The Way of Truth

Vol. 75 "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." **Does the Dawning of 2017 Bring Hope...or Despair?** See- "The True Hope that Comes from God," Page 6 January 2017 Beginning our 15th year of publishing the 805pel

From the Ren of the Aditor

HIS IS being written while we are still in 2016, but if the Lord spares us, we will soon be in the new year. I feel we all can say that the Lord has been good to us during the past year. I can say the Lord has been very good to me, although I have had some physical problems, a man who will be if, Lord willing I live to the 25th of this month, 89 years old. I thank the Lord for saving me in my youth, and the Lord has kept me in His fold for just over 70 years.

It is no secret to anyone who keeps up with what is going on in our nation and world that the devil is doing all he can to destroy our families and homes.

I read an article in a religious magazine not so long ago that made me more aware of how much influence communism has had on the thinking of many in our nation and world today. Friedrich Engels, one of the founders of communism, was a German philosopher. He rejected the religious tradition that God established the family unit of one man and one woman. Anyone who believes the Bible knows that God made a man who was called Adam, and that He said it was not good for the man to be alone, so the Lord made Adam a helpmate, and Adam called her Eve, for she was the mother of the first children to be born. So God made one man for one woman, and one woman for one man

God performed the first wedding when He brought Eve to Adam to be his wife. God created these two "male and female." God did not give Adam another male to be his "wife"! "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). This is how He did it: "The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of the ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:21-24).

Engels, in his book, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, would have you believe "the evolution of the family started when human males stopped breeding indiscriminately with every female in the tribe and started directing their reproductive energy toward smaller groups of females."

Engels taught "traditional marriages as undisguised prostitution, a relationship where women traded sex and housework for financial security. ... the only purpose of monogamous marriage is to allow men to know which children belonged to them so that they can pass their private property on to their own descendants."

Engels and communism do not believe in private property. "With the transfer of the means of production into common ownership, the single family ceases to be the economic unit of society." Another quote: "Private housekeeping is transformed into a social industry. The care and education of the children becomes a public affair; society looks after all children alike, whether they are legitimate or not." Is that where Mrs. Clinton got her idea for her book, *It Takes a Community*, to raise children?

In the article I spoke of earlier, we find this information: Marriage Rate—In 1960 72% of adult men were married; in 2014 that had dropped to 50%. For traditional families: In 1960 it was 73%, and in 2014 it was 46%. Mothers in the workplace in 1955 was 38%; in 2015 it was 74%.

Some years ago I read of a study that brought out the fact that no one could have as much influence on small children as the mother in the home. They studied daycare centers, and even relatives of the children. No one had as much influence as the mother.

Communism has tried what Engels set forth in his book, and various countries have taken over most, if not all, property, but they have not proved that it was best for the family or for society as a whole. Nor has it proved to be the best for producing the necessities of life.

From the founding of the United States until around 1950 or '60, this nation had one of the strongest family structures in the world, but with what some called the "sexual revolution," things began to change: less marriages, more couples "shacking up" not married, fornication was no longer looked on as a shame, divorce became more acceptable, pornography became popular with many of our people, a woman's right to abort her unborn child became legal, and the government took over more and more responsibility for supporting unwed mothers and their children. So we are accepting more and more of Engels' ideas.

Quoting again from the religious magazine I spoke of earlier:

"Welfare discourages middle-class marriages: A study entitled 'Marriage, Penalized' was released on July 26 by scholars from the American Enterprise Institute and the Institute for Family Studies. In particular, the research examined unwed couples whose oldest child is 2 years old or younger and who earn \$24,000 to \$79,000 in family income. Among such couples, the study found that 2 to 4 percent fewer people marry if doing so would cut their welfare benefits.

"Drawing on anecdotal evidence, the study also found that among Americans ages 18 to 60, about one third said they knew someone personally who

has not married for fear of losing welfare benefits. Previous research conducted by W. Bradford Wilcox, one of the study's coauthors, suggest that the damaging effects of welfare on middle-class marriage rates should concern government policymakers."

As has been said by numbers of ministers and others, no nation is stronger than its families. It is

ABOUT THE COVER

A shot of Lake Louise in Alberta, Canada, graces our cover this month. As we approach the new year, let us remember that God, the great Creator, has formed a beautiful world that we are to appreciate. As you peruse the pages of this magazine, it is our prayer that each reader will be blessed and inspired to serve Him.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)
January 2017

Vol. 75

Devoted to the gospel of our loving Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave freely His life-blood, to save us from our many sins, to sanctify our fallen nature and to bring into one body all true believers, by whose stripes we are healed.

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—Alvin A. Craig, Editor

No. 1

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no wonder that Satan strikes so hard at the "traditional family."

I realize that many in this nation are rejecting the teachings of the Bible, but if our people would just realize the Bible is the inspired Word of God and would follow its teachings, our nation would not be facing the peril it is today. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). \$\forall

OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

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CD #711	In Everything Give Thanks G. E. Tyler
CD #712	Going Out with Faith Thomas Harris
CD #713	God Is Our Refuge A. A. Craig
CD #714	Need of Compassion Paul Wilson

THE MASTER'S WILL

The Master's will, for this I pray, Whatever it may be! I do not want to miss Your best; Reveal it, Lord, to me. My own desires may lead me wrong, I must consult my God; His counsel will be justified, When all the way I've trod. O soul of mine, delight in Him! His Word discern, obey! The plan you seek to know will then unfold from day to day. We do not live our lives alone: If I am in God's will, The lives of others will be helped, His purpose to fulfill! My all, O Lord, I give to You, My body, mind and soul; May all the days that lie ahead, be under Your control.

—Frances L. Hess

"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."
—I Thessalonians 4:3.

IN THIS ISSUE:		
Guidance in this New Year Especially for poetry lovers	Page	2
Goals for this New Year Radio message by G. E. Tyler	Page	3
Bible Lesson of the Month "More than Conquerors"	Page	4
The True Hope that Comes		
from God Full-length sermon by Terry Deville	Page	6
The Question Box Our monthly feature	Page 1	10
Approved Unto God Address by the late J. N. Howard	Page 1	10
The Children's Corner "Footprints in the Snow"	Page 1	12
How to Grow in Grace Article by the late D. O. Teasley	Page 1	13
Young People's Page "Heeding Intuitional Warnings"	Page 1	14
If the Foundations Be		
Destroyed Full-length sermon by Paul Wilson	Page 1	16
The Church Article by the late C. V. Weber	Page 1	19
Missionary Page Report of 2016 Nigeria Convention	Page 2	20
Radio Log Stations airing The Way of Truth Bro	Page 2	21

Guidance in this New Year

"For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me."—Psalm 31:3.

O BLEST ASSURANCE Gladys Swinney Van Deventer

O blest assurance of Thy love Through every stormy day— To know Thy precious arm ne'er fails, Though stormy be life's way.

O blest assurance of Thy love When days are fair and bright, The joy of sweet communion with My Savior in the night!

O blest assurance of Thy love, Heart that for me did bleed, And faith that sees love's fellowship Beyond all race and creed.

HE WILL BE NEAR THEE Anonymous

Is the work difficult?
Jesus directs thee.
Is the path dangerous?
Jesus protects thee.
Fear not and falter not;
Let the Word cheer thee:
All through the coming year,
He will be near thee.

THIRTY-SEVENTH PSALM Eunice L. Crowell

Fret not because of evildoers, Commit thy way unto the Lord; For they as grass and herbs shall wither, Our Father tells us in His Word.

And when the wicked seem to prosper Trust in the Lord and never fear; For He will guard thy righteous pathway, With calm assurance bring good cheer.

Rest in the Lord, with patience waiting, He knoweth well thy upright days; For all thy steps by Him are ordered; Wait on the Lord and keep His ways. God is our strength in time of trouble, He gives to us abundant peace, And we shall never be forsaken, His love to us will never cease.

Then wait and trust and rest forever, Do good and dwell forevermore Within the walls of God's salvation Until this fleeting life is o'er.

FOR TODAY Mary Wahl

Dear Lord, we lift our hearts to Thee On this, another day; We know not what in store shall be What we'll encounter on our way; We need not fear for anything If we but follow Thee, For Thou canst make the sad heart sing, Make us the light to see.

JUST A DAY AT A TIME Edward M. Brandt

Just a day at a time, That's how I live; Just a day at a time As my Lord doth give.

Just a day at a time To love all the more, For I know not what Tomorrow has in store.

Just a day at a time To do my best, And rest in my Savior To be bountifully blest.

MY CUP RUNNETH OVER D. Maude Gillespie

How can I thank You, Lord? What can I say For the goodness and gifts You freely offer each day?

My blessings are great, Lord; Your hand overflows. All around and about me Your benevolence glows.

How can I thank You, Lord, What can I say?

Dear Lord, take my heart,

With my life have Your way! \$\frac{1}{2}\$

Page 2 The Way of Truth

Goals for this New Year

Radio Message by Bro. Greg Tyler

(aired 1/03/93)

T HAS come time to share with you a Bible message, for I believe the Bible is very pertinent to life. We are embarking upon a new year; and as we look around, we see so many people without any direction, without any sail. Beloved, we want to point you in the right direction through this broadcast.



In the 4th chapter of the book of James, I'd like to read just a couple of verses, beginning with verse 13: "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

I would like for us to think about the coming year for a few moments, and I would like to show you the necessity of having some goals and plans for the new year. I'm not talking about new year's resolutions, per se, but I'm speaking of taking a look at your life and making some determinations in your heart, making some plans, and setting course for the new year. We don't know what the year holds; but Dear Listener, I want you to know that your life has an impact on the lives of others.

When we speak of how a person lives, it pertains not only to that individual alone, but to individuals with which that life comes in contact. We don't live to ourselves. God made life in such a way that there is inner connection and interrelationship with other human beings. The decisions we make in life, and the lives that we live will not only have a bearing on our eternal destiny, but also on the destiny of others. It is true that we can't get saved for anyone else, and we can't force people to live right, but I truly believe that if we let our lights shine and live for God, it is going to have a positive effect and influence on the people that we meet and have contact with in life.

First of all, I would like to speak to the unsaved. The thing that you need to determine to do, right here at the outset of a new year, is to get right with God. To be honest with you, Beloved, you cannot truly be happy without God in your life. You cannot be the person you want to be without God in control of your life. You can't do it yourself. You can't make things right yourself, and you can't do right and live right in your own power. It is absolutely impossible. But when God has control, and when your footsteps are directed by Him, He will empower you and enable you to live right and do right. Above that, Dear One, you need to have peace with almighty God. Your life is as a vapor. You are only here

for a short time, and every day that you live you are building, ever building for the last great judgment day. You are either building or you are destroying. We want you to be a builder with your life. We want you to be happy; we want you to have peace with God. We want your name in the Lamb's book of life. For your name to be in the Lamb's book of life, you must repent with godly sorrow and believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and ask God to forgive you of your sins. If you are honest and you truly mean it, God has promised to forgive you of all of your past.

