



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • October 2014

Martin Luther: Monumental Reformer

Even if your job is a dishwasher or stable boy, yours is a divinely appointed vocation, as sacred as that of pastor or church official (Ed. Provided that is God’s calling for YOU).

Even if you attend church twice every Sunday without fail, give most of your income to the poor, read your Bible and pray every day, and live a rigorously moral life, this will not earn you acceptance with God and entrance into heaven. That only comes as a free gift from God, apart from all your religious dedication.

These were the kinds of things that Martin Luther proclaimed in a time when the church held a frightening control over the lives and consciences of the common people. These teachings changed the world.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 300 years after Luther, asserted: Martin Luther the Reformer is one of the most extraordinary persons in history and has left a deeper impression of his presence in the modern world than any other except Columbus.”

Lightning strikes

Luther didn’t set out to become a world-class leader. He was headed for a career as a lawyer. Those plans were upset when as a promising 22-year-old university student, on July 2, 1505, he was caught in a violent thunderstorm. Lightning struck close to him. Thrown to the ground and fearing for his life, he prayed to St. Anne that, if she would save him, he would become a monk.

Monkery not enough

Luther kept his vow and pursued the monastic life

with an intensity that went far beyond the already strict requirements. He wore himself out with prayer and fastings. He wore out his superiors with his excessive and interminable confessions. “I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery it was I. All my brothers in the monastery who knew me will bear me out. If I had kept on any longer, I should have killed myself with vigils, prayers, readings and other work.” But even these superhuman efforts did not bring peace to his tormented soul. When he said his first mass, he was “utterly stupefied and terror-stricken” at the thought of standing before the Almighty God.

The door to heaven opened

His wise confessor and superior, Dr. Johann Staupitz, secured for himself a noble niche in church history in his decision to appoint Luther as a professor of the Bible at Wittenberg. Through his laborious studies of the Scriptures, Luther came to see that the guilt that consumed him could not be lifted by more religion, and the God he dreaded so much was not the God that Christ has revealed. Shooting forth from the book of Romans (1:17), another thunderbolt crossed his path: “Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the justice of God and the statement that ‘*the just shall live by his faith.*’ Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which, through grace and sheer mercy, God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise. The whole of Scripture took on a new meaning, and whereas before the ‘justice of God’ had filled me with hate, now it became to

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Volume XCVI – Number 10
October 2014

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

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The Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation is registered with the Department of Internal Revenue as a non-profit religious organization. Contributions for all phases of the Hauge Federation are deductible for income tax purposes.

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me inexpressibly sweet in greater love. This passage of Paul became to me a gate to heaven ...”

Indulgences light the fuse

Luther was also a pastor at the city church in Wittenberg and began to preach his now-found faith to his congregation. But at the same time a representative of Pope Leo X, a monk named John Tetzel, was selling indulgences to raise money to finance the building of St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. Indulgences were letters of pardon which guaranteed forgiveness of sins.

Luther saw this as a perversion of the Gospel. He wrote up 95 theses in Latin and posted them on the door of the castle church inviting scholars to debate the issue of indulgences. It was no big deal as scholars did that all the time. And it was also no big deal in that no one showed up to debate. But the printing press had recently been invented and Luther's theses were printed up. Within weeks copies were in demand and stimulating debate across Europe.

An epoch battle ensued. Within three years a "papal bull" was issued, condemning Luther. He agonized through another level of inner torment in his life. Did he dare stand before the power, wisdom, and doctors of church and claim his interpretation of Christianity was correct? Before God he could not do otherwise, unless convinced from Scripture that he was wrong.

Branded a heretic, excommunicated, banished and condemned by the emperor Charles V, he was to be captured or killed on sight. But he was kidnaped and protected by Duke Frederick of Saxony.

He poured out his energy in study, thinking, writing, and translating the New Testament into German that everyone could understand. Later he returned to Wittenberg to deal with crises there, while his ideas and writings spread across Europe like water from a burst dam. The Reformation could not be stopped.

Back to school

Luther married a former nun, Kathryn von Bora. Together they had six children and raised four orphans. He concluded that “marriage is a far better school for character than any monastery.”

Taken from *Glimpses*, by Christian History Institute, Copyright – 1991.

Editor’s Note: Martin Luther’s years (1483 – 1546). Praise God that he experienced the gift of free Salvation (Deliverer) by Jesus Christ alone – Faith Alone, Word Alone & Grace Alone, AND empowered by the Bible/Holy Spirit to experience the price of denying self and taking up ‘his’ cross (discipleship) and following JESUS! YES, a sinner, like you and I, saved by GRACE!

* * * * *

For perhaps he (Onesimus) therefore departed for a season, that thou (Philemon) shouldst receive him for ever. Philemon 15

Very many of the saints have loved ones who have not responded to the Gospel. Some of these may now live miles away and do not bother to keep in touch. Some are even manifestly hostile to Christian things. Onesimus had to come into contact with a man in prison before his life was radically changed. He was probably a prisoner himself. Keep praying. When the loved one returns it might well be for ever. Brian Russell

*Come home! Come home!
You are weary at heart, for the way has been dark,
And so lonely and wild; O prodigal child!
Come home! Oh come home!* — E. M. Gates

* * * * *

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 1:7 is the key verse of this book. It reminds us that the beginning of wisdom is not found through education, human insight, philosophy, wide experience, or

psychology, but from our reverence of who God is and an unquestioning trust in His Word. The more we know of our God and His Word, the more spiritual insight we will have into the problems of life. A university professor with his doctorate said to one of his medical students, “I don’t understand how the janitor has more understanding about life, its problems and how to resolve them than I do with all my education.” The janitor had only a little formal education, but was a man of the Book! May we become people of the Book!
Jim Conte

* * * * *

Father, forgive them. Luke 23:34
Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.
Luke 23:46

These are the first and last words of our Saviour from the cross and they are intimately linked. *“Father, forgive them”* reveals the Son’s great purpose. He came to forgive and save sinners. *“Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit”* proclaims the Son’s purpose fulfilled. But between these two cries, communion with heaven was broken and He was judged for our sins. When His work was accomplished, communion was restored. Now our Saviour could cry with a loud voice so that all heaven, earth, and hell could hear, **“It is finished!”** (John 19:30). Beloved, He did all this for us. — Milton Haack

*Father, forgive, the Saviour said; they know not what they do;
His heart was moved when thus He prayed, for me, my friends, and you.*

Isaac Watts

Noah walked with God.
Genesis 6:9

The only other man of whom this was said, was Enoch – Noah’s great-grandfather. Now Noah, as a lad, would have known and conversed with his grandfather, Methuselah, who would, in turn have known much of his own father, the saintly Enoch. As parents and grandparents we have a duty to leave a legacy to those following – to be an example that younger generations want to follow.

