

THE WORD AND WORK

A Monthly Magazine Set To Declare the Whole Counsel of God

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ROBERT H. BOLL, 1875-1956

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VOLUME L, MAY, 1956

J. R. CLARK, PUBLISHER

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"NO, NEVER ALONE"

Copied from an old scrap-book. The author is unknown. See Proverbs 14:10; Heb. 13:5; and may its truth lie sweetly on our bosoms, like sunshine on a summer sea. —J.

There is a mystery in human hearts;
And though we be encircled by a host
Of those who love us well and are beloved,
To every one of us from time to time
There comes a sense of utter loneliness:
Our dearest friend is stranger to our joy,
And cannot realize our bitterness.
"There is not one who really understands,
Not one to enter into all I feel"—
Such is the cry of each of us in turn;
We wander in "a solitary way".

And would you know the reason why this is?
It is because the Lord desires our love:
In every heart He wishes to be first.
He therefore keeps the secret key Himself
To open all its chambers and to bless
With perfect sympathy and holy peace
Each soul which comes to Him.
So when we feel this loneliness, it is
The voice of Jesus saying, "Come to me";
And every time we will not understand
It is a call to come to Him again.
For Christ alone can satisfy the soul;
And those who walk with Him from day to day
Can never have "a solitary way".

And when beneath some heavy cross you faint
And say, "I cannot bear this cross alone",
You say the truth: Christ made it purposely
So heavy that you must return to Him.
The bitter grief that no one "understands"
Conveys a secret message from the King

Entreating you to come to Him again.
The Man of Sorrows understands it well—
In all points He can feel with you,
You cannot come too often or too near.
The Son of God is infinite in grace,
His presence satisfies the longing soul;
And those who walk with Him from day to day
Can never have "a solitary way".

THE UNKNOWN FUTURE

E. L. J.

All is in the Master's hands. He is still at the helm. The work is His, the church is His, and we are His. It seems good, therefore, that we announce at once our purposes for *The Word and Work*, our expectations and our plans—as God may guide.

By means of a survivorship clause in the simple document on which the Word and Work has operated through the years as a three-man partnership, the magazine, with all that pertains to it, falls legally and automatically into the hands of the two surviving partners, Clark and Jorgenson—yet not for personal use or gain, nor yet for sectarian or party management, but as a sacred trust for the gospel's sake. For 15 years (following this writer's tenure of 25 years) Brother Clark has been the sacrificing, self-effacing, and highly satisfactory publisher and co-editor. Looking to God for health and strength, and for the needed clerical and financial support, he will continue to bear this responsibility. So then, we have still the publisher and manager, we have still our able contributors, and we have at least "acting editors". Only the honored place of editor-in-chief lies vacant—like the great teaching pulpit of the Portland Avenue church—until the Lord, whose we are and whom we serve, makes clearer still His providential will. Pray earnestly for us, for Satan has long sought to kill this "whole-counsel" journal.

The question that troubled Christ's disciples, "Who then is greatest?", disturbs us—not at all. We that are left are all just "little people." The Lord will raise up men of His own choice, whether great or small, whether now or later, to do all His will. And we know well that "a man can receive nothing except it have been given him from heaven". There may be even now among our readers that young man (or woman) on whom the role of publisher will fall before too long, or even that of editor-in-chief; for we shall soon provide to "pass it on" as the Lord may lead.

Brother R. H. Boll is dead—as men count death. Full of years, and yet not old; humble and childlike, but never childish; simple and unassuming, yet powerful in the Scriptures and mighty in Word and deed; so he went out from us in full possession of his mental and spiritual faculties. This was "our dear Brother Boll", as many called him, who crossed so quickly to that other, better side at the twilight hour of Friday, April 13th. He was four-score years and two—almost. (See full biography in this issue.)

I was with the church in New Orleans (where the *Word and Work* was born so long ago) when the sad word reached us. After the first sharp hurt, we realized that it was better so. God not only *knows* beforehand what is best; He *does* what is best. He is too wise to make mistakes, too good to wish us any harm, and too strong to suffer any evil to befall his praying children. Was it not a mercy that Brother Boll was not left to decline in mental acumen and spiritual power? For we have a way of discounting noted men who live into their "second childhood", yea, even their writings retroactively. Not so with Brother Boll; there was no dotage. There was no lingering illness or gradual decay; just one swift thrust of the Reaper's sickle—and that, in the measured will of God almighty. For "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints".

When we gathered in New Orleans on that Lord's Day morning following, the sad word was given out, as in many other churches. Softly the congregation fell to weeping, for they loved him much. We told them of our long-laid plans to reproduce in such event the choicest of our brother's writings, and I quoted what he had said to me four months before: "The *Word and Work* must go on"—meaning after his demise. And then we asked the sorrowing church that tears and sobs be turned to "clubs and subs" (publication parlance) to sustain the magazine in his memory, and to help us make it more and more an arm extended in the direction of his highest aims. It goes without saying that the response that day was ready and magnificent. We look for such response from all who knew and loved him.

The *Word and Work* was a good and going journal, under Brother Chambers (still with us, and as good and wise a man as ever held the helm) when we bought and moved it to our city, now forty years ago. Though it was the facile, dedicated pen of R. H. Boll that made it what it is today, it was nevertheless sustained of God before his editorial regime, and we have confidence through your prayers, that God will yet sustain it after him. In fifty years a useful journal acquires a character and becomes a kind of "institution". On every hand our friends are saying, "We need the magazine"; "We need the able articles from our living pulpit"; "We need the monthly News Exchange"; "we need—our younger group especially will need—the precious reprints from our brother's pen". Of these latter, we shall incline heavily to his *devotional* paragraphs; for in this field he was, and long had been, the acknowledged giant of our day. He had no peer.

Some may well ask, "could not these writings be given us in a book?" They could, of course. And if there be some one equal to the prodigious task of collecting, culling, classifying, and indexing the rich fifty-year effusions from this prolific pen, I know of nothing to hinder; Brother Boll's works were never copyrighted. But we have judged it better to mix these writings through the months with current articles from our living writers, giving more space than before (for we have it now) to fresh contributions from our younger men. Most of all, henceforth, the magazine is *for them*. Too soon, if Jesus waits to come, our able, older men will leave to them the burning torch of *free* and *spiritual* New Testament religion; the

gospel of God's grace; the building of God's church — no man's party and no man's sect; but the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. Let us bind ourselves anew together, to reproduce original Christianity yet more perfectly in our day—in its fuller faith, its gracious gospel, its blessed hope, its gentle spirit, and its beautiful life and fruit. And who is sufficient for these things?

Brother Boll is dead, as men know death; and yet he is not dead — as God views death. For it is written, "He that doeth the will of God abideth for ever". He lives—with Him who is Himself the Life, where none can ever die, and nothing can ever grow old. He lives, moreover, in the hearts of thousands who owe him, under God, their spiritual peace and power; yea, and many of them their souls' salvation also. He lives in scores of living ministers and missionaries who came under his influence. And he shall live on, and speak to us as long as time shall last, in his immortal writings.

And now, let this brief epitaph be mine:

He was — but words are wanting to say what a true friend, a real brother, and a faithful minister of Christ should be — and he was that!

"I WILL GLADLY TEACH"

J. R. Clark

Brother R. H. Boll was an outstanding Bible teacher. He taught from the home pulpit, in the class room, in evangelistic campaigns, in the homes, or wherever he was. He was never happier than when teaching God's word. "I will gladly teach" could well have been his motto. His teaching reached the farthest, and over the widest area, through the *Word and Work Magazine*. He spoke of the *Word and Work* as an arm reaching out when many other mediums of teaching were closed. He said that we must not let this journal die. A few months before his departure he told Brother Jorgenson that in the event of his death the *Word and Work* must be continued. This was his wish regarding this harbinger of truth.

Brother J. E. Thornberry, in his little message at the funeral service, read John 11:26: "Whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die"; and he observed that God's children never die. There is a real sense in which our departed loved one still lives. Is it not then fitting that this organ of teaching should also continue to live? While the *Word and Work* was preeminently Brother Boll's paper and he gave character to it, yet others assisted in its writings and publication. For years, the publisher gathered articles, edited them where needed, arranged them in the magazine, prepared the news and advertisements, and assumed full responsibility for delivering the *Word and Work* to subscribers.

