



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • June 2013

Removing Obstacles

By Pastor Chris Priestaf,
Mount Bethel, PA

“Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, ‘Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?’ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.” Mark 16:2-4

The night had gotten late. Life as both a teacher and a student made such nights the norm. Final exams only heightened the intensity. Writing, correcting, studying, teaching. There were simply not enough minutes in the day.

Perhaps this is why the phone startled her so much. It didn't usually ring past 9:30. Sarah picked it up cautiously, fearing the news that frequently comes at this hour. Her mom's voice met her hello: "Sarah, it's your Grandpa....he's not doing well." Her painful words were met with a lengthy, tearful silence. Sarah's mind couldn't help but travel back in time. She remembered bouncing on Grandpa's lap as a little girl, and going fishing with him as a young girl, and just sitting and talking to him as a grown girl. She always called him when a decision needed to be made, or better yet, a story had to be told. He was always there to listen, always there to advise, and always good for a laugh. He meant the world to Sarah, and now he was almost gone.

Sarah had an insatiable desire to see him one more time. She wanted to hold his hand, to kiss his brow, to let him know how much he meant to her. But doing so seemed impossible. For one thing, it was finals time. She was both a given and a taken of the exams. How could she

be gone? More than that, she lived on the opposite coast. Not only was time an issue, there was the money. She barely made rent, let alone enough for a cross-country flight on short notice.

All she wanted to do was see him, but she couldn't. There were too many obstacles, too many miles, too much stuff in the way.

Obstacles. Barriers. Walls. The title you give them doesn't really matter; their effect does. They are the things that keep us from going where we desire to go, seeing whom we desire to see, partaking of that which we desire to partake. And they show up when they're least welcomed. Sarah knew it, you know it, and I know it. Fortunately, two women named Mary knew it, too, and so did their friend Salome.

The three women were close with Jesus. Having witnessed the gruesome events of Friday, and then having endured history's longest Saturday, the women were ready to do what they could on Sunday. Mark, in chapter 16, records it this way: *“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, ‘Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?’”*

It's a good question, isn't it? They want to see Jesus. They plan to see Jesus. But there is a really big stone in the way. Who's going to move it? Who's going to deal with the massive obstacle between them and Jesus?

I wonder how many people share the same question as

Morning Glory

Volume XCV – Number 6
June 2013

MORNING GLORY (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Periodicals postage paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56537.
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Morning Glory, c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

Editor: Pastor Rodney Stueland
508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529
email: haugerep@cableone.net

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

Internet Web Site: hauginnermission.com.

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

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

President: Kevin GundersonDexter, MN
Vice President: Clifford Nelson.....Cannon Falls, MN
Secretary: Jim HagaShoreview, MN
Treasurer: Paul Peterson.....Kenyon, MN
Charles Hinderaker.....Austin, MN
Duane NessaGarden City, IA
Matt PetersonKenyon, MN
Rodney Stueland.....Dilworth, MN
Joel Zeltinger.....Bismarck, ND

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

Removing Obstacles	1-3
The One Real God	3
Editorial	4-5
Charles Spurgeon’s Morning	5
From our Fellowship Circle • The Safe Path	6
No One Understands Like Jesus • Holy Matrimony	7
Believable ... Yet Unbelievable.....	8-9
Ephesians 4-6 • For Our Benefit and Good	10
A Free and Living Congregation • Ministers	11
The Lay People Are the Church • Faith	12
The First Question – A High Man Who Came Down	13-14
Of Learned Men • A Butterfly Lesson	14
Where Are You in Your Walk with the Lord?	15
UpDate • Hauge Annual Conference	16

these women. Perhaps you know some of them. Perhaps they are you. There is a great desire to see Jesus, but a really big stone stands in the way.

I think about the young college student home for break. She has discovered that there really is a lot more freedom at school, and the choices are all hers to make. Unfortunately, she hasn’t made them well. She is embarrassed, even ashamed. She knew better, and did it anyway. To her, those nights, those choices, remain really big stones.

Or the family that has been in and out of the church for years. Nothing bad has happened; they’ve just been “busy.” It feels weird to come back, to church and to Christ. Yet they want to. It just seems like there is a really big stone in the way.

Or the alcoholic who drinks again. Or the individual in the relationship that fails again. Or the dad who works too much too late again. Or the mom who gets angry and snaps again. Or...or...or. Again and again and again.

Obstacles. Barriers. Really big stones. All standing between us and Jesus. Who’s going to move it? Who’s going to move them? The question is probably more prevalent than we realize.

I love how Mark recounts this event. He says that the women were asking this question on the way to the tomb. It appears they didn’t know how they were going to get to Jesus, but they trusted they would. And sure enough, “...when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.” The obstacle had been removed. The one thing they thought needed to be done had already been done.

There was literally nothing left to do.

Amazing, isn't it? The wonder of the Gospel tucked neatly into three little verses about three loving women; *Everything* we think needs to be done has already been done. The obstacle has been removed. The barrier is gone. Mark had already hinted at this a few verses earlier, writing, "*With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom*" (Mark 15:37-38). The one obstacle between God and man was gone. Completely gone. Forever. And man didn't do a thing.

Remember all the big stones we mentioned above, those obstacles that seem to stand between us and Jesus? It turns out we've given them more credence than they deserve. Like that really big stone that only reported to work for two days – a bitterly dark Friday and a seemingly endless Saturday – our obstacles too went home on Sunday. And God hasn't called them back to work since. Everything that needed to be done was done – for three hopeful women and for you. This is why the author of Hebrews encourages you in your time of greatest need – when the stones seem the biggest and your sins is most obvious – to "*approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace*" (4:16). The barriers have been removed. It's Easter. Enjoy it.

And Sarah? Her story ended better than anyone imagined. Grandpa not only made it through finals' week, he also bought Sarah a ticket home. It just so happened that he, too, wanted to be with her one more time. So he removed all the obstacles.

Taken from *Faith and Fellowship* with permission

Editor's Note: Having known the 'traditional' Easter Sunday is past, it is very Scripturally practical every 'day' in a 'believers' life! As you will note, in the Holy Scriptures, every sermon that Peter and Paul preached is recorded in the same, **that JESUS which was crucified is Risen & Alive!**

In Ephesians 2 (for example) notice: verse 17 as JESUS came and preached PEACE, verse 15 as JESUS making PEACE and in verse 14 **HE IS OUR PEACE!**

"I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, And just the time I need Him He's always near. He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."

The One Real God

"For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens."

As the apostle Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians, "though there be many that are called gods, to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (1 Corinthians 8:5-6).

