



Morning Glory

“The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh” — James 5:8

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • December 2009

Reason to Rejoice

George Whitfield (1714-1770)

The celebration of the birth of Christ has been esteemed a duty by most who profess Christianity. When we consider the condescension and love of the Lord Jesus Christ, in submitting to be born of a virgin, a poor sinful creature; and especially as He knew how He was to be treated in this world; that He was to be despised, scoffed at, and at last to die a painful, shameful, and ignominious death; that He should be treated as though He were the off-scouring of all mankind; used, not like the son of man, and, therefore, not at all like the Son of God; the consideration of these things should make us admire the love of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was so willing to offer Himself as a ransom for the sins of the people, that when the fullness of time was come, Christ came, made of a woman, made under the law.

He came according to the eternal counsel of the Father. He came not in glory or in splendor, not like him who brought all salvation with him: no, He was born in a stable, and laid in a manger; oxen were His companions. O amazing condescension of the Lord Jesus Christ, to stoop to such low and poor things for our sake. What love is this, what great and wonderful love was here, that the Son of God should come into our world in so mean a condition, to deliver us from the sin and misery in which we were involved by our fall in our first parents!

And as all that proceeded from the springs must be muddy, because the fountain was so, the Lord Jesus Christ came to take our natures upon Him, to die a shameful, a painful, and an accursed death for our sakes; He died for our sins, and to bring us to God: He cleansed us by His

blood from the guilt of sin. He satisfied for our imperfections; and now, my brethren, we have access unto Him with boldness. He is a mediator between us and his offended Father.

Therefore, if we do but consider into what state, and at how great a distance from God we are fallen – how vile our natures were; what a depravity, and how incapable to restore that image of God to our souls, which we lost in our first parents – when I consider these things, my brethren, and that the Lord Jesus Christ came to restore us to that favor with God which we had lost, and that Christ not only came down with an intent to do it, but actually accomplished all that was in His heart toward us – that He raised and brought us into favor with God, that we might find kindness and mercy in His sight – surely this calls for some return of thanks on our part to our dear Redeemer, for this love and kindness to our souls. How just would it have been of Him, to have left us in that deplorable state wherein we, by our guilt, had involved ourselves? For God could not, nor can receive any additional good by our salvation; but it was love, mere love; it was free love that brought the Lord Jesus Christ into our world about 1,700 years ago.

What, shall we not remember the birth of our Jesus? Shall we yearly celebrate the birth of our temporal king, and shall that of the King of kings be quite forgotten? — Shall that only, which ought to be had chiefly in remembrance, be, quite forgotten? God forbid! No, my dear brethren, let us celebrate and keep this festival of our church, with joy in our hearts: let the birth of a Redeemer,

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which redeemed us from sin, from wrath, from death, from hell, be always remembered; may this Saviour's love never be forgotten!

Power for Living
December 9, 2001

Note: George Whitfield was perhaps the eighteenth century's most widely traveled and most articulate preacher. He ministered for twenty four years in his native Britain and nine years in America, where God used him mightily in bringing about the national revival known as the Great Awakening.

Don't Be Watching Your Feelings!

D. L. Moody

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

Isa. 12:2.

Don't be watching your feelings. Not one verse from Genesis to Revelation talks about being saved by feelings. When the Devil sees a poor soul in agony in the waves of sin getting close to the Rock of Ages, he just holds out the "plank" of feeling to him and says, "There, get on that; you feel more comfortable now, don't you?"

And while the man is getting his breath again, out goes the plank from under him; now he is worse off than ever. Accept no refuge but the Rock, the Everlasting Strength.

Why are you going around with your head down, talking about your poverty? The weakest, poorest child of God is richer than Vanderbilt. Why, he has eternal riches! The stuff that burned up in the Chicago Fire was like the dust in the balance. "Joint-heirs with Christ"! That is what Romans 8 teaches us.

Let Your Light Shine

Down South after the Civil War, there was a widow whose husband had fallen in battle. Her fortune had been swept away. She was cultured and refined but had never known what it meant to work. When starvation was staring her in the face, she went to the field to supervise her own farms. While she worked, her little boy played in the hedge.

The little fellow grew up to be about twelve years of age. He said, "Mother, I'll take over the farms for you." So she stayed at home, and the boy took over the fields.

He would go to the fields early in the morning, and every evening just at twilight he would come home. There was one little place where he could look through the branches of the trees and see the light in the cottage window – a signal that everything was all right at home. As the days and months and years passed, he got in the habit of stopping there and looking for the light.

One evening when he reached that spot and looked through the grove, the light was not there. He went on quickly to the house, struck a match and lighted the lamp on the table. There in the bed was his mother, cold and lifeless.

He went over, put his arms around her, reached down and kissed her lips of clay. Near her head he saw an envelope. He opened it and read:

My dear son:

I have a feeling that someday you may come home from the field and the light may not be in the window. I have a feeling that someday I may have to move that lamp and place it in Heaven's window. So if you do come home and the light is not in the window, remember where it will be. Walk in that light and meet your mother someday.

Go home and put lights in your windows, and keep those lights burning.

Great Preaching on Christ

Editor's Note: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14 & 16) "God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him." Hudson Taylor

A WORD from the Pastor

Friends of Morning Glory

"I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." [2 Cor. 11:3]

Keep it simple! In intellectual matters you can think things out with your own logical understanding but in spiritual matters you must have the mind of Christ to see things clearly. Spiritually we can only think clearly when we are being obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5 says, "...we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." When God puts a conviction in your heart, obey, and then everything will become clear to you. Until you obey you will walk in spiritual darkness. Oswald Chambers puts it this way ... "The tiniest thing we allow in our lives that is not under the control of the Holy Spirit is quite sufficient to account for spiritual muddle, and all the thinking we like to spend on it will never make it clear. Spiritual muddle is only made plain by obedience. Immediately we obey, we discern. ...When the natural power of vision is devoted to the Holy Spirit, it becomes the power of perceiving God's will and the whole life is kept in simplicity."

