

Revival For Our Day

January 2000

Dear precious followers of Jesus, we greet you in his holy name. I am so thankful for God's mercy and his grace that abounds. We would like to let you know of our appreciation and gratitude for the Christmas cards and gifts we received from each of you. Thank you for your prayers and for your faithfulness in supplying our need. We have just been trusting and we want to thank you for your concern, care, help, provision, blessing and petitions as we wait before the Lord and strive to cry out for deliverance. We know that Satan is a liar and the father of lies and that in due season we can be delivered, by God's grace, each step of the way. Praise the Lord.

I want to share with you about finding and doing the will of God. How do we find the will of God? How do we obey God? I have gone to church for over eighty years now, Sunday after Sunday, and often there would be nice singing and wonderful preaching, but no witness of the Holy Spirit in my heart during many of those services.

If people would obey God during church, the power would fall. God has wanted for two thousand years to lead the church. Not in our thoughts, but by His Holy Spirit. I have said to the church for over sixty years that if I could find a dozen people that would obey every leading of the Holy Spirit, God would pour out his Spirit and it would last until Jesus comes.

To obey God and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit is supernatural. Christianity began in the supernatural when Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary and it has been supernatural ever since. As we follow him, he leads, guides, directs and checks us. There are times when you will start to speak and the Holy Spirit will say, "Don't speak." There are other times when he will say, "Speak," or "Pray on." He teaches us these things as we wait upon him in prayer.

I have been walking with God these many years and I have been trying to find men and women, boys and girls who would obey the leading of the Holy Spirit. The reason people are not led by the Holy Spirit is because when God comes and works in their heart and tells them what to do during a service, they sit in their seat and quench the Spirit – and some never have another leading for the rest of their life. That is why the church is so dead. They have never been taught to be obedient. If your heart starts to pound during a service, that usually means you are to get on your feet and praise the Lord. When the flesh tells you to be quiet and you don't act, that disobedience quenches the Spirit. Therefore, you don't get another leading until you say, "God forgive me." As soon as we ask God to forgive us, then we may have a leading in ten

seconds, one second, two years, two months or two days.

If everyone would obey God, the power of the kingdom would come. We need to respond immediately when God deals with us. To delay is to disobey. If each one would obey as soon as God deals with them, worship services would take off. One testimony would follow right after another and then the power of the kingdom would fall. The reason why the kingdom has not come to earth is because men and women squelch it. I have had to plead with people for over sixty years to obey God.

When people in the church obey God, his kingdom comes and the power falls. His kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. When his kingdom comes do you know what happens? He draws all people to Jesus in seconds. It wouldn't make any difference if the place were full of infidels, the power would save them in minutes. **It is not preaching we need, but people in the church to obey the Holy Spirit!** This is my ministry – to love everyone and encourage people to obey the Holy Spirit.

Obeying the Holy Spirit begins at home. Whatever you are, it will show at home first. If you are a Christian, you are a Christian and you obey God at home. If you don't obey God at home, you don't obey him when you get to church much. The flesh will say, "You be quiet now. You just hush up. You are radical and fanatical. There is no use in saying anything. Just be quiet." When we listen to that instead of denying self, we miss the cross and as a result, the kingdom of God doesn't come.

When God's kingdom comes, all men in that area will be saved. You won't have to have crusades or revivals. God would reveal the sinner's spiritual condition to them. His power would bring them in if we could find men that would obey God in the Spirit. God wants to have full dominion in our midst in the kingdom of God, but he has not had it very much since the fall of man.

If God isn't leading us and we are not following him, then we are following self. Jesus said, "If any man is going to come after me, let him deny himself." The presence of the Lord does not abide within any church where self is not denied. It doesn't make any difference how much theology we know, how much of the Bible we know or how long we pray. We can pray for five hours a day, but if we do not deny self, Jesus will not be there. What does that mean? It means that unless we deny ourselves and obey him, he is not there in the fullness of his power to work and move as he desires. **Self-denial is the open door that leads to following Jesus.** If we fail to deny self at the point

of his leading, we fail to keep up and he is gone. Jesus told the church in Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man will hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me." It is the self within us that has crowded Jesus out of most services.

The Lord leads us within and he wants to lead everyone. The Bible says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14) He said all his sons will be led by the Holy Spirit. That is within.

A few years ago I led a young man to Christ. After he was saved I told him, "When you read the Bible, read it like you eat fish. Put the bones back and eat what you can digest." Most everyone in the church takes what they don't understand and dwells on that [the bones] and it chokes them to death. Hence, they don't have the power and they are not led of the Holy Spirit. The flesh will have you to try to understand what you don't understand until you lose what is yours. That is why people are in darkness and they don't know how to be led by the Holy Spirit! That is a spiritual secret and I never read it in any book. We are not to dwell on what we don't understand, even though that is our tendency. Don't worry about what you don't understand. Just use what you do understand and what you do understand will bring you to life and to the sheep you are looking for. It is encouraging to know how to read the Bible and to digest what we can get and let what we don't understand be put aside. After a while, we will develop spiritual molars that will enable us to grind up the bones and swallow them. It may take thirty years to grow these spiritual molars or it may take half of a century, or it may take place the day after tomorrow. It is a mystery. God's ways are past finding out.

After this young man was saved, he was so excited that he couldn't wait for prayer meeting. He had never been in prayer meeting in his life. Do you know what he did? He got up and told the congregation about how Jesus had helped him. And he sat down and got up and told them again. I have preached for years that I have been trying to find somebody to deny self and obey God from the time they are converted. Every time he got up he was denying self and taking the cross. So many pastors have to plead with their people to testify or to pray. The people won't do it on their own. But this young man got up on his own.

Wouldn't it be marvelous if Jesus could find a dozen men that would obey him? It is up to the individual. Every one of us makes a choice of doing what we want or doing God's will. When we do God's will, that is true church. We can go to church and have the greatest anthems and preaching, but if God is not leading it, it is nice, but

there is no power or glory in it. But when God leads, two hours go by so fast that you wonder how it ever happened. I have been in meetings where God was not leading and I was worn out in one hour. But when the Holy Spirit is leading, you don't become worn out, rather, you get lifted up. You feel like you want to run through a troop or leap over a wall. Hallelujah!

The devil will try to trip us up in the flesh to keep us from what is ours. We work so hard to get what we want. Most everyone is trying to save himself. When we try to arrange the convenient thing and what we like, we are saving ourselves. But Jesus said, "He that will lose his life will find it." Do you know who that person is? The one that loses his life is the one that denies himself and won't let self have its way. He denies himself and takes that cross and that is where he dies. And when he dies, he loses himself. That is what Jesus has been trying to find for almost two thousand years, men and women willing to die on this cross so that he can have his way with them and teach them how to obey him. **If we don't come to the place where we are willing to do this, we won't know how to obey the Holy Spirit and we won't be able to "read" the spiritual language.** We are being taught here how to read the spiritual language.

How God works is a wonder. How he leads is a marvel. How he directs is sweetness. How he guides is adventure. How he dwells is romance. How he abides is life. It is so important to let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us. If we don't let him lead, then we are going by our own arrangements. It is so important that we do not press anyone. We must simply love them and let the Holy Spirit guide. Because if you let the Holy Spirit guide, in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

On one occasion, I was in a service and I received a burden for the husband of a woman who was there. I didn't know what my burden was at first, but this woman whom I did not know spoke up and asked if maybe my burden was for her husband, and it was. I had never heard of him. I told her that her husband would be saved in six months. I had never done such a thing in my life. When the power hit him six months later, he almost bumped into the piano while trying to get to the altar. But it took six months. So we don't need to worry about how long it will take, we just need to share about the kingdom of God.

Jesus knows best how to make us fishers of men. We should not say to do this or that or even to read the Bible or to pray – that is not the way to win people to Christ. You don't have to catch all of the fish on crickets; sometimes they will bite a worm more quickly. You have to know how to bait the hook. Most all of us want to bait the hook with our

bait. (If we try to tell people what to do, that is our bait.) But if we simply share the kingdom of God, that is God's bait – and God knows how long it will take to land each catch. We want to catch a fish in thirty minutes. It took me twenty-one and a half years to see our son-in-law, Jack, saved by just sharing my experiences with him. If I had tried to tell him what to do we would have lost him forever.

If you will hold steady, God knows the bait. He knows how to win people. We want to win them right away. Wait until the Lord leads. Many have wanted to win their companions, but because they pressed them a little, it turned their hearts off. We have got to keep quiet most of the time and let the Lord shine through us by simply witnessing about his joy. We want to get people in so we press them. This is not good. Just follow Jesus, for he knows when they will go for the bait. We think we can do it and when we think we can do it, we can't do anything. Unless he does it, it is of man – so we must wait until he does it.

Share what Christ is doing for you, but only share as he leads. If we share in our own wants, we damage and hurt the people with whom we are sharing. You say, "How am I going to know when and what to share?" By wisdom. How do we get wisdom? "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." (James 1:5) I have been praying for wisdom since 1942. "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easily entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17) If we do not have wisdom, we will try to catch fish with the wrong bait. If we don't have wisdom, we will try to win souls at our time.

How are we going to do God's will? The secret is in letting him lead. How are we going to know God's will? We are only going to know it by the Word of God as the Holy Spirit directs.

God has been teaching us a few things here. He is teaching us to follow. If you can read what I am telling you here, God is teaching you how to begin to follow. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Most people think following is reading the Bible. You can read it forever and never follow. You can pray all day and all night and never follow. Although you can't follow without prayer and you can't follow without the Bible, we have got to die out first along with reading the Bible and praying. We have got to learn how to die. We are being taught now how to begin. God wants to teach us.

One time a man told me, "You walk with God and I want you to pray about whether I am to live in Anderson, Indiana or move to Nebraska, Indiana." He had a farm in Anderson and had lived there for

years, but they were selling it and had to move. He wanted me to pray to see if he could move to Nebraska and build a home or whether he should look for another farm in Anderson and stay there. I said, "John, I don't know what you are to do." I didn't know if God would tell me or not.

If you try to find out things out of the Spirit, you will get the wrong leading. That is why many people are in the wrong village, in the wrong work and are unhappy. Too many of us press for the answer and we don't get the spiritual answer – rather, we get the carnal answer. **Whenever we press in prayer we need to look out because we will get the wrong answer.** We have got to die and wait and pray and follow and the answer will come. Someone says, "How are we going to get the answer?" **If you will follow Jesus you will become the answer.** What? If you will follow Jesus, you will become the answer. He will reveal it to you. But if you have the slightest resentment in your heart or the slightest tendency of suspicion, it will keep you from what is yours.

I said, "John, it is so serious for you to ask me to pray." When you ask a man of God what you are to do and God tells him, let me tell you that you are in a situation. The reason is because most every prophet in the Bible that told people what to do when they asked him was not heeded. And every time a prophet's advice went unheeded, disaster took place.

In four days, at twelve-thirty in the morning, the Lord told me what he was to do. It is a story. Jesus told me, "You go and tell him not to move from Anderson. He is to stay there and not go to Nebraska." That night I drove through the fog and got there at one o'clock in the morning. I related to him what Jesus had told me. After I told him, he and his wife spent only three days looking for another farm in Anderson. They couldn't find one in three days so they gave up. (God revealed to me that if they had looked eleven more days, they would have found a farm in Anderson.) Instead, he went to Nebraska and built a home. He got a job in Madison and, on his way to work shortly thereafter, he hit a culvert and was killed.

To find the will of God is by the Word of God and by the Holy Ghost. **The only way we know the will of God by the Holy Ghost is to follow the rules of Jesus, which are inner denial and the cross where we die to hear his voice and follow.** Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, my sheep know my voice and they follow me." It is not an audible voice, but an inner voice inside of us. "And then they all forsook him and fled." All of Jesus' followers forsook him and fled. Are you going to do the same? Unless you die sufficiently to self, you will forsake him. Unless you obey every leading of the Holy Spirit, you will forsake him.

