Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • May 2013

Life Is Precious

By Dr. Shelton Smith

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" Psalm 139:14.

he life which is given to each of us is a gift from God Himself. It is something so complex in its composition that we cannot help but be amazed by it. It is so precious as to be the very essence of our existence.

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" Gen. 2:7.

"Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath and all things" Acts 17:25.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" John 10:10.

Let there be no mistake, and may there be no denial; life is something very, very special – precious, indeed!

Christians Believe in a Culture of Life!

For the first two hundred years of our existence as a nation (1776-1973), America was a culture of life. The innocent and vulnerable were protected from any and all who would harm them.

Both born and unborn were shielded by the full weight of the law. That all changed on January 22, 1973. When the United States Supreme Court handed down its infamous Roe vs. Wade decision, it legalized abortion and started a holocaust on the unborn.

Here we are forty years later, and, to date, fifty-five million babies have been butchered in their mothers'

wombs. The killing of the little ones goes on day and night, year after year.

A Culture of Death Has Come to Reality!

Just three years after Roe vs. Wade (1976), Dr. C. Everette Koop, who served as President Reagan's Surgeon General (1982-1989) said, "Abortion cannot be a Christian option, except in the almost unheard-of necessity of saving the mother's life. As we lose our concept of the sanctity of human life, the door is open for unlimited dangers we will regret."

Dr. Koop warned that social reforms initially designed to relieve the suffering gradually could become "active euthanasia" – the elimination of people who are economically unproductive or ecologically undesirable. Dr. Koop took an equally tough stand against euthanasia: "The prolonging of life cannot be a matter for courts to decide but must remain with the field of trust between patient and physician."

Well, here we are in 2013, and Dr. Koop's wise observations have come and are coming to reality.

- 1. <u>Abortion continues virtually unchecked</u>. About 100,000 unborn babies will be aborted in America every month in 2013.
- 2. <u>Infanticide is now coming into the national discussion</u>. There are advocates, a growing number of them, who want to legalize the killing of born babies if, for some reason, you are unhappy with your child.
- 3. <u>Euthanasia is already front and center!</u> Decisions about life and death are being made every day in hospitals and nursing homes all across the land. If the "quality of life" is at a high risk level, the physician huddles with the

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family to make choices about what to do and when to do it. Those decisions are often made based on money available, what the insurance will pay and the level of pain a person is experiencing.

4. Death panels coming? Very likely it is the case. The liberals say no, but that probably means yes. A number of people who are very familiar with the Obamacare law say that the provision is in the law that will effectively create committees which will decide who gets care and who doesn't. Of curse, it will have a nice name, but the results will be the same.

If a committee meets to decide who gets medicine or surgery and who doesn't, it is a death panel.

5. The entertainment industry seems possessed with violence. Movies, video games and other forms of "entertainment" are constantly bombarding the citizenry with killing. It desensitizes everybody and devalues life in the minds of the people.

Abortion Is Murder!

In 1979, Dr. John R. Rice wrote in the ... about abortion. He said:

"The Supreme Court has said that a baby before it is born, is "a nonperson." No, that is simply an excuse of people who want abortion on demand. And the number of babies murdered far exceeds the number of American boys who died in the Vietnam War.

The active murderers are distinguished-looking doctors, men respected in their communities, because now the murder has become legal. These murders are committed in hospitals.

But abortion is murder just

the same!

We ought not to think that any woman is a good citizen or a good Christian or a trustworthy friend if she has her baby murdered. We ought not to think any doctor who helps in murder for money is a trustworthy doctor or a good moral man.

A few years ago, the best doctors in America had hanging on the walls of their offices the Oath of Hippocrates. They counted that oath their own, vowing that they would never help a woman abort a baby.

But now they are not true either to Christian convictions or to ethical considerations of many generations of physicians.

Is the unborn baby a person? Well, it is alive. It has hands and feet, a head, brains and a beating heart. It has hidden in it all the capacity of others made in the image of God. It is alive; then is it not a person?

But someone says that the little one, until a month or two before its birth, could not survive in the world by itself. No, and it couldn't survive if it were six months old or a year old without help. Does that make it all right for a mother to kill the baby who may be a nuisance?"

Oh, how right he was! And how unthinkable it is when anyone under any circumstance starts plotting the elimination of the unborn, the young, the elderly and others who are entrusted to our care.

You may think me harsh when I declare without stammering that these medically orchestrated deaths in the sterile environment of a hospital or a nursing home are acts of murder – but murder it is!

Giving it another name or cloaking it in medical terminologies does not lessen the fact that it is murder!

We Will Not Be Silent on These Issues!

For forty hears, I have spoken out loudly and often to rebuke the perpetrators of these dastardly deeds – and we have no intention of giving up or letting up until the killing stops.

We are pro-life! We oppose the death culture with every fiber of our being.

So, dear friends, dear servants of God, let's preach the Word of God. Let's get out the Gospel. Let's win souls. Let's build churches. Let's do all we can do to reach every person we can in this year ahead.

But as we do, let's stand up to be counted on these vital life-and-death issues.

The liberals now have the intent to do to the elderly what thy have done to the unborn, and it is nearly within their grasp. Do it they will, if we do not stand up to them.

Life is precious! It's worth defending! Let's not fail to give in our very best effort in 2013!

Taken from Sword of the Lord

Do We Love the Lord A LITTLE?

By Dave McCarrell, President, Pacific Garden Mission

"LITTLE BY LITTLE, some Christians are growing a "Little" careless. On Sunday mornings they sleep a Little late, and come to church a Little tardy. Some doze a Little, listen a Little to the sermon and give a Little in the offering. After dismissal, they argue a Little, gossip a Little, and go home and forget what Little they heard, and act a Little as if they care Little for the greatest, grandest, holiest, and most precious privilege on earth – that of worshiping and serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

I may have exaggerated a Little, but very Little, and in some things I may have omitted a Little, "O ye of Little faith" (Matt. 6:30, 8:26, and 16:8). "...thou has been faithful in a very Little" (Luke 19:17). Yet a Little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10:37).

Little-by-Little we can improve a Little by putting forth a Little effort in seeking to overcome a Little evil. Little evils do not remain Little. So a Little thought given to Little things may produce a Little improvement in a Little time."

