



He Knows My Name

By F.T. Paterson

According to the latest information the world population is slightly more than six and one half billion and it is estimated that since creation there have been about twelve billion people populating the earth. We live in an ever-expanding population growth and by the middle of this century it is predicted that there will be a population of more than nine billion. In the midst of this myriad of people one may be tempted to consider himself as an insignificant speck on the face of the earth. At times we may feel like less than nothing amidst the billions on the face of the earth. We serve a God who is personally interested in His creation; "Even the hairs of our head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Luke 12:7, KJV). The Lord knows us personally, he knows our down-sittings and our uprisings, He was acquainted with us and formed us in the womb. (Isa 44:2). "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the

womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Ps 139:13-16, NLT). "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because **he hath known my name.**" (Ps 91:14, KJV). Praise the Lord!

Our name identifies us to those around us and it is special to us. I am sure that there are many people who have the same name as I do, in fact, one place I worked there was a man with the same name. It caused problems, he got my paycheck and I got his, it took awhile for the accounting department to get it all straightened out but they eventually did. In the body of Christ, God never gets us mixed up. He knows us better than we know ourselves. Many may have the same gifts and ministries as we do yet each gift and ministry is unique to the person and because God knows our name each of us fits in our special place in the body of Christ.

Because of disobedience God's judgement was poured out upon Israel and she went into captivity. Israel was forsaken and desolate until seventy years had passed according to the Word of the Lord by Jeremiah. Then according to the

Word of the Lord by Isaiah God promised that their land would no longer be called forsaken; "You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name. You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God. You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called **Hephzibah**, and your land Beulah; For the LORD delights in you, And your land shall be married." (Isa 62:2-4, NKJV). The Lord called their name Hephzibah which means no longer forsaken. As spiritual Israel, the church went into captivity during the dark ages and God has been gradually restoring all that has been lost. He is changing the name of the church from forsaken to Hephzibah (no longer forsaken). I was asked to dedicate a child in India and it is the custom there to name the child when they are dedicated. The reason for this is that there is a high mortality rate among newborn children. The parents brought the child forward and gave her to me to hold. I asked what her name would be and they told me Hephzibah. I did not know the story of the child at the time but I was told afterwards that the child was a foundling, she

had been picked up on the street. The parents grew to love her and they brought her to dedicate before the Lord. I could weep when I think of this baby just cast out on the street to die. Now her parents were bringing her to the Lord and naming her Hephzibah, (No longer forsaken). God knows her name and she is no longer desolate or forsaken.

The High Priest in Israel bore the names of the tribes of Israel on his shoulders. In other words he bore the responsibility of the nation Israel on his shoulders. "Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on the two stones the way a gem cutter engraves a seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree settings and fasten them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. Aaron is to bear the names on his shoulders as a memorial before the LORD." (Ex 28:11-12, NIV). On the Day of Atonement the priest went into the Holiest of All with the blood of the sacrifice to make atonement for himself and for Israel. He bore the names of Israel before the Lord on his shoulders and on his breast plate. On his shoulders because he bore their sins to the Mercy Seat and on his heart to intercede for them. Christ our great High Priest bears our name before the Father, "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Rom 8:34, KJV). "When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption." (Heb 9:11-13, NIV). Christ entered into the true tabernacle not with the blood of bulls and goats but with his own blood. He not only entered in as the High

Priest but as the eternal sacrifice too. When he entered in beyond the veil he bore our names on his shoulders the same way the Aaronic High Priest bore the names of Israel upon his shoulders. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, **and the government will be on his shoulders.** And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end." (Isa 9:6-7, NIV). As Children of God we are part of his government and the day will come that we will rule and reign with him in his eternal government. "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." (Rev 5:10, KJV). "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years." (Rev 20:6, KJV). Not only does he bear our name before the Father but we also bear the name of our heavenly family. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named," (Eph 3:14-15, KJV). "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;" (Eph 2:19, KJV).

