

Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • November 2009

The Impregnable Rock

By H. W. Frost

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” (2 Cor. 13:8)

There are some of us, in these days, who find it difficult not to be anxious as to the result of the many attacks, which are being made upon God’s holy Word. Such attacks are not a new thing in human experience, and it may be true that they are not more vigorous now than of old. But it is recognized that there is a subtlety about them at this present time, which has seldom before been known. This is chiefly seen in this, that, formerly they came mostly from without the church, and, now, frequently they come from within the church. Moreover, of late, there is this deceit about them, which makes them peculiarly dangerous in their process and effect; they are so mixed up with truth that it becomes often difficult to recognize them as error.

Hence, not a few of us behold, and tremble, asking ourselves and others the question: “What is to be the end of all these things, and what is to become of this Word which God has given and we have received and revered?” As so often happens in similar cases, the Lord of light and love has anticipated our question and has spoken the word, which casts out fear. As our text declares, the Word will not be harmed but will stand. Sad and terrible things will happen as the result of all this Satanic onslaught, but the effect will not be that God’s truth will suffer.

Some years ago, the great iron steamer upon which the writer was traveling hurled itself with all its force against an island of rocks off the China coast. The contact was terrific. But when we examined, the next morning, the harm,

which had been done, we found that the steamer was the thing damaged, not the rock. Afterwards, the steamer was abandoned as worthless, being self-destroyed; and it no longer exists. But the great rock still stands where God placed it, without a mark upon it. So shall we find it upon that glorious morning when Christ shall come to vindicate His truth. His holy Word will be found even as it was from the beginning, unmoved and immovable, unmarked and unmarred. Let those of us who have fearful and fainting hearts, therefore, be of good cheer. It is our business to witness to the truth. As we do so, God will preserve and vindicate His truth.

From *The King’s Business* - October, 1911

*The Lord is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer,*

*My God, my rock, in whom I take
refuge; my shield and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold and my refuge;*

*My Savior, thou dost save me from
violence.*

2 Sam. 22:2-3

Morning Glory

Volume XCI – Number 9
November 2009

MORNING GLORY (ISSN0745-5968, USPS 887-740) is published in January, February, March, May, June, July, August, September, November and December, by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St. NE, Dilworth, MN 56529, and printed by Haga Publishing, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856. Periodicals postage paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56537.
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Morning Glory, c/o Send-It Shipping & Mailing Center, 1026 West Alcott Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

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

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A DAY FOR THANKSGIVING Psalm 100

When the American colonies were first settled, the newcomers suffered many hardships. They spent much time in fasting and prayer, asking the Lord to help them in their distress.

According to Tom Olson in *NOW* magazine, on one occasion when some New England settlers were discussing their hardships, one person suggested that they set aside a special day for fasting and prayer. Another man stood up and said they had been dwelling too much on their problems. It was time, he emphasized, to focus on their blessings.

The man pointed out that the colony was making good progress. The harvests were becoming more abundant. The streams were full of fish, and the forests provided plenty of game. But more important than that, he reminded them that they now had what they had been seeking when they had left their homeland-liberty. He recommended that instead of a day of fasting they have a day of thanksgiving!

Many nations do not set aside an annual holiday known as Thanksgiving Day, as we do in the United States. But I would encourage you, wherever you are reading this, to join with us. With praise to God for His many blessings, let’s make this a great day for thanksgiving! – Richard W. De Haan

For the year of peace and plenty, And for blessings without end, Let the voices of the people, In thanksgiving praises blend. – Rhoderick

If we Pause to think – We will have cause to thank.

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A Day of Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1-43

Please take the time to read this entire psalm and meditate upon the goodness of our God. Today, the United States of America observes a Day of Thanksgiving. Our Canadian neighbors observed a similar day in October. It is a great blessing to live in countries where such a day is still recognized each year even though, for most people, Thanksgiving Day is just another holiday with little time, if any, given to thanking God for His many blessings. As Christians, however, we have so much for which to be thankful. Our text places great emphasis on the goodness and lovingkindness of our God. *“O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good”* (v. 1.) And again, *“Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!”* (vv. 8, 15, 31). The final verse of this blessed psalm of thanksgiving says, *“Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD”* (v. 43).

It is sad that on this national Day of Thanksgiving, so few in our nation will pause to consider God’s goodness and say, “Thanks.” We have so much for which to thank the Lord—our freedoms of worship, speech and the press and also the many material blessings God has showered upon us. But Christians have much more to be thankful for in addition to these material blessings—our salvation, forgiveness of sins, eternal life and God’s many great and precious promises. Every day should be a day of thankfulness for the believer. But on this Thanksgiving Day, let us *“sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing”* (v. 22). MHR

Taken from ‘Feature’
Fundamental Evangelistic Ass., Inc.
Telephone 805 - 528-3534

* * * * *

Give Thanks!

Leviticus 23:15-22

At harvest time it’s natural to thank God for the bounty of His blessings. The Feast of Weeks in ancient Israel, established in Leviticus 23, was a week of joyous celebration and feasting in gratitude for the harvest (Dt. 16:9-12). Even today as farmers gather their crops, many give thanks to the Lord for the abundance of their harvest.

But what if untimely and persistent rain keeps the farmer from getting his machines into the fields and har-

vesting the ripe grain? What if a sudden hailstorm flattens the corn? Or a summer drought dries up the fields?

The apostle Paul wrote, *“In everything give thanks: (1 Th. 5:18)*. That may sound unrealistic. But think about it. The Jews were instructed to celebrate the Feast of Weeks whether the crops came in or not. Likewise, we are to give thanks to the Lord “in everything.” After all, our praise is to God, not to a barn full of hay or a crib full of corn.