After reading the above by an unnamed author, I was challenged by the thought of the many Little things I let distract me from the important things God has for me. I am sure all of you, if honest, would say the same thing Then I was challenged by the ultimate question that our Lord asked Peter, and the question we as believers all must respond to: *Peter do you love Me more than these things?*" (see John 21:15-17). Instead of these things, in our case, I believe God is asking us, Do you love Me more than the Little things you have brought into your life? Examples could be sports, TV, movies, material possessions, homes, cars, questionable friends, etc. What a great opportunity to examine what little things are keeping us from experiencing God's best for us.

Taken from *PGM News*

Well Said ...

A leader has the great responsibility of going before and then getting people to follow him. Followers must choose their leaders carefully; then they should pray constantly for wise leadership. A. W. Tozer once said, "Follow no man who does not have the oil of God upon his forehead."

There are many leaders who are like the scribes, knowing the Scriptures backward and forward, but there are few leaders who are like the prophets who see ahead. A prophet at one time in Scripture was called "a seer," because he was one who "could see" what God was going to do.

Dr. Dan Reed, Acworth, Georgia

Editorial

RES

Mercy & Grace

"Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your loving kindness and Your truth continually preserve me. Oh, satisfy us early with your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!." (Psalm 40:11 & 90:14)

Of the 'letters' that the Holy Spirit told (inspired) the Apostle Paul to write; only the three to Timothy and Titus use the following three-fold greeting: "Grace, mercy, and peace." The 'others' use the more common "grace and mercy."

No doubt as one ponders (mediates) on the wonder of **God's** 'mercy' and 'grace'; the question will likely arise: Do the Holy Scriptures pinpoint where mercy ends and grace begins or are these two marvelous doctrinal 'truths' *inseparable?* Personally, this 'writer' cannot discern where mercy ends and grace begins; but for this 'editorial' we are going to look especially at MERCY: which maybe is first?!

Occasionally, you hear people say that in their opinion we have favorable weather or "we deserve it' or 'it is about time"; as though God is somewhat obligated to our whims and desires. But HE is not obligated to us NOR accountable to us either!

A most describable definition of <u>mercy</u> is, <u>not getting what you deserve</u>. Martin Luther said "If we (I) got what I deserved; I would be like a blade of grass" and I question IF we (I) would fair that well!

A good definition of <u>grace</u> would be: getting what I don't deserve OR unmerited favor or God's Redemption At Christs' Expense.

Soberly meditate on the following two verses found in John 3:18 & 36. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already; because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life: and he who does not believe the Son, shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." BUT by/for the GRACE of God, I would be among the 'many' who are yet under the 'wrath' of God.

Technically, I believe that 'we' who have experienced Salvation in and through Christ Jesus; actually came to HIM for **mercy**; as lost bankrupt 'sinners' and God promised when we come that way, HE will also give 'us' the <u>gift</u> of Salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 & Titus 3:5-7. I will share with you two other examples: Luke 18:9-17, 17:11-19.

The BIBLE is a book of GRACE from Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21. Actually it is God's <u>mercy</u> and <u>grace</u> that 'we' even have a BIBLE! A brief definition from the Dictionary of <u>mercy is:</u> "compassion or forbearance shown esp. to an offender or to one subject to one's power. A blessing

that is an act of divine favor or compassion." "In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil." Proverbs 16:6. Grace is the "unmerited divine assistance given man for his regeneration or sanctification. A virtue coming from God."

Singularly, a person's greatest NEED is **forgiveness** from a thrice Holy and Just GOD! Speaking of a child of God, notice: "who once were not a people but are now the people of God who had not obtained mercy but have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul," 1 Peter 2:10-11. Here we see God's prevenient GRACE (preparational Grace) at work; working behind the scene, in awakening us of our need of mercy and forgiveness from our living God.

We who of the 'household of faith', in the days we are living in; IF we are to see and experience God's amazing mercy and grace; <u>must</u> take very seriously this admonition: "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, ..." 1 Peter 4:17. Martin Luther shares that if we are not willing to deal with SIN the Bible is a closed Book! "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 11 Chronicles 7:14.

As 'we' face the stark naked 'Truth', we realize that every individual person who is yet unregenerate is only but a 'heart beat OR breath' from entering a Christless eternity: we need to ask our living God for boldness/courage to 'witness/preach the WORD (in love) before they leave this journey of life forever.

I am reminded of a guest speaker in a certain community overhearing a group of ladies **praying** for a very immoral lady in their community. He than asked these burdened Christian Ladies if they had gone and talked to this person about her need of JESUS? NO, but we have been 'faithfully' <u>praying</u> for her.

His response was that while they were <u>praying for her</u> and no one talks to her about JESUS; she will go to Hell! As you notice 'especially' in the book of Acts (not resolutions) that they preached/testified the WORD where ever they went! I do not believe Satan will prompt you to witness/testify to your neighbor, loved ones, friends about JESUS and His **shed blood** for our sins(and theirs).

As I begin to bring this 'editorial' to a close, let me name some sins from God's huge catalog of sins; and as we know there are sins of commission and sins of omission and that knowing sin ALWAYS hinders or separates the 'sinner' from God. It seems to me that it is so easy to let what we call 'Christian Liberty' become a license/freedom, to sin; Grace a pillow to sin upon. "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 5:13. "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed (squeezed) to this world, but be transformed ..." Romans 12:1 &2b.

Where should I start naming from the great list of sin that God has in His vocabulary? Well for now, I am going to mention mostly action sins; not the inner sins like: Fretting, anxiety, worry, prIde, envy, jealously, lust, rebellion, etc. Now who would ever think of 'Christian(s)' stealing? But how about withholding that which rightfully belongs to God? That a form of stealing! Have you opposed butchering (abortion) 'infants' in their mother's womb and voted against the same? How do you respect (keep it holy) the first day of the week? (In the New Testament, the 'Sabbath' evidently is the first day of the week)!

