limit the offering of sacrifices to the priestly tribe? The answer is that that tribe typically represented the Church—



To obey is better than sacrifice 1 Sam. 15: 22

fully consecrated to God and accepted by Him. These the Apostle styled the antitypes, not only of Israel's kings, but also of Israel's priests. St. Peter says of the Church in general, and not of the clergy in particular, "You are a Royal Priesthood." In the antitype, all of God's consecrated people were prospective kings and sacrificing priests. Unless these saintly Christians sacrificed their earthly interests, their lives, they would not get the great reward of joint-heirship with Christ, the great Chief Priest of their profession. As we read, "If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him"; and again, St. Paul says, "I beseech you, brethren, . . . present your bodies a living sacrifice." It would be therefore a mistake for us to suppose, as some do, that the clergy have special priestly offices now, and are commissioned to offer mass and prayers. Let us remember that there is only one great High Priest—the Lord Jesus—that He offered up Himself in the days of His flesh, and has passed beyond the Veil into glory, and that He has since offered up His consecrated people, who presented

themselves to Him in the proper spirit of submission and self-sacrifice. The Bible recognizes no division of the people of God into clergy and laity. This was and is a snare of the Adversary, introduced gradually in the second and third centuries. The Bible teaching is that all the faithful spirit-begotten are members of the antitypical Royal Priesthood, that they are all brethren, that they are all ordained or authorized to preach the Message of God's grace as presented in God's Word; and that they should call no man on the earth father; but should realize that One is their Father, even God, and Jesus is their Elder Brother (Matt. 23: 9).

How many of the human family have felt, when they reached their death-beds, that if they had life to live over again, their lessons of experience would be precious and enable them to do much better! The man or the woman who has not had some experiences along this line of failures and endeavored to surmount them and to do better, has lived his life very much in vain. Let us therefore encourage one another to strive for high ideals, and not to be discouraged by our unintentional failures. This is expressed by the little quotation which we all learned in childhood, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." That little message which came to our childish minds was a valuable one. It helped us over many a discouragement. Beset by our own weaknesses with which we were born, surrounded by others who similarly have weaknesses of mind, body and morals, and assaulted, as the Scriptures assure us we are, by Satan and the fallen angels, who seek to ensnare us and divert us from God and from righteousness, is it any wonder that we fail to come up to our own highest ideals, and therefore fail still more seriously to come up to the perfect standards of God's Word? The very simplest statement of God's Law is the Golden Rule. Yet how many who understand that Golden Rule and its spirit perfectly could claim that they live up to its requirements every hour, every day? "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." All that any of us can do is to be honest with ourselves, to confess our delinquencies, to work daily to overcome these and to attain more and more to the Divine standards in thought, in word, in deed.

It is a further lesson, which only Christians have learned, that it is impossible to live up to the standards of this Law perfectly, and that we need the covering of the Redeemer's merit—even after we have surrendered

all to Him to seek to walk in His steps—to cover our failures and to continue us in relationship with God. Another lesson which the Christian learns is that those continuing in relationship with God find not only forgiveness for trespasses unintentionally committed, but find also grace to help, assistances for every need, even those that might have had a degree of willfulness—through the same Savior. In this way we are learning of our own weaknesses and of God’s mercy, and growing strong in battling for what is right day by day. By working to overcome our imperfections we have repeated opportunities, for repentance of sin and to make a fresh



Saul Threatens David’s Life

start after recovery from the stumbling, through the merit of Christ. King Saul in our lesson had no such experiences; the Savior had not yet died; He had not yet appeared in the presence of God, to offer an atonement or to open up a new way of life. Saul, therefore, had only the arrangement which was common to all Jews—the typical Day of Atonement, once every year, to atone for the sins of the whole people for one year, including the typical priesthood, through whom the message of God was communicated to them. The fact that he himself was a type, King Saul was necessarily dealt with along the lines of strict justice, and the kingdom was declared to be forfeited by his family because of his offering to the Lord a sacrifice not authorized by Jehovah.

THE WORLD IN THE FUTURE

Gradually Bible students are learning that the story of our various creeds of Christendom is untrue, which tells that all the heathen have gone to eternal torture, and all the Jews similarly, because they did not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; and furthermore, that nearly all the people of civilized lands who have died, have

gone to eternal torture because, having heard of Christ, they did not become His saintly followers. These terrible doctrines have driven many away from God and from His inspired Book, as people seem to realize their horrors and injustice. Bible students are coming to see that God has provided two trials for the whole world of mankind. The first trial was in Eden, Father Adam being the representative of himself and his race. That trial ended in failure to all concerned but it did not mean the end of hope. For God then made an arrangement for a second trial, without which none of the human family, including ourselves, would ever gain eternal life or escape the sentence of death that came on them there. The death of Christ was for the very purpose of giving a second trial to Adam and all his race; as the Apostle declares, “As by man came death, by man comes also the Resurrection of the dead. For as all in Adam die, even so all in Christ shall be made alive; every man in his own order” (1 Cor. 15: 21-23). During the Gospel Age, those who believed the Message of the Gospel, and who consecrated themselves fully to the Lord and whom He accepted by the begetting of the Holy Spirit to the Divine nature—they became New Creatures in Christ, and those New Creatures were on trial a second time—their destiny being everlasting life on the spirit plane. This Church class, have now all reached their goal in the heavenly realm as joint heirs with their Lord on the throne. Although not seen at first, there have been other elect classes that God has purposed to be brought to development and who will be used, also, in the great restitution work for the world in the next age.

Not only has there been the Little Flock as the Bride but also the Great Multitude as the Bridesmaids for the spirit realm (Psa. 45: 14), but also there is the earthly Kingdom for the human race in general (Acts 3: 19-21). The rulership for the Millennial Kingdom will be in the hands of the Old Testament prophets as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob together with their more recent counterpart the Youthful of Joel 2: 28.

The remainder of the world are still in the condemned condition; or, as the Apostle says, they have not yet escaped the condemnation that is on the world. There has been the way of escape by the various elect classes through accepting Christ on the terms of justification and consecration.

