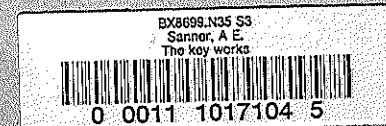


3-6254



NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY

# THE KEY WORKS

## Story of the Nazarene Memorial Auditorium

A. E. Sanner, D. D.  
Superintendent  
Southern California District  
Church of the Nazarene

*More things are wrought by prayer than  
the world dreams of.—TENNYSON.*

5700 11  
.N35  
S3

Inscribed  
to  
F. STOY SPANGLER  
Who First Moved the Construction  
of the Auditorium



A. E. SANNER

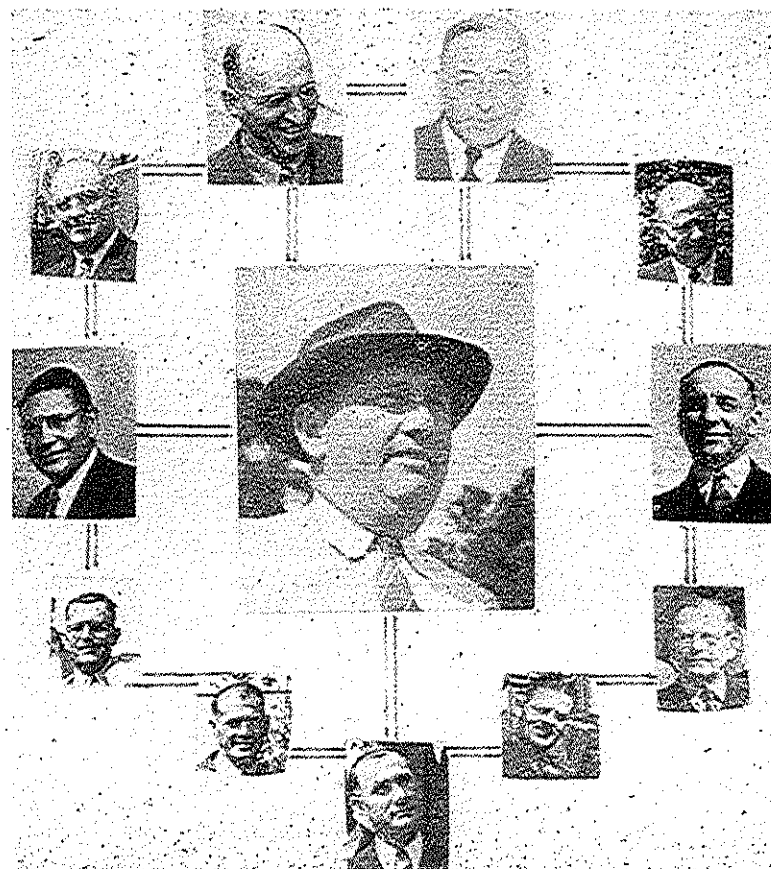
40318

## FOREWORD

Many, many requests have come that the story of the Nazarene Memorial Auditorium be written. It isn't possible to write the entire story. But herein we trust will be found a rehearsal of enough of that story to satisfy the requests, and to reveal the wonderful dealings of the Lord with His people, in the erection of this great building. The booklet is presented as a memento of the camp meeting of 1944 which will open and dedicate the Auditorium. All proceeds from the sale of this booklet net, will be placed in the equipment fund of the Auditorium.

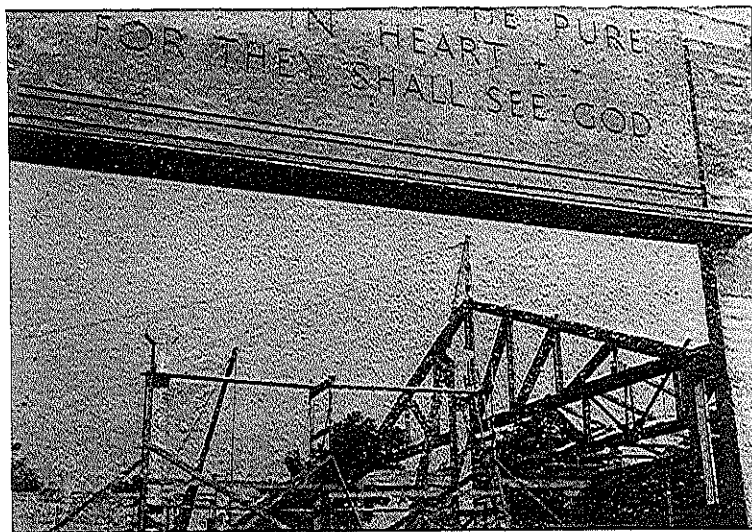
Sincerely, thy brother, A. E. Sanner.

Members of the Auditorium Committee. The hub man in the picture is Leroy Daniel, the man first to the left is L. D. Meggers, thence clock-wise, A. E. Sanner, J. B. Deisenroth, E. E. Mieras, R. J. Plumb, J. R. Gardner, F. R. Dean, Lloyd B. Byron, H. B. Wallin, L. A. Reed, John P. Mandtler (deceased).



## CONTENTS

I. A MOUNTAIN MOVED .....	11
II. PERSONNEL AND PLANS .....	18
III. ANY THING .... ANY THING .....	25
IV. THE KEY OF DAVID OPENETH .....	32
V. THINGS WORK TOGETHER .....	39
VI. LABOR OF LOVE .....	43
VII. FIGURES AND PERFORMANCE .....	48
VIII. PROPHECIES—DREAMS—VISIONS .....	53



The second, an eleven-ton truss is seen going into place, through the "Blessed are the pure in heart" window.

## A MOUNTAIN MOVED

"Whosoever shall say to this mountain, Be thou removed . . . shall have whatsoever he saith."—Jesus.

For more than thirty years it had been a need of the Southern California District camp meeting, and oft-expressed desire on the part of many people that a large "tabernacle" should be erected to house the camp. But that was all that was done about it. Talk. Wishful thinking. More talk.

As the years passed by, the problem became more difficult. The Pasadena College campus became involved in a very heavy debt occasioned by the depression years. Churches of the district, too, were laboring under property debts, which created heavy burdens, because of the "hard times" of the depression period. The city of Pasadena had grown during the boom period until there surrounded the College campus a population not all of whom were sympathetic with the work of the Church of the Nazarene, and the zoning of the property had been changed. This zoning required that each year in order to have the right to erect on our own campus the large tent for campmeeting use, there was necessary an open hearing before the proper city authorities, and objectors could appear—and sometimes did appear. It became obvious that in order to maintain and promote this great soul-winning camp meeting, it would be necessary to provide permanent housing for it. Or there was grave danger of losing the camp. So, much prayer and earnest consideration was given to this need, to find a way in the will of the Lord to care for it.

It all represented a mountain to move. The debts would have to be liquidated. The campus would have to

be free. Most of the churches and our people would have to be relieved of debt. The courage of the people would have to be inspired to undertake a great task. The will to do it would have to be determined. The way to do it, coordinated with everything else which had to be done. Faith and confidence established that it is the will of God to go forward with plans. Full co-operation had. Then the many angles involved, how to finance such a large undertaking, how to secure proper architectural plans, how to secure the right personnel of builders, when to begin that the timing of events might be considered right, all indicated a mountain-sized problem. But Jesus said a mountain can be moved if when one prays he has faith in God, does not doubt in his heart, has a keen, clean, unselfish desire, and forgives. A forgiving, believing, undoubting, desiring pray-er can say to this mountain, Be thou removed . . . and he shall have what he saith.

What has come to pass over the period of 1934 to 1944, can only be explained on the basis of wonderful answer to prayer. The mountain has moved. You do not need to go to Gizeh, Egypt, to see a miracle in stone. You may see one on Pasadena College campus, the Nazarene Memorial Auditorium.

Beginning in 1934, by instruction of the district camp meeting board, the need and appeal was presented in that year's camp. Then for six years, likewise, until 1940, the matter was presented in the camp meeting, annually, and only in the camp meeting. A pay-as-you-go, pray-as-you-go, work-as-you-go, policy was established. Each year some pledges and gifts were received. These were held inviolate against the time, when actual work might begin. In 1934, when the statement of need and appeal was first made, there was seated on a front seat, an aged brother, Mr. C. H. Palmer, who had been associated with Dr. P. F. Bresee in early days of Los Angeles First Church. He reached for his check-book and being feeble, had some difficulty writing. At the close of service he

The building site before operations began.



