



The Sharon Star

Life

by E. Livingston

Editor's Note: For those readers that may not know, Brother Erwin Livingston ministered with the brethren for many years before his Heavenly Homecoming in 2006. This article is taken from a teaching that he gave in 1986, and the message is as relevant today as it was then.

I've been pondering over many things of late down the lines of life. And one thing I've been pondering over is that there should be great assurance of the "life" that should have no end. The apostle Paul, writing to the Corinthian church in the eleventh chapter of first Corinthians and speaking on the communion, mentioned how that some had already fallen asleep. He let them know that he had received this from the Lord, and he laid it out how the communion should be conducted and then he speaks that some had passed on because they had not rightly discerned the body of Christ. Something jumped in me. This applies to me: you know, we would come a lot closer to that life he's speaking about if we could actually enter into the experience of seeing the Christ in people. Why would it work like that? Because it is that very thing that brings forth life. Yes, He is life, and in Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And it's hard to have the illumination of the Spirit without

there being life in it.

I read twice an article Bro. Holt wrote. When I read an article over twice, it has certainly touched me. I am very lucky to get over them once. I thought it was quite a thing how he spoke of Enoch. My goodness, you can't find a greater subject to use speaking down the lines of "life" than Enoch. He was a descendent from Adam, long before the law even came. Before the call of Abraham. And yet he walked with God and was not and God took him (Gen. 5:24). There is an experience there that hooks the two things together, that if we could ever get in it, there's a big chance He'll take us.

The "was not" isn't the easiest thing to enter in to. In the world we live in, they don't entertain it at all. I find it hard not to believe that there have been men that have been with us that have seen "the picture," maybe brought many precious messages far beyond the ability that some of us have down that line, but the problem greatly was that they found it so hard to enter into the "was not." In this life we live in, from the beginning of your walk, and the teachings in the school to start with, they are beginning to build in you to be somebody: to be successful down some line, so that you can make a mark in the world. When the Greeks came to see Christ, they came to Phillip first—not very much

is ever mentioned about Philip on the platform. You'll generally find that there are almost more seeming apostles or disciples that were called that you hardly ever see anything of or hardly hear from them, but I am sure that they were active behind the scenes. Peter, who spoke and did so many wonderful things and saw such turning to God by his message, it was his brother Andrew that you hardly hear anything from that lead him to that experience. When the Greeks came to see Jesus, they came to see Philip, and Philip took them to Andrew, and Andrew took them to Jesus.

It said, "And Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him" (Gen. 5:24). If we ever get to the place we could put ourselves into that (we wouldn't be good in grammar, but I don't use the best grammar in the world, I'm afraid, anyhow, so I could almost say it and get away with it), we would

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come to the place where we “was not.” We’re going to be on pretty good ground. We’re going to be a lot higher than we are now.

It’s funny how you remember things. Back almost more years than I like to think about it, just when I was starting in the ministry, I was brought into the company of a man who was speaking on the Tabernacle. I remember one thing, I thought of it when the brothers were speaking this morning, I heard them ask him how he could go from place to place speaking on the same thing every time. And he said that he had to find something new. He didn’t have to have a whole new message, but he had to have something new every time he spoke to keep the life. But he said something else: he mentioned what Christ said when the Greeks came to him. Christ was a tremendous teacher, they said no other men spoke like He or taught like He did, but He didn’t answer every question that was asked Him. Sometimes the answer He gave to start out with, you wondered if He wasn’t ignoring them. When they asked to see Him, He said, “Except the grain of wheat fall in the ground and die, it abideth alone. But if it’ll fall in the ground and die, it will bring forth much fruit” (John 12:24). The brother said this, “If we are going to die, we want to die on the top of the ground.” But he said the scripture didn’t say that, it said you had to fall into the ground or be buried in the ground. He said “Nobody likes to be buried, dying is awful hard enough. But if you were left on top of the ground, everyone could see you suffer.” But Christ said you had to fall into the ground to die before you are going to bring forth fruit.

