



# The Family of God

*By Albert Hannigan*

*I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God  
I've been washed in the fountain,  
Cleansed by His blood.  
Joint-heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod  
For I'm part of the family,  
The family of God.*

Jesus is the good shepherd of the sheep. He is the one we can come to. For eternal Life is in His hands. John 10:9-16, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold: them I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

God is our father over all. God loves all the sheep. John 3:16-17, "He so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

At one time the strong feeling among the Jews was that they were the only ones that God was interested in.

When Jesus talked to the woman at the well, the woman said to Him, "...How is it that thou being a Jew, asketh drink of me, which is a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink: thou wouldest have asked of Him and he would have given thee living water" (John 4:9-10, KJV).

Jesus was not concerned about her background or the fact that she was a Samaritan. He wanted her to know that He had that living water, which she could drink of, so she need never thirst again, but that it would be in her a spring of water springing up into everlasting life.

She was concerned about where one should worship, whether in the mountain of Samaria, or in Jerusalem. Jesus said, God is a

Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

In the early church, the Christians were concerned whether God would accept the Gentiles who were uncircumcised. Today we can have many things that can separate us one from the other. But Jesus has broken down the middle wall of partition between Jews and Gentiles.

We can be so correct to stand fast in our traditions, and so careful not to be influenced by anything that does not fit into our comfort zone, or the things that have been a part of us for a long time.

When the Lord spoke to Peter about eating the things that were on that sheet that was let down before him, Peter was very quick to say, "Not so Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean" (Acts 10:14). The Lord let down that sheet with all manner of four-footed beasts, and creeping things and fowls of the air, etc. three times. And while Peter doubted in himself what that vision should mean, here there were some Gentiles, who were sent by Cornelius, the centurion, waiting at the door to see Peter. So then it dawned upon Peter what God was

trying to tell him. So Peter obeyed and went with the three men to Caesarea to Cornelius' house (Acts 10:14-17).

And as Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ ministered Jesus Christ to Cornelius and his household, the Holy Spirit fell upon them that heard the word, and they spoke with tongues and magnified God. And these Gentiles were baptized in water (Acts 10:44-48). Hallelujah!

God is no respecter of persons, but whoever is hunger for Him, He is right there to give of the living water, and to fill us full and overflowing.

One time when Jesus and the disciples were together, the disciples told Jesus that they saw someone casting out devils in His name, and they forbade him to do so. For they said that fellow doesn't follow us. But Jesus said there is no man that will cast out devils in my name that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our side. And Jesus said even if someone gives a cup of cold water in my name he shall not lose his reward (Mark 9:38-41).

How we thank God that He is removing the shackles of division and causing us to realize that everyone is important to Him. Jesus paid the price of salvation for all

mankind. His love has gone out to all. Why should not your love and my love be extended to all as well? And so may that same Spirit that is in Jesus Christ dwell within our hearts. It is "...Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6). As we ask Him and open our hearts to Him, He is able to impart His Spirit of love and unity into us, and remove the spirit of division.

We sing that lovely chorus, "*Father make us one, Father make us one, that the world may know Thou hast sent Thy Son, Father make us one.*"

1 Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

It is so wonderful that we can be one in the Spirit with all men everywhere, no matter about colour, creed, ethnic background, tribe or nation.

Colossians 3:9-15, "Lie not one to another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor

Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond or free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called *IN ONE BODY* and be ye thankful." May He remove all the walls of division amongst us. He is causing us to love and to care and have compassion one for another.

I John 2:2, "And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

When the world is so full of wars and killing and strife, may that not be so among us. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Glory be to God!!!

# Contending for the Faith

*By Darryl Amundson*

**Jude vs. 3**, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you, that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints."

