



The Sharon Star

To Be Like Jesus

By P. Siemens

What a wonderful promise we have; what a wonderful privilege we have to be like Jesus! And we can glory in what it will bring: Sonship, Kingdom, Divine Life, and Reconciliation. And it will be glorious. We can and should glory in what Jesus has prepared for those who love Him. But have we counted the cost? We can talk and glory in these wonderful truths, but are we really ready to pay the price? The saying is that "Salvation is free, but the Kingdom will cost you everything." No flesh, no self-like, can enter the Kingdom. It is only that which is of the Spirit of Christ that will bring perfection to the Church, which is Sonship, the Kingdom of God, Divine Life, the Reconciliation of all God's creation.

In Romans 8:18-23, Paul writes, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." We are suffering and being tried in every way, because our Heavenly Father wants us to submit **all our ways unto him**. Self will never bring us into the Kingdom, as Paul writes in Romans 14:17. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." **Complete satisfaction in Christ Jesus, our Lord!** Oh, for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit, is my cry! Again, there is a price to pay: fasting, prayer, and unity of the Spirit in homes, local churches, and the universal church, and among all the brethren, the eldership, and the families. A Kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. Unity is powerful, wonderful, and peaceful. For an example of its power, just think of the tower of Babel.

In Hebrews 12:6-7 and 11, it reads:

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?...Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." This (chastening) is the key to perfection, which is to be like Jesus. Jesus had to go to Gethsemane, where He said, in Luke 22:42, "...nevertheless not My will, but Thine be done." He made a complete surrender to His Father, in order that we might live.

May God help us to make a deeper commitment to him, and to one another. We are our brother's keeper. We only love God as much as we love one another. John 13:35 says, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Jesus gave Himself for every one of us. Should not we have care for every member of the Body of Christ first, so we can be a true witness to the world? As it says in the song, "Others, Lord. Yes, others. Let this my motto be. Help me to live for Others, that I might **live like thee.**"

I Write To You, Young People

By E. Livingston

As each generation comes along, they feel that their lives are not to be compared with the past generations. They have new and different problems to overcome and those from the past just don't understand. Please read the following article penned by Bro. Livingston 22 years ago and see if you are so much different: Editor

The Young People's gathering at North Battleford has come and gone for another year and already more than a week has slipped away. But in no way has the time spent together been forgotten. We are so thankful for all the young people (including the young married couples) that attended, and also for the faithful helpers who laboured so willingly to make it a pleasant and profitable time.

The first few morning classes and night meetings just seemed to pave the way for God to move into our midst. The Saturday evening meeting, which the young people conducted themselves, was such a blessed time. Then the closing meeting on Sunday morning was crowned by the presence of God.

The Spirit seemed to convict so many of the young people with their need of God, and they expressed their desire not to slide back into waywardness, but to be able to go on in God. They wanted help from God for a victorious walk with Him.

There were many thoughts that came to me that morning, and I thought it might be God's will to speak. But when the meeting got in motion and the Spirit began moving on many of the young people, and they began to confess their needs and their desire for prayer to help them, it was quite evident there would not be sufficient time to speak that morning. So I have felt constrained to write along the line that was on my heart and I hope many will read and receive help.

From the cry of the hearts of those who came forward asking for help, it was not hard to understand that they all had the same problem. They all expressed how they always got such

a spiritual lift and blessing at Feast, Camp, or Young Peoples, but when they returned to home, school, or work and got in contact with the outside world they seemed to gradually lose out in their experience. It was very touching to see their remorse and also their sincere desires. As I mentioned this to my wife the next morning, I also added that God's word declares "A broken and a contrite spirit God will not despise," (Psalm 51:17) and I am sure God heard their prayers.

There are some things I would like to say, that if God anoints my mind and pen, these may be of help to those with problems along the lines I have mentioned above. In many walks of life, success or failure may greatly depend on a knowledge of the fundamentals of that particular field. As I watched some of the hockey games between the NHL and Russia, I had to come to the conclusion that the fundamentals of hockey were something the Russians had taken seriously. They were beautiful skaters; their puck carrying and stick handling ability was something to behold; their checking ability was splendid and their passing and shooting was precision plus. Why have I said this? It is to help many young ones to realize that in the Christian walk there are also fundamentals of great value and importance, and these elementary principles are needed in our Christian walk to help us go on into a more victorious walk, and even to press into the promise of perfection.

