



The Sharon Star

Ye Are The Body Of Christ

By Bro. Peter Siemens

1 John 1:3 says, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

At this time I would like to write about the message we heard back in 1948 and after.

The message began with the restoration of the Nine Gifts of the Spirit, which were to be imparted by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. As people were prayed over we had many confirmations of their gifts demonstrated. The message of the coming together of the body of Christ then became the theme of that day. "That they all my be one; (one glorious body) as thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us." (John 17:21) When we are one in the Father and His Son, we are the body of Christ in completeness.

God set ministries in the church "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Sonship) (Ephesians 4:12, 13) This is Gods ultimate purpose for the church.

Now I would like to get into detail of the body of Christ and the importance of every member. How there are no big shots or little shots, but we must all fulfil our part in the body.

1 Corinthians 12, verses 8-12, deal

with the gifts of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:11, "But all these worketh *that one and the selfsame Spirit*, dividing to everyone severally *as He will*." 1 Corinthians 12:12, is using the natural body as a type of the spiritual body. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (the body of Christ). We are all one body. Our natural body has many needs and our natural body suffers. Even if our little finger is hurt, every member will minister to it. So also is the Christ.

Verse 13 says, "For *by one Spirit*, are we all baptized *into one body* whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been *all made to drink into one Spirit*." I know that a greater portion or depth of the Spirit was imparted when hands were laid on me, and it is the same anointing that is with us today.

Verse 14, "For the body is not one member, but many." Romans 12:4-5, "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: *so we, being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another*." 1 Corinthians 12:15-22 say, "If the foot shall say, because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? *But now*

hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body." (The body of Christ.) "And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, *much more* those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary." We need every member of the body, because without them the body is handicapped, since we are one body.

We must come to the place where Jesus prayed, that we may be one. We will never come to perfection till we love and recognize how important everyone is. We will see great healing in the church when this takes place, *because we are the body of Christ*. Verse 23, "And those members of the body which we think are less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour..." (It is easy to bestow honour upon ministries and elders. We must honour and respect the office, because every gift and ministry is important). James 2:8-9 says, "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: but if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin." James 2:1-7 is good along this line. Back to 1 Corinthians 12:23: "...And our uncomely parts (those that are less graceful, striving spiritually) have more abundant comeliness," (are more respected).

1 Corinthians 12:24-25, "For our

comely parts have no need: *but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked, that there should be no schism in the body, but the members should have the same care one for another.*" (You are the body of Christ, and every member is important). Verse 26, "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all members rejoice with it." (There is no jealousy or partiality in the body). Verse 27, "*Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular.*" Every member is important.

Ezekiel 37:4 says, "...oh ye dry bones hear the word of the Lord." Verse 7, "So I prophesied as I was

commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, (and the message back in 1948 - 51 went everywhere in power, by a mighty Spirit of prophecy) and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone." And we saw a great coming together of God's people. They were willing to lay aside doctrines, which divided the church, because of the wonderful presence of God. (The Spirit of God in the midst of His people will always bring unity.)

Ezekiel 37:8, "And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came upon them and the skin covered them above..." This is still taking place today. God wants to knit us together by His Spirit until the beauty of Jesus is in every member and we are purified by

the Spirit of the Lord.

Verse 9, "...come from the four winds, oh breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." Is this not our cry today; no more sin, sickness nor death, but he made alive? *Perfection is life* for the over-comer! Verse 10, "So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, *and they lived.*" Praise God! Is this not what we are looking forward to? The early part of the move *was the coming together of the body of Christ*, which we are. When the church comes together in perfect unity we are going to experience the full and complete presence of God. Verse 10, "And stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army." Glory to God for His faithfulness!