However, we see that God’s provision for a second trial includes the remainder of the human race, who do not now hear, or who do not now accept Christ and

are not now a part of any of the elect. The world in general is to have its trial time during the Millennium. Then, “the knowledge of the glory of God will fill the whole earth.” Then, “all shall know Him from the least to the greatest.” They will not have the opposition of Satan; for he will be bound during that time. They will have the assistance of Christ and of the glorified Church, the Royal Priesthood along with others of the heavenly and earthly elect. The object of that Millennial Kingdom will be to uplift the world—to bring all the willing and obedient back again to human perfection and everlasting life, and to destroy all the incorrigible



Shabby Old Coat

ones, who refuse to reform when they receive that full and second opportunity. In this connection we are reminded of the words of the poet:

*“I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning-again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all our poor, selfish grief
Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat, at the door
And never put on again.”*

The poet’s words are to come true, and the time is near at hand. If, as Bible students, we are realizing, that the present world disorders are a prelude to the anarchy of the great Battle of Armageddon, which is the entrance to the Kingdom of Messiah, then the time of putting off the “shabby old coat” of present imperfection on the part of humanity in general is near at hand. Surely all who have put off the filthy rags of their own unrighteousness, and by faith put on the Robe of Christ’s Righteousness, can rejoice that the poor world—heathen, Jew, and Gentile—may have an opportunity as recipients of God’s love and mercy

provided through the great Sacrifice made at Calvary, when “Jesus Christ by the grace of God, tasted death for every man”; that he who believes on Him, whether now or in the future, should not perish, but might gain everlasting life. Not only so, but as Jesus gives all who come unto Him the gracious opportunity whereby they may “try, try again,” and gradually demonstrate, cultivate their loyalty to God and to righteousness, so the Bible intimates an opportunity will be given to the world in general. For a thousand years the world will have the opportunity of trying, trying again, that by the many lessons of that time they may learn righteousness and come fully into accord with the Great King Eternal and His glorious Golden Rule. This the Scriptures assure us respecting the Millennium: “When the judgments of the Lord are abroad in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness” (Isa. 26: 9). Our lesson proceeds to tell the story of how Jonathan and his armor-bearer, blessed of the Lord, were victorious over the enemies; and how the Philistines, divided into three parties, mistook each other for Hebrews and killed one another.

DAVID’S FIRST APPEARANCE

1 Sam. 16: 1-23

We desire to present David’s First Appearance, as given in 1 Sam. 16, in remembrance of our Pastor Russell. As we pointed out in the article on David and Goliath, David in the Psalms types, sometimes our Lord, sometimes the Church and sometimes both our Lord and the Church; but in the histories, so far as we now see, while his experiences illustrate and often in a general way type things in the experiences of the Christ class, specifically he types our Pastor as the Lord’s executive, part of whose office as such was to fight the Lord’s battles. As executive he was ruler of the Lord’s household and commander of His armies as a warrior. David’s first appearance followed the Lord’s full rejection of King Saul. While in a general way Saul (desired) is typical of nominal fleshly and spiritual Israel, specifically he types the crown-lost leaders of the twelve denominations of Christendom. We hope as we progress in this study to give general details on Saul as a type of these crown-lost leaders. Here it will be sufficient for the purposes of this article to point out that these were rejected by the Lord as His leaders for the twelve denominations of Christendom for failure to overcome sin, though lopping off some of the branches of the tree of sin, and for attempting to offer forbidden things to the Lord, as typed by Saul’s failing to kill Agag, king

of the Amalekites (sins), and for sparing the choicest of their herds and flocks, alleging that he spared them for sacrifice. On the other hand, Samuel (name of God) types in a general way the Little Flock, but specifically the Little Flock leaders—those who started Little Flock movements and who then retired from leadership before the sectarianizing works of the crown-lost leaders, though continuing active subordinately in such sectarian bodies. This was his course in all twelve Little Flock movements later perverted into denominations by the crown-lost leaders.

(2) Naturally, after the Lord’s rejection of antitypical Saul for unfaithfulness in each of the twelve denominations, antitypical Samuel mourned for antitypical Saul. This was done after the act in each of the twelve denominations. This resulted in twelve rejections, some of them centuries apart, as that of the crown-lost leaders of the Greek and Roman Catholic churches occurred hundreds of years before that of other crown-lost leaders, the Lutheran and other Protestant churches, the last of such rejections setting in about 1846 with Seventh Day Adventist leaders, as the first set of Adventist leaders so treated. And after each of such rejections (v. 1) antitypical Samuel sorrowed for the rejected ones, as the Little Flock leaders in the denominations were distressed at the condition of the crown-lost leaders in these evils after their rejection by the Lord; for the Little Flock leaders were free from

envy, loved these crown-lost leaders, and naturally felt distressed at their ever deeper fall into sin, error and tactical blunders. The Lord seemingly did not intimate to our Samuel that he cease such distress until after the



Young David battles Goliath

last of the twelve rejections, when it became due to seek another leader for God’s people, for such sorrow was not only not wrong, but is in harmony with the Lord’s spirit that feels distress at others’ spiritual disasters. Only then did mourning over the fall of others become wrong when the fall was into the Second Death class (Lev. 10: 6, 7). The consciousness that Saul’s rejection was final made such distress of no further practical use. When the time came to seek another leader for God’s people, it was time for antitypical Samuel to cease such distress, as it would interfere with the work at hand.

To be continued ...

BEHEADED WITH CHRIST

“And I saw the souls of them who had been beheaded for their witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God” (Rev. 20: 4).

