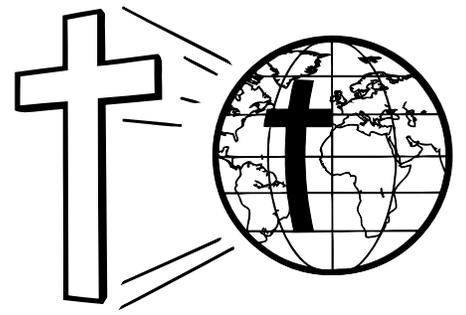


Foundation of Faith



THE JOY OF
WINNING SOULS

BE A MISSIONARY
AT HOME

"WHY DID YOU WAIT SO LONG?"

THIS MEANS US!

MEMORIZING
SCRIPTURE

JESUS
I NEED YOU

*Working in
God's Vineyard*

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Dear Reader!

When I consider the idea of missions today, I have to think of the song:

*Hear the words of our dear Savior: Go to all the world,
already ripe for harvest is the field!*

*He, the King of Heaven, gave Himself so lovingly,
to redeem lost sinners graciously.*

*O reapers, time to work!
Hasten over land and sea;
Tell the people of the world
of His love so rich and free!*

The Great Commission of the Savior was not solely for the first disciples and apostles. This divine commandment was given to all of us.

The Son of God personally called His disciples to, “Come, follow me!” (Matthew 19:21). He gave their lives meaning and purpose. He taught and equipped them with His words, and then He sent them out. So the word “mission” involves being sent. His servants are ambassadors with specific instructions! They read: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature! [...]” (Mark 16:15-16). And “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

In order to be sent we must first have personally experienced salvation, redemption through Jesus’ blood, and the forgiveness of sins. Then we can be witnesses of what the Lord offers to everyone, so that none should be lost. A further requirement is complete consecration and surrender to the will of God, following Him wholeheartedly, in complete obedience.

With this mission we have a specific message to share. We must be willing to go, to testify, and to preach. Jesus Christ is our Lord. He is the resurrected Victor. He leads the way and stands behind us. He will guide us if we trust Him and obey.

Even you, my dear reader, should not only hear the Word of God, but be a faithful witness and servant of the Son of God!

H.D. Nimz

The Sleeping Wireless Operator

The Titanic, in its time the largest and grandest ship in the world, set sail from Southampton on April 10, 1912 on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic to New York City. It was regarded as a marvel of modern technology: 269 meters long, 28 meters wide, and 19.5 meters high. The 2,201 people on board were cheerful and in good spirits because they believed their ship to be unsinkable.

Four days later, the Titanic struck an iceberg, creating a 90-meter gash in the ship's hull. Although the watertight compartments were sealed off, the walls were not tall enough to contain the water in the damaged compartments. Of the sixteen compartments, six were torn open, and the water poured in, unstoppable, at the rate of one hundred tons per minute. Down in the engine room, the engineers knew that the Titanic was lost. Reluctantly, the captain issued the order for his crew to put the women and children in the lifeboats and lower away. Although the captain did not want to accept that this great ship would sink, he knew what would happen, and he knew that the lifeboats could carry only one thousand people.

In the wireless room, operators Phillips and Bride had mainly received congratulatory telegrams. But at 11:45 p.m., the captain ordered them to send out a call for help. Although many ships responded to their call for help, most were too far away. Only one steamer, the Californian, was nearby.

The Californian had encountered a large ice field, and the captain decided to stop the ship and wait until morning to proceed further. Only about five nautical miles from the Titanic, the Californian was so close that passengers could see the green starboard light of the Titanic. The ice field between the two ships was only two to three nautical miles wide and could have been easily passed through.

Then, why didn't the Californian come to the Titanic's aid? Why did 1,490 people have to die a horrible death? Why didn't the Californian rescue these people?

Didn't she hear the ship's calls for help? No, she did not. The wireless operator had gone to bed, but he was not to blame. He had just finished an eighteen-hour shift. Watching through his binoculars, the officer-on-duty saw the rockets fired from the sinking ship and notified the captain. Grumpy from being awakened from his sleep, the captain said that the rockets probably didn't mean anything and went back to bed.

If only they had awakened the wireless operator, then the 1,490 people could have been saved. Unaware of what was happening, he slept until 4:30 a.m. By then, the Titanic was already at the bottom of the ocean. The operator was not at his post when he was most needed, and as a result, 1,490 people died.

As Christians, we need to wear our "headphones" of love and listen attentively for distress signals from people who have crashed into the iceberg of guilt and are sinking in the sea of sin. Are we not here to help the drowning? If we do not respond to these cries of despair, who will?

But woe to those of us who have fallen asleep, who no longer wear these "headphones" of love, and who cannot hear people's cries for help. While we sleep, these distress signals go unheard. The drowning sink into the depths, never to return, because at the moment, when we were needed most, we were not there.

Lord, open our eyes to see the needs of others, open our ears to hear their cries, give us swift feet to rush to their aid, and give us strong, loving hands to rescue the perishing.

Renate Berg warns: "You who have fallen asleep in despair and do not want to wake up because the world is a desperate place, you are not alone. Someone has awoken and suffered for you. Now, you must also watch for your brothers lest they perish in the world's despair."

The Joy of Winning Souls

I have never lost sight of Jesus Christ since that evening on which I encountered Him the first time. But for years I believed that I was not competent to work for God. I was also never asked to do something.

When I arrived in Chicago, I rented a room and gathered young people together. After I did this for awhile, I established a Sunday School. I believed numbers meant everything, and so I worked for numbers. When less than 1000 people attended Sunday School, I was disappointed. But when attendance reached 1200 to 1500 people, I was proud. No one experienced salvation. There was no harvest.

Then God opened my eyes. We had a class of young girls who, without exception, were very silly and inattentive. One Sunday, the teacher was ill and I took over the class. They laughed in my face, and I felt like opening the door and throwing them out of class.

In the next week, the teacher of this class visited me. He looked very pale and ill. "What is troubling you?" I asked him. "I recently had bleeding in the lungs again. The doctor said I can't live here. I need go back to New York. I think I will go home to die." He seemed very dejected, and when I asked him why, he answered: "I did not lead one single girl in my class to Jesus. I think I harmed the girls more than I helped them."

Never before had I heard someone speak like this. And I had to think about it. After awhile, I said, "Maybe you should go to them and tell them how you feel. If you'd like to, we can go together." He agreed. It was one of the nicest trips that I had on earth.

We went to the house of one of these girls. The teacher spoke with her about the salvation of her soul. There was no more laughing here. Her eyes filled with tears. After he had explained the way of life to her, he asked me to pray. Never before in my life had I prayed to God that He would save a young girl. But we prayed, and God heard our pleading.

The next day, we went out together again. After ten days, the teacher came to me in my store with a glowing face. "Brother Moody," he said, "the last student in my class has surrendered herself to Christ." We had a wonderful time of celebration. The next evening, he had to leave, so I called his class together one more time for a prayer meeting. On that evening, God set a fire in my soul that has not since extinguished. The teacher, now deathly ill, sat between his students, spoke with them, and read the 14th chapter of the Gospel of John. We sang, "Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." Then we knelt down to pray.

I had just wanted to stand up again when one girl from the class began to pray for her sick teacher. Then another one prayed and another one, and before we stood up, the whole class had prayed. As I went home, I pleaded: "Oh God, let me rather die than lose the blessing that I have received tonight!"

The next evening, I went to the train station to wish him farewell. Before the train left, one of his students came, and soon all of them had gathered. What a gathering it was! We tried to sing, but our voices broke. When the train began to move, the teacher pointed upward, meaning that we would see him in heaven.

I didn't know what this experience would cost me. I could no longer work at my regular job in the store. After I had experienced the foretaste of another world, the emptiness of making money no longer appealed to me. Should I give up my store and devote myself to the work of God, or should I continue on as I was? God helped me choose the right way. And I have never regretted my choice. How precious it is to be able to lead a soul out of the darkness of this world into the wonderful light and freedom of the gospel!

