

# JUST CHRISTIANS

TERRY MILLER

*"The disciples were called **Christians** first at Antioch"* (Acts 11:26). In many of our travels throughout the world we are frequently asked, "and to what denomination do you belong"? That's a hard question to answer, simply because we do not belong to a denomination. I usually reply, "We're just Christians." **Just Christians!**

That's enough to put some of my friends' theological minds into a tail spin. Perhaps it sounds strange to them, but it's true, we are **Just Christians**.

Terms such as non-denominational, inter-denominational, or non-sectarian don't really tell who we are. Neither does independent because we are so dependent on one another. The name of our magazine is the Sharon Star, but that's the name of a periodical, not the Church. Sharon Schools, the former home of the Sharon Bible College and the Sharon Orphanage is the name of the campgrounds and conference center where Christians gather on special

occasions. It's not the name of the Church. Some of my friends hear me mention Global Missions, and because they want to put a tag on everything, they say "so that's the name of your denomination." Emphatically, NO!

Global Missions is only a legal entity and bank account which exists for the purpose of financing the worldwide outreach, which includes the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom and assisting the poor and needy. Others say, "You constantly mention 'The Move Of God' or the 'Move Of The Spirit'...is that your name?" Again, they are wrong. These are simple terms to explain what we have been experiencing for many years in our walk with God. Our radio and television broadcasts carry such names as the 'Sharon Gospel Hour', the 'Global Missions Broadcast' and the 'Gospel of the Kingdom' but again these are only names of the broadcasts.

As followers of Jesus, the only name which we bear as a

Body today is the name of Christ...CHRISTIANS. *“If a man suffer as a CHRISTIAN, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this NAME”* (1 Peter 4:16).

My simple affirmation of being **Just Christians** often causes my friends to ask more questions. This simple statement actually opens the door for them. I can easily understand why with over 300 denominations in this country that they find it hard to understand how we can be Christians without being part of a denomination. I tell them, “not only is it possible but today it is a reality”. Then I explain how there are actually hundreds of local churches and thousands of ‘Christians Only’ scattered throughout all of the World in this great Move of God. What a joy it is to share with them the wonderful things God has done for us.

Sometimes they say, “Well, where are these people who seek to be only Christians?” because the Gospel of the Kingdom is now being preached in all of the World. It is quite conceivable that they exist in every nation upon the earth. Local congregations have been established in every continent. The local assemblies of which these dear saints are a part are usually simply known as “The Church at High Point”, the “Church on Kentish Road”, the “Christian assembly in Edmonton”, the “Church at Kisumu”, the “Christian Church in Sea View Farm”, etc. just as they were known in the New Testament when Paul sent greetings to “the Church at Ephesus”, the “Church at Corinth” etc. These terms were not then and are not now used in a sectarian sense. Like the first-country Christians, we do not build fancy cathedrals or great temples. We are content to worship in simple meeting halls, rented auditoriums, or even large homes. Knowing that God does not dwell in “*temples made with hands*” we prefer to use the Lord’s money to build lives, feed the poor, clothe the needy, and minister the Gospel of the Kingdom to all the earth. Although many times few in number, the presence and influence of these saints is felt mightily in their respective communities.

Because we are not a denomination, I am sometimes asked if we are ashamed of our roots or if we have forsaken our roots. Today it is the popular thing for men and women to identify themselves with their roots. This is not necessarily bad or wrong as long as people realize that we cannot live in the past. There are many lessons that we can learn from history but God requires that our lives be hidden with Christ in God **today**. I’m glad that my forefathers knew God, but I must learn to know Him for myself. In this present Move of God, we have come together from many nations, many races, various cultures, and several different denominational backgrounds. Personally, I

have Mennonite/Hutterite roots, others among us have Anglican and Catholic roots. Still, others come from Pentecostal, Baptist, and Holiness backgrounds and not forgetting our brethren with roots in the charismatic movements, the Church of God denominations, the Presbyterians, the United Church, and Methodists. All of us value our experiences back there and are not ashamed of our heritage, but we cannot live forever on yesterday’s manna. We have experienced a **new beginning**. *“For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one Body”* (1 Corinthians 12:13). It is a joy for me to say today that we are **Just Christians**.

It is obvious to thinking men and women that the religious world today is terribly divided. It hurts the cause of Christ. We want to be careful not to add to this confusion. Since 1948, we have had a special mandate from God to proclaim the coming together of the Body of Christ. We recognize as brethren in Christ all who have been born of His Spirit. I think it was our dear Bro. Holt who once said, “We do not cut ourselves off from anyone; if they cut themselves off from us, that is their business”. We are not some sort of an exclusive group or better than someone else. We are not important men as men measure importance. Because of the mighty visitation of God which we have experienced, we, in our unworthiness, can but only reckon ourselves to be among the least of God’s children. One thing we do know is that we have heard from Heaven and that we have a message for God’s people.

