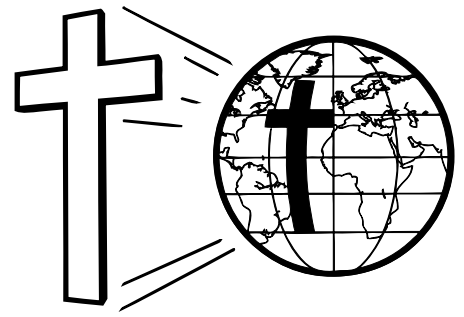


Foundation of Faith



Carried on Eagle's Wings

Not
Without Jesus

Becoming Free
Remaining Free!

I Will
Dwell

How To
Apologize

How Well Do You
Know Yourself?



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Editorial

We wish every reader God's rich grace and abundant blessings for the New Year!

When Joshua once stood before a new beginning, the Lord encouraged him with the words: "Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:6). We too need this reassurance from the Lord for our life journey. Just like Joshua, we can know the Lord, and as we look back we realize that He has carried us on eagles' wings (Deuteronomy 32:11).

God uses wonderful imagery here to make His provision and guidance more understandable for us! The parent eagle first builds a nest with a base of twigs and branches. Then feathers and down are laid on the base. The eggs are laid on this soft cushion where they eventually hatch. In just a few weeks, the eaglets grow considerably. They begin to stretch their wings and crane their necks. The eagle parents know instinctively that the time will come that their young will leave the nest. They begin to remove the soft cushion in the nest. They deliberately make the nest uncomfortable for the eaglets to encourage them to learn to fly, to become what they are destined for. Then the moment comes where either by coaxing or direct pushing, the eaglets leave the nest. The parent eagle hovers nearby as the eaglets make their first attempts at flight. When they get into trouble, the parent eagle swoops beneath them, catching them on its strong back, and bringing them up to safe heights again.

This is how the Lord parented His nation of Israel. Egypt was the soft, cozy nest for them for many years. But then the downy cushion was removed: they had to serve as slaves. They were beaten and tortured, and their lives became miserable. And, just like an eagle parent, God had mercy on His people. He sent Moses and Aaron to lead them out of Egypt, and He carried them on His back through the desert.

The Lord already knows the hardships and needs that we will encounter in this new year. But He is merciful! God is hovering nearby, ready to help us. Therefore let us be strong and of good courage!

H. D. Nimz

Not without Jesus!

In Switzerland there are many glaciers. Glaciers are fields of ice in the high mountains, often with deep and dangerous crevasses. My father, brother, and brother-in-law once undertook a glacier hike. Since my brother-in-law was familiar with that glacier, they did not need a mountain guide. Glaciers can be full of insidious crevasses up to 30 meters deep. With fresh snow, these crevasses may be covered and invisible.

The group had barely been walking for an hour when they heard cries for help. As they followed these calls, they saw that someone had fallen into a crevasse. There were two other people by the crevasse, but they could do nothing. Since my brother-in-law was trained in these rescues, he pulled the person out of the cre-

vasse with the help of my brother. The whole ordeal took approximately a quarter of an hour. Because of the terrible cold in the crevasse, the victim was at the very end of his strength. People without experience should never walk on glaciers without a guide.

Is this also applicable to our life journey? The world with its temptations resembles a large glacier. How many attempt to make it through without Jesus Christ as their Guide? But it does not take long to fall into a crevasse of sin, from which one cannot escape unaided. The Savior must then come to our aid. Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). We cannot make it without Jesus.

God's Faithfulness

In the winter of 1816-1817, when the price of food was so high that the poor almost couldn't afford to buy any, the pious weaver Andreas Hiller of Wildorf was also in great distress in Württemberg. Woefully he sat in front of his large Bible, which he had lawfully received from a deceased sailor.

He was reading the 23rd Psalm, which begins with the words "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Hiller thought of the empty bowls and pots, as well as his empty wallet and the healthy appetites of his children, and he shook his head at these words. Nevertheless, he continued reading and came to the

third verse: "He restores my soul..." That was the end of the page.

Hiller turned the page. However, the continuation didn't fit with what he had just read. He looked carefully and noticed that two pages were glued together. When he carefully cut them apart, to his amazement he found a delicate piece of paper with the number 50 in 2 corners and printed with foreign words. After some inquiries, he found out it was an English bank note for 50 pounds, worth a 1000 German marks at that time. It is easy to guess how the story ends. There was no shortage of thanks given by the weaver.

Carried on Eagle's Wings

*On eagle's wings we are carried
Over time, with its raging sea;
Oh! Carried on wings of eagles,
Gently on to eternity.*

*Over mountains and valleys and deserts,
Ever higher and higher we rise;
For the broad wings that bear us are mighty,
The wings on whose strength we rely.*

*And under those wings of safety,
What wonderful rest do we find!
They ever will be our refuge,
A shield that we're hiding behind.*

*The foe may be circling about us,
And aiming and lurking to harm.
The wings keep us safe, guard our freedom,
And so there's no cause for alarm.*

*Yes, up on those wings we find refuge,
And under those wings we are safe;
A wonderful help on the journey,
And sheltered in them, our escape.*

*How sweet and true is such knowledge,
When challenges come our way;
That under those wings there is freedom,
And strength in those wings, come what may.*

ANNI VON VIEBAHN (1884-1931)

On Eagle's Wings



“As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings...”

(Deuteronomy 32:11)

Israel stood at the border of the land God had promised them. They were beginning a new chapter in their story. There Moses presented the illustration of the eagle.

This is a magnificent picture and has meaning for us today. We are leaving the old year behind and looking towards the new one. God's Word and our experiences tell us: “Carried on eagle's wings!”

Is this truly your experience? Does your past year fit this picture? Did you have many troubles and trials? Perhaps you remember times of offense and stumbling in the past year. Will we all live through the next year in such a way that we can describe it with the words: “Carried on eagle's wings”?

Moses, filled with the Holy Spirit, envisioned the story of Israel like this. In a sense, he saw it the way God does. God had shown Himself glorious to His people. He will prove to be so in the new year for us as well. This will not only be a wonderful illustration, but rather a matter of fact: “Carried on eagle's wings!”

The Status God Gave to His people

Who does the eagle carry on its wings? Not just anyone, no, it carries its young, those that belong to the king of the skies.

For what purpose did God call His people, the nation of Israel? “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and

daughters, says the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:18). Everything that Israel did not understand or receive through obedience was fulfilled in Christ.

Christ came from the Father and whoever believes in Him has eternal life. By Him we have been born into God’s family and become joint heirs with Jesus, children of our Heavenly Father. Let us continually remember whose children we are. We will not be able to soar “as an eagle” through our own efforts and strength. We have been given a heavenly nature with Christ. Our faith in Him, and recognition of the status He has given us, allows us to soar to these heights.

We usually only see what is in front of us. What is our life on earth? Man is like grass that blooms and soon withers. However, we do not only have a brief place on earth, but also an eternal place according to God’s will. Before any of us were born, God had written our days in His book. We are not just a number to Him; all of us experience His love and care. He has put us in a specific place.

The nation of Israel never fully inhabited the land God had promised them. In a similar manner, many children of God do not fully experience all God has for them. Our failure does not negate God’s plan. Our faithlessness does not make God unfaithful. Our fate lies in His hand. He leads us in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. As we look ahead into the new year, it is precious and comforting to know that our earthly way is in God’s plan. He leads us according to His counsel.

