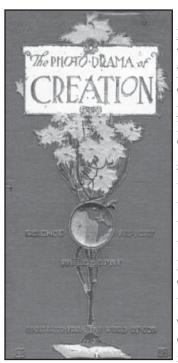


REMEMBERING OUR 100 YEARS OF SERVING JEHOVAH 1914-2014

The fall of this year (2014) marks the centennial of God's confirmation of Pastor Russell's prophetic and chronological interpretations. In the fall of 1914 the Great War of prophecy began, developing into a worldwide Time of Trouble, "such as never was since there was a nation" (Dan. 12: 1; Matt. 24: 21). For forty years Pastor Russell declared in writing and from the pulpit that Gentile Times would terminate with the year 1914. People the world over knew of these widely-circulated views of Bible Students. Many of the worldly-wise looked to that year in anticipation—not that they believed the Scripture message, but that they looked forward to scoffing at another "prophet" when his message came to

naught. But just as Jehovah put His stamp of approval on Daniel as a true prophet of the LORD so did He manifest His approval of Bro. Russell through the unfolding of world events exactly at the time Bro. Russell indicated from the Scriptures.

The preaching of 1914 had a profound effect on Bible Students and those who heard them. In the Watch Tower Annual Report for 1914 (R 5591), Bro. Russell states, "the expectation brought, we are sure, a great blessing to our thousands of readers. It brought them quickening of spiritual interest, and zeal to know and to do the Master's will. It brought them heart searching, to see whether or not they were ready for the kingdom."

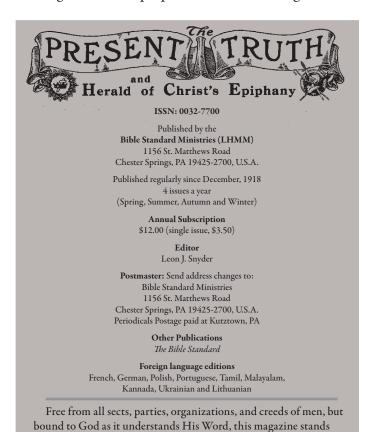


The work toward the public during that year was also profound. This year (1914) witnessed the commencement of public exhibition of the Photo-Drama of Creation. The same Annual Report states: "In God's providence the present year has been the most wonderful one in the history of our Society the grand climacteric of all previous efforts on the part of God's consecrated people to show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."



1914—AN IMPORTANT DATE IN GOD'S PLAN

The year 1914 marked the commencement or conclusion of several different prophetic points, most of which are related. It marked the ending of the 40 year Parousia stage of our Lord's Second Advent; the beginning of the Epiphany (the Time of Trouble); the final closing of the door of entrance into the High Calling; the beginning of the First Smiting of Jordan and related types and acts and the beginning of the special work toward the Great Company and the Youthful Worthies. As far as the



• The defense of the Parousia Truth, given by the Lord through

• The defense of the arrangements, charter and will given by the

• The exposition and defense of the unfolding Epiphany-Basileia

Truth, as meat in due season for the Lord's people, as He is pleased

"that Servant," as basic for all further development of the Truth;

Lord through "that Servant," as binding on controlling corpora-

tions and associations among Truth people; and for

for -

to provide it.

world was concerned, it especially marked the ending of the "seven times" of the Gentiles—the 2520 years dating from 607 B.C. to A.D. 1914.

The "Times of the Gentiles" refers to that period after which God removed His typical kingdom from Israel until He establishes its antitype, the true Kingdom of God, at the hands of Messiah. During this time He allows the governments of this world to have a lease of power in order to try as they might to lift themselves up. This period is also synchronous with the time that Jerusalem is trodden down of the Gentiles, both fleshly and spiritual Israel being subject to these powers (Ezek. 21: 27; Luke 21: 24).

DEVELOPMENT OF PROPHETIC INTERPRETATION

Pastor Russell was not the first to apply Gentile Times as a period of 2520 years. William Miller and his associates accurately interpreted the length of time, but instead of beginning the period with Zedekiah's removal in 607 B.C., Miller started the period with the captivity of Israel by Esarhaddon in the reign of Manasseh, which he dated as 677 B.C. With this date as the starting point he concluded that A.D. 1843 would be the end of Gentile Times. Even before Miller, this prophetic period of 2520 years was being circulated by those searching the Scriptures. The earliest published writing we can find on the subject is from 1823, when an Englishman, John Aquila Brown, wrote a book entitled, The Even-Tide; or, Last Triumph of the Blessed and Only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords; being a Development of the Mysteries of Daniel and St. John. In his book, Brown calculates the 2520 years from 604 B.C. to A.D. 1917 (the same year in which he concludes the 1335 years of Daniel; incidentally, he concludes the 1290 years with A.D. 1873). He did not expressly relate this period to "The Times of the Gentiles" but to the "seven times" of Nebuchadnezzar's tree (Dan. 4). It is also interesting to note that Brown correctly understood (and published in 1810) that the 2300 years and the 70 weeks begin at the same point, although he dated the period from 457 B.C. to A.D. 1843.

After the Miller movement, other Bible students picked up this prophetic teaching and developed it to more accurately state what we believe today. Notable among them were N. H. Barbour and J. H. Paton. Although Pastor Russell was not the first to publish and circulate views relating to the 2520 years of Gentile Times, he was the first to accurately understand the concluding date (1914) and to spread this Bible teaching world-wide.

1914 Foreseen

Charles Taze Russell and his fellow Bible students realized decades earlier that 1914 would mark the end of the Gentile Times, or the appointed times of the nations (Luke 21: 24). While they did not in those early days fully understand what this would mean, they



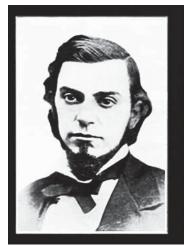
were convinced that 1914 was going to be a pivotal date in world history, and they were right. Notice the following newspaper quotations:

The terrific war outbreak in Europe has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy. For a quarter of a century past, through preachers and through press, the "International Bible Students," best known as "Millennial Dawners," have been proclaiming to the world that the Day of Wrath prophesied in the Bible would dawn in 1914. "Look out for 1914!" has been the cry of the hundreds of traveling evangelists.— *The World*, a New York newspaper, August 30, 1914.

The first published article on this subject we can find from Bro. Russell's pen is from the Bible Examiner (published by Bro. George Storrs), October, 1876.

