



# Morning Glory

*“The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh” — I Thessalonians 5:8*

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2007

## The Unchangeable God

### In the morning

*“I am the Lord, I change not”* (Mal. 3:6).

Many things have changed recently in your life.

Your present conditions are not quite the same as they used to be. Several things which you used to enjoy you now miss. You are living mainly in your memories at present, trying to put aside all thought of the future.

In all these circumstances you yourself are changing. You are not the same person as you used to be. Other people have seen it, and you feel it yourself.

But listen to the word given to-day:

*“I, The Lord, change not.”*

God is the unchangeable fact in your life. His love for you is just as personal and heart-felt as ever.

God is the hidden cause of every change in your life. Nothing happens by chance, for God Himself does not change.

His love is the same. He cares for you just as much as He did when you were a child. He will forgive your sins as He did before. His power is as great as ever, and He is ready to answer your prayers today as in the past.

You are changing; God is unchangeable. He will renew your spiritual life, once more giving you strength and joy.

*“I, The Lord, change not”*

### At noon

A young mother had experienced salvation in Christ. Peace and joy filled her heart. The home was enlightened by the sunshine of God. The one who enjoyed what had happened to Mother most of all was little Mary. Mother sang, and Mary sang.

But after some time, the mother’s song ended. It didn’t matter how good and kind Mary was, her mother seemed to be just as discouraged. Frequently the child heard her mother sighing.

One day when the mother was in the barn milking, Mary saw that she looked deeply distressed. She noticed tears in her eyes.

The child got an idea. She ran into the kitchen and found the family Bible. Mary had noticed how often her mother read the Bible during her time of happiness. Lately, this book had been almost neglected.

Now Mary took the Bible in her arms, and hurried out to the barn. Mother sat milking when Mary entered, so she handed the Bible to her mother, saying:

“Mother, read here! It is still written there, just the same.”

Then Mother arose, put her pail aside, took the Bible and Mary in her arms and said:

“Thank you, my little girl. You have comforted me. Why do I grieve? It is still written there. That is my comfort and I ought to be very glad indeed. The promises of God change not.”

### The poem of the day

Don’t let the song go out of your life  
Though it chance sometimes to flow  
In a minor strain;  
It will blend again  
With the major tone you know.

Don’t let the song go out of your life;  
Though the voice may have lost its trill,

*continued on pg. 2*

# Morning Glory

Volume LXXXIX – Number 8  
December 2007

**MORNING GLORY** (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Haga Publishing, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856. Periodicals postage paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56538.

**POSTMASTER:** Send change of address to Morning Glory, c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 Alcott Ave. W., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

**Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland**  
**508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529**

**Send Announcements, Contributions, and Subscription Renewals to:**  
Barbara Stueland, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529

Internet Web Site: [haugeinnermission.com](http://haugeinnermission.com).

#### PUBLICATION OFFICE:

HAGA PUBLISHING, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856

#### OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Paul Peterson.....Kenyon, MN  
Vice President: .....Vacant  
Secretary: Jim Haga.....Shoreview, MN  
Treasurer: Barbara Stueland.....Dilworth, MN  
Kevin Gunderson.....Dexter, MN  
Charles Hinderaker.....Austin, MN  
Townley (Toby) Knutson.....Fargo, ND  
Duane Nessa.....Garden City, IA  
Matt Peterson.....Kenyon, MN  
Rodney Stueland.....Dilworth, MN

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is registered with the Department of Internal Revenue as a non-profit religious organization. Contributions for all phases of the Hauge Federation are deductible for income tax purposes.

### Table of Contents

The Unchangeable God .....1-2  
Assurance .....3-5  
I Lift Up My Eyes • No Slumber • Arise and Be Not Afraid.....6  
Hymn History.....7  
The Valley of Slaughter .....8-9  
Blessed are the Pure in Heart .....9  
Forgiveness of Sins .....10  
From our Fellowship Circle • The Incarnation • Prevenient Grace.....11  
Asking and Receiving • Two Kinds of People • For Your Sakes – Poor .....12  
Editorial .....13  
Believable ...Yet Unbelievable.....14-15  
Homegoing • Opportunity(s) .....15  
Booklets • Update .....16

Though the tremulous note  
May die in your throat,  
Let it sing in your spirit still.

Don't let the song go out of your  
life;

Let it ring in the soul while here;  
And when you go hence,  
'Twill follow you thence,  
And live on in another sphere.

#### In the evening

*The mountains may depart, and the hills be removed; but My loving kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall My covenant of peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. (Is. 54:10).*

Dear child of God, how confident you may feel!

Look at the mountains, how firmly they stand.

They have stood in the same place for centuries. Not till the last fire destroys the world will they depart.

More firm even than the mountains is the loving-kindness of God. The covenant of His peace shall not be removed. Neither on the last day of judgment will He forsake you. Even if the mountains depart and the hills remove, the loving-kindness of God shall not depart, He says. Nothing is so firm and unchangeable as the covenant of His peace.

Then put away every kind of apprehension and restlessness. Be quiet and confident, and go to sleep in the secure certainty of God's kindness and mercy.

Taken from "On Our Father's Knee"  
by Fredrik Wisloff  
(Devotions for times of illness)

**We are not called the  
cream of society, but the  
salt of the earth.**

# Assurance

Rev. Maynard Force

**Editor's Note:** This is the third chapter from Rev. Maynard Force's booklet entitled, "*Assurance*." The first chapter was printed in the September, 2007 issue of the *Morning Glory* and the second chapter was printed in the November, 2007 issue. If you would like a copy of either issues, please write to the editor..

## *Those Who Have Holy Spirit Assurance*

Assurance is the work of the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God." No human being can give assurance, although some have tried. I have heard people say, "I was told I was saved." Well and good, but if the Spirit of God did not bear witness, such assurance is worthless. It is like paper money with no gold or silver to back it up. Some sermons are preached giving people the understanding that they are all Christians. That is more than Christ himself did. When He wrote the letters to the seven churches in the second and third chapters of the book of Revelation, the promise in each case was given not to the entire church, but to the "overcomers" in the church. The giving of assurance must be the work of "the Spirit himself," for He alone knows who truly are children of God. He would never miss one. He is the Comforter and loves to comfort by witnessing to us that we are God's children.

It is a serious offense to take the place of the Holy Spirit. More of this is done than we realize. In our mechanical age we have placed the emphasis on the church machinery rather than on the Holy Spirit. We are so bent on "producing results" and "making a show" that often we do not wait on the Holy Spirit. We usher people into our church membership who never should be members. We try to ease consciences of people whom the Holy Spirit will not release. We are in danger of giving assurance where the Holy Spirit has never borne witness.

