

Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • February 2009

Soldiers or Sissies?

“Too many sissies and too few soldiers” is one man’s diagnosis of a weak church. The world is in a daze today. Frustrated, jittery hearts are crying for an answer. In despair, some go down to defeat and ruin. Young people by the thousands, bewildered with fear and insecurity, are throwing their lives to passion and lust in an attempt to find some joy and satisfaction at least before the bomb hits. Aching hearts leave for the battlefield wondering, “Is there any use?”

Where is the church? Does the world hear the clear call of its trumpet? “Is there any word from the Lord?” is the number one cry of disillusioned, heavy-hearted souls in great need. If the church of Jesus Christ is to meet the challenge of this critical hour, it cannot be a flabby, drowsy, self-sufficient, comfort-loving club which tries to escape suffering. “When the church ceases to bleed, it ceases to bless,” says one of our great world leaders. When the leaders of the church choose popularity rather than persecution, the church is on thin ice. Soldiers—not sissies—on fire for Christ is our only hope in this dark hour. This must be true in every local congregation that claims the name of the Lord of the church.

Jesus was no sissy. He was the Son of God and yet, every inch a man. Never did He hesitate to show His colors even though it meant suffering, hardship, and bloodshed. He set His face to go to Jerusalem. He endured the cross. Through bitter agony, intense suffering, indescribable pain, He lived His prayer—“Father, not my will but Thine be done.”

He did not promise His followers an easy road. He held forth no bait to fool them even into a beginner’s outward loyalty to His cause. Rather, He said, “*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his*

cross and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). He almost shocked His listeners with the words, “*Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake*” (Matthew 5:11). In His farewell sermon He said, “*If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you*” (John 15:20).

Not long after the Holy Spirit came with newness of power at Pentecost, the disciples were thrown into persecution. Peter and John were put into prison. Stephen was stoned to the first martyr’s death. Paul and Silas were lashed with the whip, but with bleeding backs they sang hymns of praise. One experience after the other meant stoning, persecution, and suffering. Sissies? Weaklings? No—only soldiers of the cross could take it thus. Only soldiers could get this heroic description of our early church on the march for Christ—“*these men have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Acts 15:26).

In the Bible the Christian is often put into a soldier’s uniform (Ephesians 6:10-20). Can you imagine a sissy fitting that picture? His activity was on the battlefield—“*not with flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, against spiritual hosts of wickedness*” (Ephesians 6:12). His program is a warfare—“*Fight the good fight of faith*” (I Timothy 6:12). The veteran officer, Paul, who bore in his body the marks of the Lord Jesus said, “*I have fought the good fight. I have kept the faith*” (II Timothy 4:7). These are not the words of a sissy. On his own back he still had the scars from the whip that caused his back to bleed because of his boldness for Christ. This battle-scarred soldier, sitting in the prison dungeon waiting for the end and knowing that hundreds of fellow citizens had been torn to pieces by the wild animals and beheaded because of their faith, wrote these words to his spiritual son, Timothy, “*Suffer*

continued on pg. 2

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hardship with me as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (II Timothy 2:3). In the next breath, he added, “Yea and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Timothy 3:12).

In our generation, thousands of Christians have gone to their martyr’s death. Even now, they are dying daily. Behind the iron curtain, there is literally a blood bath as Christians are killed.

Where are we? Sitting in easy chairs and resting on cushioned pews, many of us gripe about the preacher and the church and are perfectly satisfied to give some left-overs of our time, money, and energy to the Lord. Many of us are more concerned about being popular in our community than we are about winning souls for Christ. Many of us are silent and afraid to show our colors for fear that others may laugh or brand us narrow-minded. Sometimes we are afraid to carry a Testament for fear it may look strange, or we hesitate to bow our heads and pray before we eat in a café for fear someone may laugh. We know we should talk to the friend in the office about Christ, but we just do not dare. Where would we be behind the iron curtain? Christ requires no less loyalty from His followers in comfortable America than in Communist-infested China. In both places, He calls for soldiers, not sissies.

To be soldiers, we must be sure of our induction. Too many in the church have no definite daily experience of Christ. They have not experienced what it means to be lost and then to know the peace of forgiveness in the blood of Christ alone. No “hope-so” or “think-so” Christian can be much of a soldier of

the cross any more than a young man can serve his country if he is not sure whether or not he has really been inducted into the army. Thank God, we can know for sure from His word now today. Something would happen in the church if every member became sure of his relationship to Christ. Then the army of Christ would be on the march.

To be soldiers, we must take a stand for Christ at any cost. Out into the open for Christ in our homes, at school, at work, in church. We must be free to talk about Christ, bold to speak for Him, ready to give the best of our time, energy, and money to Him, unafraid to stand up for Him in our daily life regardless of consequences. Then we would be soldiers, not sissies. Then the church of Jesus Christ would march forward to new eternal conquests in this dark hour in the saving of souls in our communities and throughout the world.

To be soldiers, we must daily wear His uniform—Christ’s robe of righteousness—and use His equipment—the living Word (Ephesians 6:10-20). Sunday-morning Christians will never make an army. Every soldier will be faithful at Sunday worship, but he needs more intake. Daily he must live in his Bible. There is no other way. A thin diet for the soul will gradually pull a soldier out of the trenches for Christ and make him a sissy in the bleachers for Satan. Sissies in the church are afraid of too much religion. They do not want to talk about saving souls or conversions. To them Christianity is a performance, and their goal is a smooth-working, harmonious organization. Their cry is to beware of subjectivism and fanaticism. They are lost in the externals, and as Pastor Walter Trobisch from Germany has said, “In their church work, they are decorating the cabin of a sinking ship.” Only what is done for Christ will last. *“Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”* (I Corinthians 3:11).

Too many young people are fooled to believe it is easy to be a Christian. Communism faces its youth with the call to suffer for a great cause. So did Hitler. We must call our youth to be soldiers ready to sweat, bleed, and die for the

The pulpit is no place to play with trivia. The preacher has thirty minutes in which to help mend broken hearts, change defeated lives, and save lost souls; and he can never accomplish this demanding ministry by distributing homiletical tidbits. In these difficult days, we do not need “clever” pulpiteers who discuss the times; we need dedicated ambassadors who will preach the eternities. — Warren Wiersbe

greatest cause of all. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a martyr of the church of Germany in the last war, said, “When Christ calls a man, He bids him to come and die.” Christ calls for such soldiers in America during this dark, critical hour.

Are you a soldier of the cross? Or are you just a plain sissy?