Yes, we can give thanks. We can do so whether the day goes smoothly or we meet aggravation problems. We can be grateful if we’re rich or poor, when we’re feeling well or if our health fails. In every circumstance, we can affirm God’s goodness and discover reasons to give thanks to Him. After all, Our gratitude is to Him and for Him. —DCE

Consider what the Lord has done
For you and those you love;
Then give Him thanks with hearts of praise
For blessings from above. - Sper

We don’t need More to be thankful for,
We need to be more thankful.

By David C. Egner

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DO WHAT YOU CAN!

“She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying” – Mark 14:8.

I imagine that if God had sent an angel to write Mary’s epitaph when she died, He couldn’t have done better than to put over her grave what Christ said: **“She hath done what she could.”**

I would rather have that said over my grave – if it could honestly be said – than to have all the wealth of the Rothschilds.

Christ raised a monument to Mary that is more lasting than the monuments raised to Caesar or Napoleon. Their monuments crumble away, but hers endures. Her name never appeared in print while she was on earth, but today it is famous in hundreds of languages.

We may never be great; we may never be known outside our circle of friends; but we may, like Mary, do what we can.

May God help each of us to do what we can! Life will soon be over; it is short at the longest. Let us rise and follow in the footsteps of Mary of Bethany.

D. L. Moody

The Christian Life from Corinthians

Read I Corinthians 5-9

How to live a Christian life acceptable to God in an immoral world is a constantly reoccurring problem for many Christians. The Apostle Paul exposed a distinct difference between the Christian and pagan life-style as he wrote to the Corinthian church about their attitude toward condoning sin among their members. The problems with which Paul dealt are much the same as problems in the church today. It was reported to Paul that immorality existed in the life of the church. Although it was apparently common knowledge, no one was saying or doing anything about it. One member was committing fornication or adultery with *his father's wife* (I Corinthians 5:11), which would mean that he had an ongoing sexual relationship with his stepmother. Whether his father was no longer living is not indicated, but Paul is saying that they must immediately excommunicate the offending brother: *In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and My Spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus* (5:4-5).

The need to be more sensitive as to how our lives affect our witness in the world is important. But, the consequence of how our lives affect our church and Christian friends is critical. Still more serious is how our lives affect our relationship with God: *I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, not even to eat with such a person...Therefore put away from yourselves that wicked person* (5:11-13).

As the members of the church do nothing, it encourages the sinner to rationalize his sin and consequently do nothing about it. Whatever evil we allow to exist unchallenged in our church life will grow like weeds within the congregation. Consequently, the effort to leave things as they are in the interest of peace represents not only a cowardly position, but a stand against what the Bible clearly makes evident.

Other problems also existed in the Corinthian church. Some saw no relationship between their personal faith in Christ and their differences with other members of the church and they were suing each other in secular courts to settle their disputes. Paul continued: *Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to Law before the un-*

just, and not before the saints?...I speak to your shame...Why do you not rather take wrong? Why not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? (6:1, 5, 7).

Because of the seriousness of sin, the Apostle Paul again said: *Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.* (6:9-11)

All who repented of sin and turned to Christ were forgiven, but Paul also makes it just as clear that those who continue to practice these sins will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

While the Bible views sex as a gift of God, which can only bring happiness and fulfillment within the marriage relationship, there are many in our secular society that treat sex as no more than a physical appetite to be satisfied. Paul then wrote of the need to *give yourselves* (unhindered) *to fasting and prayer* (7:5). There are times when a spiritual need from God should supersede all other considerations. Prayer and fasting will bring results that are not attainable any other way.

The importance of the listening aspect of prayer is too often overlooked. In prayer, the ear, not the tongue, should be of first concern. The tongue is trained through the ear. What the ear allows into the mind, the tongues gives out. *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.* (Romans 10:17)

Bible Pathway, November 25, 1999
Murfreesboro, TN

Two Seas

There are two seas in Palestine, both fed by the same river. One is brackish and dead (The Dead Sea); the other, sweet and living (The Sea of Galilee).

What makes the difference? The sweet receives and gives; the brackish receives and keeps.

Fanaticism And True Joy

By James M. Hite

*There is much called joy in worship that is a stench to God.
What is called heavenly is actually carnal from the sod.
True joy is actually often silent communion with Divine.
But vocal praise and lifting hands can also be a sign.*

*Entertainment is always accompanied by nosy applause,
True joy is associated with humbly working "for the cause."
Fanaticism includes gymnastics and even climbing a pole,
True joy is known by a spiritual thrill felt deep within a soul.*

*Fanaticism includes bizarre, gaudy and immodest dress.
True joy upholds scriptural styles, which fails to impress.
"Christian" rock to "Did David Dance the Polka" charade.*

Real joy old time Gospel favorites seldom make the grade.

*Fanaticism includes barking like dogs and other sounds,
In true joy amen, Hallelujah and Glory to God abounds.
Fanaticism can encompass throwing books, many oddities.
True joy produces fears, worshipful singing and on knees.*

*God knows what comes from the heart and what's show.
Jesus told of those doing "spiritual things," he didn't know.
The Holy Spirit produces joy and manifestations thereof.
Fanaticism is Satan inspired, true joy comes from above.*

* * * * *

The Unanimous Verdict

Be. E. Bergesen

The police say: "Alcohol and gasoline make for accidents!"
The murderer says: "I don't know what I did; I was drunk!"
The judge says: "Alcohol makes for crime but doesn't ex-

cuse it!"

The psychologist says: "Alcohol robs a human of reason!"

The doctor says: "Alcohol weakens resistance and shortens life!"

The moralist says: "Alcohol and morals never kept company!"

The lady says: "The breath of alcohol is repulsive!"

The mother says: "Alcohol robs the home of its peace!"

The children say: "When father is sober, we run to meet him; when he is drunk, we run to hide from him."

The wife says: "Alcohol makes for divorce."

The undertaker says: "Alcohol speeds up business."

The liquor dealer says: "Give youth a sample, and you have a customer for life."

The wet voter says: "I voted for this!"

The "dry" legislator says: "I'd rather oppose my constituency than my conscience."

