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50 YEARS AGO. . .

From the Executive Office of the General Council of the Assemblies of God
April 20, 1949

Dear Fellow Minister of the Assemblies of God:

Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ: That in everything ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance and in all knowledge: Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, So that ye come behind in no gift: waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end. that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Cor.1:3-8.

It has seemed good unto the brethren that the brief article entitled "Bestowing Gifts" which appeared in our last quarterly letter should be followed by a further word of warning, more complete as to details. It is being claimed that the Pentecostal Movement is passing through a new era. That now we are receiving the Latter Rain, whereas forty years ago the outpouring of the Spirit was merely the Former Rain: now we are receiving an enduement or power, "after that" the Holy Ghost has come upon us. whereas forty years ago we received merely an anointing of the Spirit: that this enduement of power is received through the laying on of hands: that now, through the laying on of hands and prophecy, the nine gifts of the Spirit are bestowed upon or confirmed to believers. and calls to service in home and foreign fields are given and confirmed: that God is now setting the ministry gifts in the body through the prophetic gift, and those upon whom hands have been laid are designed as apostles, prophets, Evangelists, etc.: that an apostle and a prophet should be present to officiate in this laying on of hands, so that there may be the exercise of the prophetic gift. There is much more that is being claimed for this new order of the Latter Rain, but this simple statement will suffice for the moment.

The Origin of the Movement. For the benefit of those who are unacquainted with the origin of this movement, we will quote from a letter received from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada:

"For some years we had a man in one of our Bible School; the Bethel Bible Institute in Saskatoon, Sask., who was not cooperative. He was a rugged individualist with a considerable amount of ability, but with defiance in his attitude toward his brethren. His actions were tolerated for years, until finally the District Executive felt that they could not continue any longer and so they asked him for his resignation. He, with an associate in the school, pulled out. Their names are George R. Hawtin and P. G. Hunt. They made promises they would be loyal, and for a time it seemed that they were going to continue with other work in the fellowship. However, in the meantime, they had an opportunity to purchase a large building at North Battleford (Alta.) and set out immediately to destroy our school and work, especially in the Prairie Provinces, to as great an extent as they could. They joined up with a man named Holdt, who was a minister of the Foursquare movement. Then they went to Edmonton and joined up with a free Scandinavian group (The Independent Assemblies of God) of which I think Brother Rasmussen is the Canadian leader. . .

"They attack all organizations religiously, and ours particularly. . They have created a terrific furor in their own district Saskatchewan, but the Brethren were able to hold fairly well, although they lost several workers and a few small assemblies. The workers who went out were mainly young men and women who had gone to Bible School under the influence of these two men . . .

"They state that they have received a fresh vision from God and so they are giving out' gifts. They call people forward, lay their hands upon them and bestow certain gifts, especially the gifts of healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy, as well as the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge. They state that some of these people who are called out are particularly called to some foreign fields; and they have gone so far as to state that as soon as they reach the field of their calling they will speak the language of the natives. . .

"There isn't much doubt about it that they do a great deal of praying, and I believe, have in some of their meetings a very fine spiritual atmosphere, but undoubtedly they go to great extremes. I am sure that we all want the gifts of the Spirit' in their proper place and welcome from the Lord anything that is glorifying to Him. But this thing (has evidently) started out on a very bad foundation, with much ill-feeling, and it never can prosper."

The New Order Movement Reaches Michigan. For a long time little attention was paid to the reports reaching the headquarters office in Springfield, until finally it was learned that Mrs. Beall, pastor of Bethesda Tabernacle in Detroit, Mich., had gone to Vancouver, B. C. and had been prayed with and hands were laid upon her. It is reported that she claims to have received the ministry of laying on of hands and is now exercising this ministry in company with others who are designated as prophets. We hesitate to refer to names and places, but this new order is being propagated from Detroit over four radio stations and on a daily schedule and therefore is being well publicized. As a result, crowds of people have been going to Detroit, including many ministers from the United States and Canada.

Recently, one of our ministers in the State of Washington wrote to inquire about a rumor that certain officers of the General Council have been attending these "gift" meetings. In reply, it was stated positively that none of the officers of the General Council had attended any of these meetings. Since then, Ernest S. Williams, our General Superintendent, and J. Roswell Flower, our General Secretary, in company with executives of the Southern Missouri District Council, did spend some days in St. Louis, Mo. where these new order meetings were in progress, and hours were spent in listening to the message and in conference with the leaders of the movement then in that city. However, the rumor reaching Washington must have come from the fact that two or three members of the editorial staff of the Gospel Publishing House did go to Detroit, and it is reported that the editor of the Evangel did take part in the meetings there, and that the gift of prophecy was conferred upon him through the laying on of hands, or at least, this gift was confirmed through this means.