Every person has his own "god"; even atheists order their lives by some principle of their own choosing which thus becomes in effect their "god"! There are multitudes of others who follow various other gods. For example, the Hindus have almost innumerable gods. Muslims, on the other hand, strongly argue for just one god, whom they call Allah, but it was not Allah who "made the heavens." The truth revealed in the Bible is that it was God's "dear Son" by whom "were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth" (Colossians 1:13, 16). Allah denies that he even has a Son, and he calls those who believe otherwise (meaning Christians) infidels. The Koran is alleged to consist of the verbally inspired words of Allah, but it (and therefore, Allah) also denies the Trinity, as well as the death and resurrection of Christ, and so also denies that the Son of God provides salvation for all who believe on Him. That is more than enough to prove that Allah is not the God of the Bible.

In our text above, the word "idols" simply means "vanities." It is all "in vain" to put one's faith for eternity in a false god. The Lord Jesus alone, having created all things and paid the awful price to redeem all things, alone can truly provide eternal salvation. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). He Himself verified that "I am the way, ...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Henry M. Morris, Ph. D. Copyright 2013, *Institute for Creation Research*, Permission Granted

"If justice, good faith, honor, gratitude and all the other qualities which enable the character of a nation, and fulfill the ends of Government be the fruits of our establishment, the cause of Liberty will acquire a dignity and lustre, which it has never yet enjoyed, and an example will be set, which cannot but have the most favorable influence on the rights of Mankind."

James Madison (1783)

Editorial

RES

Heart Failure!

“...men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, ...” (Luke 21:26)

Statistically, ‘heart failure’ is the leading ‘cause’ of natural death in the USA!

In years gone by, the question was asked of a godly individual: “Give me a definition of *fear*.” The response was ‘**Tomorrow**’! What a ‘timely’ definition of ‘*Today*’! Fear of economic collapse, Fear of possibly unemployment, health issues, death and judgment; just plain fear of what may happen ‘tomorrow’; to name some ‘*fears*’ as the list goes on.

NOW, according to Martin Luther’s small and large Catechisms (explained) and Scripturally there are two kinds of ‘fear’ among humanity: There is a ‘child-like fear’ and a ‘slavish fear’. For the unsaved, there ought to be a ‘slavish fear.’ John 3:18 and 36, Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8; as they are ‘without EXCUSE’ for example.

Back to the ‘Catechism’, “When do we fear God? We fear God when we think so highly of Him, that we are afraid of offending Him by any wrong doing. Ps. 33:8. *‘Let all the earth fear Jehovah.’* Of how many kinds is the fear of God? Of two kinds: slavish fear and child-like fear. What is meant by slavish fear? When we fear God because we are afraid of punishment. What is meant by child-like fear? When we love God so dearly that we wish to do nothing that is against His will. Gen. 39:9. *‘How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’* 1 John 4:18 ‘Perfect love casteth out fear.’” Remembering that God’s Book, the Bible is GRACE and given to ‘us’ in LOVE; which definitely includes the Ten Commandments: yet Luther defines each Commandment with ‘*We should fear and love God ...*’

Let me give you two common, simple examples: A person who cannot float nor swim justifiably fears large bodies of water as far as ‘diving’ into them; but that doesn’t mean they should not use soap and water for cleansing. The same is true with ‘gasoline’ which is nothing to play with; but many of us enjoy the power/energy that it produces in our vehicles, etc.

So what has happened to ‘many’ of the assembling together in ‘worship’ of our crucified and risen Savior? As ‘our’ *reverence* for God rises and falls, so ‘our’ worship of HIM will follow like a ‘shadow’. As ‘we’ gather together in worshipping HIM ‘we’ need to realize we are standing upon Holy Ground; as we meet GOD in every

page and verse of the BIBLE! (Let alone that marvelous fact that HE is in the midst of them where two or three are gathered in HIS NAME)! You see a ‘worship service’ should not be catered to ‘our desires’; BUT what is most pleasing to HIM, out of respect and *reverence*. (The same is true in our ‘individual lives’). *Singularly*, I believe ‘our’ greatest expression of ‘worship’ is admitting our NEED and in so doing fear, love, honor, glorify HIM; as HE meets our absolute/essential NEED! *“But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple”* Psalm 5:7. **“Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble (fear) before Him, all the earth”** Psalm 96:9. As you know God seeks for those that realize *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”* John 4:24. **“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”** Hebrews 12:28-29. There are many Bible verses that express a godly/childlike fear). Example of some: Job 1:1, 8, Psalm 25:13, 33:8, 34:8-9, Prov. 14:26-27, 13:4, Isaiah 8:13, and Hebrews 5:7.

The Bible is very clear that the ‘fear of man’ is a snare. You know what will so and so think IF I share my testimony? Do you call yourself a ‘Christian’? I am reminded of a great celebrity of years gone by, who shared/challenged his ‘sons’; “Be careful in regards to your life style because that family name means something!” Believers were first called ‘Christian’ at Antioch (Acts). As Martin Luther shared that JESUS was God’s Ambassador to humanity and Christians are *little* ambassadors in and to this world! YES, representing the **King of kings and Lord of lords!** So thus saith the LORD!

The word Sabbath means REST! Isn’t it marvelous that God’s only begotten SON made Heaven poor in being our perfect substitute and triumphantly said on Calvary’s Cross **‘It is Finished’**; that you and I could become rich (Gift of Salvation). BUT in order for a ‘Gift’ (purpose) to be completed it has to be personally received! **NEED!** **Luke 19:10.** *“For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before Me,” says the Lord God*” Jeremiah 2:22. Isaiah 64:6, 1:18. Marvelous, God’s Mercy, Grace, Love and Power for

now there is a 'rest' for children/heirs of God: both Spiritually and 'our' labors. See Colossians 2:6-10, **Hebrews 4:9-16**. *"But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness"* Romans 4:5.

BUT being as a whole we have lost the 'fear' of sin; basically by renaming it, by calling it mistakes, errors, short comings, etc. For example: the Third commandment (keeping in mind ALL of God's commandments, not just the Ten; are given for 'OUR' good and benefit out of His unconditional LOVE).

The 'third' commandment was in place long before Moses time and is respected in the New Testament as well. Jesus came not to abolish the LAW; but to 'fulfill it'. You can call a dog's tail a leg; but still how many 'legs' does a dog have? Call his 'tail' anything you want, but he still has just four legs! Re-label the poison bottle of sin any name; but it is still SIN! When we make light or sport of SIN or Satan, we are gradually hardening our hearts/conscience. God tells us whom to 'FEAR': **"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."** Matthew 10:28. How 'we' NEED to pray for a 'spiritual iron backbone' that we tell/live His TRUTH in Love!

Oh, some will say I can 'worship' GOD among the 'beauty' of His Creation; BUT it still isn't LIKE being in the 'house of God/Prayer; regardless what is said. (A Bible believing/practicing assembly). The New Testament 'Sabbath' is the First Day of the Week (Sunday) and even though EVERY 'day' is a gift from God and should be lived as such! **Deuteronomy 5:29**: out of fear, LOVE

and respect/reverence for HIM!!