D.L. Moody (1837-1899)

Fellowship with God

“That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. [...] If we say that we have fellowship with Him [...]” (1 John 1:3-6)

What a wonderful idea it is to have fellowship with God. “We have fellowship!” What glorious words! Fellowship means a connection of hearts by choice. Each of us decides independently with whom to have fellowship. The fellowship we choose is of great importance, as these choices have consequences, either good or bad, which we must deal with.

Anyone who has fellowship with liars, blasphemers, adulterers, and the like, must descend down to their level. A wise proverb says: “Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.” It can be further concluded that your character can be seen in your fellowship with the things you read, watch, and do in your free time. Whoever fellowships with noble people will be affected for the better. Whoever is unequally yoked with sinners must descend into the slough of sin and become one with sinners.

Here, the Apostle John gives testimony of a different fellowship. His soul had a longing, and because of this desire, he chose a holy, wonderful fellowship. Everything else, however, is worthless and vain. Nothing else gives true satisfaction. Every other way fails to bring happiness and blessings.

In heaven and on earth, there is nothing higher than having communion with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. This is the highest purpose that we were created for. This fellowship means an intimate heart connection and contains within itself full, abundant life. It brings power, blessing, true happiness and eternal benevolence. Any other fellowship can be compared to dust that disintegrates and dead works that fail.

Associations or fellowships not only influence us, they also mold us. They bring about change, cause us to reevaluate goals, and may even change our character and will.

If we want to have fellowship with God, we must be

ready to submit fully and unreservedly. But this fellowship with Him also offers the best, highest, and greatest reward. If we want to have fellowship with Christ, we must first come into agreement with Him. We must be lifted to a higher level. Then we must submit to His guidelines, take heed, and follow.

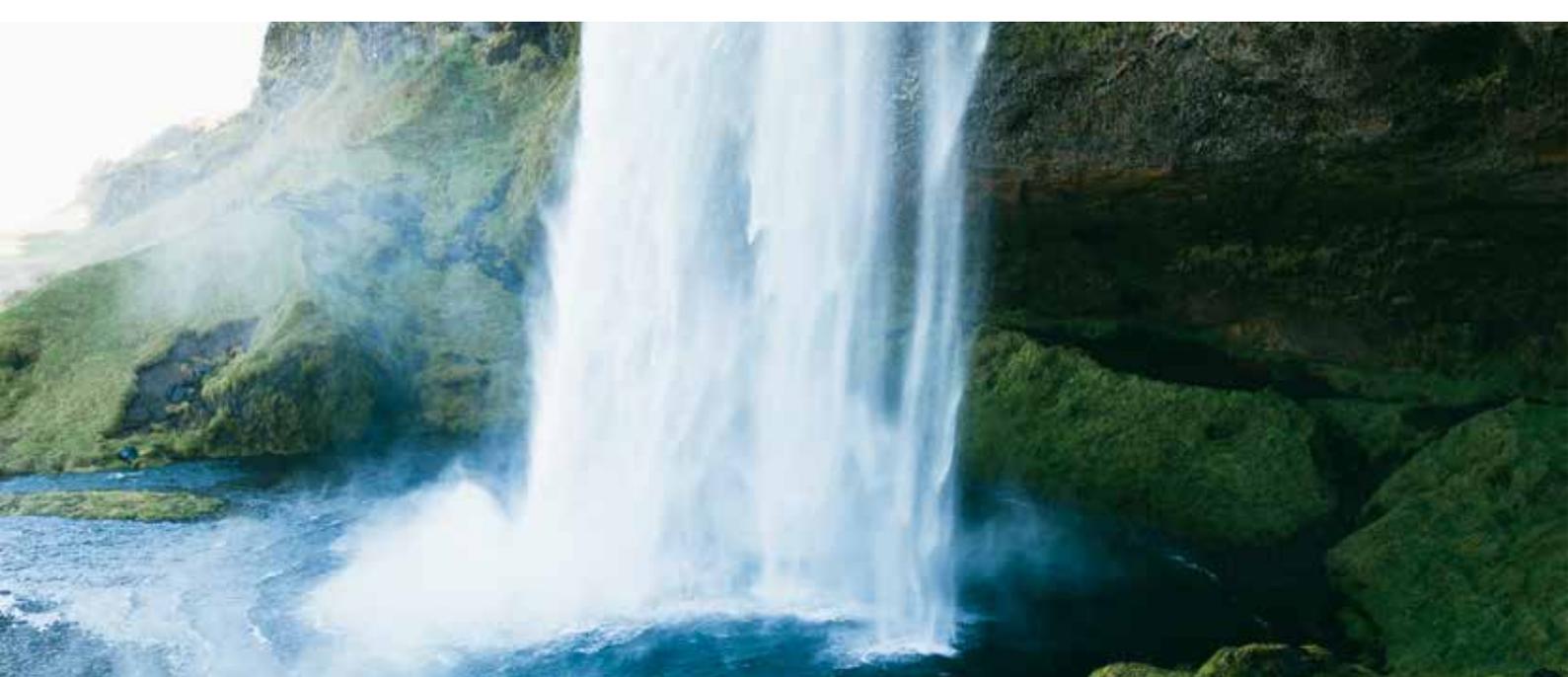
God's basic principle is pure, holy love. It was this love that longed for fellowship with us. This incredible love paved the way, a costly way, which was sealed with blood. Once we truly recognize this love, it makes us willing to live in faithful obedience. Love is the bond of fellowship with God which we should not tear apart.

Everyone must first be prepared for this wonderful fellowship. A sinner must come out of an unredeemed state in which he has no connection with God. That cannot happen by itself; a miracle must take place. The Bible calls this miracle the rebirth or new creation. The sinner must come before God in true repentance. If he sincerely confesses his sins and believes that Jesus Christ, through His blood, cleanses from all sin, he becomes a new man in Christ. Only now can he enter into fellowship with the Father and the Son. Now God's love can be poured into his heart through the Holy Spirit.

If the love of God now dwells in the heart of the redeemed, he must live in such a way that this blessed fellowship is not destroyed again by sin. Our will must be brought into conformity with the will of God. Then we will love what He loves and hate what He hates. Then our lives will prove that we have fellowship with Him.

The Lord Jesus Loves His People

He loves His church, which He purchased with His precious blood (see 1 John 2:6-11 and 4:20-21). This is too



clear of a message to be mistaken. How can you say you love God and have fellowship with Him, if you hate your brother or your sister? Love and hate are, after all, two opposite things. Beloved, observe this well, because that is a condition for fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Loves the Sinner

If that were not the case, no one would be saved. Then the gates of heaven would be closed for all eternity. Remember: He, the Savior of the world, loves sinners! But He does not love sin; He condemns and detests it! He also does not want to save anyone *in* their sins, but He wants to redeem everyone, pull them *out* of sin and place them on higher ground. He wants to “save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). We should also love those around us, even though we cannot love the sin that dwells in them.

Jesus Christ Loves the Truth

He not only loves the truth, but He Himself is the truth. If you have fellowship with Him and the love of God lives in your heart, you cannot help but love the truth, speak the truth, and live it out. Do not think that a little untruth can be covered with truth. Scripture clearly tells us “that no lie is of the truth” (1 John 2:21). It was a lie that first brought evil into the heart of man, and unbelief with doubt opened the door to it. Jesus tells us Himself in John 8:44 who the father of lies is. If you worship the father of lies, that is, the devil, then you cannot be in communion with God at the same time. This is an impossibility!

Jesus Loves Holiness, Purity, Faithfulness, and Self-Sacrifice

Yes, it was His fare, to do the will of God. If your fellowship is with the Father and the Son, you will strive after these demands, for without peace and holiness no one will see the Lord.

With sinners, Jesus has no connection of the heart. Light and darkness remain forever separated. It testifies to darkness when children of God socialize intimately with the children of the world. Whoever connects so intimately with them is in danger of being stained by the essence of this world. We obviously don’t want to avoid all contact with sinners, because we still want to win them to Christ! Even the Lord Jesus prayed that the Father should not take us from the world. He prayed that He would protect us from the evil one (John 17:15)!

