

INTRODUCTION

1. The churches of Christ exists in the midst of a suffering humanity is an established fact.
2. That the church believes in doing good to all men as she has opporunity is a claim that sounds around the world.
3. However, some research into figures seems to make the claim of the church more fictional than real.

WHAT THE FIGURES SHOW

1. Recent random sampling of 100 churches of Christ reporting in CHURCHES OF TODAY on benevolent work among them revealed these startling figures:
 1. They reported a membership of 31,296.
 2. They reported annual budgets totaling \$2,946,146 dollars. Nearly three million dollars per year.
 3. According to their report these 100 churches among us spent \$114, 640.00 for benevolent work during the calendar year 1961.
 4. This meant an average of \$3.66 per year per member...about 7 cents per week per member...less than the cost of a cup of coffee.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. We believe and teach that we are to do good to all men. We quote Gal. 6:10; James 1:27. We don't quote James 2:14-17 very loudly, though we claim to believe

WHAT HAS HAPPENED??

1. Have we exhausted our opportunities for doing good?
2. Are there nor more orphans and widows indeed to visit visit?
3. Are there no more hungry to be fed?
4. The Pentecost church rose to great power in the preaching of the gospel and caring for the needy.

OUR ONLY CREDENTIALS WE HAVE TO OFFER TO THE WORLD

1. The love we claim to have. 2. The compassion that we demonstrate. 3. The service we render. 4. The good that we do. 5. If we would be great we must serve. 6. If we would lead we must minister. The world has a right to ask, and God asks, "WHAT DO YE MORE THAN OTHERS?" HOW MUCH IS SEVEN CENTS WORTH?

DEARBORN VALLEY SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 26, 1964