The Lord Watches Over Us

Above all, we need to recognize who the Lord is to us and what He does for us. We could attempt to begin the new year independently and make good resolutions. Many people have done this, but how few of these resolutions were actualized? We need to focus on the Lord, recognize His actions, and trust in Him! He wants only the best for us.

Once we know that it is the Lord who watches over us we will be better able to understand some of life’s difficult situations. Whatever we fail to understand will no longer plague us. Our bitterness will evaporate and the pain will lose its sting.

“As an eagle stirs up its nest...”

The eaglets are clumsy, scared, and clinging to their nest. Then the eagle stirs the nest. It causes unrest. Sometimes the eaglets are even thrown out of their nest. Now they must learn to fly, even if their first attempts are only

frightened flutters.

Some of the situations we encounter have been “disturbed” by God and have been difficult to endure. People sometimes speak of a fate without mercy. Yet God is not merciless. “As an eagle stirs up its nest [...]” God wants to release and develop the God-given strength to overcome that is within us. “All things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28a).

“[...] hovers over its young!”

After the eagle has disturbed its young and they have left the nest, it continues to hover, watching over them. It hems them in so that no harm can befall them.

Did God not do this for you as well? How often in times of trouble did our gracious God spread His wings over us! Yes, God disturbed us out of our comfort zone, but He also helped us through the unrest. His hand corrects, but also heals. He gives us a burden, but also helps us carry it.

Let us not focus on our discomfort, but instead on the grace that God allows us to see and experience! We should not grumble about past occurrences and the things we cannot change. God can help us even in less than ideal circumstances. He wants to reveal Himself and bless us especially in these situations.

“...taking them up, carrying them on its wings”

When the eaglets become tired and can no longer fly, the eagle flies under them. The strength of its wings is sufficient for the young ones too. The Lord carried us through the past year. He will also carry us in the new year. “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31).

It can happen in our walk of faith that we do not “mount up with wings like eagles,” but only have strength and courage for “timid fluttering.” Here He carries us. He has provisions for our trials and difficulties. “...casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). Draw strength from the power of the blood of Christ. Then you will enter the new year with the blessed assurance: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

“How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings” (Psalm 36:7). Let us enter the new year with this verse in mind. Yes, let us serve Him with our whole heart and place our trust in Him!

“I Will Dwell”

“Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23:6)

In this well-known Psalm, David expresses a worthy resolution for his life: “I will dwell.” The Bible refers often to the importance of dwelling in our relationship with God. We read of the wonderful testimony of the believers in Jerusalem: “They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42). We learn from the Psalmist in what we are to dwell.

I dwell – in Him!

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). David had a personal relationship with his God. He did not say, “The Lord is a shepherd,” but rather “*my* shepherd.” Dear reader, can you say this too? Whoever has experienced Him as Redeemer, Savior, and Shepherd will say with David: “I want nothing, and I will want nothing.” In my Shepherd I have full salvation, life, fullness, and peace. I desire no other Shepherd! I have everything in Him.” If the Psalmist of the Old Testament could already make such a statement, how much more can we in the New Testament era? What a blessing it is to be in Him and to dwell in Him. Jesus said: “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7).

I dwell – under the Shepherd’s guidance and providence!

The Psalmist had experienced how wonderful God’s providence and guidance is. We see this clearly in his statements:

- “He makes me to lie down in green pastures and leads me beside the still waters.” (Psalm 23:2)
- “He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” (Psalm 23:3)
- “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

When we reflect worshipfully on these short verses, we recognize with David how wonderful God’s providence

and guidance is in our lives, and respond with a grateful “I will continue to dwell in His care.”

His Word nourishes our soul, that our soul remains healthy, that we grow in faith, and that we mature. Whoever continues dwelling under His guidance will never stray from the narrow way of life; he will walk in the paths of righteousness, the ones that lead to the heavenly destination.

I’ve read that when the wool of sheep gets too long and heavy, their center of gravity shifts, and they cannot get up after they lie down. Instead, they roll over onto their backs! In such a case, the sheep needs the help of the shepherd; it is impossible for it to get on its feet by itself. Our Good Shepherd restores the soul; He lifts us up; He doesn’t want us to lose courage – rather, He encourages us.

Sometimes we encounter hardships, temptations, and disappointments. Even in dark and difficult valleys, the Good Shepherd never forsakes us; rather, He is right there beside us. When we stay at His side, He will remain at ours. David experienced this, and we can experience this as well in the new year.

I dwell – in the house of the Lord!

The psalmist was surely referring to the temple of his day. It was his heart’s desire to dwell forever in the House of the Lord, to behold the beautiful worship of the Lord and the beauty of the Temple. May this be our firm resolve as well!

The Bible tells us that the dwelling place of God is the church of God – the pillar and ground of the truth. Let us remain in the truth, in prayer, and in service towards His church. Whoever has experienced this Shepherd in His power and fullness will certainly agree with David: “I will dwell.” May his resolution be ours – for the new year and our remaining years. May the Lord graciously grant it to us.

Gerald Krebs
Chilliwack, BC

Why Fear?

Fear has plagued people from the beginning of time. In fact, it is one of the greatest plagues of humanity. Jesus painstakingly prepared a way for His followers to be freed from their fears. Otherwise He would not have said, “Fear not” (John 12:15).

General Fear

Most of us realize that we continually entertain fears. There is the fear of losing one’s health, the fear of losing one’s job, and the fear of old age. Some people fear that their children are traveling down a road that leads to destruction. Others even fear nuclear warfare.

Everyone desires security. To secure our health, we go to the doctor for annual checkups. We take out and make regular contributions to insurance policies to protect us financially in case of illness. As a safeguard against loneliness, we nurture friendships.

There is one fear, however, that no amount of preparation and employment can secure us against: the fear of punishment for sin, and the fear of the end. If the Master said, “Fear not,” then His words were only an echo from ancient times, for He knew of the direct relationship between sin and fear.

Sin and Fear

Jesus came into the world to free us from our sins, and sin is the greatest cause of fear. All people should fear to stand before the Lord if there is sin in their hearts. Long before the advent of Jesus, King David wrote: “I will fear no evil; For You are with me” (Psalm 23:4). But how can we move from the realm of fear to the realm of faith? From fear to trust?

A young man once said to his minister, “Your preaching has no effect on me. How could it? You came from a loving home, while I came from a broken one.” He used this excuse until it became a crutch. Whenever he did something wrong, he used his broken home as an excuse. But when he became a Christian, he walked without fear. He trusted God

day by day, and he prevailed in every situation.

Examine Your Fear

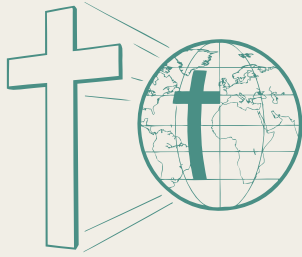
Is it not true that a large part of our fear is that of the consequences of disobeying God? You cannot have inner peace or experience answered prayers if you do not surrender your life fully to Christ. When you are afraid, examine your fears. Why are you afraid? What are you afraid of? These questions are a big step on the pathway to freedom. God wants to free you. But He cannot free you until you confront your fears and believe that you can have freedom from them. Bear in mind that God does not want us to live under the bondage of fear. We must also realize that most of our fears are caused by a sinful life and godless thoughts.

