



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • March 2008

Christ's Ascension

“And behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high. And he led them out until they were over against Bethany: and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and were continually in the temple, blessing God.” (Luke 24:49-53)

Ascension Day is always celebrated on Thursday. It occurred exactly forty days after the resurrection, which took place on a Sunday. This day is an outstanding one in the life of Christ and is mentioned in the Christian creeds that are accepted by all Christian churches. And small wonder when we consider its significance.

The ascension of Christ assures us of Christ's nearness. At first thought one would think that just the opposite would be true. When Jesus ascended to heaven He withdrew from the physical and visible sphere to the spiritual and unseen. He has left the limitations of time and space to which He subjected Himself during His earthly ministry. With full freedom He now can make His presence known anywhere, He is not nearer to some people than He is to others. He is willing and able to be just as near to all. The apostles and other disciples recognized this and did not sorrow over His departure. *“They worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, blessing God.”* They saw in His ascension a fulfillment of prophecy. It had been Jesus' own promise that was fulfilled. It was a very necessary item in the whole program of God for our salvation. He has gone to heaven to prepare a place for us. It was from heaven He sent forth the Holy Spirit.

Christ's ascension also assures us of Christ's limitless power. Upon His ascension, Christ assumed universal

power. He was now “seated on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” He has again His divine omnipotence. This He had denied Himself the full use of when He “emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.” He has all authority in heaven and on earth as He Himself stated before the ascension and in connection with the institution of baptism. And that power is available to all who will serve Him and desire to partake of that power. The power of a resurrected Lord is being delivered to His church by an ascended Lord. It could not have been otherwise.

Think of the work that is being done because of Christ's departure! How many would listen to a human being on a Sunday morning if the announcement was made that Jesus Himself was to speak on the radio so that all the world could hear at once? Now He speaks through the words of every faithful expositor of the Bible. He speaks through the lowliest servant who faithfully presents the Word. He wants to speak through you, through every believer. He is present in every church that is truly a church. He is present with His power to save. Every Christian can testify to the truth of this. It is through the Church we have come to faith in the Saviour. He has been recognized in sermon after sermon and ministrations after ministrations.

The ascension is further assurance that the promises of Christ will be fulfilled completely. *“Behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until*

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Volume XC – Number 3
March 2008

MORNING GLORY (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, February, March, May, June, July, August, September, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Haga Publishing, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856. Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, MN 55401.

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

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ye be clothed with power from on high.” This promise was fulfilled to the church on Pentecost, ten days after Ascension. This promise is fulfilled upon every believer. In answer to prayer wonderful things have been done by the believers in Christ. They have a prayer answering God in the heavens to whom they can appeal at all times. *“Hitherto have ye asked noting in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be made full.”* Jesus wants you as a channel for the delivery of His promises and power. When you fail to pray you fail the very purpose of your Saviour who is waiting in the heavens for your supplication. Make use of your ascended Lord and Saviour and you honor Him thereby. He is waiting in the heavens to give you a greater measure of the Holy Spirit than you have ever had. (Editor: The Holy Spirit is a *Person* and you either possess HIM or not! But a vital question is: How much of you is HE permitted to ‘control’?) The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and boldness for service, the very things we need.

Nothing pleases Satan more than to see Christians forget about their ascended Lord in the heavens. They may call upon him directly. He is “the Way” by which we may reach the Father. There is no other way and none other is needed.

Jesus, who went back to heaven to partake again of His glory, is Himself the earnest that glory shall be the possession of every believer who continues faithful. Jesus has promised to return again to receive His own to Himself. This promise finds assurance in the ascension of Christ. Just as surely as it has become His again, so surely it shall be theirs at His coming. Does the Christian church value this or long for the day of its fulfillment? Remember that you are a part of that church, as a believer in Christ.

The ascension should remind us

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of all the spiritual realities that belong to our faith. One by one they have been provided by God. As sure as those already provided have been, so sure will all that has been promised be fulfilled. Let us thank God for the resurrected and ascended Lord that is ours. May we also ask to be clothed in power from on high to fulfill the mission that is given to every believer. How does all of this fit into the work of our local churches as well as our church at large? Without the ascension all would have died in birth. The ascension reveals to us what a Saviour we have. Surely we should fall down before Him and worship Him. We should join the throng that down through the ages have gone with great joy to His temple, blessing God. Let us join the faithful followers who are proclaiming to a sin-sick world that we have an ascended Lord. There victory may be found. There is peace. There is power. There is the supply of every need. Does such a Lord have to wait and beg? Let it be so no longer.

By Pastor J. Henry Bergren
The Bible Banner, June 1943

Editor's Note: According to the Calendar **Ascension Day** is May 1st but very likely, before you receive the May issue of the *Morning Glory*, May 1st will be past: BUT not the miraculous occasion! But for 'we' who are saved, JESUS not only died for our sin, rose again for our justification and is ALIVE, and in the meantime is seated at the Right Hand of the Throne of GRACE interceding for US *before* HE comes for US! Mark it with absolute certainty HE is coming Again!

* * * * *

Speaking the Truth in Love

Christians often fail to recognize Paul's admonition to "speak the truth in love" was given in the context of standing against false doctrines and evil practices. That is precisely the setting we face in the modern church and in our culture. Yet many Christians believe it is unloving to speak out on controversial issues or make a public stand for truth, but that is precisely what speaking the truth in love is all about.

We must remember the truth of God's Word will always be offensive to the world. Our attitude, words and conduct in all of our relationships ought to reflect that we walk daily in the presence of Christ. Jesus was not nailed to the cross for saying "*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow,*" He was sentenced to the cross for declaring Himself to be the Son of God and Savior of the world. Peter and John were not cast into prison for charming the Sandhedrin with a

seeker-sensitive gospel; they were put in jail for "*teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead*" (Acts 4:2).

Today we must confront the church and our culture with the truth of God's Word. By doing so, we shall be "speaking the truth in love." By failing to do so, our witness and our faith will lack credibility with both God and man. Speaking the truth in love will never make us popular, but it will keep us faithful to God.

