

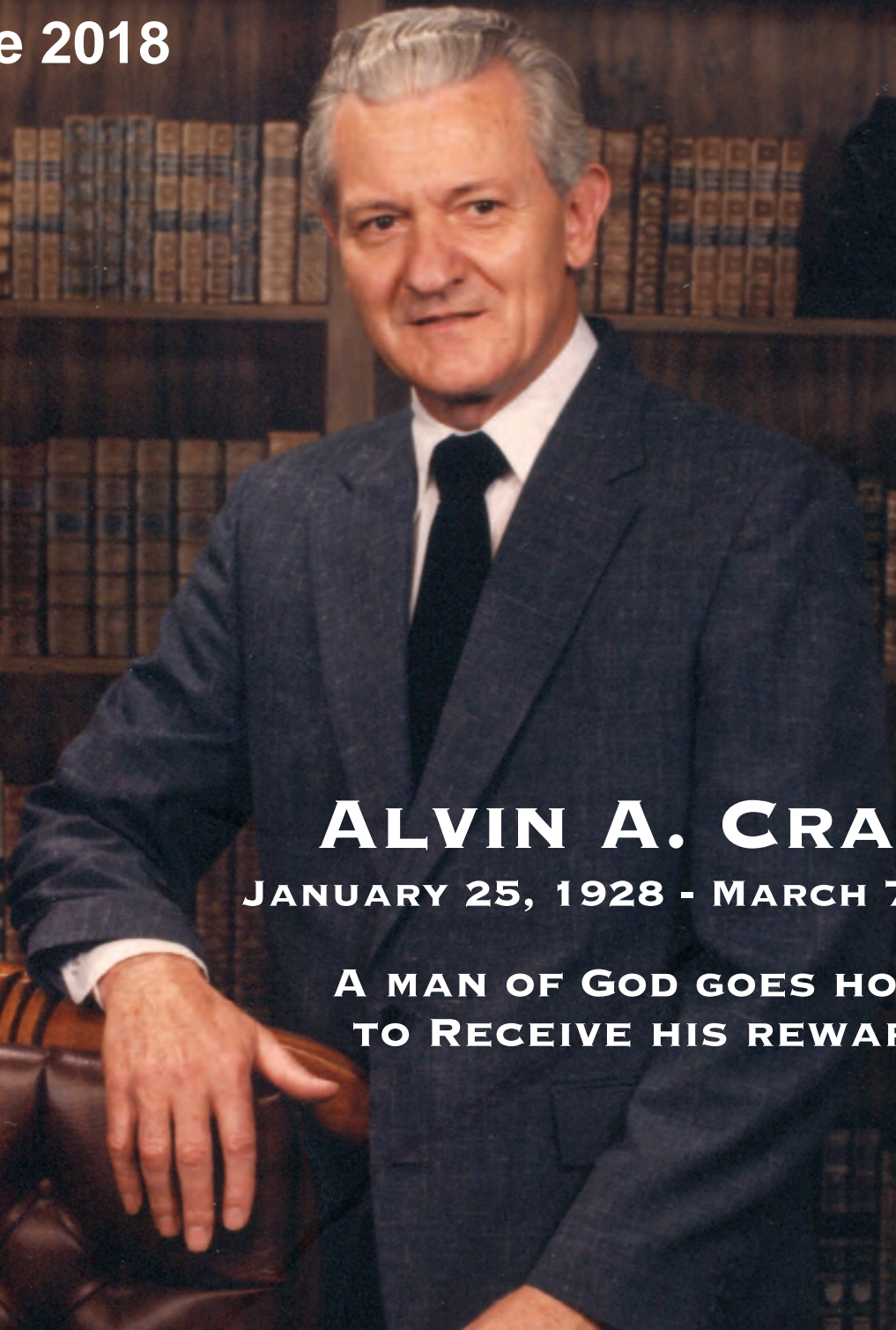
The Way of Truth

Vol. 76

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

No. 6

June 2018



ALVIN A. CRAIG

JANUARY 25, 1928 - MARCH 7, 2018

**A MAN OF GOD GOES HOME
TO RECEIVE HIS REWARD**

IN THIS, my first editorial since becoming editor, I want to talk about a man. Men have come and gone since the beginning of time. Some leave their mark on generations that follow, most men do not. The reality is most men concern themselves with the beggarly elements of this world, following the dictates of society, blending in with the masses. Even the wealthy and famous often waste their lives on self-aggrandizement, leaving themselves void of satisfaction or purpose, and leaving their posterity with nothing but “things.”

There are a few, however, who make a difference with their contemporaries and leave behind a beautiful legacy that influences lives long after their journey here is completed. Many a godly individual would qualify for that description. The one I want to focus on here is the recently deceased former editor of this periodical, Bro. Alvin A. Craig.

First, let me say that “Bro. Alvin,” as he was affectionately known by those of us who knew him best, was just a man. In this issue, you will find intermingled some tributes to the former editor. We are not exalting him above measure—he was a humble man. We are simply expressing our appreciation for this special man of God—and rightly so! As the Scriptures teach, “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine” (I Timothy 5:17). Bro. Alvin labored in the Word and doctrine for more than 70 years!

Born Alvin Andrew Craig, on January 25, 1928, he was the tenth of eleven children of Major and Dovey Craig. His father was a crop farmer and a Church of God preacher. He grew up in relative poverty in the hills of North Carolina. But there was love in the family and a foundation of the Bible. As a teenager, Alvin rebelled against the teaching of his upbringing and followed the pathway of sin. On August 17, 1945, he gave his heart to the Lord and was saved at Ivy Ridge Campground in western North Carolina. So, at the tender age of 17, Bro. Alvin Craig began his life-long dedication to the cause of Christ.

In his own words, Bro. Alvin tells of his conversion: “It [the Ivy Ridge tent meeting] was advertised in the August 1, 1945, *Way of Truth* paper. I went along with my folks to this meeting. Brother P. C. Stuart preached the night I am going to tell you about. I couldn’t tell you what he preached on. I was standing toward the back of the tent. The song leader stepped down off the little platform and headed back towards me. I said to the person standing next to me, “I bet he’s coming back here to talk to me.” I had no intention of getting saved at that time. Sure enough, here he came and spoke to me. I could not tell you what he said, but it wasn’t very many words, till I found myself out in the aisle, headed down to the little bench they had up front using as an altar. I knelt there and asked the Lord to forgive me of my sins. Friday, August 17, 1945, I was saved. Sunday morning, the 19th, I was back to the altar to be sanctified. That afternoon I was baptized in a stream not far from the tent. We left to come home on Monday, the camp meeting was over.”

Bro. Alvin came to Hagerstown, Maryland, in January 1947, and began to work in the pressroom of *The Way of Truth*. A few weeks later, he traveled to help with the construction of the new Manassas campground. After marrying Wanda Marquiss in July, Bro. Alvin worked full-time in the print work until March 1979 when he became pastor of the Hagerstown congregation and assumed the duties of editor of this magazine. He was ordained in 1952 (the year I was born). He traveled as an evangelist through the years, preaching in various countries around the world. As you will see through the tributes which follow, Bro. Alvin was much loved throughout the world.

Bro. Alvin had a keen interest in the radio ministry and his voice proclaimed the Word of God over the airways for more than 60 years—and still does to this very day by way of recording. He pastored in Hagerstown for 39 years until the Lord called him home on March 7, 2018. As pastor, evangelist, radio minister, editor, and friend, Bro. Alvin influenced so many for righteousness, and I believe many are safely in heaven, in part, because of his yielding to the Lord in his youth and remaining true to Him all through his life.

Personally, I cannot overstate his influence on my life. I first met Bro. Alvin at a service I attended in April 1971 because he was the uncle of the fine young lady who invited me to come. When I met Ellen Craig in March, she caught my attention because she was so different. But when she invited me to the Church of God, I was stubborn and refused. Finally, I consented on a Wednesday night and the Spirit convicted me. I was mad and uncomfortable. I wanted to punch the preacher right in the nose! But, because of Ellen, her father, Ollen Craig, and the loving spirit of her mother, Stutzie, I came back to church where the Spirit of God continued to deal with me. Then on May 16, 1971, I made my way to an altar of prayer where I was gloriously saved. Bro. Alvin performed the ceremony as Ellen and I were married in July 1972. God blessed our union with seven children.

But this editorial is not about me—it’s about Bro. Alvin and his influence on me. I’m leading up to that. I had a good job at a local manufacturing plant. But I was not satisfied. God was calling me to a life of service in His vineyard. In June 1974, I went to work full-time in the pressroom of *The Way of Truth*. Of course sacrifice was necessary, but I was doing what God wanted me to do. There I had the privilege of laboring with Bro. Alvin every day. What a blessing! He was my mentor and teacher. He taught me, not only through word, but by his example. From June ’74 to March ’79, when he became pastor, I had his daily influence on me. He then made me manager of the publication. Bro. Alvin became editor and pastor. He invited me to accompany him to Jamaica in September ’74, the first of many

ABOUT THE COVER

The former editor, Bro. Alvin A. Craig, passed from this life on March 7, 2018. He became editor in 1979, spanning 39 years as editor and pastor of the Hagerstown congregation of the Church of God. In this issue are numerous tributes to this man of God. These words fall short of the esteem and respect he had earned from those who knew him. He will be greatly missed, but his memory will be with us always.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)

Vol. 76 June 2018 No. 6

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.

Published the fifteenth of the month prior to the date of issue by the Church of God which assembles at 12819 Point Salem Road in Hagerstown, Maryland. Publishing office: 12811 Point Salem Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

The Way of Truth is published without any given subscription price, and is supported by freewill offerings from our readers and funds supplied by the local congregation. It is sent out free to anyone who is interested enough to ask for it. We shall continue this policy as long as God sees fit to make it possible. FOREIGN READERS are requested to write us at least once a year if they wish to continue receiving the paper the following year. Address all correspondence to: The Way of Truth, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741, U.S.A. Always when writing, give your name and address clearly, please.

—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

Our telephone number is 301-739-2980

Our fax number is 301-739-7173

Our e-mail address is truth@fred.net

Visit our website at www.wayoftruth.org

international trips we made together. He made it possible for Ellen and I to accompany him to Israel and Greece in 1985.

We labored together in this gospel work through thick and thin for more than 43 years. No person influenced my spiritual life more than he did. Not only did Bro. Alvin preach the truth, he lived the life. I believe he was a true man of God. His passing is a big loss. He has gone the way of all flesh. I believe I will miss him more than anyone. When I needed counsel, Bro. Alvin was there. When I needed prayer, I could count on him. Now this soldier of the cross is gone.

But the gospel must go on. The truth must march on. This magazine must continue to proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the message of the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. I am committed to this truth. Pray that we will carry on without a hiccup. He will never be forgotten by those of us who knew him. Coming generations will be acquainted with him as his messages and teaching will be reprinted from time to time. The influence of Bro. Alvin A. Craig's life encouraging us all to please almighty God in all things will continue to bear fruit until time is no more. †

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

—Revelation 14:13.