Faith has just the opposite effect. Faith calms our fears, strengthens us, gives health, and results in peace of mind. Faith gives us all the strength that is needed, and we must use whatever faith gives us. If you exercise your faith, even if it is only the size of a mustard seed, it will grow. Begin trusting God in the small things, and you will experience great things. If sin is in our hearts, then fear is there also. We cannot trust God when our hearts condemn us.

Do Not be Afraid of God

Fear disappears when the presence of God becomes a reality in our lives. But when God’s presence fades, fear grows. Paul writes in 2 Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” Therefore, fear, excluding the fear of punishment for sin, is not from God and not according to His will. The child of God has access to great faith, and faith has the power to destroy fear.

Dear reader, perhaps you are afflicted with this fear at the beginning of a new year: “What will the future bring?” Confidently put your life in God’s hands. Follow and trust Him with all of your heart. Then, you can say with the writer of Hebrews: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:6)



Radio Broadcast

The Message of Salvation

Friedrich Krebs
Kitchener, Ontario

Is God's Good Hand upon Us?

"So I was encouraged, as the hand of the Lord my God was upon me" (Esra 7:28).

Ezra and Nehemiah were great men of God during their time. God used them to do mighty things. They did not take credit for any of their accomplishments, but continually pointed to the "hand of God" that was upon them. They gave God the glory because both acknowledged that anything they had done for the benefit of the Israelites was a result of God's hand. Ezra believed and declared: "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him [...]" (Esra 8:22).

We are justified in asking the question: "Is the hand of God upon us?" Was the hand of God upon us in the past year and is it still there? God's blessing is a distinctive characteristic of His hand upon a person's life. Whoever wants to experience this blessing cannot take their life into their own hands. It will always be evident through whom, and by whose Hand, our small life was shaped.

The Bible verses above made me think about my own life. I was reminded how often I was under pressure in my youth. The youth in our village tried many ways to influence me to participate in their worldly pleasures and their often mean-spirited activities. On occasion, I did participate just to be accepted by the others but then a strange disquiet troubled my conscience. How clearly I experienced that God's good and invisible hand tried to set boundaries for me. Then I read in God's Word: "My son, hear the instruction of your father and do not forsake the law of your mother" (Proverbs 1:8); "My son,

if sinners entice you, do not consent" (Proverbs 1:10); "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:6). I started to realize that there is a higher and better way to live. God opened a door and led me out of this situation of "bad" friends, to a place where I could fellowship with godly youth. God's hand was seeking the best for me.

The good hand of God works differently in each person's life. We read in Esra 8:22: "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him." Yet sometimes God intervenes in the lives of people who are not seeking Him.

For example, there was a young farmer who was on his way home from the city with his horse and buggy. It was already evening when he suddenly noticed a man lying by the roadside. His head was hanging in the ditch that was full of water. The farmer jumped from his wagon and saw that the man was dead. He realized the man had been drunk and drowned. The young farmer was shaken. He also lived a godless life. He recognized the consequence of sin and said to himself, "This could also happen to me. Where would I be in eternity?" He drove home and told his wife about his inner anxiety. She laughed at him scornfully. Hurt by her attitude, he immediately left for the pub. When he sat down, he noticed a small devotional book on the counter. He opened it and read: "Sin brings sorrow, Christ brings



joy!” – “The first must be true,” he thought to himself, “and the other must be true as well.” Hope arose in his soul. He believed the words and to the astonishment of everyone present, he quickly left for home. He found his Bible, sought God’s mercy and forgiveness, and resolved to become a follower of Christ. When his wife saw this change in him, she started to berate him and threatened to leave him. However, the young farmer’s life stood under the good hand of God. He quietly went about his work and prayed earnestly for the salvation of his wife. Four months later, his wife found the Lord and placed herself in the hand of God.

Let us look to the Word of God to see what God’s hand can do. The flight of the Israelites from the iron rule of the Egyptians seemed virtually impossible. After their exodus Moses said: “Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out of this place” (Exodus 13:3). Joshua, who became leader of the Israelites after Moses, appeared a little hesitant at the beginning. Later, he gathered courage and proclaimed, “that all the peoples of the earth [should] know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty” (Joshua 4:24). And so it happened! The young king, Solomon, prayed: “May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us” (1 Kings 8:57). He knew very well that the wealth, peace, victories, and prosperity of the country did not lay in his hands. It would be wonderful if the leaders of our day would recognize this as well and pray with Solomon: “[may He] incline our hearts to Himself” (1 Kings 8:58). David spoke from his experiences: “But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High” (Psalm 77:10) and, “In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all” (1 Chronicles 29:12). Moses prayed: “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here” (Exodus 33:15). He had recognized the significance of God’s leading hand. God also let the Israelites know what it meant to turn their backs on Him: “You shall know My rejection” (Numbers 14:34).

Anyone can realize this truth today. Happy is the one who understands the value of being in and under the hand of God. It is a very grave thing if God withdraws His hand from a person’s life. Therefore, seek God and His blessed hand since “the hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him” (Ezra 8:22). May God bless each and every one in this new year. Let us faithfully serve the Lord so that His mighty hand can be upon us.

How Well Do You Know Yourself?

Are you aware of the true needs of your soul? Often, the needs of the soul are masked by desires for the things of this world. Only when our deepest needs are realized and satisfied can light and life dispel the darkness.

Every one desires success, but not every one succeeds. In any line of work there are certain things on which success depends. Success can only be built on a properly and carefully laid foundation. Those who desire to be Christians should also desire to be successful in the Christian life. Those who are called to work for God desire to be successful workers. Jesus said to Martha, “But one thing is needed” (Luke 10:42). There is generally one basic principle on which all else must be built. If this is overlooked or neglected, partial or complete failure is certain. Many attempts fail because of beginning at the wrong place. In mathematics we must master the rudiments before we can compute the orbits of the planets. In music we must learn tones and relations of tones before we can produce the exquisite harmonies of the master musician. In astronomy we must know something of our little home-planet before we can launch out into the heart-stirring immensities of space. Before we can rightly know God, we must know ourselves.

The animal instinctively knows that the gnawing pain in its stomach is a hunger for food, and immediately seeks to satisfy it. But the man who does not know himself, who does not stop to consider and analyze, feels an unrest, a yearning, a hungering within his soul, and knows not why or what it is. He tries worldly pleasures, but they only partially

satisfy, and at last render the case more serious than before. He tries all the remedies that he can find for his soul-hunger, but performs no cure, simply because he has not properly diagnosed his case. It is only when he knows that the cause of his unrest is soul-hunger for God and the bread of life, that he begins to try to satisfy himself properly. Many women try to satisfy this craving by adorning themselves with gold and gems and fine array. Many men try to satisfy it with sports or hobbies, by political action, or by accumulating money and other possessions. Just as food is the only thing that properly satisfies the hunger of the body, so God is the only One that satisfies the hunger of the soul. When people come to know that this hunger is for God, they begin to search for Him as if by chance they may find Him. The trouble is that people look at Christianity in the abstract, as something apart from themselves, whereas in actuality it is a vital part of every spiritually normal man or woman. The saying of the old philosopher, “Know thyself,” proves his wisdom. True wisdom comes only by first understanding ourselves so that we can then know our relation to other things. One of the things that our Christian sisters often struggle with is dressing modestly and unpretentiously. How often do we encounter those who dress almost as the world does! Why is it that immodest clothes are worn?