God tells us: whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it heartily unto HIM! **Colossians 3:16-17, Hebrews 13:15**.

God clearly tells us that He intends for 'us' to work six days a week and on the Sabbath/Sunday REST. Oh, yes, quickly there are those who say and practice resting on Sunday is 'legalism' and most certainly in doing so under the Law would be correct and in danger of losing their 'joy' and eventually 'salvation'; but a biblical 'pietist' will obey out of love for HIM! Jesus shares if we obey, respect/reverence HIM, keeping His commandments is done out of LOVE: not that I have too, but want too - 1 John 4:17-19. (Keep in mind/practice the distinct difference between 'slavish fear' and 'child-like fear').

Yes, a 'time' is coming when those who are still living physically and are not right with GOD will cry out for the rocks/hills/mountains to hide them from GOD, but to NO AVAIL! BUT we who know 'JESUS' personally will stand before HIM in love. **Every person**, man, woman, child will either stand before God's Great White Judgment Throne OR accountability before JESUS as there are one of two 'judgment seats each one of us will appear individually one DAY! Hebrews 9:27.

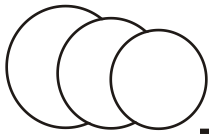
When was the last time you told JESUS 'I love you'? **"Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."** Hebrews 13:20-21.

Charles Spurgeon's Morning

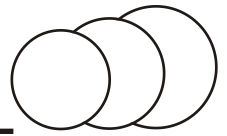
"We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22

God's people have their trials. It was never designed by God, when He chose His people, that they should be an untried people. They were chosen in the furnace of affliction; they were never chosen to worldly peace and earthly joy. Freedom from sickness and the pains of mortality was never promised them; but when their Lord drew up the charter of privileges, He included chastisements amongst the things to which they should inevitably be heirs. Trials are a part of our lot; they were predestinated for us in Christ's last legacy. So surely as the stars are fashioned by His hands, and their orbits fixed by Him, so surely are our trials allotted to us: He has ordained their season and their place, their intensity and the effect they shall have upon us. Good men must never expect to escape troubles; if they do, they will be disappointed, for none of their prede-

cessors have been without them. Mark the patience of Job; remember Abraham, for he had his trials, and by his faith under them, he became the "Father of the faithful." Note well the biographies of all the patriarchs, prophet, apostles, and martyrs, and you shall discover none of those whom God made vessels of mercy, who were not made to pass through the fire of affliction. It is ordained of old that the cross of trouble should be engraved on every vessel of mercy, as the royal mark whereby the King's vessels of honour are distinguished. *But although tribulation is thus the path of God's children, they have the comfort of knowing that their Master has traversed it before them; they have His presence and sympathy to cheer them, His grace to support them, and His example to teach them how to endure; and when they reach "the kingdom," it will more than make amends for the "much tribulation: through which they passed to enter it.*



From Our Fellowship Circle



T. B. **Cannon Falls, MN**
Enclosed is a check for \$... for the *Morning Glory*.

I regret to inform you that Loren passed away in 2011 from ...

O. L. A. **Newport, N. C.**
Thank you for your letter. God bless the *Morning Glory* and its staff.

I'm sorry about not sending in a check until now as my income is fixed and ...

Also I'm thankful that Pastor's wife is on the mend.

Enclosed is a \$... Check.

God Bless!

S. W. **M C, WA**
Thank you for sending the *Morning Glory*. May the Lord continue to use your publication and mission for His glory.

I am now 90 years old and need to cut down on publications. Please eliminate me from your mailing. Thanks.

Enclosed please find \$...

Mr. & Mrs. M. L. R. **Lake City, IA**
Wow!! The *Morning Glory* just keeps getting better – telling it like it is!! Want everyone to read it! Keep up the great work!!

Editor's Note: Let 'us' give the credit to where the 'credit' belongs. I/we are sinners washed in the Blood of the Lamb: by His Grace we are 'cleansed vessels'. So Praise His Holy Name!

E. O. S. **Wanamingo, MN**
It is nice and white in this part of Minnesota!

The check enclosed is to help in spreading the real News as you are doing every month.

May you and yours have a Blessed Easter and the *Morning Glory* is nice to receive and read as it comes every month.

Editor's Note: **Praise the Lord**, as HE gave 'us' a marvelous Hauge Spring Bible Conference at Osakis, Minnesota (Elim Lutheran Church).

The presence of the Lord was very special, Messages again Biblically sound, Singing great, Testimonies good, Fellowship sweet and the Christian hospitality great, with new subscribers to the Morning Glory encouraging. PTL

Hopefully 'we' can see a goodly number of you at 'our' Hauge Annual Bible Conference at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Westby, Wisconsin on June 7 – 9, 2013. **Again**, please pray for this 'conference' and the 'ministry' of the same! Thank you.

Likely you noticed from the 'Fellowship Circle' that we would appreciate hearing from you!

May 'our' Living Savior richly Bless You and make you an even greater blessing unto others!

The Safe Path

"Have you studied Voltaire, Tom Pain, Robert Ingersoll, or any of those fellows?" asked a friend of a Christian captain of a steamship.

"No," replied the captain.

"Well, you should. You can't fairly turn down their argument until you have thoroughly investigated for yourself," argued the captain's boyhood friend.

"I've been captain of this ship for a long time, John," returned the captain. "The chart that was given me early in my career pointed out the deep water that would carry the ship safely into port. As a young captain, I never considered it advisable to investigate the rocks; the experience I've known other chaps to have with the rocks has been sufficient warning for me. So, the Bible that I learned at my mother's knee, in the old Sunday school and from my pastor is my chart for the sea of life."

Selected.

No One Understands Like Jesus

By Ranee (Stueland) Nash

Editor's Note: The following 'words' were written by 'our' daughter as a child.

*No one understands like parents
When I falter on my way;
Tho I fail them, sadly fail them,
They'll encourage me today.*

*No one understands like mother,
Loving, caring constantly;
Bringing strength and comfort gladly,
Disappointing tho I be.*

*No one understands like father,
Watching and protecting me;
Tho I do complain and argue,
He sets down good rules for me.*

*No one understands like parents,
When the days are dark and grim;
No one is so near, so dear as parents,
Sweeter still my love for you.*

*No one understands like families,
Growing closer to our Lord;
Helping, teaching one another,
Some day we will meet in heaven!*

*No one understands like Jesus,
When the foes of Life assail;
I should never be discouraged,
Jesus cares and will not fail.*

Holy Matrimony

Genesis 2:21 – 25

What a wonderful moment it must have been for Adam when he first saw Eve. At the first wedding, the Creator both gave the bride away and performed the wedding. Of all the creatures God had made, none was found suitable, appropriate or acceptable to be a "help meet for (Adam)" (vv. 18, 20). Man is unique among all of creation. God Himself stated that it was not beneficial for Adam to "be alone." This was the only thing in all of creation that was designated as "not good." Obviously, this occurred prior to God's statement in Genesis 1:31, where everything God saw was "very good" – which once again indicates that these two chapters are complimentary, not contradictory. Adam needed a helper, and God provided what Adam needed, as He had previously. The Lord's solution was to take a rib from Adam and form a woman, his wife, *for* him (1 Cor. 11:9). Eve was not an entirely separate person from her husband. She was an important part *of* Adam (v. 24; 1 Cor. 11:8).