Unless you become like a child you will miss the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, "Except ye be converted and become as a little child, ye shall not enter the kingdom of Heaven." It is one thing to be converted, but it is far more to become like a little child. Very few have ever done it and that is why our churches are powerless.

May you be strengthened and encouraged to press toward the will of God as you read this letter and meditate upon it. Thank you for your thoughtfulness, prayers, love and care. In Jesus' precious name and for his glory, amen.

In Jesus' Name,

Loran W. Helm
Loran W. Helm

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to remind you that Rev. Helm will be celebrating his 84th birthday on February 3rd. We know many of you will want to send him cards or flowers. He is always so appreciative of each remembrance he receives.

Please send your cards and greetings to:

Rev. Loran Helm
P.O. Box 311
Parker City, Indiana 47368

If you wish to send flowers, you may contact Normandy Flowers in Muncie, Indiana at (765) 282-2263. Just indicate that they are for Rev. Loran Helm at 528 South Fulton Street, Parker City.

Thank you.

MISSIONS UPDATE

We are pleased to enclose with this newsletter an update on what is happening with Evangel Voice Missions. God is to be praised for all that he is accomplishing for his glory!

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Dear precious followers of the Lamb of God, we greet you in the matchless name of Jesus, the crucified One that is risen from the dead. We want to thank the Lord for all of those that have been striving to walk with God and obey him, that have been endeavoring to hear his voice and follow, for he said, "My sheep hear my voice." We pray that those that read this letter will be challenged and lifted, directed and instructed. We need it very much for the time is short. It seems the enemy has fought more severely the past several days than he has seemingly for some years or many years. We know that God is able to deliver the godly out of temptation, trial, struggle and heartache.

I want to thank each of you for all of the birthday cards, flowers and gifts I received for my eighty-fourth birthday. There were many and we appreciate each one. We are grateful for all of the prayers and cries to the throne that have been uttered in our behalf. We know that we are unworthy of it all, but we give God thanksgiving and praise for the dear ones that have been willing to stand with us and help us. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer. We need it much.

The message that is on my heart comes from the scripture found in Philippians 2:5, "**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.**" I cannot review all that I have considered for some weeks concerning this subject, but I do want to bring this thought to you: What prevents the mind of Christ from being within us? What is it that has prevented men and women, boys and girls from having the mind of Christ? What keeps them from it?

When Jesus was here on earth, he taught in parables and spoke many wonders, mysteries and marvels. What kept the people from hearing him? What prevented the people from getting what he said when he cried, "Let him that hath an ear, let him hear"? If there is any one thing that is essential in a church, it is that the men and women in that church have the mind of Christ. Paul said, "Let this mind be in *you* that was in Christ Jesus." That means that God wants the mind that was in Christ Jesus to be in *me* and in *you*. What stops that? Someone said, "That is more than the sixty-four thousand dollar question." That is more than words can convey so far as the worth of it is concerned. If we are to have the mind of Christ indwelling us, then it is important to discover what it is that prevents people in the church from having it.

As I meditate about this, I can see that **the first step toward the mind of Christ is conviction.** Unless we are really convicted of sin, we will not get one foot in the right direction on the path to receive the mind of Christ. There must be great conviction.

There must also be the draw of the Father. That is the second step. God will draw us whenever he possibly can, but there are things in our heart and mind that keep God from working with us and prevent Him from having dominance within us. These may include our thoughts, our background, our ideas, our aspirations and the things we want. All of these things within us that are not perfectly in line with him hinder God from working with us.

The third thing that prevents us from really coming to the point where his mind can come within us is that we don't confess all of our sins. We confess most of them. We confess 99% of them, but there is one tucked back somewhere in the mind, in the heart or the memory that must be confessed. Unconfessed sin will prevent us from the mind of Christ dwelling in us. You see this is serious. Just think about the fact that if we allow just a little something, it may not be much of anything, to stand in the way, it will prevent us from going on so that his mind can come within us. So we see that unconfessed sin, insufficient confession of sin, holding back and not being completely given over, keeps us from arriving at the place where we need to be.

When we finally do give over and confess all of the sin and ask God in Jesus' name to forgive us, then there is a great joy and peace that comes in and we are unable to explain the wonder that has come into our heart. And just as soon as it comes in, the Holy Spirit says, "Give God the glory. Give Jesus the praise." And this thing that keeps the mind of Christ from coming in us springs up like a serpent and says, "You can't do that, because if you do, you will become a fanatic." This awful spirit of the devil and the carnal mind springs up like a serpent just as soon as we are converted and says, "That is enough. You have peace, but you don't need to share it with anybody. Just keep it for yourself."

I am talking about what is keeping us from the mind of Christ. **Failing to give God the glory and the praise when we are prompted to by the Holy Spirit will prevent us from having the mind of Christ.** This failure is one of the first things that occur to keep us from going on in order that the mind of Christ may come into us. This is simple, but it is central and paramount. Just as soon as we are converted, the Holy Spirit wants us to bring praise and gratitude to the Lord. But Satan, that old carnal nature within us, says, "Hush." He smothers out the spirit of witnessing if he possibly can, but if we are able to resist that and climb over it by saying, "Get behind me Satan," we are one step nearer to having the mind of Christ. We need to say, "Get behind me Satan. I am not going to be disobedient," because disobedience is what has

prevented men and women from having the mind of Christ.

Unless self is denied, we will never have the mind of Christ. We have to review this every day or self will try to come back in and make the plans and keep us from the mind of Christ. We forget it so easily. **If I miss one time to testify, I have strengthened that which prevents Christ's mind from dwelling in me.** He wants his mind within us, but very few people are willing to resist Satan and the carnal nature in order that his mind may indwell us. You may ask, "Do you mean that the mind that was in Christ Jesus is to be in me?" That is what he said. These are just some of the things that keep it out of us.

If we have anything in us that loves any part of the world at all, his mind can't come in. It is crowded out. We are born in sin and can't hear this very well. We have to press very hard to get it. It takes energy and earnestness within our hearts in order to get this in our mind. If there is one tinge of the carnal nature within us, then there is not any room for Jesus. It must be cleansed out of us through the Blood and by the truth of Jesus so his mind may indwell us.

Listen; when you have the mind of Christ, you are like him. Your manner, behavior and disposition are like him. Every person who has the mind of Christ is just like him. I John 4:17 says, "As he is, so are we in this world." Who is that? They are the ones who have the mind of Christ. God said also in another place, "If any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." (Romans 8:9)

All of these little carnal and contrary things within us prevent us from having his mind dwelling in us! This is a simple message, but I believe it is pretty great. We need to keep in mind what has cheated the human race since the ascension, what has kept the human race from having what is their's, which is Christ dwelling in us. He will come right in and dwell with us just as soon as we say, "Get behind me Satan," and then witness a few words for Jesus. He may want us to witness again in five minutes, one hour or two days and if we fail to witness he is grieved and his mind cannot have his home where disobedience is experienced.

How are we going to begin to get out of us that which prevents his mind from dwelling in us? By forsaking all. By leaving all. By saying, "Lord, thy will be done. I am going by thy grace. I want to do thy will and not my will." (I was in a service some time ago and I was about to have the congregation to be seated. God said, "No, don't have them to be seated yet." If it weren't for the Holy Spirit I would not know that. If it weren't for the Holy Spirit, I would not know who is to sing what or when. God has led many times on specific singers and a

specific song when I have not known the list or the songs. When this occurs the blessing falls and people feel it. You see it has to be just right. It has to be exactly right before the blessing falls and operates within the soul and the sanctuary.

If I could only get it over to your hearts how many things there are that are keeping Jesus' mind from being within us. When persons have the mind of Christ you have harmony. There aren't any conflicts or arguments. There is understanding. But we must forsake all and leave it. **We must not look at one another's weaknesses. The mind of Christ does not look at one another's weaknesses or evils.** The mind of Christ looks to Jesus, and if it does see anything in anyone, it is reaching out with love to try to deliver him or her out of the situation, not letting the individual know that we know about it.

People come to my wife and ask her, "Does your husband know about these people?" She tells them, "Oh yes, he knows it but he just loves them all just the same." I don't talk to my wife about anybody's weaknesses or faults. God revealed to me in 1942 to never murmur, never complain, never criticize and to never find fault. Just trust the Lord and love people. Because where the mind of Christ is, there is the love of God. God's love has preeminence wherever the mind of Christ is. But the carnal mind doesn't go together with the mind of Christ. They are opposites, but we are washed through the Blood of Jesus Christ by faith as we obey. When we disobey, then we open the door and darkness comes back in and he is crowded out. **He wants a consistent life of purity and righteousness and that comes by prayer and by obedience, by the word of God and by faithful witnessing.** It comes by tenderness, because everyone who has the mind of Jesus is tender and gentle with each other. A husband and wife are very gentle with one another where the mind of Christ indwells. However, if the carnal mind indwells, it is a little harsh – the carnal mind bangs around, slaps and hits and argues and fusses and fumes. Remember, it says to, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

So by our failing to witness for Christ when the Holy Spirit leads, we grieve God and are prevented from having the mind of Jesus. Now we must pray and obey so our prayers go through. If we don't obey the Holy Spirit and the word of God, our prayers are hindered. They are hindered by unbelief and disobedience and certain things that live within the heart that are unclean. They have to be resisted in order that the mind of Christ may indwell us. We must pray – I mean, pray until the glory of God falls on the soul. Now if a person is clear with God and with their neighbor, the glory can sometimes fall quickly. **What hinders Christ's mind from coming in is that we have restitutions that have not been made in regard to finding fault with or**

criticizing someone – or if we have not paid our bills, this too will prevent us from having the mind of Christ. We have to ask for forgiveness where we have erred, found fault, criticized or made quick judgments. This grieves the Holy Spirit and his mind cannot come in until I tell those I have criticized how sorry I am about it. But we will have to die out every moment or we will do it again. If I don't die every breath to myself and to the carnal nature and resist it, I will find fault again. We have to get this under the Blood and make restitution so that everything is clear. Then the mind of Christ will indwell us. Can we hear this? He wants to come in and indwell us. But all of these little wrangling spirits, spirits of judgment, spirits of murmurings and complaining must be cleansed out of us and resisted.

As we obey and pray, then we have the strength through the power of the Holy Spirit so that his mind indwells us and we resist the demon that comes and says, "How about this person. Talk about him for a moment." We say, "Get hence, Satan. I am not going to have a thing to do with that." There is a persevering. There must be a vision in the need of persevering and being obedient to be like a child. Failing to do this prevents us from having the mind of Christ. These are some of the things. There are others, no doubt, but this message covers a good number of them and will help us to take ground as we resist all the powers of the devil, darkness and wickedness of the carnal nature, and give God the preeminence within us.

God wants us pure in heart, which comes by the Blood of Jesus. We must obey God after we have confessed all of our sins and after the Holy Ghost comes to cleanse and crucify out of us this old carnal evil. This carnal nature is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. And it is a continual pressing into this place that we may have the mind of Christ.

There are a few more carnal traits I feel I should touch on before I stop. It is the carnal nature that has prevented the mind of Christ from indwelling us. It is a continual dying. Paul said, "I die daily." From morning to night I must die out to this old weakness that wants to come back and have the preeminence in me. I must die to it and resist it. I must oppose it and let the Holy Spirit have full preeminence in order that the mind of Christ may indwell me and remain there. He will always remain when we obey. The only thing that grieves him is when we disobey and fail to walk in the light as he is in the light. Disobedience is sin. Disobedience cannot go into heaven. That is why we need to obey the Lord continually. When I was preaching many years ago to the gospel band, I would preach about how we needed to obey the Lord. There are certain earthly things we cannot do if we are going to obey the Lord. If the mind of

Christ is there you want to obey, but if the carnal nature is there, it opposes it and you have a battle. You will seesaw back and forth. But when the mind of Christ is there, you are leaping out into the will of God, but you go slowly. Christ teaches us not to go so fast in the spiritual journey.