Do you subscribe to the 'theory', that sin is sin to one person but not necessarily another? I believe what God calls sin is 'universal' and does not fluctuate. NOW there can be a difference in the forgiven sinner's life of how old they are in Christ and their sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. God doesn't change the cross-bones on the poison bottle of sin. "'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days say the LORD: I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them" Hebrews 10:16. The more we are 'filled' (controlled by) with the Person of the Holy Spirit, the more sensitive 'we' will become toward sin; within and without. How about 'modesty', or being more concerned about the latest fashion/style? Jeremiah 6:15-19, Matthew 5:28: also visa versa. Martin Luther shares so correctly in regards to 'evil thoughts': "You can not keep a bird from flying over your head; but you can keep it from nesting in your hair." So IF you 'dress' (immodestly): whose is the greater sin: the 'dresser or the looker'?

When Joseph was falsely put into prison and was going to appear before the king; he wanted to be clean shaven and have clean clothes. (I'm not against mustaches or breads; but appearance/respect/reverence as 'we' come to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords is in order)! Man often quotes this saying: God looks upon the 'heart'; but He also said what is in the 'heart' comes out!

Is your 'congregation' becoming mostly 'entertainment and fun' without your objection, or is a place where the WORD is preached and practiced and a 'house of Prayer'? James 4:17. What do you watch on TV, Video, DVD's, etc? Again often it is said it is not good for children; but *if* it is not good for children: likely neither is it good for your EYES, either! Psalm 101:3

Well we could continue to go on; but let me summarize this way: SIN should be to the born again person like 'waste products' are to the natural body; get rid of it! Romans 7 and Galatians 5:13-26. Martin Luther spoke of how the old Adam (nature, flesh,) needs to be drowned daily; but he found out that the old nature knows how to swim! "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination" Proverbs 28:9. Hans Neilsen Hauge mentions that as a 'believer' I am removed from the condemnation of the LAW; but not compliance to the LAW. Romans 8:1. Prayerfully, the Person of the Holy Spirit has been permitted to do a work now in our hearts; we NEED to Look to the LAMB OF GOD (Old Testament: shadow, the bra-

I don't know how many of you have that 'little' plaque with the 'sticks' pointing in different directions: <u>but</u> as you get your 'focus' in the right position – you see the Name JESUS, who is the <u>Answer!</u> "'Look to Me, and be saved ...'" Isaiah 45:22.

zen serpent), Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 1:21.

Does the future for our church, community, state and USA look hopeless then? *Absolutely not* as Christians are like a rudder is to a ship! Abraham was only one person at the time of Sodom and Gomorrah. How many were Jonah, Elijah, etc.?

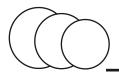
OH you will be called 'old-fashioned', 'square', 'legalistic', 'narrow-minded' etc., BUT when you see what is at stake, is that asking too much of you? Jesus says: 'Take up thy cross and follow me'. 11 Timothy 3:12: "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." Jesus said: Matthew 10: 34 & 38, John 7:43. "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." Proverbs 28:13.

Please ponder on 'Joseph' in the Old Testament for example: <u>Genesis 39:7-23</u>. Remember not even <u>one sin</u> will ever enter Heaven - **only** Forgiven SINNERS. OH HOW **I NEED** MERCY, GRACE and FORGIVENESS CONTINUALLY: **I** need JESUS!

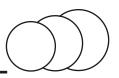
"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins." Isaiah 43:25. "Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22 - 23a.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever." Psalm 23:6.



From Our Fellowship Circle



E. G. Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada

I must tell you I was absolutely excited when I read the article by Pastor Jim Haga – "Entertainment Evangelism." I passed this on to many people who whole heartily agreed with you.

I praise God for people like you, who want to proclaim the Truth today. We have churches up here that give away <u>FREE</u> – cars at Christmas time, at Easter they spread the whole town with Easter eggs and everyone goes out to find them. There are car washings, silent auctions & you name it. I thought Jesus cleansed the temple of the money changers and upset everything because His House should be a *house of Prayer!*

I am a born again believer, grew up in a Lutheran church, but like Pastor Haga said, the Pharisees forced me out when I became a different person.... I share with my family that <u>I know</u> that when I die, I will be in Heaven in the presence of the Lord. Everyone of them answers "You can't know that, you can only hope to get there."

WHY? Because like me they are still trusting in their own works to save them; ... How tragic as we see the 'blind leading the blind!'

Please continue the good work you are doing and thanks again for boldly speaking out the truth in the above mentioned article. Thanks again Pastor Haga and all of you at *Morning Glory*. May God bless you abundantly.

G. R. N. Owatonna, MN

I am enclosing a check for the amount of \$... and want to thank you for a great magazine. I always read it from beginning to end.

J. & G. Y. Webster, SD

We are enclosing a gift for the continuance of the *Morning Glory* in memory of our fathers' birthdays.

It is with great joy today to know that they are with Jesus in Heaven and with other loved ones who also knew JESUS as their personal Savior and that one day we'll see them when we get there as well.

May God's Blessings be with you now and always as you proclaim His Wonderful Word...

We remember you in our prayers every day! (Editor:

<u>Thank you</u> and praise the LORD as we APPRECIATE so much to be upheld 'daily' in Prayer before the THRONE OF GRACE!)

J. & L. M Burnsville, MN

Enclosed is a check for \$... for my subscription to *Morning Glory* and a gift subscriptions to the two following, as I enjoy the magazine so much and want others to benefit also.

God bless your continued ministry.

H. D. H. Forest City, IA

Greetings in the Name of our Almighty Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May He bless you all his servants at *Morning Glory!* My love I send in His Holy Name.

Gift enclosed.

Just Stand Up and Spell It Out!

J. H. Dampier

A man starting in the fish business hung out a sign that said, "Fresh Fish for Sale Today" and invited his friends to the opening.

All congratulated him on his enterprise, but one suggested his sign might be improved. Said he, "Why the 'Today'? Of course it's today - not yesterday or tomorrow." So the fishmonger removed the word.

Another said "Why the 'for Sale'? Everybody knows that, else why the store?" and off came the words.

Another complained, "Why the word 'Fresh'? Your integrity guarantees every fish to be fresh."

Finally, only "Fish" remained, but an objector said, "Why the sign? I smelled your fish two blocks away!"

The church that tries to satisfy everybody ends up pleasing nobody.

Put up your sign and stand by it!

Selected.

Questions/Answered

by Dr. Curtis Hutson

We received a question from a reader about why <u>The New World Translation</u>, the book the Jehovah's Witnesses use for their Bible, changes the word "God" in referring to Jesus in 1 Timothy 3:16.