Let us go to Hebrews 6:1-3. "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrines of baptisms, and of the laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement. And this will we do, if God permit." In the preceding Chapter, the author of Hebrews had been writing about the priesthood.

He now seemed to suddenly leave that trend of thought and began to question their ability to take in God's truth, considering their years of experience. He told them that they should by this time be well able to teach, but he found he had to feed them like spiritual babes.

When he began Chapter 6, it is as though he wishes to startle them with the knowledge of God's goal or intention for them. That goal was perfection. The different experiences he mentions: repentance, faith, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection and eternal judgments; he acknowledges their importance by saying "this we will do." (Heb. 6:3) Moffatt translates it thus, "With God's permission, we will take the step." I do not believe there is any doubt that we have His permission, if we walk in His ways and keep our eyes on the goal. Hebrews 5:11-14 does not suggest that they were not God's people; only that they had not gone on and consequently had lost ground in their experience. As the next chapter begins, it presents the fundamentals which, if followed, could help lead them into perfection.

Let us take a look at the first fundamental mentioned — 'repentance'. It plays a very important part in our experience and walk with God. David, 'the man after God's own heart', whether shepherd boy or king, whether rebuked by God, directly or indirectly, (it made no difference) was repentant, and by his repentant spirit was able to keep the channel open between him and God.

John the Baptist taught repentance. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," (Matt. 3:1) is what he said. As Jesus came and was introduced by John the Baptist as the "lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world," (John 1:29) he, (John) bore record that the law came by Moses, but grace and truth by Jesus Christ.

Why I refer to this is, that is the plan of God: the law came first. Paul

says it is the school master to bring you to Christ, your Saviour, who needs to be made your all in all. The law has the ability to reveal to you the fact that you are not sufficient in yourself and point you to Christ who is sufficient, because he has paid the price for you. John 3:14-18: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in His 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. He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

The outpouring of God's Spirit on the day of Pentecost brought great repentance among the people. The Holy Spirit had fallen on all those who had been waiting for the promise, having been obedient to Jesus' command to tarry at Jerusalem until the Spirit would come upon them. As a result of the Spirit's coming they all began to speak in tongues or different languages. It was not long until a crowd gathered and the Jews among the crowd were greatly perplexed when they heard these unlearned Galileans speaking in the tongue of the land of their birth. These Jews were from the various parts of the then known world. Many thought the people drunk, but Peter, moved by the Holy Spirit, drew to their attention it was not the time of day that men would be likely to be drunk, but this was the fulfilling of the promise of God foretold many years before by the prophet, Joel. These men, he said, were not speaking from drunkenness or from their learning, but were enabled to do so because of the resurrection of Jesus, the one the Jews had crucified. The sixteen or more languages, which were spoken by these Galileans, testified that Jesus was risen and had sent the Spirit, and was now seated at the right hand of God, just as King David in his day had prophesied would come to pass.

By this time great conviction came upon the people and they began to cry out to Peter and the disciples to know what God would have them do. Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord, our God shall call." (Acts 2:38)

Now we have been dealing with a few scriptures which emphasize repentance, and though Peter demanded repentance he also mentions remission of sins, which the word of God teaches comes by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8.) What Peter was trying to do by the help of the Holy Spirit, was to assure them that having repented and believed, they were now candidates for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

I want to bring to all your attention and especially young Christians and those who came up on the platform the Sunday morning at Young People's, three important words – faith, believing and trust. I looked these up in my dictionary and they certainly must be related as in their definitions they seemed to refer to one another. In the Old Testament 'faith' is not used often but 'trust' is. Believing is used in the Old Testament and often in the New, but whichever one is used, may we so appropriate them in our experience as to make us strong in Him and victorious in our Christian walk. Romans 4:3: "For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Abraham's faith was a continuing, active commodity. He was not content with just believing unto justification, but pressed on to receive the promise and covenant that was made to him by God at the time God changed his name from Abram to Abraham - the father of many nations. "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able to perform." (Romans 4:1)