The pastor says: "Alcohol robbed many a soul of its eternal life."

The Bible says: "A drunkard shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Common sense says: "If I do not take the first drink, I can never become a drunkard."

Frances Willard says: "A drunkard's life has two chapters: (1) He could have stopped, if he would. (2) He would have stopped, if he could."

Now: What do you say?

Taken from "Sword of the Lord"

Man's Effort to Justify Himself

In all ages man has tried to justify himself before God. He has tried to produce a righteousness which is acceptable to God. When man does so, it becomes self-righteousness and not a God-provided righteousness. Self-righteousness does not, and in fact cannot, save any man.

The Israelites of Paul's time went about to establish their own righteousness. They even had "a zeal of God" (Rom. 10:1-3), but they were not saved because of that. These people were very religious. They fasted and said long prayers. They observed all religious holidays and carried on the temple worship. They reason they were not saved was that in all they did, they were trying to establish their own righteousness, and that was not acceptable to God.

J. F. Strombeck in
'Clothed in the Righteousness of God'

Editorial

RES

Anxiety or Worry FREE!

“*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*” (Philippians 4:6, please read verses 4-9)

No doubt we are living in a cultural society today that is very much apprehensive, almost ‘filled’ with anxiety and worry, and it is robbing us of a peace and joy that the Lord wants us to possess! Some of the definitions of the word ‘anxious’ are: Anxiety – distress or uneasiness of mind caused by apprehension of danger or misfortune, eagerness. A state of uneasiness and distress about the future, apprehension and worry. The Lord wants us to be ‘free’ from this ‘drain’ and instead experience the peace of God. Naturally, before a person can experience the ‘peace of God’ a person must possess ‘peace with God.

In the schooling of life the **Holy Spirit is our Tutor**. He is so gentle and patient in instructing us with His Recipe for life.

Let **us** take a closer look at **verse 6** in our above text. First, we notice that the Lord again is not sharing an option or suggestion but a *command*: “*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything....*” Regardless IF you or I are living up to it, it still is a command and is forever settled in Heaven! According to the Holy Scriptures it is **SIN** for a child of God to worry and we need to call it and deal with it as **sin!** It says ‘be anxious for *nothing!*’ That is quite inclusive and exclusive! When we worry, most likely we think that we are in Control. God says: “*casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*” 1 Peter 5:7. Please read also **Matthew 6:24-34**. HOW do we gain victory over worry? We do it by turning our anxiety/worries INTO prayer and supplication. Now true ‘prayer’ is not dependent on how much faith I have; BUT is based upon GOD with a spirit of

‘expectancy’; because it is dependent upon HIM!

Also ‘prayer’ is a two-way communion/fellowship. It is not only speaking with God (provided our heart is right with Him), but letting God speak to us by His Living **WORD, the BIBLE**. While ‘supplication’ is to ask for humbly or earnestly, as by praying, it is to beseech, to make a humble and earnest petition, beg. “*Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah*” **Psalm 62:8** AS HE IS OUR ROCK!

HE is spoken of as *The Rock* 33 times in Scripture. (Please read Deuteronomy 32:3-7). (Please read the devotional article based on Nehemiah 1:6 in this issue of the MG).

OH! We need to season our prayers with ‘Thanksgiving!’ Thanksgiving is always timely. **James 1:17**. Do not worship the ‘*gift(s)*’ but the **GIVER!** Thanksgiving is gratitude of the heart. *Every child of God should truly be thankful!* IN the “last days, perilous times shall come,” and being unthankful will be one of the characteristics. II Timothy 3:1-17

THANKSGIVING RESULTS IN THANKS LIVING!

THEN

“*let your requests be made known to God*”
PRAY FOR THE ‘LEADERS’ OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY AND FOR OUR NATION!

MAY YOU AND YOURS EXPERIENCE A VERY BLESSED THANKSGIVING SEASON!

We used to think of ministers as somewhat stern and sometimes severe, but today your hail-fellow-well-met dominie is often the life of the party, which means the death of the prophet! His parishioners call him by his first name and boast that he is “just one of us.” But they will tire of that, for he should be not just one of them but ahead of them. The preacher who jests and jokes with his people all week cannot stand in the pulpit on Sunday with power to reprove, rebuke and exhort.

Vance Havner

WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?

I love words and enjoy studying their origins and uses. Words can be fun, but if not used properly they also can be dangerous. So what does all this talk about words have to do with the title? As we notice from our text, Jeremiah said this about God's words: *"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart."* Have you ever had a satisfying meal of Scripture? You may be able to skip breakfast, but you must never neglect the feeding of your soul. Where will you get the spiritual energy to fight against the wiles of the Devil unless you consume God's Word? Where will you receive the wisdom necessary to know and to do what is right if you fail to "eat" the Word of God (Psa. 119:130)?

A certain restaurant chain offers "power breakfasts. "They are simple, well-rounded meals providing the needed energy to get you going in the morning. God's Word is always a "power meal." You can eat from it any time of day, and it will provide the spiritual energy you need. But many people skip this important spiritual meal and then wonder why they are weak. Instead they eat the junk food of the world and have no appetite for spiritual food. The psalmist, however, was fully satisfied from God's Word: *"How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"* (Psa. 119:103). Job, in the midst of his pain and suffering, said, *"I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food"* (Job 23:12). What's for breakfast? May we be "nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine: (1 Tim. 4:6).