March to Win CHAPTER ONE

Oscar C. Hanson

Copyright 1952, Bible Banner Press

Submitted by Wayne Almlie

* * * * *

ETERNAL PUNISHMENT OR ANNIHILATION?

Is such a thing as eternal judgment a reality? One’s interpretation of Scripture must not be predicated upon feelings or opinions but upon the clear teaching of the Bible. The question comes down to this: Does God mean what He says? Jesus, who is God, taught the existence of a literal “everlasting fire” and said that it was a literal “*hell fire*” (Matt. 18:8-9). Christ described the fire of hell as “*the fire that never shall be quenched*” (Mk. 9:43-48). Many who deny the literal eternal judgment of hell are quick, however, to believe in a literal eternal life in heaven. Now if the one is literal, is not the other just as literal? The answer is *yes!* Both heaven and hell are literal, God-given truths. The fire of hell is inextinguishable, never to be quenched.

After the battle of Armageddon, the beast and the false prophet will be “*cast alive into (‘the’) lake of fire burning with brimstone*” (19:20). Then, after the literal 1,000-year reign of Christ, Satan will suffer the same eternal consequences (v.10). Then, all unbelievers will stand before God. Every one of these who have rejected Christ as Savior will face an eternal judgment. God says, “*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire*” (vv. 14-15). This is the eternal state of the unsaved. The words “second death” do not mean extermination or annihilation. The first death was physical, and the second death is eternal separation from God. Do not try to argue away or manipulate the truth by denying the reality of eternal punishment. The ultimate question is this: Where will you spend eternity? Heaven or hell? PNF

Taken from “Feature”

Fundamental Evangelistic Ass., Inc.

Telephone 805 – 528-3534

VICTORY

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”

(1 Corinthians 15:54).

While I am clad in the human image I will experience that my heart is selfish and impure. But there shall be a great and wonderful change. This is the status of those relieved from the earthly and have entered into the eternal perfection of the redeemed.

This text tells also of a great victory of which I shall be able to sing with fullness of joy. But that victory belongs to me **NOW!** The perfected saints in heaven came into the capacity to behold it aright through death. But the possession of the victory was theirs while they walked as God’s children in this earthly life. We press on as we travel this earthly pilgrimage in anticipation of the full revelation of the blessedness we already possess.” With might of ours can naught be done.

*“Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One
Whom God himself elected.
Ask ye who this may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he,
As Lord of Hosts adored,
Our only King and Lord,
He holds the field forever.”*

(Martin Luther, 1529)

PRAYER: Yours, O Saviour, is the kingdom, the power, the glory, and the victory. Grant me to possess that victory offered to me whereby I am led in triumph, for Your sake. Amen.

Taken from ‘*Rosenius’ Daily Meditations*’
by Carl O. Rosenius,
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

* * * * *

“For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it.”
Matthew 16:25

LIFE and death are, beyond all comparison, the greatest mysteries of existence.

I do not know which is the more enigmatic. Here in our passage for today, we have the two mysteries woven together: through death to life.

When Jesus spoke of the mystery of the new life, a teacher of Israel, the noble and pious Nicodemus, was

startled.

But when Jesus said that the new birth was possible only through death, through the bloody death of the Messiah, then even His foremost disciple became startled and prayed God to deliver Him from such vain thoughts.

But when Jesus said that all who would share His life must die with Him, His followers forsook Him, one after the other. Only the twelve remained. And not even they understood what He meant.

He who would lose his life shall find it.

This has been Christianity’s stumbling-block in all countries and in all ages. Unto the Jews a stumbling-block and unto the Greeks foolishness says the apostle Paul.

To think that a pious Israelite must die and be born again in order to enter the kingdom of God into which he had been circumcised and toward which all his faithfulness in observing the law had been directed! To think that a pious youth must die and receive new life in order to become a Christian!

Here many who would be Christians become startled also. They think that we drive young people away from Christ by such statements.

However, the words of Jesus stand, now as they have always stood: Those who would save their life shall lose it. However, He also says: “Blessed are those who shall find no occasion of stumbling in me!”

It is God who puts to death. But I can withdraw myself. I have the power to save my own life, Jesus says. By so doing I hurl myself into eternal death.

Reprinted from ‘*God’s Word For Today*’
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The Power of the Invisible

Things are not unreal just because they are unseen. The wind cannot be seen, but it is real. We see the trees bend before it and sails filled with it, and we hear its sound, but the wind itself is invisible.

The Holy Spirit cannot be seen, but we see the effect of His indwelling in the hearts of men – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Surely it takes something real and powerful to produce these effects in a human life.

The manager of a granite quarry said, “We can lift an acre of solid granite ten feet thick to any desired height by using compressed air”

If invisible air can accomplish such a feat, and we know it can, why should we think it incredible that the Holy Spirit has power to do all things?

From Salvation Steward

MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE

My Country, 'tis of thee, (America)

Poem written 1832 by Samuel F. Smith. (1808 – 1895)
Tune traditional. Published in “Thesaurus Musicus,” 1740

*My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.*

*My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love'
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods with templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.*

*Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.*

*Our fathers God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.*

To have composed a beautiful anthem for a great nation is an inspiring achievement in itself, but to have composed it at the age of twenty-four marks the event as all the more extraordinary. Written in 1832, when America itself was still a young nation, it seems beautifully fitting that a patriotic hymn should have been the achievement of a youthful spirit.

Samuel Francis Smith, the author, was born, “under the sound of the Old North Church chimes,” as he said, in the “twisted North End” of Boston. He graduated from Harvard in 1829, and then studied for the ministry at Andover Theological Seminary, later becoming a Baptist clergyman.

It was in 1832, while Mr. Smith was still at Andover, that the beautiful verses of “America” were written, which he was later to hear “sung half way ‘round the world.” Lowell Mason, his friend, had just received a collection of German songs for children and had passed them on to Mr. Smith, asking him to translate any he found suited for children.

“One dismal day in February, 1832,” as Dr. Smith told the story afterward, “I was turning over the leaves of one of the music books, when my eye rested on the tune now known as ‘America.’ I liked the spirited movement of it, not knowing it at that time to be ‘God Save the King.’ I glanced at the words and saw that they were patriotic, and instantly felt the impulse to write a patriotic hymn of my own, adapted to the tune. Picking up a scrap of waste paper which lay near me, I wrote at once, probably within half an hour, the hymn ‘America,’ as it is now known everywhere.”