Excerpt from "Speaking the Truth in Love"
 by Pastor David Barnhart,
"The Vine & the Branches"

* * * * *

A PRECIOUS CORNER STONE

Isaiah 28:16

Decades ago, a dear man of God wrote a book that has brought great blessing to all who have read it. The book was titled *Wonderful Names of our Wonderful Lord*. One of those wonderful names is prophetically recorded in today's text and confirmed in 1 Peter 2:1-8. Jesus Christ is indeed the "precious corner stone" - the only sure, eternal foundation of our faith. All who place their faith and trust in Him will never be disappointed. His refuge is an eternal refuge. He is the tried, tested and proven Corner Stone. He is not just a foundation among many; He is the only true Foundation (1 Cor. 3:11). To every true believer, "He is precious" (1 Pet. 2:7). If we cannot honestly make such a claim from our own hearts, then we need to carefully consider whether or not we are truly born again. His death on the cross fully atoned for our sins, and His bodily resurrection guarantees our own future resurrection.

The more we learn about Him through the study of the Word and by our daily walk with Him, the more we will love Him. Our appreciation for Him also will grow greater as we realize not only what He has done for us in the past but also what He has promised for us in the present and His plans for us for eternity (1 Cor. 2:9-10). The return of our blessed Lord may be near, and if the wonderful Corner Stone truly is precious to us, we ought to be continually inviting others to trust Him as their Savior as well. He is the only One who can save from sin and provide a sure Foundation in these troublesome times which cause many to be shaken and broken. This Corner stone, Jesus Christ, is the "author and finisher of our faith." Look to Him at all times. MHR

Taken from "*Feature*"
 Fundamental Evangelistic Assoc.
 Telephone 559 - 438-0080

RECONCILIATION

Read II Corinthians 5:18-21

Reconciliation is necessary where there are serious grievances between two persons. It may be between two brothers, two sisters, a married couple, friends, neighbors, etc.

Something came in and ruptured that brotherly, sisterly, friendly, neighborly relationship. A mediator is sometimes needed to bring about reconciliation.

We know there was a wonderful, yes, even perfect relationship between God and the human race after the morning of creation. I am sure when Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden, they ran to meet Him, and they had a glorious and blessed fellowship.

But then came that dark chapter about sin and the Fall. They started to listen to another sound, another voice, the voice of Satan, and the whole human race by one man was plunged into the deepest depth of sin, condemnation and death. (Romans 5:12)

How different it was now. When the Lord came around, they hid; they were afraid. The first fear came with the first sin.

But God in His marvelous love took the initiative. They did not seek Him, but He sought them. "Adam, where are you? What have you done?" They blamed it on each other, yes, even on God. "*The woman that you gave me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*" (Genesis 3:12)

Still, God gave them the promise of a Saviour, a Mediator, a Redeemer on the very day of the Fall. (Genesis 3:15). This was not something God thought of on the spur of a moment; no, it was planned and ordained from eternity. He speaks about it all through the Old Testament and it is fulfilled in the New Testament.

The reconciliation could not come about without a mediator. So God sent His own Son. He represented both God and man. He was true God and true man. So we read here in II Corinthians 5:18: "*And all things are of God.*" Everything pertaining to bringing about reconciliation between God and man is of God. Man did not do a thing. He should have done something. He was the offender. God was the offended one. We might have expect man to come half way; but no, God came all the way – clear from Heaven's glory to the death of the cross. All things are of God, who has reconciled up to Himself by Jesus Christ. Christ is the mediator. (1 Timothy 2:5).

Who has He reconciled unto Himself? "US." He is here speaking about the believers.

Who else has He reconciled? "THE WORLD." Let us

read the 19th verse, "*to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.*" What a tremendous statement! Paul is here speaking of a reconciliation of global dimension. It is a historic fact that the whole world is included here.

What about God?

Didn't He have to be reconciled?

This is a question that has caused much controversy among theologians down through the years.

My good friend and great Bible scholar, Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, whom I enjoyed hearing when I was pastor in New York City, said once: "It doesn't say God was reconciled unto the world. He has never been unreconciled. I can hardly sing this hymn" he said; "My God is reconciled, His pardoning voice I hear."

Do you agree? What about the great hymns of Brorson, Rosenius and many others?

Let me just quote one of the many from Concordia (194) "He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are open"...

Dr. Ole Hallesby says in his dogmatic, that if we take only this passage in II Corinthians 5, it may seem that it was only the world that was reconciled; but if we look at other passages we will note that sin and fall brought the human race in under God's holy wrath and condemnation. He that sinneth must die. The wages of sin is death, spiritual, physical and eternal death. (Romans 6:23). Death is separation.

Not only the love of God has been revealed from Heaven, but Paul says in Romans 1:18, that "*the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness.*"

Dr. Hallesby says that sin is so awful that a holy and just God can never forgive it without atonement. He did not demand the atonement from the human race, because he knew the human race could not provide one; but He provided it Himself and here it is: I John 2:2 "*and HE is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*"

This truth is made unmistakably clear both in the Old and the New Testament. God's justice demanded that sin had to be dealt with. A settlement had to take place where every claim was met, and every debt was paid, and every sin was atoned for to satisfy every attribute of God.

When and where did this take place?

At Calvary when Christ was made to be sin for us, (II Corinthians 5:21). When He redeemed us from the curse of the Law by being made a curse for us – "*for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.*" (Galatians 3:13).

continued on pg. 5

Christ did not only die for our sins, but He took them all away by the sacrifice of Himself. He took away our sins both from the sight of God and from the world. By the atonement God is now reconciled so He can meet every repentant sinner with forgiving grace instead of wrath, with pardon instead of punishment. *“If we confess our sin, he is both faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). Now He can be just when He justifies the ungodly who believes on Jesus. (Romans 3:26,4:5).

The settlement of the old account of sin and fall is so complete that He is not imputing their trespasses unto them. But now He is starting a brand new account. It has to do with whether you accept or reject the word of reconciliation. The Lord has given His people a great calling; and when I say His people I do not only mean pastors, evangelists, missionaries, but I mean every born-again Christian.

He has given us a ministry and a message. He calls it the ministry of reconciliation and the word of reconciliation. We are called to be Ambassadors for Christ. We are actually representing Christ. God is beseeching you by us: *“We pray in Christ’s stead be ye reconciled to God.”* Give up your opposition, and accept His terms of reconciliation which is by grace alone. The one condemning sin now is that you do not accept His terms. You do not believe on Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Redeemer.

“He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

If you come to Him right now repenting of your sins, all the prophets, and we could add, all the apostles and saints in Heaven, and earth bear witness to Him (Jesus) *“that every one who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His Name.”* (Acts 10:43).

Did you notice this gift is for every one, and your eternal destiny depends on what you do with this gift? God is waiting. What is your answer?