The biblical truth Chambers is sharing is simply this, the smallest unconfessed sin will keep you in spiritual darkness. Only when you confess and repent of sin will you be able to see things clearly. If you want to know that your understanding of things is right, make sure your relationship with Christ is good, unhindered by sinful attitude or actions. Usually when people storm ahead with a lack of knowledge and understanding it is because they have not dealt with sin in their lives.

We need to pray the prayer of David, "Search me oh God and see if there be some wicked way in me." [Psalm 139:23]

Pastor Paul Larson
Faith Lutheran Church
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

God Knows The Name

A poor Irish woman went to the pastor, asking him to forward her help for the famine sufferers in Ireland. "How much can you spare?" he asked. "I have a hundred dollars saved, and I can spare that," she replied. The pastor reasoned with her, saying her gift was too great for her means, but she was firm. "Well, what is your name that I may publish it?" he asked. "My name! Never mind that, sir, just send the help. God will know my name."

MARTHA, MARTHA!

You are troubled about many things!

The day was Friday. The week was drawing to its end, and so were the nerves of the young mother. The days before had been especially hectic.

Everything had seemed to go wrong and she was taking her feelings out on her family. Harsh words sent the children off to school while she stooped to clean up the spilled cereal the baby had knocked over. Her husband came in to kiss her goodbye but she did not feel like being affectionate. With more unkind words the gentle husband was sent to work. In a few minutes she heard the door close and then the sound of the car motor came to her. She sat back on the couch, already tired and the day had just begun.

She picked up the baby, wiped her face and placed her in the playpen. "I'd better comb my hair and brush my teeth before I start any work," she thought. Walking into the bedroom, she looked at herself in the mirror. What was this? There in a corner of the mirror was a sheet of paper and on it in her husband's handwriting were two words: "Martha, Martha!"

Her tired mind could not comprehend the meaning. "Why, my name isn't Martha." Then down in the corner she saw he had written, "Read Luke 10:38-42." On the bedside table lay the Bible she used to read each night before retiring – before she got so busy. She took it and turned to the passage.

"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

"Martha, Martha!" The two words kept repeating in her mind. As tears welled in her eyes, she knelt by the bed. How grateful she was for those words written such a long time ago! How thankful she felt for the mate who knew just where to send her for the admonition she so sorely needed! She knew she had become "troubled about many things" and she had allowed this to affect her relations with those nearest and dearest to her. Her words poured out to God and courage flowed into her heart. She had not

chosen the "good part" but now, with God's help she would do just that!

Let us not let the cares of life take us away from the better part. We need to come back to His word to learn more of this "good part" which Mary so wisely chose. Our needs today are for just such a gentle admonition, lest we, like Martha of old become so involved in the daily routine that we forget the better part.

* * * * *

Convincing Conversion

There was in a certain village a very mean man who sold wood to his neighbors and always took advantage of them by cutting his logs a few inches under the required four feet. One day the report circulated that the wood chopper had been converted. Nobody believed the report, for they all declared that he was beyond being reached. One man, however, slipped quietly out of the grocery store where the conversion was being discussed and soon came running back. "It's so! He has been converted! I measured the wood he cut yesterday. It is a good four feet long."

Content

A child and her mother went into a place to pray. The child went into one room while the mother went into another. The mother's prayers ended but the child continued. At last the child came to the mother. The mother said, "You were a long time saying your prayers. What were you doing?" The child replied. "Well, Mom, I just knelt down and said, 'Dear Jesus,' and He said, 'Dear child', and then we just loved one another."

Mary was content to be near her Lord. Do we really love the Lord? Are we found at His feet loving and learning? It was the place that Mary loved best.

—Harvester

Editorial

RES

WILL YOU HAVE A 'WHITE CHRISTMAS'?

"For He made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (II Corinthians 5:21)

Some years ago, especially at this 'season' of the year, there was a secular song that was sung quite regularly that stated, 'I am dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know'. Now what would you do IF there was no 'white snow' in your part of the world? A missionary friend of ours struggled with that a little in the area of the world where she was serving our crucified and risen Savior! Actually she ended up decorating a cactus as a 'Christmas Tree'! But the 'reality' of Christmas does not change IF there is 'snow' available or not.

According to the dictionary, the word 'snow' is: "Translucent crystals of ice that form from water vapor in the upper atmosphere and fall to earth." Actually, I understand that if you observe a 'snowflake' under a powerful microscope, a 'snowflake' is made up of numerous dazzling colors, not seen with the natural eye. Personally I doubt if the 'hills' around Bethlehem at the time the shepherds were keeping 'watch' over their flock by night were 'snow' covered. But without any debate on that, let us look at a 'snowflake' a little more in depth.

I remember as a child that my parents would tell us not to eat 'snow' because it was 'dirty'. To us the freshly fallen 'snow' looked so clean and pure, but our parents told us this because they cared about us and our well being. You know, we should have listened and obeyed because of their entrusted position as 'parents' and then been satisfied with that.

