

BELIEVERS INTERNATIONAL

DECEMBER, 2003

NEWS

Nearly five years ago, Honduras suffered major flooding after hurricane Mitch. It caused substantial damage to land and homes. With your help, we were able to assist countless Believers re-build their lives. Today, there is another need in Honduras. In the last issue of Believers News, we briefly told about the tremendous work that Brother Reyman Gomez is undertaking in Lejamani, Honduras. We feel this work warrants more than just a brief mention and would like to share with you a few testimonies of what God has accomplished through this powerful outreach.

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Even though it is a major trading partner with the United States - primarily coffee, bananas, and beef - still 53% of it's people live below the poverty level, and a 28% are unemployed. This country of nearly 6,700,000 people is 97% Catholic, but recent statistics are showing an increase in the Protestant movement in both Honduras and neighboring countries, particularly in El Salvador.

One event that is helping to influence that increase is the radio broadcast, "Returning to the Word." It is heard 7 days a week at various times.

The programming includes Brother Gomez preaching, playing tapes of Brother Branham, or fielding questions from listeners. With just this one station, God is reaching His children with the Truth of the hour in Guatemala, Belize and El Salvador, as well as throughout Honduras. There is much rejoicing over the work that is being accomplished.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

LUKE 15:10

Many have come to church, ready to be baptized, as a direct result of what they've heard on the air. Seven were baptized in one service. After an elderly gentlemen, who had been in the Methodist church his whole life, started listening to the broadcast, he asked to meet with Brother Gomez and told him that what he'd heard was absolutely the Truth. He wanted to be re-baptized immediately! Recently, three policemen have responded to the call and given their lives to Christ.

Earlier in the year, the Lord told Brother Gomez that he was to pray for a lady who had a cancer of the female organs. He asked his congregation if anyone had cancer, and no one did, so he let it go. Sometime later, there was a

call at his house from a lady in San Pedro Sula who had been given his name and number from someone who listens to the broadcast. This lady had cancer, and was most desperate for prayer. Brother Gomez prayed for her over the phone, and two weeks later she called back to report that the cancer was completely gone. She reached out in faith, and believed.

At the present time, there are seven brothers who are evangelists working with Brother Gomez. They are kept busy traveling throughout the broadcast area, and tell us that there is a constant need for Bibles and pictures, and well as tapes and books. Every item we can help to provide will be a blessing.

We see through testimonies like these that there is still much to be done to get the Gospel of Christ to the predestinated Seed around the world. And we are reminded to pray for those ministers who are diligent to their call.

We are helping fund the "Returning to the Word" broadcast, and would like to continue to do so, as the Lord directs. Recently, we sent \$1,000 to Brother Gomez, for expenses. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of this endeavor. We will keep you updated with the testimonies we anticipate receiving. □

RETURNING TO THE WORD



Brother Reyman Gomez.



above: A group from Lago de Yojoa that heard the Message from the radio broadcast.

left: Brother Anael travels to Buenas Nochas to visit another new group of Believers.

L A O D I C E A

THIS DAY THIS SCRIPTURE IS FULFILLED

In the third century before Christ, a Syrian king named Antiochus Theos founded a city, in a valley that formed a natural east-west trade route, located in what is present-day Turkey. The spot had been inhabited before, but when king Antiochus decided to build and fortify his city there, he named it after his wife, a morally corrupt woman named Laodice. In Greek, the word lao means "people," and decia means "rights." The name Antiochus Theos means "against God," or what we would call "antichrist."

The Romans seized control of Laodicea 129 B.C. Its importance in the region was increased, and it became the head of a *conventus juridicus* of 25 cities. Brother Branham referred to it as the 'county seat'. The city became a prosperous place with thriving banking and wool industries. Its most distinctive products - garments made of a glossy black wool - were highly prized. Nearby was a therapeutic hot springs, and Laodicea itself became a noted medical center, particularly in the area of ophthalmology. Their wealth was unsurpassed. When a powerful earthquake struck the area in AD 60, the local government rejected the financial assistance that was offered by Rome. They were independent; they had need of nothing!

The only thing the city did lack was a sufficient and permanent supply of good water. Water was piped from the hot springs through a sophisticated aqueduct system, but by the time it arrived in the city, it was merely lukewarm. The remains of the water pipes which can still be seen today are coated with thick deposits of calcium carbonate, a witness to the warmth of the water which once flowed through them.