A PERSON is an individual, and everywhere throughout the Scriptures is the meaning attached to the word *soul*. Among mankind, however, some very crude thoughts prevail as to the meaning of this word. This is largely due to theories that are inconsistent with the Truth. A Methodist bishop once attempted to describe a soul. He stated that it is without exterior or interior, without body, shape or

parts, and that a million could be put into a nutshell. This is a good description of nothing. Evidently the bishop, following a long-believed theory (Gen. 3: 4, 5), had a misconception of what constitutes a soul according to the Word of God. As used in the Scriptures the term *soul* signifies a *person*. God is a soul on the spirit plane (Heb. 10: 38). The angels are souls; for they are intelligent

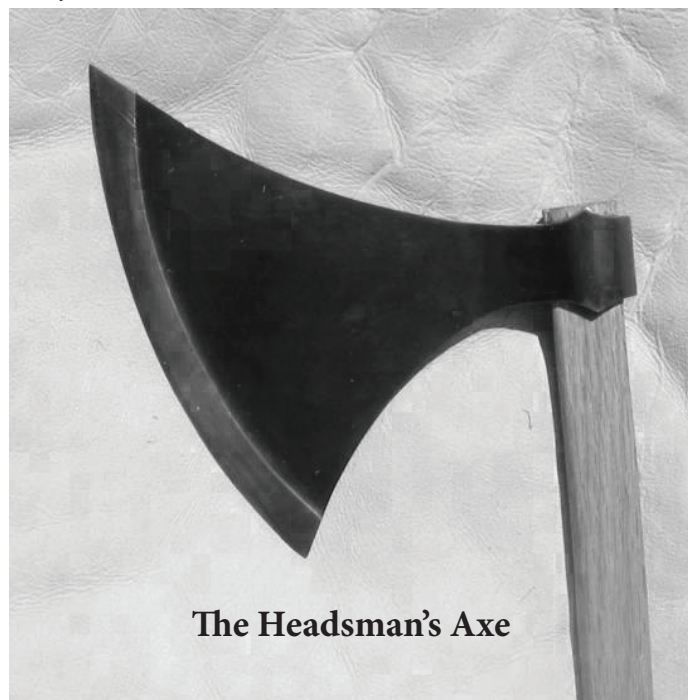
beings. So on the earthly plane man was created a soul (Gen. 2: 7; Ezek: 18: 4, 20). We read that Christ *poured out His soul unto death* as an offering for sin (Isa. 53: 10, 12). This signifies that He gave up His life, His Being. The Bible uses the word soul in referring not only to man and to spirit beings, but also to the lower animals (Num. 31: 28). A dog *is* a soul—but does not *have* a soul.

In his vision on the Isle of Patmos, among other things St. John saw the souls—the persons—who were beheaded for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus. He was speaking of those who would sit with Christ in His throne during the thousand years of His Reign. Those mentioned under the fifth seal were the ones who had been beheaded for the Word of God and the witness of Jesus, and who cried out, not by words but by their sufferings, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until you judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Under that seal these are shown waiting in the chamber of death—*under the earth* (Rev. 6: 9-11). The earth was the altar on which their lives had been sacrificed. We are not to suppose that all who attained to joint-heirship with Christ in His Kingdom were literally beheaded. The great majority of them were not put to death in this manner. Some, including St. Peter were probably crucified. Others, like Bros. Russell and Johnson, died from exhaustion in the Master’s service *etc.* The *beheading* of our text, then, must be symbolical. We can see how this would be applicable to the Christ Head and Body. Our Lord said, “I came . . . not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 6: 38), *i.e.*, I give up my own headship, and take God as my Head (1 Cor. 11: 3).

Accordingly it was with all those who were His faithful followers and who now share His Throne. They died in a sacrificial sense, by giving up their lives, their personal, earthly interests. All their life-rights were fully given up to God; otherwise they could not be in the Throne with Jesus. In this sense, every one of them was beheaded—beheaded because they were faithful followers of Jesus, and loyally laid down their lives, following His example; beheaded because they were loyal to the Word of God, and had no will, or head, of their own.

Such beheading was essential to joint-heirship with our Lord Jesus Christ. The exceeding great and precious promises of God’s Word were given to those who would be faithful to Him. This it is which led His people down through the Age to be martyrs, witnesses—to cut off their own wills, to be dead to their own wills.

Those who held to their own wills showed that they were not worthy of a place in the Throne. Only those who became fully dead to their own wills were counted worthy of this place. So St. Paul represents himself as being dead to earthly interests, buried in Christ’s death. That is the way in which our Lord consecrated His own life at Jordan—by giving up His own will to do the Father’s will, even unto death. Although this beheading is figurative, not literal, it has a deep significance: for it represents not only death to self-will, but also the cutting off from all other heads, governments and lawgivers, and it recognizes no other head but Jesus. Only such as are in this condition are beheaded.



The Headsman’s Axe

While our text refers to “the body of Christ” and those who are “individually members of it” (1 Cor. 12: 27, R.S.V.), all the great Company and Youthful Worthies must likewise be beheaded, must be dead to self and the world and alive to God. We must be faithful in our consecration unto death, accepting Jesus as our Lord (Luke 6: 46) and Master (Matt. 23: 8, 10). In fact, all who will eventually have eternal life will come under His headship, for God will become the Head only of those who come into Christ in this larger sense (Eph. 1: 10; Phil. 2: 10; Col. 1: 20; Rom. 14: 9). But the world’s consecration will be to life, while ours, as a part of the Gospel-Age elect, is unto death. May we each resolve that by God’s grace we will prove faithful in witnessing for Jesus and for the Word of God!

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



NOMINAL CHRISTIANITY

Mainline Christianity is on the ropes again as one of its most prominent members is being opposed by a somewhat unexpected source. The church of Rome, at its Vatican headquarters, is being brought into question by its refusal to accept the role of female priests who have been ordained by certain renegade splits from the main body sanctioned by the Vatican. How ironic it is that the church is being assailed on this point, when for centuries it has taken many stands in opposition to the declarations and principles laid down in the Scriptures and they are now being opposed by women priests on a point that is supported by the Bible. Not only from the fact that Jesus appointed only male persons as His chosen twelve Apostles, but also by the Apostle Paul, who is considered the greatest of the Apostles, who declared under inspiration that there should be no women elders in the Church (1 Tim. 2: 12).

A BANKRUPT NATION

The Obama administration announced that the federal deficit was advancing toward a near record \$1.3 trillion budget for the year. Voter anger over deficits and spending were a big problem for Democrats in the 2010 election year. Republicans slammed Democrats – who faced big losses in November – for votes on Obama’s \$814 billion economic stimulus and on former President George W. Bush’s \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street. Democrats say the recession would have been worse if the government had not stepped in with those programs to prop up the economy. They also note that most of the bailout, which began during the previous administration and was supported by many Republicans in Congress, has been repaid. Not considering the bailouts, the federal budget went up 9 percent in the 2010 budget year to \$3.5 trillion, the Congressional Budget Office reported. Food stamp payments rose 27 percent as record numbers of people took advantage of the programs, while unemployment benefits rose



34 percent as Congress extended them for the long-term jobless. The administration is projecting that the deficit for the 2011 budget year, which began Oct. 1, will climb to \$1.4 trillion. Over the next decade, it will total \$8.47 trillion. Deficits of that size will constrain the administration’s agenda over the next two years and will certainly be an issue in the 2012 presidential race.

