

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

CIRCULAR LETTER **October 2007**

We would like to offer special greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, our LORD, in all the nations around the globe. In this Circular Letter we shall try to show forth the responsibility that goes along with a divine calling and commission.

When the Prophet **Isaiah** was placed into the presence of God in a vision and heard the words, *“Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts!”*, he cried out, *“Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips ...”* Then the live coal touched his lips and his guilt and sin were taken from him. *“Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”* (Isa. 6:8).

Jeremiah writes, *“Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”* (Jer. 1:4-5).

About **Ezekiel** we read, *“...The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.”* (Ezek. 1:3).

In regard to the ministry of the prophets the Apostle Peter writes, *“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”* (1. Pet. 1:12).

In his epistle to Timothy the Apostle Paul emphasises, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”* (2. Tim. 3:16-17).

Commission and Responsibility

The LORD God always works in the same manner. HE Alone decides

what must take place, and how, when, and by whom it shall be done. The entire Holy Scripture is God's Word and informs us about God's plan of Salvation. God has spoken through men whom He sanctified. Therefore we must listen thereto and believe in accordance with the actual, respective Scriptures. The Old and the New Testament are in perfect harmony: In the Old Testament God foretold everything that pertained to His plan of Salvation, in the course of the New Covenant it is coming to pass, leading right to the final moment, when time shall merge into eternity.

Every man of God had a direct responsibility that was placed upon him by his divine calling. **Noah** had a special responsibility for his time and its knock-on effect even reaches all the way to the end time. Our LORD said, "*And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.*" (Lk. 17:26). He precisely carried out the divine commission he had received, by warning the people about the impending judgement and building the ark by faith and in obedience (Gen. 6:22). Noah found grace with God to do the Will of God. The unbelievers did not pay attention to the warning message; they would not enter the ark and perished. It was of no avail to them when Jesus came down in the Spirit and preached to the spirits in prison: "*Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah ...*" (1. Pet. 3:19-20) — it was for ever too late.

Noah walked with God and did everything exactly as he was commanded. We also have to walk with God and do all things according to the Word. First God entered into a covenant with Noah and then with all of humanity, even providing a token for that covenant, which was the rainbow, and He gave the promise that the earth would not be destroyed by a flood again. "*And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*" (Gen. 9:12-13). God also made an eternal covenant with us by the blood of the New Testament on the cross of Calvary. "... *And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.*" (Mk. 14:24). In Revelation 10, right before the commencement of His reign, the LORD comes down as the Angel of the covenant with the rainbow over His head to claim the earth as the rightful owner, by placing His feet on the land and on the sea.

Abraham is known as the father of faith. He did not get distracted by circumstances, instead he looked to the Invisible as though he could see him. Therefore he saw the promise fulfilled which God had given

to him. With Abraham the plan of Salvation begins to take on shape. Our Redeemer is also called “Son of Abraham” (Mt. 1:1). The LORD said to Abraham, “*And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*” (Gen. 12:3). The Apostle Paul summarised it for us like this, “*Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*” (Gal. 3:6-14). Abraham’s responsibility was an example for all believers, “... *who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham ...*” (Rom. 4:12). Finally God gave him the promised son by Sarah. Abraham followed everything God told him in perfect obedience, he was even prepared to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, for he believed that God would raise him up from the dead (Gen. 22:5; Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:19). That is true, living faith in direct responsibility before God. If we believe the promises of God as Abraham did, we shall see them fulfilled, because in Jesus Christ they are *yea* and *Amen* (2. Cor. 1:20).

Moses had a great responsibility for Israel, in accordance with his commission. The LORD God appeared to him in the burning bush and told him to deliver the people, assuring him that He would go with him. “*And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.*” (Ex. 3:15). Moses carried a great responsibility for Israel in connection with the fulfilment of the promise that the LORD had given unto Abraham, stating that He would deliver the Israelites out of Egypt after four hundred years (Gen. 15:13-14). Moses saw the promise fulfilled and led Israel out of slavery. He lived to see Israel become “the firstborn son” (Ex. 4:22-23), “the people of God” (Ex. 5:1), and “the Church of God” (Ex. 12).

“*And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.*” (Ex. 33:11a). And Moses asked the LORD, “*Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.*” (Ex. 33:13). That is the desire of every true servant of God. The responsibility Moses had before God was to do all things precisely as he was told and to give testimony of what had been revealed to him, as it states in the New Testament:

“And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” (Heb. 3:5-6).

