

# Grace and Glory

Declaring unto you the whole counsel of GOD

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**H**e that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.  
JOHN 3:36.



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**"STRETCHED OUT STILL"**



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**Editor: Gene Hawkins**





Gene Hawkins

“But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen,...Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not;...Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded:...Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee...I will open rivers in high places, ...I will make the wilderness a pool of water,...I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle,... That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that **the hand of the LORD hath done this**, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.” Isa.41:8-20

All these glorious promises are given to Israel, and in spite of current world conditions, none of them shall fail. God has emphatically declared “...I am God, and there is none else... Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times **the things that are not yet done**, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” Isa. 46:9-10 God’s pleasure for this Chosen Nation is found in the long ago promise that, “...the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath;..” Deut. 28:13 The fullness of all these declarations will not come to pass until this people, called “Jacob,” have accepted their Messiah, after which God will plant them as permanent immovable trees and exalt them above all nations in the Millennium. Israel, as well as all nations of the earth, will then understand “...that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.”

The great problem today is that neither Israel or the nations recognize Divine Sovereignty over the nations nor the authenticity of God and His Word. Israel once again is at the forefront of the news. Terrorist groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the new arrival known as the Houthis are all intent on annihilating the same people whom God has sworn not only to protect but to advance as the head of all nations. Some would deem that a preposterous statement at this present time, but God's Word is absolute in this assertion.

It must also be realized that Iran is behind these



these terrorist groups, not only by funding them but also training them and directing their operations. Many are extremely frustrated at this hour that the U.S. and other powers have not openly opposed the ungodly advances and influence this nation, but such seems to be the case. The present U.S. administration has not only ignored Iran's intentions and activities but has also tried to placate them in an effort to restore some kind of agreement in regard to nuclear weapons. Most observers state emphatically that Iran has no intention of curbing their drive for such weapons and some have asserted that she is already extremely close to obtaining the weapons grade uranium required for this venture.

Were men to read and believe the scripture, they would know that all these things in regard to Iran, multiple terrorist groups, and the almost unstoppable wickedness prevailing throughout the whole world is in direct fulfillment of God's prophetic Word. Make no mistake. God does not ordain such rebellion or prompt men to act as they do, but He is still God, "**Declaring the end from the beginning** and from ancient times..." knowing that all these things will come to pass. He has also been faithful to inform men of that fact through the marvel of His Word.

4

Consider first Iran's absolute obsession to produce a destructive nuclear weapon that would not only impact Israel, but the rest of the world. "And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed." Rev. 8:8-9 The destruction of fire described here is none other than that of nuclear proportion. The "...great mountain..." gives reference to a rogue nation like unto Iran who has no regard for life nor for the welfare of other nations who are indeed a part of "...the sea." This would be the same "...sea..." out of which John saw "...a beast rise up....having seven heads and ten horns,..." Rev. 13:1 Those seven heads are seven nations which form an end time coalition in direct opposition to the universal dominion which God will commit into the hands of Jesus for 1000 years. "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings:..." Rev. 17:14 Paul likewise asserts, "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority



and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet." I Cor. 15:24-25

It is imperative to understand that the above scenario from Rev. 8 will not fully come to pass until the midst of the tribulation. However, current circumstances clearly evidence the fact that the early stages of that war are already in progress and will escalate dramatically as time marches on. The onslaughts of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis are only precursors of that which is to come. Israel has every intention of totally destroying Hamas, and many of God's people are praying earnestly that God will grant that desire, but a multitude of enemies will yet rise up against this Chosen People before she, as a nation, accepts Her Messiah. Thus, these daily reports of aggression against Israel will increase.

Once again, the newly arrived Houthis are commanding most of the attention at this hour because they have interfered with world trade by blocking Red Sea shipping lanes and attacking various merchant vessels. Their actions have created a tremendous strain on the world economy because shippers have been forced to re-route their vessels, going thousands of miles out the way in order to deliver their goods. This added journey demands much more fuel and thus prices world-wide have increased due in large part to the fact that fossil fuels are no longer available from America, because of "global warming." The actions of the Houthis have also contributed to the wealth of other oil producing nations like Russia and Iran. All of this is simply the beginning of the massive hardships and shortages which will prevail in the tribulation. Jesus described it as a time when there "...shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matt. 24:21-22

These troublesome Houthis are also Muslim in their doctrine, which indeed wages Jihad or "holy war" against any rival. Bruce Riedel, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Inst., wrote the following assessment of them. "The American invasion of Iraq in 2003 deeply radicalized the Houthi movement, like it did many other Arabs. It was a pivotal moment. The Houthis adopted the slogan: "God is great, death to the U.S., death to



Israel, curse the Jews, and victory for Islam," in the wake of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. The group also officially called itself Ansar Allah, or supporters of God. It was a turning point largely unrecognized outside Yemen, another unanticipated consequence of George Bush's Iraq adventures."

Today, the Houthis are absolutely recognized outside of Yemen in becoming an international scourge against all nations. The "god" which these radicals claim is most assuredly not the God of Israel and the Universe because their stand is exactly opposite the promises of the True God in behalf of Israel as outlined above.

Another fact that was seemingly temporarily lost in all this conflict with Hamas and the Houthis is the desire of the Palestinians for a Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as the capital. This headline appeared in Time back in October: **"China Calls for Ceasefire, 'Two-State Solution' Amid Conflict Between Hamas, Israel."** These comments are then added. "China called for an "immediate ceasefire" and reiterated support for an independent Palestinian state after Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel that shattered regional stability. "The recurrence of the conflict shows once again that the protracted standstill of the peace process cannot go on," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said...It repeated Beijing's support for a "two-state solution," calling it the fundamental way out of the conflict.

6

That will never happen for any length of time, for God has stated that Jerusalem is "...the city which I have chosen to put my name there." I Kings 11:36 He will in no wise share it, but with the present difficulty escalating for Israel, and the unbelief which prevails, it would be no surprise for their leaders to engage in some sort of compromise in surrendering part of God's chosen city to bring forth some semblance of peace.

It is very disheartening to hear the repeated cries against Israel, blaming them for all the atrocities committed by Hamas. The general consensus is that Israel must be driven into oblivion to eliminate the problem. Let all God's People, including Israel rejoice in God's promise above, "... Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded..." God's Word declares it and it shall be done!

Daniel also presents a marvelous prophecy of these end times and surely God's People must take heed, because it is a direct sign of some things unfolding before our very eyes. "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful



and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces,... and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were **three of the first horns plucked up by the roots:** and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." Dan. 7:7-8 The little horn here is none other than the antichrist. This beast is a portrait of an end time coalition of nations wherein the 10 horns represent 10 major powers which will rise up in the end of this age. Daniel is especially intrigued by the fact that **"...there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots:..."** This simply shows that this end time conglomerate will begin with 10 major nations, but 3 of them will be removed. The prophet then declares that the antichrist is responsible for this act, but since he will not be officially revealed until about 250 days before the middle of the week, his actions must be somewhat hidden in the background. Daniel 9:27 is very clear that this ungodly prince **"...shall confirm the covenant with many for one week..."** The point here is that three horns will undoubtedly be removed very near the beginning of the week, because John saw only 7 nations in the midst of it. Due to present day circumstance that process may have already begun.