Despite the U.S. Government predicting that the financial and economic situation will improve, various signs seem to indicate that it will take at least ten years to overcome the deficits incurred. Over a year ago the unemployed numbered at 15.4 million and has been steadily increasing. That means that employers are reluctant to hire, more people to be competing for jobs, and with others delaying retirement and interest rates edging higher all contributing to the problem. All this, has occurred after a decade of relatively few new jobs being created—464,000. By contrast, 21.7 million new jobs were generated in the years 1989-1999.

The war in Iraq and Afghanistan continues to drain the weak financial position here in the U.S. There was talk of bringing the troops home from Iraq but they moved most soldiers to Afghanistan. The administration has put themselves between a rock and a hard place for, if they discharge thousands of troops, where will these men find employment? Many would find employment difficult to obtain because they would not have marketable skills.

To add to the financial dilemmas here in the U.S. is the investigation of bank foreclosure methods and practices. Many lending companies have been brought into question so that principal lenders have suspended foreclosures until investigations are complete. Banks are expected to take over 1.2 million homes this year, up from 1 million last year. Bank of America will stop foreclosures in 23 states where court approval is needed and to follow correct procedures. Two other lenders, J.P. Morgan and Ally Financial have suspended foreclosures. A Maine State Court judge reprimanded GMAC Mortgage for how it repossesses homes. All this wrongdoing within large corporations of the day is amid growing public anger and is a “sign of the times.”

Not only do we see the federal government in deep financial trouble but that many states are floundering. The headlines are saying “Illinois facing ‘outright disaster’ amid budget crisis.” California and New York are not far behind in the ever increasing, enveloping dilemma and no state has graduated out of money difficulty. To make matters worse for Michigan, the Pontiac Division of General Motors has gone bankrupt and has closed its doors after 80 years.

ISRAEL



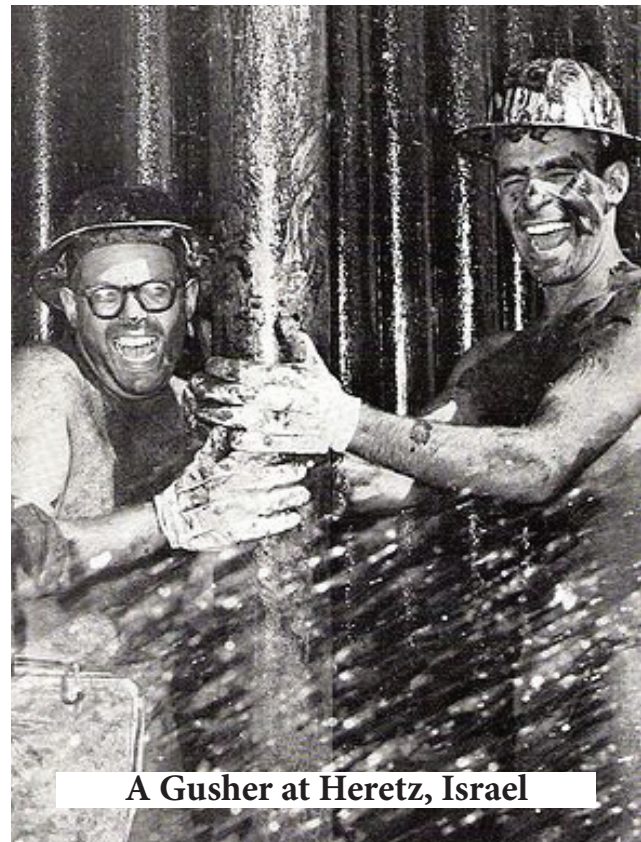
The state of affairs in the Near East continues to take the spotlight among world conditions as the many Arab nations oppose and seek to depose Israel from any occupation in the Holy Land whatever. For far too long it has been unfashionable in Europe, and likewise developing in America, to speak up for Israel. In the wake of the incident on board a ship full of anti-Israeli activists in the Mediterranean, it is hard to think of a more unpopular cause to champion. In a peaceful world, the assault by Israeli commandos on the ship Mavi-Marmara would not have ended up with nine dead and a score wounded. In an ideal world, the soldiers would have been peacefully welcomed on to the ship. In a calm world no state, let alone a recent ally of Israel such as Turkey, would have sponsored and organized a flotilla whose sole purpose was to create an impossible situation for Israel: making it choose between giving up its security policy of a naval blockade, or risking the wrath of the World.

Israel’s position in the West is the only democracy whose existence has been questioned since its inception in 1948. A reasonable and balanced approach would encompass certain realities: “First, the State of Israel was created by a decision of the UN.” Its legitimacy, therefore, should not be questioned for Israel is a nation with deeply rooted democratic institutions. It is a dynamic and open society excelling in culture, science and technology. Sixty-two years since its recognition as a nation, it is still fighting for its very survival. Punished with missiles raining from north and south, threatened with destruction by Iran aiming to acquire nuclear weapons and pressed upon by friend and foe, Israel, it seems, is never to have a moment’s peace.

OIL DISCOVERED

Significant quantities of oil were found in a well in

the area of Rosh HaAy, a city located east of Tel Aviv on the western edge of Samaria. The Givat Exploration Limited Partnership informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange of the discovery. The firm said that “more



A Gusher at Heretz, Israel

than 60 percent gas was measured in the drill mud.” The Meged well in the Rosh HaAyin area is one of the few that have been drilled outside of the Negev and Dead Sea area. Several studies by independent consultants have confirmed the potential for oil in the area. Earlier this year, a huge gas field was discovered off the Mediterranean Coast. The gas is expected to be on line in three years and it is anticipated to help Israel become self-sufficient in gas. If the Meged well proves commercially viable, it will advance the shekel against world currencies.

