

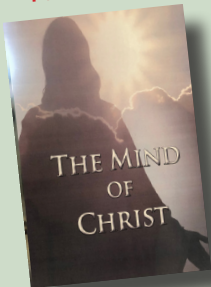
A scenic landscape at dawn. The sun is rising over a forested valley, casting a warm, golden glow. The sun is positioned behind a line of trees on a hillside, creating a lens flare effect. The foreground is filled with lush green trees, and the background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

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Philippians 2:5*

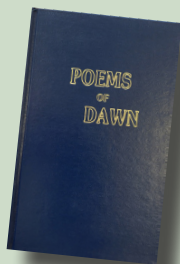
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O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.”*

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# The DAWN

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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### HIGHLIGHTS OF DAWN

World Problems Solved 2

### INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDIES

God Answers Solomon 14

Israel's Savior 16

God Calls Israel to Harken 18

The Heritage of Jacob Promised 20

God Will Pour Out Blessings 22

### CHRISTIAN LIFE AND DOCTRINE

The Witness of the Spirit—

Access to God's Peace 24

The Year Before Us 41

Weekly Prayer Meeting Texts 63

### TALKING THINGS OVER

Activity and Statistical Report 53

General Convention Bulletin 59

**OBITUARIES** 62

**SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS** 62

**CONVENTIONS** 63

# World Problems Solved

*“Nevertheless we,  
according to his  
promise, look for  
new heavens and  
a new earth,  
wherein dwelleth  
righteousness.”*

*—II Peter 3:13*

## **THE HUMAN RACE SEEMS**

to go from the throes of one great world crisis into another. The cleverest minds of the powers have been unable to find a common ground for the solution of their mutual problems in

international affairs. Each is vexed with the other. Each is expressing recriminations concerning the other's motives and sincerity.

When countries are as they exist today; when the plight of the world is beyond the ability of man to control; when the wisdom of the wise men has perished; when the knowledge of the prudent men of the earth is ineffective; when the diplomats and statesmen of Earth do not know what to do; when, as today, men's hearts are failing them for fear, many people instinctively turn to God to find the answer, to find the remedy for these conditions, and to learn how to solve their problems.

We all agree that the world has problems. The question in the minds of many is, will it be possible to solve these challenges? There are the problems of a political and economic nature both within nations and internationally. There are the ongoing social upheavals and troubles in the various religious systems of the world. Today, also, long-standing moral standards and norms are under attack as they are being challenged by many as never before in societies throughout the world. These, and other problems, are not merely those to be found in isolated nations but are affecting the entire fabric of civilization.

Human selfishness has long been a barrier, keeping the human race from solving what otherwise might have been simple problems. Despite the fact that there is an abundance of food in certain parts of the earth, famine and starvation continue even now in the 21st century on a significant scale in some parts of the world. Food is wasted or destroyed for economic or political reasons, while people lack basic nourishment because they live in countries with a different economy or fewer resources.

In the area of international trade, while one country needs what another country has, and still another country produces what yet another needs, mankind has been unable to organize a satisfactory and fair method of exchange. On the surface, this appears to be a simple problem. However, citing just one example in recent history, when one country expressed its desire to give away some of its surplus food, other nations objected because that would spoil their markets. Thus we see that the resolution of the issue of fair trade is not as simple as it at

first appears, especially when we factor in the human tendency toward greed and selfishness.

Likewise, in the case of world conflicts, mankind has never yet solved the problems of preventing increasingly destructive wars. Such is true, even while the majority of people hate war and bloodshed, and desire to live in peace and security. In most cases, however, the lust for fame and power among leaders of the nations has won out over the peoples' desires to live in harmony with their fellow man.

### **THE BIBLE'S TESTIMONY**

While history tells us of the various reasons for and the events surrounding the rise and fall of nations, the Bible tells of the rise and the fall of worlds. It speaks of the "world that was," which came to an end at the time of the Flood. It tells us of the "present evil world," or age, which ends with various destructive forces. It also predicts a "world to come" and what we may expect in this new time of tomorrow. (Gal. 1:4; Luke 18:30) The Apostle Peter in II Peter 3:6 declares, "The world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." We know that it was not the literal Earth which was destroyed by water, for we are all still living on the same planet that existed before the Flood.

Let us also notice the words of John the Baptist as recorded in Luke 3:16,17: "I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn

with fire unquenchable.” Here is a prophecy that was fulfilled concerning Israel. As prophesied by John the Baptist, Jesus came, and he did baptize with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He also baptized with fire, culminating in the complete destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

Sometimes people pray for the baptism of fire. How little they know for what they pray. Those who were baptized by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost were Israelites indeed, who recognized in Jesus their Messiah and Savior, but they were few in number. “He came unto his own [people], and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.” (John 1:11,12) The remainder of the Jewish nation knew not the time of their visitation.—Luke 19:44

The Master, following his triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem, spoke prophetically of the whole nation of Israel, saying, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou which killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.” (Matt. 23:37,38) As a nation Israel was burned as chaff in the time of fiery trouble which marked the end of the Jewish Age, a time during which God had separated them as his “special people” from other nations and bestowed upon them special favor.—Deut. 7:6; Amos 3:2

It was to that destruction that our Master referred when he spoke of their baptism of fire. It was a fire of national destruction and desolation. Various steps were taken to hinder the complete

desolation of the nation of Israel, but all efforts failed. The prophecy had to be fulfilled. Truly their house had been left unto them desolate. Thus we see that the foretold baptism of fire that destroyed and desolated Israel is a prophecy which has already been fulfilled. Therefore, it serves as the key to understanding the fire of our day. It was not literal fire then; it is not literal fire now.

### **THE EARTH ABIDES FOREVER**

The majority of Christian people have been taught to believe the end of this “present evil world” will come with the literal burning and destruction of the earth. This teaching is not in accord with the Word of God. In Ecclesiastes 1:4 we find the simple statement, “The earth abideth for ever.” This plain scriptural assurance is in harmony with the Word of God through the Prophet Isaiah, that he created the earth “not in vain,” but he “formed it to be inhabited.”—Isa. 45:18

God promised Abraham, “Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward. For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.” (Gen. 13:14,15) If the earth were to be destroyed, God’s “forever” promise to Abraham concerning the land which he saw would go unfulfilled. However, we know from the Scriptures that God does not break any of his promises.—Isa. 55:10,11; Heb. 6:16-18

Some find it difficult to believe that the earth itself is not to be destroyed, because of the statement of the apostle: “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved



unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ... The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”—II Pet. 3:7,10

While some believe that this earth will be destroyed by fire, none would say they believe that God’s throne will be destroyed. The Bible says heaven is God’s throne. (Isa. 66:1) Yet, Peter specifically declares that the heavens as well as the earth will be dissolved with “fervent heat.” What does it mean?

There must be a more logical explanation of Peter’s prophecy than that which has been given us by ecclesiasticism. We believe that this is an account of the current period of trouble through which this present evil world is passing. As the flood of water ended the old world; and as the fire of trouble ended Jewish national life when the Masada fortress, near the southwest coast of the Dead Sea, fell in AD 73, so in our present day civilization has been receiving its baptism of fire. The fire is symbolic of trouble and destruction, not of Earth’s literal destruction.

The heavens represent the present religious world which is crisscrossed with unbelief, and these powers are being shaken. The earth symbolizes our social, political, and financial systems, and the “elements” referred to in this prophecy illustrate the various factors that constitute our world—the capital and labor elements, the rich and the poor divisions of society, and the bureaucratic and economic components of the present order.

The works that shall be burned up are the hate and war, the graft and greed, the selfishness, and the

jealous ruthlessness which are manifest on every hand as the “works” of this world. That is the “world” which is being destroyed, and every one of us should be glad to see this old failing order pass away.

The Prophet Zephaniah declares: “The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”—Zeph. 1:14-18

## **A SILVER LINING**

As we see the trouble in the earth constantly gaining momentum, we realize the ominous possibilities which are confronting the world. However, as students of God’s Word we see a silver lining to these dark clouds of trouble. The Apostle Peter, after speaking of the destruction of those things which are out of harmony with God, gives us the words of encouragement and hope found in our opening text—the promise of a “new heavens and a new earth,” in which righteousness dwells. Here

we are directed by the apostle to a promise of God which was given many centuries before and recorded in Isaiah 65:17-25. Peter believed this promise, which begins, “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”

Now notice what the nature of this new order will be. “They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.”—vss. 21-25

Thus the prophet looked down the corridor of time and saw a new earth, even though it will be on this same planet, not based on war, selfishness and greed. This is the promise to which Peter referred. It is the prophecy that had stirred his mind as to the blessings which would come to the earth in the establishment of a new world order. This is what caused him to speak of a “new heavens and a new earth.” We may also look forward in anticipation to the time when the human race will be able to enjoy the fruits of its labor in the midst of happy, Edenic conditions, wherein righteousness, health and peace will dwell.

