

THE PIERCING PAINS OF PROGRESS

If there is one word that characterized this generation, it is EXPANSION.

We are almost daily introduced to some catchy, pithy phrase that expresses the image of some facet of our growing world. Among them is the phrase, "Population explosion."

Economists are alarmed at the rapidly growing birthrate and the possibility of too many people for the surface of the world.

In Asia and Africa, starving millions are crowded into small areas. Even in America, the government is taking a hand in trying to curb the birth rate.

Cities are growing up overnight. Old cities are spreading out until they are joining city to city.

California orange groves are being pushed up to give place for cities, shopping centers, hospitals, factories, schools; the world is in the greatest throes of growing pains in all human history.

Science is constantly making world-shocking announcements of some new wonder drug to cure some dread disease. Nuclear power is rapidly being harnessed by Godless nations that threaten to destroy all life.

The Communist world announces it will bury us. The National Council of Churches denounces Christ as Divine and the Saviour of the world. The colored race around the world joins hands in a universal revolution.

America is fastly becoming a second-rate power. Doors are being closed to missionaries. Cannibals once again kill and eat white missionaries.

2.

On one hand the world staggers back into savagery, and on the other hand the world advances into outer space with inventions and discoveries that stagger the most mature imagination.

This planet has become too small, and man goes out into outer space to discover new worlds, planets, and satalites.

False religions flourish, Communism spreads ...so far as I can tell, the only segment of our society that is growing stagnant and is being left behind in the mad rush of growth and expansion is the Christian Church.

Protestantism gives its energies to serving foreign tables, and to politics and to social concerns; while the preachers are taken up with civic functions, social events, and cultural improvements of our world.

The world is joining the church and the clarion voice of firey souled prophets of judgment have been replaced with the pleading pacifists for universal conformity.

The very same people who kicked our grandfathers out of their churches because they were religious fanatics have taken their grandchildren back in because they have learne to conform.

If there is any one thing that Jesus taught about the church in the world it is that IT WAS TO BE IN IT...NOT OF IT...YET OBLIGATED TO IT. How many parables did Jesus use to show that the church, though small, must be a mighty power in this earth to the salvation of lost men.

The grain of mustard seed

The candle

3.

The salt

The leaven

~~The light~~

Look at Israel as Baalam saw them from the rugged peaks of Moab.

"They shall not be reckoned among the nations" ... but nothing can stand before it. ~~XXXX~~... The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Progress is painful...but progress is necessary to life. Arrested growth is the beginning of spineless death.

The church that spilled down out of that upper room shook the foundations of the known world.

It is described as "terrible as an army with banners" and "going forth like a strong man to run a race."

The day has dawned for the Pentecostal Holiness Church. We have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

The very thing that has given us this hour of opportunity may well become our pitfall to defeat.

The church needs men who are expendable... men who are not looking for an easy way to glory

"We have got to make a living," we say. That's right. But have we forgotten there is at the heart of Christianity a principal that is begging for some man to put it to the test?

4.

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you."

~~We~~ have not made progress untill we have saved lost souls.

Other things are incidental. Provisions to house them. An altar for them to pray around. A field for them to work in. A spiritual church for them to mature in.

This is where the pains of progress cut the deepest. The anguished cry of a church in Travail is a cry that rings in the courts of heaven and rejoices the heart of God.

"When Zion ~~T~~revails Sons and daughters are born into thekingdom.

~~Hannah prayed until the Priest~~ thought she was drunk and rebuked her.

He had been there so long that he had forgotten the earnest , agonies of a soul that would not be denied.

~~At Pentecost~~ They called them drunk. Because they acted like drunken men.

The crowds come when the power of God is manifested. Not much need to advertise a revival any more. Just pray the power down and began to push forward and men will come from everywhere.