Taken from *“We would see JESUS”*
by Pastor Lars Stalsbroten

NEWS and VIEWS

By Dr. Hugh Pyle

WORRY AND THE HEART

So what can we worry about today? Heart experts now say that worrying might lead to a heart attack. I remember seeing the big sign down the side wall of Pastor Harvey Springer’s tabernacle in Colorado south of Denver: “WHY PRAY WHEN YOU CAN WORRY?”

Worry is no pleasant pastime...

I sometimes have to tell myself that my “concern” is really worry. Yet a lot of the things we worry about today may not even exist tomorrow. Since the cardiologists tell me I have two bad heart valves, I would do well never to worry.

The Saviour said, “Take therefore no thought for the morrow” (Matt. 6:34). How often has God sent an answer to my prayer just the day after I had been so “concerned”?. A great number of things we worry about never happen!

ONE PRIME SUSPECT

In *Business Focus* yesterday, I read of the sliding dollar and how Canada and other countries are catching up with us or passing us in dollar value. A radio news report tells of a big U.S. bank failing. Critics tell us our money is really worth very little. A host of citizens cannot pay their credit card debts. Auto plants have shut down or greatly slowed in production. Political leadership is in chaos.

In the Book of Genesis, we read of Joseph’s plan for survival *“when money failed”* (Gen. 47:15). Yes, money can fail. I lived through the Great Depression. My wife tells how her parents lost their savings and their beautiful farm home in the rolling hills of southern New York State. FDR made everyone turn in their gold and silver, and they never saw it again.

So today we could crank up the old worry machine, wondering if we’ll survive what seems to be looming. Many people jumped to their deaths from city skyscrapers when the big Depression hit. Today we don’t have the moral fiber and faith that many had in 1929. We’re a spoiled, pampered people who have no idea what would happen if God withdrew His hand of mercy.

This is the age of grace. We who know the Lord have a great advantage. We can trust, pray and camp on such promises as: *“My god shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 4:19). Our Saviour said, *“Ask, and ye shall receive”* (John 16:24). So we can mark financial panic off our worry list...

The Sword of the Lord

Editor’s Note: Almost always when we (you and I) worry, ‘we’ think ‘we’ are in control!

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.”

(I Peter 5:6-7)

Wesley's Cow

One day John Wesley was walking with a troubled man who expressed his doubt as to the goodness of God.

He said, "I do not know what I shall do with all this worry and trouble."

At the moment Wesley saw a cow looking over a stone-wall. "Do you know," he asked, "why that cow is looking over the wall?"

"No," said the man who was worried.

"The cow is looking over the wall," Wesley replied, "because she cannot see through it. That is what you must do with your wall of trouble – look over it and above it."

Worry never gets us anywhere. Worries are like babies; the more you nurse them, the bigger they grow. In the words of Dean Inge, "Worry is interest paid on trouble before it becomes due." How foolish to put up your umbrella before it starts to rain!

How many try to cross the bridge before they come to it! No driver in his automobile would ever think of trying to cross a bridge when he is still five miles from it! Yet in everyday life how often we attempt to do that very thing!

The two Marys and Salome were guilty of that. They were wondering who would roll away the stone from the door of the sepulcher, and when they finally reached the tomb, they discovered the stone already had been rolled away (Mark 16:1-4).

Has God ever failed you in the past? Of course not! Then why worry about the future?

People's Magazine

Editor's Note: "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and right way: Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you." (1 Samuel 12:23-24).

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Read: 2 Cor. 5:12-21

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Since my dad was a pastor, I got stuck with the label known to every pastor's kid: PK. But, much to the congregation's disappointment, the title didn't stop me from being my mischievous little self. I can't count the times I heard, "Little Joe, you're the pastor's son. You should be an example." But I didn't want to be an example! I was only five and wanted to have fun with my friends!

Let's face it, being an example is often about being dif-

ferent. But most of us don't want to be different. We want people to like us, and the safest way to do that is to blend in. But following Christ has never been about blending in. Following Him means to be like Him, to respond to life and relate to people as He did. It's a little risky and uncomfortable to be different. But that's what being an "ambassador for Christ" (2 Cor.5:20) is all about -bringing the wonderful difference of your King to bear on the territory you've been assigned: your home, your office, your friendships. Representing the King is not just our calling; it's a great honor.

In retrospect, I can see how my antics as a PK reflected poorly on my dad. It's motivating to remember that our non-Jesus attitudes and actions also reflect poorly on our King.

Make a difference by daring to be different!—Joe Stowell

*Show me the way, Lord, let my light shine
As an example of good to mankind;
Help them to see the patterns of Thee,
Shining in beauty, lived out in me. Neuer*

Dare to be different – for the Father's sake.

Our Daily Bread
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John Vassar's Soul Winning

On one occasion, John Vassar, the great soul winner, was going from house to house distributing tracts and talking with people about their souls. One woman who heard about this strange man and what he was doing said, "If he comes to my house, he will get the door slammed in his face."

Without knowing that this woman had made such a statement, Mr. Vassar rang her doorbell the next day. When she saw that he was the man who had been described to her, she slammed the door in his face. John Vassar sat on her doorstep and sang:

*But drops of grief can ne'er repay,
The debt of love I owe. Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'Tis all that I can do.*

The woman heard the earnest verse as he sang and was convicted a sinner. She opened the door and called Mr. Vassar in, and there he led her to Jesus Christ.

Soul Winning: The Challenge of the Hour

Believable... Yet Unbelievable

Robert Schuller Will Host A Rethink Conference

An all-star conference that comes perilously close to promoting a “new age” agenda will get underway at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California January 17-19, 2008. Featured speakers, in addition to Robert Schuller, will include former President George H.W. Bush, Charles Colson, Larry King, Rupert Murdoch, Ben Stein and Kay Warren, wife of Saddleback Church pastor, Rick Warren. Robert Schuller promises that the “Rethink Conference” will produce 30 “Aha!” moments from thirty different speakers confirmed for the event. But some, including Christian author and former New Age devotee Warren Smith, believes the agenda will subvert the message of the church and take the focus away from biblical truth and absolutes.

“From my perspective as a former New Age follower, I believe that Robert Schuller’s mission has always been to ‘rethink’ and ‘change’ biblical Christianity into something new, as in New Age/New Spirituality,” said Smith.