This carnal nature constantly opposes the leading of the Holy Spirit. Carnality never tires or gives up. **Carnality always tries to cause us to be startled and astonished at what is required of us.** Carnality always wants you to look and see and try to think about it a little while and hold you back from the mind of Christ. Carnality is what has caused all of our little situations in our churches, such as arguments about the songbooks or light fixtures or the color of the carpeting. If you get half a dozen people on a committee they will each have an idea about what color the carpet should be. Well, we need to pray and know what color it should be. If we are very carnal we will allow the tendencies within us to influence us rather than the Holy Spirit. You say, "That is so trivial." I know it is trivial, but God is interested in all of the little items. There isn't anything he is not interested in. He has a plan, if only I can tune in to know what it is.

Carnality has its own insights and it is not willing to give them up for Jesus' sake. When you have half a dozen with the mind of Christ, they don't have to say anything. Heaven is there. But carnality prevents this harmony and oneness.

The carnal mind is what has caused all of the killings with the tongue, or with a gun or with thoughts. You can do great damage to people just by thoughts. **Great damage is caused in any congregation if just one woman or man sets their spirit against another.** Carnality causes all the furious upheavals and disappointments among us and is the main reason people are disappointed.

Carnality also accuses. It always blames the other person and never assumes any blame whatsoever. It is always someone else. Carnality is what hurts, destroys, kills and wounds. Carnality is so subtle and has cheated us from the mind of Christ indwelling us.

Carnality won't let us love like Jesus wants us to love. Deep down you have longed to really love your wife more, your husband more, or your children more. God wanted you to get your children in your arms and love them, but unless you have the mind of Christ, it is such an ordeal and is so difficult. This reservation within is something you are born with and it just won't let you do it. You may say, "I wish I was more free so I could love my family or neighbor the way that I desire." God wants us to do this, but the flesh is so weak. It takes Jesus dwelling in us to help us do this.

Husbands and wives need to love each other, not only in the emotions, but also in the heart. Carnality won't let us do that, but prevents it.

Don't get discouraged. We are gaining ground. You say, "But Brother Helm, I am timid. I am backward. I can't do it." You have to say, "Get behind me carnality. I want the mind of Jesus and wherever I am I want to love like he loves." We must be close to God to be able to discern the carnal traits and the carnal weaknesses that so quickly want to beset us.

Carnality is a constant enemy and foe to keep us in the self-life rather than in the will of God. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Let the mind of the Lord abide within you as you obey and follow Jesus. This means that I will love my neighbor as myself. If the mind of Christ is in you, you have no problem with that. It is just automatically there. But if there is the slightest complaint or murmuring in us, then there isn't a love there for our neighbor. **If we find fault with one person, it is the same spirit that will cause us to find fault with anyone else or everyone else that doesn't please us.** If a person has a tendency to find fault about anybody, then they have a weakness and tendency to find fault about everyone else. That is carnality.

I know that I have to die from morning to night or I will murmur, complain, find fault or get upset at my wife. She is slow and I am fast. There has to be compassion. Compassion is in the mind of Christ, but impatience is in the carnal mind, along with jealousy and selfishness. This must be cleansed.

Just not obeying like we should will keep us from the mind of Christ. This should encourage us, not discourage us. If our heart is right, we are glad to be shown about this so we can overcome this weakness that we have in order that we will be abounding in his grace and loving as he loves, always doing God's will.

If God is working in your heart then you know you need to pray. If you have talked about someone or criticized someone, or found fault with someone, you can say, "Jesus, forgive me for this critical spirit, for this sin. I have been trying to figure out things and I don't need to do that anymore. I want you to forgive me for this." Pray for strength to write or call that we can get this under the Blood so that we won't have that on our conscience. We are grateful that the Holy Ghost will work to lead and direct us, because he is the one who is able to make this possible. We need to be forgiven for our wrong spirit, attitude or motives that have been inside of us.

We are being besought by God to hear, answer, and humble ourselves and to prove what is that good

and acceptable and perfect will of God. Let us pray for God's will to be done in earth as it is in Heaven, that we will be like him. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

How much prayer and obedience is it going to require in order for his mind to indwell us? It takes continual obedience, continual praying so that his mind may be at home within the soul. Let his mind be in you and in me.

Thank you again for your love gifts, prayers, cards, helps, flowers, thoughtfulness and appreciation. We are unworthy, but grateful.

In Jesus' Name,

Loran W. Helm

Loran W. Helm

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Rev. Helm requested that the following letters be included in the newsletter for your encouragement. Please give God all the praise, glory and honor for what He has done.

Dear Rev. Helm,

My accountant, John Gould CPA, gave me a copy of your book "A Voice in the Wilderness" about five years ago. I read it with interest and was impressed by its simplicity and directness. I had been what I thought was a dedicated Christian for over twenty years but was beginning to despair over the sparse spiritual fruit and conflict in my life. I had read volumes about becoming a more fruitful and victorious believer but I had grown skeptical about Christian authors who had figured out God. I was not interested in reading one more presumptuous word.

Since your book was essentially a personal testimony it was difficult to take issue with it. After all, you are the absolute authority in your observations of what happened to you. I could accept your innocent message. Reading your book helped me to focus on Christ in me rather than the devil "out there." It also convinced me that walking with God generally did not involve giant steps but baby steps. When I showed interest in learning more, John put me on your mailing list. Rarely a month has gone by that I have not gleaned some shining truth from one of your letters, but your January 2000 letter has been highlighted even more copiously. I feel you wrote it just for me.

Although I was raised in a small town Assemblies of God church by godly parents surrounded by a saintly grandmother, devoted aunts and uncles and a host of supportive believers I couldn't wait to leave

for the bright lights of the big city. I was not destined for insignificance! My musical and performing talents needed a bigger stage. In the process I gave God the cold shoulder. My college professors convinced me that only the weak cling to religion and only the ignorant believe in God. It was so enticing to be free from restraint and accountability I abandoned my Christian faith. I became a rebel child of the sixties in every sense of the word. When I finally came to the end of my self, like the prodigal, I returned to my father's house. By then I was 34 years of age and newly married. I was so grateful God took me back I resolved to be a super Christian.

I devoured the Bible like a starving man and memorized scripture avidly. Just as I had passionately thrown myself into sin I was now impassioned for God. My wife lagged behind as my zeal compelled me to teach Sunday school, host a Bible study, lead music, and start a prayer ministry. I was making up for lost time. I was rarely home evenings and was ministering more to others than to my own wife and young family. I was so full of myself as God's answer to this generation I was easy prey to the hyper-faith message. I became unbalanced in naming and proclaiming God's word for every circumstance. I demanded healing in the name of Jesus and denied my family medical treatment. I cancelled my medical insurance. I quit a good paying job and started a risky business venture on faith. Eventually our house was in jeopardy of foreclosure and cupboards were bare. Some compassionate, less spiritual Christians mercifully bailed me out of the jam.

I took that as validation from God that I should continue to press even more fervently in the spiritual direction I had been going. I felt God was closing the door on my business and calling me to Bible School to be a pastor. We talked with another family that was supportive of this and they invited us to move in with them as we rented out our home.

I had graduated from college but had been a lackluster student, however, I was a straight "A" Bible school student. I would come home after school full of "Godly" insights and wisdom. I couldn't wait to tell everyone how much I knew about scripture. I felt I was a humble servant of God but in retrospect I was full of arrogance. I was more into displaying my knowledge than I was into helping others.

Surprisingly, there were many who thought I was a genuine man of God. They stroked my ego with flattery and sought my spiritual advice. My wife was not one of these. She saw me as self-centered and unloving. Finally she gave me the ultimatum that if I didn't quit Bible school, get a job and start serving the family, she was going to take the

children and leave. Thoughts of being a divorced pastor flitted through my mind. This would pull the stage right out from underneath me. Even at this critical juncture my thoughts were only self-serving. Fortunately a man of God came to me and shared Ephesians 5:25 with me – a verse I had obviously ignored.

The impact of that verse penetrated my proud heart, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." At first I couldn't see that she was worth the sacrifice. She wasn't half the Christian I was. After all, with me out of the game God was losing the services of his star point guard. Surely I would be on the bench for only a season and then right back in the starting lineup again, but no. God began revealing to me the incredible importance of loving my wife, but it wasn't easy. In fact, my only successes were when the Holy Spirit actually loved her through me. One, two, three years went by, and then five, ten fifteen years passed. I was still on the sidelines, no longer involved in church activities. Through God's grace I began succeeding as a provider and honestly committing myself to loving my family. I was a stubborn case but eventually I began to truly love my wife and see her as God's precious gift to me. Her tender heart for God puts me to shame.

Repairing the wreckage is a continuing process. I was unaware of how much damage my years of spiritual insensitivity had done to my family relationships. No one is interested in hearing the word of God from me – not my nearly adult children and especially not my wife. She converted to Catholicism and resists my spiritual leadership while two of my three children have become godless college liberals.

I have learned to lay down my judgmental spirit and love them all just the way they are. Your words were so soothing to me when you said, "It is so important that we do not press anyone. We must simply love them and let the Holy Spirit guide." I've learned to fast and pray and wait on God. My patience has been stretched to the breaking point. However, I am just beginning to see His mighty hand restore what the locusts have eaten.

You also mentioned in your January teaching letter that the first place to start practicing walking in the Spirit is at home. For me it is also the hardest place. At home I expect people to take me as I am. I don't like to be questioned or asked to explain myself. I want no back talk. It has taken years for God to get in my thick head that "home" is where the real mission field is. If I can't get it right there what hope is there for God to use me elsewhere? When I am a servant at home, when I lay down my life at home, when I deny myself and follow Jesus at home, it then becomes second nature to be led by the Spirit in a church meeting. You have

continually reinforced this but you have never put it more succinctly – “follow Jesus at home first!” I can say AMEN to that!

I am overwhelmed at His awesome power and majesty – no more audacious conceit – I truly fear Him. I try and speak when He prompts me and remain silent until then – just like you recommend. There is no room for me to glory in this process, if so, the Holy Spirit leaves and I’m on my own.

You are so right; memorizing the entire Bible and praying through the night does not accomplish the will of God unless self-denial and obedience accompany it. Without this Christian service it is just straw and hay.

Loran, never tire of presenting your experiences in following God, even when you falter. There is not enough honesty in the discipling process of most Christians. I failed at being a super Christian and thought I was through. Now, thanks to you, I don’t think God wants super Christians – just humble and submitted ones. I once thought if a man truly walked with God he would always succeed and never make a mistake, but failure is so often a part of God’s humbling process. Your candid sharing encourages the kind of humility God can use.

Your anointed words have helped pull me through many a day. I’m sorry it has taken me so long to thank you.

May God continue to bless and strengthen you as you feed his sheep.

Love in Christ, Everett Thorne

When Rev. Helm called this week to dictate the newsletter, I was able to share with him something that occurred with me recently. When I shared it with him, he requested that I write a summary and include it in this newsletter.

About a month ago, I felt impressed to begin reading “A Voice in the Wilderness” again. With the exception of reading a chapter from time to time, I really had not read the book much for over five years. Because I had read the book more than thirty times, I felt that I could not get anymore out of it. I had become so familiar with the content of the book that it no longer spoke to me. I would try to read it, but it was like, “Yeah, yeah, I know, I know.” In many respects it was like a ritual, although only in my mind.

Last month the Holy Spirit impressed me that it was time to begin reading it again. I was amazed at the freshness of the message and the inspiration that poured forth from the pages of that book. Truly what God is in never grows old. All I could say was, “Jesus, this is sooo good. I can’t believe how much help I am receiving from this book again.” I was encouraged, challenged, lifted, motivated and, maybe most importantly, instructed. I had always received help when I read it previously, but this time it was a little different. Teaching I had noticed before was more pronounced. It was similar to a fine-tuning.

The one thing that has stood out the most to me in this reading is the fact that we are to be led by the Holy Spirit every day. We are not to seek for that experience, but if our hearts are right, it will be the norm and it is what God has called us to.

I encourage you, if you have not read Rev. Helm’s book for a while, perhaps now might be the right time for you to delve into it again. Who knows what God has in store for us as we look again at what we think we already see.

