



# Morning Glory

*“The Coming of the Lord Draweth Nigh” — I Thessalonians 5:8*

EXPERIENCED SALVATION • CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP • SIMPLICITY IN WORSHIP

Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation • September 2008

## A Layman Called by God

Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771-1824)

**O**n April 3, 1771 a boy was born on a farm named Hauge in Thune parish, about seventy-five miles south of Oslo, Norway. The first Sunday after Easter, Hans Nielsen Hauge was baptized in the nearby state-supported Lutheran church. Before his death 53 years later, God used him to bring a great awakening in Norway that, through immigrants, had an impact in America as well. Not only did spiritual revival occur, but his inventive mind aided the industrial development of his homeland when she was in great need.

By the time of Hauge's call, Norway had become a mere appendage to Denmark's empire. Ministers in Norway were primarily Danish, educated and ordained in Denmark and they even preached in Danish. Their polished sermons spoke little to the common folk. Their goal was to preach obedience to the reigning monarch in Denmark. After all, they were paid by the government. It is said that one Christmas Eve a Lutheran bishop preached a sermon on the care and feeding of cattle, as it was the only thing relevant that he could find concerning Jesus' birth. There were a few good theologians and a brief awakening occurred when pietism came to the empire in 1730. The most notable man of that time was Dr. Erich Pontoppidan, Bishop of Bergen, who wrote "Explanation of Luther's Catechism."

...During the latter half of the century, rationalism became highly fashionable among the elite and most clergy as well. Fifty years of this tradition produced a dead church throughout Scandinavia. It was in this environment that God called a layman.

The parents of Hans were deeply religious and family devotions and hymn-singing were part of their family life. One of six children, Hans showed a quiet, serious spirit while also being a very industrious young man. His foremost interest was religion. He wrote that from his early youth, he wrestled with the question, "What does God require of me?" For a number of years he sought to find a satisfactory answer through diligent study of the Scriptures, careful reading of Luther and Pontoppidan, and earnest prayer and regular attendance at worship services. By age 20, Hauge had acquired a remarkably sound mastery of Lutheran doctrine. But something was missing. As yet, Hauge's religion was centered in his head rather than in his heart.

Hauge's spiritual break-through and call came on April 5, 1796 while plowing a field on his father's farm. He later described his experience: "My heart was so uplifted to God that I do not know nor can I express what really took place in my soul. As soon as my senses returned to normal, I regretted that I had not served the loving and all-gracious God; now I felt that no worldly thing was of importance. It was a glory which no tongue can express; my soul felt something supernatural, divine and blessed. ...I had a completely transformed mind, a sorrow over all sins, a burning desire that others should share the same grace, a particular desire to read the Scriptures, especially Jesus' own teachings, as well as new light to understand them and the teachings of godly men; toward the one goal that Jesus Christ has come to be our Savior, that we should be born again by His Spirit, be converted and sanctified more and more in godliness to

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Volume XC – Number 8  
September 2008

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

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

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#### CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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serve the triune God alone, in order to improve and prepare our souls for the eternal blessedness.”

He did not rush out and begin preaching. Hauge first shared with his family, then some friends, but struggled with God as to why He was not sending out a minister or bishop. That summer and fall he spoke only to individuals, gaining a wonderful insight into the condition of their particular souls which became the most outstanding feature of his method of soul winning. During this time he wrote the first of 33 books in which he warned his readers of the danger of a false Christianity which relies upon forgiveness without genuine repentance. He also wrote with the intention to keep the awakened alert lest they fall into spiritual sleep and carelessness.

From January 1797 to his tenth and final imprisonment in 1804, Hauge trekked over 10,000 miles back and forth across Norway visiting every parish and hamlet. Spiritual awakenings broke out as many saw their lost condition and need of Christ. As the revival took hold, the opposition by the clergy mounted. They used a 1741 law which stated that no one was to hold public services who was not an ordained Lutheran pastor.

Hauge’s final imprisonment lasted for ten years and upon his release, he was broken in health due to the many diseases contracted under the terrible prison conditions. But his leadership in the religious movement continued. Through counseling, correspondence and the distribution of his books, he exerted a profound influence on the religious life of Norway.

At the time of his death in March 1824, no man in the country occupied a more distinguished and beloved place in the affections of the Norwegian people than this humble lay evangelist.

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Why did a layman succeed when even the few dedicated clergy could not? There seems to be seven main reasons:

1. Hauge's commitment to God. Since Christ had graciously saved Hauge, he continually asked the question "What did Christ as Lord expect of him?" He had to obey the Scriptures.

2. Hauge studied those Scriptures as keenly as any layman could. And he relied on prayer.

3. He experienced a direct call from God to be His witness to his countryman.

4. He knew the common folk. He was one of them. His keen observation of souls and what they responded to allowed him to speak to their hearts. He reached out to individuals rather than people in general. His focus on sincere and genuine repentance was key to the new life in Christ.

5. Hauge's personal convictions and dedication to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, shown from his heart. Hauge answered all hostility from common folk to sheriffs and judges in a calm and direct manner, always showing respect and kindness. He let Jesus shine through him.

6. His numerous small books were distributed at low cost or free. They were not deep theological works, but they presented God's Word in a way that touched hearts. As one theologian said after reading one of his books, "It lightens and thunders and sparkles to all sides, as if he had been hammering a piece of red hot iron."

7. Hauge quickly developed a gospel net of other layman over the whole of Norway to continue the work of nurturing the folk in true pietistic Lutheranism.

Dr. Robert Kohl

*The Lutheran Ambassador*, Oct. 31, 2000

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

WE said the other day that willingness to suffer was the secret of Jesus' life, not only as the Son of man, but also as the Son of God. To *will* to suffer is the secret of God's life, is the peculiarly divine element in the love of God.

Suffering is therefore also the secret of the believer's life. The apostle who gained the deepest insight into the mystery of the Gospel of Jesus is the one who knew of no greater desire than to share in the sufferings of Jesus by the power of His resurrection. He considered as fortunate his friends who were permitted not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for His sake.

We often wonder why we do not grow more than we do

as Christians. The answer, as far as most of us are concerned, is no doubt this: We accept the unmerited grace of God and use it as a means of adding to our own well-being instead of using it as a power which will enable us to suffer with Jesus.

Let us acknowledge this: We are afraid of suffering, both physical and spiritual. None of our prayers are so sincere and earnest as those we pray when we ask God to deliver us from adversity, sorrow, and suffering. Fortunately, God does not fulfill all these petitions of ours.

We *are* to suffer and we *must* suffer— all of us — in this world of sin. But salvation should enable us to *will* to suffer, for through salvation we receive the mind of *Christ*.

But what shall we do then, we who see daily that we do *not* will to suffer ?

There is only one thing for us to do: pray for *grace*. First that we may be forgiven for the sin of not believing in the Christ who says that it is good to suffer.

And then for *grace to suffer*.

