



The Sharon Star

The Cross of Christ

By F.T. Paterson

The concept of eternity, that which always was and will never end, is mind - boggling to the finite mind. It is like looking at the evening sky and trying to count the stars. The stars we see are only a portion of the endless multitude of stars which are part of the boundless universe. From creation to the endless ages, God has set aside a period of time in eternity for man to inhabit. It is in this period of time that God is bringing forth a people after His nature to inhabit eternity. This was in God's mind when He said; "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground" (Gen 1:26, NIV). It was God's purpose that man would be raised to a place of authority and power, and that he would reveal God to the powers of the heavens. "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph 3:10-11, NIV). Enoch, Heb.11:5, Heb.7:1-3 and Elijah, 2 Kings 2:1 are

examples of those who, because of their faithfulness, were translated from this realm into the eternal realm before they died. They were strangers and pilgrims to this realm even as we are. They embraced the promises of God and looking diligently toward that eternal realm, entered in as an earnest of that promise before the time. There were others who desired to enter in also but God revealed to them that the time was not yet right. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Heb 11:13, KJV). Heb. 11 is an honor roll of the faithful who are now gathered with that great crowd of witnesses awaiting the promise to the faithful of entering into the fullness of the promise.

Time in eternity: the time in which God is restoring His creation to a place of full maturity. He has pulled back the curtains of eternity and revealed, through His Holy Word, the far reaching extent of redemption. From the first days of creation when the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters and brought order out of chaos, He

is again bringing forth a new heaven and a new earth where, by the moving of the Holy Spirit, a new order will come out of the chaos we now see all around us. "In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned 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 chooses to be 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). Genesis, the book of beginnings, begins with a curse brought on by the rebellion of man and, in Revelation, the last book of the Bible, the curse is removed. "No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 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 22:3-5, NIV). Oh! Praise God for His marvelous plan and purpose. It is far beyond our ability to comprehend its magnitude. “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he ‘has put everything under his feet.’ Now when it says that ‘everything’ has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all” (1 Cor 15:22-28, NIV).

The highest point of God’s creation was little better than a small hill on the natural landscape. Yet, in the Spirit, it was higher than the highest mountain in the spiritual realm. This was a hill called Mount Calvary. It was here that the Lord of Glory, Jesus Christ, hung on a wooden cross and purchased eternal redemption for us. There are different ideas as to the kind of cross that Jesus was crucified on. Some have thought that it was an upright with a cross piece nailed to it and the whole cross was placed in the ground. Others feel that it was just a cross piece which was attached to a upright which was placed in the ground beforehand. It is of little consequence which is right, for the emphasis is not on the cross itself but on the work of redemption that it accomplished. Throughout history there have been many that have been crucified. Alexander the Great is reported to have crucified two thousand citizens of Tyre.

During the conquest of Jerusalem, the Romans crucified a great number of Jews, placing their crosses around the walls of Jerusalem in plain view for everyone to see. The act of crucifixion was one of the cruelest deaths that can ever be imagined. It was reserved for the lowest of criminals. It was so cruel that it was not spoken about in normal conversation. After criminals were convicted they were led to the whipping post where they were scourged with a short whip that was composed of leather thongs tipped with bits of metal or bone. The act of scourging literally tore the flesh of their back into shreds and, as some have observed, it was in some ways an act of kindness for it weakened them so that they did not suffer as long when they were crucified. After the scourging, they were forced to carry the cross if they were able. The cross was thought to weigh about 100 pounds. They were then attached to the cross with nails through their wrists and either a block was provided to rest their feet on or their feet were nailed or tied to the cross. Death was agonizing and slow. With arms outstretched and in a weakened condition they could not support their weight and there was the tendency to sink down. When they did this they were not able to breathe so they would have to lift their body with their feet to breath. They actually died of suffocation. If they were still alive when it came time to remove them from the cross, their legs were broken so they could no longer breathe and death came quickly. I do not want to imply that when Jesus was crucified His physical suffering was more or less than the many others who have been crucified throughout history. The two criminals who were crucified with Him no doubt suffered as much as Jesus, but only the sacrifice of the only begotten Son of God brought redemption. He was the sinless Lamb of God,

God’s only Son, the true Passover Lamb. If we apply the blood to the lintel and door posts of our hearts, the death angel will pass over our hearts as he did so many years ago in Egypt. His crucifixion was unique in as much as He tasted death for every man: for kings and beggars, rich and poor, slave and free. He died the death of a criminal, the lowest of the low. God laid on Him the sins of the whole world and He cried out in anguish, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46, NKJV). To die on the cross identified Jesus with the death of a slave and a criminal. He bore the sins of all mankind from the least to the greatest. “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isa 53:12, KJV).