One of the most comprehensive prophecies concerning this present transition period, and the assurance that, after the trouble, conditions of peace and security will be established, is found in Zephaniah 3:8,9. This prophecy reads: "Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent." Notice that this prophecy explains the fire which will destroy the old order. It is the fire of God's jealousy, the fire of trouble, and not literal fire, because of the fact that there are people who remain after the destruction of the old order who will then "call upon the name of the LORD."

### **"A PURE LANGUAGE"**

It is difficult to discern a "pure language," a pure religious message, in this present old order, because of the different creeds and theories that men have created to their own confusion. Today there are many voices, many languages, all claiming to uphold the divine message. In this chaos of conflicting philosophies, it is difficult indeed to discern the voice of God.

However, after the symbolic fire of trouble has done its work, after the present ecclesiastical heavens have lost their power, and after the present earth with its social, political, and financial elements has been brought to a condition of

powerlessness, the mist and fog of prejudice and superstition will be lifted from the minds of the people. Then the pure message of truth concerning the glories of the coming kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will shine forth as a pure language to tell of the lengths and breadths, and the heights and depths, of the love of God. According to this prophecy the result will be that all people will call on the name of the Lord and serve him with “one consent.”

However, as we speak of this new day and the blessings it shall contain, and as we are assured that the reign of Christ will solve the problems of the earth, questions will present themselves to many. “Why has this condition not been established long ago, seeing that nearly 2,000 years have passed into history since Jesus finished his earthly ministry?” “Why have we had to wait so long in sickness and death?” “What has God been doing concerning this glorious kingdom from the time of Calvary until the present?”

## **AN INTERIM WORK**

There are many scriptures which assure us that God has not been inactive during this long interlude. Rather, beginning at Pentecost and continuing until the present time, the purpose of God has been to choose the “bride” of Christ. (Rev. 19:7; 21:2) Altogether these will be but a “little flock” as compared to the billions of Adam’s children, but they have been, as Jesus described, “the salt of the earth.”—Luke 12:32; Matt. 5:13

These are those who have heard the invitation of the Master, when he declared, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross,

and follow me.” (Matt. 16:24) This group of loyal, faithful Christians has endeavored to follow in the footsteps of the Master with the assurance that, as children of God, they will live and reign with Christ. The Apostle Paul speaks of them in Romans 8:17 saying, “If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

This “little flock” will “reign with Christ a thousand years,” assisting in the establishment of the new world wherein righteousness will dwell. (Rev. 20:6) The world’s problems of today will be solved through the application of the principles upon which Christ’s kingdom will be built. In that kingdom, none shall hurt nor offend, for “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.” “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;” he becomes the “Prince of Peace,” for he will establish peace.—Isa. 9:7,6

## **A RIGHTEOUS WORLD**

Thus righteousness will at last be man’s heritage in a new world order under the rulership of Jesus Christ and his faithful “little flock.” The first world ended with the destruction of all those who were out of harmony with God, but Noah and his house were protected and saved. The second world is ending with the destruction of those elements of hate and greed and war which are so out of harmony with God and the principles of Jesus Christ. His

church, through divine providence, is also saved and, being exalted, will reign with him.

The third world will see justice laid to the line and “righteousness to the plummet.” It will see the power of truth “sweep away the refuge of lies,” upon which the old order has been built. (Isa. 28:17) The human race, having learned well the eternal lesson of sin through the experiences of more than six thousand years of history, will rejoice in the opportunity to willingly obey the new rule of righteousness.

Then will be fulfilled the prophecy of Revelation 21:1-5: “I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; ... And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 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. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.”

Therefore, our message to you at the beginning of another year is that world problems will be solved through the establishment of God’s kingdom, under the righteous rule of Christ and his “bride.” There will be a “new heavens and a new earth,” a new world order in which righteousness will dwell. Indeed, that is what we long for when we speak that oft-repeated prayer, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”—Matt. 6:10 ■

# God Answers Solomon

*Key Verse: “If my people ... shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

—II Chronicles 7:14

*Selected Scripture:  
II Chronicles 7:12-22*

God.—II Chron. 5:1-7,11-14

King Solomon then blessed the congregation of Israel. (II Chron. 6:3-11) In prayer, he proclaimed there was no God like the “LORD God of Israel,” and he claimed the promises which Jehovah had made to his father David.—vss.12-42

In his prayer, Solomon humbly asks, “But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven ... cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!” He then beseeches God to hear his prayer, that his eyes might be “open upon this house day and night,” and adds, “when thou hearest, forgive.”—vss. 18-21

Solomon knew that the congregation of Israel was unable to perfectly obey all of the Lord’s instructions and were therefore in need of his forgiveness. In his prayer

**AFTER ISRAEL’S TEM**ple was built and all the things which his father King David had dedicated to the house of God were installed, Solomon assembled the elders of the nation and heads of the tribes to Jerusalem. “The ark of the covenant of the LORD” was brought into the Temple and the “the glory of the LORD” filled the house of



he mentions some of these specific sins and implores God to “forgive the sin of thy servants,” when they confess to him and “turn from their sin,” while accepting the chastisements which Jehovah deems necessary.—vs. 26,27

Solomon then beseeches the Lord, saying, “If they sin against thee (for there is no man which sinneth not,) ... and turn and pray unto thee, ... saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly; If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul, ... Then hear thou from the heavens, ... and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.”—vss. 36-40

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the offerings and “the glory of the LORD filled the house.” (II Chron. 7:1) God appeared to Solomon by night, assuring him, “I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.” (vs. 12) Following this are the words of our Key Verse, in which the Lord gives the necessary steps for him to forgive Israel’s sins; they must humble themselves, pray and seek for the Lord’s favor, and turn away from sin.

As Christians, we must follow similar steps. First, we are to humble ourselves by recognizing our errors; we must “confess our sins” in prayer to God and acknowledge the righteous standards which he has given us. (I John 1:9) In addition, we must turn from our ways of sin and “repent” [Greek: to think differently] by changing our thoughts and behavior. (Rev. 3:19) Then, God “will hear from heaven” and forgive our sins through the righteous blood of Jesus.

“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”—I John 1:7-9 ■

# Israel's Savior

**Key Verse:** “Now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.”  
—Isaiah 43:1

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Isaiah 43:1-12*

they obedient unto his law.” Therefore, they received chastisements from God.—vss. 24,25

However, in our Key Verse God told Israel he would not punish them forever. Concerning divine forgiveness and redemption from sin, the psalmist writes: “Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.” The psalmist then describes God’s mercy: “The LORD is merciful and gracious, and ... hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.” God’s mercy is further described as being “from everlasting to everlasting

## **GOD CHOSE THE NATION**

of Israel “to be a special people unto himself” because of his love for them. (Deut. 7:6-8) He further commanded the people to keep all his commandments and statutes. If they did so, he promised to bless and provide for them.—vss. 9-24

Nevertheless, the children of Israel often disobeyed the Lord’s instructions, and were described as being “deaf” and “blind.” (Isa. 42:18-23) “They would not walk in his ways, neither were

upon them that fear him, ... To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.”—Ps. 103:2-4,8-11,17,18

In Isaiah’s prophecy, God promises he would lead Israel through both “water and fire.” (Isa. 43:2) These two natural elements are symbols of difficult and severe experiences which that nation would pass through. The Lord assured that whenever they would experience such difficulties, he would be with them, and they would not be adversely affected from an eternal standpoint.

Although Isaiah’s prophecy was addressed to the nation of Israel, it also applies to the footstep followers of our Lord Jesus during the present Gospel Age. Paul explains how all the things which happened unto Israel were “for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition,” to instruct and warn the followers of Christ.—I Cor. 10:11

Passing through the “waters” is a figurative expression to denote the experiences by which each of us must be tested and proven. Through Isaiah’s prophecy we are assured that our Heavenly Father will be guiding and directing us in all our trials, adversities, afflictions, and perplexities, giving “grace to help in time of need.”—Heb. 4:16

Walking “through the fire” is representative of the severity of some of our experiences. Peter writes, “The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.”—I Pet. 1:7; 4:12

From the divine standpoint, God is the “Savior”—the originator of the entire plan of salvation for mankind. However, he accomplishes this salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ, who died “a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”—Isa. 43:11; Rom. 5:10; I Tim. 2:3-6 ■

# God Calls Israel to Harken

**Key Verse:** *“Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.”*  
—Isaiah 48:17

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Isaiah 48:12-21*

## **THROUGH THE PROPHET**

Isaiah, the Lord admonished Israel saying, “Harken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called.” Repeatedly he told Israel, “I am the first,” and “the last,” meaning he was the only one they should recognize as God.—Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12

God’s supremacy over all the universe is also indicated by his only begotten Son, when Jesus stated, “My Father ... is greater than all.” (John 10:29) After the restitution work of Christ’s

thousand-year kingdom shall be completed, restored mankind will recognize the Heavenly Father as the author of the great plan of salvation. Paul writes concerning this time, “When all things have been placed under Christ’s rule, then he himself, the Son, will place himself under God, who placed all things under him; and God will rule completely over all.”—I Cor. 15:28, *Good News Bible*

Our Key Verse identifies Jehovah as Israel’s teacher. God taught Israel, from the time of Moses, saying: “Harken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye

may live. ... Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it.”  
—Deut. 4:1,2

The Lord, in our Key Verse, also tells Israel the reason he taught them was for their “profit.” This was not in the sense of Israel becoming profitable or wealthy in a worldly sense, but rather that his teachings would be of great value to them in understanding God’s principles and being led in the way they should go. In this verse we note also the word “way,” which in the original Hebrew, denotes a course of life.