In Old Testament times, the anointing oil for the high priest, which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, was not to be imitated. "Whosoever compounded any like it, or whosoever putteth any of it upon a stranger, he shall be cut off from his people" (Ex. 30:33). This anointing oil was to be poured on God's appointed priest, and not on every Tom, Dick and Harry. It was poured only upon the garments of the priest; not a drop was to be poured upon his flesh, for God never anoints "the flesh." "Upon the flesh of man shall it not be poured ...it shall be holy unto you" (Ex. 30:32). God chooses those who are dressed in His robe of righteousness to be anointed with His sweet-smelling oil of gladness. God save any of us from pouring imitation oil upon strangers.

The entire First Epistle of John is written "that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13). Many understand this to mean that the Epistle is written to Christians who believed but who did not have assurance. That is not true. Rather, this Epistle is written in order that these people may be sure they have the right kind of assurance. Moffatt's translation throws light on this point. "I have written in this way to you, who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may be sure you have life eternal." A paraphrase of the verse would read something like this: "These checks and tests on assurance I have written unto you, that you may be assured you are the possessors of the genuine God-given eternal life, you who believe on the Son of God." The verses just previous to the above verse leave no doubt in our minds as to the teaching of the Epistle on assurance. These have already been discussed under another heading. Just to note again: "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in him." In other words, if we have saving faith we have the witness in us, and we know we are children of God.

Then follows the verse, "These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God" (v. 13). To say, then, that John's Epistle is written to Christians who do not have assurance is reading something into Scripture that is not there. Furthermore, the entire contents of the Epistle teach the opposite. John states, "I write unto you, fathers, because **ye know** him ... I have written unto you, little children, because **ye know** the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye know him" (I John 2:13, 14). Let us therefore look at some of the tests or checks that John gives in his Epistle to help us make sure we are saved. We will confine ourselves to this Epistle alone and by no means try to exhaust it.

*The first check of assurance we will call the sin test.* A person's attitude toward sin reveals whether he has a Holy Spirit assurance or a false assurance. Let us first look at those who have the wrong attitude toward sin and thus are building on a false assurance.

A person who hides sin is under a false assurance. "If we say we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and do not the truth" (I John 1:6). Just think of the many people today who are deceiving themselves into believing that they are saved simply because they are members of some church. Their lives show that they are "in darkness"; they hide their sins and they love the world. God's Word is clear that "if any man love the world, the love

*continued on pg. 4*

of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15). A person who is walking in darkness does not see where he is going. God's Word has not been permitted to light his steps. He simply has a little head knowledge of the Lord, but his heart is as dark as can be. He is so blinded he does not even see that he is lost. That is the worst darkness into which a soul can get. It is the beginning of eternal darkness. If that is our condition, John writes, "we lie, and do not the truth." All such people are lost, and have a false assurance.

A person who says he has no sin is not saved either. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8). Whenever we say "we have no sin," it is a sign we are blind. The Holy Spirit has not yet been permitted to do in our hearts His first work of convicting us of sin. For "he, when he is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). All who have missed the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin are in the class of the self-righteous, and the truth is not in them. They are lost and blind. They are deceived. They have the wrong kind of assurance.

A person who says he has not sinned is also lost. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:10). To deny sin is an offense against God. We then pitch our word against His, and make Him a liar. Regardless of who we are or how holy we may seem to others, "if we say that we have not sinned," we are lost; "the truth is not in us." Such assurance is false.

On the other hand, there are those who have the right attitude toward sin, and enjoy a Holy Spirit-wrought assurance. All such, John maintains, are walking in the light. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). To walk in the light means we have come out from our dark hiding places. We have exposed our sins rather than hid them; there are no "closet skeletons." We are the same at our place of work as we are in church. The entire heart has been exposed. The door of confession that leads to the heart has been opened and Christ has entered. We see Him as the crucified Saviour who died for us. As a result, we have found others who have gone through the same experience and "we have fellowship one with another." Our guilt has been cleansed, and we are free from a nagging, gnawing conscience. The relief is so wonderful that words cannot explain it. We have found a peace "which passeth all understanding." This is true assurance.

Those with a Holy Spirit-wrought assurance confess sin. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). This verse is so simple and definite that even a child can understand it. Sins must be confessed or there can be no Holy Spirit-wrought assurance. We are warned, "He that covereth his transgressions shall not pros-

per; But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy" (Prov. 28:13). What a simple truth. It is when we "confess our sins" that we find out God's promise is good. "He is faithful" – not that He "might be faithful" at death, but that He "is faithful" now. And notice, "to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When we confess the sins which the Holy Spirit is pointing out in our lives, He cleanses us not only from these sins, but also from "all unrighteousness." Our attitude to these pointed-out sins is also our attitude to all our sins. You really know when you get that kind of cleansing. It always feels good to wash after getting dirty from the filth and dirt of this earth. It is even more wonderful to be really cleansed by our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The second check of true assurance is the Word test.* A person's attitude toward the Word of God tells a lot. John writes, "And hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected. Hereby we know that we are in him" (I John 2:3-5). There can be no true assurance which is not based upon a right relationship to the Word of God. Just as a newborn child desires milk, so one who has received the life hungers for the Word. Nothing else can satisfy him. It is either the Word or death. The teachings of the Word receive the place of primary importance. They have become the final authority. The great desire of the child of God is to "keep his word." It has become to him "sweeter also than honey and the droppings of the honeycomb" (Ps. 19:10). His entire salvation is based on it. It is the foundation upon which he stands. Upon this Word "doth he meditate day and night" (Ps. 1:2). He has learned to realize the truth of Jesus' statement, "Ye are clean because of **the word** which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3).

Notice what strong language John uses to describe one who says he is a Christian but has the wrong attitude toward the Word. Such a one, he says, "is a liar, and the truth is not in him." That settles once and for all the classification of the many people today who reject or persistently neglect God's Word, for "how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation" (Heb. 2:3). Samuel told King Saul, "Because thou hast rejected the word of Jehovah, he hath also rejected thee" (I Sam. 15:23). It is a serious thing then not to keep God's Word. This class who insist they are saved John calls liars. They fail in the Word test.

Then, again, notice how positive he is to one who keeps the Word of God. "In him verily hath the love of God been perfected," and "hereby we know that we know him." Such assurance is genuine. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. It stands the Word test.