It is interesting to note that the cross is at the dividing point of law and grace. It is at this point that heaven and earth come together as an apex of God’s plan and purpose. On one side of the cross, the final sacrifice for sins was made, but on the other side, grace stretched out to eternity. As nails pierced the hands and feet of Jesus and He was lifted up on the cross, He fulfilled His words to Nicodemus “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15, NIV). On the one side of the cross, death appeared to be victorious, but on the other side, resurrection came forth, bringing the promise of eternal life to every man or woman who would accept it. “*Death can not keep its prey, Jesus my Saviour!*”

He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!”

On one side, blood stained the cross and flowed down to the

ground, washing away the sins of the world. On the other side, Isaiah reports: “he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa 53:5, KJV). On the blood-stained side, the work of redemption was finished when Jesus gave up the ghost and cried, “It is finished.” On the other side, the full work of redemption is still being accomplished. The last enemy to be destroyed is death (1 Cor 15:25-26). Our redemption is to the whole man-spirit, soul and body. When we give our hearts to the Lord, our spirits are quickened and made alive, “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;” (Eph 2:1, KJV). “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:” (Eph 2:5-6, KJV). Our life is changed. The things we loved no longer entice us the way they did before. We still battle with the desires of our carnal nature and find that we still, to some degree, are controlled by our lower nature. “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with,” (Rom 6:6, NIV). We have this promise; “Greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world.” The last enemy to be destroyed is death, and when this happens, it will mean that the complete man is redeemed; body, soul and spirit and we will have entered into full redemption.

The cross is the apex of all the ages; the one side pointing to where we have come from and the other side lighting a path which leads to the fullness of God’s blessing. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon one hundred and twenty souls and the church was established. Three thousand were added to the church on that day and the Lord

added daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:40). Not long after this, many of the church in Jerusalem were scattered throughout the land because of persecution and everywhere they went they testified about what God had done for them, thus fulfilling the great commission and the instruction of Jesus before Pentecost. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NIV). “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15-16, NKJV). From the focal point of the cross, God’s plan of salvation was set in motion and the gospel spread out to the nations around Jerusalem and it has been reported that two-thirds of the then-known world converted to Christianity. As the church grew there was an intense period of persecution. It was at this time many Christians met a cruel fate in the arenas of Rome, yet the church grew and flourished. It was then that the devil changed his tactics and made Christianity the state religion. Emperor Constantine, while preparing for a battle, supposedly had a vision of Christ and saw an image of the cross and was told that he would go forth and conquer with the cross as the standard he would carry into battle. He won the battle and accepted Christianity, making it the state religion along with many of the other pagan deities. Many others also converted to Christianity but there was some controversy as to whether every conversion was genuine or just the popular thing to do. The church then entered into the period we call the dark ages, lasting about one thousand years. There was a spiritual decline in the church with the ecclesiastical system of bishops and priests taking control of the church. The glory of the early church dimmed and would have been completely extinguished except that God

preserved a remnant of faithful saints to carry on by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Much of the revelation and glory of the early church was lost as the church went into decline. Persecution from within the church was directed at those who would not follow the direction of the hierarchy. It was a time of spiritual upheaval with many of the saints being put to death in cruel ways for not accepting the doctrines set out by the church leaders.

