

The Messenger of Truth

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.—Our Lord.

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STARTLING REVELATIONS MADE BY THE WARS

Modern war puts men under great pressure. Under conditions of such tremendous strain, men reveal their true nature to a greater degree than under normal conditions. Many times the revelations made are far from encouraging. However a careful survey will probably reveal something noble in the very dark background. The European wars of the present furnish examples of what we mean.

The rulers of Germany and Russia stand convicted as the outstanding modern examples of blatant falsehood and ruthless brutality. One who has closely followed the news originating in the capitals of the various countries at war is impressed with the utter unreliability of every piece of news coming from Germany and Russia. We see here the full development of the philosophy which declares that deliberate lies are to be used as an instrument of national policy. These countries have also shown their contempt for truth in their attitude toward agreements made between them and other countries. Possibly the only agreement made by the present German government not already violated is the one entered into with the Soviet Union last summer. It is possible that the common enmity held by those two governments for democracy and religion will cause them to carry out the engagements of that agreement.

Those in control of affairs in these countries have given many illustrations of their brutality. Of course the world had already caught glimpses of this ruthlessness in the "blood purges" and "eliminations" applied to those who happened to disagree with the dictators. But since the war started, we have seen this applied to other peoples. The utterly unprovoked attack of the giant Soviet Union on little Finland, the bombing of Finnish towns and villages by the Russians, the invasion of Poland by Germany, the mass slaughter of the Poles by the Germans, and the machine-gunning of fishing vessels by German airmen—these are some of the ruthlessly brutal activities of the present wars. One can hardly keep from reaching the conclusion that there is much of the savage in modern man.

What can we say of our own nation in this time of world crisis? We must admit that what seems to be the dominant attitude in this country is not very flattering. The principal thought of the overwhelming majority seems to be, "Can we stay out?" There seems to be very little interest in knowing the real issues at stake in the conflict. Whether there is a principle of right involved seems to be a far away question when compared with the question of saving our own skins. In other words, a nation that has been known in the past for its idealism is now giving the world an outstanding example of materialism. A recent magazine article ably expresses the idea:

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OUR MISSION WORK IN THE AMAZON VALLEY

By Missionary J. F. Brandon

It was in January of 1928 that the First Baptist Church of Paducah, Kentucky, after considering the mission question from various angles, decided to send us to our mission field where we felt that the Lord was calling us to work. The field was a very large and interesting one and no doubt the greatest destitution in the world. The beginning of the field was more than 1000 miles up the Amazon river in Brazil and extended at least another thousand. Along this river, where we were to exercise ourselves in the work of the gospel, there was much to do. Many tributaries to the Amazon from the north and south are large and needy and furnish wonderful opportunities for the work of the Lord. The population of this part of the Amazon Valley is no less than six hundred thousand people; of course, scattered to the four winds and at times difficult to reach; but as a rule very eager to hear the gospel message of the Lord Jesus. We remained working in this region for a little more than five years and in 1933 returned to the home country for a little rest because we were all run down.

Our climate there is very warm. We are just a little south of the equator, and the tropics seem to have a peculiar effect on one, so that a few years of hard work will actually get a man down. Upon our return in 1933, the Paducah church became discouraged and discontinued their support, but the work was immediately taken over by the Benton Baptist Church, which at that time and until now is pastored by Brother Dewey H. Jones; and we were able to return to the work in 1934, or after about a year in the home land. The support of the work has been provided by the Benton church and a number of other co-operating churches and friends.

While working upon the authority of the First Baptist Church of Paducah, we were able to organize seven churches, five of which were in the state of Amazonas and two in the territory of Acre, all in the interior and widely separated. The membership of these seven were, at the time of our return in 1933, a little more than two hundred. This field, you must remember, has never enjoyed the ministry of any missionary or preacher except the writer or one of the natives assisting him; and that, of course, is one of the reasons that no more has been accomplished. When we returned in 1934, we felt greatly impressed to visit the churches and work with them for a season; and this we have done and feel that in many ways we have been greatly repaid, for we feel that they are much stronger in doctrine, the majority of them being now able to defend the faith once delivered to the saints. Our efforts in

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STARTLING REVELATIONS MADE BY THE WARS (Continued from page one)

"Here is a false and vicious dogma to which twentieth-century democracy is committed: that only the material physical world has reality and value. All happiness, it seems, derives from the satisfactions of sense; there is no evil except physical pain. Our interest in our government is only for what we can get out of it in terms, ultimately, of sensual self-indulgence. Our devotion to democracy depends on its effectiveness in supplying us with creature comforts. We have sold our religious birthright for a mess of humanitarian pottage which feeds our bodies and starves our souls. We are willing to fight—to judge from the utterances of our spokesmen—only when our own skins and our own shores are endangered, emulating the rat, who will fight when cornered. We seem to have forgotten that we must all die, and that in the last analysis there is no security except moral security; no freedom except in obedience to conscience—to moral sanctions that we must either assume to be absolute or else abandon entirely . . .