The Savior detests everything insincere, all deceitfulness, and all falsehood. Insincerity is double-faced, and its apparent color of truth is hypocrisy. He, the Son of God, abhors everything done halfway. How should you love Him? “With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind” (Luke 10:27)!

If you do not measure up to the Word of God, then you are building on sand. Then all you have is an empty testimony! Communion with God will lead us into eternal joy. It even dispels the fear of death and brings victory, peace and divine blessing. Yes, because communion with the Most High is the light, so the soul proves it as a child of the Most High, and His way of life shines and gleams in holy beauty. The Lord takes delight in a life lived in this way.

Jakob Bechthold

Well-Diggers

“Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion” (Psalm 84:5-7).

We can thank God that we have a free, open fountain, which our Lord Jesus opened for us. With His suffering and agony, with His death and His resurrection our Lord dug a godly well for us from which salvation flows. No longer must anyone languish in suffering and sin, but may come to the well of living water and drink his fill.

In the Scriptures we read the promise: “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3). And “a fountain shall be opened . . . for sin and for uncleanness” (Zechariah 13:1). All people and nations are invited: “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price” (Isaiah 55:1).

This scripture points to salvation in Christ and the free, flowing fountain of grace. But who knows about it? “To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” (Isaiah 53:1) Who can find the way to the heart of the Savior through all the unbelief and godlessness? Through the fallen nature and all the human doctrines, the well of God’s grace is covered up. Figuratively speaking, it is hidden from human sight and requires spiritual well-diggers who willingly work to proclaim God’s Word in all purity and clarity. It requires people who have personally experienced God and who follow Him whole-heartedly. By their godly example they are guideposts pointing to the Well. Yes, they spare no effort to remove stones of unbelief and carry away obstacles. Yes, they must at times journey through the valley of sorrow and even dig wells there.

At all times, God has had people who became well-diggers. In the midst of a godless world they stood their ground for the sake of God’s work. For this they lived; this is why they witnessed and accepted disgrace, scorn, and ridicule. For this reason they prayed, worked, suffered, and even died.

God’s well-diggers are so numerous that only the Lord knows each one by name. Nevertheless, it is a great inspiration and encouragement for many when a

role model is identified on occasion. The intent is not to glorify people, for God alone deserves the honor. And still God has given the aged as an example for us. “Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion” (Psalm 84:5-7).

Jakob Bechtholt acted as a trailblazer and pioneer of truth for the Church of God in Hungary. He was born near the capital city of Budapest on July 17, 1866 and died in this area in September of 1935. Around the age of 30 he received salvation from the Lord. Through diligent Bible study and earnest prayer, he discovered that God has people on earth who completely follow His will. When he noticed that much of religion did not concur with Scripture, he took a stand against it. As a result, he met with great opposition, but he stood his ground because his concern was the true church of God.

Undeterred, Brother Bechthold started to hold regular meetings in his area. God showed Himself faithful and soon a good number of brothers and sisters joined him.

In 1910/1911 the Brothers Arbeiter and Vielguth visited him from America. Through these dear pastors God was able to show him much more. He was encouraged and began to preach the gospel in other places as well. God’s work increased and spread throughout Hungary.

At first he had to suffer all kinds of persecution and ill-treatment. But, in the midst of it all, he did not lose courage and continued to find words of comfort for others. If Brother Bechthold had not been so firmly rooted in the Truth, then the enemy could have caused great damage. He always said: “And even if I stand completely alone, I will not forsake the Truth in the slightest way.” When someone asked, “How big is your group?” He usually answered, “There is more life in a single seed than in a whole wagon full of chaff.”

Since the Brother had to preach in various locations and wasn’t able to be everywhere at once on Sundays, he wrote weekly sermons for the spiritual nourishment of his fellow believers. Sadly, much of this written work was lost during the war.

It can also be said of this faithful Brother: “The memory of the just is blessed” (Proverbs 10:7).

H.D. Nimz



“And he brought him to Jesus” (John 1:42)

Although we are often unaware of it, people are searching, even in our current culture. Many just don't realize what they are searching for, and that the One for whom they search is Jesus. In the Scripture passage out of which our title is taken, we read a wonderful phrase in verse 41: “We have found Him [the Messiah]!” It is a phrase that implies that we can rest now, because we have found the answer to our search.

It was Andrew who said these words to his brother Simon. With this phrase, he testified of the quiet rejoicing a soul feels when God enters in. John the Baptist had pointed Andrew and John toward Jesus, and Jesus drew this disciple of John's irresistibly to Himself.

All that longs for life, purity, true happiness, freedom and power is drawn to Jesus like a wonderful magnet. And once Jesus had entered into Andrew's heart, Andrew, in turn, drew everyone around him toward Jesus as well.

After Andrew spent an evening with the compelling Savior, during which time he found answers to the most important questions and deepest longings of his heart, he went to find his brother. In his gospel, John tells us that Andrew found his brother Simon Peter “first.” “Simon!” he urged his brother, “you need to come with me right now. We found Him! We found Christ, the Messiah!” Clearly he could not wait to share with his brother the peace and contentment, the answers to

his longing. He felt the need to bring him to Jesus.

It is possible that Simon demurred, arguing the lateness of the hour. But what would that matter in light of this important discovery? “Come, Simon!”—and the brothers made their way through silent streets and quiet gardens, until they reached the house where Jesus was staying. Scripture tells us: “And he brought him to Jesus.”

Simon's eyes rested on the One of whom his brother spoke so highly, but when Jesus looked at him, he almost certainly lowered his eyes in reverence in light of Jesus' majesty. Without a doubt, a glimpse of the glory of the Son of God touched him and entered his consciousness. Everything in Simon was drawn to this Man, from whom such peace flowed. He was speechless. Jesus spoke to him: “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas' (which is translated, A Stone)” (John 1:42).

Jesus transforms those who are brought to Him into beautiful people. Andrew's name translates to “the man.” We need men like him who are like rocks, solid, strong, capable, and willing to carry.

People who were brought to Jesus have moved the world. We have countless heroes who have been touched by the Savior, noble people who have been beacons of light in the darkness of this world.

If you have known Jesus as Savior of your soul, and Lord of your life, then it is up to you to bring others to Him. It is entirely possible that your task may be more difficult than Andrew's was, where Simon Peter's heart was already so filled with longing for the Prince of Peace. The possible difficulties should not diminish our desire to bring our families, friends and colleagues to Jesus. There are many religious people today who are longing for peace in their souls. Bring them to Jesus. Tell of what He means to you. Let this be your life's work.

Bring those to Jesus who are lost in the vortex of their own sphere and do not realize they are searching. Introduce them to Jesus through love for your fellow brother which Jesus has ignited in you. Do not let them die in their world without God. Keep showing them Jesus until their heart can recognize the longing in their soul for the Savior—until they recognize Him as the One who gave His life to free them from the bondage of sin, dissatisfaction, and emptiness. Bring them to Jesus.

Who have you brought to Jesus? Nobody? Then perhaps the question is whether you yourself have truly sought and found Him for whom our hearts long. And if you have found Him, then bring others to Him as well.

EP

Ambassadors for Christ

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ [...]” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Christ's ambassadors are men and women called by God and placed where Christ would stand if He were on earth. Any ambassador stationed in a foreign land represents the interests of his country and strictly follows its law in order to not be found guilty.

So it is with each preacher who is a true ambassador for Christ. God calls His servants. They are saved and re-born, sanctified through the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit and God's Word.

Ambassadors for Christ need to be clear and well-versed in doctrine to be able to show searching souls the way to eternal life. When a servant of God practically applies doctrine and truth, the way of life will be clearly visible to the church, whether all are saved or not. It is certainly obvious that some people in a local church come and go without ever possessing a salvation experience, but they should still know the way leading to eternal life.

A true ambassador for Christ must model the way to Christ for people seeking God, and wherever possible, give instruction and information.

A child of God came to his pastor and asked for advice and help. He wished to be sanctified but was still very unclear about the second work of grace. After a short while, he received the answer, “I cannot give you a good answer because I myself do not know much about it. I can however give you a book that clearly describes it. After you read it, you will certainly find your way.”—Paul once wrote to Timothy in reference to experiencing the grace of Jesus Christ, “The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops” (2 Timothy 2:6).

