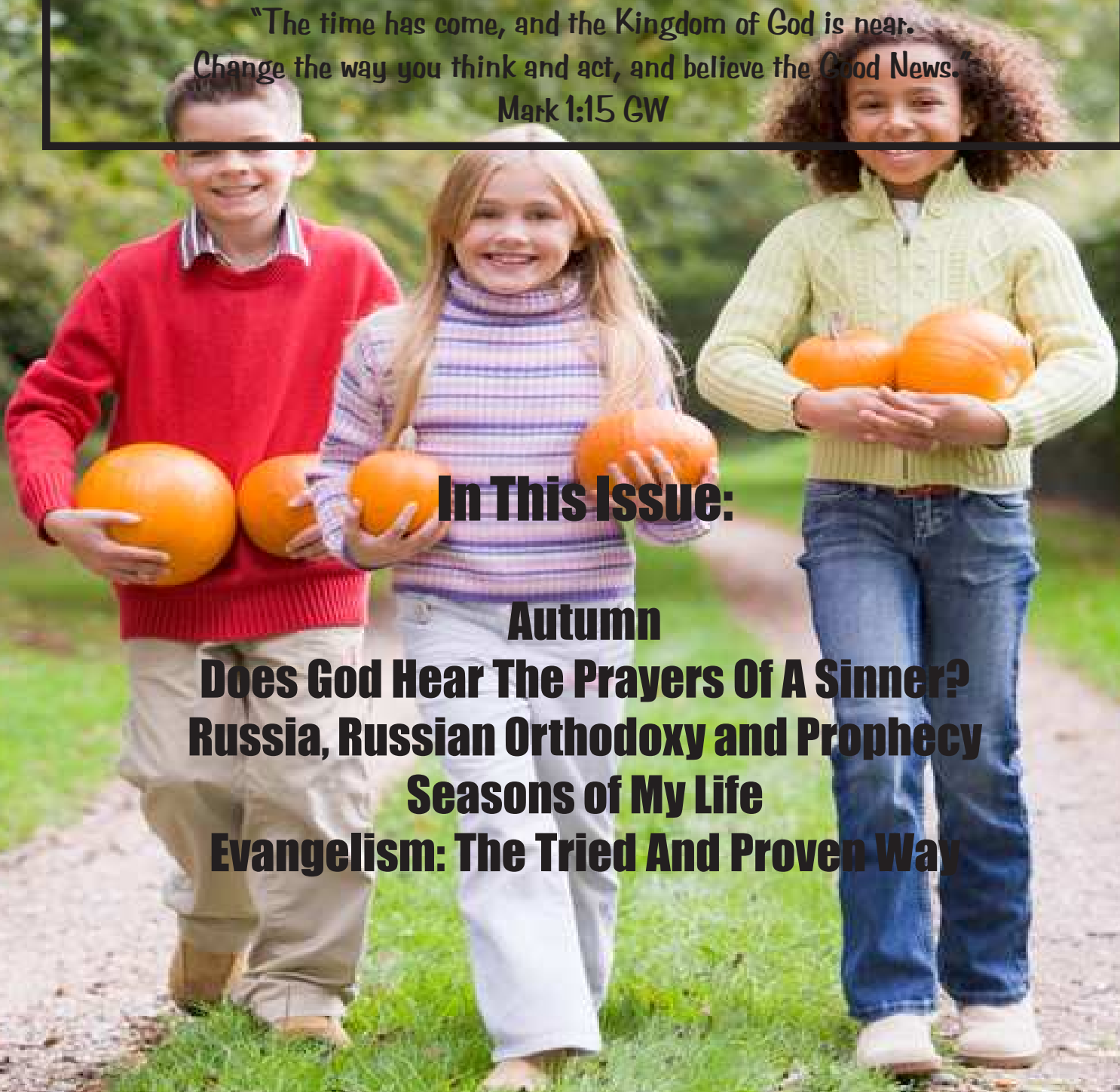


E-Herald of the Coming Kingdom

"The time has come, and the Kingdom of God is near.
Change the way you think and act, and believe the Good News."
Mark 1:15 GW



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*DEDICATED TO SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S COMING
KINGDOM TO BE ESTABLISHED WHEN JESUS RETURNS*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Co-Editors: Kent Ross - Wally Winner



Israel and Iran

We continue to hear news of Iran developing nuclear capabilities despite their protestations, since 2003, that they would cease doing that. Insisting, they said, the developments were only for peaceful matters.

Interestingly, no one believed them, except, perhaps ours and other government entities. They hoped for the best. Eerily similar to the trust Neville Chamberlin and others hoped for in Hitler promising no more aggression.

Israel has never believed in those leading Iran, political or theological leaders. More and more of the western world realize that Israel "must" respond, perhaps preemptively, and the time seems closer with each day.

If that response does occur, it seems like the entire region will be likely to explode in a war unlike any other, even those previous "wars to end all wars." It would, seemingly, be the fulfilling of prophetic events seen in the Bible.

Israel is being isolated more and more, and to our shame, even the United States seems to be weakening in what has been its unstinting support for Israel on the world stage. It seems the U.S. government has shown even contempt in its treatment of Israel's leaders.

For Bible students, it was laughable when the uprising in the Arab world were touted as the "Arab Spring," the throwing off of oppressive regimes. The hopeful expectation voiced was that perhaps some form of democratic governments would arise. Instead, it appears, we're seeing governments dominated by the Arab brotherhood, which by all accounts is first of all anti-Israel, and secondly anti-Western.

It seems foreordained that soon the United States will abandon Israel, and she will be left "alone" to face the overwhelming odds arrayed against her. When the Bible prophesies that ALL nations will gather together against Jerusalem to battle, then Israel will be left with no one . . . but the forces of Jehovah.

Her demise will appear imminent with death, havoc and destruction all about, but then . . . the Lord will go forth to battle, and it will be those "mighty" forces arrayed against Israel that will see his fury and see their doom.

We are told to be watching, to be alert, for that day is coming, and it appears sooner than some might have expected.

To respond to this editorial, send your reply to kenthross@gmail.com

Great Joy and Some Concern

Recently the only Biblical Unitarian college in the world (at least the only one of which we know) received some wonderful news. Atlanta Bible College was able to acquire the entire building in which they had been leasing just one of the four floors. Through generous gifts of some \$300,000, and then a single, marvelous bequest of \$850,000, the building was acquired.

Even before this event transpired, the college had been working diligently to build up its attendance and has succeeded to a good degree. That all is excellent news, but . . .

It is evident that the financial situation there is still precarious. Just in the mail this month was an appeal for more sacrificial giving. Disappointingly, it came through what had been called a Church Builder's Appeal, and before that a Mission Builder's Appeal.

The original intent was to generate funds to help in building new church structures for newly-planted congregations. There seem to be fewer and fewer of those Appeals that go for the original intent. Years ago the rules were changed to allow for appeals to be applied to other needs when there was no church appeal pending.