Brian Russell

USA: A Land of Liberty/Freedom Yet!

George Washington lent his conviction/influence and in the Bill of Rights, Article Three, declared that in America there would be no establishment of religion and no hindrance of religious freedom.

American Government Founded on Basic Understanding That the God of the Bible is True God; Rights, Liberties Given by God's Nation Must Depend on God for Prosperity, Blessing and Must Answer to God for Sins.

The Declaration of Independence begins:

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them ...

Our National Anthem says,

Our father's God! To Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing.

***YET on every American coin it says:
"In God We Trust"***

In 1789 Congress passed the Bill of Rights, and ten of the proposed amendments to the Constitution were adopted by the States. We read there,

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press, or of the right of people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."

Abraham Lincoln

Our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," was written during the War of 1812 by Francis Scott Key and one verse says:

*Blest with victory and peace, may
The Heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made
And preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our
Cause it is just;
And this be our motto, "In God is
Our trust."*

"America," our national hymn says:

*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.*

Thomas Jefferson wrote and published in 1774 a pamphlet, "A Summary of the rights of British America," that is, the colonies, in which he said:

*"The God who gave us life gave us
liberty at the same time."*

General Douglas MacArthur said in his address: "WHERE I STAND"

Our need for patriotic fervor and religious devotion was never more impelling. There can be no compromise with the atheistic communism (Editor: Socialism, Radical Islam, etc.) — no half-way in the preservation of freedom and religion. It must be all or nothing ...

It is an infallible reminder that our greatest hope and faith rests upon two mighty symbols – the cross and the flag ...

We must unite in the high purpose that the liberties etched upon the design of our life by our forefathers be unimpaired and that we maintain the moral courage and spiritual leadership to preserve inviolate that mighty bulwark of all freedom: Our Christian Faith.

The Liberty Bell is an iconic symbol of American independence.

The "Liberty Bell" was last rung in 1846, thus 2,080 pound icon of freedom features a biblical inscription from Leviticus 25:10:

"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof"

Editorial

RES

A Ponder – GOD IS LOVE!!

What Is Your Definition/Practice of LOVE?

WHEN I was privileged & responsible (to God, first of all) to be in the 'Parish' ministry, during pre-marital counseling, I liked to ask the bride and groom to be of their definition of love?

Following is a portion of Harper's Bible Dictionary definition of LOVE, "the chief quality or attribute of ideal character Its highest O.T. expression in the Shema (Duet. 6:4 f.), quoted by Jesus (Matt. 22:39) and still repeated twice daily by devout Jews. Love was emphasized by Jesus in his pronouncement of the greatest law, and his teaching of the "new commandment" at the inauguration of the Lord's Supper (John 13:34)."

IN my understanding LOVE is loyalty, commitment, devotion, faithfulness, in giving, etc.

GOD'S MANIFESTATION is in the Person of **JESUS/ Incarnate/His Word the Bible!** This is what is called 'Agape' Love which is 'Divine Love'; which is not mushy, makes no parades and most certainly not '*fleshly love*', old nature's lust.

There is much misunderstanding today of what true love really is, from excusing fleshly lusts, condoning sinful desires and practices to where it is at the point from 'tolerance' to 'treason'!

The Christian *standard* today (at large) has eroded to where it is clearly 'foreign' to what the Bible lovingly states. Numerous 'Christians' today are straddling the fence, which clearly is contrary to the WORD of GOD. Clearly JESUS states that you are either for Me or against Me; which includes clearly standing with or for what is right or wrong – no middle 'ground'. The BIBLE is a clear 'road map' to either Heaven OR Hell! So what God called SIN yesteryear is SIN today, tomorrow and FOREVER!

Oh, taking a 'biblical stand' people will call you 'narrow-minded, conservative, bigot, negative, etc. Culture, society, what people *think* doesn't change the biblical standard which is forever settled in Heaven. Right and wrong are not 'bed partners'!

In what is often called the 'love chapter', 1 Corinthians 13:6 "**does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;**" Isaiah 5, Jeremiah 15, Isaiah 8:20, 1 John 2:15-17, "*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of*

the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." Please notice also **1 John 4:16-21**.

We all like to be accepted and liked; but when we make light of sin or compromise we dull our conscience, which results in confusion and betrays the principles/teachings of God's Word! **Jeremiah 15:17**. (By the way 'Jeremiah' is known as a weeping prophet)!

The 'Christian battle/spiritual struggles go on and there are casualties in this warfare; but we seek to bind them up spiritually which the world cannot really offer – namely, a message of hope and change throughout the life of a person (II Cor. 5:17) – the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. "*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God*". Ezekiel 36:26-28. (Think also of the 'heavenly/city land') NOW don't get the 'cart' before the 'horse' *thinking* you will get to that 'heavenly' land by reformation, good works, etc. as 'good works' should follow the personal GIFT of Salvation – Ephesians 2:8-10.

Martin Luther was so sick and tired of trying to earn his salvation that at one point in his life he seriously thought that the book of James should not be in the BIBLE; but as we learn looking at Luther's Catechism that a child of God 'should fear and love' God.

Hans Neilsen Hauge put it this way; that a believer (saved sinner) is removed from the condemnation of the LAW but not compliance to the LAW! You see the 'Law' will try to make you serve GOD, but it is incapable of making you love God.

Jesus (God's LOVE) put it this way, that IF you LOVE **ME** you will keep My commandments which are not grievous to you.

