



The Sharon Star

Perfection

By P. Siemens

As I was meditating about "perfection", and the portion of scripture in Hebrews 6:1-3, the inspiration of God began to impress me in a greater way what perfection really is. It is Christ being fully formed and manifested in us, where it is no longer I, or we, but Christ being revealed in us. It is the full and glorious manifestation of the Sons of God. It is the glorified Church of the Living God, Holy and without blemish. It is the Kingdom of God, where His will is done in earth, as it is in Heaven.

In Revelations 2:7, it says, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life..." Life for evermore! As Paul declares, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:22); and, "For if by one man's sin death reigned by one; much more they that receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall **reign in life** by one, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17). Life is not something we wait for, but we look for.

Without perfection, there is no mature Sonship, no Kingdom, no Divine Life.

We have been told, "salvation is free, but the kingdom will cost you everything." Jesus went everywhere preaching, "Repent: for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). You read the teaching of Jesus; it is very clear: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and

take up his cross..." every Sunday morning? No! "...take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

The Kingdom of Heaven is righteousness, peace, and joy in the **Holy Ghost** (Romans 14:17). It is a life in the Spirit: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). It is through much suffering that we enter the Kingdom. For if we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him (II Timothy 2:12). There is no easy way to perfection, but God is with us in the mountaintop and in the valley. It is God that is working in us to bring perfection.

Hebrews 6:1 says, "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection (mature Sonship)." "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: **but when I became a man, I put away childish things**" (I Corinthians 13:8-11). Perfection is maturity; it is holiness; it means to be in the likeness of our risen Saviour. I John 3:2-3 explains it best of all: "Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it

doth not yet appear what we shall be (not yet manifested): but we know that, when He shall appear (shall be manifested) we shall be like him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself, even as He is pure.**"

Perfection. Complete overcomers. Romans 8:11-14 says, "But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren,..." He is not talking to the world, but to the Church; 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 flesh, ye shall live. ..." Perfection. Overcomers. Divine Life. "... For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:3-4 says, "For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: **That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Again: perfection, the law is holy, spiritual, and righteous.

"The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such

are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly**" (I Corinthians 15:47-49). Praise God, the heavenly is perfect; He is the resurrection and the life. We look forward to that day, when we will bear the image of the heavenly, to be a manifested Son of God!

"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep (or die), **but we shall all be changed**" (I Corinthians 15:51). There will be a glorious church that shall overcome sin before the great resurrection, that shall be brought to perfection through the ministry that Christ has set. "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. **For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality**"

(I Corinthians 15:52-53). **This is the completion of perfection.**

There are men of faith of the past ages and of our age, who have not yet received the promise of perfection, or life. Hebrews 11:40 says, "God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." Perfection brings Sonship, the Kingdom, and Divine Life.

"Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ** (the anointed one), **both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in Him**" (Ephesians 1:9-12). That must be the fulfillment of I Corinthians 15:51-53. **What a glorious day that will be! Unity! Oneness with Christ, far beyond human comprehension! Perfection complete! Hebrews 11:39-40 fulfilled!**

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ" (Ephesians 1:11-12).

What a glorious door he has opened to us. I'll close with Hebrews 12:1-2: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, ..." Bro. Herrick Holt said many times these witnesses are encouraging us to fight a great battle for the perfection of the Saints. "...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

May God strengthen and encourage us as we go on to perfection.

Isaiah - An Intercessor

By A.M. Hinchliff

When Isaiah's prophecy was written, Israel's relationship with God was very, very strained. As a nation, they were a backslidden people. As individuals, they had turned from the precepts God had ordained that they should walk in. Their relationships with one another were far from the unity that was the mind of their Heavenly Father. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. ...Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of

peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men" (Isaiah 59:2-4,7-10).

When the prophet speaks of judgment, he is implying that there were no proper decisions made concerning the way in which they were walking. Their path was crooked, and in that path they could know no peace. Because there were no right decisions made, there was no justice. They looked for a bright light to guide them, but all they saw, because of their iniquities, was darkness.