Joshua also had a special responsibility, namely to lead the people that had been brought out of bondage across the river Jordan into the Promised Land. The LORD God said to Joshua, *“Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.”* (Jos. 1:2). Then we read, *“Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.”* (1:10-11). The natural food was needed to strengthen the people to take possession of the Promised Land. We need the spiritual food to be strengthened, so we can take possession of all that God promised unto us. Joshua had a great responsibility in connection with the children of Israel as well. Under his ministry the work which God had begun through Moses was completed. The Word that had been revealed to the Prophet Moses was placed into the Ark of the Covenant, which was carried by men who had been specially ordained for that task. The walls of Jericho fell and the sun stood still in the sky until God’s people experienced the complete victory (Jos. 10).

Elijah had the commission to bring Israel back to the LORD, their God. He went up to Mount Carmel, took the twelve stones representing the tribes of Israel, rebuilt the altar, placed the sacrifice upon it, poured water on it, and called upon the name of the LORD God at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. The answer came immediately, for Elijah had done it all according to the Word of the LORD. He prayed, *“Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.”* (1. Kings 18:37). God answered by fire which consumed the sacrifice and the entire altar. *“And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”* This day marked the end of the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah. Elijah had the greatest responsibility on earth at that time. By the power of the divine calling he obediently followed through with what the LORD had commanded, and the LORD God turned all the hearts of the people back to Himself.

All the prophets sent by God throughout the Old Testament period had a divine calling and therefore an immense responsibility be-

fore God, unlike anyone else in their time. At the beginning of the New Testament **John the Baptist** carried a special responsibility in connection with the plan of Salvation. He was the promised prophet who had been sent to introduce the promised Messiah. He was the man sent from God with the message for God's people, "... *that all men through him might believe.*" (Jn. 1:6-13). In accordance with God's eternal Counsel he prepared the way of the LORD and turned the hearts of the Old Testament fathers to the faith of the New Testament children. He was ordained for that purpose, to prepare a people pleasing unto the LORD. It states this in Lk. 1:16-17, "*And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the LORD their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the LORD.*"

Who can possibly comprehend the responsibility that goes along with a divine commission and a divinely promised ministry that is directly connected to the plan of Salvation? The LORD had promised this in Mal. 3:1, "*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me ...*" Through the Prophet Isaiah it was foretold, "*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD ...*" (Isa. 40:3). In the New Testament we can find confirmation of this ministry in several Scriptures: Mt. 11:12-13; Mk. 1:1-4; Lk. 7:27-30; Jn. 1:19-28.

Our LORD was the promised Messiah and Redeemer. Some received Him, others rejected Him. Those who received Him were divinely given the power to become the sons of God (Jn. 1:12-13). When He came in the flesh, He held the utmost responsibility, which was to complete the work of Redemption. The Apostle Paul states, "*And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again ...*" (Acts 13:32-33). Our responsibility today is to proclaim the accomplished work of Redemption to all of humanity. That is the commission of the New Testament Church since her foundation on the day of Pentecost.

The Apostle Peter was chosen to arise from among the brothers when the hundred and twenty were gathered in the upper room. He, too, was a man with a commission in direct responsibility before God. Peter was the first one whom the LORD entrusted with the keys of the Kingdom, on account of the divine revelation of Jesus Christ that he had been granted (Mt. 16). He acted under the direct instruction of the resurrected LORD. The man of God of the first hour preached the first

sermon under the direct guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. At this point it must be reiterated that the final sermon preached by a man of God before the Return of Jesus Christ shall be just like the very first sermon was back then. The last baptism will be carried out exactly as the first one was at the time when the New Testament Church was founded.

The biblical pattern is valid from the first to the last day of the time of grace. First comes the preaching of the sermon, which brings about the faith, then the Holy Spirit leads the individual to repentance, followed by the conversion to Christ, the Redeemer, and thereafter comes the baptism of each true believer in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The conversion and commission of **the Apostle Paul** are known to every Bible reader. His ministry came with a unique responsibility for the New Testament Church. He placed all things within the Church into their divine order, showed forth the correct integration of the ministries and the gifts of the Spirit, which were given for the edifying of the congregation, and dealt with every biblical subject in detail. His commission was the most important one for the New Testament Church. It was the Apostle Paul who uttered the curse upon everyone that would preach another gospel (Gal. 1). Today the religious world is overflowing with people who preach another Jesus and another gospel, because they have received another spirit (2. Cor. 11:4).