OUR SERVICES ON CD'S

CD's of our services are available for purchase. These are \$3.00 each; however, orders of 10 or more are only \$2.50 each, postage paid. Please write in the blank how many you would like to receive. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

- ___ CD #886 Valuing Differences—Doug Shenberger
- ___ CD #887 The Saints in Light—Rebecca Bland
- ___ CD #888 Justification—G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #889 Combating Evil—Brian Richards
- ___ CD #890 Sanctification—G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #891 The Kingdom of God—Paul Wilson
- ___ CD #892 I Shall Be with Thee—Harley McClung
- ___ CD #893 The Responsibilities of a Pastor—G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #894 The Parable of the Five Talents—Doug Shenberger
- ___ CD #895 So Send I You—G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #896 Having a Mind to Work—Brian Richards
- ___ CD #897 God Is Able—Paul Wilson
- ___ CD #904 The Challenge of the Cross—Young People
- ___ CD #905 Where Do We Go from Here?—G. E. Tyler
- ___ CD #906 Lessons from the Life of Daniel—Rebecca Bland
- ___ CD #907 The Wrath of God—Doug Shenberger
- ___ CD #908 Where Is Man Going—Brian Richards
- ___ CD #909 Weeds—Ladies' Day
- ___ CD #910 The Established Christian—Thomas Harris

IN THIS ISSUE:

Tributes to the late Alvin A. Craig	Page 2
<i>From Cayman Islands, Kenya & West Virginia</i>	
Our Journey to the Other Side	Page 4
<i>Revival message by Terry Deville</i>	
Young People's Page	Page 8
<i>Part 2 of, "The Greatest Thing in the World"</i>	
Fatherhood—God's Plan	Page 10
<i>Radio message by G. E. Tyler</i>	
The Poetry Page	Page 12
<i>Honoring our fathers</i>	
An Open Letter	Page 13
<i>Subject: "Unity," by Darrell Sanford</i>	
The Question Box	Page 14
<i>Our monthly feature</i>	
The Facts of God's Healing Power	Page 16
<i>Divine Healing message by David Shaw</i>	
The Children's Corner	Page 19
<i>"Bury Your Cows!," by Rebecca Bland</i>	
More Tributes to Bro. Alvin Craig	Page 20
<i>Honoring the memory of the late editor</i>	
Radio Log	Page 21
<i>Stations airing "The Way of Truth Broadcast"</i>	

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ALVIN A. CRAIG

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BRO. ALVIN CRAIG FROM THE CHURCH OF GOD (UNIVERSAL) IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

When the news of Bro. Alvin's passing reached the shores of the Cayman Islands, a deep sense of sadness and loss settled over the entire congregations of the Church of God (Universal) in the Cayman Islands, as well as many others in our relatively small community. Bro. Alvin's dedicated Christian life is widely known and has touched the lives of so many in our country, either directly or indirectly.

Bro. Alvin's long-lasting and close connection with the church spanned some 65 years. His first trip to the church in the Cayman Islands was in 1951, and his last trip was in 2016. During his 65 years of dedicated service to God and the church, he made an estimated total of at least 130 trips as the evangelist at church conventions and revivals, during which span of time he preached every night without fail. It is significant to note that there were many persons, both deceased and still living, who were converted as a result of Bro. Alvin's ministry. His first and last international trips preaching pure biblical truths were to and from the Cayman Islands. Bro. Alvin's humble, selfless sacrificial service to God has left an indelible impression on the hearts and lives of the church in the Cayman Islands.

There can be no doubt that the church and the Cayman Islands held a special place in Bro. Alvin's heart. The gratitude, love, esteem, and respect by which Bro. Alvin was held by the church and the Caymanian people were immeasurable.

Bro. Alvin's boundless energy, his unmatched knowledge of the Bible, his unwavering and uncompromising stand for the Church of God, made him not just another visiting evangelist from the U.S., but to all of us he was also our teacher, preacher, mentor, and guide.

Bro. Alvin's dedicated Christian life most certainly stands as a testament to the saving and keeping power of God, and proof that young people, who commit their lives to God, can safely and surely follow in his footsteps, and make a marked difference in this time world and in the life to come.

The Church of God (Universal) in the Cayman Islands share in his sad loss. May the remembrance of the life of our dear departed Bro. Alvin never fade from our memory. †

—Bro. James Arch and congregations at
George Town and East End, Grand Cayman

VIEW OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE!

As many of our readers know, we can be found on the internet at www.wayoftruth.org

where in addition to reading past issues and other information, you can view our general services every Sunday LIVE at 10:40 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. E.S.T. Enjoy Spirit-filled singing and preaching. Also, our mid-week service at 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays is aired live.

EXCERPTS FROM THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

By Bro. Harley McClung,
Pastor of the Church of God, Craigsville, WV

What can be said about Bro. Alvin that properly describes him, or his life? I trust that what I have to say won't sound like too high of an honor, or too much praise. For me, I do not believe I'll overstate the worth of his life. The Scriptures teach us to give honor where honor is due. Bro. Alvin is due a great deal of honor. His entire Christian life was given to God's glory and helping others make heaven their eternal home. What can be said of a man who helped people see what Jesus said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"? Through his ministry many souls have found Jesus as their Savior. Therefore, what words would overstate or adequately describe his life's value and worth? His ministry and influence have affected people around the world. No, I didn't look upon him as a god, but I did look on him as a godly man, undeniably.

Jeremiah said: "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth."

In our day and time, there was a man "found"; Bro. Alvin Craig, a man of rare quality, the very statue of integrity, the true example of a saved and sanctified Christian. Bro. Alvin was a saint in every sense of the word, an imitator of the ideal man, "the man, Jesus Christ."

There have been men of great stature down through time, notably: Noah, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Peter, Paul, D. S. Warner, etc., of which Bro. Alvin would not have wanted to be compared; he was humble, but in this era, our day and time, there's been none greater than he.

No, he was not without fault, and he never claimed to be. But, he was a pillar of, and for truth; he stood on the very ground Jesus placed him. He was true to his calling and God honored him with power and a heavenly anointing. He was rooted, grounded, and was never swayed by winds of false doctrine. He was a defender of the truth God revealed to him through much study and prayer. Yes, he studied scripture, he was approved of God to present it, he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and he knew it to be the power of God unto salvation. He fought in truth and for truth in the face of adversity, while never blinking or compromising. Bro. Alvin was a confident speaker, and he was confident that what he preached was God-given; therefore, he preached with confidence.

Bro. Alvin was a man of unquestionable character, not that he never made a mistake, he did, but when mistaken he quickly made amends. He was a man too great to stoop to lascivious thoughts, words, and acts. He could look every person squarely in the eyes with a clear conscience. He was a man that you could trust your wife or daughter with. He was not above temptation, but possessed nobility that prevented him from spending time arguing over trivial matters.

He was a preacher of God's Word and righteousness, issuing warnings when God directed him to do so. He did not blame, censure, or find fault. He did not preach at people. He preached to people the positive message of hope. Yet, he didn't preach to tickle ears, or for the glory of men. He preached to people for the well-being of their souls. He was a preacher's preacher!

Bro. Alvin took the Word of God to heart; he lived it, he breathed it, and he preached it with conviction. He was considered by some as being blunt and unapproachable, but I never found him to be so. He was easily entreated, listening and considering other's points of view, but he was quick to give Bible correction.

He was a praying man, an actual prayer warrior, and prayed for everyone from time to time, especially the sick, those going through trials, and the unsaved. He prayed faithfully for the regular services here in Hagerstown, for special services, such as conventions, revivals, etc. I'm convinced God answered his prayers, for we witnessed, through the years, spiritual harmony and the working together of brethren that is accomplished only through God's leadership.

Bro. Alvin was a skilled leader, knowing how to direct with his God-given gift of wisdom. The Spirit led him to accomplish victorious outcome in minister's meetings time and again. He could conduct group discussions, question and answer sessions with wisdom. I have marveled how he could answer so many questions with such simplicity and correctness.

Yet, Bro. Alvin was not a boastful man, nor did he seek preeminence, fame, prestige, or to be recognized as a general overseer. He never gave way to jealousy, pride or envy. He was spiritually alive. Therefore, God used him to be a pastor after God's own heart.

Jeremiah said of God, "I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

Bro. Alvin was a God-given pastor, the kind that God wants that feeds us on heavenly manna. He didn't always preach with words. He preached with, and by, the example he lived. He walked the talk, he practiced the preach. He understood that what he presented to others he must taste first, as Paul said in II Timothy 2:6: "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits."

He was a magnanimous preacher with a loving heart and graceful attitude. He walked worthy of the vocation God called him to.

Paul said in Ephesians 4:1-3, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

God's commandment is, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Bro. Alvin pastored as a true watchman on the wall, blowing the trumpet, issuing warnings, instructing soldiers, caring for the weak, and helping the lost to find their way to Jesus' light. And he did this in all lowliness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, love, and in the bond of peace.

Bro. Alvin was a sensitive man but not overly sensitive. Yes, some things agitated him, even disturbed him. It was due, almost always, to someone speaking against truth, or against one of his brethren.

He was faithful to support other congregations, even small ones; going when and wherever he was invited. He held many revivals, one of which I was saved in; so, as you may detect, there is a special place in my heart for this great man of God.

I've known Bro. Alvin since my childhood. Back then I didn't like or appreciate his preaching. But, thank God, I now see its great worth.

I was privileged, even honored, to travel with him on some foreign missions: Jamaica, Honduras, Philipines, Cayman, and Kenya. Judith and I traveled with him twice to Israel, learning that he knew more about Israel and its history than our Israeli tour guide did.

Bro. Alvin was not a light-hearted man; he was stern and right to the point, but never condescending. His knowledge and God-given wisdom was a magnet that pulled me and others to seek his counsel and advice. He never disappointed me, even when I needed correction. He was my mentor, teacher, and go-to person. I called him often because he was my friend, a friend I will sorely miss. I could count on him to give a truthful answer; he taught me, edified, and encouraged me. I could unburden my heart to him with full assurance that he would never betray me. Therefore, I esteemed him, I loved him as the dear brother he was.

What can be said about Bro. Alvin? He was ardent, vigilant, determined, committed, and zealous. He loved Jesus with his whole heart. He never sought temporal riches but was an avid pursuer of the Pearl of great price. His work for the Lord started when he was young and ended only when he could do no more. This, my friends, is Bro. Alvin's legacy.

Our tears have flowed. We already miss him, and no longer can we seek his counsel or leadership. But we have a strong consolation that he is now with Jesus, seeing his Lord just as He is, and we know that our Bro. Alvin is like Him.

He ended his life with a testimony, akin to Paul's. Bro. Alvin was ready to depart. He did fight a good fight, he finished his course, he kept the faith, and now he's wearing his crown of righteousness.

At judgment, if not sooner, Bro. Alvin will hear the Righteous Judge say: "Well done, My good and faithful servant."

We all will do well to follow him! †

Dear Bro. Greg and the Hagerstown congregation,

On behalf of the Church of God in Kenya—The Ground of Truth—I send you our condolences, as we have learned about the passing of Bro. Alvin. Your sadness is also our sadness.

We wish you all comfort from God our Father, and from His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and yours.

Our hearts are humbled by the passing of our late beloved Bro. Alvin.

God's grace be yours.

—Bro. Joshua Benjamin, Kenya

HAGERSTOWN SPRING REVIVAL

April 3-8, 2018

We certainly do give the Lord much thanks for the blessings we received during our Spring Revival with Bro. Terry Deville from Deville, Louisiana. We were glad to have had both he and his wife, Sis. Carol, with us during these services.

Bro. Terry was indeed inspired and brought Spirit-filled messages. We were encouraged to “keep fighting the good fight of faith” as we continue our journey with the Lord.

Below are the titles of the messages and other information for ordering:

We have available CD's of our Spring Revival. These include singing and messages. Price \$3.00 each. Complete set \$15 postpaid. Please put a check mark in the blank by those you would like to purchase. Send check or money order to: The Way of Truth, CD Ministry, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

- ☐ CD #898 The Salvation Which Is in Christ Jesus
- ☐ CD #899 What Is Good?
- ☐ CD #900 Our Journey to the Other Side
- ☐ CD #901 Love
- ☐ CD #902 For Every Effect, There Is a Cause
- ☐ CD #903 The Great Need for God

Our Journey to the Other Side

**2018 Spring Revival Message
by Bro. Terry Deville**

WE SAY this every time we come to church: “It’s good to be here,” but it’s because we mean it. I’m glad to be in the house of prayer again tonight.

The song service has been very, very good. I appreciate the Spirit we have felt in the services each night.

I’m thankful to be a child of God. He’s still God, whether we’re young, middle-aged, or old. I’ve felt Him here with us. I like it when I can raise my hand and feel His presence. I wouldn’t trade the sweet fellowship of God for anything else.

One of the reasons the Lord wants us to come to services is to meet us there. The Bible does say, “... and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” I believe He meets with us in a greater sense when we come together in His name. I’ve come to worship and to commune with Him. When I come, I feel connected to God. I’ve already been blessed. I hope you have, too, as well.



This message will probably be a little different than usual. It will be more like a teaching message, but I don’t question the Lord. Whatever He lays on my heart, I have a responsibility to bring it to you.

You can turn in your Bibles, if you’d like to, to the gospel of Mark, chapter 6. First, let me give a quick background here: We have to put the Gospels together on these different occasions to get the full story. What had happened was, they had heard that John the Baptist had been beheaded by King Herod, and Jesus wanted to get away with His disciples for a little rest. Jesus needed to have a little rest as well, just like everyone else. I’m going to start reading from verse 31: “And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately [I try to visualize this story, too. Remember, this really happened.]. And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him [What a sight that must have been!]. And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things. And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat. He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. And they did all eat, and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men [In another Gospel, it says, ‘besides women and children.’]. And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.”

