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Sects

Run for Your Life

God is about to destroy Southern California for its sinfulness. Driven by this conviction, nearly 600 members of half a dozen pentecostal churches in the Golden State are pulling up stakes and getting out before the holocaust.

The inspiration for the exodus comes from the Rev. Donald Abernathy of the Apostolic Gospel Church of Bell Gardens, a Los Angeles suburb. Last spring he had a series of visions that convinced him that the Los Angeles area would soon be torn apart by an earthquake. In his graphic revelations, Abernathy said, "buildings crumbled, freeways buckled, water gushed up from cracks in the ground and volcanoes erupted in the nearby mountains. Then the destruction moved north toward San Francisco." In two subsequent visions, Abernathy saw an airplane ticket stamped with the word "Atlanta." Taking this as divine direction, he led 180 members of his congregation on a migration to Atlanta last month. They traveled not by airplane, however, but in cars with trailers.

Before leaving California, Abernathy repeated his vision to several other pentecostal congregations. Most of them, too, have decided to move....Theobald, who claims to have received mystical confirmation of Abernathy's vision, believes that the earthquakes "will leave Southern California like Sodom and Gomorrah before the end of 1970." Theobald says that his flock will leave before Oct. 12, "the deadline given me by God for departure."

While there are personal hardships involved, members of the emigrating churches are convinced that they are obeying God's will in leaving their homes and jobs. They also believe that Southern California has only itself to blame for the imminent disaster. Pastor Theobald despairingly cites "the amount of wickedness here: Hollywood, big business, prosperity, homosexuality, topless places." If the horrible event happens, seismologists will not be surprised. They have repeatedly warned that, because of the stresses along the San Andreas fault ex-

tending through the state, California is overdue for a disastrous earthquake.

(Source: Time, September 13, 1968)

Visions Prompt 5 Churches to Leave Los Angeles Area

by John Dart

LOS ANGELES, -- Predicting a disastrous earthquake for California, four pastors and their congregations have moved to other parts of the country and a fifth church is in the process of leaving.

More than 300 persons have left the state, following instructions their pastors said they "Received from the Lord."

The exodus all began last June when the Rev. Don Abernathy, 28-year-old pastor of the Apostolic Gospel Church in Bell Gardens, a Los Angeles suburb, felt he had convincing evidence that he and his 150-member congregation should go to Atlanta.

The Rev. Mr. Abernathy, contacted by telephone at his Atlanta home, said his visions of Los Angeles showed "buildings crumbling, the earth shaking underneath and the water rushing in."

Before he left the Los Angeles area, he said he attempted to talk to ministers and other churches about his visions. "We've done our best to warn the people of the disaster to come," he said.

Only about 20 members of the Bell Gardens congregation-- which completed building its large church only two years ago-- are remaining.

In the case of Mrs. Boneta Whiles and Cordelia Carpenter, for instance, they are still trying to sell their house trailers. Everyone from the Bell Gardens church plans to go, they said.

The visions of disaster seen by the Rev. Mr. Abernathy, who was described by Mrs. Whiles as "a real prophet of God," came to the attention of other congregations in a fellowship of seven independent churches in California.

Since then pastors of three of those churches received the word themselves. The result:

The Rev. Mr. Abernathy's 32-year-old brother, Noland, took his congregation of more than 100 members to Kennett, Mo., from their church in Avenal about 50 miles southwest of Fresno.

The Rev. D. W. Porter of Porterville, who started his church of less than 50 members a year ago, took all or most of his flock to Independence, Mo.

The pastor of a small church in Lompoc, the Rev. Troy Perkey, joined the Rev. Mr. Abernathy in Atlanta.

The Rev. Robert J. Theobald, 28, pastor of the Friendly Bible Apostolic Church at Port Hueneme, said he will lead a series of motorcades from that coastal community and nearby Oxnard on or before Oct. 12, "the deadline given me by God for departure."

The Rev. Mr. Theobald said his congregation of 15 families, totaling 90 men, women and children, are preparing to settle in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

(Source: Chicago Sun--Times, September 20, 1968)

Words

G.L.B.

A Seed

A friend and I sat beneath a tree one day, on ground that is sacred to me. We talked of life and love and a coming world. We listened to bird and squirrel and watched a sparrows flight.-- Our spirits floated with the wind its treble voice in the leaves and deeper base in the firs.---Sitting there as one with sun earth and sky.---For a few moments sharing a peace and contentment,---at one with a world created by the word of God.