Our greatest loss is that we are now denied fresh writings from the gifted pen of our beloved editor. But it is not as though we would not be blessed at all by his pen. We have hours of his Bible-class teaching on tape, which can be taken off and edited for publication. We can even print choice portions from his pen from old

Gospel Advocates, and *Word and Works*, printed before many of our readers were born. He may also have left some unpublished manuscripts in his home.

Brother Boll has departed, but the things he taught continue with us. We could not now, even if we wished, stamp out the teaching of Brother Boll; for first, we would need to destroy all the Bibles in the world, for the Bible was his textbook; next we would need to recall all his students, for scores of them throughout the whole world are teaching the truths he taught as they are found in the Word of God.

No one could take the place of J. W. McGarvey when he passed away. Neither need Brother Boll's mantle fall upon any one individual. He had his work to do and his place to fill and we have ours. If this mantle must fall, perhaps it could fall on the whole number of disciples who are content to be—as he taught—"just Christians" in the true sense, where he left off.

It is our thought to invite a dozen or more good, spirit-filled men to unite in bringing out the *Word and Work*, fresh each month—for the glory of God, the edification of the church, and the salvation of sinners. Keep your subscriptions coming in. Let us keep the *Word and Work* going as a monument to our beloved teacher.

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

J. R. C.

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks eternal bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

The whole congregation joined in this song of triumph as Brother R. H. Boll lay in state in front of the pulpit that he had occupied so long. As would be expected, every available seat and all standing room in the large auditorium was taken. The singing was under the leadership of James Frazee, the regular song director of the Portland church.

The three elders of the church then had a part in the service. Brother Victor McKinley read Psalm 19 and parts of 1st Corinthians 15; George Albus read from Psalm 86 and led the congregation in prayer; then Carl Vogt Wilson spoke on behalf of the Portland Avenue Church. His message was as follows:

Many of you, who were here for Brother Boll's fiftieth anniversary celebration, will recall that Brother Boll requested that the keynote be Psalm 115:1:—"Not unto us, Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake." In witness of this same rare trait of humility, I read a note he addressed to the business meeting of the brethren when he learned that plans were under way to commemorate his fiftieth anniversary. (This note had reached the elders too late, as arrangements had already been completed for the anniversary service.)

The last sermon Brother Boll preached, on Sunday night a week ago, was on the subject, "Paradoxes in the Life of Christ." He showed us, among other things, that our Lord Jesus was at one and the same time the *saddest* and the *gladdest* of men. The saddest, because on Him God laid the sin of the entire world; and, said He, "Ye will not come to me that ye may have life." At the same time, Jesus was the gladdest, the happiest of men, because He did, only and always, the Father's will perfectly. "Thy will, not mine be done," He said.

So, in the same way, we may say our gathering today is the saddest, yet, praise His name, the gladdest. We sorrow for his loved ones left behind without his love and tender care; we sorrow for ourselves, bereft so suddenly of our humble shepherd and faithful teacher. And yet he himself has taught us not to sorrow as those without hope. Even through tear-filled eyes we look up to our Heavenly Father and say: "Thou doest all things well."

Therefore the keynote of our gathering today is one of joy, of triumph, of praise. "All glory and praise to the God of all grace, who has bought us and sought us and guided our ways."

"We praise Thee, Oh, God, for the Son of thy love, for Jesus who died and is now gone above"—"Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift."

"We praise Thee, Oh God, for thy Spirit of light, who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night"—Thy Holy Spirit, entempled in each believer as an earnest of His love.

And now, Father, we praise Thee for our Brother Boll, who labored amongst us so long, so faithfully, so humbly, with his heart so burdened for the lost. We thank Thee, all-wise Father, that Thou didst give him to us in the first place, that Thou didst leave him with us for so long, and that Thou didst call him to be with Thee, at just the right time!

After over sixty years in God's service, our Brother Boll was understandably tired and weary. So God, "who giveth His beloved sleep," gave His servant the longed-for rest and the unspeakable bliss of being for ever in the presence of the Master whom he had served so well!

It is written (Rev. 14:13), "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

—End of Brother Wilson's message.

Brother Wilson then introduced four men who had known Brother Boll for many, many years, each of whom read a passage of Scripture and spoke briefly. These men were, J. E. Thornberry, H. L. Olmstead, John T. Glenn, and H. N. Rutherford. Brother Rutherford sang a solo in his characteristic, unassuming way. J. R. Clark and Stanford Chambers conducted brief services at the grave in Cave Hill Cemetery.

A telegram from E. L. Jorgenson from New Orleans, was read by Brother Wilson. It read as follows: "We are due home by Friday, but our final meetings here are advertised and important and cannot

well be cancelled. Our precious friend would wish it thus. He will live on: he will speak on to us, and we will have him and love him for ever.

"Tell the church to keep looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. For yet a little while and He that cometh shall come and shall not tarry. Our love to all who loved him."

—Jorgy and Irene.

Forty-two ministers of the gospel were counted at the funeral service—perhaps there were more. God buries His workmen but His work goes on!

SIXTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

I have written almost nothing for publication, but I want to bear a word of testimony to R. H. Boll. I knew him intimately for nearly sixty years. I never knew a man who loved the Word of God more or who studied it more faithfully. It is only natural therefore that he was a man of great faith and deep conviction. He was also a matchless Bible teacher. — John T. Glenn.

AUSTIN, TEXAS: You and all the brethren at Louisville and elsewhere have my sympathy in the loss of Brother Boll. He was one of the Lord's truly great men. I presume that the Word and Work will continue its monthly visits but his masterful writings will be sadly missed—J. D. Phillips.

The paragraph on page 120 under Brother Boll's initials was handed in by him and in type before his death. We think it fits nicely in this issue.

THERE REMAINETH A MONUMENT

Stanford Chambers

I speak of the Portland Avenue Church. It stands as a living monument witnessing to the labors and faithfulness of Robert H. Boll, fruitful through his enlisting the co-operation of faithful men and women of the past and present generations. This monument stands not at his grave but at the center of his wide field of labor. It stands to give "honor to whom honor is due," to the glory and praise of Him who bestowed this leader and teacher as an invaluable, and precious gift to the Portland Avenue church. This congregation is also blessed with consecrated leaders who have no idea of allowing this monument ever to become like the leaning tower of Pisa.

Now, R. H. Boll was not conscious of building a monument. The church (to illustrate) could have had a more pretentious building had he been serving himself. He loved simplicity and plainness, as did others in the fellowship, and so anything that might smack of the love of display got very little encouragement. He was over-cautious perhaps, lest there be a catering to the flesh even in seemingly necessary moves brought up for consideration. His humility was real as all who knew him will testify, not assumed, as some who really knew him not have been known to charge. He was not faultless as those who loved him most will admit; yet neither was he incapable of praying for his opposers, as some coming upon him unawares when he was on his knees (as well as hearing him in prayer circles) well know. Portland Avenue is far from being a perfect

church, but as to purpose of heart it is perhaps as nearly one hundred per cent as can be found.

The Portland Avenue church is a body of parts. It is not just head and trunk; it has arms, hands and feet. It is not composed of a wealthy membership, but is made up of common people and many poor, who, however, are compelled to feel welcomed, and who are purposely cared for. The congregation has been at peace and has enjoyed the unity of the Spirit this whole half century; likewise the liberty ever to be enjoyed "where the Spirit of the Lord is." This speaks.

Having feet unparalyzed, this church has gone far beyond its geographical boundaries, even to lands beyond the seas. Long before some churches, recently awakened from inactivity regarding the scope of the Great Commission, began some efforts toward fulfilment thereof, Portland was already supporting the gospel in foreign lands. It is still doing so, and has increased, so that regions of Japan, South Africa, the Philippine Islands and Palestine have in divers places felt the impact of the gospel. Several thousands in dollars (of more than \$35,000 in receipts for 1955) were invested in sowing the seeds of the kingdom in those lands the past year.