LIFE HAS ALL KINDS OF EXPERIENCES

I’d like to entitle this message: “Our Journey to the Other Side.” Of course, this is taken in two contexts: *the major journey that we’re living that ends at the other side in one place or another*; but what the Lord has laid on my heart is, talking about *experiences that we all have differing one from another—all have a beginning, a duration, then all have an end*. Some are good, some bad; some are sweet, some bitter.

Life is full of all kinds of experiences that we all experience. In Psalm 37, you will find a verse that’s really encouraging to the people of God. I will read it in a few minutes. What it is saying in Psalm 37 is: no

The Way of Truth

matter our situations, no matter our duration of the trials, the troubles, or the problems, good or bad, if God is in control of our lives, we have His Word. We have His power behind His Word that no matter how much the storm rages, the Lord is going to bring us out on the other side. Do you believe that tonight?

Listen, there have been some battles everywhere. There have been some good and bad experiences. Some have made you happy, and some have made you sad, but life calls for us to go through all these experiences. The comfort I take is, when I know I have willingly submitted myself to Jesus as my Lord and Master, then my steps are ordered by the Lord; and even if I stumble and fall flat on my face, He will not throw me aside. He will lift me up. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord" (Psalm 37:23). So, no matter the storm or the situation, as long as God is in control, we can count on Him to bring us safely out on the other side.

In this example that we're going to get into, I want you to notice some things. After this great miracle of about 5,000 men who were fed with five loaves and two fishes, twelve baskets full of the fragments were left over. I will have to say, that was a happy and a blessed time, wouldn't you? Then Jesus "constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and go to the other side," but He didn't go with them. Do you remember where He went? "And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray." The Bible says as He was up there praying and the evening had come, He saw the ship the disciples were in. The waves and the wind were contrary to their ship.

WEARINESS IN A CONTRARY WIND

Have you ever been in anything that was contrary to you, anything that tried to hold you back and keep you from going forward? Listen, Dear Ones, this was a major storm upon the Sea of Galilee. I've been there once. The storms come up quickly, and the wind rages so much that it's almost impossible to imagine. Let me read it than to try to bring it to you from memory. Verses 47 and 48 of Mark 6: "And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them." So again, here they are. Jesus had told them to go to the other side, didn't He?

Have you ever been in a trial and seemingly heard a voice saying, "Why don't you pick up the oars for a little while"? Yes, saints get weary. We get tired. The battle gets hard. Well, what the disciples were in was contrary to their best efforts. Whatever they were doing, they could hardly make any headway against the wind. It was contrary to them. Can you all relate that to anything that you've experienced in your Christian life? Well, of course, you can; but if you're a Christian, here's what Jesus wants you to know. He was not in the boat with them, but He saw them from the mountain where He was praying. The Bible says that as they were toiling in rowing, Jesus saw them. Let me read Mark 6:48 again: "And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them." Verse 49: "But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out."

In the most unexpected way, who has ever heard of someone walking on water? Here the disciples were in a storm, and Jesus was not with them. It was pretty tough for the disciples. The wind and the waves were raging. Someone may have mentioned, "Maybe we should turn around and go back to where Jesus is." But, that's not what Jesus told them, is it? Dear Ones, when these storms—trials—problems come, and they come often, let's do what Jesus said. Let's make sure we don't lift up the oars and start going back. He constrained (compelled) the disciples: "You go to the other side. I don't care how it looks; you keep pressing, keep pressing to the other side." Even though the thought of turning around and going back might have come to them, they remembered that Jesus compelled them to keep going.

In their struggling, all of a sudden the disciples saw a figure walking on the water. Now, this water wasn't calm. The wind and the waves were raging. No doubt because of the stress they were under, and fighting against the wind, it seemed to them that they were going to sink. They didn't know who the figure was until Jesus said, "Little Children, be not afraid; it is Me."

THIS SAME JESUS WATCHES OVER US

Saints, the same Jesus who walked on the water, who came so unexpectedly to His disciples, is watching us all tonight. Do you believe that? When the storms are raging and are contrary to our lives, and the devil is trying to get us to lift up our oars, to turn around and go back, remember, Jesus said, "Keep going, because no matter how bad the storms are, and the battles you're going through, I'm watching you." Aren't you glad you didn't go back? Again, they saw this figure, and it frightened them because it was so unexpected. I've had God to work in my life in unexpected ways, it's a marvel; but all things are possible with our God, Dear Ones. When Jesus spoke, "Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid," that changed the whole situation.

Do you remember what happened next? Peter was so beside himself when he heard the Lord's voice. Do you know many times Peter got himself into trouble because he was impulsive? But, when he heard the voice of the Lord this time, his impulsiveness was not in the wrong place. He said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water." And the Lord said, "Come." Are you all able to visualize this tonight? Peter got out of the ship and began to walk on the water to go to Jesus. Who has ever heard of such a thing? Do you believe this? Do you know people make fun of us for believing this? They can make all the fun they want to. I know it happened. So, here's Peter walking on the water towards Jesus, and Jesus called out to him, "Come." Everything was going well and perfect. Then all of a sudden, no doubt, a great wave came rushing by, and no doubt a great burst of wind went by. Peter did something that we all do from time to time. He took his eyes off the Lord.

This is no time for us to take our eyes off the Lord. We're living in perilous times, Dear Ones. We're living in critical times. It has befallen us, a little remnant, to keep the Old Ship of Zion going. I hope you feel this burden tonight. The Lord is depending on all of us to keep going, no matter how contrary this world is to us.

It's contrary to us! I'm hearing and seeing things that are taking place that's even unimaginable. One of the reasons is because of the conditions in the world of all these spirits that have come out of the bottomless pit of hell. These spirits are fighting against and influencing every person upon the face of the earth. I don't have time to preach about them all tonight; but there has been a release out of the bottomless pit—locusts out of the smoke, and the smoke is hiding the sun. In other words, people are confused. They don't know what to do. They can't seem to get an understanding. "What do I do?" If you have a vision, you better keep it. I can't help if the smoke is hiding the sun, we know the sun is still shining. The locusts that came out of the smoke represented all kinds of evil spirits. They were turned loose upon the whole world. This is found in Revelation, chapter nine.

GOD IS COUNTING ON US

Here is the heart of my message: God is counting on us, the little remnant, to hold this together until Christ sees the time to turn it around, or until He calls us home. Do you believe that? We're the salt of the earth. There's just a few left, but thank God, I'm a part of the few. I thank God to be named among the little group here in Hagerstown, the little group in Deville, in Jamaica, in West Virginia, in Virginia, in Honduras, in Grand Cayman, in the Philippines. Yes, there are still little groups of people who still love and serve the Lord. They are not being influenced by these locusts that have been released from the bottomless pit, which are destroying the morale of mankind. People don't know what's happening.

I have to tell you this story: There was a mother and a son. The mother figured out she was really a man, and the son figured out he was a girl, and they ended up marrying each other. What's happening? Something is way-off in our world. It is working contrary to righteous principles. I know we'll never believe something like that, nor go along with it, but we're up against something.

It used to be in our schools, we would have teaching, such as, "in God we trust," prayers, etc. We could depend on our education system, but we can't depend on that any more. You all are blessed to have *Truth Christian Academy* to teach the children the truth. We could count on our judicial system, or some other barriers. Even sectarians had a standard for many people, but now what I'm hearing is completely contrary to what I ever thought I would believe. Gays are being ordained to the ministry. Listen, Dear Ones, something is wrong! You and I know it. What I'm trying to get my people at home to realize is, "Lord, we have a job to do, and we want to know what You want us to do." Dear Ones, I want to stay in the Ship, I want to keep going against the storms, I want to keep pressing on until I reach the other side. It's not going to get less contrary. I don't see that happening right now. God can do anything. What we have to do right now is to do what He wants us to do.

WHAT LIES AHEAD?

I think Christ has a few people here and there who are consecrated to Him, and they will not turn their

backs on Him, no matter what it costs them. Are you all with me? I don't know where this world is heading, but Jesus said, "If the salt [loses] his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing." If it gets down to where there is no more salt in the earth, then what? I would love to believe there's going to be a great revival. In Revelation, it looks like it could be in one way, and in another way, it's hard to see a great revival. It really is; but let me tell you, we can look up to a God who is able to do abundantly above what we could ask or think. What we want to do is to do what God wants us to do in this time. What is that, Bro. Terry? "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16). "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set" (Proverbs 22:28).

I'm not picking in any way, but we have to be careful in what influences us, even in our singing. I hope I'm not offending anyone, but a lot of what is called contemporary doesn't do thing for me. Sorry, but I have a responsibility to tell people the truth. I want to feel God in the singing. I preach this everywhere. There is a contemporary spirit that wants to get in. We can clap and have a good time, but I want something for my soul, don't you? I need it.

We at home talk about the trials and storms being so contrary, and how we live from Sunday to Wednesday, from Wednesday to Sunday, to get all we can out of the services. You need to be in the services because you'll get something if you're there. You don't want to come to the services just to come though. What's the goal in coming to services? It took me years to learn to do that. I'd come to get some blessings from the Lord, but there's something deeper than that. You want to come and make a personal contact with the Lord. Are you all hearing me? This means, as the song says, "I'll trust Thee, I'll love Thee," which has to be the prayer of your heart. If you're just enjoying the songs, you'll get a blessing, but God wants worship in Spirit and in truth. Before long, you'll start feeling the approval of God.

WE MUST CONNECT WITH GOD

Like I said before, I love to still raise my hand, not in a form, for I hate formality. If there's a message in a song I'm hearing, I'll raise my hand, and if it's personal to God, you, too, will be surprised how many times you'll feel the Spirit going right down your arm and into your heart. I'm not making this up. I'm a preacher and a teacher and I want to do my best. God wants to bless and give us more, but we need to do our part. Come to services with a purpose of connecting with Jesus. I guarantee you, you'll leave saying, "Oh, that was a good service!" We need good services. I won't stand for a dry service. I know you all have good services. We're having some great services at home because we have learned that if we can make contact with God, He'll spread His Spirit all over us. If one person makes contact with God, it will affect you and others around you. Before long, do you know what you might do? You might say, "Praise the Lord!" Why? Because you feel His presence. Who doesn't anyone want to feel like praising the Lord? Do you all agree? Saints, we need to be taught how to worship. Worship God in Spirit and in truth. In a lot of worship today, the Bible says, "In vain they do wor-

The Way of Truth

ship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Do we realize that God has entrusted us with the truth? Who is He depending on to keep the truth, to hold up the banners of truth? The Bible says that He gave us the banners to lift up because of the truth. I believe I'm in the truth, don't you? I know what the truth has done for me. We'll never learn all the truth. According to the doctrines, the church is built on the truth. They are there, but we learn more about the truth. We learn how to serve and please God. We learn how to be more determined, no matter how contrary this world is, to keep pushing and pushing. Do you see your pastor here? That's what he's doing. He's pushing. He needs your prayers; but I'm going to say this to Bro. Greg: Jesus sees it all, and He's watching. Guess what? When we can hardly go any more, help is on the way.

Did help come to the disciples? It came in the form of the Son of God. He was concerned about them. This was all a test, Saints. What could they do? Jesus compelled them to go to the other side. The storms were contrary, but He told them, “You go to the other side.”

THE FAITH OF ADHERENCE

I read something that one of the old, old writers wrote. I love it: “When I can't live by the faith of assurance, I live by the faith of adherence.” Think about that! Sometimes we just have overwhelming assurance. It's easy to live by that, but when we don't have it, it still takes faith to produce works of obedience. I don't have to feel like going to church to go to church, do I? I don't have to feel like praying when I know I need to pray. You and I don't live or feel the faith of assurance, but live by the faith of adherence to the Word of God. That's what God is looking for in us—learning to use our faith.

The Lord is depending on everyone of us—the children, the younger, the older—to be lively stones in the temple of God. But do you know what the devil wants? He wants a little “schism” here and a little “schism” there. He wants a little group over here in the church and a little group over there. God doesn't want such as that. The devil does. We have to fight the same devil everywhere. We have to see him for what he is. Psalm 133:1, 2, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments.” In other words, when there's unity, there's a sweet fragrance; not only that, but where there's unity, verse 3 says, “As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.” There's a refreshing.