Taken from *God's Word for Today* by O. Hallesby  
Augsburg Publishing House, 1937

## *Hauge's Call from God*

“As he was plowing on his father's farm, he began to sing the hymn “Jesu Din Sote Forenning a Småke, (Jesus, I Long for Your Blessed Communion). Up to this point he had not reached true spiritual peace, a genuine assurance of being a child of God. As he sang the second verse, he saw clearly his own total depravity, the vanity of worldly glory, and Christ as his only hope, life and stay. He realized by the means of grace that he had to die to all that was of self and this world so that the Savior living in him would be his all-in-all.

He immediately sensed a calling to share this with others and spoke to his sisters that same evening, and they immediately found peace with God. His father was understanding and sympathetic, though his mother first experienced grief over what had happened. Soon his whole family, however, received assurance.”

# *I Will Not Go Out Free*

God's ways seem like paradoxes to the human mind. He says, To live, you must die. To find your life, you must lose it. To become strong, you must first become weak.

One of the greatest paradoxes of all is this – TO BE TRULY FREE YOU MUST BECOME BOUND. To gain the greatest liberty in God one must give up all rights and become a lifelong bondservant to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a glorious love-slavery that leads to the highest form of freedom and liberty. It is a voluntary surrender born out of love and affection, causing one to consider servitude even greater than sonship. In a time when God's people are so obsessed with claiming their rights, so taken with the Lord's blessings, benefits, and promises – it would profit us all to allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to a place in God beyond anything we've yet discovered. I will show you that it is in perfect divine order to receive all the good things from the hand of God – and that no child of the Lord should feel guilty about the blessings and benefits poured upon him.

The purpose of this message is to expand your spiritual mind to comprehend something better than blessings and prosperity. Something far more rewarding than healing of the body and all the other manifold benefits He daily loads us with. Something better than freedom itself.

## **A BONDSERVANT IS THE HIGHEST CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS!**

A bondservant is one who has entered a sacrament of service with his master. It is beautifully outlined in Exodus 21, verses 2 through 6.

"If thou buy a Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. If he come in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master have given him a wife, and she have borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.

"And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him forever."

This is much more than a picture of God's humane concern for slaves and servants. In type and shadow it clearly portrays the bondservant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is the Master in this account, and we are the servants whose freedom has been purchased. The Cross is God's sabbath, the year of release for all prisoners, captives,

slaves, and servants. We who were sold under the Law have been set free by grace.

## **WE ARE TALKING ABOUT FREEDOM**

"...He shall go out free for nothing..." (v. 2). A Hebrew could be sold into slavery on two accounts: poverty or crime. If a thief was found breaking in, he had to make full restitution for all losses. If he could not pay, he became the chattel of the victim for six years to work off the debt. "He shall be sold for his theft." (Ex. 22:3). ...

Praise God forever! We who were once servants to sin, under bondage to the law of sin and death, have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb of God. Whom the Son sets free – is free indeed. We are free to "go out for nothing" – meaning, with no strings attached. Free to go forth without guilt or fear, to do whatever our hands find to do – hopefully in consultation with the Master.

The master was to release the servant without regrets. "It shall not seem hard to thee, when thou sendest him away from thee; for he hath been worth a double hired servant to thee..." (Deut. 15:18).

The emancipated servant was not to leave empty-handed. "And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty" (Deut. 15:13). He was to be furnished liberally with all his hands could carry, out of the flock, the granary, and the winepress. It was meant to be a stake sufficient to begin a new life.

## **THERE IS A KIND OF SERVANT WHO WILL NOT GO OUT FREE. HE CHOOSES BONDSERVICE AS HIS WAY TO SOMETHING GREATER THAN FREEDOM.**

"And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free..." (v. 5). To this servant there is no dilemma, no choice. His decision was never in doubt. His master was his whole world; he was bound to him with an eternal bond of love. He could not possibly leave his master or his house.

Like Paul, this servant considered all else as 'dung', that he might win the master. He was the kind who would be willing to be accursed if others could thereby come to know the love of his lord. His life revolved around his love for the master.

This servant valued intimacy with his master more than any earthly blessing. Who cared for flocks, for corn, or for wine and oil – when you could have endless communion and fellowship with the master? His heart overflowed with affection for him – it was home, it was heaven, just to be with

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him where he was. He made it very plain: “I love my master ...I will not go out free.”

Can you see this bondservant standing by as the master bestows gifts and benefits on all the servants who were going out free? His heart rejoices, yet grieves. He is thinking to himself, “Don’t they know this is the best life, serving the master in total yieldedness? How can they be satisfied to run their own lives, to simply receive his benefits and be satisfied with life on a lower plane, living on a lesser level of intimacy with the master?” Do they not know that bondservants “shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of his house, and that he shall make them drink of the river of his pleasures. For with him is the fountain of life, and in his light shall one discover light and life...” (Ps. 36:8,9).

What this servant is saying to us is simply this – **Christ is enough!** He is saying, There is nothing in this world worth losing the sense of His presence. All the wealth and prosperity of the entire earth is not to be compared to a single day spent with Him. The pleasures at His right hand far exceed any ecstasy known to man. To know Him, to be with Him where He is, seated together in heavenly places – is more than life itself. To serve Him, to be led by Him, to come and go as He alone commands – that is life on the highest plane.

Would you remind me you are a son, and not a servant? Then I would kindly remind you that Jesus, a Son who “thought it not robbery to be equal with God, made himself of no reputation, and took on the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man...” (Phil. 2:5-7). He could have come as a powerful Prince of the Almighty, trampling every foe – yet Christ chose to come as a bond- servant, fully committed to His Father’s interests. Paul said, “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself a servant unto all...” (1 Cor. 9:19). We also read, “Simon Peter, a servant; Jude, the servant of God; James, servant of Christ.” All were sons who took on the form of a servant.

Jesus as a bondservant to His heavenly Father would say nothing, do nothing, without direction from above. He said, “My meat is to do the will of him who sent me, and to finish his work” (John 4:34). He said, “I do nothing of myself ...I do always those things that please him...” (John 8:28,29).

This dedicated bondservant believed he had one mission in life, and that was to serve his master. He was not in it for an inheritance, even though it is written, “A wise servant shall rule over a son that causeth shame ...and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren...” (Prov. 17:2). From morning to night, every waking hour was given in willing servitude to his master. Love made it easy to obey. He was not driven by guilt or a sense of obligation – he was motivated by love only. No wonder Jesus could say, “If you love me, you will obey me.”

Beloved, it is not that the bondservant belittles the mas-

ter’s benefits, nor that he despises his rights. It is simply that he is so affectionate toward his master he is fulfilled, needing nothing more. He draws from that intimacy all the richness and fullness to satisfy his deepest needs. It is his relationship to the master that gives meaning to his life. He can say, “My master is enough. His house is home to me. My security, my family’s security, is in the hand of the one I love and trust. I commit my all to him.”