They make this change primarily because they deny the deity of Christ, and this verse is a problem for them the way God wrote it. But the fact that they made this change does not mean that they were right to do so. Nor does it lessen the impact and the meaning of the verse.

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Tim. 3:16.

This verse is filled with the fact that Jesus is God incarnate.

A mystery in Scripture is a previously hidden truth which, despite its revelation, still contains a supernatural element. The mystery of godliness is the truth that Jesus Christ was God and that, as the incarnate fullness of the Godhead, He embodied all divine wisdom and power.

This verse shows the eternal existence of Jesus Christ. He neither began at birth nor ended at Golgotha. Bethlehem was the point at which He showed Himself to man in order to fulfill the mission of redemption. He made His appearance to man in a human body. The feet that walked the shores and Sea of Galilee were the very same ones that walked in the fiery furnace with His faithful servants in Daniel 3.

"God was manifest in the flesh" is a simple declaration of the incarnation of the Son of God.

Next, "justified in the Spirit" shows that after He was delivered up to death because of our offenses and was raised again for our justification (Rom. 4:25), God, the Father, signified His acceptance in the Spirit by raising Him from the dead.

He was "seen of angels." Surely they had watched His departure to earth and the events of His life until He was placed in the tomb, but perhaps this is saying that God sent them to roll the stone away from His grave, making them the very first to see the risen Christ. What a report they must have given concerning their errand to the tomb!

<u>"Preached unto the Gentiles"</u> – Jesus did not die for the Jews only, but for all the people of the world. This news was a part of the Great Commission that Jesus had given to His disciples before He left the earth.

He was "<u>believed on in the world</u>" – not believed about or accepted as historical or acknowledged to have spiritual power, but believed on. That signifies personal

abandonment to the Saviour. Thank the Lord for millions who have believed on Him in this world!

Last, He was "<u>received up into glory</u>." Yes, He was received up into Glory. He literally went up into the heavens. He was seen by His disciples as He went up (Acts 1). What joy must have awaited Him in His Home! And because He was received up into Glory literally, He will come back to earth literally.

Taken from Sword of the Lord

Editor's Note: Suggestion! WHEN of the 'many' false prophets in the world today show up at your door (Namely a Jehovah Witness in mind right now): likely they will want to speak to you about what is currently happening OR the future; ASK them to pray with you before you have any discussion. THEY won't 'pray with you' because they do not believe in a Truine (Trinity) Godhead; so what's the use to discuss 'theology' when they refuse to believe the entire BIBLE (just like the Scribes in the New Testament)?? God is our Eternal FATHER; thus has an Eternal SON! Genesis 1:26, John 1:1-3, 14, 17:5, 17:24, Matthew 28:19, 11 Corinthians 13:14, Galatians 1:1-5 & Colossians 1:16-17 (as examples).

* * * * * * * * *

I Didn't Know You Were So Emotional

"Nurse, will you come in here and measure the mass in that bowl there?"

"Yes, Doctor."

The nurse walked to a bowl at a table in the surgery room of a Los Angeles hospital. She looked down and gasped. Her stomach churned. She began to weep.

There was a perfectly formed child seven inches long hair on the head, fingernails, eyes, nose and mouth. The body was still warm.

The doctor came over. "Are you ill?" he asked the nurse.

She wept; her body shook. "That's a child! How can you say that's not a child?" she asked.

"I didn't know you were so emotional," the doctor remarked.

"How can you say that's not a child?"

"I don't know," he snapped. "I never look."

That's the way the game is played. The name of the game is abortion.

Pro-Life-Line

TOGETHERNESS/UNION!

Today I am so happy to have my real life friend Sara sharing with you about how Sara and I enlarged our family through a very unique circumstance!

Children have always been a strong desire on my heart. So, after my husband Doug and I had our daughter Grace, we were given another treasure (Inheritance): Luke. We felt so blessed. God had given us two gifts beyond what we deserved. We were so grateful! We knew our family was complete. I always told people that God gave me two hands and two children to hold onto.

However, when Luke was about to start Kindergarten, God started a new working in our hearts. We knew that we had more love to offer children. That is when we decided to try foster parenting. We were nervous about the changes that were ahead of us, but we placed this concern also in the hands of God, who wants control. We had agreed that one or possibly two siblings would work well for us. Our license worker asked if we would every consider taking a sibling group of three? I quickly answered, "NO!" Doug said, "I guess we could work it out." I remember especially one night in our devotions my husband prayed, "Lord, give us the right children that we can help."

It is so 'special' when we know JESUS as 'our' personal Savior, how God <u>listens</u>. God knows! God cares! We became foster parents within 24 hours of getting licensed. Our first foster child was with us for 2 weeks. The day she left I picked up a 14 month old (Adrian) and a 2 month old (Arianna). Within a month, their 26 month old brother (Joseph) joined us. Our family had been out of

Dollars and Sense!

A mechanic can take \$5.00 worth of material and make it worth \$50.00. *That's skill*.

The government can stamp a piece of paper, and it becomes a \$100.00. *That's money*.

An artist may take a cheap canvas and paint a picture worth \$10,000.00. *That's art*.

A rich man may sign his name to a check and make it worth a million dollars. *That's capital*.

God can take a sinful life, transform it, ready it for Heaven and make it an asset to humanity.

That's Salvation!

Selected

the diaper stage for a while, but now we had three in diapers again. Life changed!

Earlier that year we decided to buy a more fuel efficient vehicle and bought a car instead of a van. So when the three foster children came, we drove two vehicles wherever we went. After a few months, we switched to a van as we realized we didn't understand the size of God's blessings!

The thought of adoption was always a possibility, but we always said that God wants them with their birth family first. I remember the day their birth mom decided she needed to give up her parental rights. She cried and my heart broke for her. I thanked her for selflessly giving a great gift for her children. When we became aware that adoption was a possibility, we started praying more. The kids' birth mom and grandma met with us and asked us if we would adopt the children. They gave us three wonderful gifts!