Many have looked in vain for a 10 nation coalition in these latter days, but none seems to have emerged. Regardless, God's Word is both sure and accurate and there will be a conglomerate of 10 nations reduced to 7. Present day signs indicate that America would be one of those "horns" which may lose her leadership status in a very short period of time. True believers are hopeful that such an event would not occur until after we are already in glory, but that may not be the case. Noted above is the fact that Iran and her proxies are wreaking havoc on the world stage, and the supposed strongest nation in the world is engaging in nothing but appeasement. Not only so, but America's borders are wide open, and a proven fact is that many criminals, mentally ill individuals, along with known terrorists, have entered this country unimpeded. It has been declared many times over the years that "A country without borders is no country at all." This is most assuredly true and many crimes against American Citizens have already been committed by these illegal criminals. It is also so very disheartening to hear of some like Texas, who would try



and enforce American law against such illegal migration, being strongly resisted and sued by the government which has sworn to protect its people.

There is also a loud cry of "Make America Great Again," (MAGA) sounding out across the nation at this time. Many would long for such a thing to transpire, but once again God's Word must take precedent over the desires of men. It has been stated in previous issues of this magazine that a time of "...peace and safety..." may well prevail in this world PRIOR to Jesus' coming for His Bride. That idea stems from the fact that Paul imparted those words to the Thessalonian saints who are typical of end time "full overcomers." Why write such a thing if they do not apply to a group who has been promised that they would be "...kept from (out of) the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth..."? Rev. 3:10

8 However, it is absolutely certain that a "MAGA" condition will not last for any length of time because though peace may briefly ensue, "...sudden destruction cometh..." hot on its heels. I Thess. 5:3 Paul then warned these same Thessalonian believers "Therefore let us not sleep as do others...." I Thess. 5:6 It seems that the apostle saw a great danger in men thinking that real peace had arrived and did not want them to become too comfortable and lulled into sleep. Some might think that the "...others..." would be sinners but that cannot be the case. Sinners are never said to be asleep, but rather "dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. 2:1 Thus, Paul counsels believers to be wide awake and alert to the signs set before them. We must not be deceived by any semblance of peace and tranquility in this world because it will not last for any period of time.

America, as noted above, would most assuredly be a major candidate to fulfill Daniel's prophecy of a "...horn..." or national political power being "...plucked up by the roots,..." but what does that statement mean? It cannot mean that such a nation would be totally obliterated and wiped from the face of the earth, for ONLY Jesus will do that when He separates the sheep nations from the goats. "And before **him** shall be gathered all nations: and **he** shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left." Matt. 25:32-33 His decision is predicated



on whether or not each nation has been a minister to Israel, and a close study of this chapter reveals that the sheep nations are preserved while the goat nations "...go away into everlasting punishment." Matt. 25:46 It is the antichrist who plucks these three horns up by the roots and therefore signifies the fact that they will no longer be a political horn or power of dominance or even influence in this end time coalition of nations. Current conditions surrounding the U.S., as noted above, certainly give rise to the fact that this nation is very quickly losing the respect, trust, and ability to assist other needy nations as time marches on. She is trillions of dollars in debt and according to most reports, China owns the bulk of that debt. Scripture is very clear: "...the borrower is servant to the lender." It is also an established fact that China owns a great deal of American real estate. It is no secret that end time power will be centered around money. The anti-christ will gain control through it, for "...no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, ...of the beast." Rev. 13:17

Those who are looking steadfastly into the heavens for Jesus soon appearing must not be discouraged and dismayed by the above facts. Jesus said long ago that we are in the world but not of it, and it is imperative to embrace that glorious truth in a very personal manner. Thus, Paul's counsel to the Thessalonians must be appropriated with the greatest urgency. Rather than being occupied with the political upheaval manifest throughout the entire world, "... let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," I Thess. 5:8-9 The "...wrath.." designated here is not the wrath of hell, but rather the wrath of the tribulation period. It is high time for all those who would take their place in the very special company known as the Bride of Christ, to realize that all the above prophecies of Daniel and others will without fail come to pass. **But God** has provided the path out of this world into glory for all those who will accept the fact that "...when all these things **begin** to come to pass, then look up, and lift up our heads, for your redemption draweth nigh.!" Lk. 21:28



## **THE VEIL REMOVED A SABBATH KEEPER DELIVERED**

**W.E. Luther**

The following article contains the message which God revealed to me that I should give to my brethren who keep Saturday the seventh day, or Sunday the first day, as a Sabbath unto the Lord. I have no apologies to make for giving out this message, other than that it is my soul's desire to do His will. God has shown me that the conditions that will arise and the results that will follow will be taken care of by Him. He wants His lambs who are in error to have a chance to hear the message; and all of my actions, as His servant, must center or pivot on rendering absolute obedience unto Him. Therefore, I will proclaim this good news as my blessed Saviour gives me strength, for "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Glory to His precious Name!

### **THE BACKGROUND**

10 I received a revelation from the Lord which has changed my life. I will relate my experience first hand. In that way, you can judge what I say.

Some of my people belong to the Seventh Day Adventist Church. I grew up in that belief and was baptized into that church at my conversion, not because I had proved the Seventh Day Adventist creed to be the correct doctrine, but because I was content to be led by others who did believe in that church. It has been suggested to me that I have been influenced by others in my decision to discontinue keeping Saturday as the Sabbath; but that is a mistake. If I had listened to those who in love persuaded me, I would still be keeping Saturday as the Sabbath. The only Voice I have heeded is the Voice of God. Praise His great and mighty Name! He revealed Himself to me soon after I was converted. I would go to the Seventh Day Adventist meetings hungry for spiritual food; and, instead of being supplied, I would go away hungry. I could not understand this. I sometimes stopped at a little mission and there had prayer, and God blessed me. I could not understand this. Yet I never doubted the doctrine of my church, but upheld it at all times.

Being a firm believer in the seventh day sabbath, I observed what I believed to be the requirements of the law more closely than many others who had a more prominent position in



the church. I would walk thirty to forty blocks to attend sabbath school and church, rather than have my conscience condemn me for accepting the services of a streetcar motorman and conductor, thereby requiring them to become my servants on that day. Neither would I ride on a railway train on the sabbath. But I have gotten off the train Friday evening before sundown and stayed in a strange town until after the sabbath had passed, which would mean until after sundown Saturday evening, before continuing my journey.