In Christ’s love, Michelle Carpenter

Dear Brother Helm:

Greetings in Jesus’ precious name.

We are thankful for the last letter that you sent to all the churches and people in Revival For Our Day. We studied it and meditated upon it this morning at our twenty-two year old Tuesday morning men’s prayer meeting. We were all so blessed, helped, encouraged, and lifted. These teachings have come out of many years of waiting and dying and trusting. Thank you again for all that you have been to us since 1971 when we first met you at our first Waiting Upon God in Indianapolis.

May you have a blessed 84th year.

Sincerely in Jesus, Reimar Schultze

Revival For Our Day

March 2000

Dear precious followers of Jesus,

We are grateful for each of you and are thankful for all of your prayers and supplications for us and for your financial assistance and sacrifice. We are very grateful to each of our dear ones that assist us, for our staff that has worked so hard to help us, for Harmony Press and for each one who has helped us with the newsletters and by praying for us. We are very grateful for all those that have labored and carried the burden for us. Praise the Lord.

When Jesus was here, they did not know him. The religious leaders of Jesus' day knew the Pentateuch, but when he came they didn't know him. Jesus said, "Well did God prophesy of this people saying, "They draw nigh to me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." We can know all exegesis and theology and never really know Jesus in our heart. We can attend church services every week from the time we are born until we are fifty years old, but unless we really wait upon God and know him in our heart intimately, our knowledge and religious efforts do not amount to very much. So it is a wonderful thing to let the Lord Jesus Christ have preeminence in our lives. It is also a constant battle to allow him continued, unbroken Lordship.

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let that man deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Many people think their cross consists of their heartaches, battles or struggles. That is not the case. The cross is an instrument of death upon which self is crucified and we voluntarily take the cross. The cross does not fall on us – the cross is something we take up. Heartaches and battles are usually a consequence of a choice a person makes between the ages of eight and twenty. We bring trouble on ourselves because we fail to hear the voice of Jesus and follow.

Often, when decisions involve major life choices, such as who to marry or where to live and work, we make the wrong choice because we have not waited upon God in order that he might teach us how to discern what his will is. We can pray, preach and do many wonderful things and not be in the will of God. The way you know you are in the will of God is by the Word of God and the witness of the Holy Spirit. The evidence that you are in the will of God is this: that you love your enemies as your friends. Jesus said we are to love our enemies. It is impossible to love our enemies unless the carnal nature is cleansed out by the blood of Jesus and we obey the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The message I want to share with you is found in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew, verse one. Jesus said, "**Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps,**

and went forth to meet the bridegroom." He is saying that his kingdom is like ten pure women. They are clean, religious and godly. Each of these ten virgins, to whom Jesus compares his kingdom, possesses something. It is a wonderful thing to have something. (When I left everything to go with God I didn't have anything except for a few sticks of furniture. I didn't know what I was going to do in terms of supporting a wife and three children.) It is quite a thing to have something. If you don't have anything it is a serious thing, like the prodigal who went his own way and ended up with nothing except for what the swine were eating. He didn't have anything else. And husk salad doesn't taste very good. It is tough. That was all he had though, because he made the choice of doing what he liked. Most all men make the choice of doing what they like, so the result is only husks and leftovers.

Jesus said that these ten virgins had a lamp. A lamp is made of glass with a section of it designed to hold oil. Then above that is a place for the control and a wick. And above that is a globe. This all has to have certain care. When I was a boy we used lamps with oil. You had to know how to trim your wick and keep the lamp in good condition; otherwise you would have quite a bit of smoke. When the wick smokes, it smokes up the globe and what little light you do have is not seen. The reason some people's lights don't shine is that they are all smoked up because they have something turned up too high inside of them (such as wanting something that doesn't belong to them).

Each one of these virgins possessed a lamp and they did not leave them at home. It says they took them. You can have a lamp and leave it on the shelf of your own plans and never help anybody. But if you take the lamp of the inner experience, the relationship of Christ indwelling you and you are close to God so that the Holy Spirit can flow through you, you are well lighted and you are not darkened by your own disobedience or love of self or of the world. If you have the slightest bit of the love of the world, your light will not shine through the globe. If you find fault with one person or judge one person, the globe of your life is as dark as night.

They all had a lamp and they each took their lamp and had it with them. Be sure that you have your lamp with you. Have you looked it over lately? What is the condition of your wick? How is the globe of your life? Is it clear? Has it been washed in the blood? Do you have love for your enemies? See, if you don't have love for your enemies, then the wick doesn't work properly. In fact, the control will be stuck and it won't do anything. Even if you trim it off real well, you won't seem to get any light at all.

Every one of these virgins had their lamps and they took their lamps. Where were they going? Where were they taking their lamps? Most people are going to the city of convenience. Great numbers of people go to the place called the love of pleasure. It is a most beautiful village and is well populated. The streets are broad, well traveled and congested. Each individual is going somewhere, and the place they are going is that place which is close to their heart. God has been searching for men that would do God's will. The message I took Dr. George Washington Carver on October 1, 1942 was, "**God is in search of a people that will trust him with all of their heart, totally and wholly depend upon him, a people that will do always his will, a people he can trust with his kingdom**", that is, a people who will use their lamps to help others find a way of gladness, joy, peace, love, care and helpfulness.

Have you examined what you have? Have you taken good care of it? You will not take any better care of it than the vision you have for it. Because when there isn't a vision of doing God's will, the people perish. I have to constantly die out to myself in order to do God's will, or else I will do my will instead.

Often we break our lamps because we are too careless. We are careless in paying our bills. We are careless in talking too much or in talking too little. There are oceans of words to say and less than a thimble full that need to be said. So we need to possess our vessels in carefulness so that our lamps will not get broken.

We need faith to hold onto our lamps. Faith has a grip that will never let loose. It has fingers that are strong and able to hold on. The light is able to shine because we have a spiritual hand that holds on and because we have a heart that cares. Whatever is in the heart shines through the lamp.

God will grant the desire of your heart if you will pray, obey and do his will. These precious women had their lamps and they took them with them. Be aware of what is yours, what you have been given. Be certain to take it with you and to carry it with care. As we wait upon him and obey him, he is able to get us to the place where our lights will shine. "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain." (Philippians 2:14-16)

May the Lord strengthen and encourage each of you today. May he take away any discouragement. Rest upon his promise, trusting and rejoicing.

In Jesus' precious name and for his glory, thank you again for your prayers.

In Jesus' name,

Loran W. Helm

Loran W. Helm

bait. (If we try to tell people what to do, that is our bait.) But if we simply share the kingdom of God, that is God's bait – and God knows how long it will take to land each catch. We want to catch a fish in thirty minutes. It took me twenty-one and a half years to see our son-in-law, Jack, saved by just sharing my experiences with him. If I had tried to tell him what to do we would have lost him forever.

If you will hold steady, God knows the bait. He knows how to win people. We want to win them right away. Wait until the Lord leads. Many have wanted to win their companions, but because they pressed them a little, it turned their hearts off. We have got to keep quiet most of the time and let the Lord shine through us by simply witnessing about his joy. We want to get people in so we press them. This is not good. Just follow Jesus, for he knows when they will go for the bait. We think we can do it and when we think we can do it, we can't do anything. Unless he does it, it is of man – so we must wait until he does it.

Share what Christ is doing for you, but only share as he leads. If we share in our own wants, we damage and hurt the people with whom we are sharing. You say, "How am I going to know when and what to share?" By wisdom. How do we get wisdom? "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." (James 1:5) I have been praying for wisdom since 1942. "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easily entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17) If we do not have wisdom, we will try to catch fish with the wrong bait. If we don't have wisdom, we will try to win souls at our time.

How are we going to do God's will? The secret is in letting him lead. How are we going to know God's will? We are only going to know it by the Word of God as the Holy Spirit directs.

God has been teaching us a few things here. He is teaching us to follow. If you can read what I am telling you here, God is teaching you how to begin to follow. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Most people think following is reading the Bible. You can read it forever and never follow. You can pray all day and all night and never follow. Although you can't follow without prayer and you can't follow without the Bible, we have got to die out first along with reading the Bible and praying. We have got to learn how to die. We are being taught now how to begin. God wants to teach us.

One time a man told me, "You walk with God and I want you to pray about whether I am to live in Anderson, Indiana or move to Nebraska, Indiana." He had a farm in Anderson and had lived there for

years, but they were selling it and had to move. He wanted me to pray to see if he could move to Nebraska and build a home or whether he should look for another farm in Anderson and stay there. I said, "John, I don't know what you are to do." I didn't know if God would tell me or not.

If you try to find out things out of the Spirit, you will get the wrong leading. That is why many people are in the wrong village, in the wrong work and are unhappy. Too many of us press for the answer and we don't get the spiritual answer – rather, we get the carnal answer. **Whenever we press in prayer we need to look out because we will get the wrong answer.** We have got to die and wait and pray and follow and the answer will come. Someone says, "How are we going to get the answer?" **If you will follow Jesus you will become the answer.** What? If you will follow Jesus, you will become the answer. He will reveal it to you. But if you have the slightest resentment in your heart or the slightest tendency of suspicion, it will keep you from what is yours.

I said, "John, it is so serious for you to ask me to pray." When you ask a man of God what you are to do and God tells him, let me tell you that you are in a situation. The reason is because most every prophet in the Bible that told people what to do when they asked him was not heeded. And every time a prophet's advice went unheeded, disaster took place.

In four days, at twelve-thirty in the morning, the Lord told me what he was to do. It is a story. Jesus told me, "You go and tell him not to move from Anderson. He is to stay there and not go to Nebraska." That night I drove through the fog and got there at one o'clock in the morning. I related to him what Jesus had told me. After I told him, he and his wife spent only three days looking for another farm in Anderson. They couldn't find one in three days so they gave up. (God revealed to me that if they had looked eleven more days, they would have found a farm in Anderson.) Instead, he went to Nebraska and built a home. He got a job in Madison and, on his way to work shortly thereafter, he hit a culvert and was killed.

To find the will of God is by the Word of God and by the Holy Ghost. **The only way we know the will of God by the Holy Ghost is to follow the rules of Jesus, which are inner denial and the cross where we die to hear his voice and follow.** Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, my sheep know my voice and they follow me." It is not an audible voice, but an inner voice inside of us. "And then they all forsook him and fled." All of Jesus' followers forsook him and fled. Are you going to do the same? Unless you die sufficiently to self, you will forsake him. Unless you obey every leading of the Holy Spirit, you will forsake him.

Unless you become like a child you will miss the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, "Except ye be converted and become as a little child, ye shall not enter the kingdom of Heaven." It is one thing to be converted, but it is far more to become like a little child. Very few have ever done it and that is why our churches are powerless.

May you be strengthened and encouraged to press toward the will of God as you read this letter and meditate upon it. Thank you for your thoughtfulness, prayers, love and care. In Jesus' precious name and for his glory, amen.

In Jesus' Name,

Loran W. Helm
Loran W. Helm

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to remind you that Rev. Helm will be celebrating his 84th birthday on February 3rd. We know many of you will want to send him cards or flowers. He is always so appreciative of each remembrance he receives.

Please send your cards and greetings to:

Rev. Loran Helm
P.O. Box 311
Parker City, Indiana 47368

If you wish to send flowers, you may contact Normandy Flowers in Muncie, Indiana at (765) 282-2263. Just indicate that they are for Rev. Loran Helm at 528 South Fulton Street, Parker City.

Thank you.

MISSIONS UPDATE

We are pleased to enclose with this newsletter an update on what is happening with Evangel Voice Missions. God is to be praised for all that he is accomplishing for his glory!

Revival For Our Day

May 2000

Dear ones who are striving to follow Jesus and obey every leading of the Holy Spirit, praise the Lord. We are grateful for your prayers and petitions on our behalf, for your faithfulness, obedience and dedication. We trust that you will be encouraged to trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey. We are grateful for the blood of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit and for the mighty working of his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, which comes as we obey every leading of the Holy Spirit and as we give him all the glory and all the praise. We are nothing, but in him is everything.