### **THE BONDSERVANT WHO REFUSED TO GO OUT FREE GAVE HIMSELF AS A LIVING SACRIFICE TO HIS MASTER**

He stood before witnesses and had his ear pierced to his master’s door post as a public sacrament of service. “Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever” (Ex. 21:6).

The Hebrew word for “judges” is *elohim*, or “God’s representative”. I see this as the Holy Spirit who seals our commitments to the Lord Jesus.

What a beautiful picture of love. Many have gone out free, having left their master’s full-time service. But here stands one up against the door post, not even whimpering as the master drills a hole in his ear, into the wooden post. His glowing eyes are fixed on his master, his heart wells with humility that the master would permit him to stay and become his lifelong servant. This was no light sacrament – it was a lifetime commitment.

What must have been the response of the master? What love is this, that a servant would be willing to give his very life for the one he loved? He could say with Christ, “No one forces me, I lay down my life willingly.” And suppose that bondservant was one of his own sons? What love must the master have felt from such a commitment?

David, the psalmist, said, “Mine ear hast thou digged.” In other words, “There is a hole in my ear that marks me for the Lord, for life and eternity.”

### **HAVE YOU ALLOWED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DIG IN YOUR EAR? DO YOU WANT A PIERCED EAR?**

There is nothing mystical about this way of living. It is worked out practically in our everyday life. It begins with a commitment to give the Lord **THE BEST OF OUR TIME!** This is what marked the bondservant – he pledged himself to giving wholly of his time in service to his master. This is not to suggest we should all quit jobs and careers to enter full-time ministry. Too many nowadays are getting out of God’s will, leaving the responsibilities of raising a family and pulling up roots to ‘go out by faith’. Most are going out presumptuously. The greater thing is to stay put and give the

*continued on pg. 6*

Lord more quality time where you are. It is a matter of putting Christ at the center of everything, so that family, job, and all things revolve around Him. Christ becomes the focus of our thoughts. It means that time is found to be often and long in His presence, hearing His voice, obeying His commands.

The bondservant is more a giving, rather than a taking soul. With Paul he can say, "I have determined to know nothing among us save Christ and Him crucified." This servant is not interested in serving for reward or personal gain. His wages are the glory and honor he bestows on his Master.

There is no need to seek out some deep and mysterious meaning in the pierced ear, or in the process itself. All we need to see in it is that a true bondservant who is committed to lifelong service is marked by the Lord in some special way. You can't miss him – he bears in his body the marks of his Master.

What marks the bondservant in this day and age? It is clearly revealed in the Word, and is unmistakable. It is the mark of a broken, contrite spirit that sighs and weeps over the abominations done against his Lord. It is the mark of the reddened eye that is grieved that the honor of the Master has been trampled in the sanctuary. Our Master does not drill the ear with an aul, but rather breaks the heart with His hammer. "...And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side; And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." (Ezek. 9:3,4)

Another mark on this bondservant is a circumcision made without hands. This speaks of total separation from the world and unto Christ. It means that all self-made plans, schemes, and dreams are abandoned, and the concerns and burdens of the Lord become supreme.

Have you seen any such servants – those marked by a separated life, given completely to the glory of Christ, who weep and sigh because of the coldness, the deadness, the unconcern of those who once were His servants? You can be sure that kind of servant has found something in God beyond freedom – he has discovered supernal joy and peace in the Holy Ghost.

**Do you yearn to become the bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ?** Does your heart tell you that there is something glorious and liberating if you could just go deeper in Christ? Do you desire to spend more time in His presence and His service? Do you sigh and grieve over the shallowness and lightness you see in the lives of Christians all about you? Are you sick of the loose morals, the growing apathy among God's people?

Do you dare step out and say, "Let me be one who is fully given to the Lord! Let me not condemn the freedom of

others, but let me be the Lord's bondservant! Let me be so filled with Him – so reflective of who He is – that when all is crumbling in the world, people may see one who stands unshakeable because of intimacy with Him."

I have just begun to discover the glory of such a life. I am convinced that the greatest joy a human soul can find is in total yieldedness to the Lordship of Christ. We need not worry about how this commitment works out in us in practical ways. It is His part to tell us what to do, how and when to do it. Our part is to simply love Him, stay with Him, and offer our bodies to Him as living sacrifices for now and eternity. He will respond to that kind of love. He will give us of Himself – He will guide us even through death.

I see a remnant arising – made up of committed bondservants who share a growing affection for the Lord Jesus Christ. They are not mystics or fanatics – they are simply so absorbed in loving and serving the Lord, the things of this world lose their charm. They refuse to "go out free" because they have tasted of the glory known only by those who lean on the Master's bosom.

They refuse to "go out free" because they have discovered something so far beyond freedom – and that is Ascension Life in heavenly Zion. They have heard their Master say,

*"Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice... And the heavens shall declare his righteousness..."* (Ps. 50:5,6) How true! The Lord will reveal His holiness to all who have gathered to Him to be His bondservants.

Best of all, it is in the Master's house, in His presence, that the bondservant discovers beauty, glorious guidance, and rock foundations.

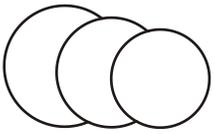
*"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me upon a rock" (Ps. 27:4,5). ...*

David Wilkerson

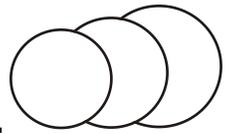
## *Preach Earnestly*

*Preachers must preach God's Word earnestly because, "those words are not likely to thaw the hearers' hearts that freeze between the speaker's lips."*

*Matthew Henry*



# From Our Fellowship Circle



**B & A** **Snohomish, WA**  
Thank you for a great up date every time. We read it from cover to cover.

**GN** **Owatonna, MN**  
Thank you for a great magazine. Every page is full of good reading. I wish I could give more.

**RP** **Tucson, AZ**  
A gift of..... given in memory of my loving Wife. Keep up the good work.

**D & B** **Eau Claire, WI**  
Thanks for the sound Biblical teaching. It is very much needed today.

**MN** **McCallsburg, IA**  
I'm enclosing a check for... I enjoy reading the Morning Glory Magazine and I read it from page to page. What a blessing to really read the truth. God Bless.

**D & A** **Faribault, MN**  
Thanks for a great ministry.

**From the desk of Pastor ...** **WA**  
The article "Why Does A Loving God Allow Bad Things To Happen?" in the June issue of the *Morning Glory* is one of the best I have read on this topic. I am saving it for future reference.

Enclosed is a gift to help with the expenses of publishing the *Morning Glory*.