Be On The Alert

By Mike Greif

I've been wanting to write for quite some time about a subject that God instructed me about, but have been leery of starting it because it seemed to be somewhat more than I wanted to tackle at the present time. But as my brother-in-law, Don Olson, so aptly put it last Sunday in church when talking about perseverance and tackling a big job, he said, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." Or as I have also heard him say, "How does a long journey begin? With the first step, then another, and another, etc." My text that I would like to write about is 1 Cor. 16:13-14. "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

What I would like to do is write a little about each one of these sections in these two verses. Starting with the first. "**Be on the alert.**" The word alert is taken from the Greek word 'gregario', and means keeping awake, **spiritual alertness**, be watchful, be **vigilant**, be ready. In other words, be **spiritually vigilant, watchful, alert, and ready at all times**; or, as we have been told, be led by the Spirit. Over the years I have found this phrase in various places in the scriptures. I'd like to share some of those scriptures and the things we are told to keep alert for. The first one is found in Matt. 24:42, that

great chapter concerning the end days of this earth. In this section we are admonished to be watchful or ready for the return of our Lord, just as in the days of Noah when he entered the ark. The world at that time wasn't ready for the judgment of God which was about to come upon the earth. They were "**eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark.**" (Matt 24:38) I believe, as we are being taught, the Church is now entering the ark of God's presence and He is preparing us to be ready for the awesome days ahead. He wants His children to be ready and alert, spiritually watchful and vigilant. In other words, He wants us to be led by and walking in His Spirit. If we are daily walking by the leading of His Spirit, giving heed to that still small voice, and giving Him time each day to be able to speak to us and give us daily marching orders, then we will be ready and alert (and faithful) at His coming. Matt. 25:13 also tells us to 'be on the alert', concerning the ten virgins, five of whom were alert, having their flasks (hearts) filled with oil (the Holy Spirit), and their lamps trimmed, meaning they were ready and waiting for their Master's return. In other words, they were being led by the Spirit in their

lives and ministries.

Eph. 6:18: "With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." I'd like to point out a couple of things here. First, the phrase 'pray at all times' or 'praying always', comes from the greek word 'kairos', meaning opportune or seasonable time, or as I once read, strategic time. So, as opportunities, or special seasons, occasions, or strategic times arise, pray in the Spirit! We need to be in the Spirit to pray in the Spirit. And in order for us to pray according to God's will when the strategic opportunity arises we need to be walking in the Spirit. What this is telling me is to walk in the Spirit at all times. We have a responsibility before God to do everything in our power to produce an atmosphere in our hearts where He can be there leading us at all times.

I saw on a bulletin board last summer a saying that God made me aware of many years ago that I have tried to live my life by. It is, "Prepare your best, do your best, and then leave the rest, up to God." Back to Matt. 25, Jesus talks about the parable of the talents.

To paraphrase, each one of us is given some talents, gifts, and ministries. One was given one, another two,

and the last was given five. It doesn't matter how many God gives us. The important thing is that we **use what He has given us**; that we allow God to develop and use the gifts that He has given us, through us. That we be instruments, siphon tubes (In case you are not familiar with these, they are tubes used to irrigate crops in my part of the country. One end is stuck in the ditch and the other end goes up over the bank, seeming to defy gravity, and then goes into a small ditch between rows of corn, or beets, or whatever they are planting. It's shaped like an upside down "u" with the bottom legs bent horizontal), the part of the Body that He has called to us to be, and that we allow His Spirit to guide us into the ministry. Don't compare yourself with others and say, "They have so much more than me." It doesn't matter what they have. What matters is that each are faithful to what God wants us to do. This can also apply to what our job is; what we have compared to others in the natural realm; cars, houses, properties, prestige, etc., etc. Just do your best and leave the rest to God. Take the pressure off yourself.