Now “Enoch was not, for God took him” (Gen 5:24). He had this testimony; he pleased God. He had the understanding that he knew that God was and that God was a rewarder of them that diligently sought him. I appreciate what Bro. Wagar said when he said fifteen

minutes a day isn’t enough time for a person to spend in prayer. Paul said you were to continue in prayer (Col. 4:2). Prayer, for you and I to fulfill our ministry, needs to be something you don’t put off. It needs to be something that almost becomes a part of you. I have found out in late years that you don’t need as much sleep as you may think you do. And if the Spirit of prayer is upon you, you can get along many times with a lot shorter sleep. You may make it so your wife has a little shorter sleep too, but nevertheless, I have found this: in the wee hours of the morning, God seems to many times visit you. He does me. And sleep will leave you. But it is a wonderful thing when the Spirit of prayer comes to take its place. I exhort you elders and you deacons that you enter in to the realm of waiting on God so that it is not just something that you pick up on now and again when you feel the need of it, but is something that just simply becomes greatly a part of you. God fills a lot of things in you. God has a lot to build in you.

When I was at North Webster (Indiana), God put on my heart to speak to the Young People about the importance of the Word of God. I spoke on it one morning and they were so cold that morning, I hope I am never in circumstances like that again. The more I spoke, and I felt—if I ever felt the presence of God, I felt it that morning—the freedom seemed to be there, but the people seemed to shrivel up on me. And as I quit I said to my Brother, “What are we gonna do?” “Well, maybe we’d better sing a few choruses” he said, “and maybe that’ll warm them up.” He got up and sang, but that didn’t warm them up. So he turned them back over to me, and so I said to them, “You know, when we were raised out on the farm, many times we had to see to it that we didn’t freeze to death. I’ve seen the days when we just shook ourselves up and did everything to warm ourselves up.” I said, “Let’s run.” I do it a lot in my room, so I

just started to run on the spot, and encouraged them to run. Some of the seniors tried to join in, well now maybe that’s not a good way to put it, but that’s about the best way to explain it, I’ll warrant. They tried to enter in. But, so help me, the young ones, the ones that should have been able to run on the spot and play me out, though I think I could give them a fairly good racket, wouldn’t run. Monday morning I spoke to them again: there is a need for the word of God. In the day we are facing, it could be one of the greatest things that you could have built into you: a confidence in the word of God, an understanding of the word of God and the strength of it.

In our day and age, there may be a lot of ministering going on. Sunday morning you can hardly turn on your TV or radio without hearing somebody ministering and there’s nothing wrong with that. And we have translations—I was going to say, “to burn,” but my parents would give me a spanking if they even heard me suggest that. A lot of this, I am afraid, hasn’t given the real respect to the word of God. If you respect the Prince because he’s the Prince, or the Queen because she’s the Queen, then you need to give lots of respect to the Word of God. If it’s in the letter, it may just be the letter: but it contains the Word of God. Now my folks never wanted you to lay something on top of the Bible. You might figure that’s nonsensical, but nevertheless, I still appreciate it, because of what it contains. Do you know something? If you took out that that was spoken by the inspiration of God contained in the scriptures, you wouldn’t have much left. My goodness I don’t know how many fields I am going to get into, but we’ll follow on anyhow.