Dear One, no matter how deep in sin you have gone, no matter how gross your sins may have been, the blood of Jesus Christ has the power to wipe them all away. If you will seek God and ask Him to save you, you can arise from your knees a newborn child of God. "If any man be in Christ, he is [brand new]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." So if you are not a Christian, first of all, you need to be saved. This is more than church membership. Many people have church membership and are in high standing within religious organizations, but they do not have an experience of salvation. What you need above all else is to know in your heart that your sins have been forgiven, your slate is clean, and you are right with God.

Next, you need to aim, or plan, and desire to be a good example in the coming year. It is not good enough, Beloved, to tell people what they ought to do. You must live the life before them. You must say as the apostle Paul: "Follow me, as I follow Christ." You must set your face like a flint and live for God, come what may, that others may be able to point to you and say, "That is how I want to live." There is too little of this in our day and age. There are so many people who are interested in joining church, but they are not at all interested in living according to the will of God. That will not do! You must aim, not only to be saved, but to come to the knowledge of the truth; and when the truth comes, to "walk in the light, as he is in the light," and to set the example.

Husband, set the example for your wife, set the example for your children. Students in high school, set the example for those around you. Be a guiding light in your community. This is the need for the new year; not to point to others and show them their faults, but to live the life and point the way by the life that you are living.

Next, you need to aim to communicate with God. I'm talking about prayer, and I'm talking about daily prayer. You need to set some goals that you're going to pray every day, and not just a few words, either, but you need to realize you need God. We all need God working and moving in our lives. All of us need to communicate with the Almighty. Christ has made it possible for you and I to communicate with our Maker. We don't have to confess our sins to a priest. We don't need to use man as a mediator. Jesus Christ is our Mediator, thank God, and we have access to the throne of grace, but too few people take advantage of this access. Too few people spend time on their knees. As we begin the day, and throughout the day, we need to look to God who is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Communication with God is twofold; not only are we to talk to Him, honor Him, praise Him, and ask Him for our needs in life, but we are to allow Him to speak to us. We need to aim to listen to God. How does God speak to us? Through His eternal Word. The Bible is immovable and unchangeable, Beloved. It is something that is rooted and grounded, and you make no mistake in anchoring your life solidly upon the Word of God. Read the Bible daily. Don't let it gather dust. Get it out, read and study it! Dig into the Word of God. Allow the Almighty to talk to your heart and to guide your footsteps.

Beloved, the Christian life is a good life. It has been much maligned and talked about. It has been dragged in the mud, as it were, because certain professors of Christianity have lived like the devil and have caused people to blaspheme God as a result. What we need in this coming year is: people who are living to all that they know, who, when they read the Bible, won't let it go in one ear and out the other. Take heed to the Word of God and carry out its precepts in your day-to-day living. We need to have a desire to please God. With that desire to please God, we are going to live a clean Christian life. I know some people might say that it's impossible to do that, but I don't believe that at all. If we're honest with ourselves and with God, we know that God would not command of us something that was impossible. He would not ask us to do what we could not do. No. Beloved! Every command of God is good. and it's liveable, but what we need is a desire to live

Next, you need to aim to love your fellowman. Well, someone might say, "I love God, but don't ask me to love so-and so, because I will not." Notice what the Word of God says in I John 4:20: "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" The Bible says that a man cannot love God if he does not love his fellowman. So you need to determine to put forth an effort to love everyone. Well, you might say, "Bro. Greg, you don't know what so-and-so did to me." Listen, what did you do to Christ? What did you transgress against God, and yet He loves you? Christ was even willing to die for you while you were yet a sinner. You need to not only love all of your fellowmen, but even your enemies. Jesus taught us to do that.

You must determine to give more of yourself. We are living in an age where the spirit of the world is get, get, get, get, get! But the gospel teaches, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." You need to give of your time to God and to humanity, give of your prayers and finances, and give your all to God. If you do that, Beloved, I guarantee you, you will have a wonderful, prosperous, glorious, and fruitful new year. $\hat{\tau}$

2016 BOUND VOLUMES NOW READY!

Each year we bind together the twelve issues of The Way of Truth to form an annual bound volume. The 2016 copy is now ready. The price is US\$4.00 each.

Presently, the copies we have available are from the years 2001 through 2015. \$3.00 each when you order more than one.

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

GEMS FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS MORETHAN CONQUERORS

Scriptures: Romans 8:31-39; I John 4:4; I John 5:4, 5; Luke 10:19; Romans 12:21.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

I John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Memory Verse: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

—Romans 8:37.

Aim: To encourage the student to overcome opposition to his faith.

INTRODUCTION

"Throughout the generations of humanity, people have been annoyed by a pestilent, pernicious family; the heads of this family are known as 'Doubt and fear.' These two will attack anyone, whether saved or unsaved, saint or sinner. Their offspring, or children, are known as: Indecision, Gloom, Sadness, Timidity, Temptation, Allurement, Trial, Test, Trouble, Confusion, Oppression, and a host of relatives all of whom make it their business to join their forces to harass well-meaning souls in order to discourage them and turn them into the way of destruction.

"So long as we are in this world we are still human beings and will come in contact with the ills and cares, burdens and misfortunes, heartaches, trials, temptations, disappointments, and troubles of life. The snares and allurements of Satan are on every side, but there is a way of safety for the weakest Christian."

—E. E. Byrum.

I trust the study of this lesson will be a help to each student in overcoming the opposition to your faith.

MEDITATIONS

WHAT CONCLUSION SHOULD WE COME TO?—Romans 8:31—What shall we say?—In verse 28, Paul says, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." It may not always seem so, and at times we may not understand why things happen as they do, but one thing we can know, "If God be for us" there is no foe that can overcome us.

WHAT LOVE—Romans 8:32—Spared not—If God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son—His most precious Gift—then why should we doubt that He will give us other things of lesser value? Every promise in the Book is true! God stands back of all.

A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS—Romans 8:33-35—Who shall?—This verse, along with the next two, show the safety of the state of those who have believed the gospel of the grace of God. Who can charge God of respecting one person over another? God justifies all who come to Him sincerely. It is Christ who died, and He died for all, and rose the third day. He is now making intercession for us.

PERSECUTION COMES TO ALL—Romans 8:36—For thy sake—*As it is written* is also a quote from Psalm 44:22. We are told in the Scriptures that all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. The apostle Paul, the writer of this epistle, knew much suffering as he made his missionary journeys.

THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE—Romans 8:37—Fight the good fight of faith—The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. By God's grace, we to can say that we are more than conquerors. Jesus did not teach that the Christian life would always be easy, but He did promise us grace to face whatever may come our way.

HAVE A MADE UP MIND—Romans 8:38, 39—For I am—It is very important that we have a made up mind. As Paul said, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2). Let us look at the things Paul has listed: death; it is appointed for all mankind, but I don't think that was what Paul was thinking of. I would say he was speaking of being put to death for Christ's sake. Angels; not all angels are heavenly! Satan has them also. Principalities, nor powers; Paul had to face political powers as well as religious powers. Paul boldly testified before Festus and King Agrippa.

WITH GOD—I John 4:4—Overcome them—John speaks of many spirits. All spirits but the Holy Spirit are against God and must be overcome. With Christ in your heart, you can overcome.

LIVING BY FAITH—I John 5:4—Born of God—The Christian, with faith in God and in His Word, are

the only ones who can overcome this sinful world. John said that the whole world lies in wickedness. But thank God, there is a highway of holiness for the redeemed to walk on. **Verse 5**—John said that we are not to believe every spirit. He is the only Bible writer who speaks of the "antichrist." We find four verses in this little book with that word. None of them speak of some great leader in the political-religious world. In fact, John said that there were many antichrists in his day.

HOLY GHOST POWER—Luke10:19—I give you—We are not to understand that Jesus is speaking of us walking on literal serpents. As the verse says, "I give you power over all the power of the enemy."

DO WHAT IS RIGHT—Romans 12:21—Be not overcome—The instructions given in this short verse are full of meaning! It takes power to return good for evil, and Satan will do his utmost to overcome everyone who is living the Christian life. Living the Christian is a life of faith. Habakkuk said, "The just shall live by his faith."

CONCLUSION

"The prophets of old foretold the coming of Jesus and what would happen. ... When He came He did what the prophets had said He would do. He preached the gospel of the kingdom, forgave sins, spoke peace to the souls of men, cast out devils, healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, raised the dead, and performed many miracles. He was persecuted, crucified, buried in a tomb, arose from the dead, afterward ascended into heaven."

—E. E. Byrum.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

- 1. How willing is God to give good things to His children?
 - 2. Who or what can separate us from God?
- 3. How important is it to be persuaded about the truth?
 - 4. How does one overcome the world?
 - 5. Where does a Christian's power come from? †

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

For many years, The Way of Truth publishing work has provided Church of God Sunday school literature for many congregations. If you would like a sample of Bible-based literature and a price list, please request it.

We have a six-year series of lessons. Each quarter we print quarterlies for Adults and Young People, Intermediates and Juniors. We also print leaflets for younger children.

The second quarter begins April 2 and is titled, "Gems from the Book of Romans."

Lessons include: "Paul, a Servant of Christ"; "Circumcision of the Heart"; "Believing in the Resurrection"; "The Grace Wherein We Stand"; "Live No Longer in Sin"; "More Than Conquerors"; "The Goodness and Severity of God"; "A Living Sacrifice"; "Love Works No III"; "The Kingdom of God"; "The Comfort of the Scriptures"; "Joy and Peace in Believing."

Request a sample packet today!

The True Hope that Comes from God

ning, it works.

2016 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Terry Deville

WILL TRY to keep my introductory remarks as short as I can, because there is so much that I would like to say. I don't believe in just saying words because they sound good, for if they don't come from the heart, there is no use in saying them. But in all sincerity, this convention has done so much for me. Those who know me real well, and of course the Lord, knows where I'm coming from on this. This is something that I've been needing.

The devil is real, and this is a battle; but when you get amongst the camp of the saints, there is a special refuge, a special haven where we feel so secure. The whole world is blocked out. We can all focus upon God, work with God, worship God, and draw closer to Him. What an honor that is! I would like to say, working with this body of ministers, and having good minister's meetings have really been special this year.

Sometimes I tell my folks at home that this will be a teaching message this morning, and I think this message sort of fits in that same category today. I would ask you for the next few minutes to really pay attention to what I'm about to say. We know that these times are becoming very, very perilous. I feel that we need all that God has made available for us, because of the power and all the things the devil has to work with. God has been faithful, and He will be faithful to us today. I pray that God will not only anoint me, but He will anoint your ears to hear and think deeply about the message. I preached this message to the saints at home, and it helped them tremendously. My sincere desire is to help you live with victory. I want to see you all in heaven. There is a bond of love between the saints that's incredible, and I'll never forget the thought that this love can increase and increase and increase. I feel it increasing. We ministers truly want to help you by preaching the gospel.