In general today 'Christianity' is on a *slippery slope* (erosion/apostasy) and it is like a 'snow ball going down a steep hill; when there is no objection, it just gains momentum and enlargement. Isaiah 59:14 – 21.

Let me give you one example of the spiritual erosion of today!

The dance used to be 'sin' in a 'Christian's life' and was of this sinful 'world' which is fashion conscious with 'immodesty'! From 'Scripture' let me explain that it still is

'sin'; but before I do so following God's Holy Word, some *will say* David in the Old Testament 'danced'. Correct and read the same in its context and let SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE!

Others may say: "But we live in a sinful world and sin is all around us." This is TRUE; but that does not give the Christian the freedom to enjoy sin for a season OR for a 'pillow of Grace' to sin upon, for what you sow you shall reap! Romans 14:13, 1 Corinthians 8:9-12.

WHEN did GOD change His mind? HE never did and never will - Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, Psalm 119:89.

ONE of the basic reasons 'today' that we do not experience a Heaven sent Revival is that at large, God's LAW is not being presented in LOVE! II Corinthians 7:10, Galatians 3:24, Psalm 19.

The BIBLE (God's eternal, infallible, inerrant Word) clearly states "**But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart**" Matthew 5:28. "*Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids*" Proverbs 6:25. "Abstain from every form of evil" 1 Thessalonians 5:22. II Timothy 2:22, 1 Timothy 6:11-16.

So should a 'Christian' intentionally/purposefully attend and/or participate in the dance? Absolutely not!

From God's point of view, I will challenge you to truly attend/participate (male or female) in the 'dance' without enticing sinful thoughts and/behavior before a Holy God! Please do not even 'consider' attending the same 'fellow believer'! AND dear fellow Pastor, Missionary, Teacher, Professor, BELIEVER, IF you really care/love 'eternal souls' in whom you are in touch with, to identify Sin by name OR don't you really care?

If we are going to see/experience a 'Heaven Sent Revival' as individuals, congregations, nation 'we' must name SIN out of AGAPE LOVE and deal with SIN for what it is and take a clear cut stand!! You see it is not only what we hear/see that we must be careful about; but what 'we' don't hear/see as well/omission. Ezekiel 3 & 33, Revelation 22:18-21. 11 Chronicles 7:14, Jeremiah 6:16 - 19. PRAYERFULLY read Mark 10:17-30, read again verse 21.

THEN JESUS say: IF you love Me, feed my 'lambs/sheep'! (For example: an 'Under-shepherd' is known by his flock)! We are to nurture, strengthen, encourage, edify, fore-warn, rebuke one another.

To try to 'straddle' the fence is not only anti-scriptural; but causes confusion, hindrance and obstacle for others to either get right with God Or continue a right relationship with God! Prayerfully seek out of LOVE to ask God to give you a heart, grace, empowerment to that of Jeremiah out of LOVE for and with JESUS! (Jesus WEPT over the city of Jerusalem) - Luke 19:41-42. Since that day Jesus has wept over many cities and over many human beings.

Is He weeping over any one in our home (readers) today? If so, He weeps because the things which belong to your peace are hidden from your eyes. Friend, can you take sin lightly over which Jesus wept/weeps?

What is the opposite of LOVE? Likely the majority of you will say 'hate'. Hate is bad, but even worse is the sin of **Indifference!** Rev. 3:14-22. Ponder: "*He who says, 'I know Him.' And does not keep His commandment is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 'He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked'*" 1 John 2:4-6. "**That you do not become sluggish (slothful), but imitate (followers) those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**" Hebrews 6:12. "**For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name,**" Hebrews 6:10a. "**Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them'**" Revelation 14:13. (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).

REMEMBER God's Word is a 'sword' Hebrews 4:12 which 'cuts' both ways; the giver and the receiver; but it is also the Balm of Gilead! When you NEED to go to a Doctor, if you are not truthful/honest; likely there is very 'little' he can do for YOU and so much more in regards to the Great PHYSICIAN!

Sadly, but the 'majority' of folk are on the road of eternal abys and some 'Christians' are falling away (apostasy) - James 5:19-20.

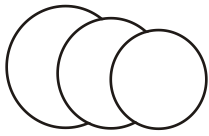
St. Augustine stated "God loves each one of us, as if there was only one of us." Never the less NEVER '*forget*' that you and I deserve to go to Hell; but the marvelous TRUTH/LOVE/GRACE rescued you and me, IF you are on the way to Heaven! (Folks go to Hell LOVED)

YES, God's LOVE is unconditional as long as 'we' remember also that GOD is SOVEREIGN, Just, Holy, Righteous, etc.

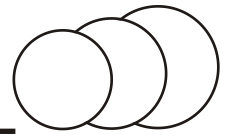
Jesus loves me this I know For the Bible tells me so John 3:16, 18, 36. REVELATION 22:14- 21

P. S. Secondly: Do you also LOVE a Land of Freedom (USA)? If so, then pray for USA and be sure to vote. Please don't take 'our' FREEDOM for granted and don't 'vote' your pocketbook but your conscience enlightened by Scripture and the Holy Spirit! Your intercessory prayer support and 'vote' is important! One vote can make the difference!

True & faithful 'Muslims', 'Socialist', etc. hate 'Christianity'! But they also are 'Eternal beings/souls - so pray also for them, that they may be truly converted/born again by the INCORRUPTIBLE WORD OF GOD and in a personal way experience the LOVE of GOD & believers!



From Our Fellowship Circle



Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Woodburn, OR
 Please send ... copies of ‘Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God’ ... And one copy of “The Lutheran Doctrine of Conversion” (Ed. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are unable to offer you this booklet. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have brought of which we definitely intended to make available. We ask for your prayer support here also as we explore other options on developing a booklet on Conversion in Lutheran Theology). The remainder of the money enclosed for the furtherance of the Morning Glory. Yes, we have had the Morning Glory in our home for many years.

My father ... often wrote articles for the same as did my first husband before he went Home in Glory! My present husband’s father had them too and, when he went home to Glory, we found stacks of old “Morning Glory’s.”