But "the heathen at home" have been given attention on a vaster scale at a greater outlay, not only measured by dollars, but also at the sacrifice of good workers for the sake of erecting lighthouses in other fields adjacent and also in distant states. A "large membership", that the church might boast of numbers, has not been the ambition. Such prestige has not been sought. So "Portland members" are to be found at "mission points" and in congregations that have come out of the mission stage. Portland has felt the loss of scores of good and useful members thus, but has suffered its losses from such cause without resentment.

Within its own "precincts" there has ever been maintained (and occupied) a pulpit from which the word of the Lord has run and has been glorified, from which the whole counsel of God has been declared as far (we may suppose) as is humanly possible, and from which every syllable of the New Testament has been heard. Through personal workers (both men and women), and through the press and radio, the word has gone beyond four walls. Neither freedom of speech nor freedom of the press has been disregarded. The advantages of the class method of teaching have not been denied those electing to come for the same, whether on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, mid-week, day or night. The church has so carried on for years past, teaching thus in observance of the charge issued in the Great Commission. This is done through those qualified, training for which the church has long afforded. This work the church has never delegated to any separate institution, but the church has not been so unwise as not to organize its work. It has exercised its right to conduct class work or group work for the sake of giving some necessary training to those willing in one capacity or another to serve. So there have been "Singing Schools," "Special Prayer Meetings," "Personal Workers' Classes," "Training for teachers," and such like. Results have abundantly justified the outlay.

Painfully observing some years ago that sin and Satan were taking an alarming toll of the youth of the community, "not sparing the flock," after much praying and agonizing, a day school was started by the church, which step has never been regretted these thirty-two years, and this work continues with unabating interest and concern. The church through its elders conducts this activity just as it does the afore-mentioned activities, employing consecrated Christian teachers qualified for the grades from primary to Senior high school. For a number of years a Christian Training School was carried on, chiefly in night sessions, for the benefit of adults desirous of fitting themselves for better service in the Lord's cause. This work was merged into the Junior College into which eventually the educational program sponsored originally by this church, expanded itself. This development came in 1948.

But other congregations (not a few) had their youth problems and they wished to enjoy the blessings of the benefits and advantages as were known to be afforded, and they wished, of course, to share in the support of the same. They were invited to appoint qualified men of their own to co-operate in the conduct of the work, with the result that interested congregations now have their appointees acting concertedly as a board of directors of the Kentucky Bible College, now domiciled in adequate buildings at Winchester, Ky. This work, like other activities mentioned above, is not a separate institution supplanting the church by doing the work the church should do. It is the church, by these several activities, at work on its own job, in execution of the Great Commission, and in obedience to His command. By these methods the church, and individual servants of the Lord, teachers of His word, endeavor to "commit to faithful men", the Word, "that they may be able to teach others also." Through its own arms, hands and feet the church has projected itself into ministries commanded of her Lord.

These things have I written, not that the Portland Avenue church might boast of its achievements, for Portland is far from being satisfied with herself, taken from any angle whatsoever. Neither is this being written to be making a shrine of what I'm pleased to speak of as a monument to the beloved brother who has gone to be with the Lord. His works do follow, the monument stands, rather should we say, lives on, and by the grace of God will live on. But I believe this word picture of this one church may afford vision to others, and that herein is illustrated the possibilities of a congregation wishing to be more than just the trunk of a body; also the practicability of congregations co-operating in carrying out the educational program commanded by our Lord, even as they co-operated in Paul's day. This is not written to set forth Portland as a copy, but as a stimulus. And Brother Boll would have us follow him only as he followed Christ. He would have nothing received as truth merely upon his dictum. This writer would admonish on the other hand, nothing in God's word be shied away from because R. H. Boll taught it. A tree is known by its fruits. A fisherman by the quantity of his string of fish. A workman by his product. The critic—what has he produced? Friends of Jesus, carry on for HIM, so "that in all things HE may have the pre-eminence." Amen.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

From E. L. J. in TRUTH AND GRACE, 1917

(Revised in 1956)

Robert Henry Boll was born June 7, 1875. The birth-place was Badenweiler, a small but far-famed watering place in the heart of the Black Forest, Southern Germany. His mother, whose maiden name was Magdalena Ulman, was born in Altbreisach on the Rhine, and his father, Max Boll, in Schliengen. Both parents were ardent Catholics. In the Cathedral at Freiberg there stands the marble statue of one Bernard Boll, first Archbishop of Freiberg, an illustrious kinsman on the father's side. As for the mother, it was her wish that Robert should be a priest, a wish in which he himself shared enthusiastically. But in God's good providence he was hindered even from beginning that career.

The father seemed to have had no such influence over the son as the mother exerted; and that partly because he died before Robert was ten years old, while his mother lived and kept in touch with him in one way and another until her death when he was twenty-two. The mother (who never came to this country) was described to me by German friends who knew her as a beautiful woman of most expressive face, strong intellect, and high ideals. The son remembered her with love and longing, and spoke of her in tenderest terms. The father, say these friends, was of rather a roving disposition. He removed the family to Basel in Switzerland when Robert was three years old; and after a short residence there, to Karlsruhe in Germany. Thence, following a hard experience, the bitter memory of which lingered to the end, the father brought the family to Muhlhausen and from that place to Freiberg, a beautiful city not many miles from the River Rhine.

Here Robert went to school. Here the younger of his two sisters died, and in the the same year his father also. At eleven he entered the Lyceum or Latin School. Though a lover of books and precocious also, the German school system seemed to him needlessly severe. But perhaps that hard training accounts in part for the strong student habits which characterized him to the last, and for more than the average power of concentration throughout long periods of study. But if it was good in the end, it was not pleasant; and often relief was found in communion with nature in long walks through the German woods, and in the companionship of a mother who was to the son, adorable.

When Robert was fourteen, the mother married again; and it turned out, as it so often does, that the step-father cared not for the child at all, nor the child for him. This incongeniality and the loosening of the bond between him and his mother that naturally came with it, paved the way for Robert's departure to America. With an aunt by marriage (Mrs. Ulman), and other friends who were sailing September, 1890, he came to this country and stopped for a brief period with them in Zanesville, Ohio. It may be of some interest to say that this (original) was written in Zanesville, where the writer had been at great pains to trace things accurately and

gather much information, in addition to that furnished by Brother Boll himself.

In Zanesville, Robert worked for a time and found it tough enough for a school boy utterly unused to it, and of a frame somewhat slight besides. As a musician, an artist, or a story writer, had he given himself to one of these pursuits, he might have "made good" and made his head save his heel; but at manual labor he has never been a great success having no turn for it—though not a whit worse at that or at anything else than he made himself out to be. For several years after this he was a farm laborer—in Tennessee, where he went after leaving Ohio. It was in that state that he obeyed the gospel. Brother Sam Harris took his public acknowledgment of Jesus Christ as Lord and it was in Columbus Brittain's pond (near Nashville) that he was baptized on Sunday, April 14, 1895. The manner of his gradual relinquishment of Romanism which led to this step, and his turning toward original Christianity is of great interest, but cannot be fully related here.

In the fall of that same year, 1895, he entered Nashville Bible School where J. A. Harding was still president. By reason of Brother Harding's mighty faith in God he was taken to "work his way"—although all such chances were in fact filled before he applied. Robert had walked twenty miles through the rain to present himself at the school; and in God's good leading it was this comparatively little thing which touched the big Harding heart, and led to his admission. Brother Boll considered himself greatly indebted to J. A. Harding and felt the greatest appreciation also of his teaching. He paid back what money was spent upon him; but the debt of love that was due could never be repaid.

His first sermon was preached in a mission meeting at the Nashville jail; and the first protracted meeting was at a schoolhouse named "Accident," not far from Nashville. The following account of that first meeting, written some time ago by Brother Boll himself will interest the reader:

"It was through the enthusiasm of my friend Bob McMahon (who in the meanwhile had also entered the Bible School), that I was inveigled into holding my first protracted meeting—which meeting well-nigh played out in the middle of it. Bob had made arrangements for the affair without having half consulted me about it. He just 'knew' I could 'hold a meeting'. It was to be at 'Accident', a little log school house that sat as if blown there by some favorable accident on the hillside by the big road, near Bob's home. And it was too small a thing in Bob's eyes to start in for a week's meeting—two weeks seemed too common even; we must arrange for a three weeks' campaign at least. So he pulled; and I, however reluctantly and diffidently, tumbled into assent with his ambitious plans. The date was June 15, 1896.