By the way, what 'symbolic color' is SIN? That is, IF we are going to give 'sin' a color! Often we describe 'sin' as 'black'; likely because SIN blinds our spiritual 'eyes' and plunges us in 'darkness' (black). But when it comes to a 'color' Scriptures seems to indicate that 'sin' is likely RED. "*Come now, and let us reason together, Says the LORD: 'Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; 'Though they are red lied like crimson, They shall be as wool.'*" Isaiah 1:18. Notice first of all that our LORD says 'come now' and 'now' means 'now'. Also HE lets us use our 'reason'. It has been said IF you look through the right kind of red glass at the right fabric that is red in color, it will appear WHITE! But what a *miracle* when our awesome holy GOD looks through the shed **blood** of His SON at a re-

pentant sinner who confesses his 'sins' to Him. In HIS Awesome GRACE, through His Beloved SON, that person appears pure before our thrice HOLY GOD as though he had never sinned. **What a SAVIOR, What a Miracle!** Isn't it amazing that JESUS made Heaven poor in order to make us rich! That Jesus was born to die, be crucified, and rise again for your 'sin' and 'my' sin and for the sins of the whole world! **JESUS was born to DIE;** you and I were born to **LIVE** and each of us will spend all eternity in one of two eternal eternities! "*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.*" II Corinthians 8:9, Daniel 12:3, Malachi 3:17. What a Christmas GIFT – but in order for a 'gift' to be effective YOU have to receive (accept) it. You see, it is only the LOST who **need a Savior!**

Let's get back to a 'snowflake'! Within every 'snowflake' there is a 'particle of dust'. YES, we are dirty (sinners to the very core) and we must be covered with the **blood** of JESUS in order to stand clean (white) before God. "*But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...*" before God, Isaiah 64:6. Let's also get back to a **miracle** found in Luke 15:22, Revelation 6:11, 7:9 7:14. (Not the *speechless person* found in the parable of Matthew 22:1-14). Just 'think' of what it means to be *justified* before a HOLY GOD! **IN** Luther's Small Catechism Explained, it asks the question, "What is Justification?" "Justification is the gracious act of God whereby He for Christ's sake acquits a repentant and believing sinner of his sin and guilt, and looks upon him, in Christ, as though he had never sinned." Notice God is the "*Justifier*" and it takes place in HEAVEN. **Romans 3:24 & 1 John 1:7-10**. No wonder some think of the beloved flag of our USA as standing for: Red – blood, Blue – Royalty or kingly & White – clean pure! YET our beloved Nation is made up of "individuals" as is 'Salvation', for only for those who are personally/individually LOST can truly be saved.

A longing desire hovers over the 'Christmas Season' which is this: Will my loved ones be home for Christmas? Similarly, a longing and desire exists between ev-

ery born-again believer and the Lord Jesus. Yet, though we have not physically seen our Savior, yet we love Him. We share a kinship with Him that runs deeper than biological ties. He's our righteousness, our peace, our hope of glory. We are complete in Him. It would be abnormal if we did not long to see the ONE whose death and resurrection is the source of our strength and joy. But best of all, when that certain meeting does occur, we will recognize Him even though we have never seen Him in His bodily form. His life in us will find its blessed counterpart in Him.

The more we live for Christ and fellowship with Him, the stronger will become our longing to see Him. And one day we will be dressed in His robe of righteousness! This **Christmas Season, are YOU dressed in His Robe of White (Purity)?**

May you and yours experience a very blessed enjoyable CHRISTMAS SEASON and NEW YEAR!

JESUS MAY BE COMING VERY SOON – KEEP LOOKING UP!

THE BIBLE IS ...

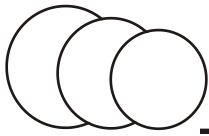
Accurate in its assessment and **absolute** in its authority.
Binding in its concepts and **beautiful** in its pronouncements.
Confrontational in its style and **comforting** in its security.
Direct in its approach and **demanding** in its acceptance.
Edifying in its message and **educational** in its method.
Faithful in its power and **fruitful** in its results.
Great in its power and **good** in its purpose.
High in its demands and **holy** in its reasoning.
Inspired in its doctrine and **infinite** in its duration.
Joyful in its music and **just** in its mandates.
Keen in its calculation and **kind** in its contents.
Loud in its announcement and **lovely** in its arrangement.
Magnificent in its beauty and **marvelous** in its bounty.
Noble in its claims and **notable** in its cause.
Opulent in its value and **optimum** in its victory.
Powerful in its testimony and **proficient** in its teachings.
Questionless in its veracity and **qualitative** in its veneration.
Rational in its judgment and **righteous** in its jurisdiction.
Sacred in its authorship and **satisfying** in its application.
Transcendent in its glory and **timeless** in its truths.
Universal in its scope and **unique** in its message.
Vibrant in its animation and **victorious** in its accomplishments.
Wise in its truth and **worthy** in its appraisal.
Yeomanly in its advice and **youthful** in its action.
Zealous in its vision and **zestful** in its vibrancy.

Jacksonville, Texas bulletin

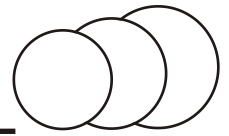
Freedom Isn't Free

I watched the flag pass by one day;
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform,
So young, so tall, so proud;
With hair cut square and eyes alert,
He'd stand out in any crowd.
I thought, *How many men like him
Have fallen through the years?
How many died on foreign soil;
How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots' planes shot down;
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?*
No, freedom isn't free!
I heard the sound of Taps one night,
When everything was still
I listened to the bugler lay,
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times,
That Taps had meant
"Amen."
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend.
I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives.
Of fathers, sons and husbands,
With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard,
At the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington,
No, freedom isn't free!

Copied



From Our Fellowship Circle



G. & S. N

Millcreek, WA

Thanks so much for the *Morning Glory* publication. We really enjoy it. It is filled with God's Truth. Enclosed is a check to receive the 'Altar Steps' devotional and 'Mirror of the Heart'. The remainder please use for the continuing of your Ministry. You are in our prayers.

D. H.

Brighton, CO

I appreciate your very dedicated reports.

A. G.

Sebring, FL

I will never forget the Scandinavian fellowship many years ago in N.J. Thankful for Christians here at Maranatha How good it is for folk who are of a kindred spirit that know JESUS as their own personal Savior! Yes, our Redemption draws nigh!

North Dakota readers.

We hope this finds both well and enjoying these fall days. What a wonderful thing when the LORD created the 'seasons' in motion. We keep busy here as usual and enjoy seeing the children when possible. My husband was out of town, considerably of late; but indeed we are grateful for being able to work and have work to do. Yes, the Lord provides provision for which we thank Him.