These instances are brought out to show you that I was in earnest in my endeavor to render to my Saviour acceptable service. Sometimes while at my work, the power of the Holy Spirit came upon me, and my soul was filled with ecstasy and joy unspeakable. I thought I was receiving this manifestation of the Holy Spirit because I was doing God's will in keeping zealously His Ten Commandments. I did not know, until the Holy Spirit revealed it to me later, that God was blessing me in spite of the fact that I was rendering unto Him service that was not acceptable. I have been led to see that if God did not bless His children until we rendered acceptable service to Him, a great many of us would not be blessed. But, glory to God! He is "greatly to be praised" with boundless love; "for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever" - Psalm 96:4; 106:1.

11

A burden to know God's will concerning myself lay heavily on my heart, and I was praying for knowledge and guidance. After five days of prayer and fasting, I was impressed to go to St. Louis, as I had previously noticed in the paper that a sabbath keeper, whom I wanted to see, was there holding meetings. I went about the city during the day and attended meeting in the evening. While in my room praying, about midnight, the Holy Spirit came on me; and I was under this wonderful power that I had heard about. But I had never witnessed its equal before in all the manifestations of the Spirit and spiritual blessings that I had received. It seemed to me I was conscious all the time, and was thanking and praising Jesus for His wonderful love. Oh! He is such a wonderful Saviour! Hallelujah, to His great and mighty Name! While I was under this power, there seemed to be a great pressure come upon me - not of pain, but of joy. This pressure increased, and became so great that I began to groan and, finally, I began to talk. But I could not understand what I said although



I kept on talking, or making a noise in a strange way, because it seemed to give me relief. This experience seemed to last only a few minutes; but, according to my watch, it probably was about two hours. Oh! It all seems so wonderful when I look back to that time. Praise His Holy Name!

### **THE VISION**

12 It was while under the power of the Spirit that I had this vision, or revelation, which I will tell you. There appeared before me a column of soft white light; but, it had a shadow over it, so that I could see only the outline of the column. After a time, the veil at one end of the long horizontal column began to roll back, and I saw the most brilliant, the most wonderful, soft white light - the outline of which I had been able but dimly to make out before the veil was removed. At this time, things began to happen rapidly. At first it was revealed, oh, so plainly to me that there was no virtue in keeping the seventh day or any other day as a sabbath to the Lord - that the only Rest, or Sabbath, we have is Christ. In Him there is no lack; all things are fulfilled, filled full, in Him. My thoughts were led to dwell on II Corinthians the third chapter. I was impressed with the fact that the veil, spoken of in the fifteenth and sixteenth verses, must be removed by the Holy Spirit before we can fully discern spiritual things - "But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away." We must be guided by the Holy Spirit and must not depend upon our carnal minds to discern God's spiritual truths.

It became plain to me that I had been worshiping the Lord on a much lower plane than was His due ---- that He was exalted far above the sphere in which my conception of Him had placed Him; and that I had been dividing the glory, the whole of which was due to my Saviour, and giving part of it to the law which had been given through Moses from Mount Sinai. This was not pleasing to Him. I have been shown that the only law we are under is the law of love to God and the law of love to our fellowman. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matt. 22:37-40 All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments; and, although they are so



great, neither one is found in the Decalogue. One of them we find in Deuteronomy 6:5. "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." The other one is in Leviticus 19:18 - "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord." Both are in the book of the law; which law, having completed its usefulness, ended at the Cross. Paul's words concerning Israel apply here - "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" - Romans 10:2-4.

### **WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?**

On that wonderful night, I continued praising the Lord for a long time before I finally went to sleep. On awaking in the morning, I felt a great joy and peace surging through my soul - a peace that words cannot express, and a joy overflowing. There was with me also a faith that made the Presence of the Holy Spirit real to me. Oh, how I praise His great and matchless Name now as I think of His wonderful love manifested to me on that occasion. I also wish to say here, I have never had a regret that I followed the leading of His blessed Holy Spirit who speaks to me from time to time and shapes my life to His own will. 13

If we travel in God's way, we will find it exceedingly narrow. It is easy to sing the song, "Though the way be narrow, yet I will follow." But when we are required to proclaim to the world and to our friends that God's Holy Spirit has shown us that we have been believing, living, and teaching a doctrine of error - and then our friends turn from us in derision - there are not many who are willing to follow all the way. Nevertheless, I praise God for His grace, that inspires me to "lay aside every weight."

It has never entered my mind, from that time to this, to ask anyone for advice as to whether I should be "disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Acts 26:19. Supposing Paul, when he was struck down on his way to Damascus, had gone to Gamaliel for advice - at whose feet he had been taught all the doctrines of the law perfectly - Acts 22:3. Had Paul taken his counsel as to what he should do about the heavenly vision, would his name be



anything to Christians today?

When arising in the morning after that eventful night, with a heart full of praise to God, I opened my precious Bible without thought of selecting any certain Scripture. I began reading at Matthew 12:7. "But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless." I had been employed by people who would not permit me to work on Sunday. Therefore, I was forced to be idle two days a week. I was glad to make this sacrifice, thinking I was rendering to God acceptable service; not realizing, until that morning, the rebuke there was for me in this passage of Scripture. After a time spent in praising God, I again picked up the Bible. This time it opened at Hosea, and I began reading this same rebuke as my eyes rested on the sixth chapter - "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." Hosea 6:6. Though some people may try to explain away this strange coincidence, yet it has made a lasting impression on me.

14 A great many people who claim to follow Christ are endeavoring to fathom spiritual things with the carnal mind. This is impossible. Spiritual things are "spiritually discerned" - I Cor. 2:14. Jesus says, "My sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" - John 10:27. The fullness of His Holy Spirit makes us know His Voice.

My chief sin did not consist in the fact that I kept the seventh day as the sabbath. But my fault was this: I taught others by my life that it was essential to the salvation of Christ's chosen people that this seventh day or Saturday should be kept as the Sabbath; thereby, discouraging Christians who were unestablished, by placing a yoke upon their necks - Acts 15:10. Not only so; but, I was placing a barrier between God and sinners, which caused them to turn from seeking His face.