It is detrimental when an ambassador for Christ has no experience of sanctification. This is why we so often see a superficial Christianity in our time.

A man came once to an evangelistic meeting. At the end when the invitation to come to Christ was given, he was deeply moved, went to the front, knelt down, and cried out loud to God that He might forgive him his sins. As the local minister and evangelist were praying with other souls, another preacher came to this repentant man and knelt beside him. No one could hear what this “preacher” whispered in his ear, but one thing happened: the searching man stopped crying and went to the back. Once all the searching souls had been prayed with, the evangelist asked this “preacher” what had happened with the man who had stood up suddenly and gone to the back. The evangelist received the answer, “I told him that this wasn't being done right. You are coercing the people with fear and scare tactics. He should know that we can just accept everything out of God's hand by faith.”

This man went home, but never came back because this odd “preacher” had made him completely unconcerned. How will this “preacher” be able to answer for this? God will one day require an account from him. God's Word shows us the duty and the responsibility Christ's ambassadors have towards poor souls. In Ezekiel 3:19 we read, “Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.” The 18th verse shows us the opposite; that is, if a preacher is silent, God will require the blood of the sinner at his hand.

Be a Missionary at Home

Oh, how important it is to be called by God. How necessary it is to be sanctified and to show lost people the way that they may receive salvation from sin and then also experience sanctification through the Holy Spirit.

It is especially tragic in our time. Unsanctified people claim to be ambassadors for Christ. We hear things like, “We need to make things more interesting and interactive for our young people so that they will stay in church. We need to do more for our youth . . .” But do people also say, “Our young people need forgiveness of sin, salvation from all unrighteousness and the enemy’s power”?

There were ambassadors for Christ that showed me the way to the Lord. It spoke to my heart when they preached of cleaning up the stones that are heaped on every sinner’s path. God gave me grace to clear my path. I was able to ask my peers for forgiveness, and Christ forgave my sins and saved me from all evil.

Superficial “ambassadors” are not ambassadors for Christ. They contradict the truth and the Holy Spirit. They perform a superficial work that will harvest eternal ruin on the Day of Judgment.

God can equip us with power from on high so that we may act in a way that is pleasing to Him. In today’s spiritual “midnight,” the devil is dealing his last blow. Many people have deteriorated into a mere religious form. Instead of truth and a salvation experience, people have set up an empty religion. Many are being deceived by others persuading them that they are reborn and sanctified, but their works do not prove it. No one can see a difference between before and after “sanctification.” Sadly, they are deceiving themselves!

Adolph Lutzer (1900-1980)

Several years ago in the state of New York, there lived a girl who really wanted to be a missionary in a foreign country. One morning, after praying as usual that God might send her out as a missionary, she seemed to hear the voice of the Lord, Who spoke to her soul something like this:

“Where were you born?”

“In Germany.”

“Where do you live now?”

“In America.”

“Who lives in the room next to you?”

“A Swedish girl.”

“Is she a child of God?”

“No.”

“Who lives on the floor beneath you?”

“An Irish family.”

“Are they Christians?”

“No.”

“Who lives next door?”

“Italians.”

“Are they Christians? Have you done any missionary work in your neighborhood?”

“No.”

Dear Reader, have you experienced this as well? Have you sometimes waited for great opportunities and prayed to be sent abroad, and yet at the same time neglected your duty to your neighbors and friends?

When you fulfill the seemingly small duties of life, you equip and prepare yourself for work with more responsibility. If you want to be an evangelist, then begin by diligently keeping busy. There is always much to do, and excellent opportunities can be found everywhere. The Lord and Master seeks each hour for workers whom He can send into His vineyard. Have your tools ready! God will find work for you!

EP

This means us!

The last command Jesus gave His disciples was: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). These words were spoken to the disciples, but certainly equally meant as a message to all future disciples as well. Jesus has commanded us to be missionaries.

If the Great Commission, as it is often referred to, is to be fulfilled, it is imperative that every Child of God recognize the personal responsibility to be an active part of this commission. Each one of us must be willing and ready to do our part. Perhaps Jesus' words are clearer if we state them like this: "Every single Christian in the entire world should preach the gospel to every single person that he or she can reach." Let's think about this. Jesus did not elaborate on this command because it was entirely unnecessary. He did tell us what the outcome would be, though: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). And then He gave the promise: "And surely, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). May God help us to understand whether we are really fulfilling our obligation to Him and to the souls He has put in our path.

Jesus gave us a clear picture of the scene that would take place on the Judgment Day. In Matthew 25:31-46, we are clearly shown what kind of test we will have to pass. The sheep will be separated from the goats, sheep to the right and goats to the left. "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'"

Let's pause and think about this. Jesus touches on all aspects of human suffering: physical, mental, and spiritual suffering are included in His words. Then take note of the lack of knowledge expressed by the righteous. I call it lack of knowledge, because it seems as though many Christians fail to understand that when they reach out to their fellow man, they are serving Jesus. "The righteous asked, 'When did we see you . . . ?'" and Jesus answered: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Those are the words of Jesus to those on His right. Who are these people? Are they preachers, or those who belong to particular mission organizations? No. All the righteous are standing there. How did they get there? Was it because they regularly attended church services, or prayed publicly, or sang in a choir? Was it because they taught a Sunday School class or served in church? No! In another place, Jesus says, "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matthew 7:22-23).

What is not right here? They had done so many things in Jesus name. But in the 21st verse of this chapter we find the answer: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

The question then is: Are we doing the will of the Father in heaven? Those who were on the right of the King were those who served Him by doing His will. Everyone has a personal responsibility to live out the Gospel and spread the Good News where he or she is placed by God to do so.

When Peter stood before the High Priest and was questioned by him, he said, "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus . . . and we are His witnesses to these things and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him" (Acts 5:30-32).

Christians are called to be witnesses. They are to spread the gospel to everyone they can reach. You may not be called to preach before an entire congregation, but you are a servant of Christ and His gospel in the fullest sense of the word nonetheless.

All people are in need of salvation. It is the duty and obligation of God's children to show them the way. If every child of God would begin to take Jesus' last command seriously, we would be truly blessed, and God's kingdom would grow.

EP



Determination brings fruit

A young girl had found forgiveness of her sins and now made great effort to walk in new life. She attended church services diligently. She knew the words of the Bible in Hebrews 10:25, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some.” Furthermore, she knew that her soul continually needed spiritual food and fellowship with children of God in order to find the right way.

A famous folk music group announced a public concert in the town. The concert was absolutely not sinful entertainment, and the girl would have loved to attend. But she had a decision to make that was not easy. The event was on the same evening on which prayer meeting took place. The devil tried with all his might to make the decision fall in his favor: “This is a golden opportunity, perhaps once in a lifetime. Bible studies take place every week. And you can pray and read your Bible alone, too.” This is what his arguments sounded like.

The girl decided: “I will go to Bible study. I simply need it.” During this gathering, testimonies were shared. Driven by the Spirit of God, she told how glad she was that she had made the decision to come that evening. God had given her much more joy through the Bible study than any other entertainment could have given her.

In this service sat a stranger, a woman who had not yet recognized the joy of the Lord. Through this testimo-

ny, the Holy Spirit worked so strongly on her heart that she sought forgiveness of her sins and found it. With thankful hearts, the believers left the meeting room.

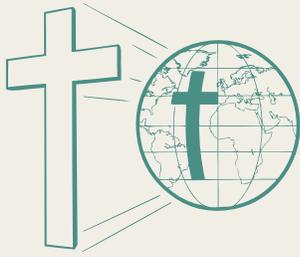
An alarm woke up the young girl that same night. A train had crashed in the town, and help was called for. The girl quickly ran to the scene of the accident. To her horror, the first of the injured she recognized was the woman who had been at the Bible study.