*The danger of spiritual temptations is that they do not look like temptations. They do not look ugly, absurd, wrong; they look pleasant, reasonable, right. The devil transforms himself into an angel of light. If so, then he is certainly far more dangerous than if he came as an angel of darkness and horror. Our worst temptations sometimes look so exactly like what is good and noble and useful and religious, that we mistake the evil for the good and play with it till it stings us, and we find out too late that the wages of sin is death.*

C. Kingsley

## What a Day That Will Be!

*"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." (Rev. 21:4)*

A City without tears – God wipes them all away up yonder. This is a time of weeping, but by and by there will be a time when God shall call us where there will be no tears. A City without pain, a City without sorrows, without sickness, without death ...

Think of a place where temptations cannot come. Think of a place where we shall be free from sin ...and where the righteous shall reign forever. Think of a City built without hands, where the buildings do not grow old with time, a City whose inhabitants are numbered by no census except the book of life ...

Think of a City where no horses with their nodding plumes creep slowly with their sad burdens to the cemetery; a City without griefs or graves, without sins or sorrows, without marriages or mourning, without births or burials; a City which glories in having Jesus for its King, angels for its guards, and whose citizens are saints.

– Dwight L. Moody

*What a Day that will be,  
When my Jesus I shall see,  
When I gaze upon His face,  
The One Who saved me by His grace;  
When He takes me by the hand,  
And leads me through the Promised Land,  
What a day, glorious day, that will be!*

Jim Hill

# Editorial

RES

## THE CONQUEST OF SATAN

*“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)*

The word *conquest* means ‘the act or process of conquering’. AS you know, a born again child of God has ‘three enemies’ which are very real and active in this sinful world. YES, we are in a ‘spiritual battle’ and the devil is out to **kill you!** The individual(s) who promise an ‘easy road’ for a child of God is actually showing their ‘ignorance’ of the Word of God! Mark it: the devil is out to kill you and nothing less! Thus the ‘spiritual battle’ is not a scrimmage or a rehearsal but a BATTLE unto ‘everlasting life’ or eternal damnation in hell!

Lucifer (the devil) is a fallen angel, who at one time was among the greatest and most intelligent of ALL the ‘angels’. He was a leader in the angelic world.

Now, Lucifer is a ‘created being’ (along with all other angels); thus he can be at only one place at one time; BUT he has a host of fallen angels who are in allegiance to him! They obey his command!

Even though Satan is a created being, we are NO MATCH to him in our own strength and/or resources. **JESUS** not only left Heaven, to become our ‘perfect Sacrifice’; but became flesh and blood (Incarnation) to destroy Satan and his works. IF you do not believe in “Satan” you do not believe in God either because God tells us definitely that there is a devil. Evidently then, you do not believe in God’s Word, because it repeatedly states this is TRUE. Furthermore you obviously don’t believe in Christ because He was tempted by Satan, He talked to him and He did mortal combat with him at the CROSS. Indeed, to deny the reality of Satan is to challenge, ultimately, the very essence of the Christian faith.

Who is Satan? Where did he come from? He is an angel – an angel who sinned. Before he sinned his name was *Lucifer* and among the mightiest, the most beautiful and we notice that sin of PRIDE.

It captivated him. You see “I” right in the center of P R I D E and in **Isaiah 14:12-15** we see what just a ‘thought’ can do to an individual and he mentions five times in this short passage of God’s eternal WORD “**I WILL!**”!

The Bible tells us CHRIST came to destroy Satan - as well as Satan’s works. *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that HE might destroy the works of the devil”*. First, destroy his works and ultimately destroy

him. The term destroy in this passage doesn’t mean “to annihilate” ”but rather **to render ineffectual**”- to render Satan’s works impotent. Now the word ‘manifest’ means “clear apparent to the sight or understanding;” obvious; a manifest hoax: show plainly; make clear or obvious.

NOW, Satan has many disguises. He is an imitator, counterfeit, LIAR, deceiver, roaring lion, wolf in sheep’s clothing an angel of light (The name “Lucifer” means “light-bearer”), to name some of his characteristics. We are not to be ‘ignorant’ of his devices - **II Corinthians 2:11. “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.** Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” **II Corinthians 11:13-15.**

**Satan** also knows that ‘time’ is running out for him and, so seemingly, he is working overtime and the battle becomes even more intense because Satan is out to **kill you and I** (especially Spiritually)! WE dare not flirt with or make light of SIN, for each time we make light of SIN we are gradually hardening our hearts! **Revelation 12:7-10.**

**But** GOD has graciously provided ALL that we NEED to be ‘overcomers’ in this Spiritual Battle!

**Ephesians 6:10-20, Colossians 2:9-10.** Christ *provided* for US His Power at the Cross, a tailored-made Armor, His Word, **His Blood**, and our testimony to be victorious! At the ‘cross’ there is power so we’re set free from the power of sin. Therefore, we can pray - with confidence and expectation, that we not be led into temptation and that we be delivered from the evil one. **Matthew 6:13, 1 John 1:7-10.** Yes, his (Lucifer’s) deception is so very great, and notice what God says in **Matthew 24:22-24.** YET God says: Be thou faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of LIFE! Greater is HE who is in you than he that is in the world - provided you are in Christ Jesus!

**REMEMBER:** *Satan (SIN) will take you further than you want to go and keep you longer than you want to stay and charge you more than you want to pay.* **Romans 6:23.**

# WHOSE CHURCH?

By James M. Hite, Palmyra, Pa.

This writing came as a result of reading *“Who Stole My Church”* by Gordon MacDonald, published by Thomas Nelson, Inc. It is a fiction book based on his many years in various pastoral experiences.

The emphasis of the book is the need for changing traditional worship practices. It does contain some “meat” but, in our humble opinion, you have to “pick out the bones” to get to the “meat.”

He correctly emphasizes that it is Christ’s Church and not ours. Acts 20:28 clearly teaches, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock, **over which the Holy Ghost had made you overseers**, to feed the church of God, **which he (Christ) hath purchased with his own blood.**”

The one change he advocates, which is often the starting point of getting rid of tradition, is casual dress for the leadership and congregation. We are not personally impressed with the wearing of robes by clergy or the wearing of the clerical collar, especially the “roman collar.” But if it is Christ’s church then we should show proper respect when worshipping. We realize that today’s society does not even dress formal for such things as funerals and weddings many times. But that brings us to the crux of the problem, “what is the ‘world’?” The Bible does make a distinction.

A change he emphasizes strongly in the book is traditional music. He advocates getting rid of hymnals and showing the words on a screen. Of course the songs are contemporary music in place of traditional hymns. The traditional means of accompaniment are replaced with guitars, drums and other modern musical instruments. In defense of his position he uses the old argument that change is nothing new. He points out correctly that at one time only the Psalms were sung in worship. He also rightly states that when our traditional music was first introduced it was strongly opposed by many. He wrongly states that it was “barroom music.” The fact is that it was “folk music” that was used by everyone at that time. He also rightly states that at one time musical instruments were not used in church worship. He does not mention that rock and roll (which contemporary music is often combined with and is a “second cousin” to) was originally sexual term. (Also, ‘rock music’ basically came out of the late sixties and early seventies as a result of ‘rebellion’ – Editor). He also fails to point out that much of today’s music began in pagan lands which held to idol worship. My daughter who will be (was) 43 on April 11<sup>th</sup> and has two teenage sons made the remark that what bothers her

## Making no Apologies for the old time Christianity!

about contemporary music is that it is all about “me” and not about Christ. She attends a different church than I do and they have both contemporary and traditional services. She also made the interesting statement that in her church many of the young people (she is the youth advisor) prefer the traditional service because they want to hear something different in church than what they listen to all week long.