Much to his surprise, he heard his hymn enthusiastically sung, on the Fourth of July of that same year, at a children’s celebration in the Park Street Church in Boston. Soon, the hymn began to be sung in schools, in patriotic meetings, and elsewhere. The people all over the country “took it into their hearts.” An eminent leader has paid “America” this merited tribute; “Strong in simplicity and deep in its trust in God, children and philosophers can repeat the hymn together. Every crisis will hear it above the storm.”

The climax to which “America” rises in the fourth stanza is a fitting reminder of their religious element in the founding of our country.

It is an inspiring and prophetic thought that the two English-speaking nations, Great Britain and America, join in the same tune when singing their patriotic hymns. This melody, carried over from the English, “God Save the King,” typifies America’s being born of an old nation with a new opportunity. Will we fulfill our destiny?

Very often, in Christian Endeavor Conventions all over the world, one stanza of each hymn is sung, to be followed in conclusion by “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.”

Taken from ‘*Stories of Hymns We Love*’
Cecilia Margaret Rudin, M. A.
by John Rudin & Company Inc.

Editorial

RES *Ambassador*

(Please prayerfully read II Corinthians 5:14 – 17)

On January 20th it was our ‘privilege’ to once again view the inauguration (TV) of the new President of our grand USA. Regardless of our political persuasion/con-
victions it is an awesome privilege and responsibility to represent the ‘leader’ of the same! Such a ‘position’ must be both honoring and humbling at the same time. But I have been thinking of an even ‘greater’ position. Not the ‘popular’ choice of a tremendous amount of folk; but responding favorably to One much, much greater than the President. Just think, we who know JESUS as our own personal ‘Savior’ (those who have experienced a heart transplant) are not only a joint-heir of Christ, but a child of the Almighty! **Amazing GRACE! Ephesians 2:8-10 says:** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship; created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Yes, a higher calling as an Ambassador of the **King** of kings and **Lord** of lords! What an *awesome* “privilege and responsibility”!

According to the dictionary an ambassador is “A diplomatic official of the highest rank appointed as representative in residence by one government to another,” etc.

As an ‘ambassador’ of the “King of kings and Lord of lords” we have been called by GOD and it is the *love for God* that compels/constrains us to serve where ever the ‘Commander-in-Chief’ asks.

Some definite characteristics of an ‘ambassador’ are:
1) A citizen of the Country he represents, “*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.*” (Ephesians 2:19), 2) Such a person definitely should know the ‘Commander-in-Chief’ personally “*I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own*” (John 10:14), 3) Definitely has a *message* that is from its superior, 4) Serves in a foreign land (for us in a fallen, sinful, hostile world) Yes, IN Christ we are the light of the world. The purpose of light is to give *light*. The purpose of being light-bearers is to allow the light of Christ to be seen in our lives, Preach the WORD – **II Timothy 4:2**, and 5) When an ambassador’s service is over, – The ‘Commander-in-Chief’ calls

them HOME! (**Ps. 116:15 and II Timothy 4:6-8**)

With some ‘fear and trembling’ I have accepted the position (wanting to be in the Lord’s Will) as the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation’s part time ‘field representative’; thus again seeking and asking for your ‘prayer support’.

“We” want to be available to YOU as “we” seek to further and establish the Lord’s Kingdom’s Work. Over a period of time I will try to be in contact with you either by telephone, e-mail or regular letter. As you pray with us and for us, we want to be used for the Salvation of precious souls and for edifying and nurturing the body of believers. We most certainly want you to feel very comfortable in writing or calling me with your concerns, burdens, joys and opportunities. **We want to encourage you in contending for the FAITH** – **Jude 3, Proverbs 27:17, & Hebrews 10:24 – 25!** Ideally, it would be great to meet and fellowship with you ALL personally; but at the present time that seems to be cost prohibitive. May HIS Name be glorified through these efforts!

Time is fleeting and it seems that likely the ‘**Bridegroom**’ is coming SOON from ALL the ‘signs of the times’! *Regardless of how soon*, we know for certain that HE is coming for his **blood bought** ‘bride’ sooner or later! The ‘Commander-in-Chief’s’ orders still stand “**Occupy ‘til I come**”! **Isaiah 54:2, Luke 5:1-11, & Ecclesiastes 11:1.** “*Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.*”

Proverbs 30:5-6. “*For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book*” **Revelation 22:18-19.**

As ‘we’ remember to pray for one another let us not forget: “**Therefore** I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” **I Timothy 2:1-2.** (*Proverbs 21:1*).

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

PepsiCo gives \$1,000,000 to help promote the gay agenda

(Company forces employees to attend sexual orientation classes)

In the last two years, Pepsi has given \$500,000 to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and \$500,000 to the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). The \$1,000,000 was to be used to help promote homosexuality in the workplace. Pepsi refuses to give money to any pro-life organization that opposes the homosexual agenda. Plus, every homosexual organization seems to be overwhelmingly pro-abortion.

The director of public policy of Pepsi refuses to address Pepsi's support of the homosexual agenda with American Family Association (AFA).

Emergent Church Leader Endorses Homosexual Lifestyle

Tony Jones, a key leader in the Emergent Church movement, recently wrote on his own blog: "Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and queer individuals can and should live out their sexuality in – and blessed by – the Christian church."

Jones, author of several books including *An Emergent Manifest of Hope*, stated: "I now believe that GLBTQ can live lives in accord with biblical Christianity (as least as much as any of us can!), and that monogamy can and should be sanctioned and blessed by church and state."

The Vine and Branches

Federal Court Upholds Right to Sectarian Prayer in Public Settings.

The Federal Appeals Court in Atlanta has ruled that sectarian prayer is acceptable. The ruling written by Judge Bill Pryor said government should have no role in parsing the content of public prayer, so long as they do not advance a particular religion or disparage another. A law professor from Georgia State University said the ruling correctly followed a 1983 U.S. Supreme Court precedent and recognized that, for more than 200 years, chaplains have given prayers to open Congress. "It seems to me to be an imminently correct decision that follows applicable law and is faithful to Supreme Court precedent," he said. Our forefathers would be up in arms that such an issue should even be discussed. The first prayer at the Continen-

tal Congress was closed in the Name of Jesus. Our history is rich in special days called for special observances and acknowledging the Name of Jesus. It is indeed amazing that all the wrangle is over the Name of Jesus. What about the other so-called Deities? Evidently they do not seem to be a threat to one's religious belief. It is only the living God, Jesus Christ, that seems to upset the intelligentsia.