The Apostle John, who was banned to the Isle of Patmos because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:9), also had a special responsibility before God. There, in total seclusion from civilisation, the LORD showed him all the things that would happen, right to the end of time. He saw the LORD on His throne (Rev. 4), he saw the mysterious book sealed with seven seals (Rev. 5), he saw the Bride in heaven and heard the overcomers sing the great Hallelujah (Rev. 19). He saw the Millennial Reign of Christ, he saw the first and the second resurrection, he saw the judgement before the White Throne (Rev. 20). He even saw the new heaven and the new earth (Rev. 21). No one else at that time had the same calling and therefore a direct responsibility before God. He had to write down all that he had seen and heard (Rev. 1:11), so that we may have it until today. Amen!

In the course of church history various men appeared on the scene without a direct commission and ministry. They were men who, excited by religion, had come out of heathenism and converted to Christianity, but not to Jesus Christ. Since the council of Nicea, AD 325, a completely unscriptural creed was formulated and the people's church was founded in the Roman empire without apostles and prophets – that was entirely

contrary to the original Church, which was founded on the doctrine of apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20).

After a thousand-year reign by the Catholic Church, the mighty spiritual breakthrough came about during the time of the Reformation. Men like Wycliff, Hus, and others were enlightened by the Spirit of God, because they took the Holy Scriptures into their hands and the Word of God into their hearts. They already paved the way for the reformers. Then came Martin Luther, Philip Melanchton, Huldrych Zwingli, John Calvin, and others who stood for the free proclamation of the Gospel. Other revivals followed with John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, John Smith, the founder of the Baptist Church, Menno Simons, founder of the Mennonite Church, right to Dwight Moody and many others. The world also knows about the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the Pentecostal revival at the turn of the 20th century. Simple preachers were filled with the Holy Ghost and testified of Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and also of the Baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire (Mt. 3:11-12; Acts 11:15-16; a. o.).

After World War II **William Branham** came on the scene. He had a special calling and commission and a prophetic ministry. Even his opponents have to concede that such a ministry has not been present on earth since the days of our LORD. May 7th, 1946, was a very special day, the day God had chosen to commission His servant and to tell him the purpose connected to his calling. With this we come to the main promise for our time, which could not remain unfulfilled. Repeatedly I have stated that God does all things related to His plan of Salvation according to His Word, so that it can be verified at any time. The test must always be based on God's Word. Every prophecy and promise in reference to the first coming of Christ were literally fulfilled back then, but the scribes and teachers did not recognise them, because they were spiritually blinded by their own interpretations. Today history seems to be repeating itself in this regard. Bible prophecy may not be interpreted under any circumstances (2. Pt. 1:20); it must be seen and recognised in its fulfilment. Interpretations are always the work of the enemy and only stand in our way, in fact, they keep us from seeing the fulfilment by revelation.

For this very last part of the time of grace God Himself gave the promise: *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD."* That is THUS SAITH THE LORD. We are still living in the time of grace, which is also called the "Day of Salvation" (Isa. 49:6-8; 2. Cor. 6:2). The time of grace began at the first coming of Christ and will end for the nations with the Return of Christ,

as promised unto us in Jn. 14:1-3. Only then shall the last and terrible day of the LORD commence. The ever true God watched over His Word and fulfilled what He had promised. How could it be otherwise? Indeed, He has sent unto us a man whom He ordained to be a prophet the likes of Elijah. Whoever does not recognise or accept it is living in spiritual darkness and is not in the Kingdom of God, or has not yet recognised the merciful visitation of God. Only after the prophetic Scripture has been revealed to us does it shine forth as a bright light in the darkness (2. Pt. 1:19).

In this context the following question poses itself: What is the day of the LORD which was to be preceded by the sending of a man the likes of Elijah? We have already briefly mentioned Elijah's deeds. The issue at hand is the commission for our time, which is to turn the hearts of God's children away from all things that do not coincide with the Word and to bring them back to the LORD. Now the original doctrine of the twelve apostles, as it was proclaimed at the beginning, must be preached to the Church in this end time, so that she can be returned to her original harmony and built upon the true foundation of the apostles and prophets, whereby Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:13-22).

What does the Scripture predict? On one hand it states that numerous false prophets and false christs will rise and deceive a great number of people — if it were possible, even the elect (Mt. 24). On the other hand we have this all-inclusive promise: *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.”* (Mal. 4:5-6). Our LORD confirmed this very important promise again in the New Testament: *“Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.”* (Mt. 17:11).