What is true of Israel is true of all who are under blind bondage. "When it (the heart) shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away." II Cor. 3:16

(Reprint 1973)

- \* **Sail the seven C's: Courtesy, Consistency, Composure, Cheerfulness, Charity, Compassion, Courage.**
- \* **A small circle of usefulness is not to be despised.**
- \* **Be yourself. The imitator, if he succeeds, has only a secondhand success.**



## THE POWER OF PRAYER

Mrs. M.E. Thorkildson

MOSES prayed, and his prayer did save  
A nation from death and from the grave - Exodus 32:14.  
JOSHUA prayed, the sun stood still;  
His enemies fell in vale and hill - Joshua 10:12-20.  
HANNAH prayed, God gave her a son;  
A nation back to the Lord she won - I Samuel 1 and 7.  
SOLOMON prayed for wisdom. Then  
God made him the wisest of mortal men - I Kings 3:12; 10:24.  
ELIJAH prayed with great desire;  
God gave him rain, and sent the fire - I Kings 18:37-45.  
ELISHA prayed with strong emotion;  
He got the mantle, with a "double portion" - II Kings 2:9-14.  
When CHRISTIANS pray, as they prayed of yore,  
God will save sinners as He has before - II Chron. 7:14; Acts  
4:4,12.  
Three HEBREWS prayed, through flames they trod; They had as  
a Comrade, the Son of God - Daniel 3:21-25.  
DANIEL prayed. The lions' claws  
Were held by the Angel, who locked their jaws - Dan. 6:10-23.  
JONAH prayed, God heard his wail,  
And quickly delivered him from the whale - Jonah 2:1-10.  
The DISCIPLES prayed, the Holy Ghost came,  
With "cloven tongues" and revival flame. Ac. 2:1-4; Matt. 18:19.  
Ten LEPERS prayed, to the priests were sent;  
Glory to God! They were healed as they went - Luke 17:12-14.  
The THIEF who prays - for mercies cries;  
He goes with Christ to Paradise - Luke 23:42,43.  
In FAITH and LOVE, united stand,  
REVIVAL FIRES shall sweep the land - Acts 2:1-4.  
CONVICTION filled the hearts of men;  
Three thousand souls were "BORN AGAIN"! - Acts 2:41.  
Sinners shall converted be;  
And all the world God's Glory see - Acts 5:14; Joel 2:18-32.  
PETER prayed, and Dorcas arose  
To life again from death's repose - Acts 9:39-41.  
The CHURCH had prayed, then got a shock,  
When Peter free, at the door did knock - Acts 12:5-16.

(Reprint 1973)



## The Jew's Religion

"For ye have heard of my conversation (manner of life) in time past in the Jew's religion, how that beyond measure, I persecuted the church of God and wasted it; and profited in the Jew's religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers." Gal. 1 :13,14.

The phrase, "THE JEW'S RELIGION," captured my interest as I was studying this little epistle. It never had impressed me before. I never had understood the force of its meaning. Paul, in the above quoted portion, is telling us of his experience before he was a Christian. He was a strict member of the Jew's religion and he profited in adherence to its dogmas and decrees. At that time while he was so religious, he persecuted those who worshipped God in the true way, the Gospel of grace way of salvation.

16 Saul was a strong, earnest soul. He kept the Law of Sinai, the Ten Commandments, as much as it was possible for any man, more so than others of his equal in age and education. He was a pattern to other youths. Jewish parents pointed to him no doubt and encouraged their children to follow his example. He was of excellent reputation among the people, but pompous and self-righteous, pharisaical and censorious in character. His success in religious observances only added to his ego. It did not make him kind nor tender, but rather otherwise. He was hard and cold and cruel. Observe his declaration concerning himself --- **"Beyond measure I persecuted the church of God..."** He made havoc of its ranks and sought its downfall. He hailed men and women to prison and witnessed against them, being the most violent per-secutor of that day. Note this fact --- he was an adept of the Jew's religion, that hater of men. Thus religion made him austere, hard-hearted and self righteous. Religion, without faith in God as its basis, makes folk without feeling. That was the cause of the slaying of Abel by Cain, also of the terrorism of the inquisition in Spain and the religious war in France and every religious war that ever was in the world. Religion without salvation is devastating, destructive and devilish. Thank God, some of us like Paul have been separated from the Jew's religion and have received Christ, God's salvation instead.



But the Jew's religion, from the beginning of this age, has been a menace to the Church. It has brought havoc and harm to true believers. Paul was separated from that system; but the Church has taken it up and taught the religion of law to the Gentiles. The Law of Moses was never given to the Church; but they took it and made it their rule of life. They have put themselves under the law of Sinai. God never put it over them. It is not the way to be saved, neither to keep saved. Christ is "the Way, the Truth and the Life." No man comes to the Father, nor continues in His favor except through Jesus Christ. He **"...is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth."** Rom. 10 :4 That is, He ends all legal means of salvation.

Another word about "the Jew's religion." The Mosaic Economy, that is the legal covenant, had its day. It was God's will for that dispensation. He gave it to Moses. "Salvation is of the Jews," Jesus said to the woman at the well. John 4: 22 But that age ended at the cross. The trial of law is over. A new dispensation came on, the age of grace, and now the Legal Covenant, if persisted in, becomes merely the Jew's religion. It is no more God's religion, nor the salvation of the Jews. And any self effort, or the keeping of law as a means of getting saved, or keeping is nothing more or less than the Jew's religion, "though it may be "dressed up" some in Christian garb to suit Gentiles. Therefore, let us refuse any means for salvation except Christ and His precious blood. He is all we need for time and eternity.

Anon

(Reprint 1938)

- \* **What God has written down in grace, gray matter can never erase.**
- \* **When God calls, He qualifies, and when He qualifies He sends.**
- \* **When God bolts the door, don't try to get in a window.**
- \* **If a sparrow cannot fall to earth without God's notice, surely an empire cannot rise without His knowledge.**



# REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

...From the Editor

"And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend..." Ex 33:11

God has a glorious history of communicating with the helpless creature He created. It begins in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. The pattern continues as "God spake...." unto men such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel, Hosea and others. The text above declares that the LORD "...spake...face to face..." with Moses "... as a man speaketh unto his friend..." The little word "...as..." must be recognized here due to God's emphatic statement in V. 20, "... no man see me, and live." Speaking "...fact to face..." simply means that God spoke plainly and intimately to Moses as any person might speak to a close friend. Such plainness of speech was no mystery to Moses.

18

Scripture also proclaims that God spoke to Job out of a whirlwind and to Moses from the burning bush. Jesus, The Man, also heard His voice just prior to the last supper when even the Greeks were among those who came to worship Him. He was "...troubled..." but said "Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." Jo. 12:28 The response of the people who stood by was "...that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him," (V.29) meaning that men simply do not always recognize God's Voice when He does speak.

The fact is that God still speaks today but with this contrast. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,..." Heb.1:1-2 John beautifully interprets that statement, declaring plainly that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Joh 1:1 Furthermore, "...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Joh 1:14

God can, and does, speak in a variety of ways in our



world today, such as dreams, circumstance, signs, and wonders. Some have had visions even as those long ago, but the key to any "revelation" is, "Can it be verified by the Word of God?" Even Paul had "an out of body experience" wherein "...he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." II Cor. 12:4 However, he did not even mention it until 14 years later. One major reason for the statement, "...it is not lawful for a man to utter," may be that it could not be verified by anyone else. Scripture requires that, "...In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." II Cor. 13:1 Paul was absolutely alone when he had this experience.