RADICAL ISLAMISM

The real threats to regional stability are to be found in the rise of a radical Islamism which sees Israel’s destruction as the fulfillment of its religious destiny and simultaneously in the case of Iran, as an expression of its ambitions for regional domination. Both occurrences are threats that affect not only Israel, but also the wider West and the world at large. The core of the problem lies in the ambiguous, and often erroneous, manner in which too many Western countries are now reacting to this situation. It is easy to blame Israel for all the evils in



the Middle East. Some even act and talk as if a new understanding with the Muslim world could be achieved if only we were prepared to sacrifice the Jewish state on the altar. This would be folly.

Israel is our first line of defense in a turbulent region that is constantly at risk of descending into chaos; a region vital to our energy security owing to over dependence on Middle Eastern oil; a region that forms the front line in the fight against extremism. If Israel goes down, we all go down with her. To defend Israel's right to exist in peace is the collective responsibility of the West.

Latest Population Figures for Israel

(2010)

On the eve of its 62nd Independence Day, the country's population stands at 7,587,000 and is growing at a rate of 1.8% per year, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). Some 5,726,000 of the population (75.5 percent) are Jewish Israelis, 1,548,000 (20.4%) are Israeli Arabs, and, those

not identified as either, make up the remaining 4.1% of the population, or 313,000 people.

Since Independence Day last year, 159,000 babies were born in Israel while 37,000 people passed away. Close to 16,000 new immigrants arrived over the past year, with an additional 9,000 Israelis returning home.

When the state was established, there were only 806,000 residents, with this number reaching its first and second million in 1949 and 1958 respectively. Since 2003, the growth rate has remained relatively stable. The majority (88 percent) of the increase was due to natural births.

In 1948 there was only one city in Israel with more than 100,000 residents – Tel Aviv-Yafo (248,000). Today, 14 cities number more than 100,000 residents, of which five number more than 200,000 residents: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Haifa, Rishon LeZiyyon and Ashdod.

THE TIME OF THE END

“The end of all things is at hand: be you therefore of sound mind, and be sober unto prayer. In everything give thanks.” (1 Thes. 5: 18; 1 Pet. 4: 7).

Having made progress to 2011, we realize that we have entered into the Basileia, the Kingdom period since 1954, and that two of the Gospel-Age elect classes have previously finished their earthly sojourns and are already installed in their heavenly offices. The last of the elect, the Youthful Worthy class, is complete in its membership and before long will have also finished their earthly development and be ready for their Millennial installation. Since 1954 there has arisen a new earthly class called: “The Consecrated Epiphany Campers” and these new consecrators are to attain to the highest standing among the restitutionists, who (after the New Covenant is established) will be given the privilege of gaining perfect human life and will be the leaders of the world pointing them toward restitution. We are deeply impressed with the words of the Apostle Peter quoted above.

Nineteen centuries have passed since St. Peter gave this counsel and some might think that he was somewhat premature as to the proximity of the end of this present evil dispensation. We know that the great symbolic week which began with the creation of man and ends seven thousand years later with his full restitution to the image and favor of God (see The Chart of the Ages, Vol. 1, p. 219). The last and seventh day is the

Population Comparison Figures for Israel

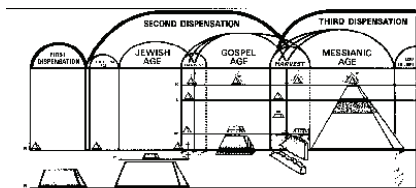
City	Settled	Nov. 1948	2009
Haifa	Veteran	98,600	265,600
Jerusalem	Veteran	84,000	773,800
Petah Tikvah	1878	21,900	197,800
Zikhron Ya'akov	1882	1,900	19,100
Rosh Pina	1882	350	2,600
Risho LeZiyyon	1882	11,100	227,600
Mazkeret Batya	1883	400	10,300
Nes Ziyvona	1883	2,300	35,500
Gedera	1884	1,000	19,100
Hadera	1890	11,800	79,200
Rehovot	1890	12,500	109,500
Tel Aviv – Yafo	1909	248,500	393,900
Ramat Gan	1921	17,200	135,300
Bene Beraq	1924	9,300	155,600
Bat Yam	1926	2,300	128,900
Netanya	1929	11,600	181,200
Holon	1933	9,600	172,400
Ashkelon	1948	-	111,700

thousand years of Christ's reign (2 Pet. 3: 8). Knowing all this and perceiving that St. Peter was living in the fifth 1,000-year day of this great week and there was but one week to go before the restoration work would begin, we see that from this standpoint, his words were timely. The beginning of the end of the old order of things—the end of the dominion of evil—was to come with the closing of the Gospel Age and the opening of the Millennial Age, or seventh thousand-year day, and was indeed at hand, as was also the Second Advent of the Lord and the setting up of His Kingdom.

Summary of the U.S. Work

ANNUAL TOTALS FOR 1/1/2010 TO 12/31/2010

Letters, postals and e-mails which came in:	5,688
Letters and e-mails which went out:	2,066
Bible Standards subscribed/ordered	16,356
Present Truths subscribed/ordered	4,270
Bible Standards volunteered	29,800
Bound Volumes (magazines)	67
Studies in the Scriptures	479
Epiphany Studies	605
BSCyclopedia CD	50
Photo-Drama of Creation	70
Photo-Drama Study Guide	86
Life-Death-Hereafter	86
Hymnals	66
Manna Books	128
Poem Books	114
Bibles	17
Emphatic Diaglott	99
Booklets (Hell, Spiritism, Tab. Shadows)	295
JHP, JW, RSV, AI, GT, HUD, PYR., etc. Indexes & Q. & A. Books	975
Pastor Russell's Books and Tapes	49
Others Publications	203
Charts & Mats: Divine Plan, Tabernacle and Pyramid	119
Children's Books	13
Bible cassettes, video tapes	43
Volunteer booklets	15,078
Leaflet tracts	82,590
Miscellaneous cards, restitution	1,383



Bible Questions and literature requests came to us from the following countries: *Argentina, Australia, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Canada, England, France, Ghana, India, Iran, Kuwait, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Wales, The United States*
Some applicants in England are being assisted in Internet studies by our dear brethren there.

WEB WORK (U.S.)