“And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things ...” (Mk 9:12). HE also referred back to the already completed ministry of John the Baptist, who had come in the spirit and power of Elijah: *“Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed ...”* (v. 13).

The following are some of the Scriptures which show forth what will take place when the day of the LORD comes:

“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.” (Isa. 13:9).

“... The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.” (Joel 2:31).

“For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen.” (Oba. 1:15).

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light ...” (Mt. 24:29).

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light ...” (Mk. 13:24).

“And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come ...” (Acts 2:19-20).

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” (1. Thess. 5:2).

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” (2. Pt. 3:10).

The Apostle John was taken in the Spirit right into the day of the LORD (Rev. 1:10). He saw the book sealed with seven seals in the hand of Him that sat on the throne (Rev. 5:1). He further saw the Lamb taking the book and opening the seals. It was Brother Branham who was given the supernatural revelation of the seven seals in March 1963.

The first four seals run parallel to the seven church ages. The fifth seal speaks about the martyred Jews and also about the Jews that will likewise be killed in time to come (Rev. 6:9-11). That, of course, will take place after the rapture and after the ministry of the two prophets is completed (Rev. 11). With the opening of the sixth seal we learn more about the commencement of the day of the LORD.

“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood ...” (Rev. 6:12).

Oh, how clear is God’s Word! Before the sun turns into darkness and the moon into blood, before all the works of men will go up in flames, before the “clean-up” takes place, God promised to send us a prophet. That is the most important promise which had to be fulfilled in our time.

Whenever a true prophet arrives on the scene whose ministry is confirmed by God, then our attention is to be drawn to the message he brings. Once again we have arrived at the important point, the calling and commission which Brother Branham was given, and we are not ashamed of God’s choice.

A very special event was the supernatural experience Brother Bra-

nham had on June 11th, 1933, at his first baptismal service in the Ohio River after his first evangelistic campaign. From within the supernatural light he was called three times, “Look up!” When he looked up, he saw that supernatural light, and the mighty voice of the LORD said, **“As John the Baptist was sent to forerun the first coming of Christ, so are you sent with a message that will forerun the second coming of Christ.”** In April 1966 I met several people in Jeffersonville, Indiana, USA, who were eyewitnesses of that great experience. Connected to this supernatural commission is a responsibility for the Church of Jesus Christ unlike any previous one. Gifts and callings given by God are irreversible (Rom. 11:29). This is still true, *“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”* (Amos 3:7). That is how it is written, so that is the way we believe it. The promise that God would send a prophet at the end of the time of grace, before the beginning of the day of the LORD, is thereby fulfilled and confirmed. No child of God may bypass a God-ordained ministry, otherwise the following will be fulfilled: *“Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.”* (Acts 13:41).

God does not need to seek advice from anyone about what He should do. HE Alone watches over His Word and carries the entire responsibility for all that pertains to the plan of Salvation and the whole Counsel of God. HE sends His servants with a direct commission, who thereby also partake in that responsibility. In the 20th century — whether or not people believe it or accept it — there was no other man on the face of the earth who had a direct calling and commission like Brother Branham. This man acted in direct responsibility toward God according to the plan of Salvation for the end time.

Many of the evangelists of the first revival wave are still alive today, as well as some of the charismatic personalities of the subsequent revival waves. We could ask each one of them if they had received a direct calling, and whether they know the day, hour, and place where the LORD had entrusted them with a divine commission. Never before has there been such a heightened level of religious activities as we see it in the present time, but with their impressive programs they are more or less all building their own kingdom within the Kingdom of God. The careful observer recognises it for what it truly is — religious entertainment, decorated with Bible stories.

On account of my own responsibility before God, I would like to reiterate it one more time: With the ministry of Brother Branham the

promise stated in the Scriptures by the Prophet Malachi is fulfilled. The way of God leads into the divine commission instead of bypassing it. Everyone knows that we are now living in the end time and also that the Return of Jesus Christ is very, very near, even though no one knows the day or the hour. Since Brother Branham was told that the message entrusted unto him would forerun the second coming of Christ, it is hence binding for all of us who wish to be ready when Christ returns.