Dr. Ron Baity for ReturnAmerica.org

Corpus Christi, Texas, City Council Revokes Planned Parenthood Funding

Planned Parenthood continues to lose taxpayer funding across the country, and the latest governmental agency to revoke it is the Corpus Christi City Council in Texas. Members of the council pulled \$30,000 in funding for the abortion business from the city's \$500,000 youth development budget. The budget disburses state and federal taxpayer funds in conjunction with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. While the council approved funding for a host of other groups serving young people in the coastal city, they voted to delete the Planned Parenthood funding.

LifeNews.com

NEA LEADER SUPPORTS GAY CIVIL UNIONS

Richard Cizik, chief lobbyist and a vice president of the National Association of Evangelicals (NEA) stated on a National Public Radio interview that he now supports homosexual civil unions.

Cizik, who was named one of *Time's* most influential people, said that evangelicals should redirect their focus away from the debate about "gay" marriage.

Editor's Note: One week after making the above statement, Cizik was forced to resign his position with the

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

NEA. However, though the president of the NEA, Leith Anderson, endorsed a dialogue with Muslims through Common Word Conferences.

New FCC Transition

Barack Obama's transition team has tapped Henry Rivera as the new FCC transition czar. A longtime radical leftist, lawyer and former FCC commissioner, Rivera strongly supports the so-called "Fairness Doctrine" and could become the "angel of death" to conservative talk radio by supporting liberal leadership in a move quickly to reinstate it. Media Research Center

Sword of the Lord Editor's Comments: If reinstated, this un-American, unpatriotic, totalitarian, misnamed "Fairness Doctrine" will also put Christians in a bind. If a preacher on radio or television chooses to speak out on issues of a political nature, his station could also be forced to provide free time to opposing views.

The Sword of the Lord

FISHER-PRICE DOLL SAYS "ISLAM IS THE LIGHT"

Many parents who purchased the Fisher-Price "Little Mommy Cuddle and Coo Doll" for their daughters were shocked when they got it home and heard it plainly say: "Islam is the light." Mattel, who owns Fisher-Price, has repeatedly denied the doll utters that statement; however, anyone who has heard the doll's utterances has no doubt that it says: "Islam is the light," loudly and clearly.

Even though Mattel received numerous complaints from all over the country, the toy company refused to pull the doll from store shelves. However, that did not stop Kmart, Shopko, Target and Wal-Mart from pulling the doll in stores around the country where complaints were the loudest.

The doll was manufactured in China, but there is no telling who is responsible for recording "Islam is the light" into the doll's vocabulary.

Vine and Branches' Editor's Note: The first time I heard about this doll was by reading the front page of Iowa's Sioux City Journal. The paper carried a story regarding complaints about the doll in Mitchell, S.D. Having purchased one of the "Little Mommy Cuddle and Coo" dolls at Wal-Mart, I can assure you that every third line spoken by the doll unmistakably utters "Islam is the light." It is my belief this is but another installment by those who want to brainwash us and our children into accepting Islam as the true and correct religion.

Taken from *'The Vine and Branches'*, Volume 24, Winter 2009, Issue 1

Israel

READY FOR THE TEMPLE

The golden menorah, prepared for the next Temple, stands in the Jewish Quarter facing the Western Wall.

Israel's Response in Gaza Cannot Be Called Disproportionate

A country can't just ignore thousands of rockets fired by an enemy that aims to 'obliterate' it.

The Star Tribune editorial "New war flares in Gaza" (Dec. 30) correctly notes that Hamas started the current violence by launching rockets into southern Israel. We also support the Star Tribune's call for a two-state solution. However, the editorial goes off the mark when it wrongly asserts that Israel's response to Hamas terrorism has been "disproportionate."

Israel withdrew all civilians and military personnel from Gaza in 2005. Hamas could have used the Israeli withdrawal as an opportunity to govern its own territory and help make a better life for Palestinian residents. Instead, immediately upon Israeli withdrawal, it used Gaza as a base to launch thousands of rockets into Israel – more than 6,300 rockets since 2005 and more than 3,000 rockets in 2008 alone. The range of these projectiles has steadily increased, now putting at risk major Israeli cities such as Ashkelon, Ashdod and Beersheva. We can only imagine what the response would be here in the United States if Canada turned malevolent and began to shell International Falls each day. Israel is entitled to exercise its sovereign right of self-defense.

The legitimacy of Israel's operations is underscored by the intent of Hamas. Its covenant calls for the destruction of Israel ("Israel will exist and continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it"). Its patron, Iran, harbors genocidal ambitions with respect to Israel while denying the Holocaust and developing nuclear weapons to threaten the United States, Europe, America's Arab allies and Israel. Israel is practicing its right of self-defense in destroying the terrorist infrastructure of Hamas in Gaza through land and air operations.

At its crux, Hamas targets civilians. Israel, on the other hand, conducts its operations exercising all due care to limit civilian casualties. Hamas terrorists, however, set up their headquarters and store weapons in private homes, schools, colleges and mosques. Both Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit have blamed Hamas for provoking the Israeli attack on Hamas targets embedded in civilian areas.

Before this campaign, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert appeared on the Arab media outlet Al-Arabiya to

address Gaza civilians about the dangers of Hamas rocket fire from the Gaza strip. Israel has telephoned Gazans to warn them of impending attacks in their neighborhoods. Humanitarian aid continues to reach Gazans. In fact, during the past six months, Israel has facilitated more than 14,500 truckloads of humanitarian assistance, including more than 185,000 tons of supplies and 39 million liters of fuel. Furthermore, there have been more than 4,130 medical evacuations.

As Olmert noted, Hamas terrorism has brought disaster upon two peoples, with innocent Palestinians dying in Gaza and hundreds of thousands of Israelis terrorized in southern Israel. We all pray for peace and the end of bloodshed and the establishment of the two state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Taken from the *Star Tribune*,
January 7, 2009 by Steve Hunegs
Executive director of the Jewish Community Relations
Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Challenge

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

You may be a blessed person, a follower of Jesus Christ. You are blessed in the intimate fellowship you have with him. *“Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.”* (Revelation 3:11). The devil has pledged to destroy us. He goes about as a roaring lion or as an angel of light.

Many may be described thus, *“Having begun with the Spirit, are you now ending in the flesh?”* (Galatians 3:31). Some have succumbed to the world. Others sink into distrust because of persistent temptation. There are those who have fallen to some new enchanting power.

Pray that you may be spared from such an end. *“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Let nothing concern you more than this, to be assured of God’s friendship and to be found in Christ forever.