“Realize that the true desire of your heart is godliness.”

Because there is a longing in the heart. They do not understand what this longing really is or what will satisfy it. They interpret the unrest of soul as being a desire for the attention wearing immodest clothing brings, yet even this attention does not satisfy.

No, sister, it is not the latest fashions that you are really wanting. You may think it is, but only because you cannot rightly interpret your soul-cry. No, brother, it is not the success of your favorite sports team or that additional piece of property that your soul really desires. Both of your souls are crying for more of God. Give them a chance to get what they are hungering for, and you will be surprised to find out that you really did not want these things after all. If you find within yourself a desire, or what seems to be a desire, for anything that is not in alignment with spiritual prosperity, then there is a real desire in your soul, but one which you do not realize. Sister, if you sense a desire for an item of clothing that is unfitting for a Christian to wear, then your soul is hungry. Go home and feed it with the “bread from heaven” and the “water of life.” Is your desire for worldly things still there? Not at all! Your soul desired more of God, and you had not recognized it.

Or you, brother, if you feel as if you want people to notice you more and say nice things about you and tell you how talented you are, you are hungry. Go and give your soul a feast of heavenly manna. Now come back to the crowd, and when others begin to praise you, it will make you feel ashamed. You did not really understand the root cause of your desire.

And you who desire to be an important preacher

and stir the world and be like a mighty man of war among the people, you are getting very hungry. It will take a lot to fill you up, but God has plenty, and you had better get to the table quickly. When you get full, though, you will find you do not really want to be an important preacher after all; you have not the least desire to be. Why, you will feel so small, just as if you wanted to hide behind the cross where nobody would see you at all. After we have a good, square meal of divine food, any sort of worldliness will “go against our stomachs,” and we won’t be able to bear it, sight or smell.

And you there, you want to have your own way in everything, do you not? Your judgment is so good that all the brethren must accept it and act upon it or all the sweetness in your soul turns to vinegar right away. Go and eat some of the “honey out of the rock” (Deuteronomy 32:13). Do not come back until you get enough. When you get filled up once, you will wake up in the night and catch yourself saying, “Not my will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42).

God is what you want. Everything else is husks. You can eat husks all you please and not get satisfied. You may get a bad case of spiritual indigestion or die altogether. Better to find out what you really do want, and then “eat in plenty and be satisfied” (Joel 2:26). Get acquainted with yourself enough to know that the real desire of your heart is for godliness. These longings for other things are only symptoms of your need for more God, and they will disappear at once when your soul is filled with the “bread of life” (John 6:35).

How to Apologize

Why apologize anyway?

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

(Matthew 6:14)

There is one thing that Jesus and the apostles made very clear: We will not receive forgiveness if we are not willing to forgive. This is therefore a very serious matter. Because we are human, we experience conflict in our relationships. We make mistakes, act without thinking, and hurt one another. In fact, the Bible says that children of God sometimes sin against one another! In order for the unity in a congregation to be preserved, we must be willing to forgive one another. Forgiveness requires confession. I believe that brothers and sisters in a congregation often forgive each other's mistakes without actually asking each other for forgiveness. Through this mistake, wounds sometimes develop, and even when they are healed, scars remain. For example, trust may be broken, or there is a fear of being treated unfairly again. The result is that brothers and sisters, although they belong to a congregation, avoid each other. Although the matter was forgiven, no reconciliation between each other took place. And reconciliation can only come about when a person honestly and sincerely asks the other for forgiveness and pardon.

To ask for pardon, however, is not so easy. A person must humble oneself, and admit one's own fault to the other. Actually, in relationships among believers, this shouldn't pose a problem. But I discover again and again that many brothers and sisters have a problem with this. And I believe that most people simply don't know how the process works.

There is the case of an older brother who stands at

the pulpit during a testimony hour and says something like: “Brothers and sisters, please forgive me if I did something or said something I shouldn't have.” On the one hand, it is genuine. He humbles himself before the congregation. But on the other hand, it is not an actual apology. Nothing is made clear, the problem is not named, the responsibility for the guilt is not taken. And I sit there and don't know what I'm supposed to forgive him for.

To help you rectify conflicts in relationships among believers, I have written down four points of a sincere plea for forgiveness.

1. “I am sorry...”

Begin by saying that you are sorry. And also say what you are sorry for. When the Spirit of God makes you aware of a wrong in a relationship with someone, then He shows you clearly what the problem was. So accept it and say it in your first sentence. Refer to a concrete situation. And put the onus on yourself. Do not say: “I am sorry that yesterday you misunderstood all that I said.” Here is an example:

“I am sorry that I was rude and outspoken in our conversation yesterday.”

Sometimes it is not clear what the exact problem was. You feel as though something went wrong, but you don't know what the problem is. You notice that the relationship to your brother has changed, or that your sister has something against you. Then go on your knees and ask God to show you what went wrong. Ask Him for sincere remorse so that you do not have to pretend when you say, “I am sorry.”

2. “It was wrong...”

Now comes the actual admitting of wrongdoing. Here, you take the responsibility for your wrong. And here, too, the Spirit of God helps you, having already laid His finger on the wound, as is His habit, before you ask your neighbor for forgiveness. First ask God for forgiveness, then go to the person you have wronged. This is the part where many people fail. This is the part with which I personally often have difficulties. This determines if I really am humble, if I can put my brother or sister above myself, and bow down before them and say that I wasn't right.

You must be as transparent as possible here, too. Say what was wrong and why it was wrong. If it was a sin, then say that it was a sin. Don't sugar coat it. Be careful that no “but” comes up in this sentence or you'll invalidate your confession of guilt. If I stay with the previous example, this would sound like this:

“It was wrong of me to speak while I was angry. The Bible says that when I am angry, I should be silent. And I spoke. Furthermore, I thought of myself as better than you during our conversation. I spoke down at you and even spoke abusively. That was arrogant and selfish, and it was wrong.”

3. “In future, I will...”

Your plea for forgiveness is worth little if you don't want to change what was wrong. It will become evident that your apology is hollow when you ask for forgiveness for the same thing for the third time and your neighbor doesn't see any effort that you want to make it better.

So think about what you will do differently in the future so that something like that doesn't happen again. Make a prayer out of it. Consider what you want to ask God for, so that a wrong action on your part will be hampered in the future. Say these things when you ask a person for forgiveness. This is what it would be in our example:

“In the future, I will bite my tongue when I feel anger

rising in me. And I have started to ask God to help me with this. I have become aware that we have all been saved by grace, that we all have the same goal and we all want to be in the same heaven. Therefore, I want to put my interests and sensitivities aside and focus on our common cause.”

There may be cases where a declaration of intention for the future is not enough. If there is still a way you can straighten the matter out, then you should do it. Affirm it and then do it.

4. “Please forgive me!”

And now you can come to the sentence that really matters. The plea for forgiveness is a plea to be forgiven. You ask the other to take the guilt from you, to forgive you. You have confessed the guilt and now you're asking him to take this guilt from you. At this point some people try to do the forgiving themselves. Don't make this mistake. Deliberately ask for pardon or forgiveness.

“Please forgive me!”

