# Praverson Colume 16 † 2006



One Man and God

The Hiss of Gossip

Covetousness

# OFWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

TIIS WELL DEFEND

HOUSE OF PRAYER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF AMERICA, INC.

### House of Prayer Christian Church & Bible Seminary

### **GENERAL BOARD**

The ones whom House of Prayer look to for leadership:

GOD

The Father

**GOD** 

The Son

GOD

The Holy Ghost

For more information on what House of Prayer believes and teaches, refer to the Doctrinal Statement, page 23, the inside back cover.

#### OUR \* MISSION

#### "De Oppresso Liber"

Latin for "To Liberate the Oppressed."
The Lord has proclaimed it to us in the clearest of terms:

"to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

#### OUR \* CREED

Do all we can... now

To all the people we can... now

In all the ways we can... now

In all the places we can... now

At all the times we can... now

Love all the souls we can... now

"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh..."

**MATTHEW 25:13** 

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HIS IS PERHAPS THE BEST portion of the Prayer Force Magazine, because it is a record of the testimonies of God at work in the lives of His people. It is God's current events! From it we all receive encouragement about the prayer-answering God that we serve. Let's rejoice in His name and give Him all the glory - He deserves it!

NOVEMBER 15, 2006 couldn't be any clearer to me. I was at work at 12:20 pm, and received a call from the front office saying my father was there to see me. They were sending him around when I saw my mother walking past my window. As I walked to the door to meet her, I could tell by the tears, hurt, and shock on her face that something had happened to someone. I even had an idea who. My mother could barely speak a word as she uttered that my brother had been shot in the head. I was shocked but not surprised, because I remember being on the phone with him a few weeks before and he said that if he had a gun right then, he would shoot himself in the head. It hurt my heart to see the path of destruction he was on because of his lifestyle: he ran the streets, was consumed by drugs and alcohol, and literally cursed God. I prayed for him and with him, asking God for strength that was needed to help my brother. When we arrived in Indiana, my brother was on life support in a coma. I prayed silently that God would touch him and deal with his heart. I left, but God dealt with my heart to go back and pray over him. I thought about the book of James, where it says that tomorrow is not promised, and began to pray aloud. The nurses said I was praying too loud and made the pressure in his brain go up, yet the next day he showed signs of consciousness. I knew that God was listening to the many prayers for this young man. A week later, on November 22, my brother opened his eyes, and began to speak the next day. By the time I left, three days later, he was off the life support and speaking normally. A month later, my brother is back in Fayetteville going through rehab. He can walk, speak, and think rather well. He calls me to discuss how "God is a consuming fire." He said it was something he read two years ago, but it has now lightened the darkness in his soul.

# Good News from the 24-HOUR Toll-Free PRAYER REQUEST LINE 1 (866) 414-PRAY (7729)

PRAYER LINE

A CALL CAME IN FROM A TRUCK DRIVER, who got the number from another driver, who calls in frequently and believes in prayer. At the time this truck driver was not saved, but God was dealing with his heart. He called the number for prayer and fellowship, and later gave his heart to God, praying for salvation. After this, he didn't want to listen to rap, reggae, and rock 'n roll music anymore. He said that kind of music is not righteous and clean. He even went on to say that reggae and rap cannot be used as Christian music—"it is just not

righteous!" This man, due to frequent travel, does not have a church home yet; no preacher had preached against these types of music to him. He, truly, was born again!

A CALL CAME IN FROM A MAN WHO WAS RUNNING from the law. He said he was at the wrong place at the wrong time, and somebody was killed. He fled from the scene out of fear, and has been in hiding ever since. He opened up about how lonely and depressed he felt; he even contemplated suicide. The Holy Spirit moved on his soul, showing him the plan of salvation for him, and he prayed to be saved. Prayer was also made that God would give him the strength and courage to come out of hiding and that he wouldn't fear about tomorrow but would trust his future to God. There is hope for those out there whom the devil has on the run!

A 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL CALLED THE PRAYER LINE at approximately 1:00 AM her time to request prayer for a friend who had suffered a death in the family. Touched, but concerned, the person who received the call asked her if it wasn't past her bedtime. She responded, "I couldn't sleep." Is it possible God is dealing with the younger generation to pray because He can't get through to those who should know better? Do not get left behind as God's army marches ahead in obedience to our divine Commander's orders!

If you need prayer, why don't you call now?

1 (866) 414-PRAY (7729)



# SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

ACCOUNTING FOR TIME SPENT

"Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord"

—Lamentations 3:40

In thousands of businesses across the nation, and all around the world, the New Year begins with inventory time. Employees are busy counting stock. Adding machines are running long hours listing the quantity of various products. In manufacturing plants, parts as well as machines are being counted and the value listed. It is inventory time! It is a time when we see companies who wish to stay in business prepare financial statements showing their profitability or losses. It is a very momentous and telling time because it reveals the efficiency of management. Inventory time is not only important in worldly enterprise, but it is also mandatory in the spiritual business.

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Truly, the soul saving business is the most important of all businesses. All workers are summoned to conduct an inventory in order to maintain continued growth. We must all have a complete, in-depth and comprehensive examination of our walk in Christ and our work for God as we continue in the Lord's business. The praises and accolades of friends and families are not sufficient, nor are they a true indication of divine approval. Only through prayer can we receive an accurate appraisal of our constitution of God's business. In it, we obtain a precise evaluation of the inward man, and through its power, things that are hidden and covered by trickery are made known. Businesses use machinery and human resources to get a real picture of their business. But we, through prayer, look deeper into the region of the unknown. Prayer removes all ambiguity and suppositions, and reflects things as they really are. The following questions were once asked: "Does a Christian need to pray?" "Is there any power in prayer?" "Does God really listen to and answer all of our prayers?" The answer is an unequivocal, absolute "Yes!"

All those who have faithfully labored for God have known how to use time. Someone once wrote, "Time is duration made significant, turned to account, directed to some fruitful and beautiful end." The statement "time is money" is an understatement. I contend that time is much more than money. If we have time, we can earn money, yet all the wealth in the world would not buy a single moment of time. It seems but a moment, that the minutes and the hours are turned into days, the days multiply themselves into weeks. In turn, the weeks merge into months that quickly grow into years. The years then, one after another in quick succession, lead us to the final moment of our earthly journey. Time marches on and waits for no one. The preacher says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Now is the time to give complete attention and devotion to those things that really matter and have eternal value.

We must use every opportunity to give God our very best. What we have today is the result of how we have employed our time in the days that are past. Our standing at any future point in this present life will depend almost wholly on the question of how we invest our time.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"— 2 Corinthians 5:10.

# The Righteous Workaholic

ehemiah had a mind to work. He was not one to be content by just sitting back and enjoying the pleasures and comforts of a life of ease. His soul was stirred when he realized God's name was disgraced and the walls of the city of God were but a pile of rubble and ash.

Because the Lord had placed the burden in Nehemiah's heart and mind, he was able to share it with others who he inspired to join him in the rebuilding the walls. As Nehemiah shared his vision, the people were stirred for work proclaimed, "Let us rise up and build." The work of rebuilding the walls of spirituality in America is a daunting task, and cannot, will not and must not rest upon the shoulders of one man if revival is to come. The need is great for men and women with the spirit of Nehemiah to help build the walls that at one time made America a beacon to the whole world. The writer of Proverbs 25:28 declared by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." The walls of faith. righteousness, and

holiness lay in ruin as the enemy comes and goes as he pleases, as America has lost control of the spirit that once made her great.

The brethren in Clarksville, Tennessee are rebuilding the walls in this southern stronghold. They are thankful for a larger facility to meet for prayer and worship, but they

are more concerned for reaching the lost servicemen and family members of Ft. Campbell with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

While driving across the plains of our country towards Tacoma, Washington, we passed the ruins of a city and town where the walls of godliness once stood. The bright

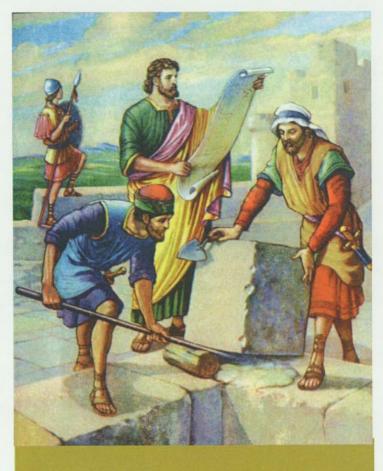
lights and shiny new buildings of St. Louis, Kansas City, Denver, and Salt Lake City cannot mask the spiritual degradation of America.

The brethren in Washington warmly welcomed us. The pastor shared his desire for the spirit of prayer and the spirit of repentance. The brethren have a mind to work together in unity in the church and Bible Seminary, as they look to the God of heaven, praying for Him to cause their labors to prosper.