Adam's reaction to God's provision could be described as one of gratitude and satisfaction. As Adam gazed upon Eve, he voiced his assessment of this wonderful creation God had brought to him, (v. 23). Verse 24 presents some basic principles for matrimony: The husband is to *leave* the home in which he was raised and *cleave* to his wife, establishing a new family. This leaving is not abandonment of the prior family, but the priority is now to be his wife. To "*cleave* unto his wife" means "to cling" to her. Marriage is exclusively heterosexual (male/female) and is a lifelong commitment. Do we show our love and affection to the mate God has graciously provided? Gary D. Freel

Taken from 'Feature', Fundamental Evangelistic Association, Copyright 2009, Permission Granted, Telephone 805 – 528-3534

Editor's Note: **Malachi 2:15-16**, Like two pieces of 'paper' solidly glued together and cannot be separated without 'hurting/injuring' one another! **Ephesians 5:22 – 33**, **1 Peter 3:1 – 12**. SINGULARLY the 'glue' that holds a marriage together is forgiveness! **Ecclesiastes 4:12**. (Cemented in God's Holy WORD, the Bible).

***You can say, "If I had a little more,
I should be very satisfied."
You make a mistake. If you are not content with
what you have, you would not be satisfied if it
were doubled.
Charles Spurgeon***

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Church Bylaws Should Define Marriage

With the U. S. Supreme Court set to take up gay marriage and potentially legalize it this summer, churches that host wedding ceremonies or other events for traditional couples should examine their bylaws and shield themselves from the impact of possible litigation, says an attorney who specializes in religious liberty issues.

The justices are scheduled in March to hear two cases concerning gay marriage and by June could either uphold the traditional definition of marriage or legalize gay marriage in all 50 states. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) – a religious liberty legal organization – is hoping for the former but preparing churches for the latter, just in case...”

Baptist Press

Fifteen Hundred Abortion Clinic Closures Since 1991, 660 Remaining.

On the 40th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion, pro-lifers have something to celebrate: the closure of 1,500 abortion clinics over the past 22 years.

In 1991 there were 2,176 surgical abortion clinics nationwide; today there are 660 and (the number is) falling. Over 1,500 abortion clinics, 70 percent of the total, have closed their doors for good.

“Abortion has been legal for 40 years this month (January), and 57 million babies have paid with their lives. While the pro-life movement has not ended all abortions yet, it has made some significant progress,” said Ken Brady, president of Planned Childhood Life.

Christian Newswire

Federal Lawsuits Pile Up Against Obamacare Mandate

There are now 45 separate lawsuits challenging the HHS mandate, which is a regulation under the Affordable Care Act (aka “Obamacare”).

“Americans should be free to honor God and live according to their consciences no matter where they are. A person’s faith convictions don’t disappear the moment he or she steps outside of a church building,” said ADF (Alliance Defending Freedom) Senior Counsel Michael J. Norton, a former U.S. attorney. “This lawsuit puts a glaring light on the fact that the Obama administration just doesn’t understand what religious freedom really is. All Americans have a God-given freedom to live and do busi-

ness according to their faith, and the First Amendment has always protected that.”

ADF describes the mandate as one that forces employers, regardless of their religious or moral convictions, to provide insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization and contraception under threat of heavy penalties.

Alex Murashko for ChristianPost.com

JC Penney, Sears Respond to Christian Complaints Over SNL Skit “Djesus Uncrossed”

Major retailers JC Penney and Sears have taken measures to address demands from Christians furious over an offensive skit that aired (in February) on NBC sketch comedy show *Saturday Night Live*, according to the American Family Association.

The AFA revealed ... that after petitioning JC Penney, Sears and Sears subsidiary Kmart to stop funding the “anti-Christian” content promoted on *Saturday Night Live* during its February 16 airing, two of the retailers took action.

“Thanks for bringing it to our attention; it wasn’t supposed to happen, and we’re taking steps to make sure it doesn’t happen again. Going forward, our ads will not run in this form again around SNL,” Sears said in a letter to the AFA ...

While JC Penney did not immediately respond to complaints from Christians around the nation ... the AFA revealed that the retailer withheld ads from the February 23 airing of the long-running comedy program. The company also removed its ad from the NBC web version of the *Saturday Night Live* episode.

American Family Association President Tim Wildmon applauded JC Penney and Sears in their response to protests against the SNL skit and expressed hope that patrons who had boycotted the retailers for supporting “trash” will return their business to these stores.

Nicola Menzie for ChristianPost.com

Woe unto you who call evil good, and good evil...therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame consumes the chaff, so their root will be rottenness, and their blossom will ascend like dust; because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy one of Israel. (Isa. 5:20,24)

Arkansas Legislature Overrides Governor's Veto of Twenty-Week Abortion Ban

Arkansas state legislators voted to override Democratic Governor Mike Beebe's veto of a bill that will ban abortions in the state at 20 weeks, unless the woman is a victim of rape, incest or her life is at risk due to a medical emergency. . . .

Melissa Barnhart for ChristianPost.com

Newtown, Conn.

The Jewish women's organization Hadassah will plant 3,300 trees in Israel in memory of the 20 children and 6 adults shot to death last December in Newtown, Connecticut. This tribute is being done at the request of the father of Noah Pozen, the only Jewish child killed in the massacre. Selected.

House Passes Bill Allowing FEMA Disaster Aid for Churches

A bill that would allow houses of worship to receive federal disaster aid easily passed ... in the House of Representatives. ... The bill will have to be passed by the Senate and signed by the president for it to become law...

Napp Nazworth for ChristianPost.com

Editor's Comments: Churches, beware! This is NOT a path on which you want to take your ministry. When the government doles out money to "nonprofits," you can be sure there will be strings attached. Their shekels always have strings, and the strings bring shackles. Our counsel -DON'T take their money!

Sword of the Lord

LAND O' GOSHEN, IT'S A LOCUST PLAGUE

When the locusts swarmed in Egypt around 3,500 years ago, the Israelites in the land of Goshen were spared. Not this time. A plague of locusts that first swarmed in Egypt this past March also swarmed in Israel as well.