May God bless us as we turn in our Bibles to Hebrews, chapter 6. With these very familiar scriptures, I know with the help of the anointing of the Spirit, we can dig a little deeper into them. The scriptures are there, but there's an unfathomable depth in them, and the more light we get in understanding what is available, the more we have to fight the devil with. Verses 17-19: "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." The title of the message is, "The True Hope that Comes from God."

So many times the word *hope* is used today, but it is used in a sense that is different than the true hope

spoken of in the Bible, which comes from God. This true hope is much more than just a desire, a wish, or even a hope-so. We use that expression a lot, don't we? This is the way most people in the world interpret hope today, but there is a divine hope that is much more than the hope that is used in the world today. I've studied this subject in depth. Oh, it's precious! I want to say this in the begin-

True hope is defined from the Greek word that is translated as hope, meaning, "God-given anticipation; expectation." Hope: "confidence of something good." Also, true hope: "confidence of something that's good, which comes from something unchangeable and true.' I want to live with that attitude, don't you? True hope is what we have. These two immutable things about God really boils down to these two things: the unchangeableness of God's nature, and the unchangeableness of God's Word and promises. These two immutable things are two unchanged realities, and when referred to is the nature of God's love, mercy, goodness, judgment, and faithfulness. These are not going to change. God cannot lie. Dear Ones, we need to see God just as He is; not just portions of God, but as God really is. Do you see what it does for the hope we have? It inspires that hope.

GOD'S PROMISES CANNOT FAIL

The second unchangeable reality, as I said, is: *His* Word, His promises which cannot fail. True hope, which is God-given, you have. This true hope that comes from God always brings with it anticipation, expectation, confidence of something good coming from God. I am repeating myself, but I want to lay a solid foundation before I get further into the message. This is the true hope that you have that comes from God. We need to use it, Saints. If God gave it, and it includes all these things that come from the Greek definition, it is more than wishy-washy, or a hope-so, or this and that. It's a reality! Do you hear what I am saying? We have something special that comes from God that we need to learn to use more of every day. In every situation we face, we can still hope in God. We can still expect things from God. We can still live in expectation and in anticipation that something good will come from God, because He cannot lie. This is based on these two immutable, unchangeable realities. Therefore, thank God, we have a hope.

Our text in Hebrews 6 says, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast." Is that important? This hope is so powerful and profound, because it is God-given. Let me just say this: Salvation gave us a lot of things we didn't have before. I have a love in my heart that I didn't have before. It is real! I find it easy to love God; I find it easy to love His people.

Page 6 The Way of Truth

I love the truth; I love the church; I love the things that God loves. I didn't have that love before, did you? Do you know when I got it? When the Holy Ghost shed the love of God abroad in my heart. Do you know what it gave me, along with that love? A hope that maketh not ashamed. Hope is a powerful thing. Don't think like the world thinks about it. It's really just a hope-so for the world, but this is more profound and more certain. Why? It is based on these two immutable, unchangeable realities. Not only do I have a love that came with salvation, but I also have this peace that passeth all understanding. I didn't have them before.

THE OPERATION OF LOVE AND FAITH

Let me deviate a little bit. We have this love, this peace, but Dear Ones, we have to apply this love. We have to let it guide our lives. It is up to us to use this love. It is given to us to do something with. I could go into a whole different message, but I can't. Love constrains. Love does a lot of things for us. Read I Corinthians, chapter 13, and you'll see what love does for us. That's what we need to do with our love. Then we will get an increase. The peace that we received from God, we have to let it rule in our hearts. When we get peace in our hearts about something, that is one of the ways we'll find out the will of God. It rules in our hearts.

We have a faith. I have a faith that I never had before. Do you? There's a difference in believing that God is. I believed. I respected faith in my own way, but after God saved me, I have a different faith now. We need to live by it. It is the same way with this hope. This hope that we did not have before is one of the benefits (blessings) which comes through salvation. Dear Ones, unless we use it, we only have it. Now, I know we have a hope of eternal life, but this hope that comes from God applies also to our everyday living. Please receive this. It is more than just a hope of eternal life. Thank God! That is part of a strong foundation, but whereas this hope goes much further than that. Much further! God wants us to learn to develop and use this hope every day in every situation. Keep using it and keep using it. I want to look at my problems and trials with expectation. Well, if we have this hope, I think we have a right to look at it with expectation and confidence that something good is going to come from God. I tell you, we all need something good from God.

I fight the same devil that you do. People have weaknesses. I know it's different with individuals because of different weaknesses; but listen, it's the same devil and the same weaknesses. We know what you're going through. I hesitate to tell you this: My wife and I had just heard of a very tragic thing that was depressing, but when I began to think of this message, that depression started to move away. When I told Carol about the message I was thinking about, she said, "It's helping me, too." All I told her was that we can hope in God. I don't have to really tell you any more than hope thou in God. We don't have to figure it out. Hope thou in God, then take your stand, and the devil won't be able to break that hope. This a powerful offense and defensive weapon: hope thou in God. Remember, this hope is God-given.

We know the future is filled with hard questions. Do you all see the same thing out there that I do? There's an uneasiness in the world today, especially among the saints who see what's going on. There's an uneasiness. Life is now filled with *what if.* We as Christians have to deal with those "what if this, what is it?" We love our children and grandchildren so much. We can go down that pathway till before long we are cast down. Am I talking to anyone today?

"HOPE THOU IN GOD"

Are we disquieted in our spirit? Do you know this same thing happened to David? It's found in Psalm 42. David was going through the same things that we go through. David was a man like us, and he faced the same devil that we face, and he himself had weaknesses, even as we do. David began to talk to himself. We need to say the right things to God. After David laid out his problems before God, he asked himself, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?" Then something like a light dawned on him. "This is what I need to do." Can you tell me what David said? "Hope thou in God." This hope in God began to change the situation. See how powerful it was! "For I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." First of all, David had hope, but he had to use it. He was disquieted and cast down, just like I see a saint facing the devil all the time. But we have an antidote. We have a solution. We must use the hope we have in God.

I'm going to continue to hope so that God takes care. I'm not going to get into the business of God's work on how He does it. That's where we mess up. Hope thou in God. I'm not even going to the reasons why I'm disquieted, or why I'm cast down, but when I'm cast down and disquieted, the answer is: Hope thou in God. Do you know what happens when you put your hope in God? It works! "I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance." It seems that by David putting his hope in God, it opened up the way for the hope that he had to be inspired to a greater hope. Hope is good, but inspired hope is better. It seemed like it opened up a special way for the countenance of God to shine on David.

GOD'S FACE SHINES UPON US

How many times does it say in the Psalms, "Make thy face to shine upon me, Lord; and help me for thy mercy's sake"? "Let thy countenance shine on me that thy way may be known in the earth." So what David did after he began to hope, it seemed to open up the way for God's countenance to even shine on him. All of the old clouds were removed. Do you know what I'm talking about? Sometimes it's hard to behold God because of all the clouds and the troubles around. I have days when it's hard to find the Lord, but then I have days when I get in prayer and go straight through to God. When I get into His presence, or behold His countenance in my spiritual mind, I am helped. Are we helped? That's what David said: "I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." Dear Ones, it worked for Stephen, it worked for Paul, it worked for David, and it will work for us.

When Stephen was preaching before the Sanhedrin, they called him before them. Even before he began to preach, do you know what the Bible says? "All that sat

in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel" (Acts 6:15). Did Stephen cause that? That was God's face shining on him.

Let me tell you something, Saints, you may not know it, but there is a glory in you. There's a light. Depending on the degree of the situation on how difficult it must be, Dear Ones, sometimes that glory and light that shines upon us is greater than at other times. I like to use the phrase, "Till the Lord breathed on us." Do you know what that is? The Holy Spirit breathed upon us. Do you know where we get a lot of this? In prayer and worship. Saints, let's not forget how to worship God. Come here with a purpose of beholding His countenance. Put yourselves in the songs and what you're hearing, which is the atmosphere of fellowshipping God. You have to fight because your mind wants to go here and there; but when you get in that worship and fellowship, it is precious and special. I have to say, "Thank you, Lord! Praise the Lord! I've made that connection with God." I can make it better in the house of God than at any other time it seems, but it is always available. Always! Hope thou in God.

After Stephen preached that incredible message, we read in Acts 7, where he said, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. ... When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven [What did he see, Saints?], and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God." Did this do anything to frighten Stephen? In other words, when you're able to behold God's countenance and He shines upon you, you're confident, you're bold, and you're living with expectation. Dear Ones, you can face the cross, you can face what they faced, but you must have that confidence and hope. We need the countenance of God to shine upon us. We need to be able to break through to behold His face. If you're a Christian, you know what I'm talking about.

BELIEVING IN THAT HOPE

Even in the most darkest of trials, when it seemed difficult to have faith, trust, confidence, and hope, what did Abraham do? "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations." What I'm trying to teach you is: When you face some real severe valleys and problems and trials like Paul and others, you have to begin the process of praying and looking to God, using what hope you can. Believe in hope. In other words, believing in this hope will do exactly what it is: anticipation; expectation. "If I know God is with me and I'm doing the right thing, there's an assurance there." I tell you, Dear Ones, that will bring something profound and powerful to you. Where did it come from? You did your part, and God did His part. Paul was beaten, he was in a shipwreck, in perils, in painfulness, in labors, in prisons, etc., but his hope was in God. Because my hope is in Thee, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). To be content is not a force of will. Contentment comes from hoping, seeing God. Paul said, "Therefore, with strong consolation, I lay hold upon this hope set before me, which hope I have [and we have], which is an anchor to the soul, both sure and sted-fast."

Psalm 33:18, "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him [This is it. Do you see what He wants us to know?], upon them that hope in his mercy." That's a good attitude to have. The Bible says that He takes pleasure in those who hope in His mercy. The devil can torment us over something. Do you know that? "Is this child going to make it? What about this?" Those can torment you. The Lord helped me one time when I was going through something, and I read Psalm 147:11: "The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy." When I know that God is taking pleasure in that hope, I can expect good things. We need to use this to fight the devil with, Saints. We have it! God, help us to know how to use it. It is a powerful, powerful profound thing that God gave us through salvation. I want to tell you, the devil will tremble with our hope in God.

The other day I forgot the outline for my message at home. My head was spinning, and I couldn't think. But it came to my mind, what are you preaching on? "Hope thou in God." Do you get disquieted? Do you get disturbed? Hope thou in God. It will settle you down. Who are you hoping in? Not some man or woman. I'm not even hoping in this situation. I'm hoping in God. Saints, it works! It will calm you down. Listen to this: "To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine" (Psalm 33:19). That is where we are. There's a famine in the world, but God wants us to hope in His mercy, and He'll keep us alive. I don't have to figure all of this out. It's too confusing, but God knows! All is changing out there, but God is still unchangeable. He hasn't changed one bit. He sees it all. He knows what to do. We need to hope in God.