A third subject in the book deals with body piercing. He rightly observes that many “look down their nose” at anyone who enters the church with body piercing instead of giving them a hearty welcome. While he never actually condones this practice, neither does he state that it is wrong for a Christian to do this. This practice also comes from pagan worshippers and is condemned by the Bible. We recently read in a newspaper article of a woman who had problems at a security check at an airport because she had piercing in an area that would be illegal to expose in public. Why she had it there is beyond us. She also had one in her bellybutton which passed, according to the article. She was going to sue the airport for harassment.

This brings us to the subject of a wrong attitude about change, which we already touched on. He makes the villain of the book a man who refuses to go along with any changes at all. As it turns out this individual also emotionally mistreated his wife. There is a right and wrong way to challenge change. We had to confess to our leadership, because of conviction of the Holy Spirit, not church leadership, that we had a bitter spirit towards our youth who were challenging tradition. While we have a new respect for our youth we have not changed our mind about the changes.

What does please Christ in worship is a difficult subject. We have respect for many who worship far different than we do. There is a difference between being ecumenical and loving the brethren (and sisters). ... There is also a difference between loving and respecting fellow Christians and saying differences do not matter, and we are warned about false teachers entering in.

The “bottom line” is that Christ, who is our Advocate, will also judge His Church.

# The Divine Measure

By Wilbur E. Nelson

I am sure you've heard the story of the little boy who came to his mother one day and said, "Mother, did you know that I am six feet tall?" When his mother questioned his statement, he assured her that he had measured himself by his own little ruler. His mother asked to see the measuring stick and found that he had used a little miniature ruler that had come in one of his play sets. Instead of being a foot rule, it was only six inches long.

The anecdote makes me think of Scripture in II Corinthians 10, verses 12 and 13, where the (God inspired) Apostle Paul says, "*We dare not compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will measure according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.*"

In these verses we have two kinds of measures - the human and the divine. We all know that a measure is an adopted standard or rule and is a very important element in our lives. A half-inch off of a merchant's yardstick, a cup short in a gallon can, a penny short in the dollar, a foot off the builder's tape line would soon throw the entire business structure into endless confusion and soon there would be no certain foundation or premise upon which to carry human relationships.

We are given to understand here that there are two kinds of human measures. The one is when we measure ourselves by ourselves. The other is when we compare ourselves among ourselves. One seeks to measure up to one's own ideals, aspirations and ambitions, while the other measures one person against another. Neither of these rules is wise, says the text, because they both fall short of God's divine rule in the standard of Christian living.

Many people seek to console themselves and satisfy their conscience by saying that they live up to what they believe is right and measure themselves by their own opinions or the limited light and knowledge of truth that they possess. They are measuring themselves by themselves. But they will find that they have fallen far short of God's divine mark and their self-made measuring rule will not qualify them for the presence of a holy God.

There are others who have established for themselves a measuring rule of some past experience - some memory of a blessing they once enjoyed. There are thousands of sincere people trying to hold onto their experience, or get it back again, instead of realizing that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Other people use the rule of comparing themselves with other Christians. How prone some are to set someone who

claims the grace of God and to judge his own life by what he sees in that other person's life. This is a most deadly and dangerous thing to do. Scripture gives us to understand that we are never to look to others. We are never to judge ourselves by what we see in others lives, only God's measures are to be trusted.

If you bought a ton of coal, you would expect it to be weighed according to sixteen ounces to the pound. That is a rule of standard weight. If you purchased a yard of goods, you would expect it to be measured according to thirty-six inches to the yard. If you get ten gallons of gasoline, you expect it to be measured according to four to the gallon, here in America, at least. That is the standard measure, as these lines are written, and we face with misgivings the change to the metric system.

God's measures are also according to the prescribed standards revealed in His Word. For instance, in 1 John 5:14: "*If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.*" In the eighth chapter of Romans, verse 27, the Scripture says, "The Spirit maketh intercession for the saints, according to the will of God." Here is the very foundation upon which God builds His plans and purposes for every one of His children. No prayer or desire can reach to attain to a higher standard than this, the will of God. Herein lies everything that makes for the highest and best good of every man, woman and child - God's will.

Each of us should ask himself, "Am I applying this divine rule of measurement to my daily walk with the Lord? Am I fully submitting myself to my Father's will? Am I walking worthy of him, to all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God? If we thus determine to walk in the light, the Scripture tells us in Hebrews 13:21 that God will make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ.

Think also of God's measure, "according to His Word." The traditions of the church, the interpretations of the pulpit, the opinions of men, the creed, the ritual, the religious observances of the church, are not to be your measure or rule. The Word of God is. Can you say from the depths of your heart, as Mary did when the angel appeared unto her and told her she was to bear a son, "Be it unto me according to Thy Word"? Each of us must make this the measuring rule of life and conduct, rather than seeking to rest upon feelings, signs, moods, manifestations or circumstances. God's unchanging Word shall stand forever and upon that eternal rock we can afford to rest our souls and our eternal destiny.

*The Grace Broadcaster*, Sept./Oct., 1978

# Believable ... Yet Unbelievable

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## McDonalds

Now we learn that McDonald's sponsors training for homosexuals on how to promote their agenda among corporations from the inside. *Out & Equal Workplace Advocates* is a national organization devoted to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in the workplace. One of its primary purposes is to train employees how to aggressively promote homosexuality within the company they work for, all the way to the corporate boardroom. Part of last year's Out & Equal summit in Washington, DC, (sponsored by McDonald's) was an organized march into congressional offices demanding same-sex marriage laws be passed.

*American Family Association Action Alert 8/13/08*

## Canada Politician's Wife Says Abortion Protests a Domestic Terrorism Threat

The wife of a prominent pro-abortion Canadian politician made a controversial remark during a presentation at the Ontario-based Fleming College. Janine Kriebler, wife of liberal leader MP Stephane Dion, said abortion (protest) would become the next domestic terrorism. After an hour-long discussion of actual terrorism, Kriebler answered a question about the heated debate over social issues like abortion. She said that if Canada is ever embroiled in another national debate over abortion, it could lead to acts of terrorism – an implication that pro-life advocates might engage in violence.

"The problem I see, for the moment, coming next is that we bring back abortion discussions into society. We had problems before, and if we bring that back too severely, it will bring conflict," Kriebler said, according to the Peterborough Examiner. "When we forecast terrorism we have to look at what are the controversial topics in a society," Kriebler added. She later told the Examiner newspaper that her comment was a response to a pro-abortion protest.