This is one thing I brought to the Young People’s attention: Paul said “All scripture was inspired by God and is profitable for reproof, for correction, for doctrine, for righteousness, that the man of God might be thoroughly furnished,

well equipped” (II Tim. 3:17). I’ve paraphrased a little – you know paraphrasing to me has gotten to be a wonderful thing, because when I can’t quote a scripture just right, I can paraphrase it and get it pretty close. The Word of God is food. Christ had great command of the Word of God. When he was faced with the temptations in the wilderness, He met Satan head on, so to speak with the Word of God. And He said, “Man doesn’t live by bread alone but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). We live in a world that actually figures they don’t need it. There are a lot of things they need, but they don’t need the Word of God. In Saskatoon, they put through a law the other day where they outlawed the old strap in the schools. Well, as one young lad said when they questioned him, “I don’t think it makes much difference, because they didn’t use it anyhow.” But all it means is that the world around us has lost all the confidence in the Word of God. That’s what it really amounts to. It’s like what one of the brethren said, “We have lots of counsellors, lots of professionals these days.” But the Word of God actually has the answers for all of it—if there was faith in the Word of God. Our country here and the country to the south of us were actually greatly settled on the Word of God. Today I almost marvel that there’s as much of it left as there is. Oh may God help us. May God inspire us.

As you listen to the brethren speak, maybe some of you might have been tempted to feel that with the way they were laying things down, they were a little far a-field. Watch your decisions on things. You should realize that all around you is that which has been just going and taking down the landmarks of your fathers. And it is high time that there would come in the earth a quickening of the Word of God so that it begins to be established in the hearts of those that God has

laid His hand upon. I sometimes wonder if we are going to be able to accomplish what God has for us to accomplish, and do it in a nice way.

I was reading in Revelation in one place especially that I’m still thinking of. It’s where those that were martyred for the cause of Christ cry out and want to know how long, how long before the judgement would be poured out, and asked what would be paid for that that they went through. They were told to wait a little while till those that were still to come would enter into there, but not quite (Rev. 6:10-11). The early apostles, I don’t know where they got it from: for me to measure up like that, I’d need a blood transfusion or something, because I would have to really be carried away to speak like the Apostle Paul spoke. When they prophesied to him and urged him not to go to Jerusalem because bonds and afflictions awaited him, he said, “Don’t break my heart. I am not only ready to be beaten or the likes of that in Jerusalem. I am ready to die in Jerusalem if necessary” (Acts 21). I’m a big enough coward that I can almost say that I hope it wouldn’t come, but I am afraid it’s going to come. And I am a big enough coward that I’d have a hard enough job to offer myself easy. But with my luck I might get caught into it.

You know something? I find it very hard to not believe that Paul saw with all his heart the possibilities of the resurrection coming in his day. I mean that resurrection from out among the dead ones as some translations put it. Paul said in Philippians, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21). And he went on, and he said, “As long as I am in this body, I am actually not with the Lord. For me to go and be with the Lord is much better” (Phil. 1:22-23). I am sure that the Apostle Paul was walking as close to God under those circumstances as it was possible for him to do. Yet he still realized that there was a place there that he could

actually be closer. But he said, I believe that this was put in his heart, “It is more needful for me to stay” (Phil. 1:24). And as he goes on in writing to them, he lets you know that everything that seemed to be of value, he had put it on the altar, and he said he counted it as waste that he might win Christ; that he might be clothed with righteousness. We are talking about the righteousness of the kingdom. Paul said he wanted to be clothed with that righteousness which wasn’t by the works of righteousness. For the flesh the clothes of that glorious righteousness come from the faith in the Son of God. That glorious robing of linens white and pure, which is the righteousness of Jesus Christ. And his dedication had become such that he longed to know the power of His resurrection.

Bro. Holt, when he was writing that article, I noticed this, the one scripture he dealt with was that one in Romans the eighth chapter where it says “If the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwell in you, that same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead shall quicken your mortal body” (Rom. 8:11). My wife was reading in family worship a while ago, she turned to Ephesians 2:1: “And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.” You are quickened this evening by believing in Jesus Christ. It is not something that you are still waiting for: it is something you have. There are a lot of things about the life that we have that I wouldn’t want to make too many rash statements about. But that life you have, it is something, Bless God, if you treat it and respect it, it is something that is not going to leave you. In some places when Christ was speaking down the line of life, He makes it sound so that you believe you’ll never die. And yet He said, “you’ll be raised in the resurrection.” Death is the last enemy to be destroyed. As the Word of God declares, it is the last enemy to be destroyed. It also speaks of the resurrection coming in

its order: Christ and the first fruits. It speaks in that glorious fifteenth chapter of first Corinthians: the first Adam was a living soul; the second Adam was a quickening Spirit (I Cor. 15:45). Oh, Bless God. He is that quickening Spirit.