1 Pet. 5:6-10: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. **Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.** Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you." Verse eight starts with, 'Be of sober spirit'. Sober comes from the Greek word 'nepho', which means to 'awake up righteously and sin not'. Again, what comes to my mind is for us to really make it a priority to walk in the Spirit, God's presence, throughout each day. The Spirit knows God's perfect will and mind, and only He can live righteously through us and help us to sin not. 'Be on the alert.' Here we are commanded to be alerted to our adversary, the devil, who is prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. As it says in Eph. 4:27, Satan

is always looking for opportunities to get at us. I think he must really love to attack us when we are down physically, mentally, spiritually, etc. The way to combat him, as it says in verse nine (of 1 Pet. 5), is to "resist him, firm in your faith." Resist comes from the Greek word 'anthistemi'. Broken down it means 'anti' against, and 'histemi' to cause to stand. Put together it means to stand against, oppose, resist, withstand. We're not supposed to give in to him when he shoots arrows of doubt, condemnation, fear, lies and false accusations, etc. What we *are* told to do is to stand against him and oppose him. Remember, the opposite of faith and trust is doubt. The opposite of love is hate. The opposite of peace and courage is fear. The opposite of encouragement is condemnation. The opposite of the truth is his lies. And the opposite of Jesus is our enemy, the devil. Satan will always stand against us when we are seeking to walk in the Spirit and he will use every tactic in his imagination to cause us to doubt, to be afraid, to be discouraged, to feel condemned, to feel worthless, etc., etc., etc. Therefore, Peter exhorts us to stand against that father of deception and lies, knowing that. "God Himself will perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish us". (1 Pet. 5:10) We will be victorious if we are found faithful, obedient, and persistent in our daily walk with God. I'd like to inject here a quote from a man for whom I have tremendous respect in the field of coaching. John Wooden, probably the most successful coach in NCAA college history, used to tell his players to just 'take care of today' tomorrow will take care of itself. He stressed to them that they needed to just be concerned with doing whatever they could that particular day to get better, to work hard on their skills and weaknesses, to do their school work, etc. If they took care of each day throughout the year 'today', when it happens, one day at a time, then they would be prepared and successful as players and people. That advice is good for coaches like myself, but is also very appropriate for each of us in our Christian lives. Seek Him first each morning to walk in His presence, today; take Him along with you in all that you do, today; trust Him for tomorrow and don't worry about it; and **be on the alert, today**. I have heard brother York minister on the word

'now', concerning when we should walk with God. Now is the time. 'Now' is today!

1 Cor 16:13 "Be on the alert, **stand firm in the faith...**". Stand comes from the Greek word 'histemi' and 'steko', which means steadfast, fast, adhering firmly and faithfully to a principle, unchanging, fixed. This is how we are told to stand in the (or our) faith. I believe this refers to every need, trial, difficulty, and challenge that we face. We are soldiers and officers in God's army and He is the winning General. He shall be victorious and we are on His side. I would like to start here with James 4:7-8 where this word 'histemi' comes up again in addition to something else that is very important. "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands you sinners and purify your hearts you double minded." Actually, verse 7 is what I want to refer to. The word submit comes from the Greek words 'hupo' which means 'under', and 'tasso' which means 'to arrange'. Meaning to arrange under, or to arrange yourself under God's command in His military or army. Apparently, it is the same word for 'obedience'. So we need to submit, place ourselves under God's command, obediently, as one of His soldiers. One of my son's favorite songs is "I'm in the Lord's Army, yes sir!", and indeed we are. So we are told to stand firmly and faithfully, steadfastly, and fixed against the devil, as members of God's army! We are on the winning side.

Again, in 1 Peter 5:9, we are told to "resist the devil, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world." Resist is the same exact word, 'antihistemi', 'to stand firmly against the devil, firm in your faith,'. Firm here is from the Greek word 'stereos' meaning solid, hard, stiff. We are told to 'stand firmly, faithfully, steadfastly, fixed, solid, hard, stiff, against the evil one. To me it doesn't sound like we are to give in to him one inch! Others are being tested in a similar fashion all around the world. And after we have suffered and been tested it says in verse 10 "...the God of all grace (Thank God for His amazing grace and the fact that it doesn't depend upon us. He just

wants us to be persistent, not giving up, but always trusting Him, depending upon His grace and mercy. As it says in Luke 11:5-13 about the importunate, persistent prayer of the man seeking bread for his needy friend, "...yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs." And then in verse 9 it says, literally, '**...keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking, and we shall receive.**'), who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