" . . . Morally and spiritually, it is unthinkable that we can cut ourselves off from the the rest of the world. It seems possible at the moment only because we are in the grip of mob panic, marching hand in hand with cynical disillusionment and a pharisaical assumption of unique righteousness above other nations. We talk importantly of making America the haven of civilization endangered by 'Europe's squabbles'—forgetting to ask what kind of civilization could be preserved by a people who had cringingly refused to face the facts, declined to make the slightest sacrifice or take the slightest risk in behalf of the moral ideals which it pretends to cherish, and clung with pitiful desperation to the meager and delusive satisfactions which material well-being can supply."

Against the dark background of the dictators' lying ruthlessness and the selfish isolationism of our own country, there shines in the case of Finland a bright flame of idealistic courage. President Kallio, of Finland, has courageously declared, "If the world ignores us in our need, we have no choice but to fight to the last man." "Death to a free people is preferable to slavery," commented the *Courier-Journal*. "Dying on the battlefield is a more pleasing prospect than mass deportation to some distant part of Russia and forced labor. Living under the despotism of a semi-oriental autocracy is worse than not living at all. Finland knows what its fate will be if Stalin's legions are victorious. It has experienced Soviet rule . . . Home, country, traditions, everything they love, would be gone and in virtual slavery they would sink even below the level of the Russian peasant."

"If the world ignores us in our need, we have no choice but to fight to the last man." In this statement is revealed the spirit of the Revolutionary Fathers. Here is found an evaluation of things which puts freedom above material things. It is revealed by the same wars which manifest selfish complacency and animal savagery in other places.

WHY BAPTISTS ARE PROTESTING THE FLIRTATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT WITH THE POPE

(The recent appointment by President Roosevelt of a representative to the Pope has called forth a large amount of comment by Baptists, Lutherans, and other religious groups in the country. The comment of certain newspapers on the protest of these groups has revealed a misunderstanding of the Baptist position. We are, therefore, publishing some paragraphs on religious liberty from Dr. George W. Truett's presidential address before the Baptist World Alliance last summer. Dr. Truett clearly states the Baptist viewpoint. Those of us who heard the address last July little knew how timely was the reference to "the possible establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican."—Editor's Note.)

Let us hark back to the great doctrine of Religious Liberty, and its inevitable corollary, the Separation of Church and State. I speak now this special word to our Baptist people of our United States of America. While we are lamenting the loss of religious liberty and other civil rights, in different sections of the world, it behooves us to open our eyes to insidious encroachments here in our own land.

With a great price, our fathers purchased this great freedom which we now enjoy. Let us see to it that we do not forget it, nor allow anybody else to forget it. Over a great bridge is a tablet which reads: "This is what the bridge cost." Then follows the list of names of the workmen who lost their lives in the building of the bridge. We have no complete list of the many who suffered in this land that we might have the priceless boon of religious and political liberty. Their epoch-making service must not be forgotten. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

In illustration of the subtle, but real encroachments upon liberty in America, call to mind the recent agitation in connection with the National Congress, to include church employees in Federal Security pensions. To be sure, such proposal was defeated by church pressure, but let the ominous fact be remembered that it was also church pressure that introduced the question into Congress.

Take again, the fact of the allocation of public funds to sectarian purposes. That question has long and often been in the public mind, in one form and another. Bills are proposed, in various states, again and again, for taxes to be appropriated for sectarian schools. If haply any of our Baptist people have, in an hour of weakness, been in any way enthralled by this encroachment, let them speedily repent of such inconsistent course, and go and sin no more! Nothing in all the world is worth doing wrong for! Right at this point all our people need to be wide awake to

danger, and faithful to principle, or results will badly plague us, later on.