*The third test of assurance is the love test.* "We know

*continued on pg. 5*



that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not abideth in death” (1 John 3:14). Anyone who claims assurance and does not have love for other believers is deceiving himself. How abrupt this statement! “He that loveth not abideth in death.” One way to know then whether or not we have real assurance is if we “love the brethren.” Jesus’ command was, “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you.” Then He gives the universal sign of discipleship when He adds, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34, 35). If we truly have love for one another, we have assurance, and others also are assured we are disciples. **“Love is of God: and everyone that loveth** is begotten of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” (1 John 4:7, 8). Again this same truth is repeated: “If we love one another, God abideth in us, and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:12). Note, also, that love leads the list of the fruit of the Spirit. “The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace ...” (Gal. 5:22, 23).

This verifies what Paul wrote to the Romans, **“The love of God** hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given to us” (Rom. 5:5). To talk about assurance and not have love is foolish. “He that loveth not abideth in death.” He is as lost as can be, even though he may be religious. “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also” (I John 4:20, 21). The Lord is very practical in this test. How easy for us to say we love God. “All right,” says God, “he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen.” Anyone who hates does not have Holy Spirit-wrought assurance. He fails in this test.

*The fourth test of true assurance is the Spirit’s test.* “And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he gave us” (I John 3:24). This same thought is repeated almost verbatim in the following chapter. “Hereby we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit” (I John 4:13). After all, it is the witness of the Spirit that counts. However, we are warned to “prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (I John 4:1). It is possible for a spirit not of God to give false assurances. Therefore, it behooves us to “prove the spirits.” When the Holy Spirit bears witness, one knows it, for “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (II Cor. 3:17). Another

mark of the Spirit’s presence is life and peace (Rom. 8:6). But His witness cannot be entirely described in words; it must be experienced. He who has the blessed assurance can testify that he has an inward joy that cannot be compared to any joy found in this world. Dr. C. F. W. Walther writes: “Furthermore, the apostle writes, Rom. 14:17: ‘The kingdom of God is ...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.’ The joy of which the apostle speaks is not worldly, or carnal joy, but spiritual joy. A person that has tasted all the other joys except the last is spiritually dead.”

A mechanical or dead faith never results in having Holy Spirit-wrought assurance. Our catechism states that a dead faith “consists in taking to oneself the comfort of God’s gracious promises without repentance and good works.” There is much dead faith in our day. What a sin and crime to tell people with such a faith that they are saved, but lack assurance! God’s Word is clear on this point. “He that believeth on the Son of God **hath** the witness in him” (1 John 5:10). It is a sin for any of us to tell people promiscuously “you are saved.” How do we know? Who are we to take the place of the Holy Spirit? If an individual doubts and has not “the witness in him,” is it not better we treat him accordingly, rather than give him a sleeping pill? We often take too much for granted. God forgive us. Far be it from any of us to be satisfied with anything less than what satisfies God. If a person truly believes on the Son of God, he has the witness in him. And if he does not have this witness, something is wrong. He then fails in the Spirit test. Martin Luther writes: “If you do not feel the crying of the Spirit, resolve never to quit praying till God hears you; for you are a Cain, and your spiritual condition is not what it should be.”

We have thus checked our assurance with four tests that John sets forth in his Epistle. We have endeavored to do as Paul writes to the Corinthians, “Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves” (II Cor. 13:5). Each one of us will have to answer for our “own selves.” God grant, dear friends, we may be able to pass these tests by His grace. Nothing should concern us more. Our catechism asks the question, “What should be your chief concern in this life?” The answer is well worded: “My chief concern in this life should be that I might be saved.” The answer is easily given, but let each one ask himself seriously, “Is that my chief concern?”

Permission granted by the Family of  
the Pastor Maynard Force and  
*Mercy and Truth Publishers,*  
Newfolden, Mn.

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,  
from whence cometh my help. My help  
cometh from the Lord, which made  
heaven and earth* (Ps. 121:1-2).

A man stands perplexed, looking up toward the mountains. From whence shall his help come?

Then the mountains speak their silent, powerful language; they speak concerning their Creator. The beautiful, towering mountains did not come into being by themselves. The almighty God, by His creative word, brought them into existence. And this God still lives! As surely as the mountains stand, God lives. His Word is firmer than any mountain. His promises are surer than the rock foundations of the earth. And He who holds in the hollow of His hand the earth with its mighty mountains is also able to help and to carry an insignificant little human being.

And the man who looks up at the mountains is comforted and made glad. Now he knows whence his help will come. The almighty God whose strength knows no bounds, and whose faithfulness is surer than any mountain, has promised to help him.

“My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” Look at the mountains and trust in God.

Taken from “*Rest A While*”  
by Fredrik Wisloff,  
translated by J. Melvin Moe

\* \* \* \* \*

*Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber  
nor sleep* (Ps. 121:4).

Sleep is a sign of weariness. A sentinel at his post has been overcome by weariness and has dropped off to sleep.

Such sleep is dangerous. For while the guard sleeps the enemy may come. He who sleeps is inactive. He does not even know what goes on around him.

He that keepeth Israel does not sleep nor slumber. He does not become wary or fatigued. He is never inactive. Day and night He labors for your welfare. Every step you take, every deed you perform, is carefully observed by a loving eye. When danger threatens you, He sees it; and immediately He is your shield and your defense.

Throughout your whole life, from childhood to old age, night and day, when you sleep and when you awaken, when you eat and when you work, when you rejoice and when you sorrow, your faithful Keeper is at your side. And He never becomes tired.

“Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.” He is also *your* Keeper.

Taken from “*Rest A While*”  
by Fredrik Wisloff,  
translated by J. Melvin Moe

*And Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise,  
and be not afraid.” And lifting up their eyes, they saw no  
one, save Jesus only.* (Matt. 17:7-8)

IT is easy to understand that the disciples were frightened when the waves beat over the boat, and when Jesus was taken in Gethsemane. But that they should be afraid on Mount Tabor, where it was so unspeakably good to be, that sounds unreasonable.

Nevertheless a deep Christian truth is found in all this.

If a Christian is long in the dark and in a hard struggle he becomes afraid. Then he asks himself: “Can I be a Christian, I who experience so little of victory and joy in God?” But if he becomes happy again, and this happiness lasts a while and seems so great that he thinks that conflict, temptation, and doubt are far away, then also is he afraid. “Can I be in the right spiritual state now when I have no struggle or temptation? Is it not the people of God that Satan tempts, and is it not Satan that a Christian shall fight against?” And so he becomes afraid in the midst of his joy.

How can this be? It is this way, that a Christian cannot have a peace that is whole and full in anything else, save in Jesus only. There is no salvation in either conflict or joy: if we build on anything of that sort, evil will befall us. In wonderful, divine wisdom the Christian life is arranged so that nothing apart from Jesus, no matter how good it is, can make a Christian secure.

It was not only in Gethsemane that the disciples went to sleep; they went to sleep on Tabor, too.

