



The Sharon Star

Till Christ Be Formed

By R. H. Oldridge

As an opening text for the above theme I would like to refer to that found in Galatians 4:19 and I quote, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." Paul, in the book of Galatians addresses them as little children, which indicated they had been born to a new life but were failing to walk on to the maturity of manhood or to full grown sons. Instead of growing in Christ they were reverting back to human effort or trying to accomplish by the law what can only come by walking in the Spirit. He admonishes them also in Galatians 3: 2-3, and I quote, "This only would I learn of you, Receive ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

Now, children are wonderful and we make over them and adore them especially as babes in their mother's arms. We may even refer to them as a perfect child but no mother wants her babe to remain as such, in fact one of the saddest things I have witnessed was a child at eight years old to have to

be carried in its mothers arms and be fed like a babe.

So, in the spiritual realm I am sure that one of the saddest things is for our Heavenly Father to still have to look on us, after many years, as still a babe in Christ. In the natural realm there is a capacity for growth which comes through proper nourishment and discipline. The same is true in the spirit. If we are feeding on the living Word of God as revealed by divine revelation, not the ideas and teachings of men, we will grow to the full stature of Christ as portrayed in Ephesians 4:15, and again I quote, "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ...". Incidentally, the book of Ephesians lifts us to those heights as perhaps few other writings do, in so much that a great Christian writer, Andrew Murray spoke of Ephesians as the 'Alps' of the New Testament, in other words, those heights of full maturity in Christ. It would do well for all our readers to read the full book and especially this 4th chapter which also gives us the manner in which we can

come to full maturity of full sonship in Christ.

We also have a strong admonition in the preceding verse 14, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive:" I fear many in religious circles today may be in that state.

This growth to full maturity or sonship is the substance of my text. The new birth as a babe in Christ is a new life born within us, the very life of Christ. Some Christians view the person and life of Christ at a distance, rather than being formed right within these temples of clay. In Old Testament times much emphasis was placed upon the glory of God resting in structures such as Solomon's temple, the tabernacle in the wilderness, the restoration temple, and others, but these are types and shadows of the real temple, a many membered body of these temples of clay. In Revelation 3:20, we see Christ standing at the door of the church seeking entrance and I quote, "Behold,

I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Many are the scriptures that speak of Christ inhabiting these vessels of clay. Back in the Old Testament they were referred to as pitchers, which indicates that the life could be poured forth to others, but the pitchers had to be broken in order for the light to shine forth.

I would like to refer to a number of scriptures that clearly portray the formation of Christ in these temples which we are.

1. "To reveal His Son in me," - Galatians 1:16

2. The sacred mystery - "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" - Colossians 1:27

3. "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in them that believe..." - II Thessalonians 1:10

4. "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." - John 17:23, also verse 26.

5. "And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." - John 17:26

6. "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." - John 14:20

7. "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." - Colossians 3:4

8. In Solomon's temple the glory of God so filled the temple that the priests could not stand to minister, because of the glory that filled the house. I ask you should it be any less in the temple which we are, since these were types and shadows? These quotes are from II Chronicles 5: 13, 14.

9. Out of our innermost being rivers of living water were to flow which is none other than the life of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

10. Peter stated in II Peter 1:4 that we are partakers of the divine nature.

When Philip came saying that the

Greeks wanted to see Jesus, he gave them a beautiful description of how they would see him. Except a corn of wheat, which he was, would fall into the ground and die, it would abide alone, but if it died it would be reproduced in the head with many kernels. This is also portrayed so well in Hebrews chapter 2 where it speaks of the rulership of the world to be under man but it was only as Christ fell to the ground and died that the many membered body of sons would come forth to fulfil that which he had planned from Creation. Although that was God's plan and purpose from the beginning it was thwarted because man tried to rule without God or by the gods of this world. Nevertheless, He will bring those many sons to glory to rule with Him throughout the ages to come, and I believe that great preparation is now on, to bring it to pass, it will be when Christ is fully formed within this body.

As Christ is being formed within this many membered body, we are coming to a conclusion, to a fulfilment, when righteousness shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, "and nothing shall hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain." I would like to refer to the epistles of Peter as he describes the process. He pictures this elect company as strangers scattered abroad but elect according to God's foreknowledge, but can only come through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Christ, I Peter 1: 1, 2.

He then declares he has begotten us again unto a lively (or living) hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Then he says we are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, which I believe without a doubt we are approaching even now. All that some Christians know concerning salvation is when they first accepted Christ as their personal Saviour and that is indeed a glorious experience and we would not in any way minimize that wonderful event, but there is more. He speaks of it here as an end or finality of that great beginning. In this chapter and verse 9 he speaks of the end of our faith even the salvation of your soul. So, he is simply saying it

begins with the new birth and ends in the full maturity of sonship.

But one cannot contemplate this stupendous event without a realization that there is a price to pay and a process to go through. In I Peter 1: 6, 7 he tells them to rejoice even though for a time they would be in heaviness through manifold temptation or testing and to have a real trial of faith which he speaks of as a fiery trial as though some strange thing had happened unto them. In I Peter 4: 12, 13 but to rejoice inasmuch as they were partakers of Christ's sufferings and when the glory was revealed they would rejoice and be glad with exceeding joy. I believe that this describes well the way God is leading us at this moment into the fullness of Christ. We are not concerned about all the alarming things that have been penned about Y2K, rather we know that the millennial kingdom of God is about to be ushered in. In Chapter 4:1, He also admonishes us, that as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin. May God's elect soon come to the total end of themselves, the end of the Adamic nature, the old man, and put on the new man, even Christ, or as we are endeavouring to portray. Till Christ be fully formed within us. I heard a chorus and I quote it:

When we come to the end of ourselves

There'll be no broken vessels sitting down on God's shelf;

All is free for they see, that God is all that is left,

When we come to the end of ourselves.

No wonder Paul, the apostle said that "in me, that is in my flesh dwelleth no good thing." He was not talking here of his earthly temple for he declared that Christ was dwelling within, but he was talking of the carnal man inherited from the fall. So, the word 'flesh' in scripture refers to the body and in other places that carnal self which is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be. Another chorus penned by one of the saints of the ages went like this:

Oh, to be saved from myself, dear Lord,

Oh, to be lost in thee.

Oh, that it may be no more I,
But Christ that liveth in me.