Contacts Made on biblestandard.com

Total Inquiries 2010	462
Bible Questions answered	239
Literature Requests	63
Bible Requests for Africa/ Ghana	54
Requests for meeting info./visitation	16

Our dear brethren in India have just recently launched their web page which can be viewed at www.biblestandardindia.com

PILGRIM AND EVANGELISTIC SERVICE

Pilgrims	3
Auxiliary Pilgrims	8
Evangelists	18
Public and semi-public meetings	439
Attendance	12,081
Parlor Meetings	1,026
Attendance	10,752
Miles traveled	225,798

FINANCES/ GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

1. Donations	\$189,444
2. Investments	\$140,161
3. Books & Sale of Literature	\$ 17,724
4. Interest/Reimbursements	\$ 3,732
5. Total Income	\$351,061
6. Balance on hand - Dec. 31, 2009	\$ 40,628
7. Total funds available	\$391,689

EXPENSES

8. Cost of goods sold	\$ 19,903
9. Convention expenses	\$ 7,598
10. Administrative expenses	\$ 61,898
11. Ministerial —Pilgrims, Evangelists	\$104,776
12. Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 59,213
13. Equipment	\$ 3,708
14. Utilities	\$ 24,440
15. Taxes	\$ 26,521
16. Insurance	\$ 8,529
17. Advertising	\$ 3,529
18. Postage & Delivery	\$ 35,706
19. Web	\$ 1,605
20. Volunteer Mailing	\$ 12,834
21. Total Expenses	\$370,260
22. Balance in General Fund—Dec. 31, 2010	\$ 21,429

THE ANCIENT WORTHIES

Question—When the Ancient Worthies are resurrected under what covenant will they be raised?

Answer—They will be raised under certain earthly features of the Oath-bound Covenant by merit of the blood of the New Covenant; for while the Oath-bound Covenant promised them a better resurrection (Heb. 11: 35), it is through the blood of the New Covenant that God will fulfil that promise to them. Then after their resurrection they will come under the New Covenant, which will a little later be made with the Jews. This latter matter is to be shortly after the Kingdom's earthly phase is initiated; for the Ancient and Youthful Worthies will be the first to come under the terms of the New Covenant, and that just before the earthly phase of the Kingdom is established over the Jews. Millennially the Ancient and the Youthful Worthies will be under two covenants. They will be made the earthly phase of the Kingdom under the Oath-bound Covenant just after they enter the New Covenant. See PT'38-158; '50-15

Question—Was Pastor Russell correct in teaching that the Ancient Worthies get their trial for life under the New Covenant during the Millennial Age?

Answer—We understand that he was—as touching the trial of their humanity for life. The Ancient Worthies in this life were not on trial for life, because the ransom was not yet available for the cancellation of the Adamic sentence, which is indispensable for such a trial. Nor do the Scriptures anywhere teach that they were in this life on trial for everlasting life. Everywhere their trial is Scripturally set forth as for faith and loyalty to righteousness (Heb. 11: 1-40). If they had been on trial for life they would have had to develop perfect love. Of Samson it is expressly stated that he stood successfully the kind of trial that he was undergoing (Heb. 11: 32, 39); yet at the time of his death his prayer for vengeance on his enemies proves that he did not love them, and thus proves that he had not developed perfect love. St. Paul's statement proves that they are to be tried for life under the New Covenant by the Church (Heb. 11: 40):

“God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us [apart from our Millennial ministry in the New Covenant on their behalf] should not be made perfect [in body, mind and heart as human beings].” See PT'25-68; '30-32; '35-136



Moses and the Law

A Word From Nigeria

Dear Bro. Ralph,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil. 1: 3). I write to inform you of the death of Brother Blessing's youngest son. The young man, though not consecrated, loved the Truth. He was killed in a very cruel and inhuman circumstances. Assassins trailed and shot him in cold blood after boasting openly to our dear Brother that they would kill someone from his household. I give God thanks for consoling Bro. Blessing through His promises in the Scripture.

Bro. Blessing told me there was good in his trials because barely one month after his son's death he also lost his only daughter's husband, yet, in all of this he and his dear wife have been strong and faithful to God. The funeral was fixed for January 7th. I travelled from Agbado Ogun State to conduct the funeral service. There I clearly saw why Bro. Blessing said there was good in his son's death.

The discourses were titled “Where Are The Dead?” and “What Is The Soul?” A total of 1,600 people attended the funeral service and many of them embraced the Truth with open hearts, some of whom indicated interest to start studying

the Truth. They inquired to know where our meeting hall was, but since we did not have one, Bro. Blessing offered to hold study meetings in his home in Oyede, Delta State, situated in Nigeria's Niger-Delta region.

The only class in Delta State is in Warri, a town more than 75 miles away from Bro. Blessing's home. We thank our great Jehovah for using an event which the enemies of Bro. Blessing thought would bring him pain, to draw many to the knowledge of God's Truth and also strengthen our Brother and his entire household in their pilgrim journey. I want to also use this medium to place book orders for these new brethren both in Warri and Oyede Classes. May Jehovah continually bless and keep you dear brother;

Yours by His grace,

Bro. Willie Ebong

THE KINGDOM AT THE DOOR

The world is full of woe and wretchedness because of sin. Our hearts cry out: How long, O Lord? How long until you will deliver your people and establish righteousness in the earth? So we pray day by day, "Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth!" Should we tire of this? No, for the Lord has bidden us to continue to wish for it, to pray for it. The Kingdom will come! And the Lord wishes us to have this thought—the Kingdom is coming! To give up praying would be to give up our faith. Continue to hope, continue to believe and continue to pray without ceasing! Continue to say: Your Kingdom will come! Continue to long for the time when the Kingdom will bless all the families of the earth (Gen. 22: 17, 18).



The Kingdom is Coming!