As Christians we bear Christ's name before the world, but because of the actions of some, the name of Christ is held up to scorn by the world as it was in Paul's day; "As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." (Rom 2:24, NIV). When God sent Ananias to pray for Saul after his conversion on the road to Damascus he was apprehensive, knowing that Saul was coming to wreak havoc with the Christians there. "The Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, **to bear my name before the Gentiles, and**

kings, and the children of Israel:" (Acts 9:15, KJV). Everywhere the saints went they bore the name of Christ before the unconverted. This was their mission: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8, NIV). They were being faithful to the great commission; Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15, NIV). I wonder, as Christians are we putting as much emphasis on bearing the name of Christ before the world as we ought to. This was the way the early church grew and multiplied and I believe that is the way revival will come to the earth in our time. I have said this before in other articles, that in the last days the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:9). The church grew and multiplied in the midst of persecution, they worshiped in caves and in secret, gave themselves up to torture yet they bore the name of Christ before their tormentors and the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the church. I cannot help but see that this is the way the church will flourish in our day. We may not be called upon to offer up our lives in the arena but we certainly will be called to bear the name of Christ before the world and it may cost us everything. In this day when prayer and reading the Word of God is forbidden in schools and public places one can see how our Christian principals can easily be lost if we do not stand up and proclaim the name of Christ to those around us. I do not wish to be an alarmist or one who prophesies doom and gloom but it seems like, as priests of God, there needs to be some weeping between the porch and the altar. "The priests, who minister in the LORD's presence, will stand between the people and the altar, weeping. Let them pray,

“Spare your people, LORD! They belong to you, so don’t let them become an object of mockery. Don’t let their name become a proverb of unbelieving foreigners who say, Where is the God of Israel? He must be helpless!” (Joel 2:17, NLT). Surely it is time. As Peter says, “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17, KJV). God knows my name and He tells me, “Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” (Ps 55:22, KJV). In the midst of the most terrible of times God knows my name and He will never suffer those He knows to be moved or be without hope.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Cor 12:13, KJV). Each member has a special function in that body. “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” (Rom 12:4-8, NIV). We are bonded together into one body by the Spirit of God and are part of one another. We are joined together in like manner as the human body; one unit composed of many members. “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being

many, are one body: so also is Christ.” (1 Cor 12:12, KJV). Every part of the human body is necessary, organs can be removed but the body doesn’t work the same way it did before they were removed. We are knit together in such a manner that one part cannot be replaced by a different part. “And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:” (1 Cor 12:21-22, KJV). Even as the priests bore the names of Israel on their shoulders we bear the responsibility of the body of Christ on our shoulders. This is a priestly function of each member of the body of Christ. “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9, NIV). We bear the body of Christ on our shoulders; “There should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Cor 12:25-27, NIV). “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (Gal 6:1-2, KJV).

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” (1 Cor 12:27, KJV). In view of this, what kind of people should we be? The scripture gives some very good instruction regarding this. “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,

with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Eph 4:29-32, NIV). Let us build one another up instead of tearing down. The dictionary defines criticism as; fault finding, evil speaking and although gossip is not in the Bible, if we criticize our brother and sister to others we are certainly gossiping. “Don’t speak evil against each other, my dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize each other and condemn each other, then you are criticizing and condemning God’s law. But you are not a judge who can decide whether the law is right or wrong. Your job is to obey it. God alone, who made the law, can rightly judge among us. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to condemn your neighbor?” (James 4:11-12, NLT). “Let us therefore stop turning critical eyes on one another. If we must be critical, let us be critical of our own conduct and see that we do nothing to make a brother stumble or fall.” (Rom. 14:13, Phillips) There are those who claim they are not criticizing, as such, but using constructive criticism. There are times when constructive criticism is necessary and if done in the right manner is very helpful. There is a difference however; constructive criticism is done one on one not behind someones back. If it is done behind one’s back it is criticism and is tearing that person down. Lord help us to edify and build one another up. There is also the criticism we keep to our selves, we don’t say anything but we think it and judge it in our hearts. I can’t help but think that spiritual pride has a lot to do with this. You know, we are better than them, we would never do or act like that. Of course I speak facetiously.

In conclusion, the Lord knows our name and the name of every blood washed Christian. We bear the weight of the body of Christ on our shoulders to bring each other before the throne of God. We may

not know the name of every individual Christian but we do know the One who knows each one by name and intercedes for them. We do not need to know each earthly name but we can reach out in prayer

for the members of the body of Christ, many who we have never seen but (we know their name) because we are members one of another and each of us bears the name of Christ.

