



Morning Glory

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

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • October 2017

Spiritual Drowsiness And Carnal Security

In the twenty-fifth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, at verse 5, Jesus says concerning the Ten Virgins, both wise and the foolish: *“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.”* We see a repetition of this phenomenon daily in the incomprehensible drowsiness and spiritual lukewarmness which obtains in Christendom. The world is secure and obdurate. The hypocrite deceives himself year in, year out, with a spurious Christianity and a false hope. The believers grow forgetful, drowsy, negligent, making tottering steps, stopping half way, or lapsing into spiritual death. And the reason for this deplorable condition is: The Bridegroom tarries. Nothing of an exceptional character happens. One year is very much like another. There are no special signs indicating the second coming of the Lord. The ungodly flourish and rejoice in their prosperity. They seem happy, secure and confident. He who loves the Lord and seeks the heavenly treasures is laughed at and ridiculed as a fool, frequently suffers adversity. A thousand allurements attract him, and his heart is bowed down. Everything argues for the world. Nobody utters the word of warning, of exhortation or of comfort. The Word of God is sorely neglected. Prayer, testimony, witnessing for Christ, suffering for His name’s sake – all these are absent. The evil day is here. The power of darkness rules. Even the elect become drowsy, cold, listless. The oil in their lamps is constantly diminishing: gradually it will disappear and the lamps will go dry. Christians are growing worldly-minded, careless, and spiritually indifferent.

The listlessness into which Christians are sinking is

shown by the circumstance that spiritual things are becoming insignificant and unimportant, while the world and worldly things are becoming of prime importance to them. It is demonstrated by the fact that the Christian has become perfectly satisfied with himself. He relies upon himself. He feels no burden of sin. He has no conflict between the spirit and the flesh, no fear of the enemy, no doubt as to himself. He resembles Peter, when he assured the Lord: *“Though all men should be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended”* (Matthew 13:33). A few hours later he denied his Master. He resembles King David, when from the roof of his palace he cast lustful eyes upon the woman, without dreaming of danger. Too many Christians have no concern about their steady advancement in that which is good. The grace of God in Christ no longer warms the soul as in the early days of the Christian life. The Word of God becomes insipid and tasteless.

But that which differentiates an honest *soul* from the dishonest one is, that the living Christian soon becomes anxious about himself, sees the warning look of the Master, goes out from the world, and weeps bitterly. If his carnal security has progressed so far that God must use external tribulations, or some reprimanding Nathan, to effect an awakening, the honest Christian will accept the ordeal to his own good. He will take the warning or the chastisement to heart, confess his sins and his spiritual indolence, and amend his life by a closer walk with God.

It is, on the contrary, a mark of the transition from spiritual drowsiness and security to death and obduracy, that a person refuses to be warned and remains self-satis-

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fied and carnally secure. Either, like Judas Ishkarioth, he continues in sin, conceals it, defends it, denies it, or, like the foolish virgins, he leads an outwardly respectable life, but is utterly lacking in spiritual life. Thus he goes on, a false Christian, until the door is shut. A person is in a frightful soul-condition when he no longer is capable of serious thought, no longer possesses the ability to stop and consider the most important things of life, no longer has any concern for his soul and the Judgment Day.

But such is human nature, — a dreadful demonstration of death which was to be the penalty for sin and disobedience: *“In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die”* (Genesis 2:17); the result of the condition described by the apostle: *“There is no fear of God before their eyes”* (Romans 3:18). They hear God’s Word. They read it. They believe that while others may deceive themselves, they are safe and secure. They have no fear of being lost. They are hypnotized by the allurements of the world, and laugh at the admonitions of the Spirit.

To be continued in the next issue of the Morning Glory

A Faithful Guide to Peace with God by C. O. Rosenius, Augsburg Publishing House © Copyright 1923, Permission Granted

“And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last.”

John 8:9

God speaks through our conscience. This helps us to know what is right and what is wrong. When one ignores the pricking of conscience it becomes hardened, but when one obeys the promptings of the Spirit, the conscience becomes more tender. Jesus wants us to be sensitive to sin. He would have us quickly turn from our sins and be clean and pure before Him.

A couple of boys stood ready to throw a rock at a bird when their father noticed them. He called to them,

“Don’t throw the stone, boys. The bird will fly at you. When I was a boy, fifty years ago, I had no playmates so I trained myself to become skillful in throwing rocks. One day I went to work for an aged couple. For seven years a swallow had built a nest under the roof of their house. Each year the couple watched for the bird’s return, and were happy when they saw it again. The bird, on this day, had settled on a post, and I took aim and struck the bird on the head with a rock. The bird fell dead, and when I saw the bird fall I felt as though the rock had struck me. The mate to the bird flew around and around the dead bird and cried and cried. I have felt bad about the episode for fifty years.

It is well to keep one’s conscience clear before God.

Dear Lord Jesus, may Thy Word rule in our hearts so that we will not sin against Thee. Keep our conscience tender toward Thee. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.

*How shall the young secure their hearts,
And guard their lives from sin?
Thy Word the choicest rules imparts
To keep the conscience clean.*

Altar Steps by Pastor R. P. Haakonson, Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation

Editor’s Note: Are you looking for a biblical family devotional book for an entire year?

Well, you need not look any further as this can be attained from HLIF for a suggested donation of eight dollars plus two dollars for handling and postage. We also have other materials available.

* * * * *

For in that He himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted.
Hebrews 2:12.

IT is unspeakably great that God gave us Jesus as the Atoner for our sins, and it is also unspeakably great that He walks among us and desires to save that which was

lost. But is it less great that in His life on earth He has tried what we must try, and that He therefore can help us when we suffer and are tempted?

When our Savior sees tears in our eyes, He remembers the reason for His own tears. And when Satan tempts us so that it seems we are walking between fire and sword, then our Savior looks at us with a heart full of sympathy. From the depths of His human nature there arises a power which He has won in His lifetime, and His heart calls to us: “I understand you, struggling brother and sister! I too have been in the same conflict that you are in now.” When our souls tremble because heaven is closed against us and because Father hides His face from us, and we fear eternal perdition, then our sad groans reach Him, and again He shouts to us: “To Me also heaven was closed when the sweat fell as blood on the ground, and the cross stood enveloped in darkness.”

To see our Savior from this side also brings great power to all the children of God who must suffer. Seen thus He suits us so wonderfully well in our daily life. Try to see Him thus today.