ONCE MORE THE FRANK DECLARATION IS HERE MADE THAT ANY TREND OR SUGGESTION OF THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE VATICAN WOULD CALL FORTH AN IMMEDIATE AND UNYIELDING PROTEST FROM UNCOUNTED MILLIONS OF OUR AMERICAN PEOPLE. OUR DOCTRINE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN AMERICA IS FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE ALIKE.

The Pope is simply the honored head of the Roman Catholic Church, and the plea that his dominion over a few acres of ground, called the Vatican City, gives him the status of a temporal Sovereign, is essentially unreal. He has, in fact, no better title to receive governmental recognition from the United States than has the Archbishop of Canterbury, or the Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States, or the Presiding Bishop of the United Methodist Church of this country.

We call God to witness that we do not wish to be petty and inconsistent and unchristian in our frank reference to this matter. But we do wish to be consistent and faithful to priceless principles, profoundly believing that these principles are of indispensable value, alike to Baptists, to Protestants of every name, to Catholics, to Jews, to Quakers, to everybody in our land.

If, forsooth, the charge is sometimes made that our Baptist people are "exclusive" and "intolerant," and "illiberal," let the answer be modestly repeated that, for the very religious liberty which our cherished brethren of all communions enjoy, they are, most of all, indebted to the Baptists. Surely this charge of intolerance and exclusiveness and illiberality is made without considered thought. Are our Baptist people exclusive and intolerant and illiberal, when the very foundation of their church policy is liberty, not only for themselves, but alike for everybody else? In all their unwavering advocacy of soul-freedom, in its completest measure, and of the destiny-determining principle of the Separation of Church and State, our Baptist people do not have a fleck or stain upon the fair page of their history.

OUR MISSION WORK IN THE AMAZON VALLEY (Continued from page one)

an evangelical way have also been fairly successful; there have been something more than a hundred baptisms in the five and a half years. There are many also that we have reason to believe are saved yet are unable to follow the Lord in baptism, because they became involved in such a way before salvation; and now they cannot meet the requirements of the churches to be baptized: for example, unscriptural marriages. We now have on this mission field, that twelve years ago was without the gospel of Christ, in at least thirty towns and community gathering places, believers sufficiently indoctrinated to defend the truth of the Lord Jesus. Our activities for the past four years have been limited to the highland region of the Jurua river, which

is one of the tributaries of the upper Amazon.

We are living in the town of Cruzeiro do Sul, some 2500 miles up the river from Manaoas, which is the capital city of the state. Cruzeiro has a population of about six thousand, the most of which are interested in hearing the gospel. We have a church there now with an active membership of 78 and another in the village of Monso Lima, about thirty miles away, with a membership of 24.

The stock and trade of each of these believers is telling someone each day about the wonderful Savior who has redeemed them from the condemnation of sin and blessed them with life eternal. They seem to feel themselves debtors to all, because they have found something so much better than what they had—peace with God while yet on earth, joy in their souls, profound and satisfying, and perfect rest upon God's promises, so that the hour of death loses its fear; and the promise of salvation that follows brings comfort.

We have in the reach of these churches no less than ten preaching points that are very well attended when we have services there. Some of these we try to serve each week and to others we can go only about once a month. We stand in great need of meeting houses in these places. The houses we now occupy are not our own and are quite insufficient. Our members are all poor people, and we find ourselves greatly handicapped because of this. Our Sunday night preaching services will never accommodate the people who come, and more often than not there are more on the outside than on the inside. But few weeks go by that we do not have conversions, and most every Sunday that I am in Cruzeiro do Sul we have a baptizing. On Sunday afternoons when in Cruzeiro we have preaching services in the jail, where there are more than fifty prisoners; and there are always visitors so that our jail services are most always well attended. We have had the pleasure of doing extensive work in a small hospital. There, too, we have seen the hand of the Lord in salvation. In the past year there have been four prisoners converted, two of which have been baptized and the other two hope to be soon. Our Sunday school has more than fifty small children as members and almost as many adults. The children have a meeting in the afternoon on Thursday of each week, and at this time they are taught the Bible and gospel hymns. The ladies have a Bible study class and prayer meeting on Wednesday afternoon of each week which is very well attended; often there are more visitors in attendance than believers. Last year there were 25 baptized into the membership of this church, the year before 22, and the year before that 18. We observe the Lord's supper at the evening service following each baptismal service. Each member is urged to bring at least one visitor with him to each service. The visitors will sit, in case there is a scarcity of benches, and the believers remain on foot. We feel that the Lord is blessing the work and hope that our brothers in this country will become our co-operators in prayer for its peace and prosperity.