As the seriously injured woman opened her eyes, a smile of recognition spread over her face. “I am so glad that I found the Lord today,” she said. “When I heard your testimony, it was clear that the Lord Jesus really can make people happy. If a young girl such as you can find so much joy in following Him, then certainly so can an older person. Now the Lord calls me to Him and I am ready, thanks to your testimony. Praise be to God.” Slowly, her voice became weaker, and she passed away in peace.

Deeply moved, the young Christian stood next to her new friend who was now seeing what she had believed. A deep joy filled her heart, a joy that the world cannot give and cannot take away either.

Dear reader, are you also a courageous witness? Do you know the joy of the Lord? The Lord wants to use you. Follow Him determinedly.

EP



Radio Broadcast

The Message of Salvation

Friedrich Krebs
Kitchener, Ontario

Soldiers in God's Battlefield

God's soldiers stand in the battlefield of God's Kingdom. They have learned to use the spiritual weapons of warfare. They are not fighting for an earthly gain but for the King of heaven.

Elijah and Elisha were two prominent prophets in the Old Testament. When Elijah completed his life's work, God took him out of the battlefield and up to heaven. Before this occurred, God had given Elijah the assignment to prepare Elisha to become prophet in his stead. Elijah found Elisha plowing with oxen in the field. 1 Kings 19:21 states: "Then he (Elisha) arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant." Elisha was still able to witness a number of miracles that Elijah performed, and was deeply moved by these experiences. On their last journey together, Elijah asks Elisha: "Ask! What may I do for you before I am taken away from you?" Elisha replied: "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me" (2 Kings 2:9). By his request we perceive his faith and attitude. He was the right man in the right place! Their time of working together was brief. Then came the separation. He was now alone, a new soldier in the battlefield of God. We read: "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha" (2 Kings 2:15). This was the determining factor!

His life's work as prophet in Israel had begun! In 2 Kings 2:23 we read: "Then he went up from there to Bethel." It was his first journey alone. Obstacles appeared immediately. Bethel used to be a place of blessing. In his youth, there, the patriarch Jacob, experienced God.

He had set up a monument and called out: "How awesome is this place!" (Genesis 28:17). Even for Abraham this had been a holy place (Genesis 12:8). In later years this area became a place of worship. How the times had changed! King Jeroboam, an ungodly king, set up golden calves for the people to worship (1 Kings 12:28). This happens so often. Where once the gospel was preached and God's blessings were apparent, darkness and destruction enter in. This had occurred in Bethel. As Elisha came close to the city, a group of young men confronted him, mocking: "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" (2 Kings 2:23). These young men had probably not accomplished much in their lives. However, they had learned to be rude and insulting. Their insolent ridicule contained a veiled threat. God did not allow His servant to be harmed by these mockers, but dealt with them before Elisha could be harmed or killed. In Galatians 6:7 we read: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows that he will also reap!"

An experienced servant of God gave this worthy advice to some young Christians: "If ever you need more support besides Christ, then choose the most godly person you can find in your circle of believers." This is very wise advice! A young tree needs a stake for

support. Many times in our lives it is good if we have some extra support. Elisha had support from Elijah for a short time. However, there comes a time when each one of us has to stand alone, a time of testing. Elisha glowingly passed this test. He did not engage in a battle of words but allowed God to deal with these mockers!

In Romans 12:19 we read: “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.” Jesus acted the same way. 1 Peter 2:23 states that Jesus: “who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.” This is the attitude we need to maintain in the battlefield of God.

It is of great importance for servants and followers of Jesus to be grounded in faith and in the truths of our God. We will not be able to avoid conflict and opposition. On the one hand, we are defenseless. Paul wrote: “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God” (2 Corinthians 10:4). Although as children of God we live and work in this world, we do not battle as the world does. Yet, we can pull down strongholds and destroy enemy undertakings. Our ar-

mor is the strength of the Holy Spirit and our weapons are God’s Word and prayer!

During some special services it was noticed that a few opponents had prepared themselves for a confrontation. Before the service, the pastors still gathered to pray. As one of the pastors prepared to preach, a group of bold men came up the aisle to stand in front of the pulpit. Of course, the leader was first and held a club in his hand. The pastor paid no attention to them. He brought his sermon in the power of the Holy Spirit. Immediately afterwards, an invitation was given to find the Lord. The leader was the first one to bow his knees. Some of his group followed his example. This is what God’s soldiers experience in the battlefield of His Kingdom!

As God’s soldiers, we do not battle for material things, but work to prepare the way for our Savior Jesus Christ. We stand for the honor of our Commander and battle for the souls who are chained by the powers of darkness. We need more consecrated and sanctified soldiers today. May God find and send us! May He fill us with His Spirit and strength and give us glorious victories!



Two Sunsets

What will the sunset of your life be like? Will it be a testimony of a life of living in God's peace and on the road leading to eternal salvation? Or will the sunset be dark and dreary, without hope, only fear of eternal condemnation?

We stood on the brow of the hill gazing out over the valley beneath us. In the distant west the sun sank quietly and serenely toward the horizon. The purpling shadows of the hills grew longer in the valley. The clouds overhead, which scarcely seemed to move, were in broken, fluffy masses. As we gazed upon the scene, the sun as a mighty king in stately majesty and resplendent glory sank to his evening repose. The clouds caught the afterglow, looking as if a gigantic brush had swept across the sky scattering gold and orange and crimson and purple. The sun had gone, but the glory of his vanished presence still lingered in the beauty of the clouds.

At the close of another day we stood on the same hilltop. The sun was hanging low. The purpling shadows lengthened in the valley. The sun did not sink in glory tonight, but passed out of sight into a bank of dark and threatening clouds. The voices of the day were stilled. A solemn and foreboding hush seemed over all, and our spirits felt the general gloom. There was no afterglow. There was no resplendent painting of the sky. All was somber and gloomy; nature seemed to await what would come, in expectancy and awe. And as the darkness fell, we saw a gleam of lightning play across the distant cloud.

How like the sunsets of some lives were these two sunsets! In my mind, unfading while I live, are the memories of two life-sunsets. When but seven summers had passed over my head, my little sister and I were at a neighbor's two or three miles from home. In the early twilight a horseman came galloping down the road bearing the fateful news that Mother was dying. Quickly placing me behind him on the horse and taking my little sister in his arms, he galloped away through the early night.

When we arrived at home, we found the house filled with neighbors. Upon her bed lay Mother with pallid

face. Through the hours of the night we watched by her bedside. About three o'clock in the morning she asked them to sing that old song "Shall We Gather at the River?" With choking voices and tear-dimmed eyes the little band of neighbors sang the song. The eyes of the sufferer gazed up steadfastly. A heavenly light beamed forth from her countenance. A smile of joy was upon her face. Presently she called the sorrowing relatives one by one and bade them a last good-by. I fell upon my knees by her bedside and sobbed out my childish grief. She turned and looked fondly down upon me and, laying her hand upon my head, said, "Charlie, be a good boy and meet me in heaven."

A little while she was quiet. Then her life's sun sank to its rest. But the afterglow of that beautiful life still shines in that community. Circumstances later took me far away; but after sixteen years, I again stood upon the scene, and over and over during my stay the neighbors told me of her beautiful Christian life. Many a time during those years when I was tempted to do evil, I would behold that scene again, and those last words of my sainted mother would ring in my ears; they stood as a bulwark between my soul and evil.

The same afternoon that the dreadful message came to me, my grandmother visited a neighbor who was drawing near to his life's sunset. When she came back, she told us what had happened while she was there. The man was a skeptic. There was no life beyond the grave for him. There was no hope of reunion around the throne of God. Grandmother spoke to him of his approaching end and asked him if he was prepared. His answer I shall never forget. Young as I was, it struck me with terrible force. With a look of deepest melancholy on his face he said, "It is taking a leap into the dark."



A few days later he passed away, and he and mother lie there in the little country cemetery waiting till the voice of the Son of God shall call them forth. But ah, the difference between those two life-sunsets! One left the glorious hope of a Christian shining forth, tinting the sky with beauty; the other's sun sank into a dark cloud of despair, lighted only with the lurid glare of the lightning of God's wrath.