It is Jesus, only Jesus, who can save us. With Him we are always safe.

For I shall see my Jesus,  
He is my hope and stay  
The cross that me oppresses  
Anon He takes away.  
Then nothing more shall grieve me,  
And no adversity  
Shall of my joy bereave me;  
Soon I shall Jesus see.

Taken from the devotional book “*Thy Kingdom Come*”  
by Ludvig Hope

# Hymn History

*This is the account of the writing of the hymn,  
"Nearer, My God, To Thee"*

Many poets, including the author of this hymn, have found no better source of inspiration than the Holy Bible, God's Word.

As Sarah Flower Adams read the moving story of Jacob at Bethel (Genesis 28:10-22), a prayer was born in her heart—a yearning to be drawn nearer to the One who had given her the breath of life.

She compiled these lines in November of 1840. Several composers have tried to match melodies with these stirring sentiments. Lowell Mason's "Bethany" has proved to be the most widely accepted. It is an arrangement of an old Irish ballad entitled, "Oft in the Stilly Night."

This union of words and music appeared in 1859.

Sarah Flower inherited her love of words from her father, an editor with a crusading pen. At the age of twenty-nine she was married to an engineer-inventor named William B. Adams. Born in England in 1805, Sarah teamed with her sister, Eliza, in the writing and publishing of sacred songs. "Nearer My God to Thee" appeared in their book, *Hymns and Anthems*, published in 1841.

While caring for her sister, Sarah contracted consumption and passed away at the age of forty-three. Her hymn-poem has lived on for more than one hundred thirty years!

"Nearer My God to Thee" was the favorite hymn of President William McKinley. As he lay dying, the victim of an assassin's bullet, he was heard to whisper, "Nearer my God to Thee, nearer My God to Thee..."

This prayer-song is reported to have been played by the ship's orchestra on the fateful night of April 15, 1912 when the mighty Titanic sank in the icy waters of the Atlantic. <sup>1</sup>

In fact "...On Friday, April 26, 1912, [people] flocked to the Minneapolis Country Club until its main assembly room could take no more. Many were turned away, and those who gained admittance stood atop tables, chairs, and other furniture. All were anxious to hear a fellow Minnesotan speak of the great tragedy at sea. Someone began to murmur the refrain from "Nearer, My God, To Thee." The hymn spread and

swelled throughout the throng, accompanied by melancholy and tears. According to newspaper reports, the multitude ranged from 500 to 1,000 people, approximating the number of ship's passengers who, like the awaited keynote speaker, survived the disaster. More than 1,500 perished." <sup>2</sup>

**Editor's Note:** Can you picture a crowd this size, standing together, torn to the soul in grief, all singing together this hymn to the only One who can bring comfort at tragedy, disaster, and death?

Nearer, My God, to Thee  
Nearer to Thee;  
E'en though it be a cross  
That raiseth me;  
Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee;  
Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer to Thee!

*Remember when true  
Christian music was  
called  
"Sacred Music"?*

1 Taken from "Hymns of Faith" Northwestern College Radio Network

2 Taken from *Minnesota History*, 60/7 Fall 2007, pg. 252

# The Valley of Slaughter

*“Therefore, behold days are coming, declares the Lord, when this place will no longer be called Tophet or the valley of Ben-hinnom, but rather the Valley of Slaughter.”* (Jer. 19:6)

**Note:** This is the second article on rock music being used in Christianity. The first article was in the November issue of the *Morning Glory*. If you want a copy of that issue, contact the editor.

What does the Bible say about percussion instruments? What does the Bible say about drums in Christian music, especially loud drums? Today’s Christian music market will give you rock, pop, heavy metal, jazz, rhythm & blues and about anything else you care to buy. The musical styles that are listed above all came from the pop/rock culture that used this music to stimulate people sexually. This is where rock & roll got its very name, meaning rocking or sex in the back seat of a car while it rolls down the road.<sup>1</sup> Regardless of the lyrics that are set to this style of music, the very nature of volume, beat, and rhythm that is put together in these musical styles will have the same effect on people. The Bible is filled with warnings against temptations of a sexual nature.

Does Psalm 150 give justification for the use of a drum and loud percussion in worship to the Lord? Psalm 150:5 says, *“Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals. . . .”* (NASB) and the NIV says, *“Praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals.”* The Hebrew word which is translated “cymbals” is defined as “musical instrument of percussion, cymbals (with clashing sound).”<sup>2</sup> J.I. Packer, Merrill Tenney and William White state, “Cymbals were made of copper and were the only percussion instruments in the temple orchestra.”<sup>3</sup>

Psalm 150 also says, *“Praise Him with timbrel and dancing.”* (v. 4) The timbrel would be a tambourine. Packer, Tenney and White state, “Modern musicians would classify this instrument as a “membranophone” because the sound is produced by a vibrating membrane. It is correctly translated as either timbrel or tambourine. It was carried and beaten by hand.”<sup>4</sup>

A third percussion instrument is listed in 2 Samuel 6:5 and is called a castanet (KJV uses the word coronet.). Packer, Tenney and White define this as follows: “Rattler-Sistrum. The sistrum was a small U-shaped frame with a handle attached at the bottom of the curve. Pieces of metal or other small objects were strung on small bars stretched from one side of the sistrum to the other. The use of the sistrum goes back to ancient Egypt and has counterparts in other ancient cultures. It was merely a noise maker, played by women on both joyous and sad occasions.”<sup>5</sup>

Thus the two percussion instruments that God instructed to be used in worship to Him were tambourines and cymbals. By example we see a third percussion instrument listed as a castanet. There were no drums used in Israel’s worship to Yahweh by command or example. This becomes especially significant when one considers that Israel’s heathen neighbors did use a drum in their idolatrous worship, and yet Israel was never told to do so. We see this is Scripture in Jeremiah 19:6 where it is recorded, *“Therefore, behold days are coming, declares the Lord, when this place will no longer be called Tophet or the valley of Ben-hinnom, but rather the valley of Slaughter.”* In describing the word Tophet, Jamieson, Faussett and Brown note the following:

**No more . . . Tophet** — from *Hebrew, toph*, “drum”; for in sacrificing children to Molech, drums were beaten to drown their cries. Thus the name indicated the *joy* of the people at the fancied propitiation of the god by this sacrifice; in antithesis to its joyless name subsequently.<sup>6</sup>

Jeremiah was describing child sacrifice in fire which took place to Molech, which was an idol. Part of their sacrificial worship in this child sacrifice was to beat drums loudly so that they wouldn’t have to hear the children

1 Bob Larson. *Rock*. (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1984), p. 13.

2 Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, and Charles Briggs, *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 2000), p. 852.