1 Cor. 15:58 says, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Steadfast here comes from the word 'hedraios' which denotes seated, or morally fixed. He is saying *to be morally fixed and firm, immovable, always abounding in His work.* Heb. 12:1 "...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." Heb. 3:14 "We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

Life can sometimes be like a basketball game, or like a basketball season. I just recently coached my 8th grade boy's basketball team in our championship game. Both teams had an identical 10 and 1 record. We had split with each other during the regular season so we were very evenly matched. I told my team at the beginning of the season that I had two goals for them. One, that we would focus on the day at hand. In other words, that we wouldn't worry about tomorrow, or the next day, or even the next game. What I wanted them to focus on was today. Let's think about today and working as hard today as we can at getting better. Matt. 7:31: "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." And my second goal was to get better every game and to peak and play our best basketball at the end of the season in the district tournament. As the scriptures quoted above point out, we are to stand firm, steadfast, unto the end. We are to "...run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes upon Jesus, (our goal), and author and finisher of our faith". (Heb. 12:1) So there we

were. We had accomplished my goals. We had focused each day, one day at a time all season long, on getting better. We were in the Championship game and we led most of the game. It seemed that things were all going our way. Right toward the end of regulation play, our opponent tied up the game and we had to go into overtime. One game can be a microcosm of life, as well. Before the game is it so easy for my athletes to get nervous and worry about the end result. But I would tell them, "Don't focus on the end. Focus one moment at a time, on the job at hand and just relax." I would remind them that they had prepared the best they knew how, during the week, and all during the season. Isn't that similar to what we need to do in life? To not worry about tomorrow, or how something is going to turn out, or whether God really is listening, and whether He indeed will answer our prayers? What God wants us to do is walk with Him each moment, steadfast, doing the best that we can, and trusting Him to take care of the end results. Sometimes those results are what we would like, and sometimes they are not. But we still need to trust Him completely. God will work all things together for good for us in the end, if we trust Him. So, here we were, going into overtime. We immediately got down by six points and the other team started to stall. Time was running out and we were down. Sound like a good time to quit? Human nature many times doesn't want to stick it out till the end. We get tired, discouraged, down mentally and physically. I had preached all season to my boys that championships are won by uncommon people. I told them that common people don't go the extra mile. They don't work hard day in and out. They take the easy way out when things get tough. I told them in a time out, "Let's be uncommon, boys. Let's focus on what we can do, not on what the scoreboard says. The game isn't over until the final buzzer." And you know what? That's the way it is in life. God wants us to 'stand firm until the end'. With about a minute left we stole the ball and my boy is fouled. He makes two freethrows. They throw the ball away and we make another freethrow. We steal the ball on the press and score again. Now we are down by one. With about eight seconds in the game we steal it again and make a prayer shot

and the game is over. We win by one point. That season is our life in a nutshell. As Winston Churchill once said in a short five word speech (at a most dire point in WWII), "Never! Never! Never! Give up!"

Read Ephesians 6:10-20. In this section, starting with verse 11, we are told to "...stand firm against the schemes of the devil". Again, we have the same word 'histemi' for stand firm. Three times we are told to 'stand firm' in this section. The word 'against' is used six times. I once read something very interesting about this word. It is taken from the Greek word, 'pros', meaning in front of, superior to, connotation of stepping forward and facing your opponent, superior to him. We all are familiar with professional athletes in our day and age. The words 'professional baseball player'; it was my dream as a boy. I had lots of brothers who helped me in many ways toward that goal. One showed me his off season training program that would help me to get much stronger and better. The others either played with me or coached me. I happened to be the last of twelve children. I worked very hard at improving and I did. I got a scholarship to play at a Jr. College nearby and I was very successful playing ball there. I got to play with and against players who indeed did make it to the professional ranks. I was awarded the most valuable player award on my team when I graduated my second year. But I quit after that because I had lost my dream. The reason I had lost my dream was because I could see that I just wasn't quite big enough, fast enough, strong enough to compete at that professional level. I was good at the level I played at but not quite good enough to play at the next. I wasn't superior to those athletes who did become pros. The interesting thing about this word 'pros' here in Ephesians is that God says to us we are to step forward and face the devil, superior to and against his schemes, rulers, powers, world forces, this darkness, and the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. We do this by putting on the full armor of God. When we put on the full armor of God (verse 13) we are then able to resist 'anti-histemi' (same word in James 4 and 1 Pet. 5), or to stand against him in the evil day. We aren't superior to him in any way of ourselves and are no match for him in

