



The Sharon Star

Forgiveness

By Andy Snoke

God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ is complete. It is absolutely complete. It is as if you had never sinned before. In the Divine Courtroom of heaven, the records of our sins are destroyed.

Psa. 103:1-3, "A Psalm of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases."

Psa. 103:12, "as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."

This scripture gives us a picture of how far God removes our sins; "as far as the east is from the west". This is an interesting statement, because it is an immeasurable distance. If the scripture had said "as far as the North is from the South", we could have measured the distance from the true North Pole to the South Pole, some 8,000 miles or so. But there is no landmark called the "East Pole" or the "West Pole". It is a measurement that reaches to infinity.

What is Sin?

Sin is not only something you do, it is what you are. It is a state of existence. Men live in the realm of sin, to which we have been called to overcome.

We sin, because we are first sinners. An apple tree, is not an apple tree because it grows apples. It is an apple tree first, and its fruit is apples. The fruit of a sinner, is sin.

John the Baptist proclaimed: "Behold the Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:36).

This is why Jesus the Christ (meaning the anointed one) came in our place and died on the Cross, to pay for our sins, to forgive us eternally.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

If and when we sin, we only need to come to Christ, confess our sin, and move forward.

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us (*our*) sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

There are three main points regarding forgiveness that we need think of:

1. We need the forgiveness of our sins, through Jesus Christ.
2. We must forgive others.
3. We must forgive ourselves.

We need the forgiveness and Grace of God

It is only thru the shed blood of the spotless Lamb of God that we are saved. And through our acceptance of God's free gift, we are saved thru Grace (which is unmerited favor).

Eph. 2:8-9, "For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Rom. 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Rom. 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and

with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

We must forgive others

Once the sinner comes to Christ, and the record of our sin is cleared, we are required to also forgive those that sin against us. It is so important to do this that it almost sounds as if our forgiveness is contingent on our forgiving of others.

Mat. 6:12, "and forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors." (Jesus speaking).

Mat. 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Forgiveness of others, can set you free from anxiety. The story is told of the two holocaust survivors speaking of the inhumane imprisonment they had experienced at the hands of the Germans long ago. One man says "I will never forgive the Nazi's for what they did to me!" The other said: "then you are still in the Nazi prison."

In his last minutes of life, nailed to the cruel Roman cross, surrounded by the taunting religious leaders of the day, Jesus said in Luke 23:33, "And when they came to the place which is called Calvary, they crucified Him and the criminals there, one on *the* right, and one on *the* left. And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. 'And parting His clothing, they cast lots."

The disciple Stephen (who we would call a travelling deacon) was falsely accused, tried in a prejudiced court,

and was executed by stoning by the very men that lied about him. As he was about to die to the world, listen to his last words.

Act 7:52-60, "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you have now been the betrayers and murderers; who received the Law through disposition of angels, and did not keep *it*. And hearing these things, they were cut to their hearts. And they gnashed on him with *their* teeth. But being full of *the* Holy Spirit, looking up intently into Heaven, he saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And *he* said, 'Behold, I see Heaven opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God.' And crying out with a loud voice, they stopped their ears and ran on him with one accord. And throwing *him* outside the city, they stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid their clothes down at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen, who was calling on God and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Act 7:60, "And kneeling down, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

Husbands, forgive your wives. Wives, forgive your husbands. Parents, forgive your children. Children, forgive your parents. Forgive your employer. Forgive your brother. Forgive, your enemies. Forgive, that we might be forgiven.

Mat. 7:2-5, "For with the judgement

you use, you will be judged. And with the measure you use, you will be measured. Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye but fail to notice the beam in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when the beam is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye, and then you will see clearly enough to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

We must forgive ourselves

When Christ forgives us of our sins, we must also forgive ourselves of our sins. There are many that hold on to a guilt of their past. We must come to a place where the past no longer has a hold on us. The record is wiped clean, and we must accept that.

I heard someone say when speaking of our vision that we need to be spending our time looking through the windshield of our life, instead of the rear view mirror. Looking forward, not backwards.

The apostle Paul was a man that had many things that he could be ashamed of in his past. He sent men and women to their death in his religious zeal. 1 Co. 15:9, "For I (Paul) am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

Never the less, Paul learned to not look backwards at his past, but forward. In a few words, Paul summed up the equivalent of a degree in effective counseling when he said in Phi. 3:13: "My brothers, I do not count myself to have taken possession, but one *thing* I

do, forgetting the things behind and reaching forward to the things before."

Phi. 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Keep pressing forward, not looking at the things of our past. Rom 8:1, "There is, then, now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit;"

Paul writes the following scriptures that could bring us quite a concern regarding our standing and reward with God.

1 Co.6:9-10, "Or do you not know that unjust ones will not inherit *the* kingdom of God? Do not be led astray, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous ones, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor plunderers shall inherit *the* kingdom of God."

Many of us could feel quite condemned by these scriptures if it were not for the following scripture.

1 Co. 6:11, "And some *of you* were these things, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and in the Spirit of our God."

You see, he says that some *were* some of these, but no longer. We have the privilege of starting over. Again, and again.

2 Co. 5:17, "Therefore if any man (*be*) in Christ, (*he is*) a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Thy Will Be Done In Me

By Darryl Amundson

Don't you feel that the ways of the Lord are like looking into a night sky filled with stars? The more stars you see, the more you just know are behind them. That is just like the Lord, in that the more we get to know Him, the more we find there is to know. **Job 9:10:** "Which doeth great things past finding out: yea, and wonders without number." **Psalms 139:6:** "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it."

Yes, the more He shows us and reveals Himself to us by His Spirit, the

more we realize how little we do know, or do see; as through a glass darkly. **1 Cor. 13:12:** "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." How wonderful it is to see even the things we do see, but what of the glory we shall yet see; will it not be beyond our comprehension?

I find that the farther He helps us along this road to the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus, the more we must realize **our** helplessness,

and our dependence on **Him**. Except for just simply believing and yielding ourselves to His Holy Spirit, He leaves very little for us to do in way of attaining to anything good or spiritual. He especially has not left anything for our flesh to do in this regard. This is a good thing. **Rom 7:18:** "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

I thank God that He has not left us alone to complete what He has started

in man, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us," (**2 Cor 4:7**). If it were up to me, it would be a complete failure, and believe me I have tried too many times.

I believe that we have all struggled in one way or another to produce within ourselves that which the Lord wants to produce for us. The branch has no life in itself without the Vine. We strive to make a way for ourselves, and we plan how we might do God's will, when God would just have us to yield ourselves that we might fit into **His** plans. We don't have to worry; He has good plans for us.

We should remember that we have been chosen in Him, before the foundations of the earth were laid, and that we would walk holy before Him in all truth. We would do well then; now that He has sealed us as His own, to just make ourselves available to Him, and to allow Him to do in our lives that which He desires to do. I pray that I am speaking to those who know Christ personally...if not, now is the time to accept Him as Lord and Savior, and put the past behind.

How do we make ourselves available to Him? By not walking after the flesh but after the spirit, "because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But we have died to self and are not in the flesh if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in us. Now, if we have not the Spirit of Christ, we are none of his. But, if Christ be in us, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness," (Romans 8:7-10) and that is **His** righteousness.