Taken from "Feature"
Fundamental Evangelistic Assn., Inc.
Telephone 805 - 528-3335

**Making No Apologies For
The Old Time Christianity
nor from seeking to practice
it!**

*It worked before and it will
work again!*

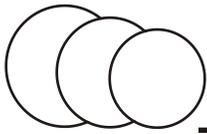
Dry - Eyed Teaching

By Greg Gordon

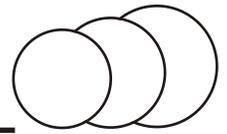
PASTOR, IF YOU ARE ONLY SHARING, you are not caring for your people. If you are simply talking, you are not tearing down the strongholds of the enemy. We need preaching in this late hour. Dry-eyed teaching will not produce life in men. Henry Blackaby comments that during times of revival "powerful, scriptural preaching is exhibited." Powerful preaching is a hallmark of true revival. Revival preachers demonstrate their commitment to the authority and sufficiency of the Scriptures, with bold, urgent, and uncompromising preaching, as they set before God's people the way of life and death. Powerful, Spirit-filled sermons concerning sin, Christ and the cross penetrate the hearts of the saved and lost alike with the realities of eternity. Concerning a sermon Whitefield preached in Scotland (1742), one present reported, "During the time of divine worship, solemn, profound reverence overspread every countenance. Many cry out in the bitterness of their soul. Some ... From the stoutest men, to the most tender child, shake and tremble and a few fall down as dead ... when the ... Preacher speaks of redeeming Love, and talks of the precious Savior ... All seem to breathe after Him ..."

Hear the confession of Mr. Robe, a minister used in the 1742 revival in Kilsyth, Scotland. Hear what was the doctrine that was so zealously propagated, and which God's Holy Spirit honored so much in his day: "I feared to daub or deal slightly with my people, but told great and small that they were by nature the children of the Devil, while they were in the state of unbelief; and that if they continued so to the end, I told them, in our Lord's plain terms, they would be damned. I resolved that I would cry aloud, and not spare, and preach with the seriousness and fervor of one that knew that my hearers must either be pre-vailed with or be damned; and so that they might discern I was in good sadness with them, and really meant as I spoke. Aware that the greater part of every public audience is secure, unconcerned, and fearless, I preached the terrors of the law in the strongest terms I could, that is to say, in express Scripture terms. Yet I ever delighted to follow up such statement with a declaration of the gospel of the grace of God. After the law had done its office, I have seen the congregation in tears of joy when the law of grace from Mount Zion was proclaimed." Preacher, are you dealing slightly with your people? Are you proclaiming the utmost "terrors of the law" to your people and their true condition by nature?

Taken from "The Heartbeat of The Remnant"
400 Main St Ste 1
Ephrata, PA 17522



From Our Fellowship Circle



Mrs. D. G.

Sebring, FL

Thank you for writing the plain, true Gospel and I am praying that the *Morning Glory* will keep on being printed and sent out as we certainly need to call out to Jesus to heal America!

I am thankful to be here at ...; where helping each other is a continual experience and hopefully trusting that this will be true until Jesus comes!

I miss my dear husband; but am thankful that I know he is with the Lord. Our hope (solid Rock) is in the Lord!

It would be wonderful to be able to attend one of your Bible Conferences or Gospel Tent services; but anyway I am praying that many will come to hear the Word.

V. O.

Viroqua, WI

Thanks and God's blessings to you in your work for Him. The paper *Morning Glory*, is a real blessing to me.

Thank you for your excellent sermons and articles – The Truth – that is hardly spoken today.

It is so wonderful we can pray for our family: children, grandchildren and others as we know Jesus hears and answers prayer.

G. & N. L.

We really appreciate the *Morning Glory*. It has messages we need to hear and also give it to others to read!

Editor's Note: Most of our new readers/subscribers come as result of your encouragement as a 'reader' yourself! For Christmas, why not prayerfully send in names of loved ones/neighbors and friends who YOU care about with a donation for the subscriptions! What a 'gift' that lasts for a 'year' and for ETERNITY! **God's Grace and Blessing!**

A. G.

Strandquist, MN

A gift to help the *Morning Glory* to continue sending out the Word of **Truth**.

The Lord says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3.

D. E.

Northfield, MN

Thanks for all the wonderful reading in the *Morning Glory*. Keep up the good work.

I would like to order four "Altar Steps" for my grandchildren. I remember my husband and I reading it to our children.

To Coin a Phrase

The words "**In God We Trust**" carried on many of our coins are traceable to the efforts of Reverend M. R. Watkinson of Ridleyville, Pennsylvania. His letter of concern, addressed to the honorable S. P. Chase, was dated November 13, 1861.

Seven days later Mr. Chase wrote to Mr. James Pollock, Director of the United States Mint, as follows:

"No nation can be strong except in the strength of God or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. Will you cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the finest and tersest words possible this national recognition?"

G. Curtis Jones in *What Are You Worth?*

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Hard Rock Christians?

“**Christian**” (??) hard rock and hip hop artists converged on the Twin Cities and others this summer for Rock the River, an “evangelistic” (?) concert tour that hopes to reach youth with a positive message of hope. Sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the tour was to visit four cities. Each concert was to feature hours of music interspersed by brief messages from Franklin Graham...

Editor's Note: SAD, SAD. I not only believe that (Christian Rock (?) music caters to the emotions/flesh (old nature), **BUT** that sadly ‘many’ times it *fosters* a spirit of rebellion against the things of God! The Billy Graham Organization has gone from singing “*Just As I Am*” to “rockin’ and rollin’ in the aisles. Read the account of the writing of “*Just As I Am*” on page 15.

National Day of Prayer

IN 1952 President Truman established one day a year as a National Day of Prayer. IN 1988, President Reagan designated the first Thursday in May of each year as the National Day of Prayer.

This year however, President Obama decided to cancel the ceremony at the White House, not wanting to offend anyone; YET September 25, 2009 from 4 am until 7 pm, a National Day of Prayer for the Muslim Religion was to be held on Capital Hill beside the White House.

Editor's Note: II Chronicles 7:14 says “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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Perhaps many things going on now in this beloved country of ours and around the world could be solved IF we would heed this Scripture.

Civil Union Law Impacts Religious Retreat Centers

Those who believe “gay marriage” would have no impact on religious freedoms may want to take a look at New Jersey, where the state is investigating a United Methodist retreat center that prohibited a lesbian couple from using one of its facilities for a civil union ceremony.