So that is certainly all right, but my concern is for the lack of newly planted churches. I am glad money can be contributed to help the college to continue in existence, but it is my deep desire to see new congregations established everywhere.

That is happening in many countries outside the U.S. and that is wonderfully commendable. But without the base here in the U.S. also expanding, we appear to be failing in part of our own mission.

And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria and to the utmost parts of the earth. Rejoice in the planting of the faith in those other lands, but pray the Lord of the Harvest to raise up the laborers here for we're convinced the field here are also ripe/white for the harvest, and the night is coming when work must cease.

Tribulation and Persecution Has Begun

This is an issue of students of prophecy debate. Some Historicists think of it as having begun in A.D. 70 and continuing to the present. Futurists debate whether it is primarily, being the time of Jacob's trouble, having most to do with the Israelis, and other Futurists believe the Great Tribulation will come upon all believers.

While this discussion and debate swirls in prophetic circles, the attached information, taken from news releases, is certainly indicative that "tribulation" of some degree of severity is already being visited upon many who at least bear the name of Christ.

We need to be people of prayer today, praying fore the Peace of Jerusalem, but also for God's people, especially in those areas of the world where they face death for their faith.

Essential Liberty

“As I expected when I first heard about the Arab Spring, only simpletons can ever be overjoyed at the notion of a tyrant being overthrown in that part of the world. King Farouk was bad, Gamal Nasser was worse. The Shah of Iran was bad, the Ayatollah Khomeini was worse. Hosni Mubarak was bad, the generals are worse. Muammar Kaddafi was bad, his assassins will be worse. I understand that the Muslim Brotherhood has already sent roses and a box of candy to NATO. When I say that Arab and Muslim coups and revolutions inevitably end badly, I mean for America. For those who live in those countries, it’s merely a matter of trading one set of sadists for another. Because we are the people who benefitted from the efforts of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Franklin, we tend to have a soft spot in our hearts for those who rise up against despots. But, as the results of such uprisings bring the likes of Robespierre, Napoleon, Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot and Castro, to power, I’d say that the optimism over such bloody events merely proves that we have an even larger soft spot in our heads.” —columnist Burt Prelutsky

The Gipper

“The bulk of Israel’s population lived within artillery range of hostile Arab armies. I am not about to ask Israel to live that way again. Since the foundation of the State of Israel, the United States has stood by her and helped her to pursue security, peace, and economic growth. Our friendship is based on historic moral and strategic ties, as well as our shared dedication to democracy. For the people of Israel and America are historic partners in the global quest for human dignity and freedom. We will always remain at each other’s side.” —Ronald Reagan

SIXTY-THREE PEOPLE KILLED IN NIGERIA BOKO HARAM ATTACK

The Red Cross says a series of bomb and gun attacks in the north-eastern Nigerian town of Damaturu has killed at least 63 people.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) website reports witnesses said the bombs hit several targets, including churches and the headquarters of the Yobe state police. The BBC said many people are reported to have fled the town after a night of violence. It stated the Islamist militant group Boko Haram told a newspaper it was behind the attack and that it planned to hit further government targets.

SOMALI MUSLIMS CUT, BEAT CHRISTIAN UNCONSCIOUS IN KENYA

Assuming he is a convert from Islam, victim’s countrymen leave him for dead. Compass Direct News (CDN) is reporting that a Somali Christian in Kenya is nursing injuries after young Muslim men from his country beat him with iron rods and wooden clubs last week, leaving him unconscious at a church entryway.

***TWO DEAD AND TWELVE WOUNDED IN ARMED RAID
ON CHURCH IN NIGERIA'S KADUNA STATE***

KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA (ANS) — Christian Solidarity Worldwide says that calm is reported to be returning to Tabak Village in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area (LGA), Kaduna State, after Thursday night's armed raid on a village prayer meeting that left two people dead..According to a CSW media update, the attack on St Augustine Catholic Church occurred at around 11:45 in the evening, and says that according to witnesses, gunmen raided the church as a prayer meeting was coming to an end, fired at a congregation consisting mainly of women and children, and escaped into the bush

MISSIONARY ATTACKED (FROM GOSPEL FOR ASIA)

Gospel for Asia-supported missionary Manshi Tamang was attacked by anti-Christian extremists while he and his family were walking home from church on Sunday. The attackers severely beat Manshi and then fled.

***BURMESE KACHIN CHURCHES ATTACKED, WOMEN RAPED AND CIVILIANS KILLED BY
MILITARY WHILE REGIME TALKS OF REFORM***

By Michael Ireland, ASSIST News Service

KACHIN STATE, MYANMAR — Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), a Christian organization working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, is deeply concerned by reports that the Burma Army are directly attacking churches in Kachin State, beating pastors and church members, setting homes alight and raping, torturing and killing civilians.

***IRANIAN PASTOR LANGUISHES IN JAIL AS HE AWAITS
AYATOLLAH'S VERDICT ON APOSTASY***

By Michael Ireland, Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

RASHT, IRAN (ANS) — Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani continues to be held in Lakan Prison in Rasht, Iran, while waiting for the verdict to be delivered from the local court in Gilan Province following his conviction on apostasy charges.

INSIGHTS ON THE LATEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN EGYPT

By Dan Wooding, Founder of ASSIST Ministries

CAIRO, EGYPT (ANS) — Protests, violence and death again found their way to Egypt's ancient and teeming city of Cairo. On October 9th 2011, what began as a peaceful march for justice erupted into mayhem as extremists who were not part of the protest suddenly attacked demonstrators as well as passers-by. In the days after, reports have been confusing and conflicting.

Scene from the latest violence in Cairo. With 26 people killed and hundreds injured, this most recent event shook the Egyptian Christian community, leaving more questions than answers since the start of the "Arab Spring."

***17-YEAR-OLD SOMALI CHRISTIAN BEHEADED
BY ISLAMIC EXTREMIST***

By Michael Ireland, Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service
NAIROBI, KENYA (ANS) — Militants from the Islamic extremist group al Shabaab beheaded a 17-year-old Somali Christian near Mogadishu last month, a journalist in the Somali capital told Compass Direct News (CDN).

CDN reports the militants, who have vowed to rid Somalia of Christianity, killed Guled Jama Muktar on Sept. 25 in his home near Deynile, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Mogadishu.

IRAN THREAT AND MIDEAST TENSIONS DOMINATE HEADLINES

Ahmadinejad says Tehran "deepening our ties" with Iraq as U.S. prepares to pull out; Libya to introduce radical Islamic law.

***IRANIAN RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES ACKNOWLEDGE THE
SPREAD OF GOSPELS IN IRAN***

By Michael Ireland, Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service
Despite pressures and threats on one hand and the ban of printing and selling gospels on the other hand, Christianity is increasingly spreading among the youth and families in Iran. The word of God is making its way into many Iranian homes.