Paul said, "That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His suffering, being made conformable unto His death" (Phil. 3:10). He was ready to pay all that he might gain all. "That I might enter in, and be raised right up from out among the dead ones" (Phil. 3:11). I am sure that Apostle Paul recognized this: that if Enoch could do it back there descended from Adam, he, living in the experience and dispensation of grace could see that the possibilities were right there at his doorstep. And in that last part of Philippians, I believe Paul almost felt that he could touch resurrection life. When he was writing later unto Timothy, he spoke on a different term. Not that he had backslid. Not that he had varied one iota from the mark of that glorious prize that he was heading for. What was the reason, I haven't a scripture to really lay this on, but I think that likely God let him know that He had something else for him, because when he wrote to Timothy he said, "I am now ready to be offered. I have poured out myself unto God like a drink offering. I have run my course, I have kept my faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness" (II Tim. 4:6-8). He didn't cut all of it out, he said "and also for all of them that love His appearing" (II Tim. 4:8). You may feel that you aren't the greatest success in the world, but you would love His appearing. Oh, Bless God. How often do we find ourselves praying, "Thy kingdom come, Oh God?" We long for that kingdom to come and be established in the earth.

I think now, instead of in Ephesians, we're going over into II Corinthians to the seventh verse fourth chapter: "But we have this

treasure in earthen vessels..." do you really value it? I believe you do. Paul valued it. "...that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us." My goodness. I look across the page over here and it says in the fifth verse of the third chapter, "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves. But our sufficiency is of God..." My sufficiency doesn't seem very high. And Paul says that the Lord knows all about that: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves." Oh, that's humiliating. But the Lord can empty it so that it's very true – surprisingly true. "But our sufficiency is of God who also hath made us able ministers..." Now the only reason we're able ministers, if we could put that on at all, is simply because we have found our weakness. There is some scripture that when I wait on God, that I don't remind Him of: that He's promised to meet my needs by the glory that is stored up in Himself, by His supply. "...who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life" (II Cor. 3:5-6).

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the Excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, yet not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life might be made manifest in our body" (II Cor. 4:7-10). That's where God wants it manifested. Paul said that was why God had seen to, from the time of his birth, that he would be able to manifest the Christ. "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (II Cor. 4:11).

Fifth chapter now. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved..."

Now he didn't say he's guessing. He didn't say "suppose." He says this: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made of hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 5:1). Our citizenship actually is not down here. We forget that. Sometimes it's easy for us to forget that we are pilgrims in a strange land. "For in this we groan earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is in heaven" (II Cor. 5:2). I don't expect there's one of you here that doesn't find yourself groaning, in your experience, within yourself. And it's not groaning for the need in 'yourself': you are groaning for somebody else. It'd be wonderful to be able to see bodies that are afflicted, touched and made whole.

There's a sister down in St. Louis, we were there on our way back from camp, had one meeting with them, and I don't know what made that meeting so glorious, because there was no fanfare, but it was one of the sweetest meetings. I guess the same presence was there – that abiding presence of His in just sweetness and quietness. That dear sister seemed to get such a touch. We didn't pray for her. She just took in the meeting. We maybe had prayer for her, but nothing special. She wrote us after we got home, and she mentioned what that meeting meant to her – not that she was thanking us; we didn't have any more to do with it than anybody else, but His presence just seemed so wonderful. When we were down there this year, we had two meetings and God seemed to touch her again. But you know, it was not the deliverance you find. Poor soul she's been in the hospital taking treatments. She's been in the company of people afflicted like her, and you know it's almost an easy thing for a person like that to think the same way as they think. Not realizing that the resurrected Christ was living in her. Just like Martha: "If you had got here, my brother

wouldn't have died" (John 11:21). And here was the Resurrection, standing and looking her in the eye. She could have reached out and touched it.