Be Not Conformed

By Mervin Sundbo

The scripture in Rom. 12: 1 & 2, speaks of our bodies being a living sacrifice and about not conforming to the world. I Cor. 6: 19 & 20 says, "Have you forgotten that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and is God's gift to you, and that you are not the owner of your own body? You have been bought, and at what a price! Therefore bring glory to God in your body" (Phillips). One way to honor God in your body is to refrain from participating in the conforming powers of this world.

"I beseech you (plead with you) therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Rom. 12: 1 & 2). The idea of conforming to the world and being transformed by the renewing of your mind is expressed in different ways by the various translations. For example, the Phillips says, "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-make you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed." The Living Bible says, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think."

I John 2: 15 & 16 urges us to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh (desire for sinful sensual pleasure), and the lust of the

eyes (covetousness or materialism), and the pride of life (boastful arrogance of one's status in life due to wealth, position, education, talents or fame), is not of the Father, but is of the world." Lucifer's pride caused his downfall as we see in Is. 14: 13 & 14, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will be like the Most High." It is obvious that the world is awash in these three lusts, which are very real temptations experienced by all of mankind. Temptation is certain, but resisting or yielding is a choice. 2 Tim. 2: 22 & 23 admonishes us to "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace, with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife" (NKJV). We find excellent instruction in these two verses: flee the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life; pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace; and avoid quarreling.

In Proverbs 6: 16-19, we have a list of the things the Lord hates. There are seven of them:

1. A proud (haughty) look
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devises wicked plans (plotting evil)
5. Feet that are swift in running to evil (eagerness to do wrong)
6. A false witness who speaks lies (untrue testimony)
7. One who sows discord among brethren (stirs up dissension) (NKJV).

In 2 Tim. 3: 1-5, we get a picture of the state of mankind in the last days: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers

of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" (NKJV). This is not a pretty picture, but it is an accurate description of what we see in the world today. However, what we see the world partaking of does not give us, as Christians, license to do the same. Many blur the lines between the acceptable and the unacceptable because we live in a society where "sin is made to look normal and righteousness is made to look strange." Is. 5: 20 puts it this way, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" Someone said this about sin, "It takes you farther than you wanted to go, it makes you stay longer than you wanted to stay and it costs more than you wanted to pay." Temptation is always enticing; otherwise, it would not be called temptation. There are two responses to temptation: (1) a temptation presents itself, the person yields to it and the result is ensnarement or (2) the temptation presents itself, the person resists it (Jesus quoted scripture) and the result is victory.

Paul, speaking to the Galatians, encourages them to "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one

another, so that you do not do the thing that you wish" (Gal. 5: 16 & 17, NKJV). Then in Rom. 13: 14, Paul says, "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts" (NKJV). We have a choice. We can resist or yield; we can walk in morality or immorality; we can choose the broad way or the narrow way; we can choose life or death; we can walk in the Spirit or walk in the flesh. The choice is ours. Jesus said of His disciples, "They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world" (John 17: 16, NRS). The world had no claim on them and it has no claim on us. Our conformity to the world's morality and stooping to its level of degradation will be by choice and not by the will of the God. God's will is that we be transformed or changed from the natural to the spiritual. The change is not more of the same natural condition with all of its weaknesses and flaws (a kind of face lift), but rather, the change is a metamorphosis, from the caterpillar to the butterfly. This is a transformation of nature, of character and of heart. It is redemption complete and full for spirit, soul and body. Let us not sell God short for He is able. Let us not limit Him for He is limitless.

How will this glorious transformation take place? I submit to you that it is already taking place and its fullness will come by the continued renewing of our minds. To renew means to restore or regenerate. Perhaps even a better meaning is to change. The renewal spoken of here is not more of the same. It is not the prolonging of natural life, not rejuvenating or mending or repairing the natural mind, but rather it is a regenerated, transformed, changed mind. It is the mind of Christ. It is what Paul speaks of in Phil. 2: 5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Then we will be changed into the likeness and image of Christ. This living soul must become a quickening spirit; this earthly must bear the image of the heavenly, this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality (1 Cor. 15: 45, 49, 53).

The nature of Christ must become our nature and then shall we sing with the songwriter:

"Transformed by grace divine, the glory shall be Thine;

To Thy most holy will, O Lord, we now our all resign."