***IRAN ATTEMPTS TO CONVERT CHRISTIAN PRISONERS AS
CRACKDOWN ON CHURCH INTENSIFIES***

Authorities Giving Christian Prisoners Islamic Materials in Attempts
to Make Them Incriminate Themselves

By Michael Ireland - Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

A United Kingdom-based Christian human rights group has been informed that Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani, who is currently in prison awaiting a final decision from the Supreme Leader of Iran regarding a death sentence for apostasy, was recently presented with Islamic literature, allegedly as part of an official campaign to convert Christian prisoners.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) says local sources report that a renewed campaign of harassment of Iranian Christians is underway in Iran, and that several members of the Church of Iran denomination, to which Nadarkhani belongs, have recently been called in for questioning.

AUTUMN

By Angela Moore

Gorgeous leaves radiating brilliant colors in the sunlight, of rich reds and golds, deep burgundies and mocha browns.

God is the ultimate artist, with the stroke of his brush, lighting up our world in paint swatches that man can only feebly attempt to mimic.

I notice and appreciate this, when we turn off the interstate and leave high zooming speeds of 70+ mph, to turn onto the country roads, and drive at a more sedate, ambling pace, gracing ourselves with an opportunity to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us. It is no longer a blur, but the view, crystal clear.

The view was there before, but we had to slow down to really see it.

So too, is our life.

Sometimes, our family of seven, leads such a busy life, it's unavoidable. As the mother and 'family manager' of our calendar, I certainly make a strong attempt at keeping things simple and not over-extending ourselves in over-commitment of obligations and activities. With just each child doing one sport or activity, it can quickly escalate our lives to a constant blur, and our days and nights whirl past us, as if we have been put onto the fast forward speed of life, and we seem powerless to slow it down.

As the autumn season winds down, so too, does a few of my children's activities, and I find myself breathing in a deep sigh of relief. We are still busy, but it is certainly not at the frantic pace that it was, and I enjoy this view so much more. I think it's because I have the time to see them... to see my husband and my five children and appreciate the view.

I count my blessings.

My husband.

He is a godly man, quiet in his faith, but so strong and steadfast.

He is the oak tree that we can lean on, and trust will always be there.

He is the one who prays for us, behind the scenes, and upholds us when we grow weak and vulnerable to the winds.

He is the man who does not seek glory, fame or fortune, but who protects, secures, and holds us through the storms and the calm of life.

His love is sure.

"His delight is in Yahweh's instruction,
and he meditates on it day and night.

He is like a tree planted beside streams of water

That bears its fruit in season

And whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers."

Psalm 1:2-3



My children.

Each one so uniquely precious and designed by God's Almighty Hand.

Each one a gift I treasure and the purest delight to my soul.

My children who have my heart.

My children who have taught me more about myself than I ever would have seen on my own and who have given me a better picture of my Heavenly Father, and how He loves me.

They are beautiful because they are God's children, whom have temporarily been granted into my custody ~ to love, to train, to cherish, to hug tight on cold, winter days.

"Sons are indeed a heritage from Yahweh,
Children, a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior

Are the sons born in one's youth.

Happy is the man who has filled

His quiver with them."

Psalm 127:3-5(a).

When I take the time to slow down, the view is no longer obscured by our busyness.

I can clearly detect the little things in each one of them, that matters more than whether they won a game or got their homework finished, but whether their hearts are truly belonging to Him.

The scene is not of their mistakes, weaknesses or what they failed to do, but more one of appreciation as I see the exquisiteness and genius of God's artistic brush, once again stroking His faithfulness and love for us, onto the canvas of our lives.

I can see our family's portrait attempting to reflect and capture the shining beauty and majesty of His Glory that He has lovingly placed in our hearts.

What I see is not merely us, but God's touch upon our lives. Without His brilliant light, the colors of our lives would be dull. Listless. Boring.

With His gentle pruning, patient love, and artistic caress, our Father conforms us into the image of His son, and we become forgiven, adopted, heirs, children of the Most High God.

"so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe."

Philippians 2:15.

God's masterpiece.

Yahweh's creation.

His finest artwork.

His beloved children.

For that,

I am thankful.

I am blessed.

I am delighted.

The scene is beautiful, the desire of my heart.

"May He give you what your heart desires and fulfill your whole purpose."

Psalm 20:4.

Selah.



Does God Hear The Prayers Of A Sinner?

By Wally Winner

“Preacher”, asked the inquisitor, “will God hear the prayer of a person before their baptism?”

I had heard this question formatted before like, “Does God hear the prayer of a sinner?” or “Does God hear the prayer of the unconverted?” What was implied here, too, is “Does God answer the prayers of the sinner?”

Apparently, on this occasion, his Sunday School class had been discussing this for three weeks. The class seemed to be evenly divided on the answer.

After all, some would ask, doesn't the Bible state, “God does not lis-ten to sinners” (John 9:31)? Or, “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth (John 9:31). And maybe, “Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isa 59:1-2).

Yet, how does a sinner get to God? After all, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Rom 3:23). Plus, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God” (Rom 3:10-11).

This is an important question!

Readers of the Bible need to take care not to isolate a phrase or sentence from its context, giving it an unintended meaning. This is a fundamental rule for understanding the Bible, as it is for understanding any other piece of literature.

Maybe many don't pray because they are not sure God is listening. They may feel that what they have done — that is the sin in their life — prevents God from listening.

You do not have to be perfect to pray.

With that in mind, let's look at John 9:31. Jesus had just healed a man of blindness. This event greatly upset some of the Pharisees, who saw Jesus as a threat to their authority. They claimed Jesus could not have opened this man's eyes because Jesus was, in their view, a sinner (verse 24).





The formerly blind man answered: “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see” (verse 25). He continued, “We know that God does not listen to sinners” (verse 31).

These words are in the Bible. But neither God nor one of his chosen servants spoke them. They did not originate by divine inspiration.

They are the words of a man expressing an opinion he and some others shared. He was merely expressing the conventional wisdom of that day, not the will of God.

God does hear sinners who have a repentant attitude. As proof, let us notice the parable Jesus spoke in Luke 18:9-14. It is usually re-ferred to as the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. But it could just as easily be called the parable of the two sinners.

Both persons in the parable were sinners. The difference between them was one of attitude.

“Two men went up to the temple to pray,” Jesus explained, “one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers —or even like this tax collector’” (verses 10-11).

Pharisees enjoyed the respect of the populace. Tax collectors were generally despised.

The words, “or even like this tax collector,” drip with self-righteousness. Here in the person of the Pharisee was a sinner who didn’t recognize his own sinfulness.

Sin is disobeying God. Of course, we are all guilty, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

The Pharisee couldn’t see his guilt, while the tax collector “stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner’” (Luke 18:13).

Now there is an attitude God can work with. It cuts through sanctimonious display. It strips away pretense and foolish pride. It lays the groundwork for a new beginning.

God heard and forgave the tax collector, and “this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God” (verse 14). The prayers of the “other” — the sinful but unrepentant Pharisee—did not get through to God.

