

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." *Philippians 1:6*

(The following testimony was given by Brother Homer Rye at the 48th Annual Assembly, 1953)

"The mission fields are truly white and ready to harvest, but the laborers are few. We found this to be true on our trip abroad. We arrived in Bedford, England at midnight. We did not know a single person in this town. We finally found a hotel where we could stay. The next night we met the first family who were interested in the things of the Lord and from that we were introduced to others. The people began coming to our room and talking with us about the Lord and His Church. The pastor of one of the largest churches in Bedford offered to give us a revival in his church. I informed him that we were there to organize a church. The second family we met opened their home for prayer meetings and these were continued weekly while I was there; in fact, the prayer meetings are still going on in that home. Through that prayer meeting a very nice congregation of people was built up. The Lord helped us secure a hall for revival meetings. God blessed in the campaign. Souls were blessed and people were healed. We had service in the homes of some of the people who were sick."

"After the first day of May I felt my time was drawing near when I would have to return to the states, so I began to find out how the people felt about organizing a church. Some of them said they wanted to be members. The thing they loved so dearly was that we take the whole Bible rightly divided and the New Testament as our only rule of faith and practice. They said that was what they had been looking for. The minister who is now pastoring the church that was set in order said the Lord gave him a vision of the Church coming to England. He didn't understand about it until after the Church was organized and we were having a Bible study on the subject of the Holy Ghost. Right in the midst of this lesson the Lord gave him the understanding of the vision he had sometime before. It was a revelation of the Church coming from America to England. Before we left, Brother England told Edna that he used to look at the United States as being thousands of miles away, but now he felt he was joined with the saints here in the Church. They are praying now for the Assembly.

They do not forget the children of God throughout the world. They soon began to offer thanks to the Lord for the many saints in America who were praying for them. When you go into one of their services and come away, you feel like you have had a visit with the Lord. They mean business when they gather together to worship the Lord."

"I received a letter from the pastor stating that a church in another town was asking him to come and take over their work. His whole life is in the work of the Lord. In the last letter I received from him he stated there was a group of Italians stationed there. He said one of them could speak English. He had been preaching to these people two hours at a time and the brother who speaks English interprets for him."

"When God looked down on this world, He didn't look on one country as a great country and on the others as being no good, but He said, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." If we have a missionary spirit, we will look at the whole earth as God does. We will have to desire with all of our mind, soul, and strength to reach every nation under the sun ... "

"We should be deeply concerned about others. If we are not, I am afraid we will lose concern for our own souls. When you pray, please don't forget to pray for our pastor in England and all of the members there."

The Church of God was organized by Jesus Christ with 12 charter members in A.D. 28 on Mt. Hattin. The gospel of Jesus Christ spread, like fire, as His Church took it all over the world. Today, The Church of God is functioning in England, far from where it was first organized by Christ and a long way from where it was discovered by A.J. Tomlinson this side of the Dark Ages. Nevertheless, the commission and message is still the same and His Church is still His Church! God has a plan for The Church of God in England and He has a part for you to play in it. How exciting! There are millions of souls in this country that need to hear the Word of God and feel the love and Spirit of God. Let us work together with God and see this happen. God has begun a good work in this country and He has begun a good work in you! Let us see it through till the end! The journey along the way will be filled with miracles! Amen!

Submitted by Robert J. Hawkins, Jr.