

THE PISGAH MOVEMENT

This is the name by which a most remarkable work of God is rapidly becoming known, not only in America, but also in other countries. It seems to bear the marks of a wholesome, whole-souled type of truly Apostolic Christianity. In addition to an intensely practical and deeply spiritual ministry to thousands of sin-blighted lives, it is most strikingly characterized by an "endless chain" of remarkable healings, the like, and the number of which have scarcely been equaled since the virgin purity and victorious power of the early Church.

While the writer has not yet had the privilege of personal observation of this work, he has long followed its course with sympathetic and prayerful interest and lost no opportunity of questioning friends, and even strangers, who have come in close touch with it. Humanly speaking, this "healing revival" was the outgrowth of a work of grace in the heart and life of Dr. Finis E. Yoakum, for twenty-three years a well-known practicing physician and professor in a medical college. God completely and instantaneously healed him, through "the prayer of faith," after he had been given up by the doctors to die. Since that time, sixteen years ago, God has bestowed upon His servant a very marked measure of faith for the

healing of others. From this small beginning has grown up a great work, located in Los Angeles, California where at the present time, "three hundred sin-weary, homeless, friendless, drunkards, tuberculars, cripples and erring girls are being fed, clothed, housed, loved and redeemed to join the thousands who have heretofore come within the sheltering care of the Movement, to live upright, wholesome, Christian lives. The issuance of a journal was made imperative by the growth of the work. This periodical, called "Pisgah," provides a channel for the ceaseless stream of humble, grateful testimonies to remarkable deliverances from "all manner of disease." The current issue contains scores of testimonies to marvelous healings, from many states and several foreign countries.

The past few years have witnessed, in various parts of the United States, the revival of one of the "special miracles" which God "wrought by the hands of Paul," by which "diseases departed and evil spirits went out" through the application of prayer-blest "handkerchiefs." (Acts 19:11, 12) Nowhere has this particular ministry been more blest, in modern times, than through the strong, child-like faith of the saints at Pisgah. Every issue of their publication affords ample proof that God

is being leased to honor this simple means to the healing of hundreds, if not thousands of those afflicted in body. Where the faith is in the means it will doubtless fail. When it is rather but a means to faith it becomes the channel of blessing, and God hears and heals.

The latest and perhaps most unique phase of this work is the operation of a free "Store." "The first world-wide Common Storehouse in history so far as we know." To use the words by which it is described in "Pisgah": "A market where money has no purchasing power. Where need only can expect supplies, and distress its measure of relief." The Store, "a substantial two-story structure, built entirely of concrete blocks, was begun with \$50, which was used to buy a second-hand cement-block machine. As the Lord sent in the money to buy the cement the blocks were made. No money was needed for labor, as all this was donated by the Pisgah 'boys'."

We have yet to speak of what is to us the most pleasing and promising part of the whole work. It is the humility and simplicity of spirit with which the work is conducted. We take particular delight in the strong way in which Dr. Yoakum persistently refuses the temptation to be considered as the "head" of a great movement. We give herewith an extract from his own words with reference to organization.

The following is reprinted from "Pisgah" of December, 1910.

There are many calls from many sides, asking that the Pisgah work be organized. Its friends want to see the movement permanently established and an organization is regarded as a necessity. It is no wonder such demands are numerous, considering that there are some twenty-five thousand correspondents, and various scattered groups of believers, many of whom have withdrawn fellowship from their respective church organizations upon receiving the light, or have been excommunicated for advocating Pisgah teachings. They naturally feel like children without a home, and hope for a Pisgah organization to afford them a spiritual home.

Now, all this is a mistake. Such hopes are false. Pisgah work would not be Pisgah were it to organize. For the Pisgah work is superior to any possible organization. To organize is to lower the standard set up and followed from the start. To organize the movement means to set boundaries. It means to build fences between yourselves and others. Organizations mark the differences between those inside the organization and those outside. It means the establishment of a creed. Even if the Bible be accepted as the creed, the peculiar tenets of the organization become a creed imperfect, within the Bible creed. Nothing else can result. Every company who has tried it has found it so. The Pisgah work stands aloof from all these.

Organize all you please and we do not condemn you. But we do perceive and declare it to be a spiritual law that, as soon as you get your eye upon the boundaries, which exist between you and those outside the organization, your spiritual life is retarded. If you can ignore the boundary as though it did not exist, the organization does not hinder you. Few there are who can do this. The Pisgah work, through its very absence of organization, absolutely prevents this hindrance. And though unorganized, we who keep His commandments in love are members of the invisible church of God, "the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven." (Hebrews 12:23) When we are bound together by the love that covereth all sins, we are a company more powerful than all the combined organizations upon earth."

It is our conviction that the safety and the success of this blessed work of God lies largely in its freedom from the subtle snare of "organization." This is, in our judgment, one of the greatest perils threatening the present Latter Rain movement, or outpouring of the Spirit, of which all these real spiritual awakenings are but a part. We bespeak both your prayers and your support for this most commendable and worthy work. Any man who is being honored of God with so wide a ministry should be the special care of the praying people of God, if for no other reason than that, because of his position, he is a shining mark

for the shafts of Satan, but chiefly, that he may be kept humble. May God continue to bless this work and make it a mighty means for bringing in that "unity of the Spirit" which shall indeed make the overcomers - "a company more powerful than all the combined organizations on earth."

Amen.

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