Despite its wealth, Laodicea could produce neither the healing power of hot water, nor the refreshing power of cold water. The lukewarm water was useful only as an emetic - a substance that induces vomiting!

Laodicea was the site of an early Christian church, one of the seven churches of Asia. Paul mentions the Laodicean church in his writings to the Colossians, asking the two churches to exchange his letters. Somewhere along the line, the church at Laodicea lost Paul's letters, the very thing they needed the most! Because of that, we have little to go by to understand the

Laodicean church, other than this well-known passage from the book of Revelation:

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

REVELATION 3:14 - 17

This great city - a city of bankers, and clothiers, and ophthalmologist thought that it had need of nothing. Realistically, they needed gold, garments, and eyesalve that their great wealth was unable to provide. As a whole, they were as useless and distasteful as their bad water!

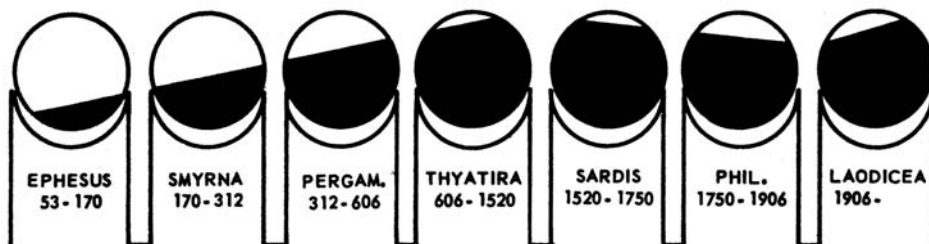
"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

REVELATION 3:18

These words would forever brand the Laodicean church. Notice that with each of the other six churches of Asia that is addressed by John, there is at least something that they can be complimented on. With Laodicea, the rebuke is complete. There is nothing positive recorded, only this final plea from God;

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

REVELATION 3:20



We know that the seven churches of Asia represent the Seven Church Ages, starting with Ephesus and ending in this day, in the age of Laodicea. When John the Revelator took up his pen and wrote the admonition to the church at Laodicea, it was because their condition was a prophetic type of the church in the last days, just before the Coming of the Lord.

The blackness of this age is nearly complete, just as a supernatural sign on the wall of the Branham Tabernacle displayed it in December of 1960, (see chart on previous page) as Brother Branham was preaching on the subject of the Seven Church Ages. As Christ patiently stands at the door and knocks, the only Light left is that being produced by the little Bride of Christ.

SIGNS OF THE TIME

“PEOPLE’S RIGHTS”

Many of the rights that we enjoy today are not only new, they were completely unimaginable even 100 years ago. There was a time when people literally had to trust the Lord. Not anymore. At the dawn of the Laodicean age, there was a revolution of people’s rights.

Today, we don’t seem to need the Lord’s guidance and protection; we have the Government, the United Nations, and numerous advocacy groups supporting nearly any cause or activity we can imagine. Then, there is a lawyer willing to make sure someone else gets the blame for any harm we may cause to ourselves along the way! Rather than follow the laws of God, man has chosen to become a law unto himself, justifying his every action.

Just look at how ridiculous this has become:

In the United States, anyone can sue anyone else at any time, for any reason. Because of this “right,” many frivolous lawsuits are filed every day. Unfortunately, innocent parties stand to lose a great deal because of the high legal costs involved. For example: A drunk driver, who was speeding, went through several detour signs and crashed. He sued the engineering company that designed the road, the contractor, four subcontractors, and the state highway department. His rights had been violated! They should have made the road safer. Five years later, all of the defendants agreed to make the case go away and settled it for \$35,000. However, the engineering firm was out \$200,000 in legal costs.

More than half of all US adults and 15 percent of children, ages 6-19, are clinically obese. Many are now trying to hold fast-food chains and manufacturers accountable for marketing the fatty foods they have consumed with abandon. Still, they have a right to be thin, and someone (besides themselves) must be at fault!

One of the latest and most bizarre demands being made is for the right of women to go topless. The originator of this lawsuit is a 74 -year old grandmother in Florida, who states that the issue is “gender equality”. If a man can walk around without a shirt on, a woman should have the same right. She says that she wouldn’t actually do it, but in order for her to have that freedom to do it if she should ever want to, it has to go to court!