Oh may God help us. In a sense we are still shackled and need to be set free, so we can set people free. I am not saying that critically. I am saying that because I feel shackled. I think we all feel shackled. That's one of the reasons we groan within ourselves. "For in this we groan earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house that is in heaven. If so be that being clothed, we shall not be found naked" (II Cor. 5:2-3). None of us want to go back. None of want to be stripped of the portion, we might be able to say, excuse me for saying it, of the teeny little bit of the glory that we've already received. We just want to be able to enter further in and receive the possession that is ours and His. We want to rise into the realms of the heavenlies and be seated with Him in heavenly places he purchased for us. We have gone through the experience of water baptism. But oh, my God, may it be intensified with us until it becomes a reality that we can, as it was prophesied in the early part of the move, walk right into the resurrection. These are things I would like you to know, He is here within your reach. Let us not be like Martha: "I know it'll take place at the resurrection in the end times." Bless God: the resurrection is already in us.

"For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life" (II Cor. 5:4). It may cost you everything, but I'll tell you this: if it does, it won't cost you anything. But if we don't pay the price, then we may miss everything. "Now, He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who hath also given unto us the earnest of the Spirit" (II Cor. 5:5). He's given us the earnest of the Spirit as a shoe-full. They

say that the Jews had a practice that when they were going to sell their land, they'd take their shoe off and fill it with the soil and they'd give it to the party that was going to take over the possessions at the appointed time. And we have that seal sent on us by the Holy Spirit. But let us not be ready to settle for the shoe-full. Let us be wrapped up in receiving the fullness of the possession. We will never have anything to actually boast about. We appreciate the things that God has done, but we will never have anything to boast about until we have received the fullness of the possession. I am not saying that I have already attained—nothing doing. But it is there for us. Oh! Bless God!

Let us go to Hebrews to finish up with. "Wherefore, Holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling..." I want you to realize that he is talking to you and I. He wrote it for those back there, but we are in the same position as they were. "...consider the apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus" (Heb 3:1). Then it goes on to speak about being faithful as Moses was faithful. And now let us go over into the sixth chapter. And this is where the writer of Hebrews was mentioning the things of the foundation, or that that needs to be built. We're made so different. I always find it hard to stay around there very long. I want to get up to the end of it. But it says, "And this we will do if God permit" (Heb. 6:3). That's speaking of the entering into the perfection. Now, what I want to do is just touch on something here, to make you think in closing. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost and have tasted the good word of God and the power of the world to come..." I'll tell you, they had partaken of something. Don't kid yourself. You read that over with an open mind, and you have to realize that the ones that he was

talking to here had been people that had partaken deeply in the things of Christ and His God. "...if they shall fall away, to renew them..." I mentioned how that seemed to be so impressed to me when I was praying. It seemed to come to me so forceful how the eruptions we've had in the move, the heartfelt way that we've put our trust in, seem to have a part in blowing things apart almost, so that you had to regroup, get your feet down on the ground and go on from there. "...again unto repentance, seeing that they had crucified to themselves the Son of God afresh" (Heb. 6:4-6). Oh, I want you to know, the Son of God is built into you. The Son of God is living in you. And I'll tell you: it is not an easy thing. It is not a light thing for you to be enlightened to the degree that you have been enlightened, and then to turn your back on it. I can still remember one of the brethren in the early part of the move speaking on getting down off the foundation. And I can hear him say it like it was yesterday that it is a lot easier to get down off it than it'll be to get back on. And we have lived to see it. We have prayed and desired and longed to see some of those dear brothers that pulled up stakes and left us come back; but they don't come back. There are some of them I would just love to see come back. And if they could come back, I would to God that God would make me pliable enough and unselfish enough to be able to relinquish even my place in the move, if it would help Him to establish it.