Dr. A. E. Sanner turns the first shovel full of earth at the ground-breaking, followed by Dr. H. O. Wiley and Dr. J. W. Goodwin.



came forward and presented his check for \$100, the very first gift, saying, "God is in that vision, go ahead with it." That check on the spot became an earnest of what God would be pleased to do, and an assurance that the Memorial idea for gifts of \$100 was of the Lord as the main financial plan. Each year encouragement and kind words came. Some money. But each year, it had to be said: "Sorry, we cannot go ahead immediately with this; the College must be paid out of debt first. But let us pray and work and give to this end, that in due time, when the Lord opens the way, we can go forward with this great task." Three campaigns were promoted by the constituent districts to put Pasadena College out of debt, and this coveted, glorious goal was won in 1943, the mortgage being burned in the 1943 camp meeting of the Southern California District.

Anticipating this event was assured; and by the very pressure of the situation, and all the considerations involved; also by the pressure of the Spirit who had led and was leading; it was obvious, and felt by all who were carrying prayerfully the responsibility of planning, that in the 1940 camp meeting, it was necessary either to definitely go forward with plans to actually begin building operations for the Auditorium, or to back up and give it up. The latter was unthinkable, and impossible to contemplate. So the appeal in that camp meeting was based on the proposition, that God being our helper, we would begin sometime that following winter, the actual construction of the Auditorium. Some ten thousand dollars were pledged at that camp meeting with that understanding. The die was cast.

On November 15, 1940, with faith in God that He was leading on, and that He would see us through, a ground breaking ceremony was held on the site. The lines of the great building had been staked out. It seemed so large, one gentleman in jocular mood said, "Why don't you just build a wall around this campus and put a roof over it?"

We had \$5,000, the amount of the cash accumulated during the six years, \$16,000 in pledges, and a spade, with which to begin the construction of this \$100,000 Memorial Auditorium. To build, to stay out of debt, to pay as we go. Dr. J. W. Goodwin, General Superintendent Emeritus; Dr. H. Orton Wiley, president of Pasadena College; Dr. Henry B. Wallin, president of the Board of Directors of Pasadena College, and the writer made speeches, and by the insistence of the brethren, the writer had the privilege of turning over the first spade full of earth, and declaring "The construction of the Auditorium has begun." Present that day were the Auditorium Committee, many friends and well wishers, pray-ers and believers. Uncle Bud Robinson and Rev. C. W. Ruth, both national evangelists for more than half a century, and who have since gone on to the more excellent glory, were present. At the close Rev. Ruth asked to see the writer aside. Said he, "I have an apology to make to you." "No, Brother Ruth, you cannot possibly owe me an apology. You and I have been mighty good friends many years." "Yes," said he, "I owe you an apology, and I won't feel right until I make it. When I first heard you present this Auditorium proposition in the camp meeting several years ago, I said that is the worst hare brained, crazy proposition I ever heard a man present. I am surprised our district superintendent would do a thing like that. It can only end in failure. The idea of our crowd building a \$100,000 building without debt! But today I want you to know I am sorry I ever thought that, for it is evident God is in this thing, and He is going to help the district build it! Stay with it! God is in it, and the people are for it." Uncle Bud had made a pledge for \$100, and paid it in fifty dollar installments.

Though the ground breaking ceremonies were held November 15, there came a disappointing interim for a few weeks when certain permits were delayed. But in January, 1941, actual construction work was begun, and building operations never ceased, until in this good year

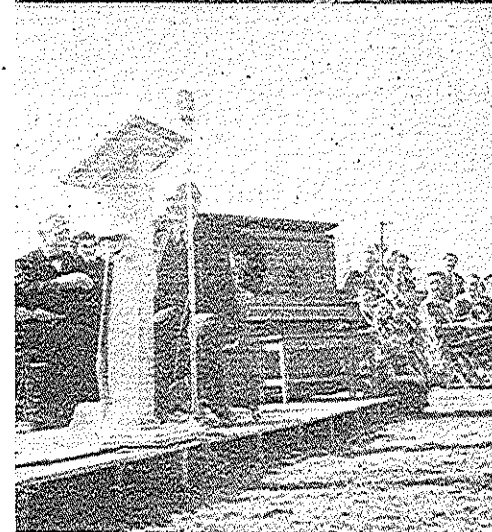


of grace, 1944, we have the privilege of having the great camp meeting in the Auditorium. During these three years, there has been a constant succession of answered prayers, going by in natural and wonderful sequence, occasioned by and supplying the need as the need appeared. Everything has been taken to the Lord in prayer. Men, plans, materials, money, labor, tools, machinery, problems, everything. It will be our purpose in the following chapters to relate some of these interesting answers to prayer. "Behold, what God hath wrought." God is good. If He would be pleased to do for His people, this, which has to do with supplying housing for 4,000 people to hear the gospel of holiness, a need of physical dimensions and material, surely it is an omen of good, a token of God's good will to do for His people, that too, which is much more meaningful and better, namely, to bless in the things of the Spirit, to save, to sanctify, and to bless the people, to keep them against the day to come.

Dr. H. B. Wallin, president of Pasadena College Board of Directors, speaking at the ground-breaking.



Rev. C. W. Ruth and Dr. H. O. Wiley at the ground-breaking. Note the spade.



## PERSONNEL AND PLANS

"Seek and ye shall find."—Jesus.

The first reference to the move which has come to realization in the construction of the Nazarene Memorial Auditorium is a statement entered in the minutes of the camp meeting board under date of October 10, 1933, and reads: "The District Superintendent spoke of his desire for a large permanent tabernacle to be located on Pasadena College campus. He had blueprints of two prospective plans. The idea of a permanent building was debated as to its merits and demerits. It was felt by some that it would be best to defer the matter. Finally upon motion of F. Stoy Spangler this action prevailed: That the superintendent appoint a committee of three to work with himself in perfecting plans for the proposed tabernacle." It is interesting now to note that the man who later became the superintendent of construction, was the brother with whom the superintendent had consulted in drawing up the two prospective plans. Of course neither of these plans was the one eventually fully adopted, as many plans and ideas were suggested and studied by the many who were interested, and by different architects who were consulted, but some ideas carried through; especially the one to seat large camp meeting crowds on one floor. It was a beginning, a start in the right direction. The plan finally adopted was one which came out of six years of prayer, planning, and careful consultation and deliberation—to embrace simplicity, economy, stability, adequate facilities for the camp meeting and other great district gatherings, and also to present to Pasadena College many needed features, and headquarters housing for the district.

The next reference is found in the minutes of the camp meeting board under date of August 6, 1935: "The

district superintendent told of our need for a district camp auditorium to be built on the campus of Pasadena College. He had proposed plans and proposed literature. Strong sentiment was in favor of air-conditioning for any building that might be erected. It was duly passed to accept the Chairman's plan to have such a tabernacle. It was further voted to have the Chairman appoint a Committee of three to assist him in plans. He appointed R. J. Plumb, F. Stoy Spangler and J. E. Williams. F. Stoy Spangler was elected special treasurer to be custodian of fund for the same." The records of the district camp meeting board thenceforward show that at each meeting of the board, the treasurer of this fund, F. Stoy Spangler, submitted a report which was received, until under date of July 10, 1939, this entry is found: "Report of F. Stoy Spangler as treasurer of the Pioneer Memorial fund was read, and upon motion of W. N. Miller was accepted and referred to the auditing committee. Resignation of F. Stoy Spangler as treasurer of the Pioneer Memorial fund was read and upon motion of R. J. Plumb was accepted. Upon motion of W. N. Miller, R. J. Plumb was elected as treasurer of the Pioneer Memorial fund. Upon motion of T. E. Ketcheson, it was voted that the chairman and secretary furnish proper signatures and documents necessary for the transfer of account from Spangler to Plumb." F. Stoy Spangler's resignation was occasioned by severe illness, which later caused his death.