Another potent scripture down this line is found in II Corinthians 3:18 "... beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Speaking of the moulding and changes taking place in us through these difficult times, perhaps Paul's experience in II Corinthians 1: 1-10 will help us. In verses 4 to 10 he speaks of a severe trial he had gone through, sufferings, tribulation, affliction, presses beyond measure, above strengths insomuch we despaired even of life. But, then he comes to a glorious conclusion. He said, that although it seemed like a sentence of death, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God which raised the dead. May we too, burst out of the tomb, we seem many times to be encased in, into the power of His resurrection life.

My desire as I trust, is the desire of all who read this, is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and to come to that fullness in Him. Laying aside every weight and the sin which so easily besets us and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. I would like to quote the words of a hymn that has been very precious to me. If you are not stirred by these old hymns as I am, I trust you will be stirred by the many scriptures quoted. The words of this beautiful hymn are as follows:

Himself

Once it was the blessing, Now it is the Lord,

Once it was the feeling, Now it is His Word.

Once the gift I wanted, Now the Giver own,

Once I sought for healing, Now Himself alone.

Once was painful trying, Now tis perfect trust,

Once a half salvation, Now the uttermost,

Once was ceaseless holding, Now He holds me fast,

Once was constant drifting, Now

my anchor's cast.

Once my love was selfish, Now His love is mine.

Once I sought for comfort, Now his sheep that pine.

Once I gave from duty, Now I love to pour

At the feet of Jesus, all my earthly store.

Once it was my working, His it hence shall be,

Once I tried to use Him, Now He uses me.

Once the power I wanted, Now the mighty One,

Once for self I laboured, Now for Him alone.

Once I hoped in Jesus, Now I know He's mine,

Once my lamps were dying, Now they brightly shine,

Once for death I waited, Now His coming hail

And my hopes are anchored, Safe within the veil.

Chorus:

All in all forever, Of Jesus will I sing,

Everything in Jesus, And Jesus everything.

This theme of Christ being formed within us is so clear throughout the scriptures and I pray that we all may be able to enter into this abundant life in Christ, and then it will no longer be constant struggling, but a glorious triumph in Christ and an entrance into that holiest place of all, which He opened and never closed. May the veil of our flesh be utterly rent that we will go in and come no more out. I know He lives, yes, I know He lives, and because He Lives, so live I. That my life may be hid in the cleft of the Rock and that Christ may be seen in me.

I believe that we are right on the brink when this earthly shell will be broken and the glory of the Lord will break forth to the whole of creation. We are privileged to live at this point in the great eternal plan and purpose of God. Our cry is Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in us as it is in the realms of the heavens. The outer world is in turmoil as never before. Darkness is everywhere, calamities, war, strife, are raging in the earth as never before, and the enemy

is indeed trying to wear out the saints of the Most High, but Daniel said that when that was happening, the saints would take the Kingdom and that Kingdom would have no end. Obadiah pictured it well when he said, saviours would come up on Mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau (which is the flesh) and the Kingdom would be the Lord's. Our hearts burn with anticipation of the nearing of this glorious day. As Paul penned in his Epistle to the Ephesians, that unto principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church, the manifold wisdom of God.

As I bring this meditation to a close, my heart seems to cry out, not only for ourselves who groan within ourselves, but for the whole of creation groaning on every hand. This cry seems to be expressed so well in that wonderful invitation hymn, "Jesus I Come."

Jesus I Come

1. Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus I come, Jesus I come,

Into thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus I come to thee.

Out of my sickness, into thy health, Out of my want and into thy wealth,

Out of my sin and into thyself, Jesus I come to thee.

2. Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus I come, Jesus I come

Into the glorious gain of thy cross, Jesus I come to thee.

Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm, Out of life's storms and into thy calm,

Out of distress to jubilant psalm, Jesus I come to thee.

3. Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus I come, Jesus I come,

Into thy blessed will to abide, Jesus I come to thee.

Out of myself to dwell in thy love, Out of despair into rapture above,

Upward for aye on wings like a dove, Jesus I come to thee.

4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus I come, Jesus I come.

Into the joy and light of my home, Jesus I come to thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of thy sheltering fold,

Ever thy glorious face to behold, Jesus I come to thee.

Feed the Flock of God

By A.M. Hinchliff

To feed God's people is a great responsibility that rests upon the eldership of the church. We all need to be fed upon that Spiritual manna sent down from heaven. There are many who hunger and thirst after righteousness and are longing to be fed.

As we will see from the scriptures there are different category of eldership which share this responsibility. First of all there is the elder of the home, then we have the elders or fathers of the local church, and then the apostolic ministry who are elders or fathers of the whole church.

It is wonderful when the husband and father takes his place as priest or elder of his home and ministers to the spiritual as well as the physical and material needs of his family. God was very particular that Israel would look after the spiritual life of their children. Deuteronomy 6:6 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes." When God speaks of a sign upon our hand He is speaking of the things we do with our hands. Every action of our hands are a sign to our children. The frontlets between our eyes speak of the things we watch. This is especially important when it comes to television. There is much that is not edifying for adults to watch; much less children.

God reaffirms His stand on these things in the following scriptures. Deuteronomy 11:18 "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the

way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 11:21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. Psalms 78:5 "For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments."

There are several New Testament scriptures that emphasize the teaching of children. Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." The Living Bible translates that scripture this way. "You children must always obey your fathers and mothers, for that pleases the Lord. Fathers don't scold your children so much that they become discouraged and give up trying."

The family altar is a must in this day and age when rebellion against God and the prevalence of sin is a stumbling block to all of us. A regular time should be set aside each day for the family as a unit to meet together in the presence of God. The Word of God should be read and taught and each family member should learn to pray and bring their concerns before the Lord. To see that this happens is the responsibility of the father or elder of

the home. It is our prayer that there will be unity in this matter between the father and mother. Children become partakers of spiritual principles that will remain with them all of their lives.

When Paul and Barnabas travelled throughout Asia establishing churches they appointed elders to be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the people. Acts 14:23 "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed." A local church elder is a spiritual father who cares for the spiritual wellbeing of the people of the church of which he is an elder.

Likewise in the Move of the Spirit elders are ordained in each local church to take the spiritual oversight of the people. They are local, self supporting men who are indicated for the office of eldership by the Holy Spirit. They take the oversight of the church and are responsible for the spiritual food, growth, and maturity of the people of the congregation. It is also important that they keep a close eye upon the newborn.