Col. 3:3: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." If we are dead, isn't then what **we** do not of ourselves? If it is evil, is it not from the lower parts? That sin that dwells in us? And if it is good, is it not Christ who works in us, and through us? On one side we have this:

Rom. 7:14-17, Phillips: "After all, the Law itself is really concerned with the spiritual-it is I who am carnal, and have sold my soul to sin. In practice, what happens? My own behavior baffles me. For I find myself not doing what I really want to do but doing what I really loathe. Yet surely if I do things that I really don't want to do, I am

admitting that I really agree with the Law. But it cannot be said that 'I am doing them at all-it **must be sin that has made it's home in my nature.**'" On the other side we have this: **Phil. 2:13**: "For it is **God** which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Even though it is that sin that is in us that 'makes us' do the foolish things we do, that is still no excuse to bow to our lower nature. Paul says earlier in **Rom. 6:11-12**: "Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." We are not bound to obey sin any longer and we owe our flesh nothing, for the blood of Jesus has paid the debt that we did once owe.

Any good that I do in myself, that is in my flesh, is to the Lord as filthy rags, and amounts to only a pile of hay to be burnt to nothing. I am very sure, that when I look upon His face someday soon, I will be appalled and ashamed at my self-righteousness.

Isa. 64:6-8: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, and we do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee, for thou hast hid thy face from us, and has consumed us, because of our iniquities. But now O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter, and we all are the work of thy hand."

What does the clay have to do with it's forming, except to be pliable in the potters hands? What have we to do with our forming, but to be available, and yield ourselves to His working in our lives?

What does the moon have to do with its lighting the night sky, except stand in its ordained spot that the sun might shine upon it? What does the mirror have to do with it bearing the image of the one that is looking upon it? We should be the same, just standing in the place where God has set us that we also may bear the image of Him who shines on us, and through us.

There are so many things we think a Christian should do, of ways a Christian should live and act, so many rules that must be abided by. There are defi-

nite examples for us to follow in order to be like Christ, but all of this can really put pressure on our walk with God. We can fall into condemnation when we fail to live up to these standards or be lifted up with pride when we succeed. But we are no more under the law; we have risen above, for we are in Christ Jesus, and walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. It is now Him in us who is working to make us what we need to be.

Before we were Christ's, we had our natural tendencies from the Adamic nature, or our 'old man' as we call it. Because of the fall, we were naturally led to do these things that we see in the world, for we were, as David said, born in sin and shapen in iniquity. We were on the wide path to death and God's wrath. But, after receiving God's grace through Christ Jesus, we died to that old man, and were made a new creation, and put on the road to life and liberty, which is Christ in us; living through us, and ministering through us. It is then, no more I, but Christ.

Eph. 2:1-3: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein **in time past** ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation (or lifestyle) **in times past** in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of our flesh and of the mind; and were **by nature** the children of wrath, even as others..." We have now taken on **His** nature, whereby it is now **our** nature to follow Christ, by the Spirit.

2 Cor. 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Praise the Lord!

Paul describes the life of those who are in Christ in **Col 3:1-3**: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things, which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

You will notice that it does **not** say 'If you do these things, then you are risen with Christ'. Thank God. We are risen with Christ by faith and the scriptures show what a life in Him looks like, for we need that knowledge in order to be renewed. Not a knowledge

about Him, but a knowledge of Him. It plants in us that faith needed to walk according to His will. Thank the Lord for the Living Word, which we have access readily by this Book. **Col. 3:10:** "...And have put on the new man, which is renewed in **knowledge** after the image of him that created him..." We have been shown by example on how to **be**, so now saints of God; it is time we stop our **doing** and start our **BEING**.

So why then do we have such a problem with our old nature? Could it be that we are constantly calling on it to help? Could it be that we are feeding our lusts by the things we see and hear? How can it stay dead when we keep giving it occasion to live? We try to do so much ourselves (that is our flesh), when it is Christ in us that needs to do the work. We accept the truth that He started the work, I think we accept the truth that He will finish the work; so what makes us think that we can do anything in between?

Gal. 3:2-3: "This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" **Phil. 1:6:** "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you, will *finish it* until the day of Jesus Christ." He will carry us **all the way through!**

We are told to mortify our members that are upon the earth; those worldly tendencies that once ruled us. You might say then, well there is something we must do in regards to our walk, something we can fight against. But, let me ask a question that might sound strange at first. What is the most effortless way to kill something, like say a goldfish? That's right! **Don't feed it!** This 'action' on your part is actually an 'inaction'. We can be **still**, and yet mortify our flesh. **Rom. 13:14:** "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh**, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

It's when we take the time to feed our old man that he resurrects and comes back to haunt us. There is no doubt that in these days, we receive plenty of opportunity to satisfy our flesh. Follow then your **new** tendency, or inclination in the Spirit, and just don't fulfil the lusts of the flesh. **Rom. 6:12:** "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Don't give your flesh any-

thing to feed on, but rather be filled with the Spirit, and just follow this new course you have been set on, remembering that we have been made a new creation. **Eph. 5:17, 18:** "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit...**"

What is this new course we have been set on? And what again is this new inclination we have in our new nature, even the nature of Christ? It is to be led by the Spirit and to be Sons of God. **Rom. 8:14:** "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they **are** the sons of God." Oh yes, as sons of God we have a great responsibility in many ways, but it all is rooted in letting go, and letting God do His work in us. When the cloud moves, we move. When we hear the sound of a going on in the tops of the mulberry bushes, do we step out to battle, or ask, what will thou have me to do? It is now our nature to follow Him. The nature of sheep is to follow the Shepherd. The nature of the moon is to follow the sun. So must we follow the Son! We have a Shepherd to follow. We have Him in our homes, by way of Fathers; in the local Assembly, by way of Elders; in the Church universal, as Traveling Ministries; and we have Him in our hearts, in the person of the Holy Spirit.

I'm sorry if I'm over emphasizing this point, but, before, we had natural worldly intentions. Now we are a new creation and we have our sights on heavenly things, and the life we now live is by Jesus Christ. He is our life, and any good we do according to the Fathers plan, will be a product, or fruit of our abiding in Him and yielding ourselves to His Holy Spirit, and **letting** Him rule our lives. **Col. 3:15-16:** "And **let** the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. **Let** the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom..."

I'm usually not one to pick at individual words found in the scriptures, but in light of this subject, the word '**let**' is one I have noticed, and I appreciate it's use here. In this application I believe it to mean 'to allow, or permit'. In simplicity, to block a stream from flowing down its natural course, by way of a dam or something similar, would be to 'not allow it'. Now to take away that Dam would be letting, or

allowing the stream to flow where it really wants to flow, and where it is inclined to flow. It takes no strength of our own to **let** something be. "**Let** the peace of God rule in our hearts," (Col. 3:15) "**Let** the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Col. 3:16) **Let** this mind be in us, which was in Christ Jesus. **Let** Him have full control. The veil of the flesh has been taken away. Don't put it up again, but **let** it go and let it flow. Praise God!

A most important act then is to **be** still and know. Trust and obey. **Let** Him lead us like a Shepherd. We can thank The Comforter that we **do** know. He has not left us without instruction, but this instruction is really not to tell us what to do, for we have an unction from the Holy One and we know all things. He does not force us by law to be in His will. It gives us an example of how a Son of God **is**, and the direction we can expect to go if we are led by the Holy Spirit. Forewarning in a way. It really is a roadmap to Life, as the old song says.