How we desire and need Christian Fellowship and are seeking a Bible believing church with a real vision and burden to reach out to others. Certainly these are trying times!

Enclosed is a check for the continued work of the *Morning Glory* – as we appreciate it and the work you are doing so very much. We would like to add a name to the mailing list of the *Morning Glory*. ...

Editor's Note; What a lasting gift that by God's GRACE will invest into ETERNITY! Have you considered such a gift for Christmas and beyond?

M. M.

West Union, IA

I enjoy your articles in your magazine as it is really very good. Thank you. Enclosed is a check to help in this portion of the Lord's Work.

God's Blessings.

J. S.

Story City, IA

Enclosed is a check in appreciation of your continual mailing of the *Morning Glory*. Thank you so much for the information tucked away in each issue. I have kept the

'tradition' of my parents who also enjoyed the issues. Please know that your publication has my prayers for it's future because I too believe we are in the end times. Please pray for those of us who have been 'orphaned' by the ...

I know that I will be attending ...in Garden City; but many do not feel that they have a church home. The Assembly had only to open a Pandora's box of sin when the vote came down.

A. & B. S.

Frederic, Wis.

Thank you for the Gospel Truths – May our Lord bless your work!

M. B.

Le Roy, MN

I enjoy your paper. Lord bless you and keep up the good work.

D. B.

Bismarck, ND

Praise the Lord the true Word of God is still being made known. Enclosed is a donation and we pray you may continue to preach and spread God's Word. Thank You.

R. & S. W.

Bottineau, ND

For years you have sent me this magazine and I thank you for the great articles that it contains. When the Hauge Innermission used to conduct Bible Conferences in our area, I was privileged to attend. I am pleased that this magazine still teaches the Truth when everything has become so liberal, as a whole, and tragically God is being left out.

Thanks again for your ministry. Enclosed is a contribution.

H. & E. C.

Litchfield, MN

Greetings in Jesus' Name from Ephesians 5:18, "...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns & spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father ..." The weather outside is rather dismal, gray and chilly with rain; but that doesn't stop the songs from within because of JESUS!

Enclosed is a check for \$..... to cover the cost of 15 "Altar Steps" we picked up for our Grandchildren. Pastor Jim Haga had them all ready for us the weekend we were in Minneapolis for a class reunion for my husband.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Pro-Lifer Gunned Down in Michigan

A pro-lifer activist was gunned down (the) morning (of September 11) as he peacefully held a picture of a baby with the word "Life" outside a high school in Owosso, Michigan. The victim is Jim Pouillon, a well-known activist in the Owosso area....

A suspect was arrested about 45 minutes after the shooting is now in police custody....

This shooting comes in the wake of hundreds of death threats that have been received by ...Pro-life organizations over the past three months.

Christian Newswire

Wisconsin Attorney General Won't Defend Same-Sex Law in Court

A lawsuit seeking to overturn Wisconsin's same-sex domestic partnership registry as unconstitutional received a boost August 21 when the state's attorney general announced that he too believes the law conflicts with Wisconsin's constitutional marriage amendment.

Wisconsin Attorney General J. B. Van Hollen, a Republican, said he will not defend the law in court and is recommending that the state hire private attorneys. The law, which went into effect in early August, establishes a domestic partnership registry and grants homosexual couples some but not all of the legal benefits of marriage. Van Hollen drew sharp criticism from Democratic Governor Jim Doyle, who signed the law and says other attorneys believe it is constitutional.

Michael Faust for 'Baptist Press'

Liberty Counsel wins victory over ACLU

On August 24, Federal District Judge Casey Rodgers ruled that Michelle Winkler was not in contempt of court for having her husband pray at an awards banquet.

In January 2009, Judge Rodgers had entered a broadly worded injunction against Santa Rosa County (Florida) School District, Winker's employer, regarding prayer and religious activities of school employees.

Winkler later attended a privately funded, off-campus event after school hours to honor instructional employees of the school district. She asked her husband to read a prayer blessing she wrote for the honorees.

The ACLU claimed Winkler should be held in civil contempt of the court order. Judge Rodgers ruled against

the ACLU, concluding that Winker's husband's prayer at a voluntary gathering outside the school did not violate the court's order.

www.lc.org, 8/24/09

National average percentile scores of Home School versus Public School

	<i>Home School</i>	<i>Public School</i>
Reading	89	50
Language	84	50
Math	84	50
Science	86	50
Social Studies	84	50
Core*	88	50
Composite**	86	50

* Core is a combination of reading, language and math.

** Composite is a combination of subtests.

www.hslda.org, 8/10/09

What? AARP pushing porn?

A recent MIM newsletter took on the American Association of Retired Persons. What's the problem with AARP? Robert Peters explains:

AARP publications have been running ads for **Better Sex for a Lifetime** videos which (according to the ads) offer "explicit sexual programming for adults 18 and over." They can be ordered from a third-party distributor.

What AARP has not told its members is that Phil Harvey, the man behind the sex video distributor, is also the man behind Adam and Eve, which is one of the biggest commercial distributors of hard core pornography in the nation.

What AARP also hasn't told its members is that even if some sexually explicit material can have positive educational value when provided by a competent professional for use by a specific individual, that doesn't mean the same material won't have a detrimental impact on many others if disseminated indiscriminately. The videos can have the same effect as run-of-the-mill hardcore pornography. And for millions of Americans, viewing hardcore pornography is a ruinous addiction....

Taken from 'American Family Association Journal',

10/2009

President's 9/11 Proclamation?

On September 3, 2009, the White House released "a proclamation" by the President announcing "National Days of Prayer and Remembrance 2009."