Peter is another who emphasizes that God's Word must be the chief witness unto us. He clearly asserted that "...we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." II Pet. 1:16 This is a reference to the majestic sight on The Mount of Transfiguration witnessed by Peter, James, and John. Peter insists that it was not some made up fable, but rather a genuine reality, wherein "...there came such a voice to him (Christ) from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." II Pet. 1:17 However, Peter did not want men to base their beliefs and actions on his experience, but rather emphasized that, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place,... Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." II Pet. 1:19-21

19

These words mean simply that none can interpret God's Voice or message with the "...private interpretation..." of his own mind or opinion. Just as holy men of God were moved by the Holy Ghost to write these prophecies, so also must men today be moved by the Holy Ghost to understand them. Regardless of how they are conveyed, all revelations must center around God's Word, for He "... Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,..."



## **Spiritual Cancer**

**Dr. Vicky Moots**

Almost everyone's life has been touched by cancer, either by a personal experience, a family member or someone you know and love. There were more than 1 1/2 million new cases of Cancer diagnosed last year (not including skin Cancer) and the number is increasing each year. If a disease in the natural is that prevalent, then it must have an important spiritual lesson to teach us. The Bible doesn't contain the word "cancer," but it does use a similar word with a similar meaning in II Timothy 2. Let us start reading at verse 15 – 17. The word I'm referring to is "canker" which actually means "gangrene" or something that devours and destroys the flesh. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." This is our guard against spiritual cancer. If you know the truth and are grounded in the word, you will not be led astray by error. "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker."

20

What is cancer? In the natural it is a normal cell that has gone wild and is growing out of control. We need to understand what a normal cell is like in order to understand the abnormal. There are over 75 trillion cells in the human body. Each one is a living structure by itself more complex than the city of New York but they all join together to form one body.

Each cell has three basic parts (we are a trinity even at the cellular level because we are created in His image). Each part represents a person in the Godhead. An example in the natural that can be seen without a microscope is the egg. It has an outer shell, representing the cell membrane; the white represents the protoplasm, and the yolk the nucleus. The nucleus contains the DNA (genetic material) and controls each cell and its relationship to the other cells and their growth. This is a type of God the Father who is Ruler over all things. The protoplasm (or cytoplasm) is the cellular material between the cell membrane and the nucleus. Its liquid is a complex mixture of nutrients to support cell growth and organelles



(little organs), such as the mitochondria and other structures that help provide the energy and do the manufacturing of proteins to maintain the life and growth of the cell. It represents Christ who is our supply (Phil 4:19 “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”) Lastly, the cell membrane is the outer envelope of the cell that holds everything in its proper place. It contains microscopic “gates” or channels that regulate what enter and exit the cell, such as sodium, potassium and calcium. This is necessary to maintain the electrical charge and the proper PH (acid-base balance) of the cell. It represents the work of the Holy Spirit in our life.

We all began life as a single cell after fertilization took place. The DNA in the nucleus signaled for growth to occur, causing the cells to divide and multiply into many more cells. All cells started out identical and then began the process of differentiation to form different body parts. All the cells in one body have the same DNA and work together and join together to form one body through the influence of that DNA in the nucleus.

In the cell membrane surrounding each cell are factors **21** that tell each cell that it is touching another cell. This is a feedback mechanism to avoid crowding out the other cells. It is called “contact inhibition.” Through this factor, each cell feels the presence and need of the other cells and cannot crowd out the other cells, allowing to only grow at the rate they are supposed to grow, under the influence of the nucleus.

Cancer cells are normal cells that are somehow influenced by something else. Their growth is no longer controlled by the nucleus. They grow rapidly at their own rate, own desire, without any respect or concern for the other cells. They have lost their “contact inhibition” and crowd out the other cells. They quickly use up their own nutrients and then begin to feed on the other surrounding cells.

Gal 5:13-16 gives us an example of the spiritual body. “Use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh but by love serve one another. (Spiritual contact inhibition) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love Thy neighbor “cell” as thyself.” If we serve one another in love, then we will not crowd out or hinder one another’s growth. Verse 15: “But if ye bite and devour one another take



heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” (That’s what cancer cells do; they devour the other cells.) Verse 16: “Walk in the spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” The Spirit gives us the spiritual “contact inhibition” if we heed the control of the nucleus (our Head), we will serve one another in love. The desire of the flesh is to be “me first”. Paul is not just talking about the carnal lusts of the flesh; he is talking about pride and the desire to get ahead of someone else even if it means pushing them out of the way.

In I Cor 1:10, we read “Now I beseech ye brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you.” We can all speak the same thing (speaking the truth in love) if we have the mind of Christ.

The cancer cell loses its differentiation and becomes “undifferentiated” (has a different appearance under the microscope). It is disorganized and no longer looks like a normal cell, and is no longer recognizable. In verse 11 we read, “There are contentions among you.” These are divisions, separations in  
22 the body of Christ, no longer speaking the same thing (this is spiritual cancer).

What changed? The nucleus is no longer in control and so the cell takes over and grows at its own rate, doing its own thing, devouring other cells. A cancer not only looks different under the microscope but it feels different. It becomes hardened and unyielding.

If a woman finds a lump in her breast that feels different than the rest of her breast tissue, she goes to a doctor for an examination. The doctor examines her and applies principles according to the book. By physical exam the doctor can tell if it feels soft like a normal cyst or if it is a suspicious lump and orders more tests to confirm the diagnosis. I Cor 12:12 Paul tells us, “For as the body is one and hath many members and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.” Verse 18 further tells us that “God hath set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased Him.” He created the physical body to function as a unit under the direction of the head, all members working together for the good of the body. As a spiritual body we need to let the nucleus (our Head) control



our growth and differences as it pleases Him. We need to let each member grow at their own rate and fulfill their own place of the ministry and give the feeble members more time to grow. We are to help them. Not devour them. Verse 25 Admonishes us, "That there should be no schism (cancer) in the body." (A schism is a division in the body, unyielding, a hardness, and separation) but that the members should have the same care one for another." Each one is as important as the other.

What can we do to try to prevent cancer or detect it early? Physicians teach patients to do self-exams, such as breast self-examination for women and testicular self-examination for men to check for lumps or swelling. I Cor 11:28 tells us, "Let a man examine himself." Have you checked yourself? Are you hard, unyielding? Do you have love or bitterness in your heart? Notice Paul says to examine ourselves, not each other. Don't examine each other for cancer, physical or spiritual. Only 2 people should be examining your body – yourself and your doctor. Don't try examining your neighbor – it could only get you in trouble. Same thing applies spiritually.

23

A cancer that is not curable is one that goes unnoticed or ignored. Watch for warning signs: unusual bleeding, blood in urine, bowels, post-menopausal bleeding, sores that bleed or won't heal. Then go see your doctor.