GENTILE TIMES: WHEN DO THEY END? BY CHARLES T. RUSSELL

(October, 1876—The Bible Examiner, Vol. XXI, No. 1, Whole No. 313)





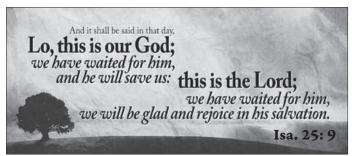
"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21: 24). Doubtless our Lord intended to communicate to His disciples some knowledge, and possibly it was addressed more to the disciples in our day, than to the early church. Let us then search what times the prophecy, which was in Christ, did signify. Of course, if it is one of the secret things of God, we cannot find out; but if a secret, why should Jesus mention it? If, on the contrary, it is revealed it belongs to us. Shall we guess and suppose? No, let us go to God's treasure-house; let us search the Scriptures for the key. Jesus does not foretell its treading under foot of the Gentiles, as Rome had her foot upon them at that time. He does tell us, however, how long it will continue so, even the disciples thought "that it was he which should have delivered Israel."

We believe that God has given the key. We believe He doeth nothing but He reveals it unto His servants. Do we not find part of the key in Lev. 26: 28-33? "I, even I will chastise you seven times for your sins: . . . and I will bring your land into desolation . . . and will scatter you among the heathen." Israel did not hearken unto the LORD, but disobeyed him, and this prophecy is now being fulfilled, and has been since the days of Zedekiah, when God said, "Remove the diadem, take off the crown . . . I will overturn, overturn it, . . . until He comes whose right it is, and I will give it unto Him." Comparing these Scriptures, we learn, that God has scattered Israel for a period of seven times, or until "he comes whose right" the government is, and puts an end to Gentile rule or government. This gives us a clue at least, as to how long until the Jews are delivered. Further, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, the head of gold, is recognized by God as the representative of the beast, or Gentile Governments. "A king of kings and wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air, hath God given into his hand" (Dan. 2: 38). God had taken the crown off Zedekiah and declared the Image, of which Nebuchadnezzar is the head, ruler of the world until the Kingdom of God takes its place (smiting it on its feet); and, as this is the same time at which Israel is to be delivered, for "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21: 24), we here get our second clue, viz.: these two events, noted of the Scriptures of Truth-"Times of Gentiles," and "Treading of Jerusalem," are parallel periods, commencing at the same time and ending at the same time; and, as in the case of Israel, their degradation was to be for seven times, so with the dominion of the Image; it lasts seven times; for, when in his pride the "Head of Gold" ignored "The God of heaven," the glory of that kingdom (which God gave him, as a representative of the Image), departed, and it took on its beastly character, which lasts seven times (Dan 4: 23), and, (prefigured by the personal degradation

for seven years, of Nebuchadnezzar, the representative) until the time comes when they shall acknowledge, and "give honor to the Most High, whose Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom" (Dan 4: 34); for all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn unto the Lord when He is the Governor among the nations.

Our next question naturally is, how long are seven times? Does God in His Word, furnish us any clue from which to determine the length of that period? Yes, in Revelations we learn that three and one-half times, 42 months, and 1260 prophetic days, literal years, are the same (it has for years been so accepted by the church), and it was so fulfilled: if three and one-half times are 1260 years, seven times would be twice as much, i.e., 2520 years. At the commencement of our Christian era, 606 years of this time had passed, (70 years captivity, and 536 from Cyrus to Christ) which deducted from 2520, would show that the seven times would end in A.D. 1914; when Jerusalem shall be delivered forever, and the Jew say of the Deliverer, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him and He will save us" (Isa. 25: 9). When Gentile Governments shall have been dashed to pieces; when God shall have poured out of His fury upon the nation, and they acknowledge Him King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

But, someone will say, "If the LORD intended that we should know, He would have told us plainly and distinctly how long." But, no, brethren, He never does so. The Bible is to be a light to God's children;—to the world, foolishness. Many of its writings are solely for our edification upon whom the ends of the world are come. As we'll say that God should have put the gold on top instead of in the bowels of the earth; it would be too common; it would lose much of its value. So with Truth; but, "to you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom."



We will ask, but not now answer, another question: If the Gentile Times ended in 1914, (and there are many other and clearer evidences pointing to the same time) and we are told that it would be with fury poured out; a Time of Trouble such as never was before, nor ever shall be; a day of wrath, etc., how long before does the church escape? As Jesus says, "watch, that ye may be accounted

worthy to escape those things coming upon the world." Brethren, the taking by Christ of His Bride is evidently, one of the first acts in the Judgment; for judgment must begin at the house of God.

This Bible teaching, that Gentiles Times ended in 1914, along with other progressive Truth, was first published in book form in 1877 in, Three Worlds and the Harvest of this World, by Russell and Barbour. When Bro. Russell began publishing his own magazine, The Watch Tower, this 1914 date continued to be prominent. It is mentioned in the very first issue of the magazine, in an article written by Paton. The first article definitely written by Bro. Russell and mentioning 1914 can be found in the Aug. 1880 issue, "A Reason for the Hope" (R 124). In 1889, Pastor Russell published the second volume of Studies in the Scriptures

(then called Millennial Dawn), which had a full chapter dedicated to the subject of "The Times of the Gentiles."

Pastor Russell continued to teach that Gentile Times would end in 1914 throughout his ministry, never wavering on this thought. He had the "sure word of prophecy" to back him up. He never claimed to be inspired, only that the "due time" had come for these things to be understood. This lease of power having expired in 1914, there was great expectation among Bible Students as to what to expect. Many of the world misunderstood the preaching to be "the end of the world!" The widely-circulated volunteer literature of that year corrected them. Especially was

this the case through the Bible Student Monthly article "END OF THE WORLD IN 1914—NOT the View of Pastor Russell nor of the I. B. S. A." (Harvest Gleanings, Volume 1, p. 626).

In the Aug. 15, 1914 Tower (R 5520) we read: "Millions of people have had their attention drawn to the teachings of The Watch Tower and the Studies in the Scriptures respecting our thought that the Time of Trouble such as never was since there was a nation is due sometime about October, 1914. Eight million volumes of the Studies in the Scriptures are in the hands of the public. Some who scoffed, railed, laughed and talked about the impossibility of our expectations are startled by the suddenness with which the great European war has started. All admit that there never has been such a war before, and that there never again can be such a war. Ignoring the Bible, all admit that the consequences of this war will be so

terrible, the impoverishment of the nations so great, that wiser counsels must prevail in the future. We see from the Bible viewpoint that the result of this war will lead up to the wrecking of our present civilization in a period of anarchy. Whatever way the war may eventuate, it will surely be unsatisfactory. Discontent will more than ever prevail amongst the masses. A reign of terror throughout the civilized world is to be expected as a result.