MISSIONARY BRANDON IN HOMELAND

Friends of Missionary J. F. Brandon who have not seen him since his arrival in the homeland will be glad to hear by this means that he is in good health and

that he is giving a fine report of his work. The main purpose of his visit with us is to contact personally the churches and individuals interested in the work he is doing. He is giving an account of what has been done and is discussing with his friends his plans for the future. His outlook is very hopeful. His messages are an inspiration to all persons interested in missions.

The demands of the mission field are so great that Brother Brandon does not feel that he should spend as much time in the homeland as was first intended. He will probably not be here more than four or five months. Churches wishing to hear him, therefore, should contact him at once. He may be addressed at Benton, Kentucky.

REPORT OF FINANCES OF MISSIONARY J. F. BRANDON'S WORK IN BRAZIL

Dear Brother Jones:

Since your last report, as of January 13, 1940, and up to February 13, 1940, I have received funds as follows:

Provine Baptist Church (for passage home)	\$200.00
First Baptist Church, Wheaton, Illinois	61.00
Bellview Baptist Church	4.00
First Baptist Church, Marion, Kentucky	35.00
Scott's Grove Baptist Church	12.96
North Fork Baptist Church, Tennessee	1.00
Bellview Baptist Church	1.50
Benton Baptist Church	52.06
J. L. P., Paducah, Kentucky	15.00
Fred Gregory	5.00
Bethel Baptist Church, Detroit	25.00
Bellview Baptist Church	1.10

Total ----- \$413.62

Sincerely yours,
J. F. BRANDON.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

This important subject is always timely. The matter of attendance upon church services commands the attention of all people of all ages. Even the children should learn very early that every person should attend religious services, both for his own spiritual and moral good, and in obedience to the divine command, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." (Hebrews 10:25). All will quickly agree that parents should set a worthy example at this point by speaking well of the church, and by attending its services, whenever possible. To implant in the mind of a child the wrong conception of the church is to make it increasingly hard for the child in the future years to have confidence in and love for the church.

Did you attend somewhere last Sunday? If not, are you planning to go next Sunday? We now invite you to be with us in the services of our church next Sunday, and every Sunday. It is easy, perhaps too easy, to allow the habit of non-attendance to take charge of us. And what a spiritual tragedy it is! There is cause for deep concern over the person who consistently stays away from church, that is, if he is free to come. He

usually does not do much Bible study; his prayer life may become weak and ineffectual; his spirit of love and obedience toward God may become dulled and unresponsive. Many grave spiritual perils creep into the pathway of the church absentee. Every Christian needs to be on guard against any selfish desire for ease and pleasure, which Satan so cunningly cultivates in and around us.

Several seats were vacant last Sunday at your church, and some the Sunday before that. Was yours vacant? We hope not, and we sincerely hope that your place will be filled by you on this Lord's Day. If perchance the weather conditions, or illness, or other hindrance, has kept you away from church for one or more Sundays, we earnestly invite you to renew your good habit of coming to church. Find your place in that splendid Sunday School class, or in the worship services, or in the Training Union. Let us make a new start together in church-going, to keep up the one custom that will, above all others, make ours a better land and community for tomorrow and the future.—"The Reminder," First Baptist Church, Dallas.

BIBLE BEES

The "bees" of the Bible never sting; they yield a great deal of honey, and it is their nature to be found together in swarms. Here are some of them:

"Be kindly affectionate one to another."

"Be sober, and watch unto prayer."

"Be content with such things as ye have."

"Be strong in the Lord."

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers."

"Be ye followers of God, as dear children."

"Be faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
—Selected.

We do not realize the importance of the unconscious part of our life-ministry. It goes on continually. In every greeting we give to another on the street, in every moment's conversation, in every letter we write, in every contact with other lives, there is a subtle influence that goes from us that often reaches further, and leaves a deeper impression than the things themselves that we are doing at the time. It is not so much what we do in this world as what we are, that tells in spiritual results and impressions. A good life is like a flower, which though it neither toil nor spin, yet ever pours out a rich perfume, and thus performs a holy ministry.—J. R. Miller.

"If we sit down at set of sun
And count the things that we have done,
And counting, find
One self-denying act, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard,
One glance most kind,
That fell like sunshine where it went,
Then we may count the day well spent."

—Selected.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."