Isaiah was well acquainted with the condition of his people. They were sinners, they were transgressors, they were iniquitous, they were liars, they were oppressors, they were rebellious, and they had lost all sight of proper judgement and justice. Things had become so bad that if anyone departed from these evil ways he became a prey to his fellow countrymen.

When God saw a man wrongly dealt with for his righteous acts, He was touched. It displeased Him that there was no proper judgement. What really touched Him was that there was no one to intercede for the one who had become a prey to his neighbours. No one felt an obligation to speak up because of injustices done. No one could bother getting involved.

Let the Church always seek righteous judgment. Let the Church intercede.

The Temple of the Living God

The witnesses at Jesus' trial in Mark 14:58 are recorded to have said, "We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands."

As false as these witnesses were, what they said was true. Jesus, in John 10:17-18, said, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

The temple He was talking about was the temple of His body. The earthly body was put down in order to make way for a spiritual body to be raised up as a Holy Habitation, a house for the Living God, **whose house we are.**

"And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; **whose house are we**, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Heb. 3:5-6).

So, Moses was faithful as a servant, but Jesus was faithful as a son, with whom we are joint heirs. If we are faithful, we receive the inheritance with Jesus. Jesus Christ, our merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, made the way that God might have Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such blemish (See Eph. 5:25-27). He has made a way for this to be, through His wisdom and the giving of His only begotten Son, a perfect plan and purpose that will stand the test of time, storms, and an ever increasingly corrupt world. As the ark in Noah's time was there for the saving of his household, so is the Church today for the saving of God's household; that is the ark for today. "And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" (Luke 17:26).

We must now take our place in the Church of God. The curtains are rising on the Kingdom age, and the show that we've all been waiting for is beginning. It is time to take our seats, our rightful place, and our chosen and ordained

spot in His Kingdom. The Lord is building a Church made without hands, a spiritual habitation of the Holy Ghost. He requires lively stones, all put in their place. This is a temple of the Living God built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:19-22).

In building anything, we must first have a plan or a blueprint of some sort. This is not only true in the natural, but also in the spiritual. From the beginning, God has had a plan in what He was creating. In His sovereignty, He created the heavens and the earth, and man in His own image. He had a plan in doing this. He then gave Noah the plans to build the ark; to Moses he gave plans to build the Tabernacle in the wilderness; and David, the plans for Solomon's temple. These temples were temporary, and have come and gone with the years. Would not God have a plan for His Church of the eternal? Or has it been left to our own invention, or imagination? Of course not! As we study His word, and receive what He is revealing unto the Church in this hour, we can see this glorious plan of the ages that He has made for His beloved, for those who truly love and long for His appearing.

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isaiah 28:16. See also I Peter 2:4-8).

I enjoy looking at old buildings on homesteads, or cabins built in the woods. I especially admire the ones built of log. Many are of sound construction and still stand after many years of being subjected to sun, wind, rain, and other abuses. Some, even

though as soundly built, have fallen prey to rot and depreciation. It is always a shame to see a well-constructed house in this condition, no matter how old it is. It leads one to wonder why this would be.

There was something in common in nearly all of these instances where the houses are deteriorated. Either the roof leaked, or it had a weak foundation. These are two very important parts of any building. The roof over the house, or its covering, I would liken to the anointing of the Holy Spirit, which we need so desperately in this day in which we are living.

Although, the foundation on which we build is also of utmost importance. Jesus talks about what happens when one builds upon the sand. When I think of sand, I think of many innumerable, yet separate, particles. When the rain or wind comes, they are easily washed apart, and the house falls down, as in the parable. His Word teaches us what we build on if we heed His word; we build on rock. When I think of rock, I think of many particles made into one strong unified mass that is able to withstand the rains and floods. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24). We know what happened here; and the little song goes, "So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ..." This is what Isaiah prophesied of in Isaiah 9:6, when he said, "The government shall be upon his shoulder". "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he" (Deut. 32:4).

There are many manmade organizations in both the secular and religious world today that pride themselves on how they are built and governed. It may look noble, and sound reasonable; there may be involved many talented and well-meaning people, and granted they may be doing a good work, but these things will come to an end. The government must be upon His shoulder. There is only one true foundation that will stand the shake. "For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will

shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:6-7). Glory to God! We must make sure of our foundation.