The question is whether the nonprofit Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association - an ocean-front retreat-type ministry owned and operated by members of the United

Methodist Church - violated the state’s antidiscrimination law. Once rebuffed, the two women, Harriet Bernstein and Luisa Paster, filed a complaint with the state’s civil rights office.....

Lee Moore, a spokesman for New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram, said the lawsuit was “premature” since findings from the investigation have yet to be released, the New York Times reported.

But Brian Raum, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, said the state should have “refused to entertain a complaint against a religious organization” and told the couple who filed it that “the law against discrimination doesn’t apply under these circumstances.”

“Whenever the state investigates, they inherently affect your right to operate as you normally would,” Raum told Baptist Press. “They put you under compulsion to provide records. There’s a stigma attached to an investigation. Anytime you investigate, people assume you’ve done something wrong.”

If the ministry was to provide its facility to a lesbian couple, it would be a patent endorsement of the civil unions law, Raum said.

Homosexual activists long have argued that if “gay marriage” is legalized nationwide, ministers would not be forced to conduct the ceremonies. Raum, though, says there are many other ways such a law could impact religious freedoms. New Jersey, he says, is one example

The Ocean Group Camp Meeting Association was founded in 1869 and has owned the property since the 1870s.

Michael Foust for Baptist Press

Tangipahoa School Board Votes Unanimously to Adopt ADF Model Prayer Policy

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board voted unanimously to adopt a model prayer policy drafted by attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). The new policy sets forth constitutional guidelines for board members to reinstitute the long-standing tradition of opening meetings with an invocation.

“The practice of opening public meetings with prayer is and always has been lawful,” said ADF Senior Legal Counsel Mike Johnson. “The Constitution does not ban citizens or elected officials from invoking divine guidance and blessings upon their public work. It’s a practice that is part of our nation’s religious heritage, and the Constitu-

tion does not prevent public officials today from doing the same thing America's founders did."

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board has been a frequent legal target of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). ACLU has filed five lawsuits in 13 years against the Tangipahoa Parish School Board on matters related to religion in some form.

On July 26, a full panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued a landmark decision in favor of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board, whose rights were successfully defended by ADF attorneys. The ruling severely undercut the ACLU and its "offended observer" claims in Establishment Clause cases.

"Public officials throughout our country need to be encouraged and reminded that they can and should resist the increasingly radical demands of secularist groups. Just because the ACLU claims it is 'offended' by hearing a public prayer does not mean the prayer has to be silenced," said Johnson.

...The policy ...has already been adopted by a growing number of local governments.

Alliance Defense Fund, www.telladf.org

Evangelical Christians Now Thanking Allah

"This year, a group of "Emergent Christians" led by one of the United States' most influential pastors, Brian McLaren, have announced they will actually be 'observing' the Muslim holy month, along with a Muslim 'partner,'" writes Joel..."Ramadan is the month that Muslims thank Allah, their god, for revealing the Quran to Muhammad, their prophet. On McLaren's personal blog, he recently announced his intentions: 'We, as Christians, humbly seek to join Muslims in this observance of Ramadan as a God-honoring expression of peace, fellowship, and neighborliness.'"

Richardson questions whether such an "observance" is actually tantamount to an endorsement of Islam.

He points out: "Every year, during the ninth month on the Islamic calendar, the Muslim world celebrates a month long fast known as Ramadan. The timing of the fast of Sha'aban is specifically intended to commemorate the month in which the Quran was 'sent down' or 'revealed' to Muhammad. During Ramadan, Muslims will abstain from smoking or drinking, from sex or sexual thoughts and eating during the day light hours. Muslims also believe that good deeds done during Ramadan will be doubly credited before Allah."

Richardson adds that McLaren is not fasting for the salvation of his Muslim friends.

"Instead he is seeking through the practice of this Is-

lamic ritual to promote the common good, together with people of other faith traditions,' ..."

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Booze Wages Devastating War on Russia

Alcohol abuse has fueled an unprecedented spike in mortality among Russians in the post-Soviet era

MOSCOW A study by an international team of public health researchers documents the devastating impact of alcohol abuse on Russia, showing that drinking caused more than half of the deaths among Russians aged 15 to 54 in the era following the Soviet collapse.

The 52 percent figure compares to estimates that less than 4 percent of deaths worldwide are caused by alcohol abuse, according to the study by Russian, British and French researchers published in today's edition of the British medical journal, the Lancet.

David Zaridze, head of the Russian Cancer Research Center and lead author of the study, estimated that the increase in alcohol consumption since 1987, the year when then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's restrictions on alcohol sales collapsed, cost the lives of 3 million Russians who would otherwise be alive today. "This loss is similar to that of a war," Zaridze said.

The study is part of a long-running debate among scientists as to the causes of an unprecedented spike in mortality among Russians in the post-Soviet era. Some researchers have blamed the crumbling of the Soviet health care system, increased smoking, changes in diet or a loss of jobs that raised stress levels for the mysterious rise in deaths.

Many others pin the blame squarely on increased drinking, which the report says roughly doubled in Russia between 1987 and 1994 —the equivalent of about 1.3 gallons of pure alcohol annually to about 2.8 gallons.

"If you look at the dynamics of death and the dynamics of alcohol consumption in Russia, it is obvious that all these sharp increases and decreases of the mortality level are caused by increases and decreases in alcohol consumption," Zaridze said.

He argued that the social and economic shocks of the late 1980s and 1990s drove people to drink. "Alcohol consumption is always connected with poverty," he said. "It's been associated with social crisis. If we take our mortality statistics, it will be obvious that it's parallel to our social crisis, to our social instability."

Russia and some of its Eastern European neighbors still have the world's highest levels of alcohol consumption, according to another study also published in the Lancet today. Russians currently consume almost twice the

global average, the equivalent of 1.64 gallons of pure ethanol alcohol per year, the global report found.