And if I ever go astray,
My wayward soul He turneth,
To save the lost, to guide the way,
For this He ever yearneth;
He leadeth me, my soul to bless,
In His own path of righteousness
For His name’s sake and glory.

Thy Kingdom Come by Ludvig Hope, Augsburg Publishing House © Copyright – 1939, Permission Granted.

* * * * *

Mary Slessor Faced the Lion Down

Mary Slessor, the intrepid missionary who single-handedly turned back two tribes of warriors and stopped an intertribal war in the heart of Africa, once met a lion coming toward her on the path.

She was alone and didn’t even know how to shoot, if she had a gun. She had only an umbrella which she aimed at the lion and prayed to God to help her, looking the beast straight in the eyes. She stood still and said firmly, “Get out of here in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

The lion stopped in his tracks and sniffed at the point of her umbrella. Nothing daunted, Mary repeated, “Get out of here in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

The lion turned and ambled away through the bush, leaving Mary alone.

What God can do when by faith His servants face the danger confident – wanting to live and willing to die!

Selected

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

By Pastor Daniel Cox, New Smyrna Beach FL

The city of Philadelphia became the epicenter of liberty in the late eighteenth century and also served as the temporary capital of the nation until the city of Washington was constructed. The city, however, was not only the ground upon which liberty was proclaimed but also integral to the mighty workings of God in our nation.

In September of 1857 in New York City, a merchant named Jeremiah Lamphier accepted a full-time position for the Old Dutch North Church on Fulton Street. The church had fallen on hard times but decided to pay Lamphier \$1,000 to knock on doors and bring new members into the church.

The going was slow, and at first he met with little results, but as he walked around the city one day the thought occurred to him that businessmen might respond to a noontime call to prayer.

Once again the going was tough, and he did not meet with immediate success. At his first meeting there were but six men, but faithfulness proved greater than his doubts. Lamphier refused failure!

Within six months ten thousand businessmen (out of a population of 800,000) were gathering daily in New York City for prayer. Twenty prayer groups spread throughout the city. The prayer revival had been born and was multiplying in its effect.

Cities like Boston, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha, and points west were touched. Prayer had sponsored a revival!

By 1858, a great citywide revival had also swept across the city of Philadelphia; and among the great preachers of this movement was a minister named Dudley Tyng. Tyng, the son of a pastor, was bold, fearless and uncompromising in his preaching, even addressing the subject of slavery and his detestation of it. The clouds of civil war were stirring along with the rain of renewal and revival.

In addition to ministry as pastor, Tyng also began holding noonday services at the downtown YMCA. Mighty crowds were attracted to hear this dynamic young preacher.

On Tuesday, March 30, 1858, over five thousand men gathered for a noon meeting to hear twenty-nine-year-old Tyng preach from Exodus 10:11: **“Go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD.”** Over one thousand of these men responded in giving their lives for the service of the Saviour!

Amazingly, the young preacher remarked, “I must tell my Master’s errand, and I would rather that this right

arm were amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God’s message.”

The prophet had uttered an unwitting prophecy! By Wednesday of the next week, Tyng would suffer a horrible accident.

While standing by a piece of farm machinery, the sleeve of his coat became entangled in the gearing. His arm was drawn into the machinery and torn off by the roots! Soon he would be in Heaven; but before his flight to Glory, his father came to his bed and asked, *“Dudley, hundreds of your friends and coworkers are waiting for news from you. What should I tell them?”* to which he replied, *“Father, tell them to stand up for Jesus!”*

George Duffield, Tyng’s friend, heard of these last words and used them as the subject of that Sunday’s sermon. Duffield preached from chapter 6 of Ephesians on the subject of the armor of God; and in admonishing the congregation to pick up the fight left by Tyng, he quoted six stanzas of a song he had written upon the subject. (Ed. The song is Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus).

The song is too militant for many today, but it conveys just the type of spirit the Christian soldier needs. Jeremiah Lamphier, Dudley Tyng and George Duffield understood that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

The shots fired in this war were from the cannons of prayer and preaching. ***“From vict’ry unto vict’ry, His army shall He lead, Till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.”***

What a Saviour! What a song! And what a heritage of hymns! Selah!

Sword of the Lord.

Editor’s Note: As I am typing this article, for our benefit, I was reminded of an experience in my home community many years ago that I was told about, as I recall.

An Evangelist had traveled from Norway to the USA as a guest Evangelist. Among his stops were my home community where he was to be the speaker for a good length of time in a Gospel tent.

As the meetings went on, there were really no visible results and so the group behind the Gospel tent meetings got together to decide when the Gospel tent should be taken down and naturally the conclusion of the Evangelistic Services.

BUT a Christian layman said in effect, “We should go into my abode and pray about this decision,” AND so they did, and decided to continue the meetings.

To my knowledge one person got converted and saved, who became an Evangelist whom **God used** as a vessel mightily for many years!

Editorial

RES

TABERNACLE/TEMPLE

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

(I Corinthians 6:19-20)

(AWESOME!)

Years ago a believer entered an eloquent church building – and just entering the building they said you could sense the presence of God! **BUT** GOD does not dwell in temples made by human hands! “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.” Acts 17:24, also 7:48a.

YES many church buildings indicate to a certain extent that we may experience a certain awe and reverence for God, but not a sense of His presence. Many churches are built to the Glory of God by dedicated human hands.

The words “Tabernacle” and “Temple” mean God’s dwelling place. **BUT** God is just as real and personal IF two or three are gathered in His Name – be it in a magnificent building or in a hut or in humble abode or under a tree.

When you purchase a vehicle you are given the keys and title as the “possessor” – and thus the maintenance is your privilege/responsibility. **NOW** in reality, provided you know and are walking with JESUS by faith, **YOU** are not your own, as JESUS is the Purchaser and you belong to HIM! **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – awesome! *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love.”* Ephesians 3:17. **YOU** and I are purchased with **JESUS’ Precious BLOOD**, and don’t make light of the price JESUS had to pay to purchase/redeem **YOU**! HE gave His very life (personally) for **YOU**! What a price to pay for an unworthy, filthy, lost **SINNER**! Isaiah 1:6, 64:6, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5. **WHAT A TRANSACTION** has taken place when you and I have experienced John 1:12-13 & II Corinthians 5:17-21. How you now handle this *vessel/vehicle* is mainly up to you!

According to Romans 12:1-2, the privilege and challenge lies with you. *“I beseech you there, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your*

reasonable service, And do not be conformed (squeezed) to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” In other words, frankly, either Satan or God possesses you, as it is impossible to serve two masters.