“Be faithful unto death,” said the risen and ascended Christ, *“And I will give you the crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10).

*“Go, labor on! ‘Tis not for naught;
Thine earthly loss is heavenly gain;
Men heed thee, love thee, praise thee not,
The Master praises: what are men?
(Horatius Bonar, 1843)*

PRAYER: Use my efforts, O God, to win the lost, encourage the straying, and strengthen the faint-hearted.

Help me to be steadfast regardless of every circumstance, for Christ’s sake, our faithful Redeemer. Amen.

Taken from *‘Rosenius Daily Meditations’*
by Carl O. Rosenius,
Lutheran Colportage Service, Inc.

Epiphany

Love ...rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (1 Corinthians 13: 4- 7)

THE kindly attitude of love has a peculiar capacity for *understanding* others.

This is because the new life of love can never be created within us until we have learned to understand ourselves and our own inner defilement of soul.

Those who realize their own sinfulness always become charitable in their judgment of the failings of others. There is something within them which desires to know whether the intentions of those who have erred were as bad as they seemed.

In every secular court there is a defense attorney whose duty it is to indicate all the mitigating circumstances. Is there in us any such defender who is permitted to express herself and point out the circumstances which might excuse our neighbor? So many have dismissed this defender. As a result slander often flourishes even among Christians.

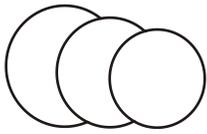
True love does not only excuse a failing neighbor; it *reproves* him also. This is undoubtedly love’s hardest duty. But it cannot do otherwise; for it rejoices with the truth.

We Christians of today need to give heed to this aspect of love. There is very little sincere and kindly neighborly discipline among us.

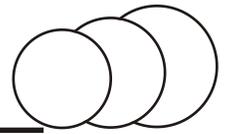
And there are reasons for this.

There is often a great deal of rivalry among the various Christian groups. People do not dare to exercise discipline within their own groups because they are afraid of losing some of their members. And it is impossible, for obvious reasons, for members of one group to discipline members of other groups. Oftentimes they are the subjects of slanderous remarks. Here is a danger greater than most people suspect.

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From Our Fellowship Circle



Iowa Readers

Please apply this check of . . . to the set-up printing cost for the "Altar Steps" devotional book! Then when they are re-printed I look forward to ordering some! Thank you!

AG Karlstad, MN

A gift in appreciation of all the good reading you send our way. It is so good to know you can trust everything that is written in the *Morning Glory*. There is comfort in Ps. 32:8. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

JJH Ames, IA

We so appreciate getting the 'Morning Glory'. Thank you for keeping us informed, and the articles that are so uplifting that bless us. Please continue to send the magazine to us.. It is an encouragement and a blessing. May the Lord Bless you. (Gift enclosed)

JJ Great Falls, MT

We do enjoy the "Morning Glory" very much. We have received it for many years and love it. Sincere Thanks.

CDF Bemidji, MN

Enclose is a check for the 'Morning Glory' magazine. It is still one of the best magazines there is. I am almost 71 years old and I have read your magazine for as long as I can remember. At least 60 years. My parents always kept it in our home when I was growing up. Keep up the good work and may the Lord continue to bless the work...

PN Gowrie, IA

I'm sending \$. . . . of this check in memory of Walter Williams of Jewel, IA. God Bless!

AB Frederic, WI

We are thankful for your 'Morning Glory'. May God Bless!

GH Waverly, IA

A gift to the 'Morning Glory' ministry. May God bless all your efforts in spreading the Good News.

WIL Osakis, MN

We thank God for your faithfulness in continually publishing articles that are true to the Word and Christ honoring. It is always a blessing when 'M.G.' arrives. A check is enclosed.

MN McCallsbury, IA

Thank you so much for the *Morning Glory*. I read it from front to back. May God Bless You all. I'm enclosing. . . .

GN Owatonna, MN

Thank you for your good work in printing and publishing some great reading. I'm enclosing a check.

DV & LS Coon Valley, WI

We were very blest at the Hauge Bible Conference in Forest City and if all is well we sure will plan on being at Kasson, MN. (Mar 13- 15). Enclosed is a gift in memory of my brother who had great interest in the Hauge Innermission. Also please send a subscription to. Fellow travelers.

FAS Radcliffe, IA

I thank JESUS that 'M.G.' always holds JESUS, the BIBLE, and the preaching of the same as pre-eminent. Thank you too for keeping Christians updated on current events. Praise the Lord for you, the willing servants. Enclosed please find a donation and I look forward to the next publication. May God Bless you and yours 100-fold.

No "GRACE" Until the Time Comes

"He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (II Cor. 12:9)

I find many Christians in trouble about the future, thinking they will not have grace enough to die by. It is much more important that we have grace enough to live by.

It seems that death is of very little importance in the meantime. When the dying hour comes, there will be dying grace. But you don't require dying grace to live by. If I am gong to live fifteen or twenty years, what do I want with dying grace? I am far more anxious about having grace enough for my present work.

I have sometimes been asked if I had grace enough to enable me to go to the stake and die as a martyr. No! What do I want with martyr's grace? I don't like suffering; but if God should call on me to die a martyr's death, He will give me martyr's grace. If I have to pass through some great affliction, God will give me grace when the time comes; but I do not want or need it till it comes. — D.L. Moody

THE OLD PATHS

“Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls” Jeremiah 6:16.

Author unknown

I liked the old paths, when Moms were at home. Dads were at work. Brothers went into the army. And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay; Hard work did; And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook; Dads would work; Children would behave.

Husbands were loving; Wives were supportive; And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry; And Men wore the pants. Women looked like ladies; Men looked like gentlemen; And children looked decent.

People loved the truth, And hated a lie; They came to church to get IN, Not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded Godly; Sermons sounded helpful; Rejoicing sounded normal; And crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked; Drugs were for illness; And divorce was unthinkable.

The flag was honored; America was beautiful, And God was welcome!

We read the Bible in public; Prayed in school; and preached from house to house.

To be called an American was worth dying for; To be called a Christian was worth living for; To be called a traitor was a shame!

Preachers preached because they had a message; And Christians rejoiced because they had the VICTORY!

Preachers preached from the Bible; Singers sang from the heart; And sinners turned to the Lord to be SAVED!

A new birth meant a new life; Salvation meant a changed life; Following Christ led to eternal life.

Being a preacher meant you proclaimed the Word of God; Being a deacon meant you would serve the Lord; Being a Christian meant you would live for Jesus; And being a sinner meant someone was praying for you!