My husband is 94 years old and I am 88 and live in a Condo of 90 units and we pass the Morning Glory around when we are through with it.

...I last saw you when Karl and I served the AFLC Parish in Kenyon, MN where you had a week of meetings.

W. G. B. Belgrade, MN
 Please send me the following: Altar Steps, ...Mirror of the Heart ...S/H and an offering of \$...

Editor: Dear Friends, why not prayerfully consider giving to members of your family and friends a gift that will last a long time – basically Biblical Christian material from the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation: “Altar Steps”, “Mirror of the Heart”, and “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” for donation of eight dollars, three dollars & one dollar that are listed in the above order along with S/H?

O. L. A. Newport, N. C.
 May God plow the field with His Word through your efforts!

Don’t be discouraged! God is still on His Throne even if ‘leaders’ who disregard God’s Laws and when traitors are recognized and spoken of as heroes and same-sex marriages are allowed.

God is still there getting ready to come back to the Earth and set up His Kingdom – *Glory to God! Hallelujah! Amen!*

One of my 6th grade students grew up in the teachings of Christianity and turned away from the Christian teachings and he is now in prison for a very long time; BUT the good news is that I think he has truly repented of his sin and is now a Christian.

A. T. Seattle, WA
 What a wonderful paper you send out. The *Morning Glory* is so good and much truthful news in which the Lord has truly blessed us – Thank you.

M. L. Moorhead, MN
 Enclosed please find a Memorial gift for the furtherance of the Lord’s ministry in and through the Morning Glory from the Family of Earla Mae Erickson’s Family.
 ...Our Mother loved and supported the Morning Glory publication. ...

* * * * *

The Crown Is Fallen!

By Louis W. Arnold

No book in the Bible contains more pathos, more of the heart-throb of a brokenhearted prophet than does the Book of Lamentations. With weeping eyes and compassionate heart, he deplores the conditions that exist: the fact that God’s people have sinned and that God has had to send judgment upon them, the fact that their city has been destroyed and that their land has been left desolate under the siege and capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.

In the final chapter, the prophet’s very soul is poured out in supplication. Hearken again as he deplores their spiritual destitution, confesses their sins, and calls upon God to forgive them and to restore them to their former glory.

“The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!” “Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.” Lam. 5:16, 21.

The two servants of the Lord then wept and rejoiced together. When Spurgeon returned to London, he found a letter on his desk containing three hundred guineas. “There,” he cried with joy, “the Lord has returned my three hundred pounds with three hundred shillings’ interest!” Selected

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

Be Concerned and Watchful

HOW the ‘drones’ are being ‘used’ today and definitely in the future!

Notice that the United Nations

PUSHES for ‘illegal aliens’ to be called refugees; which puts more pressure on the USA and Mexico: could it be another step toward the ‘world government’?

Be a Scriptural sign reader as GOD expects that of YOU: as ‘Muslims’ and ‘Financial’ concerns on a ‘world level’ become more prevalent: THEN prayerfully read REVELATION CHAPTER SEVENTEEN AND EIGHTEEN and keep also in mind the ecumenical world church –NCC, WCC, ETC. = (anyone or group that denies the sacrificial **BLOOD ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST**)!

Amendment Would Allow Troops to Talk About Jesus Christ

Doug Lamborn (R-Col.) has introduced an amendment to allow troops in the U.S. military to talk openly about their faith in Jesus Christ without reprisal or punishment.

“Despite two years of Congressional efforts to affirm service member’s freedom to practice and express their faith in the military, confusion over the scope of that freedom persists, particularly in the Air Force,” reports the Family Research Council...

“...The House unanimously approved that amendment ... and passed the overall defense authorization bill ...By a bipartisan vote of 325 to 98.

ConservativeActionAlerts

News Briefs

**Massachusetts has married the world’s first lesbian “throuple.” Three lesbian women are claiming to be “married” to one another. Last August (2013), Brynn, Doll and Kitten, three lesbian women, exchanged their vows and entered into a threesome “marriage” union.

Although Massachusetts recognizes same-sex “marriage,” polygamy is still illegal. However, Massachusetts officials say they will not reprimand the three women for their polygamous relationship.

**According to a Planned Parenthood Mar Montie 2009 990 report: Darris Gooding earned \$104,481 for “janitorial services” and \$118,435 in 2008.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s ...CEO Cecil Richards made over one-half million dollars —\$523,616 to be exact—for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2013. That’s a lot of money to pay the CEO of a non-profit organization, particularly one that claims to cater to low-income women ... For that 2012 reporting period, PPEA’s 12-member executive team tallied a combined income of \$3.87 million.

LifeNews.com

Oklahoma and South Carolina Say No to Common Core

Just like Obama Care, Common Core, the government’s education incentive, is failing miserably. Recently, Oklahoma and South Carolina have chosen to drop the Common Core education standards because they believe the standards will do more harm than good.

(In early June) Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina signed a bill that tossed Common Core from the school system. (On June 50, Governor Mary Fallin of Oklahoma likewise threw out the Common Core standards.

What’s interesting is Fallin initially was a supporter of Common Core until issue after issue kept arising over the new standards. Fallin stated, “We cannot ignore the widespread concern of citizens, parents, educators, and legislators who have expressed fear that adopting Common Core gives up local control of Oklahoma’s public schools.”

Fallin is absolutely right; you can’t overlook the concerns that come with common Core. Once states adopt Common Core, they are essentially giving control of their public schools to the government.

Dr. Ron Baity, Return America

Editor’s Comments: *Common Core is, we believe, rotten to the core.*

Sword of the Lord

Gun Club will pay for gay couple’s wedding

Owners had initially refused to provide them a venue.

Two St. Cloud [Minnesota] men getting married this month [August, 2014] will have their wedding ceremony and reception paid for by a Little Falls hunting club after it initially refused to be the site of their wedding.

The Minnesota Department of Human Rights announced the settlement Friday, the first of its kind since the state legalized gay marriage in August 2013. The owners of LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting and Recreation Inc. agreed to pay about \$8,500 to cover the upcoming wedding of Cole Frey and Adam Block, as well as apologize to the two men and comply with the state's non-discrimination law in the future.