"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain" (Heb. 12:25-27).

Let us look for that which can't be shaken, that true foundation, even Christ Jesus. Let us fasten to that Rock which cannot move. We are seeing, and will continue to see, that which can be shaken, fall: and great will be the fall of it. This shouldn't surprise or confound those who trust in Him. So, "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes" (Psalm 118:22-23).

There is a reason why the Lord would have us to be a part of this wonderful plan and temple. It is that we would bring forth fruit. He has made a way for this to be, and it is also to be done in a particular manner. It is not up to us to decide how we should serve or please the Lord. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain..." (John 15:16).

By abiding in Him who is the true vine, we bear fruit, and glorify the Lord. When there is fruit being manifest in our lives, as in Galatians 5:22-23, these are evident to those around us, since we are known by our fruits, whether they are good or bad. That is how people see us. We must give ourselves over to the Holy Spirit that we may have His fruit in our lives. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate on these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all" (I Tim. 4:14-15). It is from using the gift that

is in us that we become fruitful. This is a very important part in the building of this glorious temple, that is, the body of Christ, with each member bearing fruit according to the gift that is in them.

Every part of a building has some purpose or use. Each one may be different, yet work together for the good of the structure. Some parts hold weight, some shed moisture, some hold heat, some provide rigidity, and some just simply add beauty. All are essential to the particular building the architect had in mind, for this is the way he has planned it.

Since the Word plainly tells us that 'we' are the temple of the Holy Ghost (I Cor. 3:16), we are temples of God (I Cor. 6:19), and that we are the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27), we really must have some part to play in this glorious temple. (If you are not familiar with I Corinthians, Chapter 12, this would be a good time to read it.)

So, the Lord in His infinite wisdom, and by His Holy Spirit, has given gifts to his own, that we might be working members of His body, that we might be a fruitful people, and that our profiting may appear to all. As we saw earlier in I Timothy 4:14-15, we are not left to ourselves to try and figure out what our gifts are. This is becoming common practice in the different religious sects today. However, God has provided a way for us to know, and that is given by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. We may have an idea of what tendencies and talents we might hold, but that is quite different. The ones I speak of are spiritual gifts, given, prompted, and enabled by the Holy Spirit, for the lifting up of the Body of Christ.

Just as the Lord had His specific plan in the building of the previous earthly temples, so it is now with the spiritual. We can know our gifts and ministries by walking in the perfect plan that we have heard about in the scriptures, and confirmed by the Holy Spirit. Through the Apostles that the Spirit has set in the Church, and the sure word of prophecy, we can take our place in his Body and be manifested as Sons of God to the world. This is for the here and now.

This Jesus, despised and rejected of men, is become that on which the Church is built. "And I say also unto

thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Here, Jesus gave us an inside look of what He was to do, and how it was going to come about by using his chosen as part of that foundation, but Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

"Well," you might question, "what of apostles then? Were they not just for the early Church? Was not their purpose fulfilled at their passing?" God forbid! Would a carpenter say at any point, "Alright, we can do without this foundation"? What would happen if he up and took it away? Men might come and go, but the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended upon high, he led captivity captive, and he gave gifts unto men. ... And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature and fullness of Christ: 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..." (Eph. 4:8,11-16).

By reading that portion of scripture, I know that we are not there yet; so, it seems to me, they are much-needed gifts, if we aspire to appropriate these things. Jesus, as the Son of God, has in Himself all these ministry gifts, which enabled Him to import them unto His Church when He ascended. It tells us how He did this, and also why. These apostolic ministries are not men, but they are gifts, tools, or helps, that will enable the coming together of the body of Christ, and the manifestation of Jesus in His many-membered body.

These apostolic gifts to the Church did not die in the dark ages, but are alive and strong; for through a mighty work of restoration, He has restored these things, and continues to do so. This, we see, is His plan for the Church, and He will not deviate from it, for it has been so from the beginning.