What are some of the potential causes or risk factors of cancer? Smoking or chewing tobacco is a major contributor to multiple types of cancer, including oral, esophageal, stomach, bladder and lung cancer. This is both due to irritation and the toxic chemicals in tobacco. Also toxic exposure to other chemicals. Radiation, over exposure to the sun (sunburns) can increase your risk of cancer. Spiritually this speaks of legality – constantly judging others or self-condemnation. The sunlight of God's Word shows us our sins and then we are to cover ourselves with His righteousness. Romans 8:1 is our protection from God's judgement. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." This is our spiritual sunblock to avoid spiritual skin cancer.

Improper nutrition can alter our body's immune system and cause us to be more susceptible to cancer. A diet that



consists mainly of highly processed foods, high in sugar and hydrogenated fats and lacking in fresh fruits and vegetables has been associated with an increased risk of diabetes and cancer. To be healthy spiritually we are to “desire the sincere milk of the word,” I Pet. 2:2, and to “shun profane and vane babblings” II Tim 2:16. We must feed our soul with the word of His grace daily and study to show ourselves approved unto God. II Tim 2:15

But what is a doctors’ responsibility when you go to him/her with a newly discovered lump and all the tests confirmed that it is malignant? One of the hardest things I’ve had to do as a physician is to tell a patient, “You have cancer.” Before healing can begin, the truth must be told, not in a cold uncaring way but with love and compassion and hope. Sometimes the truth hurts. But to not know the truth is even more painful. By “speaking the truth in love,” Eph 4:15, we bring hope, not condemnation.

24 Spiritual or physical cancer cannot be erased if you do not accept the diagnosis and submit to the treatment. Rom 12:10 gives us the cure for spiritual cancer. “Be kind and affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring another.” Only by the love of God which is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost (Rom 5:5) can this be possible. “Love worketh no ill to his neighbor” Rom 13:10 Rom 15:1, 2 tells us we are not to please ourselves but to please our neighbor for his good to edification. That means we are to build up (edify) not crowd out or devour our neighbor cell. One is our “contact inhibition.”

We don’t have to let things enter in that which feeds the flesh. Remember the cell membrane that surrounds each cell represents the Holy Spirit in our lives and has gates or channels to control what enters or exits the cell. We must yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to control our emotions, desires and actions. Let us examine ourselves to see if we have spiritual cancer and then go to the Great Physician for healing. Sometimes the treatment is not very pleasant. We don’t like the cutting or the bitter medicine, but we learn that all things work for our good if we trust Him and yield to the Holy Spirit.



## **IN GOD'S CRUCIBLE**

**Katherine S. Yurchak**

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." I Pet. 4:12, 13.

Everyone experiences miracles, great and small, in this life. Birth itself is a miracle. While some miracles are instantly recognized, the vast expanse of Divine intervention in one's life will be made known to the individual only when he steps into the Beyond.

With details of this personal encounter with God fresh upon me, I have endeavored to tell something of how I was tossed into His crucible and then emerged triumphant because of His faithfulness. My purpose in writing this is to help those who may be in distress or despair - to encourage them to trust dauntlessly in the Mighty God of Heaven. I have discovered that one has only to open one's self more and more to Him to be the recipient of His comfort, grace and love.

One morning early in February, I awakened with a light dizziness. A trickle of pain raced over my left brow so that I had to lie back on my pillow for a while longer. When Nicholas, my husband, arose later, I casually mentioned the incident; then both of us threw ourselves into our usual daily routine --- he to pursue the activities that fill his days as an electrician, and I to do the bookkeeping and to receive calls from our customers.

At my desk in the shop, I do more than the duties of a secretary, however. My hours are filled with translating from the Italian language into English various selected writings from the voluminous works of Giuseppe Petrelli, who during his lifetime had discovered that "pure and undefiled religion" which is of the heart. The writings he left behind him contain substance --- REALITY --- a quality which far exceeds the shadowy religion of many other writers I have read.

Several of the translations had been printed by mid-February, and now the proofs of one of Petrelli's meditations on JOB had arrived on my desk. How could I have ever imagined, after returning the proofs to the printer, that within two months I would be in the hospital under a neurosurgeon's knife!



Late in February, my husband and I journeyed to Norfolk, Virginia, to visit our son, John, who is a Naval Flight Officer. He was preparing to depart for his second Mediterranean tour aboard the U.S.S. Forrestal.

At that time, he and his father had planned a trip to Naples for me in the Spring. I was to travel to Italy with a young woman (the wife of our son's roommate) and after meeting John, he and I would tour Naples where his ship would be docked. That journey was never to be!

As time went on, in humiliation I kept most people from noticing any disability in me; but the truth was I was speaking quite haltingly, could not write a letter, and was having trouble keeping the books of our small business. Needless to say, my husband was becoming more and more concerned about me. Our problem was complicated by the fact that over the years we rarely needed a physician in our home. The doctor who had examined my husband and me before we were married, and who also had delivered our son twenty-five years ago now was dead. With no family doctor, where could we turn? We were very troubled. I wrote in my journal, on the 9th of March, 1981:

26 "I am very concerned about my mind. For the past several days, I have not been able to think as I should. I want to say things and cannot; I try to think, but my mind won't shift gears. Help me, Lord! I need You to strengthen and encourage me in the things of Heaven. My mind won't accept the proper ways. Please help me, Lord!"

Thus began what I am convinced was a spiritual battle which took place over a three-month period during the sixtieth year of my life. It was a battle designed by God Himself to teach and strengthen me in His most Holy Faith.

When my speech became more and more of a problem for me, Nick felt compelled to call a doctor friend for whom he had done some electrical wiring. After describing my symptoms over the phone, my husband asked: "Can you give us a direction to go?" It was suggested that I see Dr. R. M. Reddy, a local heart specialist who had come to our small community from India and had won the love and respect of many of our friends and neighbors. I was most reluctant, however, to begin what I felt would be a continual routine of visiting one doctor after another and then only to find my condition grow worse. But when frustration and humiliation



overcame me, I eagerly placed the call to the local heart specialist.

I was examined by Dr. Reddy on the 22nd of March. I not only looked healthy, but the examination also proved that I was, indeed, in excellent health. But for all that, I pleaded for help: "There must be something wrong with me. Why am I losing my train of thought? Why can't I write or speak as I should? Did I have a stroke?" My perplexity as I sat across from his desk drew a somber look from the doctor. This caused me to suspect that he knew something more than he cared to reveal to me. He suggested I undergo further testing at a nearby medical center, "as soon as possible." But when the doctor related my symptoms by phone that very afternoon and asked that testing be scheduled, the prognosis from the medical center was that I should have "psychological treatment."

I shall be forever grateful to God that He did not permit me to fall into the hands of anyone except those persons of His Own choosing. Truly, "He shall give His angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways." (Psalm 91:11).

Meanwhile, my case drew more than a little interest from Dr. Reddy. A few days later, he called my husband to ask how I was. He said that I had not suffered a stroke, but that if I did not improve, he would be happy to make an appointment for me with a neurosurgeon in Williamsport.