On Paul's last trip back to Jerusalem he desired to meet with the elders from the church at Ephesus. He sent word for them to meet him in Miletus. The main part of his message to them is found in Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Their responsibility was to feed the church. Going back to my days on the farm, a well fed animal is a contented

animal and the same is true of people in the church. Elders, if your people are wandering looking for food it may be time to increase their food intake in your church. Don't just decide to have more meetings but look to God for a greater measure of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. More spiritual food comes with more of the anointing. I always enjoy when driving along the road when I see a lush green pasture with cattle laying down in the grass. They are content with lots to eat. Take heed to feed the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood.

Jesus gave Peter special instructions on caring for His flock. John 21:15 "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

It would appear that Peter's love for

his Lord was to be shown by him feeding Jesus' followers. First of all Jesus told him to feed His lambs. The Greek word that is translated feed here where Jesus says feed my lambs is "bosco" which means to "pasture".

It makes me think of when I was a farm boy in the 30's. It was so dry that our pasture was almost as bare as the street in front of our house today. The cattle would walk along the fence looking for a way out to hunt for something to eat. There was nothing anywhere for them to feed on but they still looked. There are many Christians today who hunger and thirst but can find nothing to satisfy themselves. Jesus instruction to Peter was to feed them.

In verse 16 Jesus says, "feed my sheep". The Greek word that is translated feed here is "poimaino" which means to tend as a shepherd. In caring for livestock we learned the meaning of this word which not only refers to feeding but includes the complete care of the animals. The shepherd has to look for and find the animals that have strayed. Mathew 18:11 "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? If a man have a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth

more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

The shepherd has to look after the sick; he has to care for the newborn; he has to care for any wounds the flock might suffer, besides seeing that they are fed. There are many people who are spiritually sick and need the shepherd's care. The new born need special care and attention. In our lives many suffer injury and need healing not only physically but also spiritually. There is no end to his duties in caring for his animals. Jesus was talking about the apostles caring for His flock. They must tend the flock as a shepherd cares for his flock. The apostles have this responsibility along with the elders which are the local shepherds.

In verse 21 the Greek word "bosco" is used again which emphasizes the importance of feeding or giving nourishment.

A great responsibility is given the entire eldership concerning the feeding of God's people. The fathers in the home, the elders of the local church and the apostolic ministry all bear the weight of the people's need. As everyone takes this burden upon himself I am sure that the church will grow and mature coming into the fullness of the image and likeness of Christ. May God bless you.

Sonship

By Peter Siemens

Today I would like to write on sonship, and whenever we speak about sonship, we talk about mature or manifested sons of God. A baby can be a son, but must go through various stages of growth to become a mature son, to take the responsibility to be a Dad and a good provider. Sonship is perfection, to be an overcomer, in order to rule and reign with Christ. There are various levels of growth to become a manifested son of God.

I John 2:12, "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake."

There are Christians that have been saved, twenty, thirty, forty years, and are still babes in Christ. They are still being spoon-fed by their pastors, cannot feed themselves spiritually. Verse 13 "I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning." In other words, they have a fellowship with the Father and the

Son of God; that is the only way to learn to know Him. "I write unto you, young men, ...because ye have overcome the wicked one." That is sonship. To be an overcomer has nothing to do with age, or how long you have been a Christian, but spiritual growth. I remember in the fall of 1948 when the brethren first taught sonship, they said that sonship is not made up of novices. Jesus was thirty years old when His real ministry as a Son became

manifested. Sonship was so real; I was twenty four years old at the time. Do I have to wait another six years, sad to say, fifty one years later I am still waiting; but I trust growth has taken place, and sonship is at hand.

Galatians 3:26 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 4:1, 2 "Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father."

Jesus, though He was the Son of God, yet He learned obedience by the things that He suffered. Christ, as a Son of God had to come to maturity before He could be manifested as a Son of God with authority. We are under the guidance of our parents to come to natural and spiritual maturity, under the guidance of local elders and universal ministries for spiritual maturity, to bring us to the fullness of the stature of Christ, sonship. Not as individuals but as a body.

I John 3: 2,3 "Beloved, now are we the children of God; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be (we are still children, not mature): but we know that, when he shall appear, (which means made manifest) we shall be like him; (praise God, in the fullness of His glory) for we shall see him as he is. V.3 and every man that has this hope in Him, purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

I Corinthians 13: 10-12 "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child (Spiritually), I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man I put away childish things." We have a lot of things in our lives today because of our immaturity, and unless we mature and grow up into our Head, Christ Jesus, these things will keep us from sonship. They are like toys to babies, games for young people, and entertainment for adults. The more we mature in Christ, the less of these things will be necessary. But, is not us fulfilling our ministries more important than any of these earthly vanities? Sports is a god of this age and is taking a lot of time from many, and is robbing the ministry of many. In the early part of the Move

there was no thought given to entertainment, but Jesus meant every thing to us, and we looked forward to fellowship and ministry, and we were one body. If we need games and entertainment to keep the Church together, we will never see Maturity.

Verse 12 (I Cor. 13) "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." II Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image (sonship) from glory to glory, even as the Spirit of the Lord." It is only by the Spirit that we will ever attain sonship, and it is not as individuals, but a body brought to sonship.

Hebrews 5: 8-10 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, (by learning obedience, submission, without which there is no perfection) he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec."

Hebrews 5:12 - 6:1 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. I Corinthians 3:1-3 "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" Carnality is a sign of immaturity.

Hebrews 5:13-14 "For every one that useth milk (because of carnality) is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Those who choose the good and leave the evil.)

Hebrews 6:1 "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection;...." Perfection

is sonship. Romans 8:12-14 "Therefore, brethren (speaking to you and me), we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." It is referring to complete submission to the Spirit of God. V. 16 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (in various stages of growth) V. 17 "And if children, then heirs: heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Without suffering, being tested and tried, there is not sonship.

Verse 18 (Rom. 8) "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Christ suffered pain, physical pain, before He was crucified. He was mocked, spit upon, then had the nails pierce His hands and His feet, and died on the cross, so He could bring many sons to glory. V. 19 "for the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. (Christ is a many membered body, glorified in the glorious Church, that is holy and without blemish, no sin, no sickness, but perfection).

Verse 21-22 (Rom. 8) "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Not only restored to where we were before the fall, but glorified, transformed, transfigured, partakers of the Tree of Life, no more death, not only are we set free from all bondage of corruption, but all creation shall be brought into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. (This even included angels, know ye not that ye shall judge angels).