The Motive behind an Apology

If you follow these four steps, you will avoid a great danger – the danger of hypocrisy, that you ask to be forgiven but don't really mean it or that you do it to reach certain goals. But people can tell if a plea for pardon is sincere or not.

For me, the true motive of asking for pardon is remorse. First, I am sorry before God for what I have done. And when I have repented before God for that and see an opportunity to make things right with the person I have wronged, then I do it. And that is not easy. Sometimes I have carried a matter around with me for months until I have come to the point where I have humbled myself and asked a person for forgiveness.

It is not easy. But it is always worth the reward God gives us afterwards.

Robert Witt
Gifhorn, Germany

Experiences with God

“Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.” (Psalm 21:13)

To the glory of God, I would like to give a testimony of the power of the earnest prayers of His children. God allowed my life to be in danger due to serious blood poisoning. But as He stood by me and my family during this time, we can join in greatest thankfulness to our almighty Creator.

The sickness began with a fever that had risen to above 40 degrees within a week. After the fever-reducing drugs didn't work anymore, we drove to the hospital. There, my condition visibly worsened until I could no longer respond. My oxygen saturation was only 30%. It was God's grace that my wife found me in time so that no subsequent damage occurred to my brain. She had actually wanted to visit me at a later time. After this episode, I was sent to the intensive care unit.

A CAT scan of my head revealed an abscess in the throat area. Because the abscess narrowed a vein, it clogged up just shortly before the brain. A stroke was a great possibility. Furthermore, the doctors found a double lung infection. Because the infection had just begun, the infected microbes reached the bloodstream so that a serious blood poisoning developed. So they induced me into a coma. The doctors operated on the site of infection and at the same time removed a part of the vein. I was dependent on a breathing machine. In the meantime, water collected in various parts of my body, including my lungs, but, thank God, it could be flushed out by medications. In total, I was given four bags of blood. On the seventh day I woke up. They kept me in the intensive care unit for three more days. The condition of my health improved quickly, and I

was able to leave the hospital after only a week.

Life can change so quickly and suddenly. How good it is when we have been washed clean by the precious saving blood of Christ and can meet the Lord with a joyful heart. While I was in the coma, I could not pray and was dependent on the help of others. For my family, this time of uncertainty was a difficult test of endurance. We read in God's Word: “Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens” (Psalm 68:19, NIV). We were able to experience this promise in a wonderful way. The Lord be praised for this!

Next to God's great grace and goodness, my life was sustained by the many prayers of believers in the various congregations. God could have put an end to my life, but so many people wrestled in prayer for me that God stood by His promise and heard the fervent prayers of the righteous. As I still lay in the coma, some brothers and sisters fasted and pleaded earnestly to the Lord for me. Just a few days later, I opened my eyes. For this, too, God should be glorified.

People who have no anchor in God often-times report of feelings of despair, helplessness, and inconsolability during stressful times. A special experience I had was to experience the bond of love among us brothers and sisters. You stood by me with fasting and prayers, advice and practical expressions of love. It was wonderful to be reunited with all of you! May God reward you richly for this love.

With a thankful heart I greet you as a brother in the Lord,

Frank Venohr
HAMM, GERMANY

The Robin

The freight car had been standing on an unused railway track line for a long time, waiting for repairs. A young robin, flying home from the south, was looking for a place to build her nest, and came to rest upon this idle freight car. She noticed the car had a perfect corner high off the ground and hidden from dangerous predators. The robin began to build her nest there. Not too long after, five lovely blue eggs lay in the nest.

In the meantime, workers began to repair the freight car. The mother bird was undisturbed. It was her job to guard her eggs, and that she did. The workers hardly noticed her – the nest was hidden – but now and again they saw her flying back and forth to find food. In time, five hungry long-necked birdies slipped out of the eggs. Now the mother robin was busy from morning until night bringing food to her babies.

One morning the freight car repairs were completed, and it seemed the little birdies would lose their mother. The freight car was hitched to its locomotive, and both began to pull away with mother robin away from the nest in search of food for her little ones. The rail cars were headed to a distant harbor city.

However, the mother robin did not abandon her young. Undaunted, she flew after the rail car for several hundred kilometers. When they all finally came to a stop, a local rail-car worker noticed the dilemma of this robin family. He felt sorry for them, and brought the nest to the attention of his boss. The boss ordered the rail car to be parked on a sidetrack until the young birds were grown and had flown

away. He had other freight cars he could use, and leaving this one idle allowed the diligent robin mother to continue caring for her young.

If a mother bird is so concerned about her young (and a rail-car worker so concerned about a family of birds) – how much more does God care for His children! He has promised (Hebrews 13:5) – “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” You may feel forgotten, but rest assured, God does not forget His own nor abandon them. God pays attention to you, because He loves you.



The Beauty of Old Age

“O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come” (Psalm 71:17-18).

Just like harvest is a more cheerful time than planting – if it is a good harvest – so is old age better than the years of youth. If in the youth years a good foundation is laid for later years and eternity, then old age is indeed better than the time of youth, for the completion of a task is better than its beginning.

As ripe fruit gives us more joy than unripe ones, so old age is more blessed than youth if it is steeped in and glorified by the love of Christ. – As the return to port is more pleasant than the journey itself, so old age is more pleasant than youth, provided that the journey was made with Christ at the helm during the years of youth.

David sat as an old man in his royal castle. His years passed before his eyes. What wonderful images he saw! While reflecting on them, he called out joyfully, “O God, You have taught me from my youth!” His entire life had been a school where God had trained him for eternity. It was here that he learned to flee from evil and to seek out that which comes from above. Here he learned to recognize the enemy’s ploys and to escape the dangerous slings of the world. Here he learned to live for God’s pleasure and to prepare himself for the day of his meeting with God. Is it not marvelous and beautiful when a person lets himself be ruled by God’s hand and by His love his entire life? Is it not the memories of God’s faithfulness that illuminate the dark days of old age? These are privileges of which the world knows nothing.

Old age still has its dangers, however. When spiritual freshness fades and willpower wanes, Satan challenges people twice as much and tosses all manner of doubts and concerns into the heart like flames of fire. We then should not need to wonder when in many a room, the sigh is heard, “O God, do not forsake me when I get gray in my old age!” The grace of the past does not suffice for the present. Past experiences are similar to the manna that became inedible after a day. The dangers of old age need special grace. But with God, there is no lack of grace. The King of all kings did not forsake Abraham when he was full of days, nor Isaac when he was blind, nor Jacob when he was “leaning on the top of his staff” (Hebrews 11:21). Even when others bind us and lead us like Peter to where we do not want to go, even then His face will not leave us. Old age does have its special promises.

Blessed old age is the beginning of the triumphal procession into glory. No dark valley lies before the darkening eyes of an upright old man. While he ferries across death’s stream, the light of the next world streams toward him and transfigures him. In the light of the great morning of eternity, he pushes off from this shore and soon throws his anchor at the golden coast of eternity.

“I find myself on the brighter side of my life”, says an old man, “because I am so near blessed eternity.” And the elderly Simeon rejoiced, “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, [...] for my eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:29-30). Is that not inexpressible glory? Is not such a triumphant traveler returning home to be envied? Certainly, the old age of a righteous man has its beauty!