"So after the school had closed I stayed around some days. A few days before that 'appointment' was due (I shook in my shoes at the thought of that) there was a prayer meeting at the Bible School chapel; and it happened that there were present a number of notable men of God: David Lipscomb, E. G. Sewell, T. W. Brents, J. A. Harding, J. W. Grant and J. W. Shepherd. The assembly was small

and I do not remember how it came about, but I made a talk in the imposing presence of those brethren. As we went out Brother Shepherd slapped me on the back and said to me, 'Go right ahead; you will come out all right'—which was but a kind word dropped by the way, but it helped me so greatly that I never forgot it.

"The big meeting started off fairly well, but after the first flush of curiosity had passed the audience dwindled to a few, and then fewer; and these looked bored; yawned, smiled, and a few young couples who were there for their sweet company's sake, did valiant courting. And my lofty looks were brought very low and my speech and my preaching became weaker and more stumbling and halting. On Wednesday night, which had been particularly dispiriting, I ventured the suggestion to Bob on the way home, that it might be well to close Sunday. Bob said he thought so too. That was a blow I had not expected, for Bob's faith and comfort had alone upheld me. The first effect was to arouse me. I could do something and I simply *would*. So Thursday I went in for a special effort. I picked out the best theme I had in reserve and felt rather confident that I could talk for an hour on it and to edification. But my big sermon failed me more miserably than any previous one. I got entirely through with it in twenty minutes and stopped with a feeling of being lost in the woods. On the way home that evening it was Bob who suggested that the meeting ought to close Sunday—if not sooner; and that straw broke my back. The next morning I took my Bible and fled to the woods, where I spent the day crying, praying, studying; and on Friday night, like a poor sinner to the gallows, I went back to 'Accident' to preach. But lo—how it came no man could trace—there was a new atmosphere, a larger audience, a new interest, and to everyone's astonishment (my own especially), I preached with ease and power. And that proved the turning point. Saturday night the attendance was unusual, and I preached if anything better; and Sunday night it was said that such a crowd had never been seen in the little school house. Well, the meeting ran over two weeks, and about seven were baptized in the course of it. Often since then I have found that when I came to the end of myself God was a never-failing help, and that when I was weak I was strong."

For several years after this—one whole year, and in the other years through the vacation period, Brother Boll preached wherever he could; in barns, in school-houses, in church-houses, in the open, under arbors; and his work bore good fruit.

In 1900 he left the Bible School, but he did not cease to be a student, nor to go to school. His special study ever since has been the Bible in various languages. His knowledge of its facts was remarkable, and his grasp upon its spiritual truths, profound. About this time also, his work as a preacher began in good earnest: In Texas, in Tennessee, in Kentucky; and in evangelistic meetings frequently in other States. In 1903 he made a first visit to the congregation at Portland Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky, where the beloved George A. Klingman had labored seven years; and in 1904 he took up the work there, one year (1910-11) excepted, during which he taught the Bible department of the Lawrenceburg, (Tenn.) High School on behalf of that nobleman of God, J. H. Stribling. From that time on until

his death he remained with the Portland Avenue congregation—more than fifty-two years. In Louisville he was married to Miss Villette Schang, and three children have been born to them, of whom God took the first, when she was two years old.

R. H. Boll excelled as preacher, teacher, and writer of religious truth. In which capacity of the three he was the strongest would not be easy to say. In his preaching he denounced sin terrifically, but brought hope and "strong encouragement" to all who heard. He was logical, his outlines being well arranged and easily remembered; but he was not logical in the sense of being dry or merely intellectual in appeal.

As a teacher of the Bible he was instrumental under God in raising up many gospel preachers. A number have gone out from his home congregation to bear the message; and many from all parts of our country almost—east, west, north, south—have come in for the help and blessing of the classes which he conducted every winter in Louisville; among these many, the writer of this sketch. Brother Boll has helped me be "a Christian only," an independent Christian, separate from all ecclesiasticism, recognizing no authoritative teacher aside from Jesus Christ; bound by no string or human bond to any man or set of men, obliged to agree with no one but God. And so he has helped scores of others also. It is, however, as a writer for the religious press that the subject of our sketch was most widely known. In 1901 he became one of the editors of the Gospel Guide. In 1909 he became first page editor of the Gospel Advocate. This post he held for six years; and when in 1915 he resigned it, five other papers offered him their columns. About this time the monthly magazine, Word and Work, was purchased and removed from New Orleans to Louisville. There he assumed the work of editing that paper; and in this work he continued steadfastly—along with his preaching and teaching—until his final day on earth, April 13, 1956. On that last Sunday before he passed on Friday, he preached at Portland Avenue with unusual power. And thus he had his wish—to be used of God until the end.

"The great things which the Bible says of faith, it says of it only because it is the channel, the medium, the condition, by and on which the real power, which is Jesus Christ Himself, acts upon us.

"It is not the window, but the sunshine that floods this building with light. It is not the opened hand, but the gift laid in it that enriches the pauper. It is not the poor leaden pipe but the water that flows through it that fills the cistern. . . . It is not your faith, but the Christ whom your faith brings into your heart and conscience, that purges the one and makes the other void of offense toward God and man." —McLaren.

Tributes from Friends

ONLY ETERNITY

A Tribute to Brother Boll's Memory

Only eternity's book will declare
The immeasurable good he has done:
The truths he taught;
The humble tasks wrought;
And the souls for the Master won.

Only eternity's praise will reveal
How great the depths of his love
For the lambs that he fed,
For his glorious Head,
And the Heavenly Father above.

Only eternity's thanks will suffice
When we gather around the throne
To greet one another,
Each sister and brother,
And the Christ he claimed for his own.

Only eternity's door opened wide,
The hope he proclaimed without fear,
Christ comes with a shout,
And removes every doubt—
As we meet once again in the air!
—Bruce D. Chowning.

GALLATIN, TENNESSEE: In his character he manifested the fruit of the Spirit. He bore the sorrows of others and in a great measure carried out the teachings and example of Christ, who when he was reviled, reviled not again.

He taught us the gospel of the grace of God, the unsectarian approach to God's whole word, the necessity of personal relationship to God, how to let God say just what he has said and in a most remarkable way led his students through the word into the very presence of God Himself. We cannot but "thank God for our every remembrance of him."
—H. L. Olmstead.

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS: We are so sorry to hear that the Lord called Brother Boll to be with Him. We at Fourth Street loved him very much. He was indeed a spiritual giant, yet a very humble and kind servant of the Lord. He has meant very much to me and my family, and will always be a powerful influence in our lives in causing us to serve the Christ he loved so much.

—J.C.Tate.

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE: My wife and others here wish to join all who feel as we do, in giving thanks to God for His bringing Brother Boll to this country, and for making him a vessel unto honor, who being moulded by the great Potter, was used to bring blessings to hundreds upon hundreds of souls hungering for a greater knowledge of God and His word. May God bless his memory—his work of faith, his labor of love, his patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, to all our hearts.

It seems as if the Lord had said, "My child, you have labored and suffered long enough, come up home now and rest from your labors." — E. H. Hoover.

TULSA, OKLA.: Among the many great blessings which God has granted me has been the privilege of knowing and loving R. H. Boll. He was a real friend and helper to me in my efforts to preach and teach God's word. He was a man truly set to declare the whole counsel of God. His writings are a delight to read: clear, clean, scriptural, spiritually healthful, and refreshing, like a breath from heaven.
—Leroy Yowell.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: Long after all of us have passed to the great beyond, Brother Boll's footprints will still be here. There is the Portland Christian School, the Kentucky Bible College, which is a result of his work and through which his work will continue. I have known Brother Boll for fifty years and he has been a great inspiration to me.
—W. B. Foreman, M. D.