We are thankful for how the Holy Spirit led and helped on the trip to Israel. We have heard so many wonderful reports of how God blessed and helped, and we give God all of the praise for everything that was accomplished for his glory. We want to praise God for the work of the Holy Spirit, for helping to know the dates of the trip, what airline to take and for God's leading, guiding and directing. Jesus, we thank you.

I want to share a message with you that has been on my heart. I trust that as you pray and meditate about it, that you will be able to begin to hear and obey. We are only in the beginning, so be encouraged to press on to the goal, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

In Titus 2:1-2, God's word says, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience." One of the greatest doctrines of the New Testament writings is self-denial and the cross. That is sound doctrine and the basis of the beginning of life after conversion. If we aren't careful after conversion, the self in us will make the choice and crowd Jesus out. Jesus said that if anyone is going to come after him, the very first thing that must occur in order for that to happen is for self to be denied. One of the great philosophers said, "Know thyself." Another philosopher said, "Love thyself." But Jesus said, "Deny thyself." This is sound doctrine. I hear people on television say, "You need to love yourself." When you love yourself, you pet yourself and submit to yourself and suddenly you are a servant of self instead of a servant of Jesus. The self in us is a result of the fall when Adam and Eve chose what was not theirs. Self makes the choice because of the fall of man. We are inherently evil because of sin and disobedience.

We need to be taught how to deny self and assume the cross, which we must do after conversion or else

we backslide. The reason many people don't have the joy and victory after conversion is because they allowed self to take over. Self says, "You have been saved, but I will tell you what to do from here on." But Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Self-denial is the first step after conversion and we are usually called upon by God to deny self within one to five seconds after we are converted. The Holy Spirit will usually prompt us to witness but self will keep us from it. When we fail to deny self and obey the Holy Spirit, then we cannot be led of the Holy Spirit again until we repent and ask forgiveness. We need to obey the Holy Spirit immediately. Self says, "Don't do that. They will think you are a fanatic," but we must not listen to that. When we do, it keeps the church in an awful bind of darkness. The true church consists of the persons who deny self from the very first instant after conversion and then as soon as they deny self they assume the cross. That is where you and I are crucified of this carnal nature that is angry, wrathful, suspicious, analytical, hateful, impatient, jealous and many other things too numerous to name. This is sound doctrine.

To try to be a Christian without self-denial is like trying to farm without any land. That is what we have tried to do. Self will not let Christ lead. My burden is that many people have gone to be converted, they give their heart to Jesus, but, before they get to the door to leave, they have backslidden because they let self keep them from giving God the praise and witnessing for Jesus when they ought. And people say, "I wonder why they lost the victory so soon." It is because self was not denied.

Self-denial is only the beginning, but it is unending. **Self has to be denied every minute of every hour of every day of our life. A lot of people think self has to be denied just occasionally, but it must be continually.** How serious is it to let self come and smother out the leading of the Holy Spirit? That is why the sanctuaries are powerless. Any one who does not deny self will criticize and malign people. But where self is denied and the cross is taken, there is tenderness and sweetness with our spouse and children, with our neighbors and workers. Where self is asserted there is frustration and conflict.

It is not possible to trust the Lord with self-assertiveness. Self will not allow self-denial or obedience to be experienced because self says, "Now wait a minute, we don't need to do this. You don't need to testify. You don't need to pray now. You don't need to give God the glory. You just testify once. That is enough." Listen, if you go with God you may witness three or four times in an hour or a half dozen times. Any one that obeys God doesn't know what they are going to do the next

second and they stir the devil up wherever they go. Anyone that walks with Jesus stirs up the devil and carnality even if they are sweet, kind and joyful, because carnality doesn't like that.

Disobedience is the reason why Adam and Eve had to leave Paradise. They had everything until they disobeyed. What was the disobedience? The self in them said, "This fruit is good. This is beautiful and good to eat." The self in them told them it was good to eat and that it was attractive. Self told them they needed it. But self was wrong. God had a plan and said for them not to partake of it. But self told them, "Go ahead and try it. It won't hurt you." It is the same thing after a man or woman is converted. Self comes and says, "Just be quiet. You don't have to give God the praise now. Wait until later. When you get by yourself you can praise him, but don't praise him here." There are so many voices of self that there could be a volume written on it; the voices, ideas and thoughts of self, the preeminence and dangers of the self-life, or the pitfalls of the self-life.

Self-assertiveness is the cause for every backslidden condition. Solomon said to himself, "You are the king and you can have what you want, so just take another woman who is not your wife." God told him not to do that. Solomon had already said prior to this, "Hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments." He had the revelation and then self crowded it out and he took not only a second wife, but also hundreds of wives, besides hundreds of concubines. Self told him it would be all right and that it wouldn't hurt him. That is what self says to a lot of people. It says, "If you can't get along, just put away your companion and marry someone else." This grieves the Holy Spirit. When a person has a living companion they are bound to that companion according to scripture.

Self-assertiveness has caused all of the trouble from Adam and Eve until now. It is why men die and why there is sin, because the self in them said, "This is good. It is attractive. It is edible." And they succumbed to it instead of denying it. **God's will has never been experienced in the self-life.** Self will not allow God's will to be done. Self must be denied immediately. When God lays it upon your heart to do something, that is the time to do it because self will talk you out of it and say that it is not necessary. But if you will let the Holy Spirit lead you and deny the self that is in you, then he will teach you the Word of God, the will of God and the way that he wants you to go. "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." Sound doctrine is to hear the voice of Jesus and follow.

You may say, "How are we going to figure all of these things out?" No, no, don't try to figure it all out. Just simply follow and he will have everything

you need. He will arrange everything that is necessary. He will guide in all areas as self is denied, but self will not be quiet and self never ceases to strive for the preeminence. The self wants to talk in quietness to bring you in submission and subjection to the will of the flesh. Therefore, it must be denied in order to follow what Jesus would have us to do. This is sound doctrine. Sound doctrine is self-denial. When we are willing to do God's will he opens the door. "Behold I have set before thee and open door, and no man can shut it." (Rev. 3:8) That open door is doing God's will and loving one another as he loves us.

That means loving our companion and being tender and gracious with them without putting pressures on them. Whenever a man or woman puts a pressure on their companion, they put a bind on them and it hurts. My wife is slow and I am fast. But as we deny ourselves and take up our cross he will teach us how to help each other. Self does not know how to help another. All self knows is how to get what self wants as much as it can and let everybody else get along the best they can. Self is always interested in getting what self can get. But when self is denied, you are busy trying to help others get what they need. What would it do for a husband and wife if they could get the message of sound doctrine? Adam and Eve fell because they looked at the circumstance, the beauty and the value of the fruit and what it would mean to them and they let that lead them. That is why our world is in chaos. That is why nation is raised against nation and why divorces have occurred, because we are selfish. But when self is denied and crucified, then there is sweetness, kindness, thoughtfulness, helpfulness, gentleness, longsuffering, tenderness and childlikeness. Childlikeness comes right out of this. To try to be childlike without self-denial and the cross is as impossible as trying to have earth without rocks and soil. **It is not possible to have Christianity without inner denial and the cross any more than it is to have a river without water.**

We have got to have a spiritually sound basis in order to follow. Self will not follow Jesus but will arrange things for itself instead – and it will be religious. It will look good, but it will not be God's will. He said, "Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." This is the very beginning. As we begin in these very simple areas, through the Holy Spirit, as we pray, read the Word of God, obey, yield and surrender with thanksgiving, praise and adoration, looking unto the Lord Jesus, letting his Word dwell in us, then he can teach us what we need to know. Only as self is denied are you permitted to take on that which is yours and to take off that which will hinder and crush you. Because there are things we are to put on and take off. Jesus will guide us by his Holy Spirit and by the Word of God as we wait upon him. Therefore, sound doctrine is to praise the Lord and serve him as a

faithful servant. And we serve him by letting this self be denied and crucified. For it is carnal. "It is enmity against God. It is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Romans 8:7) As Christ has preeminence, we allow him to make the choice and we follow in that light. In the life of self-assertiveness there is darkness, but in the life of self-denial there is light, peace and joy, but these only dwell where self is denied, in the place of harmony.

We must have a pure heart. If we don't have a pure heart and are controlled by self, then you have divisions that create sickness and anxiety in the body of Christ. But where the Holy Spirit leads there is harmony, understanding and compassion. I know there are battles, but there is joy and peace. "Let there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." "Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5) When self is denied and crucified in the church of Jesus Christ, you have no divisions and you speak the same things and are perfectly joined together in the same mind. The mind of Christ cannot come in when self is not denied and crucified. The mind of the flesh and the mind of Christ are opposites. Like the North Pole and the South Pole, they are extreme opposites. This is sound doctrine. He said, "Let there be no divisions among you." He is speaking to the Christians, the followers of Jesus, the followers of the Lamb, where there is that one heart, one spirit and one soul. Everyone that is like this is a light. The shadows are gone and they persevere to testify and to witness in the Spirit.

God has shown me that unless individuals witness for Christ, they will lose the victory and backslide. Many people want to be a Christian, but they don't want to witness. It would be so marvelous and victorious if people would witness, but they hush up the more and close up. Therefore, the people that would have been benefited are starved to death and many will be lost because a backward, timid soul would not obey in witnessing. We are kept captive and are kept closed in. If we are able to persevere in charity and in prayerfulness and in being cleansed of this carnal nature (it is this carnal nature that keeps us hushed up that won't let us witness) there would be so many people saved. It would be a marvel how encouraged people would be if people would open up and witness.

Titus 2:2 tells us that the aged men are to be sober. That means men who are thirty years and above are to be sober. That means no alcoholic beverage. That means be quiet and don't be foolish and jesting. Don't act smart. People want to act smart and jest. The self in us wants to prove to somebody that we are somebody. But where self is crucified, that person is a slave to Jesus and becomes like him as he follows him. That the aged men be sober.

Sobriety is not taught in foolishness. Someone says, "Well, I like to have a good time." Well I will tell you, if you will follow Jesus and do God's will, you will have the greatest time in the world and it will be far better than drinking alcoholic beverages and all the foolish talk. There is such sweet peace and great inner delight when you live the life of following Jesus. The world thinks it is in laughing and jokes. When you walk with Jesus you can laugh in the Spirit. And when you do laugh in the Spirit you will get more joy and rivers of water flowing up inside of you than all the earthly carnal laughs that you can devise by smart thoughts. **Sobriety is quietness in a faith that is steadfast.** It entails having thoughtfulness for others. Unless we have sobriety, we will be thoughtless of others, short tempered, without endurance or perseverance.

We are to be sober, grave, honest, submissive, punctual, exact, and careful. Be slow in all decisions, for that decision is not yours or mine. It should be God's. When we make a decision, it brings either a result or a consequence. Since the Fall of Adam, almost all decisions have been made in the self-life. Every decision that is made by the leading of the Holy Spirit brings results. Jesus said, "I will be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14) So when we submit to Christ and are cleansed of the carnal nature, then there is a well of water in us springing up into everlasting life. There is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost right within you! It is in your heart and then there rings a melody. It is joy unspeakable and there is peace like a river, but you can't tell it with words. You can only try. But self will get you hushed up as soon as possible and prevent you from saying anything, if it can get your attention. Self is constantly ready to take the throne room of your heart every second and every breath of your life. You never get rid of self. It always wants to be there and to come back. Once it is dethroned it wants to make re-entry. But through prayer and the Holy Ghost, obedience and 'lifting up the shield of faith by which ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked', then Jesus can have the full preeminence so that he is first in your life.

We are to be temperate. Be careful what you eat and what you drink. Because what you eat is what you are. That is how you survive. Whatever liquids and foods you take in is what is within you. Have wisdom to know what to eat and what not to eat. Most people want the very things that cause them cancer in forty years. They eat the wrong foods. There are certain foods that feed cancer cells. A cancer cell is a selfish cell. The walls, valves and arteries of the heart are damaged because of intemperance. We eat the wrong foods and over expose ourselves to certain things and over do activities. We have to be careful with running. It jolts the body. We have to have wisdom to know

how to take care of our bodies and to know how to have wisdom to know how to exercise and not over do it. Be temperate in conversation, in activity and in eating. This is sound doctrine. This will keep us from a lot of hurt.