... Discrimination based on sexual orientation has been illegal under Minnesota law since 1993. When the Legislature voted to legalize gay marriage in 2013, it exempted religious entities from taking part in the solemnization of same-sex weddings. But that doesn't exempt individuals or businesses from nondiscrimination laws based on religious beliefs regarding same-sex marriage.

Opponents Are Vocal

Critics of same-sex marriage warned of such scenarios when the issue was before the Legislature last year.

"This is a shameful example of government forcing citizens to accept the government's view of sexuality and marriage," John Helmberger, CEO of the Minnesota Family Council, said in a statement responding to the settlement.

According to its web-site, LeBlanc's Rice Creek opened as a private shooting reserve in 1961. It is now owned and run by the two sons of the original owners and their cousin. ... Their initial responses understandable in light of deeply felt [religious] beliefs about same-sex marriage.

... Lindsey praised the club's owners for a willingness to "own up to it and make amends. I hope this will be an isolated case."

Frey said he and Block were motivated by the belief that they have the same rights as any couple.

"It's not my place if someone in their religion feels this is wrong," Frey said. "But at the same time, it's a feeling that people need to accept what's going on and that this is becoming the norm."

Taken from the *Star Tribune*, August 23, 2014

* * * * *

Men Are Born to Serve With What They Are and Have

If you are a nobleman, do not brag of your nobility, and do not plague your peasants. Do not regard them as dogs or think you are better before God than a preacher, townsman, or peasant because of your nobility, as now all other people

are in bad odor with the nobility. Well, God did not give you your nobility for pride but only to be useful and beneficial. But the world cannot forbear misusing these gifts. The nobleman tortures and bleeds the peasant; the rich townsman drains the poor; and the peasant flays and skins the townsman too. In all stations of life people are now acting like this. Life has become merely a rough and tough struggle. But this is not the way God has created it. This is not the reason why God lets a king be a nobleman, and a rich townsman be born; but He created and gave everything for the purpose of help, benefit, and use that people might serve their fellow men with it.

God did not place parents into their station merely to enjoy their children and do with them whatever they please, far less to incite them to anger and embitter them with excessively severe punishment, but to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Just so, God did not give power to governors and rulers to have them presume upon it and be arrogant because of it, taxing their subjects at will and oppressing and plaguing them in all sort of ways, but that their subjects might under their protection lead a quiet life in all godliness and honesty (1 Timothy 2:2). And St. Peter also says that "*governors are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of them that do well*"

(1 Peter 2:14). For this service of theirs we are to give them toil and taxes, to fear and honor them. The fact is that the better and the higher and the more honorable the station of life is which a man occupies, the more diligently should he see to it that he may advise, assist, and encourage others. For whatever God gives us – whether it be spiritual or temporal gifts, wisdom, understanding, ability, power, riches, money, and goods – we should use for the improvement and benefit of our neighbor.

But the world does not do this. It misuses all creatures: money, wine, and grain. It is stingy, miserly; it makes a display of its advantages. Whoever is learned, rich, noble, flaunts the fact and is proud of it, despising others, who are not his equals. No one bears in mind that on Judgment Day our Lord God will demand an account from everyone as to how he has conducted his office or calling and will say: I have endowed you before others with nobility, a high understanding wisdom and power, riches and other advantages. Did you use these gifts for the benefit, betterment, and encouragement of your neighbor, loving him as yourself? Then your conscience will say, No, Lord, I did not assist him in his need. I sought my interests alone. I forsook him and considered other people geese. Then God will say: Then depart from Me, accursed one, into the abyss of hell, into the eternal fire. * Sermon on John 1:12 – 13.

Taken from *Martin Luther Speaks To Us*, Year of Jubilee, The American Lutheran Church

Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:3

We who are sitting here together in our home are attached to one another by life's finest and most tender bonds. Let us not forget to thank God for this.

We also have in common the desire to reach heaven. And it is God's will that we should all be gathered in His great home above. God grant that none of us may be missing on that day!

We are alike also in this, that we have all done certain things in order to get to heaven. He who speaks to us today knows us all very well. He knows the innermost recesses of our hearts. He has followed us in our greatest struggles and heard our deepest groanings. He is our friend.

And He would help us in this most important matter of all in life, that of reaching our home with God above.

Now He says: Except ye turn, ye shall in no wise enter in. Herewith the question is directed to all of us: Have you turned? Are you converted?

If you are not converted, you cannot enter in, even if you desire to do so, think of doing so, and hope to do so.

Perhaps you do like this question.

You think that all this talk about conversion is too easy, too schematic, too pietistic.

That does not surprise me. There is something offensive about conversion; but I would have you reflect upon the fact that it is Jesus who has spoken these words about conversion. And He is the only real expert in this field. It is impossible for Him to tone down the truth, even though you and many others take offense at it.

At the same, time, remember that Jesus speaks these hard, strict words in most tender love. He would help you, so that you will not deceive yourself and become eternally lost.

Taken from *God's Word for Today*, by O. Hallesby,
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Martin Luther Speaks To Us

How Best to Serve Men

The greatest of all services is to free him (my fellow man) from sins, to liberate him from the devil and hell. But how is this done? Through the Gospel, by preaching it to him and telling him that he should cling to the works of Christ and firmly believe that Christ's righteousness is his and his sins are Christ's. This, I say, is the greatest ser-

vice I can render my fellow man. Cursed be the life that a man lives only for himself and not for his fellow man. On the other hand, blessed be the life in which a man does not live for, and serve, himself but his fellow man. * Sermon closing on John 20:19- 31.

Serve for the Love of Serving and Helping

In short, the ministry requires a hunger and thirst for righteousness that can never be curbed or stopped or sated, one that looks for nothing and cares for nothing except the accomplishment and maintenance of the right, despising everything that hinders this end. If you cannot make the world completely pious, then do what you can. It is enough that you have done your duty and have helped a few, even if there be only one or two. If others will not follow, then in God's name let them go. You must not run away on account of the wicked, but rather conclude: I did not undertake this for their sake, and I shall not drop it for their sake. Eventually some of them might come around; at least there might be fewer of them, and they may improve a little. Selected.