From there we journeyed to be with the Christians of San Diego for the Christmas season. As the pastor shared, it is a city of 3 million souls, and just an hour north lies that huge city of 30 million, Los Angeles. Our hearts are stirred to help bring revival once again. The brethren have a mind to work as the Lord has blessed them with church building, Servicemen's Home, and space enough for Bible Seminary classrooms. As they labor with one hand

and the sword of the Spirit in the other, watching alertly and soberly, the Lord is blessing after many years of blood, sweat, toil, and tears.

The harvest is great, and the laborers are few; may the Lord strengthen our hands for the good work of rebuilding the old walls of revival that have long lain waste.



**DEDICATED.** Are you a righteous workaholic like Nehemiah, set on rebuilding God's Church?

# NEHEMIAH

### Prayer FORCE qualified

Nehemiah and Hanani were the sons of Hachaliah (Neh. 1:1; 2:5; 7:2), and the references suggest that the family belonged to the capital. Nehemiah, although born in exile, grew up in the faith of Israel's God. Nehemiah's name appears as a prince, not as a priest (Neh. 9:38; 10:1), and he was perhaps the chief man who returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel (Ezra 2:2; Neh. 7:7). As the king's cupbearer, he held a high place of honor in the palace of Shushan (Neh. 1:11), having confidential access to the king. His Persian name was Sheshbazzar (Ezra 1:8). He was one of the princes who signed the covenant (Neh. 9:38; 10:1). He became Governor of Jerusalem (Neh. 10:1). Josephus says that Nehemiah died of old age and that the repaired walls of the city constituted his best and most enduring monument.

For his patriotic task (Neh. 1:1-4), Nehemiah was well qualified. As a true Israelite, he labored for the purity of public worship, the integrity of family life, the sanctity of the sabbath. Ezra was the student and preacher; Nehemiah, the soldier and statesman. He was courageous and God-fearing, and brought to his labors a noble disinterestedness, and unblemished rectitude, a dauntless spirit and unswerving loyalty to God. Alexander Whyte in his helpful essay of Nehemiah speaks of him, "As a self-contained man. A man of his own counsel. A man with the counsel of God alone in his mind and in his heart. A reserved and resolute man. A man to take command of other men. A man who will see things with his own eyes, and without all eyes seeing him. A man in no haste or hurry. He will not begin till be has counted the cost. And then he will not stop till he has finished the work."

Open opposition and underhanded wiles had to be faced, but undauntedly Nehemiah persisted in his task (Neh. 6:3). Among the hostile methods directed against his noble mission were:

Ridicule (Neh. 2:19; 4:2). Nehemiah prayed that such reproach might return to them, which it did (Neh. 4:4-6).

Fear (Neh. 4:7-23). Enemies delivered an ultimatum, but Nehemiah set a watch, uniting the people (Neh. 4:18).

Guile (Neh. 6:2-4). Nehemiah knew that conferences were useless, and so shunned them.

False accusation (Neh. 6:5-9). This patriot had no selfish motives behind his endeavors.

Temptation to tempt God (Neh. 6:113). Nehemiah refused to hide himself in the Temple as if he was doing wrong.

Corruption of friends and associates (Neh. 6:17-19). This was the meanest act of Nehe-Omiah's foes.

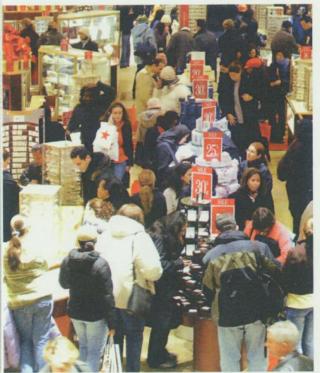
He sets forth the strength that comes from humble dependence upon God. True to God and his principles, Nehemiah surmounted all his enemies and obstacles. His sterling character stood the acid test, for he was a man of dependence upon God (Neh. 1:5-1l), single-hearted in his devotion to God and his work, wise in taking proper precautions against surprise attacks, and ever encouraging to those who labored with him. Making his prayer to God, Nehemiah knew that God would fight for him (Neh. 4:9, 20).

He manifests the strength which comes from the sense of union and of fellowship. All classes of people, even the daughters, were ready to take their place around the damaged walls. High

and low worked together for the accomplishment of a God-inspired task (Neh. 3:12). With scorn, Nehemiah rebuked the pride and negligence of the nobles "who put not their necks to the work of their Lord" (Neh. 3:5). Fulfilling their obligation by repairing "every man over against his house," the willing heart with one mind to work illustrates the chain of living Christian fellowship set forth in Ecclesiastes 4:9. See 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

**STILL STANDING.** The tower of David in Jerusalem.

# covetousness



**LUSTFUL CONSUMPTION.** Do you yearn often to be in a place like this?

"And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

—Luke 12:15

Ever craving, and never completely satisfied, the bowels of the covetous can always be heard crying out for assuagement, only ceasing when their present prize is captured. When the current fixation wears off, it leaves nothing but emptiness, sorrow and the inner shame of having become a victim of passion. The appetite will, once again, revive, and the insidious cycle of lust and devour will surely repeat itself. These are the motions of covetousness as it exercises its dictator-like autonomy over the subservient soul of the man or woman so enslaved.

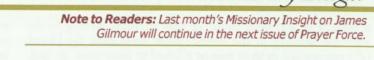
The heart of man is undeniably the engine of life. One's life materializes with the execution of the heart's desires from one moment to the next. Passion is inseparably woven into everything men do, because every movement, both great and small, first begins with a desire. The proper employment of our passions is of paramount importance in the quest for inner fulfillment in life. When the yearnings of the soul continue on the prudent pathway for which they were created, a rare and precious peace is obtained. It is a tranquility that enables the heart to function according to heavenly plan, not in the shackles of avarice, but rather in the liberty of divine contentment that emanates from above. Such a spirit yields a peaceable and sweet fragrance enjoyed by not only the possessor, but also abounding to everyone around him. Surging with joy, it is nourished by a wellspring that no circumstance can quench. One of life's crucial lessons is that true satisfaction emerges not from possessions, but from inner contentment and confidence in one's present state, rich or poor.

However, genuine peace and contentment are virtues of the past nearly extinct. The latter half of the twentieth century was marked by gross social decadence. During that time, America transformed socially. After the Great Depression, a new era of prosperity was born where men could indulge in and abuse new liberties. Recklessly, they traded true happiness and contentment for the sorrow and vanity of covetous life.

Consequently the satisfaction that once crowned the American household of yesterday no longer reigns. There upon the mantle of history it rests, a memento whispering of another time and a different world. Now, a new attitude of inherited discontent has despicably filled the hearts of today's generation. It fosters greed, covetousness and materialism, driving men to sell their dignity for carnal bondage. Inflamed by lust and controlled by greed, some are willing to sacrifice even their own soul in order to fulfill this beastly craving. Unfortunately, those who choose this path of indulgence live in error. Oblivious to the real essence of life, they have failed to realize that the purest and greatest of all joy is achieved not in material gratification, but in the giving of one's self to a cause for the betterment of humanity. For in this alone lies real fulfillment. It is the exclusive reason for being. Only those who follow this course will discover the greatest of life's treasures, which is the divine joy of giving of one's self to humanity.

We are given only one life to live, so let us not surrender to mundane impulses, but rather let us follow in the Savior's steps who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life." Our lives have been given to us in divine trust and we must not abuse this liberty. With the fate of lost souls hanging in the balance, let us emulate the Savior's selfless giving and relentless sacrifice that we may reach them before it is

eternally too late.



# on orders from HIGH

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3).

Stanley Albert Dale: measured by today's standards, nothing in his background would be considered as preparation for the missionary's call, yet God raised up this young Australian man to bring the light of His glorious gospel to a remote, stone-age tribe in the jungle of Irian Jaya, Indonesia. At 17, Stan gave his heart to the Lord after reading a tract "Four things God wants you to know." In it, he found that the purpose for his life was to glorify God, but that sin kept him in a state of falling short of Gods glory. How was he to fulfill this purpose that had been revealed to him? At a tent meting in 1933, Stan Dale heard the preaching of God's word for possibly the first time in his life, and made the decision "count me among Christ's followers." His father's response? "I no longer have a son." With this as his encouragement, Stanley Dale joined a band of men called the Open Air Campaigners. Reviving the apostolic spirit of British reformers John Wesley and George Whitfield, they preached fearlessly on crowded beaches, in markets, army camps, or skid row, caring not for taunting words but rejoicing over every sinner who discovered the freedom from sin Christ gives.

The Dale Famil

By this time, the war against Hitler was encompassing the world, and Stan joined an elite corps of paratrooper-commandos known as the "suicide boys": men hardened by life, sometimes seeking danger for danger's sake. Among these men, Stanley Dale was accepted, but his Christianity baffled them. They had only seen Christians as weak and soft, but this was a man's man, a real soldier's soldier. At one time, when 2000 men bunked together in a huge hall during training, Stan, true to his God, fell to his knees beside his bunk in prayer. A hush descended in that room, only to turn into mocking laughter. Yet Stanley Dale, God's Christian

soldier, prayed.