Laws were based on the Bible; Homes read the Bible; And churches taught the Bible.

God was worshiped; Christ was exalted; And the Holy Spirit was respected.

Church was where you found Christians on the Lord's Day, rather than in the garden, on the creek bank, on the golf course, Or being entertained somewhere else.

I still like the old paths the best!

Selected

Adjust to the Time?

Rolland C. Starr

I have heard it many times: If you want to reach people with the Gospel, you must adjust to the times. I've seen many preachers do that, and it is always a disaster, even if they get a larger crowd. That is what the "seeker-friendly church" and Rick Warren, etc., are all about.

I like the words of A.W.Tozer on this: "They say if you don't conform to the times and find common ground to get along with everybody that nobody will listen to you... I have been told that I've missed the boat, but I reply that I wasn't trying to catch that boat. That boat and a lot of others like it can go without me.

"I weigh 145 pounds dripping wet, but I stand here to tell you that I am a nonconformist, twice born, and a rebel, and I will not conform to the times. If the day ever comes when to conform to the times is the price you have to pay to be heard, then I'll go out where I started before on the street corner and preach there. But I won't conform to the times.

"They say, 'Don't you know these are different times we're living in?' I know the voice of the serpent when I hear it We cannot let down our Christian standards just to hold the interest of the people."

Amen!

When Billy Sunday was preaching in a fashionable area, he was called before the committee who was sponsoring the meetings and asked to tone down his preaching on sin, etc. One of them said, "Billy, you are rubbing some of the cats the wrong way."

Sunday said, "Then let the cats turnaround!" Amen again!

We have not been called to trim the truth of our Lord's Word. I have a hunch that it is not going to go well with those who do so when they see Him!

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (II Tim. 4:2)

Selected

The Tree Is Known By Its Fruit

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree corrupt and its fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by its fruit. Ye offspring of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. The good man out of his good treasure bringeth forth good things; and the evil man out of his evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” (Matt. 12:33-37)

It is a well-known fact that we judge a tree by the fruit it bears. No one pulls a tree up by the roots and sends it to the Department of Agriculture to find out what kind of tree it is and what fruit one might expect from it. If, at all, we send in a sample of the fruit, and by this the particular kind of tree can be correctly determined. Without examining the fruit no one

A Step of Faith

The Hauge Innermission Federation is taking a step of faith in calling a Field Representative. This person will work to contact our readership to encourage Christians and their walk with the Lord. He will work to arrange evangelistic meetings, Bible conferences, home fellowships, and tent meetings. [The Hauge Innermission has a tent ready to set up for tent meetings]. He will work to expand the ministries of the Innermission and the readership of the *Morning Glory*. He will be our man who puts feet to our ministry.

Pastor Rodney Stueland of Dilworth, Minnesota has accepted the call to serve as our Field Representative. He has been the editor of the *Morning Glory* for many years. Some of the readers will remember the late Pastor Jay Erickson as the last Field Representative of the Innermission. He went home to be with the Lord in 1992. We have not had a Field Representative since that time, until now.

We ask for and covet your prayers for Pastor Stueland as he seeks to do this arm of the Lord's work. If you would like to contact him about coming to your church or fellowship to present the work of the Innermission, he can be reached by letter at: 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, by email at: rodandbarbie@live.com or by phone at (218) 287-5586. Please remember to pray for this area of ministry as we step out in faith and that the Lord would direct and provide to the salvation and discipleship of precious souls.

can fully judge a fruit tree.

As simple as this is in the realm of nature, so difficult it is for us to understand that the same law holds true in spiritual matters. We shall be judged by our fruit; by our words shall we be justified, and by our words shall we be condemned. Our hearts shall be judged by our life. As we show ourselves to be in speech and conduct, so we actually are. Our external life is directed from within. Our deeds are expressions of our heart as the fruit is the expression of the nature of a tree.

As far as I am able to determine, this is the meaning of Christ's words.

The question then arises: Can a Christian really be judged or justified solely by his words and works?

It is not an easy matter to answer this question. If we had no other Scripture than this one, the future would indeed be dark for us. But He who in His Word gave us the whole counsel unto salvation can also manage to harmonize the apparent contradictions.

There are other passages in the New Testament which declare that we shall be judged according to our deeds.

“For we must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ; that each may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (II Cor. 5:10).

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his father with his angels; and then shall he render unto every man according to his deeds.” (Matt. 16:27).

The latter part of Matthew 25 points in the same direction; the same is true of several passages in the Book of Revelation.

But how shall we harmonize these statements with the many others which declare that we are justified by grace through faith in His name?

We shall examine both kinds of fruit from the tree of our life, and try to determine which is good and which is not.

We know that a great many people do not get any further in this life than to think of, talk about, and live for food and clothing. This is their first concern in the morning and their last care in the evening; between morning and evening their thoughts revolve about this theme. When neighbors and acquaintances meet, the conversation circles about hay and grain, corn and cows, business and occupation, gain and loss, wind and weather.

Others live on a much lower plane. Their words are coarse and their speech is corrupt. Their whole life is steeped in immorality and filth.

There are still others who try to lead the conversation to higher things. They wish to speak of God, of sin and grace, of death and judgment. In such company, those who under

other circumstances speak to glibly become ominously silent.

You feel that you cannot speak on this subject; your heart is empty on this point. Not until the conversation comes down to earthly things do you feel that you can take part.

Others again can do nothing else than to chatter and babble about rubbish and nonsense, gossip maliciously and criticize with vengeance. They feel best when they can flay a neighbor and blacken his character.

On such a tree no good fruit is found; the reason is that the heart is as the words are. By their words shall men be judged. The God of such people is in the Bible, the church, the pastor, the altar, the pulpit, the evangelist, in heaven- in short, He is everywhere but in their hearts. If God were in their hearts they would speak of Him; that is what our text declares. But they feel best when He, and all talk about Him, is far removed from them.

In addition to all this there is in the heart of every unconverted person who has received some knowledge of God a stubborn resistance against Him. This sin is added to all their other sin; it is a heaping up of evil fruit on the tree of their life.

It is easy to understand that such people are going to be judged by their deeds and their words. Heaven is unsuitable for them. If an opportunity should be granted them to enter heaven, they would turn and walk in the opposite direction.

But what is that good fruit by which a person shall be judged righteous?