Time and again, Jesus talked of sinners turning to God. He spoke of the “rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

Still, some people feel they are not good enough to come to God. Indeed, such persons are not worthy of talking to God right now. Nor can they ever on their own merits make themselves worthy of doing so!

But that is remedied in Jesus Christ. We pray to God the Father on Christ's merits—in Jesus' name. "I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" (John 16:23).

An entire book of the New Testament — the book of Hebrews — is devoted to showing how we, in spite of our many imperfections, reach God through Jesus Christ. It explains how, when we pray, we come before a throne upon which God is seated.

God's throne is not called the throne of blame or condemnation. It is called the "throne of grace" - of unmerited, merciful kindness (Hebrews 4:16). "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst," Paul wrote (1 Timothy 1:15).

That was Jesus' mission. "God demonstrates his own love toward us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

God loves sinners. Of course, he doesn't want us to *remain* sinners. That's the whole point of conversion. True repentance involves ceasing sinful practices through the strength the Holy Spirit gives us. We in effect die to sin.

"Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus," the apostle Paul instructed. "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires" (Romans 6:11-12).

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

Christians are God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10). He is actively working with those who have given themselves to him, to develop his sinless nature in them.

This doesn't happen all at once. It is a lifelong process. Christians are not suddenly immune from sinning just because they are converted. They make mistakes. They give in to weaknesses.

At conversion a Christian's past and present sins are covered by Jesus Christ's shed blood and forgiven. But when Christians sin anew they must repent anew and ask for forgiveness.

Christians should never lose a repentant attitude. That's why Jesus taught his followers to pray, even on a daily basis, "Forgive us our sins" (Luke 11:3-4).

No matter what our sins, they are not greater than the price that was paid by Jesus Christ to make mercy available. We should never let guilt prevent us from praying and keep us separated from God.

God listens to repentant sinners. And when we feel distant from God is when we most need to pray.

Priscilla Retreat

By Joyce E. Magaw

On October 7-9, the Priscillas (ministers' wives) had a retreat at Pine Creek Cabins near Oregon, Illinois. There were 17 in attendance coming from Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Georgia, and Ohio. The theme was "Be still and know that I am God."

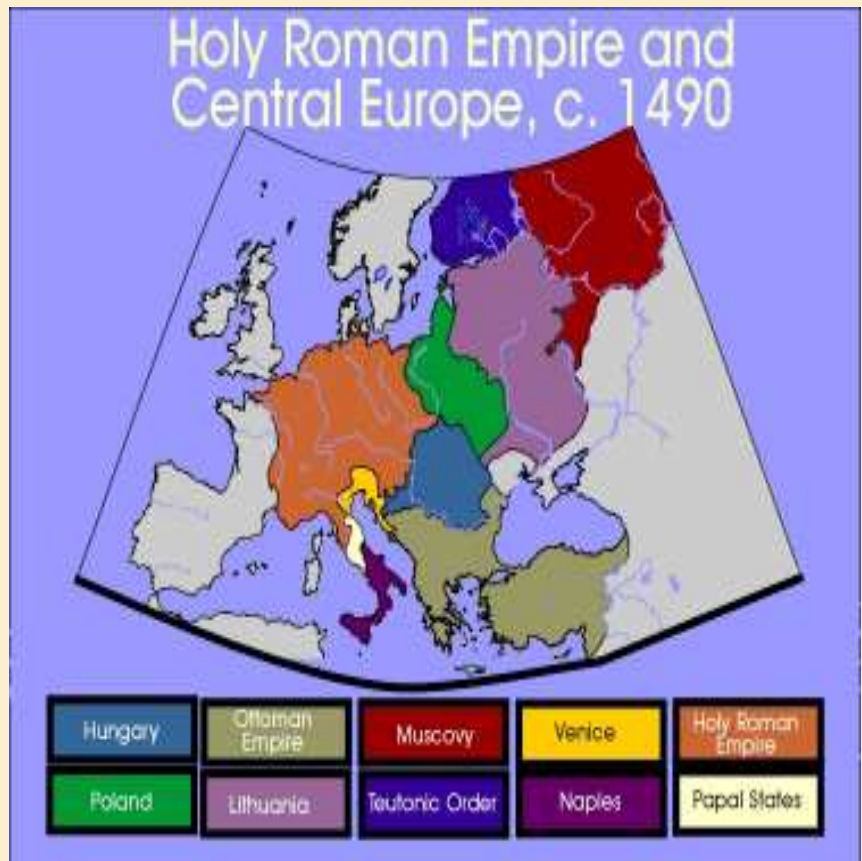
Knowing the hectic life most minister's wives live, we wanted this to be a time to relax, share with each other, and focus on God and his blessings. Devotions given by Susan Cain, Gayle Guthrie, Rebekah Martin and Paula Kirkpatrick carried out the theme. Friday night concluded with singing around a campfire. Saturday afternoon was spent at White Pines Park, enjoying God's nature. The weather was perfect and the trees beautiful. We are thankful for all the support given by our churches and our families for carrying the load at home.



Russia, Russian Orthodoxy, and Prophecy

By Russell Rankin

As the Reformation was in its early development in the 15th century Holy Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire was convulsed by the Byzantine Church's temporary submission to Rome and the rise of the Russian Orthodox Church independent of Rome and Byzantium, the seat of Eastern Orthodoxy since its separation from Rome in the 11th century. In 1453 A.D. Byzantium (formerly Constantinople) fell to the Turks who renamed it Istanbul. The Turks established Islam as the dominant religion in the Middle East and Near East. Parallel to the rise of Islam, Russian Orthodoxy rose to become a primary leader in Eastern Christendom. Thus began the world in which we live today, Russian Orthodoxy in a church/state relationship in Russia, Roman Orthodoxy as a church state influencing world politics including, Evangelical (Protestant) countries and Islamic nations.



The centuries between 650 and 1453 A.D. saw the rise of the religion of Mohammed, the "false prophet" of Revelation 19 whose power worked "in the presence" of the "beast" of Revelation 13, 17-19 (Orthodox Christianity, 'Holy Rome'). Every country, including Russia, has felt the clash of the two most dominant religions in the world ever since. These have continued in the world alongside of the faith of Abraham in the Christ and Son of God whose name is Jesus. The basis of Christian doctrine changed in the second and third century A.D. Its apostasy was identified by the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1-4, specifically forbidding marriage (celibacy of men and women) and restricting foods. The apostasy doctrine which Jesus' disciple, John, warned against in 1 John 2 and 4 came into its full as "orthodoxy" while the Roman Empire divided in the fourth century into Eastern and Western Roman Empire. By the end of the 10th century, Orthodoxy had pervaded Russia. "After the death of Sviatoslav his sons fell into dispute. Victory came to Vladimir in 980. The most important event during his reign was his conversion to Christianity and the institution of [Byzantine] Christianity as the official religion not only of the princely house but of the whole Russian people." (A History of Russia, George Vernadsky, Yale University Press,

1929, fourth and revised edition 1939, pp.23-24). Today's religious conflicts are the result of many centuries of false religion promoted by the "false prophet" from the desert and the apostate "harlot" of the Roman Empire described in Revelation.

