

The Get Acquainted Page

Conducted by Watson Argue

Presenting the story of Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, N. Y., and the testimony of the pastor, John Kellner.

IT WAS on the 5th of February, 1916, just nineteen years ago, that John Kellner first went to Binghamton, N. Y. His home city was New Castle, Pa., where, in June, 1911, in the seclusion of his own room at the midnight hour he gave his heart to the Lord and was born again. Alone with his God he earnestly sought the Lord; the light of heaven shone into his heart and he knew that he had passed from death unto life.

Later he received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and experienced the healing power of the Great Physician in his body. He felt the hand of the Lord upon him for the ministry and began preparing himself, studying in a Bible School in Findlay, O., and also in Chicago, Ill.

The call to a convention at Troy, N. Y., convened by a school-mate, Clinton E. Finch, then pastor at Troy,



Pastor and Mrs. John Kellner



Faith Tabernacle, Binghamton, N. Y.

proved to be the stepping-stone to his present work. While ministering in this convention he was approached about going to Binghamton to act as pastor of the little assembly there. He hesitated to accept but made it a matter of prayer and felt it to be the leading of the Lord to go at least for a time. He expected to stay but a few weeks, but weeks lengthened into months and months into years until he could look back upon a continuous ministry in that city of nearly fifteen years, under the blessing of the Lord.

In the beginning the little group of saints which numbered but a handful, worshipped in various homes and missions, but in December, 1919, they purchased a 13-story brick building at 34 Tayntor Ave., and many precious souls found the Lord in this place which they occupied for eight years. When the growth of the work demanded larger quarters they bought their present church

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district. They have about fifty men who are to report any such a sacrifice and this is entirely due to the Christian work and the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do praise God for having had the blessed privilege of bringing the Gospel of salvation to that needy people.

Set Apart for Death

(Taken from the Special Martyr Number of "The Gospel and the East," the organ of the Baltic Russians work.)

OVER THE STREET of a little city which lies on the way to the frightful Petchora, gray dawn was hanging as there came from the prison a company of about 200 people under a heavy guard of soldiers of the Secret Police. These last were all dressed in furs. The company consisted almost entirely of clergy, of whom the most had only summer clothing on. They belonged probably to the southern governments. They had wrapped up their heads on account of the cold with all sorts of cloths, under which could be seen disheveled beards and gray wisps of hair. On their feet they had rough hemp shoes wrapped around with rags. They carried on their backs, in little sacks, all their possessions. They have hardly gone 1000 steps from the prisons—and already one sees tottering forms; and they have yet about 400 miles to go through ice fields and the Tundra. The north wind blows so fiercely that even strong men could be thrown down—not even birds fly in this country at this time of the year. How many will reach the end of the way?

Any one who saw this march would recognize among the prisoners two old priests who already were going for the second time into banishment. In a letter which came from one of them, he told something of that party of suffering. Not half of them reached the Petchora. They had perished on the way, of exhaustion. Some had their feet frozen and were left behind, a prey to the wolves and the fearful frost. The two priests came safely to the Petchora and wrote:

"We have built us a little hut. There is no place here for human beings to live. Now and then the gypsies come to us looking for reindeer, but they come very secretly, as they are forbidden to speak with exiled ones. We live on fish. We have no bread, and it cannot be sent to us as the post only comes here once in three months. We made the hut quite big and have taken others in with us. There were 7 of us,

but two died of scrofula. It is bitter cold, as we live north of the polar circle. Often when we wake our beards are frosted over. We don't despair; we thank God that we can live here in peace. The others have to help by the geological work, dig for naphtha, etc. They are not free but live in Barracks under guards and know no rest. But we can even read the Holy Gospel. Pray for us sinners! It is hardly possible that we shall see each other any more. A gypsy promised to send this letter, if possible. We do not know if it will come into your hands, or not."

Well the gypsy proved himself true. Let us be true too and fulfill their request to pray for them. —*Trans. by J. T.*

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which they call Faith Tabernacle. It has a seating capacity of 500 and was purchased in April, 1928, also a ten-roomed parsonage adjoining.

It was thru the united efforts of Brother and Sister Kellner, for he married in Binghamton, that the work outgrew one place after another, for they preached a Full Gospel and demonstrated to the people of that city that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Christ was glorified in the salvation of souls, in believers being filled with the Holy Ghost and healings and miracles were wrought in His Name. Mrs. Kellner is also a preacher and ably assists her husband in the services. She preaches regularly on Sunday evenings in the evangelistic services.

In 1930 Brother Kellner received and accepted a call to the pastorate of his home church at New Castle, and for four years he had a ministry there under the blessing of the Lord. God signally blessed his work in New Castle in that the church and Sunday School attendances more than doubled during those four years.

But the church at Binghamton had never quite become reconciled to their shepherd who had been with them nearly fifteen years, leaving them, and at the end of four years they asked the Kellners to return to Binghamton to again take up the work.

It meant days and nights of prayer to ascertain the will of the Lord. Here were these new souls the Lord had given them in New Castle, and the large increase of attendance of church and Sunday School made it very attractive in the natural. In Binghamton was a work for which they had travailed in soul