God’s instructions, indeed, are valuable to all who trust and follow them. Through the psalmist, the Lord tells us, “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.” (Ps. 32:8) We should look to the Heavenly Father and his wise words of counsel given to us in the Scriptures to lead us in all of life’s affairs.

The words of Isaiah 48:20 remind us of how the nation of Israel was instructed by God to go back to their homeland after their years of captivity in Babylon, to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and reconstruct their Temple of worship to God. (II Chron. 36:11-23) In a greater picture, during Christ’s kingdom on Earth, all mankind will be given the opportunity to return to their homeland, being resurrected from the grave. They will be taught in the way in which they should go, to rebuild the walls of their character and reestablish their individual temple, symbolically speaking, of worship to God.

Isaiah describes the work and conditions of this kingdom: “An highway shall be there, ... and it shall be called The way of holiness. ... The redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isa. 35:8-10) What a wonderful and bright future lies ahead for mankind! ■

# The Heritage of Jacob Promised

**Key Verse:** *“Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”*  
—Isaiah 58:14

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Isaiah 58:1-14*

## **OUR KEY VERSE BEGINS**

with the word “then,” which indicates that what is subsequently written is conditional—dependent upon the fulfillment of a previously stated requirement. This prerequisite is given in verse 13: “If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, ... not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words.”

One of the commandments Jehovah gave to Israel was: “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (Exod. 20:8-11) The Lord also instructed them: “My sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.” It is a “sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD.”—Exod. 31:12-15

Why did God repeat the giving of the Sabbath requirement to Israel through the Prophet Isaiah, seeing as he had already given it to Israel at the time of Moses? The answer is found in Isaiah 58:13, previously quoted.

Evidently, Israel was doing their “own ways,” finding their “own pleasure,” and speaking their “own words” on the Sabbath, rather than the Lord’s.

God desired that Israel would obey his commandments willingly, from their heart. In principle he was telling them, “My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.” (Prov. 23:26) Through the Prophet Ezekiel, Jehovah said concerning Israel, “I instituted my Sabbath for them as a sign between me and them, so they would know that I am the LORD, who has set them apart. ... They didn’t live life consistent with my statutes, they profaned my Sabbaths.”—Ezek. 20:12,16, *International Standard Version*

The psalmist emphasizes the importance of following God’s will, stating, “Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; Trust him, and he will act.” (Ps. 37:4,5, *ISV*) To delight ourselves in the Lord is to have our affections centered upon him. If our heart is continually looking for divine direction, we will always be in a prayerful attitude.

As followers of Christ, we might wonder what was illustrated by natural Israel’s Sabbath day of rest. Paul answers this question in Hebrews chapter 4, pointing out that all who have accepted Jesus, resting and trusting in him, are thus enjoying the greater Sabbath rest at the present time—the rest of faith. Furthermore, the apostle points out that to maintain this rest, it is necessary to continually exercise faith in God and obey him.—Heb. 4:1-11

All who have received the Holy Spirit are given the privilege of entering into this rest. Instead of keeping a literal seventh day of physical rest, they now keep a perpetual rest of heart, mind, and faith in the Son of God. Maintaining such a rest will require not only obedience, to the extent of our ability, in all our thoughts, words, and deeds, but also requires daily trust in the Lord. Then, as our Key Verse states, we shall “delight ... in the LORD.” ■

# God Will Pour out Blessings

**Key Verse:** *“Ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.”*  
—Joel 2:27

**Selected Scripture:**  
*Joel 2:21-27*

**A MAIN PART OF THE MESSAGE** God gave to Israel through the Prophet Joel was to “sound an alarm” because the “day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand.” (Joel 1:15; 2:1,11; 3:14) Elsewhere, it is referred to as the “day of vengeance of our God.” (Isa. 61:2; 63:1-4) This is not a literal 24-hour day, but rather a time period of intense trouble, distress and perplexity.

The reason for the trouble is not because God is malicious. On the contrary, we are told that he has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live.” (Ezek. 33:11) The trouble which comes during the “day of the LORD” is the natural consequence of disregarding divine counsel and laws. As Paul writes, “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”—Gal. 6:7

God made a covenant with Israel and promised to make them a “kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” However, there were conditions attached, which God pronounced: “If ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments, ... to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” If, on the other hand,



they were disobedient, they would receive chastisements from God.—Exod. 19:5,6; Deut. 11:13-17

Using symbols, Joel's prophecy outlines the trouble which would come upon Israel if they continued to disobey God, and he called upon the nation to repent. (Joel 1:3-15) However, Israel continued to violate their covenant with God, and eventually the trouble, forecasted by their various prophets, came upon them, and their nation was taken captive by Gentile powers. (Ezek. 21:21-27) Although a remnant of Israelites were later permitted to return to their land, as a nation they were cast off from God's favor for a long period of time.—Lev. 26:17,18,24,28

Joel's prophecy, however, was not all doom and gloom. Jehovah greatly desired Israel to return to him. He beseeched them: "Turn ye even to me with all your heart, ... And rend your heart, ... and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness." (Joel 2:12,13) If Israel did this, God promised, "I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, ... And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you."—vss. 25,26

At the end of the foretold "day of the LORD," God has promised that through his power the children of Israel will be saved from being destroyed by the nations. (Zech. 14:1-9) Thus will be fulfilled the words of our Key Verse, that God is in the midst of Israel, and they shall never again be ashamed.

Israel's miraculous deliverance by Jehovah's power will introduce the kingdom of God on Earth. Speaking to Israel, the Lord says: "I will sanctify my great name, which hath been profaned among the nations, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes."—Ezek. 36:23-36; 38:23, *Revised Version* ■

# The Witness of the Spirit

—Access to God's Peace

*“Peace I leave with  
you, my peace  
I give unto you.”  
—John 14:27*

## **THE PEACE OF GOD IS**

that which comes through a realization of his divine power, his goodness, and his willingness to hold us by his right hand as his children. (Ps. 17:7; 18:35; 63:8) God's peace is in contrast to the world's promise of peace, for it is not dependent upon outward circumstances, but upon a proper balancing of the mind and heart. (Phil. 4:7) Divine peace is permanent and firmly grounded in the promises of God's Word. We are told, “Since God is for us, who can be against us?”—Rom. 8:31, *The Emphatic Diaglott*

We need spiritual rest and peace to sustain us in these challenging times. There is no real peace outside of the Lord's gracious provision. Whatever our condition, whether in sickness or health, whether in extremely poor or in comfortable circumstances, those whom God is dealing with have the means by which to claim God's peace. Our access to peace

comes in a large measure through the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit in our heart and mind, and by its witness in our life. Paul stated: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."—Rom. 8:16

## **THE SPIRIT OF GOD**

The Spirit of God is his invisible power, or influence. The Hebrew word in the Old Testament translated "spirit" is *ruach*, and in the New Testament the Greek word *pneuma* is the one rendered spirit in our English Bibles. The original meaning of these words was "wind" or "current of air," but through usage their import gradually broadened to include almost any kind of invisible power or influence. As the power or influence of God is invisible, *ruach* and *pneuma* came to be used by the writers of the Bible to describe divine power. God's influence is always holy, so it is properly said to be his "Holy Spirit."

The way that God's power operates is by appealing to the hearts and minds of those created in his image by a revelation of his will and inviting their obedience to it. We might speak of this as the power or influence of God's mind over ours. When we are thus endeavoring to be guided by his revealed will, we are being led by his Spirit, which will give us peace.

God reveals his will through his written Word. Thus, the words found in the Bible are a product of the Holy Spirit. The apostle explains that "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (II Pet. 1:21) Likewise, the teachings of Jesus and the apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The one perfect example we have of doing

the will of God is found in the written record of the life of his only begotten Son, Jesus, which was a Spirit-filled life. Whenever, therefore, we open the pages of the Bible to seek instruction for our guidance in doing the will of God, it means that we are putting ourselves in contact with, or under the guidance of, the Holy Spirit.