1 John 2:20: "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth...But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

He has given us an end product to see, and to taste, and we have tasted that the Lord is gracious, therefore, we press on **in Him**, to apprehend that for which also we are apprehended of Christ Jesus.

It was one day, while praying and meditating before the Lord, that I realized something. Day in and day out I would ask that I might do His will, with good intentions I'm sure, but I would always come back a failure, never doing as much as I thought I should have been doing. Rarely saying the thing that I thought I should have been saying, and not being able to minister to certain needs that I came into contact with, that I thought I should be ministering to. What was wrong with me, I would ask. The Lord seemed to show

me, in different ways and through different Ministries, that I am not able to do His will at all in this way. If I were able to His will, I would not need the Anointing, which is Christ. Even Jesus himself prayed, "Not my will but **Thine be done.**" Or "**They will be done**" (Matt. 26:42). Yes, Thy will be done in my life, regardless of what I think or do Lord. Regardless of how I would do it, just have thine own way. It is when His will is done in you and in me that His

glory will be shown in us, in our families, in the Church, and in the world. Oh that I might get out of the way and seek His Anointing!

It is so humbling to think that we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power would be of God and not of us. He is definitely using us, but let us not desire any glory for ourselves by trying to accomplish His will in our own strength, for only He is worthy, and only He is able to accom-

plish what concerns you and me today. Do you want to do His will and His work? "...believe on Him whom He has sent" (**John 6:29**). Abide in Him, and feed on His word, which is the bread of life, our sustenance. Only He is able to lift us up into those higher realms whereby we are not affected by that which hinders us now. He will supply our need concerning this, for He has given us all things that pertain unto life, and godliness. Bless His wonderful name!

The Royal Priesthood

By F.T. Patterson

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy," (1 Peter 2:9-10, KJV). Before the foundation of the world God's plan of bringing forth a holy nation was formulated. A nation which was to be holy and without blame before Him in love (Eph 1:4, KJV). This was not only to be a holy nation but a kingdom of priests, in other words a royal priesthood. Since the days of creation it has been God's desire to bring forth a people after His image (Gen 1:26-27, KJV). Even though we have not as yet arrived at this high calling we have the potential, in God, of attaining unto it. To be in the image of God does not mean that we will look like God. God is a spirit and has no form either imagined or molded by the hand of man and God strictly forbids making an image of anything for worship. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth" (Deut 5:8, NKJV). "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18, KJV) Jesus came to reveal the Father to us. "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" (John

14:9, KJV). "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us," (Matt 1:23, KJV). The bible is not just a collection of 66 books. It is one book and one message. The old testament, brings forth the type and shadow, the promise if you like, and the new testament, the fulfillment or the reality of the promise. So it is with the royal priesthood; "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites" (Ex 19:5-6, NIV). Exodus 19:6 and 1 Peter 2:9 are very much alike, the difference being that in the old testament, it says 'you shall be' and in the new testament it says 'you are'. The N.T. uses the term 'you are' even though we have not yet appropriated the promise. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is," (1 John 3:2, KJV). We have been adopted into the family of God, not to remain as babes or children of God, but to grow up spiritually into mature members of His family. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ

to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will," (Eph 1:3-5, KJV). We are to bear the family likeness of that Heavenly family. "God, in His foreknowledge, chose them to bear the family likeness of His son, that He might be the eldest of a family of many brothers. He chose them long ago; when the time came He called them, He made them righteous in His sight, and then lifted them to the splendor of life as His own sons," (Rom 8:29-30, Phillips). The Christian life is one of growth; growing up into that which God has purposed for us. "We will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Eph 4:15-16, NIV). We are exhorted to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). In the sovereignty of God He has made available to us that deeper life in Christ, but there is a responsibility on our part to enter into that which He has made available. In the natural life, growth comes and a child matures as the days go by. This is assured unless there is some physical impairment which hinders his growth. In the spiritual there can also be impairment to growth. In order to grow in the Spirit we must feed on the word of God, spend time in prayer and seeking God. We must listen to the voice of the Spirit and be led by the Spirit in our daily lives. We may well ask how does one know if it is the Spirit of God speaking to us or is it our own mind. As we seek God there is a renewing that takes place in our mind; we become partakers of the mind of

Christ. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God," (Rom 12:1-2, NKJV). It is our responsibility to present our bodies and lives to the Lord as a living sacrifice, it is God's part to renew our minds. God provides wisdom for each of us if we genuinely ask for it. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed," (James 1:5-6, KJV). The wisdom that God gives will always agree with the word of God and God has given us spiritual Ministries who will be able to give advice founded on the word of God, as well as being led by the Spirit of God.

Finding the will of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives is sometimes misunderstood as hearing the voice of God speaking to us in an audible way or searching the scriptures until one finds a scripture which fits in with our desire in the matter regardless of what others say. There are those who say God told me to do this or that regardless of the consequences. Some guide lines in seeking the will of God might be:

1. God will not ask us to break the law of the land unless it conflicts with His higher law; such as rejecting His law or rejecting our faith. "Obey the government, for God is the one who put it there. All governments have been placed in power by God. So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow," (Rom 13:1-2, NLT).

2. God will not ask us to do anything which may appear to be wrong even though it may not be. "Abstain from all appearance of evil," (1 Thess 5:22, KJV).

3. God will not ask us to neglect or fail to provide for our family, even if it appears to be doing the will of God. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel," (1 Tim 5:8, KJV).

4. "Provide things honest in the sight of all men," (Rom 12:17, KJV).

5. "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this, to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world," (James 1:26-27, NIV).

6. There is much in the old testament regarding how we should treat one another, especially those who are less fortunate than ourselves. There are things in the old testament that do not apply to us such as the sacrifices and ordinances of worship. Yet there are instructions which are as true today as they were to the nation of Israel. Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan and that I should love my neighbour as my self in Luke 10:27-37. Leviticus 19:9-18 also instructs us regarding the way we should treat others and in verse 18 quotes the same scripture as Jesus did: "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD," (Lev 19:18, NIV).

7. "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you," (Phil 4:8-9, NIV).

8. Which of us can dispute the role of the ten commandments in our life and Christian walk today?

It may seem I have strayed away from the subject of the royal priesthood, however it is a high and holy calling and only the 'called, chosen and faithful' will be counted worthy to wear the priestly garments. Every blood washed child of God has been called out of the world to the royal priesthood and are chosen to bear the family likeness of our elder brother Jesus. To bear the priestly office, however, requires faithfulness in every aspect of our life. Faithful to minister in the office of the priesthood, faithful to walk a holy life and faithful to bear the needs of the body of Christ.

The priestly garments are abundant with type and shadow which pertain to our royal priesthood. "Awake, awake,

put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean," (Isa 52:1, KJV). The garments of the high priest were beautiful, resplendent with colors of gold (deity), blue (of the heavenly), Purple (royalty) and scarlet (sacrifice or blood of redemption). They were made of linen which speaks of the righteousness of the saints. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints," (Rev 19:7-8, KJV). One thing that seems to stand out is that the garments of the priest were put on in a certain order and God is a God of order. Moses was told to build the tabernacle according to the pattern (Heb 8:5) and Solomon's temple was also built according to the pattern (1 Ch. 28:11-12). God's building today, the church, is also being built according to the pattern (Eph. 4:11-16) with Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner or capstone (Eph 2:20).