The suicide boys landed at Port Moresby, New Guinea with orders to resist the advancing Japanese Army. There he encountered many of the natives who had already heard the message of Christ, and he rejoiced. However, as the army advanced into the interior of the country, he saw many that knew nothing of the light of Christ. For these his heart ached. As his eyes looked upon the mountain ranges that made up the interior of the country, his mind went to a poem read as a young man: "Something hidden, go and

find it; go and look beyond the ranges. Something lost beyond the ranges, lost and waiting for you. Go!"

What was awaiting Stanley Dale in those ranges of mountains that seemed to go on endlessly? How many precious souls for whom Christ died were there, waiting for someone to come; but it could not be an ordinary someone. This field would require a man in whom beat the heart of a soldier, unstoppable, untiring; willing to bear the heat of the battle, willing to stick to the job when it seemed the forces of Satan would prevail. The poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling challenged Stan as a young man, and came to him many times during his years of service to the Lord in this battle against the previously undisputed sovereignty of Satan over lost tribes.

"If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they are gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you except the Will which says to them, Hold on." In the middle of an attempt to build an airstrip in the jungle during monsoon season, this soldier/missionary bellowed into the rain "get thee behind me Satan! I have already claimed this valley and these people for Jesus Christ, and I haven't changed my mind, you hear?" Are there others who can echo the sentiments of Paul the apostle and soldier for Christ who said, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the

grace of God" (Acts 20:24)?

The tribe that God led Stan Dale to was called the Yali. They called themselves the "Lords of the Earth." Their world was comprised of a valley surrounded by three mountain ranges. Through this valley ran a mighty river called the Hulek into which were thrown the victims of their devilish spiritist beliefs. Any woman who dared step on the sacred ground surrounding their "osuwa," or "holy place," either accidentally or on purpose, were sacrificed there. Their heathen religion was completely male-oriented; the women were totally ignorant of the secret ways and rituals that were so deeply embedded into their culture. This holy ground was never to be desecrated by the presence of the women; their sacred words were never to be heard by their ears, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8>>

a woman or girl who heard or saw anything having to do with the worship of the *kembu* spirits must have the blood of a pig poured in their ears or rubbed in their eyes. In fact, the women of this tribe were so severely oppressed that many chose suicide in the raging Hulek River, rather than endure the hopeless and helpless life offered by the *kembu* spirits that ruled the Yali world.

Into the darkness that Satan had planted in the hearts and minds of these people came a man with his wife and four children; a man who had heard the call to fight the battle of all battles, in the warfare for the souls of these for whom Christ shed His blood. What would be the price required on this little band of soldiers to fulfill the call, to reach this uncivilized band of cannibals who were bound by chains Satan had forged for centuries? Truly, the strongholds would fall, and the oppressed would be liberated, but it would only be as the soldier lay down his life for the cause.

There were several tribes on this island directly to the north of Australia; among them the Dani, the Damal, the

Ekari, and the Yali. Many of the tribes in Irian Jaya have a common thread in their ancient religious beliefs. Most believe that man once possessed immortality, which was symbolized by a lizard or snake, but fell prey to death, which was symbolized by a bird. Since man once possessed eternal life, it was believed that they would be able to recover it some day. Some tribes, upon hearing the gospel readily made the correlation between their tribal tradition, and the message of Christ coming to redeem man and return him to fellowship with God, with the future promise of eternal life. A remarkable change was made in thousands who awaited the return of what they called ayi, or the golden age when

they were in right standing with the eternal Spirit. The Yali tribe however was isolated from these others, and had not the same open heart to receive the message carried in by these white skinned strangers. In these villages distrust reigned, and the battle was to grow heated as the forces of good and evil fought for the possession of these souls. In other places, thousands were added to the kingdom in mere months; it

was not to be so in the valley of the Yali.

Stan trekked in with another missionary named Bruno de Leeuw to the amazement of the people of the valley. Who were these men so different from them, and where did they come from? Their first thought was that they must be spirit beings come from the spirit world to bring judgment on them for wrongs they had done. But their distrust of anything they did not understand caused them to fear, and their fear caused them to want to make them go away or kill them. As Stan and Bruno began to prepare a landing strip for the missionary plane on the site which once held the building that housed their spirit gods, Stan fell sick with appendicitis and had to walk back out, a six day hike for a healthy man across rivers, and up and down mountain paths. The Yali thought he was being judged for trespassing on their holy ground, so when he returned 6 months later to continue the work, they were amazed at this man they thought was dead. It gave the missionaries a little more time to establish a relationship with some of the younger members of the tribe, and to make an inroad into their language and culture. When the runway was completed, a house was built and the family came to join him in this work. The language was learned, and some form of trust established with a few of the young men. A school was started for the children and women to learn about Jesus; and by God's grace several young men, and finally the high priest of the kembu spirits was converted to faith in Christ. Several others followed, but there was no great groundswell as among the other tribes. In addition, these new converts had not yet relinquished the fetishes used in the worship of these spirits, but where the light of the Gospel shines, the darkness must flee; soon these new believers were ready to destroy all that had bound them to the oppression of spirit worship, and the fetishes were burned. In response, the two Yali Christians who led the movement to burn these demonic symbols were martyred. However, as always, the blood of martyrs is the seed of the church, and God raised up

others to take their place as lights gleaming through the night of this satan-

ic stronghold.

Now the battle intensified. Those who were still bound to this superstitious worship felt that they had to do something to protect and preserve that which they believed kept them safe, their *kembu* spirits. They declared war on this band of missionaries, and during one raid Stan was hit by five bamboo tipped spears, taking one through the intestines; but God was not yet done with this soldier of the cross. After his recovery, Stan and a fellow missionary felt the call to penetrate further, to find what lay



**FAITHFUL.** Yekwara, a Yali who remained to the end.

beyond the ranges, hoping to find a warmer welcome for the gospel. This however, was not to be. Satan's enraged followers were determined to rid the earth of these troublesome men who were trying to turn their world upside down. An ambush was laid, and the attack came swiftly and with devilish violence. They had already seen this man survive seemingly deadly wounds before, and were determined that this time they would finish the job. The warriors came out of the forest with arrows drawn and bows held high. Stan, in the rear of the group shouted to the others to go on, but they turned and saw this soldier's final battle. As one arrow after another found their way into his body, he pulled them out and broke them, casting them to the ground. The attackers began to fear that this was no mortal man, and renewed the attack until 50 to 60 arrows found their mark. Finally, he fell, leaving the ground stained with his blood, and the hearts of his attackers stained with guilt and fear.

Stanley Dale died in 1968 at the hands of those he yearned to see set free. Was it in vain? No! For the Lord moves in mysterious ways, and through a plane crash and a little boy, the door was swung open for the harvest that had been sown in the tears and blood of a man who loved his Lord and the souls of men and women more than even his own life. Is not this the call to Christians everywhere?

ARE YOU CALLED?

## True Soldiers Wanted

want to begin with a prayer request that was handed to me the night before we began to write this article. "Pastor, please pray for my mother, father, and my sister with her family to come back to Jesus and get away from the couch and TV and go to church to get right with the Lord – please, they need Him." This was given to me by a young soldier that has only attended the

church a few times. Later that night, more explanation was given how the preachers back home just do not preach the Word of God any more.

I wish every preacher and seminary student in House of Prayer could have been there to feel the sincerity of this simple call for help. Take this request and multiply it a million times for all the hurting broken families, dysfunctional homes, lonely children, broken marriages, and the list goes on. There is a cry for help and these cries have entered into the ears of the Lord. This we know because the Lord is calling for laborers for the harvest field.

The type of laborers needed today are the same type that Jesus started out with, which are set forth in His Word—"soldier-quality" laborers. The desire of House of Prayer is that more men and women will arise to the challenge. What is needed today is a group of men and women that will realize that the ministry is not a playground, but a battlefield where good and evil are intensely engaged; it is a fight for the soul of this nation, and the world.

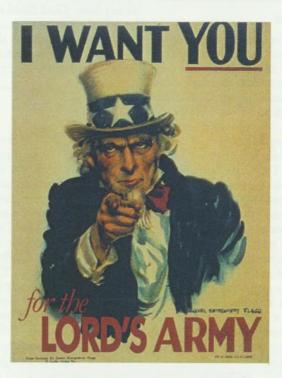
The apostle Paul was such a soldier. When writing to Timothy what may have been some of his last words, he did not list his accomplishments or the churches he planted and watched over, but he simply, yet profoundly said, "I have fought a good fight." This short statement gives us great insight into the mind of a true Christian soldier. How different are the words of preachers today! We hear very little about Christian soldiers on the streets testifying of the saving power of the blood, or about a baptism of Holy Ghost fire that will purge a life from all evil habits and desires. But the pulpits are full of seeker-friendly messages about

how to get ahead in life, having faith in God for financial blessing, or "Living your best life ever, right now." All such vain babble is as far from true gospel teaching as the east is from the west. Many seminaries are turning out graduates already hooked on internet pornography—my God, no wonder the religious community gets more excited about and devotes more time, money and energy to Election Day than the Lord's Day! A songwriter aptly put it, "all our

weapons and our warfare have not turned the tide."