Around 600 B.C. the Jewish Prophet, Ezekiel, already had Russia in view. The nation "out of the uttermost parts of the north" would be ruled by a king whom Ezekiel called "Gog" (38:2,14 ASV). Ezekiel spoke of the people the Greeks called Scythians, but were known to themselves as Slavs. The many peoples of eastern Europe and northern Asia (the steppe and forest people and the nomadic peoples) were solidified under Rurik, the Scandinavian king of the Rus whom they first invited to rule over them. Thereafter, the people "in the land of Magog" came to be known as Russians, that is, "the country of the Rus" (Universal Standard Encyclopedia, 1956, Vol. 20, Rurik, p.7374; Russia, pp. 7377-7378). Ezekiel witnessed the invasion of the Scythians in his day into the Philistine cities (against whom God's prophets prophesied their destruction). He witnessed the fulfillment of part of his prophecy, "I will turn you around and put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out" (Ezekiel 38:4). He saw the Sythian armies return home after destroying the five Philistine cities as God had said; they turned around and went back to their own land. But he prophesied that God would turn them around under Gog to return to the land of Israel "in the latter years" (Ezekiel 38:8, NKJV).

Ezekiel's contemporary, Daniel, was aware of the same peoples to be ruled by Gog. Daniel explained to king Nebuchadnezzar that the "fourth kingdom" would break apart and become many kings (Daniel 2:41-43). Rome became many kingdoms, but continued the influence of the "iron" of Rome within the many nations which arose. Like the Western empire, the Eastern empire continued its power by Eastern Orthodoxy promoting the union of church and state. Throughout the Middle Ages (1000-1500 A.D.) both Western and Eastern Orthodoxy maintained that the 'Church' held authority above the kings of the nations. Eastern Orthodoxy, though not acknowledging the supremacy of the Pope, maintained a close association with the Czars (Latin, Caesar), from the 1400's to the 1900's. Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. With this, the Russian Orthodox Church declared Moscow the "third Rome" and promoted itself as the successor and center of Eastern Orthodoxy (A History of Russia, Vernadsky, pg.77).



The power of Russian Orthodoxy is well described in the following:

"Throughout the struggle for the concentration of the supreme control in one head the church, as will already have been perceived, bore a prominent part. The authority of the clergy had gone on gradually assuming a more stern and arbitrary aspect, even while the political affairs of the country were undergoing daily vicissitudes. The evils that afflicted the state passed harmless over the church; while the one was subjected to disasters that checked its progress towards prosperity, the other was constantly enlarging its powers, profiting by the misfortune that surrounded it, and gleaning its share of the good fortune that occasionally improved the hopes of the people. In the early periods when Russia was merely the victim of her own dissensions, the church was freely admitted as the mediator, partly in virtue of her office as the dispenser of charity and peace, and partly from the veneration in which religion and its ordinances are held. When the [Moslem] Tartars invaded Russia. they perceived the mighty influence which the priests exercised over the passions of the people, and, fully persuaded of the wisdom of attaching to their cause an order of men who wielded so

enormous a power, they increased their privileges, exonerated them from taxes, and placed such premiums of gain and protection upon the monkish habit, that the highest amongst the nobility, and many princes, embraced the clerical profession, and added their rich possessions to the revenues of the church..... But the indestructible spirit of [Eastern Orthodox] Christianity shrunk from a union with the creed of the pagans.... Mohammedism assailed them on the one hand, and the papal church on the other: they wanted a rallying point of resistance against both; and they could only find it in the elevation of the throne to an imperial height. Hence, the clergy supported the principle of legitimacy, which by its consistency and perpetuity was calculated to promote the progressive ascension of the princely authority; and thus by degrees, and the inevitable progress of an active doctrine that survived through every obstacle, the church became blended with the state; and the policy of the priesthood, exercising its subtle influence governed and directed the motions of the civil jurisdictions.” (The Historians’ History of the World, The Encyclopedia Company, 1904, 1926 edition, Vol. 17, The History of Russia, pp.167-168). This union of church and state continued until 1917 and the Bolshevic Revolution.

The centuries of the union of the Czars with the Orthodox Church power ended in the revolution which began in 1905 and concluded in the successful Bolshevic revolution of 1917. The new government determined to end the union of church with the state. Because of its association with Czarist Russia, the new Soviet Union issued a decree on January 23, 1918 against the Orthodox church. All church properties were regarded as belonging to the state. Many were even closed by the State. Though not officially banned, between 1917 and 1920 “a thousand bishops, priests, and monks were either shot or put to death by imprisonment and hunger” (History of Russia, Vernadsky, pg.354). In 1922, the government requisitioned the church’s treasuries for famine relief, and introduced more persecution. Yet, Roman Orthodoxy elected her own patriarch and continued in power and opposition to the Revolutionist government. The years of 1929-1930 not only began new persecution of Orthodox Christianity, but of all Christian, Jewish, and Islamic religions in a five year plan to suppress all religious activities in the Soviet Union. Yet, Russian Orthodoxy survived.

The apostle John prophesied of the apostasy doctrine, that Jesus Christ “did not come in flesh” (1 John 4:1-4). This he said was the doctrine of the Antichrist. Rome has maintained its power, but “not by its own power” (Daniel 8: 24). Rome has worked through the kings of the earth throughout the centuries — sometimes openly by its political / religious power, but always by its influence within all nations. The power of the Roman Orthodoxy is pictured in Revelation 13 and 17-19. However, the power of the “iron” of Daniel 2 permeated all nations. Russian Orthodoxy is only one example of the “iron” mixed with “clay”. Many are the “orthodox” organizations whose power involves itself in the politics of the nations. Even in the United States, the power of Orthodoxy is evident in mainstream Christianity, including Western, Eastern, and Evangelical Orthodoxy.

The “fourth kingdom” of Daniel will become “the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ (Revelation 11:15). Then “the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44). The power of Rome, both Western and Eastern will be replaced by Jesus Christ in the world kingdom of God (Daniel 7:14, 27). All nations “under the whole heaven” will serve Jehovah and his anointed, king Jesus. This will come when God destroys the armies of those nations who come against Jerusalem, as Ezekiel 38, Daniel 11, and Zechariah 12-14 prophesied. Gog will meet his end. Rome will come to his end. But the people who are “left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts” in Jerusalem where Jesus will sit on the throne of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem in the words of Jesus, “Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Seasons of My Life

By Sara Jane Peters McLaughlin

Life is about seasons. Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. God designed seasons for the benefit of the earth. It is about planting, growing, harvest and rest. He also designed Seasons to accommodate the changes that take place in our lives. Spring is our beginning and growing up years. Summer is where we left our homes and family life and started our careers and our own families. It is about higher education and pursuing our interests. This is a very busy season, but lots of fun and satisfying. After summer is complete we move into Fall. We see our children start careers and families of their own. It is a time of transition. We reach retirement. Then Winter comes upon us. Winter can have great beauty. It brings darkness at times. Many blessings are experienced in this particular season but it also comes with intrusions and health issues are serious concerns.