HOPE BRINGS EXPECTATION

There's blessed hope within us. You have to be convinced you have what the Bible says you have. It's not like the world talks it, but like the Bible says it is: with anticipation and expectation of something good, because it is coming from unchangeable things. Those unchangeable things are the unchangeableness of God's nature, and the unchangeableness of God's Word and promises.

The songwriter says—

Blessed hope we have within us is an anchor to the soul, It is both steadfast and sure;

It is founded on the promises of Father's written word, And 'twill evermore endure.

We have a hope within us; not just a wish-so, or just a desire, but a real expectation. Why? God is God.

Since we've walked the strait and narrow way our path has ever shone

Brighter, brighter, day by day;

Hope within our hearts assures us it is better farther on, It is brighter all the way.

Hope assures us. "Bro. Terry, do you see how the world is going?" But hope assures us, because our hope is in God. It is better farther on. That's the way I want to think, and we have the right to think that. The rights that salvation gave us became our birthrights when we gave our hearts to God. Yes, it is brighter all the way.

The Church of God songs were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God's favor were on them. They still bless me. Don't they bless you, too?

I'm coming to a close. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13). We have this hope, but through the power of the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, we can abound in this hope. In other words, thank God for what we have, but we can have more to a greater degree. Praise the Lord! "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Hebrews 3:6). The devil wants to steal your hope. Does he try to steal your hope sometimes in certain situations? If he does, it won't be long he'd be questioning you, "Are you really saved? Are you going to heaven? Is this all truth?" We're fighting against the spirit of unbelief today, but let us "hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

"IS THERE ANY HOPE FROM THE LORD?"

One of my favorite scriptures is in Lamentations 3. You all probably know it. I know my congregation at home knows it. The first part of it is talking about Jeremiah. His own people had turned against him. All he was doing was telling them the truth. They mistreated him. You have to read it to see the degree of suffering and being downcast as Jeremiah was. This prophet of God was treated awfully. That's the devil's work, but it hurts more when it comes from your own people. We're in this together. The ministers are not against you. We want to help by telling you what God tells us. There's another scripture in the Bible where a king came to Jeremiah and asked, "Is there any hope from the Lord?" Do you know what he said? "There is!" The Word of God is exactly what we need.

I don't know how long Jeremiah's suffering went on. Do you know what Jeremiah said? "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope." I believe the Spirit of God helped this to come to Jeremiah's mind. Let me say this: We can determine and make up our minds to just stay on the things that are hurting and bringing us down, or we can choose, by the help of the Lord, to turn our minds in another direction. Jeremiah was able to say, "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:21-23). He recalled this to his mind, therefore his hope got inspired again. He had it, but it needed to inspire him. It changed the whole thing. It might not have changed where he was at the time, but even in the darkest of dungeons, when Jesus is there, it is heaven. This hope, which we have, let us hold to, because it is "as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast."

Therefore—

Life will end in joyful singing, "I have fought a faithful fight."

Then we'll lay our armor down;

And our spirits freed from earthly ties shall take their happy flight,

To possess a starry crown.

We have a hope within our souls, Brighter than the perfect day: God has given us His Spirit, And we want the world to hear it, All our doubts are passed away.

CONCLUSION

When it all comes down to it, thank God, I still have my name in heaven, and I'm assured of it. When we put all the things we go through and face, in light of heaven and eternity, those things are not very much. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II Corinthians 4:17).

God gave us this hope. Let us take advantage of it. Use it every day. "I will hope continually" (Psalm 71:14). That is what the saints of old did. It gave them victory, and it will do the same for us, Saints. The Word of God does not change, and God's love and mercy to us will not change.

God bless you. T

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July 4-9, Lord willing.



Answered by the Editor

UESTION: In the November 2015 issue of *The Way of Truth*, the teaching tends to guide that II Peter 2:4 speaks of spirit beings. My understanding of this verse, based on the chronology of disobedience to God in II Peter 2:4-8, has been that verse 4 has a direct reference to Adam and Eve who were the first angels (servants) of God who sinned against Him.—W. E. D., Africa

ANSWER: It is true that ministers are symbolized by stars and angels in the book of Revelation 1:20, and chapters two and three, but I am not aware of the whole Christian world being called angels. I do not think it is proper to call Adam and Eve angels, nor do I think Adam and Eve were "delivered into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." I would like to think that they believed God's promise that the "seed of the woman [which I take as a promise of a Savior] would bruise the head of the serpent" and were restored to spiritual life.

QUESTION: Did Lot have other daughters in addition to the two daughters as recorded in Genesis 19? Please give some light on the number of Lot's daughters.

-W. E. D., Africa

ANSWER: According to Genesis 19:8, Lot had two virgin daughters who were living at home with their parents. According to verse 12, the two angels told Lot to go out and warn his married daughters and their husbands to flee out of the city. "And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, ... But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law" (verse 14). Since the words "daughters and sons in law" are both used in the plural, there were at least two married daughters.

QUESTION: I believe from the Bible account that Lot's two daughters escaped the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah into Zoar, and later had a son each (Moab and Ammon) with their father.—W. E. D., Africa

ANSWER: You're really not asking a question, but why shouldn't you believe it since that is what the Bible teaches? However, Mrs. Lot looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Do you believe that?

QUESTION: I'm not clear with this—whether Jesus Christ our Savior was also a patriarch of the Jews as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, etc.

The explanation on Romans 9:5 ["Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ

came, who is over all, God blessed for ever."] as given on page 4 of the August 2016 issue of *The Way of Truth* is not clear.—W. E. D., Africa

ANSWER: Jesus Christ is the only One mentioned in the Bible who was Prophet, Priest, and King! But I do not find Him being called a patriarch. What Paul is teaching is that Jesus Christ is more than just a man. He is God over all.

QUESTION: From Genesis 3:18 ["Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field."], I have a question: Man was made to eat the herb of the ground. Was that also a curse on mankind?—E. E., Africa

ANSWER: This is what Adam Clarke says about eating the herbs: "Thou shalt no longer have the privilege of this garden of delights, but must go to the common champaign country, and feed on such herbs as thou canst find, till by labor and industry thou hast raised others more suitable to thee and more comfortable." $\hat{\tau}$

1913 Camp Meeting Sermons

APPROVED UNTO GOD

Address to Ministers by the late J. N. Howard

HE THOUGHT is brought to my heart this morning that God has counted us worthy to commit to our trust the gospel of Jesus Christ. He has seen fit to lay His hand upon us as ambassadors for Christ. I feel that each one of us should realize the responsibility that rests upon us as ambassadors. "To us" said the apostle, "is the word of reconciliation committed." I want to quote a few texts of Scripture. First, that text by the apostle to Timothy, a young minister, when he said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God." I wish to emphasize that before giving you the entire quotation. I would rather know this morning that God approved of me and have the censure of the whole world, than to have the sanction of the world and God's disapproval. If we are successful ministers of the New Testament, we must have God's approval upon the soul. We will be worse than a failure without it. And now, let us not forget that it is our duty to diligently, constantly apply ourselves to this matter, and pursue the course that God has marked out, so that we can have His approval upon us at all times.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed." Who is there of us this morning but, looking back on our ministerial labors of the past, can call to mind some things in which we actually felt that we needed to be examined? Now, your taking that position does not of necessity lower the standard of the gospel minister, but simply shows the humility of heart.

The apostle says further, "Rightly dividing the Word of truth." My heart has been specially burdened along this line in the past year or more. This responsibility rests upon us: the necessity of being able, by grace and

divine power, by that wisdom that comes from above, to rightly divide the Word of eternal truth. There is a text in Psalm145:15 which says, "Thou givest them their meat in due season." The flock of God must be fed. God has ordained that at your hands and mine this food be dealt out to them, and it is necessary that you and I be so in touch with God that we know what kind of food to deal out. If it is dealt out as God ordained it should be, the flock will thrive on it. They will increase and make progress in spirituality and in usefulness.

I want to say to you that there is a possibility of our becoming awakened to the fact that some of us are responsible for the lack of advancement and lack of increase of spirituality in the Church of God because of our not properly dealing out the spiritual food that God has ordained we should. You remember Paul said, "Take heed to thyself." There are too many that have not taken sufficient heed to themselves, and have not put themselves in a position where they can be in harmony with those that labor with them.

Suppose some little idea of mine would arise between me and my brethren; shall I allow it to stop the work of the Lord in the salvation of souls? If we are not careful to take the proper amount of heed to ourselves, to our lives and our ministry, to our actions, our words, and our home deportment, we may wake up to the fact sooner or later that we have been a real hindrance to the work instead of a help. God forbid that any of us should allow a hindrance or menace, instead of a help in propagating the cause of God and encouraging our brothers and sisters as we should. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."-Acts 20:28. Oh, the responsibility that rests upon us: the duty we owe to ourselves, to God, to each other, and to the Church of God in general, of "rightly dividing the Word of truth."

We should apply ourselves to prayerful and careful study of God's Word, looking to God for wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Without such guidance, we are of no use. Beloved, we must look diligently to God for the right interpretation of His Word, so that when we feel the hand of God upon us to deliver a message, we will have enough wisdom from God to enable us to deliver it in such a way that the people will be benefitted; and God will be glorified. There are things said in the Bible that God intended for sinners and for sinners only; and if we try, for lack of heavenly wisdom, to apply these things to our brethren and sisters in the Lord, we are not rightly dividing the Word of truth. There are certain things said in this sacred volume that are meant for justified men and women only, for people in Christ. If we try to feed them the meat of the Word of God instead of giving them the sincere milk, they will not get along as fast as God intends they should. You will have to pray. There are things said in the Bible that God has meant for sanctified men and women only and if we as ministers say that every newly converted person must be as well established as one who started thirty years ago, we are not rightly dividing the Word of truth. There is no wisdom in such statements. We ought to be sure that what we say is right, we ought to weigh our words well before we make them public, because there may be some weak brother or sister that will take what the minister says without giving it application. If we say something that is not right, we are accountable to God for whatever harm it may do.

Paul, in writing to Timothy, said, "Be thou an example to the believers." If I were going to give you my idea of a New Testament minister, I would say that it is that man or woman who is an example to the believer in word, and in doctrine. There is not one of us, be he ever so strong spiritually, but what he has at least one weak point. God counts us just as strong in His estimation as we are at our weakest point. God wants us to search diligently to find our weak points, if we do not already know them, and then to doubly fortify these weak points.

Being an example is not a matter of having our own way. We enjoy the song, "God's way is best, I will not murmur, although the end I may not see." Let us find out what God's way is, and keep in continual remembrance that text found in Ephesians where it says, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

I remember a few instances in my Christian experience when I thought that my way was right, and had it, but to my surprise, I was not satisfied. After I had tried a long while to make myself feel satisfied and could not, I thought that a thorough investigation would be a good thing for me. By investigating, I found out why I was not satisfied. We ought to be sure that our way is right, and until it is right, we ought not to be satisfied with it.