Reader, what will your life's sunset be? Will it be serene and calm and peaceful, lit up with glory from the throne of God, or will it be dark, without a promise or ray of hope? You are quickly approaching that hour. It

may be nearer than you think. If you live without God, you will die without God. Take a view of yourself, now. Would you like your life's sunset to find you as you are now? If not, what assurance do you have that it will be different? Good intentions will never change it. Good desire will never change it. Only God can make you ready for that hour. Unless you seek Him, you too will take a "leap into the dark;" for you there will be only the "blackness of darkness forever." "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 4:7).



Neglect of Duty

On January 13, 2012 the captain of the Costa Concordia cruise ship miscalculated a turn and ended up in dangerous shallow water in the Tyrrhenian Sea, just off the eastern shore of Isola del Giglio. After striking a rock, the ship suffered a 50 meter gash on the port side of her hull, lost all power and gradually began to sink. Thirty-two people lost their lives in this tragic event.

What caused great alarm was neglect of duty on the side of the captain and crew on board. A conversation between the captain and the coast guard was recorded:

Coast Guard: *“Listen, Schettino [the captain]. There are people trapped on board. Now, you go with your lifeboat. Under the bow of the ship, on the right side, there is a ladder. You climb on that ladder and go on board the ship. Go on board the ship and get back to me and tell me how many people are there. Is that clear? I am recording this conversation, Captain Schettino.”*

Captain: At this moment the ship is listing [tipping].

Coast Guard: *“There are people who are coming down the ladder on the bow. Go back in the opposite direction, get back on the ship, and tell me how many people there are and what they have on board. Tell me if there are children, women and what type of help they need. And you tell me the number of each of these categories. Is that clear? Listen Schettino, perhaps you have saved yourself from the sea, but I will make you look very bad. I will make you pay for this. . . . go back on board!”*

Captain: *“Please . . .”*

Coast Guard: *“There is no ‘please’ about it. Get back on board. Assure me you are going back on board!”*

Captain: *“I’m in a lifeboat, I am under here. I am not going anywhere. I am here.”*

Coast Guard: *“What are you doing, captain?”*

Captain: *“I am here to co-ordinate the rescue . . .”*

Coast Guard (interrupting): *“What are you co-ordinating there! Get on board! Co-ordinate the rescue from on board! Are you refusing?”*

Captain: *“No, I am not refusing.”*

Coast Guard: *“Are you refusing to go aboard, captain? Tell me the reason why you are not going back on board.”*

Captain: *“(inaudible) . . . there is another lifeboat . . .”*

Coast Guard (interrupting, yelling): *“You get back on board! That is an order! There is nothing else for you to consider. You have sounded the ‘Abandon Ship.’ Now I am giving the orders. Get back on board. Is that clear? Don’t you hear me?”*

We react with disbelief to such an attitude towards the value of the lives of others! Wouldn’t more people have been saved if the captain had done his duty? But before we criticize too harshly let us pause and consider that through sin lives have been run aground and shipwrecked all around us. We have God’s Word and His command to: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16). The ship of our society is wrecked through sin. People are scrambling for safety, comfort, and security. They will perish and be lost forever if they are not rescued. You and I who know the Gospel hold the key to their rescue. What are we doing with this knowledge?

Prayerfully consider the people you have daily contact with. Are they saved? Is God waiting for you to obey His command to rescue them?

Let us not be like this captain who was content with his own safety! By doing that we too could ultimately face the penalty of neglect when we stand before God. Let us “rescue the perishing, care for the dying!”

John Reimer
Barrhead, AB

Getting Even

“I’ll get even with that fellow if it takes ten years.” Thus declared a man about another who had wronged him, as his eyes flashed with passion and his teeth set firmly with resolve. In his heart he determined to do his enemy as great an injury as his enemy had done him. “Get even,” I thought; “What does it mean to get even?” Then appeared before my mind’s eye a view of the various classes of humanity, each person in the scale of morality where his life had placed him. I saw the Christian on God’s plane of holiness and truth. Far below him stood the moral, though unchristian man, and down, down, step by step, my mental eye beheld man to the lowest depth of moral degradation.

Vile and wrong deeds always degrade a person to a lower state. Every evil deed, word, or thought lowers us in our moral being. If someone has done evil toward us, he has lowered himself by that act; if we decide to “get even” by a similar act toward him, then we will lower ourselves to his level. To “get even” means to get on the same level. It means to abase and degrade ourselves. If we “get even,” we are as bad as he, and others will look upon us with the same feelings with which we regard him. If you want to get even with anyone, do not choose some one below you, but someone above you in moral attainments, and labor to attain to his height, instead of the other’s depths. This will ennoble you, make you better, and be worthy of a reasoning being.

The principle of revenge has no part in Christianity. God refuses to let us avenge ourselves, no matter how we were provoked or how good the opportunity for vengeance. He says, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:19-21). “Repay no one evil for evil” (verse 17). “See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all” (1 Thessalonians 5:15). When one who is a Christian so far forgets what is right that he stoops to take vengeance, he is then upon the level of the sinner who did him evil, and is himself a sinner, and is fallen from his high position to the level of sin. God forbids us to threaten to “get even” with anyone. “Do not say, ‘I will do to him just as he has



done to me; I will render to the man according to his work” (Proverbs 24:29).

The spirit of Christianity is to return good for evil, blessing for cursing, love for hatred. The blood of Christ will wash away the “get even” disposition from us; and until we are thus cleansed, let us not presume to call ourselves by that holy name of Him “who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Peter 2:23). God is stronger than evil. Evil used against evil brings about more evil, but we may “overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

I once asked a man why he did not become a Christian. He replied that there were so many in his business who were trying to get the financial advantage of him that he could not do right, but must do the same with them or he could not “keep even.”

But let us see what it really means to be “even.” If a man lies about me, and to get even I lie about him, then we are even. He is a liar and I am a liar—both on the same plane. He is going to the judgment to give account for his lie and so am I for mine—even again. If he does not repent, he will go to hell for lying; and if I do not repent, I shall go, too. Yes, we may get even, but I would rather not be so. If a man beats me out of ten dollars, to get even I must watch my chance to do likewise to him. If I do not try to beat him to get even, he may have more money in his pocket than I; but if I turn the matter over for settlement to Him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay,” when the final account is rendered, I shall be ten dollars or more ahead.

Let us not endeavor to be “even” with our enemies by taking vengeance, but let us do right and win them to the gospel by overcoming evil with good. Let us get even by raising others up instead of lowering ourselves to their sinful level. Be a blessing to all. Set a right example.

C. W. Naylor



Experiences with God

I am so thankful to the Lord that He has protected me to this very day and that I can have Him in my life.

God knocked on the door of my heart many times, but I did not accept Him until I started having severe stomach pains on March 7, 2014. That morning, I was brought to the hospital because the pain kept increasing. The doctors kept me in the hospital for 3 days and couldn't figure out what was wrong with me. On the third day, my parents were called and told that emergency surgery was necessary. At that point, I couldn't remember anything and couldn't walk. They operated on me. The whole congregation prayed for me. The cause was found, but it was impossible to remove everything and a further operation was required in the city of Volgograd. I was transferred there and my colon was sewn shut. When I was brought back to the room and thought everything was over, the doctors noticed that my intestine had another tear. That same day I had another surgery and needed an ostomy.