LifeNews.com

*Editor's Note:* Scare tactics are a favorite ploy of the liberal crowd.

## Planned Parenthood Billion-Dollar Abortion Racket Rips Off American Taxpayers

While most companies have started to feel the squeeze of our sagging economy, business has never been better for

Planned Parenthood. Although the organization couldn't be more controversial, its profits have never been higher, according to the group's just-released 2006-07 annual report. For the first time in history, Planned Parenthood has surpassed the \$1 billion mark, a milestone made possible by the government's hefty \$336 million investment.

Despite the rash of bad publicity, Planned Parenthood was entrusted with a \$31.4 million raise in taxpayer funds - a 10.8 percent increase in the non profit's government revenue. Adding to the financial windfall, Planned Parenthood's clinics performed an extra 24,707 abortions in 2006, six times the number of casualties from the entire Iraq war. All together, its abortion mills put 289,650 unborn babies to death in the year 2006 alone ...

While the public is increasingly skeptical of Planned Parenthood's operation, it has yet to put a dent in the organization's bottom line... The majority of Americans wouldn't invest in a company that conspires in sexual crimes against children, accepts racially motivated donations, promotes pornography to kids, devotes millions to the election of pro-abortion leaders, and uses unsanitary equipment to treat patients. Unfortunately, through Title X and Medicaid, the federal government is forcing taxpayers to do just that.

Family Research Council

## Accommodating Islam's Sharia Demands Sets the Stage for Child Marriages in USA

In the Islamic country of Yemen, over 50 percent of all married "women" are age 14 or younger – including those who have been married for several years. Girls as young as six and seven are married to men in their 30s, 40s, and 50s. Which leads Joel Richardson, editor of the provocative new book *Why We Left Islam: Former Muslims Speak Out* (WND Books, ISBN 9780979267109, April 29), to ask, "In light of the recent California court ruling and the FLDS legal fiasco in Texas, is the time coming when we in the U.S. will be forced to tolerate child brides and multiple wives?"

The 23 former Muslims who contributed to *Why We Left Islam: Former Muslims speak Out* are explicit about the dangers that such incremental surrender of our morals and beliefs, called "soft sharia," presents. In fact, several of the book's contributors left Islam to escape just these sorts of marriages.

Notes Richardson: "In this country the lifestyles of pro-polygamy groups like the FLDS have been seen as unacceptable, even bizarre; the marriage of young girls to older men is considered a form of child abuse. And yet that

is the norm in Islamic countries.”

The former Muslims whose harrowing stories are featured in *Why We Left Islam* ask: Are Americans prepared to go all out to protect their culture from such morally bankrupt beliefs, or will we sit back and let activist judges overturn thousands of years of tradition?

TimBuelere.com

## Luxembourg Legalizes Euthanasia

World Congress of Families Global Coordinator, Larry Jacobs, expressed “shock and dismay” over (the) vote (February 19) to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide in Luxembourg. Euthanasia is currently legal only in the Netherlands and Belgium.

“Europe is quickly slipping into a new Dark Age, in the words of Winston Churchill, ‘made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science,’ ” Jacobs observed.

The Luxembourg parliament voted 30 to 28 to all so-called consensual euthanasia, over the objections of Prime Minister Jean Claude Juncker and his Christian Social Party.

Proponents are in the process of establishing “guidelines” for euthanasia in Luxembourg. While news sources have reported that the law would apply to the terminally ill, Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition says the bill would also allow individuals with “grave and incurable” conditions to be euthanized.

Obviously, a person can have a condition that’s “grave and incurable” but not life-threatening.

“Euthanasia proponents always assure us that the act will be voluntary,” Jacobs observed. “But the devil is in the details. Frequently, if a patient is unable to indicate consent, this life-or-death decision is made for them by a relative or a physician.”

Christian Newswire

## The Shack

**QUESTION:** I’m confused by a book that is very popular among my circle of Christian friends. It’s titled *The Shack*, and although it is endorsed by some leading evangelicals, I was freaked out by it and couldn’t actually finish it. I don’t understand how anyone thinks he can put God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in a fictional situation and then have them speak the words out of his own imagination. Isn’t this dead wrong?

**RESPONSE:** Yes. It’s also blasphemy. Here is a definition of that word from *Noah Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language*: “[It] is an injury offered to

God, by denying that which is due and belonging to Him, or attributing to Him that which is not [true to] His nature.” *The Shack’s* author, William P. Young, conjures up God the Father as a hip-talking, now-and-then crude black woman referred to as “Papa,” Jesus as a sometimes inept good ol’ boy enamored with His humanity and creation, and the Holy Spirit as a wisp of a woman from Asia, who gardens and collects tears. Shouldn’t that be enough to turn off or offend those who profess to truly know the God of the Bible? Evidently not. Christians have pushed sales of *The Shack* to beyond one million copies at this writing.

Idolatry is another major abomination of the book. Young manufactures out of his own imagination an image of God and the Holy Spirit. That is condemned (Exodus 20:4) by God for understandable reasons. Any attempt by finite, fallen man even to hint at a material image of Deity would result in an absolutely false representation, let alone an offensive caricature of Almighty God. Furthermore, these two Persons of the Trinity are Spirits, who never appear in physical form, certainly not as females (nor in drag, which the Scriptures condemn!), nor are they ever *referred to* as female.

*The Shack* is clearly the work of a false prophet. The sense in which we’re using the word “prophet” here is not that of declaring forthcoming events but rather speaking forth the words of God (2 Peter 1 :20,21). The dialogue Young has created for his fictional God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is heretical and a defamation against the character of the Persons of the Godhead. For example, Papa declares to the central figure, “Well, Mackenzie, don’t just stand there gawkin’ with your mouth open like your pants are full.” Jesus, who can’t seem to restrain his giggles and chuckles, after receiving a kiss from Papa and loving “her” earthiness, declares, “She’s a riot.” “Mack’s” interaction with *his* “trinity” is part-time fun fest, part-time inner healing methodologies and catharses, and part-time God explaining Himself (which He left out of the Bible!), and all of it intermingled with hugs, kisses, and other displays that reveal them to be *so much like us*.

The audacity of anyone putting his own words in the mouth of God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit (under the guise of fiction or not) is beneath contempt. Incredibly, that hasn’t

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

deterred conservative evangelical leader Gale Erwin, charismatic leader James Ryle, Emerging Church writer Jim Palmer, and evangelical celebrity Michael W. Smith from endorsing *The Shack*, and many Christians can't seem to get enough of its "make me feel better about myself and God" talk.