Linen garments

The under garments of the priest were, first of all, linen breeches from the loins to the thighs to cover the nakedness of the priest. This speaks of modesty both in their attire and actions. On top of this he wore a long linen coat reaching from the shoulders to his feet. These were called the white linen garments. His flesh was completely covered, speaking of the righteousness of God which covers our sinful nature (flesh). The flesh is the carnal nature which we were born with that separates us from fellowship with God. We were born in sin and shapen in iniquity, and until the glorious light of salvation shone into our hearts, when we accepted Jesus as our Savior, we lived and walked in darkness. When we accepted the Lord our spirit was quickened and made alive and we received a new nature but the old carnal nature was still alive within us. The apostle Paul was painfully aware of this as he wrote; "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members," (Rom 7:22-23, KJV).

In Psalm 133, the holy anointing oil was poured on Aaron and flowed down his robes, none of it touching his flesh.

At the ordination of Aaron and his sons, Moses washed them with water in the laver and then began to dress them in the garments of the priest. He anointed them, as well as everything in the tabernacle, with the holy anointing oil. (Lev 8:3-12) "And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office. And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations. Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make any other like it, after the composition of it: it is holy, and it shall be holy unto you," (Ex 30:30-32, KJV). God will not anoint the flesh, therefore the linen garments were first placed on the priests so that they could be anointed to minister. This is a type of our baptism; not that we clean up the flesh but rather that we enter into the death and resurrection of our Lord. "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life," (Rom 6:3-4, NIV). In a manner of speaking we are putting on the garments of righteousness as we follow the Lord into baptism. We are being clothed upon with imparted righteousness. We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive unto God. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God," (Rom 6:11-13, KJV). "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life," (2 Cor 5:2-4, KJV). He must increase while we must

decrease (John 3:30, KJV). As royal priests, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory," (Col 3:1-4, NIV).

Robe of the Ephod

On top of the white linen garments was placed a blue seamless robe. This was a sleeveless robe of blue extending from the shoulders almost to the feet with golden bells interspersed with pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet on the hem. It was woven in one piece with a reinforced opening at the top through which the head passed. As the priest moved about in the Holy Place the bells would ring, signaling that the priest was ministering there. "Make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth, with an opening for the head in its center. There shall be a woven edge like a collar around this opening, so that it will not tear. Make pomegranates of blue, purple and scarlet yarn around the hem of the robe, with gold bells between them. The gold bells and the pomegranates are to alternate around the hem of the robe. The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he will not die," (Ex. 20:31-35, NIV). The robe was blue in color, a type of heavenly service. It was seamless reminding us of the seamless robe that Jesus our High Priest wore. The tinkling bells were heard by the people when the priest was in the holy place ministering and they knew the sacrifice was accepted. The pomegranates speak of being fruitful in ministering and in our Christian life.

Ephod

The ephod was a sleeveless vest or tunic composed of separate front and back pieces joined with golden clasps at the shoulders. It was made of linen with gold, blue, purple and scarlet thread woven into it. On the shoulders were placed ouches of gold, or settings for two onyx stones. On these stones were engraved the names of the Children of Israel, six on one stone and six on the other. The high priest was to bear these stones on his shoulders as a memorial before the Lord typifying that he bore

the weight of the Children of Israel upon his shoulders.

Girdle of the Ephod

The girdle, or sash, was tied around the waist and made of the same material and colors as the ephod. Its purpose was to hold the two parts of the ephod together. It was rumored that to be girded with the sash meant that the priest was girded for service and ready to minister.

Breastplate

Over the ephod the High Priest wore a breastplate that was doubled to form a square. It was made of the same material as the ephod. It was fastened at the top to the shoulders of the ephod with braided golden chains which were attached to golden rings on the breastplate. The bottom sides of the breastplate were fastened to the ephod with blue cords. On the front of the breastplate were fastened twelve precious stones in four rows of three. On each stone was engraved the name of one of the tribes of Israel. Refer to (Ex 28:15-28). "Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD," (Ex 28:29, NIV). The High Priest carried the weight of the people on his shoulders and upon his heart. He bore their burdens and carried their needs upon his heart. Our Great High Priest does this continually for us. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted," (Isa 53:4).

Urim and Thummin

These were stones placed in the breastplate which was called the breastplate of judgement. Possibly it was doubled under to form a pocket as a place to keep the Urim and Thummin. The meaning of the Urim is lights while Thummin means perfections. They were given as stones of guidance. The priest would consult them for Divine guidance as to the will of God.

We know the Urim and Thummin were used to seek God's Divine guidance but it is not recorded in scripture the way in which they were used. As we have seen, however, each part of the high priests garments had a spiritual significance and so it was with the Urim and Thummin. They consisted of two stones, speaking of the dual ministry of Christ and the Divine guidance we receive from the Holy Spirit in

every facet of our spiritual walk. They are type of Christ, being called lights and perfections. The Urim speaking of Christ as the light of the world and the light of our salvation and Thummin as type of our perfection in Christ. Even as the high priest consulted the Urim and Thummin for guidance, we are able to come to the Lord for guidance in our Christian walk. As I have quoted before. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and unbraideth not; and it shall be given him," (James 1:5, KJV). We receive guidance as we are led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14). As our minds are renewed our thinking is transformed and we walk according to the dictates of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:2). In the economy of Israel the high priest was the only one that was able to consult the Urim and Thummin. Now as kings and priests we have received the right to have the light of the Urim and to enter into perfection of the Thummin, going forth into the Holy of Holies to minister in the sanctuary.

Mitre

This was a turban of fine linen which adorned the High Priest's head. Attached to the mitre by a blue cord was a golden plate engraved with "Holiness to the Lord". This speaks to me of the mind being clothed with righteousness and holiness to the Lord.

The Day of Atonement

On the tenth day of the seventh month the High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the sacrifice to atone for the sins of himself and the people. "Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people," (Heb 9:6-7, KJV) On the day of atonement, when entering the Holy of Holies, he did not wear the aforementioned glorious priestly garments but wore holy linen garments sometimes known as garments of service. He entered the Holy of Holies with garments that spoke of humbleness. He humbled himself when he came into God's presence in contrition of spirit, not only bringing the blood of the sacrifice to atone for sins but also with sorrow of heart for the sins of the people. "He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen under-

garments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on," (Lev 16:4, NASU). He took the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkled it on the mercy seat and made atonement for the people. "He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the cast side; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness. There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel," (Lev. 16:14-18, NKJV). After he had taken the blood of the sacrifices into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled it on the mercy seat he came out and took off the holy linen garments, washed his body and dressed in the glorious priestly garments. "Then Aaron is to go into the Tent of Meeting and take off the linen garments he put on before he entered the Most Holy Place, and he is to leave them there. He shall bathe himself with water in a holy place and put on his regular garments. Then he shall come out and sacrifice the burnt offering for himself and the burnt offering for the people, to make atonement for himself and for all the people," (Lev 16:23-24, NIV).