Don't expect God to be able to work in our midst in a great way if we have these little groups here and there. It hinders. You know that is the truth. God is depending on us to be one, Dear Ones. I'm not of Peter; I'm not of Paul. We are all of Christ. He is bigger than anyone. I've told Bro. Greg many times that I'm indebted to him and love him dearly, but God is much bigger than our friendship. In other words, God must come first. When He's first, everyone wins. This makes the friendship better. It makes the bond stronger. The devil

knows that if he can divide, he'll steal some of the power away. Who is the Head of the church? I'm sure glad it's not us, Bro. Greg. I'm glad it is still the Lord, but once it becomes something else, we have failed our mission. We only have a few, and we need to fight for one another.

When Nehemiah and the others were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, some people were trying to get in among them to sow discord. Do you remember what happened? Nehemiah got them all together and gave them a good message. They went to the Lord in prayer. Dear Ones, God exposed the enemy and put them out of their midst. Here's what Nehemiah said to them: “Remember who you are fighting for. You're fighting for the Lord, you're fighting for your wife, for your husband, for your children, and for your brethren.” We're fighting for and not against. If the devil tries to plant a little feeling there, he has something to work with. We be brethren, right? Do you remember what Bro. Junior says? “You still love me, don't you? You have to love me to go to heaven.”

Seriously, we're up against something, but I'm encouraged when I come here and feel the presence of God. I'm encouraged to see the young people coming up. As bad and contrary as the wind is, we still have more to be encouraged about than to be discouraged. God is still God. “Lord, we don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”

IF WE LOSE SIGHT OF JESUS, WE'LL SINK

If we take our eyes off the Lord, like Peter did, indeed we'll sink. If you ever feel that sinking feeling, you better call out to the Lord. Peter said, “Lord, save me.” Jesus didn't waste a second. He reached out and lifted Peter right out of the old angry sea. He didn't scold Peter for that. We're all human. If you'll read it closely, Jesus said, “Wherefore didst thou doubt?” He asked Peter a question. It's not an exclamation mark or a period there. In other words, “Peter, I want you to consider what happened, and I want you to learn from this experience. I know the storm looked bad, but remember, I was watching. I know it looked hopeless, and maybe you were going down, but did I not come to you? When you called on Me, did I not save you?” In other words, “Be not of a doubtful mind, but believe.” I believe Peter learned that lesson and applied it to the rest of his life.

I hate when people put the Lord in such a bad light. He did scold the Pharisees, but when He rebukes us, we need it. As a rule, He's trying to teach us how to live for Him. He wants us to have victory. He's for us. If He's for us, who can be against us?

When the disciples got back into the ship, what happened to the storm? There was a great calm. No wind, no waves. Maybe someone heard a little dripping off the old boat, but there was a great peace. Every time the Lord delivered me, I've always gotten peace. People ran to Him and fell at His knees, saying, “Surely, Thou art the Son of God.”

The disciples made it safely to the other side. We will have many trials and go up against some contrary things, but if we'll do what the Lord taught Peter to do, we'll make it safely. He will not allow more to come on

us that we're able to bear. "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Do we believe that? Remember, if you're about to the breaking point, Jesus is watching. Help is on the way. All Peter said was, "Lord, save me." And the Lord saved him.

Are we ready for our calling? We're the little remnant. We've been entrusted with His incredible truth. I'm so thankful for my Church of God heritage. That has a lot to do with where I am today. My grandfather got the message from Bob Owens. Bob Owens got the message and was saved under D. S. Warner, so we have a straight line from the Reformation. We have to keep it together until God sees fit to turn it around. I believe God is able. Do you believe He's able? We don't have to figure that out.

CONCLUSION

When the enemy was around Jehoshaphat, he said, "We have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." The Lord said, "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." We don't have to figure it out. All we have to do is to do our best to make the Lord a good soldier. Let Him be the Captain. The Lord said, "Tomorrow the enemy will be gone." God put a scare in them. Not only did they fight each other and run, but they left all the spoils there. No one had to lift a sword. That's the God we serve tonight. Jehoshaphat left us with these words: "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper" (II Chronicles 20:20).

Pray for Bro. Greg. Pray for your ministers; and ministers, make sure we get messages from God. Messages must come from the Lord. Also, Saints, sing in the Spirit so we can feel the power of God. When we feel the power of God, we are all helped. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

We're on a journey. We're going to the other side. There's nothing to go back to. By the Lord's help, we will sail into the Harbor one day. "Angels guard my vessel, Till I'm safe within the harbor; Captain guide my ship, Till I get home."

Let's stay together and fight the good fight of faith.

God bless you all. †



Dear Young People,

I truly hope this finds you all doing well. I am thankful you are a part of God's family! My great desire and prayer is that we will all make it successfully to heaven. Let us do our best to hold our heads up, lean on His unfailing arms, and conquer that which lies

ahead!

This month we are concluding our piece from last month. I hope it will be a blessing to you.

With great love,

Sis. Crystal Gossard

Henry Drummond's, *The Greatest Thing in the World*:

"The next ingredient is a very remarkable one: *Good temper*. 'Love is not easily provoked.' Nothing could be more striking than to find this here. We are inclined to look upon bad temper as a very harmless weakness. We speak of it as a mere infirmity of nature, a family failing, a matter of temperament, not a thing to take into very serious account in estimating a man's character. And yet here, right in the heart of this analysis of love, it finds a place; and the Bible again and again returns to condemn it as one of the most destructive elements in human nature.

"The peculiarity of ill temper is that it is the vice of the virtuous. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character. You know men who are all but perfect, and women who would be entirely perfect, but for an easily ruffled, quick-tempered, or 'touchy' disposition. This compatibility of ill temper with high moral character is one of the strangest and saddest problems of ethics. The truth is there are two great classes of sins—sins of the *Body*, and sins of the *Disposition*. The Prodigal Son may be taken as a type of the first, the Elder Brother of the second. Now, society has no doubt whatever as to which of these is the worse. Its brand falls, without a challenge, upon the Prodigal. But are we right? We have no balance to weigh one another's sins, and coarser and finer are but human words; but faults in the higher nature may be less venial than those in the lower, and to the eye of Him who is Love, a sin against Love may seem a hundred times more base. No form of vice, not worldliness, not greed of gold, not drunkenness itself, does more to un-Christianize society than evil temper. For embittering life, for breaking up communities, for destroying the most sacred relationships, for devastating homes, for withering up men and women, for taking the bloom off childhood; in short, for sheer gratuitous misery-producing power, this influence stands alone. Look at the Elder Brother, moral, hard-working, patient, dutiful—let him get all credit for his virtues—look at this man, this baby, sulking outside his own father's door. 'He was angry,' we read, 'and would not go in.' Look at the effect upon the father, upon the servants, upon the happiness of the guests. Judge of the effect upon the Prodigal—and how many prodigals are kept out of the Kingdom of God by the unlovely character of those who profess to be inside? Analyze, as a study in Temper, the thundercloud itself

Dear Way of Truth Workers,

I join with you to thank the Lord for a life well spent: the life of Bro. Alvin A. Craig. May the Lord Almighty, whose House you are building, replace him with someone who will double his contributions in the ministry of spreading the truth all over the world, in such a way that Bro. Alvin will be rejoicing from paradise as he beholds the glorious continuity of the work he left behind.

My kind regards to everyone of you.

—Ogbos Okike, Nigeria

as it gathers upon the Elder Brother's brow. What is it made of? Jealousy, anger, pride, uncharity, cruelty, self-righteousness, touchiness, doggedness, sullenness—these are the ingredients of this dark and loveless soul. In varying proportions, also, these are the ingredients of all ill temper. Judge if such sins of the disposition are not worse to live in, and for others to live with, than sins of the body. Did Christ indeed not answer the question Himself when He said, 'I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the Kingdom of Heaven before you?' There is really no place in Heaven for a disposition like this. A man with such a mood could only make Heaven miserable for all the people in it. Except, therefore, such a man be born again, he cannot, he simply cannot, enter the Kingdom of Heaven. For it is perfectly certain—and you will not misunderstand me—that to enter Heaven a man must take it with him.

"You will see then why Temper is significant. It is not in what it is alone, but in what it reveals. This is why I take the liberty now of speaking of it with such unusual plainness. It is a test of love, a symptom, a revelation of an unloving nature at bottom. It is the intermittent fever which bespeaks unintermittent disease within; the occasional bubble escaping to the surface which betrays some rottenness underneath; a sample of the most hidden products of the soul dropped involuntarily when off one's guard; in a word, the lightning form of a hundred hideous and un-Christian sins. For a want of patience, a want of kindness, a want of generosity, a want of courtesy, a want of unselfishness, are all instantaneously symbolized in one flash of Temper.

"Hence it is not enough to deal with the temper. We must go to the source, and change the inmost nature, and the angry humors will die away of themselves. Souls are made sweet not by taking the acid fluids out, but by putting something in—a great Love, a new Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Christ, the Spirit of Christ, interpenetrating ours, sweetens, purifies, transforms all. This only can eradicate what is wrong, work a chemical change, renovate and regenerate, and rehabilitate the inner man. Will-power does not change men. Time does not change men. Christ does. Therefore 'Let that mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.' Some of us have not much time to lose. Remember, once more, that this is a matter of life or death. I cannot help speaking urgently, for myself, for yourselves. 'Whoso shall offend one of these little ones, which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.' That is to say, it is the deliberate verdict of the Lord Jesus that it is better not to live than not to love. *It is better not to live than not to love.*

"*Guilelessness* and *Sincerity* may be dismissed almost with a word. Guilelessness is the grace for suspicious people. And the possession of it is the great secret of personal influence. You will find, if you think for a moment, that the people who influence you are people who believe in you. In an atmosphere of suspicion men shrivel up; but in that atmosphere they expand, and find encouragement and educative fellowship. It is a wonderful thing that here and there in this hard,

uncharitable world there should still be left a few rare souls who think no evil. This is the great unworldliness. Love 'thinketh no evil,' imputes no motive, sees the bright side, puts the best construction on every action. What a delightful state of mind to live in! What a stimulus and benediction even to meet with it for a day! To be trusted is to be saved. And if we try to influence or elevate others, we shall soon see that success is in proportion to their belief of our belief in them. For the respect of another is the first restoration of the self-respect a man has lost; our ideal of what he is becomes to him the hope and pattern of what he may become.

"'Love rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.' I have called this *Sincerity* from the words rendered in the Authorised Version by 'rejoiceth in the truth.' And, certainly, were this the real translation, nothing could be more just. For he who loves will love Truth not less than men. He will rejoice in the Truth—rejoice not in what he has been taught to believe; not in this Church's doctrine or in that; not in this ism or in that ism; but 'in *the Truth*.' He will accept only what is real; he will strive to get at facts; he will search for Truth with a humble and unbiased mind, and cherish whatever he finds at any sacrifice. But the more literal translation of the Revised Version calls for just such a sacrifice for truth's sake here. For what Paul really meant is, as we there read, 'Rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth,' a quality which probably no one English word—and certainly not *Sincerity*—adequately defines. It includes, perhaps more strictly, the self-restraint which refuses to make capital out of others' faults; the charity which delights not in exposing the weakness of others, but 'covereth all things'; the sincerity of purpose which endeavors to see things as they are, and rejoices to find them better than suspicion feared or calumny denounced.

"So much for the analysis of Love. Now the business of our lives is to have these things fitted into our characters. That is the supreme work to which we need to address ourselves in this world, to learn Love. Is life not full of opportunities for learning Love? Every man and woman every day has a thousand of them. The world is not a playground; it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is *how better we can love*. What makes a man a good cricketer? Practice. What makes a man a good artist, a good sculptor, a good musician? Practice. What makes a man a good linguist, a good stenographer? Practice. What makes a man a good man? Practice. Nothing else. There is nothing capricious about religion. We do not get the soul in different ways, under different laws, from those in which we get the body and the mind. If a man does not exercise his arm he develops no biceps muscle; and if a man does not exercise his soul, he acquires no muscle in his soul, no strength of character, no vigor of moral fibre, nor beauty of spiritual growth. Love is not a thing of enthusiastic emotion. It is a rich, strong, manly, vigorous expression of the whole round Christian character—the Christlike nature in its fullest development. And the constituents of this great character are only to be built up by ceaseless practice.