In this letter to the Churches, Jude saw fit to encourage each one in the faith that they had at one time received. He also bears witness to those who had now entered the flock

and undermined that same faith, handicapping the body of Christ, and in effect denying the only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Jude spoke of the same things that both Peter and Paul had predicted in earlier writings. As a result of this spiritual onslaught, a dark age set in. True Church government was belittled or revamped and self-will and prestige took the place of Holy Ghost calling and appointment.

While many of the truths lost

during that Dark Age have been restored to the Church over the years, the threat against that Faith, and continuing revelation is still a constant reality. As the saints endeavour to press deeper and deeper into their inheritance, our adversary would love to see us willingly live below our privileges in the Spirit as a result of our unbelief. So as he attempts to discourage us, we must exhort one another, lest we be hardened

through his deceitfulness.

### Exhortation

Just as Jude exhorted the people, so also is it the duty of each one in the Body of Christ to exhort the other members. Heb 3:12-14, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is still called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end..."

**Heb 10:25**, "...Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting one another**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching..." This assembling of ourselves together, as we have been taught, is not just the gathering when we are called to do so, but being active in our ministry, and exhortation to each other and to the Lord at these times.

Exhortation is a special privilege, given to the people of God for each other. It is addressed to the conscience and the heart. To exhort is to stir up, as a poker stirs up into flame a bed of coals. John Phillips says, "(The exhorter) must stir up the consciences of God's people so that truth does not become merely abstract theology, but is worked out in practical, down to earth living."

You can see then, what a privilege it is for one to be able to take the truths and revelation handed down by the Brethren, and make them accessible to any age, sex or situation. No matter what your gift is, you can and should exhort. If you have not been prayed over by the presbytery, and given spiritual gifts, make known your hunger to the Holy Spirit, and in the mean time know that you can still confidently exhort the people of God. Prophecy will exhort just as it comforts and edifies, and we may

all prophesy according to the testimony of Jesus Christ. Let us all seek to stir up the people of God in this way, not ever thinking that we are insignificant, or have nothing to give. I am persuaded that any Christian that is in this world, dealing with the issues that all Christians deal with, will have some testimony on how the Lord has worked things out in their life and how it can work for others as well. Let us not come before the Lord empty when He has done so much for us, and has dealt so graciously with us. This will not be so if we will keep our spiritual eyes and ears open to what the Spirit is saying unto us, and how He is dealing with each of us personally.

### Earnestly Contending

To contend is to engage in a contest, or compete as an athlete runs a race. It indicates that there is also an opponent, working against you, either for the same prize, or keeping you from the prize. So we needn't be ignorant of the fact that there is one that is working against us as the Church, and that is Satan. All he is really doing is working that we might simply live below our privilege or authority as sons of God. The God who has given us the **Power and Privilege** to become sons of God. Satan knows all too well that we have been given power (dunamis) from God, which is the ability or might, but he will try to tell us that we do not have the (exousia) power, or permission, or authority to put it into practice. He will tell us that we have no right to sonship and will provide us with alternatives. This causes us to turn to our flesh and the world, rather than to God to whom **ALL** power belongs, and from whom all power comes, thinking that the privileges and the inheritances of the sons of God are for a different people, or for a different time. The reality is that they are for now, and they are for us!

In light of this thought, let us not

believe too much of what we see or do not see with our eyes, but rather what the Word of God is saying to us in truth. Let us enter into the authority and responsibility that is fitting to a son. Let's put it this way, we should not be discouraged when we feel we are not seeing the display of God's power in our midst as **WE** think we should, or perhaps that which is seemingly happening elsewhere. Don't be concerned about what you have seen on TV, or what you heard happened at the deliverance meeting in the next city or church. God has put us on a particular road, for a particular goal, and we must keep our eyes on that. It would be much more glorious to arise in the power and might of the Lord, putting on our royal garments as sons of God. We are children of the King, and we really have no time except for that which God has called us. What the Lord has in store for a mature church will far outweigh anything that we can think or dream.