But I will never forget what the brother said. He himself is gone. He wrote us once like he was going to try to come back, but there was no trying there. Oh, I tell you, I could weep when you think of those that were such a part of this and had partaken of that life that it mentions here, and then faced with the very things that they taught others to accept. I'll tell you this, there is nothing like the move of the Spirit. There is nothing that is

taught, that sooner or later, the one that teaches it, as well as the others, will not actually have to measure up to. Submission has been one of the easiest subjects to teach. You could even teach on it in the carnal and make quite a good stab at it. It is a spiritual thing; it is not a carnal thing. But I don't care how well you taught it: the time comes when you're faced with it. And Paul said unto Timothy, "Show no partiality" (1 Tim. 5:21). And neither does God. That's why we brothers should pray for one another that God will keep us humble enough that He can use us and not get exalted so that we find ourselves like so many that have gone on before us. Oh, my heart aches for some of them that have gone that were such a part in my life. But they went. And I can still remember the one saying, "I want to set this foundation so solid that even if I left it, you would be able to go on." And Bless God! It has happened.

"For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth the blessing of God: but that which beareth forth thorns and thistles is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned" (Heb 6:7-8). Now I don't like to be on this subject. I don't. I have seen this in my years as I have driven down roads where the roads split the land. On one side of the road there could be a beautiful crop of wheat. Across the other side was a mass of briars and weeds and what not. The soil would be the same, but to make the difference was the cultivation and the care. Oh, I would to God you could see how important it is for you to maintain the thing you've got, and walk in it. Rebellion is a thing that comes more easily. Bitterness, when it gets into a person's heart, it is almost like a fire. It seems to almost produce

it's own draft. Did you ever notice that when a fire starts, there may seem to be no breeze to speak of, but the first thing you know, it seems to create a draft of its own. And I'll tell you: the roots of bitterness are something that you need to put out of your heart when you've got them there. And remove them all and walk in the way of God. The writer goes on to say, "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation we thus speak. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labours of love, which ye have shown unto his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister. And we desire that every one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Heb. 6:9-12). May God Bless you.

Behold the Bridegroom Cometh

By A. Hannigan

We can rejoice to be living in this hour, when God is pouring out His spirit upon His people. "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit" (Joel 2: 28 & 29).

As far as the world is concerned it is a day of trouble and darkness. The world is reeling under the oppression of Satan. It is a day of trouble and fear, not knowing what the future holds, as wars, earthquakes, famines and pestilences increase. But as in the days of Noah, God has provided an ark of safety, even in the shelter and the secret place of the Most High,

in the realm of the Spirit of God.

Jesus gave the parable of the ten virgins, Matt 25:1-13. Five were wise and five were foolish. The wise had extra oil for their lamps and were prepared for the coming of the bridegroom, whereas the foolish ran out of oil. Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. I believe that the message that Jesus is giving us here is that we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be in close communion with him at all times. It is wonderful to be in tune with the Holy Spirit during the church meetings and special gatherings, but God would also have us walking in the Spirit at all times. Our gifts and ministries should be functioning whenever a need presents itself, day and night.

We do not know the day nor the hour of His return. Matt 24:44, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in

such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man [the bridegroom] cometh."

There are numerous scriptures in the Bible which refer to the physical coming and appearing of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 3:12,13; "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you.

To the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints." (KJV)

1 Thessalonians 2:19, "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming." (KJV)

Before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He told the disciples that they would receive power after the

Holy Ghost came upon them, and that they would be witnesses unto Him in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth (Acts 1:8). If the disciples needed the Holy Spirit then, I am sure that we need that infilling just as much today in order to function effectively in our ministries.

Acts 1:9, "And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight."