Warren Smith’s book *Deceived on Purpose: The New Age Implications of the Purpose-Driven Church* documents Schuller’s contacts and endorsements of New Age stars such as Gerald Jampolsky, Neale Donald Walsch and Bernie Siegel. Jampolsky appeared twice on Schuller’s Hour of Power television program, and Schuller sells Jampolsky books in his bookstore.

Smith said Schuller has always “done a good job of softening up the church” for what he sees as unbiblical New Age ideas. And that’s just what he expects the “Rethink Conference” is all about. Schuller said: “Never before have we gathered such dynamic leaders who will challenge us to think outside the box as we grapple with a changing culture and our response to it.”

Bill Dallas, executive director of the Schuller-led conference, stated: “These culture pioneers know what is center stage in our culture. This conference will confront outdated and pre-conceived ideas, offer new perspectives and open our minds to all kinds of possibilities that connect us with our culture without compromising our core values.”

Information from Worldnetdaily, 10/30/07

Taken from “The Vine and Branches” Winter, 2007

AIDS Epidemic in District of Columbia

A new report claims that HIV/AIDS in the District of Columbia is a “modern epidemic,” and its author is quoted

as saying that officials “have the imperative” to address all aspects of the epidemic. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty is quoted as saying that the epidemic must be addressed with a “sense of urgency.”

The District has the worst AIDS rate of any city in America – twice the rate of New York and four times the rate of Detroit. Previous data indicates that one in 20 D.C. residents is thought to have HIV; and one in 50, AIDS.

Dr. Janice Shaw Crouse, Director and Senior Fellow of the Beverly LaHaye Institute (the think tank for Concerned Women for America), said, “The information in the report is being presented as evidence that everyone can get HIV/AIDS, yet evidence is overwhelming that homosexual sex and IV drug use are sources of the virus. Obviously, after 25 years promiscuous individuals are bringing the virus to the heterosexual community...”

Crouse added, “We owe it to the public to stress that promiscuity is the basic problem. We must teach our children that the healthy way of life is abstinence prior to marriage and fidelity within marriage. We must create a new cultural environment where adults are encouraged to treat sex with the respect that it deserves; sleeping around is not just foolish, it is also dangerous.”

Christian Newswire

ACLU Appeals Prayer Ruling

The Indian branch of the American Civil Liberties Union says it is appealing a prayer decision that went against it last month to the full U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a 2-1 ruling October 30, a circuit court panel tossed out an ACLU lawsuit that had sought to ban sectarian prayers - such as those mentioning Jesus’ name – in the Indiana House of Representatives. The majority ruled the four taxpayers the ACLU represented did not have standing to bring the case. The ruling was a victory for Christian law firms who had filed legal briefs in the case, asking the judges to reinstate the practice of praying in Jesus’ name.

Baptist Messenger, 11/15/07

Editor’s Note: Please keep in mind that it is a Spiritual Battle/Warfare that we are engaged in!

“And I say to you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it on the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words, you shall be condemned.”

(Matt. 12:36-37)

What Really Happened In Syria On September 6, 2007???

It is becoming increasingly clear that Israeli F15-1 jets made a strike on a nuclear bomb factory inside Sria on September 6, 2007. When questioned about the incident at a news briefing, President Bush refused comment, as did Israeli Prime Minister Olmert.

The closet account of the incident was carried in a British paper – *The Spectato*, it said:

“According to American sources, Israeli intelligence tracked a North Korean vessel carrying a cargo of nuclear material labeled “cement” as it traveled halfway across the world. On September 3 the ship docked at the Syrian port of Tartous, and the Israelis continued to follow the cargo as it was transported to the small town of Dayr as Zawr, near the Turkish border in northeastern Syria.

“The destination was not a complete surprise. It had already been the subject of intense surveillance by an Israeli Ofek spy satellite, and within hours a band of elite Israeli commandos had secretly crossed into Syria and headed for the town. Soil samples and other materials they collected were returned to Israel. Sure enough, they indicated that the cargo was nuclear...”

The Vine and Branches,
Winter, 2007

Christians Surveyed Consider Drinking Beer Acceptable

The world’s largest Christian portal, with twelve million monthly page loads, recently asked, “Is it wrong for a Christian to consume beer?” President of *ChristiaNet*, Bill Cooper, responds, “Christ warns of the results of drunkenness.”

Out of 5,200 Christians surveyed, 51 percent do not feel that drinking beer is wrong. In fact, many people in this group did not feel that drinking any alcohol, should be in moderation...

Thirty-eight percent of those surveyed did, in fact, feel that drinking beer was wrong...

Eleven percent stated that they were unsure about whether or not beer, in particular, was wrong. “I don’t know because the bible only talks about drunkenness with wine and strong drink, not about having only one beer.” Some in this group were more concerned with the motivation for drinking beer rather than the amount consumed...

ChristianNet.com

Editor’s Comments: Christians in so many places are being fed such a bland diet that they have little or no biblical understanding and they are, like their teachers, soft on everything that used to be sinful.

If they cannot figure out the issues with alcohol, I doubt

that they can be counted on for very much on other vital issues either.

May the testimony of every fundamental pastor and the pulpit of every fundamental church around the globe be like the voice of thunder on all that relates to alcohol.

Taken from ‘The Sword of the Lord’

“In God” Motto Headed Back to Face of \$1 Coins

Presidential one-dollar coins are the only U.S. coins currently being issued by the United States Mint that have the inscription “In God We Trust” along the edge, but public pressure soon may send the motto back to the front or back of the coins.

Legislation introduced by Senators Sam Brownback, R-Kansas, and Robert Byrd, D-West Virginia, that would return “In God We Trust” to a more visible location, is awaiting President Bush’s signature.

The Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 was meant to honor the nation’s presidents by issuing \$1 circulating coins featuring their images in the order that they served. The first four honoring presidents Washington, Adams, Jefferson and Madison were issued this year (2007).

The coins feature what the mint calls sedge-incused inscriptions... of the year of minting or issuance, “E Pluribus Unum,” “In God We Trust: and the mint mark...”

But some coins made it through production without having the inscriptions stamped on the edge, and some experts say the wording on the coin’s edge could rub off over time. Others expressed concern that moving the “In God We Trust” motto to the side of the coins was the first step in removing it altogether.

Baptist Press

Editor’s Note: President George Bush did sign this into law on December 27.

Temptation

Don’t gaze, don’t gawk, don’t give in, get out!

Wouldn’t you rather avoid the bait - than writhe with the hook?

~anon.

