

“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.”
(Heb. 13: 8)

Circular December 1999

Special greetings to all of you near and far, in the East and the West, in the North and the South through the dearly beloved name of our Lord Jesus Christ with 1 Tim. 1: 12,

»And I thank Christ Jesus, our Lord, who hath enabled me, in that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry ...«

Likewise has He put me into the ministry in His Church. It was His decision; I was not even asked, only commissioned. My relationship with Bro. Branham is as the one with Timothy and Paul was. Timothy was supposed to commit to other faithful brethren what Paul taught, so they would be enabled to teach the same message (2 Tim. 2). The concern is always the pure, sound doctrine of God's Word. Paul really put it to his heart: »But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them, and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.« (2 Tim. 3: 14-15). As we are still living in Bible days and the divine order has been restored, the same is fully vindicated with me. God so led that I read the Holy Scriptures already when I was twelve years with a direct innermost desire. I would compare parallel scriptures searching for the true significance and was given the understanding about the things I was reading.

Before meeting Bro. Branham in 1955 in Karlsruhe, Germany, for the first time, I did have my personal salvation experience with the Lord, when I was not even 16 years, during a Pentecost conference in 1949. It happened to me as the Bible records it. A preacher from the USA by the name of Hall Herrmann ministered on that weekend in the church of Rev. Paul Raabe in Hamburg, Germany. At the end of the meeting it was announced that all who wished to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost could remain behind. I was among the approx. 120 who gathered for prayer. Before midnight I experienced the wonderful blessing of being filled with the Holy Ghost. Truly, I was placed into Glory, a deep peace and a joy unspeakable and full of Glory of the Lord filled my soul and I praised God in an unknown language. From my innermost a well sprung up into eternal life, as our Lord had said to the Samaritan woman. The Spirit of God was moving during that evening prayer meeting in such a mighty way that all who were present had their personal experience with the Lord.

Since then 50 years have passed during which I have been privileged to follow the Lord consciously. Since 1953 it has fallen my lot to preach the Word and proclaim the Gospel. In these 46 years I was allowed to lead many, many souls all over the world to my precious Lord and Saviour through the proclamation of His Word. To me the year 1999 is like a memorial, like a year of jubilee. Now at the end of the same I should like to ask all of you to join me in praising God for His faithfulness. Let us together thank the ever true God for His never failing presence, knowing that He leads His Own in a wonderful way. The Lord is true and faithful.

A special blessing for my spiritual life were the 10 years during which I knew Bro. Branham until he was called home in December 1965. I attended his

meetings in Europe and the USA, visited him in his house. I had the honour to eat with him at the same table, ride in the same car, him sitting behind the steering wheel. Since 1958 the sermons he preached in the USA were sent to me in Germany. So I actually grew spiritually under his ministry and was therefore always up-to-date with what God was doing.

As the least of those the Lord ordained to the ministry I was permitted to preach the whole counsel of God in the past decades all over the world. As Paul could testify having heard the Lord speaking to him in his Hebrew mother tongue when calling and giving him the commission, so I can say truthfully with the same assurance before God, His holy angels and before all the people to have heard in the German language the mighty, all penetrating, commanding voice of the Lord on 2nd April, 1962, just as a new day was about to break. From the same One Who said after His resurrection, »All power in heaven and earth is given unto Me.«, I received the commission audibly in my mother tongue. Every word the Lord spoke was clear and exactly pronounced with emphasis. Gladly I call the Lord Himself to be my witness in regards to this experience.

Since that time I have obeyed the heavenly calling, travelling from city to city, from country to country, from continent to continent to proclaim the Word of God and to distribute the spiritual food to others who are hungry to hear the Word (Amos 8: 11; Mt. 24: 45). I cannot and will not share all the supernatural experiences I had. In the course of the years I heard the audible voice of the Lord a number of times and received instructions. These experiences with the Lord have a great meaning to me personally. If I share a few with you, then only for the reason that all the true children of God would rejoice with me knowing the Lord is faithful in a real way and manifesting Himself still today, for which we give God all the glory.