God only called certain individuals for an extraordinary service and thereby also gave them a great responsibility. It was always *one* man for his particular time. Such men were commissioned by God according to the plan of Salvation. Only a person who recognises this will accept such a ministry and believe the Word that God revealed and spoke through His servant. Blessed are those who receive a man sent from God, woe unto them that do not. What the LORD says of those He sends remains true for ever: *“He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”* (Mt. 10:40).

“He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.” (Lk. 10:16).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.” (Jn. 13:20).

We need to emphasise this once again: Whoever bypasses a ministry promised and ordained by God, that person scornfully bypasses God Himself and His work.

True Patience

In regard to the rapture and the restoration, which has to happen first, we have two special examples: **The first one with Enoch, the second one with Job.** Job experienced a twofold restoration, and Enoch had the testimony that he was pleasing unto God. **Job** went through severe trials, unlike anyone else in his time. When the sons of God came together for a meeting before the LORD God, it came to pass that Satan was also in attendance. He asked and was granted permission to take everything Job had. Then Satan struck with full force. That was the moment when even Job’s wife said, *“Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.”* (Job 2:9). Job remained true to God and received proof of God’s faithfulness toward His servants. Satan could destroy everything, but was not allowed to touch his soul. At the end of the trial came the restoration: *“And the LORD turned the captivity*

of Job, ... also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.” (42:10).

In the New Testament James referred back to this subject and encouraged the believers to endure patiently. He also wrote about the former and the latter rain and about the Return of our LORD. Then he urges all of us, *“Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord ...”* (Jas. 5:7-11). The following Scripture applies to all those who truly believe and wish to partake in the restoration and in the rapture: *“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.”* (Heb. 10:35-39). Even so, come, LORD Jesus! Amen.

Enoch, the seventh descendant from Adam, was given a special privilege. He walked with God, *“... and he was not; for God took him.”* (Gen. 5:21-24). He only gave one prophecy, which is not even written in the Old Testament, but can be found in the New Testament: *“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”* (Jude 1:14-15). About Enoch we further read in the New Testament, *“... for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”* (Heb. 11:5). That is the most important message to those who wish to be taken up to Glory. About the Son of God we read, *“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Mt. 3:17). In like manner all sons and daughters of God must in faith and obedience go through the water baptism and also the baptism of the Holy Spirit, whereby they receive their sanctification and thus become pleasing unto God, for He has *“... predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”* (Eph. 1:5).

The following Scripture tells us what was promised to all those who please God as Enoch did: *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”* (Rev. 3:21).

What a tremendous calling, to be thus chosen and to know what destination is waiting for all those who will partake in the first resurrec-

tion and in the rapture! This is the great lesson that we learn through Enoch, the seventh descendant from Adam: The walk with God leads us to the testimony that we are pleasing unto Him, which then leads us right into the rapture.

A Divine Commission is Binding

Now we have to pay close attention to what the LORD says, "*He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward ...*" (Mt. 10:41). Many arguments have ensued over this subject, for many individuals have appeared on the scene, each one claiming to be a prophet and then starting their own denomination or religion with their followers. Yet that is the very mark by which we recognise that they were false prophets. A true prophet is a man sent from God with the divine message to the Church according to God's eternal Counsel. Such a man does not prepare his own way, but rather prepares the way of the LORD and unites the Bride and Bridegroom.

It is true that God has taken His servant home in our time, but the message remains with us. Now we are faced with a vital question: Who carries this message by a divine commission with a crystal clear proclamation into all the world? Who does not add to the Holy Scriptures, who does not interpret a single utterance of the prophet? Who tells all of humanity that God is only responsible for what He promised in His Word and then revealed through the last message? Things that people may expect, but that are not expressly written in the Holy Scriptures, can only bring about divisions and lead to disappointments.

Matthew 25 must also not be interpreted. There we find the description of what will take place when the heavenly Bridegroom returns. The wise virgins shall go in with Him to the marriage, and the foolish will stand before the closed door. It is written, "... and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." (Mt. 25:10). In Matthew 24 the end time is being shown forth in every aspect. There the Master was asked, "*Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*" (Mt. 24:3). That is followed by a detailed description of what will happen on earth in the end time and we are also given this warning: "*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*"

The chosen ones will be the exception, because they cannot be de-

ceived. False anointed ones and false prophets consider themselves confirmed through signs and wonders, but they are not in agreement with the teachings of Christ, as proclaimed by the apostles and prophets. At the end of Matthew 24 our LORD asked, "*Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?*" This statement reminds us of what our LORD said, "*My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*" (Jn. 4:34). The dear LORD will complete His work of Redemption with His own, and they are deemed to be in His Will and Word.