We also need to be careful not to under-do it. Self will either over-do or under-do. But the Holy Spirit can check you if you will learn the check of the Holy Spirit through the word of God and the operation of Jesus. He knows what we are to do and what we are not to do. The thing we are not to do is what the flesh always wants to do. We need to know how to proceed in all the areas of the soul, the mind and the body. There is victory in Jesus as we follow him and win others to the Christ, to repentance and confession of sin. Then they will begin the life of denying self and being cleansed from carnality and being filled with the Holy Spirit so we can hear and follow the word of God and follow Jesus as he leads us.

Titus 2:2 also tells us that we are to be sound in faith, holy faith, precious faith, like faith of Christ in the Holy Ghost. It is not a false or make-believe faith, but the true faith once delivered to the saints. Be cautious in all of our meditations on the word of God. Have faith that God is, that he has always been and always will be. Have faith that God is Jehovah, that he so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Have faith in God. Have faith that God created the heavens and the earth. This earth didn't just happen. (It is 24,000 to 25,000 miles in circumference and about 80,000 miles in diameter and they tell us that maybe 25 to 30 miles beneath us is a raging fire and it is burning closer and closer to the edge of the crust of the earth.) The earth is God's footstool. Did you know that he called it his footstool? The footstool is a part of your living room. So this earth is a part of God's living room. He rests his foot on it just a little bit. It is a very wonderful place.

We are to be sound in the true faith that comes from God in Christ Jesus by the Holy Ghost. This sound faith can only have preeminence in a life that is denying self and is cleansed, crucified, sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit. Sound faith will abound in a heart like this. The holy faith of Jesus Christ is pure and righteous. Holy faith is full of truth, for it is through Christ who is truth. We find that in the holy faith it is abounding and never disappointing. Sound faith will bring the victory. It may take thirty years or twenty years. But a faith that you work up will be in fragments, but faith that is sound will be resting in him. It will be stable and solid throughout.

We are also, according to Titus 2:2, to be sound in charity. A charitable person never looks at the

faults or weaknesses of people. Charity doesn't know anything about it and never has made an investigation on it. Charity is the wheel of love. We are to be sound in the love of God in Christ Jesus. Compassion springs out of understanding and charity flows into the self-denied life. The self-assertive life doesn't have charity. It has to manufacture it from morning to night so that it will not be found out. You don't have to manufacture true charity. It is just automatically there. It is filled with tenderness, gentleness, sweetness and love and it just flows through you as Jesus leads and guides.

Where there is charity and sound doctrine, there is patience. (Don't pray for patience. Everyone who prays for patience will get tribulation. It is better to come the way of the cross and be cleansed of the carnal nature by self being slain. Then when self is slain and you obey God you just have patience. You don't have to pray for it because you just have it.) When you follow Jesus, all of this just flows right through you. We have been so busy for hundreds of years trying to get all of these virtues into us, but all we have to do is just follow and deny ourselves, let him cleanse us and take out all of this carnal nature and then fill us with the Holy Spirit. Once this occurs, obey every leading of the Holy Spirit, because if we don't obey every leading we become dark again and lose all the ground we gained. As we come by the way of inner denial and the cross, charity and love will be there but the natural thing in man is impatience. We want what we want and we want it quickly. We don't want to wait. We want it soon. Jesus said, "In your patience possess ye your souls." (Luke 21:19) Patience is there when we are in sound doctrine, which is the very essence of the center of Christian life.

If we were able to convince people to deny themselves, take the cross and follow, then they would become sons of God. In him there would be light, compassion and victories and many other wonderful things, for the glory of God. Hallelujah! In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Praise the Lord that he is able to help us to be convinced of what he is telling us. We just need to let him lead. Jesus said that few there would be that would find this life. I have found very few in my life that would ever really let the Lord lead. I am thankful for the few I have found. May you be strengthened, healed, lifted and encouraged for his glory. Thank you again for your prayers.

In Jesus' Name,

Loran W. Helm

Rev. Loran W. Helm

Israel Trip 2000

Well, Glory, Glory, Glory!!!! How do you tell about the workings of God over a ten-day time span in the land of Israel! How can you put into words when the Spirit of God comes down and changes hearts, heals bodies, touches minds, and encourages the saints! After the first few days in Israel and after some wonderful, wonderful evening services, I thought to myself, the words that sum up what God is doing here are "Rich and Sweet." It blesses me now to remember it!

I watched the men of God who were leading the trip publicly confess their inadequacies and lack of ability as God wonderfully lead them in the services. I saw them struggle to find the will of God for every area of the trip the best they knew how. It seemed to me that God graced us richly on this trip with a wonderful sweet anointing of His presence many times throughout the ten days.

One evening while we were in the dining room in the Jerusalem Crown Plaza Hotel, Daniel Jones came up to Pastor Mike Douglas and said, "Would you lead us in singing a song to the other group in the dining room?" Before I knew it, we were up singing songs of the Kingdom to our wonderful black brothers and sisters from Detroit, Michigan. We had never seen them before and many of us were so busy eating we hadn't even noticed them coming into the dining room. They responded with joy, tears and laughter, and then they began to sing a song back to us. The meeting was on and God quickly moved on different ones to go over and start loving these new-found brothers and sisters as the songs rolled back and forth from one group to the other. Some of our new friends just bowed their heads and wept with their hands covering their faces, some responded with great joy, some just soaked up the love and then loved us back. It was a loving and rejoicing time in the dining room and something we won't soon forget. Then much to our surprise, God did a similar thing when we were in the dinning room by the Sea of Galilee in the beautiful Gai Beach Hotel. This time it was with some brothers and sisters from Thailand! We sang to them and then they sang back to us in their native language, "Jesus Loves Me!" Oh, what love was in the room! Again there was exchange of hugs and a universal language was spoken when they greeted us with "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" Only God can orchestrate such special times.

Another special time was when the leaders asked for permission that we might enter an area next to the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane that is normally closed off to the public. God had shown Rev. Helm years ago that this was the area where Jesus had prayed at the Garden of Gethsemane. The authorities allowed just

our group to go in for a few minutes. It was a rare occasion and a very sacred time as we were able to pray on the very spot where Jesus had prayed. I doubt that many people have ever been allowed back in that area. It was a time that will be treasured deep in our hearts for years to come.

God gave us a wonderful, very knowledgeable guide, Mark Sugarman. He has a great love for Israel and shared more information about Israel than any guide I think we've ever had. He was great! The first day after a special service at the Church of St. Anne he told one of our people, "I've been guiding now for ten years and usually when groups try to have a service, I try to figure out how to move them on to the next site as quickly as I can. But this service was different. I didn't want it to end. I've never had that happen to me before." On the second day I watched as he stood at the edge of our meetings listening intently and pondering things. As the days wore on we began to hear more compliments about the group, until finally he was calling us very proudly, "My people!" It grew to become a term of endearment for everyone. As each day passed he became more and more interested. On the last day he came to the evening service and sat in the back. I saw him watching intently and then I was told he was weeping. God was dealing with him in a special way and some of our people went back to pray with him.

A few days before we left Israel, we went to a special slide presentation called the "The Galilee Experience", hosted by some Messianic Jews. It was so good to make contact with these Christians in the Holy Land. They shared with Pastor Mike that they have 250 members in their congregation. They hold services in the building where the theater is and they've been trusting for a building of their own for about 14 years. They have been praying for Mark, our guide, for years. I thought the whole trip was worth just loving our guide and bus driver for that week. It was hard to leave them in Israel and not bring them back home with us.

The highlight of the trip for me was the evening meetings. You never would have guessed that God was going to help us so much in those meetings. God helped the pastors to work together in such a wonderful symphony of their various gifts. I don't ever remember seeing anything quite so special as how God was helping these men. It was like getting to experience 4 or 5 different rich deserts all at once. Only God could have thought of something like this. Here was a group of pastors, each different, but each trying to get to God's will for that time, and oh how God used them as they submitted one to another. It was an unique and wonderful time. Jesus was leading and people were obeying, and the meetings were rich. I love the way God works beyond what I would think or expect!

On a few occasions the leaders felt lead to have Pastor Oscar del Bosque from Mexico preach. Now I tell you, God helped him to get right down and hit some areas that needed attention. Only God knew the areas of need and God helped us real good! There was conviction, confession, prayer, and rejoicing in the camp. One time God lead for prayer for the wives of the pastors and there isn't any way I can relate how wonderful God worked in each prayer. Time and time again during the trip, I thought, "Oh, God, thank you for letting me be here. Thank you for making the way for us to come on this trip." If Rev. Helm could have been in the meetings, he would have been shouting, running, and feeling young again!

The meetings in Israel continued on in different congregations when we came back home. One wonderful lady went home after the trip and in her church service she went meekly forward and asked her pastor to forgive her for a critical spirit. It sparked the meeting and God began to do more wonderful things in their service after this lady obeyed.

In one meeting Dr. Bishara Awad, President of Bethlehem Bible College, shared about his ministry in Bethlehem to the Palestinian people. He came from a Palestinian family of seven children who had lost their father in the War of 1948. His family ended up in a refugee camp and there he suffered much as a young person. He learned to hate but, at the age of 17, Jesus came down, transformed his life, and now he has a ministry of love. He has a calling to his Palestinian brothers, to bring them to know Jesus and teach them how to love and to minister to others in his Bible College. The next day as we toured the Bible College, he showed us many wonderful things. For example, Brother Andrew, who smuggles Bibles to many countries worldwide, has his own apartment in the college where he can come and go as he pleases. While we were there, Kathy Douglas got very burdened for the safety and protection of the College Library and the people who are there. We had a wonderful prayer meeting and God lifted the burden. You could see such love and appreciation in Dr. Awad's eyes. God gave us a special time that day.

There is so much that happened that I can't share it all. One day a group of 14 of our people journeyed to the Gaza Strip where medical supplies and encouragement were shared with the Christians there. As they traveled they had to go through some very difficult security checks, but God prepared the way ahead of them and everything went far better than anyone had expected or hoped for. Then on the eve before Shabbat we had such a blessed, blessed time at the Western Wall. Bar Mitzvahs were being performed here and there, and our Jewish brothers were singing and dancing unto the Lord. I can't tell you the joy I felt to watch them

celebrate before the Lord with such enthusiasm. Another time our bus driver, in an act of love for us, took an unplanned detour off the main road and drove us down a narrow winding road to view the beautiful St. George's Monastery down in a deep canyon gorge. It was from a different viewpoint than the usual one they take people to and it was such a wonderful sight. We were the only ones at this spot, and it was so special. I had always wanted to see it, and here God granted a little unspoken heart's desire of mine. Isn't that just like God! He is a delight!

We saw a number of new sites that we had not seen on any previous trips. My favorite was the Temple Institute. Oh, I loved it! Our leaders did some great detective work to find it because it was not listed in the tourist guides and our guide had not previously known about it. The Jewish people have been working for years getting everything prepared ahead of time for the third Temple. Many of the items are displayed at the Temple Institute, such as the golden table for the showbread and different golden utensils used in serving in the temple. They had the gold crown of the high priest and silver trumpets to be used by the Levitical choir. We saw a beautiful golden flask or pitcher that will be used to carry water. The artwork and engravings on each piece were exquisite. All of these lovely things were made by skilled artisans and craftsman, as called for in the Bible. It was such an experience to think we were seeing the very implements that would someday be used in the Holy Temple in fulfillment of prophecy.

The last morning we got up to journey to the airport. Our bus driver, Avi Ateshken, who loves to sing, began to play a Hebrew song about the Messiah coming soon. He soon spotted a sign on the back of another bus that read in Hebrew, "The Messiah is coming soon!" and he told us with great excitement this was what we were singing about. Avi had Pastor Mike Douglas lead the singing as Avi sang along with great enthusiasm. I don't know how many times we sang that song, but the zeal kept mounting each time. We came to a red light and Avi jumped up from his seat into the aisle, turned to our people and began to exuberantly lead the singing while dancing. The light turned green and all the traffic pulled away but he continued to sing with overflowing joy from his heart. What a time it was! Our people were loving the bus driver and he was responding with his song.