We'll turn to Hebrews 2:5-10 "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof

we speak. V.6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Natural man would forsake his brother or sister. After all the contrary things mankind has done to God, but He looked beyond all our sins and saw a need, and sent Jesus to redeem us unto Himself. The more we have of God in our lives, the more we will love the unlovely.

Hebrews 2:7 "Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst (progressive) him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: V.8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him (sonship). But now we see not yet all things put under him. (Because we have not yet come to maturity.) V.9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned (Sonship, full maturity) with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (From Adam and Eve to every baby that will ever be born.) V.10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, (perfection, sonship) to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Many sons, just think of what Jesus did as a Son of God. And now to have many sons, not to just have many sons, but to rule and reign with Him a thousand years.

Now to Ephesians 4: 1-6 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the

vocation wherewith ye are called. (That's speaking to you and me.) V.2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; V.3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." If we are living in the Spirit we will always have unity. As I have said many times how can there be any discord between two people when they are living in the Spirit? As someone once said, when the old Ford starts to knock, you know it needs oil, when there is friction in the home, or, in the church, it is because a lack of the anointing. That's why we need more of the Holy Spirit in our lives today, because the anointing will knit us together in love.

Verse 4 (Eph. 4) "There is one body,...." (Man will separate and divide into denominations, independent churches, into Sunday School meetings, young peoples, women, young couples, but in reality, the Church is one Body, and the Spirit will minister to the whole Body. Jesus ministered to five thousand men, beside women and children.) I remember in the early part of the Move, when five and six year old children would come to their parents and say, "Wasn't it terrible what so and so did during the service?" Someone from outside the Church had prophesied with a different Spirit. Children absorb a lot more from meetings than we think. Back to Verse 4 (Eph. 4) "...and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; V.5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism. V.6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Now Ephesians 4: 11-16 "And he

gave some, apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers. V.12 For the perfecting (to bring to sonship) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. V. 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Sonship). V. 15 But speaking the truth (the whole word of God, without favour) in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. V. 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body (every member) unto the edifying of itself in love.

Notice, the whole body is being edified, built up, brought to perfection, maturity, by the ministry of five fold ministry and every gift and ministry functioning. Some one once said, he didn't need the hand or the arm, only Christ, the Head, to come to perfection. Without the fivefold ministry there is no perfection, and we need every member to function in the gift and ministry which God has given to us to come to sonship.

I will close the words of a chorus:

Will you be found in Him, will you be found in Him,

When the kingdom of God is being ushered in?

Will you be led by His Spirit, and filled with His love,

A total surrender to be a son of God.

God bless you!

The Coming of the Lord

By Markus Hansen

Anyone who is active in the business world knows how important it is to have a vision statement. It is a fact that those who do not have a vision or set goals seldom if ever succeed.

This basic principle of a successful business applies as well to our daily lives. People who do not have short

and long term objectives seldom reach their full potential. When you have a vision, and it becomes a passion, you tend to work very diligently towards accomplishing what you are striving for.

As an example, growing flowers, especially dahlias, is one of my pas-

sions. The dahlia is a beautiful flower that bloom from early August into mid October. They come in a multitude of shapes and colours. They also survive for up to a week when cut and taken indoors. It takes a lot of effort to grow dahlias. In the spring the soil has to be prepared for planting of the tubers.

They have to be watered and fertilized regularly if you want lots of blooms. When they grow tall you have to tie them to stakes or they will fall over. After the first frost, the tubers have to be dug up, cleaned, tagged, separated and sorted for the winter. There is one thing I think about when I am growing dahlias however and that is when the flowers are in full bloom. They add so much colour to our garden. I love to watch my wife cut the blooms and bring them in to the house. When we go out for a visit there are always a few to take along. If I did not have a vision in my mind of the enjoyment we experience when the dahlias are in full bloom, it would be very difficult to carry through with all the different tasks that have to be done to grow them.

So it is in our walk with God. If we have a clear vision where God is leading us, it is much easier to endure the correction, troubles, trials, tribulations and temptations that we encounter along life's way. Proverbs 29:18 reads as follows: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

When we don't know where we are going we tend to wander around aimlessly. As God's called out ones, we need to know what God has called us unto.

Where are we going, what is our vision?

Having asked this question of a number of our company who are of the 2nd and 3rd generation born since the revival of 1948, and in general receiving a very vague response, it would seem appropriate that a review of our vision is in order.

Over the last 50 years much has been ministered on Church Government, Entering into Sonship, the Coming together of the Body of Christ, Divine Life and Kingdom Rule. The purpose of this article is to enlarge our vision and connect all these teachings to the coming of Christ when every eye shall see him.

In the Bible, the Coming of the Lord is described using different terminology. Several examples are:

- a) The Last time,
 - b) Appearing of Jesus Christ,
 - c) Revelation of Jesus Christ and
- These expressions all refer to when

Jesus Christ shall return in person to be united to His bride the Church and set up His Kingdom upon the earth.

Turning to the scriptures let us begin reading from I Peter 1:3. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, (something to look forward to or a vision of what the Lord has in store for in the future) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Vs. 4. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. Vs. 5. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

"In the last time", What did Peter mean by this statement? He is writing about an event which will occur sometime in the future and he indicates to us that, He, referring to Jesus, has in his mercy begotten us, or by means of a new birth, given us a vision of something that we are to inherit, which will not perish or fade away. Hallelujah! Let's continue in Vs. 7; "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" or unavailing of Jesus Christ.

Taking into consideration that this was written after Jesus ascended to be with the Father, Peter is saying that sometime in the future, which he called the last time, Jesus is going to appear again. If we are faithful through our trials and tribulations that come to try us, then when Christ does appear we will be able to rejoice with him. Oh Glory to God.

Vs. 13; "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Here Peter is encouraging the Christian church to hold their faith and keep their eyes on the goal until the end when Christ shall reappear. The word revelation used here is translated from the Greek word which means "an uncovering." Not only do we look for a revelation of Jesus Christ at the end of the age but we look for a revelation or uncovering of Him in the life and walk of every Christian. We

pray for a revelation that will be a true uncovering of the Life and nature of Christ in every believer.

Paul likewise wrote of the same event in I Corinthians 1:7 "So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

It never ceases to amaze me how in the scriptures the truths of God are confirmed over and over. As we read through the scriptures, we find that the return of the Lord was foretold or prophesied about by many. A few examples are:

- a) The Prophets of Old wrote about it,
- b) Jesus himself spoke about it,
- c) The Apostles wrote about it and
- d) The angels spoke about it.

Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him."