The completion of the work of Redemption is now in its final phase. God's Word has become our spiritual food and complete orientation. It is our desire to know the Will of God, especially in connection with the completion of God's work, until it becomes manifested. The revealed Word of God given to us by the extraordinarily blessed and divinely confirmed ministry of Brother Branham truly is the fresh manna which is given to all true servants of the LORD, so that the same spiritual food can be shared throughout the entire world. This is the only way to achieve the unity within the Bride Church of Jesus Christ: All servants who preach the Word must now take full responsibility before God and proclaim the correct doctrines to the people, without any own agendas or strangely derived teachings. Through Brother Branham's ministry all the mysteries hidden in the Word were indeed revealed. His ministry also restored unto us the all-encompassing, original teachings. He gave us the promise: "*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.*" (Amos 8:11). We thank our LORD for giving us the right spiritual food at the right time.

At no previous point in time was the Word of God revealed on this earth as profoundly and comprehensively, from Genesis to Revelation, as it has been the case in our time. We have indeed been assigned stewardship over all the goods within the House of God. Therefore we can truthfully state alongside the Apostle Paul, "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (1. Cor. 4).

In connection with the Return of the Bridegroom Matthew 25 talks about *virgins*. Paul writes in regard to the Church, "... for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (2. Cor. 11). In Abraham's time a servant was sent forth to find a bride for his promised son Isaac: "*And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her.*" (Gen. 24:16). The

symbol of the virgin signifies that the Bride Church must free herself from all spiritual corruption and religious fornication, so that she is pure and undefiled when she meets the Bridegroom. In the completion the true believers are described as the wise virgins, because after they had been called out and had segregated themselves, they did not defile themselves spiritually in any way. The heavenly Bridegroom will take home a pure, undefiled virgin as His Bride.

In the Old Testament Israel was called a virgin, especially in connection with the gathering of her people at the end of days: "... *Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel.* (Jer. 31:3-4). In Revelation 14 the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel are shown with the Lamb on Mount Zion. This is what it said about them, "*These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.*" (v. 4). They do not belong to any religious or Messianic group in Israel. They are true Jews who are waiting for the moment when the two prophets will have their divine ministry in Jerusalem. In Revelation 12 the woman represents the true Church, in Revelation 17 the fallen woman represents the apostate church.

Let us further compare the main promise given for the birth of the Son of God and the coming forth of the man child that will be caught up unto God (Rev. 12:5). All of creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God (Rom. 8:19-27). About the birth of the Redeemer we read, "*Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son.*" (Isa. 7:14). Concerning Mary, the virgin — not the "young woman", as the scoffers now claim — it states how the Angel Gabriel brought her the promise for the birth of the Son of God. She believed the Word of promise. The Holy Spirit overshadowed her, the power of the Most High came upon her, and the Word was made flesh and the Son of God was born (Mt. 1; Lk. 1).

Mary is the example for the wise virgins. They receive not only the anointing by the Holy Spirit, as it is the case with foolish virgins, but they also receive the *Word seed*; and they have nothing to do with any man who propagates interpretations, just as Mary did not know any man (Lk. 1:34). The Word is the seed and by the Holy Spirit the power of God came over Mary, the same way it comes upon the wise virgins. The wise virgins not only have the lamps, which represent enlightenment, they also have the fullness of the Spirit in their vessels, in fact, they become vessels themselves, unto honour of the LORD (2. Tim. 2:9:21).

Responsibility before God

Now we come to the direct responsibility we have before God at this time. All prophets had their time and their ministry. Every God-ordained servant carried out his ministry in the Will of God according to the Word of God in his allotted time. John the Baptist had his commission, as did the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul, and on the Isle of Patmos John had his as well. With gratefulness we further recognise that Brother Branham also had his time and ministry — he was given the greatest responsibility of all times, which was to comprehensively proclaim all the things that had been revealed unto us by the prophets and apostles and thereby bring the Bride Church back to the original Word. Everyone who believes according to the Scripture has the right to ask the question: Who has a direct calling and commission from God to take the message into all the world in our time, just before the Return of Christ?