God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day. Psalm 7:11

Most do not like to think of God as ever being angry with sinners. They like to think of Him as an indulgent grandfather. They feel God will overlook their sin and the doors of heaven will welcome them when they die. But God is holy and just; sin must be punished. And this is why Christ came, to bear the anger and punishment for sin on the cross that we all deserved. Have you received Christ as your Lord and Saviour? If you are a believer remember, God still hates sin. Do not think lightly of it.

– Donald L. Norbie

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

R. Heber

Love will rebuke evil but not rejoice in it. Love will be impatient of sin but patient with the sinner.

D. L. Moody

***Who comforteth us in all our affliction,
that we may be able to comfort them that
are in any affliction, through the comfort
wherewith we ourselves are comforted of
God.*** 2 Corinthians 1:4

The apostle here mentions one aspect of the blessing which our sufferings bring to others. We have afflictions in order that we may be able to comfort those who are in affliction of any kind.

Unquestionably the apostle is thinking of profound and sacred experiences in his own life. In the eleventh chapter of our epistle he tells us a little of what he has suffered for Christ's sake. It is terrible indeed; but he also reminds us, in our verse today, of the abundant comfort which he received from God in these terrible afflictions. We need think only of Paul and Silas in prison at Philippi with their feet fastened to the stocks. God comforted them in such a way that they sang songs of praise. The apostle knew now that the comfort which he received enabled him to comfort others.

Child of God, this is for you – you who have so many tribulations and afflictions. You are not disturbed so much by the fact that you suffer as you are by the fact that your sufferings seem to you to be so devoid of meaning. The apostle here tells you that you are being trained by God to comfort other sufferers. You can not comfort others with any other comfort than that with which God has been able to comfort you. You remember, no doubt, how blessed it was when you met some one who had gone through the same sufferings that you had and had been comforted by God.

Remember that you who have suffered and have been comforted of God are privileged to comfort more people than you know. Not only by speaking with suffering people directly. Only a few will speak to you about their sufferings. However, **all** people suffer. And they need comfort. And hunger for comfort. And it has been so ordained that there is something unspeakable about a person who has suffered a great deal, but who has also been abundantly comforted of God, something which is of great comfort and help to all suffering souls.

Taken from *God's Word for Today*, O. Hallesby,
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* * * * *

Don't Quit

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and debts are high
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must; but don't you quit.
Life is odd with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns;
And many a failure urns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow –
You may succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man.
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.
Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.
And you can never tell how close you are;
It may be near when it seems afar.
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit –
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.*

Author unknown

* * * * *

The Nation's Prayer

*God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great heads, true faith, and ready hands –
Men whom the lust of office does not kill,
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy,
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor and who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And scorn his treacherous flatteries without winking;
Tall men, sun-crowned who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking!*

J. G. Holland

**WE NEVER REALLY MOVE PEOPLE UNTIL WE
OURSELVES ARE MOVED!**

STRONG IN BATTLE

(Continued from last issue of Morning Glory)

The other enemy with which the Christian must reckon is the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. The enemy is not only here on earth and visible to us; he is about us in the air, *invisible*.

In Daniel 10 we are told that Daniel was in mourning for three whole weeks. From other expressions in the book we are led to understand that he prayed a good deal during this time. There was a special burden upon his heart concerning which he had to speak with the Lord; verses 12 and 13 leads us to believe that. There it is written: *“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel; for from the first day that thou didst set thy heart to understand, and to humble thyself before thy God, thy words were heard: and I am come for thy words’ sake. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days; but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me.”*

Daniel’s prayer was heard in heaven from the first day that he called upon the Lord, but it took twenty-one days for the answer to reach him; the powers of the air prevented the messenger from getting through to Daniel. We are told that this power was the prince of Persia. If help was to reach Daniel, God’s messenger had to be given assistance in breaking through the spiritual hosts that opposed him. So Michael, one of the chief princes – the guardian of Israel, was sent to assist the messenger so that he could reach Daniel. After this the messenger was to have a new encounter with the prince of Persia, and was also to meet the prince of Greece; again he was to be assisted by Michael.

If we turn to the Book of Revelation we shall find that the same powers are fighting each other. *“And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels going forth to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels; and they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast down, the old serpent, he that is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.”* (Rev. 12:7-9)

These remarkable powers in the air seem to have two methods of carrying out their warfare. The first is to prevent help from God to reach us. It is a kind of spiritual blockade that is applied against the Christians in order to starve them into submission. The other method is one of direct attack.

Daniel and John show us this battle as it is fought between the hosts of God on the one side and the hosts of wickedness in the air on the other. Paul shows us these same evil powers at war against God’s people.

Such clear passages should convince us that the doctrine concerning the evil powers which oppose God’s people is not empty talk. Furthermore, we ought to remember that Satan is not only fighting against individual Christians, nor even against the whole Christian Church; he is seeking to conquer the nations and to make them subservient to himself. It is Satan himself who is chief of the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the air.

Few, if any, of us have a clear conception of what power these spirits of wickedness have to deceive Christians and to bring disaster to nations. If we could understand this a bit more clearly, and could gain a greater insight into the methods of work of these spirits, we should be able to know the reason for much of the evil that we see in the world. We should then discover that the origin of world wars lies more with Satan than with kings and dictators.

The same Satan who sought to control Persia and Greece in days of old has not forgotten the world in the twentieth century.

* * *

Our great comfort and hope for the future is that this evil power shall one day be broken. Satan shall not only fall from heaven; he is to fall out of every man’s heart and out of the world; he is to go down into the bottomless pit, down into the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, down into the place for the devil and his angels. There he shall be imprisoned through all eternity. This comfort gives every Christian courage to continue the battle.

Victory over Satan is as certain and glorious as the battle is fierce. When the victor’s crown shall have been placed upon our heads by the Savior Himself, and we shall have become like our Lord, no one will be sorry that he has had a part in this battle. It will be a great day when the last notes from the trumpets of war shall have died down, and we may go through the portals into the city of rest and gladness. If the battle has been hard, so much more glorious shall the victory be; peace and life shall rule in God’s eternal Kingdom.