Through the Word of truth, God not only directs his consecrated people in the doing of his will, but he encourages them with the assurance that he has accepted them into his family and will give them strength to follow in his Son's footsteps. It is these assurances that Paul speaks of in the text quoted earlier as the "witness" of the Spirit. The witness of the Spirit is in reality God's testimony to us of that wondrous love which he has bestowed upon us in making us his sons. (I John 3:1-3) It is only by being assured of this blessed sonship that we can, with peace and full confidence, look up to God and cry, "Abba, Father."—Rom. 8:15

## **THE WITNESS IN US**

Through his Word, and therefore by his Holy Spirit, God has assured us in many ways of our standing with him, although only twice is the English term "witness" used in these assurances. One of these is in I John 5:9,10, which reads: "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

The expression, “He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself,” is a very important one. The Apostle John, who wrote these words, quotes Jesus as saying, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.” (John 6:44) This, then, is the “witness” that every sincere believer is assured of, namely, that the Father has drawn him to Christ, and that his knowledge of Christ and believing on him is because of God’s drawing power. This is a most important assurance of our relationship with God, and it is a witness of the Spirit because it was the Holy Spirit which inspired John to furnish this information.

So that we may have access to the peace of God, we should ask ourselves certain questions. Have we, through the truths found in the Bible, been drawn to God? Have these truths revealed to us his Son, Christ Jesus, and his part in the divine arrangement? Do we recognize that through him, and through the merit of his blood, is the only way by which we can approach unto God with the assurance of his acceptance? Has this knowledge revealed to us the invitation of the Scriptures to present ourselves in sacrifice, to make a full consecration of our all to do God’s will? Have we made such a consecration, and if so, has God since been blessing us with an ever-increasing appreciation of his love and a clearer understanding of his promises, particularly those “exceeding great and precious promises” whereby we “might be partakers of the divine nature”?—II Pet. 1:4

If these things be so, we have the witness of the Spirit through Jesus that the providences of God have been overshadowing and enlightening us, and that

we have been begotten by his Spirit to be a member of the house of sons over which Jesus is the Head. (Heb. 3:6) “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ.”—Rom. 8:17

The fact that we have been drawn to God through Christ and have been inspired by the Word of Truth to make a full consecration to do his will, witnesses that God himself is dealing with us, for no one can come to Christ otherwise, as has been stated. There is only one calling during the present age. (Eph. 1:18; 4:1,4) Just as the work of the Holy Spirit in connection with the call and development of the church could not begin until God’s due time, which was at Pentecost, so it cannot continue beyond God’s fixed time. As long as it does continue, and we can see unmistakable evidences of it, we may be certain that God’s due time for the end of all opportunity to run toward the “mark for the prize of the high calling” has not yet come.—Rom. 11:25; Phil. 3:13,14

## **IF WE SUFFER WITH HIM**

The other use of the term “witness” as descriptive of God’s acceptance of our consecration, and of us as probationary members of the body of Christ, is recorded in Romans 8:16-19, already partially quoted. In this passage the apostle explains that the Holy Spirit testifies that we are the children of God and joint-heirs with Christ, “if” we suffer with him. The scriptural background of this thought is very clear and definite. From I Peter 1:11 we learn that the “Spirit” of God caused the Old Testament prophets to testify “beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”

In this epistle Peter emphasizes the very important truth of the Gospel that the consecrated followers of Jesus share in his sufferings which the prophets foretold. The meaning of the apostle's words is clear. If we have been drawn to God, consecrated ourselves to do his will, and are having the privilege of suffering with Christ, then the Holy Spirit is testifying, or witnessing to us, that we are having a share in the divine arrangements which his Spirit caused his prophets to record.—Mal. 3:16,17

Some may feel that they are doing very little suffering with Christ, hence wonder if this witness really belongs to them. However, we should not think of suffering as necessarily meaning bitter and painful persecution, beginning as we enter the narrow way, and continuing to its close. (II Tim. 2:11,12) Even Jesus did not suffer continuously. Indeed, he was never popular with the religious rulers of his day, but the common people loved Jesus and gladly accepted him. He was self-sacrificing in his service to others, but much of the time he moved within a circle of trusted and beloved friends, engaging occasionally merely in word battles with the scribes and Pharisees.—Matt. 23:13

Not until near the close of his ministry did the prince of darkness direct his hosts against the Master with such fury as to bring about his arrest and death. It was then that he experienced his real Gethsemane [Greek: oil press]. The important thing was that he was ready for the severe suffering when it came, and this is the essential consideration for us.—I Pet. 2:21-23

Meanwhile, are we keeping separate from the unholy spirit and attitude of the world and discovering

more and more each day how little interest we really have in its selfish ways? (Col. 3:1,2; I John 2:15,16) In keeping apart from the spirit of the world because our interests are on higher things, do we find ourselves being shunned from those of the world around us? Are we letting our light shine so that our friends and neighbors know that we do not share their views on politics and religion, and because of this do we sense their lack of interest in us? In other words, has our acceptance of the Truth and of Jesus, and our consecration to follow in his steps, caused us to realize more and more vividly each day that while we are in the world, we are not of its spirit? If so, God's Holy Spirit is bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of God and are letting our "light so shine before men."  
—Matt. 5:16

If we are presently in a favorable period of comparative calm in our Christian experience, let us zealously use this time to fortify ourselves in preparation for the more severe trials which may come later. Additionally, let us not be overly concerned about a possible great and final test of our loyalty to the Lord while perhaps neglecting the little opportunities that come our way each day of letting our light shine, of standing up for him, and of enduring hardness as a "good soldier" of Jesus Christ. (II Tim. 2:3) It is only those who, by leaning on God's grace, are faithful in small ways, who will grow "strong in the Lord" and thus be prepared for the more difficult trials which may lie ahead.—Eph. 6:10

Closely allied with the witness of the Spirit concerning our privilege of suffering with Christ are the words of the Master, "Whosoever therefore



shall be ashamed of me and of my words, ... of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father.” (Mark 8:38) How do we stand with respect to this matter? Do we have a longing desire to honor God and Jesus on every suitable occasion by bearing witness to the Truth concerning them and concerning the divine purpose in which their love for the church and the world is revealed? (II Tim. 4:2) If so, then we have this witness that the Master will be glad to own us “when he cometh in the glory of his Father.”

## **OVERCOMING THE WORLD**

John wrote, “Every one who is begotten of God doth overcome the world.” (I John 5:4, *Young’s Literal Translation*) This begetting is accomplished by the Holy Spirit, through the Word of Truth. If we have been begotten of God it means that we have his Holy Spirit in our minds and hearts, and that his will, disposition, and love are the dominant factors governing our lives. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of love, and it is in direct contrast with the spirit of selfishness which rules the world. Do we have this spirit, and is it indeed causing us to live, not for ourselves as does the world, but for the Lord, for the Truth, for the brethren, and for all people as we have opportunity? (Gal. 6:10) If so, then we have another witness that we are the children of God.

The “victory” [Greek: means of success] which overcomes the world, the apostle says, is our faith. (I John 5:4) It is faith in God’s plans for the blessing of the people and faith in his will for us. A victorious faith will enable us to turn aside from the popularity which the world offers, (*Continued on page 36*)

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(Continued from page 31) from its pleasures, and from its selfish aims and ambitions; and that same victorious faith will enable us to look at the things which are not seen by the natural eye—the spiritual and heavenly things which the Heavenly Father has so reassuringly promised.—II Cor. 4:18

### **DO NOT PRACTICE SIN**

Again, the Apostle John writes, “Every one who hath been begotten of God doth not sin.” (I John 5:18, *YLT*) This is just another way of saying that the new mind of the Christian does not condone or practice sin. It may be temporarily overpowered by our fallen flesh, and thus overtaken in a fault we may err in judgment or in word, but we will never willingly transgress the divine will.

This means that if in our hearts we find no opposition to the divine will, but rather delight in it regardless of what it may mean to us according to the flesh, then we have another witness of our relationship to God; for it is only those who are begotten by his Spirit who thus delight to do his will.

### **SEEING AFAR OFF**

In II Peter 1:4-11 we are presented with a most revealing outline of conditions upon which we may base our faith in the fact that God’s exceeding great and precious promises belong to us. We are to add to our faith fortitude, knowledge, self-control, patience, piety, brotherly kindness, and love. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit are we able to develop these qualities of Christian character. If we find that we are making progress along these lines, it is convincing testimony that the Spirit of God as reflected in the “exceeding great and precious promises” of his

Word, and the peace which these bring, have entered our hearts and are molding our lives.

In addition to this, Peter adds, “If these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” (vss. 8,9) Here fruitfulness in the knowledge of Christ is associated with spiritual vision. On the other hand, spiritual blindness is associated with carelessness in respect to the old life of sin.

One may have a “head” knowledge of God’s plan, and profess to believe it, but one of the tests of the genuineness of this claim will be the evidence of growth in grace, and an ever-brightening vision of those things which are “afar off.”