'Faith' was no stranger to Abraham. Had he not unquestionably followed God's bidding to leave his country and kinsfolk and follow God

unto a land he knew nothing of? His faith may have been tested and he sometimes had a slight let down in maintaining his faith, such as when he crossed into Egypt, but this was an exception to the rule and not his usual action. When the Lord told him to take Isaac, his son of promise, and to offer him up as a sacrifice, he went right on to fulfill what God had asked him to do. When his young son observed that they had everything but the lamb for a sacrifice, Abraham answered, "God will provide himself a lamb." (Gen. 22:8) Hebrews 11:17-19: "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten Son, of whom it was said, that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." Jeremiah said, "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when the heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

I will not use up much more time or space on this fundamental, but I will complete it by quoting from Hebrews 10:38. "Now the just shall live by faith." I exhort you to press on to perfection, to walk in His ways and appropriate the promises that are yours in Him. Remember: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

The promise I just quoted prompted me to deal with something now, which I had thought to deal with later. It is the place the Word of God should play in your lives. I Peter 1:23: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." Then in the next chapter and verse 2: "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" These two verses seem to imply that being born into your experience by the seed of the word of God, it should be normal for a babe in Christ to desire the milk of the word, as a natural babe desires its mother's milk.

I exhort you young people to partake of the milk of the word. If the Epistles are a little out of your reach, feed on the Gospels, the Psalms, Proverbs, Ruth and Esther and you may enjoy the history books. Reading the word of God is so necessary for a young Christian's experience to be a healthy one. Psalm 119:97: "Oh how I love thy law (word). It is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:9: "Wherewithal shall a young man (person) cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Christ Himself had a great grasp of the word and when Satan tried to lure him off the pathway by temptation, he defeated him at every turn with the word of God. Matthew 4:1: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." My last Scripture emphasizing the need of the Word of God is II Timothy 3:15-17: "And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

One of the strongest features in Jesus Christ's earthly walk was respect and obedience to His Father. John 8:29: "For I do always those things that please Him." John 12:49-50: "For I have not spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting. Whatsoever I speak therefore even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." What a wonderful example Christ left for us to follow! And again in John 17:8: "For I have given unto them the words that thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."

We could learn much from these

scriptures. God's word has taught the importance of obeying our earthly parents, with the promise of long life. Proverbs 1:8-9: "My son hear the instruction of thy father and forsake not the law of thy mother. For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head and chains about thy neck."

Proverbs 6:20-23: "My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teachings. Bind them upon your neck, when you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the correction of discipline are the ways of life." (NIV) How wonderful is teaching like this. It should be in every school and home. It would help every young person in their walk with God. A child that has been taught respect for and obedience to their parents, elders and teachers will also find it easier to walk in obedience to God and to yield to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:5, Phillips)

There is a wonderful story in the Old Testament about obedience and Scofield entitles it: "The obedience of the Rechabites." (Jeremiah 35) Their father many years before had commanded them not to drink wine, to build houses or plant fields. There came a time when they were tested and the wine was set before them in abundance and they were bidden to drink, but they firmly refused. Jeremiah 35:8: "Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab, the son of Rechab our father in all he has charged us..." Young people, if you have been taught by your parents to be obedient; indeed, it is an inheritance which will bless you many times over, and give you favour with God.

I remember some years ago at one of the first Young People's Gatherings we had, a verse was read and ministered on. It was Psalm 51:18. "Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem" bringing out the importance of separation. It struck a fire and became the theme of those particular meetings. It might help us all, to be ministered to again, on building up those walls between us

and the world.

Not a Pharisee separation, but a separation where we would walk in the Spirit, and in great victory, not being pulled down and becoming part and parcel with the world. Titus 2:11-14: "For the grace of God what bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts; we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." I Peter 2:9-12: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; (a people for a possession) that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that whereas they speak against you as evil doers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

These scriptures reveal the glorious victory God has planned for His own, who will put their trust in Him, walk in the Spirit, and draw their strength from the great 'El Shaddai', (the strong breasted one – Almighty God).