"What was Christ doing in the carpenter's shop? Practicing. Though perfect, we read that He *learned*

obedience, He *increased* in wisdom and in favor with God and man. Do not quarrel therefore with your lot in life. Do not complain of its never-ceasing cares, its petty environment, the vexations you have to stand, the small and sordid souls you have to live and work with. Above all, do not resent temptation; do not be perplexed because it seems to thicken round you more and more, and ceases neither for effort nor for agony nor prayer. That is the practice which God appoints you; and it is having its work in making you patient, and humble, and generous, and unselfish, and kind, and courteous. Do not grudge the hand that is moulding the still too shapeless image within you. It is growing more beautiful though you see it not, and every touch of temptation may add to its perfection. Therefore keep in the midst of life. Do not isolate yourself. Be among men, and among things, and among troubles, and difficulties, and obstacles. You remember Goethe's words: 'Talent develops itself in solitude; character in the stream of life.' Talent develops itself in solitude—the talent of prayer, of faith, of meditation, of seeing the unseen; Character grows in the stream of the world's life. That chiefly is where men are to learn love. †

FATHERHOOD—GOD'S PLAN

Radio Message by Bro. Gregg Tyler
(delivered 6/21/92)

TODAY is Father's Day—a day set aside to honor our fathers. I think this is fitting and proper to do. But, as we think about fathers, we must think about men, because men become fathers. The moral fiber of men today is not what it used to be.

Walter Isenhour said:

*Give us sober men for leaders—
Men who never take a drink;
Men who love our God and country,
And whose minds are clear to think;
Men who strive to do their duty
In the places that they fill;
Men who can't be bought with money,
Nor with evils that would thrill.
Give us sober men in business
Whom, as patrons, we can trust;
Men whose characters are spotless
And whose plans are fair and just;
Men who live the truth and tell it—
Free from pretense and disguise;
Men whose aim and work and purpose
Is to help their fellows rise.
Give us sober men as fathers,
Sober teachers for our schools;
Men with sound, exalted standards,
Far removed from those of fools;
Men who love the Holy Bible
And obey it, day by day;
Give us men to lead us upward—
Men who watch and fast and pray.*

These kinds of men are not easily found in today's world, sad to say.

We want to think about, first of all, father's responsibility to his children. A father to be what he ought to be must have character.

Paul Martin said—

*Give me full-hearted men who love their Lord
With a sparkle and flash in their eye,
Who are ready to fight, to work, to win,
Who are ready to do or to die.*

Give me men who are clean in their words and thoughts,

*Who can wrestle and labor in prayer,
For the world is dark and sin-sick and sad,
And there are heavy loads to bear.*

*Men full of grace and the Holy Ghost
Are the men we must have today,
Full-hearted, strong-hearted, cross-bearing men,
Who will valiantly lead the way.*

A father must provide for his own. The Bible tells us, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." A good father will labor hard to see to it that his children are fed, clothed, and sheltered. Dear Ones, this is only part of the responsibility of fatherhood.

A father must not only provide the necessities of life in a physical sense, but he must provide others things that are not so easy to provide. He must provide a home; not a house, but a home. I know a lot of men who labor and sweat to provide the material things of life for their children, but they are never home. They never have time to counsel their children and to do things they want to do. To be fathers they ought to be, fathers must provide a home.

Edward M. Brandt wrote this poem—

*A home is a home to come home to,
When Jesus lives there, too.
A home is a home where Christ is at,
Not merely a place where I hang my hat.*

*Christian homes are a bulwark of our nation,
One of the joys of God's creation.
Home—the place where God's love grows
And the presence of the Savior shows.*

*A home is a haven of rest from the strife,
The stress and pressure of everyday life.
A home is a man's castle, it has been said,
How blessed a castle with God as its head!*

I say, a father needs to provide a home of comfort, of peace, of rest for all the members of the family.

A father must correct and chastise his children if he is what he ought to be. When a life comes into the world, God has given a father to guide, to direct, to help his children not to make perhaps, the same mistakes he made in life. God has given a father to direct his children in a path that will lead them to happiness in this time world.

Fathers today often hand a ten dollar or a twenty bill to their children and tell them to "get lost." Oh, Beloved, that is not fatherhood as God meant it! Fathers are to give their children their time. Fathers

are to correct them when they are wrong and endeavor to guide them aright.

Furthermore, fathers need to pray. Fathers need to carry a burden for their children. Fathers need to weep before the throne of grace, mentioning the name of all their children in prayer. Fathers need to set a spiritual example before their children; not to send them to Sunday school, but to bring them to Sunday school. Fathers need to attend the services themselves, and not just attend the services of God, but they ought to put their whole heart and soul in the service of God. They need to set an example for their children to follow.

I believe it was the apostle Paul who said, "Follow me, as I follow Christ." I believe, Dear Ones, that every father ought to be able to say, "Follow me, as I follow Christ." Following father ought to be a safe guide for every child. But again, Beloved, sad to say, many of our fathers across this great land spend their time in gambling, or in drinking, or in carousing, or in other ways of evil. They don't want their children to follow in their footsteps, to light up their cigarettes, nor to smoke their marijuana. No, they want their children to go another way, but it doesn't work that way, Dear Ones. Fathers, if you want your children to live and do right, then you must set the proper example before them. "Follow me, as I follow Christ," should be the example set by every father.

A Dad's Greatest Job

*I may never be as clever
As my neighbor down the street.
I may never be as wealthy
As some other men I meet.
I may never have the glory
That some other men have had.
But I've got to be successful
As my little children's dad.*

*I may get Earth's glory,
I may never gather gold.
Men may count me as a failure
When my business life is told.
But if he who follows after me
Is a Christian, I'll be glad,
For I'll know I've been successful
As my little children's dad.*

That should be the prayer, the aim, and the desire of every father.

Yes, fathers have a responsibility to each of their children. It's not an easy job. Be sober men, be full-hearted men, be dads that your children can be proud of.

Children, you have a responsibility to your father. You are to respect him in his office. You are to honor him as the head of the home. Children, don't make the mistake of thinking you know more than Dad. He has traveled the way before you. He has blundered and made mistakes, and he doesn't want you to fall into the same pitfalls that he had to suffer through. Listen to your father.

We are told in Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Children and young people, obey your father. Honor and respect your

father. Let me furthermore say, you ought to let him know that you care for him.

In so many homes, the word *love* is never shared from person to person. A father must know and realize and sense that his children love him. So, on this Father's Day, Children, take time to put your arms around your father and tell him you love and appreciate him. Tell him you appreciate the sacrifices he has made for you. If you really mean it, then you're going to live in obedience to him, and do as best as possible what your father asks you to do. He is not God, but he is God's ambassador in your home to guide you in the pathway of righteousness. So, share your love with your father today; not only today, but in the days and weeks and months that lie ahead. Make him feel important and loved. Show him you truly love him by living as he wants you to live and doing as he wants you to do; pleasing not only your dad, but your heavenly Father as well. †

TRIBUTES TO BRO. ALVIN A. CRAIG

Dear Bro. Greg,

We, the brethren in the Philippine Islands, are on the other side of the world and cannot be there to give our tribute to Uncle Alvin, but we are with you all in prayers. God knows the influence Uncle Alvin has had on God's church in the Philippines for so many years, through all the books, Sunday school journals, *The Way of Truth* magazines, and other literature he wrote that truly helped us a lot to be rooted and grounded in the truth. We will always cherish the memories we have had in his visits to us since 1991, and he will always hold a very special place in the hearts of the Filipino brethren.

We loved and appreciated Uncle Alvin so much. Words will never be enough to thank God for the holy life he lived for the Lord, for the love and concern he had for God's church in the Philippine Islands, and the sacrifices on those long and tiring thousands of miles of travel to be with us. We are truly grateful to the Lord for the blessed privilege to have had him here with us. He was a real blessing and an inspiration to us. Uncle Alvin, a great man of God, fought the good fight of faith, he finished his course, and great is his reward in heaven.

Uncle Alvin's memory will always be with us as we carry on the great commission given unto us by the Lord: to evangelize the world, and to tell the lost that there is hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. As Auntie Wanda used to tell us, "It is not good-bye, but so long till we meet again."

—Sis. Judith Batalla, Philippines

Greetings to you, Bro. Greg,

With gratitude to God Almighty, the entire ministry and members of the Church of God in Benin Republic, hereby express our condolences to the Craig's family over the passing from time to glory of Pastor Alvin A. Craig. Adieu to this special man of God!

—On behalf of the ministry,
Bro. Jean H. Hessou, Republic of Benin

THE POETRY PAGE

Father's Day, June 17

FATHER

Dorothea Robisch

Who worked so hard and saved so long
For what we have today?
And anytime will sacrifice
His chance to rest or play?

Who always sees his children have
The things he did without,
And gives so much, unselfishly,
For that's what love's about?

Who thinks and plans and struggles, too,
As nobly as he can
To set a good example, and
Be a respected man?

Who seeks no honors, no rewards
For all that he has done,
Except to raise a family,
The very finest one?

Though we cannot evaluate
Our dad, his love, his worth,
To us he'll always be "just Dad,"
The greatest guy on earth.

DADDY

Norma Lee

When we were young, you worked very hard,
At the plant, in your shop, at the barn, in the
yard.

Money was tight then; we didn't have much
Of toys, extra clothes, vacations, and such.

But you worked very hard to build us a home,
And we always had food, we always kept warm.

There was no one quite like you, in your quiet
way,
With much in your heart, but little to say.

Today when I see all the love in your eyes
As you look at your grandchild, I realize—

How you must have said something in word or in
deed
That said the "I love you" we children could read.

MY SON Craig E. Sathoff

My son, you answered earnest prayers
When finally you came—
A little babe with wrinkled nose
To carry on my name.

My fondest dreams were bundled there
In blankets white and blue,
And I was overjoyed, my son,
And filled with wonder, too.

No joy could equal your small feet
That followed after me
And your bright eyes aglow with life
And curiosity.

Now that you are a man, my son,
With worlds at your feet,
I pray that you will value life
As each new day you meet.

Keep faith in God and fellowman,
Consider each new day
A precious gem as yours to hold
While passing on your way.

MY FATHER'S VOICE IN PRAYER

M. Nottage

In the silence that falls on my spirit
When the clamor of life loudest seems,
Comes a voice that floats in tremulous notes
Far over my sea of dreams.
I remember the dim old vestry,
And my father kneeling there;
And the old hymns thrill with the memory still
Of my father's voice in prayer.

I can see the glance of approval
As my part in the hymn I took;
I remember the grace of my mother's face
And the tenderness of her look;
And I knew that a gracious memory
Cast its light on that face so fair,
As her cheek flushed faint—O Mother, a saint!—
At my father's voice in prayer.

'Neath the stress of that marvelous pleading
All childish dissensions died;
Each rebellious will sank conquered and still
In a passion of love and pride.
Ah, the years have held dear voices,
And melodies tender and rare;
But tenderest seems the voice of my dreams—
My father's voice in prayer. †

AN OPEN LETTER
SUBJECT: UNITY

Ed. Note—I received this letter recently from Nigeria which I shared with Bro. Darrell Sanford in Mississippi. He wrote a response which I wholeheartedly endorse.

Dear Bro. Greg,

You may have realized that the subject of unity within the ranks of the church of God is the only truth the greater number of ministers are not willing to align themselves with, making it a tough, if not a dangerous area!

You may have also realized that unity of the church of God is not a location dependent subject. It is rather a universal issue that must run across the globe, if we desire to convince the world of our readiness to obey the Lord's will.

I am very pleased with the efforts the Lord enabled you to make towards this, starting from March last year. I have also read from the magazines the letters of some readers/brethren who expressed joy in this regard.

Some of you have published a number of articles that convinced all the ministers that unity of the church is the only way out of the present deplorable state of the churches of God in the whole world. This division started from the brethren in the U.S.A. and happened long before some of you came closer to the corridor of leadership in the church. Good enough, the same great messages on unity are coming from the U.S.A. as well, probably from the children or grandchildren of those who unconsciously enthroned disunity.

Having preached those messages, the eyes of the whole world are yet upon the workers of *The Way of Truth* to hold out the practical olive branch to the rest of the groups of the church, starting from the U.S.A. A great task! But it is the gospel that will turn the world upside down once more for God.