:10, "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel."

:11, "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

There are a number of passages which describe Christ's coming in the clouds: Rev.1:7, "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him."

Dan 7:13,14, "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

And there was given unto Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

In recent days and months, God has taken many of our loved ones to be with Himself. God wants those who are left behind to be comforted.

1 Thess 4:13-18, "But I would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall

not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

How glorious to think that those who are living at the time of Christ's return, will be joined together with those who have gone before, to reign with him in His glorious kingdom. Let us rejoice in God's great plan for Christ and His redeemed bride. Then shall this mortal put on immortality, and this corruptible shall put on incorruption (1Cor. 15: 53).

1 John 3:2, "When He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

Phil 3:21, "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Matt 13:43, "Then shall the

righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

1 Cor 13:"Now we see as through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

Though there is such a glorious day awaiting His people, we are admonished to occupy until He comes (Luke 19: 13). We look forward to Life when we go to meet the Bridegroom, but we want to partake of the Life of Christ more and more in the here and now. We are encouraged to partake of the LIVING WATER now, and to let it flow unto those around us. There is LIFE and HEALTH in the COMMUNION.

When brethren dwell together in love and unity, there the Lord commands His blessing, even LIFE forevermore (Psalm 133). And the whole creation is waiting for the manifestation of Christ in His Sons

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the LIFE: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever LIVETH and believeth in me shall NEVER die" (John 11:25). GLORY TO GOD!!!

"He that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Heb. 10: 37).

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Big Spring Texas Camp Meeting | Feb. 6-8, 2009 |
| North Carolina Winter Camp | Feb. 20 - 22, 2009 |
| Feast North Battleford | April 9 -12, 2009 |
| Illinois Gathering (King's House) | May 1 - 3, 2009 |
| North Battleford Summer Camp | July 5-12, 2009 |
| North Carolina Summer Camp | July 26 - August 1, 2009 |
| Pinelow (Spokane) Summer Camp | August 3 - 9, 2009 |
| St. Vincent Caribbean Summer Camp | August 2 - 9, 2009 |
| St. Vincent Caribbean Youth Camp | August 10 - 14, 2009 |
| Hidden Acres (Ontario) Family Camp..... | September 4 - 7, 2009 |
| Winkler (Manitoba) Family Camp | September 4 - 7, 2009 |
| Park Valley Young People's Camp | September 4 - 7, 2009 |
| Nebraska Meetings..... | September 25 - 27, 2009 |
| New York/New Jersey Camp..... | October 2 - 4, 2009 |
| Pinelow (Spokane) Family Camp | November 4 - 6, 2009 |
| North Battleford Young People's Camp | Dec. 28, 2009 - Jan. 1, 2010 |
| Indiana Young People's Camp | Dec. 27 - 31, 2009 |

**Names and addresses of Global Missions
traveling elders and deacons.**

Traveling Elders

Albert Hannigan
Box 206
SHELLBROOK, SK SOJ 2E0
Phone: 306-747-3902
Fax: 306-747-2367
amhannigan@sasktel.net

Richard Holt
901 Dorchester Drive
SARNIA, ON N7V 3A2
Phone: 519-542-6879
Fax: 519-542-7228
richardmholt@hotmail.com

David Luff
348 Bowman Creek Road
BLOUNTVILLE, TN
USA 37617
Phone 423-323-9485
Fax 423-354-0258
dwluff@gmail.com

Traveling Deacons

Lloyd David
Port Kiatuma
Northwest Region #1
GUYANA, South America
lloydpeterdavid@gmail.com

Terry Miller
Box 39,
SIDNEY, MB
R0H 1L0
Phone: 204-466-2673
Fax: 204-466-2950
sharonbroadcast@yahoo.com

Frank Paterson
12219 - 57th Street
EDMONTON, AB T5W 3W2
Phone: 780-477-6843
Fax: 780-471-9102
frankiepat@gmail.com