Here is my brother. He is just as honest before God as I am; he can get something from God as soon as I can; and it looks equally as clear to him that his ideas are correct, as it looks to me that mine are correct. Now what shall we do? This text applies: "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."—Philippians 3:15. Let every one treat others with the respect due brethren in the ministry, granting them the same courtesy that he desires extended to him. Then there will not be much chance for the devil to get in division. $\hat{\tau}$

OUT OF BOX 88

Dear Pastor,

I am writing you to request *The Way of Truth* magazine. ... I would also like to say that the message I read by Bro. Gregory E. Tyler, "Allowing the Light of Christ to Shine Through Me," has touched my life and helped me to understand that I need to decrease so that He can increase. ... God bless you.

—J. S., Michigan

I could never in this lifetime tell you how blessed I am to have your wonderful encouraging words come into my life each month. Thank you!

—S. M., Indiana ♥

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"What's Mommy doing out there?" my younger sister Wilma asked. I joined her at the window, and together we watched as our mother plodded around the field just below our garden, her footsteps making a large circle in the deep snow.

"Let me see!" said my other sister, Twila, as she came to stand with us at the window. Just then our mother looked up. She must have seen our faces pressed against the glass, because her face broke into a wide grin and she waved to us. We waved back and continued to watch as our mother completed her circle in the snow and then began to walk across it, dividing it neatly in half with her footprints. As soon as she had done this, she walked a quarter of the way around the circle and then headed across it again, cutting it into fourths. We watched as she continued to divide the circle until it lay in eight equal parts, just as a pie might be cut into pieces before serving. The last thing our mother did was to return to the center of the circle and stamp out a smooth, circular depression with her boots. She looked up once more and waved before starting for the house.

"Mommy, what were you doing out there?" we asked as she entered the kitchen door.

She laughed as she straightened and re-tied her scarf. Her cheeks were rosy and her eyes sparkled. "Get your coats and boots on," she said. "We're going to play a game of 'Fox and Geese'!"

"How do you play 'Fox and Geese'?" we asked.

"Dress up nice and warm and I'll show you," she replied. "Don't forget your scarves. It's a little windy out there."

In no time, we were following our mother out the door, walking carefully in the path she had made with her boots.

When we reached the big circle, we stepped carefully onto it and stopped, waiting for directions.

"Here is the way we play 'Fox and Geese'," our mother said to us. "I will be the 'fox' first. Do you see that circle in the middle?" We nodded. "That is the 'base' where you can go to be safe from the fox, but you can't stay there all of the time. You have to run, or it won't be any fun. You can run only on the pathways—either the circle path or the straight paths that I made across the circle. If you get off the pathways, you are out of the game. Do you understand?" We nodded again.

"What happens if one of us gets caught?" I asked her.

"Then that person will be the fox," she said. "Now go stand on the base," she continued, "and I will count to ten. By the time I get to ten, you have to be off and running."

Our mother stayed on the edge of the circle and waited until we were all on the 'base,' and then she began to count. "... 8 ... 9 ... 10!" she counted. "Run, geese, run!"

We ran, and our mother chased us around and across that circle. We learned very quickly that it was hard to stay on the pathways. With the "fox" right behind us, we were tempted to plow right through the unmarked snow to create our own shortcuts. Not only was that against the rules, but the deep snow slowed us down and made it easier for the fox to catch us. Our mother was always there to remind us to stay on the paths, and before long we were running exactly where our feet were meant to go.

We played that game until we were out of breath and exhausted, and then we went back to the house and our mother made us hot chocolate.

The next day, we played "Fox and Geese" again, but without our mother. She had work to do in the house. "I've already taught you how to play it," she said, "so you can play on your own now." We were disappointed, because it was fun to have our mother as a playmate, but we knew she was usually too busy for games.

In time, the days grew warmer and the snow began to melt. Our "Fox and Geese" circle grew fainter and at last disappeared. But the memories of the fun we'd had lingered for years. "Remember the 'Fox and Geese' game?" we'd say to our mother. She would nod and smile.

I have been a grown woman for a long time now, and it has been many years since I have played in the snow. Sometimes I look out the window at a fresh snowfall and I miss the days I spent as a child in our cozy little home. I think of all the sweet memories my parents gave me, and the many valuable lessons they taught me.

Even the game of "Fox and Geese" had an important lesson connected with it. The circle in the snow reminds me of our lives. Around and around we go as we live—day after day, week after week, year after year. The straight pathways remind me of the righteous instruction we have been given. If we are wise, we will be careful to stay on those pathways. If we don't, evil will catch us just as the 'fox' caught us easily when we strayed into the deep snow.

Proverbs 4:12 describes the state of a person who follows wise instruction. "When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble."

Children, you are blessed if you have Christian parents, teachers, and ministers to show you the right way to live. They will not always be able to walk beside you. But once you have learned from them how to live a life pleasing to God, you will be able to continue on with Jesus as your helper. One day you will be able to show others the way.

Activity

There is a beautiful verse in the Bible that reminds us that Jesus is always there to guide us in the pathways of righteousness. See if you can unscramble these words and write them in the correct order. You can look at Isaiah 30:21 to check yourself when you've finished.

"The way shall turn left right to the turn ye and behind hand to walk is the saying ye ears when in it thee this and hear thine when ye a word."

Answer to Last Month's Activity

Matthew 20:28, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." †

HOW TO GROW IN GRACE

By the late D. O. Teasley

GREAT MANY people would like to grow in grace and are trying to be spiritual, but do not know how. Let me invite your attention to the words of Jesus in the twelfth chapter of Luke and the twenty-seventh verse—"Consider the lilies how they grow." The lily does not grow by toiling or spinning nor does she take anxious thought. She does not worry about in whose meadow she is growing. She does not fear that it will not rain nor that the sun will not shine on the morrow. In fact, she does not put forth any special effort to grow, yet she grows and is arrayed more gorgeously than was Solomon in all his glory.

Growth and perpetuation of life are brought about by two things—food and exercise. The lily sends her tender roots into the earth, opens her petals to the dew, and receives her God-given nourishment; and from the gentle breezes that sweep the meadow she receives exercise. By these means she grows. There is only one way to grow—to correspond with the environments, to eat the food that God has provided, and to exercise. People who are always making a conscious effort to grow in their own strength, often, like the wasp which is larger when hatched than at any other time in its life, grow smaller instead of larger. Our spiritual food is the Word of God. "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4). "Eat ye that which is good and let thy soul delight itself in fatness." Our spiritual exercise is: "Watch and pray"; "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1); endure temptation; do good unto all men; rejoice evermore. If we do these things, our growth like that of the lily, will be unconscious and spontaneous. Conscious effort to grow and a neglect of the laws of growth are fruitless and vain, for "which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" (Matthew 6:27).

David thus describes the blessedness of the man who delights himself in the law of the Lord: "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3). From the rich soil of the river bank and the moisture of its waters, the tree draws its food—corresponds with its environment and so prospers. The winds give it exercise, and it grows.

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; to shew that the Lord is upright" (Psalm 92:12-15). "Shall flourish like the palm tree." When does the palm tree flourish the most? When the winds bend it and sway it to and fro; for then the roots run further and deeper, the sap flows faster and more abundantly, the trunk grows larger and stronger and the branches become more luxuriant and beautiful. Just so with the righteous. When the storms of trials and temptations rage against them, then life and vitality within flows quicker and the strength of the inner man is renewed day by day.

"Shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." How does the cedar in Lebanon grow? By sinking its roots deep in the ground; and when the storms sway it to and fro, its roots get exercise and take deeper hold in the soil. So with the person who is planted in the house of the Lord, rooted and grounded in love. The more trials and storms, the more he loves the Lord, "and taking root downward, he bears fruit upward." So dear one, if you would be established in the grace of God, you must stand the storms of trials and temptations.

Our growth must be brought about and our life must be perpetrated by the simple acts of eating and exercising. The colt draws its sustenance from its mother and by playing about the barnyard gets exercise. So it is with every form of life—growth is brought about by corresponding with environments and by taking proper exercise. Sometimes we hear Christians say, "There is no use for me to pray in public or to testify to what the Lord has done for me, for I cannot speak well, and it will do nobody any good." Do you suppose that it does the mother any good for the infant to play and cry? No; but it does the infant good to cry and play, for that is its exercise; and it does the colt good to run and play. By continuing to do itself good, the child may become a strong man or woman, and then it can be a help to others. The colt, while it is kicking and playing about the barnyard, does the farmer no good; but it does itself good, and after a while it may be a strong draft horse and able to draw heavy loads. So with you, dear weak one. If your prayers or your testimonies or your efforts to glorify the Lord do not accomplish as much as those of some stronger Christian, you need the exercise. It will do you good, and after a while you will be strong and able to do good to others. Even the humblest efforts of God's little ones sometimes accomplish a great deal, and God is not unrighteous to forget your labor of love. So if you would prosper in the divine life and grow in grace, remember these two things: feed your soul on the Word of God and exercise yourself unto godliness. "If you do these things, you shall never fall." \$

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."—II Peter 3:18.



Dear Young People,

I greet you in the blessed name of Jesus, rejoicing that God has spared the world to see 2017. He is still blessing humanity with life and breath, yea, and all things. It is still in Him that we all live and move and have our being. It is appropriate at this out-

set of a new year to pause and give Him thanks for His continuing kindness and mercy.

A scripture has impressed me as we begin a new year: Psalm 68:19, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah." *Every day* the Lord blesses His people and so often we overlook all He has done for us and continues to do for us. Let me mention just a few in alphabetical order:

Ability to rise from bed; Abundant life; Acceptance; Access to the throne of grace; Affection; Air to breathe; All things; Anointing; Appetite; Approval; Armor; Assembling with the saints; Assurance; Atonement; Babies; Backbone; Baptism; Breath of life; Bible; Blessings; Brethren; Chastisement; Cheerfulness; Children; Christ; Clear conscience; Clothes; Comfort; Communion; Companionship; Completeness; Confidence; Counsel; Courage; Deeper walk with God; Defense; Deliverance; Desires of the heart; Determination; Discernment; Edification; Encouragement; Employment; Equality; Escape; Eternal life; Examples; Expectation; Eyesight; Faith; Family; Fellowship; Food; Forgiveness; Foundation; Friends; Fulfillment; Gentleness; Gladness; God the Father; Goodness and mercy; Gospel; Grace of God; Guardian angels; Guidance; Happiness; Healing; Health; Heaven; Help in time of need; Holiness; Holy Spirit; Home; Hope; Immortality; Increase; Inheritance; Inspiration; Instruction; Interpretation; Jesus; Joy unspeakable; Justification; Kept Safe; Kindness; Kingdom; Knowledge; Leaders; Liberty; Life; Light; Longsuffering; Love; Marriage; Master; Mediator; Meekness; Mercy; Messages; Ministers; Modesty; Money; Music in the soul; Necessities; Nourishment; No condemnation; Opportunity; Overcoming; Pardon; Patience; Peace; Perseverance; Power; Prayer; Promises; Protection; Purity; Purged; Purpose; Quickened; Raiment; Readiness; Reconciled; Redeemed; Regeneration; Rejoicing; Rescued; Rest; Righteousness; Safety; Salvation; Sanctification; Satisfaction; Savior; Scriptures; Secure; Settled; Shepherd; Songs; Sound mind; Spouse; Steadfastness; Strength; Successful; Support; Teachings; Thanksgiving; Transportation; Treasure; Trust; Truth; Undefiled: Understanding: Unity: Unspeakable gift: Unworthy; Useful; Victory; Virtue; Voluntary; Warning; Water; Washed; Watch; Weapons; Wonder of it all. These only scratch the surface!