So the reader will note that this good man, one of the most faithful laymen of the Southern California District, F. Stoy Spangler, made the first motion looking forward to a district Memorial Auditorium, and was the first treasurer of the fund. He never wavered in his faith that this building should and would be built. Once when the writer felt rather down, and confided in Brother Spangler, that after all, it was a very difficult task, and many were interested to see it done all right, but slow to help do it, and the easiest and maybe best thing to do

would be to let it drop. "Never!" said he. "Don't you dare do that! God is in this move, and He will see it through. Stay with it!" The total funds turned over by Brother Spangler to R. J. Plumb were a little less than \$2,500, received from 1934 to 1939.

The thirty-second district assembly of the Southern California District, held in Los Angeles First Church, on June 10, 1938, authorized the building of the Auditorium as a district project, in the following resolution:

"Whereas, it is apparent that the need of a commodious district auditorium is ever increasing and imperative, and

"Whereas, the possibility of securing a permit to pitch the big tent for campmeeting use, on Pasadena College campus, is becoming more and more uncertain, thus greatly endangering the life of the district camp meeting,

"Be it resolved, that this assembly endorse the plan to build a district auditorium on Pasadena College or Pasadena Academy campus, and that this plan be intrusted to the district camp meeting board in collaboration with the Board of Trustees of Pasadena College for execution, as to both the architectural and financial arrangements."

Then on May 9, 1940, the thirty-fourth district assembly adopted as one of the quadrennium goals, "That we build and pay for the district Memorial Auditorium. That a special Auditorium Committee be authorized with ten members, five to be chosen by the campmeeting board and five by the College Board of Directors, instructed and directed by this Assembly to promote this building and its construction." Pursuant to these instructions, the district camp meeting board in session May 23, 1940, elected as their five members on the Auditorium Committee: L. D. Meggers, L. A. Reed, Fred R. Dean, A. E. Sanner, and R. J. Plumb. The Board of Directors of Pasadena College approved as five other members of the Auditorium committee, J. B. Deisenroth, E. E. Mieras, Henry B. Wallin, John Mandtler, and Leroy Daniel. Thus these ten men became the duly authorized and accredited committee "to



LEROY DANIEL  
Superintendent of Construction

seek ways and means and to promote the construction of the Nazarene Memorial Auditorium." Shortly thereafter, September 23, 1940, the Committee was incorporated, and known by its corporate name as "Nazarene Memorial Auditorium, Inc." And thus the auditorium business passed from the subcommittee of the district camp meeting board, into the hands of the special committee created by the district assembly. R. J. Plumb was continued as treasurer, and faithfully served until the spring of 1942 when on leaving the district for another pastorate, he resigned from membership on the Auditorium Committee. J. Russell Gardner was chosen by the camp meeting board to fill the vacancy on the committee. Also later that year, L. A. Reed accepting a pastorate on another district, resigned. His successor, Lloyd B. Byron, was chosen to fill the vacancy on the Auditorium Committee. J. B. Deisenroth was chosen treasurer and secretary, and handled the big volume of work ensuing during the main period of construction, 1942-1944. John P. Mandtler slipped away to be with Jesus in January, 1944. He was a great lover and supporter of the Auditorium project, even donating much labor. He often visited the building site and operations and was a great inspiration and encouragement to the builders.

The special Auditorium Committee of ten men upon incorporation were assigned specific duties. A. E. Sanner was continued chairman. Leroy Daniel was chosen the superintendent of construction. The following committees were set up: Executive Committee, A. E. Sanner, R. J. Plumb, J. B. Deisenroth. Committee on Labor and Materials, E. E. Mieras, John P. Mandtler. Committee on Architecture, L. D. Meggers, Leroy Daniel. Committee on Memorials, H. B. Wallin, Fred R. Dean. When R. J. Plumb took his departure, Leroy Daniel was elected on the Executive Committee. All committees were advisory, and all major decisions were made by the Auditorium Committee as a whole. The writer wishes to pay tribute to the

members of the Committee. All served conscientiously and faithfully. All carried a heart interest in the great task. Each one undertook his part whenever any responsibility was referred to him.

The Committee engaged Frederick J. Kennedy, Jr., as architect. His co-operation, knowledge, constant assistance on call, understanding, genial patient disposition, were invaluable contributions to this endeavor. Roland Maxwell was retained as legal advisor, an outstanding attorney, whose aid and kindly assistance was the best. Bruce Fix was chosen as head builder, and his assistant O. P. Deale. No regret for these choices ever appeared, but only great appreciation for them and their very efficient ability for the heavy work and many problems incident to the construction work in war times. Our highest praise and gratitude are due Leroy Daniel, Superintendent of construction. His appreciation of the pay-as-you-go agreement; his understanding of the Nazarene vision and spirit; his shopping ability and knowledge of values; his unfailing patience and smile; his many personal contacts always made with gracious courtesy; all, added up, that he was the right man in the right place.

Thankful reference is made to the camp meeting evangelists who from year to year, made the financial appeals at our request on the camp meeting platform, namely to T. W. Willingham, for three years; Holland London, and Hugh C. Benner, each for one year. Also to Dr. J. B. Chapman and Dr. H. V. Miller, General Superintendents, who gave addresses for the Auditorium, the former on Sunday afternoon of the assembly June 8, 1941, and the latter on Sunday afternoon of the assembly June 7, 1942. Dr. Chapman spoke on the theme of the "Memorial" saying, "In years to come this great building will become more and more the Westminster Abbey of California Nazarenes, and this feature will be increased by the fact that the building will continue to serve the spiritual descendants of those whose names it bears." Said Dr.

Miller, "The Auditorium will be to the past a Memorial, to the present a Utility, and to the future a Message." Prof. E. E. Patzsch as singer assisted the district superintendent in the "Finish the Auditorium" tour of fifty churches in the fall of 1943. This tour was completed by the superintendent in the spring of 1944, visiting on an average one church per week for this cause. The goal for this tour set by the Committee of \$40,000 in cash and subscriptions was surpassed. Such was the kind response of the people, and sympathy and faith in this great cause.

#### ANY THING . . . ANY THING

"If ye shall ask any thing in my name I will do it."—Jesus.

It was agreed we would take everything to the Lord in prayer. The Auditorium Committee would pray. The Executive Committee would pray. A special prayer group in Pasadena who had on their hearts the success of the Auditorium agreed to pray, to have special prayer for special needs of the work when presented. Many, many faithful individuals upon whose hearts also the Lord had laid the burden of this undertaking, prayed. So actual building operations were begun in January, 1941, with \$5,000 cash, and a spade—the one used at the ground-breaking, PLUS a determination to work on a pay-as-you-go basis, to pray for everything needed, to trust God for it, and to toil hard and consistently to help realize the answer to the prayer. To build a \$100,000 Auditorium for the cause of Christ. Humbly, and for the praise of God, we state that the Auditorium is a series of answers to prayer extending across several successive years in regal witness that Jesus will do it, "if ye shall ask an Auditorium in my name." THINGS—ANY thing.

Note must be taken that Pearl Harbor came in December, 1941, just eleven months after the construction work began. The current scene changed constantly through 1941, and very rapidly after December. But nevertheless, the timing of the building of the Auditorium proved to be correct. No one could have known. It could not possibly have been planned ahead by human reasoning. Who knew there would be a Pearl Harbor with its consequences? Labor shortages, bans on lumber, steel, etc., ensued, but He who said, "Ask any thing in my name, I will do it," knew just how to temper the unfortunate

times and perplexing war conditions to the needs of this work, which truly is a work of faith for His glory, and for the souls for whom he died. Everything, as needed, in its order and for its purpose, was supplied through the three years, as planned and prayed, to the conclusion in 1944.

There may be some skeptics, and doubters. But the facts are real, and the history cannot be challenged. There were machines, tools, equipment, materials, money, men, supplied, when prayer was made, which can be explained only on the basis that our Director, Jesus, took a hand. Ask anything! said He.

Soon after construction work was begun, the necessity of owning a cement mixer of a large capacity became obvious. The required machine would cost \$1,450. And that figure in the beginning days was not possible. And here is the story of the beginning days. The district superintendent had challenged all the men pastors of the district to join with him in donning work togs, and each donating five days of labor, and so help us God, we would get the walls poured. We would begin, use what money we had, do what we could, and trust God to provide the means, and show the way, step by step, and month by month. The pastors accepted the challenge. 75 pastors at five days each made 375 days and added would be such help as some laymen who might find some time, would give.