We finalized our adoption in July of 2011. After leaving the Court House Doug said, "I feel like we owe their parents to raise them well." I will admit that at first, I didn't think that made sense. "I didn't owe them! They messed up!" Yet, that is what unconditional live is. Joseph recently said to me, "Mom, I didn't get to be in your tummy, did I?" I answered, "No, Joseph you were in your other Mommy's tummy, but I get to have you in my heart forever!" He just smiled! *I AM BLESSED!*

Our children do visit with their birth families on occasion. I believe that God has blessed them with many people to love them. I know that there will be challenges and more questions in the future, but I know that God will give us the wisdom and guidance we need.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" Ephesians 3:20.

Our lives are in God's hands. I am so thankful for that! I know that from the beginning, God knew that Joseph, Adrian and Arianna would be entrusted to 'us' and become 'our' children. They were wonderfully formed and brought into this life by our Heavenly Father for ap purpose. We are privileged to be able to watch as His purpose unfolds! He has blessed me much more than I could have ever imagined!

Doug & Sara Taylor, Thompson, ND

Editor's Note: What a privilege, blessing and fellowship to have known Sara's godly parents years before Sara was brought into this world! Her Dad went 'Home' to be with JESUS some years ago! God tells <u>especially</u> godly (Christian) parents to: Genesis 1:26-28, 9:1, 35:11, Psalm 127:3-5, 128.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

President Condemns Rights of Christian Military Chaplains

President Barack Obama ...signed the \$633 billion defense bill into law, butcriticized one of its provisions protecting conscience rights.

The provision exempts chaplains from ceremonies like same-sex weddings that they oppose based on their faith.

It also says the military cannot punish chaplains or other service members for their religious beliefs and must accommodate them unless the individual's speech or actions threaten good order and discipline.

In a signing statement, Obama called the conscience provision "unnecessary and ill-advised: and said his administration remains committed "to protecting the rights of gay and lesbian service members."

OneNewsNow.com

DAR officials Say No More Jesus

A report on Fox News January 3, 2013 stated that many members of the Daughters of the American Revolution are outraged that the DAR official book has removed the name of Jesus from its prayers, poems and other references. Those protesting were told the changes were made so non-Christians will not be offended. The decision was made without a vote or the approval of the DAR's 170,000 members. "They are negating our history," one lady told Fox News. "This country was blessed by God Himself. Most of our Founding Fathers had Bibles in their hands and Jesus in their hearts, and therefore America became what America is today."

Editor's Note: It seems that it makes no difference today if Christians are offended!

"Scientists Are Barking Up The Wrong Tree," Says Los Angeles Film Producer

A best-selling author and Los Angeles – based film producer says that scientists are misguided in their search for an evil gene in Adam Lanza.

According to Britain's <u>Daily Mail</u>, scientists are studying the DNA of Sandy Hook killer Adam Lanza, looking for an "evil" gene. The study is said to be the first of its kind, and it will look closely at any genetic evidence for (what caused) the killing of 20 children and six staff

members at Sandy Hook Elementary School, as well as the murder of his own mother.

...Ray Comfort said, "These scientists can't see the forest for the trees, and this is what happens when there is a clash of two world-views. Secular humanity says that mankind is basically good, and if someone does something evil (such as mass murder), they've gone off the rails. There must therefore be a reason for the moral failure. Perhaps he was bullied as a youth, didn't have a father figure, lost his job or was jilted by a girlfriend. When that didn't fit this profile, scientists decided to go on a ridiculous search for an 'evil' gene, so that the gene can be blamed."

Christian Newswire

Obama Administration Gets Court's ok To Force Hobby Lobby Owners to Violate Their Religious Principles!

David and Barbara Green are committed Christians who own over 500 Hobby Lobby stores in 41 states. The stores are closed on Sundays so their employees may spend time with their families. When the Green family discovered that Obamacare would require them to include sterilization drugs, contraceptives, and abortion-inducing drugs in their company's insurance plan, they, like many other businesses, appealed to the courts for relief, claiming their First Amendment rights. The Obama lawyers argue that such rights don't apply to for profit corporations. The Greens lost.

A federal appeals court, the 10th Circuit Court, and even Obama-appointed Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor have all refused to grant an injunction that would keep the Greens from having to violate their Christian convictions. Consequently, they face a fine of \$1.3 million per day. The Green family respects the religious convictions of all Americans, including those who do not agree with them All they are asking is for the government to give them the same respect by not forcing them to violate their religious beliefs.

Editor's Note: How have we come to the place in America where the First Amendment applies only to some and not to all? If First Amendment rights can be taken from the Greens, is it not possible that one day this precious right may be taken from any one of us?

The Vine and Branches

Obama Administration Sued Over Arranging Abortions for Illegals

A watchdog group has filed a lawsuit against the Obama administration seeking additional information related to its arranging abortions for illegal immigrants who are detained by customs officials.

As LifeNews has reported, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the division of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for enforcing the nation's immigration laws, is the agency that is paying for some abortions at taxpayer expense and arranging for the abortions for the illegal immigrants.

The ICE detention operations manual also says that illegal alien detainees who are pregnant will be provided with help not just for an impending delivery but also in obtaining an abortion.

Steven Erteit for LifeNews.com

Lincoln's Fiscal Legacy!

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.

You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.

You cannot establish security on borrowed money.

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot lift the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot help small men by tearing down the big man.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

We owe much to Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday we celebrate February 12. The ten guidelines written by him are basic principles of economics and sound financial policy. Selected

Send forth thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. Rev. 14:18.

WE know that the people of God may look forward to a complete redemption from all evil; but Satan, sin, and death, yea, everything and everybody that belong to them are also moving toward their goal. As the angels shall gather all the saints of God into eternal life, so shall also the ungodly (Ed. Those without JESUS/GOD) be gathered into eternal death.

The evil and the good will not always dwell side by side as they do now. There will come a time when the evil and the good shall be separated so that no one thereafter can pass over the boundary. When the angel has gathered the clusters of the vine of the earth, all those who love sin and unbelief and live therein, shall be thrown into the wine press of the wrath of God; and the only drink in the land into which the river of life does not flow, and where death always is king, is the dregs of this fruit of sin. Heaven will have gathered in everything that is of God into the kingdom where life and light dwell: Satan and all that belongs to him will be "cast out into outer darkness."

Time is no more. No clock brings tidings of approaching day, and no sound is heard that gives the slightest shadow of hope.