Editorial

RES

Faith in Action

“For we walk by faith not by sight.” (II Corinthians 5:7)

“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ ‘Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.’” (James 2:17-18)

CLEARLY SALVATION is by *faith alone, Grace alone, Word alone!* In God’s sight our very best that we can produce is as follows: “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags: We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away” Isaiah 64:6. (Please read Ephesians chapter two, verses eight through ten. YET the just shall live by *faith!* (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17 & Gal. 3:1).

What is **Faith**? Well first before I try to answer that; let us keep clearly in mind that the Bible talks about TWO kinds of faith and so does Martin Luther’s Catechism. There is a ‘dead faith’ (just head knowledge) and a ‘living faith’, which is a gift from God. (Ephesians 2:8-9, John 6:29, Romans 12:3). Thus it is our privilege and responsibility to **exercise this gift of faith from GOD!** (I am speaking to the genuine born again child of God here). A ‘living faith’ is not a work that I can work up in myself nor according to my knowledge, for I cannot by my own reason or strength come to HIM or believe IN HIM; but it is a work of the Holy Spirit; working IN me and THROUGH me IF I am to **exercise this FAITH**. BUT how much faith do I need to turn on an electric light or to cross a bridge: enough to do it. A living FAITH is not faith in my faith BUT in JESUS! (Hebrews 12:2). When I look at my ‘faith’ it vanishes. FAITH comes by hearing the Word of God - **Romans 10:17**. FAITH is taking GOD at His Word! **Hebrews 11:6,8, 11:11; Romans 4:5**

Now with that being said, let’s take a brief look at Mary in **John 20:1-14**.

Notice some of the ‘obstacles’ Mary overcame by **exercising faith**. FAITH in love is manifested by obedience to His Word!

Mary’s *faith* was not complicated, but was direct and genuine. She was more eager to believe and obey than to understand everything, and Jesus honored her by appearing to her first and by entrusting her with the first MESSAGE (after His crucifixion) of His resurrection.

Exercised *faith* enabled Mary to overcome a number of obstacles. For example: 1) It was early morning and she encountered (darkness), 2) What about the huge stone with the

Roman emperor seal? and 3) The Roman soldiers who were posted as guards of the tomb. Notice the urgency that Mary manifested by actual doing: First, telling Peter and the other disciple that Jesus’ body was not in the tomb and later sharing the ‘Message’ that our **risen Saviour** revealed Himself to Mary. (**REMEMBER JESUS’ RESURRECTION** is the key to the Christian faith). His bodily resurrection shows us that we have a living Christ. Thus we can be certain of our resurrection because Jesus was resurrected. Death is not the end, there is a future life.

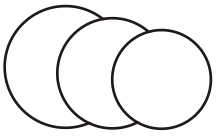
Noah was a man who *walked* by faith (he heeded God’s warning concerning future judgment) and *worked* by faith, as he constructed the ark on dry land according to God’s specifications (By the way was Noah a carpenter?) and Noah also *walked* by faith, and also preached by faith. Noah patiently persevered, by faith.

GOD described Noah not as an entertainer who used gimmicks to lure people into the ark, but as a “preacher of righteousness” who warned of coming judgment (II Peter 2:5).

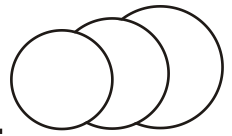
Like Noah, we must patiently and faithfully continue to preach the one true Gospel of salvation by faith alone, Grace alone, and the Word alone in the person and work of Jesus Christ. (Forsaking **All I Take Him**) God will reward the faithful sowing of the Seed. FAITH in itself cannot be seen, but is manifested through the one who walks by *faith and obedience to the Word of GOD*, the Bible. Works are not done in order to merit or earn our Salvation; but works are a result of Salvation. (Don’t get the ‘cart’ before the horse.)

Yes, works are necessary as a demonstration of faith. Our works are a necessary evidence of faith. Our love for Jesus is tested by our obed-I-ence to His Word. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). TRUTH is central to Christianity. Religion is doing, Christianity is done! “*Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”* (John 14:6)

Human reasoning is the greatest hindrance to a ‘living faith’, and we must take our ‘human reasoning in captivity in obedience to the Word of God, **AS HIS WORD IS THE TRUTH!** May our LOVE for **JESUS** cause us to be *faithful!*



From Our Fellowship Circle



BJ Iowa
Please send me “the Mirror of the Heart”. I remember that book from my childhood - the pictures made quite a lasting impression! Have you ever considered reprinting the “Altar Steps” devotional by Rev. R. P. Haakonson? ...I read it to our grandchildren... It would be a wonderful resource for today’s parents. I remember my Mom reading it to us often.

(Editors Note: Perhaps there is someone in reader land who would like to sponsor such a project!)

ST Iowa
Dear Friends of Jesus, I would like to have you send me the “Morning Glory”. I have read my friend’s copy and enjoy everything you have to share for the good of Jesus Christ. Love in Christ.

AS MN
I am sending a check for “Morning Glory”....My sister...is getting along ok in her wheelchair and we read to her.

(Editors note: The Lord bless you who care for loved ones in your home. Keep up the good work)

DE MN
The “Morning Glory “ is such a blessing to many. Keep up the good work....Praise the Lord we have a Savior who will welcome us Home.

DL Iowa
Our Sunday School is giving their Missions offering to the “Morning Glory” to help with the printing, mailing, etc. God Bless you!

JR Iowa
I look forward each month to reading all the wonderful articles. Keep up the good Work! God Bless you!!

ML Iowa
Is the ELCA still having a homosexual on the roster of ministers in the pulpit? I would appreciate an answer in the “Morning Glory” to verify it.

Answer: Very Definitely YES! And in ‘my opinion’

that will not change! In the ELCA and along with numerous other church bodies the “The Spiritual Standard” has been trodden down/broken and the hole in the dike is ever becoming larger in the name of love. *We are so far into the era of apostasy* that many ‘professing Christians’ are unable (do not have the ‘spiritual back bone) to “speak the TRUTH in LOVE!! The Bible is *clear* that the homosexual/lesbian practice is **SIN** and very displeasing to the Lord, and unless genuine godly **repentance** is experienced by the same and their Salvation found **ONLY** in JESUS, their eternal future is horrible! Even now the Lutheran Church of Norway is in favor of homosexual ordination. YES, the majority ‘rules’ but is not always right; in fact, the opposite is **OFTEN** true in the Light of Scripture. In fact, such subjects ought not to even have to be addressed from the ‘sacred desk/pulpit’, for such things done in private/secret are a shame to even be spoken of. Lev. 18:22-25, 20:13, Deut. 22, 23:17, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Tim. 1:10, Jude 7, 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-10.