All these things we have presented in our publications, sermons, etc., also in the Photo-Drama of Creation, which already has been shown to audiences totaling more than four millions. This war is riveting conviction upon the minds of many respecting the correctness of our expectations. Their question is, "What next?" And they will not think of looking for an answer in the direction

> know have been keeping them in the dark and trying to prevent their obtaining the true light from God's Word, as it is now shining amongst the Bible Students.

of the ministers of the nominal churches, who they now Being Meak Does Not Mean

> Now is the time for our moderation of thought, speech and manner. When our dear relatives, friends, neighbors and the public begin to inquire of us respecting the horoscope of God's Word, we should be very meek, gentle, patient in our replies. Any haughty manner, any spirit of "I told you so," would be a rebuff to those who are now inclined to look to us for assistance, guidance, instruction in the teachings of God's Word. Sympathetically we should put

ourselves in their places and treat them most kindly, telling them that this war is probably connected with the great anarchy which is to follow; that it will probably weaken the nations as nothing else would have done, and give the discontented element of society, not only an excuse, but an opportunity, for overthrowing all governments and precipitating the world into the most terrible calamity ever known.

We recommend that the distresses of the Time of Trouble be not so much discussed as the grand outcome, the MESSIANIC KINGDOM, to follow. We should help our friends and neighbors to look beyond the dark cloud to the silver lining, assuring them that God's Word implies that this Time of Trouble is necessary as a preparation for Messiah's Kingdom. The plowshare of trouble must first prepare human hearts for the sowing of the good seed of the next Dispensation. As we read, "When thy judgments

Weakness

But It Does Mean

Behaving with

Goodness and

Kindness

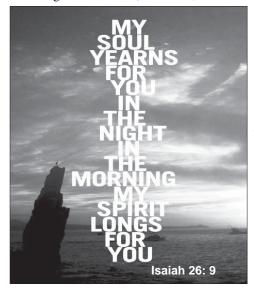
Showing Strength,

Serenity, Healthy

Self-Worth and

Self-Control

are abroad in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness" (Isa. 26: 9).



Let us always remember our ordination, commission, authority, or preach—as read, "To bind up the broken-hearted, to declare the deliverance captives." Let the world, the flesh and the Devil break

men's hearts, if they will. Let the great Time of Trouble break them, if it will. Our commission is not to break hearts, but to heal them, to bind them up, to pour in the gracious promises of God's Word, sympathetically. The promises are represented symbolically as the oil. "We should show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2: 9). We shall best assist those who sadly need our assistance. We must remember that we were equally in the dark but a short time ago, and that our neighbors and friends are no more responsible for being in the dark than we were. It should, therefore, be ours to excuse rather than to berate or fault find.

THE FOOLISH VIRGIN CLASS

It is not for us to determine who will be of the foolish virgin class and fail to get into the Marriage, and as a result pass into the great tribulation and get a lesser reward. Nevertheless, we must feel some interest and curiosity in respect to our Master's parabolic prophecy. While it has been true that Christian brethren charged with the cares of this life and therefore not filled with the Spirit, the oil, and lacking the light of the lamp, have repeatedly said to us, "I wish that I could see that as you do," or, "Show me that in a few words," nevertheless they have been unwilling to take the time necessary for proper investigation and the filling of the Spirit. All this is, we believe, still more abundantly true now.

Many of this overcharged class, neglecters of their Covenant of Sacrifice, were stimulated by the outward signs of their time. Doubtless many of them did study and came clearly into the light and to a fullness of consecration to the LORD'S service. Some of these came

in with such fervent zeal that they were accounted of the LORD, worthy of a place in the Bride class. Others came along so slowly that they became of the Great Company class, the foolish virgins of the parable.

The conclusion of the parable shows us that by the time the foolish virgin class shall have become thoroughly awake, thoroughly convinced of the Divine Plan, etc., and fully awake to the privileges of their consecration vows—by that time the Little Flock Class will have passed into the wedding, and the door to that glorious privilege and opportunity will be forever shut. The Master is to have but one Bride class. The others, therefore, will be rejected and must pass through great tribulation, eventually to come to a glorious place on the spirit plane as the antitypes of the Levites, while the faithful Little Flock will be glorified as the Royal Priesthood, in association with their Master.

The point we would particularly impress is that we should all be praying and striving for an abundance of the fruits of the Holy Spirit—manifestations of patience, gentleness, long-suffering, brotherly-kindness, love—that we may be enabled to render any assistance to those who now will be inquiring. It is a special privilege for us to be the representatives of the LORD and His Divine Plan. But instead of making us haughty, proud, disdainful, it should make us very humble, gentle and loving, remembering that such honors are not deserved by any of us, but are of the LORD's grace.

Pastor Russell's initial articles on the War can be found in R 5526 "The Present Crisis" and R 5563 "Making Ready for the Reign of Righteousness." He understood correctly that it was the beginning of the Great War of prophecy, "the wind," a "World War"—but it did not initially seem possible for it to develop world-wide in scope, for it was concentrated among a few European countries. Bro. Russell wrote in R 5554: "Notwithstanding the fact that the President and the Secretary of State of our own land are wise men, lovers and promoters of peace; and notwithstanding the fact that there is no apparent reason why our country should ever be involved in this war, nevertheless we are apprehensive. The great nations of the old world, impoverishing themselves and destroying their commercial interests, as well as being robbed of hundreds of thousands of valuable lives by this war, will not wish to see the United States towering high above them in every way by reason of its isolation. We may be sure that the crafty statesmen of Europe, while professing interest in our peace, will really do all in their power to embroil us in war by one device or another."—"For forty years

54 — PRESENT TRUTH AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S EPIPHANY

we have been proclaiming this very war and its glorious outcome, by sermons, oral and printed, and in our books on Bible Study in twenty languages. Now, when the very year has come and the prophecy is being fulfilled, could we consistently ask the Almighty to change His program? Nay!"

Many Bible Students continued to expect to be glorified by this date. Bro. Russell warned them on this. Writing in R 5555 he says: "We have been receiving things so good, so refreshing to us, that if they continue for six months longer, or six years longer, we shall be very glad that the LORD has given us this longer opportunity of testifying to His goodness. On the other hand, it may be that the work of the Harvesting of the "wheat" has been fully accomplished, and that the work of the present time is for the Great Company class and for the world."

"At what time the Lord's people will be taken beyond the veil the Lord has not fully indicated. But we have the assurance that when He shall appear, be manifested—when His Epiphaneia shall occur—we shall be with Him, we shall be like Him and see Him as He is. He will not begin His great work of establishing the Kingdom until the Church shall be with Him. We may not understand all that this implies. Perhaps we may be with our Lord, in service on this side the veil for a while. We had not thought so; but we are simply willing that the LORD's will shall be done, whatever it may be, and we are waiting for the indications of His providence."