By Douglas Birch
Associated Press

Taken from the *Star Tribune*, June 26, 2009

WHEN AM I TRULY CONVERTED?

By Prof. O Hallesby, Oslo, Norway

When is a soul truly converted? Answer: When an awakened soul has received a clear and full light of his totally lost and undone condition, and also a clear light of the full and free grace of God. In other words, the moment when he receives the full deliverance from the bondage to the law, and at the same time the full assurance of his state of grace. There are those who will not believe a person is really converted until these blessings have been experienced. Until that moment a person is merely awakened.

However, there may not be full agreement as to words, just so the real truth is fully acknowledged.

The question is often asked: Does the awakened and penitent soul go lost if he should die before he is set free from the bondage to the law and has received the assurance of salvation? That is rather a confusing question. God would not let anyone go lost if it was just a question of time. But an important matter is wrapped up in this confusion, which is this: Is the awakened and penitent soul on the *outside* or on the *inside* of the fellowship with Jesus until the soul has received the full assurance of salvation?

From Scripture proofs we must hold that a penitent and awakened soul is on the *inside* though he has not received the full assurance of salvation. Note how Jesus treated His disciples. They had not come far in clarity about either sin or grace before Pentecost. That Jesus was to die for their sins they did not grasp. But Jesus spoke to them as converted believers: "*Ye are clean because of the word which I have spoken unto you*" (John 13:10; 15:3). He says plainly that their names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20).

So Jesus, now as then, does not go by our shortcomings in our grasp of the truth, just so there is an honest will in surrendering to the will of God without any compromise. Therefore the Scripture shows that from the moment the soul has turned wholeheartedly to Christ and accepted Him, he is looked upon as truly converted. For he has acknowledged and confessed his sins as far as he has received light, and Jesus is his only salvation, even though he has he has not received full light concerning his

sinful and lost state, nor concerning God's free grace in Christ.

Selected

* * * * *

**"Thou art fairer than the children of men:
grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God
hath blessed thee for ever." Ps. 45:2.**

Jesus is very precious to those who have accepted Him as their personal Saviour. They find Him dearer than all the people of the world.

A Chinaman met a Chinese convert who was very happy in his Christianity. The unbeliever mocked him by saying,

"How many dollars did you get from the missionary so that he could baptize you? About sixty dollars?"

"O, I got much more than that," replied the Christian. "About three hundred dollars?" asked the ungodly man. "Much more than that," replied the Christian happily. "Maybe three thousand dollars?" said the heathen, much surprised.

"I got much more than the weight of this mountain in silver and gold. The missionary gave me this book, and it has made me richer and happier than if I had been given the whole world." And he held up his precious Bible.

In the Bible he had found Jesus. He was now fairer to him than any of the children of men. Have you seen Jesus in your Bible? Read your Bible, and there you will find all about Jesus, and you will find eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus, warm our hearts toward Thee. Increase our devotion to Thee and Thy cause. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Fair is the sunshine, Fairer the moonlight
And the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer:
Than all the angels in the sky.*

Taken from "*Altar Steps*"
by Pastor R. P. Haakonson

Editor's Note: This fine 'family' devotional book can now be received through the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation for a suggested donation of five dollars or more; plus one dollar for postage. This would make a fine Christmas gift!

Leafing Through The Pages Of History

Andros Hanson, Estherville, Iowa

On April 3, 1771, Hans Nielson Hauge was born in Norway. In 1796 he had a wonderful experience; while singing a song, his being was lifted close to God. Hauge could not explain what had transpired in his soul, but he felt so sad because he had not served his God better. Everything in the world he counted loss. He received such a love for God and his fellow men. He had such a desire to read God's Word and to witness to his fellow men who were living in sin and shame. Hauge made much use of the opportunities he had to witness. As a result, many were converted; but many also began to persecute him, including pastors and parishioners. This led to his imprisonment. Those who were converted to God through Hauge's ministry also bore witness of their Saviour until many in Norway became Christians. Many of these Christians came to America and were faithful in bearing witness through lip and life.

The northern Iowa Innermission Society was organized in May, 1898, and great blessings throughout the district followed. Many Innermission meetings were held in churches and homes, the speakers being mostly lay preachers who had been born again. The pastors in our neighborhood worked in harmony with the society for the salvation of souls. God alone knows how many were saved.

When I was confirmed I meant to be true to God, but can a baptized person fall away from God? Yes, when he forgets the grace that he once received, resists the Holy Spirit, and neglects the Word of God and prayer. This happened to me and I was bound by the devil. At first when I became troubled about my sins, the devil whispered, "You need not worry. You have so many good relatives. God is merciful to thousands of generations." But that did not satisfy very long. Then he said, "You can't be saved the way you are. You must become better." But in my own sight I became worse until the devil told me there was no more hope for me. What an awful condition!

In 1915 I moved near the Palestine Church near Dolliver, Iowa, to work for my brother-in-law, Carl, who had been converted in 1906 in his parents' home. Many other young people were converted at the same meeting.

One evening in April, while Carl and my sister were having their devotions, my sister asked me if I would like to become a Christian. I answered that there was no hope

for me, for I had sinned against God's Spirit. My sister and Carl read many of God's promises and encouraged me to pray. I did this, confessing my sins and lost condition. To my surprise, God forgave my sins and I became a new creature in Christ. After that I had no desire for the old life or the old friends. But I was accepted among the Christians as a new born child. They fed me with the sincere milk of the Word, that I as a newborn might grow. I also needed help to walk in the new way. The older Christians had patience and wisdom to lead the younger ones, as there were a number who were added to the flock from time to time.

The Innermission Society continued faithful to labor for souls' salvation. According to Rev. B. K. Barstad, one of the great problems for the Union in 1917 was the laymen's work; but because of compromise on the part of some, it came into being. But some time between 1917 and 1928 the church district decided to control the lay work, which proved to be the death stab. From then on less and less invitations came from the congregations, and finally no more came from the ALC. What then has taken its place? A form of godliness, disregarding some of God's Word (II Cor. 6:14-28), and also the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21) which are manifest and whose participants shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Men cannot disregard God's Word and get away with it, for all things are known to His all-seeing eyes.