Enoch a prophet of old said according to Jude 1:14 "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints."

Jesus speaks of his return in the 24th and 25th chapters of Matthew in great detail. In particular, Matthew 25:31, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory," also in John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again."

Luke likewise wrote in the book of Acts, 3:20 "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you." Paul writing to Timothy, wrote in I Timothy 6:14 "that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Luke writes about what the angels said after Jesus ascended to be with His Father in the first chapter of Acts, Vs. 11 "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven." There is a day coming when Christ will come and when we see him we shall be like him. See John 3:2.

The purposes for Christ's return.

It is always helpful to know why we are asked to do something or wait

patiently for a particular event. When I was a small boy about 5 years old I remember vividly sitting on the end of our living room couch on Christmas Eve staring at the presents under our Christmas tree. It seemed like forever but I was willing to wait patiently because I knew that eventually the time would come when the family would all gather around the Christmas tree, sing a few favorite carols, then the presents would be given out. If you are going through a struggle right now, take hope. There is coming a day when Christ will return and all our struggles and trials will be over, there will be no more tears for He will wipe them all away. Praise God.

Some of the reasons for the return of Christ are:

a) To rule and reign in His Kingdom.

Thank God that Christ is coming back to rule and reign. One could write a book listing all the reasons why Jesus should take over governing the nations of the world. From a historical point of view, man has a very poor record in this regard. I dare say, there is not one nation in this world that can claim to have achieved anything close to righteous rule. But this is all going to change, Isaiah 9:6-7: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Daniel 7:14, "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Praise the mighty name of Jesus.

b) To Complete the Salvation of the Saints.

Hebrew 9:28 "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he

appear the second time without sin unto salvation." This scripture is understood better as apart from or without sin he shall be seen by those expecting him unto salvation. The inference being as soon as we get rid of sin we shall see him and that in one another. We may question this thought that our salvation is not complete. It is true that when we asked God to forgive us of our sins and invited Christ to come into our heart we experienced what is referred to as, "our salvation." But along the pathway of life, from time to time, we struggle with our humanity and sometimes we do things we shouldn't do. Paul recognized this when he wrote in Romans 5:15, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." Or in chapter 13:11, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

The fact that Paul had certain struggles in his life does not give us licence to give in to sin. We have been admonished to yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit and if we do, then we will not be subject to the works of the flesh. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14

I dare say that few are willing to say that they have reached a higher level of walking in the Spirit than Paul and yet he said that "since the day we believed and accepted Jesus Christ as our savior, every day God's salvation is nearer." In other words, our salvation is still not complete. The Holy Spirit has more work to do in our lives. Praise the Lord. You might say we are on a journey and everyday we are getting closer to our goal. That goal is to reach the point where the work of salvation is complete in us. We will then no longer be subject to the works of the flesh. Oh Glory to God.

c) Be Glorified in his Saints.

In the first chapter of second Thessalonians, Paul explains the purpose of persecution which refines believers for the day when, Vs. 7, "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels." Then in Vs. 10 he writes the following wonderful words, "When he shall come to

be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe because our testimony among you was believed in that day." Vs. 12, "That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Just think, Christ is coming back so that He may be glorified in us. Personally I find this statement staggering. Christ the only begotten Son of God who was and is, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending is coming to be glorified or revealed in us. Yes dear saints of God, in you and in me. His majesty, His excellency, His power, His Honour shall be revealed in and through us. Isaiah 60:1-3 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."

d) Bring to light the hidden things of darkness.

In this present age there are still those who parade around, just as they did in the time of Christ, who Jesus described as hypocrites. A hypocrite is one who pretends to be better than he really is or pious, virtuous, etc. without really being so. They say one thing but live lives of lies and deception. They are the ones who Jesus spoke of in Matthew 23 where he described the traits of a hypocrite. For example Vs. 25, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess." Vs. 27 & 28, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

I Corinthians 4:5 "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have

praise of God." At the time of Lord's return, He will reveal the intents and thoughts of the hearts of all men and women and nothing shall be hidden. This scripture is a great comfort to us today for we can take assurance in the fact that God will expose the works of the unrighteous and ungodly. In the church we have a responsibility to deal with any sin that is evident or revealed by the work of the Holy Spirit and this falls under church discipline which is administered by the local elders in conjunction with the apostolic brethren. However outside of the church this scripture indicates we do not have to fret about these things because God has a time where he is going to deal with them. Our responsibility is to make sure that we are walking right before God so that collectively, His Body, will reach a point of perfection and be ready for the return of our Lord.

e) To exercise judgment

Not only is Christ going to reveal the inner most thoughts and deeds of unrighteousness upon his return, He will then judge them.

II Timothy 4:1, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom."

Jude 14 & 15, "...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all."

A sobering thought, but on the other hand, wonderful, because God is a god of righteous judgment.

When shall Christ return?

This is a very reasonable question. The disciples asked Christ when the end would come. Matthew 24:3, "...Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world." Vs. 36 is Christ's answer, "But of the day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Also in Mark 13:32 & 33, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

With such explicit instructions there is no need to lay awake at night worrying about the coming of the Lord or when it is going to happen. It will

happen but we don't know when. On the other hand Jesus did say, "Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand."

"These things" refer to the signs that Jesus gave that will point to the end times and His return. You will find reference to these signs in the 24th chapter of Matthew, 13th chapter of Mark and 21st chapter of Luke. They are summarized as follows:

a) many shall come and say I am Lord,

b) ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars,

c) nations shall rise against nation,

d) there will be famines,

e) pestilence's,

f) earthquakes in various places,

g) you shall be persecuted,

h) you shall be hated of all nations for Christ's sake,

i) many shall be offended and betray one another,

j) many false prophets shall rise and deceive many,

k) iniquity shall abound,

l) the love of many shall wax cold and

m) The gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; **and the end shall come.**

When we review these signs considering the hour we live in, it is understandable why we feel like we do. We feel like the Kingdom of God is nigh at hand. It just seems like it is very near, Glory to God.

How will the coming of the Lord and culmination of this age unfold?

Matthew 24:21&22, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be and except those day should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: **but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

Lest we be concerned about these times let us not forget the comforting words and instructions of Jesus in Vs. 13, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" and Vs.

15, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place." In other words, stay in the Church; stay under the covering of the Apostolic brethren and local elders. Don't wander off into the world but keep your feet planted firmly on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

It will come unannounced, like a thief in the night, "for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44. But when he comes, it will happen instantly: "For as the lightning flashes across the sky from east to west, so shall my coming be, when I, the Messiah, returns." Matthew 24:27. (Living translation) When you see lighting flash in one part of the sky it appears instantly across the expanse of the whole sky. Such will be the coming of the end of this present age.