our own strength. But in Jesus' strength *then* we are superior to him. God is superior to the devil and so are we as we walk in Spirit and in Truth and as we usurp that power over him and over this physical realm that we live in. 1 Jn. 4:4: "Greater is He who is in you than he who is the world."

Back to 1 Cor. 16:13-14, "...act like men,". I'm an 8th grade science teacher, and at the beginning of the school year I talk to my students, (actually the boys), about taking their punishment like men when they get into trouble. I tell them not to act like a baby and cry and moan, and groan, and whine. In my class they usually do a certain number of pushups or situps, depending upon the severity of the broken rule, right then and there. I remind them through the year to 'take it like a man', because that is the way they will have to learn to do it in real life when they get out of school. And you know what? Ninety-nine percent of the time they do it without saying a word because they know that is what I expect. God wants us to face our life, problems, fears, trials, tests, etc., the same way. He wants us to trust Him completely and confront these things 'like men'. God told Joshua when he was about to enter the promised land, in Josh 1, to be ... "strong and very courageous...", three times. He wanted him to stand firm and courageous in the face of "...seven nations stronger than yours..." (Deut. 7:1) As Gilbert Price just told me recently, "God doesn't want us to fret about anything. He just wants us to know that He is in complete control of our lives and every situation." We too, are entering into the land of God's promises to us; promises of our inheritance, of His power toward us who believe, promises to each of us individually as we have been prophesied over. As Albert Hannigan said in his article, "The Prize of the High Calling of God", in quoting Gen. 13:14-15: "Look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it and to thy seed forever." Then he said, "Are not you and I the seed of Abraham through Christ: It's all yours, Halleluiah!" To Joshua in Josh. 1:3-4 God said, "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. From the wilderness

and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun, will be your territory." 2 Cor. 1:20 says, "For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him (Jesus) they are yea and amen..." The Israelites claimed only about a third of the promised land that God promised them. Let's believe God for all of His promises to us as a people and individually in our prophesies. Let us not be satisfied with claiming only a third of our inheritance, but, 'all the way to the east, west, north, and south' of God's possibilities to us. Let us act like men and realize just who it is that we serve. Our God is the amazing Creator and designer of all things and He has each of our lives completely in His control.

1 Cor. 16:13: "...be Strong...", or literally, 'be strengthened'. Again I would like to refer to Ephes. In 6:10 we read, 'Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.' Literally, this verse says, "Finally, be ye increased in strength (Greek-'endunamoo'-be ye empowered) in the Lord, and in the power (Greek-'kratos'-force, might, dominion) of His might (Greek-'ischus'-strength, power)." The idea here is that God wants us to be strong in His strength. His power, might, dominion, strength is what is available to us, who believe. We read in Ephes. 1:19, "...and what is the surpassing greatness of His power (Gk.-'ischus'-might, strength, power over external things) toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working (Greek 'energeia'-God's energy or power) of the strength (Greek-'kratos'-force, might, dominion) of His might (Gk.-'ischus'-strength, power)." God's energy, power, might, strength, are ours who believe! Sometimes I wonder whether we (I) really believe this. Quoting from "Streams in the Desert", Book 1, for April 2, "Oh, if our eyes could only behold the solid phalanx of strength, of power, that is ever behind every turning away from the hosts of darkness, Godward, what scant heed would be given to the effort of the wily foe to distress, depress, discourage us! All the marvelous attributes of the Godhead are on the side of the weakest believer, who in the name of Christ, and in simple childlike trust, yields himself to God and turns to Him for help and guidance."