PEKIN, INDIANA: I loved Brother R. H. Boll. Every visit I had with him, every time I heard him preach made me happier than I had turned from creeds to Christ. I found personified in Brother Boll the truth of the way I was seeking when I became a Christian only. Mrs. Brooks and I are glad we knew Robert H. Boll.
—R. R. Brooks.

SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA: Our hearts were made sad when we heard yesterday of Brother Boll's passing. The church has lost a wonderful and godly man, but our loss is heaven's gain. We express our deepest sympathy to those he left behind.
— Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Barbour.

JAPAN: One of the great tragedies of modern day is that men who are verbally committed to the furtherance of the whole gospel and freedom in Christ have attempted to eclipse the great spiritual truths and stimuli from Brother Boll, suited to sustain and encourage multitudes of hungry souls both in and out of the only church of our Lord. I speak not of the encouragement to "look for and earnestly desire the coming of the Lord" as despised of Satan as it is and as important as it is. But I speak of Brother Boll's ability to bring the great spiritual truths beyond "first principles" that accompany salvation. His ability to bring to life, as it were Old and New Testament characters from Genesis to Revelation, and with them their inspired message was great and encouraging.

As senior of all living missionaries of the church of Christ from U.S.A., except Miss Andrews, I can say that his influence was great to many of us to take Jesus and His freedom in the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world.

— O. D. Bixler.

PLEASURE RIDGE PARK, KENTUCKY: May the Lord bless the sweet memory of Brother Boll. I surely will miss him, his Friday night classes each winter, and his writings. "Beyond the sunset, O glad reunion, with our dear loved ones who've gone before; In that fair homeland we'll know no parting; Beyond the sunset for ever-more."
— Chester Gilbert.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: We thank God for our dearly beloved Brother Boll through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for his unfeigned faith, his hope and his love for Christ; that he was not afraid to declare the whole counsel of God on any subject. He lived in faith and in the hope of the first resurrection. Our loss is his gain.
— O. E. Shields.

WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY: It has been my privilege to have associated with many fine preachers and Bible teachers. High on this list is Brother Boll. I give thanks to the Lord for him and for what he has meant in my life. I was in his Bible classes for almost three years and, needless to say, I found him always to be a thorough Bible student, full of reverence and love for the Lord.

My prayer is that the Lord will help us all to follow Brother Boll's example to the end that we may be more diligent as Bible students. And may He raise up other great spiritual men to lead us on to greater things for God.

— Paul Clark.

AMITE, LOUISIANA: I am happy and thankful that it was my privilege to be permitted to study under Brother Boll for two years. I am thankful that he wrote so much, for even though he has gone home to be with the Lord, we still, by his printed page, can be lifted closer to God. At his hour of parting we all feel so keenly our loss, even though many miles away, yet I thank the Lord that He permitted Brother Boll to be with us as long as He did. Words cannot fully express the blessing this man was to me. Very few men have been such a blessing to so many.
— Antoine Valdetero.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: On April 13th I lost a very dear friend, Robert H. Boll. God took him home. I had known Brother Boll for fifty-two years, from the time he first came to Louisville until his death. Being a member of the Portland Avenue Church, I heard him preach his first sermon there. I said to some of the brethren, "We must get that man for Portland." They felt the same way. The church invited Brother Boll to come and take the work; he hesitated at first for he had intended to devote his life to evangelistic work. Finally he yielded to the pleas of the brethren at Portland. What a blessing it was for the church!

I was one of the first to study the Bible under his guidance. Three of us young men, sometimes four or five, would go to his room and study with him. It was a great blessing to us and he delighted in teaching God's word.

I have never known a better man than was Brother R. H. Boll. I have never known a man with a deeper and broader insight into the word of God than he. Good, kind, sympathetic, meek and humble man of God was he. God is giving the rest he deserves.
— R. E. Daugherty.

DUGGER, INDIANA: In my association with brother Boll, which was always a blessing to me and continued over a period of thirty-six years, one thing that impressed me very much was his deep appreciation of the grace of God. He told me one time that when he learned the true significance of the grace of God it changed his whole life as much as any other one thing. If one had asked him the secret of his power, his love, his humility, his gentleness, and his reverence for the word of God, I believe his answer would have been, "I am what I am by the grace of God." And we know that he had his hope set on the grace of God that is to be brought unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. He was one you could speak kindly of in his life as well as in his death. Those who knew him could not speak otherwise. I shall cherish his memory as long as I live.
—Maurice Clymore.

WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY: Humanly speaking, Kentucky Bible College would never have come into existence were it not for Brother Boll. Most of faculty members learned the way of the Lord more perfectly from him, and it is our aim to commit these truths "to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Brother Boll's life stands as an outstanding example of what God can accomplish through one who is completely surrendered to him.

Winston N. Allen.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: Notwithstanding the shortness of my acquaintance with Brother Boll, this period has been to me the most profound and spiritually rewarding of all my life. All praise and thanks unto God, who so arranged that I might "rejoice in his light for a season." Having been privileged to attend this last winter session of his Bible classes (which many say were his very best!) has helped me to realize more than ever that one of God's "truly great in the kingdom of heaven" has lived among us. —Vernon C. Lawyer.

HAPEVILLE, GEORGIA: About fourteen years ago I first heard Brother Boll speak. I was attending Milligan College, and he spoke at the chapel service that day. I liked what I heard even then, but little realized that God would use him and others to cause me to obey Christ before many months had passed. "Why Not Be Just A Christian?" seemed to have been written just for me. His pen has continued to bless me ever since in pointing me to the word of God. How thankful I am that our paths crossed! May God give us many others who possess the rare understanding in God's word that he possessed!

—Carl Kitzmiller.

AMITE, LOUISIANA: To me Brother R. H. Boll was a man of great faith and had unusual ability as editor, author, preacher, teacher, counsellor, servant of God Most High. He was a balance wheel to the brethren, scripturally standing in the middle of the road, as one stands in the breaches, holding back the forces that they turn neither to the right nor the left, but follow the Scriptures as the mariner follows the compass. It was a new day when Brother Boll touched my life, not that he brought new truths, but that he gave new emphasis to faith, hope, and love and the grace of God. Yes, we loved him, too.—A. K. Ramsey.

PEKIN, INDIANA: Brother Boll's passing brings a feeling of sadness mixed with a feeling of respect for the memory of a man who left all and followed his Master all the way. I knew him well and remember him as a close friend, and a servant of the Lord. Our Brother knew the Bible and the hour of prayer. He was led by the Spirit and he could impart to others the spiritual riches he possessed. He was a successful preacher, writer, teacher and personal worker, with emphasis on the word worker. In doctrine and in the prophetic word he was sound and dependable. His leading rule of interpretation seems to have been to get all there is in the Bible on any given subject and let the Bible interpret itself.

Surely now that he is in glory, he knows experimentally that it is "very far better" to be with Christ.
—Russell H. Martin.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES: Wednesday we learned of Brother Boll's departure. The distance between us does not lessen the sense of loss. It would be impossible to express how much he meant to both of us. We feel a greater burden now to live up to the truths of God's word that he taught us, and to "let the beauty of

Jesus be seen in us," as it was in him. And his being on the other side quickens our desire for the Lord's coming. The time for working and trusting may be very short, and the needs are so urgent.

—The Dennis Allens.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: It would seem that any one with even a limited knowledge of the life of our departed Brother Boll could but conclude he was a man led of God. How grateful we are for this one who submitted and committed all to a faithful Creator.

Perhaps that in Brother Boll which impressed me most was his humility and freedom from ostentation. This was always evident in his preaching, teaching, and in his brief and simply worded public prayers.

This man suffered for the sake of his Lord as have but few in our day. Reproaches and false accusations were borne cheerfully and without resentment by the power of the Spirit. With many others we look forward to a time of reunion when by His grace, we shall be caught up with those who now rest from their labors to meet the Lord in the air. Maranatha!

—Demus H. Friend.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: In the passing of Brother Boll, the churches have been bereft of a man whose influence for good has been nation-wide. Nor has that influence been stilled by his death. The lives that have been touched by his humility and honesty will long continue to carry to another generation the fruits of his earnest study of God's Book. He preferred to let the Word speak for itself, and to give ear to all that it said on each theme. This attitude of respect and faith in God's Word will build true greatness into all who possess it. May it be always ours.