The question arises, Are we able to “see afar off”? Do we by faith now “see” God in the beauty of his holiness? Do we have peace by knowing his love, power, wisdom, and justice? Are we yielding ourselves to the influence of his Holy Spirit in order that we may daily become more like our God? In the apostle’s day much of the work of the Gospel Age was “afar off.” Particularly was this true with respect to the events which would accompany the “harvest” at the end of the age. (Matt. 13:30,39) Today it is given unto us to witness the fulfillment of many prophecies which, in Peter’s day, were remote. However, it requires spiritual vision to discern the meaning of events with which we are surrounded.

Concerning this point the apostle wrote, “Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.” (I Thess. 5:4) This means,

then, that an understanding of what the Lord is doing in the earth today constitutes reassuring evidence of our standing before God. The ability to “see afar off,”—that is, beyond the range of mere human understanding—is indeed a convincing testimony of the Spirit that God has accepted us and is keeping us in his favor.

It should give us rest and peace in knowing that we have come in contact with the “exceeding great and precious promises” of God. This was by his providence. We have been inspired by them to surrender ourselves to do his will. His Spirit has continued to work in us, blessing us with a vision of the glorious character of God and an understanding of his wonderful plan of salvation. In this day of trouble in the world, we have heard Christ’s knock and have opened the door of our hearts. (Prov. 23:26; Luke 12:36,37; Rev. 3:20) He has come in and supped with us, and daily we are enjoying that feast with the Master. How blessed are we with such a realization!

### **IF YE DO THESE THINGS**

The apostle adds, “If ye do these things, ye shall never fall; For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (II Pet. 1:10,11) “These things” being in us means that we are living up to our privileges, and that the Lord is smiling upon us with his favor. The expression, “If ye do these things,” may well include the thought, “If you continue to do them,” for certainly the Scriptures do not warrant the thought of “once in grace, always in grace.”



If we do these things, we shall “never fall,” says Peter. This does not mean that we will never make a mistake or never stumble. It does mean, however, that we shall never lose God’s favor, nor be permitted to fall by the wayside completely. (Heb. 13:5) Instead, we shall have an “abundant entrance” into the kingdom—that which those with spiritual vision in Peter’s day could see “afar off,” but which today is nigh, even at the door. (Matt. 24:33) Peter wrote this great truth under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and it therefore is a witness, or testimony to our hearts, assuring us of final victory and a place in the kingdom with Jesus if we do the things to which he refers.

## **PROCLAIMING GLAD TIDINGS**

Isaiah 61:1-3 tells of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and that those who receive it are “anointed ... to preach good tidings.” The prophecy describes various classes to whom the message is to be proclaimed, and the different purposes thus to be accomplished. However, the main point to notice now is that those who receive the Holy Spirit are thereby anointed to proclaim the glad tidings. From God’s standpoint, it is his authorization for us to be coworkers with him, but to us it is the inspiration thus to serve, the impelling urge which causes us to let our light shine before men. Has the Holy Spirit created within us this burning desire to bear witness to the Truth? The influence of the Holy Spirit is always in the direction of activity in God’s service, not to a self-satisfied attitude which is so pleasing to the flesh.

This witness of the Spirit is not based on the amount of success we have in making new converts,

nor even on the extent of our efforts. It is based, rather, on our zeal for showing forth the praises of our God by making known the glad tidings of the kingdom. If we have received the Holy Spirit we will have that zeal, and we will be making use of every possible opportunity to sacrifice time and strength and means to proclaim the Gospel message. Thus will the Spirit witness to us of its presence in our hearts. The results of our efforts are in God's hands, for it is he who "giveth the increase."—I Cor. 3:7

It should be our desire to "let the peace of God rule" in our hearts and minds continually by faith. (Col. 3:15) Our daily lives should involve meditation upon our Lord Jesus and our Heavenly Father. "Ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." (I Cor. 3:23) Faithfulness in spreading the glad tidings will result eventually in that witness of the Spirit first mentioned, the one referred to by Paul as that of suffering with Christ. It was Christ's faithfulness in fulfilling the commission for which he was anointed that led to his suffering and death. If we are faithful, we will discover that, even as in Jesus' day, those who sit in darkness will find a way of opposing the light-bearers. However, the Lord will give us strength, grace, and peace all along the way. Therefore, let us press on faithfully to the end, even unto death, claiming access to the peace of God at all times.—Rev. 2:10 ■

## **2023 MEMORIAL SUPPER DATE**

The proper time for the annual observance of the Memorial Supper will be after sunset on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

# The Year Before Us

*“When these things  
are beginning  
to occur, raise  
yourselves, and lift  
up your heads; for  
your deliverance is  
drawing near.  
Thus, ... know that  
the kingdom of  
God is near.”*

*—Luke 21:28,31,  
The Emphatic  
Diaglott*

**ANOTHER YEAR HAS** passed and 2023 is here. The world’s outlook for the year is uncertain and foreboding. During 2022 the distress among nations, instead of diminishing, increased, as throughout the year the enfolding flames of political, social, religious and economic trouble continued to spread among

people and nations.

These sobering words of the prophet come to mind: “Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.” (Jer. 25:32) Whatever this enlarging sphere of trouble will mean by the end of 2023, no one knows. While this lack of knowledge causes the world to look to the incoming year with fear, the Lord’s dedicated people, knowing what the final

outcome will be, are able to face impending events with confidence and peace of heart.

Never before have the words of the Master found in our opening text had a greater significance. Many things foretold by the prophets are transpiring before our eyes, and their effect upon us, instead of being that of discouragement and bewilderment, should be to encourage and cheer. This does not mean that we are happy because the world is suffering. We are happy, rather, that all the world's present troubles and sorrow will soon give place to peace and everlasting joy. Jesus said that we should lift up our heads because our "deliverance is drawing near," and "the kingdom of God" is nigh at hand.

Understanding the plan of God, we know that when the church is delivered and glorified, the blessings of the world will follow. Thus our rejoicing is not only on behalf of ourselves, but for all mankind as well. For this reason, all the increasing evidence that the manifestation of God's kingdom, under the rulership of Christ, is near at hand is cause for Christian joy. Therefore, at the beginning of this, another year, as we view these things with increasing clarity, our hope should be bright. Indeed, our "rejoicing in hope" should be so real and whole-hearted that it will radiate comfort and cheer to all with whom we come in contact.—Rom. 12:12

## **PREPARATION NECESSARY**

To be reminded of the blessed fact that our deliverance is drawing near should also impress upon our minds and hearts the necessity of being prepared for that grand consummation of our hope. This means that we should more than ever be on the

alert to properly use every means of grace which the Lord has provided to enable us to be properly developed in Christian character. More than ever, also, we should be “redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:16) Because of the increasing strain upon life due to world conditions that are becoming more ominous and distressing, the Christian is sure to find that during 2023 it will be more difficult than ever to concentrate on the things which have real spiritual value.

Thus, all the consecrated will need courage and determination, not that which is begotten of self-assurance or worldly wisdom; but rather, a courage and determination which find their roots in the sure promises of the Scriptures. These assurances tell us that “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Ps. 46:1-5) No matter to what extent the trouble may increase, our God will still be a very present help, an ally possessing infinite wisdom and strength by which he is able to protect us and overrule for our every need.

As dedicated followers of the Master we must remember, however, that our needs are primarily spiritual, not material. God will care for our material needs in a manner that will serve our spiritual interests the best. This might not always mean earthly comfort and health. The Lord’s wisdom may see that our spiritual necessities will be best served by permitting us to feel the pinch of earthly needs along one line or another. He may permit physical suffering or material poverty in some measure, in order that we, like Jesus, may be touched more fully with a feeling of the world’s infirmities, and thus be better prepared to assist in

administering the Messianic blessings of the incoming age.—Heb. 4:15

God has not promised to prevent trouble from coming upon us, but he has promised to be a “present help in trouble.” Jehovah permitted the three Hebrews to be put into the fiery furnace, but an angel, one “like a son of the gods,” went in with them and prevented their destruction. (Dan. 3:25, *Revised Version*) Perhaps many of us will be permitted to go through fiery furnace experiences of one kind or another during 2023, but we will be able to go through them unscathed, spiritually, if we put our trust fully in the Lord. Indeed, he will be with us, and will not permit the “fiery trials” to injure or destroy us spiritually.—I Pet. 1:7

### **ACCORDING TO OUR FAITH**

Faith is required in order to lay hold upon the exceeding great and precious promises of God. The degree of faith we are able to exercise will be the measure of our peace of heart and joy in the Lord. If our faith in the divine arrangements and in God’s care for us is not as strong as it should be, then we will, to some extent, be harassed by the same fears as the world has. If our faith is strong, however, then the very conditions which cause the hearts of the world in general to be filled with fear will prompt us to look up and “lift up” our heads, and, as faithful watchers, discern with ever increasing clarity the onward march of the “King of kings, and Lord of lords.”—Rev. 19:16

Faith is scarce in the world today. The Master inquired, “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8) We are now

living, we believe, in the time of the Lord's second presence, and as we look about us and note how little genuine faith there is, even among professed Christians, we realize how accurately Jesus foresaw and foretold the conditions of our day. Real faith in God and in his Word has been on the wane for many decades, and the distress and troubles rampant in practically all the nations of earth has accelerated this drift towards unbelief.