No servant of God needs to testify on his own behalf. Neither did any of the prophets or apostles. However, all prophets and apostles had a direct responsibility before God to carry out their ministry according to the divine calling and commission. For example, the Apostle Peter said, *“Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.”* (Acts 15:7). The Apostle Paul testifies, *“... For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 13:46-49). When John the Baptist was asked who he was, his answer came promptly, *“I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.”* (Jn. 1:23). In the last chapter of the Bible we read this testimony, *“These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.”* (Rev. 22:6).

All of us know that there are many individuals in this world who shoulder a great responsibility in their area of expertise, but that is not the subject at hand. Our concern is the responsibility within the Kingdom of God. In direct responsibility before God, I have carried out for over forty years what the LORD Himself called and commissioned me to do on April 2nd, 1962, just before sunrise. Although Satan has tried everything he could to destroy me and the work of God since 1979, I must remain faithful to the heavenly calling and continue to serve according to the commission that I was given, in full responsibility before God.

It is, after all, not my work, but the work of the LORD; it is not my word, but His Word; it is not my church, but His Church, which He Alone has redeemed and is now calling out through the last message (2. Cor. 6:14-18). In the end He will present unto Himself a glorious Church, without any spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:27). The heavenly Bridegroom has a Bride on this earth, and all those who are part of the Bride Church will now listen to the voice of the Bridegroom.

We thank God that His Word with all the promises is now, at the end of the time of grace, being carried into all the world for the last time, and we are thankful for all the rightfully devoted brothers who correctly partake therein. We are also grateful for the local church here in Krefeld and for the international Mission Center. We especially appreciate the opportunity to have TV-broadcasts in many different countries in the German, English, and Russian language. Millions of people have thus heard the everlasting Gospel. The harvest is overwhelming, especially on the African continent. The sermons preached on the first weekend of every month here at the Krefeld Mission Center, which are simultaneously being translated into twelve different languages, always produce an extraordinary, favourable response. They can even be heard live all over the world via the Internet in seven different languages. In like manner we are now able to broadcast live from Zurich, Switzerland, in two languages during our end-of-month meetings there. Everybody is cordially invited to join us and partake in what God is currently doing.

We continue to send out Brother Branham's sermons, our Circular Letters, books and brochures in the main languages into all the world, so that all those who belong to the Bride Church are given the opportunity to close ranks and jointly walk on the correct path. *"And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand."* (Rev. 22:10). With the opening of the seals we have become acutely aware of the fact that the time is indeed at hand. Who-soever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is now saying unto the churches! Amen.

Missionary Report

It is overwhelming to be able to experience what God is presently doing worldwide.

More than half of the year 2007 has passed and each month was filled with special meetings in various countries. Between seventy-five

and eighty thousand people heard the Word of God during the missionary trip in July, which led me through five African countries. Sports stadiums were filled with as many as eighteen thousand people for a single meeting. Many of us cannot even imagine meetings of these proportions. There were 21 meetings altogether, and God bestowed his blessings in such a mighty way that they produced much fruit for eternity. By God's grace I have been able to remain faithful to my commission and to continue with the monthly missionary trips. Generally, I am at the Mission Center for about two weeks and on missionary trips for the remainder of the month. I am very grateful to all of you who keep me in your prayers, which accompany me on my travels.

It is indeed a victorious campaign for the truth. The last call is going forth and those who have an ear to hear what the Spirit says unto the Churches come out, they segregate themselves, and they are purified. Jesus Christ, our LORD and Saviour, was victorious at Calvary. After conquering Satan, death, and hell, God crowned the work of Redemption by His resurrection. Now it is our commission to strive for obedience to the faith among all the nations for His name (Rom. 1:5-6). The Apostle Paul writes to the believers, "... *Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ.*" (Rom. 1:5-6). Today those words are addressed to us. We are the ones who have received the divine commission and accepted the message, believing it with all our hearts.

The words written in Rom. 11:4-7 remain true for ever. The first question is, "*But what saith the answer of God unto him? ... Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace ... but the election hath obtained it.*" Those are mighty declarations; they are divine facts valid for every time period. The elect emerge as the last remnant, and they are the only ones who will reach the final goal.

What our LORD said in Jn. 8:47 shall also stay for ever true: "*He that is of God heareth God's words ...*" The same applies to 1. Jn. 2:21, "*I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*" (1. Jn. 2:21). In 1. Jn. 4:6 the apostle rightfully dares to say, "*We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us.*" That has always been the case with the chosen ones, even until today. In this Circular Letter we have dealt with the commission and the responsibility. That kind of responsibility has been assigned to me and to all the true servants of God. Preachers who give in to their envy and jealousy are spreading the most terrible slander. They are actually committing character assassination and shall be held accountable before God. By their actions

they manifest their real nature, whereby the following Scripture is fulfilled: *“For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother ...”* (1. Jn. 3:11-12).