Levites

God ordained the tribe of Levi to be the priestly tribe. They fell into three categories. 1. Levites, which labored in the service of the tabernacle, such as setting up and taking down. 2. Priests which ministered in the tabernacle preparing sacrifices and carrying the holy articles when they moved, such as carrying the Ark of the Covenant over the Jordan river into the promised land. 3. The High Priest was ordained to be

responsible for the tabernacle, its daily offerings and functions, and its regular feasts which were held three times a year. These feasts include Passover, Pentecost, the Day of Atonement which was followed by the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev 23). The special function of the High Priest was performed on the Day of Atonement when he took the blood of the sacrifice into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of Israel. This speaks to me of the body of Christ each functioning in his respective ministry. "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love," (Eph 4:16, NKJV)

Melchizedek Priesthood

"Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever," (Heb 7:1-3, NTV). Melchizedek lived in the days of Abram long before the Levitical Priesthood was instituted. He was a king and priest of the most high God, therefore a Royal Priest. He had neither beginning of days nor end of life; therefore an eternal priest. He did not have mother or father so his lineage was not of the natural realm. We also are strangers and foreigners to the realm (Eph 2:19) and are citizens of the heavenly realm. He was in the likeness of the Son of God. "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers," (Rom 8:20, NIV). He collected tithes from Abram; the greater received tithes from the lesser (Heb 7:7). The Levitical priesthood could not bring eternal redemption, they could only take the sacrifice into the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement for the people. They would have to do it again and again year after year. "If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come-one in the

order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?" (Heb 7:11, NIV) Another priesthood was needed because the blood of bull and goats could never bring eternal redemption. "Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption," (Heb 9:11-12, NKJV).

There has been much speculation as to who Melchizedek was. Some have thought he was Christ while others have thought he was an angelic being. Actually there is no firm explanation in scripture as to who he was. It does say, however, that he was like the Son of God. Hebrews 7:17 says that Christ was a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. His was an eternal priesthood. He entered into a heavenly tabernacle not with the blood of bulls and goats but with His own blood. "Christ came as high Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption," (Heb 9:11-12, NKJV).

"The Lord swears and will to repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better treatment," (Heb 7:21-22, KJV). The priesthood of Christ was an eternal priesthood, He was without beginning of days or end of life according to His Divine genealogy. He obtained eternal redemption for mankind with his own blood. He was, therefore, a priest forever after the order Melchizedek. Even as Christ was of the priestly order of Melchizedek, we are... "to be conformed to the image of His Son," (Rom 8:29). It follows then that Christ was of the order of Melchizedek and we are to be conformed to His image that we are also to be partakers of the order of Melchizedek. Not that we are partakers in the fullest sense of the word but we are growing up into that priesthood. "Till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a full grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of

Christ... We may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, (even) Christ;" (Eph 4:13,15, ASV).

The Lord has made us heirs of a kingdom that shall never pass away. "Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High, His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him," (Dan 7:27, NIV). Daniel 2 tells of a dream that Nebuchadnezzar had and could not remember. In the dream the Lord revealed to him the different nations that would rule the earth and what would happen in the last days. In the last days there would be nations that were mixed like iron and clay and could not be bonded together. Is that not a picture of the nations of the earth today, some weak, some strong and at odds with one another? "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands - a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces," (Dan 2:44-45, NIV). In the same dream Nebuchadnezzar saw a stone cut out from a mountain that grew and filled the whole earth. Praise God! There is a people who may not be great in number, may not be of much account, may seem to be bereft of power, who though seemingly are of little value, but they are growing in strength and in power until they shall fill the whole earth. "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea," (Hab 2:14, KJV).

The saints of the Most High God will not just inhabit the kingdom but will be administrators of that kingdom. "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-to him be glory and power for ever and ever!" (Rev 1:5-6, NIV). Amen! These are Royal Priests "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth," (Rev 5:10, NIV). "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, NIV) "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away," (Rev 21:4, KJV). "There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever," (Rev 22:5, NIV). Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven" (Matt. 6:10). That prayer has been prayed around the world for almost 2000 years and I have no doubt that God will answer that prayer. I believe we are living in the age of its fulfillment. God will bring the kingdom to birth in the earth and he will have "A glorious church with out spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:27).

'It is time for the Saints to take the kingdom'. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." (Rom 13:11-12, KJV). To study the historical garments of the Levitical priesthood, unless it is enlightened by the Holy Spirit, is just information and information without action is of very little value. I have tired to emphasize the spiritual type and shadow that these garments represent. We need to prayerfully consider them so we can apply their meaning to our lives. "Not hearers only but doers of the word," (James 1:22-25, KJV). To refresh our minds I would like to go over the priestly garments again. The linen breeches and coat speak of holiness, the robe is a type of our ministering, while the Ephod and sash speak of us being girded to minister. The engraved stones with the tribes of Israel upon the shoulders of the Ephod are a type of carrying the burden of the people upon the shoulders. The breastplate carried 12 stones engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel and points to the fact that the priest also carried the needs of the people upon his heart. The shoulders to bear and the heart to care was a very

important part of the High Priests ministry. Tucked inside the breastplate was the Urim and Thummin, or stones of guidance, which the priest could consult for the direction of God in a matter. This tells me that I should always be seeking God for direction in all things. The linen head-piece speaks about righteousness and being transformed by the renewing of our minds. The golden plate which adorned the linen turban was engraved with 'Holiness to the Lord' which is that which should be on our minds at all times.

Before Israel was delivered from Egypt they spent four hundred and thirty years immersed in Egyptian culture. They were delivered from Egypt but Egypt was not delivered from them. Many of them still lusted for the things of Egypt. "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting; and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, the garlick," (Num 11:4-5, KJV). There was a longing for the food of Egypt but what was worse, there was a longing for the gods of Egypt. This was evident at the time Moses was in the mountain receiving the ten commandments. While he was there, the people took their gold earrings and asked Aaron to make gods to lead them. He made a golden calf which was in the image of one of the gods of Egypt (Ex 32:4). God called them a stiff necked people. He knew this would be a temptation to them many times. He gave them ten commandments, the first of which was; "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto me any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:" (Ex. 20:3-4, LKV). They broke the commandment almost at the same time it was being written and human nature, being what it is, things have not changed all that much.

What does this mean for us? Egypt is a type of the world and Israel's deliverance from Egypt is a type of our deliverance from the world. Even though we have been delivered there is still a temptation at times for the pleasures of the world. God is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able. "No temptation has

seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it," (1 Cor. 10:13, NIV). The time must come that we put off the robes of this world and leave these things behind, "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, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them," (Col 3:5-7, NKJV).

When the High Priest was not in his priestly garments he was dressed the same as everyone else. His anointing and spiritual authority was upon him only when he was clothed upon with the priestly garments. He had to put off his regular clothes, bathe and put on the priestly garments. It was then that he was able to minister in the sanctuary. Let us also put off the garments of the flesh, the garments that are soiled with the ways of this world; "But now you yourselves are to put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds," (Col 3:8-9, NKJV) Even though we are delivered from Egypt some of the ways of Egypt are still not delivered from us. We get angry. Offence and bitterness rise up within us. In the place where unity and love should flourish the tares and weeds of strife and bitterness grow. "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where caving and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work," (James 3:14-16, KJV). These garments of the world are a great hindrance to our priestly walk and the time must come when we take them off, put on the royal garments and enter into the office of the Royal Priesthood. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in

perfect unity," (Col 3:12-14, NIV). "Now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. For you have striped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you" (Col 3:7-10, NLT).