The report of damage to crops in Egypt is staggering; however in Israel the crop damage was less severe, thanks mainly to its ability to fight off the locusts with pesticide sprays on the ground and from the air

The locusts were reportedly the size of small birds. The swarms started in the southern Negev before advancing into central and northern Israel. Drivers complained

they could not see out their windshields, and the potato farmers said many of their crops were ruined. But not all complained; workers from Thailand got out their skilletts and began to enjoy a tasty meal, not always available. Even some Israelis cooked up a batch or two, since locust are considered kosher.

Taken from *The Vine and the Branches* (Information NY Times 3/6/13)

Family sues school over anti-abortion fliers

- A sixth-grader was stopped from handing out fliers opposing abortion at her St. Paul charter school, prompting her father to sue.

By PAUL WALSH

A St. Paul, MN. sixth-grader's father has gone to court, alleging that Nova Classical Academy violated her free-speech rights by blocking her from handing out fliers opposing abortion.

Nicholas Zinos, a Catholic book retailer and reviewer, sued Thursday in federal court on behalf of his daughter, Annie, over an incident that happened during lunchtime Feb. 27 at the St. Paul charter school, an independent public school.

Annie and her friends were handing out fliers that had two phrases X'ed out: "Save the baby seals" and "Save the baby whales." Next came "Save the baby humans STOP ABORTION."

Two days later, the suit said, Annie and her friends were told by Miranda Morton, the school's director for grades 6-12, that some people were offended by the fliers and handing them out was not allowed before, during or after school.

They were also told that school policy requires students to obtain prior approval, but the suit said, "there are no written guidelines ... to follow when deciding which posters, fliers or notices to approve."

The suit also pointed out that there is a "pro-life student club" for ninth through 12-graders that "promoted pro-life issues at the academy."

The suit quotes Nova Executive Director Brian Bloomfield as explaining in an e-mail to Zinos and his wife Emily, that "public schools have every right to prohibit student speech." ...

Taken from the *Star Tribune*, April 27, 2013

Read Ephesians 4 – 6

By John A. Hash, Litt. D.

Bitterness toward others is often the result of fault-finding and an unforgiving spirit. For some, feelings of bitterness are a reaction to those who offended them so deeply they felt they could not forgive the offender. But, by the grace of God, we must, and can, give up all thoughts of resentment and ill will without exception. We can let the Spirit of Christ flow through us and manifest His loving-kindness. *“Let all bitterness (resentment), and wrath (quarreling), and anger, and clamor (slander), and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice (or ill will)”* Ephesians 4:31.

Instead of bitterness or anger, there should be tenderheartedness. We are to be *“kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you”* (4:32).

Quarreling is an outburst of retaliation – often with loud, abusive language – possibly a reaction to someone who fails to meet our expectations.

Even more serious is the sin of evil speaking. To slander a person is an offense against God Himself, who created that person in His image (Malachi 2:10). It is listed as one of the seven sins that God hates the most (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Malice is a desire to hurt or cause suffering – an evil desire that Christ condemned when He said: *“Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him”* 1 John 3:15.

The presence of any of these evils destroys one’s peace of mind, and affects one’s relationship with God. Such feelings or emotions will be overcome when we allow the Holy Spirit to rule our lives. *“But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”* Matthew 6:15.

Instead of allowing thoughts of bitterness, wrath, anger, and malice to destroy us, we should respond with compassion to any who offend us. We are to pray for them just as sincerely as Stephen prayed while he was being stoned to death: *“Lord, do not hold this sin against them!”*

WHEN

WHEN you depend upon man, You get what ‘man’ can do.

WHEN you depend upon programs, You get what ‘programs’ can do,

WHEN you depend upon organization, You get what ‘organization’ can do.

BUT – WHEN you depend upon GOD in prayer,
You get what GOD can DO!

Acts 7:20.

Because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, every Christian is a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, and is responsible for, as well as capable of, responding with the love of God for the unlovely. We are to *“endeavor to keep (maintain) the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace ... That we ... speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, who is the Head, even Christ: From whom the whole Body (the church), closely joined together and compacted by that which every joint (each one) supplies ... Working together ... edifying itself in a spirit of love”* Ephesians 4:3, 14-16).

This is one of the many great reasons why God has commanded that we *not forsake or neglect to assemble together”* Hebrews 10:25. Within the Church Body, we can unite with others in endeavors that express God’s love, and pray for ways to encourage, strengthen, and bless others who need His love.

God’s love is a unifying power; therefore, as we cooperate with God and with other Christians, we reveal His love to a lost world. Our greatest usefulness and fruitfulness comes as we *submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God ... For we are members of His Body* (Ephesians 5:21, 30).

Cross References: For **Ephesians 4:8:** See Psa. 68:18. **Eph. 4:25:** See Zech. 8:16. **Eph. 4:26:** See Psa. 4:4. **Eph. 5:31:** See Gen. 2:24. **Eph. 6:2-3:** See Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16.

Taken from *Bible Pathway* Dec., 1997

* * * * *

For ‘Our’ Benefit & Good!

Editor: Frankly I am ‘somewhat’ amazed, dumb-founded and bewildered when I see and sense a fair amount of Christians who discern the ‘signs of the times’ (Handwriting on the wall/storm clouds over the horizon); but will not take the opportunity, privilege & responsibility of getting deeper into God’s Word (the Bible) and seek out more opportunity of ‘gathering’ around and under HIS WORD! There are proper preparations for likely a terrible ‘storm’ OR a ‘soldier’ for ‘battle’ – *myself included*. OH how we NEED to ASK GOD in His tender mercy to shake/awaken/revive ‘us’ out of ‘our’ complacency and lethargy! Oh, how we need a Heaven **sent REVIVAL**: (Please draw a figurative circle on the ‘floor’ and step inside that circle and ask GOD to ‘revive’ ALL within the same; for ‘our’ own good and benefit.

P. S. *‘Backsliding starts in such a subtle way that most of us are not aware of it, and many of us may be backslidden and may not realize it.’* Theodore H. Epp

A Free and Living Congregation:

What Are Its Characteristics?

According to (Dr. George) Sverdrup, the Spirit-guided, living congregation has four distinguishing characteristics,

FIRST, living congregation has an overwhelming concern for the lost. "If the Spirit of God is in the congregation, then there will be first a manifestation of zeal for the saving of souls. That is the first and most important of all the marks of life ..., the godly burning desire for the salvation of souls... All other considerations are set aside, and then the only thing that matters is this question: can we awaken the sleeping, can we save the dying, can we free the slaves, can we lead them to everlasting life?"

SECOND, the bondage to outward forms of religion will be broken. In its place will be "Bible reading and prayer and song both in the homes and the church."