—Robert Heid.

ABILENE, TEXAS: It was with mixed emotions that we received the news of Brother Boll's home-going. Of course, our first reaction was a sense of great loss—a loss which is and shall be felt both by each of us personally and throughout the entire brotherhood. Then followed a sense of deep gratitude for Brother Boll's long and faithful ministry, the influence and power of which shall live on possibly far beyond our cherished memories. Understandably, there was also heartfelt rejoicing in the blissful state of the departed which "is very far better."

Brother Boll's influence in my own life possibly began indirectly through his influence on my "Grandmother Gill" and on my father. In the fall of '48 his life and work began to affect me more directly as I went to Portland to take his Bible classes. Both his noble character and life and the classes, in which he unfolded the great truths of God with power and simplicity, have been of untold blessing to me. Besides the specific truths he pointed out, he also enabled us to attain and maintain a true and honest perspective of God's Word—a thing of great importance. Thus, my life and work will long bear the imprint gained from fellowship with and study under our beloved brother. So it is with deep appreciation that I pay tribute to this great, though humble, servant of Christ.

—Frank Gill.

LINTON, INDIANA: Deep and lasting impressions are made in youth. We are so thankful that while we were young we came under the teaching and influence of Brother Boll. His spirit of humility and his spirit of love for all, and for the Lord, made us know and love the Lord in a fuller way. We are so thankful that we learned to "look for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

—Eugene and Allene Pound.

SELLERSBURG, INDIANA: God be praised for the life, influence and work of Brother R. H. Boll. I will long cherish his memory and thank God for his teaching and influence upon my life. I have never known a more humble and consecrated servant of the Lord. Truly that which was gain for him in his home-going is a great loss to the church. I pray that the example of his life and work may challenge us to a renewed interest in the work of our Lord.

To me there was one thing that stood out in the life and work of Brother Boll. He never forced or even asked anyone to agree with him in his teaching, but left us free to examine God's word. I spent seven years in his classes, and not once during this time did he ask me to accept what he taught us unless we could see clearly that it was what the word of God taught. Neither did I hear him ask anyone else this question. I appreciated his talent and ability, but most especially his fairness in handling God's word.

May God bless the Portland church in choosing his successor, and may all of us who sat under him put into practical use those principles which he taught us in his classes and by his example of life.

—Howard T. Marsh.

WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY: I am glad for Brother Boll that he is now with the Lord Jesus, whom he loved supremely and served devotedly through a long useful life to God's glory. No greater joy could have been his than that of getting to be at home with the Lord he loved, unless it could have been his privilege to have lived to see the Lord coming for His own. And yet it shall be his privilege to see the Lord coming for His own, for "the dead in Christ shall rise first" and then together with those alive at His appearing, we shall be caught up to meet the Lord. That will be a day of glad reunion. Till then he shall enjoy the long needed rest God has provided for His own.

I join with all who knew him and were touched by his life and ministry—his family, the church at large, and the Portland Avenue church in particular—in the feeling of a deep personal loss. After more than thirty years of close association with him in the Lord's work, and three years in his Bible classes, I sincerely say there is no other human agency to whom I am so deeply indebted for the blessing my family and I have received from the Lord and in making whatever service we may render unto the Lord what God would have it to be. I am indebted to him as an instrumentality in God's hand for giving me the right perspective in the study of God's word—to read it and believe it as a little child, and to take it in its fulness as it is written—and toward life itself, in putting first things first and keeping them there, and in looking to God as our sufficiency and the leadership of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life. His simple, humble devotion to God and walk of faith shall surely live on yet to bless the souls of many.

—Frank M. Mullins, Sr.

WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY: It was when I was a student at the Nashville Bible School, sometime during the session of 1903-4, that I first saw and heard Brother Boll. A few years later, when I was a teacher in the Western Bible and Literary College, he conducted two meetings for us at Odessa; and it was then that my acquaintance with him really began. But even at that time it was impossible to foresee the tremendous influence that he was, in the providence of God, to exert over my life through the years that were to follow. The tempest of criticism and controversy that soon burst forth against him, together with his firm stand for the truths of the Scripture that he had found in the Book, had this good result: some of us were led to make personal investigation, not only to questions relating to prophecy, but also of the Bible teaching on the grace of God, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, etc. It has become my conviction that as surely as God raised up men like Jeremiah and Paul in former days, so did he raise up R. H. Boll for a special work in our days. We praise God for his many years of faithful ministry in the service of his Lord.

—J. Edward Boyd.

BRANDON, FLORIDA: We are grateful to God for Brother Boll's work of faith and labor of love. I shall ever be thankful for having had the privilege of taking his classes for five winters. His work has touched the lives of many. His ability and faith were unsurpassed. Truly it was Christ in him that brought a blessing to us all. He showed forth the grace of God. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them."

—Robert F. Gill.

PARKSVILLE, KENTUCKY: Through the providence of God I was blessed with the privilege of attending Brother Boll's Bible classes for several years. His devotion to the Lord, and love for His Word made a deep impression on me. Only eternity can measure and reveal the value of his service to Christ and the church.

—Harold R. Preston.

JENNINGS, LOUISIANA: The news of Brother Boll's "homegoing" which reached us about three hours after his departure brought sadness to us; yet the "blessed hope" which we have in Christ gives us peace and joy, and we realize that it is "very far better" for our beloved brother.

To me, one distinctive mark of this servant of God was his great humility so manifested in his teachings and his kindly manner of dealing with his fellowman. Another outstanding quality of his character was his ability to

pursue a balanced course in his study of the Word of God, not permitting excessive pressure to throw him off on a tangent, but always dealing honestly and fairly with every Scripture. He knew the Lord and faithfully served Him.

I am very grateful to God for the blessings we received through Brother Boll. For the past few years he has been with us in our fall meeting, and his teaching was always spiritual and uplifting. We will miss him this year, but we are thankful for the privilege of having him with us as often as we did. "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away; Blessed be the name of the Lord."

—Ivy J. Istre.

BORDEN, INDIANA: In 1924 (or '25) I first met Brother Robert H. Boll. We were living in Meaford, Ontario, and he was in a meeting in Toronto. About two weeks before his decease we last saw him a few minutes in the Word and Work office, when he greeted us in his usual cordial manner. I was associated with him during the years in between, including a very pleasant time when I led the singing in one of his meetings at Mt. Pleasant, Tenn. Our association was consistently congenial, pleasant and brotherly. He esteemed me (from first to last) a brother in Christ as I did him. I thought his sermons were clear and forceful, his knowledge of the Bible amazing; and withal, he was sincere and humble before God. With an abiding faith I believe he loved God and His word supremely, accepting "the whole counsel of God."

It seemed to me that he was always willing to let me be responsible for my own faith—not once did he (nor those associated with him) ever try to get me to sign on the dotted line, or sound me out to line me up on any peculiar item of faith or doctrine, to commit me to their views. To me, under certain trying circumstances, this idea of freedom in Christ, was most impressive and grew to be very precious.

—E. Gaston Collins.

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY: Brother Robert H. Boll, esteemed and beloved Bible teacher and preacher for the Portland Avenue Church of Christ, Louisville, Ky., for fifty-two years, and an evangelist and servant for Jesus' sake for more than three score years, our dearly beloved brother and friend, is with the Lord whom he loved and served. We who are left behind can rejoice in the outreach of his many-sided ministry and the testimony of his life, which in a striking way attests the grace and power of God.

Word of his homegoing on April 13 in Louisville, when he was about to go on his annual preaching tour in Texas and the South, came as a shock to his innumerable friends. We who have been closely associated with him in the work of the Lord feel our loss with particular keenness. But with others we rejoice to know how gently the Lord kissed him to sleep in His long, tender embrace with but a short illness, at a time when, in spite of his 81 years, he was actively engaged in the Lord's work. Not a day passes that the writer of these lines does not feel the loss of Brother Boll. He has been entwined in the tendrils of my life and the life of my family for more than half a century. Yet we know that he is where he would rather be than anywhere in the universe—in the Lord's presence; and we rejoice for him.

