



The Riches that we Seek are in Jesus

By Brian Hannigan

Most citizens of the ‘developed countries’ of the world live in comfort and prosperity. The majority of these people need not worry where their next meal is coming from. Most have sufficient income, savings and possessions, and they live in abundance, even luxury.

Unfortunately many people who live in such abundance are discontent. They are burdened with worry about their finances and investments, or feel compelled to own more and better things. Their bodies and minds are stressed and burdened by all they own, by all they owe, and by consuming more than they can handle.

God’s word comforts us with excellent wisdom and direction regarding riches, wealth, covetousness and contentment. He wants His children to be joyful in Christ. God wants us believing that He will provide all our needs according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 6:6-9 “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world,

and it is certain we can carry nothing out. *And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*”

1 Timothy 4: 8,9 “Godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. 9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.”

Christians are taught to live ‘in’ the world, but not be squeezed into the world’s mold. The prevailing culture will squeeze you. There is even pressure to believe that success is measured by monetary wealth. However, Christians are to be transformed in their minds, and to not succumb to worldly pressures. Success in the eyes of God is not based on bank accounts, but on faithfulness.

1 Timothy 6: 3-5 “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof comes envy, strife, railings, evil

surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: *from such withdraw thyself.*”

1 Timothy 6: 9-11 “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*”

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The Church is comprised of rich and poor, both being legitimate sons and daughters of God. The Bible even identifies Christians who are poor as being 'rich in faith,' plus the scripture encourages the wealthy to be rich in good works. It warns us not to use carnal measures to assess each other.

James 2:1-6 "My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: *Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom* which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man."

1 Timothy 6: 17-19 "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be *rich in good works*, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

The Christian learns not yearn for the things of this present passing age. He is occupied in thought and in deed with the King and His Kingdom.

Colossians 3: 1-4 "If you then be risen with Christ, *seek those things which are above*, where Christ sits

on the right hand of God. *Set your affection on things above*, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then shall you also appear with him in glory."

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, He asks us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, body and strength. Such a deep commitment leaves nothing out. Everything about us we lay before Him, and ask Him to take control. Consequently, we yield our finances to God. Tithing is Kingdom order. Tithing was practiced by Abraham and his descendants through Isaac. God spoke through the prophet, Malachi, challenging His people to demonstrate their faith through tithes and offerings. We can worship God through our tithes and offerings. That kind of partnership with Him brings the financial aspect of our life right into the Kingdom, with all its blessings.

Malachi 3: 8-12 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,' says the Lord, 'If I will not open the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sake, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,' says the Lord of hosts; 'And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land' Says the Lord of hosts."

The scripture exhorts Christians to subdue their own carnal desires, including covetousness.

(Covetousness is an inordinate desire for wealth or possessions, including the possessions of others.)

Colossians 3:5,6 "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience:"

The Holy Spirit is available to us, to alleviate our minds and hearts of the needless stresses and strains of life. His anointing daily grooms our priorities, and enriches our faith. Then we will truly rest in the bosom of our Heavenly Father's love, concentrating on His abundant ability and intention to provide for us.

Matthew 6: 28-31 "If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe you*, O you of little faith? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. *For all these things the nations of the world seek after*, and your Father knows that you need these things. *But seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.*"

The things of God are of such great value, that they far exceed the finest riches here on earth. Rather than desire gold, even much fine gold, we place the greatest value on what God values most.

Psalms 19: 7-11 "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous

altogether. *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold:* sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

When believers find themselves in need, they can approach God humbly for His help.

Philippians 4: 4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

In the book of Job we see God dealing with him both in abundance and in utter destitution. When God let Satan bring destruction and loss to Job, it was to test and prove that Job was “*blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.*” Job 1:1 Christians will be tested, for it reveals our hearts, and develops our faith for our good, and is evidence of God dealing with us as sons.

Hebrews 12:5-8 “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.” If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? “But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”

Romans 8: 16-18 “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that

we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Philippians 4: 12,13 “I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

2 Corinthians 4: 16-18 “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

The riches that we seek are in Jesus. The enrichment He provides is heavenly, it comes from His glory. It is part and parcel of His Kingdom, which is not of this world! His riches are not based on bank accounts, investments, stock markets and ever-changing economic conditions. His riches for us are righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, here and now.

Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Romans 14: 17 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

God does not want us to set our hearts on obtaining wealth, but He does expect us to work hard and learn how to be good stewards of what He blesses us with.

Ephesians 4:28 “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”

1 Thessalonians 4: 11,12 “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”

2 Thessalonians 3:7-13 “For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man’s bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.”

1 Corinthians 4: 1,2 “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Believers must not badger God, making demands of Him in an impatient manner; nor use the scriptures recklessly, like impudent children, trying to force God to fulfill His word for their needs and wants. The folly of this attitude is demonstrated when Jesus tells of the prodigal son. This son is immature, thinking that he is capable of handling what belongs to him by inheritance.

Luke 15: 11-13 “And Jesus said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me. And he divided to them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.”