It is overwhelming really to sit and count the benefits of living for Christ. And we receive them EVERY SINGLE DAY. Well might we stand in awe of the faithfulness of almighty God! What a mighty God we serve!

This leads us to the important question presented in Psalm 116:12, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"

You may compile your own list, but I wish to express ten things which we can render to the Lord for all His benefits towards us.

Affection—The Lord is worthy of our utmost affection. We are to love Him with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength. And we are to love Him more than anyone or anything.

Devotion—We can devote our lives to the cause of Christ, willing to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice which is only our reasonable service. People are devoted to many things; let us be devoted to God!

Finances—True devotion includes giving back to God in a financial way, supporting the work of God with our tithes and offerings. By the way, this magazine is part of God's work. Have you considered assisting us in spreading the gospel through the printed page? Offerings to this work are gratefully received.

Praise—The Lord is worthy of praise and adoration. Hebrews 13:15 says, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Obedience—It is not enough to give the Lord lip service, rather we are to live in obedience to His Word. We are to walk in His steps. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep My commandments."

Respect—Much of the world disrespects God and the principles He stands for. But the Christian must render due respect and honor to the One who loads us with benefits.

Service—We ought to give the Master our very best service in reponse to His goodness. This means being a willing vessel to go where He wants us to go and be what He wants us to be.

Time—Our time is limited so we need to devote a goodly portion of our time to assist in His worthy cause. This includes prayer time, Bible study time, public worship time, and time to help your fellowman.

Worship—He is worthy of our worship. Man is not; money is not; the devil is not! We are to seek first the kingdom of God and not worship the creature more than the Creator.

Zeal—We should be careful never to lose our zeal and enthusiasm for the things of God. If we become "lukewarm," He said He would spue us out of His mouth. The gospel is something to be excited about!

I am still waiting to hear from you dear young people, sharing your testimony, poem, report, or brief admonition on a scripture to be published in this column. Write: The Way of Truth, Young People's Editor, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741 U.S.A.

Following is another chapter from Bro. Naylor's amazing book, "Heart Talks." I trust it will be a blessing to your soul.

Remember this year to render unto the Lord good things for all the benefits wherewith He has blessed you. God inspire and keep you.

In the Master's service,

Bro. Greg Cyler

Page 14 The Way of Truth

HIPPOING INTUITIONAL WATERINGS

From the book, "Heart Talks," by the late C. W. Naylor

There are things which we know and feel but which do not result from our own study. We have a consciousness that there is some supreme power over us, and we are conscious of a certain responsibility to, and a dependence upon, this higher power. Reading the Bible and reasoning may give us clearer ideas of this power and our relations to it, but we have the consciousness of its existence without being taught.

This is never more clearly seen than in the case of the man who denies the existence of a personal God. As surely as he rejects the God of the Bible, he sets up something else in His place, and though he may call it by some other name than God, he will, nevertheless, attribute to it the powers and actions that belong to God. These intuitions by which we know without being conscious of how we know are given us by God for our protection and safety, and we ought to give careful heed to their testimony.

Sometimes our reason sees no harm in a thing, but we do not feel just right about it. A doctrine may look ever so plausible and be ever so interesting; but if we feel an inward uneasiness after consideration of it, there is a reason why we should be careful. Our intuition will often detect something wrong when our reason has not yet done so. These intuitions are not to be disregarded. They are God's means of warning us against unseen dangers.

Sometimes when we come in contact with people, we see nothing outwardly wrong, but we have an inward feeling that all is not well. We feel that there is something wrong somewhere, even though we may be at a loss to know what it is. Sometimes we come in contact with a company of people and at once feel a strange something that we cannot analyze; but we cannot always trust our feelings. There are many things that influence us, and it is very easy to misinterpret them. Nor should we conclude that there is something very badly wrong with anyone merely because we have peculiar feelings when in his presence. There may be something wrong, however, and it behooves us to be on our guard. Sometimes it happens that such feelings arise when we are in the presence of people who are deeply tried, or discouraged, or suffering under the assaults of Satan.

There are many evil spirits at work in these days among professors of religion, and especially is this true among the various holiness factions. Have you ever gone into a meeting and felt that some way you did not "fit" there? The worshipers may have seemed joyful and may have said many good things, but all the while you felt an inward uneasiness. There was some reason for this, and whether the reason was spiritual or merely human, it was wise to exercise carefulness. It is usually best to refrain from trying to make yourself blend with anything when you have that internal sense of protest against it.

Fellowship is natural and spontaneous. It cannot be forced. If you are straight and true and your heart is open and unprejudiced, you will usually have fellowship with whatever is of God. Most sectarian holiness people are so broad that they can take in almost anything and call it good. Beware of this spirit. God's Spirit accepts only the good. If you have ease and freedom with true, established, spiritual people of God, and are free in meetings where the whole truth is preached and the Spirit of God works freely, and then when you come in contact with other professors you fail to have that freedom, do not accuse yourself nor try to force yourself to have fellowship with them.

A preacher once came into a certain community and began to preach. He was quite enthusiastic; he praised the Lord and shouted. He preached much truth and professed to be out clean for God. It was afterwards discovered that he was very crooked and wholly unworthy of confidence. I asked a number of the congregation later how it came that they received him. Their answer was that, as he came recommended by some good brethren and preached so much truth, when they did not feel right about him they came to the conclusion that they must be wrong and he right. So they accused themselves and went on through the meeting suffering under a heavy burden. They knew they had no such feelings when other ministers came into their midst, nor did they feel that way in their own ordinary meetings. But in spite of this, they took the wrong course, and the result was that the congregation received much harm both spiritually and financially. The same thing happened with this preacher in other places, till at length he came to a place where some refused to ignore their feelings or to accuse themselves of being in the wrong. Instead, they sent at once for two wellestablished ministers, and as soon as they came into the community, the crooked preacher fled and was seen no more in those parts.

Sometimes someone will come around making a high profession, and while we can see nothing wrong, we do not feel free with him, or, in other words, we have a sense of uneasiness. We feel at home with other saints, but not so with this person. Beware. If you are in fellowship with those whom you know to be true saints, look out for those with whom you do not have inward harmony. Do not blame yourself nor disregard the warning. Isolated Christians naturally become hungry for spiritual association. Sometimes they go to meetings where, while they find some good things, they also see other things and feel things that grate upon their spiritual sense of propriety. In such cases one should be guarded and should not try to "fit" with these things. To blend with them you must become like them; and if you become like them when they are not right, you will find that when you come into an assembly where the truth and Spirit have freedom, you will not blend there. If you ignore those inner warnings and accept something contrary to them, you will soon find yourself out of harmony with God's church and without the liberty you used to have among the children of God.

Do not follow your intuitions blindly, but do not go contrary to them. Let your reason find out the way of action before you act, so that you may act wisely. But when that inward sense says to us, "Stop, look, listen," we shall do well to heed its warning. \$\frac{1}{2}\$

If the Foundations Be Destroyed ...

2016 Hagerstown Convention Message by Bro. Paul Wilson

E ARE sitting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. It is good to be a child of God, and it is good to be in God's house. We are gathered here to worship. We want to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Are you happy? Are you glad you're a child of God? The best life one can live is when one lives for God. I'm glad we're not in a competition, for I certainly would be last, but we're here to glorify God. I'm going to be all that God would have me to be this evening as I attempt to speak to you what He has laid on my heart. We just want the Spirit of God to have His way. If God's Spirit has His way, we will be blessed.

If you have your Bibles, I invite you to turn with me to Psalm 11:3: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Verse 4 says: "The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

We are living in troublesome times. Things that we have never seen happen before are happening now. But God is still God. Time changes, people change, but God will always be God. Psalm 137:1-7 says, "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy. Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof." "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" There are a lot of foundations, but there is only one true Foundation.

I was looking at these two words, *rase it*: To do so means "to destroy; tear down; get rid of." The Edomites were related to the Israelites. Both nations descended from Isaac, and his father, Abraham. Although Israel shared its southern border with Edom, there was bitter hatred between the two nations. The Edomites did not come to help when the city of Jerusalem was besieged by the Babylonian Army. In fact, they rejoiced when the city was destroyed. They were the ones who said, "Rase it." In other words, *tear it down*.

Do you realize that we are living in a time where good principles and morals are being torn down? People are accepting any and everything; and if we talk about holiness, we are laughed at. If we talk about the oneness of God's people, we are mocked. While we try to live holy and to live the standard that God would have us to live, people criticize us. There are a lot of foundations that are being destroyed, but God still has a people.

The word foundation means, "basis upon which something stands or is supported; the lowest load bearing part of a building, typically below ground level." I am glad that we have a good Foundation. Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief cornerstone is our Foundation

I'm into building, and if the material that they are to use for the foundation isn't good, the inspector will let the contractor know that he cannot use that material.

Jesus has laid down a solid foundation. "On Christ the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand." I'm glad for the solid Foundation. I'm glad that I'm a part of the Church of God. I'm glad I have heard the truth of the gospel.

Steel, sand, gravel, and cement are used in the building of a foundation. Builders have to dig down to a certain depth to lay a foundation. Let me say, Jesus has already laid the foundation, and we as a people of God have to build on this Foundation. Even though the world is wanting to tear this Foundation down, to get rid of it, to eradicate it, it will still remain. The Bible says, "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."

We are living in a time, Church, when true worship is being torn down, and when we meet as a people of God to worship in the old-fashioned way, people will not come where we are because it is too old-fashioned. When I come to the house of God and hear the saints singing, "Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty," it does something to me. The beating of the instruments, and the songs you hear in some religious services turn you off at times. The foundation is being destroyed, but thank God, there is still a true Foundation. There is a solid Foundation; and as a people of God, we need to build upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20). The Edomites tried to destroy it

When Jesus met the woman at the well, He said, "Ye worship ye know not what. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." God needs true worshipers. God will not accept any and every type of worship. We have to be true worshipers. You know, when you look at people who say they are going to church to worship, it makes you wonder what and who are they going to worship. I'm glad God still has true worshipers. We might not have a house full of people, but God still has true worshipers. Every way of worship today is being accepted, and if you speak against the way some people worship, they get against you. Listen to me, God's church is under

Page 16 The Way of Truth

attack, and the problem is that with all these religious bodies, you would think our country would be better than it is. The things that some people accept today, we as the people of God have to "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1).