2011 CONVENTIONS

United States

Seattle, Washington	March 25, 26, 27
Newark, New Jersey	May 13, 14, 15
Nelsonville, Ohio	July 15, 16, 17
Minneapolis, Minnesota	September 16, 17, 18

France (all in Barlin)

Spring	April 24, 25
Summer	July 29, 30, 31
Fall	October 29, 30

Germany

Velbert	June 11, 12, 13
Diez	October 7, 8, 9

Jamaica Bartons

April 22, 23, 24, 25

Lithuania Kowno

June 17, 18, 19

Nigeria

Agbado Ogun State	April 22, 23, 24
Nduotong Akwa-Ibom State	July 29, 30, 31
Akwanga Nasarawa State	October 29, 30
Nazareth, Thoothukudi Dist.	October 21, 22, 23

Poland

Gdansk	April 23, 24, 25
Poznan	April 30, May 1
Leszno	July 8, 9, 10
Krakow	July 15, 16, 17
Susiec	July 22, 23, 24
Warszawa	August 26, 27, 28

Ukraine

Orlowka	July 1, 2, 3
Lwow	August 12, 13, 14

United Kingdom

Hyde	August 5, 6, 7
Sheffield/Barlborough	October 29, 30

"In Everything Give Thanks"

"That statement signifies that our heavenly Father is deeply interested in everything that relates to us and ours. What thing is too small for His notice who numbers even the very hairs of our heads? In today's household or business cares, then, we may have His living sympathy and helpfulness. Do a mother's counsel and a father's wisdom seem inadequate to restrain and guide aright the wayward course of impetuous and over-confident youth? They may bring their cares and fears to the Lord; and as the children cross the threshold to meet the world's temptations, His wisdom and providence may be invoked... to show... them eventually the sure and safe way..." R1865

BEYOND BALFOUR

August 21, 2010

Lord Arthur James Balfour is best remembered for the famous Balfour Declaration of 1917 that bears his name. This letter, signed by the cabinet of British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and delivered to Baron Walter Rothschild as a representative of the Zionist movement, affirmed that “His Majesty’s government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people...” But Lord Balfour’s legacy of concern for the Jewish people and their restoration in Eretz Israel found other notable expressions beyond his time of service as foreign secretary under Lloyd George and as a prime minister himself. His niece Blanche Dugdale wrote about her famous uncle in a two volume biography published in 1936.

“Balfour’s interest in the Jews and their history was lifelong,” she recalled. It originated in the Old Testament training that Balfour had received from his mother and in his Scottish upbringing. “As he grew up, his intellectual admiration and sympathy for certain aspects of Jewish philosophy and culture grew also, and the problem of the Jews in the modern world seemed to him of immense importance,” wrote Dugdale. “He always talked eagerly on this, and I remember in childhood imbibing from him the idea that the Christian religion and civilization owe to Judaism an immeasurable debt, shamefully ill repaid.” Last April, I was in Scotland and England doing historical research and thought it would be appropriate to find where Balfour “rested” and place a small stone of respect on his gravesite, in the time-honored Jewish tradition. The simple gesture opened another door of understanding and appreciation for this unique Christian friend of the Jewish people.

Lord Balfour died on March 19, 1930. He was

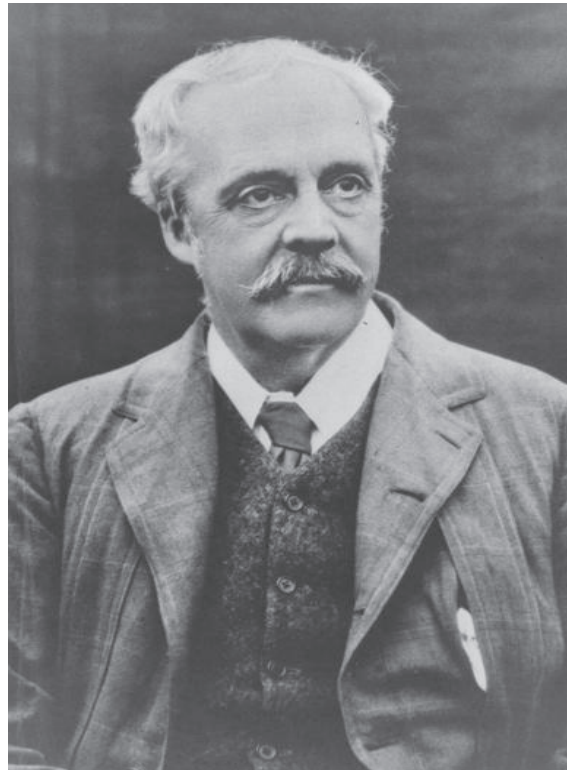
buried on his family’s estate at Whittingehame Tower, not far from Edinburgh, Scotland. The estate is isolated, difficult to find, but beautifully located a few miles from the sea, amidst sweeping dales dotted with sheep. The family moved from the estate long ago. Whittingehame House, the family home, is stark in its cold, concrete-gray color, angular in its construction and impressive in its original approach down a broad tree lined lane. Today, Whittingehame House has been converted, ignominiously, into a series of apartments. There is not so much as a historic marker to indicate the meaning of the site. They do not want the culturally curious. Lord Balfour is buried nearby at a 15th-century military tower believed to have been the site of conspiratorial events contributing to the tragic story of Mary Queen of Scots. The gravesite is worn and partly lichen covered.

I placed my little stone and said a Kaddish prayer.

Whittingehame has another history – a history of saving lives of Jewish children from the Holocaust. That story is not very well known. The greatest irony is that Lord Balfour, who had strived so valiantly for so long to have the British government help create a national homeland for the Jewish people, did not live to see the fruits of his efforts. British governments that came after him tried to thwart his pro-Zionist policies in the hope that a Jewish state would not arise. The tragic results were that, when a home in Palestine was most desperately needed to save Jewish lives from the Nazi genocide, the British authorities barred most Jews from entering its safe haven. Balfour was

unable to save Jewish lives in their promised homeland, but he did save Jewish lives in his own home!

As the darkening clouds of Nazi Germany descended over Europe, many Jews in Germany and Austria feared for their lives. Where could they go? If they could not save themselves, could they save their



Lord Arthur James Balfour

children? Rescue efforts were being considered, but few were enacted. The terrifying events of Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass” in which Jews were attacked and their properties destroyed across Germany and Austria on November 9, 10, 1938, pushed the British Jewish Refugee Committee to appeal to Members of Parliament. Shortly before, the British government had refused to allow 10,000 Jewish children entry into Palestine. The events of Kristallnacht reopened the issue. The appeal was championed by such leading British Christian figures as Lord Baldwin, Sir Wyndham Deeds, Bertha Bracey and Jean Hoare. Assessing that “Here is a chance of mitigating to some extent the terrible suffering of their parents and their friends,” British foreign minister Samuel Hoare proposed admitting 10,000 Jewish refugee children into Britain. The British government agreed to admit the children, provided a fifty-pound bond was paid for each of the children to guarantee that they would be sent back to their parents in Europe after the conflict was over. The government further stipulated that only children under the age of 17 could go, and none of their parents were allowed entry.