Listen to me! All that read these words are called to be soldiers and to fight a good fight. Paul was willing to fight-he was engaged in the battle between good and evil. He knew that Jesus Christ and His cause was good, and that the devil, the spirit of the world, all compromise, and even his own flesh, was evil. He fought this spiritual warfare in the churches, on the streets, in jail, and on the sea; he fought for the salvation of the souls of runaway slaves like Onesimus, and proud kings like Agrippa. He fought, he fought, he fought; but he is gone. Now we must fight.

I have faith that this type of Christian soldier was not exemplified to us as an unattainable life, but rather as a standard for future soldiers to follow. Let us be like the people of Ephesus, who burned the books that taught them sin and go back to the Word of God. Let's pattern our lives after old-time soldiers decorated with heaven's medal of honor—their devotion is recorded as an example for us to emulate!



**INVITATION TO SERVE.** Will you heed the call of the Lord to fight in His army?

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"

(2 Tim. 4:7).



Brother and Sister Subia Hinesville, Georgia

#### **Brandon Subia**

y the grace of God I am what I am today guess that would truly sum up my life. I grew up moving back and forth, from living with my mom and then with my dad, over and over again. I first heard about God when I was 8 years old. A church had a bus that would pick up children for Sunday school. So my dad and his girlfriend would put us on the bus every Sunday to get a little "break" from the kids, but we moved shortly after we began to go to there. I guess you could say I was the Jabez of the family—I wasn't getting the same grades as my brothers and sisters and was constantly getting in trouble. Finally, I was kicked out of my dad's house at 13 and I went to live with my mom...Again. The next three years would find me in and out of juvenile detention centers, psychiatric wards and rehab facilities. I had really messed up my life. And at 16 my mom's boyfriend finally had enough of me; I could no longer stay there. From then on I lived on my own, crashing at friends houses when I could. After a while my grandma found out and let me stay with her long enough to do something with my life. So with nowhere else to turn, I lied my way into the Army. This was my last shot at making

something of myself, so I did what any helpless person in desperation would do-I cried to God for help! I told God if He would get me through training, I would do anything. Little did I know, God was going to hold me to that promise. A few weeks into basic training I started to go to the chapel services. I don't remember anything the chaplain preached; all I know is that God was all I had left and that I needed Him badly, so I gave my heart to Jesus, truly for the first time. It wasn't the formal prayer of salvation and I honestly don't remember when it actually took place, all I remember is I began to have an overwhelming desire to get as close to God as I could and that this desire kept growing. I started to carry a small green

New Testament Bible with me in my cargo pocket everywhere I went and I talked to everyone I could to ask them what they knew about Jesus. I got into some wild conversations with people about God and was even told by someone that I was the most unlearned person about God and the Bible he had ever met. But I didn't care, I just wanted to talk about God and find out all I could about Him. By the end of Advanced Individual Training (AIT), the conviction of God on my life had completely changed who I was. I still didn't have a church or a pastor, but God provided for me when I got stationed at Ft. Stewart, GA. I landed at the Savannah airport, and while I was still in the airport a soulwinner invited me out to church. I went out to the very next service and was in awe. The spirit of God moved on my life like I never knew it could. God told me this was to be where I would go to church, and showed me the importance of a good church and a pastor. There were still some things in my life that were not right that I didn't even know about. These past five years have been the best years in my life. God filled me with the Holy Ghost, called me into Bible Seminary and has blessed me with a praying wife. To all those who think that you have done too much evil for God to save you, I am here to tell you that I am a living testimony that no situation is too big for my God to handle.

#### Trish Subia

here was a time that Tricia Subia knew nothing of Jesus Christ. She was just like all the others without Him. What was her real purpose for being on this earth?

I grew up in a functional family and my parents gave me a sheltered life, but I did not start going to church until I was nine years old. I did not go to a real church until we moved from Hinesville to Lacey Washington. My family went to church together in a Days Inn conference room. This church was so different. I thought that the way the people preached, what they taught, and how they lived was crazy; yet I could not stay away!

The same church was here in Hinesville, and when we moved back in 1999, we continued to go as a family. Through it all, God kept me from the sins of drugs, alcohol,

> and partying, but I could not keep away from the boys or stop cursing, and I was afraid to be rejected by my friends. God was so gracious to me for all those years. I knew a lot of the Word of God and that I was living in habitual sin, yet I resisted His pricking of my heart... "His mercy endureth forever!" (Psalm 101:1)

> Finally, in February 2003, I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ. He saved me, and gave me a new heart, new

desires, and new hope.

Today I am glad to be married to a godly man and to be part of God's movement. His Holy Spirit is a real blessing—and He is truly working in and through my life. God allows me awesome opportunities to witness to others. Let's keep praying, brothers and sisters! У



■ These are testimonies of House of Prayer Christian Seminary students. They explain their personal road to salvation.

For more information on the Seminary nearest you, call:

Hinesville, GA: (912) 368-1553 Distance Learning: (912) 368-1553 Augusta, GA: (912) 572-6607 Clarksville, TN: (931) 552-6912 Fayetteville, NC: (910) 670-4417 Tacoma, WA: (253) 255-5370 Killeen, TX: (254) 690-3278

#### Solomon

#### The Power of the Flesh

The tenth son of David, the second by Bathsheba and the third king of Israel who reigned for forty years (2 Sam. 5:14; 12:24), we know little of the early life of Solomon. It is evident that young Solomon was greatly influenced both by his mother and Nathan (1 Kings 1:11, 12).

Referencing the life of Solomon, we cannot but agree with Alexander Whyte that, "The shipwreck of Solomon is surely the most terrible tragedy in all the world. For if ever there was a shining type of Christ in the Old Testament church, it was Solomon, but everyday sensuality made him in the end a castaway." All in all, Solomon stands out as a disappointing figure of Hebrew history. Think of the advantages he began with! There were the almost undisputed possession of David's throne, immense stores of wealth laid up by his father, exceptional divinely imparted mental abilities, the love and high hopes of the people. Solomon's start like the cloudless dawn of a summer's morning, might have had a beautiful ending, but it ended in gloom because he wandered into Godforbidden paths. Thus a life beginning magnificently ended miserably. The man who penned and preached a thousand wise things failed to practice the wisdom he taught.

The work of Solomon was the development of his father's ideas of a consolidated kingdom, and what marvelous success crowned his efforts. Exercising the power of an oriental despot, he gave Israel a glory, prestige and splendor unsurpassed in the world's history. On the whole, however, Solomon seemed to rule for his own aggrandizement and not for the welfare of the people. Doubtless Solomon's artistic and literary gifts provided the masses with beneficial instruction, but the glory of Solomon brought the common people tears and groans. The great wealth provided by David for the building of a Temple speedily disappeared under Solomon's lavish spending, and the people had to pay heavily by taxation and poverty for his magnificent whims. Yet Jesus said that the lilies of the field had greater glory than all the gaudy pomp and pride of Solomon.

Solomon's ambition in the morning of his life was most commendable. His dream was a natural expression of this ambition, and his God-imparted wisdom an evidence of it (1 Kings 3). Then his sacrifice at Gibeon indicates that Solomon desired religion to be associated with all external magnificence. Solomon's remarkable prayer also breathes the atmosphere of true piety and of his delight in the full recognition of God. Alas, however, Solomon came to the end of his days minus popularity and piety!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14>>

#### FROM THE LIBRARY

#### In Debt

by Elbert Dodd

In the sixteenth chapter of Luke, we find, beginning with the first verse and reading through the fifth verse, the story of a steward that had not been faithful. When he found that he was being checked up on and he must give an account of his stewardship, he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him and said unto the first, "How much owest thou unto my lord?"

We want to ask at this time, "How much owest thou?" We are in debt, friends, to God first of all because of His giving to us the wonderful plan of salvation from sin and fixing us up to live right in this life and to live in the eternal heavens forever. He is preparing for us a mansion eternal in the heavens. So we are eternally in debt to Him. We owe Him our all. We owe him our time, our talent, everything He has placed in our hands. We owe it all to God. We owe the best that we have to Him.

And then we are in debt to the church that has given us a place to worship and to work. We owe the church the best that we have. The church is an organized body of Christian believers, ordained of God, called of God and placed in this world to be a blessing to humanity. We owe the church, which we love and serve, our best.

Laymen, you not only owe the church your best, but you owe the minister, your pastor, your evangelist, your Y

#### **ABOUT THIS SECTION**

These exerpts are selected from highly recommended books that were written in order to provide the searching Christian with information that will help them grow in God.

church leader your full cooperation and help in this great battle against sin and the devil.