In it he proclaimed "Friday, September 4 through Sunday, September 6" as days for "the people of the United States, each in their own way, (to) honor the victims of September 11, 2001..."

There are two things of note here:

1. Since the proclamation was released on Thursday, just one day ahead of the September 4-6 date, it seems like they did not expect many people to be involved.

2. The proclamation invited us "each in his own way" to pray, etc., and then three days were earmarked for it – Friday (that's the Muslim day of worship), Saturday (that's the Jewish Sabbath) and Sunday (that's for Christians). So without saying so, the President once again has given place to Muslims. It is all the more egregious in reference to September 11.

Sword Press Service

Bible Reading During Show and Tell Free Speech Case

Attorneys for the Rutherford Institute have asked the United States Supreme Court to hear the case of a Pennsylvania mother who was forbidden from reading a passage from Psalms as part of an "All about Me" kindergarten classroom program intended to spotlight her son and his favorite book, the Bible. In challenging a ruling by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Rutherford Institute attorneys argue that the appellate court's decision gives school officials too much discretion to discriminate against expression on the basis of its religious nature in violation of the First Amendment.

"By excluding religious expression, and Christian expression and symbols in particular, from the classroom, school officials have exhibited the kind of hostility toward religion that should never be found in an American public school," stated John W. Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute.

"If these acts of censorship and discrimination are allowed to continue, there will be absolutely no freedom for religious people in public schools in this country."

Rutherford Institute News

* * * * *

SING A NEW SONG

Luke 1:67-80

(Jesus will) give light to those who sit in darkness..., to guide our feet into the way of peace. –Luke 1:79

Two passages in Luke related to the birth of Jesus are often called "songs" because of their similarity to Hebrew psalms of the Old Testament. The early church set them to music and used them in worship. One of them, the Magnificat of Mary (1:46-55), is well known. But the second "song" is a less familiar poem of praise, which was spoken by Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist (vv.67-79).

After 9 months of divinely imposed silence, Zacharias was finally able to speak. He announced that the miracle baby born to him and Elizabeth would be named John. Then, filled with the Holy Spirit, Zacharias spoke of God's faithfulness and the salvation He would bring through the Messiah.

Zacharias said that Jesus, "through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us," would come "to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (vv.78-79).

For a fresh look at the birth of Jesus this Christmas, consider Zacharias' words of prophecy and exultation. Read them aloud. Ponder their meaning. Let God use them to write a new song of praise deep in your heart. –David McCasland

*This Christmas sing a new song
That comes from deep within,
A song that honors Christ the Lord,
Who saves us from our sin. –Hess*

Seeing God's work in our life puts a new song in our heart.

Our Daily Bread

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"It is the duty of parents to maintain their children decently, and according to their circumstances; to protect them according to the dictates of prudence; and to educate them according to the suggestions of a judicious and zealous regard for their usefulness, their respectability and happiness."

James Wilson, Lectures on law, 1791

“No Religion” Groups Growing in the USA

By Dr. Sheldon Smith

In a study released on September 22 by Hartford, Connecticut’s Trinity College, 19 percent of men and 12 percent of women in the USA identify themselves as “faith free.” Whether or not the study is completely accurate, it does pinpoint a growing trend in our country. It should be a flag of warning to all of us.

While the percentage of out-and-out atheists does not seem to be increasing, the growing “faith free” group seems to be a variety of agnostics and rationalists. About half of them in the survey that sampled over 54,000 adults believe in “God or a Higher Power,” but they do not give place to the Bible or church.

As we review the study and as we observe what we see on the streets, several conclusions must be made.

1. We have competition!

The media, the educational system and the entertainment industry are all marching to the beat of a different drummer. They are rarely neutral on matters of faith. Increasingly, they are hostile and militant about it.

2. So many Christian have lost their way!

When the religious crowd adopts evolution, gives place to political correctness (alcohol, homosexuality, etc.), accommodates the culture (pleases the crowd more than God), waters down its message (contemporary) and refuses to engage itself in the issues, you can be sure that its influence will wain.

3. Many pulpits are lifeless!

Strong, Bible-centered, authoritative preaching is very hard to find today. The softball, ear-tickling, soft-soaping, rock-no-boat pulpiteers pander to the carnality of the crowd and leave things as they are.

4. Most churches are not soul saving stations!

Most, not all but most, of America’s “churches” are social clubs with no biblical vision and no scriptural mandates.

Our nation is plunging into a “faith free” free fall and speeding on its way toward Hell while the churches play games, have fun and pursue their own self-centered interests.

5. Convictions are scarce!

A philosophy of pragmatism (do it if it works) has replaced Bible-based values, convictions and doctrines.

With the value system in a constant state of flux, our society takes note of the wishy-washy mentality and laughs at it.

6. Convenience and comfort hold sway!

What has happened to the concepts of dedication including sacrifice? Who now is willing to pay the price and take the stand that will confront the world head-on?

Who will refuse the pleasures of the palace to be identified with the people of God (Heb. 11:25)?

When all we can see is our own situation, it’s no wonder no one listens when we talk!

7. The shifting sands of compromise betray us!

Everything is changing! Change Bibles! Change music! Change standards! Change, change, change! Go ahead and see how many of the children of the world will change to become children of God. All the shifting and drifting betrays our cause, and a lost but longing world with disappointment in their eyes glances another way. They remain lost because we did not stand true!

Taken from ‘Sword of the Lord’

Room For Jesus

Read Luke 2:1-7

There was no room for them in the inn.

— Luke 2:7.

The words “there was no room for them in the inn” remind me of a family trip many years ago. We had been traveling all day, and I was trying to find a motel where we could spend the night. As we drove along the highway, our hopes were dashed time and again by the sight of NO VACANCY signs. As a father, responsible for the well-being of my family, I was frustrated and discouraged.