THIRD, if there is spirit and freedom in the congregation, church members will no longer live for material possessions and money-greedily hoarding it up or spending it selfishly. In living congregations, "one lives for God and for Christ and the congregation. Then one tries to earn money so one can give for the purpose of furthering the interest of God's kingdom."

FINALLY, all members of the congregation – laity as well as pastors – will be working together, using the gifts God has given to build the fellowship. "IF the Spirit is in the congregation, then differences in rank and pride of office are at an end. There is only one rank which has any worth; that is the rank of grace, and there is only one rank that is sought after, a godly, childlike heart." Therefore, the work of the church should not be left to the pastor alone. There is work for everyone. "The scripture teaches that there are different gifts of grace, but the same Spirit... The free congregation does not know a difference of rank between pastor and lay people: it only knows the difference between different works, the different gifts and different times and opportunities that are given the individual Christian."

Excerpt from *The Quest for Freedom*, AFLC Parish Education, permitted.

Ministers

The Ministry is nothing but an Office

(Editor: There is no doubt that the following arti-

cle by Martin Luther is directed to the child of God, who has a 'living' relationship with JESUS: Justified by Grace Alone, Faith Alone & the Word Alone!)

Now you may say: If it is true that we are all priests and should preach, what sort of chaotic condition will follow? Is there to be no distinction among the people and are women also to be priests? Answer: In fairness no priests in New Testament times should wear tonsures. (The shaven patch worn by monks.) Not that it is wrong in itself; for a person has the right to let himself be shorn. But it should not be done in order to make a distinction between priests and the ordinary Christians – a thing which faith cannot permit. So, then, they who are now called priests are all laymen like the others, and only some are officials, elected by the congregation to preach. Thus there is only an outward distinction for the sake of the office to which one is called by the congregation but before God there is no difference. And only for this reason are some individuals selected from the multitude that in place of the congregation they may bear and exercise the office which they all have, not that anyone has more authority than another. Therefore no one should rise up of himself and preach in the congregation; but out of the multitude one is to be selected and appointed, and he may be removed when it is desirable. Yet these men (the Roman hierarchy) have formed an order of their own, as if it were of God, and they have assumed such license that almost in the heart of Christendom there is a greater difference than between us and the Turks.

When you look at people as Christians, you must recognize no distinction; you should not say, This is a man or a woman, a servant or a master, old or young, as Paul tells us (Gal. 3:28). They are all one and are a purely spiritual people. Therefore one and all are priests; all may proclaim God's Word, except that women are not to speak in the church but should let the men preach, because of the command that they are to be subject to their husbands, as St. Paul teaches us (1 Cor. 14:35). Such order God permits to remain, but He makes no distinction as to authority. However, if no men are present, but women only, as in a nunnery, there a woman may be selected to preach.

*Exposition of 1 Peter 2:5 (selected)

It's always a good idea to keep your words soft and sweet. You never know when you have to eat them!

The Lay People Are the Church

Priesthood of Believers and the Ministry

(Editor: IF you haven't done so, be sure to read another 'brief' article in this issue of the *Morning Glory* [on page 11] by Martin Luther before you come to any conclusions).

For although we are all priests (born again 'believers'), this does not mean that all of us can preach, teach, and rule. Certain ones of the multitude must be selected and separated for such an office. And he who has such an office is not a priest because of his office but a servant of all the others, who are priests. When he is no longer able to preach and serve, or if he no longer wants to do so, he once more becomes a part of the common multitude of Christians. His office is conveyed to someone else, and he becomes a Christian like any other.

This is the way to distinguish between the office of preaching, or the ministry, and the general priesthood of all baptized Christians. The preaching office is no more than a public service which happens to be conferred upon someone by the entire congregation, all the members of which are priests.

*Exposition of Ps. 110:4. (selected)

Editor's Note: I believe also that Martin Luther shared, "A layman armed with Scripture is mightier/stronger than the mightiest Pope without Scripture"!

* * * * *

"Without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

WE all need faith for desperate days, and the Bible is filled with accounts of such days. Its story is told with them, its songs are inspired by them, its prophecy deals with them, and its revelation has come through them. Desperate days are the stepping-stones on the path of light. They seem to have been God's opportunity to provide our school of wisdom.

Psalms 107 is filled with stories of God's lavish love. In every story of deliverance, it was humankind coming to the point of desperation that gave God His opportunity to act. Arriving at "their wits' end" (Ps. 107:27) of desperation was the beginning of God's power.

Remember the promise made to a couple "as good as

dead" that their descendants would be "as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore" (Heb. 11:12). Read once again the story of the Red Sea deliverance, and the story of how "the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan" (Josh 3:17). Study once more the prayers of Asa, Jehoshaphat, and Hezekiah when they were severely troubled, not knowing what to do. Go over the history of Nehemiah, Daniel, Hosea, and Habakkuk. Stand with awe in the darkness of Gethsemane, and linger by the tomb in Joseph of Arimathea's garden through those difficult days. Call to account the witnesses of the early church, and ask the apostles to relate the story of their desperate days.

Desperation is better than despair. Remember, our faith did not create our desperate days. Faith's work is to sustain us through those days and to solve them. Yet the only alternative to desperate faith is despair. Faith holds on and prevails.

There is not a more heroic example of desperate faith than the story of the three Hebrew young men Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Their situation was desperate, but they bravely answered, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up" (Dan. 3:17-18). I especially like the words "But even if he does not"!

Let me briefly mention the Garden of Gethsemane and ask you to ponder its "***nevertheless.***" "***If it be possible ... Nevertheless ...***" (Matt. 26:39 KJV). Our Lord's soul was overwhelmed by deep darkness. To trust meant experiencing anguish to the point of blood, and darkness to the very depths of hell – Nevertheless! Nevertheless!

Find a hymnal and sing your favorite hymn of desperate faith.
S. Chadwick

*When obstacles and trials seem
Like prison walls to be,
I do the little I can do
And leave the rest to Thee.*

*And when there seems no chance, no change,
From grief can set me free,
Hope finds its strength in helplessness,
And calmly waits for Thee.*

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman,
copyright 1997 by Zondervan

Editor's Note: Much of the print emphasis is by this editor.

THE FIRST QUESTION

A HIGH MAN WHO CAME DOWN

By Pastor R. Norheim

Everybody enjoys promotion and elevation; it gives one a feeling of prestige and importance. Some are lifted to high positions with very little effort of their own. Others, like Zacchaeus in Luke 19, must slowly and laboriously climb, step by step, to heights attainable.