How impossible it seemed to us that day, that anyone seeing this world about them could help but believe in God. As we sat there I picked up a cone from a fir and out of it fell a seed. Suddenly I thought, here is this seed so small that I could hold a hundred of them in the palm of my hand. How this seed so small and rounded so insignificant was everything that is the tree. A fir which could reach its head into the sky a hundred feet and more. some to be 12' across at the base. Many of which were here before man first came to this country. And a few which can trace their youth back to the time of Christ and beyond.

Who but God could conquer the majesty, the lofty height and the enormous strength that is in the might of a tree into the size of a seed. where one can equal the other. potentially the same.

NEWS BRIEFS

Clearfield, Utah

1. Mrs. Afton R. Henegar, professor of University of Utah, who is a spiritually gifted lady, invited Mr. Kim's family on October 20, 1968 for a short visit. Mrs. Kim, their daughter Sook-Hee, and Mr. David Kim enjoyed their visit.

On Oct. 28 Mr. David Kim was invited again to her house to participate in some kind of ceremony regarding "universal Healing" to send spiritual healing power to the earth. Special guest, Mrs. Frances Atkison was visiting Mrs. Henegar. She has her own group of college young people in Denver, Colorago, for religious

discussion and Divine Healing. Mrs. Atkison bought our text book on the spot. She has good association with Mr. Anthony Brooke, in England, who claims that he has "John the Baptist" mission for our Master and for our Movement, and he tries to put spiritually gifted persons world-wide together for the New Age.

He visited a few months ago our Master and our church in Seoul, Korea, and he plans to visit the United States again next spring.

2. Mr. David Kim received a letter from a patient who is staying in Martinez Veterans Hospital, in which our John Schmidli is hospitalized. John is witnessing wherever he goes. Here is the letter to Mr. David Kim. Let us pray for this new contact.

Dear Mr. Kim,

As John is writing to you that I'd drop you a note regarding my thoughts in the matter of your movement-- I have purchased the book and have read only the first two chapters and feel that my search for the truth will find fruition.

John has been wonderful explaining that which needed further explanation however I must say that the presentation is not only forthright but very clear. I am looking forward to completion and want to wish you the very best in your ministry.

Remember me in your prayers as I need salvation.

Yours Sincerely,

C. V. Bailey

3. Mr. David Kim won "Staff of the Month--October" out of 500 staff members in Clearfield Job Corps Center. More than 1300 students voted directly for "The Staff of the Month" and Mr. David Kim won the votes by a large majority.

His picture and an article on him will be in the "Corpsman Life" news magazine published in the Job Corps Center. The month of October must be his month of victory in many ways. Congratulations to our Mr. David Kim.

STAFF OF THE MONTH--OCTOBER

Sang Chul Kim, Senior Counselor of Honor Hall and Area Specialist in the Automotive Cluster, received for the month of October the enviable STAFF OF THE MONTH Award. This recognition is given by Corpsman Government representatives for what they consider to be outstanding qualifications in a staff member in furthering the objectives of Job Corps.

Mr. Kim was born in Seoul, Korea; graduated from the American Missionary School at Yonsei University; and received his M.A. degree in counseling from the University of Oregon. He worked in pastoral counseling at the Pacific School of Religion prior to coming to Thiokol. He also had the honor of representing the Korean government in England while studying social policy and welfare. Mr. Kim is an active member of an international religious movement called the "United Faith Movement."

.....Kim sees no basic difference between American youth and Korean youth, but the sociological environments are affected in different ways. "They are all precious souls in front of God, and need proper guidance from parents, teachers, friends and counselors," Sang says.

He believes that freedom without responsibility is more harmful than any other thing and it is for this reason that daily training is given the Corpsmen in the dorms on how to get along with others and assuming individual and group responsibility.

He likes his job here and thoroughly enjoys his association with the staff and Corpsmen.

Double congratulations, Kim, for receiving your permanent residency for the United States and for your being appropriately selected at this special time as STAFF OF THE MONTH.

Corpsman Life

Portland, Oregon

Mr. Vernon Pearson has been busy painting the Portland Chapel. The outside front is painted, but because of the fall and winter rains, the rest of the outside will have to wait until spring to be painted. Vernon is now doing some painting inside.

Chicago, Illinois

Mrs. Sarah Witt is busy getting her new chapel ready for giving lectures. She has recently changed jobs and needs our prayers for problems in this area.

Mr. Lothar Blankenberg is working as an auto mechanic and he and a partner have their own shop. Lothar is busy selling Divine Principle books and witnessing.

Oakland, California

Mr. John Schmidli was released from the hospital for his birthday. He has gone back for more treatments but hopes to be released soon.