To his dear wife and daughters and grandson we express for ourselves and the Cramer and Hanover Avenue Church of Christ in Lexington, Ky., our deepest sympathy in their loss and ours. Our beloved brother fought a good fight, finished the course, kept the faith. There is indeed a crown of righteousness laid up for him and for all of us who have loved His appearing, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give unto us in that day.

—H. N. Rutherford.

LEON, IOWA: The information that Brother R. H. Boll has been called over yonder to await the Lord's return, has just reached me. I am shocked, it must have been very sudden. Brother Boll looked so well when I last saw him on April 5th, I am so glad I got to see him then. My regret is, that I only knew him during his last year with us. What a blessing it would have been to have known him for many years. I pray God's blessing upon Sister Boll; his going has left a vacancy in her life.

May God bless you as you carry on the great work through the Word and Work.

—Homer Winnett.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: Brother Boll was truly an example of an educated man. He had a broad comprehension of the whole realm of knowledge. His education was not obtained by university training, but acquired largely

through reading and private study. In the Word of God he was a specialist. In teaching his mind was full of apt illustrations. In speaking, Brother Boll could adjust himself either to children or adults. His personality manifested all the virtues of heavenly wisdom described in the third chapter of James. He was loved by the children of Portland Christian School. — Claude Neal.

WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY: Our tribute to Brother Boll cannot be expressed in words that describe the deep feelings of the heart. He has been the greatest of leaders and Bible teachers in our day. Only those who sat at his feet to drink of his knowledge and love can really appreciate him as a humble servant of God. The greater the blessing the greater the loss when it is gone. Our tribute falls far short of his desert. The greatest thing he would accept from us would be simply—"behold, how we loved him." — Coy V. Campbell.

THESE THINGS HAVE I SEEN

Many of us who have had the privilege of sitting at the feet of Brother Boll, have expressed gratitude for his great and good influence on our lives. The importance of his teaching is beyond my power to evaluate, but at the same time I feel his manner of life, his Christian bearing and conduct have brought me as much blessing as any other experience I have ever known.

I have seen the spirit of true humility. Brother Boll was tempted the same as others, had the same desires and like passions with the rest of us, and to be sure he received more criticism than any other man I know in our generation. Yet through it all he maintained the most humble attitude toward himself and toward others.

I have seen the love and compassion of Christ manifested especially to the poor and discouraged. He was well qualified to speak before the great of the earth; but like the Lord he chose rather to work among "weak and foolish things of the earth" that he might inspire them to follow Christ.

I have seen respect and kindness in dealing with all who did not understand as he did, with all who opposed him. At no time in all my association with the man have I known of his forcing any opinion or interpretation of scripture on any of his students.

I have seen a reverent and respectful attitude toward the word of God. He studied it as God's message of love to man. I never knew him to twist or mutilate scripture to prove any doctrine. He granted God the privilege of speaking all his heart on any truth and gladly accepted it all by faith and sought to obey in as far as he could know the will of God.

These things have helped me more than I can say in my efforts to be a Christian. May God raise up many more to serve as did he.

— Orell Overman.

PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA: Words cannot express the shock and sorrow that overwhelmed us when we heard of the sudden "falling asleep" of our beloved Brother Boll. It was during a meeting that Brother Boll held in Abilene, Texas, in 1935, that I accepted the Lord as my Savior, and as far back as I can remember he played an important part in our lives. A more humble man and a more devout student of God's word would be hard to find.

Those of us who have known and sat at the feet of Brother Boll have a responsibility to continue teaching the "whole counsel of God" such as no others can appreciate. May the Lord bless you in carrying on the Word and Work with wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit.

— Eugene Mullins.

DALLAS, TEXAS: "Christ liveth in me" are four words that sum up the life of Brother Boll. Through college work and three years of seminary work I have never studied under a greater teacher, a more scholarly man. Yet he spoke so that children could understand. He insisted on freedom of thought for his students. Many times have I heard him say, "remember, no truth is yours until you see it for yourself in God's Word." Again, "Believe God's Word. While we wish to see the harmony of God's word, our first responsibility is to believe just what he says." Brother Boll made God's word dearer, and Christ more precious. I can say with many others, "Thank You, Lord, for letting me know Brother Boll."

— Kenneth Istre.

LOUISVILLE, KY.: While I held Brother Boll in the highest personal regard, I believe his greatest inspiration to me was in his teaching, summed up in these words: "Do not preach for the salvation of your sermon, but for the salvation of souls." Brother Boll pointed men to Jesus. I remember his admonition, as he baptized me: "Call on the name of the Lord." I look forward to the time when we shall meet at the feet of Jesus surrounded by many, many souls God gave him as hire for his labors.

— Edward Schreiner.

MY FRIEND

I am looking at the fly-leaf of a little pigskin testament. The inscription reads as follows: "Marked and presented to 'Jimmie Harding' by 'Brother Boll', March, 1918. With much love. 'Let us draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in the time of need.'"

That message of love reached me in France during the darkest days of World War I. It said more to me than any letter could have. The little pigskin Testament lies in my desk drawer at the office.

Not long ago a dear friend of mine, a great man himself, startled me with a public statement that many heard. He stated that the two greatest men he had known were J. M. McCaleb and R. H. Boll. The one, my father, baptized me in Japan. The other was my close friend and spiritual adviser during my formative years; he took the place of a father. He impressed upon me indelibly the great truths of faith, hope and love, and the grand principles of Christian living.

Brother Boll has gone to meet his Lord. My father is there too. I expect to join them both in a happy reunion. Blessed are they who die in the Lord.

— J. H. McCaleb.

WINCHESTER, KY.: As a small child I had the opportunity of hearing Brother R. H. Boll in a series of meetings in my old home congregation in Albion, Nebraska. I vaguely remember some meetings of about that period, but do not recall for sure whether Brother Boll was the preacher. My first definite recollection of the name of R. H. Boll dates back to a time when I was about ten years old. Puzzling over what was to me a difficult Bible passage, I questioned whether "the best preacher on earth" could answer every question about the Bible. One thought led to another, and soon I thought aloud, "I wonder who the best preacher on earth is?" The answer my mother gave me was so sudden and positive that I've never forgotten it. "R. H. Boll," she replied, "and if you ever have an opportunity to hear him, don't pass it up."

In the next few years the name R. H. Boll was to become very familiar to me — through the pages of religious papers opposed to his teaching. Perhaps I'll never realize how much my mother's words of years before enabled me to see through jealousy of religious leaders, and kept my mind open to the teaching of God's word. By God's providence in 1944 I was led into the work of the Portland congregation by an invitation to join the faculty of Portland Christian School. Then came my first opportunity within my memory to meet the man of whom my mother had informed me. The years since have been a great source of blessing to me. In Brother Boll's classes and in my associations with him, I learned that the best preachers cannot answer every question about the Bible, but that the best preachers readily admit it if they cannot answer a given question. To Brother Boll no explanation of a difficult question was better than a cheap explanation.

Brother Boll's life also taught the lesson that the great man of God has no time to defend self. For those who maligned him, Brother Boll had only the kindest of words. When one of his erstwhile enemies would be called from this earthly scene of action, Brother Boll would write a kindly tribute to the life of the departed brother. I am sure that now, as he shakes hands with them on the other side, that the kindly feeling is mutual.

Though God has seen fit to take him home to Him, I am sure that Brother Boll's influence will continue to live on in us who have known him, and have been drawn closer to the Lord because of his work. His memory will ever be precious to us and will be an inspiration to us for better things.

— L. V. Houtz.

LOUISVILLE, KY.: It was my privilege to attend the winter Bible classes of Brother Boll. It was a blessing to sit in his classes and dig into the wonderful truths of God's Word. He was never dogmatic in his opinion, but ever pointing you to the inspired Word of God. We will miss him here, but will meet him in the morning in "Glory."
— James L. Wilson.

LOUISVILLE, KY.: "What have I to dread, what have I to fear—leaning on the everlasting arms?" Brother Boll taught me this in his wonderful manner—he taught me to "lean on" Christ and I can only say, blessed be the memory of one who was very dear to me. "He taught me how" . . . "till we meet at Jesus' feet." Thanks be to God who doeth all things well.
— Wm. W. Heid.

