



BISHOP SHELTON WELCOMED — His Eminence, Bishop S. McDowell Shelton (right), was welcomed to The Bahamas by Mr. Simon Bowe, the Minister of Works in the Bahamian government, last week. (See Story.)

## Warm Welcome Is Given To Bishop S. McDowell Shelton In Bahamas

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — The Bahamian government and thousands of people in Nassau gave an enthusiastic reception to His Eminence, Bishop S. McDowell Shelton, the head of the Apostolic Church.

Bishop Shelton, revisited his local congregation in Nassau, and officiated at several local church services. People from Nassau and adjacent islands crowded the Apostolic Church in the Lily in the Valley Corner to see and hear the Bishop, the spiritual leader of the five million Apostolic people in this hemisphere, Africa, Europe, and India.

A native of Philadelphia, Bishop Shelton was reared in the Apostolic Faith and has been responsible for his Church's expansion throughout the United States and overseas. In addition, Bishop Shelton preaches to a global congregation by means of his radio program, "The Whole Truth", broadcast on a U.S. network and scores of radio stations overseas, including transmitters in Europe, Near East and India.

The Bishop's visit to the Bahamas was culminated by a reception given in his honor and attended by several dignitaries. The Honorable Simon Bowe, the Minister of Works in the Bahamian government, addressed the Bishop on behalf of

Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling, who had just returned from London. Mr. Bowe spoke with enthusiasm about the forthcoming independence of The Bahamas. In July, 1973, the Bahamas will gain full freedom and become a new nation. This is the source of great pride to the people inhabiting an archipelago of many islands, called Bahamas.

There are altogether nearly 200,000 Bahamians, mostly black and supporting enthusiastically their Government under Mr. Pindling, the champion of Bahamas fight for independence. Pindling was decorated in 1970 by Bishop Shelton and received the church's highest decoration, "The International Apostolic Humanitarian Award."

Mr. Bowe, speaking on behalf of his government, invited Bishop Shelton to the Independence Proclamation in July, 1973. In his reply, His Eminence, Bishop S. McDowell Shelton, stressed his admiration for the Bahamians and added that the new nation must be founded on faith in God and based on Christian principles. Bishop Shelton added that he is expanding the Apostolic congregations in Nassau and sparing no effort to provide for the local populace a spiritual, Apostolic guidance.

# An investment in Your Future ATTEND CHURCH

Ask any boy and he will tell you...  
**IT'S A WONDERFUL FEELING**

When winter is past and most of the spring rains have come and gone, what a joy it is for a boy to go barefoot and feel the warm moist earth oozing up between his toes and the hot sun on his back... It's a wonderful feeling — remember?

If it has been some time since you were in the warm company of like-minded Christians and basked in the warmth and love of God's glory and grace as manifested in His Church, attend this coming Sunday. It's a wonderful feeling to sense that you are in tune with God, your fellow man, and the universe.

*"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord."*  
Psalm 122:1.



**EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH  
THE CHURCH IN EVERYONE**

The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about man's life, death and destiny; the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.

**TWO MINUTES**  
WITH THE BIBLE  
BY CORNELIUS R. STAM, PRES.  
BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60633

### ALWAYS ABOUNDING

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,asmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

We should note carefully that the Apostle Paul here addresses only brethren in Christ, those who have truly been born again — born to the family of God.

Furthermore, he sent this appeal to Christians everywhere — to "all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:2). He knew that there is a tendency among all believers to be tempted to abandon the work of the Lord through discouragement or carelessness, so he pleads with us to be "steadfast" and "unmovable," reminding us that our labor "is not in vain in the Lord."

How we need this exhortation! We do not soon abandon our businesses or homes, we toil on in spite of difficulties and obstacles, and even when the outlook is darkest we

work the hardest. Sometimes our bodies suffer for it, but we do not immediately give up.

And how much more urgent is the work of the Lord! Souls are perishing all about us for whom Christ died. It is our plain duty to pray for them and tell them of His love. It is our responsibility to toil and sacrifice that they may hear and believe the good news. What shall we say when some day we stand before our Savior if we have been satisfied merely to know Him ourselves? And what will He say?

Let us then be up and going, "always abounding in the work of the Lord." Life is too short to fritter away the precious moments God has given us to proclaim His saving grace. Let us tell them, then, by lip and by life, by our testimony and by our behavior, that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" and that "we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7).

### MEDITATION

BY COLIN DOUGLAS  
"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

Sometimes many of us try so hard to impress others with our worth and goodness that we are afraid to be our real selves and to expose our real thoughts and feelings for fear they would be found unworthy. Sometimes we even approach God in prayer with this attitude. We think to cover up our real thoughts and longings and desires by prayers of the lips and not of the heart. And, when we do this, we cannot possibly feel close to either God or man.

We need never fear to face life honestly. We need never fear to face God honestly in prayer and thought. The self of us that we try to keep in the background to submerge under self-deception and pretense, is more worthy and wonderful than we realize. When we approach God in prayer with simple trust, with as complete honesty and sincerity as possible, we can find release and peace, and light begins to shine in even the darkest corners of our minds and hearts.

Our honest prayer for understanding is heard. It never goes unanswered. Sometimes the answers to our prayers come to us in such "natural" ways that we fail to recognize them as responses to our prayers. But they ARE. They may come in the form of a cheerful smile from our neighbor, uplifting words from a friend, a new appreciation of the beauty of nature, a book "accidentally" picked up, read and found to contain a message of merit. All these can truly be the answers to the prayers we have uttered, for God does "work in mysterious ways His wonders to perform." Honest prayer opens our minds, hearts, and eyes to His blessings all about us.

"Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace." Job 22:21.

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### Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



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