This past summer I had the unique privilege of returning to Minnesota to attend the Minnesota State Camp Reunion. Going back to Minnesota and attending the reunion was fantastic. Mainly, being with 3 of my sisters and seeing kids I grew up with. There is a phrase taken from "The Hobbit": "There and Back Again". When the call came for us to gather together I wondered what it was that brought us back. Was it the good food, Minnesota Summers, renewing friendships, reconnecting. This is my story of "There and Back Again".

My name is Sara Jane Peters McLaughlin. I was born into the Peters Family and my 4 sisters and I lived in Camelot. We didn't know it at the time but we know it now. We lived on a farm near Eden Valley, Minnesota. My parents were hard working people but gave us girls a lot of love and attention. We worked the farm with our parents and were taught the ways of the farm. God has really blessed me with a mind to recall images of that farm and our life there. It is such a comfort for me. I will always be a "Farm Girl".

My foundation of faith was laid in my early years. Church was an established routine. We went to church 3 times a week at least. Conferences and special meetings and services were never missed! It was never a question if we would go or not. We always got ready and attended no matter what! The community of Christian believers were treasured. The Bible was taught and respected. I took God very seriously. I was baptized after Bible camp one summer. I was 13 years old.

I was stricken with a serious kidney infection in my 5th grade year that took years of medication, diet and rest to recover. It was a life changing event. It was at this time the piano became a very important friend.

I graduated from OBC and Hennepin County Hospital School of Nursing. This was all very much a part of my wanting to continue on in my walk of faith. I really had my sights set on being a medical missionary.

I can't really say when I really thought Alaska was a place of interest. I do know that I wrote a paper for Brother Ross's class in Missions on the "History of Missions in Alaska". I did get an A and an Excellent on the report! I kept this report and ran across it recently while sorting thru stashes of keepsakes. It is one keepsake that I will always keep and treasure. Here is a statement that was in that report: "There is something about the vastness and majesty of this great land that appeals to the spiritual qualities within man. No one can stand before the awesome splendor of Mt. McKinley and fail of inspiration. No one can watch the rushing sweep of the northern lights and doubt the existence of a supreme order to this universe. Perhaps it is the insignificance of man against the canopy of heaven that causes him to look upward. And look upward he does."

I went to Tanana, Alaska an Athabascan Indian village. This was located in the interior of Alaska on the Yukon River. I worked in a Public Health Hospital. That was in 1968. I never left Alaska. I met and married Bill McLaughlin. My very first date with Bill was an adventure up the Melozitna River with Bill and a friend of his. We managed to crash his air boat and were rescued by the United States Air Force. We raised 3 children who now all have families of their own. We did relocate the family to Fairbanks in 1979.

Bill's calling was Communications and mine was raising our 3 children and then resuming my nursing career. We also were commercial salmon fishermen. Our daughter Maureen is married to Mark who is an Alaska State Trooper. They have 2 sons, Ian and Aiden who are age 7 and 3. Sean is a Drilling Engineer for British Petroleum on the North Slope. He is married to Jodi and they have Molly who is 8 and Megan who is 5. Darren is an Engineer for AT&T and is in charge of wireless communications in Alaska. His wife Lisa (who was born in Minnesota) is a violin instructor. Baby Anya Sophia joined their family very recently.

Bill and I are both retired. Bill completed 44 years in the communication industry. The last 28 years Bill worked on the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline as communications supervisor. He also spent 9 years in and out of Saudi Arabia during the first Gulf War for the military in communications. He was sent to Panama during "Operation Just Cause" and Puerto Rico after Hurricane Hugo. I worked in a Medical Clinic and floated in all areas. One of my favorites was surgery where I accompanied the Physician to the Hospital and assisted in Surgery. I also worked for a Family Practice doctor for several years. Bill loves to cook. I love to quilt and garden. My quilt, "The Magic of Potter Marsh" won Grand Championship and People's Choice at our Fair in 2010. We love to travel. My recent years have been traveling frequently to Minnesota to attend to my Mom & Dad. They both passed away last Fall. I miss them very much and so look forward to seeing them again. Soon I hope! I am so grateful for the legacy of faith and the values they instilled in us girls.

I went to Alaska to do great things for God. Instead, our Great God did a work in me. I call this the "Janie Awakening". I had determined to be a medical missionary. Hearing missionary stories as a young girl was very stirring. However, I soon realized evangelism was not my calling. Nursing was. I realized I had a religion of rules and regulations. I was properly religious. After all, I grew up in the church, had a good command of the Scriptures, had graduated from OBC, and went on a Youth Mission trip to Mexico. I had never had a rebellion in my youth. All the rules for young people we were strongly lectured on I followed. I had head knowledge. What I needed was a relationship with Jesus Christ. I did find the Pearl of Great Price. Jesus Christ became my Lord as well as my Savior. I came to understand that His love was unconditional and specifically for me. I no longer had to worry about being good enough to receive His grace. I had always had an appetite to increase my knowledge of the Scriptures. Now I study to know Jesus, the central figure of the Scriptures. I was starved for God's love. I came to understand that I had to learn the art of receiving that love and as an act of faith believed that I was loved with His everlasting Love.

I came to understand the role the Holy Spirit in my life and welcomed this guest to empower me, to teach me, to mold me, to fill and use me. He introduced me to a prayer partner who I have prayed with for over 20 years. I believe in prayer and intercessory prayer has been a calling for me. I've seen big and little things accomplished through prayer. One example was when I was in surgery and we were operating on a woman for a tumor. The surgeon said this is definitely cancer. They had all stepped away from the table waiting for the preliminary report and I went over and prayed for this woman that God would bring healing to her. He heard my prayer and the report came back negative for cancer.

I also realized that God's calling was the Church. My gift was encouragement. I had a talent of music that God utilized in a little church that had dwindled to a handful of people. I stepped up to the plate and volunteered to take over that department of the church. What I came to understand was that God lives in the praises of His people. And He certainly did in that church. I took the slow, dragging hymns and stepped them up and blended them with the new praise songs. I became a church board member. I was president of the Women's group. I organized choirs for Easter, Christmas and special services. I hosted an Easter Breakfast at my home for about 12 years. I went all out for the Lord and gave back everything I had been given. I learned that we are blessed to bless others. The church grew and grew. It was exciting to see God work like He did in this church and in my life. But again Seasons change and new Pastors come and other people wanted to come on board and take over. "Success has many fathers, failure is an orphan." So after 20 years I left quickly and silently. I like this phrase I heard once: "Only the Church shoots their wounded". And if you spent any amount of time in the church you know what I mean!