There is only one purpose of a sacrifice and that is to please the one it is given unto. A sacrifice has no ‘plans’ of its own!

In the Old Testament, a type and shadow of that which was to come was the first-born, male lamb, without spot or wrinkle. (See Exodus 12:5) Today we have the “Perfect LAMB” – **JESUS**. This makes us acceptable before a sinless Holy God. Do you possess this “Lamb” as your personal Savior and are you walking with HIM by faith? In a sense, there are three steps in a Christian’s life – Step one: I and Jesus, Step two: Jesus and I and Step three: **JESUS ONLY!** (Ascension Day proves that God the Father is totally satisfied with the Perfect Lamb, His Son).

Sometimes you may hear a professing Christian say: “I am just human!” Is that true in the light of the opening text before us? **IF** the Holy Spirit is not indwelling within you, you are none of His!

“So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, (the Person of the Holy Spirit) he is not His.” Romans 8:8-9.

Much of a congregation’s music today is centered on what **I** want and is based on emotions, feelings and what **I** am promising to do. The question is this: Is this pleasing to our Living Savior? Please read Hebrews 13:8-14 before reading the following: *“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”* Naturally then follow reading Hebrews 13 to the end of the chapter, then finishing with Hebrews 12:28-29, **Matthew 5:13-16.**

IT IS AWESOME in His GRACE to be a tabernacle/temple of GOD and *an ambassador of HIS!*

P. S. *Even though* we are challenged with the maintenance of this physical body (that is, the privilege and responsibility to care for it), how we use this body and for whom we use it, rest assured that HE has purchased it with His own Precious Blood. When we go through trials, afflictions and tribulations, HE permits the same (Father-filtered) in His Infinite LOVE and GRACE for OUR BENEFIT.

This is permitted or given in order that having a NEED,

we may come to know HIM personally as our Savior and that our roots grow deeper into His Eternal Word (through pruning), and that our lives might be more fruitful to His Honor and Glory! God is at the controls in our storms so we need not be terrified! **Jesus really does care, so keep your eyes upon Jesus! 1 Peter 5:7.**

During this physical and spiritual journey, be sure you are using your body/mind/spirit in proper activities and clothing with proper attire, that draws people unto our Everlasting, Eternal SAVIOR!

Dear [reader],

Everywhere you and I look, we are provoked to fear.

The ravages of war and unbridled violence fill our evening news – acts of terror claiming multiple lives in once-safe cities like London, Paris, and Orlando ...Christians around the world targeted and persecuted for their faith...

But as believers, we have not been given a spirit of fear. Instead, we have received a spirit of power and love. God has given us a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

Therefore, even in the midst of global disasters and personal crises, we should *live confidently and fearlessly in Christ* – because we know that our God wins.

Christ will come again in glory. And when He does, He will put the enemy under his feet and make all things new...

Together, we are empowered to strike at the very heart of terror, confusion, and persecution with the hope, love, and forgiveness of Christ. And His TRUTH is changing lives.

Here is the testimony of ...

I am from the Yazidi community. We fled our homes and ISIS took 3,700 of our women and children hostage. After our city was liberated, I went back to my home to find it looted and burned. At that moment, I thanked the Lord that my home is in heaven and that the Bible says, 'All things work together for the good of those who love Him.' ...

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only hope for a world entrenched in fear and tragedy – and with your help, we will continue to boldly proclaim it.

No matter what is going on in this sin-filled world, **“the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world”** (1 John 4:4). ...

In Christ,

Michael Youssef, Ph.D.

Editor's Note: By the Grace of God and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, TOGETHER we will continue to respond in faith rather than fear; as the MG/HLIF is a part of the Kingdom of God's Work on earth! Through your partnership, you are with us, sharing the Law and Gospel of Christ on the frontlines of ministry, especially among Lutherans!

* * * * *

Heaven

There is much about Heaven we don't know. God hasn't chosen to reveal everything to us. But we do know Heaven will be far more glorious than anything we can imagine.

One truth God has revealed to us, however, is one we sometimes overlook. In Heaven we will have new bodies – bodies that will be free from the pain and death of this present world (Ed. Totally free from SIN in every form for all Eternity). They will be like Christ's body after His resurrection – somewhat like our present bodies, yet free from the limitations we now experience.

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. John 20:26.

Wisdom For Each Day © 2008 Billy Graham, Mfd.
for © 2011 Day Spring Cards, Inc.

Editor's Note: Please prayerfully read the following Bible verses: Job 19:25-27, Psalm 16:9-10, Isaiah 25:8-9, Matthew 5:30, 26:6-13, Luke 14:14, I Corinthians 6:14, 15:38-49, II Corinthians 5:8, Romans 8:11-13 & 23, Philippians 3:20-21 I Thessalonians 4:14, 11 Thessalonians 5:23-24, I John 3:2, Revelation 21:1-8 & 22:4.

Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

This, dear friend, is ASTOUNDING.

Because we believe in God's design for marriage and sexuality – the universal belief of Christians for over 2,000 years – the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) – has been demonizing conservative Christian ministries as “hate groups”, alongside the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party! Does your congregation believe marriage is the union of one man (male) and one woman (female)? Does it believe that homosexual behavior is a sin? If so, your own church could also be designated as a “hate group.” We will continue to stand for the truth of God's Word, the BIBLE – but we do need your encouragement and support, as standing alone, we will likely fall. Your freedom, your children's freedom is at stake. Religious freedom is definitely clearly on the line.

Of course, most people are not in favor of “hate speech” – least of all Christians, who are to “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt...” Colossians 4:6.

We need to keep in mind that when the left talks about “hate,” they are the ones deciding how to define it and, secondly, they indirectly have you in mind, who are being true to the absolutes of Scripture.

Selected by the editor

The New York Times

Liberal Media Sees What It Wishes to See

Former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin has filed suit with *The New York Times* over an editorial falsely linking her with the 2011 shooting of Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. At the time of the Giffords shooting, numerous news outlets raced to pin the crime on conservatives without any evidence, with several blaming a Palin TV ad that “targeted Giffords' district for electoral change.” ... Nevertheless, the *Times* repeated the false charge against Palin in the wake of the June shooting of Rep. Steve Scalise.