The blood is taken out of a lot of the messages. The Bible says, "Without shedding of blood is no remission." The only way you and I can be saved is by the way of the blood. When God delivered the people of Israel, He said to Moses, "Kill a lamb, and put the blood on the lintel of the door post of the houses, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you." The blood is being taken out of a lot of songs. It doesn't matter what they try to do, the blood is still there. The blood is still doing what it needs to do. There is power in the blood! A songwriter said: "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins; And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains." The blood will always be there.

Prayer has been taken out of schools. With prayer taken out of schools, what takes the place, and who takes over? The devil. Do you know why we are hearing about shootings at schools, and so much drugs and other things? Because they are trying to eradicate, to destroy the principles and the foundation on which the country was built upon. They don't want to hear about God. Let me say, God will always be God. It doesn't matter what the president or other ministers do, God will always be God. There will always be an almighty God. "I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6).

We are in trouble, Church. Our country is in trouble. Nations around the world are in trouble. Our world is in trouble because they are digging away at the Foundation, but God wants us to stay on this Foundation. Allow nothing or no one to take you off. Keep standing on the Foundation.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the cross; Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss: From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army shall He lead, Till every foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

Again, our text says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3). This Foundation that I'm talking about cannot be destroyed.

The foundation of marriage is being destroyed. Some want us to accept the gay life-style, and when we preach against it, do you know what they say about us? "They're hateful." They want us to accept it in our schools and in our churches. Some religions do accept it, but thank God for the Church of God. "Tis not in the church of Jesus that people yet live in sin; But in the dark creeds they're joining, And vainly are trusting in." God still has a pure, clean church. I'm glad I'm a part of her.

God has been against the gay lifestyle from the beginning. God is against the homosexual lifestyle. The Bible says, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death." The same goes for women with women. Also, "Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death." Do you know why God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah? It was

because of this wicked, wicked behavior. It's a wicked lifestyle. Two men cannot procreate. God ordained that a man and a woman should be together. When God made the world, He said, "Let there be," and it was done. Everything appeared, and the Bible says that God saw that it was good.

When God made Adam, He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone." So God put Adam to sleep and took a rib from his side and made him a helpmate. God didn't make another man for Adam. God made a woman and gave her unto him. That's the foundation. When Adam awoke he said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman." God hasn't changed the standard. He is still a holy God. God is against the homosexual lifestyle. They're trying to destroy the foundation of marriage. They're trying to do it. We are in trouble. We have a responsibility. You see, there are some people who do not see anything wrong. They're not for the gay lifestyle nor against it. I want to know where they stand. We cannot be silent when it comes to some things. Good principles are being destroyed.

We have something new now with the using of restrooms. It's OK for both sexes to use the same restroom. A lady said that if she goes into a ladies' restroom and sees a man inside, she's going to scream. If I see a lady using the men's restroom, I would scream, too. We are two different genders: male and female. Saints, what type of world are we living in? These are perilous times. The Bible says, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." These lifestyles are being accepted, even by religious groups who called themselves Christians, and by men who call themselves preachers. We have a responsibility as the people of God to show the difference. We must show that God is still holy. He still sits on His throne. He still sits high. Yes, we have the responsibility to shine the light, because Jesus is the light of the world.

If we talk about holiness, we are laughed at. People make light of it. They mock us, but the Bible says, "Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever" (Psalm 93:5). It doesn't matter how people try to belittle a life of holiness, or how they try to eradicate it, holiness will be holiness. Do you know it is good to live a holy life? Listen to what it says in I Peter 1:15: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." In all manner of living, we are able to live holy. Wherever you may go, be holy. You know, there are some people who are only holy when they're around you. Away from the people of God, they live a life that is not pleasing to God. "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation."

I love verse 16 of I Peter 1: "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." This is the Foundation because it is written. What I'm talking about isn't what Bro. Greg thinks, or what Bro. Terry or Bro. Alvin thinks, or any of these ministers here. It is what God said: "It is written." I stopped to look at that verse. Many times I've read it, and I didn't really stop to look at the clause, "Because it is written," Be ye holy; for I am holy." This is a requirement. Without holiness, no man shall see God. Some people say, "Do the best you can." It's more

than doing the best you can. It is living by the Word of God. Let me tell you something, I'm a Church of God saint wherever I go. Did you hear what I said? Everywhere Bro. Paul goes, you will see a Church of God man walking. Some people are only Church of God saints when they're at church.

Isaiah 35:8, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Those who love and obey God and loves holiness are those who fear Him. I'm glad that God has a standard. We need to build on the Foundation. Those who say, "Tear it down," the Foundation of God still standeth sure.

The Foundation is the starting point, the basis upon which we stand. To *destroy* means, in part, "to put an end to the existence of something by damaging or attacking it." Do you want to destroy the Church of God? No! You don't want to destroy the people of God. You don't want to destroy your reputation. Some people would like to put an end to us because we're preaching the truth. We're showing the people the error of their ways. They're trying to do away with Jesus. They're trying to destroy Him. Other meanings of the word *destroy* is: "to remove emotionally or spiritually; to wipe out; eliminate; to eradicate; to finish off; to erase." I'm glad that God is with us.

Matthew 16:13-15, "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?" A lot of people are following, but they really don't know who Jesus is. We have some people in our congregation who really don't know about the church. Jesus asked, "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter received a revelation. You have to get a revelation from God to know who God is, to know who Jesus is, and to know His church. You have to have a vision of the church. Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said, "You are right. Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Upon this rock [this foundation] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Thank God for the church triumphant! "Upon this rock [not upon Peter, but upon this truth and light] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Listen to me, Church of God, the gates of hell have been trying to destroy God's church, but Jesus said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Thank God! Even though they are trying to destroy the Foundation, Jesus said that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation by water and the Word:

From Heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride:

With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation [wherever you are from], Yet one o'er all the earth,

Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth; One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food, And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war, She waits the consummation of peace forevermore; Till, with the vision glorious, Her longing eyes are blest, And the great church victorious shall be the church at est.

There's another song called "The Church Has One Foundation." I like these verses—

Long with a scornful wonder
Men saw her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed.
Yet saints their watch were keeping
To hail a brighter day,
When God should stop their weeping,
Take their reproach away.

The evening sun is shining, The cloudy day is past; The time of their repining Is at an end at last. The voice of God is calling To unity again; Division walls are falling, With all the creeds of men.

II Timothy 2:19, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure [With all that is happening, God's foundation standeth sure.], having this seal [The seal of the Holy Spirit.], The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." When we sing "I am a child of God," we must sing it with an assurance that we are children of God.

I love Psalm 87:1, 2: "His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob." Christ loves the church. It is His bride. He only has one. Verse 3: "Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God." Church, all is not lost. God still has men and women who will stand for the truth and the right.

Revelation 22:18, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." Verse 19: "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Preachers are trying to make the Word of God a little easier for people. Again, God's Word is forever settled in heaven.

I remember many years ago when I went to Grand Cayman and meeting Sis. Evelyn Colberg. She preached a message, and in that message she said that in the Catholic religion, they're bringing bingo and rock music to keep the young people. She also said something that I've never forgotten: "If the Word of God cannot keep the young people, or the others in the congregation,

bingo and rock music cannot keep them." Many religions have been adding all types of activities to entertain people. We have the responsibility to still preach the Word of God; not only to preach it, but to live it so the world may see Christ through us. They will be able to see the difference in us and know that God still has a holy people in this world.

When the people sinned against God, Moses said, "Blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." God said to Moses, "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Some say that if you shake the preacher's hand, you can be a part of the church. They give a decision card to be signed. It doesn't go like that. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." That is a part of the foundation. To be a part of God's church, one has to be born again. You can join all other organizations, but when it comes to God's church, you have to be born again. Thank God for the born-again experience. Paul said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Haggai 2:3, "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?" Verse 9: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts." In this generation, Church of God, we need to be greater than the former house. God, help us! I want to see some miracles among us. I want to see souls running to the altar. Listen to what it says: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater."

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before! Christ, the royal Master, Leads against the foe: Forward into battle see his banners go.

Like a mighty army moves the church of God: Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod: We are not divided, All one body we, One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,

But the church of Jesus constant will remain; Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail; We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail.

Onward then, ye people, Join our happy throng, Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song, "Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King!" This thro' countless ages men and angels sing.

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before.

Psalm 11:3, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" May God help us to be all that He would have us to be, and we'll lift up the banner of holiness, and the standard of modesty. What has been happening to people is that they want a little of this, a little of that of this world, and soon they're not the church God wanted them to be. Remember the ancient landmark. Don't remove it.

God bless you. T

THE CHURCH

By the late Charles V. Weber

HERE is a great deal of confusion in the world about what the church is. There needs to be a positive declaration on this subject that will clarify the minds of the people. What a man believes is



hardly enough. We must go to the source of the church and base our belief on that. The church was built [is being] built by Christ, so what He says about it should be final authority. Men have had a great deal to say about the church, and it has largely served to increase the confusion and bring more division. We must go to a greater authority, and that is God's Word. The Bible does have something to say about the church. We will do well to consider this and obey it.

The church is made up of people who are redeemed. A redeemed person is one who has been put at peace with God, with himself, and with his fellowmen. As far as he is concerned, the war is over. The strife is over in his life. A redeemed man finds himself in fellowship with all other redeemed people. They are brothers and sisters. This is so, first, because they have the same Father, who is God. It is also a fact because being at peace with each other they find kindred interests and objectives. They are not one because they have decided to be, but because they are born of the same family and find themselves one by an experience with Christ.

Ephesians 2:18-22 reads, "Through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." This temple of God is the church, and the church is made up of the Christians of the world. This is a Bible fact—the membership of the church includes every Christian. Two serious mistakes have been made in this day regarding church membership. Requirements of membership have been both two broad and too narrow. They have been too broad because people have supposed that the church was made up of both saved men and sinners. As a result, there are on many church rolls a long list of people who have no connection with God. They may be associated with the church, but they are not a part of it. Second, they have been too narrow because most denominations have special requirements which must be met to be a member. Christians who have not met these rules are not members. They are barred out. Those are mistakes. No man can become a member of God's church except by regeneration through Christ. If you are not a converted man, you are not a member of the church. If you are a follower of Christ, you are a member of His church and you are my brother.

The time has come when Christian people should put the sin of sectarianism out of their lives. This age

demands a higher type of Christian living—a level above sectarianism.

Perhaps a third mistake that is being made is that responsibility of membership is placed on the organization. An official church roll is kept, and people depend upon the fact that their names are on a roll as a basis for their salvation. The fact is, God keeps a record of names, and responsibility is on the individual and his relationship with Christ. The present system of carrying a large membership, a great part of which is unconverted, has contributed to confusion and is detrimental to the evangelizing of the world. We must come back to the simple requirement of conversion.

In I Corinthians 12:12,13 we read, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized [inducted] into one body." When Christ was here on earth, He had a physical body. People looked on His face and saw His hands minister to the needs of the people. What they knew of Christ they learned by what they saw and what they heard as He worked and taught. His physical body became the vessel that revealed His personality. His body represented Him. The Spirit of Christ could not be seen except in the actions of the body.