The Story of John Kolenda. One of the reasons others have not attended any of these meetings is the evident tendency to take advantage of persons by announcing over the radio that so-and-so has attended the meetings and has "received his portion." For example, it is reported that John Kolenda, missionary to Brazil, returned home to attend these meetings coming by plane, and that he had received his portion. He was designated by prophecy as being an apostle, not only to Brazil, but to other countries, and gifts of the Spirit were conferred upon him including the working of miracles, healings, prophecy, etc. John Kolenda did return home by plane, but not for the express purpose of attending these meetings. He did attend meetings at Bethesda Tabernacle in Detroit, and was called forward to receive his portion. A number of those designated as apostles and prophets laid hands upon him and by what was purported to be the exercise of the prophetic ministry, he was designated as an apostle and endowed with many spiritual gifts. This was announced publicly over the radio the following day.

John Kolenda left Detroit, but was so disturbed in spirit by what had happened that he returned to Detroit, and in company with Brother Charles Scott, Superintendent of the Michigan District, visited Mrs. Beall to make clear that he could not feel in his heart the experience was of God. He was informed by Mrs. Beall (so we have been told) that she knew all the time he had a spirit of unbelief. This statement is definitely perplexing, for if Brother Kolenda had a spirit of unbelief, did the Spirit of God make a mistake when it prompted the prophets and apostles to call him forward to receive his portion? And after the exercise of the prophetic gift knowing that all the time he had a spirit of unbelief, why was announcement made over the radio the following day that John Kolenda had come by plane to attend these "Latter Rain" meetings and to receive his portion?

The claims of the New Order Movement. Full publicity has been given by radio each day of the happenings of the previous day, making it possible for the recording of the claims and reports coming from Bethesda Tabernacle. A number of these recordings have been sent to us for examination so that we have accurate, testimony which cannot be refuted, and are in a position to judge the teachings of the "new order Latter Rain" movement in the light of the Scriptures. We can state with confidence that these wire recordings contain misapplications and perversions of Scriptural truth which should be plainly evident to anyone who is familiar with the Word of God.

We note also there is a tendency to seize upon any report of revival meetings in any part of the country, as being an example of what is occurring under this new emphasis of the "laying on of hands." It was broadcast over the radio that the recent revival in Winnipeg was an example of what is taking place through the laying on of hands. A telephone call to Winnipeg produced a sharp denial that there was any connection between the revival in Winnipeg and the "new order" Latter Rain movement. There have been other instances of the same type of publicity which can be interpreted only as attempts to seek prestige through misrepresentation. If a work is of God, it will stand on its own merits, without the necessity of resorting to such means.

Emphasis is Given to the Possibility of Division. That the "new order" is divisive goes without question., for we have recorded testimony that just as the message of the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the beginning caused a separation between those who received the experience and their home churches, so this new order may do the same thing. Reference has been made to the Christian and Missionary Alliance and the Holiness groups as examples of what may be expected.

It has been brought to our attention that when one pastor consented to the ministry of laying on of hands it brought such a crisis into his church that the church was threatened with disruption. The members of his congregation took sides and for a time it appeared that his ministry in that church had come to an end. Only the mercy of God has intervened to save the church. Others have expressed willingness to "pay the price" irrespective of what may happen to them or the church.

The True Test of Any Movement. The true test of any movement is whether or not it will stand up under the light of the Word of God. We cannot depend alone upon the testimony of spiritual

blessing, which many claim to have received under the "new order". When the "Jesus Only" issue swept over the country in the years 1914-1917, there was constant testimony that this was a revelation from God accompanied by great spiritual blessing. The movement was judged, however, not on the testimony of spiritual blessings, but on its adherence to the Scriptures. When it was found that its claims did not conform to sound doctrine, its message was rejected. Dire calamities were predicted upon all who failed to "walk in the light" of that "revelation," but all predictions failed of fulfillment. We have heard similar predictions for failure to accept the "new order" teaching, which we regret exceedingly.