There are three major groups of the church here in Nigeria. One of the largest group is those of the adherents of *The Way of Truth* magazines. Implying that the efforts to unite the church in Nigeria will be much easier when they get to know that you mean what you are preaching about unity.

We have just returned from a youth conference organized by that group. I personally held several meetings with the ministers present on the subject of unity. Some of them who were before full of cautions and precautions are just beginning to admit (citing your efforts as an encouragement) that there is indeed a need for the unity of the church.

Telling them the practical steps you are talking over there to achieve this great dream will be of a great guide towards the goal.

I'm sorry that this letter is longer than I intended. May the God of unity make your efforts fruitful.

Yours in the Difficult Assignment,
O. O., Nigeria

Our response to the Brethren in Nigeria—

Our Dear Brethren in Nigeria,

Our hearts have been encouraged by your communications expressing your support with us of our desire, and efforts, to see all of God's people truly enjoying fellowship in the one body. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."—Ephesians 4:4-6.

Since the time the Lord has laid this burden upon our hearts, and we went public with it last year (2017), we have seen wonderful things accomplished; your enthusiasm for this move of God being one of them. There have been reconciliations made, or begun, among ministers here, who had been apart for many years, and we trust to see much more. You know, my dear brethren, the reasons for division and breeches are not singular; they have not all been "doctrinal"; some have been over personal disagreements or offenses. Some over disapproval of the way a matter may have been handled, or misunderstandings. Of course, differences in certain standards and charges of compromise have caused many to disassociate from one another. Some may be recent, but many of these divisions were created by our predecessors—men and women who are no longer even alive. We are not obligated to continue them. We are the people of God in this age who must take responsibility for the work of the church, the spreading of the gospel and the salvation of the souls of men, and, to the best of our ability according to the Word of God and the guidance of the Spirit, plot our course.

You have read our articles in *The Way of Truth*, and we have expressed in those our grasp of the problems and issues, and, in a general sense, the mindset we must take in order to accept one another and see the church of God truly move forward in a positive and constructive manner. We are in a unique age, and face a condition the church has never really faced before, that being, the existence of several different fellowships—some fairly large, and some just a few congregations banded together—all teaching this same basic truth: justification and deliverance from sin, the infilling of the Holy Spirit as a second work of grace, the one true divinely built church containing all the saved, and a life lived in holiness free from willful sin. Obviously, there are other teachings we embrace and principles we uphold, wherein we may differ slightly, but by naming these things we have, we are merely establishing a common ground.

Brethren, one thing which has been so obvious to me, and a comfort to me, is that I have confidence that all the people who have come to our particular fellowships throughout the years, have been able to find true salvation, and live their lives in holiness and victory over sin within and under the teachings of those fellowships. Our God has worked with us. He delivered me from my sins in 1980. I was a drug user and a rock-and-roll musician, and Jesus met me at the altar and set me free. He later filled me with His Spirit and gave me a vision of the beautiful church of God. I'm sure there are many of you, and many others, who have had

a similar experience. Only Christ can do that! It is the best evidence we have that Jesus is with us. I admit that our situation is not ideal. I do not believe we are where the church was in the morning time concerning seeing everything alike in certain things, but then again, we know that the Jewish and Gentile converts did not see everything exactly alike themselves. However, they still were expected to accept one another and love as brethren. I reiterate, we are in a unique situation in our age. The early brethren in the Evening Time thought everything was complete and that some matters were behind them, but it was not so. We are still here, and this is the state in which we find ourselves. If the Lord is really working with us all, as I believe He is, then we know He is not pleased with our present circumstances. Now, concerning where He may ultimately lead us and what lies around every turn, we can only see to walk as far as the light shines on our path, and there is much we do not know, but this much we do know, "... the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."—II Timothy 2:19. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."—Galatians 3:26-29. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."—Galatians 5:6. Brethren, I desire to say to all who hear these words, I am not suggesting that we accept everything which someone else may do, or feel compelled to do it for ourselves, but that we accept one another for Christ's sake. I know that may be difficult for some to accept, but no more so than it was for our brothers in the first century. Let us remember that, according to Romans 14, it was sin for some to eat certain things, while it was not at all sin for others to do so. It was a matter of conscience. We ask not that anyone offend their conscience, but let us learn from the situation and the consciences of our morning time brethren. Hindsight, as they say, is 20/20. Let us not merely read it, but see the facts of it. Some things were sin, not because they were sin of themselves, but because of their knowledge and understanding. Let us bear with one another in our understanding. I may be wrong, you may be wrong, we both may be wrong, neither of us may be wrong, but God always knows what is right, and He is able to reveal this to us.

There are so many things we could say, as our joy and burden toward you have increased as we have written this letter, but let us close with this passage which was used in a recent sermon—"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we

ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit" (I John 4:7-13).

Our first step is to love the Lord our God, with all our heart, soul, mind and strength ... and truly to love one another. To love as brethren. No doubt many efforts to establish or maintain unity have failed because they were centered in human reasoning and negotiations. Unity cannot be negotiated—unity comes about through the love of God in our hearts, and the love of God comes about through salvation. Lord, help us to love one another with a pure heart fervently! My brethren in Nigeria, I can only say that we are committed to the cause of unity and oneness in the body of Christ. "As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after thee, O God." How can we thirst after God without thirsting for the love and fellowship of all who are born of God? As with Peter's great confession, "To whom shall we go?" We have nowhere to go, but to the bosom of Christ and to dwell in His house. We only want to see that house perfect in one and going forth in the love, grace and glory of the living God! The LORD has convicted our hearts for the cause of oneness—He has convicted us at the reading of John 17:21-23: "That they may be one in us ... that they may be made perfect in one ..." It is a calling, brethren, it is committed into our hands to do our part to fulfill His holy will. By God's grace we will continue to herald this message at home and abroad until the work is done or our breath expired. We invite and desire your communications, your opinions, your desires concerning this quest, as well as your accomplishments. Please brethren, share with us your thoughts, concerns, and all your hearts as we endeavor together in this great work. †

In His love and grace, we hold you in our hearts,
Bro. Darrell Sanford, Pastor Church of God,
Hattiesburg, Mississippi



Editor's Note: These questions and answers in this issue are taken from *The Way of Truth Question and Answer Book, 1946-2001*.

QUESTION: If you die in your sins, do you go to hell? How will you be judged if you are in hell?

ANSWER: The soul or spirit leaves the body at the time of death (that is what causes death) and goes either to the realms of glory or to the regions of the lost, depending on how the person lived, whether he was saved or not. His influence continues and he cannot be fully rewarded until the end of time when he shall come

forth and be reunited with his physical body and changed. Then he shall get his full reward in the place he will go eternally. These truths are brought out in such scriptures as Matthew 25:31-46; I Corinthians 15; Revelation 20:11-15; and others.

QUESTION: If a man was a new convert and was not baptized, can he have the Holy Spirit?

ANSWER: Paul was converted and filled with the Spirit before he was baptized (see Acts 9). Cornelius and others of his household were converted and filled with the Spirit before they were baptized in water (see Acts 10).

That is not to say a new convert doesn't need to be baptized, for he does, but water baptism does not save the soul. The blood of Jesus Christ is what cleanses from sin.

QUESTION: What is Christian fellowship?

ANSWER: Christian fellowship would start with a true experience of salvation. This gives you fellowship with God, and with Christ (see I John 1:3). It also gives you fellowship with other Christians. Fellowship, in part, is a mutual sharing, like interests, a group of people with like interests, goals, aims, desires, and purposes. Again, for it to be truly Christian, it must start with having fellowship with God.

QUESTION: Does the newborn child have Adam's sin?

ANSWER: Adam's sin was in that he disobeyed God. This brought spiritual death to his soul, separation from God, and a sinful nature. Due to his sin, all mankind that follow are effected by it. Call it the Adamic nature, carnal nature, or native depravity, the child comes into the world with a nature that is bent toward evil.

However, the child does not die spiritually until it comes to the knowledge of right and wrong and *chooses* wrong. It dies because of its own imputed sin, not Adam's.

QUESTION: Why is the city of Jerusalem taken as an example of the holy city which people will go after death?

ANSWER: Jerusalem is not an example of where people will go after death. Jerusalem was the place where the Lord put His name, it is where the temple was built. So it is more fitting to use it as symbolizing the Church rather than heaven. The new Jerusalem, according to the Hebrew writer, is the Church of the firstborn.

QUESTION: Does God give His spiritual gifts to unsaved ones?

ANSWER: God does not give spiritual gifts to sinners. The gifts are given to the members of the body of Christ. I think that is clearly shown in I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. Notice how many times Paul declares the gifts are given "by the same Spirit"—I Corinthians 12:8; etc. Ephesians 4:4, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."

QUESTION: Ephesians 4:9—Where did Jesus descend to?

ANSWER: We understand Paul to say in this verse that Jesus came to Earth in His incarnation, that He died, rose again, and then ascended back into heaven. The expression, "lower parts of the earth," could mean His time in the tomb.

QUESTION: I Samuel 3:19—What does it mean that Samuel didn't let any of his words fall to the ground?

ANSWER: First of all, it was not Samuel who did not let his words fall to the ground. The verse in question tells us, the Lord "did let none of his words fall to the ground." What are we to understand about that expression? Samuel was a prophet of God. He spoke what God inspired him to, and God backed up what he said by seeing it was fulfilled. Whatever Samuel said, as a prophet, it proved true.

QUESTION: Is it safe to say that the mistakes we have made and repented of as Christians are buried in the sea never to be remembered by God?

ANSWER: The thought that God casts our sins in the sea is based on Micah 7:19, "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Isaiah said God has "cast all my sins behind [His] back" (Isaiah 38:17).

Jeremiah 31:34 tells us: "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Hebrews 8:12, "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

Since God does this with our sins, iniquities, and unrighteousness, I think it would be "safe" to say He does the same with our mistakes that He forgives. That is not to say we will never have to suffer for our mistakes; but when God forgives, He forgives!

QUESTION: What was the birthright that was sold for a mess of pottage?

ANSWER: Normally, the birthright went to the firstborn son in Bible times. The firstborn son enjoyed a favored position. This included a double portion of his father's assets upon his death, a special blessing from the father and the privilege, or responsibility, of leadership of the family. The firstborn's rights were protected by law, so the father could not give them to a younger son (Deuteronomy 21:15-17). However, the firstborn son could sell the rights, which is what Esau did. The firstborn could also lose the rights; this Reuben did by committing incest with his father's concubine (Genesis 35:22). †

Do you have a Bible question? Send it to the editor at: The Way of Truth, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, MD 21741 U.S.A.

The Facts of God's Healing Power

2017 Cayman Convention Message by Bro. David Shaw

LET ME greet the household of faith in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus. It is good to see you here today. I am certain that we all have our expectations. Upon that realization, this lays a burden, a concern, and a desire on my heart. So, as we are gathered here, let us look to the Lord for the things we need, because it is in Him that our needs will be supplied. I want to remind you that the Lord cares beyond our expectations, for we have just heard from the songwriter's experience, "There is nothing, no nothing, that my God can't do."

We are in an age where many people do not look to the Lord for the help they need. Somehow they've become independent and rely on the those who can assist them. There are many who assist today with ideas, and in many instances, they become a failure, but our God never fails. Let us keep holding on to the hand of the Lord and ask Him to increase our faith.

I would like to read Mark, chapter 5, verses 1-8: "And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, and cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit." My thoughts to you are: "The Facts of God's Healing Power."

In this fifth chapter of Mark, there are three stories. These are not fiction; these are facts. These are facts of God's healing power, facts of God's love towards the human race, and facts of His compassion and mercy that were extended to individuals He came in contact with, who were in situations that needed His care.

The story of the man, in our text, with an unclean spirit reminds us that there is a God who looks upon mankind and knows about his struggles. Jesus did not accidentally walk into the country of the Gadarenes. He went in that direction, for there was a man there who needed Him. Jesus knew that the man was there, and the time of his deliverance was on the way. So Jesus Christ walked that way to meet this man.

Today, Christ is here to meet us. He's on the way for our assistance. Whatever situation we are in this morning, don't forget that Jesus knows all about our struggles. We sometimes become overburdened and concerned because of what we are going through, but in the midst of it all, there is an eye watching over us.