Yet many Christians believe it is unloving to speak out on controversial issues or make a public stand for TRUTH, but that is precisely what speaking the TRUTH in LOVE is all about!

Pastor David Barnhart of Abiding Word Ministries publishes the Newsletter entitled, *The Vine and the Branches*, and has documented this issue numerous times. In the Winter, 2007 issue, he documents the following:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is about to be tested on its “Don’t Discipline” policy passed last August at the close of its Churchwide Assembly in Chicago. The resolution asked bishops to “refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining” homosexual clergy who are in “faithful committed relationships, or the congregations that call them.” On November 17, Jan Rude became the first homosexual to be ordained by the ELCA since this policy was adopted, even though she refused to take a vow of celibacy.” (pg. 8)

Pastor Barnhart can be contacted at: Abiding Word Ministries, P.O. Box 275, Canal Winchester, Ohio; 43110 -0275

May WE avail ourselves of GOD’S GRACE to distinguish between right and wrong so that WE LOVE the sinner but not the sinner’s SIN.

Unconverted Preachers

*“Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?
...And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”*

(Matt. 7:22-23)

In the text above, Jesus is speaking about the day when He judges mankind. This judgment will also include preachers. In fact, the Scripture says that they will receive a stricter judgment because people believed them and acted upon it. *“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.”* (James 3:1) It will be interesting in this judgment that there will be people who prophesied (Proclaimed the Word or Preached) in Jesus’ name, and all the time they thought they knew Christ as their Lord and Savior. Yet, much to their dismay, Christ says that He doesn’t know them! In fact, He never did know them. All their lives they were deceived into thinking that they were genuine Christian preachers and effectively serving in God’s Kingdom, yet they were not. They were never converted to Christ. They were unconverted preachers.

Lest we think that this is simply a small number of people, note that Jesus says that there will be *“Many”* who will be taken in that day as an unconverted preacher! According to Jesus’ own words, there are many people in the pulpits of churches preaching Christ, and they are not converted. In fact, Jesus calls them *“workers of iniquity”* because people believed them because of their position.

We see this even in great preachers of the past. John Wesley was one of the greatest preachers of all time, yet he spent many years in the ministry without being converted. He went on a missionary trip from England to Savannah, Georgia. On the way, a fierce storm erupted and John feared for his life. He noticed certain Moravians on board. *“While the storm was raging, John looked at the Moravians, whom previously he had thought of as heavy-minded and dull-witted folk, and they were calmly singing a hymn. The wilder the waves became, the calmer the Germans sang.”*¹ John wrote in his journal afterward, *“At night I was awakened by the tossing of the ship ...and plainly showed I was unfit, for I was unwilling, to die.”*²

Wesley failed in his attempt as a missionary. Upon returning, he wrote these words of the trip:

“I went to America to convert the Indians: but O!

who shall convert me? Who, what is he that shall deliver me from this evil heart of unbelief? I have a fair summer religion. I can talk well; nay, and believe myself while no danger is near; but let death look me in the face, and my spirit is troubled. Nor can I say, ‘To die is gain’...O who will deliver me from this fear of death?

*“This then have I learned in the ends of the earth, that I ‘am fallen short of the glory of God’; that my whole heart is ‘altogether corrupt and abominable’... that my own works, my own suffering, my own righteousness, are so far from reconciling me to an offended God...I want that faith which enables everyone that hath it to cry out, ‘I live not...but Christ liveth in me’...I want that faith...when ‘the Spirit itself beareth witness with his spirit that he is a child of God.’”*³

By his own confession, he was not converted to Christ. He was an unconverted preacher, and had been so for 10 years (Sep. 28, 1728, the date of his ordination to May 24, 1738, the date of his conversion). Remember that all of this came from a man who was an ordained minister, well trained in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and theology and was utterly devout in Bible reading, praying and all other Christian duties. He had even served as a missionary! It was not until John *“felt his heart strangely warmed”* at a meeting near Aldersgate street when Luther’s preface to Romans was read that he was converted.

Consider also Luther. He was a University Professor at Wittenberg. He knew Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek so well that he went on to translate the entire Bible from the original languages into German. He knew the doctrines of the Bible and was teaching others all the doctrines of the church. He also lived in the Augustinian cloister, which was the housing for monks. Luther was utterly devout in his Bible study, Bible-reading, fastings, prayers and all Christian duties.

Yet he was not converted! Only after he studied and lectured to his students on the Psalms, Romans and Galatians

1 John Wesley by Basil Miller. Bethany Fellowship, Minneapolis, MN, 1943, pgs. 46-47

2 Ibid, pg. 47.

3 Ibid, pg. 53.

did he become converted. Luther said,

“Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that “the just shall live by faith.” Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.”⁴

Luther had served as an unconverted University Professor for about 6 years (1511, the date of his coming to Wittenberg to 1516-17, the date when he was lecturing on Galatians and was converted).

Here we have two men, both actively preaching or teaching God’s Word, and both unconverted for years. How about you preachers who are reading this article? Do you have a testimony of conversion? Is there a time when you came to the Lord Jesus in repentance of your sin and a faith that accepted Him and His salvation? Do you have a testimony of conversion, like Wesley and Luther? Do you have an assurance of salvation and the Holy Spirit bearing witness with your spirit that you are a child of God? If you don’t, then why are you in the pulpit?

It is good to be able to understand all the doctrines of the Bible such as sin, the atonement, justification, faith, etc. But knowing them without personally experiencing them is only head knowledge and not conversion. If you are not converted, then you can’t tell someone else how to get converted. You can’t give away what you do not possess.

How about the laymen reading this article, does your preacher have a testimony of conversion? Does he know when he came to Jesus? Does he have assurance of salvation? Have you asked him? This is the man who will be preaching to you every week and teaching your children.

If a preacher can’t tell you how to get converted and get to heaven, he is worthless as a preacher.

“Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 18:3)

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

*Salvation isn’t **What**
you know;
It’s **Who** you know*

“For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.”

(I Corinthians 1:18)

GOD has spoken many times and in many ways to us in the prophets. “At the end of these days,” He has spoken to us in His Son. And a mighty speech it is, both in word and in deed.

However, the cross is beyond all comparison His mightiest speech.

The cross of Calvary is the center of history and of the world.