The way of life and the way of death are marked out thus for us, and there are no other ways.

"Behold, He cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see Him." Happy he who then is a branch on the true vine; for him this harvest is life's eternal spring.

The dead in Christ shall first arise,

At the last trumpet's sounding.

Caught up to meet Him in the skies,

With joy their Lord surrounding;

No gloomy fears their souls dismay;

His presence sheds eternal day

On those prepared to meet Him.

Taken from *Thy Kingdom Come* by Ludvig Hope; Published by Augsburg Publishing House.

Editor's Note: This 'specific' devotional book was given to 'us' for 'our' wedding almost 52 years ago!



The Seventh Picture

A man's heart, who, after his conversion, knowingly and willingly has gone back to a sinful life and permits sin and Satan to rule.

This seventh picture visualizes a man's inner condition as Christ himself describes it in the Gospel: "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:24-26).

What a horrible sight. Satan dwells, rules, and commands in the heart which was once God's temple and the Holy Spirit's dwelling. The old sins and abominations are back again. The horrible creatures are again firmly established there and make havoc as if it were their own possession.

How did it all happen? The man did not appreciate the grace he had received. He neglected to cleanse himself of his former sins, and did not exercise himself in piety and holiness. He that does not go forward will go backward. Here there is no standing still. Here one must earnestly strive to enter the narrow gate, and firmly and boldly go forward on the narrow way. He who does not earnestly

hate sin, does not renounce the world with its lusts, and does not shun every action of sin will soon be drawn by the devil's cunning, the sin's enticements, and the world's pleasure, into their net. Then will the words of the Apostle be fulfilled: "But it has happened unto them according to the proverb, the dog is turned to his vomit; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (II Peter 2:22). The thoughtless sinner who neglects watchfulness and yields to his sinful desires and inclinations falls back into his old sins.

In the picture the Holy Spirit is seen forsaking the heart. He cannot dwell with the unclean heart and spirit. How can a heart be God's temple and at the same time the devil's dwelling?

The angel, representing God's grace, goes away sorrowfully, but he holds up his hands to indicate that Christ still has compassion with the miserable sinner. His position indicates that he might be saying: "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong to thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes' (Luke 19:42). God's arms are still stretched out to thee, and the Redeemer's heart is open for thee." But the sinner does not listen. He looks arrogantly at the world and heeds nothing, neither secret sins, nor open transgressions. He does not recognize the sins in his heart, nor does he see the abyss toward which he is heading. Faith is dead. The star of hope has lost its light. The god of this world has blinded his mind.

O backslider! Such is your condition when you have once confessed your sins, repented of them, and tasted forgiveness, but have not by God's grace watched against sin. You have thrown yourself again into the arms of evil. The devil and sin take a firmer hold and rage in you as their helpless slave.

O friend! Be on your guard so that you do not fall back into the old ways and habits. If you have once received grace, renounced sin and Satan, declared war on all vice, then continue forever their sworn enemy and never let them into your heart. Pursue the enemies and flee from them. They will always return and seek to recapture their old palace and demand their old rights. If you give them room, the battle is lost, and your last state will be worse than the first. Put your trust in God. He alone can sustain you and give you victory over your enemies. If you stumble and fall, stand up again and fight manly! Never compromise with sin. Always hold firmly to the Almighty hand of the Saviour. He can and will help you. His arm is not shortened. He is the stronger who can overcome the strong, take away Satan's armor, bind him, and cast him out. He can set you free. Why should you then any longer let Satan possess your heart when it can be God's holy temple?

PRAYER

O God! Thou art still my God, my Father. Thou hast redeemed me. Thou gavest me to Christ for righteousness, wisdom, and sanctification. Thou hast all power and dominion in Thy hand. Thou canst deliver me from sin, death, and the devil, though I am their prisoner and slave! Thou hast promised grace to the fallen, hence also to me. Thou wilt cast out no one, but accept all sinners who come to Thee! Behold me, and hear my cry! Be merciful and gracious to me! Thou canst and wilt rescue me. No one has fallen so deep into the abyss that Thou canst not pull him back. Pluck me out of Satan's slavery that sin may no longer rule over me. My heart belongs to Thee; Thou hast bought it with Thy precious blood. It is Thine, and Thou canst not surrender it to any other. Give me Thy light that darkness may vanish and Satan flee! Grant me Thy grace that sin may loose its power. Destroy Satan's power and set me free! AMEN.

O For A Closer Walk With God

O for a closer walk with God, A calm and heavenly frame; A light to shine upon the road That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return, Sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made Thee mourn, And drove Thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known, What'er that idol be, Help me to tear it from Thy throne, And worship only Thee.

So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my frame; So purer light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb!

-W. Cowper

Taken from *Mirror of the Heart*, Author Unknown, Copyright Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation

Editor's Note: **OR** this text (Luke 11:24-26) could be speaking of a person who is only *awakened* Spiritually, but who was not genuinely <u>converted!</u> A person who realizes their NEED, but does not enter through the Narrow GATE. See **Matthew 7:13-14**, **John 10:1-10**.

This book is available for a suggested donation of \$3.00 plus 75¢ for shipping. Use the envelope in the center to order.

THE LESSON

Read Romans 12:14-21

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21

One summer I was at a gathering of old high school acquaintances when someone behind me tapped me on my shoulder. As my eyes drifted over the woman's name tag, my mind drifted back in time. I remembered a tightly folded note that had been shoved through the slot on my locker. It had contained cruel words of rejection that had shamed me and crushed my spirit. I remember thinking, Somebody needs to teach you a lesson on how to treat people! Although I felt as if I were reliving my adolescent pain, I mustered up my best fake smile; and insincere words began coming out of my mouth.

We began to converse. A sad story of a difficult upbringing and of an unhappy marriage began to pour out of her. As it did, the words "root of bitterness" from Hebrews 12:15 popped into my head. That's what I'm feeling, I thought. After all these years, I still had a deep root of bitterness hidden with me, twisting around and strangling my heart.

Then these words came to my mind: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21).

We talked. We even shared some tears. Neither of us mentioned the long-ago incident. God taught someone a lesson that afternoon – a lesson of forgiveness and of letting go of bitterness. He taught it to me.