The degenerate mind grovels in the dust and filth of this world and conforms to the world's thinking. The regenerate mind soars above the circumstances and evil of this world and all of its deterioration and moral decay, and thinks as Christ thinks. They are worlds apart; the carnal brings death, the Spirit brings life. They are on very different levels. This is expressed in Rom. 8: 6-8, "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (NKJV)

In Ephesians 4: 22-32, Paul gives instruction concerning the Christian walk in very direct and clear language. "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. In your anger do not sin ('If you are angry, be sure that it is not out of wounded pride or bad temper' [Phillips].): Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ('Never hurt the Holy Spirit. He is, remember, the personal pledge of

your eventual full redemption' [Phillips].) Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice (intention to do evil). Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (NIV)

There are many voices in the world calling us to participate in all manner of endeavors, some of which are obviously evil, some are sugar coated and look good to the natural eye and still others will appeal to the intellect. Let us remember what Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice. The voice of a stranger they will not follow." (John 10:27) What sounds good may not be true and what looks good may be a deception. It is difficult to determine what is counterfeit and what is real for the scripture says, "If it were possible the very elect would be deceived." Remember that Satan comes not only as a roaring lion, but also as an angel of light. Only the Spirit of God can reveal such deception for what it really is.

Hebrews 10: 22 – 25 provides some good instruction: "Let us draw near with true hearts and fullest confidence, knowing that our inmost souls have been purified by the sprinkling of His blood just as our bodies are cleansed by the washing of clean water. In this confidence let us hold on to the hope that we profess without the slightest hesitation – for He is utterly dependable – and let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds. And let us not hold aloof from our church meetings, as some do. Let us do all we can to help one another's faith, and this the more earnestly as we see the final day drawing ever nearer" (Phillips). The final day is the day of Christ appearing in His fullness in His many-membered body.

"Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only." (James 1:22, KJV) Here are some practical things that you can do to fulfill the "be not conformed and be renewed in your mind" scripture.

1. Daily Devotions – are

communion with the Lord and include prayer, reading scripture, speaking in tongues and meditation (thinking on spiritual things).

2. Listening to anointed music – the right music can be soothing and uplifting.

3. Making good choices – choose not to be offended (Psalm 119: 165), choose to forgive (“Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it”- Mark Twain), ponder important decisions in your heart (talk to God about them until you have clear direction). Remember this about decisions—you can ask for advice but ultimately the decision is yours and you live with the result. Marriage is a big decision. Your choice will result in either 90% of your happiness or 90% of your misery. A career is a big decision. If you make the right choice for you, life will be more fulfilling than if you hate going to work each day. “Destiny hinges on decision.” When you analyze those who have made a real mess of their lives, you will likely find the cause to be unwise choices.

4. Practice speaking positively – there are enough whiners and complainers in the world, we do not need to add to that number. Furthermore, complaining has never solved anything, but has likely made

a bad situation worse. Israel murmured and complained and God heard them and was not pleased.

5. Cultivating good relationships – it is one of the most important ingredients for success at all levels – marriage, the home, the workplace, the church, school, business, the professions, etc. Never look down upon anyone.

6. The golden rule – “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Do something nice for someone with no expectation that the favor will be returned. Good manners never go out of style. Please and thank you, a smile, offering your seat, holding a door open, a compliment, showing respect, going the extra mile, volunteering, visiting those who are sick or alone and keeping your word will be universally accepted. “A smile is understood in any language.” “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted (uncontaminated) from the world.” (James 1: 27)

7. A word about addictions – an addiction is anything that controls you or that over which you find yourself powerless. Satan does not care what you are addicted to; he just wants you addicted to something,

preferably something that will in time destroy you physically and spiritually. You see, an obsession, will occupy your thoughts and consume your time and this is exactly what the enemy wants. A fisherman uses whatever lures he thinks the fish will find irresistible. He often changes lures repeatedly until he finds the one that results in a nibble and then a bite and then a hook. Once hooked there is very little hope of escape for the fish; its mistake will likely be fatal. The devil does a lot of fishing for the lives of men and women. He uses tantalizing lures to entice his victims and sad to say he is often successful. However, we have an advocate who will help us resist the tempter and gain the victory over the temptation. His name is Jesus Christ, the one who has overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. Jesus said, “the prince of this world cometh, and he hath nothing in me.” (John 14: 30) May we reach the place where we can say as Christ said, “the ruler of this world has no power over me.”