Selected

Religious Liberty Victory

The United States Supreme Court made an important decision in favor of religious liberty in June, (2017). In the Trinity Lutheran case, the Court ruled 7-2 that a Christian school could not be excluded from a state program simply for being Christian. The Missouri case con-

cerned a Christian pre-school and daycare in Columbia, Missouri that qualified for a state funded program to re-surface playgrounds using recycled rubber tires. Despite otherwise qualifying under all the program's criteria, the school was denied participation because it was Christian. The high court noted that forcing people to abandon their religion in order to participate in generally-available public programs violates the guarantee of “free exercise of religion” under the First Amendment.

In the News, A Publication of
D. James Kennedy Ministries.

“Mandatory” Federal Healthcare Spending Now Tops \$1,000,000,000,000

“Mandatory” federal healthcare spending under what the Congressional Budget Office calls “major healthcare programs” exceed \$1,000,000,000,000 for the first time in fiscal 2015, according to the latest historical data published by the CBO.

The “major healthcare program”... include Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and subsidies for people buying health insurance through the Obamacare exchanges.

“Mandatory” federal spending on these major healthcare programs, according to the CBO's data, increased by 48.3 percent from fiscal 2008 to fiscal 2016...

In fiscal 2016, the federal government spent a net of \$1,011,800,000,000 on major healthcare programs, according to CBO.

Terence P. Jeffrey, CNSNews.com

Gloria Steinem Backs Abortion Because “Forced Childbirth Is the Single Biggest Cause of Global Warming”

According to radical feminist Gloria Steinem, women will never be “fully equal” to men unless they have abortion rights. Oh, and the patriarchy's to blame for climate change too.

In an interview with... writer Lindsey Stanberry, Steinem shared thoughts on feminism; and unsurprisingly, everything came back to female reproductive rights.

When the writer commented that some considered climate change to be a feminist issue, Steinem avidly agreed, opining that forced childbirth was the cause of

many of the earth's problems.

"Listen, what causes climate deprivation is population," the 83-year-old exclaimed "If we had not been systematically forcing women to have children they don't want or can't care for over the 500 years of patriarchy, we wouldn't have the climate problems that we have."

lifeneews.com

American Deaths From Drug Overdoses in 2015 Equal Number of American Deaths in Vietnam War

Breitbart.com (April 19, 2017) reports that the Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly gives some staggering information about illegal drugs in our country.

"During a discussion that George Washington University (GWU) hosted about the threats facing the United States, retired General Kelly noted in his prepared remark, "It's the highest number of drug-related deaths our country has ever seen. It's more deaths than the peak of the AIDS epidemic in 1995. In a single year, we've lost nearly as many Americans to drug overdose as we lost in battle in World War 1, almost as many as were lost in 12 years in Vietnam. And that's just overdose deaths. That number – as high as it is – says nothing about the long term health damage to our citizens who survive, to say nothing about the human misery, the families ripped apart, and the extremes of crime and violence inherent in the illegal-drug enterprise."

"Kelly identified transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) in the form of Latin American drug cartels and violent international gangs like MS-13 as 'one of the greatest' threats against the American public..."

"Echoing the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Kelly said that most of the heroin in the United States originates in Mexico."

Murder, crime, drug overdoses, and perverted lifestyles seem to have become the new norm in America.

RETURN AMERICA, Dr. Ron Baity

The Hauge Revival Movement

There are a few things we ought to have learned from our history during these many years. May the Holy Spirit help us to keep them in mind (*and heart experience*).

First of all, we must praise God for the living Christians, whether they are with us or not.

It is very encouraging to know that almost every one of our Inner Mission societies has been launched during, or right after, a spiritual revival. (*Sad but true, these Societies are history in the USA and Canada*). When the hearts were the warmest, when the Holy Spirit was the nearest, then God's people felt anxious to preserve this holy flame among themselves and scatter it to others. So it was in Norway when the first society was organized in Skien in 1853. So it has been here since 1884. Revivals preceded and very often followed. This must be the strongest proof that we have a God-given call to labor...

While we should be thankful for every living Christian and for all that the Holy Spirit does in the organized churches and church bodies, we should not forget that the heaven-sent revival God sent upon our people, beginning in 1776, did not start out with a university graduate or in any organized church. It took almost 100 years in Norway before it could even enter an organized church. It pleased God to choose as His instrument a poor young unschooled farmer, Hans Nielsen Hauge. The heaven-sent revival also worked on and continued as an absolutely independent movement, and so it does in 1941 (*and still is a Faith Free Lutheran Movement*)...

We must never forget that just as we started out with revivals and in brotherly love so we must continue. Conversions and brotherly love are the very breath of our nostrils. If we for a long time have no conversions, brotherly love also sickens and decays. The Inner Mission... will also sicken and decay. When we have revivals, or only a few conversions, the brotherly love is kindled anew again. ...

So, by the grace of God, let us toil on and carry on in the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the old foot-steps that God set through Hans Nielsen Hauge in 1796, and our friends in the Red River Valley in 1884. Let us pray, intercede, do personal work and make use of evangelists.

If we cannot so often have the customary three-day meeting now, let us have fellowship meetings and small meetings in churches and private homes...

Let us never forget that it was the Hauge movement alone that did all the soul-saving work among our people from 1825 – 1843 – for 18 years. We did not have a single organized church before 1843. But we had wonderful revivals and a great number of conversions just the same. We have a right to live and to carry on with our work, just as much as any organized church body. We are older than any of them.

The Hauge Movement in America, Published by The Hauge Inner Mission Federation – 1941.

Protest

“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.”

(Galatians 2:11)

This is the ninth in a series of articles about the conversion of Martin Luther. The year 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and we want to emphasize how Luther was converted, for you will see elements in Luther’s conversion that are lacking in most Christian circles today.

After Luther was converted to Christ, he became concerned about the practices he saw in the church. Luther was convinced through personal experience that forgiveness of sins was only through faith in Jesus and apart from human merit or works. He was convinced of this through his study of the Scriptures.

Yet, the church was practicing something very different.

“For a sum of money, someone could purchase an indulgence which would grant the recipient remission of all sins. Subscribers would enjoy a plenary and perfect remission of all sins. They would be restored to the of innocence which they enjoyed in baptism and would be relieved of all the pains of purgatory, including those incurred by an offense to the Divine Majesty. Those securing indulgences on behalf of the dead already in purgatory need not themselves be contrite and confess their sins. ... Remember that you are able to release them, for ‘As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, The soul from purgatory rings.’ ...

“This was too much. Again on the eve of All Saints, when Fredrick the Wise would offer his indulgences, Luther spoke, this time in writing, by posting in accord with current practice on the door of the Castle Church a printed placard in the Latin language consisting of ninety-five thesis for debate. ...