3 J.I. Packer, Merrill Tenney and William White, *The Bible Almanac*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1980), p. 497.

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

6 R. Jamieson, C. Fausset and B. Brown, “Jeremiah 19:1-15: The Desolation Of The Jews For Their Sins Foretold In The Valley Of Hinnom; The Symbol Of Breaking A Bottle,” *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Bible Commentary*.



scream as they died. Thus the use of loud drums was directly tied to idolatrous worship. This is why Israel never used drums in worship to God.

Psalms 150 is talking about the clash of cymbals at a crescendo, not the ongoing beat of a drum. This is why it says, "Praise Him with loud cymbals, with the clash of a cymbal." (v. 5) To stand and clash cymbals loudly and constantly (an ongoing beat versus a clash at a crescendo) would be so obnoxious that any kind of true singing of a melodic line would be nearly impossible. There is no mention of a drum anywhere in Scripture as dictated to be instruments used in praise to the Lord.

In the two instances where loud percussion is commanded (Psalm 150:5 and 1 Chron. 15:16), David was commanding the musicians to play **outside**, and that without electronic amplification. The setting in Psalm 150 is praising God "in His might expanse" (v. 1). The setting in 1 Chron. 15:16 is David returning the Ark to Jerusalem. This was played outside as they traveled along. The sound level would be similar to a marching band going down the street in a parade. Cymbals were used indoors at the temple (2 Chron. 5:13; 29:25), but never commanded to be loud inside.

#### Summary of the Bible's Teaching on Percussion Instruments

- Only Cymbals, Tambourines and Castanets were used
- When they were commanded to be loud, it was outside
- They were never commanded to be loud inside
- They were never used with electronic amplification
- Drums were never used
- Loud drums were used by the heathen nations in child sacrifice.

It is clear that the praise music used in the Old Testament was not like the modern "Christian" rock music with its loud, amplified guitars and loud, pounding drums. I believe what accompanied heathen worship back then is exactly what is accompanying heathen worship today. To use it in supposed praise to the Lord is to adopt the worship of the heathen and the world. Simply attaching some Christian lyrics to it doesn't change God's commands and examples from Scripture.

Pastor Jim Haga  
Shoreview, MN

### "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

THIS passage has plunged many sincere souls into the depths of condemnation. For they feel, of course, that nothing in them is as unclean as their heart.

The pure heart, that must be one without sinful and impure desires.

No, it is not; for if that were the case, there would not be a single pure heart in this world of ours. Then not a single soul would ever see God in this earthly life. It is written: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves."

Yes, but then the pure heart must be one that is filled with faith and love. Ask Paul. He says that he is, not that he was, but that he is the chief of sinners. And ask John. He speaks of his heart condemning him.

What then is meant by a pure heart you ask?

Well, the word used in the original text, both in the Old and in the New Testament, does not mean sinless or perfect, but pure in the sense of unmixed, that is, without falsehood or guile.

In many places the word is used in such a way that there can be no doubt but that it means sincere. Truth in the inward parts, the psalmist calls it in one place.

The pure heart is, then, a *sinner's* heart.

And therefore it is full of impure and sinful desires. Therefore, too, it is cold and indifferent. But, this sinner's heart was pure because he would not conceal, nor excuse, nor defend the impurity of his heart, but would *see* the impurity and spread it out *before God*.

Blessed are such hearts, says Jesus, for they shall see God.

Yes, they see God on the cross; they see the Lamb of God. The Spirit of God makes this possible.

And yours shall be the privilege of seeing more. You shall see God in your daily affairs. In your daily work. In your daily struggles. And in your joys. You shall see God's way and His will.

Taken from "God's Word for Today"  
by O. Hallesby

# FORGIVENESS OF SINS

## In the morning

*“Son, be of good cheer; thy sins are forgiven”* (Matt. 9:2).

These words are spoken to a man who is ill, and these are the *first* words Jesus said to him. Later on, He heals his body; but first He forgives his sins.

Forgiveness of sins is the greatest need of every man.

What is sickness, pain and disappointment compared with the fact that I have committed sin against God? And for all my sins I have to give account before the Lord.

If I really recognize this, my sense of need will become great. True and righteous are His judgments.

Then how wonderful are the words of Jesus to every penitent sinner who dares to come to Him:

*“Thy sins are forgiven.”*

Dear friend, you who are ill, both bodily and spiritually, today Jesus greets you saying: “Thy sins are forgiven.” Thy sins do not exist any more.

For Jesus’ sake, God is looking upon your sins as not being committed. You are pardoned. God will never call you to account for your sins, — whatever they are. Your sin is forgiven,— totally — and forever. Not even an upbraiding is left in the heart of God. For Jesus’ sake He is well pleased with you.

Blessed soul! Be of good cheer! In the whole of existence, there is nothing like the forgiveness of sins

Recognizing this, it is not so hard even to be ill. You are resting under the grace and love of God.

## At noon

“Sin is our greatest affliction; forgiveness of sins our greatest joy. Sin is hell; the forgiveness of sins is Heaven” (Scriver).

“No fire consumes the straw so quickly, as the grace of God and the blood of Jesus does away with our sins.” (Scriver).

“Even if thy sin fills up all the world, the righteousness of Jesus is surely greater.” (Arndt).

“Grace and peace contain all of Christianity. Grace forgives sin, and peace gives the conscience rest. There is no peace of conscience without the forgiveness of sins. But sin is forgiven and taken away by grace.” (Luther).

“To forgive is different from excusing. God does not excuse sin, but He forgives it. Forgiveness contains pure grace.” (Rosenius).

“Taken the forgiveness of sins out of the Christian’s heart and you have taken the heart out of the Christian

faith.” (H.S.Stub).

But we must always remember: there is no forgiveness without repentance and conversion.

“Some people like to trust the grace of God without being converted. Those people are deceiving themselves and are trusting the forgiveness of sins in vain.” (Scriver).

*“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”* (Is. 1:18).

## The poem of the day

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,  
More than all in Thee I find.  
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is Thy name,  
I am all unrighteousness  
Vile and full of sin I am  
Thou art full of truth and grace.

## In the evening

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.* (Rom. 8:1-3).

Here is the foundation of your salvation:

What the law could not do, God did.

It is not what you have done that brings you perdition, and it is not what you ought to do that will give you righteousness. What God had done for you in Christ is your salvation.

On that account, these words are spoken to everyone who seeks the righteousness in Christ:

“Therefore there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.”

Your sin is forgiven. Don’t let it frighten and accuse you any longer. In Christ you are clean.

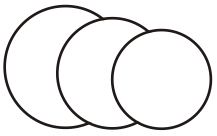
Give thanks to God for the forgiveness of your sin, and then go to sleep securely. You are resting in the grace of God.