One day Christ told His followers He was going away. He said it was best, because in His place He would send the Holy Spirit. His followers would become witnesses, or representatives, of Him after the Holy Spirit filled them. This came to pass, and the church became Christ's body on earth. It is His representation in the world.

The church must reveal Christ and His way. If it does not, then the world will die in ignorance of its Savior. Christ has but one body, it is the church. He has no hands but our hands to minister mercy and tenderness to crushed hearts.

In I Corinthians 1:12,13 we read, "Every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided?" We may well ask ourselves this question today. Christians are ignorantly helping divide the body of Christ. The world, looking at the church, does not see Christ as He is, because the real Christ is not divided. The world sees a divided body. It is no wonder that it is perplexed about religion.

The biggest sin in the nominal religious world is the sin of division. The biggest disgrace of modern Christendom is sectarianism. This generation did not bring it about. We inherited the sin of our fathers. We are not responsible for its beginning, but we are responsible for what we do about it. Must we go on victims of the sin of another age? This generation should rise up and put away this disgrace. Much is being said about getting rid of division, but little is being done about it. We must do something about it. We may not see division removed by one great act of transformation, but individual Christians can begin by acting now. ...

You do not need to join a church to become a Christian; you are born into the church when you become a Christian. You can worship in fellowship with other Christians without holding a party name fostering division. $\hat{\forall}$

—Reprinted from the book, *The Church*, c. 1946.

MISSIONARY PAGE

NIGERIAN CONVENTION REPORT

September 28-October 2, 2016, Benin City By Bro. Okereke Ogbonnaya

HE theme for convention was: "Lift Up Your Eyes, Look Unto the Fields." Scripture text: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Thank God for His faithfulness to us. Our dream of having foreign brethren came true this year. Bro. Herbert Kowalski and Bro. Jonathan Froese from Germany were with us. We appreciate the concerted efforts of Bro. Herbert Kowalski and the German brethren who sponsored the convention. The saints prayed and fasted and God gave us a fruitful convention.

The visit of Bro. Herbert and Bro. Jonathan included having our usual service on Sunday, September 25 at Okposi, in which Bro. Herbert spoke from Psalm 122, and the dedication of the new chapel at 2:00 P.M. there as well. This building came to realization through the efforts of the Hagerstown, Maryland, USA congregation, and the German brethren. Bro. Herbert's message for the dedication was taken from Genesis 28:16, 17—"This Is None Other but the House of God."

Monday through **Wednesday**, September 26-28, humble brethren took time to visit almost every home of the church members.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

10:00 A.M.—Bro. John Mosimbale, pastor of the Jikwoyi congregation, Abuja, preached on the theme. Text: John 4:31-38. Excerpts: "To have spiritual vision is to be focused. We must have an insight into spiritual things. We must have a burden for souls. Christ's will and meat is to finish His work."

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Patrick Fanama, pastor of the Alakija congregation, Lagos. Title: "Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven." Text: Matthew 6:19, 20; Revelation 1:2. Excerpts: "Christ wants us to lay up our treasures in heaven. On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were made ready for the work by the Holy Ghost."

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Bernard, pastor of the Porto-Novo congregation, Benin Republic. Title: "The Spirit of the Gospel." Text: John 4:33-35; II Kings 5:2-6. Excerpts: "The world is a vast field. The vastness indicates that we have a lot to do for God. Christ proved by example that the work of God's kingdom is more important than material things." Forty-nine came to the altar.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Jonathan Froese from the Hamm congregation, Germany. Title: "The Gospel of the Book of Colossians." Text: Colossians 1:21, 22. Excerpts: "God is holy and righteous. One should know the kind of God we serve. Christ arose from the dead that in everything He might have the preeminence. We are to seek the things from above and that is why we should lift up our eyes. We are to pray, for in prayer we have power."

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Oluwole Josiah, pastor of the Akure congregation. Title: "A Vision of God Assures a Successful Gospel Mission." Text: Isaiah 6:1-8. Excerpts: "You must be able to see for interaction to be made possible. God is high and lifted up. God is real and rules over us. It is a great privilege to have the revelation of God. If you see God today, you will die, die to sin and alive to righteousness." One hundred and twenty-five came to the altar.

7:00 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Herbert Kowalski, pastor of the Hamm congregation, Germany. Title: "The Flood and How to Escape the Judgment." He read the story about the sinking of the Titanic to serve as a warning to all. Excerpts: "The ship was the pride of Britain. The maker boasted that not even God could sink the ship. We know some of you were affected by the flood here in 2012. I want to remind you of Jonah and Noah. In the time of Noah, people were eating and drinking. The work of the Spirit is to teach or show us what to do."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

10:00 A.M.—Speaker: Bro. Herbert Kowalski. Title: "Blow the Trumpet in Zion." Text: Joel 2:1. Excerpts: "When the trumpet sounds, there will be no time to pray, no time to do anything. Zion is a city of David. It was built about 1,000 years before Christ was born. When we talk about Zion or Jerusalem, we are talking about the Church of God, the heavenly Jerusalem. The redeemed make up the church."

2:30 P.M.—Speaker: Bro. Jean Hessou, pastor at Hegou-Tame, Benin Republic. Title: "The Testimony Givers." Excerpts: "John the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ. He testified about Christ, and told the people the need of their straightening out their lives."

7:00 P.M.—A Question and Answer Service. Four answered the questions to the satisfaction of all.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

10:00 A.M.—Five of the saints taught the Sunday school lesson in different languages in various classes. The service following included a number of testimonies. Speaker: Bro. Okereke Ogbonnaya. Title: "The Need of Spiritual Vision—Lift Up Your Eyes." Text: John 4:34-36. Excerpts: "Christ made the statement in our text to encourage His disciples to have a clear vision of the fields. Isaiah's threefold vision: He saw a vision of God; a vision of himself; a vision of the fields. The sharp sickle is the Word of God."

2:30 P.M.—No service.

7:00 P.M.—Communion Service in which 205 saints took part. Bro. Mosimabale officiated. $\mbox{$^\circ$}$

Radio Log

The Way of Truth Broadcast

Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

Check the following listing to find a station near you that airs the truth and then tune in!

(Aired on Sundays unless otherwise noted.)

Alabama, Mobile, WIJD 1270, AM & 97.9 FM 6:00 A.M.

5,000 Watts—Heard in part of AL, and MS

Arkansas, No. Little Rock, KMTL 760, 10:30 A.M. 10,000 Watts—Heard in part of AR, MO, TN, MS and LA Listen live—Go to www.kmtl760am.com

Georgia, Augusta, WFAM 1050, 8:00 P.M. Wednesday &11:30 A.M. Sun. 5,000 Watts—Heard in part of GA and SC

Illinois, Carmi, WROY 1460, 9:00 A.M. 1,000 Watts—Heard in part of IL and IN

Kentucky, Prestonsburg, WDOC 1310, 7:30 A.M. 5,000 Watts—Heard in part of KY, WV and VA

Louisiana, Ball, KWDF 840 & 99.7 FM, 9:00 A.M. 10,000 Watts—Heard in part of TX, AR, MS and LA

North Carolina, Mooresville, WHIP 1350, 6:30 A.M. Sat.

1,000 Watts—Heard in part of NC

Listen live—tunein.com/radio/whip-1350-s29320/

Oklahoma, Marlow, KFXI-FM 92.1, 7:00 A.M. 100,000 Watts—Heard in part of OK and TX

Oklahoma, Sulphur, KFXT-FM 90.7, 8:30 A.M. 7,000 Watts—Heard in part of OK

Pennsylvania, Altoona, WFBG 1290, 9:00 A.M. 5,000 Watts—Heard in part of PA and MD

Pennsylvania, Martinsburg, WJSM 1110, 11:03 A.M.

1,000 Watts—Heard in part of PA *Listen live—Go to www.wjsm.com* **Pennsylvania**, Martinsburg, WJSM-FM 92.7, 11:03 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

1,460 Watts—Heard in part of PA *Listen live—Go to www.wjsm.com*

Tennessee, Chattanooga, WJOC 1490, 9:00 A.M. Sun. & 5:00 P.M. Sat. 1,000 Watts—Heard in part of TN, GA and AL *Listen live—Go to www.wjoc.com*

Virginia, Blacksburg, WKNV 890, 8:00 A.M. 10,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA, WV and NC

Virginia, Lynchburg, WKPA 1390, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun. 4,700 Watts—Heard in part of VA

Virginia, Lynchburg, WKPA-FM 106.7, 1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun. 250 Watts—Heard in part of VA

Virginia, Roanoke, WKBA 1550,1:30 P.M. Fri., 5:30 P.M. Sat. & 6:00 A.M. Sun. 10,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA and WV

Listen live—Go to www.wkbaradio.com

Virginia, Smithfield, WKGM 940, 6:30 A.M. 10,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA and NC

West Virginia, Summersville, WCWV 92.9, 8:30 A.M. 50,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA and WV

INTERNATIONAL

PHILIPPINES, Malaybalay, Valencia, Bukidnon, Mindanao DXWS-105.3 FM, Saturdays at 1:30 P.M. & Sundays at 2:30 P.M.

PHILIPPINES, Baguio, Luzon, DZBS-1368 AM, Saturday 7:30 A.M. Heard throughout central Luzon

JAMAICA, MELLO-FM, 88.1, 88.3, 88.5, 7:00 A.M. Sundays Heard throughout Jamaica; Listen live—Go to www.mellofmjamaica.com

SHORTWAVE

WWCR, Nashville, Tennessee 4.840 on SW band Sunday, 7:30 A.M. Eastern Time—12:30 G.M.T.

Listen live—Go to www.wwcr.com

WINB, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 9.320 on SW band Friday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time, Saturday, 9:30 P.M. Eastern Time—2:30 G.M.T. *Listen live—Go to www.winb.com*

LOCAL PHILIPPINE BROADCAST

PHILIPPINES, Sariaya, Quezon DZNG 107.7-FM 3:00 P.M. Sunday Listen live—Go to www.radyokaisahanary.ustream.tv

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REMINDER TO OUR READERS

We DO NOT publish, produce nor send out the following: The Holy Bible (Old and New Testaments)

Bible concordances, dictionaries, atlases, commentaries, pictures, calendars etc., nor offer correspondence courses

 $Hymnals \ nor \ other \ religious \ songs$

Names of persons for pen pal correspondence

Cassettes or CD's unless paid for in advance in US currency

Videos, cassette tape and video recorders

Scholarships for the training of students in the United States or any other country

Financial support for individuals

Tracts to foreign countries due to high postage rates

We want to hear from you but keep this in mind.

COMING MEETINGS

2017 JAMAICA CONVENTION

Cornwall Mountain, Westmoreland February 28-March 5, 2017, Lord willing Sis. Ruth Cummings, Host Pastor

2017 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

12819 Point Salem Rd.
Hagerstown, Maryland U.S.A.
July 4-9, 2017, Lord willing
Bro. Alvin A. Craig, Host Pastor