“There were three main points: an objection to the avowed object of the expenditure, a denial of the powers of the pope over purgatory, and a consideration of the welfare of the sinner. ...

[In Luther’s own words]:

“Indulgences are most pernicious because they induce complacency and thereby imperil salvation. Those persons are damned who think that letters of indulgence make them certain of salvation. God works by contraries so that a man feels himself to be lost the very moment when he is on the point of being saved. When God is about to justify a man, He damns. Whom He would make alive He first must kill. ...when a man believes himself to be utterly lost,

light breaks. Peace comes in the Word of Christ through faith. He who does not have this is lost even though he be absolved a million times by the pope ...”¹

Luther was grieved over practices that “induce complacency and thereby imperil salvation.” Though his initial posting of the Ninety-five thesis was just for a debate among theologians, it quickly spread to the common people and became a matter of protest. Hence those who followed in this protest were called Protestants. Yet as we look at the scene in Christianity 500 years later, where is the protest over matters that will imperil salvation? Are we no longer concerned about teachings and doctrines promoted by religious leaders today which will lead people away from Christ, rather than toward Him?

I saw a Lutheran Church that advertised on their electronic church sign, “God Bless every Muslim during Ramadan.” Where is the protest over this because Muslims don’t believe in the Trinity or the deity of Jesus and have a “salvation” based on works? Do we not care anymore that without faith in the real Lord Jesus that every Muslim is going to hell?

Where is the protest over sacramentalism? When people, even pastors, give testimony that they are Christians today and will go to heaven because they have been baptized and give no testimony of personal faith in Jesus? Where is the protest over the claim that taking communion automatically remits the sins of the recipient without stating that the recipient must have faith for it to be efficacious? Is this really any different than believing that we can give a sum of money and obtain forgiveness of sins? The first of the Ninety-five thesis said that the Christian life should be one of daily repentance.

Where is the protest over liberalism in social issues? When the Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality is a sin (Rom. 1:26-27) and that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God (I Cor. 6:9-11). Where is the outcry from the Christian community that this will lead people to hell? Are we afraid that we will make enemies through this? Are we afraid that people will call us legalists? Are we not concerned that souls of people are going lost by believing a lie?

Does not doctrine matter anymore? Are we just supposed to love everyone and stand for nothing and let people go along deceived and go lost? Luther’s posting of the Ninety-five thesis would tell us otherwise. Jesus’ stand against the false teachers of His day would also say otherwise. (See Matthew 23:13-36)

Pastor Jim Haga
Shoreview, MN

1 *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* by Roland Bainton. Abington Press, Nashville, TN, 1978, pgs. 58-63.

Gunnar Graven

“Cry aloud, spare not. Show My people their sins.” Isa. 58:1

Much has been said and written both here and in Norway about this fiery preacher of repentance. We can here give only a few brief touches. ... I shall touch briefly on four outstanding experiences in his struggling, but fruitful life.

First experience – His conversion. Young Graven had heard the call to repentance. He had renounced outward sins, but his heart was cold and stony. There was no help for him. He had given up.

In this forlorn, lost and helpless condition, he came to his church in Norway one Sunday. A visiting pastor, who himself had been recently converted through a lay-preacher, spoke on the “Great Supper” in Luke 14. In applying the words about the poor, blind and needy who were invited, he cried out in power and unction:

“Jesus has come to save those who have nothing and can do nothing!” The Holy Spirit put these words into young Graven’s heart. He was led to Calvary, born again, and set free in the very pew he sat. The burden of his heart rolled away and his soul was flooded with peace and joy.

Second experience — The great testing. His heavenly peace and joy gradually left him, his lost nature returned with its temptations, and he was overtaken by an awful darkness. The Tempter whispered that he had backslidden, yes even sinned against the Holy Spirit, for which there is no forgiveness. With Bunyan, he was now in “the Castle of Despair.” He lost all strength for work, sleep and appetite. He sank into the valley of the shadow of death. He could only sign and groan—being in agony. He tasted the torments of hell. An awful condition!

But the blessed dawn came after the darkest hour. He experienced a new sun-rise in his soul and found healing for his despairing heart. The Gospel set him free again. He felt “the Solid Rock” under his feet. The new song was again put into his mouth.

Third experience – The heavenly calling. Young Graven was going to be a shoemaker. He had just learned the trade. But now God laid another very heavy burden upon his heart – the burden for the lost. It pressed down on him night and day – big tears rolling down his face and down upon the leather he worked on. But how in the world could he, a poor ignorant boy, without recognition and without invitations go out preaching? *“But an invisible power had laid hold of me,”* he writes, “and I had no peace till I said: **“Here am I.”**”

Out he went, blowing the trumpet of repentance for ten long years – without human call, salary or compensation. He worked at his trade in between for a living. But God had called him. Great revivals broke out in many places from which blessed fruits resulted, which are felt to this day.

But now his health gave out. He rented a small place near Trodheim, got married and was quiet for awhile.

Fourth experience – A pioneer pastor in South Dakota. Brother Graven and wife, Marit, came to South Dakota in 1871—north of Vermillion—and found their first home in “Norbeck’s dugout.” He soon began to bear witness among the new settlers. A revival broke out. Sinners were converted. The converted people organized congregations, called him for their pastor, had him ordained and joined. ...

The pioneer struggle had begun – against terrible snow and hailstorms, droughts, grasshoppers, pressing debts, little or no salary, living in dugouts and cold shanties – where the health was often impaired — traveling long distances on foot in snow, sleet, rain and mud, or at best on horseback with a bag of hay for a saddle. He ministered to some 10-12 congregations between Sioux City, Iowa, and Dell Rapids, South Dakota – a round trip of some 150 miles. At night he worked on his homestead. His health was at the breaking point again and again – till he was completely worn out...

Graven was always a great soul-winner. He was a *“Son of Thunder.”* A child expressed it in this way: **“I don’t like Graven; I can’t go to sleep when he preaches.”**

Someone remarked: “Why does Graven preach so much on hell?” The old layman, Thos. Eidem, answered: “He is best acquainted there.” But he certainly was also well at home on Calvary.

Graven’s meetings and services were in the liberty of the Spirit. He had one to open with prayer and another to close – often he asked some Christian lady to close with prayer, and also to give a testimony in a free song, or in word. Thus he encouraged the gifts of grace and was always a great friend of lay-evangelism and all layman’s activity. He was a layman’s pastor in the truest sense of the word. He was deeply burdened for his confirmation children and the salvation of the young people.