Surely it will be a day of reckoning and of great consternation for the wicked.

Returning to Matthew 24:30, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

As mentioned previously I never cease to marvel when reading the Bible, how God's word is confirmed by different individuals and often in prophesy. In the previous verse it mentions the Christ is returning in the clouds of heaven. What this means I really don't know, but there are several references to the fact that He is returning surrounded by clouds. We read earlier in Acts that a cloud received him out of their sight. Then the angels told the disciples that Jesus would return in like manner that they saw him ascend. Also, Jesus answered the high priest when he was questioned as to whether he be Christ, the Son of God, as follows, "Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Revelation 1:7, "Behold, he cometh with clouds."

It is also recorded that Christ shall not return alone but he shall be accom-

panied with angels, and there shall be a great sound of a trumpet heralding his return. Matthew 24:31, "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a Trumpet," 25-31, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory and all the holy angels with him." I Thessalonians 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God." Christ is going to return and he will be announced by a great sound of the trumpets heralding His return. He will not be hidden from view for the scripture says; "every eye shall see him." It will be a great glorious sight when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Yes every man, woman and child shall see Him come.

We then read in Matthew 24:31, that, "they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heaven to the other."

Speaking of those who have already died in the faith forgetting not the promise, we read in I Thessalonians 4: 13-18, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

The author of Hebrews when writing about those who died in faith said, 11:39-40, "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." Glory to God dear saints. Your loved ones, your parents, your sons your daughters and all those who

have gone over to the other side are going to join us who still remain on this old earth and together we shall be united with Christ.

The following sentence, "to meet the Lord in the air" is a scripture which has been greatly expanded on by the imaginations of men, especially outside of this move of the Holy Spirit. This thought of meeting Christ in the air even has its own title, the rapture. It is taught in the religious circles of the day that Christ is going to return to the earth to gather all the believers and take them away to some faraway place while He destroys the earth. This teaching is in contradiction to the scriptures. True, we will ever be with the Lord when he returns because the called out ones which are His body will be joined with Christ. We will be bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh therefore we will have to be with Him forever. But we are going to rule and reign with Christ here on this earth. Revelation 5:10&11 and 20:4 indicate that the saints of God will live and reign on the earth. Suffice to say, the inference is that the dead in Christ and his elect company shall be gathered together to be with the Lord. Glory to God.

Let us turn our attention to a very significant scripture. Corinthians 15:20, "but now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. (died) For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive, **But every man in his own order; Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.** Then cometh the end. "I'll stop there as I wish to point out that God has in mind a particular order to the events by which he is going to bring all things back unto himself.

Paul explains that Christ was the first to experience a change in His body and for those who belong to Christ at His return, they likewise shall have a similar experience. They shall be made alive Praise God. Saints of God, this applies to us as well.

In the remainder of this chapter Paul explains in great detail that there are many different kinds of bodies but in particular there are earthly bodies, which we are, and there are heavenly

bodies. Reading from Vs. 29, "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, (in other words, we have a body just like Adam, made of the dust of the earth) we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" meaning that we shall have bodies like Christ has since he rose from the dead. After the resurrection Christ had a different body. Both in Luke 24:36 and John 20:19&20 we see that Christ after his resurrection appeared in the room where the disciples were gathered **the doors being shut.** Now try that some day and let me know how you make out. I have never met anyone who is able to walk through a wall or a door without breaking it down, but Jesus did, He just appeared.

Jesus was not a spirit either, as Bro. Seimens mentioned at Feast when he ministered on Life. You can't touch a spirit because there is nothing to touch, but Christ said to the disciples, Luke 24:39, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." Christ has a different kind of body since he rose from the dead. He could eat as he did when he met the disciples by the sea, but His life was not in the blood, His life was in the Spirit of the Almighty God. For Paul wrote, Corinthians 15:49-52 "And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, (die) **but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;** for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, **and we shall be changed.** Philippians 3:20-21, "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,** according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Blessed are they who have part in the first resurrection...Rev. 20:6.

Oh Hallelujah. When shall we be changed? When Christ shall return, at the great reunion of Christ and his

Church, at the last trump. For those who are faithful to the end, He will change their earthly bodies into heavenly bodies just like Christ had a new body when he rose from the dead. For our earthly bodies, the ones we have now must be transformed into heavenly bodies.

When this happens, this Scripture will at last come true. Vs. 54, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where then is your victory? Where then your sting? For sin — the sting that causes death — will all be gone; and the law, which reveals our sins, will no longer be our judge. How we thank God for all of this! It is he who makes us victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (I Corinthians 15:54-57, Living translation)

What a wonderful hope, what a vision to strive for. The coming of the Lord is the culmination of all we have been looking for. Over the years we listened to the brethren as they have ministered to us about entering into Sonship and the coming together of the Body of Christ. These truths are all part of what God is doing in this day and age that we live in. He is preparing us for that day when He shall return to be united to God's elect. Daniel 7:18, "But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever." 27, "And the kingdom and domain, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. Matthew 25:34, "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Revelation 19:6-8, "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."

Dear Saints of God, Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit is in the process of making us ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb. Since the move of Spirit sprang forth in 1948 God has been doing a work in us. He is molding us and making us into His

image so that we shall be like him. Ephesians 5:25-29, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

There is a reason why God re-established the five-fold ministry to the church. He desired to take a people unto perfection. He is doing that through the teaching of His word by the apostolic brethren and the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church. God wants us to mature in Him, to go on to perfection. Ephesians 5:11-13, "And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; **for the perfecting of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ:** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:**" Glory to God, "unto a perfect man", why? So that we can be joined unto Christ. So that we can rule and reign with Him in His Kingdom. God is not going to hand over His Kingdom to novices. He is looking for mature sons to be joint heirs with Christ.

God has given us a great vision. He has in this day re-established the pattern of the universal church, the local church and the family. He has set apostolic brethren as overseers of the universal church, local elders as overseers of the local church and fathers as overseers of the home. He has restored the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit to His Church to profit withal. Day by day Christ is refining us like gold is refined, through the fire of trials, and tribulation. Why? Because he has chosen us and called us for such an hour as this. That we may be found perfect, without spot or blemish, complete in Him ready for His return. That we may be found worthy to be called the SONS OF GOD.