The time is at hand for us to put on the holy garments of the Royal Priesthood, having put off the garments of this world, being washed and anointed that we might enter into the Holy Place and minister in the sanctuary. "Besides this you know what [a critical] hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality). For salvation (final deliverance) is nearer to us now than when we first believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ, the Messiah). The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop (fling away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light," (Rom. 13:11-12, AMP). The whole creation is now in travail waiting for final deliverance to come. "In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has prepared for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it is blind, but because in God's purpose it has been so limited - yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God," (Rom 8 18-21, Phillips).

In the end of the age there will come a call from the realms of glory: "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints," (Rev 19:6-8, NKJV). Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. The Lord God Omnipotent reigns. Let us cast off the works of darkness and be arrayed with the Holy Priestly garments. The veil of the temple has been

rent in two and the way into the Holy of Holies is open. We have been given the unspeakable honor of ministering in the very presence of God. "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God, and I will write upon him my new name," (Rev 3:12, KJV). We are, at times, so close to the eternal realm that the veil which separates us

from that eternal realm is almost transparent and we can sense its glories. Then the reality of the world and the carnal nature begin to blur our vision and we find ourselves once again outside of the Holy Place. The Time is at hand that we shall enter into the realm and **never come out**. Praise God! "It is plain too, that we who have a foretaste of the Spirit are in a state of painful tension, while we wait for that redemption of our bodies which will mean that at last we have realized our full sonship in Him," (Rom 8:23, Phillips). "Blessed

are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. **The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'** And let him who hears say, '**Come!**' **Whoever is thirsty, let him come;** and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life," (Rev 22:14, 17, NIV). The promise is sure, the way is open. Let us clothe ourselves in the Holy Royal robes of the Royal Priesthood and go forth into the Holy of Holies bearing the needs of creation before the Lord.

Communication With God

By Bernard James

Miracles of the modern world's communication systems astound our imagination. Years ago when Alexander Bell invented and introduced the telephone, he was considered a wizard. But he only scratched the surface of what today has been one of the wonders of our age. He found the human voice could be transmitted over wire. Since that eventful day men have, by experimentation, discovered other channels through which messages can be sent to the far corners of the Earth. Without these existing channels in the air, provided by an all-wise Creator, men's efforts would fall to the ground.

How easy then, for God to also have established spiritual channels whereby He can communicate with man and man with Him. Through prayer and the gift of the Holy Spirit, given after the creation of man and more fully extended at Pentecost, men everywhere can now commune with their Heavenly Father. Genesis 4:26 reads, "...then began men to call upon the Name of the Lord." We must come to believe in God in order to call on Him. Many times one calls on God but in vain. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He (God) is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." We cannot expect to shut God out of our lives and still call upon Him for help. This communication door must remain open at all times: God with man and man with God. (When I say *man*, please forgive me. I am not just talking about man alone, but the whole of human race.) Matthew 6:6 tells us something wonderful here. It reads, "When thou prayest, enter into thy

closet, and when thou hast shut the door..." You see, I said earlier the communication door must remain open. This is a very simple thing to understand. When communicating with our Heavenly Father, that is, when we are alone, enter into the closet, and when we have shut the door we then pray to our Father which seeth in secret. This is you and God, or may I say, we enter the secret chamber and we call upon God and we listen to Him. We have entered the closet to commune with our Father in secret. Yes, with no one else. There is a song whose words go like this "I must tell Jesus." This is the time we must tell Jesus Christ everything. My friends, not in the public places, but in the closet. Not with the door open, but shut. Back to Matthew 6:6: "...and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Please let us not underestimate our Father. Whatever He says He will do, it will be done. Let us believe in His word and He will do just as He says. Oh Praise God!

Sometimes we refuse to listen, even to God. We want to do all the talking and have Him listen. When the time has come for us to stop and listen, we refuse to. We must remember, this is not a one-way street, but a two-way street: God with man and man with God. Psalms 46:10 tells us to "be still and know that I am God." It pays to listen. The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 33 verse 3: "Call unto Me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah has that communication door open. That's why the Lord was able to speak those wonderful words to him.

Praise God! We must be as He wants us to be so that He can say the same to us as He did to Jeremiah, Moses, and all the other men of old. Acts 2:21 says, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Hebrews 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

What is Prayer?

We must note that prayer is a humble entreaty of the heart's desires directed to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ. Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, for without it, we die spiritually. Prayer is the opening of ourselves before a loving Heavenly Father in heaven. It is the breathing, the panting of the Spirit after God. Psalms 42:1 says, "As the hart (deer) panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Prayer is the tuning in on the love, the mercy and the goodness of Him to whom we owe our very life and being. Prayer is not only asking of God but it is also returning thanks and praises for what He has already done. Often, we should out of gratitude, kneel and thank the Lord for blessings received. Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God at midnight in jail. Forgetting their immediate plight in the inner prison with their feet in stocks, they prayed and praised Him who was the Author of their salvation.

Prayer is adoration and thanksgiving to God who loved us: even sending Jesus to die on the cross. "We love Him, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). We must love Him in spirit and in truth for what he has done for us. John 3:16 says, "For

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." When we view God through His magnificent creation, the awesome universe, and the grandeur and beauty of nature, we should see ourselves as poor, wretched and helpless creatures before Him. We are solely dependent on His love and mercy. Of ourselves we cannot cope with the problems of life. James 1:5 tells us "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God..." Not of man but ask of God. Hallelujah! Praise God!

Why Do We Pray?

Believe this: as our physical bodies are sustained by breathing in pure air and exhaling the foul air, likewise our spiritual life is sustained only by the breath of prayer to a mighty God and Father in heaven. The basis of much failure today is the lack of prayer. Our very nature is adverse to prayer. We need to pray to God for a deeper desire to prayer. We need to, like the disciples in Luke 11:1, cry out, "Lord, teach us to pray!" To come out victorious in the battles of life, we need to pray earnestly for light, for strength, and for more faith. Often our eyes are closed to the truths of God, so we need to pray: "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalms 119:18). Lest our feet are turned aside to evil ways we need to pray. Psalms 119:133: "Order my steps in Thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me." Since Satan magnifies the mistakes and the failures of others we need to pray for eye salve to see the good. Above all, we need to pray for endurance. Matthew 24:13, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

How To Pray

James 5:16, "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." We must pray earnestly, soberly and in all humility. Yet we are to come boldly before God. I quoted earlier Hebrews 4:16. It is important to note here what Paul is saying. "Let us therefore come (not with fear, but) boldly unto the throne of grace..." For what? "...that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need." That's right, in time of need we would find grace to help. Amen. Praise God!

Jesus richly teaches on prayer. We are not to make a show of it, standing to be seen of men. We are not to make vain repetitions, thinking we shall be heard for long drawn-out prayer. Read Matthew 6:5-13.

We must come to the Lord in faith, believing and trusting Him completely. Often we feel a lack here and are prone to cry out, "Help thou mine unbelief." (Mark 9:24) The Lord has made a provision for our weak faith. If we read and study His work with the intention to hear and to obey, we will be strengthened in faith. Romans 10:17 tells us "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

We need a deeper knowledge and acquaintance with our Heavenly Father. God talks to us daily. Have we closed our ears? Have we shut our eyes? We have faith in people we really know. We like to be together with them. Well, by abiding in the Lord, by communicating with Him, we will get better acquainted with Him. Praise His Holy Name! Jesus tells us in His word in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my word abides in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

What are the obstructions when we fail to get an answer to prayer? Ps. 66:18 says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." This is a block to our successful prayer life.