Then I began to search for the Lord and to read the Bible. I started to pray and at that moment I wanted to be with God. After two months, I had a final operation and everything went well. After another two weeks, I was sent home. But when I got home, I noticed that I read the Bible less and less and started to forget what God had done for me. Everything was back to normal again. Then everyone noticed a lump on my neck. First we thought it was due to a cold, but after 5 months it did not lessen. In the technical school where I study, I was sent for an examination and was referred to the hospital in Volgograd. Under no circumstance did I want to return to the hospital, but we went anyway. There I was admitted to the Oncology ward. I was shocked. And again I began to think seriously about how quickly I had forgotten what God had done for me. This time I earnestly

wanted to make peace with God and find peace for my soul. After a week, the growth did not get smaller. I was allowed to return home over New Year's and then I had to go back for surgery. During the holiday, I prayed at home, but nothing happened. I wanted to find salvation, but something held me back. As we got ready to go to the hospital, I asked God that if only He would let me leave the hospital for one more week, then I would stand up in the church service and repent. But I had little hope. The next day we were at the hospital and my dad asked the doctor for another week. We wanted to drive home and ask someone to lay hands on me. For me it was wonderful that God answered me in this way. I came home, but in the next church service I again could not get up. After the service I was very discouraged and didn't know what I should do, because the week was over and I had to drive back. I asked God to give me one more chance. We drove to the hospital and again they sent me home because there was no diagnosis. That was like a miracle. I was very happy and thanked God that He loves me and listens to me. When we returned, I spoke with my dad and then I stood up in the next church service and repented of my sins and asked God for forgiveness. I was so happy that I now had peace with God, and my heart was filled with peace and rest. After another week I had an operation, but the doctors were concerned about the tumor and waited for the results to determine if it was malignant. The whole church prayed and fasted for me. I also asked God to help me. After 7 days the doctor told me that the results were very good. I am so thankful that He helped me and brought me to Him even though it was in this way. Now I am His child. I want to praise and thank Him for this forever.

Daniel Grüner
Pallasovka, Russia

Jesus, I Need You

A tent is being built. Christian services are to be held for one week in some Japanese cities. But there are few Christians here. Most of the people worship idols. They are afraid of demons and they fear death. They do not know Jesus Christ.

The first children's hour is starting. Many children have come, even Haruo. His father is dead and that's why his mother is often sad. In the tent, Haruo learns some great songs about Jesus. Then he hears that the Lord Jesus can make sad people happy again. Excitedly he runs to his mother, and calls out to her, "Mama, Jesus can make sad people happy again!"

In the evening, Haruo takes his mother with him into the tent. She realizes that only Jesus can bring true joy. She accepts Him into her heart. A very joyful lady leaves the tent with Haruo. He helped her to find Jesus.

You see, Jesus needs us! We should tell others about Him. Have you done so already? Have you explained to your parents, relatives, and siblings that Jesus can bring lasting joy? Do your classmates and friends know who Jesus is?

The Lord Jesus needs you! Consider with whom you might share about Jesus, or whom you could invite to Sunday School. Pray also for the many people who have never heard about Jesus, and for the missionaries who spread the good news of God's love.



“Why did you wait so long?”

Many years ago in Mexico there lived a wealthy, influential landlord. He owned a wooden carving named “San Ramon” which had been found in the ocean and was believed to be divine. The estate was named after it and they built a church in which the idol was worshiped. In times of drought they prayed to it for rain, and in sickness and distress they turned to this idol for help. The owner of San Ramon could not read or write and neither could anyone who lived on his great estate.

One day, while conducting business in Matamoros, a gentleman showed him a book that he called the “Word of God.” Never before had the landlord heard of such a thing. He wanted to learn its contents and offered to pay the owner for the book. The owner preferred to keep the book for himself but, at the request of the landlord, the sale was made.

On his way home, the landowner visited a friend and asked him to come with him to read from this book. “I have a strange book,” he explained, “I want you to go with me to read it to my family and me.” With an air of mystery he added, “It is the Word of God to us humans.” So the two rode together to San Ramon. Upon their arrival, the owner rang the bell at the plantation to call everyone from near and far to hear the wonderful, important news. After a few words of explanation, he turned to his friend and said, “Now, begin to read the book from the beginning, until we all understand the message.” The friend started from the first chapter of Matthew.

The crowd listened attentively to this wonderful, new story. When they heard of Christ’s betrayal, a sigh of sorrow went through their rows. When they learned of His crucifixion, they bowed their heads and cried. But, as the story continued they learned how the Savior rose from the grave, and how He spoke to His disciples when He ascended to heaven and told them: “Let not your heart be

troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Then the plantation owner stood and said: “I am particularly pleased about one thing we have just heard. That is the command that Jesus gave His disciples when He told them to go into all the world and proclaim this good news to all people. For surely some of His disciples will come to San Ramon and tell us more, teaching us as Jesus taught. They will be here soon, because Christ Himself has commanded them. But until then, we must learn what He commands us to do. It may take a long time until His messengers come to us. The world is big and they may be delayed. But they will certainly come, because Jesus Himself told them to.”

So they continued to read the precious book. They received the Word with joy. Year after year, they gathered each Sunday so that a congregation formed. The church flourished in the same place where they had once worshiped the wooden idol.

Finally, the owner heard about a man in Matamoros who spoke like the book. Immediately he went to see him. When he met him, he discovered a man captivated by the doctrine. It was difficult to convince the preacher to come along into the country. But the owner did not cease with his entreaty. Eventually, the preacher gave in and went to bring the gospel to the people in San Ramon.

Again, the great bell was rung. The people came in droves to hear more of what had become their “bread of life.” When the service was over, the plantation owner had a question, “Sir,” he said, “You have not told us why you waited so long in coming to us. Christ commanded you to go into all the world to preach the gospel. How long ago was that?” “Two thousand years,” replied the missionary, shocked by the stunned look his host was giving him. “Two thousand years? And what have Jesus’ disciples

been doing that they have not yet shared this message of Christ with all people? It is His own command, especially since He promised them: I am with you always.”

“Ah,” said the missionary sadly, “we should have spread the Gospel everywhere! For centuries the Church has been sleeping on duty!”

“Why, oh why did you wait so long?” Does this

question not sound from every nation? From every hut, and every village comes the sad and tired cry: “Why did you not tell us sooner?” May the Lord help us to see the seriousness of our time and recognize the needs of suffering souls!

EP

I’ve Done Nothing for Jesus

“He cannot live much longer,” said the nurse. “It is cruel for him to die before his 24th birthday. He lies there with his eyes closed. Throughout the night, he repeated several times, ‘I’ve done nothing for Jesus.’”

“Was he delirious?” asked one of the attendants.

“No, but I didn’t know what he wanted to say.”

The patient allowed a preacher to come, and he told him the following story.

“Two days ago, my horse threw me, and the doctors told me openly that I would have only eight to ten hours to live. My parents will not arrive in time to see me alive,” he added in a trembling voice.

“It is good that you already know the Lord,” the preacher replied as he pressed the patient’s hand warmly. “He will not leave you.”

“My Savior was with me this past night. I know that I have been washed in His blood, but I cannot go to Him with joy. In the two years that I have known Him, I have done nothing for Him. I have nothing to bring Him. I thought that I needed to be older before I could make a difference. And so, I contented myself with praying, reading the Bible, and living righteously.”

The preacher was amazed at the young man’s open confession because he had been the one to plant the good seed in the man’s heart. But the preacher knew that he had lived in a very secular environment. “Nothing to bring to the Lord,” repeated the patient anxiously.

“Let us bring these concerns to the Lord in prayer,” the preacher answered.

“Thank you,” said the dying man. “Thank you. He knows everything. He knows that I love Him. He has given me everything, but I have given Him nothing. He gave me an opportunity to serve Him. I could have done many good things, but I have done nothing.”

Meanwhile, the disease spread. Neither wealth nor good care could stop it. Life fled quickly. Although the young man was at peace, he lacked joy. He did not doubt his salvation, but he was deeply saddened by the thought that he had not returned the Lord’s blessings.

For a moment, he turned his eyes back to the preacher and said, “I remember one of your sermons in which you said, ‘The Lord has need of them.’ On my way home, I said to myself, ‘Lord, I want to start serving You better. I want to work for You and in the next two years, I want to testify about Your great salvation.’ The two years are not over, but my opportunity has come and gone.”

Memorizing Scripture

My mother's teacher always tried to encourage the students to memorize Scripture. On Monday morning he would normally ask: "Which of you children is prepared to once again memorize some Bible verses this week?" He thereby gave the children a treasure of Bible verses to take with them into their lives. He once asked: "Who wants to make me very happy this month?" A number of students came forward. They knew that if the teacher allowed a month for memorizing, then it would be a larger segment of the Bible. The teacher asked those who had come forward: "Would you memorize Psalm 119?" This Psalm has 176 verses. How often has my mother been strengthened through this treasure of the Bible. In the quiet sick room, these Bible verses have been a blessing to her.