Let us all have the same resolve then as the apostle Paul: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us

therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded." Philippians 3:14-15.

Isaiah 62:5, "**For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.**"

Hallelujah. Glory to God. Oh praise the wonderful name of Jesus.

As we push ahead towards this goal let us:

a) Believe It.

Job 19:25-26, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."

b) Love His Appearing.

II Timothy 4:8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

c) Look For His Glorious Appearing.

Titus 2:13, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:"

d) Wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 1:7, "So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

e) Watch and pray.

Mark 13:33, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."

f) Be patient.

James 5:7, "Be patient therefore, brethren unto the coming of the Lord."

I wish to end with the following three choruses:

1)

*"Oh it must be the breaking of the day,
Oh it must be the breaking of the day,
The night is almost gone, the day is coming on,
Oh it must be the breaking of the day."*

2)

*"It will be worth it all,
When we see Jesus,
One glimpse of His dear face,
All sorrow will erase,
So let us run the race, till we see Christ."*

3)

*"There is coming a day when no heart-aches shall come,
No more clouds in the sky, no more*

tears to dim the eye;
 All is peace forever more on that
 happy golden shore,
 What a day, glorious day, that will be.
 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 through the Promised Land,
 What a day, glorious day, that will be.
 There'll be no sorrow there, no more
 burdens to bear,
 No more sickness, no pain, no more
 parting over there;
 And forever I will be with the One who
 died for me,
 What a day, glorious day, that

will be."

"And the Spirit and the bride say,
 come. And let him that heareth say,
 Come. And let him that is athirst come,
 And whosoever will, let him take the
 water of the life freely. He which
 testifieth these things saith, **Surely I
 come quickly.** Amen. Even so come,
 Lord Jesus." Revelation 22:17&20.

Be Not Anxious

By Andy Snoke

(Continued from
 Oct./Nov./Dec. 1999 issue)

There is peace for those that are afflicted emotionally. There are many reasons why a person can suffer internally and emotionally. Many were afflicted or physically abused as children by family members that should have shown love instead of abuse. For some reason when a child is abused they often carry with them a sense of guilt, right into adulthood. They may find themselves actually blaming themselves (I assure you they were innocent!) They may think to themselves something like this: I deserved it! I wasn't pretty enough, smart enough, good enough! I could have told someone!

Others suffer from a lack of self worth or insecurity as a result of over demanding parents setting goals that could never be reached, or by a constant barrage of insults, and verbal abuse. One amazing attribute of a child is that they believe their parents. If you consistently tell a child that you love them, and that God loves them, they will believe you.

If you consistently tell a child that they are failures, or "Can't you do anything right?" "You deserve to be punished by God" etc., your children will still believe you!

These scars from childhood can effect a person for many, many years. Oftentimes, these children that lacked the proper love as a child, grow up and suffer emotionally, often quietly to themselves for years to come.

Some become perfectionists try-

ing to earn love and acceptance by being what they think is perfect. They set extremely high standards for themselves, and become impatient and angry with others that don't match their criteria of perfection. The constant personal pressure to perform robs their peace!

There were two sisters, Mary and Martha in Luke 10. Martha seemed to be a perfectionist. She was diligently working in the house preparing for all of the guests, taking care of their every need, while her sister Mary "sat at Jesus feet and heard his word". Martha even complained to the Lord and said "*But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.'*" And Jesus answered and said to her, "*Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.*" Luke 10:38-42.

Other's sufferings are manifested in just the opposite behavior, they run and hide! They refrain from meaningful relationships with people, for if they become too close, then they risk being hurt. They are the last to volunteer to help in most activities. Some become very obsessive over their appearance, their weight, their teeth, their bank account, and on and on. Some become "sick" either real or imagined. A sickness can become a reason not to

have to mingle and interact with people.

I have good news. At the last few camp meetings, the Lord seemed to be saying to the church that now is the time for the captives to go free. *Is 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

Today is the day for those that are slaves to their past, to be free! I would like to offer the following thoughts to consider to help appropriate this freedom.

First, trust in God completely. Trust him with your life. If you have trusted Him with your future, you can also trust him with your past.

Forgive those that have hurt you. In forgiving, you are recognizing that you were innocent. You are acknowledging that you didn't "deserve" the abuse, but you have the ability to forgive.

Recognize that your value as a person, does not depend on what you do or by what you possess, but by the one that possesses you. For God so loved YOU, That he gave you His only begotten Son! You don't deserve God's love by deeds, for you are saved by the Grace and kindness of God. It is God's favor towards us that brings us into His presence.

John 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Children's Corner

The Life Story of Moses

Sister Frances Cotcher

Dear Boys and Girls:

Today I am going to tell you the story of Moses from the Bible in the Book of Exodus.

When I think of Moses the word awesome stands out to me. God spoke to Moses in an audible voice-right out loud. I think that is awesome. The dictionary says it is a mixed feeling of reverence -fear - and wonder. Some people use the word far too lightly. Everything is awesome. God spoke to Moses from the Burning Bush. When God speaks that is awesome.

There are three divisions to the Life Story of Moses - each division is 40 years.

The first forty years were spent in Egypt; The second forty years were spent in Midian; The last forty years were spent in the wilderness. Moses lived 120 years.

Moses was born in Egypt to Hebrew parents. Amram was his father; Jochebed was his mother. There were two older children in the family — Aaron and Miriam. At the time that Moses was born, the children of Israel, as the Hebrews were called, had spent 430 years in Egypt, having come down because there was a famine in Canaan. They had multiplied greatly which brought fear to the Egyptians, lest they would take over their country. For that reason they made slaves of the Israelites with taskmasters over them to beat them if they didn't work hard enough. The Children of Israel cried unto the Lord to deliver them from their bondage. The King of Egypt commanded that all the Hebrew baby boys were to be thrown in the river and drowned. Therefore Moses' life was in danger from the moment he was born. His mother had him at home for 3 months, then put him in the reeds at the edge of the river in an ark of bulrushes, with his sister Miriam watching from a distance.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the river. When she heard the baby cry, she decided to save him. Moses' mother became his nurse until he was old enough to live in the palace and become the son of Pharaoh's daugh-

ter. Moses spent the first forty years of his life in the palace.

When Moses was 40 years old, he got into some trouble and had to flee to Midian to save his life. There he met the daughters of Jethro at the well, where he helped them to water their sheep. He was invited to their home, married one of the girls - Zipporah - and had two sons - Gershom and Eliezer. Jethro hired Moses to care for the sheep. Every day he led them to the back side of the desert. It was here that God spoke to him from the burning bush that was not consumed (it did not burn up).

