

Flem Van Meter Called to His Eternal Reward

Flem Van Meter, a veteran leader of the Assemblies of God, went to be with his Lord on July 7, at the age of 78.

Brother Van Meter had been in failing health for several months. He and his wife were visiting their daughter at Asheville, N. C., when he was stricken. The funeral was at Linton, Indiana. Ernest S. Williams, with whom Brother Van Meter was associated for many years in the General Council fellowship, had charge of the funeral service.

More than forty years ago Brother Van Meter became associated with Fred Vogler and J. R. Flower in the Gibeah Bible School in Plainfield, Indiana, of which D. Wesley Myland had charge. Brother Van Meter was a merchant in Jasonville, Indiana, at the time; formerly he had been a banker; but God had called him to preach the gospel and he was beginning to be active in the ministry. For a number of years he divided his time between business and preaching.

In 1926 he became an ordained minister in the Assemblies of God. A year later he was chosen to serve as District Superintendent in what was then called the Central District. He remained in that office for three years and then moved to Philadelphia, Pa. to succeed E. S. Williams as pastor of Highway Tabernacle. In 1936 he succeeded J. R. Flower as District Superintendent of the Eastern District.

After seven years of service as District Superintendent he left the Eastern District to become pastor in Akron, Ohio, in 1943. He left Akron in 1947, and the following year became pastor at Quakertown, Pa.

In 1950, at the age of 74, he was superannuated but he remained active as much as his health permitted, ministering here and there in various Assemblies. For about a year he had charge of the Pinellas Park Home for retired ministers and missionaries.

The fellowship of his ministering brethren was very precious to Brother Van Meter. In recent months, after sickness had made it impossible for him to be active in preaching, he spent a great deal of time in prayer, and he said that he brought the leaders of our Movement before the Throne of Grace every day.

As long as he was conscious he was filled with praise for the Lord. The last understandable words his wife heard from his lips were "Wonderful Lord!"

He is survived by his wife Edith, who plans to serve as Dean of Women at South-Eastern Bible Institute at Lakeland, Florida, this coming year, and by four children. His son James recently tendered his resignation as District Superintendent in the Ohio District to accept a call to Central Assembly in Springfield, Mo., where he will take up his duties next week. Another son, Fleming, is pastor in Waynesboro, Pa. One daughter,



Flem Van Meter

Rachel, is a missionary in East Pakistan. The other, Agnes, is married to Pat McLane and living in Asheville, N. C.

Brother Van Meter was blessed with a deep insight into spiritual truths. Through the years he stood at the crossroads and urged God's people to follow "the old paths, wherein is the good way." His quiet gentle manner belied the firmness of his character. His brethren demonstrated their confidence in him by electing him to serve as a non-resident Executive Presbyter for a number of years. May God give us more men of Brother Van Meter's spiritual stature.

The Importance of the Baptism

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greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

The morning for Jesus' departure finally arrived. He had a few farewell words with His disciples: "These signs shall

follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17, 18). After these words were spoken He began to defy the laws of gravitation. His feet were no longer on the earth. He was really leaving them. It was Ascension morning, one of the grandest hours in the history of mankind.

The enemy probably anticipated this moment and wished to defeat, if possible, the return of our Lord to glory. He knew full well what it would mean to his kingdom of evil if the resurrected Christ should succeed in getting back to heaven and later fulfill His word to His disciples, sending upon them "the promise of the Father." Satan knew that if the disciples, humble men that they were, should be endued with divine power, if they should be filled [stuffed, crammed, or soaked] with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18), it would mean an open declaration of war against all evil. He realized that if the Holy Spirit was to indwell them and absolutely control their lives, the worst that hell might do could not prevail against the church of God.

Nevertheless, higher and higher He rose, "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come," until at last He neared the realm of the glory world. "Having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them" (Col. 2:15). Then voices are heard just inside the eternal city, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle" (Psa. 24:7, 8).

Triumphant hero of a thousand battles, once again the adoring hosts of heaven fall at His feet and worship Him. Knowing that He had accomplished the task He gave Himself to do, He now becomes re-clothed, re-endowed, re-possessed and re-invested with all He had temporarily laid aside before choosing to take on Himself the form of a servant and be made in the likeness of men. Then He could delegate the Holy Spirit to convey to the waiting Church the authority of the risen and glorified Christ, by which they were to go forth on their mission of world-evangelization.

Now we can better understand why on different occasions during His earthly ministry Jesus referred to the coming of the Comforter on the Day of Pentecost as "the promise of the Father." Note first that it was the promise of the FATHER. This implies that the promised gift was for born-again believers only, for unregenerated men cannot scripturally claim God as their Father. The Baptism of the