The first such fruit – the one that brings us into the garden where we may bear good fruit – is to repent and be converted. John the Baptist turned to his people and cried, “Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance.” To turn to God with one’s whole life, full of sin and evil though it be, is to receive the fruits of Christ’s victory which He gained when He tasted death for us all. This is the way to life with God. It is to be grafted into Him who is the true vine. Just as surely as He is good, will He grant each one of us to bear fruit.

All who thus come to the Savior are born of God for as many as receive Him, to them He has given the right to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His name. Then a person passes over from death to life, from the power of Satan to the power of God. Then the Holy Spirit enters the heart. *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control.”* (Gal. 5:22).

This is the fruit of repentance which faith yields. This is the life of God in our hearts. All that is of God is good, whether it is found in Him or in a saved sinner.

The good will not blend with that which is evil. It will stand or fall according to its own nature. The fruit may be meager, because the life from God has not been given much room in our lives. But the fruit is nevertheless good. One’s

thought and mind turn to God because they cannot do otherwise; it is the law of life. All that is in us of God and which is born of Him is good fruit.

Out from this renewed mind the Christian speaks of His Savior, his Father, and his heaven. He rejoices when the conversation, prayers and songs help to edify him and strengthen his faith. He feels at home in those circles where the conversation is of the things of the Spirit. “The good man out of his good treasure bringeth forth good things.”

Whatever is found in the Christian’s heart which is not good must be removed. But God Himself is the gardener, and He has promised to cleanse the branches that they may bear more fruit.

When God meets the Christian on the day of judgment He will most assuredly recognize as genuine that life which He gave us, and acknowledge that work which He performed in and through us.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10).

He who examines this verse carefully can readily understand how it is that a Christian can be judged by his works.

Would that all Christians more and more would learn the art of walking in the good works which God before has prepared. We are God’s workmanship.

*O that I could as so often in deed I would gladly
Praise Thee, my Father; the fount of all kindness and
mercy!*

For every task

Give what I need, Lord, I ask,

May e’er Thy friendship sustain me.

Taken from the book *“Spirit and Power”* by Ludvig Hope

“HE WAS NEVER LOST, I WAS.”

By Bob Hodnefield,
Milton-Freewater, OR

I gave my heart to the Lord and was born again when I was 13 years old. Then when I was in my 20’s the devil thought I should believe him, what a sick choice. After many years of praying for their only son, God answered the prayers of my parents, Harold and La Vina Hodnefield, Radcliffe, IA. I gave my heart to God on April 6th, 2005 at 61 years of age. All glory is to the loving Grace and Mercy of Jesus and not to Bob. He was never lost, I was. Today both my parents are home in Glory with the one and only they loved so much, “Jesus”. I once was lost but now am saved.

(We do appreciate this personal testimony and encourage others to do the same to encourage our ‘fellow travelers’. Editor)

“God, Send Us A Prophet”

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isa. 58:1)

Is there any hope for America? With all of the bold, brazen and corrupt philosophies, people and ideologies that are working to bring this country to destruction, I believe that the only way that we can see a turn-around is for God to send a prophet to America. God has done precisely that in times past to both people and nations before final judgment. When King David committed adultery with Bathsheba and then murdered her husband to try and cover it up, God sent Nathan to David to confront him and proclaimed, “*You’re the man!*” (2 Sam. 12:7) When entire civilizations and nations went corrupt (including Israel), God sent forth Isaiah (and other prophets) to them. (Read Isaiah chapters 13-23).

Can one man, equipped with just the Word and Spirit of God, bring an entire nation to their knees before the throne of Almighty God? Consider these true examples:

Jonah. When the nation of Assyria was very violent and corrupt, God sent the prophet Jonah to the capital Nineveh. His message was very simple, “*Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.*” (Jon. 3:4) The result of this was great conviction and contrition. “*So the people of Nineveh believed in God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.*” (Jon. 3:5-6) The king then commanded that the entire city fast and repent before the Lord. “*Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything: let them not feed nor drink water: but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?*” (Jon. 3:7-9) The result was that God did spare the city and the country.

Jonathan Edwards. Jonathan was a Congregational minister in the 1700’s. He was instrumental in the Great Awakening that stirred the East Coast and other places. When he preached his famous sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” the response was great conviction and contrition: “It was at night, and while he was reading it to a large congregation, the lights became dim

and he read with difficulty, and the influence was so great on the congregation that strong men and women cried and screamed for mercy and even grabbed the seats for fear they would slide into hell that very moment.”

Billy Sunday. Billy was a baseball player in the late 1800’s. He was converted to Christ at the Pacific Garden Mission in 1887. He went on to become a great evangelist and prophet to America. He singly-handedly nearly put an end to the liquor industry. In campaign after campaign, people were converted to Christ and turned away from the vice of liquor. The people going down the street in public testimony of their stand looked like a parade. When he held a campaign in Bloomington, Illinois on March 30, 1908, 84 saloons went out of business afterward. In Wilkes-Barre, 200 taverns closed up during the year following the Sunday meetings. When Billy preached, people came under great conviction and contrition. “During the preaching of ‘The Devil’s Boomerangs, or Hot Cakes off the Griddle,’ men would collapse in a faint at the horrors of sin described by Billy Sunday.”¹ Some have estimated that 200,000 people were converted to Christ under him.

Dr. Walter A. Maier. Dr. Maier was the Old Testament professor at Concordia Seminary in the 1900’s. He began preaching over the radio, his first broadcasts were made from the attic at Concordia Seminary at station KFUE on Sunday, December 14, 1924. His first broadcasts were two weekly programs: a Sunday Vesper series, and a Thursday evening feature called Views on the News. Through his efforts, the Lutheran Hour broadcast—“Bringing Christ to the Nations” was formed. This was one of the most powerful, widespread means of reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ that has ever happened in the world.