The first of the Kinder transport trains left in sealed cars for Britain on December 1, 1938. The last left for England on May 14, 1940, the very day Holland fell to the Nazis. The final ship was strafed by Luftwaffe planes but arrived safely in Britain. In all, approximately 10,000 children were saved. A similar effort to save 20,000 Jewish children was co-sponsored in the United States by Sen. Robert F. Wagner (D-NY) and Rep. Edith Rogers (R-MA) in early 1939. But the legislation failed to get Congressional approval. American isolationist sentiment, combined with latent anti-Semitism, grounded the measure. The American Jewish community thought it best not to protest. In Britain, citizens were appealed to by radio to open their homes to the arriving children. Many of the children were taken in by Jewish and non-Jewish families. Some did not find homes

Robert Arthur Lytton Balfour, Lord Balfour’s nephew, discussed the problem with his father: What can be done to help? They resolved to open Whittingehame House to the children. Some 180 of the young Jewish refugees were brought to Scotland. A school program was set up, called the Whittingehame Farm School. Its

purpose was to teach the young refugee children how to be farmers, not in Britain but some future day in Palestine. The children were given instruction in Hebrew, Jewish songs and culture. A synagogue was established in the late Lord Arthur Balfour’s private rooms. Jewish refugee children arrived at Whittingehame in 1939. A period of darkness and panic covered Britain in early 1940 when the European war turned hot. Britain feared invasion and the potential of a fifth column inside the country. The newly elected government of Winston Churchill responded to popular pressure to intern all citizens of enemy nations. Suddenly, any German or Austrian Jewish refugee over the age of 16 was arrested. Whittingehame was no exception. Police arrived, and 37 refugees were taken away. Most of the Whittingehame refugees returned after the national hysteria subsided. But some of the Jewish refugees in Britain were deported as enemy aliens to Canada and Australia. Two infamous transport ships from that period remain a blemish on Britain. One ship, the Dunera, became a hell hole of abuse as it carried Jews, Italians and some German POWs to Australia.

Another ship, the Andorra Star, carrying a large number of Italians and German Jews, as well as some captured German sailors, was sent to Canada. It was torpedoed by a German submarine from Ireland’s coast on July 1, 1940, taking down 600 passengers with it. The Whittingehame Farm School remained open until 1941. The children were relocated into the local community. The young men of Whittingehame enlisted in the British armed forces, eager do what they could to end Nazi tyranny forever.



Whittingehame Tower

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Date for 2011

The newing of the moon nearest the vernal equinox occurs at 2:33 p.m. GMT on April 3, 2011, and at 4:53 p.m. at Jerusalem. Accordingly, Nisan 1 begins at 6:00 p.m. April 2nd and Nisan 14 begins at 6:00 p.m., thirteen days later, or at 6:00 p.m. on April 15. May the Lord bless His consecrated people as we properly prepare ourselves to commemorate His death (1 Cor. 5: 7, 8).

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Sr. Tess Blank, 91, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, passed away on December 28, 2010, at the assisted living facility that she had called home. She was born on May 30, 1919 and served her Lord for many years.

Jared Dial, 17, of West Frankfort, IL, son of Rodney and Sr. Jayma Dial, passed away November 15, 2010. We extend our sympathy and Christian love to this dear grieving family.

Bro. Joseph "Joe" Grygiel, 81, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, died on January 17th. He was a long time member of the Calgary Ecclesia, originally born in Brzostek, Poland in 1930. The brethren will miss his smiling face. Services were given by Bro's Ralph and Victor Grygiel on January 22, 2011.

Our dear **Sr. Beryl Edgar**, 91, has finished her course. Although she had lived in such isolation at Fort William in the far North of Scotland, she remained faithful to the Lord and His Truth. By God's grace, she was able to spend her last year with her daughter, our dear Sr. Eileen McDonald, in the Scottish Isles, another isolated spot! Let us thank the Lord for her life that was so wisely used in the service of her Savior!

Evangelist Bro. John Evans



He was born January 28, 1923 in Mala Pastel, Czechoslovakia. During WWII he worked in a German factory in Chemintz where he met some German Bible Students. Freed by the Russian army, he came back to Poland. John married Stefanie Zajackiewicz. They were sent to a heavy labor camp in Siberia, Russia for being Bible Students. Altogether their time spent in Siberia was five years, between 1951-1956.

After amnesty, when Stalin died, they came back to Poland to the city of Dzierzonow. Bro. John served as a deacon, elder and secretary as well as photographer in the class. In July 1969, Bro. John Evans was appointed an evangelist by Bro. Jolly and he started his service for the Polish brethren as well as serving in the Ukraine and East Germany. He left Poland on October 11, 1971 and came to New York, later relocating to Boulder, CO in 1978. He preached the gospel in the USA, Canada, Brazil and Europe.



Our dear **Sr. Donna Fullen**, 71, finished her course January 2, after a brief illness. She served faithfully at the Bible House for 14 years in many departments of service.

She was the daughter of Dr. William and Sr. Ethel Fullen; and is survived by children, Sr. RaNae (John) Frazier; Lisa (Michael) Oliver; Michael (Velvet) Callahan; daughter-in-law, Karen Callahan; 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren; natural sister Virginia Quickle and sister-in-law Trudi Fullen. Donna was preceded in death by husband, Pilgrim Alex Wayne; brother, Dr. William Fullen; son, James J. Callahan; and brother-in-law, Bill Quickle.

She loved the LORD and found joy in serving Him, the brethren and looked forward to working with them again in the Kingdom. Prior to her death, Donna wished to remind us of Psalms 30: 5—

*"Weeping endures for a night,
but joy comes in the morning."*