The superintendent of construction was to plan "Labor Days," when he would arrange for 20 or 25 pastors to come on a certain day and make a "pour." The skilled workmen would have prepared a large section of forms, fabricated the steel and placed it; the city inspectors would have made their inspection; the sacked cement would be on the site with the necessary sand and rock, etc. A contractor with whom an agreement had been made would be on the spot with his large mixer. And on that day the brethren would pour that large section of form, and the donated labor would be some \$200 to

\$250 for the one day, but that part of the job would be done and PAID FOR. This plan worked for several "Labor Days," when on the next call this contractor informed the superintendent of construction, "Sorry, but our plan will not work. Labor shortages have come, I am far behind with my work. I cannot come on your date. You will have to find some other way to get your cement poured." So there it was. Either own our own cement mixer, and also other machinery and equipment necessary for our own men to go ahead with construction without hindrance, or be defeated.

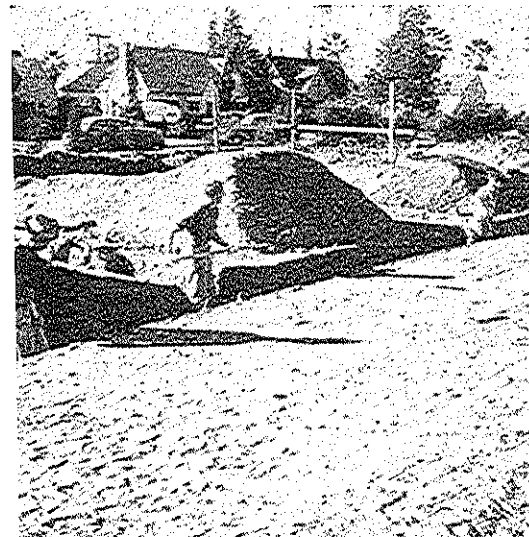
So the Committee prayed. The prayer group prayed. Ask anything, said Jesus. Ask a cement mixer in my name! In four days a telephone call came from an unexpected source stating that at a certain location would be found a mixer apparently the very machine needed; shoved back in a far corner of a rear yard with weeds grown around it. The detail of this story is very interesting, but cannot all be related here. Suffice to say investigation was made, the machine proved to be the one of required capacity; the owner said it was just so much junk to him, and he would be delighted to have it taken away for \$100. Our head builder who is an expert mechanic took only two days at regular wage to overhaul the motor, do some minor repairs, and that machine ate up some 6,500 sacks of cement with all the cubic yards of sand and gravel to go with them! That mixer was paid for, ten dollars down and ten dollars per month to a creditor of the gentleman who sold it to us, on an old account he as an honest man wished to pay, and everybody was happy! Just like the Lord. Make everybody happy. Now that the Auditorium is built the machine is still worth as much as we paid for it. Thus the Lord supplied in answer to prayer the first machine.

After that came the need for a large power hoist. This was supplied, a \$650 machine for \$150. "Ask a power hoist in my name! I'll do it." Then came along all the

tools and equipment and machinery needed for the whole job. A Black & Decker  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. Electric Power Drill; the Skill-saw and motor; the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  h.p. saw for small work; the 15 h.p. and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  h.p. electric motors for heavier work; two gasoline motors. Note: provided from private sources in war times when purchases could not be made in the open markets.

So the walls were built. And paid for. Then came the massive concrete and steel work of the rear two-story superstructure. At the beginning all reinforcing steel had been purchased for the walls. That was as far as the money would go, with the other purchases. And meanwhile the ban had come on reinforcing steel. Our builders were ready for the rear superstructure. We had commitments for two years for the cement at  $41\frac{1}{4}$ c per sack, and 58c per ton for the sand and rock. We could go no farther however without steel for this rear superstructure. "Ask any thing," said Jesus. "In my name." "Ask steel, I'll do it." So the group prayed again specifically that this steel problem would be solved and the need supplied. Presumptuous? Unpatriotic? Not when, nor as, the Lord works. He had a way. And soon. The president of one of the great steel companies of Los Angeles had taken an interest in this task. He knew of our need and predicament. One day he called the superintendent of construction and said, "We have just received a shipment of heavy sash steel, which is just as good or even better than the regular reinforcing steel for reinforcement. There are no priorities on this steel. There are six men in our office right now begging for this steel, but you boys out there ought to have it. If your city man will okay this for your use I will send it right out to you. Go at once and confer with your city authority and I will hold it for you for one hour." Our superintendent of construction at once went to the city hall and contacted the city inspector. Here is his reply: "You guys are the luckiest fellows I ever heard

Students dig for the foundation.



Girls serve refreshments.



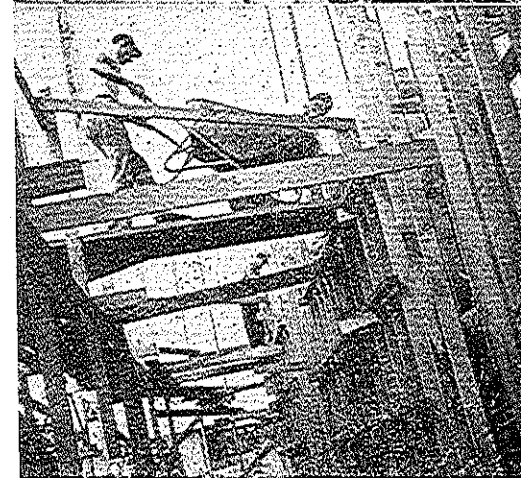
of. Why that steel is better than the other, go cinch it at once!" So that steel was sent out and set down on the site only a few days before the 1942 camp meeting. We told the president of the steel company we could only spare \$400 at the time, and the cost was \$1,031. But he said thirty days would be okay. Within that thirty days period camp meeting came and on the first Sunday of that camp the crowd was told of this steel and the need of \$631; the plates were passed and the people graciously laid the \$631 on the plates. "I'll do it," said Jesus. He did.

And thus on and on, as materials were needed, the needs were met. True to the old proverb, "In one way or another the Lord will provide." For the first six months it was really difficult to keep enough money coming in weekly to pay costs. Sometimes there was real test of faith. It was a burden. But the Lord didn't ever let us down. It was only we—those who had the responsibility—that should not let the Lord down. "Ask anything! I'll do it," said Jesus. So it was necessary to get the burden over on the Lord, where indeed He wished it to be. "Casting all your care upon the Lord, for He careth for you." So an earnest prayer was made to God to help us place this care over on Him, where He wanted it to be. "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" He helped us. From that day the cash receipts for the Auditorium fund averaged \$1,000 per month for three years, and some months higher than that, money coming through the mail from unexpected sources sometimes. And after that steel experience, all needs for materials were supplied, frequently in marvelous ways. To God be the glory.

The first wheelbarrow of cement is poured.



Later when the pouring moved upstairs.





## THE KEY OF DAVID OPENETH

"I am he that is true, he that hath the key of David."  
—Jesus.

Jesus always has the key to the situation. He proffered its use to His children. "These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; behold I set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." While this quotation is from John Revelator's statement of Christ to Philadelphia church, it is evidently the reflection and fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah (Isa. 22:22) who foretold of the day of Jesus on earth, and of His kingdom, and said that among the glories of it, God would lay on Christ's shoulder the key of the house of David, and that Christ "would open doors so no man could shut them," which means He could and would open doors that man had shut. "Closed doors." John said, "Christ is true. The prophecy is fulfilled. He has the key of David. He uses it. He opens any closed door, which He wishes to set before you."

Jesus frequently spoke of the key when he was with His disciples on earth. To Peter: 'And I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' When Jesus was on earth a key would either bind or loosen a band which held and fastened the object to be locked. That He refers to the mighty privilege and responsibility placed in the hands and hearts of His children, called prayer and faith, is clearly indicated by His further word, "Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and what-

soever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

David was an absolute monarch. So is Jesus. If He reigns over your heart and life, and His directions are fully and lovingly obeyed, and His will is supreme, He makes the astounding promise, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." There is that word again—anything! He has the key. It works. It worked many time in behalf of the Auditorium. It unloosened situations and changed things many times. When His children prayed. Here is one instance when man shut the door tight. Prayer was made. The key worked. The closed door opened. He was true. And everybody liked it, even those who had closed the door.