Taken from “*On Our Father’s Knee*”

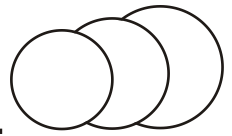
by Fredrik Wisloff

(Devotions for times of Illness)

*“For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more. (Jer. 31:34)”*



# From our Fellowship Circle



**IS** Thank you for the *Morning Glory* magazine. My Aunt sent it to me for my birthday. Gift enclosed.

**IA**

**JC** I would like to receive your monthly newsletter. I read one from a friend and liked what I read. Please accept this donation...May God bless your ministry, staff and family. In Christ Jesus,

**IA**

**JKJ** We enjoy the *Morning Glory* so very much. It's truly a blessing to receive it. Our Love and Prayers with sincere thanks.

**MT**

## *The Majesty and Mystery of the Incarnation*

When I am told that God became man, I can follow the idea, but I just do not understand what it means. For what man, if left to his natural promptings, if he were God, would humble himself to lie in the feedbox of a donkey or to hang upon a cross? God laid upon Christ the iniquities of us all.

This is that ineffable and infinite mercy of God which the slender capacity of man's heart cannot comprehend and much less utter—that unfathomable depth and burning zeal of God's love toward us. And truly the magnitude of God's mercy engenders in us not only a hardness to believe but also incredulity itself. For I hear not only that the omnipotent God, the creator and maker of all things, is good and merciful, but also that the Supreme Majesty was so concerned for me, a lost sinner, a son of wrath and of everlasting death, that he spared not his own Son but delivered him to the most ignominious death, that, hanging between two thieves, he might be made a curse and sin for me, a cursed sinner, that I might be made just, blessed, a son and heir of God. Who can sufficiently declare this exceeding great goodness of God? Therefore the holy Scripture speaks of far other than philosophical or political matters, namely of the unspeakable and utterly divine gifts, which far surpass the capacity both of men and of angels.

Martin Luther

**JKS** Enclosed find...for your good paper. We celebrated 50 years of marriage this year so this is in honor of our Anniversary.

**WI**

## PREVENIENT GRACE

The sky was so blue with white floating clouds  
As I lay looking up to the sky,  
God's up there I thought.  
And I was afraid;  
Not even knowing His name.

Now it was Sunday School, I was six.  
Someone said it to me;  
Something hurt more, than the nails in His hands,  
To me, how could it be?

Then it was schools  
High school and friends  
A party we went to that day  
Where they played and sang hymns.  
I know, God was calling to me.

Marriage came next  
One day a friend said,  
"Come in we've been praying so"  
If they wanted Jesus so did I  
I said yes to God that day.

A special meeting and so we went  
My heart was so hungry to know  
What does it mean to be born again  
Jesus blood washes whiter than snow?  
There Jesus said, "I am the Way", I know

Now many years I have walked with my Lord  
He is everything and more to me  
He's my life, joy, peace and righteousness  
From the curse of the law I am free  
By grace I was saved even me.

On His promises now, I rest my soul  
He that began a good work I know  
Will perfect it till the day, He calls to me,  
Come home, dear child, come home.

Earla Mae Erickson  
Moorhead, MN  
Sept. 2007

## ASKING and RECEIVING

*“For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:8).*

The tremendous resource of prayer is far too much neglected by far too many Christians. If nothing is standing between us and the Lord to keep us from asking effectively (sin, unbelief, selfish motives, etc.), then God has promised to act when we ask, either giving us our request or something better. Note just a few of the many promises to those who ask:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God ..... and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

“Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:24).

“How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?” (Luke 11:13).

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:22).

“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him” (1 John 5:14-15).

“If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it” (John 14:14).

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask that ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7).

Obviously there are conditions. These marvelous promises assume that those who ask are abiding in His commandments, truly desiring His will, having His priorities, thinking His thoughts, and are asking in faith and in His name.

HMM

Taken from “Days of Praise” (copyright 2007),  
Institute for Creation Research

## FOR YOUR SAKES — POOR

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST was eternally rich glorious, and exalted; but “though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor.” As the rich saint cannot be true in his communion with his poor brethren unless of his substance he ministers to their necessities, so (the same rule holding with the head as among the members) it is impossible that our Divine Lord could have had fellowship with us unless He had imparted to us of his own abounding wealth and had become poor in order to make us rich. Had He remained upon His throne of glory, and had we continued in the ruins of the fall without receiving His salvation, communion would have been impossible on both sides.

Our position by the fall, apart from the covenant of grace, made it as impossible for fallen man to communicate with God as it is for Belial to be in concord with Christ. In order, therefore, that communion might be compassed, it was necessary that the rich kinsman should bestow his estate upon his poor relatives, that the righteous Saviour should give to His sinning brethren of His own perfection, and that we, the poor and guilty, should receive of His fullness grace for grace; that thus, in giving and receiving, the one might descend from the heights, and the other ascend from the depths, and so be able to embrace each other in true and hearty fellowship.

Poverty must be enriched by him, in whom are infinite treasures, before it can venture to commune; and guilt must lose itself in imputed and imparted righteousness ere the soul can walk in fellowship with purity. Jesus must clothe His people in His own garments, or He cannot admit them into His palace of glory; and He must wash them in His own Blood, or else they will be too defiled for the embrace of His fellowship.

O believer, herein is love! For *your sake* the Lord Jesus “became poor” that He might lift you up into communion with Himself.

Charles H. Spurgeon

Editor’s note: *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9)*

## Two Kinds of People

There are two kinds of people in this world:  
Those who Live and Learn, and those who just Live.

Which kind are you?



# Editorial

RES

## XMAS OR CHRISTMAS?

Two women who were dressed in some of their finest wear were having lunch together in an exclusive restaurant. A friend saw them and came over to their table to greet them. "What's the special occasion?" she asked. One of the ladies said, "We're having a birthday party for the baby in our family. He's two years old today." "But where is the baby?" the friend asked. The child's mother answered, "Oh, I dropped him off at my mother's house. She's taking care of him until the party's over. It wouldn't have been any fun with him along." How ridiculous - but in many lives' isn't that true in regards to CHRISTMAS!

IF I am not mistaken, we learned in Algebra that **X** stood for an unknown quantity, and so 'Xmas' is true in many as well.