Jesus sees, He understands and hears our cries; but many times we have to wait because we have to pass through certain circumstances as a test or a trial to make us what we ought to be. If life for us becomes too easy, then peradventure we'll miss the goal. Sometimes our prayer life may not be what it should be. In order to pray some more, God allows problems at times to come our way for us to face.

Maybe in one way, we didn't obey Him, so He tried us on a physical need.

All of us like to be in the best of health. As individuals, we see to the needs of our bodies. We try our best to maintain our bodies so that nothing will ever go wrong; but oh, in some instances, when we have done our very, very best to maintain our bodies, we find out that something has occurred out of our expectation. Sometimes we can't blame ourselves for what has happened. We were told that we didn't eat the right food. This doesn't happen in all cases. We can eat the right food and still die early. We can eat properly and become very ill. We sometimes blame ourselves for what we eat. Yes, sometimes we do go overboard, but in many instances, it is not what we eat. Sometimes our genes have a lot to do with our sickness.

In our text, this young man encountered a situation that he was not expecting in life. The devils managed to possess and occupy his mind, and as it were, allowed him to live among the tombs. He had no power to resist that unclean spirit. In his own strength, he could not overcome. Jesus knew all about his condition, and He cared the utmost for him. On that very morning, Jesus said to him, "This day will be your day of deliverance." As this man walked along the pathway, the devils in him knew who Jesus was. The devils knew the authority that was in God's power. The devils knew that when Jesus spoke, it had to be done. When He commanded, His words stood fast. The devils became very dreadful because Jesus was coming.

The unclean spirit tried to adjure Jesus: "I command you not to torment me." Can you imagine the devil saying to Jesus, "I command you not to torment me"? Who was that unclean spirit trying to rebuke? I tell you, Beloved, the devil is a cunning taskmaster. He appears to be so powerful, but I'm thankful that there's an almighty power that exceeds the devil's power in whatever way it comes. The devils intended to fight a battle, but then easily surrendered because Jesus declared, "Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit." That was the voice of authority: "Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit." At that command, the devils wanted some other place to lodge in.

Have you ever had a pain in your head and it went to your shoulder, and then went to other parts of your



body? That's how the devil works. He wants to torment you. He wants to interrupt you in every way possible. The devils requested another lodging place since they were no more permitted to stay in that man. The devils said to Jesus, "Send us into the swine." Mark 5:13 tells us that there were about 2,000 of them. The unclean spirits did not go into just one swine. The man had told Jesus that his name was Legion, meaning many.

There are those of you here who may have complicated conditions. Sometimes you almost forget to name them. You have several aches and pains. Physicians give you names of these conditions and sometimes you can't even remember what they are called. Your complaints are so complicated—from one to another.

The man in Mark 5 was full of unclean spirits. With a herd of about 2,000 swine being occupied by these unclean spirits that were in that man, it tells us that he was in a horrible state. Two thousand swine were occupied by those unclean spirits. All of the swine went down into the sea and were choked. Do you see what the devils in this man intended to do? To kill him. The devil is called a thief. His aim is to steal, to kill, and to destroy. When he attacks you, he steals your health and your energy. He even steals your ambition to think rightly. Whatever he doesn't try to steal, he already has. Many people's health is being stolen by the devil.

Have you ever had a pain in your body and the doctor was unable to find out what was causing it? Yes, it happens. People will tell you, "The doctor could not find out what was wrong." Yet, they are tormented and disturbed, because the doctor was unable to find what was causing their illness; but I'm thankful there is One who knows all about our struggles. Jesus is acquainted with every complaint, whatever they might be. Besides that, He has the solution.

The people in the community seemed to think that there was no hope for this man. In our world today, we just give up on some people because they've been in a deplorable state for so long that there seems to be no hope for them. Beloved Ones, there is hope in the Lord. Whatever situation we are in, God is able to handle that situation. But then, in many instances, we do not lean upon the Lord for help. We depend upon our own wisdom, our own knowledge, our own understanding, and on those who seemingly are in a position to help. So we wonder and ponder and have sleepless hours. There is discomfort all around. Our minds become mixed up. We can't think positively. We don't know what conclusion to come to, but Jesus says, "Cast your cares upon Me." If we will do that, we would get rid of our condition and carry that burden no longer. Jesus is listening. He says, "My ears are open unto your cry."

After Jesus commanded the unclean spirits to leave the man, and they went into the swine, the people of the community became overly concerned about their swine. They said to Jesus, "Leave our coasts. We don't want You here." Their concern was not about the man who was living among the tombs. They were concerned about their swine.

You know, as humans, sometimes we are merciless. We ignore those who are suffering. We're unconcerned about their situation. Sometimes we boast of our health.

Let me bring you a fact this morning: Our health is nothing to boast about. With a snap of a finger, we can lose our health. When we're healthy, give God the glory. Give God the glory! It is not that we're better off than others, but because we're blessed.

Jesus did not intend to remain in that area, because He was on a journey. So He walked on and came in contact with a man who had a daughter who was in a deplorable state. The man came to Jesus so that his daughter could be restored. As Jesus journeyed, He then came to a woman who had a need. That morning as she awoke, she was concerned about her need. She heard the news that Jesus was going to pass by that day. She said, "If He's passing this way, I must touch Him today, and I know if I can only but touch Him, I shall be made whole." She didn't guess or question it. In her heart, she believed it. She said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole."

I'm aware that this woman didn't know the time Jesus was passing by. However, she made her way to the area in which she heard that He was to pass. Oh, she saw the crowd following Him! She realized that Jesus was in the crowd. I don't think she saw Jesus because He was in the midst of such a large crowd. It was very hard for her to reach Him, but she said, "I'm going to touch Him anyway." I can see her by faith as she started pushing through the crowd. She didn't say *excuse me* to those in the crowd. She just pushed because she wanted to get to Jesus. I can see her by faith as she pushed her way through. Maybe she fell at times, but she got up because she intended to reach Him. Eventually, she reached close enough to Jesus and touched His garment. To her surprise, Jesus stopped and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

Does Jesus care? ... O, yes, He cares; ... His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, The long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares.

Jesus' caring heart commanded Him to stop. He could have continued without saying anything, or noticing anything that had happened, but He wanted to meet this woman. He wanted her to know, "I felt your touch." Jesus doesn't leave us in wonderland. He allows us to know that He cares. "I am with you; I'll never leave you nor forsake you." So it is by faith that we hold on to Jesus. Don't let someone tell you; know for yourself. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." This woman was shocked to hear the Master ask the question, "Who touched Me?" The Bible says that she was trembling. The disciples wondered why He would ask that question. Do you know what I love about this story? Virtue had gone out of Jesus. "This touch that I felt was a touch of a need." The sickness that the woman had was a severe need.

Can you imagine for twelve years passing through a condition such as hers? The community would scorn you. You couldn't go among society and feel well because of being scorned at or ignored. But in the midst of it all, Jesus cares. He's a God who comes to your rescue at the appointed time. So, if you are here and passing through your situation, which seems so long, wait on the Lord. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart."

Jesus led this woman to understand that she was made well. She had the assurance that Jesus granted her desire. She made all the effort she could, and Jesus saw it and met her halfway. It wasn't the laying on of hands, but a touch of His garment. Can you imagine that for a moment? Just a touch of the Master's garment; just a simple touch of faith. In the midst of all of this, Jesus was not obstructed on His journey. His mission then was towards the man who sent to call Him. So the Master is not too busy to hear us. We can't overload Him. The Bible says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

Beloved Ones, the story continues. Jesus came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue. When He came, He was told that the damsel was dead. Hopeless! Mark 5:36, "As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe." I am saying to you today, Jesus is saying, "Be not afraid, only believe." The doctor's news might not sound too good, but "Be not afraid, only believe."

Do you know the worst thing that could be said to us by a doctor? "You have a dreadful disease called cancer." You know, that is a hopeless case for any individual. Cancer is known to spread throughout the entire frame. Not every bump that comes up on the body stays in one place. In the space of time, that cancer goes through the whole frame. I remember a friend of mine who was once diagnosed with cancer. The doctor said that the cancer took the four limbs of his body, so there wasn't any hope for him. If cancer was to strike any of us, we want to remember that Jesus cares. Do you know that He can heal cancer? He doesn't have to do any research. Miraculously, in a twinkling of an eye, at the rebuke of the Lord Jesus, only a touch is needed and the work is done.

Going back to our story of the damsel, the situation seemed hopeless to the masses. Even to the father, it seemed hopeless. Jesus said to him, "Be not afraid, only believe." "[Jesus] suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James" (Mark 5:37). Do you know sometimes the imposing of people hinders the healing to be done? Because if there is any doubt in the mind of others, the work will not be done. That's why Jesus sometimes took with Him those three disciples. He took those with whom He knew would stand firm in faith. They wouldn't wonder "if" or "maybe so," but they would believe. So, in this incident, Jesus chose out of the twelve disciples, Peter, James, and John. These were those He took with Him into the room.

Mark 5:38, "And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly." They were mourning. That is common when a death occurs. So this damsel's death brought weeping. They wailed. Can you imagine? "And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? [Sounds strange, doesn't it?] the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth." Do you see what happened? The tumult still didn't know who Jesus was. Millions today are saying, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus," but they still don't know who He is.

Sometimes we ourselves don't understand His power. We read it, sing it, and testify about His power,

but still we're lacking. That's our problem. So the tumult that stood by didn't know who spoke the word. Do you know sometimes the disciples didn't know who Jesus was? When the sea became rough, Jesus was asleep on the boat. The disciples asked, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" He arose and calmed the sea. They said, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" He spoke with authority.

Again, Jesus said to those in Mark 5, "Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth." Do you know sometimes people fall into a *trance*, "an unconscious condition," and others say, "This person is dead"? I remember as a child, there was a woman in my community who they said had died. They prepared for her burial. The church bell was tolled for her three times. But in the process of the preparations, apparently, unknown to them, she had fallen into a trance. She began to move. A man in the community said, "Don't toll the bell any more. Make sure she's dead." After a few hours, she got up after being in a trance.

Yes, Jesus said to them, "The damsel is not dead, but sleepeth." They laughed Him to scorn, for they knew she was dead. It sounded foolish to them that Jesus said, "She sleepeth." He knew what He was saying because He had the power to bring her back to life. Mark 5:41, "And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise." She got up and walked. Jesus commanded them to give her something to eat. She came back to life.

If you are here with a severe condition, you are not dead. Life is still in your body. If this Christ can bring the dead back to life, He can heal your dreadful disease. Jesus can do the work beyond our imagination and expectation, but we must have unwavering faith. If we have unwavering faith, then He will work in our behalf. It is important that we look to Him for the help we need. The writer says, "My help cometh from the Lord."

In Acts 19, the apostle Paul did some notable things as well. One of those is found in Acts 19:11, 12: "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Look at this carefully. The practice of the Church of God here is to send anointed cloths to those who request them. We've had testimonies from different ones who received them and told of their healing. Paul, in his mission, did likewise. He didn't have to lay his hands on them for the evil spirits to leave, but the handkerchiefs or aprons that were sent were used, and their evil spirits were removed. A notable work was done.

Let us today seek the Lord in confidence that He is able to do a supernatural work. His healing power is just the same today. If you will hold on to Him by faith, whatever you ask, you shall receive. We trust as we go through this process that you will be helped.

God bless you. †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



BURY YOUR COWS!

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

"Are we almost there?" my younger sister, Twila, asked my mother. We were on our way to our grandmother's house in Pennsylvania, and by now it seemed to us that we had been on the road for a long time.

Twila, Wilma, and I rode in the back seat of the car, while my mother and father sat in the front seat with Baby Esther.

My mother turned to look back at us. "We're not even close to being there," she said. "We've been driving for only fifteen minutes."

"How much longer will it be?" I asked.

"We have at least an hour to go," she answered, turning her attention back to the front of the car.

I sighed. "I wish we could just push a button and we would be there," I mumbled to myself.

My mother heard me. "Well, we can't," she said, "so you might as well just make up your mind to enjoy the trip."

Enjoy the trip? I said to myself. *What is there to enjoy? All we are doing is riding and riding!*

Almost as if she had read my thoughts, my mother said, "Why don't we play a game? That'll make the time go faster."