Cindy Hess Kasper

Dear Lord, please help me not to harbor resentment and bitterness in my heart. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, enable me to let go of my bitterness and forgive those who have hurt me.

Revenge imprisons us; forgiveness sets us free.

Taken from *Our Daily Bread*, 2012 Copyright, RBC Ministries, Permission Granted.

Editor's Note: Scripture is very clear that, <u>unless</u> 'we' forgive, neither shall 'we' be forgiven. Forgiveness is a matter of the 'heart/will, not emotions! "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" Ephesians 4:32.

Do Not Ask the Lord to Guide Your Footsteps IF you are not willing to move Your FEET!

Rodney (Gipsy) Smith

Rodney (Gipsy) Smith (1860-1947) was one of the most remarkable preachers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He was also called to preach from almost the moment of his conversion. He and his family were gypsies in England, virtually homeless, but his father had experienced an unusual conversion.

Shortly afterward, on November 17, 1876, Rodney attended chapel and went forward following the sermon by George Warner. He heard someone whisper, "Oh, it's only a gipsy boy."

Running home, he told his father that he had been converted. Though illiterate, he began carrying around a Bible, an English dictionary and a Bible dictionary, trying to learn to read them. People laughed at him, but he said, "Never you mind. One day I'll be able to read them, and I'm going to preach too. God has called me to preach."

As he worked on his reading, he began to practice preaching by going out into the fields and preaching to the turnips. At age seventeen, he stood on a small corner near his gypsy wagon and gave a brief testimony.

It was his first attempt at preaching – but it wasn't his last. He became a worldwide evangelist, preaching to thousands at a time and carrying on his phenomenal ministry for seventy years, until his death at age eighty-seven.

Robert Morgan

* * * * * * * * * *

"I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:3.

We who love the Lord Jesus shall be with Him in glory. Jesus went home to set The House in order for us. Now He calls us one by one in death, but one day He shall take all the rest who love Him at once. That will be a great day.

Notice How Precious!

"Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name."

Malachi 3:16.

A mother told a story of her little boy who had been in church. The choir sang, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, I'll be There." The boy asked his mother what a roll call was. His mother said it was like a teacher calling the names of her pupils to see that all were in school. The little boy said that if God should call out his name in Heaven, he would say, "Yes."

That day the little boy was taken ill. He was unconscious for a long time. Suddenly he called out, "Here!"

When his mother saw that his spirit had flown, she realized that he had answered to his name in Heaven.

Oh, God, grant that our names, too, may be called from the book in Heaven and that we may answer, "Here." We thank Thee, Lord, for the hope of an eternal mansion. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,

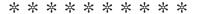
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;

When the saved on earth shall gather over on the other shore,

And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. Verses by permission, Hope Publ. Co.

Taken from the Family devotional book *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson

This devotional, which is very clear on the way of Salvation and the Christian Life, is available from HLIF for a donation of five dollars, plus one dollar for shipping. Use the envelope in the center of the magazine to order.



WHAT GOD SAYS

ABOUT

Horoscopes/Sorceress, Astrologers, Fortune Tellers, the Ouija Board, Palm reading, witchcraft/etc.

Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 26-27, Deuteronomy 18:9-14, Isaiah 47, Jeremiah 27:9-10, Acts 8:9-13, 13:4-12, II Corinthians 12:20-21, Galatians 5:19-21, Revelation 9:20-21, 18:23-24, 21:8, 22:14-15.

For a 'child of God' to participate in the same is an absolute NO, NO (In any form)!! REMEMBER, GOD does not change. Malachi 3:6, Deuteronomy 32:3-4, Psalm 119:89, Proverbs 30:5-6 and Hebrews 13:6. (To follow such 'practices' is heathen).

"Come now, and let us reason together," saith Jehovah: "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Is. 1:18.

ONE might consider it a forgone conclusion that we would lose if we men should meet God in court and conduct a suit against Him. Still God promises us that we shall win. Even if we come into court with sins as red as scarlet and crimson, we shall depart as clean and white as snow and wool.

How can that be?

It happens in this way that He who knew no sin was made to be sin on our behalf, so that we in Him may be made righteous before God. Wherefore he who goes to court in Jesus' name and stands there on His account, he is already declared not guilty in the supreme court. Thus occurs the great miracle that he who has no works to show forth, but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, becomes righteous by his faith.

It is great for a criminal to receive grace, but he that is justified appears before God as though he had never sinned. That is the way a sinner is saved for Jesus' sake. Should not this be enough to attract every single sinner to God?

"For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one shall the many be made righteous" Rom. 5:19.

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress; Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

Taken from *Thy Kingdom Come* by Ludvig Hope

A Sacred Temple

"Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? And ye are not your own, for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

Take note of what is written here!

"For ye were bought with a price" with the precious blood of Christ. Ye are not your own" so that yours is not the privilege of doing as you please with your body and your soul, your heart and your thoughts. But if you believe on Christ then your bodies too are the temples of the

Holy Spirit. As mysterious as this is and as super-reasonable as this is that God's Spirit shall dwell in you it is nevertheless just as true as God is truthful. "Shall I then take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot?" (1 Corinthians 6:15). In 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17 we also read, "Know ye not that ye are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man destroyeth the temple of God him will God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, and such are ye."

Having had one's sins forgiven repeatedly but one finds the same sin remaining it becomes too unreasonable to be able to believe. "No, it is unreasonable" man says. Another will say "I am forsaken of God, and abandoned to an unrepentant state of mind; I am lost."

Therefore, he who is being attacked by sin must have mastered a unique art, namely that of persisting in faith, if he is to be saved. For after having tried out all rules one shall finally have to come to the conclusion that no rule, no vigilance, no abhorrence, no prayer, no struggle avails here. Here avails only the wonderful faith which in the midst of sin can take refuge in the bosom of the offended God and only through the atoning blood possess Him.

There is more to learn in this. You have really learned something when you can actually believe that, regardless of how serious sin is, it is nevertheless removed from you and laid upon the Lamb of God. You know then that these sins that you see residing in you in reality do not lie upon you but are upon the back of Christ. To be in possession of this knowledge is to possess the mightiest power with which to set you free.