Our desire and prayer for you all is, as was Paul's, when he penned Ephesians 1:17-23, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power, which He wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him on His own right hand in heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come. And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that

filleth all in all.”

May God help us to grasp hold of that which is ours in Him. May we realize what He has really purchased for us through Christ. Let us begin to behold as the Scripture says, “the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe,” (Ephesians 1:19) and let our prayer be that we be able to take it in and appropriate a victorious walk, that men will see we have been with Jesus. It is time for us to seek the Lord ‘til He will come and rain righteousness upon us.’ Oh that Christ’s prayer, in John 17:15, may be answered when He prayed, “I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from evil.” May the Church become so strong by believing in Him that the world will have little or no effect on them whatsoever. We need to seek God that we will become the salt of the earth, as Christ declared we would be, having a preserving influence in the world. We need to draw away from the world and unto Him as is spoken in John 15:45 and Psalm 91:1-2: “Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except to abide in the vine; no more can ye except ye abide in me. I am

the vine, and ye are the branches, He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

I’m amazed at the depth of spiritual help and satisfaction the children of God got from the temple worship of the Old Testament age. It was but a type of the spiritual temple, which is composed of living stones and formed by the Spirit for a habitation for God. As I was reading Psalm 137, I was greatly impressed by it. It speaks of them sitting down by the rivers of Babylon, but it was not the beauty of the river they sang of, but their mind was only on Zion, which they had left. They longed for the city of David, wherein was the temple with the mercy seat, the cherubims spreading their wings above it. There too was the presence of God. Yes, they longed for Zion for whom the Psalmist declared, “Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.” (Psalm 50:2) They discarded their harps to the willow trees and refused to entertain the people by singing the songs of Zion, for they were on foreign soil. David

declared in Psalm 27:4: “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

When they found so much satisfaction in the earthly temple, how much more should we today receive through the Spirit? We are of the New Covenant. The Holy Spirit has been given without measure. The glory of the old is swallowed up by the glory of the new. When Hagai prophesied that the glory of the new would far exceed the glory of the old, I believe the Spirit was talking of the spiritual temple, which is the Church.

Let us reach out to our Lord and desire what He has freely provided for us. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Being led by His Spirit and fulfilling our ministry will give us the greatest joy and satisfaction.

May God move in the hearts of the young and old alike and weld us together by His Spirit. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. As we behold the glory of His face we will be quickened in Him and changed into His own image. God bless you all – and particularly our dear young people.

We Belong To God

People have a need to be accepted and to belong to a group. This is illustrated in their clothes, cars, houses, and the way people talk, behave, and spend their time. As Christians, we must not let our need for acceptance prevent us from following God wholeheartedly and letting our light shine. “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16).

We should not try to be accepted

or to ‘fit in’ to the world, as it is contrary to God. “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend to the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). Rather, we need to confess Christ and be like him. “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32,33).

As a result of our walk with the Lord, we may be rejected by our family, our friends, other students, co-workers, neighbours, those in authority, and even strangers. “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that

taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 10:37-39). “And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life” (Matthew 19:29). Praise the Lord!

Let the consequences of serving God be determined by Him. “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Matthew 5:10-12).

When I was in high school, I desperately wanted to be accepted by my friends. By the end of grade eleven, I gave in to this desire and starting doing something that was not pleasing to God. I did it thinking that I would be more accepted by my school friends. Unfortunately, they lost respect for me and wondered why I was doing something that they knew I didn't agree with.

Just over a year after I tried to 'fit in', God brought me to a point of real loneliness in my life. My high school friends wanted me to continue doing what I knew was wrong. Thankfully, my family and Christian friends encouraged me to stop this behavior. God spoke to me and told me that He was my friend. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:13, 14). I realized that I didn't need the acceptance of my friends. I was already accepted by God because I had given my heart to the Lord. From this point on, I made a commitment to love God with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength.