The last three years of his life at Santa Rosa, Graven gathered the people around God’s Word – in his own home toward the end – always encouraging others to take part. His last testimony was on God’s love to a poor and needy sinner. The peace and joy he had received 51 years before was surging through his soul in a remark-

able way just before his passing His face beamed with heavenly joy, which rested over his face, even after the soul had left the body and gone home to God.

Mrs. Marit Graven nee Olstad survived her husband by nineteen years. She was very gifted and a typical Haugean, Christian woman. She was of great help to her husband in his soul-saving work. Where he was fiery, aggressive, sometimes irate and hasty, she would be patient, calm, loving, yet firm. She brought great blessings to many through her spirit-filled singing and her prayers in the meetings. When a new minister wanted to turn the prayer meeting into a lecture meeting, she let him know that nothing could take the place of an old-fashioned prayer meeting. They had no children but were specially active in founding the Beresford Orphans' Home in 1897. ... May God raise up others of the same zeal and the same spirit.

The Hauge Movement in America, Published by Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation – 1941

* * * * *

The Million-Dollar Challenge

A very successful millionaire businessman became unexpectedly ill and was rushed to a hospital. His final hour was at hand.

Like many others, his name was on the church roll, but his life had been wrapped up in his work. He had little or no time for the things of God. Soon after he was admitted to the hospital, his pastor called to see him. The dying man grasped his hand and said, "I'll give you a million dollars if you can give me assurance of a place in Heaven."

The faithful pastor was unaffected as far as the money was concerned, but as a spiritual advisor he realized that perhaps for the first time in his life this popular businessman was giving serious thought to his soul.

With a prayer for guidance, he read from the Word of God precious and heart-searching truths. He told his lost church member that assurance of a place in Heaven is only for those who repent and place their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21) as their own personal Saviour. With a soul-winner's compassion, he urged him to humble himself as a sinner before God.

At last the man saw that salvation is "**without money and without price**" (Isa. 55:1), for the price for his salvation had already been paid on Calvary's cross. Before the day was out, he was resting in full assurance of faith.

Do you have that assurance? Jesus said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life**" (John 14:6).

Gospel Standard

The Name I Love

*I love the name of Jesus because it brings to me
The blessed news of pardon by way of Calvary.
It tells of how He suffered for sins, not His, but mine;
He bore their awful judgment in wondrous love di-
vine.*

*I love the name of Jesus, God's precious, holy Son,
For He has bought my pardon, my soul from sin has
won.*

*In love beyond all measure, in boundless grace to me,
He bore my sins' dark sentence upon the cruel tree.*

*I love Him, yes, I love Him because He first loved
me*

*With love for deeper, broader than the widest, deepest
sea.*

*I know I cannot love Him as much as He loves me,
But I love Him, yes, I love Him – Christ who died
for me.*

Author Unknown

* * * * *

It is not that God is stingy and must be coaxed, for He "**giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not**" (James 1:5). It is that we ourselves are so shallow and sinful that we need to tarry before Him until our restless natures can be stilled and the clamor of outside voices be deadened so that we can hear His voice. Such a state is not easily reached, and the men God used have paid a price in wrestling and prevailing prayer. But it is such men who rise from their knees confident of His power that go forth to speak with authority.

Vance Havner

**His grace is sufficient
No one can exhaust it;
Be strong in that grace
Abundant and true.**

**Draw largely, continually out of His fullness;
His grace shall be always sufficient for you.**

–anon.

Rest Awhile

And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus; and they told Him all things, whatsoever they had done, and whatsoever they had taught. And He saith unto them, “Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile.”

Mark 6:30-31

Jesus has commanded His people not only to go with Him to work: He has also said that we shall go with Him and rest.

It is true that many of us are heavy of foot when we are to go with Jesus to work. But if it is a Christian art to work for our Savior, it is no less an art to go apart with Him and rest. It is not at all God’s will that we shall work all the time. He who forgets to rest will soon be incapable of work.

The nervous chase in the work of God’s kingdom wears on us more than we think. We have no peace either in our homes with our own family, or in the prayer chamber with God. It would surely be of much greater value for the work that God gave us, if we oftener found the way to rest together with our Savior. We must notice that it was when the apostles came and told about all that they had done, that Jesus said: “Now you must go and rest.” And in our day it surely is time that we go apart with Jesus when we begin to tell others about what we have done. If it appears to us as though we in this way desire to honor God, we will find when alone with Jesus that we praised ourselves most.

When He again has purified the heart, we see how much dross adhered to the gold. Therefore: Remember to rest together with Jesus, you who are working for Him.

*O Bread of life from heaven,
To weary pilgrims given
O Manna from above:
The souls that hunger feed Thou,
The hearts that seek Thee lead Thou,
With Thy most sweet and tender love.*

Thy Kingdom Come by Ludvig Hope, Augsburg Publishing House, Copyright – 1939, Permission Granted.

The idea that this world is a playground instead of a battle-ground has now been accepted in practice by the vast majority of Christians. ... The “worship” growing out of such a view of life is as far off center as the view itself – a sort of sanctified nightclub without the champagne and the drunks.

A. W. Tozer

No Shame

We have become like the people of Jeremiah’s day: “They have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush” Jeremiah 8:12.

If we are to be pure and holy we must first commit ourselves – mind, body, and spirit – completely to Christ. We can’t hold back any area of our life from Him. Second, we must avoid situations that might encourage impure thoughts or actions. And, third, we must fill our mind and heart with Christ by feeding our souls on a daily diet of prayer and God’s Word. With God’s help we can keep our way pure, by living according to His Word.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word. Psalm 119:9

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Can God Do Everything?

Are there some things God cannot do? The answer may surprise you: Yes, there are some things that God can’t do. God cannot, for instance, tell a lie or go back on His promises. Neither can He do something evil or have an impure thought. Why? Because God cannot do anything that is contrary to His basic character.

Not only is He perfect, but He is also absolutely sovereign and all-powerful. And because of that – as Jeremiah wrote – nothing is too hard for Him. If He could bring Jesus back from the dead, can’t He also help you overcome whatever situation you are facing today?

Sovereign Lord, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power... Nothing is too hard for You. (Jeremiah 32:17, NIV)

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Martin Luther

Martin Luther once asked his congregation, **“Do you know more of your Bible this year than you did last year? Do you know more this year than you did two years ago?”**

Prayerfully read a portion of God’s Eternal Word every day!