This is the message that God spoke to Moses. It was awesome.

"Draw not nigh hither - (or stand back). Take off your shoes from off your feet for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then God said: - I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt. I have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters. I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey - unto Canaan.

Come now therefore and I will send thee unto Pharaoh that thou mayest bring forth my people, the Children of Israel, out of Egypt."

The message was clear. God had spoken.

When Moses took the sheep home that night, he asked his father-in-law Jethro, for permission to leave. He took his wife and his two sons and set them on a donkey. God sent his brother Aaron to help. They returned to Egypt.

The (last) forty years of Moses' life were spent in the wilderness. Pharaoh did let them go, as God had said he would, but not until God had sent ten plagues - lice, flies, frogs, hail and all kinds of things to trouble the Egyptians. The last plague was the death of the first born in every home, except those which had the blood of a lamb on the doorposts and the lintels. Those homes were safe. The Hebrews roasted

the flesh of the lamb and ate the Passover Supper - because the angel of death passed over.

There was a great cry in Egypt that night. Pharaoh rose up and commanded Moses and Aaron and all the Children of Israel to leave Egypt. They got out of the land in haste. The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire.

They were now facing the Red Sea. The Egyptian army was pursuing them with horses and chariots. The Egyptians had changed their minds. They wanted to bring them back. The Children of Israel were in trouble again and they cried unto the Lord. Moses said, "Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord shall fight for you." When we are in dangerous situations we should follow Moses' instructions to stand still and let God fight our battles. God led the Children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground, but the Egyptians were overthrown and drowned in the midst of the Sea.

Moses and the Children of Israel sang and danced before the Lord in great delight as Miriam played her timbrel, rejoicing in their great deliverance.

During the wilderness journey, God provided manna for the people to eat. It was bread rained down from heaven. Ex. 16:4. God sent water to them out of the rock. Because Moses disobeyed God when he struck the rock twice, he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Moses went up on the mountain to talk with God. He was up there for 40 days and 40 nights. God had warned the people not to come near the mountain or they would die. Only Moses was allowed to go up. There were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud upon the mountain. Mount Sinai began to smoke like a furnace and the whole mountain began to shake. Then a trumpet began to blow louder and louder. God spoke all the words of the Ten Commandments. The people were afraid when they heard the voice of

God. They said, "Let not God speak with us." God gave Moses many laws for the people including the instructions for the building of the Tabernacle. He wrote the words of the Ten Commandments on 2 tables of stone.

When Moses came down from the mountain, he found the people worshipping a golden calf. This was idol worship which God had forbidden. Moses was so disturbed and angry that he threw the stone tablets to the ground and broke them. God told him to carve two more tablets of stone and take them up on the mountain. There God wrote the Ten Commandments on the stones again.

After appointing Joshua to succeed him, Moses gathered the people together and gave his last speech unto them. Then he went up on Mt. Nebo where he viewed the Promised Land before he died at the age of 120 years. God buried him up on the mountain. Nobody knows where.

As we consider the life story of Moses, we can see that he fulfills his ministry. Our ministry is the purpose for which we are created. Whether we fulfill it or not depends on obedience to the will of God. Romans 8:14 - As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Doing the will of God leads to Sonship. Sonship refers to being a grown up, mature son of God. God has called us as He has called Moses. Because Moses was obedient, he fulfilled the purpose for which God called him.

Moses heard the voice of God from the Burning Bush. We hear the voice of God through prophecy. We ought to stand in awe. The voice of God demands great respect. It is awesome.

Will you follow the Lord to mature sonship? Will you "press towards the

mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"? Phil 3:14.

Moses is a good example to us. He is on the Honor Roll of the Bible in Hebrews 11. He chose rather to suffer

affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. When making decisions about your life always choose God's way, as Moses did.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Big Spring, Texas	Feb. 4 - 6, 2000
North Carolina Winter Camp	Feb. 25 - 27, 2000
Feast North Battleford	April 20 - 23, 2000
Illinois Gathering (King's House)	May 5 - 7, 2000
Camp North Battleford	July 2 - 9, 2000
North Carolina Camp (Place to be announced) ..	July 30 - August 6, 2000
St. Vincent, West Indies Camp	July 29 - August 6, 2000
Pinelov Summer Family Camp	August 7 - 13, 2000
Young Peoples - Hidden Acres, ON	Sept. 1 - 4, 2000
Young Peoples - Park Vally, SK	Sept. 1 - 4, 2000
Family Camp - Winkler, MB	Sept. 1 - 4, 2000
Pinelov Fall Family Camp	Nov. 9 - 12, 2000

A CALL TO PRAYER AND FASTING June 4 - 10, 2000 inclusive

ILLINOIS GATHERING

We have the King's House reserved for May 5 to May 7, 2000.

We will begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday after lunch.

Rates are \$65 per person twin occupancy. For single occupancy add \$5.00. This price includes room with private bath, linens, meals and meeting rooms. As the date nears, reservations should be mailed or phoned by April 15, 2000. We will collect from individuals at the retreat. King's House is in Henry IL, from I 80 go south on 180 which runs S 29. Follow S 29 to E 18 in Henry, from E 18 turn north on RT26 and watch for the Global Mission signs. From I 74 take 116 east to RT26 in East Peoria. Go norther on RT26 to Henry IL and watch for Global Mission signs.

For reservations or additional information please contact:

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RESERVATION FORM FOR FEAST 2000

Cut out and mail

Please fill in ALL information and cut out and mail to the following address: ROOM RESERVATIONS, Sharon Children's Homes and Schools, Box 878, North Battleford, Sask., S9A 2Z3. Mail as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend, please cancel your reservation, otherwise we will have to charge you for the room held open for you. **YOU MUST RESERVE** your room, we cannot hold accommodation without you supplying us with the information outlined in the blank application. You will NOT receive written confirmation from us UNLESS we cannot supply your requirements. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated and helpful.
THANK YOU.

Name _____

Address _____

Adults: Male _____ Female _____

Children: Male _____ Female _____

Age _____ Age _____

Date of Arrival _____

Date of Departure _____

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CLARENCE T. LINSLEY
Groundbirch, B.C.
September 17, 1999

...
FRIEDA FREY
North Battleford, SK
November 24, 1999

Sharon Children's Homes and Schools
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