The camp meeting of 1942 was approaching. The Committee and many others who knew, had prayed so earnestly that the requested and desired permit would be granted which would allow the construction of the great trusses to support the roof of the Auditorium out of timber. Engineers and architects were agreed, the city authority agreed, that this would be splendid and proper construction for this Auditorium. But a technicality held up the permit. During the camp meeting on the seventh day a letter came from the city containing the permit. This letter was read and waved to the great camp meeting crowd, and the response was electrical. They pledged in one service more than \$10,000 towards the cost of the roof. All were happy that now we could go ahead with the construction of the roof.

But within two weeks after that camp meeting a great disappointment came. The ban went on lumber over the entire nation, and though we now had the permit, we could not secure the lumber. So the situation was

"bound" and "locked" by events over which no one had control.

Certain rights adhered in the case of the Auditorium, however, for the construction work had been begun eleven months before Pearl Harbor, and there had not been any suspension of the work. The local Los Angeles War Production Board said they were helpless to assist, but if the Committee wished to make an appeal direct to the head Board in Washington, D.C., they as the local Board would interpose no objections. So our attorney drew up a very impressive statement of the facts, and the matter was referred to the Washington, D.C., War Production Board personally by our congressman. A former visit by our congressman had brought the word that favorable action might be expected. One letter was received, courteously worded. But it was not necessary to read it twice to understand what was said. The opening paragraph of the letter stated, "We regret we cannot issue a rating for this project." The body of the letter gave reasons, among them this: "Scores of these projects have been denied ratings, many of which were even farther advanced in construction than yours." And the closing paragraph read: "We are placing your application in the closed files and no further action will be taken respecting thereto." "Closed!" said Washington.

No reference here is to be construed as disrespectful to these men. They were doing their duty as they saw it, and maybe they were right. We put up a clean and honorable fight for what seemed fair and right, as the building had been brought to the place where the roof should be built for the building's protection. And some twenty months' construction work had been done before the ban on lumber. But accepting the decision, and wishing to be patriotic and consistent with those who had the authority, the Committee and prayers agreed to put this whole matter in the hands of the Lord with prayer and trust, that He would in His own good

time direct when it should be reopened. Meanwhile the work went right on, as there was much concrete work to be done, and on cement and sand there were no bans, so no time was lost. That door was closed in October, 1942.

In the spring of 1943, a telephone conversation among the members of the Executive Committee revealed the fact that all were feeling the urge of the Spirit, that the time was near when the case should be reopened for investigation. It was agreed to have special prayer about it for three days and then to meet. At this meeting it was fully agreed by all that the Lord was surely leading to open up the roof proposition again. The superintendent of construction was instructed to take one of the members of the Materials Committee and go the very next day to visit the managers of the big lumber companies of the Los Angeles area. They went to the right man the very first call made. He was the general manager of the whole Pacific coast territory of one of the largest lumber companies in the West. He listened attentively to the story of the need of the Auditorium. His first remark was a striking statement. Said he: "Gentlemen, a unique thing has happened. Right now we have in our yards at Terminal Island a big pile of logs recently received, which contains this very lumber you need, and I doubt if it can be found anywhere else up and down the coast. We have our mill right there by the logs, and can saw up the big timbers according to your specifications, and we would like to sell you this lumber. Just rest here in the waiting room and I will call up the War Production Board here in Los Angeles and see what we can do." These logs were thoroughly dried and of the highest grade number one common and select common lumber. Hurrah! Now watch the key work. How easy it is for the Lord to open a door. He is true. He did it.

This gentleman returned to ask: "Did you say you began before Pearl Harbor?" Reply, "Yes." "And you

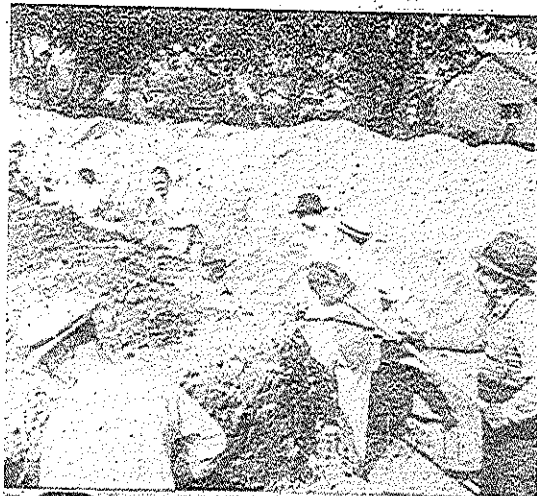
have never suspended building operations since you began?" Reply, "No." "Fine," said he, "I believe we are going to make it." Presently he returned and said the matter was under advisement and consideration, and that he would get word in a few days as to the decision. That as soon as he knew, he would call. If he had been a Nazarene he would have said, "Go home and pray." That was really what he meant.

That a miracle was in process of enactment was verified by a visit made at once to other large lumber companies. In each and every instance the result was the same. They had no such lumber in stock, could not secure any, and if it were to be had, it could not be sold to us, so each manager said. One manager spoke up in astonishment that anyone would even suspect that any such lumber might be available, and said he, "If we had it, we would be jailed if we sold it to you."

In two or three days a message came by telephone to our superintendent of construction: "I have good news for you. The War Production Board has okayed the sale of this lumber to you if we really have what you can use. So get two or three of your Committee, the city head inspector, and your architect, and we will arrange for your group to enter our yards at Terminal Island and inspect the logs. If your city man says everything is satisfactory, and we can work out your specifications with the mill men who will also meet you there, we will be glad to sell you the lumber." So the next day this writer had what he considers one of the great thrills of his life, when he had the privilege of taking these men, who took the entire day off for the trip. The logs were okayed by the city inspector, after a few more days of figuring and deliberation the order was let, and out of this came nearly 250,000 feet of lumber of the very finest quality to meet the high demands of the city, and with it the priorities which made it possible to secure 3,000 large split-ring connectors (which were found in one pile in

one place, and there only), 2½ tons of large bolts, 1,500 of them, 3,000 washers weighing from three-quarters of a pound to two pounds a piece, everything that was needed to make up the great trusses of 102 feet span, and weighing from nine to eleven tons each, all of which plus labor made a roof valuation of \$40,000. How easy when the key was used! "I am true. I am He. I have the key. I open and no man can close," said Jesus.

Southern California pastors do their share of the digging. The first four are Clyde A. Rhone, R. J. Plumb, Will South, A. E. Scanner.



Jerry Reynolds, a student, dumps a wheel barrow of sand in the mixer.



## THINGS WORK TOGETHER

"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."—Paul.

The battle had been won to secure the great timbers necessary to construct the large trusses to support the roof. And all permits thereto had come through. All the required steel for truss construction too had been acquired. Piles of the great timbers were on the building site.

The shopping ability of the superintendent of construction, and the ability and versatility of the head builder and his assistant had brought together and assembled and created the equipment which would elevate the trusses weighing from nine to eleven tons, and of 102 feet span, thirty-five feet to their place on the columns and pilasters. The reader must remember war times were on, and many needful things were not available in the markets. These men actually constructed the blocks for the lifting tackle out of scrap iron discovered in scrap yards. The gin pole of 60 feet was an invention for the need. Some months prior, anticipating the need, the superintendent of construction had discovered in a scrap yard and purchased a 400-foot half-inch steel cable. And thereon hangs our present story.

The 400 foot steel cable was useful for the elevation of the first truss only, the one lifted at the rear of the building from the floor of the speaker's rostrum and choir. Even here that cable just barely made the lift. If there had been another inch needed, it would not have sufficed. So. Another problem. In order to continue the work it was absolutely necessary to have a 500 foot

cable, and none was to be found. A bottleneck. "Ask any thing," said Jesus. "Ask a 500 foot half-inch steel cable in my name and I will do it." "All things work together for good," said Paul.

So the Committee prayed, and those who carried this burden prayed. Our superintendent had called to see the manager of a big firm who ordinarily had equipment such as this, to solicit his aid. Said he, "If you had \$10,000, I wouldn't know where you could get that cable. But we will be on the watch for you, and if we can assist, we will be happy to do so. I'll call you if I discover anything."

Earnest prayer was made that the Lord would provide this cable. Everything was ready to go on up with the roof. Materials, men, equipment, all ready—but one indispensable thing was lacking, the 500 foot steel cable. Lord, help us! Lord, don't let Baal hinder us!