The reason many have lost their faith due to world developments is because they have had a misunderstanding of God's plan. Many have thought that the world was supposed to get better and better, and that Christianity, as they knew it, was supposed to triumph throughout all the earth. They cannot reconcile that view with what they see taking place, so their faith is weakened. However, those who know God's plan are affected in a reverse manner. These know that what is taking place has been foretold in the prophecies. They understand that the glorious triumph of Christianity lies beyond this present period of trouble. They know, too, that this age was not the time appointed for converting the whole world, but merely for selecting and preparing the true church to live and reign with Christ in the Messianic kingdom, now so near.—II Tim. 2:11,12; Rev. 20:6

It is upon the basis of knowledge that the Lord's consecrated people today are able to view the scenes of darkness around them. They do not see these as representing the defeat of Christianity, but as a token that through the Messianic kingdom soon to be established the whole world will then be at peace, and enjoying health, happiness, and everlasting

life. (Isa. 25:6-9; Rev. 21:1-5) Shall we not, then, rejoice in this knowledge of the divine purpose? Shall we not do all in our power to show our appreciation to God for the fact that he has taken us into his confidence and revealed to us some of the features of his plan? If we do not properly appreciate this knowledge, we will risk losing it.

The faith that gives us peace and joy amidst confusion and trouble, is based upon our knowledge. This means then that when we, like the disciples of old, ask the Lord to increase our faith, we will be diligent in the study of his Word in order that our understanding of his will and plan may be increased. We do not, of course, yet understand every detail of the prophecies, nor exactly how the various phases of the present period of trouble are to develop. If we mistakenly assume that we do, and then the details do not work out as we expect, this places a strain upon our faith. However, if we continue to faithfully watch the prophecies, and the manner in which they are being fulfilled, then we will be able to discern the general trends of their accomplishment, and our faith will be made increasingly strong.

## **HUMBLE STUDENTS**

For this reason, we may look ahead into the New Year resolved that we will be more humble and careful students of the Word than ever before. Indeed, we should strive to be faithful watchmen, not slumbering and indifferent. Furthermore, we should especially strive to be humble watchers, realizing that we cannot be truly wise above that which is written and revealed. We may think we know a lot



of things, and yet, from time to time, are brought face to face with circumstances and events which, if we are prepared to learn the lesson, will teach us that we perhaps do not know as much as we may have thought.

Surely, we can know nothing at all about God's plan except as he reveals it to us through his Word. Through the Bible he has made known the great principles of his plan to us, and we should rejoice in that knowledge. How precious is the understanding that the kingdoms of this world will soon be set aside, to be replaced by the glorious kingdom of Christ. (Heb. 12:28) Let us treasure this appreciation and hold earnestly to it. Let us also, however, be watchful lest this God-given knowledge of the divine plan give us an exalted opinion of our own wisdom and ability to interpret the prophecies and to tell, in advance, the details of what is to occur. Let us not strive to be prophets, but rather students of prophecy.

### **“YE HAVE NEED OF PATIENCE”**

Although we have courage and faith, based upon a knowledge of God's plan, we will also need patience as we encounter the divinely permitted experiences of 2023. We will need patience both from the standpoint of cheerful endurance of trials, and also from the standpoint of waiting upon the Lord. We are in the world, and though not partaking of its spirit, we will share the sufferings and hardships that are common to all. This will call for cheerful endurance in order that we may not be embittered and begin to doubt the Lord's loving providences directing our affairs.

The mental strain and general distress that are upon the earth today increase the tension under which we all live and call for a large measure of cheerful endurance. This strain may even be apparent in our association with the brethren. Here, too, we will need patience and longsuffering based upon a sympathetic understanding of each other's experiences and trials.—Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:2,3

“One day is with the Lord as a thousand years,” and “a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.” (II Pet. 3:8; Ps. 90:4) Our concept of time, however, is often different. We are prone to measure the development of God's plan from the standpoint of our own short span of natural life. Hence, we may find it hard to wait on the Lord's time for the fulfillment of his promises. When we see the storm clouds gather and the tempest already breaking in fury over the earth, we cry out, “How long, O Lord, how long” must these conditions continue? We wish they could be all over in a short time, and the kingdom ushered in for the blessing of the people, thus we need patience to wait on God's time.

The year 2023 will be a blessed one to all fully dedicated Christians in proportion as they are able to view all matters from the divine standpoint. While we long to see the end of war and the end of suffering and death, yet our faith should enable us to realize that God is just as interested in the human race as we are, and that his wisdom knows best as to just how fast the divine purpose and plan should progress. Like the skilled surgeon who wounds deeply in order to heal, so the Lord, in his great love and superior wisdom, knows exactly

what is best for all nations and people in order that their everlasting blessings may be assured.

### **GOD-LIKE LOVE**

When we speak of God's love, we speak of something that should more and more fill our hearts during the year ahead. Even courage and faith to remove mountains, plus patience to endure the severest of trials, would amount to nothing so far as our spiritual standing is concerned, if we have not love. (I Cor. 13:1-3) Divine love should be our pattern. It is a love that bestows blessings upon all, even enemies. To be filled and controlled by such a love, while surrounded by hate and selfishness, will not be easy. To make progress in love under such circumstances will require the keeping of truth's vision clear, and our faith in that vision strong. It will require courage and patience in meeting the rebuffs, and possibly outright opposition and persecution, of the world.

However, God will help us, and does so every day. He helps us through the blessed assurances of his Word. He helps us through fellowship with his people. He helps us in his providential overruling of all our affairs in order that we may have just those experiences we need most for the development in us of the image of his Son. (Rom. 8:29; II Cor. 3:18) Let us strive more faithfully to use the divine means of grace that thereby we may be more filled with and controlled by that God-like love which will keep us sweet and sympathetic in our attitude toward all, even towards our enemies.

### **CONTINUED SERVICE**

Our zeal for the service of the Lord should be increased rather than diminished because of the

world's troubles. This day of perplexity and distress among mankind affords glorious opportunities for making known the Gospel, or "good message," of the kingdom. (Matt. 24:14) Let us not refrain from making every possible effort to tell others about it. If ever people needed a message of comfort, they certainly need it now. What a joyous privilege we have of binding up the brokenhearted and comforting those who mourn!—Isa. 61:1,2

What will be our privileges along this line during 2023? We are inclined to think that, in general, they will continue, and possibly increase in some quarters. We have no assurance of this, however. For as long as we find work to do for the Lord, we are instructed to do with our might what our hands find to do, and then leave the results with him. (Eccles. 9:10; Col. 3:23) At present the Gospel message continues to be proclaimed through many avenues of endeavor, and there are no indications as yet that there will be a curtailment of activity. Let us all continue to take advantage of these privileges as long as the door of opportunity is open.

The carrying on of the work of putting forth the Gospel message depends, of course, upon the continued mutual help and cooperation of the brotherhood. What a blessed privilege we all have of thus working together in the common cause of truth and its spread. We are happy to work together in the promulgation of this message because we know that it is from the Word of God, and because it is so wonderful that we want to tell the whole world about it. "I love to tell the story, it did so much for me," wrote the poet Katherine Hankey in 1866 while convalescing from a serious

illness, “and that is just the reason, I tell it now to thee.”

Sometimes we may, in a measure, overlook what the Gospel message has done for us. Think of the condition of mind we would be in today if we did not know something of God’s glorious plan for man’s recovery and blessing! Think also of the great privilege that may be ours of helping to comfort and give a measure of hope to one who is now lost in the fog of worldly confusion. Would not that privilege be worth all the sacrifice we could possibly make? Even if we make the sacrifice and see no immediate result from our efforts, such service increases our own appreciation of the Word of truth. There is no time when the promises of the Scriptures seem so wonderful to us as when we are telling them to others, especially to those who have never before heard these beautiful divine assurances.

The “old, old, story” of the Bible is so glorious that, as the poet Katherine Hankey further wrote, “Those who know it best, seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.” How blessed it is that in this time of world confusion and distress we have a theme of conversation and conduct that lifts us up above the trouble and keeps us rejoicing in the blessings that are ahead. In the Apostle Peter’s prophecy of the symbolic present heavens and earth passing away, and of the “new heavens and a new earth” which God has promised, he reminds us of what manner of persons we ought to be in “all holy conversation and godliness.”—II Pet. 3:10-13

## **HOLY CONVERSATION AND CONDUCT**

All conversation that pertains to God’s plan for the world and for us, is holy conversation. Not only

our words, but our thoughts and actions also, are properly included in what the apostle refers to as “conversation.” This means that our conduct and whole course in life should be governed by our knowledge that the present order of things is soon to give place to the glorious new order—God’s world of tomorrow.

