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Where Is The Church Of Christ?

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WHERE IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

I. Perhaps it would be an over simplification to say "Where Jesus put it!"
A. And put it He did -- in 3 spots:
   1. On the earth.
   2. Within you.
   3. Spreading to the 4 corners of the earth.

II. The church of the Lord had a birthday on earth.
A. As definite as is the way of God, so also positive is the time of its beginning.
B. It was prophetically told.
   Dan. 2:44 "And in the days of these kings
   1. These kings were Roman kings.
   Micah 4:1-5 "But in the last days it shall come
   Isaiah 2:2-5 "And it shall come to pass in
   1. 3 distinct things.
      a. Last days -- time.
      b. All nations -- can come.
      c. Word from Jeremiah -- point of origin.
   C. In the kings time.
      1. John the Baptist preached.
         a. At hand.
            Matt. 3:1-2 "In those days came John the
         b. In wilderness.
         c. Never in Jerusalem.
      2. Jesus was here.
         Matt. 4:12 "He departed unto Galilee.
         Matt. 4:13 "He came and dwelt in Capernaum.
         Matt. 4:17 "From that time Jesus began
a. At hand.
b. Didn't start at Jer.
3. Called 12 apostles.
a. All Galileans except Judas.
   Matt. 10:1 "Called unto him his 12 disciples;"
   Matt. 10:5 "These 12 Jesus sent forth"
   Matt. 10:5-6 "Go not to Gentiles but rather"
b. Said it was at hand.
c. Thus didn't start here.
a. Started from Galilee.
b. Record never shows Jer. preaching
   neither for apostles.
c. None of them mention "last days" thus
   church not set up.
5. Jesus died and was buried.
   Mk. 15:43 "Joseph of Ar. an hon. con.
   a. But he arose! Earlier promised.
   Mk. 9:1 "Verily I say unto you
   Lu. 24:46-47 "Thus it is written
   (1) All nations.
   (2) Jerusalem.
6. Pentecost—about 1 week later.
a. Jerusalem.
c. Peter "last days" "Spirit" "All flesh".
d. Baptized—3,000 added.
   (2) Never after said "at hand."
   Col. 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from
   I Thess. 2:12 "Who hath called you unto
D. I trust you can believe the church was set up.

III. The fullness of the kingdom is spiritual.

Luke 17:20-21 "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation; for behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

A. Note ownership.
   1. It's God's.

B. Not with observation.
   1. We are not to judge spiritual matters by outward signs.
      a. To be sure it would be public.
      b. It would progress.
   2. But it doesn't come by careful watching.

C. It is within you.
   1. Greek word en tos' = inside.
   2. Greek preposition that is against the fact the kingdom has come.
      a. Shows what's within as it contrasts with that which is without.
   3. It is the spiritual realm of man -- that area where the new birth occurs.
   4. It is internal and spiritual in character though it does have an external side.
   5. It is set up in the heart by Divine grace.
   6. R.V. says "in your midst" -- Christ walked there and in him the Pharasees saw what God wanted us to be like.

IV. It is spreading to the 4 corners of the earth.

A. Growth in America
   B. Plans.
1. Manhattan building.
2. World's Fair.
5. Herald of Truth in Europe.
7. Viet Nam, Formosa and other nations hearing.
8. Nigeria 2nd to U.S.A.

West End - 1/12/64

Tom Haynes - Ident.
Siz Scales - Bapt.
Walt Scales - Bapt.
Marcus Myatt - Bapt.
Steven Wells - Bapt.
Johnny B. Hayes - Bapt.
The Vanderlong of the Church has an average attendance of 65, total. Average contribution at the last five months of 90.00 per week. The meal twice on Sunday morning, evening, and once on Wednesday evening. We have family classes for all age groups.

In the Vanderlong community, we have 550 people. We have 3 denominational groups: Church of Christ, Vine Church, and the L Church.
There is an average of 300 regular attenders. There are 95 church members in the community, with their children would make the group that the church should claim 20.

With a church like this in an area like this, we would like to have a review of our opportunities. The things we can do to convert our people. The things we can do in the mission field.
Ruth Barker Knew when visiting at Corpus Christi told me this story about Lee George of Lubbock, Texas. It was her way of evangelizing.

She would scan the papers thoroughly to see if there had been a death in the community. Immediately on discovering there had been such she would bake a pie, go to the home that had suffered their loss and say "I am Lee George, I read in the paper about your sorrow, I knew there would be company coming, here is a pie to help you in part of the food responsibilities that will be yours."

She would go home and then pray earnestly that through this means God would open the door whereby she might have a chance to do some teaching in this family. Periodically she would go to the hospitals and study
the list for out of town patients. She would visit those who were from out of the city, and say to the family who was with them "I know you are inconvenienced in having to be away from home. I live a few blocks from this hospital--I'd like to have you use my home as your home while you are here." There were many who accepted her invitation of courtesy, going home with her. On her dining room wall she had three large posters of the patriarchal, Mosiacal, and Christian dispensation. People would see that and then say "What in the world is all of that?" This would open the door, and she would teach them the divisions of this scripture, and do her best to convert her friends.

Her milkman was a very personable gentleman, and one day she startled him completely by saying "Say, have
you ever thought of becoming a preacher?" He was completely startled and said "Of course I haven't--I am no preacher, and what in the world would I say if I was one?"

She answered "I think you would make a good one, here are some things you could say." This man was not even a Christian. In helping him work up a sermon she taught him the way of Christ more perfectly, he became a Christian, and today this milkman is a preacher of the gospel.

One time her sister-in-law moved to Lubbock. The sister-in-law said "I don't want Lee George choking the church of Christ down me." Lee prayed very earnestly that God would open doors whereby she might teach. One day the elders of her home congregation asked her to
teach the ladies Bible class--Lee had no college education, she found teaching and speaking a thing of great difficulty. She went to her sister-in-law who was better educated and said "You've got to help me--please let me practice on you." This she did, and in the course of the practicing when the sister-in-law would correct her "them" to a "they" after four or five sessions her sister-in-law came one night and said "I want to be baptized."