We would be amiss to not touch on one of Pastor Russell's great works titled: "The Photo Drama of Creation" first presented to the public in 1914. At an International Bible Students Association convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas it was unanimously resolved that the time has come for the use of moving pictures in teaching Bible Truths. It was brought out by the discussion that the LORD sanctioned this in His use of parables and in the symbols of Revelation, which are word pictures. It was conceded that so important an avenue for reaching the heads and hearts of mankind should not be neglected. The Editor later explained that he had been at work upon

this very plan for three years and now had almost ready hundreds of beautiful pictures, which will undoubtedly attract great crowds and herald the Gospel, and help the public back to faith in God, and in the Bible as the Word, or Revelation of God.

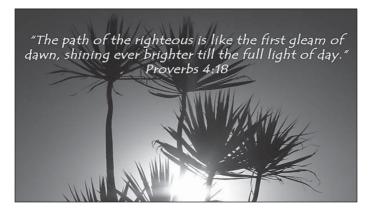
We must remember these words were written in 1914 and before. Over the last 100 years much present Truth as due has come to light. The further considerations were written in 2014 showing that the Word and its understanding advance with each year.

We, who have the six "Parousia volumes," the "Watch Tower Reprints," "What Pastor Russell Said," "What Pastor Russell Wrote," "Tabernacle Shadows" and other Bible Helps including the writings in history books of the last 100 years, know that it truly has been an unprecedented Time of Trouble.

There is much more trouble the world must endure: Revolution and Anarchy are everywhere revealing themselves, but the Scripture prophecies indicate a much further world-wide scale for them as well, before Satan's empire is completely destroyed in preparation for the establishing of God's Kingdom under Messiah. Bro. Russell's early, but immature, thought was that the trouble would be over by 1914. We do however understand that the complete number of the Bride of Christ was complete in its spirit-begotten membership Sept. 16, 1914.

As to the Time of Trouble; when it was time for the correct understanding our LORD revealed to Pastor Russell that it would begin in 1914 and that it would be short, perhaps only a few years. After Bro. Russell's "change" [October 31, 1916] the LORD gave Bro. Johnson a clearer understanding of the Epiphany that it would last at least until 1954-56, shortly after which would see the completion of the Great Company's and Youthful Worthy work. He later came to understand that restitution would not begin until after the complete death of the Great Company [February 14, 1979] and Youthful Worthies. After Bro. Johnson's "change" [October 22, 1950] Bro. Jolly showed there would be another class to consecrate before the Highway of Holiness opens, the Consecrated Epiphany Campers, the first of the quasielect to consecrate. We come to see that this class, the pre-Millennial seed of Abraham, as the last to be developed before Christ's Mediatorial Kingdom begins, must also have time to develop and make their calling and election

It was during the Lord's Epiphany or Apocalypse in a wider sense, as the Time of Trouble, that the Great Company received its resurrection to the spirit nature (now complete) and that the Youthful Worthies will finish their course, having proven themselves worthy to share with the Ancient Worthies in the "better resurrection" (Heb. 11: 35), and that the Consecrated Epiphany Campers will be prepared for their Kingdom glory. These classes, also being God's consecrated people and having His Holy Spirit, groan within themselves, waiting for their deliverance. But now God is still developing His elect classes (aside from the Little Flock and Great Company) and His quasi-elect classes as subordinate parts of the pre-Millennial seed of Abraham, for their share in blessing the non-elect in the coming Kingdom and its reign of Truth and righteousness (PT 1969 pp. 36-37).



We have every confidence that the Great Company has finished its earthly course and the LORD has continued His special shepherding care for His people through the Youthful Worthies, and that after the Youthful Worthies have finished their course in this life, He will continue it through the Consecrated Epiphany Campers. Prov. 4: 18 "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day." Have the children of the LORD been led by the cloudy, fiery pillar for some long time? Yes, the cloudy, fiery pillar covering the tabernacle types the Truth as due and its Spirit resting upon the Christ class. This means that the LORD has throughout the Gospel Age made the Christ class the recipient and the depository of the Truth as due and of its Spirit. As we understand the Gospel Age Church of the firstborn [Christ class] are now glorified and the consecrated of our day are God's place of residing, meeting with and blessing the people. Upon the Epiphany enlightened consecrated the antitypical cloudy, fiery pillar; the Truth as due and its Spirit rest and they are the depository of the Truth as due. Yes, the Spirit-enlightened, Spirit-energized consecrated ones, are the recipient of this great favor! Grateful to the LORD for this, the greatest of all privileges, we envy not the most favored of the present evil world.

In the meantime, as pre-Millennial seed of Abraham, let us not wait only for the greater opportunities of service after Babylon falls, but let us be busy in the various features of the LORD's service. Luke 2: 49 "And he said to them, Why is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business? (NKJ)" In John 18: 37 "Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered; Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." Yes, great and small, He has given us to do according to our ability and opportunity, in love doing with our might in His service what our hands find to do (Eccles. 9: 10). As God's people we have been given a time of comparative quiet in many parts of the world, very favorable to the continued loving efforts by the Kingdom witness to seek out more of the pre-Millennial seed of Abraham, building up the Epiphany Camp, and helping many to be better prepared to enter the Millennial Camp. Let us continue diligently and regularly to study individually and with others the precious Parousia Truth and also the Epiphany/Basileia Truth as it has been given to us and as it continues to unfold in our day. Let us continue diligently also our most important work—the work within us, of growing in Christ-likeness—the fruit of the Spirit. Our study and spreading of the Truth will help us also to grow in grace.

The Lord knows those that are His and as a faithful Shepherd our Lord has never failed to feed His sheep. He gave His people the "present Truth" in the Apostles' day and He gave the needed help in the Interim between the Harvests, giving much light at the time of the Reformation, which in comparison with the great light given at the end of the Age is called "a little help" (Dan 11: 34). At His Second Advent He gave His people during the Harvest Reaping time a great unfolding and clarification of Truth as "meat in due season," at the hands of that "faithful and wise servant." Then, after the reaping and gleaning of the Little Flock were ended, He began to do a wonderful work in the Time of Trouble toward the Epiphany's elect—the Great Company and the Youthful Worthies—giving them much-needed Truth essential for their proper development.

When Bro. Russell died in 1916, some thought that there would be no further unfolding of Truth. They therefore fought, and still fight, against the unfolding Epiphany Truth—the post 1916 light. They have ceased to walk in the light of the Truth as it becomes due and to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. Some of them

have even denied much of the Truth that He had given them through Bro. Russell. Many formerly enjoyed this Truth as due about the setting in of the Time of Trouble in 1914 and the non-Spirit-begotten consecrated ones living today.

Likewise, when Bro. Johnson died in 1950, some thought that there would be no further unfolding of Truth. They therefore fought, and still fight, against the unfolding post 1950 Truth and have ceased to walk in the light as the Lord has been giving it. Some of them chose to no longer hear the Good Shepherd's voice; many have even denied much of the Truth that the Lord had given them through Bro. Johnson, a Truth which they formerly enjoyed.