Will God lay a foundation for this mighty temple, and not complete the work? Because of the state of man in this

day, will He decide to use material less than perfect because there is none that is good, no not one? He does not work in such a shoddy manner, nor does He compromise His workmanship! He has made provision for us, and He knows what, and whom He wants. In fact, He had predestinated it.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph. 1:4-5).

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his." (II Tim. 2:19). "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).

In studying about building with logs, and talking to master builders; one thing I found is that a good builder will

pick his logs ahead of time, and will even know where they will be put, in order to make the best use of them. This way, each logs' strengths will be used and shown, and will be of benefit to the soundness and beauty of the building. If its spot is not planned, you will end up cutting off good lengths of timber, or having to use ugly or unsuitable logs by default. Some logs are better suited to certain positions than others are, but all are well suited in their proper place.

The branches, once needful for the very sustenance and shelter of the tree, will be useless now, and a hindrance in the building. They must be cut off, and thrown aside. The outer bark is then peeled off; the rough knots and edges smoothed and sanded down to a fine finish; not unlike what we must go through to be a part of this living temple made without hands.

Look for the true Church that God is assembling through His Son, for they that hunger and thirst after

righteousness shall be filled (Matthew 5:6). Look for those who are following in this perfect plan of the ages. Look for Him. There are a people, even now, glorying in these precious things of the eternal realm. It is for the whosoever will. Look not for a chief apostle or shepherd, for there is one Chief, and that is Jesus Christ; but He has set some in the Church as overseers over the flock of God, both locally, and universally. They are submitted to the Holy Spirit who has called them, to the apostolic ministries, and to each other, as they do not walk alone. They are not hirelings that look for a perfect people, but a people willing to go through what it takes to be perfected. Look for the truth of His Word, for when you see it, when you see Him, He will set you free. "Look not with your eyes that you may see, or with your ears that you may hear, but by my Spirit," saith the Lord.

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The Love of Jesus

By A.V. York

Taken from a tape.

All scriptures are taken from the *New King James Version*.

I woke up this morning with that piece that you sang, "Oh the joy of my Salvation," running through my heart and mind. When you think of the Spirit that is in the song, and the truth that's in the song, you realize that we've got a lot to look forward too. Amen? Besides the song that was going over in my heart, yesterday, as I was meditating, I thought of the wonderful words of Jesus. They are so precious in the times of trial. They are so comforting in a time of need. They set our soul in that place of rest that only our Heavenly Father can do through His Son. All the words He spoke are important, but it seemed that these ones went over and over in my mind. Perhaps we have time this morning to read from the fourteenth chapter of John, the thing that was rolling over in my soul.

There was a crisis in Israel. There was a change in the plan of God to the point that He wanted to make the reality of heavenly things more clear. And as Jesus spoke concerning many of these matters, in the fourteenth chapter He says, "Let

not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1). This is really a crisis for all humanity, regardless of their particular rearing or culture or all of those things. For humanity, this is the question with God: "Don't let your heart be troubled." There are so many people that believe in God, but Jesus said, "They don't believe in Me." But, He is telling them to believe. Amen?

"IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY MANSIONS;..." The literal is "DWELLINGS," MANY DWELLINGS. "...if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3). Oh, Hallelujah! A divine hope: the hope of the eternal ages, marvellous, and the provision that God has made through His Son. He is declaring to us, "WHERE I AM, THERE YOU MAY BE ALSO." That's something to look forward to. "Oh, I'm not looking forward to dying," you say. Neither am I. But actually all that's going to happen is that I am going to trade one house for another. And it's

a far better place to dwell. NO LIMITATIONS. Pardon me: I'll get shouting too much about what His great love has provided for us.

"And where I go you know, and the way you know. Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" (John 14:4-5). That describes our condition in the natural. Every one of us has our fears about how it's all going to take place. We have those things that crop up when we see the tragedies that occur in families. How can everything work out? For instance, the question that arises: how could it be that everything will work together for good for them that love God? In the eighth chapter of Romans we read, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). If God is for us, there's one thing for sure, and that's that our fears are against us. That is the battle that's going on. "He who did not spare His own son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). That's a very, very good question. It is such that God

demonstrated in the sacrifice of His Beloved Son, His great love. And he asked the question, "How could it be that God would be inconsistent with Himself and not freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). Why should I fear my fears? Why should you fear your fears? Why? Is God not God? Oh, it's the enemy that does these things.