Another one is an unforgiving spirit. We cannot seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness with an unforgiving spirit and expect all this to be added unto us. Matthew 6:15 spells it out plainly: "But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." There are so many things that can hinder our prayers, but I pray that God will open our hearts, eyes, and ears so that we will become what He wants us to be. Some of us have often failed to listen when God speaks to us through His word, a neighbour, a brother or parents. We also fail to get answers to our prayers because we were not listening. Jesus said in Matthew 11:15, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Finally my brethren, may we open the gates to a blessed prayer life. God's resources are limitless. He who fashioned the world and provides everything for the whole universe is ready and willing to give us just what we need both materially and spiritually. Sometimes we become discouraged, but prayer is the answer. Notice how dry and wilted flowers lift their heads after a welcome shower of rain. See the parched and thirsty ground absorb the needed shower and take a different hue. Let us put ourselves in place so that God can shower us with His love and power and may we keep that communication door open so that in the end we will realize we have not run in vain. May God bless us all, in Jesus Name. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to share on this subject.

In Praise Of God

By A.V. York

Taken from a message by Albert York: I'd like you to turn in your Bibles to Isaiah 66:1-2, NKJV: "Thus says the Lord: Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist, saith the Lord. But on this one will I look:

On Him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word." Mankind is looking at all the things that he can do, but failing to look at all the things God is doing. Here we have, by the mouth of the prophet, a very clear guideline: "On this one will I look: On Him who is poor and of a contrite spirit."

Dear Lord, please look on me.

Dear Lord, help me to see who I am and who You are. Help me, oh Lord, not to look on things as man looks on them, but help me Lord to look on things as you look on them. Help me, Lord, to open my heart, that my spirit might be contrite before you; that I may not be rich in my own knowledge, but poor enough to receive yours. Help me, Lord, to see beyond

the veil of the flesh, and realize, day by day, that you are in charge. Hear my prayer, Oh God, this day. Let my heart fulfill your will. Let my soul respond to all the glory of the coming ages, that my hearing might be the hearing of the spirit; that my seeing might be the seeing of the glory of the coming things that you've prepared for those who love you. I love you, Oh Lord, with the best that I know how. But Lord, help me to love you more, that I might love you better. I need that contrition that you are looking for in me. For on me, you've set your spirit in a measure. But my heart desires that it might know more and more of the glory of that Holy Spirit that sanctifies and sets apart your people for yourself. Amen.

Isaiah 57:15-19, NKJV: "For thus says the High and Lofty Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit..." All the strife in this age will disappear when He comes. Oh, you say, 'Can God find enough contrite and humble souls to put His Spirit in?' His Spirit shall bring the judgements that He has set from the beginning upon man, so that man will have no other choice but to say He is Lord. "...to revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend forever, nor will I always be angry; for the spirit would fail before Me, and the souls which I have made. For the iniquity of his covetousness I was angry and struck him; I hid and was angry, And he went on backsliding in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, and I will heal him;..." Oh, what words of divine power. "...I will also lead him, And restore comforts to him and to his mourners. I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near, says the Lord, And I will heal him."

Anything I could say is but little compared to what God is saying here. He is the one who is in charge. He is the one that knows everything about everything, and knows everything about my heart and about yours, and about the heart of every other man and woman in the world. I might draw your attention to verse sixteen:

"For the spirit would fail before me, and the souls which I have made." You are the making of the Lord. May the Dear Lord help me, and may the Dear Lord help you, to realize that as members one of another, we are the souls that He has made for one another, and for His glory, and for the fruit that He desires — even the fruit of praise from our lips.

"For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come," (Hebrews 13:14, NKJV). You may live in any city in Canada, or the United States, or any other country in the world, but it's only temporary. My home, as a boy, was just a shack. For part of my life, five adults lived in 321 square feet of space. It was just a settler's shack with two additions to it, to make the 321 square feet. And it wasn't until I left home that they started to add a little bit to the shack from an old house that they tore down. My, when I came home, I thought, "This is just marvellous to have this much room; 600 and some square feet." Then, after wandering from one place to the other in the years before the Move of the Spirit with no place to call our home, I started to build the castle of 960 square feet. My, that was really wonderful. But it's shabby compared to that glory of the heavenly home.

"For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name," (Hebrews 13:14-15, NKJV). Let us once in a while? Sunday morning? Maybe a little at prayer meeting offer the sacrifices of praise to God? What does it say? Continually. Continually. "By Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God...giving thanks to His name." I Thessalonians 5:18, KJV: "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." And me.

People spend years in monasteries trying to figure things out with the natural mind. But God has given instruction how the heart should respond to His name, and we can live a whole lifetime learning how to continually give thanks to God, which is the fruit of our lips. Amen? Hallelu-

jah.

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord..." Lord, you said it. Amen. "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation..." (Isaiah 61:10, NKJV). Now, it's not very often that my wife says, "So-and-so had such-and-such on for clothing." I wouldn't know. I never pay any attention to that. But, you know, everybody will notice this clothing — this garment of salvation. It will teach us to be joyful in our spirit before the Lord. I'm as big a sinner as any of you when it comes to a long face. But what does it say? "My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness..." (Isaiah 61:10, NKJV). Glory to God! You think you are dressed up? Not until this happens. Hallelujah! "As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations," (Isaiah 61:10-11, NKJV). Amen! My, oh my, what a plan God has. What a plan He has. Oh, glory to God! Oh, what a plan!

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God..." (II Corinthians 3:5). That intercession is our sufficiency from God. That prophecy is our sufficiency from God. That kind deed is our sufficiency from God. That word of encouragement is our sufficiency from God. "...who also made us sufficient as ministers (or ministries) of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life," (II Corinthians 3:6, NKJV). Who is making you? God Himself by His Spirit. Who is changing you? God Himself by His Spirit. He is making you that ministry of the new covenant, and the new covenant is that He will walk in you and dwell in you. Not the old letter, but the new covenant, which is Jesus dwelling in you and walking in you. I need that suffi-

ciency. You pray for me. You need that sufficiency. I will pray for you.

The covenant of the Spirit is the covenant of the Almighty God who changes everything. The natural man doesn't receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. Neither can he know them. This wonderful book, the Bible, is being studied in theological colleges all over the world, and it only divides man one from the other, because every man interprets it according to his own ideas. But what does the Spirit do? It gives life and unity and makes us able ministries of the Spirit! Able ministries of the Spirit. Figuring things out with our head will lead us astray. We can use our head if our heart is in tune with God. But if our heart is not in tune with the Spirit of God, then our head is going to lead us astray. The endless flow of the life-giving power of the living God is beyond our understanding in our head, but it is not beyond our heart, believing that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Matt. 6:33).

He tucked this scripture into my heart right now, and that's the one where He was talking to the woman at the well. John 4:5-10, NKJV: "So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the six hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give me a drink. For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans."

"Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." His body was thirsty, but His heart and soul, Hallelujah, had the words of eternal life and He came straightforward and revealed to her who He was. V.11: "The woman said to Him, Sir you have

nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do you get that living water?" My, my. Just like all of humanity: depending on the natural for the heavenly; depending on the natural water for the spiritual. V. 12-14: "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well and his sons and his livestock? Jesus answered and said to her, Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again..." Since I came up here, I took two sips from this glass of water. Why? I needed it for the frame in which I live. For this body, I'll take another one. But you get the point. "...but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life," Stand and sing: "Spring up Oh well within my soul." Springing up! Hallelujah.