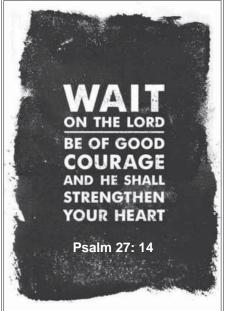
As the promised light of present Truth continues to inform us of the direction in which Jehovah is leading His called, chosen and faithful in the expanded work of the Gospel Harvest; we recognize more and more the importance of the Consecrated Epiphany Campers' work at this time. We read from Isa. 49: 11 "I will make all my mountains a way and my highways shall be exalted." This text is speaking about pre-restitution consecrated classes. God will make all the five pre-restitution consecrated classes—the Little Flock, the Ancient Worthies, the Great Company, the Youthful Worthies and the Consecrated Epiphany Campers—symbolized respectively by Zion, Moriah, Akra, Bezetha and Ophel—the special means of assisting the non-elect up the Highway of Holiness. God will exalt these five pre-restitution classes for this purpose. Likewise, our LORD since 1954 has been gradually revealing more Truths pertaining to the Consecrated Epiphany Campers, for their enlightenment, encouragement and development as the fifth consecrated class of Abraham's seed for the blessing of all the families of the earth. The non-elect will come from the various parts of the earth to receive the blessings that will be administered by the Christ and assisted by the other four pre-restitution consecrated classes. We should all have our faith greatly strengthened as we see how wonderfully our Heavenly Father provides for His own and supplies all their needs.

Our ministry continues to be based on the teachings of Pastors Russell, Johnson and Jolly recognizing that our ministry continues to walk in progressive light as given. Jehovah continues to bring forward able ones to guide and move forward His teachings: three Youthful Worthy candidates; Brothers Gohlke, Hedman and Herzig and at this time Brother Leon Snyder a Consecrated Epiphany Camper hopeful! The more prominent leaders who are

Consecrated Epiphany Campers, especially those who are Epiphany enlightened and in the Epiphany Truth have been commended for a proper concern for His sheep. God through our Lord Jesus has always exhorted all His consecrated people to be filled more and more with His Holy Spirit.

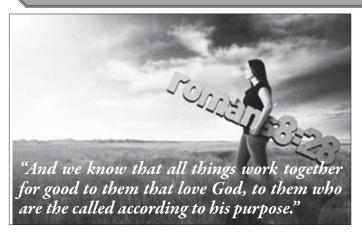
As the Time of Trouble brings us ever closer to the resurrection of those that sleep in the grave we find this last pre-restitution class being prepared for the coming time of restitution. The Consecrated Epiphany Campers will have a resurrection of the just: Luke 14: 14 "And thou shalt be blessed; for thou shall be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." The Consecrated Epiphany Campers are now tentatively justified by faith in Christ and are accepted by God in consecration as of the pre-Millennial seed of Abraham under the earthly features of the Oath-bound Covenant, and they also have the privilege of prayer to God and fellowship with Him. When on trial for life under the New Covenant, they will not lose this Oath-bound Covenant relationship and these privileges. God will highly honor them, for they are proving themselves faithful under greater trial than restitutionists in general will have. They will be privileged to be the special assistants of the Worthies and will be very able helpers to the world of mankind as they with them come up the Highway of Holiness.

Considering this to be the case, and that much of the Divine Plan foretold in prophecy has yet to be accomplished, combined with the acknowledgement that the 100 years of the past has only witnessed a portion, indicates that possibly there is quite some time yet before our glorious hopes are realized. This should not make us sad,



but should make us rejoice that the LORD has much work for us to do and is providing the time necessary to accomplish all his designs in our own characters! Yes, the time is at hand, but each feature has its appointed time and His time is best, even though we say: Thy Kingdom come!

NEEDED LESSON FROM ROMANS 8: 28



HIS PURPOSE—WHAT IS IT?

The word "His" refers to Jehovah, our Heavenly Father; His purpose is His eternal Plan. It is contained primarily in the Sarah features and secondarily in the other features of the Oath-Bound Covenant. This purpose is the selection of an elect class as the seed of Abraham, which is to bless all the children of men. The Plan of God has various features to it, but broadly speaking, it has two features—an elective feature and a free-grace feature. Free grace embraces the whole race. The elective feature is the one particularly referred to in the words "His purpose." While God's purpose is to bless everyone, another purpose is to gather out certain agents to do that work—the four elect and the quasi-elect classes. The gathering of the faithful Ancient Worthies was completed prior to our Lord's first advent, the Little Flock, the Great Company all completed during the Gospel Age and its extended harvest. We understand some Youthful Worthies remain with us at this time and the Consecrated Epiphany Camper class since 1954.

God is still developing His elect classes (aside from the Little Flock, Great Company) and His Quasi-elect classes as subordinate parts of the pre-Millennial seed of Abraham, for their share in blessing the non-elect in the coming Kingdom and its reign of truth and righteousness. Yes, the consecrated of our day are God's place of residing, meeting with and blessing the people. The Spirit-enlightened, Spirit-energized consecrated ones are recipients of this great favor.

When all the pre-Millennial seed of Abraham have been harvested, God will then be in a position to complete His arrangement for the blessing of the non-elect. This text refers to selecting out from the human family faithful ones to be His agents for the blessing of others.

We continue to live in this expanded Harvest time finding the Biblical principles refer to all of God's consecrated people who are the pre-Millennial seed of Abraham, because all the faithful ones love Him. God is using the experiences He allows to come into their lives to work out for their good.

"THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE"

To these a call is given. The word "call" is used in the Bible in a variety of senses. The widest sense includes everything that God does in inviting people out of sin, until He invites them into the Kingdom, i.e., the invitation to wisdom, to justification, to sanctification and to deliverance. It is used to designate each one of these four steps individually, or two or three or all of them collectively, as the following Scriptures prove:

In Matt. 9: 13 "For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance," and 1 Pet. 2: 9 is used to signify the invitation to repentance and enlightenment—wisdom.

2 Pet. 1: 10 "Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble." This call refers to justification, which is made sure by living a righteous life.

Then this word is used to mean the invitation by consecration to sanctification; further, this word is used to designate the invitation for the Church to share in overcoming all their spiritual enemies and to share in the first resurrection—deliverance. 2 Pet. 1: 3 "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue" (1 Pet. 5: 10; Heb. 5: 10).

In other passages it is used in two, three or all four of these senses (Rom. 1: 6, 7; 1 Cor. 1: 9, 26-29; Eph. 4: 1; 1 Thes. 2: 12). In our text, the word "called" refers to an invitation to become the seed of Abraham, to consecrate and give one's all to God.