"What game can we play?" I asked. I thought I knew what she would say. We sometimes played an alphabet game to see who could be first to find all the letters from A to Z. That game was always fun for a while, but then we would get stuck on the letter "Q" and lose interest.

"Let's play 'Bury Your Cows!'" my mother suggested.

"How do you play that?" I asked.

"Well," explained my mother, "you look out the window and count every cow you see. Whoever gets 50 cows first is the winner."

"That will be easy!" I said.

My father, who was driving, had been listening. "It's not all that easy," he said. "Tell them the rest of the rules," he said to my mother.

"Well," continued my mother, "if you see a cemetery before anyone else sees it, you call out, 'Bury your cows!' If that happens, everyone except for the person who saw the cemetery has to start over counting cows."

"That sounds like fun!" I said. "Let's play it!"

I was up to my 38th cow when my mother called out, "Bury your cows!"

"Oh, no!" we sisters cried out. "We had so many cows! Do we have to bury them all?"

My mother laughed. "Yes," she said, "you have to bury them all and start over, because I saw the cemetery first."

"Where is the cemetery?" I asked. As hard as I looked, I could not see it.

My mother pointed to a distant hillside. Sure enough, next to the church that sat on the hill was a little cemetery.

We continued to play the game, but it wasn't long before my mother called out, "Fifty! I have fifty cows!"

"Let's play again!" I said. I was sure that this time I would be the one to make all the others bury their cows.

But time and again, my mother or father called out, "Bury your cows!" long before any of us girls spotted the cemetery that lay ahead.

We complained about it until my mother said, "Do you want me to be quiet and not point out the next cemetery?"

"Yes!" we cried. "We want to see it first!"

True to her word, my mother kept quiet as we neared the next cemetery. In fact, we were almost past it before any of us saw it. My mother laughed, "I thought you were going to miss that one," she said.

"We can't play this game anymore with you," we said to our mother. "You will always win, because you always see the cemeteries first! How do you do that?"

"I have traveled this road many times," replied my mother, "and I know where every cemetery is located. You haven't been on this road as often, and even when you are, you don't pay much attention to what you see through the car window."

When I remember this story, I think about how my mother's words apply to so many other things in life. Have you ever noticed how much knowledge adults possess? Sometimes children think that they will never have as much knowledge as their parents do.

Do you know where parents and other adults gain their knowledge? It is through paying attention to what goes on around them, and learning from their experiences. It is much like a farmer who keeps cattle. He must pay attention to them every day to make sure they are well-fed and healthy. He cannot neglect them even for one day, or they may sicken and die.

Our wise saying this month comes from Proverbs 27:23, which says, "*Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.*" The writer who gave this advice was reminding us that, just as farmers must look after their livestock to make sure they are doing well, so we must pay attention to what goes on around us, especially when it comes to gaining spiritual knowledge.

If you are fortunate enough to have Christian parents, teachers, and ministers, pay attention to their words. Keep them in your heart and remember them. Add them to your store of knowledge. Then one day you may be able to use that store of wisdom to help others.

Activity

Can you unscramble the words of this verse to learn a valuable truth about giving heed to the truths we are taught?

"Lest the things we give time which we heed at the earnest slip to have ought, we should therefore let, any more to them heard."

Answer to Last Month's Activity

1. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge ..." (Proverbs 1:7).
2. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1).
3. "Honor thy father and thy mother ..." (Exodus 20:12).
4. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).
5. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor ..." (Ephesians 4:25). †

MORE TRIBUTES TO BRO. ALVIN CRAIG

I was a young man, but as always, I would attend church services with my grandmother and my grandfather, Jim Pouchie, in Calabash Bight, Roatan, Bay Islands of Honduras.

My grandfather constantly would make mention of this young preacher, Bro. Alvin Craig, through Bro. Fossie Arch from the Cayman Islands. After a few years, I was in living in the city of La Ceiba. It was mentioned by Sis. Dulce Bodden that there would be a preacher coming by the name of Bro. Alvin Craig. After hearing so much about him, I was astonished to know him, to hear him preach for the first time, and the way in which he delivered the Word of God was truly a blessing. I remember up to this day the scripture that he used: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). I am now 83 years old, and that message stays constantly in my heart. It means so much to me.

One Sunday morning at church, my grandfather sang the song, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Bro. Alvin, who was accompanied by Bro. Ollen, sang a song also. It was on this day that I accepted the Lord into my heart. Since then, day by day, I grew in the work of the Lord with my grandfather.

I moved to Sandy Bay and got married. After that, it was not long until God spoke to me. I couldn't understand it. But on October 29, 1960, along with three people, I preached my very first message taken from Philippians 3:13, 14: "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The title was: "Where Do We Go from Here?" Everyone there said, "Let us bring Bro. Alvin Craig to bless the work and have a convention." The churches in Honduras began to grow.

Bro. Alvin and Bro. Ollen were loved and respected by many people. Everywhere they went, they merged with the people. They loved them dearly.

Today, in Honduras, there are a lot of people who would agree in saying that Bro. Alvin and Bro. Ollen are a loss to the ministry of Honduras and other countries.

With teary eyes, I join in saying that these two men have left behind many great ministers who loved them dearly. I will say from the depths of my heart that the

loss of Bro. Alvin and Bro. Ollen can be termed *a great loss to humanity*.

I hope to meet them in heaven, where we will be together forevermore.

—With lots of love and condolences.

Bro. Garry Jeffries, Senior Pastor

The great Iroke Tree of the church is gone; A man of accurate judgment is gone; a man of truth is gone. I received with shock, and amidst tears, the news of Bro. Alvin A. Craig's death during the minister's meeting at Okposi on March 9, 2018.

Bro. Alvin was my father in the faith and mentor. He fondly called me Bro. "Okie." I wrote him about our missionary trip to Benin Republic on February 27, and he replied the same day with these as his last words: "Pray that the Lord will take me home." I never gave it a thought that he would not live to receive the report of our minister's meeting.

Bro. Alvin's three visits to the work in Nigeria did a lot to lay a solid foundation for the church. He will ever be remembered by the Okposi congregation. God blessed him with long years of fruitful labor of love. He lived to his third generation. He has gone for his great reward beyond the skies. May the Lord help me to meet him on the resurrection morning, and may He continue to bless the work Bro. Alvin has left behind.

—Bro. Okereke Ogbonnaya, Nigeria

Dear Way of Truth Workers,

I join with you to thank the Lord for a life well spent: the life of Bro. Alvin A. Craig. May the Lord Almighty, whose House you are building, replace him with someone who will double his contributions in the ministry of spreading the truth all over the world, in such a way that Bro. Alvin will be rejoicing from paradise as he beholds the glorious continuity of the work.

My kind regards to everyone of you.

—Ogbos Okike, Nigeria

Dear Bro. Greg,

With joy and gratitude to God Almighty, we, the entire ministry and members of the Church of God in Nigeria, received with painful heart the news about Bro. Alvin's death. We hereby sympathize with the Craig's family and the congregation of Church of God, and the entire workers of *The Way of Truth* printing house at Hagerstown, and every one saddened by this death worldwide.

We truly acknowledge that Bro. Alvin was a man in Christ, who lived for Christ, and died in Christ. He was a lover of truth. He stood for the truth and strove for the faith of the gospel. He was ordained into the ministry of Christ, served as a preacher and a teacher, a pastor, an evangelist, an apostle who widely travelled, the editor of the renowned *Way of Truth* monthly publication, an author of a number of biblical books, a crusader, and a gospel navigator; and to add a few: a prayer warrior and counsellor. It was a great privilege to come in contact with this great man of God who

The Way of Truth

visited us with the gospel of Christ three times, and supported the gospel work in various capacities, especially by the supply of the quarterlies and the monthly journals.

Truly, the memorial of Bro. Alvin's life and work stands and remains ever green, and they have gone up to testify for him in the presence of God the Father, and the Judge of all men. He suffered many afflictions in his days of Christianity, and combatted many temptations and oppositions to the faith. Our dear Lord and God, in His infinite mercy, has considered Bro. Alvin's days to be done and has called him to be with Him whom he served faithfully, to rest and reign with Him until the resurrection in the last day.

Bro. Alvin has left many legacies. We pray God to care for, and to continue to bless the surviving members of his family, the church, *The Way of Truth* printing house, the radio broadcasts, and internet services.

May the almighty Father raise Spirit-filled anointed instruments to fill the place Bro. Alvin has left. †

—Bro. John Mosimabale, for the Ministry and Church of God (Rays of Truth), Nigeria

I was privileged to know Bro. Alvin for many years, and I can say that it has been a very special blessing. I have received help in many ways in my walk with the Lord.

I have looked to Bro. Alvin in conventions, revivals, and also through his radio messages, I have been inspired to press on. His life has been such an influence on me, as well as many others.

My desire is to hold the standard high and meet Bro. Alvin again one day. I enjoyed having him in my home and also traveling to conventions together overseas. He certainly has left us a good example to follow. I believe he's resting in peace.

—Bro. Raymond Martin
Shawsville, Virginia

OUR DADDY

Our father had a huge impact on our lives. He had family worship with us children every night before we went to bed. We were raised in a good Christian home. He was a praying father—three times a day—morning, afternoon, and evening. We were taken to church where we were taught the truth, which we are so thankful for. With Daddy working in the pressroom and not making much money, we did not have a lot of material things growing up, but we knew we were loved and that our parents would do anything they could to help us. We knew when Daddy said something he meant it, and if we disobeyed we would be punished. We didn't appreciate that until years later when we became mothers, then we understood. We would go on family trips to different camp meetings. Daddy was our tour guide to the Holy Land where we walked the same road Jesus walked many years ago. We had a service and sang in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. Precious memories with our father! We love and miss him dearly, but we know he is safe in the arms of Jesus. Now it is up to us to make it to heaven also. What a glorious day that will be when my Jesus I shall see!

—Bro. Alvin's daughters †

RADIO LOG

The Way of Truth Broadcast

Alvin A. Craig, Radio Minister

(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

Listen live—Go to www.kfxi.com

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, WLMR 1450, 3:00 P.M.

1,000 Watts—Heard in part of TN, GA and AL

Tennessee, Chattanooga, WLMR-FM 103.3, 3:00 P.M.

Heard in part of TN, GA and AL

Virginia, Narrows, WZFM-FM 101.3, 8:00 A.M.

3,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA

Virginia, Blacksburg, WKEX 1430, 8:00 A.M.

3,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA

Virginia, Christiansburg, WKEX-FM 105.9, 8:00 A.M.

3,000 Watts—Heard in part of VA

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

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

Church of God (Universal), Inc.
The Way of Truth
P. O. Box 88
Hagerstown, MD 21741-0088 U.S.A.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Mercersburg, PA
Permit No. 15

THE CHURCH OF GOD STANDS FOR

An eternal God	Psalms 90:2
A divine Christ	John 1:1, 14
An infallibly inspired Bible	II Timothy 3:16
Salvation from sin	Matthew 1:21
The new birth	John 3:1-7
Entire Sanctification	Ephesians 5:25, 26
A holy life	Titus 2:11, 12
	Hebrews 12:10-14
Unity of God's people	John 17:21
	I Corinthians 12:13
Divine Healing	James 5:14, 15
The ordinances	Matthew 28:19, 20
Eternal life	Matthew 25:46
	John 3:15; 6:54; 10:28
Eternal punishment	Mark 9:43-46
	Revelation 20:15

YOU SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CHURCH OF GOD, THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus bought it with His own blood	Acts 20:28
It has a good foundation	Ephesians 2:20
	I Corinthians 3:11
Christ is the Head	Ephesians 1:22; 5:23
	Isaiah 9:6
Christ is the Door	John 10:9
	John 10:1
	Acts 2:47
Only the saved are members	John 15:2-6
	I John 3:8, 9
Membership is offered to all	II Peter 3:9
	Revelation 22:17
Membership is rewarded	John 14:2, 3

COMING MEETINGS

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

12819 Point Salem Rd.

Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

July 3-8, 2018, Lord willing

Bro. Gregory E. Tyler, Host Pastor

For more information call: 301-739-2980



REVIVAL SERVICES

Miami, Florida

July 11-15, 2018, Lord Willing

Sis. Margerie Allen, Pastor



Jamaica Youth Revival

Axe-and-Adze, Hanover

July 24-29, 2018

Bro. Rupert Shippy, Pastor