As Your Days

*Just like yours days are, so is your strength.
God, He has promised, promised at length,
That He will help you every day,
Now and tomorrow, come what may.*

*The time of grace is still here today;
Be faithful to God, trust and obey.
When precious moments have slipped away
They won't come back, so use them today.*

*And if your heart is heavy with care,
The storms of life seem too much to bear,
O look to Jesus, He stills the storm,
Despite the waves, you won't come to harm.*

*Entrust your all to Jesus, your Lord,
Fully relying on His dear Word.
Always be ready, His will be done,
Watch and pray for surely He'll come.*

Seeking Stillness

We tend to judge a person's character by what he says and does. We rarely recognize that the soul can be strengthened by quiet time. When we see how the busyness and rush of our daily life influences us, it is hard to comprehend how the word from Isaiah 32:18: "My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places," can possibly fit into our endless activities. And yet, it is so vital that we do not take the worldly rush into our quiet time with God.

"Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you" (Isaiah 26:20). The prophet Isaiah and our Lord Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount admonished us to take heed of this. Every person needs a quiet place, a sanctuary, where they can commune with God.

Our strength lies in that quiet and hidden place. The most noble of characters were birthed in these quiet places. Paul had to spend many years in Arabia, in isolation, to truly come to the understanding of God's plan for him. Once Paul entered into public view again, he had the strength to counter any disputes because he was secure in the knowledge that God was with him. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

The tabernacle had three distinct sections. These

clearly showed the Israelites what their position before God needed to be. Figuratively speaking, many people find themselves in the first section, the courtyard. A few enter the sanctuary, and even fewer push through into the Holiest of Holies, even though Christ's death opened this door for everyone. This small group has learned to speak with God "face to face" in their quiet time. These are the people who have experienced the strength that makes their burdens lighter and fills their soul with joy.

If we become like wax in the hand of God, He can mold His image into our lives. This can only happen when the hard and cold heart of a person has been broken and melted by the "fire" of God. Only then can God place His seal on that person's life. The soul that has been quieted by God is certain that He only has thoughts of love and peace for it.

Christians know that in order to remain in the presence of God, they need to spend quiet time with Him on a regular basis. When we spend continual time with Jesus, we will see the worldly things around us in a completely different light. Inwardly removed from the rush of this world, we can live with Jesus in the midst of the anxieties and noise of our day. In the middle of this hectic world, we have established a hidden sanctuary where our soul can commune with God and be at peace.

Winnipeg

In 1928 a few brothers and sisters began 'house services' of the Church of God in the home of Brother and Sister Leo Schultz. Through the preaching of Pastor Patzer the Lord blessed this work of faith, and souls were being saved and added to the Lord's Church. It was a great joy for the congregation when traveling pastors came and shared the Word of God. Pastor Schwieger served in Winnipeg from 1937-1938. The church grew, and for several years a building from the Adventist group was rented for the services on Sundays. Brother & Sister Weyland came and served the church from 1943-1948.

A church building was located and purchased in 1943. When Pastor Weyland and his wife left to minister in Benton Harbor, Michigan, Brother and Sister Stumkat came to serve the congregation for a few years. At this time a group from the congregation left with the pastor to start an English speaking congregation. The remaining German group continued to grow and welcomed many new immigrants that came to Winnipeg after they had lost their homes in Europe during the war.

Pastor Adolph Lutzer and his family arrived in 1951 and served the congregation for over 16 years. The old church building on Tweed Avenue was torn down in 1952 and a new sanctuary was built to accommodate the steady growth of the congregation. It was an important milestone for the church. Through the following years the assembly continued to grow, and in 1965 the building was expanded once more. The Lord continued to bless His work.

At the church's annual Youth Convention services in 1955, Pastor Salomon Weissburger from Brazil was the special guest speaker. He encouraged all of the German pastors to meet every year. Because of Winnipeg's central location, the minister's conferences of the German work of the Church of God in North America began there in 1958. It was always a highlight for the congregation to host the annual Minister's Conference and the business meeting of the German Canadian Mission Board. It was a joyful and welcome change during the winter months to have the pastors and delegates visit the congregation. Over time the request was made to move these conferences to other congregations. In 2005 they were held in Edmonton and other congregations have also hosted them since then.

After Pastor Lutzer's lengthy service, Pastor Weiss came and served the congregation until Pastor Nimz and his family arrived in 1968. They stayed about five years until they followed a call from the Church of God in Toronto. Brother and Sister Friedrich

Henschel came for a time of transition until Pastor Raasch and his family began their ministry in the second part of 1973. Their ministry continued until 1984.

In November, 1978 the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary. With grateful hearts the church looked to the Lord and could say with the man of God in Psalm 118:1, "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Pastor Gustav Sonnenberg was the guest speaker and the choir from the Edmonton Church of God blessed the services with many spiritual songs.

Two periodicals were published by brothers in our congregation. The "Freudenaehre" (a children's publication) was edited and printed by Brother Georg Gutzmann, starting in 1956 until June 2005. Brother Alfred Tuviks published and mailed a Russian periodical "Voice of Truth" for many years. For about 46 years (1968-2014) the radio program "Message of Salvation" was aired every week. This was an important outreach ministry, as some families became familiar with and began to attend the services of the Church of God in Winnipeg because of this radio program.

During the 1970's a significant number of German speaking immigrants came to Winnipeg from Paraguay. Many of them visited the church services, listened to the Word of God, became followers of Christ and were biblically baptized. The continued growth of the congregation and the aging of the church building created the need for the purchase of a lot to build a new church. On April 15, 1981 a vote with overwhelming support was conducted to buy the current location on Concordia Avenue.

A little over three years later, in August of 1984, Pastor Reinhard Roesler and his family took over the spiritual leadership of the congregation. After the old church building was sold, preparations for the new building were made in the fall of 1989. Many prayers were sent up to the throne of God, asking for strength and unity for the task of building a new house of worship. A general contractor was hired, but the Sunday School rooms and other work in the basement was completed by the church members. The Lord kept His hand over the building project and protected everyone from accidents.

On May 20, 1990 the new church building was dedicated. Pastor H.D. Nimz was the guest speaker, and the choir and brass band from the Edmonton congregation came for this special occasion. All were richly blessed through the preaching of the Word and the spiritual songs. The church rejoiced with heartfelt gratefulness for this new place of worship.

After Pastor Roesler and his family answered the call from the Church of God in Toronto in 1997, the congregation was without a pastor for one year. Pastors from other places came to help out. Pastor Joseph Jakobsh stayed for most of that year and served the congregation well.



In 1998 Pastor Harry Klinger and his family accepted the calling from our church to become the next pastor. At the beginning of 1999 the need was sensed to begin with English worship services. In May of that year, after a lengthy period of prayer, fasting, and seeking the will of God, the decision was reached to begin regular Sunday Services in the English language. Since the year 2000, Russian-German brothers and sisters emigrated from Germany and are part of the Winnipeg congregation today. The congregation is truly grateful for their participation in the ministries of the church.

The congregation experienced another joyful highlight in 2003 when they celebrated their 75th anniversary, thanking God for His wonderful grace. The theme for the special services was "Showers of Blessings." The guest speakers were Pastor Nimz and some of the Winnipeg church's former pastors: Pastor Raasch and Pastor Roesler. They were a blessing with their presence

and the ministry of the Word.