It is the most terrible and the most glorious place on earth.

There God unveils the two mightiest and most mysterious realities in the universe: *sin* and *grace*.

No man knows what sin is until he has stood at the cross of Christ.

And because most people will not pause at the cross, they have such a thoughtless and frivolous view of sin.

What does the cross tell us about the sinfulness of man?

It tells us that man is at *enmity* with God. It tells us that man is not merely *evil*, but that he is *so* evil that he will not tolerate the good. Our race put to death the Only Good One that ever lived. Not by accident, but deliberately, by a well-planned judicial murder.

And the most religious people of that generation did it.

The cross of Christ tells us further that sin is so terrible that not even our almighty and all-loving God can forgive it *without atonement*.

However, He does not require this satisfaction of others. He becomes man Himself, to suffer and to die for His enemies.

Dear children of God, let us take note of the appalling seriousness of sin! Let the pleas of Jesus and His cries of distress pierce us to the very bone and marrow, that the sufferings of Jesus may impart to us that fear and trembling with respect to sin which will preserve us from *misusing* the grace of God.

Taken from *God’s Word for Today*
O. Hallesby

Guilty of Greed

Genesis 13:1 - 12

The desire for money and material things has consumed our society. It seems as though everyone is doing everything possible to jump on the bandwagon of financial and material "success." We spend billions of dollars every year on clothing, electronics and entertainment. Advertisers are bombarding us with the sights and sounds of what they want us to think we need in order to "be cool" and "fit in." But what does God's Word say about the desire for worldly riches and material things? It tells us to lay up treasure in heaven rather than on earth and commands us to set our desires on things above rather than on earthly things (Matt. 6:19-21; Col. 3:1-2).

Today's text illustrates how greed and material desire can ruin the life of even the godly Christian who sets his sights on worldly gain rather than heavenly treasure. Both Lot and Abram were already wealthy according to the world's standards (vv. 5-6). God had blessed them greatly. But Lot, unlike Abram, wanted to have even better land and a more prestigious place to live. He was not content with what God had given him. Instead, his heart lusted after greater riches. His greed served as the first step in a long line of sins that brought disgrace to him and his family. The sin of greed can entrap even the most righteous believer, for Lot himself was described as "righteous" by God. (2 Peter 2:7-9). We are not exempt from temptation. It is easy to see the allure of the world. Yet God's Word tells us that the love of money is the root of all evil, and such a love should never be a part of our lives as Christians. Be content to enjoy what God has given to you, and make sure your priorities center around *spiritual* things. MDC

Taken from *Feature*
Fundamental Evangelistic Assoc.
Telephone 559 - 438-0080

Obituary of Mrs. Prayer Meeting

Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at The First Neglected Church, on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was a strong, healthy child, fed largely on testimony and Bible study, soon grew into world-wide prominence, and was one of the most influential members of the famous church family.

For the past several years Mrs. Prayer Meeting has been failing in health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees, coldness of heart, inactivity, and weakness of purpose and will power. At the last she was but a shadow of her former happy self. Her last whispered

words were inquiries concerning the strange absence of her loved ones now busy in the markets of trade and places of worldly amusements.

Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr. Reform, and Dr. Joiner, disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness. They had administered large doses of organizations, socials, contests and drives, but to no avail. A postmortem showed that a deficiency of spiritual food, coupled with the lack of faith, heartfelt religion, and general support, were contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power.

In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights, except the third Wednesday night of each month when the Ladies Pink Lemonade Society serves refreshments to the Men's Handball Team.

—Free Will Echo, *Pulpit Helps*

"God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you"

(1 Samuel 12:23).

Editor's Note: Reports from across the country indicate that the prayer meeting is all but gone in most churches. Many churches no longer have a Sunday night or Wednesday night meeting any longer, simply because there is no interest.

How unlike the church of years past which recognized that her only source of power was in prayer to the Lord. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost, the 120 were gathered in the upper room for a week-long prayer meeting! *"These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."* (Acts 1:14)

When the Jews found themselves facing extermination by a edict from King Ahasuerus, Queen Esther said to Mordecai, *"Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way."* (Esther 4:16) The result of this mass prayer meeting with fasting was the deliverance of the Jews and the destruction of their enemy Haman.

God still answers the prayers of His people, but cannot when they don't pray! The church of today will never experience the power or miracles of the above examples until she learns again how to pray like they did.

LORD WILLING: The Annual Conference of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation will take place at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of rural Wanamingo, Minnesota on June 27-29, 2008. Naturally more details will be forth coming; but begin NOW to pray for the same and earnestly see if it is feasible for you to attend!

First of all, beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees.

Luke 12:1

THERE must be something especially dangerous to the Christian in the Pharisee's view of life when Jesus can say to His disciples, "First of all, beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees." There are surely great reasons why we too should listen to this warning, not the least of which is that we have so little fear of this danger. We are most inclined to believe that it is the dead Christianity of habit that is leavened by this dough, and we forget that it may easily enter into the life of a living Christian, too.

What is it then that is so dangerous to us in Pharisaism?

A Pharisee passes himself off for what he is not. What he boasts about with his mouth, he does not own in his heart. This is the most essential trait in a Pharisee, and that is surely also what we are most tempted to resemble him in. To be entirely true in one's Christianity, and to possess in the heart what one testifies to with his mouth, that is more difficult than one thinks before he has tried it.

We are tempted in many ways to appear better than we are. So many a time do we try to conceal the emptiness of our inner life by using strong words and long prayers. I think you can consider it the general rule, that when the inner life is enfeebled we try to patch it up by polishing the outward life. Many, many large Christian words would never have been spoken if we had been entirely true.

O yes, Jesus is quite right: "First of all, beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees!" To identify oneself with an inner untruth through false spirituality and religious talk, that is the surest way to the "outer darkness." Let us therefore beware!

Use thou the Word
Of God, thy Lord;
All else is unavailing;
Every thought and passion guard
With this shield unfailing.

Taken from the devotional book "Thy Kingdom Come"
by Ludvig Hope

The Gifts of Christ

Hast thou a sin?

*Some heavy weight that feign would hinder thee
From running well? To have Christ's liberty,
O captive soul, let go; let go and see
Where Jesus will begin.*

Hast thou a care?

*Then roll that care of thine on to God;
'Tis not his wish for thee to bear that load;
Leave it with Him, and thou wilt tread life's road
As if thou walked on air.*

Hast thou Christ's joy?