Recently we attended a funeral service (I would say the average liberal protestant funeral service) and we heard much more about the deceased than our crucified and risen Saviour. A matter of fact, in the sermon we probably heard the name of the deceased approximately eight times and not sure IF we heard the name of JESUS once! Yet, likely professing Christians will support such a congregation with their membership, contributions and finances for what the Bible would call 'another gospel', which is NO gospel at all. How tragic! It is an **X** sermon. Isn't it something how the 'pastor' will speak about the deceased at some length; who the 'pastor' probably has known for a limited number of years while the folk in the church and community have known for *many* years. YET there is SALVATION in no one else but JESUS! Do you think that **God's anointing/ blessing** is upon such a congregation? Does GOD bless deception/confusion? "*Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing - and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked - I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see'*" (Revelation 3:17-18).

Back to the opening story of this editorial - How sad - a birthday celebration for a child who wasn't welcome at his own party! Yet, when you stop to think about it, that's no more foolish than going through the Christmas season, with all of its festivities, without remembering the One whose birth we are supposed to be commemorating.

And that's the way many today celebrate Christmas. In

all the busyness - the party-going, gift-shopping, and family gatherings - the ONE whose birthday/Incarnation they are commemorating is almost completely left out.

No wonder after the 'Christmas Season' so many folk are not only tired, but *empty*. Yes, some are still 'worshipping' a BABY! Of all the beautiful Christmas decorations, how often do you SEE an empty "CROSS" in the midst thereof? **JESUS was born to die for your sins! HE rose again for your justification and HE is coming again for your Salvation.** Do you know HIM as your personal Saviour OR are you still 'window shopping'?

Years ago a 'shoe store' personnel had a shocking and tragic experience: As they opened 'shoe box' after 'shoe box' they found them *empty* as 'thieves' had done their evil work the night before and put the *empty* 'shoe boxes' back on the shelves - the form was there but the content was missing! "*Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*" (II Timothy 3:5) How long will "we" overlook/close our eyes to form with no life?

Spiritual treason and pretend it is not that important EVEN though each DAY souls are going into a Christless eternity thinking all is well until it is **too late**. Is the following **true** in our midst? "Behold the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you. Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor;" Isaiah 59:1-2,14-16a. **God Is Able!!!**

By the GRACE of GOD we continue to make NO apologies for the *old time* Christianity and seek to proclaim and practice it! Are you standing with us? Will you stand with us? WE seek to share the TRUTH in HIS LOVE. (Love) "does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;" 1 Corinthians 13:6.

This is a very special time of the year and WE want to take this opportunity to wish EACH OF YOU a very Blessed Christmas Season; from the board of directors, their wives and all who are involved in putting together and publishing the *Morning Glory*. By the way, will YOU be experiencing a very blessed **CHRISTmas or Xmas?**

# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

---

## The Christ-less Christmas Season in NYC Challenged

New York City councilman Tony Avella has unveiled a resolution that challenges a policy which allows and encourages Muslim, Jewish and secular decorations in public schools during the Christmas season, but does not permit Christian symbols.

In the past, New York City schools have allowed a menorah, Islam's star and crescent, and an evergreen tree to be displayed. However, officials have said a nativity scene is not allowed.

Avella's resolution was prompted by the refusal earlier this year of the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

Brian Rooney, an attorney with the 'Thomas Moore Law Center, said the case is a clear example of hostility toward religion and the Constitution. Rooney believes the nativity scene is the proper image to signify Christmas, rather than an evergreen tree.

"We're not celebrating the birth of an evergreen tree," Rooney said. "It's time that bureaucrats in the department of education and the city realize that, and the will of the people is going to be shown."

*OneNewsNow.com 6/22/07*

## Americans Believe Founding Fathers Put Christianity Into Constitution

A poll by First Amendment Center, a non-partisan educational group, found that 55 percent of Americans erroneously believe the Constitution establishes a Christian nation. Three out of four people who believe this are evangelical or Republican.

The poll also found only 56 percent think freedom of religion applies to all groups "regardless of how extreme their beliefs are."

We are seeing the product of years of not teaching the First Amendment at a young age," said Gene Policinski, the center's executive director.

Other polls by *USA Today* include: 58 percent said teachers in public schools should be able to lead prayers. Half said teachers should be allowed to use the Bible as a factual source in history classes. Forty-three percent said public schools should be permitted to put on nativity reenactments - up from 36 percent in 2005.

*Information from NewsMax.com 9/12/07*

## Judge Orders Abortion Mill to Remain Closed

A federal court judge ruled .... That a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in the Chicago suburb of Aurora must remain closed for now. The clinic was built with permits that supplied the city with false and misleading information about the true nature of the abortion business ...

Planned Parenthood built the 22,000 sq.ft., \$7.5 million structure on permits it obtained under the name Gemini Medical Offices. Planned Parenthood admits it misled the city about their true name and purpose in order to keep pro-life supporters from discovering that what they were really building was the nation's largest abortion mill.

*Christian Newswire*

## Gay-Activist Suit Prompts Loss of Church Group's Tax Exemption

Two lesbian couples who were denied permission to use a church group's seaside pavilion for civil-union ceremonies have persuaded New Jersey officials to punish the group through revocation of the tax-exempt status of the pavilion. Proposed federal legislation could accelerate that trend.

The Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association owns the boardwalk pavilion that is a popular spot for weddings.

A spokesman for the gay-activist group, Garden State Equality, said the state didn't go far enough and may ask a court to revoke the tax exemption for all of the boardwalk and land, which the Methodist group has owned since 1870, according to the associated Press .....

Brian Raum, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund, said it's the same problem posed by the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) now being considered in Congress. It would grant special protections to homosexuals in the workplace.

"What's happening in Ocean Grove is a perfect example of the dangers which will be at issue if ENDA passes," Raum said.

*-www.alliancealert.org*

## Psychologist Sues Minneapolis After Being Fired for Membership in Pro-Family Group

Attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund (have) filed a lawsuit ....in federal court on behalf of an Illinois clinical

Psychologist who lost his contract with the city of Minneapolis because of his membership with a politically conservative, pro-family organization.

“Pro-family, Christian conservatives cannot be treated as second-class citizens,” said ADF Senior Legal Counsel Brian Raum. “Government officials do not have the right to end someone’s contract on the basis of religion or political viewpoint. The city of Minneapolis is engaging in viewpoint discrimination, and that is clearly unconstitutional.”

—LifeSiteNews.com

## Surge in Same-Sex Unions in Canada

According to statistics from Canada, the number of same-sex couples has surged five times the pace of opposite-sex couples between 2001 and 2006.

In total, the 2006 census revealed 45,345 same-sex couples in Canada – 16.5 percent of which were “married” couples. Others were living together in common-law union. The number of homosexuals couples jumped 32.6 percent over the past five years while heterosexual couples grew only 5.9 percent.