I will leave you with this scripture found in Col. 2: 8, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

Foundations

By Albert Hannigan

We are thankful today for God’s Holy Word, which is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our pathway. Jesus gave some very fundamental teachings, to help us on our pathway of the Kingdom. I would like to refer to the words of Jesus found in Matthew 7:24-27.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man,

which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

We thank God today for the Lord Jesus Christ who is that solid foundation for us. I would also like to refer to Isaiah 28:16, “Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation:” Speaking about a precious stone – in Isaiah 62:3, “Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.” And that is what Jesus Christ is, a precious stone, a royal diadem in the hand of God. He is a foundation stone.

In 1 Corinthians 3:11, “For other foundation can no man lay that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Jesus was a tried

stone; He was tested. When He was upon the earth He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He overcame, praise His wonderful Name! We have a perfect foundation; we have a perfect rock to stand upon. The storms can come; the wind can blow, but when we are fastened upon that Rock, the wind cannot blow us away.

He was despised of men. He did nothing but good when He was here upon the earth. He went about ministering to people; whatever their need was He ministered to it. Praise His wonderful Name! How could they refuse Him? Why were they jealous of Him? How could they find fault with Him? But that is the way the enemy is; he finds fault where there is no fault to be found. But Jesus was that pure, holy, faultless Son of God. Thank God that you and I

have our feet planted on a rock like that. Praise His wonderful Name!

In Matthew 21:42, "The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner." After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Peter said, "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:11-12)

In Psalm 11:2, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" We need to have our feet solid upon that foundation at all times. In 2 Timothy 2:19, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." The foundation of God standeth sure, and we can rejoice today that that is the foundation upon which we stand. We do not need to look anywhere else. God has revealed unto us His Son Jesus Christ by His Spirit.

In order to have our feet planted on the foundation which is Jesus Christ, we need to be 'born again' by the Spirit of God. By repenting of our sins and inviting Jesus into our hearts and lives, we by faith receive His salvation, and we are planted on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ. Not by works of righteousness, which we have done but by His love and mercy and by the work of Calvary, we

become planted upon that Rock. Hallelujah!

God in His kindness and wisdom has made known to us more about foundations. In Ephesians 2:19-20, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are build upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone." I am sure this passage is one which we have read in past years and it did not mean too much to us. But now, God by His Spirit has revealed to us the significance of these words. Jesus Christ dwells in the hearts of His children who are members of His Body, and each member has a particular function. When Jesus was upon the earth He chose men (the twelve disciples) to walk with Him, and at times sent them out to minister to others the very things that He Himself ministered. He sent seventy out at one time, giving them power to heal the sick,

to cast out evil spirits, and to preach saying, "the Kingdom of God is come to you."

Today God has placed the ministries of apostles and prophets in the church. These are chosen by the Spirit of God by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. These ministries fulfill the qualifications that are described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and in Titus 1:6-9. Jesus Christ dwells in these ministries by His Spirit and through Him they have oversight of the sheep of His pasture.

Peter was admonished by the Lord to feed His sheep. Peter was a shepherd to God's sheep and he was also an elder. In 1 Peter 5:1-3 he says, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of

Kingdom - Sonship
TEXAS CAMP MEETING at SPRING TABERNACLE
1209 Wright Street BIG SPRING, TEXAS
~ OCT. 12 - 13 - 14 ~
Theme: "THE COMING TOGETHER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST"
 (Ministries from Sharon in North Battleford
 will be present to minister the Kingdom Word.)
Contact: TERRY MILLER: SharonBroadcast@yahoo.com
or JERRY KOLTES: Ph. (940) 391-1448
Special Motel rates available. Let us know if you are coming.

NORTH CAROLINA CAMP MEETING
July 22 - 28, 2007 — Greensboro College, Greensboro, NC

Greensboro College is located in downtown Greensboro at 815 West Market Street, Greensboro 27401. Market Street is the major west to east street through the center of town and major thoroughfares to the center of town will get you there. For detailed directions see: http://www.gborocollege.edu/quick_links/directions.php.