It has been reported commonly that the brethren in Springfield have not accepted the "new order" and that report is true. It has been reported also that none of these brethren have visited Detroit and therefore have based their objection to the "new order" on hearsay. However, we do have the teachings of the leaders of this movement in their own words by wire recordings and from the printed page. These teachings have been weighed carefully and prayerfully and, we believe, have been found wanting. Brother Williams, our General Superintendent, has written two articles for the Pentecostal Evangel which should be read and reread by all who are interested. These articles appeared in the April 9 and 16 issues of THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, under the titles ARE WE PENTECOSTAL and SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

The New Order Gives Us Nothing New. The "new order" Latter Rain Movement in reality is giving us nothing that is new in spite of the claims of its advocates that it is a new thing in Pentecost. The laying on of hands is a practice that has been followed from the beginning. The only new thing about the present form of laying on of hands is the emphasis given to this practice, which must be accompanied by the prophetic gift. It is claimed (as stated by one of the leaders in a meeting of ministers at Granite City, Ill.) that the ministry of the laying on of hands should be administered by an apostle and a prophet, or by two prophets, or two apostles. Through the "ordinance" of laying on of hands and the prophetic gift, the members of the body are confirmed in their gifts, so that they then know their function in the body, which they did not know previously.

Nor is the manner of exercise of the prophetic gift something new, for we have had similar types of so-called prophecy from the very beginning. One of the Executives of the General Council experienced prophecies concerning him and his future ministry as far back as 1907, and has seen revivals of the same ministry, if we may call it such, repeated a number of times during the past forty years. For that matter, this form of prophecy was undoubtedly the stone upon which the Irvingite movement a hundred years ago was wrecked. Unfortunately, few of our people have ever read anything about the Irving Movement or have experienced any of the recurrences of that particular form of prophecy, and therefore are unable to profit by the mistakes of history.

History Often Repeats Itself. Those who have been in the Pentecostal Movement from the beginning can recall several recurrences of this particular type of prophecy, including the bestowment of the gifts and the giving or confirming of callings and ministries. We well remember the Bournemouth movement in England and the Apostolic Church movement which succeeded it. We have met some of the apostles who came from Wales to Canada and the United States in years gone by, and were able to judge whether or not the *fruits* of the apostolic order were in evidence. Then, there was Dan Rickard, a former Baptism minister who received the Pentecostal baptism and later became a minister of the Assemblies of God. He later claimed to be an apostle, but when he met the apostles who came from Wales, although the doctrine was similar, there was no ground for co-operation. The last we heard of him he was holding forth in the City of Detroit.

In recent years there was the rise of the Forward Movement in western New York, which claimed everything and promised everything, even to the redemption of the body. That movement, after causing great havoc, ceased to be a factor of disruption. We understand that the leaders of that movement now have embraced the "new order" Latter Rain Movement and are joining in with it. This is easily understandable, for the principles underlying the two movements are quite similar.

The Nature Of the Prophetic Gifts. According to the Scriptures, the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy, and prophecy should be used for the purpose of speaking "unto men to edification, and exhortation and comfort" (Rev. 19:10 and I Cor.14:3). It is our judgment, after years of experience with spiritual utterance, that it is a perversion of the gift to use it for the impartation of gifts and callings, or for general predictions pertaining to ministries. Predictive prophecy has resulted in untold disaster wherever it has been given free course. In years gone by, men and women have been set aside for work in foreign lands and have been told they would not need to learn the language, but that God would enable them to speak in the language of the people upon arrival in the land to which they were being sent. Such prophecies have failed miserably. The theory was wonderful but the results were calamitous. Men and women have even been married on the strength of this type of prophetic utterance, who were wholly unsuited to each other. On such marriage has just come to our attention. It has resulted finally in a separation and the ruination of two lives. Some who were given calls to foreign fields were utterly unfit and unprepared for foreign service. Those who went out on the strength of such prophecies were bitterly disillusioned, numbers of whom returned to the homeland broken in spirit and body.

These prophecies, which we believe to be perversions of the true gift, are often of an inflationary nature. They exalt the human spirit into an ecstasy with such messages as, "Yea, the Lord God hath called and chosen thee. Thou shalt prophesy before kings and shalt witness before many nations. The Lord God shall give thee great boldness so that none shall be able to withstand thee. Go forth in the power of His might, for the Lord God is with thee." When such prophecies are accompanied by the assurance of the bestowment of spiritual gifts, it is no wonder the person involved feels a spirit of exaltation and blessing.