*Christian Post, 9/12/07*

### HOME GOING

Mr. Charles (Charlie) Albertson, a brother in Jesus, under the royal BLOODSHED of JESUS went Home to be forever with the KING OF KINGS on October 31, 2007. Charlie was a fellow board member of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission for many years! As a fellow warrior (pilgrim here) he looked forward to his eternal ‘homeland’ and was a conscientious faithful soldier of the cross! His graduation from this life was instantaneous! The public tribute (funeral) took place at Trinity Lutheran Church of Forest City, Iowa on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. He is missed by his beloved wife, family, host of friends and most certainly as a board member of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. What is our loss is Heaven’s gain, as the scriptures tell us that precious in the sight of the Lord is the ‘home going’ of his saints; but it may not be long until those who are under the royal ‘bloodship’ of Jesus will meet him again - this time for all eternity as a resident of that eternal City! What a Day that will be! And only JESUS made/makes it possible. “Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body. Phillipians 3:21a. *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race I have kept the faith.” “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”* (II Timothy 4:7-8) *Blessed be his memory!*

## In God We Still Trust

In Bakersfield, California the largest high school district in the country plans to teach its students a thing or two about patriotism. Last night, the district’s trustees voted 4-1 to install displays that contain the nation’s motto, “In God We Trust,” as well as historic documents like the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. The decision affects over 2,300 classrooms and several district boardrooms, libraries, and administrative offices. Locally, people applauded the effort to return American pride and tradition to the schools. “It’s not political, it’s not religious. It’s patriotism,” said Councilwoman Jacquie Sullivan. “We are a faith-based people for the most part,” she said. “Sometimes you have to go with the majority.” In Stafford county, Virginia, the majority was also on the side of Stephanie Hoffmeier, a student who’s tried for months to start a pro-life club at Colonial Forge High School, only to be denied because it was “not tied to the school curriculum.” With the help of the Alliance Defense Fund, she filed suit in federal court, contending that school officials couldn’t turn down her request when other clubs were allowed. “We just wanted the same rights as other clubs,” Shephanie told *Washington Post* reporters. “It’s not a radical thing to expect equal treatment.” Unfortunately for social conservatives, it often is. In this instance, however, Stephanie and her Pro-Life Club won. Threatened with legal action, the school conceded, allowing for the creation of what some call the first pro-life group in Stafford’s public schools. “I’m just the one who took action,” Stephanie said. “But there are many, many others.”

Washington Update  
11/06/07

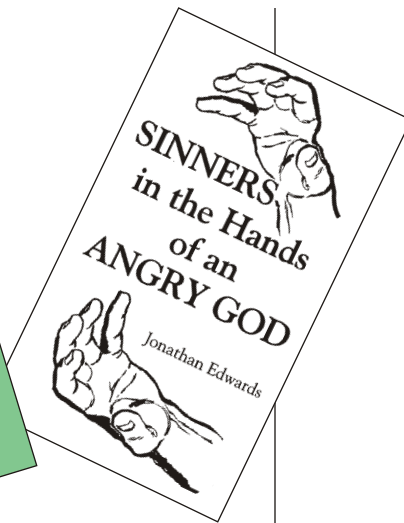
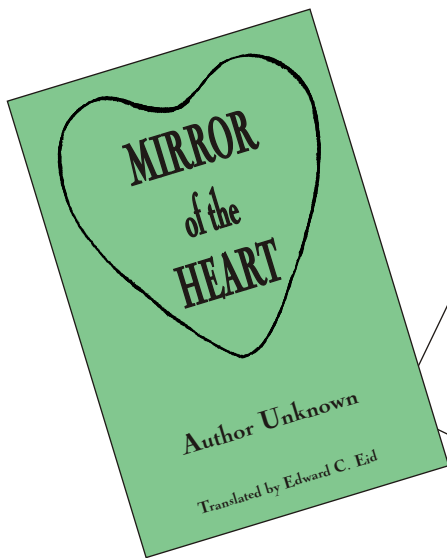
### OPPORTUNITY(S)

A good ‘earmark’ of truly being a “child” of GOD is, a real craving/desire to be reading/studying the WORD of GOD! Where there is no ‘appetite for the Word of God and Christian Fellowship, there is reason for serious concern IF that person has really tasted and seen that the Lord is Good!

In these days of Apostasy, one good and very definite scripturally directive is to have Christians gather around the “Word of God”.

To help assist you in your community, we are willing to try to gather names of individuals who are interested in the same; provided you let us know!

Pastor Robert Giles, 2311 N. Drifter Way, Sun City West, Az. 85375 is very willing to lead such a Bible Study/Fellowship Group IF you would be so kind as to let him know. Encourage him by expressing to him your concern and desire and let God give the increase!



Are you looking for an effective witness to give to someone? Here are two powerful tools for your own personal growth and for an effective outreach means. "Mirror of the Heart" is a book that graphically shows the spiritual forces at work in the heart of the man before, during and after conversion. Suggested offering is \$3.00 + 75¢ shipping.

"Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" is a sermon preached by Jonathan Edwards in 1741. It is a powerful word on the wrath of God. It is sorely needed today as many deny the wrath of God and an eternity in hell. Suggested offering is \$1.00. Simply use the envelope in the center of the magazine to order.

### UpDate

Where does **JESUS** come on your Christmas Giving List? We are commemorating **HIS** Incarnate Birth! Christmastime is often a privileged time of giving and receiving among 'family' members and friends; **SO IF** you are in the 'family of God' we challenge **YOU** to prayerfully consider this ministry, not only at Christmas time, but **IN** your prayerful **giving throughout** the entire year! Why not share a financial gift and put loved ones, friends and neighbors on the mailing list of the *Morning Glory*.

WE are now at the very threshold of 'enlarging' the ministry of the *Morning Glory* by adding two more issues throughout the coming year (Lord willing). That means going from 'eight' issues a year to **ten** issues a year; so not only is this ministry being enlarged but 'our' expenses will increase about one fourth more in the coming year!

As we look over the past year it has been filled with "struggles" but also with encouragements. AS greater the 'battles'— greater the 'victories'! At this time, once again, WE want to thank you faithful supporters for your **prayers** and financial **giving** along WITH those of YOU who have recently come aboard in this ministry. The battles (struggles) are not over BUT let US TOGETHER press on **until HE comes!**

*Income for the month of October: \$745*  
 Cost for each issue of the Morning Glory = \$2,375.

**"Peace begins at the Cross!"**

**Christmas Season Greetings to the 'readers'**  
**from the Board Members of the Hauge Lutheran**  
**Innermission Federation**

Volume LXXXIX • Number 8 • December 2007  
 (USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

**Periodicals Postage Paid**  
**at Fergus Falls, MN 56537**

**Hauge Lutheran Innermission**  
 c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center  
 1026 Alcott Ave. W.  
 Fergus Falls, MN 56537