We are not told how Nicodemus gained his high position as a “ruler of the Jews”. There was possibly a combination of both. No man could secure leadership in the Pharisee Party without connections and pull. As we read this third chapter of St. John we become aware, however, of an earnestness and sincerity that we would not expect to find in dignitaries accustomed to service on silver trays. Here is a man, who in his elevated position, could have ordered Jesus to come to him; but to the contrary, we see him going out of his way to see Him. Because he came at night, some have considered him a coward, who didn’t dare to be seen in Jesus’ presence in the day time. There is not so little of cowardice in all of us. Nicodemus was no exception. We can well imagine he had made many resolutions to see Jesus; resolutions that had broken like soap bubbles in the morning sun. His questions do not bear the marks of impulsive thinking, produced on the spur of the moment. It took the divine probing of Christ’s statements to put those thoughts into words, but basically these were the thoughts of his own unhappy heart. So we are deeply impressed that here we see a man seeking peace with God, questioning, wrestling, longing, hungering – almost to the point of despair. No, we can’t call Nicodemus a coward. Judas was a coward. And Nicodemus could have become one, had he continued to fight his voice of conscience. But though he came at night, though he came at a late hour, he nevertheless *came to Jesus*.

Though he came seeking answers to some very pressing questions, he, however, made his approach much the same way the average person does. Note first the respectful greeting, “Rabbi”. Next, the offered compliment: “We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” Possibly there was a hidden motive behind this compliment; for even a seeking soul has an Old Adam that’s very much alive! He would long have remembered Jesus’ return compliment – “And Nicodemus, I’ve heard some wonderful things about you and your work. No man could do the great things you’re doing, were he not a most extraordinary person!” But no! Such words were never uttered by the Lord Jesus. He didn’t even say, “thank you.” His curt reply causes us to wonder if He’d actually been lis-

tening at all to these nice words just spoken. Oh, yes, He heard them, for as God, though in the flesh, He couldn’t miss them. But He heard more – the unuttered words – the cries of the soul seeking God! And so He waves aside all niceties, and like a diagnosing doctor confronting an emergency case, He quickly comes to the matter of greatest, most urgent importance; “Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” How shockingly surprised Nicodemus must have been; but at the same time relieved. Jesus had given him words to form the first question:

“How Can a Man be Born Again?”

This is life’s most important question. It has been worded differently down through the ages, but in essence, it’s the same cry of the heart for regeneration David pleaded, “Create in me a clean heart, O God!” Isaiah lamented, “Woe is me, for I am undone!” The Jerusalem throng at Pentecost cried, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” and the Philippian jailer said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” But here we find words uttered for the first time by Jesus: “BORN AGAIN” – WORDS THAT ONLY God could produce – words that sinful men accept, but the self-righteous reject, because they are words of *conversion*. High men must come down, proud men must be humbled, great men must become nothing. All must be lost before all can be gained. The price is too great. Self refuses to die. There must be some other, more honorable way ... “Away with this man!”

Another ruler, the so-called Rich Young Ruler, said this in fact, though not in words: “Away with this man! I love my money! My prestige! My importance! Myself! ... But the Holy Scriptures turned the tables on the Rich Young Ruler ... “he went away sad ...!” When you crucify Christ afresh, you crucify your last hope of eternal life, and your last hope becomes a *lost* hope.

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night – but Judas and the Rich Young Ruler *went out*, as a light goes out, “and it was *night!*” Not another word ... no sunrise ... no morning ... only black, eternal, endless night ... and gnashing of teeth.

How can a man be born again? First, he must die. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.” John 12:24-25. Death to self preceeds life in God. The sword that old Simeon predicted (Luke 2:35) would pierce the possessive mother-heart of Mary must, in like manner, pierce every repentant heart, until we say, “Whatsoever HE saith, do it!” Mary surrendered all her rights when her son performed His first miracle in Cana of Galilee, and declared Himself to be the Son of GOD. And although one false

translation reads, “Woman, what wouldst thou have me to do?”, as if Jesus were still taking orders from Mary, the true reading is, “Woman, what have I to do with thee?” John 2:4. The sword of the Lord had pierced her heart. She must here openly take her stand with all others who are saved by faith in GOD’S Son – not *her* son. Mary had to step aside that we might see Jesus. Likewise your possessive heart must give up all claims to righteousness and die, if you are to be born again and live HIS life.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8, 9. Had Nicodemus been diligently reading the Prophet Isaiah, these words should have come to his mind. For, surely, Jesus was saying the same thing: “Your thoughts, Nicodemus, are not my thoughts. You are still thinking your carnal thoughts – ‘Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?’ Though you put a religious dress on your carnal thoughts, still your language betrays you. “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.” Vs. 6,7. The new birth is not an improvement of the flesh. It is not giving you a second chance. God gave Israel many new starts, but they failed every time; therefore He said, “O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them...,” Deut. 5:29. He knew it was not in them to be able to do this. Because of man’s original sin, none can think God’s thoughts nor walk His ways. God must be admitted to man’s heart, so he becomes a new creature. This mystery of the new birth is, therefore, the key to the answer of the question, “How can a man be born again?” Neither reformation nor improvement of the old Adamic nature can take the place of regeneration. The best you can do will only hasten your speed to hell. “Marvel not, you must be born again.”

(Lord willing: to be continued in the *Morning Glory*; “Three Questions in John 3”. From three Radio Sermons) by Pastor R. Norheim, Lutheran Gospel Hour, Taken from *A High Man Who Came Down*

OF LEARNED MEN

(Martin) Luther, reproving Dr. Mayer, for that he was faint-hearted and depressed, by reason of his simple kind of preaching, in comparison with other divines, as he conceived, admonished him, and said: Loving brother, when you preach, regard not the doctors and learned men, but regard the common people, to teach and instruct them clearly. In the pulpit, we must feed the common people with milk, for each day a new church is growing up, which stands in need of plain and simple instruction. Keep to the cate-

chism, the milk. High and subtle discourse, the strong wine, we will keep for the strong minded.

(Martin) Luther advised all who proposed to study, in what art soever, to read some sure and certain books over and over again; for to read many sorts of books produces rather confusion than any distinct result; just as those that dwell everywhere, and remain in no place, dwell nowhere, and have no home.

Taken from *The Table Talk of Martin Luther*, Copyright 1952 by The World Publishing Company

Editor’s Note: Jesus said: “‘Feed My lambs’, ‘Tend My sheep’, ‘Feed My sheep.’ ‘For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil’. Hebrews 5:13-14.

A Butterfly Lesson

Suppose a visitor to our earth from another planet were to see a caterpillar on a rosebush, and that a conversation could take place between them. It might go something like this:

“How ugly you are, and how gross. You do nothing but eat, eat, eat all day long,” says the visitor.

“True,” replies the caterpillar, “but I won’t always be like this. Someday I’ll have beautiful wings and fly from flower to flower.”

“A likely story,” says the visitor with a laugh.

A few days later this stranger finds a hard, brown chrysalis on the rosebush and is surprised to hear the caterpillar’s voice saying, “Now I’m worse off than before. You think I’m dead because I can neither move nor eat, but soon I shall have a resurrection and fly in the sun.”