The ministry owes the laymen a debt, when we accept the pastorate of a church, as the layman owes us cooperation and faithfulness in the services, faithfulness in their tithes and offerings, we in turn owe them many things. We owe them first of all faithfulness. We should be as faithful to the church as we would have to be to a company or corporation that we might work for. We couldn't leave our job just any time and be gone as long as we wanted to without probably losing our job.

A shepherd should be as faithful to the church as he expects them to be. We should be faithful in giving them our time, our talent and our best. God requires us to do this. He has made us shepherd of the sheep. We must be careful and lead them where we can find the good grass and the good water. We must watch our grazing ground and keep the poisoned weeds and the loco weeds all pulled out and we must watch the water and see that it is not contaminated. To do that, it is a 24-hour job for us all. So let's do our best to pay our debt to God, and all of us to pay our debt to the church and we ministers to the laymen in the church and laymen to pay your debt to the ministry and the church and all of us pay our debt to God. We are laborers together with God, so we must do our best to pay this debt that we owe God, the church, humanity and each other.

LOOK IT UP: Luke 16:1-5



### Give Yourself Freely

Reverend and Sister Heitzman, Killeen, Texas

nd He said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" (Mark 3:27). What selfless words our Lord and Savior began to speak to the religious men of His day! What Jesus faced in his day is what has plagued men, groups, and societies for generations: a lack of concern for what is best for his fellow common man. As we look in our generation and see what is driving men and women, we see the desire to get instead of the desire to give. Men and women are being driven by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. In these days while people are in the pursuit of life, riches, and the so-called American dream we find ourselves in a society of people who are more prone to suicide, more children are being medicated with mind-altering drugs, more families find themselves splitting up, and the condition of hearts everywhere is grown sad and cold.

As we look throughout our Bible, we see a God of giving. God gave man the breath of life and He has given man his best in Jesus Chris for our salvation. In Jesus' own words, He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Therefore, as we look to the charge and calling God has placed upon our lives, and as we look to the souls of men and women around us, let us say as Jesus, "the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." That is to say, "Others are not here to help me, but I am here to help them," "People are not here for my ministry, but the ministry God has given me is here for them." If we each look at the work God has called us to do with this attitude of giving then we will meet the tasks at hand with the joy of the Lord in our hearts. And as we freely receive from those that are willing to give, and as we will freely give to others, there will be a circle of unity and giving that will not be broken. And we will say as the early Christians, "And all that believed were together, and had all things common" (Acts 2:44).

### FOOD FOR YOUR Soul

#### The Hiss of Gossip, or, The Tongue of Satan

our church were extremely polite to each other. However, when one of them wasn't present, the others would talk behind her back. They would compliment a woman to her face, and then criticize her as soon as she left.

Mother always defended this behavior as a "harmless" pastime. I don't know whether it hurt the people who were the target of gossip, but I know it harmed me and the children who were listening. Their behavior taught me not to trust anyone — especially people who were nice to me. Instead, I trusted abusive people because I thought they were being honest. I ended up running with a bad crowd and dating abusive men because I couldn't trust polite guys.

When someone complimented me, I didn't believe it. I was afraid people were laughing at me behind my back. I had trouble making friends with other girls because I was afraid to open up and reveal my feelings for fear that whatever I said would become grist for the gossip mill. After a year of therapy, I have finally found the self-confidence I lacked. My sisters haven't been so lucky. Neither has friends. Both are married to abusive men.

When I was growing up, my mother and the other ladies in Please inform your readers that there is nothing "harmless" about gossip, especially to children who may overhear it. — Gaining Trust in Georgia

#### DEAR GAINING TRUST:

Your experience and that of your sisters has stated that fact more strongly than I could have. It brings to mind a piece that has appeared in my column before. Read on:

#### NOBODY'S FRIEND

(Author Unknown)

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.

I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody's friend.

Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same.

I topple governments and wreck marriages.

Even my name hisses. I am called Gossip. I make headlines and headaches.

Women in the Bible

## A Real Mother

One cannot but be fascinated with Alexander Whyte's suggestive comment

on Jochebed's name:

"It is very tantalizing to be told her remarkable name and to be told no more. Was God-thy-glory the remarkable name that Moses gave to his mother as often as he looked back at all that he owed to her, and as often as he rose up and called her blessed? Or was her very remarkable name her own invention? Was her striking name her own seal that she had set to her own vow which she made to her own God after some great grace and goodness of her own God? Or, again did the angel of the Lord visit that daughter of the house of Levi or some Jabbok-like or Annunciation-night, and so name her as the sun rose upon her prayer?"

To Amram and Jochebed were born three children, each of whom became renowned in their own sphere (Numbers 26:59). She bore and suckled all three on the same strong milk, till she weaned them from milk and put them on the marrow of lions. The oak has its roots around the rock, and the children of Jochebed had their roots around their godly mother.

There was Moses, who became one of the greatest national leaders and legislators the world has ever

There was Aaron, who became Israel's first high priest and the founder of the Aaronic priesthood.

There was Miriam, the gifted poetess and musician, who was intimately associated with her two brothers in the history of Israel.

Jochebed's prominent place in the divine gallery is secure, then, and the aspect of her life especially emphasized in Scripture is that of her clever design to preserve the life of her baby boy. It was for her courage and trust in such an act that had far-reaching consequences for the nation that she is placed among the heroines of faith in Hebrews 11:23. Let us recall the circumstances of the

preservation of Moses which caused his mother to be included among that "great cloud of witnesses" whose lives and labors testified of their faith in God's providential care and goodness.

At the time of Pharaoh, the Hebrews had multiplied so greatly as to cause the monarch to fear lest they should outnumber the Egyptians and take over the nation. Thus he commanded that all newly-born Hebrew boys be thrown into the Nile-a most dastardly edict! Jochebed was heavy with child. Already there was Miriam, about ten years of age at the time, and Aaron, possibly about three, in the home. Now another child



#### ABOUT JOCHEBED

Scripture References — Exodus 1, 2:1-11; 6:20; Numbers 26:59; Hebrews 11:23

Name Meaning — Jochebed implies, "glory of Jehovah" or "Jehovah" is her or out glory" it is plain from this name of the mother of Moses, that the announcement of Jehovah, as the name of God, was not made for the flist time when God revealed Himself in a special manner under that title to Moses in the burning bush, tochebed is the first person in scripture to have a name compounded with "jah" - or Jehovah.

Family Connections — Jochebed is spoken of as a daughter of Levi who manied a man of the house of Levi (Ex. 2:1; Num. 26:59), whose name was Amiam. Strange though it may seem, she married her nephew, and was thus both the wife and aunt of Amram, seeing his wife was his fathers sister (Ex. 6:20). Marriages with aunts and nieces were not unlawful before the giving of the law by Moses.

was on the way. Knowing of Pharaoh's command and that, as a rigid executive, he closely checked up on all male births, Jochebed must have had intense suspense as she awaited her third child. Would it be a boy that would be wrenched from her and thrown into the Nile? What were her feelings when the child was born and the midwife told her it was a boy? What maternal grief must have been hers! But the horror of that crocodile-infested Nile transforms Jochebed into a heroine and the preserver of a boy who became one of the world's greatest figures. The moment she saw her baby, she was determined to fight for his life. Three times over we read, "She saw that he was

a goodly child" (Exodus 2:2; Acts 7:20; Hebrews 11:23). This means that Moses was not only a lovely child to look at, but also, as the margin explains, he was "fair to God," implying that there was something other-worldly or angelic about his features. As the little one lay in her lap, Jochebed felt that he had been sent from God, and that He, along with her mingled faith and love, would somehow

preserve the child.

How Jochebed managed to hide her baby, who doubtless cried as lustily as other babies, in some secret place where he could not be seen or heard, is a mystery! When she was unable to conceal him any longer, "God through the intensity of her faith caused her to inherit a vision of what He had appointed for Moses." She made a little cradle of plaited reeds which were believed to be protection against crocodiles, then placed the cradle with its treasure secretly among the rushes at the river's bank, and told Miriam her young daughter to stand near to watch over the small craft. The brief but vivid account of what happened is given by the historian, even by Moses himself who, in his latter years, by divine inspiration, wrote the first five books of the Bible.

At her usual time, Pharaoh's daughter came to the feathery greenness edging the ancient Nile to wash herself, and her maidens walking by the river side saw the cradle among the rushes. When the royal lady saw the beautiful baby and heard his cry she had compassion on him. A Hebrew woman must be found to nurse the child. Jochebed was fearfully watching the fate of that precious child she had borne and the rough cradle she had fashioned. Young Miriam was also near at hand, and quite naïvely said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?" Pharaoh's daughter said, "Go!" Miriam was not long in calling her mother and presenting her as a nurse. Pharaoh's daughter asked her to nurse the child for her at a given wage. Thus, Jochebed's CONTINUED ON PAGE 14>>

baby was not only saved, but Jochebed was paid to care for him.