Cultists have written volumes claiming to speak for God; now we have it in the church! Ravi Zacharias wrote three supposedly apologetic books not too long ago featuring Jesus in conversation with Buddha, Oscar Wilde, and Confucius. Eugene Peterson, whose *The Message Bible* majored in substituting his own words for God's, is the featured endorser of *The Shack* ("This book has the potential to do for our generation what John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* did for his. It's that good!"). No, "this book" is one more instrument of Satan's grand scheme to undermine the Word of God for this generation, the basis of which began in the Garden of Eden with his seductive words to Eve: "Yea, hath God said. . .?"

Space prevents me from further exposing the rampant heresies, psychobabble, and the pervasive denigration of God, His Word, and His church throughout *The Shack*. But then, if what has been presented above isn't reason enough to reject the book, or an appeal to be a Berean, it's unlikely that a few more pages of input will be either convincing or convicting, especially for the many who claim their lives have been forever changed by this work of antibiblical fiction.

Taken from *The Berean Call*, August 2008

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## ANOTHER WAY OPEN

A workman had trouble with his eyes. He went to see a doctor who said, "There are two cataracts growing over your eyes, and your only hope of recovery is to go to a specialist. I would advise you to go to one at once – take plenty of money with you, because the fee will be heavy."

The man had twenty pounds in the bank, which he had been saving for a "rainy day." That day had come. He drew it out and went to see the specialist. After examining his eyes, the specialist remarked, "I am not sure that you can pay the fee. I never accept less than one hundred guineas." "Then I must go blind and remain so, for I only have twenty pounds," replied the man. But the doctor said, "You cannot come up to my terms, and I cannot come down to yours - but there is another way open to us – I can perform the operation for no fee, and that is what I am willing to do."

So fallen (sinful) man cannot come up to the conditions laid down for him in the Divine Law, neither is the best that man has to offer acceptable. But there was another way

open. God found a way through the Lord Jesus Christ to pay the penalty of man's sin and give him the free gift of salvation through faith in His Son.

Selected

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## NO NAME LIKE HIS

There is no name like His. It is more inspiring than Caesar's, more musical than Beethoven's, more patient than Lincoln's. The name of **Jesus** throbs with all life, weeps with all pathos, groans with all pains, stoops with all love. Its breath is laden with perfume.

Who like Jesus can pity a homeless orphan? Who like Jesus can welcome a prodigal back home? Who like Jesus can illuminate a cemetery plowed with graves? Who like Jesus can make a queen out of a lost woman of the street? Who like Jesus can catch the ears of human sorrow in His bowl? Who like Jesus can kiss away our sorrow?

I struggle for a metaphor with which to express Jesus. He is not like the bursting forth of an orchestra; that is too loud and it may be out of tune. He is not like the sea when lashed into a rage by a storm; that is too boisterous. He is not like a mountain wreathed in lightning, canopied with snow; that is too solitary and remote. He is the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, a gale of spices from heaven.

Evangelist Billy Sunday

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## If It Lies Low Enough

An irrigation expert was talking to a farmer about one of his fields.

"There's nothing you can do about that," the farmer said. "That field is barren and will produce nothing."

"I can make that field richly fruitful," the other replied, "if it only lies low enough."

Like the flow of life-giving water, the blessing of God comes only to those who "lie low enough." God rarely, if ever, helps those who can help themselves.

Nothing in Christianity is a "do-it-yourself" job. The gifts of God are given freely, but they are put only into hands ready to receive them.

Selected

*Editor's Note:* Granted, here we have some good food for thought; but remember GOD causes the sun to shine on the just and the unjust, causes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust; BUT "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:17.)

# An Urgent Message to the Churches of America from ...THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN RUSSIA

“For thirty years we have suffered intense persecution, and now freedom is bringing another great harm to our churches. This damage is coming from the Christians in America who are sending rock music and evangelists accompanied by rock bands.

“Our young people do not attend these meetings because we have all committed not to participate in secular entertainment.

“This is a great burden on our hearts. Many come with Bible in hand and rock music. We are embarrassed by this image of Christianity. We do not know what words to use in urging that this be stopped. We abhor all Christian rock music coming to our country.

“Rock music has nothing in common with ministry or service to God. We are very, very against Christian Americans bringing to our country this false image of ‘ministry’ to God. We need spiritual bread, please give us true bread, not false cakes. It is true that rock music attracts people to the

## ***NEEDED: MORE LUTHERS!!!!***

Reformation Day comes and goes. Celebrations of the day (were there many?) stressed the ecumenical spirit and civil justification. Pushed to the background was the figure of the one who stood firm and fast for the totality of the Divine Revelation of the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, which not merely pointed to but was, is, and ever shall be Jesus the Christ, that Living Word of God.

Once more and imperatively needed are those who like Luther, will stand firm and fast for that inspired and inerrant Word and in no way hedge it about with sanctimonious and strange interpretations. God said, “The Word will remain,” and that it will! But it needs to be spoken in its fullness and truth with clarity, determination and honesty to a world that is dying without it. Compromise, twisting tongues, and twitching ears should not be the order of the day:  
...MORE LUTHERS ARE NEEDED!

Selected

church, but not to Godly living.

“We were in prison for fifteen years and eleven years for Christ’s sake. We were not allowed to have Christian music, but rock music was used as a weapon against us day and night to destroy our souls. We could only resist with much prayer and fasting.

“Now, we have a time of more openness, and we are no longer taken to prison. However, now it is Christians from America who damage our souls. We do not allow this music in our church, but they rent big stadiums and infect teenagers and adults with their rock music.

“We, the leadership and congregations of the Unregistered Union of Churches, the former Persecuted Church, have made an agreement to not allow rock music in our Church. We urge you to join with us and we advise you to remove rock music from America, and certainly do not bring it to our country.

“Do not desecrate our teenagers with it. Even the unbelievers recognize it is unholy music and they cannot understand how American Christians can be so much like the world. We can give you the conclusion that after Russian unbelievers have attended these rock concerts where Christ’s Word was preached, the people were very disappointed and disillusioned with Christianity.

“We call this music from hell. We urge all Americans to stop giving money for the organization of such concerts in Russia. We want only traditional Christian music in our churches. This is the unanimous decision of all our leaders.”

Peter Peters Vasilij Ryzhuk

Head of the Unregistered Union of Churches Elder,  
Unregistered Union of Churches

Moscow, Russia

*Editor’s Note:* The testimony you have just read was given to a large group of Christian leaders on March 30, 1992. These leaders represented ninety Christian organizations.

Man lives in the dark, and even his nuclear flashlight cannot pierce it. We not only live in the dark; we get used to it. There is a slow, subtle, sinister brainwashing process going on, and by it we are gradually being desensitized to evil. Little by little, sin is made to appear less sinful until the light within us becomes darkness, and how great is that darkness!

We get used to it, acclimated to it. We accept, as a matter of course, its art, its literature, its music, its language. We learn to live with it without an inner protest.