This is my life verse from Isaiah 43:19: "See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it. I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

A Scripture I would give for my Spring time Season would be 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 eternal life." Also, Matthew 6:33. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you".

Summer would be Jeremiah 33:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

Fall is from Psalm 27:13 "I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."

Winter is Philippians 3:13-14. "This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus". And also 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes on not what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal".

My life Hymn is "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

My favorite Psalm is Psalm 145.

God took a very awkward, a very quirky, a very ordinary "Sara Plain & Tall" and changed her heart, gave her life purpose, showed her His grace and mercy, and blessed her beyond measure. He gave my life significance and value. My feelings of great inadequacy were replaced by an understanding that I did not need to perform for acceptance. I did not have to impress anyone. I did not need approval from anyone. There is a Praise Song that says it very well: "I will change your name, you shall no longer be called wounded, outcast, lonely or afraid. I will change your name, your new name shall be confidence, joyfulness, overcoming one, faithfulness, friend of God, one who seeks My face." The Kidney disease I had as a child – I realized He healed me completely. There was a point in my life where I made a decision I was finished with this. I refused to ever see a doctor again for this and now I realize God showed me His mercy of healing and grace.

So this is my very brief version of "There and Back Again". Why did I go back to the Camp Reunion. Certainly, I looked forward to the friendships, fellowship, the singing, the teachings and preachings and sharings. But I think that it is what our parents instilled in us. They showed us the way. They showed us that family, friends, faith and freedom are what really matter. So many of our families were connected from early years. Many went to school together. Our parents laid the foundation of Faith in our lives by their values and beliefs. They took God and His Word very seriously and were obedient to teach their children what they knew to be true.

Yes, I came back because my roots were deeply entrenched in our churches and the camp. They will never be pulled up. Even though I live far away, my thoughts, my mind is connected here. In my heart I never left. I think back to the people in Minnesota and it brings thoughts of very gracious, caring loving people. We had the best mentors in the world to show us the way. The Minneapolis people were so gracious while I was going to school there. Lorraine Gaspar gave me many rides. She gave me \$10.00 to put a coat on lay away. There are so many stories time does not permit to share them. When I was so very small probably in 1st or 2nd grade Madge Savage had me stay at their home so I could attend Bible School. My Mom, my Aunt Eunice Otto, Larry Gaspar, Peg Ross, Edith Eades – Women of Faith who contributed greatly to my faith. The Vivian Kirkpatrick family who allowed me to stay at their home 1 semester while attending OBC.

We all know that Christ's return is very real and very soon. The early church lived in expectation of Christ's return. My parents lived in that same expectation. I cling to the promises taught in my younger years. I have not lost the excitement or the "wonder of it all" knowing that Jesus Christ, my Savior, is coming soon. The day will soon be upon us when the graves will open and we will be united with those dear saints who fought the good fight of faith, held to the promises and persevered. Gathering at the Camp Reunion was just a very slight and brief hint of what we will experience some sweet day. "What a Day that will Be when my Jesus I shall see, And I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace. When He takes me by the hand and leads me thro' the Promised Land, What a day, glorious day, that will be!"

One final word. Please, if you are traveling to Alaska, Bill and I would love for you to stop in and have a meal with us or stay with us. I promise Bill is a great chef and we love to show hospitality.

From Sara Jane Peters McLaughlin's Photo Album



EVANGELISM: THE TRIED AND PROVEN WAY

By Richard Eldred



Not Gus Gasper? Not Gus Gasper? Well, who is Gus Gasper and why not Gus?

Let me introduce you to Gus. He is seventy-seven years old. He lives on an eighty acre farm down the road from the New Beginnings Church. Usually you will find him dressed in blue jeans, a T-shirt and a pair of yellow suspenders. Gus has been a hard working man all his life. He is retired now from factory work, yet stays busy on the farm with a few cattle and a bit of farm machinery. He has been known over the years, in the community, as a man who tipped a few beers, and often more than a few, at the local tavern. "NOT GUS GASPER?" That was the reaction at the local hardware store when someone asked, "Who are some of the people who attend that New Beginnings Church out on Fleck road?"

The first time I met Gus was when he walked into the church alone (I admired his courage). He had been invited to church by his friend Bill Rose, whom he had worked with at the factory. I had baptized Bill a few months earlier and consequently, because of their relationship, now had invited his good friend Gus to come to church with him. Gus came in that morning, found his friend Bill and sat beside

ound that he lived just a few blocks from the church. We talked about the wild turkeys that called his farm their home. Gus told me I was welcome to come any time and hunt on his farm.

The next week he was back in church, and the next, and the next. In fact, he seldom ever missed. Shortly after his first visit we had a baptism at the fifth-lake campground near the church. Gus attended. Shortly after that we had a communion service. Gus told me after the service that he didn't feel like he should take communion and said he wanted to talk with me.

I killed a nice turkey that spring on Gus' farm, but more important was the relationship I was

building with him as I would always stop and spend some time talking with him. We could talk freely. He wasn't threatened by my being a pastor in any way. I truly enjoyed the visits, I could just be myself and laugh and have a great time with Gus. He shared with me on that visit that he had not taken communion the week before because he had not been baptized. We talked about the baptism at the lake. He said, "I think that's the way it ought to be done." Then he said something exciting. He said, "I want you to baptize me." I was thrilled. The only thing that kept me from tears was my outburst of laughter as he said in the next breath, "I want you to plant me too when the time comes." I said, "That is great Gus, but lets wait on that second one ,Okay?"

In the next few weeks I got to meet his wife Elaine. Elaine is on the go a lot visiting the children. They are scattered around the country, one in Maryland, one near Detroit, and one up north. Gus doesn't like to travel and stays closer to home. Consequently, it took me a few weeks to get a chance to meet Elaine, except for one visit when I talked with her through the screen door. Gus wasn't at home. Gus had told me that Elaine used to go to church, but had an experience that caused her to never go back again. I asked Gus to bring Elaine to church with him. He said, "I could ask her, but I don't think she will come."

Gus had a 1941 Ford car. He mentioned he would be willing to pull the church float in the local 'Dizzy Daze Parade' that spring. I welded up a hitch that he could bolt to his bumper, with a rubber mount, that wouldn't scratch his bumper. I rode with him in the parade, 'Bruno' the dog in the back seat. Quite a day! Speaking of 'Bruno'. One day when I was leaving, after visiting Gus, I heard him say to the dog, "What do you think, Bruno, he's a pretty good guy isn't he?" I had to laugh. *"If they don't know how much you care, they will never care how much you know."*

On another occasion Gus had told me that he liked watermelon, so I made it a point to buy one and drop it off one evening. We sat that night in the yard, Elaine, Gus, my wife Carol and I. We didn't cut the watermelon, but had a great time. Elaine was delightful. What a great visit. On another occasion we went out and had Chinese food together. Another great visit.