Again I was reticent about embarking on what I thought would be a long circuitous route to nowhere; but by the time mid-April arrived, I had discarded all plans for a trip abroad and then urged my husband to call for an appointment with the unknown neurosurgeon, since I could not perform even that simple function for myself. As the call was made, I declared deep within my soul: "Alive or dead, O Lord, I belong to YOU." At last I had completely surrendered my future — no matter what course it would take — into the powerful hands of my Deliverer. But we had to wait two weeks more!

Now I was a communicator with no ability to communicate. From early youth I had begun to hone the tools that fitted me for a career in journalism, radio and public relations. When I had recognized these gifts, (writing and speaking) as God-given personally to me, on a certain date and in a certain place, I had consciously determined to use them only for His good purposes. But now I was deprived of these gifts. Of what



use could I be to God now? And how could I serve my husband in his business? Here I was, scarcely able to make myself understood; I no longer could handle the accounting of our affairs; when our customers called, they considered me curt as I had to limit my responses to a brief "yes" or "no," when they made purchases, I had to ask them to help me make the change of currency.

Our son had called one night from the Mediterranean Sea. He was so happy to make contact with me after several long weeks, but he quickly recognized that I could not respond intelligently. Becoming troubled, he called a few days later, at a time when he knew his father would be home, for an explanation of my problem. At such times I suffered such grief that no words can describe it.

For all that, I continued to build up my health with long walks, and kept active outdoors in the brisk early-Spring air. In fact, my husband said there seemed to be no limit to my energy, as I did the yard work about our home and even did enormous amounts of household chores. I must confess that during the entire three months of this ordeal, I never felt any physical pain, except for the slight dizziness I experienced during that early morning in February.

It is my deep conviction that nothing happens to any of God's children by mere chance. From the moment this experience began, I recognized the deprivation of my powers of communication to be a severe test of my faith in God; and I believed any difficulty He permits would be used by God Himself for our good, and that I eventually would be "more than conqueror" over this situation. So long as I was able, I fortified my inner self with the "trust" verses of the Bible; these I used as weapons day and night against doubt and fear.

My hand was faltering, but my faith in God was firm when I wrote on the 10th of April, this last entry in my journal: "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper: and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." Isaiah 57:17 And I boldly added: "I BELIEVE ... I BELIEVE ... I BELIEVE."

But then, at Easter time, only three days before our scheduled appointment with the neuro-surgeon, the culmination of our great sadness had spilled over into a profusion of tears. My



husband and I sat at the luncheon table weeping together. Not only could I no longer scarcely speak or write, but now I had completely lost my ability to co-ordinate even the simplest kitchen duties. So rapidly I had deteriorated! Through our sobs and tears, we assured ourselves with the Psalmist's words: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them ALL." Psalm 34:19.

At 3:30 on the afternoon of April 22nd, I was in the examining room of Dr. Rodwan K. Rajjoub, accompanied by my husband who, of necessity, had to describe my difficulties to him. After only the most elementary steps of the examination process, the doctor asked me: "How much is one and one?" I could not respond. He flipped his tie up and down before my face: "What is this?" I could not identify it. Alarm was immediately written upon his face. He stepped back for a quiet moment, then looked penetratingly at me. His expression told me that my problem was serious. My husband and I had been languishing for three months, and though we never had met this neuro-surgeon before, in a few moments he knew all he had to know about me. "We must admit her into the hospital," he announced softly to my husband. "When?" Nick asked. And the doctor's edict was: "Right now!" And that was all he would admit. When we left the examining room, we walked through the narrow corridors to leave his office. As I turned, I saw the doctor leaning toward his secretary, but looking toward me. How suddenly my fierce independence had become deep humility! My journey into the unknown had begun.

By 5:30 that evening, I was lying on a hospital bed in the Rehabilitation section of Williamsport, (Pa.) Hospital. Looking about me, I saw three older women who were suffering with limb ailments. Later, I discovered I was among those who had grave speech impediments; others were confined to wheelchairs, and still others were paralyzed or flat on their backs because of various accidents. It was not a pleasant place to be. Even so, I was the healthiest of them all. "What am I doing here?" I asked myself several times. But whatever the reason, I refused to be helpless. Now, double vision made it impossible for me to read; I had to draw from my memory to recall the Scripture verses God had impressed deep within me over my lifetime; and though I could barely write my own name and was reduced to speaking in monosyllables, I walked the corridors of the hospital thanking the Lord



Jesus Christ over and over again for what I did have rather than wasting time in moaning about what I did not have. Nothing and no one could prevent my praises to God. Leaning by faith upon Him, I was confident that He ONLY could be my great Deliverer.

Medical tests began immediately. For two days I was wheeled to this and that department in order that the neurosurgeon would have the best available information that could be processed through the technology of nuclear medicine — all in preparation for the operation.

When he sat beside my bed with my husband and me two days later, the doctor revealed what he said he had known immediately after we had met in his office. (I learned later that my husband knew my problem four days before I did, but Nick waited for the doctor to tell me himself.)

30 "We found a brain tumor," he said with the certain knowledge of one in his profession. (Later, Nick told me I flinched at that revelation, but I do not recall doing so). Then the doctor continued: "I am 95% certain it is a benign tumor, but I cannot know about the other 5% until I operate." And without delay, we gave permission for him to schedule surgery for early in the morning of Tuesday, April 28th.

Late on the night before surgery, I asked my husband to place a call from my hospital room to my 81 year-old parents in Southern New Jersey. I, the eldest of their eight children, habitually called at least once a week. I knew that they would be wondering what was happening to me, since I had not been communicating with them; and for several weeks I had to suspend the writing of letters to my father with whom I have long enjoyed a treasured correspondence. "Please pray for me," I said. I knew that was all I would have to say to my parents who would reach Heaven's portals with precious prayers of faith for me. I considered then how marvelous for children to be under the canopy of their parents' prayers! "We serve a BIG God," said my father. "You be at rest. A great deal of good will come from this." And I responded with the few words I could summon: "Yes, I know." And thus our conversation ended.

The doctor appeared that evening soon after my husband had left me. "Me you r-r-ready for the oper-r-ration tomor-r-r-row mor-r-r-ning?" he asked. His pleasant accent was disarming. I thought: This is the man who has the task of penetrating with his scalpel into the very soul of me. Before stepping out the door, he



said: "We have to cut your-r-r hair-r-r." And with sheer abandon I responded: "I know." Afterward it came to me: What a small price to pay to have my ability to speak and write restored!

Beginning at the midnight hour, one nurse after another came to prepare me for the early-morning surgery. I accepted each detail without complaint; but as their injections increased, I walked the floor through a long sleepless night; and with each hour, I agonized with increasing pain.