*And angels shall stand on that heavenly strand,
To welcome the victors to heaven’s bright land.*

The hosts of God have also had a part in this battle; therefore they shall also blend their voices in the victor’s song. What a jubilant song that will be!

*Onward then ye people,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honor*

*Unto Christ the King;
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing.*

*Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.*

Taken from *Spirit and Power*, by Ludvig Hope, Copyright
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Editor's Note: **“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death”** Revelation 12:11.

“WHETHER IT BE GOOD OR WHETHER IT BE EVIL, WE WILL OBEY THE VOICE OF THE LORD OUR GOD.” Jer. 42:6

The text is part of the testimony of a people who had experienced to their sorrow the result of disobedience. They had pledged themselves to obey God whether the answer was according to their wishes or not. But by reading further into the chapter one will find that the answer given by God was not according to their pre-determined plans and the result was that they disobeyed God. The price of such disobedience was almost the destruction of the remnant of Israel.

Disobedience is the source of all misery, sorrow and disgrace. The fruits of disobedience are numerous broken homes and hearts, slaves to sin, jails penitentiaries, insane asylums, etc. It was disobedience that caused the Israelites to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Disobedience prevented Moses from enjoying the land of Canaan. Disobedience caused King Saul to lose all.

But we find obedience is a virtue which teaches us to readily embrace and diligently put into execution whatever is commanded us. The strength of obedience depends on the destruction of self will and the power to execute the penalty for disobedience. To illustrate we find some children have never and never will obey their parents. Furthermore, we find some parents who cannot execute the penalty for disobedience because the children can talk themselves out of trouble.

Obedience was the chief virtue in the patriarchs, prophets and the Apostles. Abraham was called ‘the

friend of God’ because of his obedience with his faith. Jeremiah was determined to obey God even though it meant being put in a well. Daniel obeyed God in spite of the ‘breath of the lions’ in his face. Peter said, ‘*We ought to obey God rather than men.*’ It meant many stripes but he lived what he preached. Jesus Christ was the very pattern of obedience. All his thoughts, words and actions of His life were bent on doing the Father’s will and obeying His commandments (John 6:38). ***‘Jesus found it a delight to obey God.’ Do we?’***

THE EVANGELIST OF TRUTH

* * * * *

Raman, who coordinates relief efforts for the refugees, is a testament of Ferhad’s evangelical work. “Even when Muslim neighbors refused to help their own brothers, it was Christian outsiders who met the needs of the refugees,” Raman said. “When I witnessed the love of Christians I saw what I was missing in Islam and I decided to follow Christ.”

Front-line workers like Raman, Ferhad and the pastor in Kirkuk are shining examples of perseverance in the face of persecution for the gospel. Their testimonies are reminders that the message we bring is worth the suffering and dying for. ... “An Iraq void of Christians will be an Iraq without hope,” the Christians say.

“I don’t want to leave the country because I know God has a reason for putting me here” said 17 year old Lina in Baghdad. “Even if I die because I’m a Christian I will be happy because I’m dying for Jesus.”

Voice of the Martyrs

And Jonathan Saul’s son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. 1 Samuel 23:16

Saul had been searching daily for David, but could not find him, for God was protecting him (1 Sam. 23:14). Yet, Jonathan easily located David when he journeyed into the forest of Ziph. What was the difference? Jonathan loved David and desired to encourage him to do the will of God, while Saul hated David and sought to kill him. God oversees such things. He blesses selfless love and despises selfish hatred. The wrath of man does not work the righteousness of God and hatred is murder committed in the heart. ***“Blessed are the pure (Ed. ‘singleness’) in heart for they shall see God”*** (Matt. 5:8). W. A. H.

And from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:

The wonders of His glorious love, and my own worthlessness.

Elizabeth C. Clephane

Covetousness

Covetousness is a deceptive sin. No one thinks he is covetous. It parades under spacious names like economy, foresight and prudence. Where does wise saving end and greed begin? At what point does a man cease to save for his family and cross over into the quest for riches?

How easy it is for our selfish minds to rationalize our covetousness! One pastor stated, "Among all the prayers in prayer meeting and deep confession of sin in times of searching, I have never once heard the sin of covetousness confessed."

One preacher spoke on this under the subject "The Sin We Are Afraid to Mention." So universal, so hidden, so powerful, but so deceptive is it that we are scarcely aware of its existence.

In evaluating the various commandments, many people would minimize the importance of the one which reads, "Thou shall not covet."

Leslie B. Flynn

* * * * *

Stand Fast

"Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold to the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." 2 Thessalonians 2:15

Liberals commonly question the authority of the Scriptures on the assumption that they were based on ancient traditions.

However, the word "traditions" itself as used here conveys no such idea. It means simply "that which has been delivered." Paul used the same word in defining the gospel. "*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures*" 1 Corinthians 15:3. Paul did not add or subtract anything to what he had received directly from God. "*For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ*" Galatians 1:12.

He was making the same claim to the Christians at Thessalonica. He had first taught them "by word" when he preached there in person (Acts 17:1-4), then later by "our epistle" in his first letter. Now, in his follow-up letter to them, he was reminding them that, in both instances, he (as an apostle) had communicated to them only those things he had directly received from God by divine revelation. Therefore, it was indeed vital that they should "stand fast, and hold" these great truths "*which ye have been taught*." Paul was asserting that God had directly communicated, through him, the new truths which He wanted them to have.

Before the New Testament was written, much had to

be conveyed verbally to the early church, through the apostles and prophets. Later, the portions of those teachings that were of permanent application were inscripturated (compare Acts 17:3 with 1 Corinthians 15:3-4). The end result of this marvelous process was the inerrant Bible we have today, and it is this completed revelation of God that we must hold fast. Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.

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Grain On The Mountaintop

(Read Psalm 72:12 – 20)

There will be abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of the mountains. Psalm 72:16

I've been on a number of mountaintops in the U. S. in my time, and I can tell you that not much grows up there. The summits of mountains are bare rock and lichen. That's not where you would normally find an abundance of grain.