Faith is not a commodity given to men by which they force God to indulge their wishes or whims. God is seeking a genuine, mature relationship with you. He does not enjoy covetous children who disrespectfully manipulate His Word in order to gratify their desires. We are blessed by God to have the foundational ministries of Jesus Christ, the 5-fold ministry. Submission to these whom God has set over us protects us from false teachings and seducing doctrines.

Ephesians 4: 11-15 “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry*, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; *that we should no longer be children*, tossed to and fro and carried about with every *wind of doctrine*, by the *trickery of men*, in the *cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting*, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”

We are clearly warned about deceivers who depart from the faith, who are corrupted in their thinking, and are eager to entice anyone to part with their money and their calling. We are called to holiness and sonship.

1 Timothy 4: 1,2 “Now the

Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,”

2 Peter 1:10-12 “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.”

When believers become more mature in Christ they occupy their time in their ministries. Directed by the Holy Spirit they reach out to others, concentrating on ministering to the needs of family, friends, strangers, the fatherless and the widows. Jesus highlights the call to maturity, the call to sonship, in this outstanding passage.

Mark 10: 42-45 “But Jesus called them to him, and saith to them, You know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: *And whosoever of you will be the greatest, shall be servant of all*. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

When believers minister by the Holy Spirit to those around them, the fruit of the Holy Spirit overflows into others lives; love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, temperance, faith; these all enrich the believer and the ones they minister to. Their motive is not

to garner favor, not to win acclaim or gain, but they are moved by agapé love.

Matthew 25: 34-40 “Then shall the King say to them on his right hand, Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was hungry, and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in: Naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came to me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we you hungry, and fed you? or thirsty, and gave you drink? saw we you a stranger, and took you in? or naked, and clothed you? saw we you sick, or in prison, and came to you? And the King shall answer and say to them, Verily I say to you, Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me.”

Luke 6: 30-36 “to every man that asks of you; and of him that takes away thy goods ask them not again. And as you would that men should do to you, do you also to them likewise. For if you love them which love you, what thank have you? for sinners also love those that love them. And if you do good to those that do good to you, what thank have you? for sinners also do even the same. And if you lend to them of whom you hope to receive, what thank have you? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and you shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind to the unthankful and to the evil. Be you therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”

In contrast, those who have not yet grown up may exercise carnal appetites, focusing on what

advantages they can gain by being a Christian, and how they can position themselves to extract every possible earthly benefit from God. They may compare themselves to one another, assuming that those who have more gain are more godly. If they continue to dwell in that attitude they will actually bankrupt themselves spiritually.

Luke 8:22 “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that hears the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”

Some think, in error, that if we have enough faith we will experience victory in every circumstance, victory that is marked by relief from trials, victory that delivers us into great personal comfort. Let us rather realize that having faith in every circumstance is the victory.

Consider this portion of scripture that describes some heroes of faith. They all experienced faith. Some were delivered. Some were not. Still,

they all were walking and living by faith. FAITH sustained them, and gave them a good report.

Hebrews 11:33-40 “Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having

obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

Finally, consider Paul’s admonition to the Philippians, and let us apply it to our own aspirations as sons of God.

Philippians 3:17-21 “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

A Call to Prayer and Fasting

June 6th - 12th, 2010

By Albert Hannigan

When the Brethren met in conference in early December, they felt in their hearts before the Lord, to call the church to a week of prayer and fasting. The need for a fresh moving of the Holy Spirit throughout the church, and in the world, is very heavy on our hearts.

We are in a spiritual warfare against the enemy of our souls. Today there are so many people hurting spiritually, physically, and materially. I would like to quote

the passage from 2 Chronicles 7:14--16, “If my people which are called by my Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Many times as recorded in scripture, the hand of the Lord has moved as people sought Him in prayer and fasting. Jesus fasted for 40 days in preparation for His ministry.

Bro. Wanagas wrote an article on prayer and fasting, which was published in the Sharon Star of March and April of 2002. Also Bro. Hinchliff writes on the subject as recorded in his book, ‘Building God’s House’, page 363. If possible please read these articles. They deal with the importance of prayer, and also important advice in breaking the fast.

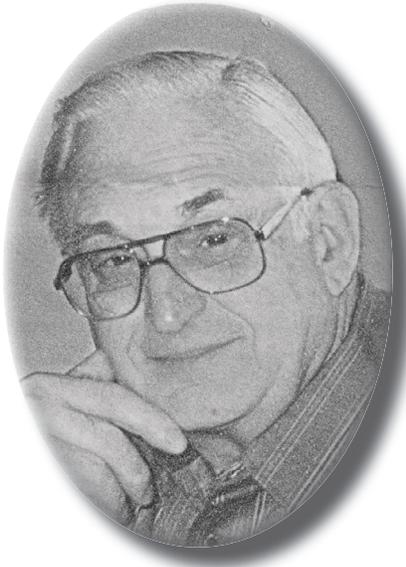
May God richly bless you as you seek Him with all your heart.