Gilbert James lately wrote about the word 'work', Greek-'energeia'-speaking of the working of God's energy, or His power doing work. I teach some basics about Albert Einstein's $E=MC^2$ when I talk about His Theory of Relativity. When Gilbert taught about the word 'energeia', it reminded me of what I tell my students. I teach them that energy and mass are really the same thing, depending upon your point of view, like both sides of a coin, heads and tails, are both the coin. Energy is mass doing work, and work is energy expressing itself. I also teach them that there are tremendous amounts of energy stored up in every bit of mass, as is evidenced by the process of fission, (splitting the atom, i.e. nuclear fission, nuclear bombs, etc.), and the process of fusion, the combining of two Hydrogen atoms to form Helium) which takes place inside the sun. This process gives us our heat and light energy from the sun. In both of these examples, tremendous amounts of energy are released from inside the atom. That energy is there just waiting to get out! Why am I explaining all this? Just as there is tremendous potential energy in every bit of physical matter in the universe, likewise, there is tremendous spiritual potential energy available to every believer. I like to think of the power available to us as God's $E=MC^2$. All power is available to Him. God says to us, "I have not given you a spirit of fear, but of **power**, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:7) The word 'power' here is the same word in Ephes. 1:19. The power that God gives us is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. What is the key that unlocks this unbelievable amount of potential energy? Believing! It is our faith and our faithfulness. Remember the promises made to Abraham and Joshua? All the land that you see is yours! God set the boundaries that were available to the children of Israel, to the north, south, east and west. God has said that..."all the promises in Jesus are yea and amen." (2 Cor. 1:20) The promises are to those who believe and are faithful in their walk with Him in living as He wants us to live.

Finally, to finish the paragraph in 1 Cor. 16:14, "Let all that you do be done in love." 1st John says that God is love. God was motivated by love when He sent His Son to die for us and save all

of creation from the power of sin. 1 Cor. 13 tells us that love is the 'most excellent' way. Luke 10:27 commands us, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." God wants the world to see His Love through us. We are His representatives, His Ambassadors, the lights

that He has chosen to set upon a hill that all in the valley may see Him, and His tremendous love for us and for all mankind. I've been singing over and over lately a song by Twila Paris. It is called 'My Best Friend'. These are the words: Jesus is my best friend *I can always go to Him *Tell Him everything *I'm dreaming of *My friend Jesus *Whom I love *Jesus is my best friend *He'll go

with me till the end *Watching over me *From up above *My friend Jesus *Whom I love *My friend Jesus *Whom I love. As I sing that song my soul cries out to Him. "Oh Lord, give us more of a vision for the love that You have for us. And may Your love truly shine out of us so that what others see is You. Just fill us with Your love and cause it to overflow out to the needs around us. Amen".

"The Name of Jesus"

By Herrick Holt

There is no name that will ever be in the history of the human race that compares to this name: the name of Jesus. In the "Eclipse of Faith" by Gagner, he writes that mysteriously one night the name of God, all reference to the Bible, the name of the Holy Spirit, and the name of Jesus, were mysteriously removed from all English Literature when it was at its height, so that even the name of Jesus and God was not upon the world's mouth when they swore. When you walked down the stone road to the Church all the windows that had depicted the characters of church History had been mysteriously removed. When you walked up the steps of the church, instead of you hearing the soft tones of the organ, out come belching through the door the stench of alcohol and the vain words of the human race. From the legislature, all the name and reference to God had been removed. It was never on a child's lips when he bent his knee by the bedside to say his little evening prayer. No head bowed at the table. And no marriage ceremony ever had the strong under-guardings of the trust and the confidence in God for their future. The name had been completely removed. Man was on his own. **I am glad it is just fiction;** but a tremendous imagination by the writer, I don't know whether you can find the book in the library anymore, it's an old one. But I thought what a devastating thing.