"The woman said to Him: Sir, give me this water that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw," (John 4:15, NKJV). Well, she didn't get the point yet and many Christians don't get the point either. It is wonderful to be saved; wonderful to have our sins forgiven; wonderful even to be able to commune with God in the unknown tongue. But, we still want to depend on our natural mind to figure things out. I've had to repent of my natural mind more than any other thing in all my life. Maybe this just comes to mind for some purpose, but I spent 10 years in the denomination, three of them in a Bible college. It was rather unique in the sense that they let the students wait on God if the Spirit started to move in the class. Different than most. But, when the move of the Spirit came, I had to unlearn so many things, that many times, I didn't know which was which and what was what. Why? Because I was figuring it out with my natural mind. So, I've coined the phrase: "Much of what I learned about dispensational truths, the pre-coming of the Lord before the tribulation, or the post-coming of the Lord after the tribulation, and all of that theology, God condensed in the move of the Spirit, into my heart." Now I understand that He'll do it. He'll send His Son to come again, when He so chooses, and I don't have to worry about it. I don't have to know every-

thing about it. But He does say that when all the conditions that are in the world right now — wars and rumours of wars, etc. — that I am to look up, for my redemption is drawing nigh!

"Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." I feel for Christians who are drawing on the natural mind and figuring out things with the natural mind. Jesus knew how to change this. "Jesus said to her, Go, call your husband, and come here." A little insight into her life. "The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said to her, You have well said, I have no husband, for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly. The woman said to Him, Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." The old figuring it out with the natural mind. "Jesus said to her, Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit..." *God is Spirit*. He is not a wooden tree. He is not a stone. Or any of the other idols. He's not gold. He's not any of the things of this age or of this earth. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth," (John 4:16-24, NKJV). That's what the last 56 years have been about. Learning to worship Him in Spirit.

"The woman said to him, I know that Messiah is coming who is called Christ. When He comes, He will tell us all things. Jesus said to her, I, who speak to you, am He," (John 4:25-26, NKJV). Does the Lord speak to you? Is He speaking to you? He's your teacher. He's my teacher. He has given us the safety of the body, His Church, and the five-fold ministries. The glorious understanding of this being led by the Spirit is beyond human reasoning. We must, as He said in Hebrews, give Him "the fruit of our lips, giving thanks continually" (Hebrews 13:15). God bless you.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Feast North Battleford March 24-27, 2005
 Illinois Gathering (King's House) ... April 29, 30, May 1, 2005
 Camp North Battleford July 2-10, 2005
 Caribbean Camp 2005 August 1-12, 2005

King's House Retreat Center, Henry, IL

APRIL 29, 30, MAY 1, 2005

King's House, site of the gathering, is located in the town of Henry IL. From I 80 go south on 180 which runs into S 29. Follow S 29 to E 18 in Henry, from E 18 turn north on RT26 and watch for the Global Mission signs. From I 74 take 116 east to Rt. 26 in East Peoria. Go north on Rt. 26 to Henry IL and watch for Global Mission signs. We will begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday after lunch. Room price includes room with private bath, linens, meals and meeting rooms. We will collect from individuals at the retreat.

CHARGES FOR ROOM & BOARD:
 Age 0 - 3..... No Charge
 Age 4 - 12..... \$25
 Age 13 - Adult . \$90

SEND RESERVATIONS, BY APRIL 18, TO:
 Randall G. Snoke,
 128 Tanglewood Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611
 Phone - (306) 694-7048, e-mail- rgsnoke@juno.com

PRAYER & FASTING

The Brethren have called for a week of Prayer and Fasting. **THE DATE WILL BE JUNE 5TH TO JUNE 11TH, 2005.**

This will give you ample time to prepare yourself for that period.

Bro. Frank Paterson wrote an article on Fasting in the March/April 2004 issue of the Sharon Star. Bro. Ewald Wanagas also wrote on Prayer and Fasting in the March/April 2002 issue. It would be good for you to locate these "Stars" and review. The 2004 article can read on line at www.thesharonstar.org

DAVID LUFF was set as a TRAVELLING DEACON in July, 2004

David Luff
 348 Bowman Creek Road
 Blountville, TN
 USA 37617
 Phone: 423-323-9485
 Email: dwluff@juno.com

RESERVATION FORM FOR CAMP 2005	Cut out and mail
Please fill in ALL information and cut out and mail to the following address: ROOM RESERVATIONS, Sharon Children's Homes and Schools, Box 878, North Battleford, Sask., S9A 2Z3. Mail as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend, please cancel your reservation, otherwise we will have to charge you for the room held open for you. YOU MUST RESERVE your room, we cannot hold accommodation without you supplying us with the information outlined in the blank application. You will NOT receive written confirmation from us UNLESS we cannot supply your requirements. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated and helpful. THANK YOU.	Name _____
	Address _____
	Adults: Male _____ Female _____
	Children: Male _____ Female _____
	Age _____ Age _____
	Date of Arrival _____
	Date of Departure _____

Caribbean Camp 2005

The name and location of the Camp site is as follows.

"THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO URBAN MINISTRIES RETREAT CENTRE"

#6 Mohepath Street, St. Helena, Piarco, Trinidad

This is about ten minutes away from the airport. The camp fees are approximately US \$46.00 per person for the duration of the camp including the youth camp.

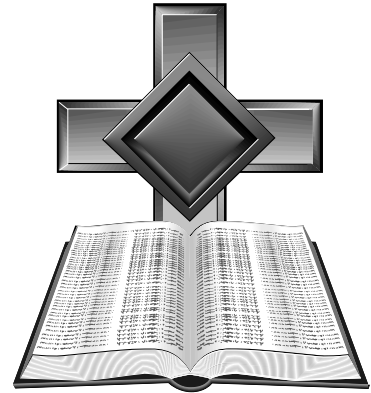
The date of arrival and commencement of camp is Monday, August 1, 2005 and will continue to August 12, 2005. It should be noted that the general camp ends on Sunday, August 7th and the youth camp commences on Tuesday, August 9th, 2005, concluding on Thursday night, August 11, 2005, with departure from the camp site on the morning of August 12, 2005. This will be our first Caribbean youth camp and we are extending an invitation to the youth; come and be with us here in Trinidad to experience together His wonderful presence and flow of the Holy Spirit.

Just in case you adults may feel a little jealous, you are also invited to attend our general camp, which I am sure will be a blessing to you. I am sure the youth would not mind if some of the adults would join them for their camp.

Any inquiries should be directed to:
craflew1@yahoo.com or gospelofthekingdom@yahoo.com

God bless you all.
In Christ, Crafton Lewis

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The writings of Herrick Holt.

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The writings of W. Douglas Whitter

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Station CBC.
Every Sunday morning
8:45 am - 9:15 am

ANTIGUA:

Sharon Gospel Hour.
Station ZDK.
Every Sunday morning
6:30 am - 7:00 am

TRINIDAD:

Inspiration Radio
Gospel of the Kingdom
Medium band 730 MHZ
Every Monday evening
9:30 pm - 10:00 pm

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You are Loved
Growing in Christ
Born from Above
Honor the Lord with thy substance
A word to the wise
Sexual Intimacy
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BOOKLETS available

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