Frank Paterson: Man of Talent - Man of God

A young man, one dark and very cold night, showed up at Sharon Bible College in 1949 to study the Word of God. His name was Frank T. Paterson. He came from Creston B.C. Canada. I know that his hunger for more of God was much greater than his small supply of cash. He had heard of the Visitation of the Holy Spirit that the people at this college had experienced in their classes the year before, in Feb. of 1948. Something seemed to draw him there and created a very strong desire to attend regardless of the difficult circumstances he knew he would be facing. He was an adventurous person and two great assets he possessed drove him on his way. He “hungered” for a deeper walk with the Lord and he “trusted” God to see him through.

Frank was a good student and applied himself with all his strength. He believed in Bible verses like “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to

do, do it with thy might”, Eccl 9:10. This he did very sincerely and reaped its fruits. Frank married Martha Eisenhut in Edmonton in 1956 and



over the years raised a wonderful family of three boys, Scot, Eugene, Guy and one adopted girl, Kim. The poetry and songs he put together

will long be remembered, many of which both he and Martha worked on together. How the songs, such as “It’s a Glorious Salvation”, have blessed our hearts many times over as congregations heartily sang them, lifting the spirits of the heavy hearted.

Frank served as a faithful Elder in the Local Church in Edmonton for about 20 years. He was then asked to take on the responsibility of a Traveling Deacon to local churches in N. America then later a Traveling Elder to many other Local Churches as well as foreign fields such as India, the Philippines, Guyana, and other Caribbean Islands. God blessed Frank’s ministry wherever he went. I was often privileged to be with him as a partner on many of our travels. The words of the Apostle Paul are a very fitting scripture to add to this article, “The time for my departure has arrived, The glorious fight that God gave me I have fought, the course that I was set, I have finished and I have kept the faith. The future for me holds the crown of righteousness, which God, the true Judge, will give to me in that day-and not, of course, to me only but to all those, who have loved what they have seen in Him”(J.B.Phillips).

And Martha and family, you can count on our prayers for the comforting power of the Holy Spirit as you go through these difficult days.

— Respectfully submitted by
Merv Smith

IMPORTANT DATES

North Carolina Winter Camp	February 19 - 21
Ft. Collins, Colorado	February 26 - 28
Feast, North Battleford	April 1 - 4
Henry, Illinois	Friday, April 30 - May 2
Week of Prayer and Fasting	June 6 - 12, 2010
North Battleford Camp.....	June 27 - July 4
North Carolina Camp.....	July 25 - 31, 2010
Pinelov Summer Camp.....	August 2 - 8
Caribbean Summer Camp, Antigua.....	August 8 - 14
Park Valley, Saskatchewan	September 3 - 6
Winkler, Manitoba	September 3 - 6
Hidden Acres, Ontario	September 3 - 6
Nebraska Meetings.....	September 24 - 26
New York, New Jersey Camp.....	(TBD)

Trust Not In Uncertain Riches, but Trust & Praise the Lord

By Steven Levson

*The birdies in the treetops
sing their song,
The angels chant their chorus
all day long,
The flowers in the garden,
blend their hue,
So why shouldn't I,
why shouldn't you, praise Him too.*

We can learn a lot from this Children's song. First of all, we can all sing it with sincerity. God's creation praises Him. In the good times and the bad times, God's creation praises Him. We can praise Him for His goodness to us.

Consider the birds. They rise early in the morning and sing to Him daily. They don't know what that day holds. They don't know if they can find food or not. They don't know if the weather will be calm or stormy. They don't know if any predators are stalking them. But they PRAISE GOD DAILY! "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (Matthew 6:26).

Why don't we? Well, the weather, or the economy, or other reasons prevent us from praising God. Frankly, what is the underlying principle? I believe it is about trust. Let me explain.

The birds have an inherent trust in God to provide. They praise Him for His goodness. God has faithfully provided food and shelter and safety for them in the past, why wouldn't he today? "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Luke 12:6,7).

We, especially in North America, have been blessed with material wealth. The problem is that we tend

to rely on and put our confidence in that. Then, when times get difficult, we find it hard to praise God or trust Him. David warns us about this thousands of years ago. "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

Ironically, one of the wealthiest men in history echoed a similar word of caution against trusting in riches. In Proverbs 3:26, Solomon states, "For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken." Is the Lord our confidence, or are our riches? "Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven" (Proverbs 23:4,5).

We are also exhorted in I Timothy 6:17-19, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

If you think you are not rich, consider the following.

Blessed

If you own inspirational books, you are abundantly blessed. One-third of the world does not have access to even one.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people around

the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because although the majority can, most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or just touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer a healing touch through your caring.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read anything at all.

— (Author unknown)

People of God, not only are we blessed in the natural, but we serve a wonderful Saviour and King, and are blessed with many spiritual blessings! "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakes of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (II Peter 1:3,4).

Let us, as the birds do, praise and trust God for our food, shelter, and safety. Let us not trust in uncertain riches, but trust in a faithful, loving Heavenly Father! Amen! Praise God!

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