A little later that year Gus was recruited to pull the church float in the Edmore potato parade. I wasn't able to be there, but my Son Tim said, "Dad I wish you could have seen this. Gus got out of his car with blue jeans, his yellow suspenders and a T-shirt that had a picture of a can of 'Budweiser Beer' and on it a monogram that said, 'HAVE ANOTHER? DON'T MIND IF I DO!'" No doubt some Christians would scoff at this new Christian wearing a Budweiser shirt while representing the church in the parade....perhaps some of you reading this. Other church leaders may have made comments like, "take that shirt off, you can't wear that here", or other actions that would have scarred him deeply and perhaps driven him from the church. I believe Gus is showing us that Christians are simply real people. You don't have to have lace on your underwear to be a Christian. We just loved 'Ole Gus' in spite of his crudeness. He knew he was a sinner that needed Christ and at age seventy-seven was tough enough and bold enough to humble himself in the waters of baptism.

Let me tell you a little more about Elaine. Guess who came to Gus' baptism? Yep, Elaine. That was a year ago. Who do you suppose showed up for Bible study on Wednesday evening a little

later? Yep, that would be Elaine. Who do you suppose sits by Gus in Worship today? Again that would be Elaine. Who do you suppose made a trip to fifth lake to be baptized? That would be Elaine too. I write this with tears in my eyes.

It wasn't just my desire to develop a relationship with Gus that made the difference in his life and Elaine's life. I don't take all the credit. It started with Gus' long time friend Bill, inviting him to church. The rest of us just got involved in loving them just as they were. They felt comfortable around us. We haven't got it all together either, we're just sinners saved by His amazing grace!

The story I just shared is dated. I baptized Gus on July 28, 2002. I "planted" him in December of 2003 as he had requested. Again, I'm choking back tears. When Kent Ross asked me to write an article on 'Evangelism' I thought about this article I had first written in a similar form (not quite the same) for Chuck Jones' publication Wisdom and Power a few years ago. Evangelism doesn't change, so I thought I would share it again. Never give up on anyone!

There are some practical steps of evangelism interwoven in this story:

First: reaching the lost must be our highest priority. The Apostle Paul said, *"Have this attitude in yourselves that was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5)*. Jesus said, *"...the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)*. Combining these two verses tells us that our highest priority must be the salvation of those lost in sin. *"God isn't willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9)*. The church (that is you and me) must not lose our primary focus.

Second: Evangelism is relationships, relationships, relationships. As I said earlier, "If they don't know how much you care, they will never care how much you know." It is estimated that 85% of those who come to know Jesus Christ as Savior are introduced to Him by a fellow Christian.

Third: It is the principle that New Christians bring more people to Christ than most seasoned Christians. Two major reasons: (1) New Christians are excited about their new life in Christ and they share it with their friends. Too often older Christians (older in Christ) have lost the excitement of finding salvation in Christ. (2) New Christians still have contact with people of the world, where older Christians, their circle of friends are already believers.

Fourth: It takes time. Evangelism is like being in a room full of doors. Every wall is solid doors. You simply go around checking door knobs. Some will be locked. Some are dead-bolted. Some will open, but will be on a safety chain. Some (few) are wide open. The door that was dead-bolted today may be open tomorrow. Never quit checking door-knobs. For seventy-six years, it appears, Gus had the dead-bolt in place. Maybe no one ever checked his door-knob until Bill said, "Gus, how would you like to come to church with me?"

Not Gus Gasper! Certainly NOT Gus Gasper! Hey, in the future, when you get to God's Eternal Kingdom look around for some blue jeans, a T-shirt and some yellow suspenders, and say "Well, if it isn't Gus Gasper!"

Third Annual Wenatchee Prophecy Conference

By Arlen F. Rankin



A major portion of the Scriptures should be classified as prophecy when written. Much of that has now come to fruition in history, for instance those prophecies which anticipated the first coming of the Messiah and what he would accomplish then. Other portions which concern the last days, the second coming of Christ, the resurrection, and the kingdom of God are yet to be fulfilled. So the gospel message was and is prophetic in nature.

It is this latter area of yet unfulfilled prophecy that was under consideration at our Third Annual Wenatchee Prophecy conference on October 7th through 9th.

There is a diversity of views on prophetic subjects. We will not understand

all things alike at any conference, but using sound reasoning and good hermeneutics we can dialog of these things to edification. With a view to growing in our understanding of the prophecies and in faith in general each participant openly, honestly and courteously listened and shared different ideas in the spirit of Christ. More could not have been asked. To our God be the glory.

As for the topics under consideration at the conference we list the following:

Day One

Paul Rankin presented his studies on *The Messianic Expectations in the Writings of Luke*. Reviewing the texts of both the Gospel of Luke and the historical record of the Book of Acts, a consideration of the Jewish and Christian expectations concerning the coming of the Messiah were explored.

Paul Mock, a retired geologist, presented several Scriptures which could perhaps be connected with oil and gas deposits found in Israel—Gen. 49:1, 13, 22, 15; Isa. 60:1-5; Deut. 32:9-13; 33:1, 18, 24; Gen. 12:1-3. He then proceeded, with maps and statistics, to explain the actual physical and geographical deposits located and brought into production. The political implications and current national interactions were considered. These natural resources are thought to possibly be instrumental in the gathering of the nations against Jerusalem as portrayed in such passages as Ezek. 38 & 39 and Zech. 12 & 14.

Darrell Rankin, of Colorado, presented in two sessions the results of his studies of many years on the Book of Revelation, with a particular focus on those dealing with *The Seventh Trumpet*. The relation of the seven vials, the battle of Armageddon and the pouring out of the wrath of God were considered. Also discussed was the persecution or tribulation of believers.

Day Two

Arlen Rankin presented prophetic and geographical information found in the Scriptures regarding *God's Covenanted Land Promise & Millennial Geography*. After reviewing the texts regarding the divine promises of landed inheritance for Israel, with a series of maps constructed the inheritance as delineated in Genesis 12, Ezekiel 47 & 48 and Isaiah 19. In his second session the prophecies of *Israel's Spiritual Renewal in the Age to Come* were considered. This included the establishment of the new covenant along with their repentance, their seeking after the LORD, the Spirit being poured out upon them and their walking in the ways of God as a righteous nation.

Robin Todd spoke concerning the *Kingdom Prophecies in the Preaching of the Gospel*. The Christian hope and the Gospel of the kingdom of God are by very nature prophetic. We as believers are under the stewardship obligation to preach the kingdom message at every opportunity for there is none other gospel to declare for the salvation of the people of God.

The day was concluded by having these five speakers answer questions and discuss "*Watching: How to Watch; What to Watch.*" Our Lord advises, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh" and, "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Day Three

After our regular Sunday School classes—Paul Mock continuing the adult studies in the Book of Ezekiel and Clell France leading an adult discussion of "Adding Value" in Christian living—we all worshipped together and Kirby Davis presented his conference concluding remarks during his sermon. A potluck dinner was enjoyed by all. Throughout the conference fellowship was a key element as we often spoke one to another both of personal matters and the things of God.