Sadly, there is a generation of children growing up with no concept of what a traditional family is. In America, one-third of children are born to unwed mothers. In Europe, it is over half. There are two main reasons for these drastic numbers. First, government subsidization for single parents. The welfare system in many countries, including the U.S., actually motivates people to live immorally. Secondly, the push for homosexual couples rights, which discourages a heterosexual marriage. At a conference in London entitled “Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage: A Conference on National European and International Law”, the main topic was whether or not marriage should exist at all. They discussed abolishing marriage, so that adults would have the right pursue any relationship they wanted without legal “restrictions”.

“And here we are, the Laodicean age - the Sodomite age. . .”

JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND FOREVER 63-0627

Even though it is repulsive to see the concessions that are being made for homosexuals today, it is just one more sign of the times. The corruption of homosexual marriage, homosexual adoption, and the church’s approval of homosexuality dominate the headlines of our newspapers. It is scripture being fulfilled. Here are a few recent developments:

Holland was the first nation to legalize homosexual marriages in 2001, followed by Belgium in 2003. Earlier this year, the Canadian provinces of Ontario and British Columbia lifted all barriers, and began allowing same-sex couples to marry legally. It is expected that this ‘right’ will be available across Canada by sometime next year.

With the widely-reported recent election of a gay bishop, the Episcopalian church follows the United Church of Christ as the second mainline Protestant denomination to endorse actively homosexual clergy. Fifteen years ago, the now-Bishop Gene Robinson divorced his wife, abandoned his two children, and moved in with another man. He flouted the teachings of the Anglican faith that he was ordained to uphold, and entered into a relationship that, even according to the teachings of his church, was perverted. Nevertheless, with supreme arrogance he demanded that his church conform to his deviant life style, and they did. It’s hard to tell which one, the

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bishop or the church, is the most pathetic.

This is the world that we live in. Examples of sin today are too numerous to mention. When you think about all that is taking place, you can see what a privilege it is for God to have chosen us to live in this age, to represent Him amongst all the perversion and corruption. In 1961, Brother Branham said that the lid had come off of Hell, and streams of demon powers were pouring from everywhere. We see the manifestation of those demons everyday. That is why he predicted that the Lord would come by 1977. Beyond that time, he could see nothing but blackness. How can the Bride live in a blackness so complete that even his prophetic eye could not penetrate the darkness? Because we have the Word. It is our Provider and Comforter, and it will sustain us to the end. Even so, Come Lord Jesus. ☐

Missions Update

We are happy to tell you that the truck you see here will soon be put to use in the mission field. After telling of the need in our last newsletter for a newer truck for Brother Roberto Murillo of Mexico, we received an immediate response. Thanks to some generous Canadian & American believers, Brother Roberto will be back on the road visiting a circuit of churches throughout Mexico.

We recently had a chance to see Brother Roberto when we delivered a load of donated clothing to El Paso. He is seen here helping to unload the boxes. His new truck will be just the thing needed to get the clothing as well as Bibles, tapes and books into the hands of numerous believers.

The clothing we had, which filled a 24 foot moving truck, was delivered to three different cities - Del Rio, Texas, El Paso, Texas, and Tucson, Arizona. This will give various brothers access to a large amount of clothing for distribution throughout Mexico during the winter months.



Praise Reports

✝ Earlier this year while waiting for a flight at the airport, our own little Noah Smith, 5 years old, from Tucson, was absently watching planes take off and land. His arm became lodged between the bars in the chair he was sitting in. His mother, Rebekah, tried to free his arm. After several attempts, she called to surrounding passengers for help. A flight attendant tried using her lotion, but the boy's arm was stuck. Noah was panicked and his arm was in pain. A doctor stepped forward to examine the Noah's arm and told them to stop pulling on the arm, this was serious and the seating would have to be disassembled. Then a lady, whom Rebekah had been talking to earlier about the Lord, approached with some anointing oil. She put a drop on Noah's arm and praying asked the Lord to free his arm. The arm immediately came loose. The doctor that had been assisting stood there, stunned. Noah smiled at him and exclaimed, "Praise the Lord!"

✝ A few months back, Brother Gabriel Pearson, from Montana, was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He was placed on our prayer list, and we joined in prayer for his healing. He recently went back for a check up, and the cancer was completely gone!

We invite you to send in a Praise Report you would like to share. As space allows, we will print what we can. Please include your phone number in case we need to contact you.

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