God has moved in unusual ways many times throughout Church history to accomplish His purposes. Martin Luther, Menno Simons, John Wesley and other leading reformers caught the vision of the **restoration** of the Church. These men were used by God to correct erroneous teachings and practices that had involved the Church in their day. God used them to bring His people right out of the Dark Ages. In spite of their human frailties, each of them saw afar off the necessity of the Church truly being of ONE mind, ONE Spirit, and ONE accord...the coming together of the Body of Christ. They knew it would happen, that it would have to happen, but when and how they were not sure. None of them wanted to form new denominations or further divide the family of God. They believed in the restoration of all things. Today, they would probably turn over in their graves if they knew how many of God’s dear people call themselves Lutheran Christians, Mennonite Christians, or Wesleyan Methodist Christians. These dear men of God were **Just Christians**. Never should a human name prefix this God-given name. Paul was one of the greatest of the Church fathers, but he did not want disciples to be called Paulites or Paulite Christians (1 Corinthians 1:10-17).

When these various movements became denominations and man-made ecclesiastical organizations, they ceased to be an ongoing move of God. They added further to the division of the family of God. We give thanks to God for every great move of the Spirit in the years gone by. They were all important and necessary, but the truth remains that they were merely stepping stones to a far greater glory yet to be revealed in the endtime. Today, that dream and vision of the fathers has passed to another people. Many dear saints of God today belong to denomination groups. God loves them and they are His. Indeed, they are our brothers and sisters in Christ, but the vision of their fathers has passed to another people.

While many things have changed in the course of the history of the denominational system, the teachings of Christ and His Holy Apostles have not. Although 1900 years have passed and a lot of water has gone under the bridge since then, the plan of God is still the same. God has decreed that the Body of Christ shall come together in answer to the prayer of Jesus, *"That they all might be ONE, that the world might believe."* Each and all of the divisions must ultimately be broken down and the sheep of many pastures and many folds shall come together, and there shall once again be one fold and one Shepherd. This is more than a reformation this is a radical restoration, a **new beginning**, a definite part of the making of all things new. Men may slam their doors, but it will avail nothing. The Kingdom of God will prevail.

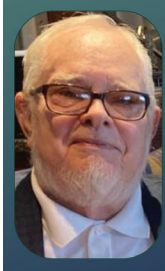
In 1948, Christendom began to experience a fresh awakening as a result of an unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon an obscure Bible College at North Battleford, Canada. In this humble place, God began to pour out His Spirit in a manner that had not been experienced since the days of the early Apostles. This mighty visitation came about after weeks of serious fasting and prayer. A revival followed, the impact of which was felt all over the world. God required of the participants a level of consecration and dedication never before dreamed of. It was necessary that they all remain humble and hidden so God could receive all the Glory. The result was a Move Of The Spirit of such a magnitude that the words of a man cannot begin to describe. Thousands have experienced a **new beginning**. There was and still is a great flow of revelation centering around the coming together of the Body of Christ and the restoration of all things. There was also a fresh quickening of truths that had been restored in previous Moves of God. Much emphasis was placed on the Kingdom of God being near at hand. God restored the nine gifts of the Spirit to the Church. The five-fold ministry was restored and began to function by the Spirit of God. There was much emphasis upon the fruits of the Spirit and the social implications

of the Gospel for the needy and the underprivileged. Christ was and is given the pre-eminence in all things. As revelation unfolded there was much teaching concerning Christian maturity and growing up into Him. New songs were sung in the Spirit, songs that had never been sung before. A new day had arrived for the Christian Church, but it was only the beginning. The power and influence of it all will grow until the whole earth is renewed.

God has decreed that the Body of Christ shall come together in answer to the prayer of Jesus. We have a mandate from God to proclaim the coming together of the Body of Christ and to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. A remnant with eyes to see and ears to hear are beginning to flow together. These humble men and women are but instruments in the hands of God. They come from many different nations, different cultures, and speak different languages, but they are ONE in Christ...**Just Christians**. They have heard the voice of God. They are going on before, making sacrifices and paving the way so that ultimately all of God's dear divided children will finally enter in. This coming together is not by the decree of some ecclesiastical authority or denominational conference, but by the Spirit of God. He alone has the power to make us ONE. *"For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body"* (1 Corinthians 12: 13).

The mind of God is that we all speak the same thing, that we be of ONE mind, ONE Spirit, and ONE accord even as there is only ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of us all. He wants to bring us into a close relationship with one another as *"flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone"*. He wants us to share together, to bear one another's burdens, to have the same care one for another, to rejoice together and to weep together. In the local Church, He wants to bring us all into a close family-like relationship.