Then I thought of Mary and Joseph. How much worse it must have been for them when they arrived in Bethlehem and found no rooms available! I can imagine Joseph pleading with the manager of the inn, telling him of Mary’s condition and their desperate need for a place where she could give birth to her child. But “there was no room for them in the inn.” So when Jesus was born, His mother “wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger” (Luke 2:7).

Today, 2,000 years later, millions of people have no room for Jesus. Although they participate enthusiastically in the festivities of the Christmas season, they keep Him out of their lives. The NO VACANCY sign is there.

How about you? Is there room in your life for Christ?

What better time than during this season to rededicate your life to Him or to receive Him as your Saviour!

— Richard De Haan

*Have you any room for Jesus,
He who bore your load of sin?
As He knocks and asks admission,
Sinner, will you let Him in?—Whittle*

If Christ is kept on the outside, something is wrong on the inside.

Our Daily Bread

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Christmas, 2009

*God's holy season is here
It comes around so fast
We hardly had the time
To get over last year's blast.*

*Baking and wrapping
Sure —it's fun
But that's not the reason
God sent his only Son.*

*The world is in a turmoil
It's going from bad to worse
But God is still in control
And will take away the curse.*

*It was quiet in the manger
The night that Christ was born
Only the cow's gentle moo
Brought solice to her song.*

*Shepherds had seen the Star
That shone so very bright
They left their flocks and hurried on
Through the dark of night.*

*What a sight before them
When they saw the Baby Boy
Eyes were opened wide
And hearts were filled with joy.*

*Oh to have had the privilege
To see Christ the King
Or to be close enough
To hear the angels sing.*

*One day soon He'll appear again
To gather up His flock
For those who are not ready
They'll be in for quite a shock.*

*So not only at Christmas
Be ready all the time
And you'll have a Blessed Christmas
That's the purpose of this rhyme.*

Mrs. Bud Haugen
Snohomish, WA

Selling Your Soul for \$110

Those “Left Behind” books so popular a few years ago left one stone unturned: What happens to pets? Since the Bible doesn't mention animals ascending to heaven during the Rapture, a helpful atheist is offering to tend Fido and Fifi during the end times. For \$110, Eternal Earth-bound Pets promises to rescue and raise dogs, cats, birds, rabbits and small caged mammals.

The group is active in 22 states, including Minnesota, and says that should the Rapture occur within 10 years of payment, one pet per household will be saved. ...

As for the danger that the non-believer with whom you've contracted may, in fact, also be swept skyward, they state in the (highly recommended) FAQs: “Each of our representatives has stated to us in writing that they are atheists, do not believe in God/Jesus, and that they have blasphemed in accordance with Mark 3:29, negating any chance of salvation.”

Taken from *The Star Tribune*
October 10, 2009

Editor's Note: Mark 3:29 says, “*But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin.*” Can you imagine someone willing to seal their eternal destiny in hell for only \$110? It is even more tragic because, should the Rapture occur, the unbeliever is faced with the fact that the very Bible he denied is in fact true! In this text, the Pharisees were attributing the work of the Holy Spirit with Satan, which is utter blasphemy.

Your Built-in Tape Recorder

By Paul Evans

Some skeptics have scoffingly asked, “How is the God of the Christians going to have sufficient evidence to render a verdict of guilty on the so-called Judgment Day – evidence of every thought, word and deed of billions and billions of people?”

Well, now comes the answer, not of a God who has a giant tape recorder hidden in the universe but of a God who has put a built-in tape recorder in every person on earth.

Our authority for such a belief is Dr. Wilber Penfield, the director of the Montreal Neurological Institute. Here are the exact words of this learned man: *Your brain contains a permanent record of our past that is like a continuous strip of movie films, complete with sound track! This “film library” records your whole waking life from childhood on. You can live again these scenes from our past one at a time when a surgeon applies a gentle electrical current to a certain point on the temporal cortex of your brain.*

Amazing words, aren’t they?

We certainly were fearfully and wonderfully made!

To think that God has equipped every man, woman, boy and girl with a built-in tape recorder (or, more accurately, an audio and video recorder) is a staggering thought.

But in the light of this fact, who can doubt that God Almighty will be able to cause every person on earth to remember his or her past – a complete record of the life lived on this planet, Earth!

If a skilled surgeon, by applying a gentle electrical current to a certain point on the temporal cortex of the brain, can cause a person to live again the scenes of the past, surely the Creator of man can cause His created ones to remember.

In the vivid story of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16), there are two words that stand out – words spoken by Father Abraham to the Rich Man. These words, “Son, remember.” Just four syllables – but what impact: “Son, remember”! I personally believe that perhaps the greatest agony the unconverted will experience in eternity will be the flashes of memory.

The person who knew the way of salvation but rejected it will remember with regret all the opportunities he had to repent – opportunities now forever past.

The individual who rejected Christ because of social pressure – he will remember his sad choice between the

crowd and Christ. No friends will be there to relieve his loneliness. Alone, he will face the “film library” called memory.

Even today, memories of the past torment untold millions of people. Their cry is, “Oh, if only I could forget!” Unable to forget, some seek the exits marked narcotics, alcohol and even suicide.

But, thank god, there is a better way out of the “memory dilemma” – and that is through divine forgiveness.

There is only one thing in God’s universe that can erase the sins of your past. First John 1:7 says, *“The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin.”*

Through Christ’s death, pardon has been purchased for you. You can be forgiven!

All you must do is bring your sins in contact with the cleansing blood of Christ. And how do you do this? Through confessing your sins to the Lord himself. Here’s the divine promise: *“IF we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

Will you confess your guilt to God? I’m praying that you will.