We are constantly given the choice either to exercise our faith in God, or find some other way of confronting the situation. The truth is that faith is of God, and is from God, and when we put what we think is faith in anything or anyone other than a sovereign, all-knowing and all capable God, we have nothing. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Heb 11:6), and without faith we cannot expect anything from God (James 1:7). But with faith anything is possible (Mark 9:23). It is this faith that we must contend for. Fight for it earnestly in our hearts, and seek to have it increased. It reminds me of a little song we sometimes sing - "Lord I believe, Lord I believe, Saviour raise my faith in thee till it can move a mountain..."

One way of contending for the faith is to hear the Word of God, for "...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God," (Rom 10:17, NKJV). Read your Bible,

not as you would a textbook or a newspaper, but more like partaking of a meal. He is the Bread of Life, and the Living Word, and in reading the Word, you are partaking of Christ. Reading of the Bible has possible benefit, for it provides the opportunity for God to speak to us through it, but if we would treat it with fear and reverence, we are opening the door to God's voice in ways beyond explanation. We know that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom" (Ps. 111:10) and also "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him, and he will show them his covenant" (Ps. 25:14). So as we read His Word, we can ask Him to bless it, reverently partake of it, and then thank Him for it, believing that we have received nourishment and sustenance for **EVERY** aspect of our lives. He will build our faith in ways we cannot measure, and when we are in need, His Word will come to us and we will not be discouraged or dismayed. Faith will spring up in our hearts. Wonderful words of Life! In **Job 23:12**, Job says, "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." That is how precious the Word of God can and should be to us.

The scriptures also say that "man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Deut 8:3). It also says that "the just shall live by faith" (Hab 2:4) and not the many means by which we think we survive. We live by faith that comes from His Word. That is why this faith is so worth contending for, for it is our very life in Christ.

Another way to hear the Word of God is through the word of prophecy. We are warned to be very attentive and to "Despise no prophesyings" (1 Thess 5:20), regardless of whom the Lord is using as a mouthpiece. This is the Living Word manifesting Himself.

We are admonished to go to all

the local services and prayer meetings, and also the regional camp meetings, if at all possible. We talked of not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, and that is vital to our faith and hearing the Word of God. We don't want to miss anything that the Holy Spirit has to say to the people and to us personally. He is expecting **YOU** there and has something special just for you. Even though the gift of prophecy in a service may seem very general on the outside, it is full of life and is really quite personal. One Sunday morning there were three prophecies that came forth from our meeting. It wasn't until later that week that I realized the Lord had perfectly prepared me through different members of the body for what I had been going through. One prophecy warned of what would or could happen, the next one told of where the place of refuge would be, and the third one told of how to get there. I was able to get through a tough week knowing that the Lord had prepared the way, and was also pleasantly surprised of how defined His words were for me. In another service a couple years ago, the Lord used both scripture and prophecy to prepare my wife and me for a trial we would go through later that day. I'm so glad we chose to be there that day, saving ourselves much sorrow and allowing ourselves to receive of His comfort. Praise God, we were able to face the trial knowing of assurance that the Lord was in it, knew what was happening and that He was in control. Glory to God!

Speaking to God in the heavenly tongue will also build our faith. Jude gives us this secret in vs 20, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves in the most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost..." This is a glorious avenue provided to us to keep us in tune with our heavenly Father.

