

THE HARVEST WORK IN 1969

(This paper was prepared by George B. Wilmott)

Over 1900 years ago Jesus said, as recorded in Matt. 24:14, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come." Previously as recorded in Matt. 13:39 Jesus had told his disciples "The harvest is the end of the world [age]." At the end of the 1335 days (years) of Daniel's prophecy (12:12), the harvest of the Gospel age began in 1874. For over 90 years there has been a work of separating the tares from the wheat. The work of separating the unripe wheat from the ripe has also been in progress. The Chief Reaper and King has been present since 1874 supervising this work. He has "on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle." (Rev. 14:14) Present truth is the sickle used in this harvest. An incidental work of seed sowing (witnessing the truth) has been in progress during this early dawning of the Millennial Age, but the main seed sowing will come after "the plowman, [the great time of trouble] shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth [draweth forth] seed." (Amos 9:23) The trouble will prepare the hearts of many in the world to accept the seeds of truth.

Kingdom Work

The kingdom work has continued during 1969. At this time we do not know what the year 1970 may bring as respects the work of harvest. Regardless of how many more years may be necessary to complete the work of gathering the remaining members of the "Little flock" to be with our Lord and the other members beyond the veil, may we on this side of the veil continue to cooperate in the kingdom work. The promise in Rev. 14:13 is: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours [kingdom work on this side the veil]; and their works do follow them."

Privileges of Service

Our brethren in Christ who are aware of the present privileges of service have continued active in the work of harvest during 1969. By sharing some of these activities with you, perhaps you will receive a blessing and be encouraged. Recently a note was sent to us from an elderly brother in Canada. It was my privilege to baptize this brother a few years ago. He was then in his 80's. Four others were baptized at the same time; the youngest was 18, I believe. This elderly brother wrote, "The Winnipeg Bible Students have sent out their extension service to the isolated brethren of Manitoba and Saskatchewan so we are looking forward to Bible studies again, and I am still enjoying good health, happy, and reading Studies in the Scriptures, a true interpretation of the Bible." It is encouraging to read such a statement from one who even though he symbolized his consecration in his late years of life, has such a keen appreciation for the harvest message. The effort of our

brethren in Canada to serve the Isolated brethren is encouraging. This is especially so when we realize the great distances involved, weather conditions, and road conditions in some areas.

Isolated Brethren

Of course Canada is not the only place where there are isolated brethren, This is also true in other parts of the World. There are also many isolated brethren in the United States, Different brethren use different means of reaching the isolated brethren endeavoring to encourage them to faithfulness. We do not know about all of the varied activities. However, we do know that faithful brethren write encouraging letters to the isolated; some send convention notes or tapes to them. Some time ago we heard from a sister in Wales who had received a tape recording sent to her from some faithful brethren in the United States. We know that she received benefit from the tape and wished to understand it just right for she wrote asking some questions. Some brethren try to visit as many of the isolated brethren as possible, A personal visit is so encouraging. Fellowship even for a few minutes means so much to our brethren in isolated places. Some of our brethren may be in rest homes and unable to met with the brethren. During the year a brother took me to such a home where two sisters lived. One sister had no legs, yet was very cheerful under these circumstances. It is such a joy to share the truth with those less fortunate than ourselves.

Magazine,, Newspaper & Cab Advertising

Some of the brethren use many means and ways to endeavor to find those who may already be or may become our brethren in Christ and yet do not know about the local class. Magazine and newspaper advertising continues to be used to endeavor to reach people. Many copies of The Divine Plan of the Ages have been placed in this way. Then some after reading the first volume sent for the entire set of Studies in the Scriptures. Magazine advertising even reaches behind prison walls. Some time ago a man in a Connecticut prison wrote for truth literature. To show his appreciation he sent us a personal greeting during this holiday season. A note to us from one of the brethren recently told of their class using a sign on the back of a taxi. We will quote it in part: "We finally got the sign put on the back of a taxi after... prepared it in August, This in a new cab and is on duty 24 hours a day... The sign looks so nice." It was mentioned that the sign cost \$30.00 for 6 months and that the company made the sign free. The sign is metal and is in a metal rack.

Tracting & Mailing

Tracts explaining God's plan are always effective to give out from door to door or to leave in telephone booths, grocery stores and other places. Some brethren mail out tracts

and booklets to names obtained from telephone directories. Consolation cards or letters are also being mailed out by the brethren to the families who have lost loved ones in death. A booklet entitled "What Say the Scriptures Concerning Hell." is now available for tracting and other use. The message was originally printed in 1900 by Pastor Russell. The booklet contains 24 pages counting the cover and back page. Its cover is attractive; the back page advertises the magazine edition of the first volume. At the top of the back page there is room for an address if one desires to send this through the mail at a cost of 6 cents postage. I believe that the cost of postage is less if one has a mailing permit. The cost for these booklets is \$2.00 per hundred plus postage.

Colporteuring

Some of the brethren colporteur the first volume and other volumes. Some have found that the magazine edition of the first volume is very effective. Since the cost for each volume is only 12 cents in lots of 100 (including postage), some prefer to give a copy to each one showing interest in the truth. Others sell the volume at cost or below. One brother in California gives-the volumes to those who are interested. A brother from the east recently wrote: "We appreciate the literature very much. I go out and sell the magazine for 15 cents each. The 17 cents is an odd figure and the 20 cents would make me realize a profit. So we absorb the difference. Isn't it a wonderful old story though?" This edition of the first volume was printed on 50# offset paper which made the cost more than the ones printed on newsprint. Some brethren in the Northwest have given out several thousand copies of the magazine first volume to folks in their area, A large number of first volumes have also been placed at fair booths.

The Japanese Work

Some of the brethren have been instrumental in making arrangements for the truth to be broadcast in the Japanese language. It is a blessing to have the truth go forth in any and all languages possible. Thirteen scripts are to be prepared.

Class Meetings & Conventions

The brethren who continue to use the Studies in the Scriptures and the Reprints in their class meetings receive a rich blessing. We wish that we knew at this time the dates of all present truth conventions to be held in 1970. We believe that the date for the convention at Palo Alto, California, will be January 31 and February 1. The Salem Oregon Bible Students Convention will be April 3-5. A Bible Students Convention at Fort Worth, Texas, will be held on March 23-15. The annual conversion at the Strickland farm sponsored by the Grand Island-Silver Creek Ecclesia will be held on June 20, 21. A blessing always awaits those who can attend this convention. Plans are being made for a convention at Fort Collins, Colorado, on July 24-29, 1970. Brethren in Colorado and

Wyoming are making arrangements, Their report in part says: “Plans are being made for a six-day convention, to bring together brethren who are united by faith in the Harvest Message as provided in the Studies in the Scriptures, Tabernacle Shadows and other writings given unto us by our Lord at His return, through that ‘Faithful and Wise Servant.’ Every effort is being made to assure the brethren of a sound platform, united by these writings. And of course there will be other present truth conventions during the year. It is a blessing to attend conventions each year. The general assembly of the church of the firstborn will be the grandest convention.”

The Light of the World

Jesus said as recorded in Matt. 5:14, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” May each one of us endeavor to continue throughout 1970 and the years that may remain for us on this side of the veil to be faithful to whatever privileges and opportunities that the Lord has given to us individually and as ecclesias.