"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightiest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deuteronomy 6:1-5).

"But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the

great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets" (Matthew 22:34-40).

We need to remember that we belong to God as part of His family. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). "While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:46-50). "For as many as are led by The Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:14-17). Praise God!

While reflecting about the people in the Bible, I realized that many of them had to make a choice if they would try to be accepted by those around them, or serve God. Some of the results for those who choose to serve God from the Old Testament, are listed below.

Noah - "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). "And behold, I even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my cov-

enant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee" (Genesis 6:17,18). "And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Genesis 9:1).

Moses - "And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me" (Exodus 10:3). "And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the Lord did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies" (Exodus 12:51).

Joshua & Caleb - "And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not" (Numbers 14:6-9). "For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was finished that the Lord commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hastened and passed over. And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over, that the ark of the Lord passed over, and the priests, in the presence of the people" (Joshua 4:10,11).

David - "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou has defied" (1 Samuel 17:45). "So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David" (1 Samuel 17:50).

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego - "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful

to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou has set up" (Daniel 3:16-18). "Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:24, 25).

Daniel - "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Daniel 6:10). "Then said Daniel unto the King, O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that

they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God" (Daniel 6:21-23).

Let us learn from the Israelites. Please read 1 Corinthians 10:1-10 "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Also, there are examples for us in the New Testament. One of these, Paul, clearly summarizes his thoughts. "but what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Philippians 3:8).

With God's help, all of the previ-

ously mentioned (and unmentioned) examples in the Holy Bible were able to overcome very difficult circumstances. They realized that they belonged to God and not this world. Again, Paul's words are an encouragement to us. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but 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 also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (II Corinthians 4:8-10). Praise God!

God's people have served him despite the hardships. God is calling us to do the same today! "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1,2).

Love, A brother in Christ

Reverence

In recent times, most Christians and the entire body of Christ, have declined in the total reverence to the Most Holy God-the Creator of all things.

In many denominations the title "Reverend" has been ascribed to leaders and elders of organizations. It is an attribute of God and should be accorded Him only and not to any man. Psalm 89 verse 7 states: "God is greatly to be feared in the Assembly of the saints and to be held in **reverence** by all those around Him."

Most Christian worship centres are not conducted solemnly and the members behave as if the LORD is far away. As the saying goes, it is easier said than done; although the belief is within believers, the reflection is not portrayed during church service. In Hebrews 12 verse 28-29, the Bible says "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with **reverence** and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire". In some worship places

whilst the Elder or Leader is preaching or teaching, some members either chat or converse behind the congregation. It is therefore evident that the reverence accorded the LORD is not revealed in believers. This is because during church service the minds of people are not stable in the things of God, thus do not feel the presence of God. The Lord is great and needs to be given the greatest respect and honour during worship.

Our attitude during church service sometimes signifies how committed we are towards God. Matthew 18:20 states: "For where two or three are gathered in my Name, there I am in the midst of them". This means that wherever members of the body of Christ meet to worship, there should be absolute great respect, honour and fear.

On covering of the head by women during worship, the Bible emphatically states that women cover their heads when praying or prophesying. "1 Corinthians 11: 5-6: "But any woman who prays or

prophesies with her head unveiled dishonours her head - it is the same as if her head were shaven. For if a woman will not veil herself, then she should cut off her hair, but if it is disgraceful for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her wear a veil." The above verses indicate specifically that reverence in worship relating to covering the head by women is very important. Total submission during worship is an essential quality which must be observed by Christians in these last days.

Of late Christian worship has become just like any social gathering where both the attire and attitude do not portray true believers life.

Our Dressing

Ladies these days tend to present themselves in a displeasing manner before God. Instead of feeling the presence of God in their lives and dress worthy of the calling, they put on dresses which are very short-like skirts and blouses that expose the upper part of the body. Ladies

should, dress neatly and modestly to please God.

We most forget to realize the urgent need and total reverence in coming before our Creator. Although everybody is aware of the end times, (Matthew 24:1-34), we need to recognize the Supreme and Omnipotent God whenever we call on His Name. If we seek the face of the Lord with fear and trembling, He will surely bless us.