JENNINGS, LA.: Throughout all the ages there have been men used of God in a special way in making other men God-conscious. In their life and teaching they continually point men to God. For at least two generations now the Lord has used Brother Boll in making men and women God-conscious. Even as through his life, so through his departing to be with the Lord, God seeks to make us God-conscious.

As Brother Boll wrote, "If, then, a man is remarkably endowed, and has extraordinary force and character, the common man may make a hero of him, but he will excuse himself from any obligation of duplicating his feat. But if it is seen that the man is not extraordinary, but as poor and weak as others, and that his remarkable conduct is not due to any unusual power of the man himself, but to the free grace of God—then, at once, hope springs up in many hearts, and they will draw near to God for a like blessing." Brother Boll is an example of what God can do in the life of a man, even in these modern times, when he is surrendered to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. How our hearts rejoice that we had the privilege to be taught of him who had been so taught of God.
— Earl Mullins.

FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN: Mere words cannot express our feelings at this time over the loss of so great a servant of God as our Brother Boll, yet at the same time we rejoice greatly knowing he is with the Lord.

Let us pray that God will use us in far greater service to Him than He has done thus far, and that He will raise up more such unfaltering men so that truly there will be faith found on the earth at the coming of our Lord.

Let us pray also for the future good of Word and Work, and that we may all take a greater interest in upholding the dignity, love, spiritual service and zeal we have found within its pages throughout the years.

— Brother and Sister Jay F. Chamberlain.

LEXINGTON, KY.: Brother R. H. Boll in his long and significant ministry had and will continue to have a profound influence on many individuals, of whom I am one. I had the good fortune, as a boy and as a young man, to be taught the Bible by John T. Glenn, who had been taught by Brother Boll. Here was the first influence Brother Boll had on me; later I had the privilege of sitting in his Portland Avenue Bible classes for three years while I was a college student, and then, when I was a mature man, the Saturday morning preacher-discussions with Brother Boll as leader unfolded further the riches of God's Word.

God's Word must be spread and interpreted to men by men; R. H. Boll has left the meaning of God's Word to men richer by his interpretation of the great doctrines of grace, love, hope, the atonement, and the second coming. I am loathe to enumerate these doctrines, for Brother Boll was a preacher and interpreter of the whole counsel of God, which to him meant literally every word of the Bible.

He was deeply scholarly; I was often amazed at his penetrating knowledge of Greek, of Hebrew, of history, of technical theology. He loved God, he loved Christ, he loved the Bible, and he loved his fellowman. He never wanted to be a "big" preacher but he was a great preacher and teacher.

His influence will live on through his students and through those to whom he preached—and it will be an influence that will perpetuate the free study of

the Word of God in all of its richness and fullness. If there is one thing I cherish most of all of those perspectives I got from Brother Boll, it is the fact that the entire Word of God must be open to unhindered study and preaching by God's people regardless of what any person or any church or any organization says to the contrary.

—Jonah W. D. Skiles.

DALLAS, TEXAS: The homegoing of our dear friend, Brother Boll, meant to me God's stamp of approval upon his good work, and that he had completed God's mission for his life, for surely he did walk in the center of our Master's will and served Him faithfully.

Brother Boll was truly a great hero of faith and will long be remembered and appreciated by those of us who were so blessed to have come under his ministry.

May the Lord bless you and your fellowworkers in the good work you are doing so that the "Word and Work" may continue to go forward with great power.

— Cecil Brooks

FLAT ROCK, MICH.: Brother Boll was a gracious helper to those who were in need. So far as I know, no one has ever told it; but when I graduated from high school some twelve years ago, it was Brother Boll who supplied me with the first fifty dollars I needed to further my education. To my knowledge he has never wanted the praise of men, but has done everything for the glory of God; but it is fitting that he should be remembered as a helper of the brethren, a faithful minister of the gospel, and one who has set an example for all of us in meekness and humility.

There are many other things that could be said about Brother Boll; but his true praise can come only from the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he served so faithfully.

— Fulton E. Curtis.

DALLAS, TEXAS: What a vacancy now exists! Of course, Brother Boll could not forever remain with us, but it is hard to give him up, even for a little while. Soon we shall travel that same road, if the Lord tarries.

Brother Boll has meant much to me. He was living on tremendous heights in my estimation. I shall ever be grateful for having known such a man of God. What a joy to anticipate the coming reunion.

—Horace Wood.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN: It has been my happy privilege to know Brother Boll since 1913. I met him in a Bible class at Portland Avenue. This meeting marked a greater change in my conception of the Spirit and power of Christ and His Word than any other one thing in my life. I praise God for that meeting and for Brother Boll. May God's richest blessing rest upon every good thing that he did while he lived. He was a true example of unselfishness, humility, kindness, patience, and love. He was a true servant of God, a rare student of His Word, an outstanding preacher of the whole Bible. May his qualities live on in all of us who have come under his influence.

— J. Scott Greer.

JAPAN: From of old, God has always raised up men in a time of crisis to do special service for him. Brother Boll in his generation was outstanding in the work of the Lord. For he beheld in Jesus, as John did, "The glory of the Father full of grace and truth". One of his favorite texts was, "For thou, Lord, art good and ready to forgive and abundant in lovingkindness to all them that call upon thee".

Brother Boll in his teaching, preaching, writing and personal work showed forth this "grace of God", this lovingkindness, for he had beheld it in Jesus. Likewise also he held forth the word of life, the truth of God. He considered nothing "non-essential" and especially the prophetic word; for it was to him as a light which shineth in a dark place". Thus he showed forth the grace of God and held forth the word of truth, all the truth and had no peer among us in this generation in this "special" service which he did for the Lord, whom he loved and served.

— E. A. and Bess W. Rhodes.

JESUS' ESTIMATE OF MEN

By R. H. B.

The best attitude toward men in general, thinks Carl Hilty, is a kindly pessimism backed by a love that will not be discouraged or staggered. That is, by only a little, a good summing-up of a difficult and many-sided question. It describes in part the attitude of our Lord. His tender love; His sympathy; His willing, helping hand; His unfaltering devotion to men by the will of God—they need no extolling from us, for they stand out big and patent, in characters that cannot be effaced. He was indeed the friend of sinners. Yet He was not deceived in them. He knew perfectly the fickleness of the human heart and the awful persistence of wrong tendency. It cannot be said that He was looking for the good in them only, or that He did not see their faults, or that He expected great things of human beings as such. John tells us that though "many believed on him," "Jesus did not trust himself unto them, for that he knew all men, and because he needed not that any one should bear witness concerning man; for he himself knew what was in man." (John 2:23-25.) Nevertheless Jesus loved them. He looked upon their sins with sorrow and compassion. He bore their reproaches with them and for them. Like Moses interceding for Israel, He identified Himself with the guilty people and took their iniquity upon Himself. He had none of our false modern optimism. He knew well how deeply rooted and stubborn a thing sin is. He did not fancy, as do some today, that man has in himself recuperative powers by which he can rise to acceptableness with God. He did not average things up, as is the fashion of some, saying: "There is so much that is good in the worst of us, and so much that is bad in the best of us," etc. He did not shut His eyes to facts or try to ignore the evil that rankled on every side. But, for all that, He loved. He could look into a man's soul with the prophetic eye of love and tell the possibilities for him that lay in the hand of God—not what the man might become of himself, but what God could make of him. He could gaze upon the impulsive Simon and name him "Peter," "a rock," by way of anticipation. He could again predict to the weak disciple, who had but just denied Him, a bold martyr's death. He foresaw the water of life flowing out from the heart of a degraded Samaritan woman. He saw the corruption of the flesh; but He foresaw how, when the divine nature was implanted, fruit of the Spirit would grow up thence. He did not despair. He had come to help; to seek and to save that which was lost. That was Jesus' attitude, that should be our attitude, toward our fellow-men.

LOUISVILLE BIBLE CONFERENCE FOR 1956

J. L. Addams has been appointed program chairman for this fall fellowship meeting. He requests that we announce that in our last local preachers' meeting we set the date for this annual event up one week—from August 27-31. Will churches please keep these dates free from evangelistic meetings so their ministers can come?

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