



GOD'S APPOINTMENTS !

At a Meeting of involved Churches and Sunday Schools we were discussing the development of the Camp Grounds, finally someone said, "What we really need is to be Incorporated and have a Constitution and By-Laws." I replied, "That is true but it would require a Lawyer and we don't have the finances to hire one." Many of the heads were nodding affirmatively...it was so quiet we could hear each other breathing. We were all aware that the Camp Grounds did not belong to us. The real owners were three thousand miles away!

Suddenly there was a motion on the floor and approved! "The Missionary shall find a Lawyer who will do all the required work without charge." My answer was, "That's almost impossible!" Immediately there was a chorus of, "Nothing is impossible with GOD." I replied, "I agree, all of you must help by praying that God would lead me to the right person...I'll start looking on Monday."

Monday my wife and I had our prayer time together and as I was leaving I asked her to continue praying because I didn't have a plan except to get moving. In the car I leaned over the steering wheel and reminded Jesus that HE brought us to this point and I was available for whatever He wanted me to do! Then

I decided to go to the largest Church in town surely they would have...or knew, some Lawyer! The "Without Charge" bothered me!

When I reached the Church I went directly to the Office. I related my problem to the Receptionist, except the "Without Charge" part. She said she didn't know of any Lawyers...perhaps the Secretary knew of a Lawyer. Trying to be helpful she left me and walked across the room and talked with an older woman who apparently was the Secretary.

Loud enough for me to hear, the Secretary said, "I'm positive there are no Lawyers in the Church and we don't need one!" I was just about to thank them for their help when another young lady came into the Office. The receptionist trying to cover her embarrassment said, "Just a moment, let's ask Marie." I related my story to Marie, she shook her head negatively and started to leave...she stopped...turned to me and said, "I just remembered something, I'll be back in a minute."

Immediately she returned with a Pew Card and said, "This seemed odd when I saw it and it stuck in my mind. I was sorting the Cards from yesterday...this one stood out because I didn't know who to give it too." She handed it to me...written on it was, "Palmer Johnson Tax Attorney, I will help in any way I can." Marie asked, "Will that help?" I was so shocked that all I could do was nod my head YES! I handed the card back to Marie, she wrote the name and address on a card and gave it to me.

I thanked them both and walked to the car saying, "Thank You Lord! Thank You!! The address was about ten miles away, in a short time I found the home and rang the chimes. Instantly, the door swung back as though the person on the inside was waiting for me. I have never been welcomed so cordially in all my life. The Gentleman who opened the door was tall and straight, in his late sixties with a strong, commanding voice.

While we were in the entrance hall we introduced ourselves. Inside, he introduced me to his wife Cora a very charming person, who took charge of the conversation by showing me Paintings done by her husband. Apparently he had begun oil painting as a hobby and she was showing me his paintings to encourage him.

Cora led us to a room where he painted and used as an office with two comfortable chairs. Palmer had many questions, about the Mission, the Churches, Sunday Schools, me, our relationship to the Camp Grounds, who owned it and the relationship? Eventually we got around to why I was there.

In as few words as possible, I explained that anyone who gave a gift to the Camp Grounds of money or material and wanted a tax deductible receipt, the money or a description of the material, had to be sent to the District Office. From there to the Mission back East. From there it was returned to us four or five weeks later. Most of the members felt that we should be buying the property and making our own decisions. We needed

to be Incorporated and have our own Constitution and By-laws!

Palmer said he was familiar with all of this. He seemed to be mulling all this over in his mind then he said, "I can do all the things you have need of but I don't have a secretary anymore, it will take a long time." That did it for me, it was time to talk about cost! I said, "Time is not a problem, we have been struggling without all this for almost two years, the big problem is the cost." He sat there for a long time with his eyes closed and his index fingers pressed to his lips thinking!

Finally he spoke, "I don't want to get into trouble with my Legal Cohorts for stealing work from them, I'll have to "Bill the Camp," but I'll mark it paid." I don't know how long I sat there trying to absorb the meaning of what he had just said! My mind was going "Thank You Lord, Thank you!" I began to thank Palmer but he just passed it off, now he was all business. "We need a meeting with your members so I can have a general idea of your operating needs."

We set a time and place as we walked towards the door...with his hand on the knob he said, "That Mr. Grant is a fast worker isn't he?" I asked, "Who is Mr. Grant?" He looked shocked, "Didn't Mr. Grant send you here?" "No, I'm sure the Lord sent me here, I don't know anyone named Grant, who is he?" Palmer was at a loss for words, searching...trying to put things in

perspective. "Mr. Grant writes a Religious Column for the Orange County Newspaper. He came thru here last week encouraging Christian Professional Men & Women to give time in their Profession to the Lord's Work." Then I told him about our meeting on Saturday and the Motion for me to find a Lawyer to do what we needed without cost!

We stood in awe of what GOD had done! When I recovered I said, "It appears that GOD had prepared your heart for us meeting before I knew we had a need. Let's give thanks for this assurance that we are to work together for the Lord." "We Prayed our thanks." I walked on air on my way to the car. I resisted a desire to run...shout..jump! I calmly got in the car and hurried home to tell my wife.

Palmer did everything that he said he would and more. He came to homes and under the trees at the Camp Grounds for meetings and discussions. A few months later he brought us the final papers. As we began to thank him he held up his hand and said, "This did more for me than it did for you. I enjoy the painting I had been doing...but I know now, God can use me. If any of you have a need for anything I can do, please give me a call!"

And did they call! Over the years he Incorporated four Churches on the Field, he also Incorporated or revised three other Camp Grounds. He was always available for whatever God wanted! I sometimes wonder how many of God's Appointments we miss because

we are too busy or don't stop to pray. I personally would have missed one of God's Gifts to me! Palmer became my personal friend...confidant...counselor...sounding board...and many times, when I had a problem he would always point me to Jesus!

I spent much time with Palmer on details of the By-Laws, the Incorporation portion was cut and dried. For a non-profit Corporation any future sale of the property the money could not be divided between any of the Churches or individuals, it must be given either to the State of California or another Non-Profit Corporation. We chose the Mission!

Thank You Lord, for supplying our Need!