The last encouraging experience I had in the Bulgarian city of Varna at the Black Sea on Thursday, 15th July, 1999, just about midday. It is still having effect on me.

I was transferred into Glory and saw something like a beautifully illuminated festival hall of ivory. Again I call upon God to be my witness. A heavenly choir was singing mightily. All were looking in the same direction from where the light came and had their arms stretched out, a little higher than the horizontal position. They were singing in the German language Psalm 34. The voices were so harmoniously that it all sounded like one mighty voice. When singing verse 7, »The angel of the Lord encampeth round about those who fear him, and delivereth them.«, they were singing louder, the voices vibrating, and as in a refrain they were singing at the end of the verse, »and the angel of the Lord is now here«. The same repeated with the next verse, »Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusteth in him.« After these words they sang even mightier, »Yes, the Lord is now here.«

I realised that the Psalm was according to the Bible translation of Martin Luther which I mainly read during my youth. In Glory will be people from all nations and languages, singing the praises of the Lord. I also recall that the nine words God spoke to me on 16th June, 1979, before daybreak with a thunderclap voice also were according the Luther translation. As I am reading a number of different translations I was quite astonished.

Words are not sufficient to declare the loving kindness of God. He is faithful and true. Perhaps I had to go through the many trials because of the high calling to the ministry. The enemy was determined to finish my life a few times, especially when I had malaria tropica which, according to the statement from the hospital, meant my sure death. If somebody is being pushed into the room where people die, given up by the doctors like I was, knows that God has done a great miracle of healing. Repeatedly I heard the chief physician, Prof. Dr. Becker, say to his team standing around me, »It is too late. It is too late.« But God is more than able to deal with the most vicious attack of the enemy upon soul and body and convert it into victory and blessing. On 3rd January, 1981, which was to be the day I was supposed to die, I had one of the most glorious experiences which also is a lasting blessing to me:

It was the second time that I was taken out of the body. This time I experienced the rapture. And again I call God as my witness. I saw the great multitude as we were going up, being in the first row. Looking to my right, I saw that all were young, in the prime of their youth. All were dressed in white, the long hair of the sisters was open falling down their backs with all the different natural colours. I actually had a glimpse into Glory and saw the holy city like a pyramid tower up. The light came from the very top and was penetrating, shining and glittering right through the walls which were like crystal, illuminating the whole earth.

In all my afflictions, the misunderstandings, the trials, the attacks, the continuous assassination of character I had to endure, God has always known how to comfort me. He has kept His Word and never denied His help to me and His faithfulness being with me in all the different circumstances. To His glory I can testify that in the thousands of sermons I preached I never had to correct what I said. I obeyed faithfully what the Lord has spoken to me on that morning just before 5.00 a.m., in 1970 at Marseille, France, repeating with a commanding voice the second time, »My servant, raise and read 2 Tim. 4!« I did as I was told and read from verse 1 to 5. Then I started with the 1st verse again. At the 2nd verse I knew by direct inspiration from the Lord what He wanted me to know, because the evening prior to this experience I was asked about the seven thunders and had no answer. The emphasis was upon the commission, »Preach the word!« — that was it. In connection with it goes »... be diligent in season, out of season ...« I realised that the original Word puts all the explanations and interpretations out of force.

I laid my Bible upon the small table, my hands went up and I said, speaking to the Lord directly, »As certain as you, my Lord, have commanded me to read this scripture, as certain nothing can be preached except the written Word. And as certain as what the seven thunder voices uttered in Rev. 10 was not written in the Word of God, as certain no one can preach about them.« For it is written, »Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is at hand.« (Rev. 1: 3). As we are told by God Himself, we must stay with and in the written Word. Only what we can read we can also keep. And only that can God reveal unto us. All speculations about what is not written are not of divine origin and only cause confusion. Even if an angel came from heaven claiming to announce the mystery of the seven thunders, I would have to send him back.

When brethren preach their special revelations, it becomes very obvious that they are drawing disciples after them. If they even claim that only those who

believe their interpretations and special revelation will participate in the rapture, then that is blasphemy.

My commission is and remains to preach the Word as it is written, to proclaim the message of the hour including everything promised to us for this time and take it to the ends of the world. How can somebody claim to be a preacher of the Word when preaching things which are not even written in the Word?