Quietness in the presence of God is also an essential element in worship. We parents need to educate our children and all children in the congregation to honour the Lord. Most often children tend to disrupt attention when church service is in progress, just because they do not know the significance of honouring the Lord. Children should be taught to understand and practice so as to be conversant with true, submission and humble way of worship. As the Bible teaches in Proverbs 22:6, - that children be trained while they are young and when they

grow will not depart from it. If they know the right and appropriate method of serving and worshipping God, they will grow with it and not neglect the truth.

The Bible teaches in Exodus 20:7 that the Lord's Name should not be mentioned in vain. Meaning the Name is mentioned to expect an answer to a prayer or a miracle to happen. Therefore, reverence should be given to that great Name by all who know their God during worship.

Ending

I therefore encourage my sisters to know the truth that will set us free as stated in John 8:32. This is to say that our entire life during worship should reflect true acknowledge of the truth which we have acquired through our Elders and Ministries in the Word of God.

God richly bless us all as we read and adhere to the teachings and revelations of the LORD. Amen.

**Mary N. Aggrey
Ghana in Africa**

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CALLED HOME

Lloyd McConaughay
June 16, 2005
Edmonton, Alberta
James (Jim) Bangs
June 17, 2005
Toronto, Ontario
Marlin Amundson
July 11, 2005
Edmonton, Alberta
Winnifred Brown
July 28, 2005
Saskatoon, Sask.

INDIANA YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING - December 2005

Tuesday, evening, Dec. 27 thru Saturday., noon, Dec. 31, 2005.
Mt. St. Francis Retreat Center, St. Francis, Indiana, 47146, phone (812) 923-8817.
Location just 10 miles from downtown Louisville, KY. All under one roof, gym, recreation rooms, hundreds of acres of woods and hills to hike and sled on. 53 private rooms w/bath and air conditioning.
How to Get There. From West (St. Louis, etc.) I 64 to U.S. I 50 West, go 2 miles on US I 50 to 2nd set of flashing lights, the center is on the left. From North: I 65 South to I 265 West 10 miles to U.S. I 50 exit, go 2 miles on I 50 to 2nd set of flashing lights, center on left.
From South and East: I 64 West thru Louisville across Ohio River then 4 miles to U.S. I 50 East highway. Go 2 miles on I 50 to 2nd set of flashing lights. Center is on left.
Come one and all, bring your friends and let's have a great time learning and sharing together.
Bring: Bibles, notebooks, pens and pencils, personals, extra towels and washcloths if desired, snacks for after service.
Contact: Bob Wood, 7 N 933 Pharlapp Dr., St. Charles, IL 60175
Phone: 630-513-6642 or email: sandrakwood@aol.com
Costs: Adults \$65, Teens \$54 (11-17) Children \$32 (2-10)

**NORTH BATTLEFORD NEW YEAR'S YOUTH RETREAT
Dec. 29, 2005- Jan. 2, 2006**

As part of Sharon Schools Educational Program the North Battleford Young Peoples' Gathering will begin with the supper meal Thursday, December 29, 2005 and will run through until after the noon meal Monday, January 2, 2006.
Bring your usual things: bedding, towel, toilet articles, warm clothing, musical instrument, Bible, notebooks, skates and broomball brooms and hockey gear, gym clothes and footwear.
We thank the Mothers for their past contributions of baking and suggest that similar offerings would be gratefully received again this year. (If the Elders feel to send any financial help from the churches, it will be greatly appreciated).
This invitation is extended to teenagers and older singles and young married couples. We would like to encourage older singles to attend with a focus on their ministry and issues. We also would like to encourage young married couples to come for fellowship and to assist with the ministry.
Please have one of your young people write at an early date stating approximately the number of boys and girls hoping to attend.
**Send to Sharon Schools, Box 878, North Battleford, Sask. S9A 2Z3.
Registration Fee: \$25.00 on arrival.**

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
Sharon Children's Homes and Schools
Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3

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