As the dark ages drew to a close, God began to restore to the church that which had been lost. It is beyond the scope of this writing to set out a complete account of the different moves of the Spirit which have been sent by God to restore revelation and truth to the church. The booklet “The Move of the Spirit of God,” which is available from the address in the Sharon Star, will give a more complete account of the moves of restoration. From the time of Martin Luther, when he proclaimed that the just shall live by faith, and the Anabaptist’s rejection of infant baptism, believer’s baptism was restored to the church. As mentioned before there have been many moves of restoration up to this present time. There are two moves of the Spirit which have had a great impact on the church: in 1906 the Pentecostal revival in Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California and in 1948 the Move of the Spirit in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. The Pentecostal movement stressed the baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I was born again in Pentecost in 1947, forty-one years after the revival and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. In 1949 I attended Sharon Bible School and have been part of the move of the Spirit ever since. The central theme of the move of the Spirit is the coming together of the body of Christ and receiving of the gifts of the Spirit with prophecy and laying

on of the hands of the presbytery. While the gifts of the Spirit have been in operation to a degree in many of the moves of the Spirit in the past, it was in 1948 that it was prophesied that “I shall restore my gifts to you. I shall indicate from time to time those who are ready to receive the gifts of My Spirit. They shall be received by prophecy and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” (An account of this can be found in the preface to the Feast of Tabernacles). Since that time, much truth has been restored regarding church order and the plan and purpose of God. The cross stands as a monument of righteousness to the world and from the day that Christ hung between heaven and earth on the Roman cross of torture and shame, it has never ceased to be the emblem of eternal salvation to sinful man.

“Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me’” (Matt 16:24, NLT). There is a cross for each of us to bear and though it be our cross, it is the cross of Christ. “And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross” (Matt 27:31-32, KJV). Simon was forced to bear the cross of Christ but the cross we bear is voluntary. It is laying aside our selfish ambitions and identifying with Christ rather than the world. Taking up the cross of Christ sanctifies and sets us apart from the world. It is the dividing point between the world and life in the Spirit. We are actually crucified with Christ to the world. When Israel left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, they left Egypt behind them. Egypt is a type of the world. They walked across the Red Sea on dry land and when Egypt tried to

follow them, the waters overflowed them. When we give our hearts to the Lord and take up the cross of Christ, our old life is defeated and we can walk in a new and victorious way. As in the words of the song, “I have decided to follow Jesus; The world behind me, the cross before me.” The world (Egypt) will still try to follow us to keep us in slavery but thank God the waters of the Spirit will defeat the enemy.

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin” (Rom 6:6, NIV).

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20, NIV).

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires” (Gal 5:24, NIV).

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Gal 6:14, NIV).

“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity” (Rom 12:2, Phillips).

Before we accept Christ we are identified with the world: “To you, who were spiritually dead all the time that you drifted along on the stream of this world’s ideas of living, and obeyed its unseen ruler (who is still operating in those who do not respond to the truth of God), to you Christ has given life! We all lived like that in the past, and followed the impulses and imaginations of our evil nature, being in fact under the wrath of God by nature, like everyone else” (Eph 2:1-3, Phillips). After accepting the work of the cross, we are no

longer identified with the world but are strangers and pilgrims to this earthly realm (1 Peter 2:11).

“We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body” (2 Cor 4:10-11, NIV). As Christians we carry about in our bodies the death of Christ because our old life hung on the cross with Him. “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin” (Rom 6:6-7, NIV). There were two parts to the passion of Jesus, His death and His resurrection. Because of the cross of Christ, we have not only been crucified with Christ and have been a partaker of His death, but also we have been raised up in newness of life being partakers of His resurrection. We are identified with Christ and because of this identification the world will hate us. “Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death” (1 John 3:13-14, KJV). “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” (John 15:18-19, KJV). As Christians, we have never had an easy time at the hands of the world. We are strangers and pilgrims to our former way of living. The world does not understand us and because we are different they abuse us. “You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship

of idols. Of course, your former friends are very surprised when you no longer join them in the wicked things they do, and they say evil things about you. (Peter 4:3-4, NLT). To bear the cross of Christ before the world is not a joyous experience, but is often a life of rejection and persecution by the world. The Bible exhorts us to rejoice when we are persecuted for righteousness sake; “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matt 5:10-12, NIV). This is all part of the threshing floor experience. The threshing floor was where the grain was separated from the chaff. I believe that is what God is doing now. He is putting us through the threshing experience to separate the grain from the chaff of our carnal nature. When the chaff is removed the pure grain comes forth; this is what God desires, the pure unadulterated grain of our lives. We could call this by different names; growing up into Christ, maturity, sonship, partakers of the Divine nature and possibly others. We have been crucified with Christ to the world and the world does not accept us, but it is through crucifixion that we are raised to newness of life and are made partakers of the Divine nature. “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20, NIV). To the natural man bearing the cross of Christ may not seem to be a very positive experience. To the spiritual man, seeing with the eyes of the Spirit, looking beyond the realm of change and decay, he sees the realm of the reality of the

glorious plan and purpose of God.

Though the world forsake us, the Lord never does. “I will never fail you. I will never forsake you.’ That is why we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper, so I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?’” (Heb 13:5-6, NLT). That is why the saints of old and even today, though harshly treated, gladly proclaim the message of salvation awaiting a better resurrection. “Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourging, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth” (Heb 11:35-38, KJV). These all faced their fate with faith and courage because they believed that God had promised them a better country. “All these faithful ones died without receiving what God had promised them, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed the promises of God. They agreed that they were no more than foreigners and nomads here on earth. And obviously people who talk like that are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had meant the country they came from, they would have found a way to go back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a heavenly city for them” (Heb 11:13-16, NLT). “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made

perfect” (Heb 11:39-40, KJV). Many of the saints of old saw beyond their day and even though they lived before Christ was crucified, God had revealed to them the glories of the cross of Christ. They believed the promises and are standing on tiptoe waiting, with that great cloud of witnesses of Hebrews twelve, for the fulfillment of those promises.

Though the world forsake us and the powers of hell assail us, they can never defeat the cross of Christ, which is a part of our Christian life. The cross is victorious in every aspect of our life. Our spiritual life is upheld by the cross and the life which we now live in the flesh we live by the faith of the Son of God (Gal. 2:20). Every promise in the Word of God was purchased for us by the death of Christ on the cross.

Every Promise in the book is mine,

Every chapter, every verse, every line,

I am trusting in His love Divine,

Every promise in the book is mine.

“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 forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (Ps 103:1-5, KJV). These promises were purchased on the cross. He forgives our sins, and He casts them into the sea of His forgetfulness never to be remembered against us anymore. “He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea” (Mic 7:19, KJV).

“He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by

nauling it to Christ's cross" (Col 2:14, NLT). This refers to the Roman system of incarceration in which the list of crimes were nailed to the prison door. When the sentence was completed the prisoner was set free and the list of crimes was removed and destroyed.

He heals all our diseases. Our healing was purchased by the stripes on the back of Jesus during His crucifixion. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24, KJV). He redeems our life from destruction and causes us to triumph in Christ, for greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4). He crowns us with loving kindness and tender mercies so that we might be loving and have tender mercies and show kindness one to another.

The cross of Christ constrains us to follow the command of Jesus; "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well" (Mark 16:15-18, NIV).

At the start of His ministry Jesus was asked to read from the scroll of Isaiah. He read Isa 61:1-3, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint

unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified" (KJV). When He was finished reading, He sat down and every eye was upon Him, waiting no doubt, for some words of encouragement. What He said did not fit into their traditional way of thinking and they rose up in anger against Him and took Him to the crest of a hill to cast Him down and stone him. His time was not yet and He walked through the midst of them and went away. We see, that this scripture was fulfilled in Him on many occasions; He healed the sick, opened blind eyes, cleansed the lepers, raised the dead, cast out demons and did many other wonderful things. John 14:12 tells us that the works that Jesus did ye shall do also and greater works than these shall ye do because I go to the Father. It is hard to imagine that we could even do the works of Christ let alone greater works than He did. Yet scripture bears out that the apostles did on different occasions do the works of Christ not necessarily greater in power but greater in scope.