Pharaoh's daughter must have loved him, for she brought him up as her own son. However, Moses (meaning "drawn out of the water") later refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. If Jochebed was guided by God to make that small cradle and place her baby in it, and hide him among the rushes, surely the steps of Pharaoh's daughter were ordered by the same God, even though she was an idolater. Her son was saved and

received royal protection and all the advantages of Pharaoh's palace for the first forty years of his life.

How long Jochebed lived after her own child no longer required her nursing, we are not told. Doubtless she was dead by the time Moses fled into the wilderness when he was forty years of age. Although she did not live to see how famous her children became, dead, she yet spake again in their utter devotion to God. She had lived her life as unto Him, and her sons and daughter lit their torches at her flame.

Jochebed was the chief influence unto God in their preparation for the great tasks they were to accomplish in leading His people out of Egyptian bondage. Jochebed's love, faith and courage saved her child from a cruel death and preserved him to bless the world. A mother who loves the Saviour, and who has a more severe anguish when she knows that, not the life of her child is at stake, but its soul, can rest in the assurance that Jochebed's God still lives, and is able to save her dear one from eternal death.

#### << SOLOMON + FROM PAGE 13

A tremendously great man, who wrote one thousand and five songs, three thousand proverbs and who had sagacity beyond compare, took his first step downward when he went to Egypt for his queen. A daughter of Pharaoh, sitting on the throne of David, must have shocked and saddened the godly elect of Israel. With this strange wife came her strange gods.

Then came the harem of outlandish women who caused Solomon to sin (Neh. 13:26). His wives—seven hundred of them and three hundred concubines—whom Solomon clave unto in love, turned him into an idolater (1 Kings 11: 1-8).

Polygamy on such a vast scale and concession for his wives to worship their own heathen gods was bad enough, but to share in such sacrilegious worship in sight of the Temple Solomon himself had built, was nauseating to God.

Thus sensuality and pride of wealth brought about Solomon's deterioration. In the Book of Ecclesiastes which he wrote, he surely depicted his own dissatisfaction with even life itself. All rivers ran into Solomon's sea: wisdom and knowledge, wine and women, wealth and fame, music and songs; he tried them all, but all was vanity and vexation of spirit simply because God had been left out.

Of Solomon's end little is known. He is described as an "old man" at sixty years of age-whether Solomon repented and returned to God was a question debated by the Early Fathers. There is no record of his repentance. He never wrote a penitential psalm like his father before him (Ps. 51). We have his remorse, discontent, disgust, but no sobs for his sin, no plea for pardon. Thus, with such a tragic failure before us, let us take to heart the fact that Solomon's wisdom did not teach him self-control, and that the only legacy of his violated home life was a son "ample in foolishness and lacking in understanding," as C.W. Emmet expresses it.

#### POWER OF PRAYER

#### **MISSIONARIES & MINISTERS BORN OF PRAYING PEOPLE**

From The Classic Collection on Prayer, E.M. Bounds page 186

praying church creates laborers in the harvest field of the world. The scarcity of missionaries indicates a non-praying church. It is all right to send trained people to the foreign field, but first of all they must be God-sent. The sending is the fruit of prayer. Since praying people caused them to be sent, the workers in turn must be praying people. The prime mission of these praying missionaries is to convert prayerless unbelievers into praying people. Prayer is the proof of their calling, their divine credentials, and their work.

Those who are not praying people at home need the one thing that makes them fit to become a mission worker abroad. Those who have not the spirit that moves them toward sinners at home, will hardly have a spirit of compassion for sinners abroad. Missionaries are not made of people who are failures at home. Those who would be a person of prayer abroad must, before anything else, be a person of prayer in their home church. If they are not engaged in turning sinners away from prayerless ways at home, they will hardly succeed in turning away unbelievers in foreign lands from their prayerless ways. In other words, it takes the same spiritual qualifications for being a home worker as it does for being a foreign worker.

God in His own way in answer to the prayers of His Church, calls people into His harvest fields. Sad will be the day when missionary boards and churches overlook that fundamental fact and send out their own chosen men and women independent of God.

Is the harvest great? Are the laborers few? Then "pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." Oh that a great wave of prayer would sweep over the Church asking God to send out a great army of laborers into the needy harvest fields of the earth! No danger of the Lord of the harvest sending out too many laborers crowding the fields. He who calls will most certainly provide the means for supporting those whom He calls and sends forth.

# It Is Time To Bring the King Back

And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back? (2 Samuel 19:9-10)

**INTRODUCTION:** As prayer was made for *The Word of the Lord* for the upcoming issue, I was reminded of the New Year coming; that it is not just the start of a new calendar of events for our lives, but it is looking forward to new events on God's calendar for the church. I am persuaded that this New Year will bring to us things that have not been experienced by the church of Christ for many years. However, if we are going to experience the "great and precious promises" given to us, then we must *bring the king back*.

The Old Testament is replete with types and symbols that point the born-again believer to a greater and more intimate walk with our Lord, and one of them is found in the Scripture text above. The kingdom was completely disorganized at this time. A rebellion sprang up, but now the man with whom they rebelled was dead and they were uncertain what to do next. The tribes, excluding Judah, had come to realize their error in following this smooth talking, long-haired, rebel Absalom, who had enticed the people to place the kingdom into his care. This the people did, but they soon realized that the charisma and fair speech of Absalom was no substitute for the anointing from the Lord found in King David. In this moment of defeat, darkness, and confusion, they wanted to speak to David and welcome him back as king.

What a picture of the church today! Like the kingdom of Israel, the church has tried to follow a new king—other than the one chosen by God—and we have seen the same results: defeat, darkness, and confusion.

Let us look at this for a while.

Absalom was the embodiment of many wicked "kings" used by the devil to hinder the church of God. Pride, rebellion, jealousy, and self-ambition, just to name a few, are kings that have risen up in the church to dethrone Christ and lead the people astray, resulting in weakness, defeat and insecurity. Realizing this, it is time for the church to bring back its King.

"And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, *The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies*, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom" (2 Samuel 19:9.) We notice many things from this scripture:

#### I. EVERYONE KNEW WHO THE REAL KING WAS

False prophets will arise, "and many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Peter 2:2). But there is a name above every name: Jesus. He is the King, and when He walked the earth, even the devils knew it, and were in subjection to Him.

#### II. EVERYONE KNEW WHO COULD DELIVER FROM THE ENEMY

Today, people have followed every different type of leader: from the intellectuals, who are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:7), to the charismatics, who, like the prophets of Baal, have leaped and jumped and cried and yet "there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded" (1 Kings 18:29).

#### III. GOD'S CHOSEN KING WAS NOT WHERE GOD WANTED HIM TO BE

This speaks of the free will of man; the people cast their vote for Absalom the deceiver, and so God took His chosen king from them. With God's king out of the city, there was no defense; there was much confusion, and many lost their lives.

**CONCLUSION:** With the year 2007 here, can we as God's people begin to cry, "It is time to bring the King back"? He is our King, and there is none other; but over the years, there have been many Absaloms in the pulpit leading the church astray. Let's stop the bloodshed, the destruction of families, children, our country, and the world! Let us realize our mistakes, confess our sins, and "BRING THE KING BACK!"

#### Qatar - A Country of Black Gold

Parents, this article may be helpful to and interesting for your children. If possible, sit and

ix-year-old Ahmed felt important. He was old enough now to help his father entertain his guests in the majlis, a room set apart for male visitors. Dressed in his thaub (ankle- length shirt) and embroidered cap, he carefully served coffee to his father's guests, speaking only when spoken to.

Ahmed was very interested in their conversation. His father had a special guest today—a foreigner from America who had just started working in his

father's company.

"Thank you very much," said Jim, the man from America, when Ahmed handed him his coffee. Jim asked Ahmed how old he was and what he liked to do. Ahmed liked Jim. Because he was only a child, none of the other

men ever spoke to him.

Ahmed's country, Qatar, sticks out like a thumb into the Arabian Gulf. It's a small desert country, with a population of about 600,000. Ahmed was used to seeing foreigners, since only a quarter of the people living in his country are true Qataris—the rest are guest workers from other countries. But he had never talked to one before.

"Yes, we feel at home here. It's nice to have our own newspaper and radio station," Jim was saying. Ahmed knew that his father sometimes thought these foreigners felt too much at home in Qatar, especially when they wore jeans, tee shirts and shorts in public.

Soon the men were talking about oil again. "Did you know that most of the people living in Doha, the capital, moved here after 1940, when oil was discovered?" his father asked Jim.

"Yes," added one of the other men, "life's very different here since they found all those reserves of natural gas offshore. Our country is so wealthy now that it provides free schooling and medical care, and even free housing for the poor."

"What did people do for work before oil was discovered?" Jim asked.

"Most Qataris tried to make a living from fishing, camel herding and pearl diving. Our main trade items used to be pearls and guano, a kind of manure produced by sea birds that makes very

ix-year-old Ahmed felt good fertilizer," one of the men nportant. He was old explained.

"Is there any farming in Qatar?" Jim

wanted to know.