Within four or five days the manager of the firm to whom reference has been made, called. Said he, "Come over, Mr. Daniel, I believe I have some good news for you." Friend Daniel (not the one who was in the lion's den, but the one who discovered a cable when there seemed to be none available) drove over and parked his car at the curb by the side of the plant. It is war times, the plant is not accessible, so the manager comes out and sits in the car with our friend, at the curb.

Said he: "Since you were here the other day, I learned that our workmen on a certain job out in the country, had received a 500 foot cable for their task, and were assembling their machinery and making ready the cable for use. It occurred to me that perhaps they could use a 400 foot cable, and if so, we could release the 500 foot cable for you. So I got in my car and drove out to see the foreman of that job, and he said they could use a 400 foot cable okay. We have arranged to release our cable for your use, and have it here now

ready for you. We cannot sell you this cable at any price, but you would have no further use for it anyway after you get your trusses on the wall. So we are going to rent you this cable for six months for ten dollars and when you are through with it, bring it back, pay us the ten dollars rent to clear the record on our books, and all will be well."

Things work together! Imagine a 400 foot cable and a 500 foot cable working together to build this Auditorium!

Here it may be well to state, that when those big trusses were lifted to their places, each truss end came down to rest on a large steel plate. That steel plate got in to help build the Auditorium too in rather a wonderful way. These plates worked together too, for good. Steel plate was not available in the open market. But these plates were of the very best steel made, battle-ship plate. At Terminal Island, across the water from the lumber company where the logs were found which went into the trusses, are the big ship-building companies and their humming activities, where the Liberty ships constantly go down the ways. When these ships are constructed their sides are one large broadside of fine steel plate. Later the workmen go along with blow-torches and cut out the port holes. When this is done, a fine piece of battle-ship plate tumbles out. Some of these just the right size were providentially ordained and predestinated for the Auditorium. They seemed to get animated, to get happy Nazarene hands and feet on them, to clap their hands and jump up and down and say, "Hurry up, take me, I want to help build that Memorial Auditorium in Pasadena!" Be that as it may, anyway, in due process and time, a sufficient number of these fine plates arrived on the site and offered their services. They were accepted. They are up there now, gracing the tops of the capitals and supporting the great trusses, working together for good.

Things work together for good! However this is not so strange when one recalls that what Paul really said is, "And God is able to make all things work together for good to them that love him, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

## LABOR OF LOVE

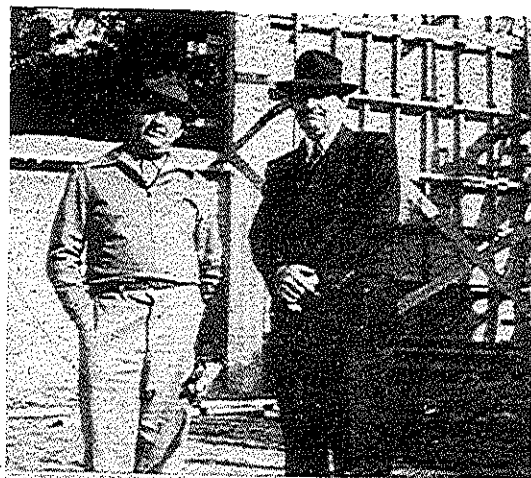
"Ye know your labor is not in vain in the Lord."—Paul.

For very love of the purposes the Auditorium represents; the great cause of evangelism and missions, Christian education, the various needful activities of the Southern California District, literally thousands made their gifts of money, many their gifts of labor, and all their investment of a loving sympathy and prayer for its success. Perhaps not more than two made money gifts exceeding one thousand dollars. The great number gave each around one hundred dollars or less. The Auditorium was not built by the wealthy. But it was built by lovers of righteousness and holiness. Several incidents of the labor of love which was poured into this building are worthy of this record.

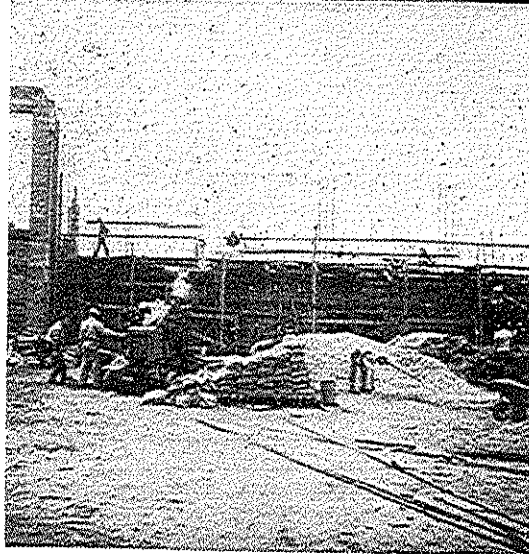
There were the pastors and laymen who donated some \$5,000 in the pouring of the concrete. When a big "pour" was planned there would usually be some fifteen or twenty pastors and three or four laymen. The laymen were fewer because of the man-shortage caused by war conditions. And for this very reason, the pastors came in to get the task done in spite of the conditions. Most of this work was done through a hot summer. But the brethren persisted faithfully on the job, and each call for a "Labor Day" saw a quota of men present who did the work. This continued until the walls and rear superstructure were completed. Three cheers for a group of pastors like that.

Then praise is due the group of students from Pasadena College and Pasadena Academy who dug the excavations for the foundations in January, 1941. Also other work, such as backfilling when the walls would

Superintendent of Construction Leroy Daniel and District Superintendent A. E. Scenner



A crew busy with a "pour."



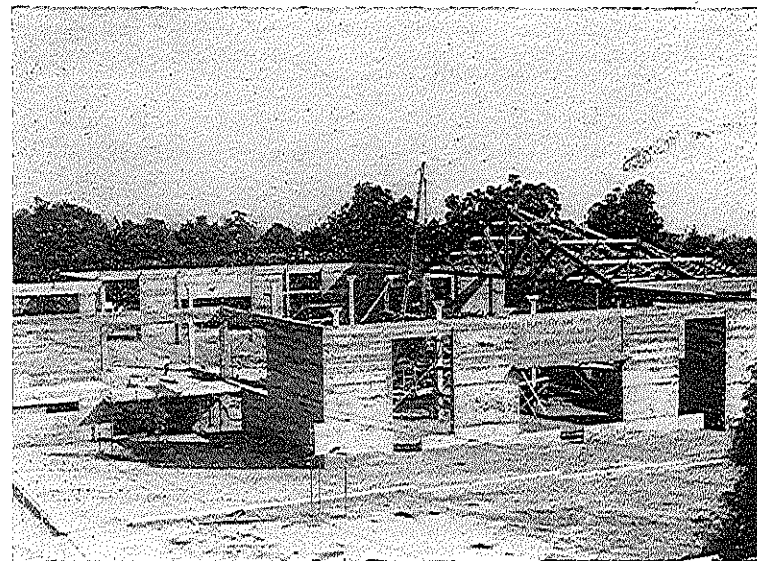
appear above ground level. Their donated labor was valued at \$1,500. To do this work they gave up their recreational periods, and instead, for exercise they shovelled dirt out of the trenches. They organized themselves for the task, the girls served refreshments, and they all had a lot of fun doing their part. Also friends made it possible by their cash gifts, for students to earn money for tuition with unskilled labor. The proposal for student aid was that a dollar given for the purpose would do the work of three dollars. Namely, the college office would get a dollar in revenue from tuition, the student would get a dollar's worth of tuition, and the Auditorium would get a dollar's worth of labor.

Another group who religiously made of their own free choice a great contribution and religiously had a good time doing it, was composed of several retired men. For pure love of the cause they volunteered their services and seemed greatly to enjoy their work. Representative of this group we mention G. A. Whitley, K. W. Kolhoff and C. F. Crain of Pasadena, Levi Shultz of San Pedro, and William Kenyon of Long Beach. When the large sections of forms were pulled back from the newly-set concrete, these men would come, pull nails, clean the lumber, oil it for the next use, and neatly stack it. The form lumber thus was used a dozen times or more, and believe it or not, when the pouring was over, much of this lumber was still serviceable. This gift of time and work saved many hundreds of dollars. Their friendly comradeship, kindly repartee, singing of old hymns and testimony will not be forgotten.