Christ's ministry was confined to Palestine, but after His resurrection, His followers ranged throughout the then known - world and the works of Jesus are evident in church history even to this very day. For Jesus left them with this promise: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto **the uttermost part of the earth**" (Acts 1:8, KJV). On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up and said, concerning the empowering of the Holy Spirit which was to give us the power to do greater works, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children,

and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39, KJV). This power was evident in the apostles for they did the works of Jesus on many occasions as is reported in scripture. "And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, 'Look on us.' And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.' And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:2-8, KJV). "The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed" (Acts 5:12-16, NIV). "And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them" (Acts 19:11-12, KJV). The power of the cross did not end with the

early apostles, as some would have us believe, but has been evident throughout church history to this present day. The power of the cross of Christ did not become of none effect after the crucifixion but will continue into eternity and throughout eternity. It will last as long as there is one soul to redeem and one part of creation that is not delivered from the realm of change and decay. We are living in the age of grace, overshadowed by the glory of the cross, redeemed from sin by the unselfish sacrifice of Christ, blood-bought children of the living God, waiting for the promise of full redemption of body, soul and spirit and the manifestation of the sons of God. The cross was so much more than the crucifixion of Jesus on a small hill in Jerusalem. It was the blessing of all ages; the focal point

of God's plan of redemption and deliverance for the whole creation. We are "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12:2, KJV).

The Cross of Christ

The sinless Son of God hung on a tree of shame,

He gave His life in ransom for which mankind was to blame.

"It is finished", cried the Saviour, and the Prince of glory died,

'Twas the ending of the age of law and darkness ruled the sky,

Rocks were split, the earth was moved and the veil was rent in two,

The sinless Lamb of God was slain for the sins of all mankind,

"Truly He is the Son of God" the Roman soldier cried,

Blood and water pouring down from His pierced side,

They laid him in a borrowed tomb but there He did not stay,

An empty tomb was there to prove He broke death's bonds away.

On that glorious Easter morning the stone was rolled away,

The angel said " He is not here, He is risen" now I say,

"And He will go before you into Galilee today,"

Forty days He was with them teaching them of Kingdom ways,

Then the heavens now received Him and He was taken from their gaze,

From the heavens spoke the angels to the people there below,

"This same Jesus He will come again in the way you saw Him go."

CARIBBEAN CAMP - ST. VINCENT, WI
August 2-10, 2008
 Grace and Truth Campsite - Layout, St. Vincent
 Contact: Cephas Forde, Camden Park, St. Vincent
 E-mail: merfor1@yahoo.com. Phone 784-457-7272

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Illinois Gathering (King's House) May 2 - 4, 2008
 Camp North Battleford July 6 - 13, 2008
 North Carolina Summer Camp Still unavailable but please keep
 the last 2 weeks in July open
 Caribbean Camp, St. Vincent Aug. 2 - 10, 2008
 Pinelaw Summer Family Camp Aug. 4 - 10, 2008
 Hidden Acres Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2008
 Park Valley Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2008
 Winkler Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2008
 Minden Meetings N/A
 Pinelaw Fall Family Camp N/A

BOOKS AVAILABLE:
MESSAGES TO THE CHURCH
 - *The writings of Herrick Holt*
BORN FROM ABOVE
 - *The writings of W. Douglas Whitter*
BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE
 - *The writings of Allen M. Hinchliff*

PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE:
 The Present Move Of God
 The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit
 You Are Loved
 Growing In Christ
 Born From Above
 Honor The Lord With Thy Substance
 A Word To The Wise
 Sexual Intimacy
 A Testimony - M. Sundbo

ILLINOIS GATHERING (King's House)
Friday, May 2 - Sunday, May 4, 2008

The King's House retreat center is located on the East side of the Illinois River across from the town of Henry, IL. From I 80 go south on I 80 which runs into S 29. Follow S 29 to E 18 in Henry, from E 18 turn north on RT26. From I 74 take 116 East to Rt. 26 in East Peoria. Go north on Rt. 26 to Henry IL. We will begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday after lunch. 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 - \$50.

Send Reservations, by April 13, to:
 Randall G. Snoko, 128 Tanglewood Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611.
 Phone (309) 694-7048,
 e-mail - rgsnoko@juno.com

**Names and addresses of Global Missions
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August 12, 2007
Devlin, ON

Elizabeth Martz

April 13, 2008
Chilliwack, BC

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

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