"Yes, but it's difficult," Ahmed's father told him. "There isn't much land, it's too hot and water is scarce. But now that sea water is being distilled to remove the salt, the farmers have more water. The government provides the farmers with free seeds and fertilizers to help them grow more and better crops. There are even some experimental farms that use greenhouses to keep plants cool, not warm!"

"How does the government work?"

asked Jim.

"Well," said one of the men, "the ruling Sheikh chooses most of the leaders from his own family. He doesn't have to explain his actions to anyone, but he does



They've suffered for their faith, but they all agree it's worth sacrificing everything for the hope and freedom they have in Jesus.

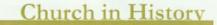
have to keep Islamic law and listen to the Muslim religious leaders."

"Has life changed a lot for young people since the country became rich?" Jim asked. There was a long silence. Ahmed's older brothers wanted their freedom and liked speeding around the desert in their cars and drinking illegally. His father had even beaten one of his brothers because he hadn't said the Muslim prayers. But Ahmed also knew his brothers were afraid of the future, of not passing their exams, and of punishment by Allah or their parents because of bad habits and not keeping Islamic laws. How could his father tell a stranger all this?

As a Christian, Jim really wanted to tell his host that riches don't bring peace, happiness or hope for the future. He remembered the story of the first known Qatari believer. One day in 1985, some young evangelists in England met a man from Qatar and talked to him about Jesus. Afterwards, since they didn't know anything about Qatar, they looked it up in the book Operation World. "Wow!" one of them said. "It says there are no known Qatari believers! Let's pray for that man — he could be the first."

He was, but the evangelists didn't realize how much suffering their new friend would go through when he gave up Islam and decided to follow Jesus. His wife divorced him, his children were taken away and he wasn't allowed to return to Qatar. Since then, a few other Qataris living outside the country have come to know Jesus. They've suffered for their faith, but they all agree it's worth sacrificing everything for the hope and freedom they have in Jesus.

Jim prayed that one day he would know his host well enough to tell him that only through trusting in Jesus would he know real freedom, peace and hope.



# ONE MAN Cand One Ca

The guiding force in Bonhoeffer's life, underlying all that he did, worked and suffered for, was his faith and love of God, in whom he found peace and happiness. From his faith the breadth of vision came which enabled him to separate the gold in life from the dross and to differentiate what was and what was not essential in the life of man. From it came constancy of mind, persistency of purpose, love of suffering humanity and of truth, justice and goodness. Nevertheless, it was not enough for him to seek justice, truth, honesty and goodness for their own sake and patiently to suffer for them. No, according to Bonhoeffer, we have to do so in loyal obedience to Him who is the source and spring of all goodness, justice and truth and on whom he felt absolutely dependent.

It is the same call of God which also obliges us only to make use of freedom with a deep feeling of responsibility.

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER was born in Breslau on February 4, 1906, the son of a university professor and leading authority on psychiatry and neurology. His great-grandfather was Carl von Hase, the most distinguished Church historian in the Germany of the nineteenth century. His parents were quite outstanding in character and general outlook, clear-sighted, cultured and uncompromising in all things that matter in life. Bonhoeffer admired the creation of God, the love of family, and all things that make life beautiful. Geniality and inborn chivalry, love of music, art and literature, charm, readiness to listen, unselfishness and preparedness to help others up to the point of self-sacrifice formed his firm character. At the age of fourteen Bonhoeffer made up his mind to learn theology, studied at Tubingen, Berlin, and New York. He quickly became known as "a brilliant and theologically sophisticated young man." At the age of twenty-four, he was given a teaching post at Berlin University, and wrote thought-provoking theological books that increased his fame. A splendid career in the realm of theological scholarship lay thus open before him. In the light of his achievement and in the prospect of what he might have achieved, his death is a great tragedy. But worldly standards cannot measure the loss adequately—for God had chosen him to perform the highest task a Christian can undertake. He has become a martyr. "And seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not. For be hold, I will bring evil upon all flesh; but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest." "I cannot get away from Jeremiah 45," wrote Bonhoeffer from the prison cell.

Realizing well before Hitler rose to power the implications of National Socialism, when the movement began, he abandoned his academic career, which seemed to him to have lost its meaning. He denounced the political system that made "Führer" its idol and god. In 1933, he traveled to London, and, as a pastor, attempted to explain the true character of the German church struggle. Nothing could be gained any longer for the churches by citing their old credal statements. He began preaching the need to listen anew to the true message of the Bible. Bonhoeffer did not take the pacifist line, although his

CONTINUED + ON PAGE 18>>

#### << ONE MAN AND GOD + FROM PAGE 17



aristocratic noble-mindedness and charming gentleness made him, at the bottom of his heart, a pacifist. But to refrain from taking any part in the attempt to overcome the National Socialist régime conflicted too deeply with his view that Christian principles must in some way be translated into human life and that it is in the sphere of the material, in state and society, that responsible love has to be manifested.

When war seemed inevitable, Bonhoeffer's friends abroad wanted him to leave Germany to save his life, for he was steadfastly opposed to serving in the Army in an aggressive war. In June 1939, American friends got him out of Germany. Soon he felt that he had to return to his country. His heart belonged to his oppressed and persecuted fellow Christians in Germany, and he felt he had "no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian lift in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Bonhoeffer, working for the Confessional Church and the political underground movement, and qualified by both character and general outlook, soon belonged to the few who had a strong spiritual influence on the growing

opposition in Germany. Together with his sister Christel and her husband, Hans von Dohnanyi he was arrested by the Gestapo in his parents' house on April 5th, 1943. In prison and concentration camps, Bonhoeffer greatly inspired by his indomitable courage, his unselfishness and his goodness, all those who encountered him. He even inspired his guards with respect, some of whom became so much attached to him that they smuggled out of prison his papers and poems written there, and apologized to him for having to lock his door after the round in the courtyard.

"He considered selfrighteousness and complacency great sins against the Holy Spirit"

His own concern in prison was to get permission to minister to the sick and to his fellow prisoners, and his ability to comfort the anxious and depressed was amazing. His fellow prisoners were deeply impressed by the calmness and self-control Bonhoeffer displayed even in the most terrible situations. On October 5th, 1944, Bonhoeffer was transferred from Tegel to the main Gestapo prison in the Prinz Albrechtstrasse in Berlin. Although fully aware of what he had to expect there, he was perfectly calm, saying goodbye to his friends as though nothing had happened, but, as a fellow prisoner remarked, "his eyes were quite unnatural." While he was in prison, he wrote poems, literature, and letters profusely.

Bonhoeffer believed in man as a free spiritual being, but this freedom was conferred and inspired by divine grace. It is granted to man not for his glorification but for the conservation of the divine ordering of human life. If Christian teaching does not guide us in the use of freedom and God is denied, all obligations and responsibilities that are sacred and binding on man are undermined. A Christian has then no other choice but to act, to suffer and—if it has to be—to die. It was his brotherly love of his fellow men which also caused Bonhoeffer to believe that it was not enough to follow Christ by preaching, teaching and writing. No, he was in deadly earnest when he called for Christian action and self-sacrifice. This explains why Bonhoeffer always acted spontaneously, "in hiding," far from all publicity, and why he considered self-righteousness and complacency great sins against the Holy Spirit, and regarded ambition and vanity as the start of the road to hell.

As he himself has put it: "The Christian is not a homo religiosus, but simply a man as Jesus (in distinction from John the Baptist) was a man... When a man really gives up trying to make something out of himself—a saint, or a converted sinner, or a churchman (a so-called clerical somebody), a righteous or unrighteous man... when in the fullness of tasks, questions, success or ill-hap, experiences and perplexities, a man throws himself into the arms of God... then he walks with Christ in Gethsemane. That is faith..."

Bonhoeffer's standing with God in his hour of grieving explains, ultimately, why he did not take his own suffering seriously and why his courage was so great and uncompromising. This steadfastness of mind and preparedness to sacrifice everything has been proved on many occasions. Further, in his hearing before the Gestapo during his imprisonment, defenseless and powerless as he then was and only fortified by the word of God in his heart, he stood erect and unbroken before his tormentors. He refused to recant, and defied the Gestapo machine by openly admitting that, as a Christian, he was an implacable enemy of National Socialism and its totalitarian demands towards the citizen—defied it, although he was continually threatened with torture and with the arrest of his parents, his sisters and his fiancée, who all had a helping hand in his activities. We know of another scene in October 1944, when friends made an attempt to liberate him and to take him to safety abroad, and he decided to remain in prison in order not to endanger others.

We also know from the testimony of a British officer, a fellow-prisoner, of the last service which Dietrich Bonhoeffer held on the day before his death and which "moved all deeply, Catholics and Protestants alike, by his simple sincerity." When trying afterwards to keep the imprisoned wives of men executed for their leadership in the



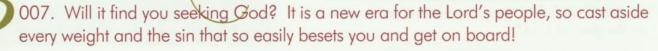


plot against Hitler from depression and anxiety, he was taken away. We know that Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who never went on trial, went steadfastly on his way to be hanged, and died by a special order at the concentration camp at Flossenburg on April 9th, 1945 (just a few days before it was liberated by the Allies), with admirable calmness and dignity.