But he says, "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died and further more is also risen, who even is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us" (Romans 8:33-34). Sometimes we are even condemned because we don't pray enough. The Holy Spirit prays for us. So, it's not difficult, especially with the unknown tongue, to get in harmony with the Spirit. Is it? It's a wonderful privilege that we all have of communing and letting the Spirit guide in that avenue of communion, of prayer. "WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Romans 8:35). We see these things everyday, especially with today's media. Those in peril, those in need. We see it everyday. But in spite of all of that, it is written, "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are counted as sheep for the slaughter. Yet in all these things WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:36-37). Am I persuaded? Are you persuaded? Well, this is the marvellous love of God.

"For I am persuaded..." I was thinking the other day of this persuasion. Personal persuasion. It's part of our testimony as individuals. But out of the persuasion grows our experience of knowing God and overcoming difficulties. That persuasion. Paul says it doesn't matter whether it's death, or life. Oh, how could this all be? The mind can't figure it out. But this persuasion, this Holy gift of God, comes from Him, and brings into focus "...that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depths, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). What a persuasion! What an experience! What a growth that we need in this persuasion to see the great parameters of eternity! None of these things named there, life,

death, principalities, etc. in humanity's experiences, but this persuasion, glory to God, overcomes it all. Why?

I want to go back to John and continue to read. "Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). The Resurrected Lord. The Living Christ. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him. Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us. Jesus said to him, Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, Show us the Father? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does the works" (John 14:7-10). In the same manner, we have a great deal of progress to make in this persuasion, to be of the same mind that Jesus was, even back then. How much more today is He, in all His marvellous diversity, dwelling in you by the Holy Spirit? We will speak further of that.

"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son...." These are the parameters of the asking. "...If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him..." You know Him! You know Him. He says, "...you know Him, for He dwells with you, and will be in you" (John 14:11-17). My, what a persuasion! Glory to God! My, oh my, oh my.

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18). Is He here this morning? Wonderful Jesus. He's in you this morning. By the Spirit, despite all your fears and all your tears, He's there. "I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me...." Oh, what divine heavenly sight! What divine seeing! Oh, glory to

God! "...Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:18-19). Maybe not always in this tabernacle of dust and clay, but we'll live just the same because He lives. Hallelujah, because He lives. "At that day you will know I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me" (John 14:20-21). Obedience is proof of love. "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" (John 14:21). That persuasion the apostle wrote about to the Romans is a heavenly persuasion and is based on the divine love of the Son of God who is the glory of the Father, the first begotten Son. If we keep His commandments, as 'he who loves me' says, not only can we expect that help from Him, but we can expect all that the Father has planned for us.

As I was meditating about this matter of loving God, I realized that many times we try to complicate things by saying, "I

CALLED HOME

MAXWELL (Max) SHIER

July 6, 2003
Saskatoon, SK

...

STEPHEN LAWRENCE

October 1, 2003
La Brea, Trinidad WI

...

TIFFANY WHITTER

October 4, 2003
Prince Albert, SK

...

HARRY ADAMS

October 14, 2003
Edmonton, AB

...

WILBERT (Bert) DALE

October 15, 2003
Rosetown, SK (Elder)

...

DANIEL COTCHER

October 19, 2003
North Battleford, SK

...

DAVID CORNELL

October 20, 2003
Minden, NE (Deacon)

...

ERIC LEROY THOMPSON

October 20, 2003
La Brea Trinidad, WI

...

BRITTANY SNOKE

October 26, 2003
Peoria, IL

...