The auxiliary organizations of the district each contributed to make possible the equipment and furnishings of a room on the second floor. The N.Y.P.S., the W.F. M.S., the S.S., and the district, respectively, each voted to provide \$700 to fully furnish and equip one room. This room will be a headquarters room for that organization. But the rooms will be used as lecture rooms for Pasadena

College use, and for committee rooms at district assembly and convention times. The gifts therefore were for the use of all, and for the purpose of assisting in the overall task of finishing a big job, and finishing it right.

The memorials and living service memorials are gifts of love, and of tribute. It was hoped in the beginning that there would be some 500 of these, and sure enough the number approximates that. As illustrative of these gifts are the following. Two former students of Dr. A. M. Hills gave a memorial for their beloved professor and teacher of the way of holiness. M. Lunn from Kansas City sent a memorial for Charles A. Kinder, one of the workers of the Nazarene Publishing House who sacrificially helped to lay the foundations of that great institution in its early days. In an Auditorium service in one of the churches, a good woman arose and quietly said, as tears coursed down her cheeks: "If our little boy had lived, he would have been 21 years of age today. He left us when three years old. My husband and I wish to give a memorial for our boy." The Mexican Nazarene friends in loving remembrance of Mrs. May McReynolds, who forty years ago founded the Mexican Nazarene work of the southwest, gave a memorial to her name. And thus appreciation, love and kind memories were written with deep meaning on hundreds of pledges. And thus the fact that this great building is to be dedicated to the best interests of our Youth of the future, in training in Pasadena College; and to the evangelization of hundreds among the great throngs who will attend the camp meetings, is a high tribute to the devoted lives of those for whom the memorials were written.



The roof begins to appear.



## FIGURES AND PERFORMANCE

"Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also."—Paul.

It is one thing to will, and another thing to perform the doing. Readiness to will is good and necessary, but not enough. As usual Paul is right. There must be a performance also, if the thing is done. When it is done, it takes dimensions, and sets up statistics made of figures. Some people will be interested in the figures, so here they are. And why not. If anything is done, there are figures.

The Auditorium is of concrete reinforced with steel, built earth-quake proof, according to the high requirements of the city of Pasadena.

It is of cruciform shape, 204 x 204 feet, making the lineal footage of the walls 816 feet. Covers a little less than one acre of ground. The highest point is 50 feet.

There are 2,500 tons of rock and sand, and 10,000 sacks of cement in the concrete poured. Also 50 tons of reinforced steel. There are eight tons of steel sash of the finest make in the windows.

For two years our commitments held for the above materials. The rock and sand cost us 58c per ton when the price went up to \$1.00 per ton. We paid only 41¼c per sack for cement, though the price went up to 65c.

The Auditorium will seat 4,000 people on one floor. A smaller chapel may be arranged seating 750. There are ten large commodious rooms in the rear superstructure, eight of which will be used for committee rooms, lecture rooms; and four of the eight for headquarters rooms for the district organizations. The choir will seat 280. The speakers' rostrum is 30 x 12 feet.



In April, 1944, the building is inclosed. Here is the rear view of the auditorium as seen north on Sierra Bonita street. The north-south center line of the building exactly coincides with the center line of Sierra Bonita street.

There are 250,000 board feet of lumber in the roof.

A splendid gymnasium is presented Pasadena College in this building. The floor is of maple, resilient in construction. There are lockers and showers for girls, and lockers and showers for boys, with all necessary facilities and storage rooms for equipment. This gymnasium will be used for the physical educational requirements of the College, which are necessary, and perfectly legitimate and right.

The interior finishing is of interior stucco, acoustical plaster and acoustical board, scientifically designed to make the acoustics right. A public address system operates at the pulpit and in the ceiling just above the speaker's rostrum. Fifty ear-sets of an acousticon system are available for those of impaired hearing. The interior front is finished off in beautiful panel effect with fine walnut wood.

Lighting is the latest type of fluorescent, consisting of ten massive fixtures, four, nine by nine feet, and six, nine by six feet.

Surrounding the Auditorium, at nearest points 35 feet distant, is a massive, decorative wall, with steps, seats, walks, arranged for landscaping beautifully with flowers, shrubs, trees.

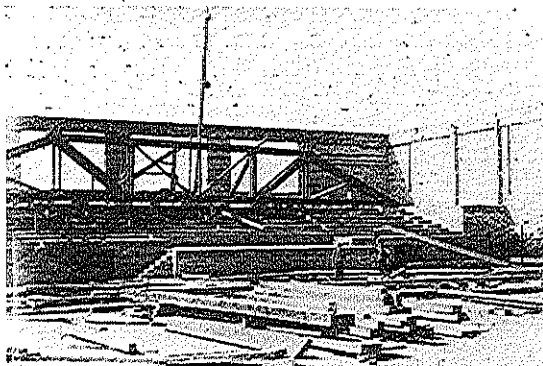
The Auditorium completed and fully furnished will conservatively have a valuation of \$150,000.

Campers at the camp meetings will face the east wall, where in the cement beautifully lettered they will read Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Students of Pasadena College will face the west wall where they will read Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

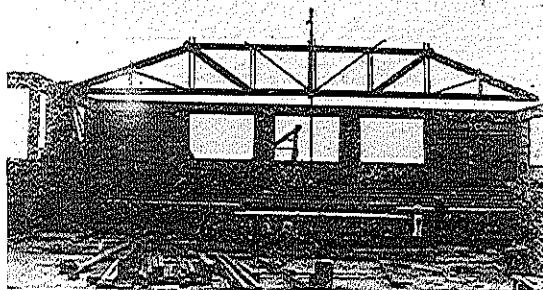
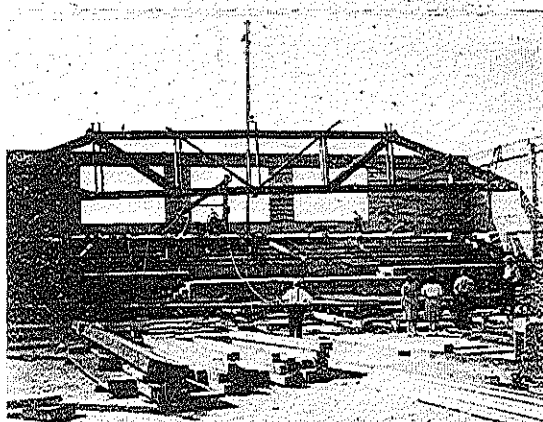
Across the interior front of the great Auditorium there will be an old-fashioned "Mourners' Bench," where sinners will be invited to come to find Christ in real sal-

vation, where believers will be invited to come to seek and find the grace of entire sanctification, where Christians will be invited to come to find help in any need. Under the speaker's rostrum is a room for special prayers, where mourners in Zion may pray until they are comforted.

We Nazarenes state in our manual, "We seek the simplicity of the early New Testament church." The Auditorium follows that pattern. It is dignified; of the best construction substantially; beautiful in simplicity. But not luxurious. It is built for use, and used it will be, the year around. May the vision of our founder Dr. P. F. Bresee often be realized here, "Let's get the glory down."



The first big truss weighing ten tons, is swung into position.



## PROPHECIES . . . . DREAMS . . . . VISIONS

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."—Joel.

It is interesting now to note how the vision of an Auditorium became defined and realized, as reflected in the published statements along from time to time during the period of a decade.

Various brochures, containing proposed plans; "Auditorium News" sheets; literature promoting the Auditorium, all reveal a consistent faith and development of the vision. Herewith are given several such reflections.

Brochures issued by the district superintendent under dates of 1935, 1938 and 1940, used in the camp meetings of those years respectively, read: in 1935, "We ought to do it . . . . THIS IS NOT TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE." In 1938, "We can do it . . . . THIS IS NOT TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE." And in 1940, "Now to be realized . . . . PROPOSED MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM."

The 1935 "FORWARD!" We must either go forward, or back up. The pressure of a sinful world these days is terrific. The danger is great. Some are fallen by the way. The great apostasy is on. What will Nazarenes do? I hope this camp will answer the challenge of this day a thousand times. We will be true! Southern California Nazarenes wake up, refuse to drift, "Stand in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and find rest for your souls." Let's build the camp. It is one of our safeguards. It can be one of the greatest and most influential camps for holiness in the United States. With great crowds, with mighty men of God preaching with the Holy Ghost sent

down from heaven, with much prayer and humility of heart, we can keep the fire and blessing of God on our churches, our district, our homes, our hearts. This is no time to be a quitter. Let's go forward. To build the camp it is necessary to provide a plant and grounds properly arranged and equipped for the need. We can do it. God will help us.