But Solomon, who wrote Psalm 72, asked God for "an abundance of grain on the top of the mountains," to characterize his reign as king. If grain on the mountain is so unusual, what is Solomon suggesting? That God's power can produce results in even the most unpromising soil?

Perhaps you think of yourself as a little person, with very little to bring to the kingdom. Take courage: God can produce an abundant harvest through you. This is one of the ironies of faith: God uses the insignificant to accomplish the great. Not many of us are wise or noble; most of us are anonymous and far from extraordinary. Yet all of us can be used. And contrary to what we might think, it is because of our weakness that we can be used by God. (1 Cor. 1:27 – 29; 2 Cor. 12:10).

It's possible to be too big or proud for God to use, but we can never be too little. "Out of weakness" we are "made strong" (Heb. 11:34). By God's great power, we can do all that He has called us to do.

David Roper

*Lord, You work through such common things –
Those of us with flaws and weaknesses.
We are in awe of Your power and humbled by Your
Choice of us. Our hearts long to be faithful to You.
To experience God's power,
We must first admit that we are weak.*

Taken from *Our Daily Bread*, RBC Ministries –
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They Went Into the Ark

Ralph W. Neighbour

You want to be pretty careful where you go and where you take your family for safety. A boat may look fairly safe, but the keel could be rotten. Some boats may be all right until a storm comes, but in a storm they will flounder and sink.

My friends, there is only one ark that will be safe in the Day of Judgment when God's hand comes like a tempest upon sinful men. If you enter the ark of Christ Jesus, you can brave the storm. The judgment of God will come upon the ark and not upon you.

Noah could have taken some of his family upon a high mountain or pinnacle, but when the floods came no pinnacle was high enough. You will never find any religion, preacher or church membership high enough or big enough to carry you through the storms of judgment. Be sure you and your family have established your faith upon Christ Jesus and Christ alone.

The whole ark that Noah built was likely ridiculed for many a year. To the world it stood as a monument of ridicule, but for Noah it stood as a refuge in the hour of need.

People may ridicule Christ. They may scorn God; but believe me, you will be mighty glad when the Day of Judgment comes to know that you have anchored your soul in the cleft of the Rock.

The test of any ship is whether or not it will stand the storms. That is the most vital question. Spiritually, the test of any ark or any refuge is whether or not it will save my soul from death and sin. If you have a religion that does not give you victory over sin or does not give you definite assurance of eternal life, it is worthless.

If you have not done so already, ask yourself this question: If I should die this very moment, would I go to Heaven? If you are not positive of it, if you are not certain of it, you had better get on a boat that won't sink.

If there is anything in life you should be certain about, it is your soul's welfare. The Bible is God's Word, and the Bible says that whosoever believes in (trusts) Jesus shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). (Editor: Provided YOU remain/abide IN Christ until you die). If God says it, that settles it. If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, you are just as sure of Heaven as if you were there. (Editor: Romans 8:1, John 1:12-13). Christ is your only sure refuge.

I thank God that the ark was big enough so there was room enough for everyone to enter in who desired to do so. Even so, Jesus Christ is big enough for the whole world. John said, "*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*" (1:29). There is room enough for you to get on board.

Sword of the Lord

Update

LEAN!?!?

Please read Habakkuk 3:17 - 19.

For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews ... seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed. Esther 10:3.

In these days of selfishness and greed (Ed. covetousness also), it is refreshing to read of a man who used his elevated position to bless others. God's hand protected Mordecai and saw him saved from what seemed to be certain death and lifted to a place of political power and influence. Instead of using it for his own benefit, Mordecai sought the wealth of his people. May God help us to be generous and selfless with God's blessings to us. – G. S.

As we receive, so let us give, with ready, generous hand, Rich fruitage from the lives we live, to bless our home and land. – P. A. Chub

“God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work”. 2 Corinthians 9:8.

*All needful grace will God bestow,
And crown that grace with glory too;
He gives us all things, and withholds
No real good from upright souls.* – Selected

“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully”. 2 Corinthians 9:6

“But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You” 1 Chronicles 29:14. (Please read also 1 Chronicles 29:10 – 14).

Financially this past 'summer' has been *lean* and it would be so appreciated to be able to meet our current expenses, but even greater IF 'we' could regain some 'financial' ground. Are you willing to be a helping 'hand' in this area of the Lord's Kingdom?

Thank you so much for what you are willing and able to do in this behalf and may our 'Living Savior' richly bless YOU in return! Not the reason for 'giving' but notice what God promises in Luke 6:38.

August's Income for the ministry of the *Morning Glory* is approx. \$2,377.00.

The cost of publishing and mailing *Morning Glory* each month is approx. \$2,000.00



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

1. Publication Title Morning Glory		2. Publication Number 8 8 7 7 4 0		3. Filing Date 09-29-14
4. Issue Frequency January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12		6. Annual Subscription Price none
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) Haga Publishing 808 Martha Lake Court Shoreview, MN 55126-5856				Contact Person Jim Haga Telephone (include area code) 651-415-9596
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) Hauge Lutheran Innersmission Federation 508 5th St NE Dilworth, MN 56529				
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)				
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Hauge Lutheran Innersmission Federation 508 5th St NE Dilworth, MN 56529				
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Rodney Stueland, Editor 508 5th St NE Dilworth, MN 56529				
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) same as above				
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)				
Full Name Hauge Lutheran Innersmission Federation		Complete Mailing Address 508 5th St NE Dilworth, MN 56529		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None				
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)				

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Periodicals Postage Paid at
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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

Volume XCVI • Number 10 • October, 2014
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

13. Publication Title Morning Glory		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below September, 2014	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Not press run)		1540	1540
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	1437	1440
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	59	56
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	—	—
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	18	19
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d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	—	—
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		—	—
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1511	1515
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		25	25
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1536	1540
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99%	100%
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>James R. Haga</i> Publisher		Date 09-29-14	

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*Dust to dust, the mortal dies,
Both the foolish and the wise;
God my waiting soul shall save,
He will raise me from the grave.*

Author Unknown

(Editor: And NEW 'body' like Jesus' body)