Remember, if you face up to your sins here, you will not have to face your sins at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Log of the Good Ship Grace
The Sword of the Lord

*“In questions of power, then,
let no more be heard of confidence
in man, but bind him down from
mischief by the chains of the
Constitution.”*

Thomas Jefferson

IT'S TIME TO TRIM OUR LAMPS

(Storm Clouds Are Gathering Fast)

By Gladwin Koehn

One verse out of the well-known parable of the ten virgins pinpoints a need of our day: "*Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps*" (Matt. 25:7). That action immediately revealed the sad state and condition of five of those persons: "...and the foolish said unto the wise, *Give us of your oil: for our lamps are gone out;*" (v. 8). It is time to trim our lamps, and we must not delay, for some may find as a consequence that their oil has run out.

Those who have grown up in that part of the country known as Tornado Alley can remember those times when a storm cloud would arise during the night. Mother or Dad would come in to the bedside of sound-asleep children and, with a gentle shaking, say, "Children, there's a storm coming, and it doesn't look good. We must go to the cellar." Father would get the old lantern, and with a creak, the globe would be raised so the wick could be lit. With the lighted lantern ready, Dad would say, "Let's go now; the storm is almost here." Down in the cellar we huddled around the light of the lamp, feeling a certain solace from the flickering light while the storm raged outside.

Is there any reasonable person today who does not feel that the storm clouds are gathering fast, and that they could soon break upon us? While some men are majoring in prophecy and making detailed predictions, we leave that to them. However, it is clear that the spirit and events of the world are falling into the general outline of the prophecies of the end times. Without question, it is time to trim our lamps so the True light can shine forth.

The wick of an oil-burning lamp becomes fouled with use. When the wick becomes fouled, the flame does not burn evenly. It begins to smoke and light is dimmed. The accumulation on the end of the wick needs to be cut away.

**WITHOUT THE BIBLE, MEN
WOULD BE IN UTTER
IGNORANCE OF THE
FUTURE!**

Then the flame will burn evenly all the way across and will give a good amount of light without smoking.

Sanctification in the Christian's life does this for the believer. With daily living, one's Christian life begins to take on those hindrances that restrict the light. When those things that foul the flame are permitted and not taken away, an inconsistent Christian life results. An untrimmed wick might have a portion where the flame hardly burns. On the other side a finger of flame reaches up high, and from its tip comes smoke that blackens the lamp's globe. This well illustrates an inconsistent Christian life. The profession is there, but the condition of the flame is saying that something needs adjustment. It is time to trim our lamps.

We know not exactly what the approaching cloud will hold for the true Christians, except that the coming of the Lord is drawing near. The cry is sounding forth, heralding the Bridegroom's coming. We must trim our lamps now.

There may be points in the parable of the ten virgins not so clearly understood. But on the other hand, there are those things that cannot be misunderstood, and those we dare not ignore. One of these has to do with time, and finality of eternity.

In their carelessness, the five foolish virgins waited too long to do something about their need. They did not wait a year too long, or a month, or even a day. They waited just a **little** too long. When their desperate situation became apparent, they tried to borrow from the faithful. But as the Bridegroom was approaching, they quickly went to buy: "...and while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and the door was shut ..." (vv. 10,11). They were just a little late – but too late. When the true Bridegroom comes, many shall make a desperate effort to buy, but it will be just a little too late, and that will be for all eternity.

"*But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not*" (v.12). Man tends to look at this matter of carelessness with our lamps too lightly. We excuse our inconsistencies in many ways. But the truth is that according to Jesus it is a serious matter. Carelessness in Christian living is a sin. What else would cause the Lord, who died for sinners, redeemed them, made them His own, on the Last Day say to some of them, "*I know you not*" (see also Luke 13:24-29)? It is time to trim our lamps and deal with those areas that run counter to the faith as sin.

When the Lord comes again, He will return to a world darkened by sin. But as He comes, may He see the faithful with their lamps "*all trimmed and bright.*"

Messenger of Truth

Gospel Tract Society, Inc.

Contributed by Julaine Albertson

A Power Name: “MIGHTY GOD”

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given ...And His name will be called ...Mighty God. (Isa. 9:6)

The name “Mighty God” is an Old Testament title here applied to the coming Messiah. It is the compound Hebrew term *El Gibbor*, and both parts of the name need to be understood.

God. The first part of the title is *El*. Even though Jesus himself pointed out that the title is sometimes used of mighty sons of men (John 10:34), *El* is so often used of God, and only God, that the prophet Hosea used *El* to set God in contrast to man in Hosea 11:9.

Isaiah 9:6 was predicting One who would be far more than a man. This is indicated not only by the third name “Everlasting Father: and by other prophetic references such as Isaiah 2:1-4, but by the New Testament record of Christ. Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58). He is the One of whom John wrote: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without Him nothing was made that was made* (John 1:1-3).

Mighty. The other part of the name is *Gibbor*, which means “strength, power, hero.” What a statement! In a world where heroes are determined by their athletic prowess or financial power, we are told that the only One truly worthy to be adored is the One whose might is unparalleled! Isaiah 10:21 describes Him as the refuge of the remnant, and Deuteronomy 10:17 declares that He is the “great God, mighty and awesome.”

The focus of Isaiah’s prophecy is *El Gibbor*, the Mighty God who is our true Hero. What this prophet in the seventh century BC anticipated, the New Testament confirms. Because the Messiah would be God, He would have God’s power. But to Isaiah, the amazing thing was that the Messiah would not only have the power of God, He would be the God of power!

In other parts of his prophecy, Isaiah gave more details of what this mighty power would look like. For instance, in a messianic section of his prophecy, Isaiah declared: *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God’ to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heavi-*

ness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified (61:1-3).

Jesus used Isaiah 61:1-3 to make His claim as the Messiah (Luke 4:16-21). But because He only partially fulfilled this prophecy in His first coming, He was only partially recognized. By His resurrection, perfect life, sacrificial death, and many mighty signs He showed we could trust Him to return one day to rule the world. Most of His own people rejected Him. John wrote, “*He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him*” (John 1:11).