The 1938 "FORWARD!" "Speak to my people, that they go forward," is the word of old to God's people. And the spirit of the church this side of Pentecost is, Up! Move! Be doing! Go! With a purpose, with a holy zeal, with a vision, with a heart on fire with heavenly love, to get the good news of a salvation from all sin for all men everywhere! The Southern California District, Church of the Nazarene, has a glorious history, a rich heritage, a great opportunity, a tremendous challenge! What do we?

God has sent the crowds to this camp. They have not been properly housed and seated for years. This camp by the blessing of God, by the faithful ministry of his able servants, by the determined purpose of the camp meeting board to be true, can build and maintain a high level of spiritual life and holy living that will meet the challenge. Let's do it. Let's keep the banner of holiness waving high. Everyone take hold and do your part. Our great success will not be in the great deed some one person does. It will be in the sum total of the small deeds in which some eight thousand of us are faithful. ALL of us together, by the grace of God, can do anything we ought to do, and which God wants us to do. Let's arise and build!

Then the 1940 "Let Us Build!" After several years of consideration and necessary antecedent preparation, the great camp meeting of 1939 hilariously backed the plan to build a district auditorium and pushed the total financial pledge to more than \$21,000, where it is deemed

safe and wise to begin actual construction. The Building Committee of ten men authorized by the district assembly has been constituted and duly organized, with capable men appointed to various sub-committees, to whom have been assigned the various important tasks in this great project. The Committee has aggressively taken up its work.

It only remains now for all the Nazarenes and friends of the Southern California District, Church of the Nazarene, each co-operatively, to do his or her part to bring this glorious vision and hope to realization. Let all who have pledged cash gifts pay same faithfully. Let all others who can, make pledges large or small and pay them. A regular monthly-payment system will be very acceptable. Make gifts of money, gifts of building materials, gifts of labor. Pray, boost, give. It will take much sacrifice, perseverance and patience. But it can be done. It ought to be done. It must be done. God is in this vision. He has sent the multitudes to us for spiritual help and guidance. We must not fail. We must provide for their need and God will help us to do it. We are counting on everyone to do something! Let us build!

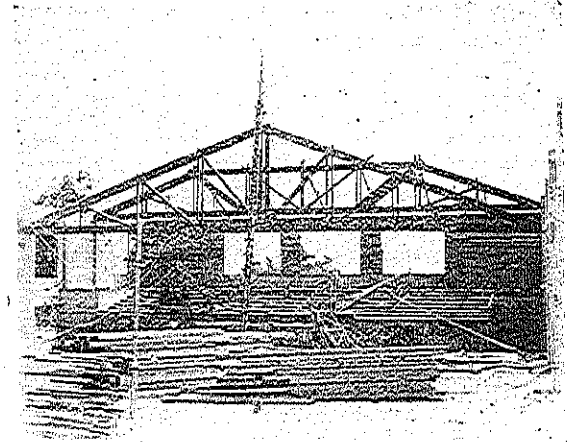
The Auditorium pledge card used at the district camp meeting in 1941, had the following statement by Dr. J. B. Chapman printed on the reverse side. "There is no section of our church that is so rich in tradition or so honored by contact with our leaders of the first and second generations as Southern California. For this reason there is no place where an outstanding memorial idea can be carried into effect as appropriately as here. There are no less than five hundred ministers and laymen whose lives have been of sufficient worth to our church, and who were especially known in Southern California, that their names should be placed on either the Memorial or Living Service roll in the new Auditorium, and if friends and loved ones will provide for the placing of such names by providing a hundred dol-

lars each to be applied on the cost of construction, the project can be carried through without difficulty, and to the blessing of all who are by this means permitted to render a splendid service while yet showing special honor to one who has meant so much to themselves and to others. In years to come this great building will become more and more the Westminster Abbey of California Nazarenes, and this feature will be increased in meaning by the fact that the building will continue to serve the spiritual descendants of those whose names it bears. I personally thank those in whose hearts and brains this idea was born, and I am glad to co-operate in the fullest way in giving material form to the vision these godly men and women have seen."

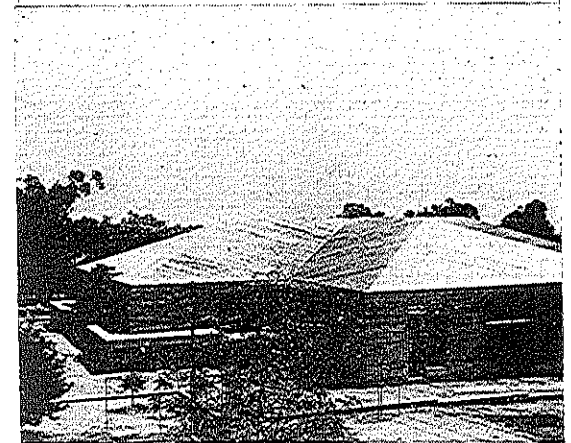
On November 20, 1940, the Pasadena Star-News editorially had the following to say under the heading "Nazarene Church School Reveals Progress in New Building." Ground was broken the other day for construction of a substantial memorial auditorium on the campus of Pasadena College, Nazarene denominational school on East Howard Street. The edifice will be the gift of members of the Southern California district of the denomination to the college. Members of the Nazarene community are to be commended for and congratulated upon the undertaking.

The auditorium will serve the little college in various ways. It will have a seating capacity of 4,000. At times it will serve the college as a gymnasium. It will have a chapel seating 1,000. Other rooms will be used for classes and lectures. Architecturally and physically it will be a contribution to the campus and to the neighborhood. But its greatest contribution will be to the welfare of the Nazarene young people who come not only from Southern California but from other states, to attend the college. And it is from this, it may be imagined, the donors will derive their greatest satisfaction.

The second truss, weighing eleven tons, has just been placed in position.



The roof sheeting is on!



The Nazarenes are not a wealthy group. Their college has been built, admittedly, from humble beginnings. But they hope to make it one day one of the finest denominational institutions in the country. As one of their spokesmen said at the ground-breaking, the building of this auditorium is a step forward, in that direction. In due time all the flimsier appurtenances of the campus will give way to permanent buildings like the one just started. Contributions by individual members of the denomination toward fulfillment of these aims will be, in some instances, at personal sacrifices. Yet their compensation can be that their gifts will, at one and the same time, serve well their church, their sons and daughters, and so their community and their country.

The preacher-poet Lon Woodrum too caught the spirit of that vision and in 1941 hear him sing:

I watched the walls rise up between  
The tall Sierras and the sea . . .  
While faith beheld the future scene  
And glimpsed the splendor yet to be.

I saw, where tools had roared and rung  
A building stand—the thing was done!  
Four wings of stone were far outflung  
Beneath the Pasadena sun!

But vision's wings were swift and broad—  
I heard a singing, heaven-strong,  
I heard the up-borne praise of God—  
The Nazarenes were lost in song!

And angels seemed to span the scene  
Above the offering of art—  
Above the words: "The Nazarene"  
And "Blessed are the pure in heart!"

I saw a thousand students troop  
From far and near to stand inside  
The dedicated walls—a group  
That hailed and served the Crucified.

There was no debt, no payment plan;  
No mortgage on the temple weighed,  
For they who reared it owed no man—  
As they built it so they paid!

By faith the auditorium stood  
Between the mountain and the sea;  
By faith I saw it blessed of God  
And shadowed by eternity!

And thus preacher, General Superintendent, District Superintendent, editor, poet, layman, many indeed, dreamed and saw visions of a great substantial building to house and to promote the greater success and enlarging influences for good of the Southern California District. And now in June, 1944, when this manuscript is being submitted to the publishers, the Nazarene Memorial Auditorium is no longer a dream, but a great reality nearing completion. It is fully planned and expected that the great building will be occupied August 17-27 by the greatest camp meeting the district has ever known, and that it will be dedicated on Sunday afternoon, August 27, in the presence of a crowd that will pack it out, by that great friend and master preacher, Dr. J. B. Chapman, General Superintendent.