This I say as a Word of the Lord: The seven thunders of Revelation 10 will utter their voices when the Lord as the Angel of the covenant comes down to Israel — not one hour sooner and not one day later. Then it will be reality that He as the original owner will put one foot on the sea and one on the earth. Thus it is written and so it will be. That is precisely what Bro. Branham said on 17th March, 1963, at the beginning of the opening of the seals. »If you'll notice that's Christ, because He in the Old Testament was called the Angel of the Covenant, and He's directly coming to the Jews now, for the Church is finished. All right. ... You remember that Angel in Revelation 1? — same thing. Angel is a messenger, and He's a Messenger to Israel. The Church has been raptured.« (The Revelation of the Seven Seals, pg. 72). The Bride expects Him as Bridegroom and shall go with him to the wedding supper.

Much went wrong in the last message. All who had the desire to be someone fell under the inspiration of the enemy, whereby the divine influence of the message was partly destroyed. If the brethren on the North American continent had left every sermon of Bro. Branham as it is and not taken quotations out of context, making their own message, we would not have the different directions. It remains true: When a brother leaves the Word, God leaves him. He is only bound to His Word, not to any interpretation. For instance, if somebody believes and teaches that the seven virtues of 2 Pet. 1, which compose the nature of the Redeemer in the redeemed, are now the seven thunders, he has totally lost all spiritual orientation. Such people resist the Truth, having corrupt minds (2 Tim. 3: 8).

In spite of all these developments will the Lord with great power complete His work. He accomplished salvation, rose victoriously and will have a Word-Bride called out from all confusion who will not defile herself again. She is washed in the Blood of the Lamb and also purified by the water of the Word and sanctified in the Word of Truth.

My concern is to preach the Word according to the commission I received and to acknowledge that all the attacks of the enemy are directed against me as upon no one else on earth. Twenty years ago, in 1979, the enemy had stirred all of hell to destroy me and the work of God. In that darkest hour I received a word from the Lord for my consolation, found in Isa. 54: 15-17, »Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me; whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgement thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from me, saith the Lord.«

Especially those who spread their own interpretations have taken their stand against me because I stay with the Word. As the prophets were carriers of the true Word and were persecuted, stoned to death and killed in every way, even

our Lord and the apostles had to go through similar circumstances. The attacks of the enemy are always directed against the bearer of the Word, because with him the divine influence stands or falls. The Lord in the Sermon on the Mount gave us the right comfort, »Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.« (Mt. 5: 11-12). Then we need to rejoice even while the heart feels all the pain.

I am persuaded that the Lord will give me strength to continue right to the end and remain in His Word. As Apostle Paul, I can say I know in whom I believe; I know him personally and have the same assurance as the apostle. I conclude this part with his testimony, which also is my testimony, »... for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Spirit, who dwelleth in us.« (2 Tim. 1: 12b-14). The Lord Who placed me into His ministry is faithful.

Israel in Prophecy

The return of the Jews into the promised land of their fathers is one of the main promises for the end-time. When all the predictions found in the Scriptures, especially the one of the fig tree receiving life again, are fulfilled, then the believers shall lift up their heads for the redemption is drawing near.

As we hear in the news over and again, the peace process with Israel and the Palestinians to be done by September 2000. The negotiating parties are already touching on the status of Jerusalem which will satisfy both sides.

From the viewpoint of Bible prophecy this is not yet the seven-year-covenant spoken of in Daniel 9: 27. These are regional negotiations according to the Oslo agreements. Finally, when the main contract will be made, Rome/Vatican will join the negotiations, as the concern then will be not only Jerusalem but Mount Zion which is the Temple mountain. Only through the mediation of the Vatican as the highest religious authority the Arabs will consent and the Jews will get permission to build the Temple. Jerusalem will be the capital of Israel. At the same time it will be acknowledged as the city which gave birth to the three world religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Brother Branham said, the Bride will be gone before this predicted covenant will be made, »And this prince in that time is to make a covenant with Daniel's people, which is the Jew. That is when the Bride is taken out. She won't see it.« (The Revelation of the Seven Seals, pg. 167). If we follow the developments in that area, then we realise that all these negotiations and contracts already lead to the final covenant. For those belonging to the Bride of Christ this means: The time is at hand, yeah, it is at the door (Mt. 24: 33).