CURTIS SNOKE

October 26, 2003
Peoria, IL

wonder about this, and I wonder about that, and I wonder about the other thing." But in the same manner that the presence of God brought about some very dramatic changes for the young people in just a little meeting at the New Year Retreat, in the same way that divine love, that love that He reciprocates to us because we love Him, solves all that He is trying to solve in you and me. I expect that you are and I am our own worst enemy. How many times do we back ourselves into the corner and say, well, "How much do I really love Him? How much do I really care that He is my God and that Jesus is my Redeemer?" How much? How great is the persuasion? Lord, help me everyday to love You more. For I see that if I love You more, many of the things I don't understand are all provided for in Your divine and marvellous care. Committing to Him not just part, but all of our hearts as we sing. "He who loves me, will be loved by my Father," He said. Albert, do you really believe that? Marie, do you really believe that? We say we do. We need His help to do it. Amen? We need His Holy Spirit. We sing, "I Love Him Better Everyday." We need His help to do it.

"Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world? Jesus answered and said to him..." Now, He didn't say, "Oh, it doesn't matter." He repeats what He already said. And He says, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home..." With who? "...with him" (John 14:22-23). What a persuasion. "I and my Father." This is only possible by the gift of the Holy Helper, the Holy Spirit, the Marvellous Comforter: and He is doing

that very thing. "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and will bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:24-26). The gift of God: the marvellous working of the Holy Spirit!

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). A marvellous persuasion! Hallelujah. Glory to God! "You have heard Me say to you,

I am going away and coming back to you. If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said I am going to the Father, for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do" (John 14:28-31). This is our example. I don't know how to say this: but the comfort that there is in the love of God goes beyond any situation, any difficulty, any trial, any dimension that may be made. That love surpasses it all. Glory to God!

NORTH CAROLINA CAMP MEETING

July 25 - August 1, 2004
Catawba College, Salisbury, NC

Catawba College, site of the camp, is located in the town of Salisbury, NC, about 40 miles from either Charlotte or High Point via Interstate 85.

The campus is about 3 miles west of Interstate 85 (Exit 76-B) on West Innes Street (Hwy. 601) and can also be reached from the west and Interstate 40 via Hwy 601 or Hwy 70.

You may bring linens (single bed), towels & pillows or these can be rented at \$10 per set. Check-in time begins at 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 25. Meals will be served in the college dining hall beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 25, followed by the first meeting at 7:30 pm.

The camp will conclude with the noon meal on Sunday, August 1.

Buildings are air conditioned. Swimming pool, gym and other recreational facilities are available.

CHARGES FOR ROOM & BOARD:

Age 0-3	No Charge
Age 4-6	\$60.00 per week or \$12.00 per day
Age 7-Adult	\$100.00 per week or \$20.00 per day

or Call: Anita Love 336-765-9271
 or Email: caslove1@triad.rr.com

Flight arrangements may be made to
 Charlotte or Greensboro, NC.

For Greensboro Airport pickup call
 Dave Heath at 336-841-0607
 or email DDPACK@juno.com

SEND RESERVATIONS TO:

Global Missions Regional Camp
 c/o Mrs. Anita Love
 112 Queensbury Rd.,
 Winston Salem, NC 27104

For airport pickup in Charlotte call
 Kim Kaufman at 704-583-0651
 or email kk Kaufman@carolina.rr.com

RESERVATION FORM FOR FEAST 2004

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 _____

Names and addresses of Global Missions travelling elders and deacons.

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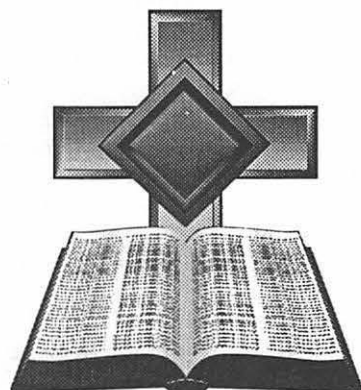
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DATES OF IMPORTANCE

North Carolina Winter Camp	February 27 - 29, 2004
Feast North Battleford	April 8 - 11, 2004
Illinois Gathering (King's House)	April 30 - May 2, 2004
Camp North Battleford	July 4 - 11, 2004
North Carolina Summer Camp	July 25 - August 1, 2004
Caribbean Camp, Trinidad	August 1 - 7, 2004

Sharon Children's Homes and Schools
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