Works Do Not Save, but They Do Matter!

M. R. DeHaan

Concerning all who have taken Christ as their Saviour and are resting on the eternal foundation Rock, *“let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon”* (1 Cor. 3:10).

Here then is a solemn warning to believers to take heed. Don't you believe it when the Devil whispers that because you are saved by grace, you can be careless or indifferent or live as you please.

There are two general classes of believers who will appear at this Judgment Seat of Christ: those who will receive a reward for faithfulness, and others who will *“suffer loss”* and see their works destroyed by fire.

A striking, contrasting figure is used here to describe these two classes. First mentioned are those who build on this foundation *“gold, silver and precious stones.”* Next mentioned are those who build on this same foundation *“wood, hay, stubble”* (vs. 12). The contrast is indeed amazing and striking.

We are to remember that both of them are building on the one foundation and therefore are safe as eternity is concerned. But the superstructure, that which they build upon the foundation, will be subjected to the testing fires of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

* * * * *

Forgiveness

Then came Peter and said to Him, ‘Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?’ Jesus saith unto him, ‘I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven.’

Matt. 18:21-22.

THE Christian who cannot forgive those who have sinned against him has a bad disposition; and if he is not able to overcome this, he will lose the forgiveness that he himself has received from God.

It is not always easy to forgive. It is especially difficult when it is one of our fellow Christians, or someone who is closely associated with us, who has wronged us. But no matter who it is or how hard it is, if we are to save our souls we must conquer the bad temper. Vile as it may sound to say it, nevertheless it is true that there are Christians who seem unable to forgive. Some say that they cannot; others argue with themselves and suffer much evil, but get nowhere. That is sad. There would be much less evil in homes, family groups, and neighborhoods, and in Christian congregations if we Christians had more of the

mild temper of Jesus who always forgave.

What shall we do to get power to forgive?

First, look this truth in the eye, that he who will not forgive others, loses forgiveness from God. Jesus has said that clearly. Remember also that you must receive forgiveness from God every day. Next, bring to God in your prayer the person that you dislike, mention him by name, and tell God plainly that you are unable to forgive that person. Then God will enable you to forgive.

*A broken heart, my God, my King,
Is all the sacrifice I bring;
The God of grace will ne'er despise
A broken heart for sacrifice.*

Thy Kingdom Come by Ludvig Hope, 1939 Copyright, Augsburg Publishing house, Permission Granted.

Editor's Note: ALMOST **all of God's promises**, in and by His GRACE have a condition to be met; even in what we call the 'Lord's Prayer'! Isn't it interesting that God's Book, the BIBLE, is a book of *absolutes*?

A Solution for Boredom

Dr. Terry Frala

“For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands; happy shalt thou be and it shall be well with thee.” Psalm 128:2.

The psalmist tells us something about the labor of our hands. The labor of our hands makes us happy, and it causes things to go well with us.

Few people are more miserable than someone who does not have anything to do. That is really true. It reminds me of one of my favorite cartoons. It had only two panels. The first panel has the dad and mom lying in bed asleep. There is a kid flying through the air heading toward their bed screaming, “SCHOOLS OUT!” In the last panel he is sitting right on top of Dad and Mom saying, “I'm bored!” I can remember those days. It was difficult getting used to not going to school when the summer came.

I've heard people say, “When you retire you are going to be bored to death.” I've known people who were, but I've also known people who did just fine. But why would some people associate retirement with boredom? Because if we are not going to work, it can lead to boredom.

People who retire and do well are usually people who are active and do something whether or not they are getting paid for it. Activity is a really good thing. And that is what God is trying to get across here: if we work, we will fare well—and not need welfare.

Sword of the Lord

We Will Not Bow

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said... Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods.”

Daniel 3:16, 18

The narrative of the manly courage and marvelous deliverance of the three holy children, or rather champions, is well calculated to excite in the minds of believers firmness and steadfastness in upholding the truth of death. Let young Christians especially learn from their example, both in matters of faith in religion, and matters of uprightness in business, never to sacrifice their consciences. Lose all rather than lose your integrity, and when all else is gone, still hold fast a clear conscience as the rarest jewel which can adorn the bosom of a mortal. Be not guided by the will-o'-the-wisp of policy, but by polestar of divine authority. Follow the right at all hazards. When you see no present advantage, walk by faith and not by sight. Do God the honor to trust Him when it comes to matters of loss for the sake of principle. See whether He will be your debtor! See if He doth not even in this life prove His word that ***“Godliness, with contentment, is great gain,”*** and that they who ***“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, shall have all these things added unto them.”*** Should it happen that, in the providence of God, you are a loser by conscience, you shall find that if the Lord pays you not back in the sliver of earthly prosperity, He will discharge His promise is the gold of the abundance of that which he possesseth. His promise in the gold of spiritual joy. Remember that a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of that which he possesseth. To wear a guileless spirit, to have a heart void of offence, to have the favor and smile of God, is greater riches than the mines of Ophir could yield, or the traffic of Tyre could win. “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and inward contention therewith.” An ounce of heart’s-ease is worth a ton of gold.

Morning & Evening by Charles Spurgeon, © 1991
Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

All By Grace

Martin Luther was merely a man saved by the grace of God and living a surrendered life to the Gospel message. Five hundred years ago when the Reformation started, he sought only to do the things that God had called him to do. We all know people even today that

live a life that is infused by the grace of God. These people are willing to put their resources and even family on the line at times. This is not easy, but by the grace of God, it is enjoyable. These people are not perfect but are resting in the grace of God.

One of my friends in India lives his life surrendered to the Gospel to see souls saved. In fact, his life goal is to see 1,000 people come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. This is in a country that worships over 330 million different gods. This man, he doesn’t want to just see a Hindu accept Christ as a god, but 1,000 to publicly proclaim Him as the only God.

Currently, this friend is traveling back and forth to a town that is about six train rides away to teach over fifty students... He is so passionate about the program and these students learning the Bible that he is covering the cost of all the travel himself.

We each can think of many in our lives that have impacted us for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of these people love our Lord and are serving Him in various ways. You don’t have to do what they do; you don’t even have to be in full-time ministry. But you can look to the One that they look to for strength and motivation. Jesus Christ came to save us from our sins, and He paid the penalty in full to satisfy the wrath of God. This is the One who says to us to take His yoke, He is the One who sends us out into the world, and He is the One who goes with us.