This means that throughout 2023 we will more earnestly than ever “seek ... first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness,” touching ever more lightly the transitory things of this world. (Matt. 6:33) It may become increasingly difficult to keep ourselves detached from the world and its spirit. The trend of the present time is towards extreme polarization of thought and action, and while we recognize the many evidences of this in the world around us, yet the Christian must continue to be guided by the Word of God. His will and character qualities of love, mercy, forgiveness, patience, and longsuffering must come first in all things.

As followers of the Master, we enter the New Year with courage and faith, resolved to persevere patiently through the trying days which may be before us. We are resolved, also, that love shall continue to rule in our hearts, and that we will zealously do all we can to comfort and cheer those with whom we come in contact, especially by bearing witness to them of the glorious Messianic kingdom now so near. While we continue to tell others of the blessings to come, we will keep our own affections set on “things above.” (Col. 3:2) Daily we will zealously strive for a place with Jesus in the spiritual phase of his Father’s kingdom. What a hope and prospect is set before us, and soon for all mankind! ■

# Activity and Statistical Report

For the year ended September 30, 2022

**THE DAWN** continues to engage in the blessed work of spreading the glorious Gospel of the kingdom by means of both the printed page, radio, television, and the many forms of electronic media available today. By God's grace, this message has gone to individuals and groups throughout the world to use in their personal Bible study as well as in their witness efforts. The past year was another most blessed one, highlighted by the full resumption of activities, some of which had been temporarily curtailed the previous two years due to the pandemic and the transition of the Dawn's physical plant operations to Florida. With God's providence evident throughout the year just ended, and by his marvelous grace, we are pleased to present this report to our readers.

During 2022 the Dawn was able to increase its printing and witnessing activities in several areas compared to the previous year. In particular, expenditures related to domestic and overseas printing, overseas pilgrim service and witness work, almanac advertising and internet advertising all grew substantially during the year, increasing in aggregate more than 18%.

We had a net operating deficit, excluding bequests and investment income, of (\$422,359), compared to a 2021 deficit of (\$411,306). The table below provides details of operating revenue and expenses for the 2022 fiscal year.

The Dawn projects to maintain expenses related to printing and witness activities in 2023 at similar levels to 2022. Increases in these efforts, however, will be considered if additional opportunities arise, and for which necessary resources are available.

## ACTIVITIES IN 2022

*The Dawn* magazine continues to be published in eight languages and is sent to recipients in 101 countries. In total, more than 45,000 Dawn magazines were printed and sent out during the year. In addition, the English Dawn is printed in India for the Indian brethren and their witness efforts. They also translate the English Dawn into some of the local languages.

During the year, several thousand *Hope* booklets were sent upon request to funeral homes in the

Income	Receipts	Expenditures
Revenue (excluding bequests and investment income)	<u>\$51,249</u>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Radio and TV (domestic)		\$ 25,096
Radio and TV (foreign)		35,643
Internet and Other Media		116,150
Foreign Witness Work and Pilgrim Service		42,473
Shipping/Mailing (domestic and foreign)		80,426
Shop Operating Expense		56,106
Plant Operating Expense		117,714
House Operating Expense		<u>0</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$473,608
Less Income	<u>51,249</u>	
Net Operating Deficit	\$(422,359)	



United States, continuing this ongoing work. Some are also ordered by brethren to use in local obituary work.

The *Frank & Ernest* radio program is currently broadcast in the United States on twelve stations in twenty-five different time slots. *Frank & Ernest* is also aired on stations in Asia, Australia, East Africa, South Africa, West Africa, India, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, England and North America short wave. In addition, two radio stations in East Africa broadcast material obtained from the Dawn's website and translated from English to the local language for airing in a weekly one-hour time slot.

In 2022 the Dawn again placed ads in almanacs offering various booklets. This has long been an effective method of advertising, as it reaches a more rural audience which seems to be especially receptive to the message of the Bible.

The Dawn website yields requests for literature from many countries around the world. It also has thousands of pages of current and archived booklets, books, and Dawn magazine issues available for online reading or download. During the past year all book and booklet listings on the website were updated to reflect current material available, with numerous new offerings now included.

In 2022 the Dawn's Internet keyword advertising continued to provide many responses. We advertised 39 booklets in English, 12 booklets in Spanish, 8 booklets in French, and 3 booklets in German. During the past year, the number of "clicks" to various keywords, which brings the user to the Dawn's ad page, was over 482,000 for all languages combined. This was an increase of 45% from 2021. The viewing

of these ads generated over 4,700 mail responses for booklets. Booklets read online as a result of the same ads totaled approximately 24,300. In addition to mail responses and booklets read online, a person can also download the advertised booklets. In 2023 we plan to add new booklet offerings in French and German languages, and also implement other changes in order to further enhance responses in this highly effective area of the Dawn's witness activities.

The Dawn's YouTube channel, *The Dawn Magazine—Monthly Video*, continued to broadcast the message of Truth during the past year. In 2022, 28 new videos were added, bringing the total number posted on the channel to 181. Those added were weekly International Bible Study lessons which appear each month in *The Dawn* magazine. During the year, the videos were viewed 3,617 times, for a total of over 16,000 minutes. The channel currently has 450 subscribers. In 2023, we plan to continue adding more of the International Bible Study lessons. These include audio narrations of the original text, with the addition of video content.

During the year, a free, electronic subscription to *The Dawn* magazine continued to be offered to any who wish to subscribe. As of November 2022, the electronic issue of *The Dawn* magazine was sent to approximately 200 e-subscribers. Each subscriber receives an email the first day of every month, from which they can then link directly to either the entire Dawn magazine or to individual articles which they can read online or save to their personal computer or other electronic device for later reading.

From December 2021 to January 2022, the Dawn engaged in a one-month billboard advertising effort

in the greater Phoenix, Arizona area. Thirteen billboard locations in high traffic areas were selected. A beautiful color graphic of the Earth as viewed from space was displayed, along with the simple message —“Peace on Earth” ... Coming Soon—and a website address of the same name. Anyone accessing the website would see the same billboard graphic, with a direct link to the booklet, *Jesus, the World’s Savior*, and an online order form should they desire to have a copy of the booklet mailed to them. During the course of the effort, the Peace on Earth web page was accessed 1,552 times.

Early in 2022, it was noted that the Dawn had a very large quantity of Spanish first volumes in inventory. A special project was started in which a Spanish first volume was sent, free of charge, to every U.S. subscriber of the Spanish Dawn magazine, *El Alba*. This was done over a six-month period, with numerous local brethren, including young people, assisting in the project on site and at home.

## **BOOKS AND BOOKLETS**

During much of 2022, the Dawn engaged in the project of reprinting books and booklets that have been either in short supply or temporarily out of stock. This has included standardizing size and format as necessary.

In the early part of the year, we printed and had bound the Third Edition of *Creation*, a 120 page soft-cover book. It is a revision of the booklet under the same name published a number of years ago by the Dawn. In the fall, we reprinted *The Book of Books*, a 294 page bound soft-cover book. During

2022, we also reprinted approximately 20 booklets, all reformatted and with new color covers.

In total, over the past year, the Dawn has filled orders for more than 14,700 English and foreign language booklets and books.

## **STAFFING**

The Dawn could not have accomplished any of its activities without the assistance of many willing hands. Currently there are approximately twenty brethren in North America involved in these efforts, working both on-site and remotely, each one playing a vital role in the work of the Dawn.

Overseas, we have the assistance of brethren in numerous foreign countries, including Australia, Germany, France, India, Italy, the United Kingdom, and several countries in Africa and South America. We thank all the brethren for their continued work and support. It is our privilege to labor with you in our Father's vineyard.

## **THE YEAR AHEAD**

We are excited about the prospects for 2023, knowing, of course, that all of our efforts and plans are in the all-wise hands of our Heavenly Father. Most of all, we rejoice in the privilege of sharing with others God's wonderful plan which he has provided through his Holy Word. We look forward to continuing to bear witness to the Gospel message and the hope of the kingdom for as long as the Lord allows.

We ask for your prayers on behalf of the activities of the Dawn, as daily we seek to proclaim the Gospel message throughout the earth, and strive to be good stewards over the opportunities which God's providence has made available to us. ■

# General Convention Bulletin

July 15-20, 2023—Johnstown, Pennsylvania

**WE ARE PLEASED** to announce that the 2023 General Convention will be held at the beautiful facilities of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on the dates noted above.

Air conditioned rooms with private bathrooms in the Living-Learning Center (LLC), family-style air conditioned apartments with private bathrooms (APTS), and housing with two rooms sharing one bathroom (not air conditioned) in other facilities will be available on campus. A child may sleep on a bedroom floor at no charge if both beds are occupied. Despite the current economic inflation, package and lodging prices have been held to 2017 levels.