Many who have lost their sight testify: "We are so thankful that now, when we cannot see, the Word of God that we memorized in our youth accompanies us on our way through this physically darkened valley." It is now their light on life's pathway.

Fathers and mothers admitted in their later years: "It is a gift of mercy that we now, when our eyesight has dimmed, possess the wealth of all those memorized Bible verses and choruses. When we cannot sleep at night, we strengthen ourselves with the golden ABC's of the Bible. We recite all the verses that we have learned that start with A, B, C, etc. For example - A = "Ask, and it will be given to you..."; B = "Blessed are the pure in heart..."; etc. These sleepless hours became blessed hours."

You may also faithfully read your Bible. Have you ever thought about the importance of memorizing Scripture?

By memorizing Scripture, one learns to know and love his Bible.

During my travels I got to know a cheerful Christian. He was over 80 years old. From his speech you could see that he had memorized innumerable verses from every book of the Bible. He always encouraged others to memorize Scripture and added: "It is good to feel at home in your Bible!"

Scripture memorization is necessary for victory over sin and Satan.

The Christian life is a spiritual battle. The Apostle says: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17).

I am reminded of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Each time, the Lord defeated Satan with God's Word: "It is written." Again and again Christians experience that the Prince of Darkness is defeated when he is countered with God's Word. Martin Luther was correct when he wrote:

"This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none, he's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him."

Satan cannot withstand the power of God's Word. We must be filled with God's Word. David declares in Psalm 119:11: "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I



might not sin against You.” In the same Psalm he states: “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word” (Psalm 119:9). If we are to take heed according to His word, then we must also know it.

I had the privilege of being a guest in a manufacturer’s home. The father said: “After lunch we will recite a verse from the Bible.” He asked: “Which letter are we up to today?” “The letter *F*.” Then he said a verse that started with *F*. His wife followed, then each of the children and household staff and finally at the end, it was my turn. What a great method of becoming familiar with the wealth of God’s Word!

Memorizing Scripture also helps us to become true witnesses.

The Lord says: “You shall be My witnesses!” (Isaiah 43:10) One becomes a witness through the leading of the Holy Spirit with the treasure of God’s Word. You cannot prepare to be a witness. The opportunity generally arises unexpectedly. Yet we can still be confident. “Do not worry about . . . what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say,” says the Lord (Luke 12:12). If we make use of God’s Word, then the Lord will also make use of the witness. Why do cults find such easy conquests among Christians? Because most Christians do not know the Bible well enough. If we are truly at home in God’s Word, we can confidently confront false teachers.

Memorizing Scripture helps us to grow in our faith.

Just like we need daily nourishment for our bodies, we also need the nourishment of God’s Word for our souls. “How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey” (Psalm 119:103). The more we take of this nourishment, the firmer we will be grounded in faith. In Scripture we find the laws in which God makes His will known. “I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart” (Psalm 40:8). “But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you

may do it” (Deuteronomy 30:14).

Some missionaries noticed that the pagans were strongly bound to their religion. Pagans generally have their own writings and it is expected of them that they memorize them. If only the believers of our day would acquire the great wealth of God’s

“Who is prepared to memorize a Bible verse every week?”

Word, how much stronger in faith would they continue on their way. Several years ago I made the suggestion: Who is prepared to memorize a verse every day? A 70 year old lady wrote me: “I am prepared to do so.” At the end of this short article, I again ask: “Who is prepared to memorize a Bible verse every week?” Get into God’s Word and you will become rich in Jesus Christ. It is worth it!

H. M.

Complaining

Who has not heard, or participated in, complaining? The apprentice complains about his supervisor, the supervisor complains about his workers, the workers about their foreman, the foreman about the manager, the manager about the CEO, and here the cycle continues and repeats itself. The private in the army complains about the corporal, the corporal about the sergeant, the sergeant about the sergeant major, and the sergeant major about the government. Children complain about their parents, parents about their children. Students complain about their teacher, and the teacher about the students. And Christians, do they complain against God? And does God complain about the human race? God loves us way too much to spend time complaining. He knows the human heart and its tendency to be negative and blame others for its miserable state.

God knows that since antiquity the tendency from generation to generation was to complain. Complaining is hereditary. It is dangerous! It is contagious and destructive. Complaining destroys trust, fosters suspicion, poisons the atmosphere of harmony, leads to strife, tension, and isolation, in families, in the workplace, and in the neighborhood. Why do people complain so much? Some may have their fists clenched in their pockets, while some may even hammer their fist on the table in outrage! What lies behind all those complaints?

Let us consider the “father” and “mother” of complaining. The “father” can be called “selfish arrogance” and the mother can be labeled “egotistical desires.” The claim of the “father” is that what the others can do, I can do better. My ideas are superior to the ideas of those around me. And if they think they know more than I do then they are just kidding themselves! The complaining begins. The “mother” says it would be nice if you had that job instead of the person who is doing it. And you too should be able to afford their clothes or the furniture they have, and you should be able to take those vacations that many others can afford. And so the complaining begins. Of course there are also a number of “brothers” and “sisters.” Some of the brothers are named “Egotism,” “Pride,” and “Self-importance.” And the “sis-

ters” are “Envy,” “Highly Sensitive,” and “Indolence,” among others.

Oh the misery of complaining! How often we read in the Bible that the children of Israel complained against Moses and against the Lord! Complaining is an age-old problem. The complaint that Adam and Eve had against God led them to disobey His commandment and resulted in their expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Israel too needed to be chastised by the Lord and was finally led into captivity due to its repeated grumbling and complaining. God hates our grumbling and complaining because it emanates from a heart that is unthankful, dissatisfied, and arrogant. Maybe you are thinking: “Well, do you want me to put my brain in neutral and just accept everything that comes my way?” “Do you want me just to be silent and never speak out against any unrighteousness and wrong?” Let’s not get into the other extreme!

Problematic and unjust situations must be dealt with. For this we need the help of God. First we need grace to bear them, to pray about them, and to be patient. Next, at the right time we need to speak up and advocate change in a constructive manner. It is good to work for change in a logical and constructive manner, but to grumble, backstab, complain, and whine is something quite different. We live in a time of which the Lord Jesus said, “because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12). The world is full of lawlessness and unrighteousness. That is something that we can expect to only get worse. Therefore we need the power of God to face unrighteousness without getting bitter, without grumbling and complaining.

If we have this attitude we will not only be freed from negative discontent brought on by the spirit of complaining, but we will accept difficulties we face as a blessing from God, because they bring us to seek God’s help and experience His power. We will grow in the strength of the Lord. We learn to overcome and be victorious despite the many obstacles we encounter. Despite the circumstances we will be joyful and thankful people.



Announcements

Special Services of 2015 in Germany, Canada, Mexico und Argentina

65th Anniversary Celebration in Kelowna, BC

AUGUST 1-3, 2015
Ph: (250) 861-3720

Youth Retreat in Tuningen (Germany)

AUGUST 2-7, 2015

Camp Meeting in Blaubeuren (Germany)

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

Dedication Services in Steinbach, MB

SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2015

*Dedication Service of the Christian Unity Press
in Flint, MI*

SEPTEMBER 27, 2015
at the Swartz Creek Church of God

40th Anniversary Celebration in Neustädt, Mexiko

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2015

*Special Services in J.L. Suarez Buenos Aires
(Argentina)*

OCTOBER 6-11, 2015

Special Services in Edmonton, AB

OCTOBER 10-12, 2015

Special Services in Oberá - Misiones (Argentina)

OCTOBER 14-18, 2015

We Cannot Stop Proclaiming

We cannot stop proclaiming
the things we've seen and heard!
Though scoffers are disdainful,
with zeal we spread the Word.
The world may hate the message
that burns within our hearts,
But we must speak! What blessing
salvation does impart.

To God we have surrendered,
we're conquering the foe.
We always must remember:
God's Spirit bids us go.
No matter how disgraceful
the world's attacks may be
To God we will be faithful
for true to us is He.