Brian Hannigan
1842 -110th Street
NORTH BATTLEFORD, SK
S9A 2Z7
Phone: 306-446-4802
brianhannigan3@hotmail.com

Eldon L. Olson
Box 934
NORTH BATTLEFORD, SK
S9A 2Z3
Res: 306-445-2581
Office: 306-445-2733
Fax: 306-445-7820
globalinc@sasktel.net

Robert Persaud
1428-B Bridford Pkwy,
GREENSBORO, NC
USA 27407
Phone: 336-299-4443
robertpersaud@gmail.com

Gilbert James
P.O. Box 34
SAN FERNANDO,
Trinidad
West Indies
Phone: 868-652-0924
Fax: 868-652-0924
gospelofthekingdom@yahoo.com

Byron Price
1401, 11881-88th Ave.
DELTA, BC
V4C 8A2 Canada
Phone: (604) 592-9214
Cell: (778) 688-9214
bhprice@telus.net

Mervin A. Smith
430 Tory Point
EDMONTON, AB T6R 3C8
Phone: 780-434-0347
Fax: 780-430-9283
mervins@shaw.ca

Crafton Lewis
Holder's Terrace,
Stanislaus St.
SUCCESS VILLAGE,
Laventille
Trinidad, West Indies
Phone: 868-623-1141
Fax: 868-623-1684
craflaw1@yahoo.com

Nathaniel Swaan
410 Queen Street
KINCARDINE, ON
N2Z 2R2
Phone: 519-396-4416
Fax: 519-396-3520
chcardine@hotmail.com

Andy Snoke
711 Placer Dr
FRUITA, CO USA 81521
Phone: 970-858-9355
Cell: 309-370-1782
Fax: 970-639-2015
andrewsnoke@gmail.com

P.J. Mathew
43 Upland Ave.,
WHITE PLAINS, NY
USA,10604
Phone/Fax: 914-831-7064
pjmathew@juno.com

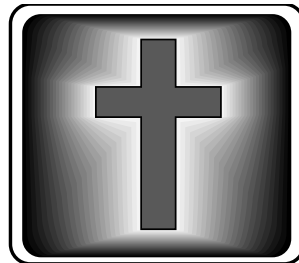
Richard Yaskiewicz
1011 Bradford Lane
Archdale, NC
USA 27263
Phone: 336-434-1557
Fax: 336-434-1559
ryaskiewicz@northstate.net

Mervin Sundbo
P.O. Box 71,
BIRCH HILLS, SK S0J 0G0
Phone: 306-749-3187
msundbo@sasktel.net

Ewald H. Wanagas
1003-8340 Jasper Ave.
EDMONTON, AB T5H 4C6
Phone: 780-424-5058
Fax: 780-424-9722

Albert V. York
Box 105
BATTLEFORD, SK S0M 0E0
Phone: 306-937-2482
Fax: 306-937-2324

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Called Home

Eric Olson
Sept. 24, 2008 - *Saskatoon, SK*
Tillie Deketeroff
Sept. 24, 2008 - *Saskatoon, SK*
Clara Olson
Nov. 21, 2008 - *Saskatoon, SK*
Arietta Black
Dec. 8, 2008 - *Charlotte, NC*

Jim Hingston
Dec. 15, 2008 - *Saskatoon, SK*
Billy Rawls
Dec. 17, 2008 - *Big Spring, TX*
Frank Brown
Dec. 20, 2008 - *Saskatoon, SK*
G.S. John
Dec. 20, 2008 - *Koyyalagudem, Andhra Pradesh, India*

Rosalie St. Arnault
Dec. 25, 2008 - *Calgary, AB*
Goldie Walters
Dec. 26, 2008 - *Saskatoon, SK*
Anna Seargeant
Dec. 27, 2008 - *Victoria, BC*
Edith Erb
Dec. 28, 2008 - *Stratford, ON*

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