“Poor, deluded worm,” says the visitor; “you’d better accept the fact that your life is over.”

Three weeks later the stranger, strolling in the rose garden, is surprised to hear the caterpillar’s voice again. Looking for the chrysalis, he sees one beautiful wing and then another unfolding from its cracked shell.

“You see,” says the voice, “my resurrection has come”; and spreading its wings the butterfly flits away to enjoy its wonderful new existence.

Now we are imprisoned in heavy, earthbound bodies. One day, like the chrysalis, they will become inert – and the unbelieving will proclaim it to be the end of us. But the resurrection day is coming when we shall rise newness of life to receive bodies like Christ’s that will be as spiritual as His and able to move at least as quickly as our minds and souls are now.

Pulpit Helps

Where Are You in Your Walk with the Lord?

K. P. Yohannan (Founder & President
– Gospel for Asia)

When Jesus lived and walked on this earth, vast numbers of people came to Him with enormous problems. How did He respond? He healed and delivered them from their afflictions with great compassion.

For awhile, His 12 disciples were just observers, but all that changed when Jesus called them to serve Him. He gave them authority to heal the sick and to cast out demons and told them to go and preach the Kingdom. He explained what this call meant for them: “*Don’t love and hold on to your life, but give it away instead*” (see Matthew 10:39).

We must be continually reminded that the call of Christ on our life never changes – no matter what. But so often we change as we grasp the reality of the narrow road. Let us look at some practical, specific directions Jesus has given us for following Him.

Remember the reality of our world

Recently I read the results of a 10 – year study on the fate of people living in Asian slums. The statistics of tens of thousands of children being trafficked, abused and killed are tragic.

Let us examine our hearts. Do we see that these children belong to the Living God? (?? Editor) What about the unreached multitudes in our world who have no solution to their problems or sin? There is no hope for them in this life or in the next, except in Jesus Christ. (Editor: At Home or Abroad IF they do not know JESUS as their personal Savior. See [John 3:18 & 36](#)).

We must commit our lives to see the Gospel preached until the very end. We cannot compromise, change or go back. We must stay focused.

Enter into the experience of the Lord

Thirty years after the fact, Matthew wrote about this incident in his Gospel: *But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd*” (Matthew 9:36).

Why didn’t Matthew write, “When we saw what was happening, we broke down in tears and were overcome by incredible pain for the lostness of the multitude”? Because the hearts of the disciples were not tender like Jesus’ heart. They only watched Him and, perhaps, wondered what was wrong with Him.

Christ’s goal for His disciples was that they would understand that He came not to live and be King, but to go to

the cross and die. They comprehended this later, and Church history says that all except John died as martyrs.

May God help us to enter into the life, experience and agony of our Lord for the lost world. (Editor: As you know, the world is made up of individuals, like maybe your neighbor, relative, friend, fellow church member or even *maybe YOU!*)

Understand that prayer is the only hope

“*Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out (Editor – Thrust/compel) laborers into His harvest*” (Matthew 9:38).

This was the blueprint Jesus gave to His disciples in light of the massive task of reaching the lost before they perished. And I am convinced that there is no other way to get the job done. The quickest way to see a breakthrough is to talk to God about it.

The words in Jeremiah 8:20 are still the cry of nearly 2 billion people: *The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!*” I tell you, time is running out!

When was the last time you prayed with passion and tears for those who are lost? Without a deeper and more profound commitment to prayer on our part, nothing will change this tragedy.

Self-preservation is not the Christianity of the Bible

There is no way we can fulfill the call the Lord gave us to reach the unreached without suffering.

My dear brothers and sisters, most of the Western Christianity that we are accustomed to is all about preserving our life. We are told that we can have a wonderful life here on earth before going to heaven.

But that is not the Christianity of the New Testament. I challenge you to read it again and again. Don’t try to find commentaries and people who will support you in sparing your life. Embrace the One who suffered and died on the cross for you and for all those who have yet to hear His name – choose to follow in His footsteps.

Commit yourself afresh

It’s a mistake to think that Christ had only 12 disciples. No, He had hundreds. But every time He said, “*The cost for you to follow Me is sacrifice, pain and being others – centered,*” people began to drop out one by one. In the end, Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked them, “*Lord, to whom shall we go?*” Peter replied. *You have the words of eternal life*” (John 6:67-68).

Where are you in your walk with the Lord? Let us each commit ourselves afresh to the call the Lord gave us, and let us continue our journey to follow Him.

Taken from *Send!* – Gospel for Asia

UpDate

Abundant Giving

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.” (2 Cor. 9:8)

God is a great giving God. In Luther’s Explanation to the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed, Luther states: “I believe that God has created me and all that exists, that HE HAS GIVEN and STILL PRESERVES TO ME my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul, together with food and raiment, home and family and all my possessions.”

Everything that we need for life in this world is given to us as a gift from God. It is easy to fall into the trap to where we forget that God is the provider of all we have. Natural thinking says that we just went down to the store and purchased what we needed. Yet, unless God had created all things in the beginning, and preserved them down through the ages, there would be no store and you would have nothing to purchase with.

God desires to bless our lives with an abundance, as the Scripture above indicates. This happens when we take what God has given to us and share it with others. God has given us salvation in Jesus, and we share that with others. God has given us a stable and joyful emotional life, so we share that with those we meet that they might see the life Jesus has within us. God has given us jobs and income, and so we share with those faithful ministries, so that they might continue to share the truth of God’s Word with others. God wants us to have an abundance so that we have enough to share with others.

We believe that your tithe should go first to your local church that is proclaiming the truth. Then, as God has blessed you and you have an abundance, you can share offerings to other ministries. We simply ask people to give as God has blessed them and as directed alone by the Holy Spirit. He knows our needs and knows your provision. It should not be done out of compulsion, but rather out of joy because of what the Lord has first done for you and what He has provided for you.

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for us and supported us. May the Lord bless you richly.

April’s Income for *Morning Glory* is app. \$3,165.00 including offerings received at the Spring Conference.

The actual cost of publishing and mailing each issue (monthly) of the *Morning Glory* is app. \$2,000 plus other expenses.

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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

Volume XCV • Number 6 • June, 2013
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This month we will have our Annual Conference of the Hauge Innermission Federation in Westby, Wisconsin on June 7-9. We want to extend an invitation for you to attend. The schedule for the conference was printed in the May issue of the *Morning Glory*.

If you are unable to attend, would you please remember us in prayer and for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to be upon each messenger and for the Lord to meet each need spiritually, emotionally and physically. He is more than able to do this, and we look to our Great God to provide. If you would like to send an offering to help meet the financial needs, that would be much appreciated.

Above all things, pray that the Lord Jesus Christ would be lifted up and exalted, and do His Will in each and every life.