We have been led by our leaders into the ecumenical movement and into the WCC. It reminds me of the story told of hundreds of Roman residents who complained that the milk they were served smelled bad and tasted worse. Police launched an investigation and discovered that some of the trucks used for milk delivery had also been used for hauling kerosene. The church leaders are mixing much together that we may have unity.

Martin Luther said, "Cursed be that love for unity for whose sake the Word of God must be put at stake." It is better to be divided by truth than to be united by error." "To go against conscience is neither right nor safe; therefore I cannot and I will not recant; so help me God."

Luther stood on the premise that the just shall live by faith. He had by faith in Jesus experienced peace with God through the forgiveness of his sins and stood firm against all ungodliness.

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will

come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matt. 16:24)

The footsteps of Jesus led to the cross and suffering. A crown of thorns was place on His head; He was slapped, mocked, spit upon. The creature hanged the Creator on the cross. He was rejected by men and forsaken by God for a while until He cried, “It is finished.” Then He bowed His head and gave up the Ghost. “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23:46b)

Redemption was complete for all. Everyone born of women will have to choose which way he will go – follow the man-made church or Jesus Christ, the only Savior provided by God for man’s salvation. I believe that everyone who wants to be saved had better send in his reservation now or he may be lost forever.

From “Morning Glory,” April 21, 1965

* * * * *

“Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now ...” Neh. 1:6

The Lord wants us to be fervent in our prayers; then He knows that we are in earnest about our requests. He does not want half-hearted prayers; do not be afraid to plead with Him, it is to His glory.

The children of the neighborhood were talking about a coming party, but Mary was afraid that she would not be able to go because she did not have any shoes to wear. She went to her father and said, “Can Jesus give us what we pray for?”

“Yes,” her father answered, “He has promised that He will grant us what we pray for according to His will.” Mary went into the yard and knelt by a big tree. Her father stood at the kitchen window and watched her, he heard her pray; “Dear Jesus, you are rich and can do anything you want to. Will you please send me a pair of shoes because I want to go to the children’s party on the fifteenth. Amen.”

On the morning of the day of the party a neighbor came in with a pair of shoes. “I don’t suppose these shoes would fit Mary,” she said, “but if they do she is welcome to them.”

“I know they will fit,” quickly answered Mary who was standing near by, “because Jesus would never send me a pair of shoes that did not fit.” She had faith to believe that the Lord would provide for her need.

Dear Lord Jesus, we praise Thee that Thou doest hear

and answer prayer. Strengthen our faith in Thee. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Taken from “Altar Steps”
By Pastor R. P. Haakonson

Reformation Reverberations

“If the Reformation has done nothing else, it has clarified what is perhaps the most important theological question in this or any other age: — **Do we find the truth by submitting to the Church, or do we find the Church by submitting to the truth?** Rome defends the first possibility while the reformers defend the second.” Carnell in Christianity Today, Oct. 1, 1958

“Luther had to decide between a united church that taught error and a divided church that at least allowed for the possibility of truth. When a decision must be made between unity and truth, unity must yield to truth, for it is better to be divided by truth than to be united by error.” Ibid

“The apostasy of churches always creeps on apace when priests and prophets, afraid of imperiling their worldly interests become cowards, opportunists and time servers, and not daring to speak out the truth that is in them, suffer the cause of spirituality and righteousness to go by default.” Ralph Turnbull in A Minister’s Obstacles.

“To sin by silence when they should speak in protest, makes cowards of men.” Abraham Lincoln.

“No greater mischief can happen to a Christian people, than to have God’s Word taken from them, or falsified, so that they no longer have it pure and clear. God grant we and our descendants be not witnesses of such a calamity.” Luther’s Table Talks XII.

Selected

**His grace is sufficient
No one can exhaust it;
Be strong in that grace
Abundant and true.
Draw largely, continually out of His full-
ness;
His grace shall be always sufficient for you.**

~anon.

Sinner, Do You Believe The Bible?

There is such a place as Hell. Let no one deceive you with vain words. What men do not like they try hard not to believe. There is such a place as Hell!

When the Lord Jesus Christ comes to judge the world, He will punish all who are not his disciples with a fearful punishment. All who are found impenitent and unbelieving, all who have clung to sin, stuck to the world and set their affections on things below - all such shall come to an awful end. "*Whosoever is not written in the book of life shall be "cast into the lake of fire"*" (Rev. 20:15). This will be Hell.

Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it. Hell is real and true. It is true as Heaven, as true as the fact that Christ died upon the cross. There is not a fact or doctrine which you may not lawfully doubt if you doubt Hell. Disbelieve Hell, and you unscrew, unsettle and unpin everything in Scripture. You may as well throw your Bible aside at once. From "No Hell" to "No God" is but a series of steps.

Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it: Hell will have inhabitants. "*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God*" (Ps. 9:17). The same blessed Saviour who now sits on the throne of grace will one day sit on a throne of judgment, and men will see there is such a thing as "the wrath of the Lamb." The same lips which now say, "Come unto me," will one day say, "Depart from me, ye cursed"!

Alas! How awful the thought of being condemned by Christ Himself, judged by the Saviour, sentenced to misery by the Lamb!

Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it: Hell will be intense and unutterable woe. It is vain to talk of all the expressions about its being figures of speech. The pit, the prison, the worm, the fire, the thirst, the blackness, the darkness, the weeping, the gnashing of teeth, the second death - even if these had been figures of speech, Bible figures mean something beyond all question, and here they mean something which man's mind can never fully conceive.

Oh, reader, the miseries of mind and conscience are far worse than those of the body. The whole extent of Hell, the present suffering, the bitter recollection of the past, the hopeless prospect of the future, will never be

fully known except by those who go there.