It's also important to think and

speak positively, and in faith, grounded on the Word of God and His plan for us. Talking defeat will surely bring defeat and sorrow. We know that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt 12:34). He has good plans for us and we have no reason to talk negatively, as we would only bring ourselves down, and others with us. We must be careful not to offend the little ones in this way, as Jesus said, it would be better for us to have a millstone around our neck and be cast into the sea (Matt 18:6). (I'm a bad enough swimmer as it is.) So let's be mindful of not squashing anyone's faith, by giving him or her the 'realistic' truth about the situation they are in. If someone is choosing the route of absolute faith in God, whether it be for livelihood or health, let us encourage and pray for them, believing God to work the miracle in their life. Let us also not make others stumble by holding our faith inside, perhaps worrying that people will view us as having our heads in the clouds, or being too *religious*. Rather, let us be faithful contenders in these things, running the race with patient endurance, gripping our faith as a runner grips the baton, letting go only enough to pass it on to the one running the next leg of the journey. For our children's sake, may we endeavour to pass that faith down to them so that they too will accept Christ and run the race as well! It seems that right from the time we are born into this world, we are schooled in unbelief. As parents, especially, we can have a huge effect on turning that cycle around, allowing faith to be the norm, and unbelief rather, to be looked at strangely.

When we talk of this faith, I don't mean religion. Even though some may ask, "Of what faith are you?" There is really only one faith (Eph 4:5). The faith we are talking about is the only faith that will move mountains. It is the only faith

that is “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb 11:1). It is the only faith from which obedience and submission spring; and by obedience, we mean the works of God by faith.

You may have noticed that where faith is lacking, disobedience will always show up. They are bedfellows, if I may use an old term. The fact is in many scriptures, the words unbelief and disobedience can be swapped and virtually mean the same thing because they are so closely related. That’s just food for thought. Even as it is obedience that manifests our faith, even so disobedience manifests, or brings to light our unbelief. True submission and obedience to God’s Word springs forth from that seed of faith given unto us by the Head over all the Church. The letter to the Hebrews says, “Without faith it is **impossible to please Him**, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Heb 11:6). Do you see, then, how unbelief **must** reap disobedience? Without Faith, we are disobedient. The apostle James writes of pleasing God in this way. “Do not be a forgetful hearer of the Word, but a doer of the work” (James 1:25). That would be not our own works,

which bring self-righteousness, but **His** works, which are *from* obedience. He says that “faith without works (or obedience) is dead.” When you read James 2:14-26, think of the word ‘works’ as not **my** works, but **His** works, and that is called obedience. Vs. 26, “For as the body without spirit is dead, so faith without works (obedience) is dead also.”

Being obedient to God, and those whom He has put among us as overseers, will feed our faith, giving us a solid confidence and assurance, causing a spirit of submission to take root. I am so thankful for the order that has been established in this Kingdom way. Being disobedient will corrupt what faith we do have, choking it out, making it a very hard thing to be humble and under authority, as godly as that authority may be. Submission is a major key to the Kingdom of God.

Let us all realize what an important gift our faith is. It is to be guarded, fought for, and increased until absolutely nothing is impossible. “For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4). Let’s not be stingy with our faith like the servant who buried his talent, but let us persevere that we might make

increase of it. Give to others, and receive in return, and when the Master returns you will surely receive your just reward as a good and faithful servant.

Once again, here are some ways we can all not only contend for the faith, but also have it increased. Read your Bible. Spend time in meditation on His Word, allowing Him to speak to you. Reverence the Word of God. Simply ask Him to help your unbelief. Despise not prophesyings and as well, speak that word when the Holy Spirit prompts you and the anointing is there. Talk to God both in the understanding and in tongues. Although it is a mystery, it will build your faith. Obey them that have the rule over you as they that must give account for your life, and don’t make it extra hard on them by your stubbornness (Heb 13:17). There is such a wonderful safeguard in the Kingdom way, that to walk in it will give you such a confidence that nothing will move you aside. You will be like a tree planted by the water, and well established in Him.

We can be sure that if we take heed to these things, we will neither be barren or unfruitful, but abounding in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His everlasting Kingdom (2 Peter 1:8). God Bless You!