For a campus map, please go to <http://www.gborocollege.edu/media/campusmap.pdf>. You can easily zoom in and see the buildings which we will use: Hill Hall - registration & lodging, and Finch Chapel - meetings.

Check-in time begins at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 22. Meals will be served in the college dining hall beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 22, followed by the first meeting at 7:30 pm. The camp will conclude with breakfast on Saturday, July 28, since we must be off campus by 10:00 am, so another group can come in soon after we depart.

Buildings are air conditioned. Swimming pool, gym and other recreational facilities are available.

Charges for Room & Board

Age 0 - 5	No Charge
Age 6 - 8	\$75/week or \$15/day
Age 9 - Adult	\$125/week or \$25/day
Family Rate	\$500/week or \$100/day

You may bring linens (single bed), towels & pillows or these can be rented at \$10.50 per set

Send reservations to:
Global Missions® Regional Camp
 c/o Mrs. Anita Love
 112 Queensbury Rd., Winston Salem, NC 27104
 or call: Anita Love 336-765-9271 or e-mail: aslove1@triad.rr.com
 Flight arrangements may be made to Greensboro, NC (GSO)
 For airport pickup call
 Dave Heath at 336-841-0607
 or e-mail ddpack@juno.com

a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock."

God has provided a foundation for His people on three levels.

1. The Home: Father and Mother are a foundation for their family. Dad works to provide a living for his wife and family and his wife cares for the many tasks that are necessary in the home. They work together and compliment each other. Dad is a shelter and a protector for his wife, and they two together are a shelter for their children. They are admonished to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The children are taught obedience, and to honour their father and mother, with the promise that their days may be long upon the land which the Lord God gives them. The home should be a peaceful shelter for every member.

2. The Local Church: Elders are ordained to serve and to lead the congregation. Whenever possible there should be a plurality of eldership. If there are a number of Elders in a congregation, they are able to share the responsibilities of the church together. Deacons are ordained to assist the elders in the many duties that present themselves. The Elders and Deacons have their own means of livelihood and they function together in love and unity. The concerns of the people are their concerns. Above all they desire that the Holy Spirit will be in their midst in a very real way. They provide a spiritual foundation for the people.

3. The Universal Church: Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every nation." (Mark 16:15) The brethren that have been ordained to fill the office to the church universal are a foundation, which God has called to care for the churches throughout the whole earth. We have a pattern of the functioning of the apostolic ministry very plainly in the scriptures. In the early New Testament Church we are told that they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread and prayers. There were the twelve apostles at Jerusalem, and God added more apostles such as Paul and Barnabas and others. There were helpers to the apostles, deacons such as Stephen, Philip, Timothy and Titus.

"How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity... for

there the Lord commands his blessing, even LIFE forever-more." (Psalm 133:1,3) The Kingdom of God does not work on the principle of a democracy. The Kingdom of God is a Theocracy, with Christ as our perfect head. He was and is our Head and example. It is He who gives gifts and ministries and anoints His ministers by His Holy Spirit to function in His church in love and unity. How we rejoice in God's great plan for the Church. Because of the faithfulness of the saints in tithing, brethren are able to minister far and wide as the Holy Spirit leads, without begging for money. Rather, the church is able to minister to needs locally as well as in far away fields.

How we thank God for the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets. Israel of old wanted a king to be like all the nations around them. God gave them their desire but was not pleased with them. Today we want Christ to be our King and our Head, and He is helping us to fit into His glorious Kingdom and pattern by the Spirit. Glory be to His wonderful Name! The ministries of the apostles and prophets, as well as evangelists, pastors and teachers are God's foundation for the church worldwide. God has promised that one day every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Yes, every one of us shall give account of himself to God. (Romans 14:11-12) I am reminded of a wonderful old hymn:

The Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness,
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus Name.

Chorus

On Christ the Solid Rock I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.
When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the vale.
His oath, His covenant, and His blood
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before His throne.
May we all by the grace of God stand
firmly upon the foundation, which God
has provided for us. Amen!

Non Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Minden, NE 68959
Permit No. 40



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

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

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

Sharon Star on line www.thesharonstar.org
Office (306) 445-2733.

Publications Mail Agreement 40012206