In many cases, however, Jesus was recognized as the long-awaited Messiah. Nicodemus, a rabbi of Israel, recognized Him (cp. John 3 with John 19). The disciples recognized Him (cp. Matthew 8:27 with 16:16). Mary Magdalene recognized Him, and her life was transformed (Luke 8:2). Others’ lives were changed as well, even the life of the church’s most feared persecutor, Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9).

These and thousands of other first-century Jews believed – and for good reason. Jesus Christ proved Himself to be *El Gibbor* as He displayed His life-changing might and power.

For those who see their need of a Savior, the evidence of Christ’s mighty power is overwhelming. For those who sense their own weakness and inability to live up to God’s standard, the apostle John wrote, “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: (John 1:12).

What the New Testament provides is an opportunity to see the fullness of the “Mighty God” Isaiah was predicting. The clear statement of the Word of God is that Christ displayed His might in the creation of the world before He physically entered the world. John 1:3 says, “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” Colossians 1:16 agrees: “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

In the midst of evidence that shows Christ to be the Mighty God, it is important to remember that this is more than just theological data. It is divinely inspired evidence that urges us to see and respond to Christ as He is – our “Mighty God.”

In view of the predictive evidence of Isaiah and the historic record of the Gospels, how can we see our Lord Jesus Christ as anything less than the Mighty God, *El Gibbor*?

RBC Ministries
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Silent Night, Holy Night

This carol, rated the most popular of all Christmas carols, came into being in a small Austrian town in 1818.

Joseph Mohr, its author, was priest of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, Austria. Franz Grüber, its composer, was the church organist.

A group of touring actors were traveling through the countryside presenting a play based on the Nativity. When they came to Oberndorf, they were shocked to find they could not use the Catholic church because the organ was being repaired. They looked, and sure enough, parts were strewn all over the floor! "You can meet in our home," one of the townspeople volunteered. So all the interested people, including Father Mohr, went to the home where the play was presented.

The actors portrayed the Nativity with unusual earnestness and feeling. Everyone was deeply moved, especially the priest.

After the play ended, Father Mohr hurried off to meditate high on a hillside overlooking the village. Suddenly, Oberndorf was Bethlehem; the still, clear night of Austria was the holy hush over the hills of Judea. As he walked and contemplated Christ's coming to earth, words took shape in his mind.

"Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child! Holy Infant so
tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in
heavenly peace."

The next morning he handed these lines to Franz Grüber. "See if you can wed these words to a melody," he smiled and said.

A simple, haunting refrain sang itself into the soul of Grüber and he wrote down the notes of what later was called, "Song from Heaven."

When the parishioners gathered for the Christmas Eve service, Mohr and Grüber, accompanied by Grüber's guitar (because the organ still wasn't working), sang for the first time this beloved melody of the holy night when God came to earth in human form.

Over one hundred and fifty years have passed since that Christmas Eve in Oberndorf, but no Christmas anywhere seems complete without the

singing of "Silent Night."

Taken from *Hymns of Faith*
Northwestern College Radio

*Silent Night, Holy Night,
Son of God, Love's Pure Light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth;
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.*

Please Pray for the Ministry of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory and that more folk will have a *real burden/vision* in the Lord's Work in our midst and become **actively involved. Thank You! YES may this 'ministry' be used for the Salvation of Precious Souls and for the edification of God's Lambs and Sheep – to HIS GLORY! **P. S. REMEMBER IF ONE person or more** is pulled from a life of sin and saved (rescued and won into Christ's Kingdom), it will be worth 'our' effort!**

The board of the Hauge Innermission, along with their families, would like to wish each reader a blessed Christmas, as you celebrate the coming of Christ to be your Lord and Savior! We would also like to personally thank each one who has stood with us this year. May the Lord Jesus Christ be near and dear to you.

Update

The Spiritual Battle for 'renewal' continues

THANK YOU to all who have contributed in the **King's Kingdom Work** with your 'prayers, donations, articles, etc. We are most certainly encouraged by the same!

TIME is fleeting and I want to remind you as we near the close of this period of GRACE; not only do our labors 'together' count for ETERNITY; BUT Apostasy is taking its toll also!

At the present, as a *vessel/means* we have several main 'avenues' of getting the WORD out to hundreds of folk, and **GOD has promised that HIS WORD will not return unto HIM void**, for HIS WORD is forever settled in Heaven! While we have the 'opportunity', we must get His Word out to our great USA and beyond!

Please continue to share as the LORD lays on your heart and may our Wonderful Savior Bless you *accordingly* as you give from a JOYFUL/CHEERUL heart! (Remember the LORD doesn't look so much at the amount we GIVE, **but how we give!** AS you provide the 'means' we will definitely seek to **continue** to spread the Law & Gospel efficiently. *Together* we can make a difference that will influence the direction of lives and congregations throughout the USA and beyond. BUT wait, there is more – As 'individual' lives and congregations are influenced, it will spread and influence OTHERS! **Never Underestimate the power of the TRUTH! How about a Christmas Gift for JESUS** through this ministry?

October's income for *Morning Glory* = \$2,262.92

The cost for each issue of the Morning Glory alone is approximately \$2,400.

P.S. How about including Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation in your 'Congregations' *out reach*; not as a substitute for your support, BUT along side of! IF we don't keep the home fires burning, it won't be long before 'foreign mission efforts' will come to naught also!

GOD BLESS!

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Hauge Spring Bible Conference

Looking For:

Congregations or a group of concerned individuals TO Invite and 'host' the early Spring Bible Conference or the Annual Conference of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. Not 'difficult' – you provide the opportunity and, Lord willing, we will provide the 'program'. Desired that you provide one or more main meal(s), a spiritual warm/open spirit. No financial obligation – free will offerings and together we LOOK to the LORD for '*Seasons of Refreshing from the Presence of the LORD!* **Please prayerfully consider the same.**

THANK YOU!

* * * * *