Since the very beginning there have unfortunately always been two different seeds: There are the ones who hate, and those who are hated; the ones who kill, and those who are being killed; the ones who persecute, and those who are being persecuted; the ones who slander, and those who are being slandered. Along with all the true brethren that also carry responsibility before God in all the different languages and nations, I look upon what God is now doing for the edifying of His Church, and not upon the destruction which Satan, the thief and murderer, is causing. It is always clearly manifested in whose service the individual person actually stands.

All those who are proclaiming their own interpretations and drawing the people in to follow them are only in agreement when it comes to one thing, namely to present the one who carries the true Word as being untrustworthy. They are doing that in an attempt to provide their own interpretations with credibility. Precisely that is the work of the enemy in sanctimonious disguise. Only God’s Word remains for ever, and only God’s Word is the original seed. The true Bride will be a Word-Bride.

When it comes to the ministry of Brother Branham, I have given testimony right from the beginning — which can be verified with the Circular Letters since 1966 — that he was the man sent from God, the promised prophet for our time. With equal emphasis I have repeatedly declared that no one on earth is allowed to distort Brother Branham’s statements unto their own destruction (2. Pt. 3:14-18), while attempting to support their own strange doctrines. The mere thought of the countless different opinions and interpretations that are in circulation within the circles of the message about one and the same subject will let even the simplest person recognise that they cannot possibly all be correct. God has only *one* correct answer for each subject matter. As far as I am concerned, the message is the Word and the Word is the message, whereunto nothing can be added and wherein nothing can be changed. It is in perfect harmony.

By His commission

Bro. Frank

The 60th Anniversary of the State of Israel May 1948 — May 2008

THUS SAITH THE LORD, *“Turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities.”* (Jer. 31:21).

“When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations ...” (Ezek. 39:27).

“And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel ... And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.” (Amos 9:14).

“Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Mt. 24:32-35).

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” (Lk. 21:24).

We are the privileged generation, for we get to witness the fulfilment of all these promises which God gave unto Israel. We bless the people of Israel in the name of the LORD and wish Jerusalem peace. Shalom!

Invitation to the Anniversary Trip 2008

God willing, we are planning a trip to Israel from May 5th to May 15th, 2008, to join the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the day when the country of Israel came into existence. It is going to be a very special trip for all who can join us. We shall provide for the German, for the English and for the French language. Every one of the trips we have taken there so far has turned out to be a lasting blessing for all participants. It would be nice if many brothers, sisters, friends, and especially young people could come along this time. We also understand those living in countries who need a visa and may not be granted one. The Holy Land is a favourable vacation destination for believers. Please come to a decision as soon as possible and let us know promptly if you want to take part in this experience..

If you are interested to receive our literature you may write to the address below:

Mission Center
P.O. Box 100707
47707 Krefeld
Germany

You can also tune in on the Internet for our monthly meetings on the first weekend of each month: on Saturday evening at 19:30 h (Central European Time), on Sunday morning at 10:00 h (Central European Time). The sermons can be heard in seven different languages worldwide. Have part in what God is presently doing according to His Plan of Salvation!

Homepage: <http://www.freie-volksmission.de>

E-mail: volksmission@gmx.de or
E.Frank@freie-volksmission.de

Phone: +49-2151/545151
Fax: +49-2151/951293

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Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb,
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His Name?

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight, if I would reign;
Increase my courage, Lord.
Ill bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.



***Put on the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil.
(Eph. 6:11).***

Brother Frank in the place God ordained for him to preach the word. This photo was also taken in September 2007.



Also on the first weekend in September 2007 the sanctuary in the Mission Center was filled. They come from the East and West, they come from the lands afar ... they come ... they come until the last one has come in.



In July 2007 exceptional meetings were held in five African countries. In all, there were 21 meetings, which were attended by a total of about seventy-five to eighty thousand people in the different cities. The two photographs taken in the Democratic Republic of Congo, one in Lubumbashi and one in Mbuji Mayi, show us that even today people flock together to hear God's true Word. Most of the participants in these meetings were brothers and sisters who are familiar with the end-time message and have been baptised in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ. Special thanks go to our brethren who arranged and planned these meetings in such an excellent way.