And there is only one name that I know in the entire human race like the

name of Jesus. It stands above every name. Some day our eyes will behold every knee bowing before it. Where men have used and lived by second-hand religion and by the cunning craftiness of words, and made mockery of this tremendous Salvation by His Son. Where they've opened up tabernacles for gain, and built themselves mansions and estates. What a mockery. What a mockery to History. Where men play with religion and they take little segments of it, and split and divide. What a mockery. What a mockery.

The name of Jesus broke upon the human race in the form of a child because God wanted to make a man in whom He could share endless life. And He took the name of Jesus and put it upon Him: "For His name shall be called Jesus, for He shall save the people." You will never find another name anywhere - I don't care if you could read all the libraries of men - there will be no name like that. But something greater: that name becomes a literal embodiment of a man who will believe. That name can fix itself upon the human soul and heart that it is upon the mind and imagination twenty-four hours of the day. So engrossed can he become with this Individual that he longs for the time that his life comes terminated upon the earth that he might enjoy the celestial realms where it is never tarnished by time, nor the varieties of men. He wants the name to be in your hearts as an anchor so that you

will not vacillate, go out and tarnish your life with the world: drink their stinking beer, come in staggering under the influence from imbibing too much alcohol, destroying the anatomy so you can't think right, and walk a staggering step or drive a car and slam into another innocent victim. He wants such insanity to leave the earth. You cannot legislate it out of the earth; but you can, by the power of that name, see the life of every man changed. And by that name, and by that name alone, will mankind know the tremendous changing power.

He hasn't left you there: he has sent you the power of the Spirit. It is like a wind, I know; but it is more than that. It is not an influence. It is more than that. It is a person that has the capability of embodying a man again, and living within the bosom of a man, and making a man say, "I will no longer live. I will let You live my life." And that stemmed all from this name. Oh, I can't praise His name enough. I would to God that I had the mouth of Kasastum, the legal ability of those minds like Finney, that I could lay it out clear as my heart wants to lay it out clear. But I can't. I would that I had the persuasive tongue of Kasastum because he turned the whole enemy, a whole army away from going to war by the eloquence of his mouth. I know that will not do it, but may, by the power of the Spirit, may by the power of the Spirit taking a stammering tongue make you appreciate the name of Jesus.

TEXAS GATHERING at Big Spring JANUARY 28-29-30

You are warmly invited to the annual "TEXAS GATHERING" at Gospel Tabernacle in Big Spring, a time of fellowship and ministry with emphasis on Sonship, the Great Restoration, and the Kingdom of God. What began as a local church outreach expanded over the years to include friends and guests of "kindred spirit" from many states and Canada. Although never huge in size, the Gathering is always extremely rich in the anointing. Brethren from Sharon Schools at North Battleford will be present to minister the Kingdom Word.

Local motel accommodations are available at reasonable rates.

For full particulars contact:
TERRY MILLER
(204-466-2673)

sharonbroadcast@yahoo.com

The local Big Spring contact is
LORAIN CASON
(915-267-8542)

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Big Spring, Texas Jan. 28 - 30, 2005
 North Carolina Winter Camp Feb. 25-27, 2005
 Feast North Battleford March 24-27, 2005
 Illinois Gathering (King's House) May 6-8, 2005
 Camp North Battleford July 2-10, 2005

NORTH CAROLINA CAMP MEETING

July 24 - July 31, 2005 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 24.

Meals will be served in the college dining hall beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 24, followed by the first meeting at 7:30 pm.

The camp will conclude with the noon meal on Sunday, July 31.

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: [<aslove1@triad.rr.com>](mailto:aslove1@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>](mailto:DDPACK@juno.com)

For airport pickup in Charlotte call Kim Kaufman at 704-583-0651 or email [<kk Kaufman@carolina.rr.com>](mailto:kk Kaufman@carolina.rr.com)

SEND RESERVATIONS TO:

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

RESERVATION FORM FOR FEAST 2005 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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Thelma Levers
September 16, 2004
Payette, Idaho, USA

* * *

Kenneth Dyck
October 28, 2004
Codette, SK

* * *

Harold Olson
November 17, 2004
Kearney, Nebraska, USA

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
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Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3

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