Vance Havner

# SENSE VS. SENTIMENT

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By Pastor T. C. Horton

THIS IS A SUPERFICIAL AGE when there is grave danger of our losing our balance. We are drifting from our moorings. The Word of God gives us our precepts and our examples. We are taught in the Word that we should love all men. No man should be beyond the reach of the love of our hearts, and this love should be manifested in our relation to him by our lives. But true love never thwarts justice. We should love our children and be willing to suffer for them, but this demands that we should punish them when they are guilty of violation of law. Violation of law demand righteous punishment. Love is not a sentiment. It is a principle, a principle unchanging with God, always exemplified by Him in His Word. Punishment should not be inflicted in anger but in tears, though it should be inflicted after God's own pattern. God's love is a principle shown in His grace, His mercy, His longsuffering. His anger is shown in His severity. He is angry with the wicked, but it is a righteous anger, a holy anger. God hates sin and exemplified his hatred of it by pouring out his wrath on His own Son. But his love is also manifested in the sacrificial gift of His Son.

Our country is suffering intensely today by reason of laxity both in the enforcement of law and in the punishment of lawbreakers. Justice is a joke with the law-violators. One excuse given for the failure to impose a just sentence for violation of law is that the halls and penitentiaries are overcrowded, and it is impossible to accommodate the criminals. If penalties were adequately administered, this would put fear into the hearts of men, and sentiment would give place to common sense. Sentiment breeds weak, effeminate characters.

We are charged sometimes with being too severe in our editorials, in our position toward the enemies of the truth. We are told that we should be more loving toward them, that we should treat them as brethren. There is much of this that is purely sentiment and leads to a compromising spirit. We love all men. We love bandits, and with this same love we love the deniers of the truth; but we want to call men by their proper names. We do not call a man a brother, in the light of the Word of God, who denies the deity and blood sacrifice of our Lord and yet who pretends to be His disciple and draws his salary from deceived people. We bid him no God-speed any more than we would the devil, for we know that he is the devil's instrument and the worst kind of a deceiver, for he wears the royal robe as the ambassador of Christ while serving Satan.

Trifling with truth, smoothing down sin, condoning

false preaching, calling a Bible-bandit a brother, pussy-footing with perjured professors, is purely silly sentimentalism. It evidences a lack of Bible sense. Worldly and ungodly men respect the man who reproves and rebukes their sinful ways because they have a conscience concerning their wrongs. And these false teachers have more respect for those of us who love the Lord and His Word and who make no compromise with them but condemn their unholy position. We propose to expose error, not to excuse error, not to excuse it. We will continue to love these destructive critics with a godly love but will not fail to let the light shine in on their dark and dangerous teaching. We will pray for them as enemies of the truth but will not participate in their pernicious teaching. We prefer to be sensible rather than sentimental, to be loyal rather than traitors. We can shed real tears over their sinful doings, but we will also seek to tear away the mask behind which they hide and let the light of God's Word illumine the devilish sophistry of their teaching. Those of us who love the Lord and His unimpeachable Word ought to be willing to make no compromise with sentimentalism of any kind.

Editorial in 1921: *The King's Business*

*Editor's Note:* AMEN!!!!

## PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

God's Desire for Godly Leaders

*Select capable men from all the people – men who fear God, Trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain.*” (Exodus 18:21)

Awesome God, You are awesome and mighty, lifting up those who You desire to lift up and putting down those You desire to put down. You like it when Your people come to You with longing for righteousness and godliness. As our nation looks to the elections this fall, I ask that You will move among the people of our country, causing us to desire righteous, godly leaders.

May we yearn for godly leaders and, desiring that, may we VOTE in such a way that we elect at every level those who will honor and obey Your Word in godliness and wisdom. Amen.

Selected

## ***Bible Prophecy Conference***

To be held in the *Fargo/Moorhead* area on October 9 - 11, 2008 at the Elim Rehabilitation & Care Center Chapel.

Elim Rehabilitation & Care Center is located at 3534 S University Dr. (approx. 16 blocks south of Hwy 94 in Fargo. Pastor David Barnhart will be the main speaker. Pastor Barnhart is the Founder of Abiding Word Ministries and the Editor of *The Vine and the Branches*. Lord willing, the conference will start on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. with a Piano Concert by Mr. Ron Nelson of Flaxton, ND. Ron will be sharing his personal testimony along with numerous traditional hymns & Gospel Songs on the 'ivory keys'. The concert will be followed by a Bible centered message with Pastor Barnhart as the vessel (Guest Speaker).

**Thursday eve** - 7:00 p.m. - Piano Concert with Mr. Ron Nelson — Sermon by Pastor David Barnhart

**Friday:** 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time & Hymn Sing

9:00 a.m. - Message by Pastor David Barnhart

10-10:30 a.m. – Coffee and Refreshments

10:30-11:30 a.m. Brief History of the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation/Morning Glory by the Editor, Rod Stueland

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. - Noon Break (Easy access to local Restaurants)

1:30 - Message - Pastor Barnhart

3:00 - Coffee and Refreshments

3:30 Testimonies and Hymn time

4:45. - Evening Meal (Easy access to local Restaurants)

7:00 p.m. - Evening Service with Pastor David Barnhart

**Saturday:** 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Prayer Time & Hymn Sing

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Session with Pastor Barnhart

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Coffee & Refreshments

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. - Session with Pastor Barnhart

11:30 - Noon Break (Easy access to local Restaurants)

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. - Closing Session of the Conference with Pastor David Barnhart

**IF the Lord is permitted to bring many people under the hearing of HIS WORD at this Bible Prophecy Conference** so that it fills the Elim Chapel to *overflowing*; WE would than move to St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 2802 12<sup>th</sup> St S, Fargo, ND. Pastor David Barnhart will also be Guest Speaker at St Paul's Lutheran for the Worship Service on Sunday (Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>). **Please pray for this Conference** and try to attend!!! **WELCOME!!!!**

*Want more information?* Feel free to call either: 701-364-9208 or 218-287-5586

## ***QUESTION???***

Not a commitment! - BUT, **IF** we (HLIF) were to republish the very good "Family" devotional book by the title "**Altar Steps**" by the late Pastor R. P. Haakonson, would you be interested in purchasing the same for a nominal fee? Please let us know; thus helping to give "us" some sense of direction!!! Thank you for your cooperation!!!

## ***UpDate***

*"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully."* **II Corinthians 9:6.**

*God loveth a cheerful giver!* Thus an abundance of SEED needs to be planted; but also in good soil, properly prepared soil that is watered and cultivated. It is no good simply to give money to anyone or any cause, any more than it is good simply to throw SEED on a rocky slope or city street. The 'challenge' is not only to give, but to give unto GOD responsibly.

July Income for the *Morning Glory* is: \$1,140.00

Cost for each issue of the *Morning Glory* is approximately \$2,375.

Volume XC•Number 8 • September 2008  
(USPS 887-740) Dilworth, MN 56529

Periodicals Postage Paid  
at Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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