Do you believe the Bible? Then depend upon it: Hell is eternal. It must be eternal, or words have no meaning at all. "Forever and ever"; "everlasting"; "unquenchable" - all of these are expressions that cannot be explained away. It must be eternal, or the very foundations of Heaven are cast down. If Hell has an end, Heaven has an end too. They both stand or fall together. It must be eternal, or every doctrine of the Gospel is undermined.

If a man may escape Hell at length without faith in Christ, then sin is no longer an infinite evil, and there wasn't any need for Christ's making an atonement. And where is the warrant for saying that Hell can ever change a heart or make it fit for Heaven? It must be eternal, or Hell would cease to be Hell altogether. Give a man hope, and he will bear anything.

Ah, reader, these are solemn things. "Well," said Carlyle, "forever" is the most solemn saying in the Bible."

Reader, I beseech you in all tender affection, beware of false views of the subject on which I have been dwelling. Beware of manufacturing a God of your own - a God who is all mercy but not just, a God who is all love but not holy, a God who has a Heaven for everybody but Hell for none, a God who can allow good and bad to be side by side in time but will make no distinction between good and bad in eternity. Such a God is an idol of your own, as true an idol as was ever molded out of brass or clay.

Ah, reader, there is a Hell! Take heed, lest you find it out to your cost too late. Surely it were better to say over every chapter of the Word of God, "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth." If men would say this, they never would deny Hell. Do you know that Calvary is the greatest evidence of an eternal Hell?

Why did the Lord Jesus suffer so, if we were all on our way to Heaven? Rest assured that if you continually reject Christ and his marvelous sacrifice for your sins, you are as sure of going to Hell as you would be were you there now (Rev. 21:8).

Don't spend eternity with the ungodly when Christ died to save you from an eternal and everlasting Hell!

J. C. Ryle in '*Gathered Gems*'

Just As I Am

This beloved hymn-poem might never have been written had not its author, Charlotte Elliott, experienced the bitter emotions of frustration and uselessness.

One day, in her forty-fifth year, Charlotte felt unusually depressed and alone. The members of her family had gone to a pleasant church function. She remained bedridden in her room, as she had been since the age of thirty-two. Before this serious illness came, Charlotte had lived a carefree life, gaining popularity as a portrait artist and writer of humorous verse.

Now all of this past, she felt so useless, so out of the mainstream of life.

Then came nagging doubts about her Christian life. Although she had been a devoted Christian for years, she found herself wondering about her spiritual relationship with Christ. Could she be sure that all was well between her soul and the Savior?

By an act of the will, Charlotte began listing Scriptural reasons for believing that she was truly a child of God. She listed the power of Christ's shed blood; His promise to accept all who would come to Him in faith and repentance; His ability to pardon, to cleanse, and to relieve. They flowed from her pen in poetic rhyme and meter:

*"Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."*

Her prayer-poem came to the attention of the famed American composer, William H. Bradbury. His heart was warmed by the truths expressed by this English lady. He liked the emphasis on claiming Christ's merits, not our own, for finding peace with God. He composed the melody to which these words are sung.

In recent years, "Just As I Am" has been the favorite closing song of the Billy Graham Crusades. George Beverly Shea, backed by the Crusade Choir, sings this prayer-hymn as thousands come to Christ – just as they are!

Charlotte Elliott never regained her health. She was bedridden until her heavenly home-going at the

age of eighty-two. Before her death she received more than one thousand letters from people who thanked her for having written, "Just As I Am." In this way, God proved to her that He can take the one who feels "useless" and make that person truly "useful" to His kingdom!

Taken from Hymns of Faith
Northwestern College Radio Network

*Just as I Am, Thou Wilt Receive
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

Update

BEING THANKFUL

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:6-7.

IF you are a thankful/grateful person we would so appreciate receiving a portion of what God entrusted into your midst to invest into *eternal dividends* in His Eternal Kingdom! YES, we would so appreciate hearing from you and seek to be wise investors in His Work with Gratitude. Keep in mind the vehicle, *Morning Glory*, Bible Conferences, a part-time Field Representative and other expenses in order to keep this **Ministry** going, hopefully until **Jesus Comes**, by His GRACE. 'Occupy til I come'!

OH, how encouraging it is to know that you are standing by and with us in this sinful world as we seek to glorify His Name in seeking to reach precious Souls (Salvation) and to edify, nourish, enlighten and strengthen some of God's Children. As you know, we are in a 'spiritual battle', so please uphold the arms of believing PRAYER. – **Thank YOU!**

Any and all 'gifts' are truly appreciated!

August's income for *Morning Glory* - \$2,553.85

September's income for *Morning Glory* - \$1,273.66

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



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: Morning Glory
2. Publication Number: 887-740
3. Filing Date: 09-23-09
4. Issue Frequency: January, February, March, May, June, July, August, September
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 10
6. Annual Subscription Price: none
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Hauge Publishing, 808 Martha Lake Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-5856
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St NE, Dilworth, MN 56529
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St NE, Dilworth, MN 56529; Rodney Stueland, Editor, 508 5th St NE, Dilworth, MN 56529; same as above

Table with 2 columns: Full Name, Complete Mailing Address. Row 1: Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation, 508 5th St NE, Dilworth, MN 56529.

Table with 2 columns: Full Name, Complete Mailing Address. Row 1: None.

12. Tax Status: For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes. [X] Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months.

Table with 3 columns: 13. Publication Title (Morning Glory), 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below (August 2009), 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Rows include Total Number of Copies (1600), Paid Circulation (1495, 51, 31), Total Paid Distribution (1577), Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (1577), Total Distribution (1600), Copies not Distributed (23), Total (1600), Percent Paid (100%).

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: [X] If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the November issue of this publication.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: James R. Hauge, Date: 9/27/09

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Periodicals Postage Paid at Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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

Volume XCI • Number 9 • November 2009 (USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Hauge Spring Bible Conference

Looking For:

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

THANK YOU!