Recently we were informed in one of the radio messages broadcast from Detroit, that a young woman, a CBI graduate, had been prayed for and her call to India had been confirmed. She is to have the gift of prophecy and the working of miracles and it is to go up and down in the land of India to evangelize, and the Lord is to give her the language of the people, so that there will be no need for the learning of the language. It is our conviction that if this young woman acts upon that message, she is in for a terrible experience of disillusionment. The people of India believe that a woman has no soul and the voice of a woman would not be listened to for one moment. Our women missionaries in India are not evangelists in the sense this prophecy would indicate. Women do not go through India as evangelists and never have done so. Furthermore, there is no one language common to India. There are some fifty-four languages. But we are told, the Lord can overcome the handicap of sex and it is just as easy to give the young woman fifty-four languages as one, to which we agree.

The Most Serious Implication Of the New Order. The most serious aspect of the "new order Latter Rain Movement" in our opinion is the assumption that God is NOW setting in the body of Christ the members thereof, through the ministry of the laying on of hands and prophecy; that He is, through this means, confirming the ministry gifts of first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, etc. The ordination of our ministers through the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery is discounted by these brethren, that is, discounted if it was not accompanied by the prophetic gift designating to what ministry the minister has been called and with a prophetic confirmation of the gifts with which he is endowed. It has been stated repeatedly that God is now doing something new and this is a new spiritual body that is being formed. The members of the body are being confirmed in their gifts, so that many members of the local church are receiving the gifts of healings, miracles, prophecy, casting out of demons, etc. etc. Then, when these ministries are needed in the church, the members of the body who have received these gifts are called forward to minister for the particular need.

It was stated to us that there should be an apostle and prophet present for the ministry of laying on of hands. The apostle and prophet have, of course, been confirmed as such by the laying on of hands of other apostles and prophets, tracing back to the brethren of North Battleford, Alberta, where the

movement started. This statement is not imaginary, but is taken from the personal testimony and wire recordings of those who claim to have received this apostleship.

We Are Living in the Time of the Latter Rain. It has been the teaching of the Pentecostal Movement from the beginning that we are now living in the time of the Latter rain, that the Latter rain has been falling in copious showers ever since the turn of the century. The Latter Rain is necessary for the ripening of the harvest, and must precede the coming of our Lord. We believe that the coming of the Lord is close at hand (Jas. 5:7, 8) and that showers of the Latter Rain should increase in intensity. These showers of ran should be characterized by conviction of need, confession of sins, restitution, and a mighty baptism in the Holy Ghost. That the showers of Latter Rain must be confined to a particular mold is unthinkable.

If any group of believers will call a solemn fast and the people will humble themselves before God and seek His face there will without doubt be a mighty moving of the Spirit of God, and there need not be the excesses of imparting gifts and callings, including the designations of men as apostles and prophets in a new order.

There are evidences that God is answering prayer for a revival in many parts of the world. We shall continue to pray on and to believe that the showers we have been receiving will increase until there is a mighty deluge of Latter Rain power and blessing in all the earth. When the prayer of God's people is fully answered, we have a conviction that the revival will stand up under the light of the Word of God without question. Zech. 10:1.

THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

LETTER FROM GEORGE R. HAWTIN TO THE ARCHIVES OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD - Dec. 15, 1987

. . . September, 1947, three months after our dismissal, we were delighted to find that the Lord had opened a new door in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. The Second World War being ended, we found available a number of Air Force dormitories and classrooms which could be rented. Together with two brethren with whom I was associated - Herrick Holt and Percy G. Hunt - we rented the buildings. The opening of the new Bible School was announced and to our delight and surprise some sixty-three students registered for school, a good number of these being students who followed us from our previous school in Saskatoon. Consequently we had first, second and third year classes the first year.

Soon after school began, my brother Ernest joined us as a teacher, his ministry proving to be a great blessing to the school and the spirit of the classes. Our first intention was to continue here in the same manner as we had conducted our former school, but it was not long before we found the Supreme Commander, our Most High Father, had other purposes for us - purposes which were in His blessed mind before the world began. Soon we found that the familiar doctrines previously taught and the subjects studied had a strange sense of being REMOVED FROM US. as though they had become PAST TRUTH instead of PRESENT TRUTH. Classes were frequently interrupted by a powerful spirit of prayer, and I think I can say with honesty that I doubt that there was a day between the opening of the school October 10th, 1947 and February 12th, 1948, when some were not fasting, except possibly Christmas Day. Time and again, when classes were in progress, the sound of prayer would begin in one of the classrooms. As it grew in intensity, the teachers would dismiss their own

classes and all make their way to the place of prayer. There was no explanation for this except for the understanding that it was a sovereign move of the Spirit of God.