*Then share the happiness He gives with those
Whose lives are brimming o're with human woes;
His joy transcendeth all, and fuller grows,
This, nothing can destroy.*

Hast thou His peace?

*Christ's peace that passeth human thought and ken,
So calm, so pure and deep. 'Tis only when
We know such restfulness—but not 'till then—
All fretfulness can cease.*

Katherine A. Hodge
The Heartbeat of the Remnant
Jan. & Feb., 2006

*Difficulties afford opportunities for
learning God's faithfulness which
otherwise we should not have. It gives me
great comfort to remember that the work is
His and that He knows how best to carry
on and is infinitely more interested in it
than we are. Hudson Taylor*

He Took My Place!

The captain lay in his cabin in mid-ocean, death staring him in the face. He shrank back in the presence of “the King of Terrors,” and the dread of eternity gripped him.

Captain Coutts sent for his first mate, and said: “Williams, get down on your knees and pray for a fellow. I’ve been very wicked, as you know, and expect I’ll go this time.”

“I am not a praying man, captain, so I can’t pray. I would if I could.”

“Well, then bring me a Bible and read me a bit, for my time is about run out.”

“I have no Bible, either, Captain.”

“Then send Thomas in.”

The second mate was soon in the presence of his dying captain, who said to him: “Thomas, I’m afraid I’m bound for eternity this trip. Get down and pray for me.”

“I’d gladly do it to oblige you, captain, if I could, but I haven’t prayed since I was a boy.”

The ship was searched for a man who could pray or who had a Bible, but none could be found until one of the sailors told the captain he had seen a book that looked like the Bible in the hands of the cook’s boy, a young fellow named Willie Platt.

“Send at once,” said Captain Coutts, “and see if the boy has a Bible.”

The sailor hurried off to find the boy, and brought him with his Bible to the captain’s cabin.

“Have you a Bible, my boy?”

“Yes, captain.”

“Then sit down, and find something in it that will help me, for I am afraid I am going to die. Find something about God having mercy on a sinner like me, and read it to me.”

Poor boy! He did not know where to read, but he remembered that his mother had him read the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah just before he left home for that voyage.

Willie turned to that blessed chapter that so fully sets forth the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ in dying for poor sinners such as John Coutts, and commenced to read. When Willie got to the fifth verse – “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed” – the captain, who was listening for his very life, realizing that he was surely having his last

chance of being saved, said: “Stop, my lad! That sounds like it; read it again.”

Once more the boy read over the blessed words: “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.”

“Aye, my lad, that’s good—that’s it, sure.” These words from the captain encouraged Willie, and he said: “Captain, when I was reading that verse at home, mother made me put my name in it. May I put it in now just where mother told me?”

“Certainly, sonny; put your name in just where your mother told you, and read it again.”

Reverently and slowly the boy read the verse:

“He—Jesus—was wounded for Willie Platt’s transgressions. He was bruised for Willie Platt’s iniquities; the chastisement of Willie Platt’s peace was upon Him, and with His stripes Willie Platt is healed.”

When Willie had finished, the captain was halfway over the side of the bed, reaching toward the lad, and said: “My boy, put your captain’s name in the verse and read it again—John Coutts, John Coutts.”

Then the lad slowly read the verse again: “He was wounded for John Coutts’ transgressions, He was bruised for John Coutts’ iniquities; the chastisement of John Coutts’ peace was upon Him, and with His stripes John Coutts is healed.”

When the boy had finished, the captain said: “That will do, my lad; you may go now.”

Then the captain lay back in his pillow and repeated over and over again those precious words of Isaiah 53:5, putting in his own name each time, and as he did so, the joy of heaven filled his soul. He was saved! Another poor sinner for whom Christ had died had received Him (John 1:12).

Beloved reader, do you know anything about this salvation? Have you taken your true place as a poor, ungodly sinner before God and trusted in Christ for pardon? What He did for John Coutts He waits to do for you. Will you let Him?

—available in Tract Form *The Tract League*
Grand Rapids, MI 49544-1390

Another Privileged Opportunity!

The Winter/Spring Bible Conference of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation (Morning Glory) will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church of Forest City, Iowa on April 4-6, 2008, Lord willing. (Have YOU written these 'dates' on your Prayer Calendar and on your 'agenda' for attending?) We are fortunate in securing the following guest 'speakers' — Pastor Wayne Almlie, Pastor at Goldfield, Iowa and Mr. Townley (Toby) Knutson from Fargo, No. Dakota.

Friday evening Service at 7 p.m. – Pastor Wayne Almlie

Saturday:

9:15 a.m. - app. 9:45 a.m. Prayer Time
9:45 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. - Bible Hour, Mr. Toby Knutson
10:40 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Refreshments
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Bible Hour, Pastor Wayne Almlie
12 (noon) - Catered Lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Bible Hour, Mr. Toby Knutson
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Refreshments
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Fellowship Time, Testimonies, Gospel Songs & Hymns
7:00 p.m. - Evening Service, Pastor Wayne Almlie
Refreshments following the service.

Sunday

Worship Service - Mr. Toby Knutson, Guest Speaker

Greatly Appreciated:

Specific and earnest Prayer support that God might be 'glorified' and a sensing of the Presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst and lives.

Try seriously to attend and seek to bring some folk with you! IF convenient, please bring 'goodies' for 'Refreshment times'.

There are lodging accommodations in Forest City at the local Motel.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE and by God's Grace: **practicing the old time Christianity!**

You are 'urged' and very WELCOMED to attend - regardless IF you have been to such a conference before OR this being your first experience – COME and be richly blest and THANK HIM, the giver of good and perfect *gifts* who changes not!!

UpDate

HUNGRY???

"Behold, the days are coming," Says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water; But of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro seeking the word of the LORD, But shall not find it." (Amos 8:11-12)

What a "frightening" **truth** to consider! How many times this 'prophecy' is to be fulfilled I do not know; BUT it seems to actually be taking place here in our great USA and according to 1 Timothy 4:1 and II Timothy 3:13 it is taking place.

YET "**We**" by God's GRACE (not for our glory) who have the **truth** are to share it as long as God opens the door for US as HE clearly states, "Occupy till I come"! A vital part of that is supportive PRAYER and funds.

Income for the month of January for the Morning Glory is = \$1,324.75 (which includes book donations).

Cost for each issue of the Morning Glory is approximately \$2,375.

Volume XC•Number 3 • March 2008
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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