"THEM THAT LOVE GOD"

The chief characteristic of God's faithful people is not faith; it is more important than that—it is love—more

particularly, love for God. It is that quality of heart that makes them hunger and thirst after righteousness and feel after God; to have a relationship with Him; to know Him.

There are two forms of love to God and man. One is the love that the law demands of us (Matt. 22: 37-39), the good will which we owe by right to our fellows and to God. Whatever good we have is a gracious gift from our Father. He deserves this love that we have for Him. But a higher form of love is disinterested love. It is unselfish and need not be given by right. It is based on a delight in good principles. It rejoices in good things, and therefore has a holy pleasure in God because He is the fountain of all good. This appreciation gives a oneness of heart with God, Who has been much mistreated, misrepresented, and caricatured by His enemies. It leads us into the second element of disinterested love, which is sympathy. We feel with Him in His being mistreated. The third element of disinterested love is sacrifice. We delight to lay down our lives for Him.



"ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD"

The good is not necessarily good as man regards it. It is not earthly good, such as health, prosperity, popularity, and ease of life. For his faithfulness to God, Jesus received unpopularity, persecution, hatred, rejection, and finally death as a rebel in the eyes of the people. The more loyal one is, the more one is hated and misrepresented. Seldom does faithfulness result in earthly prosperity. It must be a different kind of good of which our text speaks.

There is another kind of good—character good—that is meant, as the succeeding verse shows. His people are to be conformed to the image of His Son. What is more valuable than a character like God's? Phil. 2: 5 "Let this disposition be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." (Diaglott) What a noble thing it is! Let those who want earthly good seek it. We want the kind of good which neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal.

Let us not be disappointed if unfavorable and untoward circumstances come to us as a result of faithfulness.



TOWARD EXPERIENCES

"All things work together for good." What are the "all things"? Usually we think only of untoward things like hardships, losses, and sickness. But this is a mistake. The "all things" include the toward as well as the untoward experiences of life. The toward things are the agreeable things, the cheerful things that make us happy. Above all, the riches of His grace are the main things that work for our good.

First, the Truth—God's Word—works for our good. God's Word in its various features gives us much joyful information for our doctrine and conduct (2 Tim. 3: 15-16). In v. 17 "The man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Second, the Spirit of God is given to us in our minds and hearts. By the "mind" we mean the intellect and its contents, and by the "heart" we mean the affections. The non-Spirit-begotten consecrated receive the holy Spirit as Adam had it before he sinned; like Eve had, and like Jesus had before He began sacrificing. This Spirit builds them up in righteousness and the Truth. As a result, the Christian graces are developed.

The *third* set of promises to the consecrated are the providences of God. Not only does God give us His Word and Spirit, He also gives us His providences that are all in our favor, made to work good for us. They are fashioning our circumstances, so as to demonstrate God's power in our own and other's lives, in order to strengthen our faith and encourage further zeal.

The *fourth* set of things are opportunities of service. It is a great privilege to serve God. Indeed, we can appreciate God's excellence of character and His plan for all mankind, and serve Him in the interest of His people and the world with one consent. Zeph. 3: 9 "Then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD."

These four things mentioned encompass the main

experiences which are toward. Fellowship with God, Christ and our brethren is one of the toward things, as we forsake not the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10: 25). How precious are these privileges as the Truth and its Spirit bring us together.

Sometimes
when things are
falling apart
they may
actually be
falling into place.

UNTOWARD EXPERIENCES

To the consecrated child untoward experiences contribute to our growth. These are the hard, disagreeable and unpleasant experiences that come our way. We need all such trouble to develop us—to prepare us for our place in the Kingdom. "We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom" (Acts 14: 22). "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3: 12). Trouble will surely come upon us but we need it to develop us for the place that God has reserved for us. It is part of our schooling. We are children in the school of Christ. Our training is not only intellectual but of the heart also. It will fit us to have such characters, so as to help to administer the affairs of the Kingdom. We will deal with all kinds of peculiar people then, also we will have to be adapted to every kind of disposition.

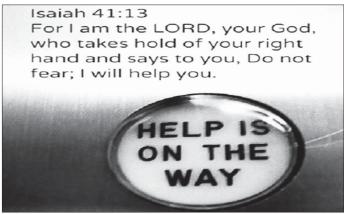
During the Millennial Mediatorial Reign of Christ, we will have to deal with stubborn and willful persons especially in the beginning. If we do not have a well-rounded character, we will not fit into God's Plan. At first we are treated as tender hot-house plants. But later we are put out in the weather—in frost and in the hot sun—to develop the qualities needed, but our poor humanity does not think these things are necessary. Oh, but they are! All these things work together for our good, both the toward and the untoward. If we deplore our trials, we are apt to become bitter and lose out, especially if we do not love God as we should.

Let us examine some of these untoward experiences as listed below and see what lessons can be learned from them.

Losses: Of property, of friends, of peace in the home, submissiveness, contentment, which transfer our affections from the things of this world to the things of

the world to come; wherein righteousness dwells. With the full realization of the transitory nature of this world and the real value of things that God holds out for us—if we get those things woven into our hearts, isn't it worth the things we have lost to get them? As free moral agents we will conclude that spiritual values are the best.

Disappointments: We must receive untoward experiences because we sometimes set our hearts on things that are not the best for us. We forget that our imperfect human ambitions are of lower degree. It is for our benefit that the LORD lets us have disappointments, sometimes with respect to our children, wives, husbands, parents, relatives, friends, business associates, etc. If they were not to work some good, God would not send them. God's desire is not to break us. He is too kind for that. But He is willing to allow us to have these experiences if we can get any good out of them. He allows them so that we will fix our affections on things that will never be destroyed. Our attitude should always be "Thy will be done," letting the LORD have His way in our lives, so that we can be weaned away from the things of this imperfect world.



Delays: We set out to do something and no matter how hard we try it just does not work out. Oh, hindrances come along. Our plans may be held up for a long while. We begin to question God—why do you let us have experiences full of delays? Why does He make us wait? It is to teach us to "learn to labor and to wait," as Longfellow said. If we have aggressive dispositions, it is very hard for us to wait. But we must wait. Let us apply the lesson of Hab. 3: 17, 18 and recognize that God's Plan is moving according to His perfect timetable, and meanwhile we should rejoice; v. 18 "Yet, I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

The Scriptures indicate that it is going to take hundreds of years to bring the human race back to perfection; we can realize why it is necessary for us to wait. In the Kingdom time, when the human race is being brought back, in very extreme cases the LORD might cause paralysis of a limb,

60 — PRESENT TRUTH AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S EPIPHANY

for instance, when evil is attempted. But God does not want machines—He wants intelligent beings willingly practicing righteousness and avoiding wickedness. God's perfect Kingdom will not get a race like that by paralyzing them each time they do something, or by using the sledge hammer. The Kingdom will reach them by kindness and gentleness. They will be influenced by the Spirit of the LORD and for that we must wait.