# Laying On Of Hands

*By F. T. Paterson*

The ordinance of laying on of hands is very old and shrouded in Bible history. The first instance I could find recorded is found in Gen. 48:14, where Jacob laid his hands on Joseph’s sons, Ephriam and Manasseh, and blessed them. Jacob placed his right hand on Ephriam the younger son, when his right hand, according to custom, should

have been placed on Manasseh the eldest. This signified that the younger should be greater than the elder. It is significant to note that Joshua was the tribe of Ephriam and was the successor to Moses when the Children of Israel crossed the Jordan River into the land of promise. In Gen. 49:1-28 Jacob also prayed and prophesied over

his sons and blessed them. It does not say that he laid his hands on them but I feel that he may have done so because that is what he did when he blessed Joseph’s sons. When the Children of Israel left Egypt and began their sojourn in the wilderness, Moses, on the advise of this father-in-law, appointed seventy elders of Israel

to be his helpers in the matter of judging the people. “The Lord said to Moses: ‘Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there, and **I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone**” (Num. 11:16-17, NIV). It does not say that Moses’ hands were laid on the seventy, but again I wonder if this happened because the Spirit that was on Moses was imparted to those who were chosen to be elders in Israel. This happened in the case of Joshua. There was an impartation of the Spirit when Moses laid his hands on him. “Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses” (Deut 34:9, NIV). In the early church a dispute arose because the Grecians felt that their widows were not being treated fairly so the apostles picked out seven deacons to minister to the affairs of the church in this regard. “‘Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.’ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit: also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them” (Acts 6:3-6, NIV). In these instances hands were laid on and there was an impartation of the

Spirit from one person to another.

**After the day of Pentecost hands were laid on to receive the Holy Spirit:**

**The Samaritan Christians** – “When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:14-17, NIV).

**The Apostle Paul** – “Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord - Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here - has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength” (Acts 9:17-19, NIV).

**Ephesian Christians** – “When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all” (Acts 19:6-7, NIV).

To equip the body of Christ for service God has ordained that spiritual gifts and ministries be imparted to each member, so that the body of Christ would be built up and edified by those gifts and ministries. “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of

wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills” (1 Cor. 12:4-11, NKJV). “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness” (Rom 12:6-8, KJV).

**These gifts and ministries were imparted by prophecy and the laying on of hands.** “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;” (1 Tim. 1:18, KJV). “Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecies spoken to you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you” (1 Tim. 4:14, NLT). “Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery” (1 Tim 4:13-14, NASU). “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands” (2 Tim 1:5-6, KJV). It is important to note that it was a presbytery that prayed and prophesied over the people. Presbytery means a group or assembly of elders. Some have

gone into error by one person praying and prophesying over the people. God has established that His order for the church is one of unity with plurality of leadership. It might be well to warn about the practice of people indiscriminately laying hands on one another. Scripture warns us that we can be partakers of the sins of others if we are not led by the Holy Spirit in laying on of hands. “Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin” (1 Tim 5:22, NASU). It was no doubt a common practice in the early church for the **elders** to lay hands on the different members and prophecy concerning their gifts and ministries. As with much truth, it was lost or became an empty form down through the ages. God has restored and is restoring these truths again to the body of Christ. He has revealed a glorious order by which God’s plan and purpose will be realized in the church. “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:” (Eph. 3:8-11, KJV). It is important to realize that not only those who minister from the pulpit have gifts and ministries but every member of the body of Christ has spiritual gifts; “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 unto the edifying of itself in love” (Eph 4:16, KJV). When the revival broke in 1948, this was one of the first truths that God revealed, that God would indicate from time to time those who were to be prayed and prophesied over. “I shall never forget the morning that God moved into our midst in this strange new manner. Some students were kneeling in adoration and worship before the Lord. The anointing deepened until the awe of God was upon everyone. The Lord spoke to one of the brethren, ‘Go and lay hands upon a certain student and pray for him.’ While he was in doubt and contemplation one of the sisters who had been under the power of God went to the brother saying the same words, and naming the identical student he was to pray for. He went in obedience, and a revelation was given concerning the student’s life and ministry. ‘I shall indicate from time to time those who are ready to receive the gifts of My Spirit. They shall be received by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.’” (Preface, Feast of Tabernacles). This pattern has been followed over the years with many being prayed over. I can tell you from personal experience that this is a life changing experience, to hear the voice of God in prophecy telling your innermost yearnings and revealing things about your life that only you are aware of.