"For the joy of Jehovah is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

Taken from *Thy Cross* devotional by Carl Olof Rosenius

Editor's Note: Romans 8:6 - 17.

Oh, How Ironic!

The Food Stamp Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is actually proud of the fact that it has distributed in 2012 the greatest number of free meals and food stamps ever.

Meanwhile, the National Park Service, administered by the U. S. Department of the Interior, asks us: "Please Do Not Feed the Animals." Their stated reason for the policy is because the animals will grow dependent on handouts and will not learn to take care of themselves.

Copied.

"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:37

This is more than victory. This is a triumph so complete that we not only have escaped defeat and destruction but also have destroyed our enemies and won plunder so rich and valuable that we can actually thank God for the battle. How can we be "more than conquerors"? We can receive from the conflict a spiritual discipline that will greatly strengthen our faith and establish our spiritual Temptation is necessary to establish and ground us in our spiritual life. It is like the fierce winds that cause the might cedars on the mountainside to sink their roots more deeply into the soil. Our spiritual conflicts are among our most wonderful blessings, and the Adversary is used to train us for his own ultimate defeat. The ancient Phrygians of Asia Minor had a legend that every time they conquered an enemy, they absorbed the physical strength of their victims and added to their own strength and bravery. And in truth, meeting temptation victoriously doubles our spiritual strength and weaponry. Therefore it is possible not only to defeat our enemy but also to capture him and make him fight in our ranks.

The prophet Isaiah tells of "fly(ing) upon the shoulders of the Philistines" (Is. 11:14 KJV). These Philistines were their deadly foes, but this passage suggests that they would be able not only to conquer the Philistines but also to ride on their backs to further triumphs. Just as a skilled sailor can use a head wind to carry him forward, by using its impelling power to follow a zigzag course, it is possible for us in our spiritual life, through the victorious grace of God, to turn completely around the things that seem most unfriendly and unfavorable. Then we will be able to say continually, "What has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel" (Phil. 1:12) from Life More Abundantly.

A noted scientist, observing that the early sailors believed the coral-building animals instinctively built up the great reefs of the Atoll Islands in order to protect themselves in the inner waterway, has disproved this belief. He has shown these organisms can only live and thrive facing the open ocean in the highly oxygenated foam of the combative waves. It is commonly thought that a protected and easy life is the best way to live. Yet the lives of all the noblest and strongest people prove exactly the opposite and that the endurance of hardship is the making of the person. It is the factor that distinguishes between merely existing and living a vigorous life. Hardship builds character. Selected

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. II Corinthians 2:14.

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L. B. Cowman, Copyrighted.

UpDate

Words/The 'WORD'!

At times I seem to be at loss how to impress and motivate <u>you</u> to pray and give for this 'ministry' and yet letting the love of <u>CHRIST</u> motivate <u>you!</u>

Word of mouth is the best advertising for the 'Good News'; but secondly probably the 'printed page' economically! How many things do we purchase because a friend or relative raves about something?

We are seeking to be found 'faithful' in 'contending earnestly for the faith', Jude 3; especially in the area of Lutherandom. 'Christianity' is experiencing a spiritual crisis that is rendering mainline congregations no longer relevant in the extension of Christ's kingdom. Christians treasured their creed - Jesus is Lord and have paid a 'price' for their faithfulness to this creed. Compromise is 'selling' out of our Lord and His Word!

For many years the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory has been among others in 'contending earnestly for the faith': thus this 'ministry' is being used to 'awaken' a sleeping church and inspire individual Christians to be steadfast for the Lord. As Christians we dare not remain neutral in the battle for Truth! The time for standing on the sidelines is past (NEVER should a 'Christian' stand on the sidelines!) God bless all who stand strong and courageous for truth and freedom; yet there are some who have 'convictions' but not 'courage' to stand thereon. By the GRACE and power of God 'we' are 'contending earnestly for the faith.'

Your tax-deductible contribution, large or small, is critical to this 'ministry'. Use the enclosed envelope to send your contribution.

Please accept our thanks and appreciation for your prayers, fellowship, and financial support. Whether you have been with us many years or joined us more recently in lifting high the Cross, you are a fellow servant of Christ and an important part of all we do.

March's Income for *Morning Glory* is app. \$2715.25

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

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Of The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory

At Bethesda Lutheran Brethren Church

Westby, Wisconsin (Pastor Paul Tjelta, Host Pastor)

June 7-9, 2013 (Friday Evening through Sunday Noon)

Conference Theme: WORDS FOR OUR DAY

SCHEDULE

Friday Eve. Service at 7:30 pm. *Guest Speaker: Pastor Jim Haga* – "How Do You Perceive the Bible?" from Gen. 7:6-12

Saturday

9:00 - 9:30 am. - Prayer Time

9:30 - 10 am. - Coffee/Refreshments

10:00 - 10:55 am - Guest Speaker: Pastor Lindell Quam

11:10 - 12:00 pm -Fellowship Time (Testimonies, Hymn/Gospel Singspiration)

Noon Meal at the Church

1:15 - 2:10 pm - Pastor Jim Haga – "How Do You Perceive God?" from Job 40:1-5

2:20 - 3:15 pm - Pastor Lindell Quam

3:15 - 3:45 pm - Coffee/Refreshments

3:45 pm - <u>Annual Meeting</u> of the Hauge Lutheran Innermisison Federation

(HLIF Board Meeting following Annual Mtg.)

7:00 pm - Pastor Jim Haga – "How Do You Perceive Jesus?" from John 8:1-11

Sunday

9:30 am. *Worship Service:* Pastor Lindell Quam 10:45 am *Closing Session – Guest Speaker: Pastor Rodney Stueland* – Scriptural Infant Baptism

These conference(s) are intended for YOU to be richly blessed: thus YOU might be even a greater blessing unto others:

Thus GOD MIGHT BE GLORIFIED!

WELCOME:

(come with a prayerful, expectant, hungry heart!)

Local Motels and Meals Convenient.

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UNABLE!

For those of <u>you</u> who will <u>not</u> be attending the Annual Conference of the HLIF at Westby, WI, I have a 'special challenge' for <u>you</u>: Would <u>you</u> not **only** be in <u>specific prayer</u> for the conference, but give an <u>'extra'</u> donation to *help* cover the expenses?

PLEASE!

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