Mission Report

The year 1999 goes into history as an outstanding blessing in the Kingdom of God. Never before did I make so many trips during twelve months, never before did I speak to so many people as in this year. God has opened the doors

all over the world: in the Far East countries, South and Central America right up to Cuba, also the Eastern European countries, including Siberia and even 335 km east of the city Novosibirsk. Many times we had hundreds and in some countries even thousands coming to the meetings.

In this year I could speak in 35 Pentecost-charismatic oriented meetings. This has given me an insight to what is actually going on. I was given the pulpit and could share the message of the hour in the various congregations. Also by the 62 regional and national TV-messages many were reached. This we can tell by receiving letters, fax messages, e-mails and phone calls. Obviously God's people are still scattered everywhere, and they need to be called out. Now we have the possibility to use TV-stations by which we can reach the whole world. From the first one more than 70 countries can be reached via satellite. From the second one in South American we can reach the 23 Spanish speaking countries including Mexico and Cuba. From the third one the rest of the world can be reached. Thanks be to God for such great opportunities.

Stepping into the next millennium, being aware that the time of grace might end soon, we shall endeavour to do the utmost. We are under great expectation, knowing the best is yet to come through the real promised restoration. Now we have the possibility to proclaim the everlasting Gospel of the Kingdom of God as a witness to all the world (Mt. 24: 14; Rev. 14: 6). God has also taken care of me, so I can speak a number of languages including English which is known and understood all over the earth. Such messages can then be translated into local languages.

From the Mission Center in Krefeld we serve believers in over 130 countries with literature that we print here in 10 different languages. Brother Alexis Barilier serves the French speaking nations in all of Africa from his base in Switzerland. Brother Etienne Genton takes care for the Italian speaking brothers and sisters. He has already joined Bro. Barilier on a number of mission trips. In different other countries brothers translate and share the spiritual food with God's people.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who permit us to serve you. Thank you for being faithful to the Lord and His work and also for keeping me up in your daily prayers. You have direct part in what God is actually doing now. Let us go forward with the Lord, not looking left or right, in obedience to the Word till we meet our Lord and Saviour and Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

We wish God's blessings upon all ministering brethren and upon all who believe as the Scripture says. May the grace of God and His divine wisdom be with you all to serve the Lord faithfully until He takes us home. Never forget, when the Bridegroom comes to take the Bride to Glory His feet will not touch this earth. The dead in Christ will rise first and those who live in Christ will be transformed in a moment and together we shall be taken up to meet the Lord in the air. So it is written, and so it will be (1 Thess. 4: 13-17; 1 Cor. 15: 39-58).

Also remember: Only perfect love will enter there, and only those who are ready will go in with the Bridegroom to the marriage supper of the Lamb. May our lamps burn and our vessels be filled with the oil of the Spirit. May the dear Lord seal everyone by His Holy Spirit, which is the condition for the transforming of our earthly bodies (Eph. 1: 13-14; Eph. 4: 30). The Lord Who has begun the good work will also complete it unto the day of His return. May God bless each and everyone of you in an outstanding way throughout the year

2000. Remain sober in all things in the natural and in the spiritual realm, be it at work, in the family, in church or fellowship etc. Remember me in your daily prayers.

I need to apologise if not every letter could be answered. We do what we can and during the short time I am in the office I often work till midnight. Especially those from Asia and Africa who write letters demanding various things for private use need to understand that mission money can only be used for mission purposes and not for private spending.

I hope that the new brochure »The great Tagedy in Heaven and on Earth« will prove an outstanding blessing to you and will establish you firmly in the true faith. May all receive absolute assurance with God. For distribution additional copies can be sent on request.

God willing, we shall continue with our services on every first weekend of a month at the Mission Center. A summary in the English language will be published in the internet. So all ministering brethren the world over can have part in this ministry and share the precious Word with the flock they are responsible for.