The sanctuary choir and brass band from the Edmonton Congregation served with songs and music. Three "heritage choirs" were also assembled – orchestra, youth and mixed choir – in which all former members of the congregation participated. All were richly blessed. Four years later another change of Pastors took place. Pastor Klinger and his family answered the call from the Hamilton congregation. In August 2007, Brother and Sister Kehler arrived and serve the congregation to the present. May the Lord bless them and give them grace and strength in all of their responsibilities.

With confidence the Winnipeg congregation looks into the future. The Lord is the head of His Church and that is how it must remain. He has promised to be with us, even to the end of the age.

M. Fruehm and H. Steinke

YEAR	PASTOR
1928 – 1936	<i>Samuel Patzer†</i>
1937 – 1938	<i>Brother Schwieger†</i>
1943 – 1948	<i>Hans-Fritz Weyland†</i>
1948 – 1950	<i>Otto Stumkat†</i>
1950 – 1951	<i>Adam Flatt†</i>
1951 – 1967	<i>Adolph Lutzer†</i>
1968 – 1968	<i>Ferdinand Weiss†</i>
1968 – 1973	<i>Hans-Dietrich Nimz</i>
1973 – 1973	<i>Friedrich Henschel†</i>
1973 – 1984	<i>Siegfried Raasch</i>
1984 – 1997	<i>Reinhard Roesler</i>
1997 – 1998	<i>Josef Jakobsh</i>
1998 – 2007	<i>Harry Klinger</i>
2007 – DATE	<i>Martin Kehler</i>



Becoming Free – Remaining Free

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free.” (Galatians 5:1)

The message of freedom in Christ is the central theme of the Bible. Humanity came into the bondage of Satan because of the original fall into sin. Thereafter, it was God’s endeavor to reveal the plan of salvation to all people through His Word. In the forefront of this revelation stands the plan of salvation through His Son. He Himself also proclaimed in His time the gospel of the glorious freedom: “The truth shall make you free” (John 8: 32). “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (verse 36). Those who experienced the godly freedom joined in by also proclaiming it. And so, the message of freedom found through the grace of Christ reached us.

Becoming free is futile, however, if one cannot remain free. Praise God, the Lord offers a twofold grace! In our text, Paul admonishes the Galatians, and us, to remain free.

Free From the Yoke of the Law

What was the reason that Paul addressed these words of admonishment to the Galatians? When Paul and his companions traveled through the Galatian country at the start of their second missionary trip, some people must have come to believe in Christ. On his third missionary trip, he strengthens these disciples in their faith. Several years later, in his letter to the Galatians he recounts how he labored to help them spiritually (Galatians 4: 11). He had preached a godly gospel to them (1: 11); he had portrayed Christ, as if He was crucified before their eyes (3: 1) and says that he suffered the labor pains

for a new life in Christ for them (4: 19). The result was that they rejoiced in having been saved (4: 15). They had become free through Christ. What blessedness already here on earth!

After Paul and his companions had left this district, Judaizers appeared among the Galatians. They might have been the same ones who, according to Acts 15:1, appeared in the church at Antioch. They taught that the new converts to Christianity were obliged to obey the Law of Moses to get saved, especially that the males were to get circumcised. They probably advised the Galatians to keep the Sabbath and other holy days and to observe the food restrictions according to the Law of Moses. The teachings of these Judaizers had confused the Galatians and had burdened them again with a yoke of slavery after they had been freed. Therefore, we find the sharp reprimand in the Epistle to the Galatians from Paul under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

What the apostles encountered in the early Christian church is sometimes experienced in our days. Teachers appear who propagate Jesus and his liberating work of salvation, but also teach, just like those aforementioned heretics, that certain laws of the Old Testament have to be obeyed. What would Paul say to that today? Would it not be: “Do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage,” but “stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free” (Galatians 5:1)? Should that not be relevant for young and old? It surely is the inspired Word of God.

You too can enjoy life-long, glorious freedom!

Free From the Yoke of Sin

Besides being free from the yoke of the Law, it is also very important that we are not again caught in the slavery of sin after we have been freed from it. Let's look at it in a logical manner by employing the following observations from life:

- What would it benefit a convict to be freed from jail knowing that he will not be able to remain a free man because he will likely offend again? To what benefit would his short-lived freedom be?
- What would it profit a deer to be freed from a snare just to get entangled in another one?
- What does it benefit a fish to be freed from an angler's net only to be caught in it the next hour again?
- What sense does it make for the psalmist to testify: "Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped" (Psalm 124: 7), if the bird will soon be captured again?
- Indeed, to what benefit is it to us to have heard the wonderful message of freedom through Christ and to have experienced salvation, if soon after, because of a sinful deed, we end up in the bondage of Satan?

Would Jesus have given His life to place us in such a miserable state? Does serving the Lord consist of a constant falling and getting up? Would one then have joy in serving the Lord? We read in God's Word: "Serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2).

Praise be to God, He has enabled us to be freed

and remain free through Christ! At the threshold of New Testament times Zacharias breaks out in a song of praise in view of the work of redemption soon to be upon them: "Blessed is the Lord . . . to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life" (Luke 1:68, 74, 75). Let's review this assertion! We can be delivered from the hand of our enemies, even from the hand of the greatest enemy of our soul, the devil. For what purpose are we redeemed? – to "serve Him" (God). When and for how long are we redeemed? – "all the days of our life", not just in heaven, but here on earth. How are we to serve God? First, we are told: "without fear." Indeed, if we are clothed with salvation and the armor of God, we don't have to continuously live in fear of being conquered. Rather, we can joyfully praise God daily for the victory which we have in Him. Second, our service to God is to be "in holiness and righteousness." These are signs of a child of God who leads a victorious life over sin.

If God has done everything from His side to make us and keep us free, we want to do our part in this regard as well. Not everything we are given by God is received effortlessly on our part. We have to make an earnest effort to receive the freedom in Christ. Likewise, we must be diligent and on guard in maintaining this freedom. For that reason our text warns us: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free." Then we can enjoy this joyous freedom all the days of our life.

R. Roesler,
Toronto, Ontario

Relocation of Our Printing Facility

The history of the Christian Unity Press – moving our print shop to Flint, Michigan, USA.

Is it necessary for us to have a print shop? Is the effort to publish literature justified? What is our actual intent with the printed material? These and similar questions are often posed. And how can we best answer them?

I found the answer in an obituary (Sister Elma En-drigkat) in the November 2014 edition of the German “Evangeliums Posaune” (Gospel Trumpet). I read there: “God led it that a German acquaintance from Vancouver sent her the “Evangeliums Posaune.” When she read it, she became unsettled about the condition of her soul. She professed that she was converted through the reading of the “Evangeliums Posaune.” Similar examples are not uncommon and are the motivation for the publication of helpful literature.

When the Reformation movement took place around 1880, it was the Bible verse out of Isaiah 27:13 that gave the motivation to publish a Christian journal with the title “Gospel Trumpet” in Rome City, Indiana. The prophet says: “So it shall be in that day: The great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.” The first edition appeared on January 1st, 1881.

Distributing publications played a major role in outreach at the time. The goal was to bring back the recognized truths of God’s Word to the people. Why additional writings besides the Bible? Is the Bible not enough? – There were various interpretations of Scripture; some read into it things that were not the intent of Scripture such as: infant baptism, observance of the Sabbath, denying the existence of hell, soul sleep, the impossibility of victory

over sin, etc. Publications should not replace but instead support the Word of God.