Later, when I would ask different people about what their favorite part of the trip was, each one would answer about a personal time when God worked on an individual basis. I think God may have worked in the greatest ways in the unseen corners of the trip. Isn't that just like Him though!!!! He does all things well! So, until next year in Jerusalem....

Shalom, Mary Light

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. and Mrs. Helm will be celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary on May 27th. They would be greatly encouraged to hear from any and all that have been helped by their ministry. Cards may be mailed to:

Rev. and Mrs. Loran W. Helm
P.O. Box 311
Parker City, Indiana 47368

Flowers may be ordered and delivered to their home in Parker City by calling:

Normandy's Florist (in Muncie)
(765) 282-2263

Thank you.

Revival For Our Day

July 2000

Dear Ones who are trusting and obeying with all their hearts; greetings in Jesus' precious name. We are thankful for the help of the Lord and for his strength as we cry out for mercy. We are in debt to the Lord for his blessings and for his help, knowing that it is only by his grace and mercy that we will make it. Thank you for your prayers on our behalf and for your faithfulness in holding us to the throne. We are grateful for each of you who have prayed, fasted and sacrificed to help us. Florence and I want to thank each of you who sent us gifts, flowers and remembrances for our anniversary. We are grateful for your expressions of love on this our 66th anniversary, and for how the Lord has helped, sustained, and fortified us these many years. Thank you for your prayers and faithfulness. Praise the Lord.

We spoke with Joseph Mizrachi in Israel this week and he wishes to send his love and greetings to all of you in Revival For Our Day. We are so grateful for all of his help to our group on this past trip to Israel. Each morning they were there, Joseph would call either Pastor Joe or Pastor Jerry or Pastor Thomas to see what he could do to help them. Each morning he called he would ask them how the previous day went, and he said that there were no complaints. We want to thank the Lord for this and give God all the praise.

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The message that is on my heart is in St. John, chapter twelve, verses twenty-four and thirty-two, where Jesus says, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit . . . And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”**

In 1948, I preached a revival at a little Methodist church. One night I spoke about how God wants to bring forth much fruit through us and about how just one little grain of corn can reproduce itself by many times. The following evening, the janitor of the church came back and said how interesting it was to him that God could work like that through grain, but how seldom it took place through individuals. He told me that he went out following the message and picked up an ear of corn and counted all the kernels on it. (Every ear of corn always has an even number of rows on it. This gentleman wanted to know how many kernels were on that one ear of corn. When he counted, there were 980 grains on that one ear.)

Jesus said that except a grain of corn fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone. If we don't obey God, we abide alone and we don't bring forth any fruit. But if we are willing to be thrashed off of the

cob of self and to be planted and lost in his will – if we are willing to have the old man and old evils slain out of us, then we can bring forth a hundred fold.

I can see that the tendency is for us to remain on the cob of self and never be placed in the soil of his purpose – to never allow God to detach us from the cob of self, and as a result, there is very little production brought forth out of us. God is able to take one grain of corn, plant it in the soil, and it comes forth 980 times greater than itself, (and occasionally there are two ears on a stalk, and once in a long time there are three.) How are we going to submit to God to let him work through us that he may bring forth thirty, sixty, or a hundred fold?

Jesus gave us the answer. He said we must die. We won't see the results of harvest and a bringing forth until there is a death. Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” (John 12:32) The “all men” is fruit. Who is going to lift up Jesus? They that die. How do we die? By forsaking all, by yielding, by letting him have his way with our heart. We are going to die by following. It is only possible to come to inner death by following and to follow is to be unattached from the things of the earth and from self. Therefore, we are detached in order to be planted. When we are sufficiently “dead”, we abide in Christ and become available to fulfill God's purposes. Then God can use us as he wills to achieve the harvest of souls he desires. We become available to God's purposes when we do this, and then the harvest God wants can occur.

Jesus said he would draw *all* men. (And that is far greater than 980 kernels.) He said all men. The drawing depends on the body that is willing to die and yield all to God in order that Jesus may have full preeminence in their hearts, and then there will be results; the drawing of the lost, the bringing in of those that do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior. This is a spiritual law. There is great hope, but we must die! And we don't want to. Self wants to make the plans and arrange things. Self wants to make it a little better here and a little better there. But if we are willing to die out and lose all, then we find all. The dying precedes the bringing forth. He is lifted up in those that are willing to forsake all in the life of obedience. This involves the inner slaying, the inner crucifixion. For unless we die, there is no bringing forth.

Jesus said he would draw *all* men. I want you to know that there is not any deficiency in the drawing of the Holy Spirit, because he has all power in heaven and in earth. But the real problem is in our lifting – the lifting up that is to occur by our death and obedience. He has the power to draw any man

and every man unto himself. The deficiency is not in his drawing, but in our lifting – and the lifting up is as we go down in the soil of his purpose and are lost and die to all the things of earth and all the aspirations that we have. We must go down into the soil and lose it all that he might bring us forth a hundred fold. Hallelujah!

Except a kernel of corn fall into the ground and die it abideth alone. But if I be lifted up from the earth, Jesus said, he would draw all men unto him. He is lifted up as we yield and die in the soil of his will and purpose, leaving all in his hand, doing as he would have us to do. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

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As you wait upon God, go slowly. Remember to read, pray, witness and obey. As you read the Bible, it is not in how much you read, but maybe in just a phrase you get out of an entire chapter. That small part of a phrase or a truth will work in the soul to give us what we need in the strain of things, the toil of situations, the struggle in everyday living, and the heartaches in life. Let us yield unto him and press on, not trying to examine or investigate things, but just leaving it in his hands.

Pray with your family. It doesn't have to be a long prayer, but just pray and talk to God. You will grow and he will plant you in his soil if you are willing to obey every leading. (But if you are not willing to obey every leading, you will never be planted in the soil, but will still be on the cob of self.) We have got to let him have his way in us so that his presence within us will bring us forth to his purpose and draw all men to him.

Don't fail to read the word of God together and pray. You will have to struggle and press because the powers of the air won't let you and the self in you won't allow it. You have to press right through it. But you will find that it works. Prayer meetings, worship services and fellowship of the saints will bring us through to victory as we follow, listen to, praise and adore him along life's way. As we follow Jesus, God will use us, sometimes in witnessing, sometimes by our actions. But as we witness and obey the Holy Spirit, we will walk in Jesus' victory. The song says, "I'll follow him with rejoicing." Don't be discouraged but keep rejoicing and pressing on in prayer and in the word of God, keeping a heart full of thanksgiving and trust, always ready to witness for Jesus while walking in the way of obedience. Praise the Lord.

In Jesus' Name,

Loran W. Helm

Loran W. Helm

Revival For Our Day

August 2000

Dear ones who are striving to obey the Holy Spirit, greetings in Jesus' precious name. We want to express appreciation and say how grateful we are for each remembrance we received for our anniversary and Florence's birthday. There were many beautiful flowers and cards, and we are thankful for the thoughtfulness and love that each of them conveyed to us. Thank you for all of your love that has come, and continues to come, to us. We feel blessed and are very thankful. Thank you again for praying for us and for petitioning the throne on our behalf, because we are very needy. Thank you for your help, love and support. We feel unworthy but are grateful. Praise the Lord.

We want to mention our appreciation, gratitude and thanksgiving to Harmony Press who has been printing the letter and for Shepherd Services who mails the letter. We are very grateful to Thomas, Timothy and Rita and the other workers at Harmony Press. We want them to know that we are grateful because they are such a help and benefit to us. We sincerely appreciate all of their help and assistance with the letter each month.

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The message I want to convey to you is found in Malachi 3:1-3, which reads, "*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.*"

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is telling us that he will send his messenger. It is good to know who is speaking here. God said, "*I will send my messenger.*" This messenger belongs to God and not to anyone else. He possesses something and has an ability to take to the listener that which the sender is proclaiming. The messenger has a treasure, for he is sent from a treasure with a treasure (truth) to those that will hear.

The messenger must be trustworthy, cautious, careful, timely, observant and willing to listen to that which is given him. The messenger has a calling and must be trusted to convey the message precisely and accurately, in the spirit of truth, love, grace, power and healing. The messenger has to be without spot, wrinkle or blemish and must be single-eyed and consecrated to his giver.

God says his messenger will prepare the way before him. That is to say, he will get the word out to, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6,7) The message God sends through him will get into the hearts of the people so that they will be willing to yield to God and let him have full residence and preeminence within them. That is preparing the way. The messenger is to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of the Lord. Everything in their hearts must be submitted and surrendered, not resistant. Resistance and doubt will prevent the way prepared before the Lord, but faith will help to prepare the way before him.

In the preparation there is the removal of the hindrances. There is the bringing forth of that which is to be heard, experienced, complied with and yielded unto with whole-hearted devotion. "He shall prepare the way before me." That is before Jesus, the Christ, who is the only begotten of God. When Jesus came he came as the Savior and Redeemer. He came as one born in due time, and he came unto his own, but his own received him not. Those that were his own were not able to receive him because they could not hear. The preparation was sent, but they could not hear. Many things we need to hear will help us in the preparation but we are blinded and have something in the hearing that keeps and prevents us from being prepared for his coming.

"And the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." Now when the Lord came the first time, he came as a babe. They expected him to come as a general or a mighty reigning monarch. But he came in an innocent package and he was unknown. But when he comes the second time, he will come *suddenly* to his temple. It says here that his coming is sudden. It is like the lightening out of the east and the west. It is like a storm that suddenly comes or the thief that comes in the night. If the owner of the house had known that the thief was coming, he would have sat up and waited for his coming.

"But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth?" Now Jesus said, "When I come again, will I find faith on the earth?" Will there be those who really have faith when Jesus comes? Now the messenger sent before the Lord is going to prepare the way, but who is going to be able to *abide* the coming of the great I AM?" Those who have denied themselves

continually, who have been crucified of the carnal nature and obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit, who have God's word abiding and have become like little children, these are the ones who will abide his coming. The only ones that will be able to stand and abide in the day of his coming are those who are walking in the light as he is in the light. Those who are compassionate will be able to abide his coming. Compassion and love flow out of a heart that denies self, that is cleansed of the carnal nature and is filled with the Holy Spirit. Self wants to make the plans and arrangements, but if we do, we will not abide his coming. We must not allow self to choose the city, the work, the companion or the school. Let us let the Holy Spirit make the choice. When the Holy Spirit makes the choice, it often will not be the choice that self would make. Self seldom ever makes the choice that God really wants.

Who shall abide the day of his coming? They that *obey* the Holy Spirit, that's who. For those that will abide are those that know in themselves they have nothing on which to stand. They will be those who are utterly dependent upon God, who know that they can do nothing in themselves, and that only as Christ lives in them and leads them are they able to stand. Who may abide the day of his coming? The little ones that have simple trust and faith in Jesus will stand. How much do you have to know to do that? Well, know the Bible, know Christ, know the Father and know his will.

The reason we have to have a lot of counseling is because we have not followed Jesus. Most everyone that needs counseling has made a choice in the flesh years ago and the problems they now have are a result of a wrong choice or a choice of the flesh. A lot of people have done what they want to do and then they want the servants of God to get it all corrected for them. They have either married the wrong one, went to the wrong city or worked at the wrong place. Then they want to get counseling to correct all these problems and these hurts when the choice was made years before. If persons would deny self and be cleansed of the carnal nature, then they would not bring to bear their problems on others in five, ten or twenty years. They would have results instead of problems. Most persons who have not been willing to have their carnal nature cleansed out of them have been crusty, hasty and harsh. They have made the wrong choice or have had a wrong reaction. As a consequence they have brought on a lot of circumstances that have created an awful upheaval and battle.