#### **Hands laid on for Healing**

Before being caught up to Heaven Jesus instructed his disciples to lay hands on the sick; “And these signs shall follow them that believe, In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any

deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover**” (Mark 16:17-18, KJV). Paul in obedience to Jesus’ words laid his hands on Publius’ father and healed him. “There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured” (Acts 28:7-10, NIV).

The hand is an extension of ourselves. Lovers hold hands to express their affection for one another; a mother’s hand placed on the fevered brow of a child brings comfort and love to the child. We shake hands with friends so show our friendship, placing our hand on someone’s back gives a cordial greeting to that person and putting our arm and hand across someone’s shoulder brings comfort and sympathy. The hand itself is amazing in design. Many animals have the rudiments of a hand but without the dexterity of the human hand. Our fingers and thumb work together to pick up things and do the many things we take for granted such as snapping our fingers or catching a ball. We raise our hands in awe and adoration in worship. In foot-washing, we humble ourselves and become as servants as we wash one another’s feet with our hands.

In most cases there is an impartation of something with the touch of a hand, whether it be fear when the hand strikes out in anger or love and friendship when we greet one another. We are exhorted to greet one another with a holy kiss. “The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in

the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss” (1 Cor. 16:19-20, NIV). In some cultures this is still done but because of the way it may appear, some people are very uncomfortable with it. Some of the translations I have, translate this scripture as follows:

“Greet each other with Christian love” (The New Living Testament). “Give each other a loving handshake when you meet” (The Living Bible). “I should like you to shake hands all around as a sign of Christian love” (J.B. Phillips). We often greet one another with a handshake or a hug and I think this is perfectly acceptable.

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**DATES OF IMPORTANCE**

- Winter Camp Meeting (Big Spring, Texas) ..... Feb. 8 - 10, 2008
- North Carolina Winter Camp at the Cornerstone Conference Center in Brown Summit, NC ..... Feb. 22 - 24, 2008
- Feast North Battleford ..... March 20 - 23, 2008
- Illinois Gathering (King's House) ..... May 2 - 4, 2008
- Camp North Battleford ..... July 6 - 13, 2008
- North Carolina Summer Camp ..... N/A
- Pinelov Summer Family Camp ..... Aug. 4 - 10, 2008
- Hidden Acres ..... Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2008
- Park Valley ..... Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2008
- Winkler ..... Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2008
- Minden Meetings ..... N/A
- Pinelov Fall Family Camp ..... N/A

**WINTER CAMP MEETING**  
**Big Spring, Texas**  
**FEB. 8-9-10, 2008**  
**at Spring Tabernacle - 1209 Wright Street**

Ministries from North Battleford will be there to minister the Kingdom Word. No registration fee.  
Noon meals provided without charge.  
Reasonable Motel rates available.  
Plan to stay for Sunday night, as that is usually our largest crowd.  
The nearest airport is Midland (40 miles away).  
Dallas is a five hour drive.

**LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING:**

Contact: Terry Miller: [SharonBroadcast@yahoo.com](mailto:SharonBroadcast@yahoo.com)  
or J.R. Koltes: Ph: (940) 391-1448 or  
[JRKoltes@juno.com](mailto:JRKoltes@juno.com)

**CALLED HOME**

**Gwendolyn DeFreitas**  
June 21, 2007  
LaBrea, Trinidad WI

**Esther Price**  
October 3, 2007  
Cranbrook, BC

**Helen C. Neave**  
November 3, 2007  
High Point, NC

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Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3

The Sharon Star is a bi-monthly paper, published and mailed out on the free-will offering plan, as a medium of information for all who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

Published by Sharon Children's Homes and Schools, Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3.

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