Although God is opposed to the divisions and disunity of His people perpetuated by the man-made denominational system, neither is it His mind that each local Church be an independent group. The local church is not a law unto itself. He has an order which is Divine. We have received much revelation and teaching over the years concerning His order. An independent spirit has no place in the family of God. We have learned how important it is to become dependent upon one another. How beautiful it is to be members one of another. Not only are we members one of another in the local church, but also in the Church universal. In this great Move of God you can visit any of the local assemblies and find the same Spirit and manner of worship and genuine fellowship in each. This could only come about through His mighty hand. ✚



Terry Miller  
1945-2022

By Bernard James

Bro. Terry Miller was very instrumental in bringing the Gospel of the Kingdom to the island of Grenada. The 1960s was a very challenging period in the life of the church in Grenada. The Pastor, as he was called, broke ties with the International Pentecostal Assemblies (IPA) and the church was no longer affiliated with any other religious body.

Many preachers and pastors were invited from time to time to minister. Our pastor was searching for a new revelation. He turned to many radio stations and listened to several preachers, but the one that really touched his spirit was the Sharon Gospel Hour aired on Radio ZDK.

He listened week after week to the messages by Bro. Terry. Something was different about the messages that he heard. His spirit and conviction were challenged. Many members also started listening to the broadcast after the pastor shared the news with the congregation. I was a teenager at the time and had been recently baptized. I was very anxious to tune in to the radio, to hear the powerful voice of Bro. Terry as he ministered the word of God. Although I couldn't fully understand the depth of his teachings, the Holy Spirit was ministering to my heart.

Finally, the pastor decided to write to the Sharon Gospel Hour, inviting them to visit the church and to share more of this Kingdom message. A positive response was received and in 1974, the apostolic brethren in Canada commissioned Bro. Terry with a few others to visit Grenada to share the Gospel of the Kingdom. Because the pastor and members were all seeking the Lord for a new awakening, the task was not a difficult one for the apostolic brethren. As Bro. Terry and the other ministries began teaching about the moving of the Holy Spirit, many blinded eyes were opened spiritually, and we began to see the unfolding of God's Word.

In the 'old order', we did things according to man's plan. There was no existence of the plurality of elders and deacons. It was a one-man ministry. Every meeting was planned, which left little or no room for the direction of the Holy Spirit. As we were taught by the brethren to rely on the Holy Spirit, there was a change in the way God ministered to us as a body through prophecy and the laying on of hands by the presbytery. We began to sing new songs in the Spirit. Our souls were uplifted.

Many other truths were revealed to us as we waited on God and searched the scriptures. One of these truths was that of head covering. The ladies obediently embraced the teaching of God's word on that subject and began covering their heads in submission.

We were also taught the importance of the church as a many-membered body and the partaking of the Holy Communion, using the one cup as outlined in 1 Corinthians 11:25-27. These teachings were new to us, although they were all outlined in the scriptures.

As the years passed by, Bro. Terry continued to visit us whenever he had the opportunity. We were privileged to have him in our first camp meeting on the island, which was a real blessing. Many accepted the Lord and were baptized. His cheerful personality and vibrant spirit were admired not only by the members of the church but by all who he encountered as he travelled around the island. He never forgot to say, "God bless you, brother" or "God bless you, sister" with a welcoming smile on his face. His laughter was also very contagious.

As was prophesied over him by Bro. Whitter, he did 'shake the bushes and scare all the birds' in Grenada because everyone in the assembly embraced the Kingdom message as he ministered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Captives were set free, and many were delivered from bondage, sin, and manmade doctrines.

Bro. Terry never focused on himself but on the wonderful things God had done, not only in Grenada but in the entire Caribbean. Whenever we sing the song, *Victory in Jesus*, I remember Bro. Terry at our first camp in Grenada and as we pay tribute to him, I will quote the first and last stanza of that song.

"I've heard an old, old story,  
How a Saviour came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary,  
To save a wretch like me  
I've heard about His groaning,  
Of His precious blood atoning,  
Then I repented of my sins  
And won the victory.

I've heard about a mansion  
He has built for me in glory.  
And I heard about the streets of gold,  
Beyond the crystal sea;  
About the angels singing,  
And the old redemption story,  
And some sweet day I'll sing up there  
The song of victory."

He led the congregation in that song, and we danced and rejoiced in God's presence. Thank God for victory in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Terry loved the Lord, the Church and all the people. His ministry will be greatly missed and as he would often say, "Keep on keeping on, the best is yet to come!"

On behalf of the Brethren, Bernard James ✝

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