

mentioned, you find there came a time when they were imprisoned, put to death, or crucified upside down. They needed more than just a profession of faith or a church membership card or a religious persuasion. They needed inner strength to keep them true to the Christ who had called them.

BEFORE I left the Upper Room, I asked to speak to the 120. I told them I could understand some people coming and praying. "But," I said, "surely all of you don't expect to receive at one time, do you?"

They said, "Brother Gannon, don't you remember we followed Him out as far as Bethany? We asked Him if He were going to restore the kingdom at this time, and He told us it is not for us to know the times. But He promised that we would receive power after that the Holy Ghost was come upon us.

"While we were standing there, something happened. He began just to float right through the air.

"We stood in strict silence. No one could say a word. Finally a cloud received Him out of our sight. And just as that happened, a wave of glory swept over our souls, and we began to worship Him.

"So we came back here to Jerusalem, and we've been here ever since. And we know something is going to happen because He promised us."

Wouldn't you like to have been in that meeting? It wasn't 2 or 3 or 10 or even 50 who received the Baptism. But 120 were filled at one time!

I don't know who was telling whom how to get it. Probably they weren't. You don't need much help when your soul is so hungry for God that you can't stand it; and you think if He doesn't fill you, you're going to die! You're getting on the verge of speaking in a heavenly language that very moment!

I'm not suggesting you can live like the devil and start speaking in tongues. But it doesn't take God a month to forgive you of all your sins, your shortcomings, your weaknesses, your inconsistencies. The moment your soul cries out for help, heaven stands at attention. God is ready to meet you right then. After all, He promised!

Today is Men's Day.

## Solving the world dilemma—reaching out in love

In the time it takes you to read this sentence, eight babies will be born and four people will die. Thus, the earth's population increases every year by approximately 73 million persons—about a third of the people in the U.S.

According to the Scripture, the entire world needs to hear of God's love in Christ. Men in the church are praying and working toward solving this world dilemma by reaching out to others in love.

Today is National Men's Day. The theme of Men's Ministries in 1983 is, "Men Reaching Out in Love."

Why have a Men's Day or a local men's group? What can it do to reach the masses with the good news?

The purpose of Men's Ministries is to help men love and understand others who may be hurting and needing the love of Jesus Christ. One of the objectives of the Men's Ministries Department is to assist local men's groups in organizing so they can use their gifts and talents in helping people.

Forty-seven percent of the people attending Assemblies of God churches are men. This compares to the fact that 49 percent of the total U.S. population are male.

Each person, as a follower of Christ, is called to a ministry. Matthew 28:19 requires each person to be a caring, concerned, witnessing, ministering follower of Christ to all with whom he comes in contact. I believe an organized men's group can best use men's gifts in a caring ministry.

Men's Ministries has as a second goal: to assist our ministers in helping lay members reach out in love and have a servanthood ministry. That simply means serving someone in need. Our church is called to serve the needs of people in this world in the name of Christ.

Pastor H. H. Davis of Clifton, Colorado, shared a unique way in which some of his men are involved in reaching others, through a membership class.

The Men's Department of that

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Men's Ministries Department

church helps orient prospective members to goals and opportunities of serving through the local assembly.

"I believe in utilizing all our men and their talents in as many ways as possible," Pastor Davis says. "When I came to Clifton, the Men's Department was the first department I organized. That shows how important I feel the men of my church are, and that's why I utilize their service in the membership class."

ANOTHER objective of the Men's Ministries Department is to provide motivation and training materials to prepare for this ministry of love. The department's two leadership packets, "How To Start an Assemblies of God Men's Group," and, "How To Motivate and Train Men for Ministry," give valuable helps in servanthood.

As men assume the responsibilities of loving and caring and have their skills developed so they see the rewards, they are more than anxious to be involved.

When an usher spoke to one young man and said, "Young man, God loves you, and so do I," it made such an impression that the young man came back to the service on Sunday evening and made his way to the altar. Now he serves as one of the ushers in that same church. Fortunately the first usher had been trained in being friendly and concerned.

TRAINING has been the key to the rapid growth of the Assemblies of God boys' program, Royal Rangers. Over 100,000 boys are participating in the Assemblies of God churches in this exciting program. In 1981 the Royal Rangers increased by 8½ percent.

Since there continues to be a demand for men who will give of their talents and train themselves to be Royal Rangers leaders, other goals