God’s grace – yes, it saves us, and it also empowers us to live for Him. ***“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”*** (Ephesians 2:10).

Free Lutheran Bulletin Service Pastor Brent Raan,
AFLC Missionary, Plymouth, MN.

* * * * *

Dear Friend,

In our day, anyone holding a traditional, Biblical view of sex and gender – people like you and me – faces intense pressure to conform (Ed. Being squeezed into the mold of this sinful world = Romans 12:1-2), to a new cultural orthodoxy – one that is not orthodox in any sense of the word.

Only a few short years ago, any argument to let biological men use the women’s locker room because they self-identified as female would have been branded absurd. Yet today, this is the settled doctrine of progressive liberals everywhere – even though it *can....and does....* harm people.

Nowhere is mankind’s separation from the Creator more evident than in this headlong flight from biologi-

cal reality. A powerful movement has taken shape that says perceived self-identification trumps biological sex – and it seeks to punish all who disagree.

Let me be clear: Our compassion for the sexually broken must be genuine – they need the healing that can be found only in Jesus.

But the Bible is clear, too. In Matthew 19:4, Jesus states, **“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female?”** Regardless of how hard we try, we cannot escape reality: we are created in God’s image as male AND female (Genesis 1:27).

My dear friend, it is not “hate” to stand up for God’s infallible truth.

Across the nation we are seeing political coercion of a dangerous sort... and your children – your grandchildren – are in the crosshairs ...

Excerpt taken from D. James Kennedy Ministries (letter), by Frank Wright, Ph.D.

Editor’s Note: It is not “hate” to stand up for God’s Eternal TRUTH and together we will continue taking a Christ-like stand for truth!

When God plans His Incorruptible Seed through YOU, He will bring it to LIFE!

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater; So shall My word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” Isaiah 55:10-11.

As you and I already know; we who know JESUS as our personal Savior are to be sowers of His Incorruptible Seed, as that is our privilege and responsibility. Thus we of this ministry are in need of team-members who faithfully uphold us in specific prayer support and investing financially in this portion of God’s Kingdom Work here on earth, while the door is still open! JESUS says “Occupy Till I Come”!

What a challenge the following Bible Verse is: **“So Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, If you have faith as a mustard seed; ... nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting’”**. Matthew 17:20-21.

Jesus herein calls our attention to a very small mustard seed! If we were to place a grain of sand and a grain of

mustard seed in the palm of our hand’s, you would almost need a magnifying glass to tell the difference in size. God’s marvelous power is in that seed, and you and I are to exercise the gift of a living-faith. The mustard seed has life in it. Put it into the ground, water, cultivate it in prayer and love with tears (burden). And it will take root and grow into a plant that is the largest of the herbs—a treelike plant with stalk, branches, leaves and blossoms – a plant large enough for birds to perch in it and to build their nests.

Naturally the mustard seed is a parable which is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. BUT this parable tells us how a small group of believers who are walking by faith will grow most likely physically, but most certainly benefitting for ETERNITY! Again we are privileged to plow, plant and water in His Grace. This is our privilege and responsibility as blood bought vessels of His and the honor and glory belongs to GOD. It will keep on growing!

Numerous Christian ministries were started this way, as was most certainly the Morning Glory/Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation. Let us continue to press forward in the Holy Spirit’s empowerment! *(Spiritual battles are not won when retreating and Satan especially likes to attack us at our weakest times and points)!*

YES, let us move forward in the proclaiming God’s Law and Gospel, that JESUS only is the answer for lost sinners, and all who truly believe God’s Eternal Word, the BIBLE! YES, we NEED to exercise the gift of a living-faith, and with GOD, *nothing is impossible!*

As team-members together through the Royal Blood shed on Calvary’s Tree for your sin and mine, we are seeking to reach the lost and nurture fellow-believers. Thus we are a family that reflects a uniting bond of love stemming from our mutual love toward Jesus and His Kingdom Work, because He first loved us!

Let US (together) try not to limit the power of God’s Word!

For example: Look again at the very first verse in the Bible as it reads **“IN the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** JUST imagine at the very beginning God created the heavens and the earth, by HIM speaking the WORD! Can you comprehend the power it took to bring into being the billions of stars that astronomers are stating discovering in the many galaxies of outer space?

ALSO consider (with our finite mind) the wisdom it took to develop the complex laws that would govern the whole creation and give it order!

LET US not underestimate God’s power of His WORD, as GOD never changes and His Word never changes as it is ETERNAL!

Editor

Update

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured to you” Luke 6:38.

Sometimes one may think that money given to the Lord’s cause is lost. Many people think so because they do not understand God’s Word: “Give, and it shall be given unto you!” It holds true both ways so that we can also say, “Don’t give, and nothing will be given to you.”

A seventeen-year-old boy brought an envelope with forty-seven dollars in it to the treasurer of his church, one Sunday morning.

“Here is the money for my church pledge,” said the youth.

Thanking the donor, the treasurer asked why he had his pledge in advance and commended him, also, on the amount of the donation.

“My salary is nine dollars a week,” said the youth, “and I have decided to give ten per cent (a tithe) of my wages to the Lord during the year. I am paying it in advance because no one knows what may happen to me, and I want to be sure that it is paid.”

This young man was putting first things first. He was paying his dues to God first. God would honor his promise when He says, **“Give, and it shall be given unto you.”** (God’s promise, not man’s).

Dear Lord, make us willing to give Thee first. Help us to believe Thy promise that Thou wilt give us more in return. Help us to see that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Taken from *Altar Steps* by Pastor R. P. Haakonson, Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation.

Keep in mind, practice and heart that God doesn’t always return His Promise in dollars and cents; but He always keeps His promise(s). **Proverbs 3:5-10.**

The August Income for the *Morning Glory* was approximately \$2,936.00.

The cost of publishing and mailing the Morning Glory each month is approx. \$2,100. In addition to the above costs there are administrative costs, so it takes about \$3,600 per month to keep the Morning Glory and the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation alive.

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Can We Hear From You?

We received very little to print this month in the section entitled, “From Our Fellowship Circle.” We always appreciate hearing from you, especially what the Lord Jesus is doing in your lives. Thank you to each one who has sent offerings to us. We deeply appreciate each one, regardless of size.

We also want to be good stewards of what you entrust to us in the Lord. If someone has moved or is deceased or does not wish to receive the Morning Glory any longer, please notify us of the change so we are not sending it to those addresses.

May the Lord bless each one richly.