The impression must not be left that these were in any way glorious prayer meetings. They more resembled great prayer burdens and travail of spirit. As the weeks passed by, there grew an ever increasing expectancy that something great and very new was near at hand. The Spirit of God, we felt, was soon to be poured out in a new way. It is certain that in all the history of the world every great spiritual move had its beginning in fasting and prayer as people ordained of God for that purpose were found waiting upon Him for that which His mind had determined before to be done.

Thus, as the days passed by, classes became almost forgotten and the hours absorbed in prayer, fasting and repentance. Many students continued fasting for two or three weeks and one student I understand, fasted for forty days. This was a phenomenal thing since the majority of these people were young people ranging in age from about eighteen years to perhaps twenty-five. Until this time there had been no particular manifestation of anything supernatural, but only the great and burning desire to SEEK THE FACE OF THE LORD.

At last came the wonderful morning of February 12, 1948. The day began with morning devotion as usual, but when we knelt for prayer as our custom was each morning, there came an overwhelming sense that something from heaven was about to occur. My description of it would be that a great awe possessed us all. It was not the fear of being afraid, but that sort of godly fear and reverence that one would experience if suddenly he found himself in the presence of an angel - the sort of fear that would make one remove his shoes from his feet, for the place was holy ground. On this occasion several students, overcome by the Spirit, had fallen prostrate on the classroom floor, and at last one, a married lady, perhaps the oldest person in the class, began to prophesy as she lay prostrate beneath the power of God. Her words were very brief and, as I was the principal of the school, I mistakenly thought she was addressing me when she said by the Spirit, "Brother Hawtin, if you will do what the Lord is telling you to do, the Lord will reveal Himself." I did not know of anything that the Spirit had asked me to do and had forgotten for the moment that my brother Ernest was present. To my surprise and great joy he arose trembling, from where he was kneeling and began to prophesy to the kneeling students. His anointed prophecy continued for what seemed to be about fifteen minutes and, while it is not possible to remember it all, many words of instruction were given as to how our lives should be ordered before God. At this I opened my eyes to see a young man standing with his shoes off and his head bowed, listening devoutly to the word of the Lord.

After much warning and solemn exhortation the prophecy given by my brother continued in this manner - that none of us should write letters to friends or relatives to explain what the Lord was about to do, because they would not understand. . . Then in my brother's prophecy came the great truth of what was immediately in store in these words: "I will restore at this time to My church the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit and they will be restored by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. I will indicate from TIME TO TIME certain ones who are ready to receive the gifts of My Spirit." These words were immediately followed by the calling out of a name. The sister, who had first spoken, still lying prostrate, called out the name of the student who had fasted forty days. I must admit that none of us knew what to do next, but in an effort to obey the Spirit my brother called him forward and a prophecy concerning his life was given and a gift was promised to him. We then with some trepidation laid our hands on him to impart to him that which the Lord had spoken. This was done with fear and reverence and with great concern, as we had never walked this way before. .

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Day after day the outpouring continued in the school. Beautiful gifts were given and began to operate among us. The burden of prayer was replaced by a spirit of rejoicing as gifts came more and more into operation and the glory of the Lord was so evident. As the wonderful moving of the Spirit began to be noised abroad, it began to be known far and wide that God was doing a new thing among us. Every class we were permitted to hold was attended by wonderful new revelation.

As time went by, it became very evident that the true message of the hour was not simply a manifestation of spiritual gifts, but that all gifts and ministries were given by God for one purpose - that the true BODY OF CHRIST might be joined together, not in flesh, but in spirit. That the true BODY OF CHRIST is in truth PART OF GOD'S CHRIST began to be seen, and with this understanding it became increasingly clear why the Lord had begun to move in this new way. . . .

