

The Prophet's Column

This is a paid advertisement by J. M. Little

Fall is officially upon us now and this year the trees are especially beautiful. Fall is my favorite season on the year and I am truly enjoying this fall very much. We have been printing this message for many years and it is gracious. As each season comes and goes, we can the faithfulness and grace of God. Each season testifies of a part in the sinner's life.

Fall testifies of the withering work of the Holy Spirit in bringing a sinner to Christ. Read 1 Peter 1:24-25 and see how Peter here compares with man, in his proud and natural state, to beautiful grass which it is in full growth and very pretty. But when Fall comes, such as we are having now, the grass withers. The cool blasts of air begin to wither the summer grass because the summer grass is just for a season, and cannot help but with-

er when more powerful forces blow upon it. It is the same in the grace of God under Holy Spirit Conviction. When the Holy Spirit comes upon a sinner, that sinner is proud and boastful of what he or she is by nature because that sinner does not know what they are by nature. But, as the Holy Spirit blows upon that sinner and shows him or her their old, adamic nature and their corrupt, vile, depraved condition, that sinner begins to wither. As the gospel is preached to that sinner under Holy Spirit Conviction, he or she dies to their old life that they once glorified in. All the things you once glorified in fade away, and you die to everything you once loved. You boasted before of your profession, and never once did you magnify Christ, but now as the Holy Spirit opens your heart more and more you see

that you had profession without possession. As the Word cuts deeper into your heart, you wither as the grass withers under the cool, autumn blasts. You will weep over your lost condition because you thought you were saved, but now you see that you never were. All the glory of your church life dies. You, too, are dying. You must die to everything and everybody before you can be resurrected to new life in Christ and know Him as your Lord and Saviour. Your cry day and night is; "Oh, that I knew Him! Where can I find Christ?" You read and pray and you don't know what step may be your last. Your soul pants after Christ, as the heart pants after the water brooks (Psalm 42:1). You die to everything you ever cherished. You may think you have some goodness in you

that makes you acceptable before God, but Romans 3:10 tells us that there is no good in man. And our churches today have rejected the Holy Spirit and they have no true, spiritual light, only darkness. The world scene has grown worse since we printed this message last year, and more churches than ever are not preaching the truth, only another gospel. But the day is coming when you will wish that you had heeded God's word.

Churches take on community

Continued from 12A

prostitutes and crack dealers often gather in a vacant lot to flag down customers.

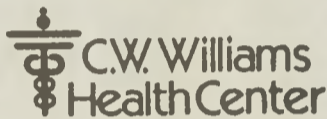
"It's a love crusade," said group founder Rev. Benjamin Cone. "We don't go there to condemn them; they're already condemned. We go there to love them."

Cone said the concept has worked in some cases because some of the spiritually lost who had been sought by the ministry were found.

"If you love people, they'll straighten up, they'll clean up. Love is the answer, and what's wrong is we don't love," Cone said.

The message was delivered without the aid of amplifiers. But the a cappella tones carried swiftly across the vacant lots that drug dealers and prostitutes gave up while the spotlight was on redemption, Cone said.

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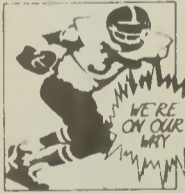
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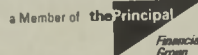


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