All room and meal costs for children 12 years old or younger will be paid by the convention. In addition, 100% of the room and meal cost of those from ages 13 through 17 will be refunded if the young person attends at least 75% of the studies for his or her age group. This subsidy does not cover meals paid at the door.

This year's convention theme text will be taken from Isaiah 26:3,4, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock." (*English Standard Version*) The program also include a panel discussion on "The Top

Ten Traps of 2023 and How To Avoid Them,” taken from II Timothy 2:24-26. Other special program features are planned, to be detailed in coming months.

A complete pricing table and registration form is provided for your convenience immediately following this announcement. We encourage you to register early. Advance payment is not required. We look forward to the prospect of seeing our brethren face to face once again and encourage each of you to begin making plans to attend this year’s General Convention. ■

	Ages	18 & up	***13-17
Breakfast		\$10.00	\$9.00
Lunch		12.00	11.00
Dinner		15.00	14.00
Total, three meals		\$37.00	\$34.00
Lodging (per night)			
**dbl occ (LLC or APTS)		\$42.00	\$37.00
dbl occ (non-LLC or APTS)		\$37.00	\$35.00
**single occ (LLC)		\$76.00	n/a
single occ (non-LLC)		\$42.00	n/a
PKG: 7 nights, 18 meals			
**dbl occ (LLC or APTS)		\$410*	\$375*
dbl occ (non-LLC or APTS)		\$275*	\$240*
**single occ (LLC)		\$616*	n/a
single occ (non-LLC)		\$319*	n/a

\*If no breakfasts, deduct—\$40

\*\*Air conditioned

\*\*\*100% of these costs will be refunded if the young person attends 75% of the studies for his/her age group.

NOTE: A Convention Fee of \$10.00 per person, regardless of age, length of stay, or lodging and meal arrangements, will be added to your invoice to help offset convention expenses unrelated to lodging and meals.

# General Convention Registration

330 Jasmine Road—Casselberry, FL 32707  
E-mail: [ekuenzli@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ekuenzli@cfl.rr.com) (407) 670-4189

	Brkfst	Lunch	Dinner	Bed
Friday, July 14, 2023				
Saturday, 15th				
Sunday, 16th				
Monday, 17th				
Tuesday, 18th				
Wednesday, 19th				
Thursday, 20th				

Check for package: 7 nights, all 18 meals   
**or** 7 nights, 12 meals (no breakfasts)

Check:  private bath **or**  shared bath  
 double occupancy  single occupancy  
 interested in APTS

Names and ecclesia name (age if under 18)

Address:

# SPEAKERS' APPOINTMENTS

*The speakers listed below are invited by individual classes, or their services have been arranged by their home classes:*

## **N. Charcharos**

Australia January 20-22

## **R. Charlton**

Australia January 20-22

## **R. Goodman**

Chicago, IL December 31  
-January 1

## **L. Griehs**

Australia January 20-22

## **M. Kerry**

Phoenix, AZ January 14,15

## **A. Kopczyk**

Chicago, IL December 31  
-January 1

Australia January 20-22

## **E. Kuenzli**

Australia January 20-22

## **R. Liberda**

Australia January 20-22

## **B. Montague**

Phoenix, AZ January 14,15

## **T. Nordman**

Australia January 20-22

## **B. Sweeney**

Australia January 20-22

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## OBITUARIES

*The following brethren have recently finished their Christian course. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to their family and friends in the loss of these dear ones.*

Brother Dave Christiansen, Seattle, WA—December 4.

Age, 72

Brother David Blencowe, Vernon, BC, Canada—

December 5. Age, 87

Sister Arlyne Gonczewski, Agawam, MA—December

5. Age, 73

Brother K. Chandra Mohan, Bangalore, India—

December 11. Age, 77



## WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING TEXTS

**JANUARY 5**—“The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.”—Romans 15:3 (Z. '96-83 Hymn 299)

**JANUARY 12**—“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”—Galatians 6:1 (Z. '01-150 Hymn 267)

**JANUARY 19**—“O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.”—Psalm 119:97 (Z. '99-156 Hymn 238)

**JANUARY 26**—“When ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance.”—Matthew 6:16 (Z. '98-45 Hymn 196)

## CONVENTIONS

*These conventions are listed by request of classes who sponsor them. So your convention can be placed in these columns in time, make your request in writing three months before the date of the convention to Dawn Magazine, PO Box 521167, Longwood, FL 32752-1167*

**CHICAGO CONVENTION, December 31, January 1**  
—**IN PERSON AND BROADCAST ONLINE**—Doubletree by Hilton, 3003 Corporate West Drive, Lisle, IL 60532. Phone: (630) 505-0900. Contact C. Martire. Phone: (312) 925-5434 or Email: [secretary@chicagobible.org](mailto:secretary@chicagobible.org)

**PHOENIX CONVENTION, January 14,15—IN PERSON AND BROADCAST ONLINE**—Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N La Montana Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. Contact A. Mengos. Phone: (480) 390-3767 or Email: [samengos@yahoo.com](mailto:samengos@yahoo.com)

**AUSTRALIAN CONVENTION, January 20-22—BROADCAST ONLINE (MEETINGS.DIALPAD) ONLY**  
—Contact R. Charlton. Email: [randscharlton@bigpond.com](mailto:randscharlton@bigpond.com)

**SACRAMENTO CONVENTION, February 18,19—IN PERSON AND BROADCAST ONLINE**—Holiday Inn Express, 2224 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95821. Phone: (916) 923-1100. Contact K. Freer. Phone: (916) 879-4657 or Email: winnerwear@aol.com

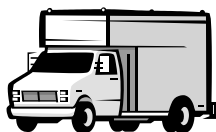
**FLORIDA CONVENTION, March 4-6—IN PERSON AND BROADCAST ONLINE**—Holiday Inn Orlando-International Airport, 5750 T.G. Lee Blvd, Orlando, FL 32822. Contact R. Sconyers. Phone: (407) 923-8067 or Email: rsguitarman59@gmail.com

**HIGHLAND PARK CONVENTION, March 18—BROADCAST ONLINE ONLY**—Contact S. Koterba. Phone: (917) 554-2348 or Email: sandykoterba@gmail.com

**DETROIT PRE-MEMORIAL CONVENTION, March 25,26—BROADCAST ONLINE ONLY**—Contact P. Nemesh. Email: nemeshfp@aol.com

**METRO DETROIT CONVENTION, May 6,7—IN PERSON AND BROADCAST ONLINE**—Milford Senior Center, 1050 Atlantic Street, Milford, MI 48381. Contact B. Johnson. Email: beckystevej@aol.com

**HARTFORD CONVENTION, May 7—IN PERSON AND BROADCAST ONLINE**—West Hartford Senior Center, 15 Starkel Road, West Hartford, CT. Contact J. Slivinsky. Email: djslivinsky@sbcglobal.net



### **MOVING?**

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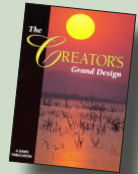
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## ***To us the Scriptures clearly teach . . .***

### **THAT THE CHURCH IS “THE TEMPLE” OF THE LIVING GOD**

—peculiarly “his workmanship”; that its construction has been in progress throughout the Gospel Age—ever since Christ became the world’s Redeemer and the chief “corner stone” of this temple, through which, when finished, God’s blessings shall come “to all people”, and they find access to him.—I Cor. 3:16,17; Eph. 2:20-22; Gen. 28:14; Gal. 3:29

### **THAT MEANTIME THE CHISELING, SHAPING AND POLISHING**

of consecrated believers in Christ’s atonement for sin progresses, and when the last of these “living stones,” “elect and precious,” shall have been made ready, the great Master Workman will bring all together in the first resurrection; and the temple shall be filled with his glory, and be the meeting place between God and men throughout the Millennium.—Rev. 15:5-8

### **THAT THE BASIS OF HOPE FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD**

lies in the fact that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, “a ransom for all,” and will be “the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world,” “in due time.”—Heb. 2:9; John 1:9; I Tim. 2:5,6

### **THAT THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH**

is that she may be like her Lord, “see him as he is,” be a “partaker of the divine nature,” and share his glory as his joint-heir.—I John 3:2; John 17:24; Rom. 8:17; II Pet.1:4

### **THAT THE PRESENT MISSION OF THE CHURCH**

is the perfecting of the saints for the future work of service; to develop in herself every grace; to be God’s witness to the world; and to prepare to be the kings and priests in the next age.—Eph. 4:12; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:6, 20:6

### **THAT THE HOPE FOR THE WORLD**

lies in the blessings of knowledge and opportunity to be brought to all by Christ’s millennial kingdom—the restitution of all that was lost in Adam, to all the willing and obedient, at the hands of their Redeemer and his glorified church—when all the willfully wicked will be destroyed.—Acts 3:19-23; Isa. 55