God heard his prayer and granted him "costly grace"—that is, the privilege of taking the cross for others and of affirming his faith by martyrdom, having victoriously fought for his Lord.

We know that the time will come when we shall have to realize that we owe it to the inspiration of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and death, and of those who died with him, that Western civilization can be saved. For not only in its material standards, but also in its spiritual vitality, has Western Civilization been falling steadily and with increasing rapidity into ruin and desolation. Thus Bonhoeffer's life and death have given us great hope for the future. He has set a model for a new type of true leadership inspired by the gospel, daily ready for martyrdom and death and imbued by a new spirit of Christian humanism and a creative sense of Civic duty. The Victory which he has Won was a victory for us all, a conquest never to be undone, of love, light and liberty.

# the Horizon



- → Thank the Lord for a new sanctuary in San Diego, California! Featuring San Diego in Shepherd's Voice next month. Early 2007
- → A feature on Clarksville, TN, who recently acquired a new sanctuary, is on the horizon.

  Early 2007
- → SPRING CONFERENCE 2007 in Hinesville, Georgia!

  March 26-29, 2007

#### Enduring Hard Questions like a Good Soldier

- 1. Who was sleeping between two soldiers when he was miraculously delivered?
- Which Gospel is the only one to mention the Roman soldiers piercing Jesus' body with a spear?
- 3. What Roman soldier treated Paul kindly on his voyage to Rome?
- 4. What Roman soldier was led to Christ by Peter?
- 5. Where was Jesus when a Roman officer asked him to heal a beloved servant?
- 6. What prophet's word caused the Syrian soldiers to be struck blind?
- 7. What occurred when Jonathan and his armorbearer attacked the Philistines?
- 8. What king led the people in singing and praising God, leading God to destroy the armies of the Ammonites, Moabites, and Edomites?

#### Answers to last month's questions:

- 1. Love commanded in triplicate
  -(Deut. 6:5) And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all this pear, and with all the soul, and with all the
- all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- 2. This love prefers one another
  -(Rom. 12:10) Be kindly affectioned one to another with
  brotherly love; in honour preferring one another
- ${\bf 3.}\,$  This one rested affectionately on the Lord, who loved him
- -(John 13:23) Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. (Assumed to be
- 4. Asked to feed the sheep three times -(John 21:15-17) Peter.
- Thirteenth of initial C -(I Corinthians 13)



# THE ROAD TO Eternal Life

Lives changed. Hopes restored. Minds made right; hearts made whole. Jesus has been proven as the one remedy for all his world's infirmities throughout the ages. Sounds too good to be true? It isn't - if you're fed up with life, coming to Jesus may be easier than you think. Read on, friend, and accept the Lord with the prayer at the end. All the host of heaven rejoices when one sinner is saved!

#### WHO IS GOOD?

ROMANS 3:10-12. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

#### WHO HAS SINNED?

ROMANS 3:23. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

#### THE ETERNAL COST OF YOUR SIN

ROMANS 6:23a. "For the wages of sin is death..."
ROMANS 1:18a. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men..."

### NOTHING **YOU** CAN DO CAN SAVE YOU

ROMANS 3:20a. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight..."

#### GOD'S LOVE HAS MADE A WAY

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."

ROMANS 5:8-9. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

### PLACE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

ROMANS 4:21. "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

#### JESUS CHRIST ALONE CAN SAVE YOU

ACTS 4:12. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

### ...THEN PRAY AND ASK HIM

ROMANS 10:13. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
ROMANS 10:11. "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

BE CONFIDENT YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN TODAY; THIS PRAYER, THIS MOMENT.

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. If I died today, I would not go to Heaven. Forgive my sins, come into my heart and be my Savior. Help me live for you from this day forward.

In Jesus name, Amen.

#### NOW THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN

Your everlasting life has begun! To continue in the Christian way, get a King James Bible and study to build your life on a strong foundation. Find a church nearby that teaches sound doctrine, and make prayer a daily habit!

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Doctrinal Statement

As Christian believers of the House of Prayer Christian Churches of America, Incorporated, we make the following declaration of the things which are "Believed Among Us" (Luke 1:1), so as, there will be no division or differences among us, and that all our churches preach, teach, and proclaim the following, doing so in love and by direction of the Holy Spirit, and by the Word of God.

I - THE SCRIPTURES: We believe that the Scriptures, (The Bible), are the inspired Word of God, and that they are to be taught and believed in their entirety - (II Timothy 3:15) (II Peter 1:21)

That the Scriptures will give us a complete revelation of God's divine plan of Salvation and His will toward man, and that this is to constitute the complete rule of Christian Faith and the practice of the same.

II - THE GODHEAD: Our God is a Trinity - manifested in three distinct Persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, being

co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal.

III - SALVATION: Salvation for man, (which is fallen from his perfect and sinless state through Adam), is attained by the grace of God, through Jesus Christ His Son, by His death upon the cross, through the Holy Spirit" conviction, by repentance, and through an experience of the New Birth. This is accomplished by grace, and is made effectual through faith in Jesus Christ by accepting Him as our Personal Savior. (Titus 2:11) (Romans 10:13-15) (Luke 24:47) (Titus 3:5-7)

IV - THE CHURCH: We believe that the Church is the Body of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18) (Ephesians 4:15) and that Jesus is the Head. Its earthly members are made up of believers, born again by the Spirit (John 3:6) and by the Word. (I Peter 1:23). To the Church is delegated authority, instructions, offices, and rules to govern it, and its members, so as to allow it to fulfill its

mission in the fulfillment of Christ's great commission. (Matthew 28:19) (Mark 16:15-20)

V - MINISTRY: God, through the Holy Spirit, definitely calls and sets aside such as He desires to serve as Ministers of the Gospel. No one should under any circumstances be ordained to any office unless the calling is distinct and evident.

VI – WATER BAPTISM: Baptism in water is by immersion, and is a direct commandment of our Lord (Matthew 28:19) and is for believers only. (Romans 6:4) (Colossians 2:12) (Acts 8:36-39)
VII – BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11) is a gift from God, as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ, to all believers in this dispensation, and is received subsequent to the New Birth. (John 14:16-17) (Acts 1:8, 2:4, 2:38-39). The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is accompanied with the speaking in tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, this being the initial physical sign and evidence. (Acts 2:4)

VIII - SANCTIFICATION: The Word of God (The Bible) teaches that without holiness no man can or shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We believe the Doctrine of Sanctification to be a definite, yet a progressive work of grace in the believer's life, starting at the time of the born again experience in the believer's life. (Hebrews 13:12) (II Thessalonians 2:13) (I Peter 1:2) (Ephesians 5:26) (John 17:17) (I Corinthians 6:11) (I Thessalonians 5:23)

THE LORD'S SUPPER: We believe that the ordinance of The Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Savior, and that its

time or frequency of observance is left to the discretion of each congregation. (I Corinthians 11:26)

X - DIVINE HEALING: Healing is for the physical ills of the human body. It is wrought by God, through the power of God, by the laying on of hands and by prayer, through faith. (Mark 16:18) (James 5:14-15)

XI - THE COMING OF THE LORD: We hold that the coming of the Lord is imminent and is the blessed hope of the Church. We

also hold that the rapture is to occur prior to the tribulation. XII - RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND UNJUST: The Scriptures teach that the just (those born again, being justified by Jesus Christ) shall be raised by Jesus Christ unto eternal life and rewards. The unjust, (those who have rejected Jesus and His plan of salvation), shall be raised to judgement and eternal punishment.

XIII - HELL: When one dies in his sins without Christ, he is hopelessly and eternally lost in the Lake of Fire, and therefore has

no more opportunity of receiving Christ as Savior, being eternally lost. (Hebrews 9:27)

The Lake of Fire is literal, (Revelation 19:20) and the words eternal and everlasting describe the duration of the punishment of

those that are lost.

XIV - RELATION TO WAR: We believe that our government was and is established by God, and whereas we are thankful to the government of the United States of America, for the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and whereas we understand and believe that the Word of God does not command or teach, either by example or statement, that we should not protect or defend our way of life: be it resolved that during time of war or necessity, we will serve our government, bear arms, protect our citizens from enemies who try to overthrow our government and our country, and to serve in whatever

XV - TITHES: We recognize the scriptural duty of all people, as well as ministers, to pay tithes unto the Lord. (Hebrews 7:8) Tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord, and are not to be given to charity or used for other purposes. (Malachi 3:7-11) (Hebrews 7:2) (I Corinthians 9:7-11; 16:2)

XVI - PRAYER: The Word of God plainly teaches that men must pray everywhere without wrath and doubting. (I Tim. 2:8) We believe that prayer is a vital and necessary part of a believer's life, and, therefore should be exercised without restriction, according to Scripture. (Luke 6:12) (Luke 18:1) (I Thessalonians 5:17)

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