Maier was excellent at preaching the Law in all its sternness and the Gospel in all its sweetness. His messages were solid divisions of Law and Gospel. Maier would go to great lengths to show true human depravity and to point out sin in people’s lives. In a sermon on the reality of God, Maier says, “Truly, as the Psalmist stated three thousand years ago, only ‘the fool,’ only the intellectual moron, only one who is impervious to conclusive evi-

1 *Billy Sunday* by D. Bruce Lockerbie.

dence, can say or try to say, 'There is no God.' ”² In pointing out sin, Maier would directly address people or groups of people by name. In a sermon against Atheism, he cited the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism and referred to them as the “Society of Damned Souls and similar godless groups.”³ In a sermon developed around the theme of x-rays, Maier points out,

“God is so holy, perfect, stainless, that even destructive desires, hate-filled emotions, such apparently trivial offenses as refusing a thirsty sufferer a glass of water or a famished neighbor a crust of bread are absolutely condemned, no matter how carefully concealed by a pious front. You need not be caught in the toils of the law to be under the Almighty’s sentence. You don’t have to live in public disgrace to receive His condemnation. Hear Jesus declare that even angry thoughts, hateful words, lustful looks, provoke His Father’s wrath! Remember, you the outwardly polite but inwardly perverted, God sees you! Be warned, you the cruel, heartless profiteers in impurity who lead our youth astray . . . Fall on your knees, you the greedy and grasping, who systematically cheat and defraud your fellow men! Repent, you husbands to all public appearances that model good manners, but in your private lives, as God sees you, selfish, cruel, vicious!”⁴

Dr. Maier would preach in front of a microphone with no seen audience. He would take off his suit coat, shirt and tie, and preach in front of the microphone in pants and a tee-shirt. After just two months on the air, Maier was receiving more mail than such top secular shows as Amos and Andy, or any other religious program in America. After being aired just nine months, the program had set new records in religious broadcasting. CBS received more letters at its New York headquarters concerning the Lutheran Hour than in response to any other network program. After only one-half year on the program, Walter Maier received more mail than did all the programs sponsored by the Federal Council of Churches over the NBC network that entire year, even though these totaled nine times as much air time as the Lutheran Hour. After starting out on

two radio stations in 1930, by 1946 the Lutheran Hour was broadcast on 1,236 stations to an estimated audience of 20,000,000. The messages were translated into 35 languages, aired from 55 countries, and heard in 120 nations and territories. “This program, The International Lutheran Hour — “Bringing Christ to the Nations” became the largest regular broadcast — religious or secular — in the history of radio.”⁵

People were attracted to the broadcast. One woman was on a cruise ship to Bermuda and requested that the Lutheran Hour might be broadcast through the ship’s radio to the lounge. “The bridge player wrote that everyone in the salon stopped playing to hear what the urgent voice was telling them.”⁶ In the lobby of a hotel in Beaumont, Texas, 42 guests listened as if chained to the radio. In Giddings, Texas, “Practically every set in this little town tunes in on the Lutheran Hour, and we can go to a drug store, ice-cream parlor, filling station, the office of a chiropractor—everywhere we hear the program. Usually a crowd is present.”⁷

In 1946, The Lutheran Hour received over a third of a million (340,000) letters as a response to the broadcast. Their greatest one day total was 10,100 letters and an entire week during the month of December was more than 27,000. Few broadcasts in all radio history have found a response as large as this. These letters gave open testimony of coming to faith in Jesus Christ or a re-dedication to Him. Saints and sinners alike responded in record number. Some even were ready to commit suicide, and were stopped and brought to Christ through the broadcast.”

Yes, one man equipped with just the Word and Spirit of God can bring entire nations back to the Lord. God has done it in the past through these men, and God has used many others, including John Wesley, George Whitfield, D.L. Moody, and Charles Spurgeon. God can do it again, even in America! Will you join with me in praying: **“God, Send Us A Prophet?”**

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

2 Maier, Walter A. *The Lutheran Hour*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1931.pg. 55.

3 Ibid, pg. 50.

4 Maier, Walter A. *Let Us Return unto the Lord*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1947, pg. 117.

5 Maier, Paul. L. *A Man Spoke, A World Listened*. New York: McGraw-Hill Co., 1963 , pg. 1.

6 Ibid, pg. 120.

7 Ibid, pg. 121.

UpComing Bible Conference

HAUGE BIBLE CONFERENCE

March 13 – 15, 2009 (Friday evening till Sunday Noon)

At Mt. Sion Lutheran Church, Kasson, MN.

Pastor Lyle Aadahl, Host Pastor

Schedule

Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m. – Instrumental Music & Singspiration

7:30 p.m. – Guest speaker: Rodney Stueland, Dilworth, MN

Saturday, March 14th

9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. – Prayer Time

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. – Bible Session- Rod Stueland

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – Refreshments

11:00 a.m. - Noon – Guest speaker, Toby Knutson, Fargo, ND

Noon Meal

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. – History & Present Hauge Ministries (Rod Stueland)

2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. – Bible Session – Toby Knutson

3:15 p.m. – Refreshments

3:30 p.m. – Testimonies, Fellowship, Hymn Sing

7:30 p.m. – Evening Service – Toby Knutson

Sunday, March 15th

Worship Service (*Mt Sion Lutheran – Kasson*) at 9:00 a.m. – Rod Stueland, speaker
(Sunday School & Adult Bible Class following)

Worship Service (*Zion Lutheran – Dexter*) at 10:45 a.m. – Toby Knutson, speaker
(Sunday School & Adult Bible Before)

Lodging and Restaurants are very convenient for those attending the Hauge Bible Conference. The Motel in Kasson is: Americinn – (507) 634-3444. There will be ‘Seasons of Refreshing and warm Christian Fellowship’ for those who avail themselves of the ‘opportunity’!

Please PRAY For these meetings. A Warm WELCOME awaits YOU! We will see you there, Lord willing!

P.S. IF convenient: Please bring ‘goodies’ for ‘refreshment times’. Thank you.

UpDate

WONDERFUL – PRAISE THE LORD!! THANK YOU FOR YOUR ‘Partnership’ in proclaiming the ‘enlightening and liberating WORD Of God for it is the: “power of God to salvation for everyone who believes”: “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘*The just shall live by faith.*’” (Romans 1:16-17)

“Wonderful” is not an adequate word in this situation, but will do for now: WITH your obedience and support the ‘month’ of December is *probably* the largest financial engathering this portion of the Lord’s Work has ever experienced (other than by ‘estate’). **BUT** one month’s income is only a portion of the Lord’s Work in and through the *Morning Glory* for the continuing ‘ministry’. Apostasy is very real and rampant in our religious world **SO the battle continues on! BUT** it is a worthwhile “battle” in the light of ETERNITY! **SO** please continue to pray on and support as the Lord lays upon your heart **AS** we seek to hold the “fort” and enlarge this ministry! **PRAY** for the Salvation of Precious Souls and for the nurturing of Lambs and Sheep! Pray that we may continue to experience HIS Guidance and Protection/Provisions! *Thank you and May the Great Shepherd Bless you all ways, always.*

Income for *Morning Glory* in December = \$5,065.93,
Income for possibly printing and publishing “Altar Steps” in December was: \$50.00

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