The print shop was moved often in the first five years, until it found a more permanent site in Grand Junction, Michigan in 1886.

The pioneers of the Church of God took every opportunity to proclaim the Gospel. It happened in both languages, English and German (evangelist D.S. Warner was bilingual). They were not concerned about the language, but about the message. Due to immigration from Germany, the demand for literature in the German language, but especially for a German edition of the “Gospel Trumpet,” increased. On January 1st, the first German “Evangeliums Posaune” (EP) appeared, edited by Brother F.I. Hahn, who was the pastor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The subscription price was \$1.00. The edition had 8,000 copies, of which 3,000 were ordered.

The EP brought a boost to the German work. At the annual camp meeting in Anderson, Indiana, so many German-speaking people came that a separate tent had to be set up for the Germans. It led to a number of preachers feeling the need to work separately among the Germans beginning in 1897.

The print shop served both language groups. In 1906 it was moved to Anderson, Indiana, and continued printing literature in both languages. At that time, German congregations sprang up all over, which led to a demand for German literature. In 1903, for example, 113,000 tracts were printed, and in 1907 a German hymnal “Evangeliums-Klänge” (Gospel Tones).

The EP became a bearer of truth and connected the



The Printing Facility

German brothers and sisters in the Lord, who were often isolated. A reader's letter stated: "We live far from every congregation. We read the Bible and the Gospel Trumpet. The Gospel Trumpet is our preacher." The readership increased progressively, so that 31,900 copies were printed in December 1909.

World War 1 brought about radical change. Not only did an anti-German sentiment arise, but it also cut off financial support from Europe. The question arose of whether to close the German department and move it to Germany, but this was decided against. At the pastor's conference in Anderson (1919), the decision was made to establish a separate German print shop under the name "Gospel Truth Company." It is not known why, but in 1920 the name was changed to "Christian Unity Press." In 1928, the print shop was moved from Anderson to York, Nebraska. Not only did they print German literature, but the print shop became the headquarters of the German Church of God congregations in the USA. Over the years, on a large plot of land, a new print shop, a church, and houses for workers were built.

For many years, only German literature was printed regularly, including the "Evangeliums Posaune," "Der Missionsbote" (Gospel Herald), lesson books, tracts, textbooks, song books, etc. In later years, English writings such as the "Foundation of Faith" and a hymnal, "Worship Hymnal," were printed. Today, the print shop is bilingual. And today again, as in the early years, it is not about the language, but about the message.

The German congregations in York and the United

States have decreased over the years. The older brothers and sisters have passed on and the young people have turned to the local language and there is no longer a congregation in York. Repeatedly, the idea was discussed as to whether it would be in the best interest to move the print shop to a location where there was a congregation. The decision was made at the pastor's conference in 2012 to move the print shop to Flint, Michigan, and this has now happened.

In November 2014, we were able, with God's help, to acquire a favorably located building in Flint, Michigan at the reasonable price of \$227,000 (USD). It is in an industrial area and is centrally located, near a post office, United Parcel Service, Federal Express and the airport in Flint (3 km). The new print shop is located about 5 km from the church building in Swartz Creek. The building has a total area of 5,000 square feet and consists of 2 equal-sized sections. The front section consists of offices, a conference room and two restrooms. The proposed printer will be placed in this anterior section because the offices are equipped with air conditioning. Temperature fluctuations harm these sophisticated machines. The back section of the building is a large storage room which is equipped with a loading dock.

Connected with this move, a transition to a digital printing process is envisioned. The old Heidelberg printing machine is about 25 years old, and the printing process has been superseded by new technology. In all decisions, God has helped wonderfully and opened doors in that even the old machines were sold favorably.



Office and Printshop

Currently a digital printer is being purchased (about \$80,000-90,000). The machine is able to process everything through to the finished product.

As I write this report, 10 brothers and sisters from Seminole, Texas are on the road (14 hour drive by car) to assist with the packing in York. Then comes the actual move sometime in the near future. From York, only Brother Dieter Heinze (our manager) will move to Flint. Brother and Sister Kurt Heinze, who have led the work faithfully for years, will spend their retirement years in York.

During the time of the move and the time of the installation of the machines, the printing of the EP will be outsourced so that the distribution is not affected. (We hope that you, dear reader, have understanding for the January and February 2015 edition being merged this

time.)

We ask for your prayers. If anyone wishes to help financially, they may do so. A song says so fittingly: “Let us do what we can, few are the days remaining [...]” With God’s help, we want to continue spreading the good news through printed material. You ask if you can help? Maybe you know someone for whom you could order the “Evangeliiums Posaune” or “Foundation of Faith.” Why not?

We ask that all correspondence be sent to the new address:

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Harry Semenjuk



Warehouse

Unchanging Lord

With Christ a new era dawns. Similarly, for everyone who believes in Christ, a new time period begins. If we have Him, then we have a secure Rock on which we can stand. He is the Lord for all generations. While the world wavers, the Lord remains how He is, and there is no end to His years. That is why He can be our Refuge. “You have been our dwelling place in all generations” (Psalm 90:1). Our faithless generation and the temporally minded people of our age need to realize this truth.

The Lord, who was with us in the past, will be with us in the new year as well. This thought gives believing souls a confident hope. He will not leave us alone in the unknown of the year ahead, but will lead and guide us. If we put our trust in Him, we can walk securely into the new year ahead.

The Worry Ball

Spurgeon tells one of his life experiences: “I had worries and wanted to be rid of them. Then two boys who were playing helped me out. One was in the window on the top floor of a house; the other was on the street. The one attempted to throw a ball up to his playmate but did not succeed. Sometimes the toss was too high, other times too low. Nevertheless, the little man did not give up. Finally one throw succeeded. The boy in the window could catch the ball. They both whooped and hollered – and I was happy for them. As I proceeded on I was reminded of my worries, but now I was able to bridle them.”

Do we not also have an open window above us? Is there not someone there ready to catch our worry ball? And if it will go as well for us as for the boys – even though the ball does not nearly reach and always falls back on us – why give up throwing? It makes sense to practice on! Our worry ball will certainly arrive! Not only because we learn to throw better, but mainly because the Hands collecting our concerns are more skillful than the hands of the playing boys.

*Heart, let your worries go,
Or worry and pain you'll know,
And it serves naught.
Trust only in God, the Lord,
His “help” is in His Word
And He sleepeth not.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL SERVICES 2015 Germany & Canada

Youth Conference

KIRCHBERG, GERMANY

MARCH 6-8

Easter Conference

HAMM, GERMANY

APRIL 3-6

Fest Conference

WINNIPEG, MB

MAY 16-18

Pentecost Conference

HERFORD, GERMANY

MAY 23-25

My Times Are in Your Hand

-from Psalm 31:15

The days of life are swiftly flowing,
Like currents running in a brook.
We know that time will not be slowing,
A page is turning in God's Book.

My time is in Your hands, Creator,
Oh, let me spend it faithfully,
That when this page is finished later,
It be pleasing unto Thee.

And if upon this page is written,
What I can never understand,
Then let me not with doubt be ridden,
But take it from Thy loving hand.

The year must end, it is unfolding,
You know the way that leads us home;
My time within Thy hands You're holding,
So I will trust in You alone.