There are people so poor that the only thing they have is money.

Restraints: Especially for those that are overly energetic and like to move ahead. They must learn self-restraint by having restraints put upon them. We need such restraints because time and again we can ruin things if we cannot learn to hold ourselves back. If we did not have this quality we surely would ruin things in God's Plan. God's Word asks that we be content with such things as we have!

Shelvings: By this we mean not being used by the LORD for a while. This is especially hard on the energetic ones, the zealous ones, the enthusiastic ones. Sometimes we go to such extremes that the LORD has to put us aside. We are not indispensable to the LORD. He can get along without us. God is absolutely independent. He can do most anything He wants. He could have continued to be the only one in the universe if He so desired. Pride lies before us if we think we are indispensable. We need to be taught the lesson that He can get along first-rate without us. We are like children trying to help the parent, but all the while we may be making it harder for Him. The Father encourages us like the parent encourages a child because we need that training. Even our Lord Jesus was not indispensable to God. Sometimes the LORD arranges for us to rest and recuperate, and to prepare ourselves by different activities, and study and prayer. We must get rid of that disposition of our own importance and if we do, then this shelving experience will be good for us.

Faults: Some of our untoward experiences come from our own faults. Sometimes the things we do get us into trouble with others. Our faults work out for good to us because we try to be more careful the next time; we try to be more watchful, more prayerful, on guard against them. Even our sins do us good! They lead us to recognize our

need of the Savior's grace and that we need to cooperate more heartily with Him to overcome our faults. So God overrules even our faults for our good. It is through our contact with others' faults that we learn the lessons of patience, long suffering, forbearance. If evil fills our hearts, then untoward experiences will develop hatred; but the heart that is filled with love will learn sympathy, patience, and kindness. So the present faults of others will be for our utmost help at this present time and in future service—in the opportunity of service in the Kingdom.

Hardships and lack of necessities: Some of us have had a lack of common necessities in periods of war or disaster. Some in areas of depression or poverty have suffered greatly due to hardships and lack of necessities. And we note that all such experiences have helped them to draw closer to the LORD. Heb. 7: 19 "For the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God." We believe that in the severest features of the Time of Trouble we may feel hunger, have a sparse diet, no lights or heat, ragged clothes. So we ask, why are such experiences allowed? God answers, so that we will learn that whatever state we are in, we must be content. It is easy to trust the LORD when we have plenty but when we are in want that is the time we must trust Him. Under these conditions we must be resigned to the LORD's good will—without bitterness—and rejoice in His arrangements.



Oppositions and contradictions: Between husbands and wives, between friends, brethren, neighbors; sometimes with ourselves! Our nerves are sometimes quite tensed, unstrung, when rubbing against these oppositions or contradictions. They are hard to bear, especially those coming from those that we love. But the LORD lets such things come so that we may learn to set our affection on God above all other things, to learn to live in harmony with naked principle. We can get along fine with others if we compromise and do as they wish, but we must bear those oppositions and contradictions, especially those associated with our devotion to God. Amid quarrelsome experiences we must learn to seek peace and keep it. The LORD even withholds doing good to some people because

they would not be content no matter what we tried to do for them.

Divisions: These are trial-some—the severing of tender ties of those whom we love dearly when we see them going wrong and perverting others, perverting God's Word, spreading error. There are many untoward experiences in divisions or siftings. These are allowed so as to develop fidelity to God no matter who it separates us from. Experience is the school to which God has sent us and we must get our education in that school. Yes, experience is often our best teacher.

Enemies: Nothing is harder to learn than to love our enemies. They include those who hate us and oppose us due to our fidelity to truth and righteousness. We must have combativeness and destructiveness, fighting the good fight of faith, fighting for righteousness and fighting against evil. If we are not careful, we will fight against the sinner and not the sin. We must hate the sin, but love the sinner. We cannot learn to love our enemies if we do not have enemies. So we wish you all the enemies you need. Matt. 5: 44 "but I say unto you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." They are sent to give us a chance to love them, to forgive them. At the present and in the Kingdom we should learn to love our enemies.

Pain and sickness: Our bodies frequently suffer pain and sickness, weariness, fever, heartache, backache, rheumatism, sorrow, and all sorts of pain. The fall has caused much sickness and disease to come upon the human race. The consecrated often suffer from these

Do not change who you are for anyone. If God, in all His infinite wisdom, made you exactly the way you are, He did it FOR A REASON.

too. Sometimes physical, emotional and mental ailments are our lot. Also, our nervous systems are so highly developed that we are capable of having all kinds of pain and suffering. God permits us to have pains. He doesn't shield us from them. He did not shield His own beloved Son from pain. Amid pain we are resigned to Him to be content no matter what may come—"Thy will be done." It is the hard things that He wants us to learn because they will develop our character. Animals are not like humans.

Their nervous systems are very much different from ours; they are not so highly sensitive.



Persecutions: God allows these to test our loyalty, to show whether we will be faithful to the Truth no matter what comes upon us, to bless our persecutors, to love our persecutors. If we did not have persecutors we could not overcome.

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER WILL BE TESTED

Every feature of the Christian character will have its test and temptation, and we will receive the good of our text, if we are properly exercised by these troubles. In this life we are not promised earthly wealth or position. We are being prepared in the severe school of experience so that our characters will be fitted to serve Him forever. In our school days we are getting these experiences so that we may graduate with honors. The tuition cost is free, thanks to the provision made for us by Jesus' sacrifice. But if we are found unworthy we will not graduate and we would be a disgrace in God's great Plan. Let us receive every needed lesson, knowing it works for our good, so we can graduate with honors!

There is no higher value for us than a good character. Character wealth is the greatest of all wealth. These characteristics are as rubies, diamonds—true gemstones. The sufferings we invest in our character are worth a penny and our return is a diamond. Our troubles are our investments. We put them into this plan and when the dividends come we will get a wonderful profit. If we are good business people we will be glad to make such an investment. A character like God's is the most valuable thing that we can attain. God brings about all things to cooperate for the development of this character for us. God's ways are higher than man's ways.

"TRUST IN THE LORD"

When our trials are severe almost overwhelming we often think that all things are against us when things are the blackest. But behind it all there is a holy plan. If we are faithful, those things that appear to be against us will work out the one thing that God is designing in us—to develop a character like His own. We are a bundle of faults. God sees one thing in us—that we have a heart of faith and that we love Him. So He has made up His

mind to manipulate matters for our good. He has a big job on His hands with us; however the LORD will not cast us out. He takes us as we are and looks for the glorious things that He wants to bring out in us. We come to the LORD like a ball of tangled wool, and Jesus is like a weaver who tries to untangle the wool, until He can wind it tight into a rounded ball of good character. It all works toward that end under the manipulation of God. We cannot be grateful enough to our dear Father for that. Don't think that everything is going to pieces when things seemingly are against us — they are working together for our good.