From North Battleford the message began to reach out into many communities. People from far distant places began to hear the news and came to see. In the summer of 1948 we were invited to take the message to Ribbing, MN. Later that year Brother and Sister Allcock of Edmonton invited us to take part in a convention they were holding there. This meeting turned out to be one of the most blessed we had thus far seen. Night after night the meeting place was packed to the doors with people standing in line unable to get in. The gatherings would begin at 10:00 A.M. and we would often still be in the presence of God at 4:00 in the morning. The place seemed to be flooded with the presence of the Lord. Wonderful prophecies were given. Remarkable healings and baptisms took place. Also many were enlightened by the prophecies given concerning themselves. It was the beginning of a new era. It was in Edmonton that the Lord first manifested Himself by moving upon the whole congregation in spiritual song. The songs in the Spirit and sometimes the music in the Spirit were indeed a heavenly choir.

. . . In conclusion I must say that in every great spiritual move of history there have been those who have splashed into the spiritual waters with joy, but later, when for a moment there was no water at all, in their hearts they turned back to Egypt. More than two million people sang the song of Moses and danced for joy with Miriam with timbrels and harps, who a few days later complained, "Would God we had died in Egypt." So also it was in the days of Samuel when the people demanded a king. So again it was after Pentecost when false teachers arose to bring the people back under the law. So it was in the days of John, who wrote, "Even now there are many antichrists." So it was in the days of Luther, Wesley, Finney, Moody, Price; and so, sadly, it is today also.

But the other side of the picture is also marvelously evident. There is an election according to the wisdom and grace of God who are called to see the marvelous progress of the Spirit from glory to glory. That which was begun by the Holy Spirit in 1948 will end with the MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD AT THE END OF THE PRESENT AGE. THE ADOPTION of which Paul spoke so often, is FULL MATURE SONSHIP. The great apostle told us clearly in Romans 8:23 that the whole creation is groaning in travail waiting for the ADOPTION, to wit, the redemption of the body. The redemption of the body is this corruptible putting on incorruption and this mortal in immortality and death being swallowed up in victory.

I well remember one day when I was feeling somewhat bewildered about the many false teachings that had arisen and the many who had returned to the bondage of the denominations. which once they had gladly left behind, and sorrowing over the greed and avarice manifested by so many, and false prophets that had arisen, teaching all manner of perverse things to lead away disciples after themselves, that in my momentary bewilderment I said to a friend of mine, Brother Young, "Why do you suppose the Lord started this great move in the first place?" And he with simplicity replied, "TO GET THE SONS OUT." That was one of the most confirming statements I have ever heard; and that, dear child of God is the purpose for which our Father in heaven sent us this glorious outpouring - that the TRUE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST MIGHT BE FORMED, the sons of God to be manifested at the end of the age.

The revival that began at Pentecost two thousand years ago has never ended. Century after century saints were being purified and made white by great tribulation. The elect were being gathered and light was increasing. The next great event in order is the manifestation of the sons of God, the resurrection and the long-awaited kingdom of God that will shine its gladsome rays over all the earth, till the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In vision the things which lie immediately ahead are clearer and more important than the precious events that are now passed by. No words can describe that hope of the future more forcefully than those of Paul in Romans 8:18-23 as phrased in the vivid translation of J. B. Phillips:

"In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God's purpose it has been so limited - yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God." **George R. Hawtin**

Comment:** The impact of what happened in the late 40's was far reaching. In order to understand what is being called "revival" today, there must be an understanding of the developing scenario of the past 50 years in society and in the Church. There is no point in going back to previous revivals in church history as the criteria for truth. There were many circumstances that laid the groundwork for each "awakening ". The late 40's seem like a long time ago to the present generation - just as Azusa Street in the early part of this century seemed very far removed from my generation. However, I do believe that our early leaders were very careful to use the Word of God as their plumb-line. As a result when the Latter-Rain "revival" came on the scene in the late 1940's, it was discerned in the light of Scripture. In search of the supernatural, many of the "latter-rain prophets" opened themselves up to errors that were grossly out of line with the Word of God. There was always enough "truth" to make the distortions palpable. Instead of seeking the God of the written Word, there has been a seeking after spirituality that gives the flesh satisfaction. Truth is determined by feeling. Hence we hear, "I know it was God - I felt Him" or "God spoke to me and confirmed that He was present". When someone has had an experience, everything thereafter is judged by that experience, rather than judging the experience by the standard of Scriptures. I know this will be offensive to some as this is the only way they have been taught to function as a "spirit-filled" Christian. It is heart breaking to see that as a result of this delusion, a spirit of deception has been released that has the capability of deceiving the very elect. **Jewel van der Merwe