With the dawn of day, my sister Ruth appeared first; and then my husband came. The cutting of my hair was last on the nurses' agenda. Two young women in white hacked away with their surgical shears at my curly tresses which had taken years to grow, and stuffed them into two brown paper bags. One can expect a dreadful haircut in neurosurgery!

My sister bade me a sad farewell and my husband kissed me gently. We told ourselves that we would meet soon. Then I was bumped along through halls and elevators on a cart whose wheels rattled noisily. Finally, we reached the frigid area of the operating room, where thick curtains hung as partitions for surrounding each cart. Before long they would be drawn about busy surgeons, while each performed his particular skill. Soon sick or mutilated bodies would be wheeled into this room one by one -- almost in assembly-line fashion. But except for the cart on which I lay, all were empty at this early hour.

My last recollection that morning is of an attractive and smiling black nurse. She was dressed in her assigned "O.R." garb -- head covering, blue wrinkled pants, and blue flowered coat. She was sitting on the edge of an empty cart, happily dangling her legs; from time to time, she glanced coyly at me. Afterward I realized she had been waiting for me to fall into the deep sleep induced by the narcotics which would prevent me from knowing the touch of the surgeon's knife on my head. Very soon, in that attitude which only can be described as "semi-death," I no longer was aware of the flurry of activity that surrounded me.

It was about 1:30 in the afternoon that a jubilant Dr. Rajjoub met my husband and my sister outside the operating room. He was elated to tell them that the tumor -- "as large as a small orange" was 100% benign; and because it was capsulated in its own sac, he was able to lift it off my brain where its pressure had caused my inability to communicate. "The operation went



very well," he exclaimed.

Was I merely "lucky?" Or was this truly "miraculous?" Had God expressed Himself to me through this work? Or were our prayers just a useless exercise? Am I a religious fanatic? Was this immediate restoration to wholeness only the result of a surgeon's wisdom and skillful hands? Should modern technology in the field of medicine take all of the honor? Or had God Divinely intervened in our sad affairs?

Whatever the reader's conclusions, I believe and know that as surely as Jesus Christ healed many people of various diseases when He walked earth as a lowly carpenter 2,000 years ago, so He who is the Master Physician, Who heals today. For He alone can say: "I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold, I am alive forever more." Rev. 1:18 We are, indeed, thankful for the many instruments He, who is THE LIFE, uses to accomplish His good work; but I personally MUST believe in the Strong One who caused the Psalmist to declare: "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles." Psa. 34:6

32 Let us suppose that this is not so. Where shall we poor mortals go for aid? In what — better to say — in WHOM shall we trust? My own choice has to be the eternal God of Heaven and earth who (as Paul said): "...gives to all life, and breath, and all things."

Suppose events had turned out quite the opposite of what I have described here. What would be the mood of those who would remain after me? Of course, death brings grief to every human soul that has learned to love others. My husband visited a young lady who was filled with sorrow when she learned the details of the scheduled operation. We had become close friends and she was grieved by the seriousness of my surgery and felt the results could only be unfortunate. But Nick assured her with these remarks: "If my wife is not spared, I will be happy for the twenty-seven years we have enjoyed together; but what could be better than for her to be with the Lord whom she loves?" Truly, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" I Cor. 15:55 But now we can confidently say with the Apostle Paul: "Thanks be unto God, which ALWAYS causeth us to triumph in Christ..." II Cor. 2:14

"I'm so glad I can talk," were the first words I spoke to my husband when he visited me in the intensive care unit that bright



afternoon. Later, two smiling doctors were looking down on me: "It's important that you speak and write as much as possible," they advised. Not only is that advice happily received, but I intend to discreetly and wisely use what has been marvelously restored to me. More and more each day, I treasure these unique gifts.

Early in the evening of that same day, the neurosurgeon came to my bedside; his face was wreathed in smiles. "One and one are ...." "Two," I responded quickly, "... and that's your tie." He was beaming. He had done his work skillfully, and he knew it. As he turned to leave, he said: "I'll be able to sleep tonight."

During every waking hour after surgery, I thanked God deep within me for His glorious triumph over the oppressor. While in overflowing praise the day after surgery, I closed my eyes for a moment, and there before me appeared the bruised body of our blessed Redeemer. In amazement, I quickly opened my eyes and considered that I would have desired to gaze long upon Him. "It is You, Lord Jesus," I said silently to my rejoicing spirit, "It is You." Immediately, the Holy Spirit brought to my remembrance: "...His visage was marred more than any man's, and His form more than the sons of men." Isa. 52:14

I was reminded that anything we experience in the sufferings of this life cannot be compared to the agony He suffered when He bled and died that cruel crucifixion and carried to the Cross the sins of the entire world, especially mine. I was filled with wonder. Then soon afterward, I closed my eyes again and He appeared once more — this time as a little babe.

I was thrilled! The words of Scripture: "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger," (Lk. 2:12) caused me to consider how God had humbled Himself to come into the world as a baby, and lived among men as a Man, to redeem mankind to Himself. What extreme humiliation! What great comfort and joy He brought me in my neediest hour!

Though I never have been given visions or dreams, my memory will cause me to reflect on these things often throughout my lifetime, as I daily endeavor to express my faith in the most practical ways; for it is "... this God who shall be my God forever and ever." Psa. 48:14

At last I was transferred from I.C.U. to a room on the fourth floor. I arose early the next morning to wash myself, and reflected in the mirror the face of a lady I hardly recognized.



She certainly had changed during the days she'd been hospitalized! She was ten pounds thinner and her bald head had made her a mere caricature of her former self. "Why, Katherine Yurchak! Is that you?" I said aloud, as I supported myself on the washbasin. Then we both laughed and laughed — me and my reflection. "Well, good morning anyway," I said aloud and proceeded to enjoy each new day more than the day before.

Eight days after the removal of the brain tumor, I was back in my own home, and that very afternoon I began to bring our affairs up to date. Then resorting to my library, I discovered I could translate as easily as before. I was, indeed, restored! The following day, I resumed — with measured pace — my usual household activities. When one of my dear friends came and found me ironing my husband's shirts, she insisted I could not possibly have undergone brain surgery without having suffered a single handicap. And I thought: I had never even considered such a thing!

34 If I am a marvel to relatives, friends and neighbors — even to doctors — I am certain it is because of God's moving in my life with His great love. Daily I bow in humility before Him; and with each hour, my gratitude to Him increases,

I am certain it is God who designed that my faith be tried in His fiery crucible. I now know that faith in Him must be PURE — without alloy. Most of us have only a little faith, but it is that small measure of faith that must be exercised through the grand opportunities God offers us to trust in Him. When we truly believe, we can exclaim with the Psalmist: "Blessed be the Lord, because He hath heard the voice of my supplication. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: Therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth: And with my song will I praise Him." Psa. 28:6,7

(Reprint 1982)

- \* Salvation is as close as your heart's door. Open it.!
- \* Blessed are the peacemakers, for it is evident they shall never be numbered among the unemployed.





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