"AND WE KNOW"

This suggests to us that we have the confidence and assurance of the fulfilment of our text. God does not withhold the needed instruction from His consecrated child. Deut. 29: 29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children. . ." The child of God is to be careful to study and obey all that the LORD has commanded as it becomes due to be understood. What blessed comfort the child of God who, as one of His called ones, wholeheartedly loves Him, finds in the

NO.
WE DON'T
ALWAYS GET
WHAT WE WANT.
BUT CONSIDER
THIS: THERE ARE
PEOPLE WHO
WILL NEVER HAVE,
WHAT YOU HAVE,
RIGHT NOW.

assurance of this text—that all his interests are under Divine care and supervision, and that all his experiences are under Divine direction, and are working toward his development as a Christian. Unlike the poor world, whose interests are exposed

to all sorts of accidents, the Christian is assured that there are no accidents in his experiences. He knows that whatever befalls him is an expression of God's love and care, and that it helps him to attain his life's ambition—Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seattle, Washington Convention March 13, 14, 15, 2015

Holiday Inn Express & Suites 19621 International Blvd. Sea Tac, WA 98188. The cost for single/double room is \$89, suites \$99 + tax. To reserve a room, the Hotel needs to be called directly at (206) 824-3200 no later than 2/20/2015, you must mention Bible Standard Ministries for these special rates. Included in this rate is a full hot breakfast for each guest, complimentary wireless Internet, local calls, parking and airport/local restaurant shuttle transportation.

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2015 USA CONVENTIONS

Newark, NJ, May 15, 16, 17 Athens, OH, July 17, 18, 19 Tulsa, OK, Sept. 11, 12, 13

Obituaries

Sr. Lorna Bruce age 83 died August 25 after a long illness. Funeral service were conducted September 3rd by Bro. John Wojnar. Burial will be in Trinidad.

Sr. Augustina O. Ogbomudia was born on 15th August, 1966 and finished her course on 12th August, 2014. She was a member of the Surulere Class Lagos State. She was a dedicated and hardworking sister who consecrated her life in the service of the Truth.

Sr. Elva Mae Rodemoyer age 87 of Erie, peacefully finished her course on August 23, 2014 after a month of battling an illness. She was a dedicated sister who loved the Truth and consecrated her life to the Lord.

Bro. Henry Zeigafuse age 87 died September 9, 2014. He embraced the truth that the Lord presented to him for most of his life and will be remembered by his wife, Sr. Alice and his family as a righteous man of God.

SPECTRUM OF LOVE

1 Corinithian 13

Patience - Love Suffereth long

Kindness - Love is kind

Generosity - Love envieth not

Humility - Love vaunted not itself,

is not puffed up

Courtesy - Love does not have itself, is not puffed up

Unselfishness - Love seeketh not for own

Good Temper - Love is not provoked Guileless - Love thinketh no evil

Sincerity - Love rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoices in the truth.

(For 2015 use the first hymn in the Daily Manna)

TO:



HAVE YOU MOVED OR ARE YOU GOING TO BE MOVING? RENEW TODAY!

THANKSGIVING

"O give thanks unto the lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever"—Psa. 107: 1.

Thanksgiving Day appeals to all of us, and we are glad that the Pilgrim Fathers many years ago started the custom. They placed it at the end of the harvest to celebrate successful crops, and probably the Indians' generosity. The man or woman, rich or poor, educated or ignorant, bond or free, who has not this quality of veneration developed in considerable measure cannot be appreciative and respectful toward his Creator. We are glad that a large segment of the U.S. and also other countries look up to God and enjoy Thanksgiving Day with grateful hearts and render Him thanks for blessings manifested.

The privilege of giving thanks to God, our family and close friends, has long been valued in societies around the world. It has helped to cement the bonds which hold communities together. Generally speaking, it seems to come naturally to human nature to feel grateful at some level, even if the feeling is not always voiced. The thankfulness to which we refer is that which arises from faith in the friendships we have with our loved ones; a trust that allows for the desire to give of ourselves in family gatherings when surrounded by the special memories of the past.

Then adding to this joy some have come into fellowship with the Heavenly Father by faith and become able to understand the joys of the righteous spoken of by David "The righteous shall be glad in the LORD and shall trust in Him; and all the upright in heart shall glory" (Psa. 64: 10). We come to value the guidance of His Word, the leading of His holy disposition in us, His Spirit; and we learn to note the leadings of His Providence. Increasingly we appreciate the fellowship with those of like precious faith, deriving support and comfort from them.

In this time of thanksgiving there are many that it remains a solemn, reverent and joyful occasion, and for whom the thoughts and desires of the heart are especially drawn to good family and spiritual matters, to meditation on God's great expression of love for us in the sending to earth and sacrifice of Jesus Christ (John 3: 16). Children and the young-in-heart of all ages in many places go out

on Christmas Eve to sing for those nearby of the joys of knowing that Jesus came to earth and was born to save them from sin and death. Much Godly cheer is spread in this and other ways, and people who seldom get to speak to one another find in the Christmas season an opportunity to share the message of peace on earth and good will toward men.

Let us open our hearts to the joy of celebration just as the heavenly host specially rejoiced over and praised God after the human birth of Jesus "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward Men" (Luke 2: 13, 14). This joy of thanksgiving and privilege of celebrating the Christmas Season allows us to realize its importance in God's Plan, and the subjects of earthly kings rejoice at the birth of a son and heir to the throne. Shouldn't we therefore imitate them? Let us rejoice in the privilege of celebrating the birth of the man Christ Jesus at all times with others; rejoicing over and praising God for the human birth of Jesus, realizing its importance in God's Plan!

The unselfish giving of little gifts and remembrances at Christmas time, regardless of any coincidental historical pagan gift giving, seems to us especially appropriate, in that God is continually giving and encouraging others to give (Luke 11: 13). How good and gracious Jehovah is; having placed into the heart and mind of man the desire and need of a time for thanksgiving and this day is so generally set aside for the remembrance of the gift of His dear Son for our redemption!

May all be richly blessed in this season of joyful thanksgiving keeping always in their hearts the good news of the Kingdom, rejoicing in God's precious free gift of salvation made possible through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are thankful for your steadfast belief in the mission of Bible Standard Ministries (LHMM) and your willingness to celebrate in thanksgiving this season. In his words He says "My loving kindness is greater than life." Let us be earnest in our consecration as we seek to serve Him!