Who may abide the day of his coming? God delights in those who obey him and put Jesus first. When Jesus is first, everyone else is treated so sweetly. When Jesus is first, everyone else is treated with care. When Jesus is first, there is sweetness, gentleness and a wonderful care and mellowness in all the surroundings where God

allows you to dwell. I know there will be turmoil, battles and upheavals, but the Lord will bring quiet and help in the midst of it in his time. It may be a fury for a while, but hold steady.

"For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap." They tell me that fullers' soap takes the shrink out of you. We have a tendency to shrink back, but he takes the shrink out of us so that we are willing to abide, willing to be what we should be when he appears. He is able to help us to be steadfast in the faith and to be true to what he has called us to do and that is to love one another as he loves us and to love our neighbor as ourselves; to administer to the poor, to help the hungry and needy; to go out into the byways to bring in the lost that have wandered away; to bring in those in drunkenness and drugs, in adultery and divorce and separation from God; to bring them in so tenderly that they won't be able to turn it down.

God is as a refiner's fire. We are in the fire to burn out the dross. The dross is carnality. As long as there is this dross or carnality within us, those in need cannot see Jesus in us. Who is going to abide? Only the ones that are pure gold. It takes God to get out of us all deception, iniquity, evil, passion, darkness, distrust and all kinds of things that are in the human heart, which is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. We are put into the fire and we are refined until Jesus looks into us and can see his own reflection like when we look into the mirror and see ourselves.

Those who walk in obedience and deny self faithfully and continually and who have not required anything will abide the day of his coming. The only thing they endeavor to do is to come after Jesus and do his will. They don't try to become great, but like a child, so that they may be filled with the beauty of Jesus.

In doing this, we will abide the day of his coming. For he is coming again and he is coming soon. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." (James 5:7) We have the need to be patient, enduring and persevering. The first time Jesus revealed to me that he is coming soon was October the 3rd or 4th of 1942. That was 58 years ago this October.

When he comes, will he find us watching? When he comes will he find us purified vessels, sanctified, meet for his use? By God's grace we may abide as we simply surrender and follow to become in his likeness; faithful, surrendered, thankful, in carefulness, as God would lead his children to do in Christ Jesus. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

We know that this message is too great for us to assimilate all of it at one time. We can only have a part of it. I trust that we will not let this get away from us. The message is in simplicity, not complexity. This is the old, old story and it is true. Many people want new things, but new things can always be found when the old is uncovered.

Jesus, we pray that you will grant to us a heart to persevere to abide when you come. "For it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27) We praise you for the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith and that, Jesus, you are able to lead, guide, bless, save, sanctify and keep that which we have committed unto thee against that day.

We always want to keep in mind dear ones that the whole importance of our lives is to win souls, to win men and women, boys and girls to Jesus by asking him to forgive them of all their sins and to give their hearts and their lives to him. Winning souls is urgent. It is important. It is also important, after we are saved, to be crucified of the carnal nature and deny self and take up the cross to follow and be obedient. That is also very, very important. It is wonderful to win souls. We had a young boy sixteen years of age by the name of Brandon in our home recently. He followed me in the prayer of repentance and asked Jesus to forgive him of his sins and to come into his heart as his personal savior. I know it was a real precious step for him for he was very backward. He testified on his own that evening and then again the following Sunday he conveyed to me that he had been reading the scriptures. It was very encouraging that he was willing to persevere. We backslide and lose out with the Lord unless we witness, pray, obey and read God's word. The Lord is faithful as we trust him and give him all the praise and all the glory.

I wanted to mention again dear ones that the Lord wants us to trust him and go by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, rather than by thrills, chills or goose bumps. We are not to go by feelings or operations in the body. It is not wisdom to trust our feelings or operations in the body because physical feelings can deceive us. We are to go by the truth, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit rather than our physical feelings or operations in the body. Thank you for your faithfulness to apply this and to be obedient. Praise God for the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we owe all honor, praise and glory. Amen.

In Jesus' Name,

Loran W. Helm
Loran W. Helm

Rev. Helm desired that the two following letters regarding Maxine Boggs be included. Rev. Helm has written a short explanation of why he wanted these letters to be included. He also requested that he wanted to be sure that the Holy Spirit, the Lamb of God be given all glory, honor and praise.

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Dear ones in Jesus,

I wanted to share with you two letters that I have here concerning Maxine Boggs, the wife of Rev. J Robert Boggs, who passed away recently on May 22, 2000. She had Alzheimer's disease for a number of years. We were able through the Holy Spirit to share with Rev. Boggs that the disease was actually affecting her ten years prior to it being apparent. Their two daughters wrote the following letters concerning their mother and their home life while growing up. Because they are so outstanding and uplifting, I wanted to share them with you. I seldom have ever done this, but Maxine Boggs is one of the great saints that ever lived, I believe, for a long time.

The first letter is by their daughter, Carol Van Pelt that reads as follows:

Our home during my school years was a very busy place. Not only were there unusual activities in the parsonage, but also we four children had a lot of friends. My mother never knew how many to expect for supper, but always made it stretch to fit everyone. I can never remember a time when mother did not make even the most inconvenient visitor feel at home around the table. Mother loved all my friends, even the unlovely ones. When we came in for a snack, she would sit down with us and say, "Susie (not a real name), do you know Jesus?" Most of the time I would be quite embarrassed and not say a word. But mother would tell a Bible story and invite them to Sunday school. They could not have been too upset because they always wanted to come back to our house.

Mother always had time for people, even with her busy schedule she could be found at the neighbors house washing the dishes there, or taking a cake to a shut-in. The thought of people not having a place to stay and food to eat really upset her. On a number of occasions, I kid you not, she invited them to live with us for a short period. At the drop of a hat we would have to rearrange our bedrooms to accommodate these people and families in trials and tests. This was not done for the praise of the church or the neighborhood. Few people ever knew. It was just that she felt God wanted her to share with those in need.

As you can see, I have been blessed with the most incredible parents! They not only showed love to our friends, but to each other. I was able to see firsthand what real love was all about. Later our father showed me what mature love is by taking care of mother when Alzheimer's took her memory and ability to care for herself. It was amazing that mom knew God's voice and responded to him up to the very end on May 22, 2000. According to medical books, that should not ever have been possible. But then, the only book mother really believed was the Bible. That book she knew and she lived. Mother, you were incredible. I want to be more like you in every way.

Your loving daughter, Carol and family

The second letter is from their other daughter, Barbara McMunn that reads as follows:

Concerning thanks to our Lord for a truly wonderful mother.

Our daughter graduated from Mount Vernon Nazarene church last Saturday, May 20, while her Grandmother Boggs was starting her final journey in this life.

In the college graduation ceremony, we were especially impressed by two awards that were presented. They were not the usual expected ones, the Valedictorian nor the Salutatorian, but different. They were awarded to a young woman and a young man who were judged as exemplifying the spirit of Jesus in most self-giving service to others. John and I both sat there thinking of two other people who could have been called to the stage that morning. However, my mother and my father would have felt very uncomfortable with that kind of recognition. They just lived a simple, Christ-like life that each of us can do if we so choose.

They would be the first to pass on any praise or credit to Jesus who does it all through them, wanting sincerely to give him all the glory and praise for anything worthy of admiration. We all know people with very long impressive titles and social affiliations. Mother's list is quite short, actually. Child Evangelism Club leader, United Methodist Women's Missionary President, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, a pastor's wife who aspired to win people to Christ Jesus with a great passion as her husband, and an undying love for everyone she met. Let me challenge us here today to consider the list of names written in the Lamb's Book of Life because of this one child of God, Joyce Maxine Boggs. Now think of how many names are there because of her life.

We would like to be clear on one thing today. We are not here to lift her up on some high and lofty

pedestal. She would cringe fiercely at the thought of that. She lived a simple and a humble life, always putting others ahead of herself. If she had a few dollars at her disposal she never seemed to think of her own needs, much less of her desires. There was always someone else less fortunate who needed a little encouragement or one of her children who needed something more than she needed anything.

And all that we say about our mother today we are saying to glorify Jesus Christ, our precious savior, who alone can give us life so that we all might live the victorious Christian walk. One of mother's favorite hymns was "To God Be The Glory, Great Things He Has Done". Amen to that.

Barbara McMunn

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The following are two other letters that Rev. Helm wanted to include along with a photograph with the final letter. May you be blessed as we were and may the Lord receive all the glory, all the honor and all the praise.

Dear Rev. Helm,

Just a note to tell you how much we appreciate you and Sister Helm.

A couple of months ago I got out my Waiting Upon God tapes from July 1982. I have been listening to them and have been helped and blessed I think more than when we were there in 1982. One of my daughters came by while they were on and she was so helped. She said it was so restful. She and her husband started listening to them for two or three days. She became so excited about God! It reminded me of when we would return from a Waiting upon God. My daughter said the message fit like it was for today. I have been making copies for my children and others. We love you and pray for you and your family. Thanks for obeying God.

Love, Tony and Luella Huff

Dear Rev. Helm,

Janice and I are praising the Lord for helping you to be able to be in the services Sunday. We know that it was miracle for you to be there. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness. His trusting ones praise him.

It was so good to be with you again and you looked so much better than you did at the Waiting Upon God in Lexington. Jesus has truly helped you in these past months for which we are grateful. Praise God that you had a doctor in Indianapolis who

believed and kept working until he found someone to do the surgery. What a blessing.

We had a wonderful time last night in prayer meeting. It was a great time of prayer around the altar for about an hour. God was helping Pastor Emory to know how to pray in a wonderful way. It was a prayer time like I recall from years ago. It was sweet, I think, to everyone. And what is great is to think that God was probably doing way more than we can even guess. Glory to God!

I have been thinking about this picture of Mark Wolfe. After some digging through boxes I found it. I wanted to send it to Mark to encourage him and remind him how God helped him that day at the Church of the Feeding of the 5,000.

Paul Miller said later that he was so amazed to see this because in all of his years of guiding people in

Israel, he has only seen this nun a couple of times because she would not come out when men were present. So for Paul to see her come out and embrace him (Mark) as she would a child so sweetly, because of his joy and rejoicing in that place indicates, no doubt, that the work of the kingdom of God she sensed was quite a thing. Oh what a time of rejoicing that was. Just think what it will be like in Heaven where the joy will be untainted by the world. Glory to God. He is great and greatly to be praised!

Well, Brother Helm, I will go with this. I love and appreciate you and am impressed with how you have held on and gone on. I know it is by God's grace but it is also by your choice. Go on with God. The best is yet ahead.

Because He lives, Kim Gilbert



Revival For Our Day

October 2000

Dear ones in Christ Jesus, greetings in His holy, precious name. We praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for great is the faithfulness of God. We are needy and nothing and always come so far short, but the Lord is always able to deliver those who put their trust in Him. As we trust and obey He is able to deliver us in the soul as we keep pressing upward and onward to do His holy will. We are thankful to the Lord for all those who have been faithful to carry on when we have not been able to go very much.

We thank you Jesus for your great mercy that is from everlasting to everlasting. We are unworthy of all the gifts, grace and wonderful care and strength you bestow on us. We honor you and give you praise and glory through Jesus Christ our Savior. Unto you be all praise, glory, thanksgiving and honor.

“My soul, wait thou only upon God.” Lord, you care for the eagle saints, bishops, peasants and all in between. Lord, you never miss anyone. What we overlook, you always find and bring out. We are in awe as we behold the magnitude of your marvelous grace, most precious to behold as we sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.

It takes the Lord to help us to know what to say in order not to cause people, the sheep, to be outside the door of the fold. The sheep need the pure gospel in order that their udders may be full of milk, upon which the lambs feed. Often by our lack of wisdom or our wanting this and that, the sheep are neglected or fed what they don’t need. It is only by God’s grace and through the leadership of the Holy Spirit that the sheep get to the right pasture and receive the spiritual nourishment they need.

In the fifth chapter of St. John, verses one through fourteen, it says, “After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the Sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”

Jesus, you are able to bring a little out of nothing and put it on a page of the unseen and bring out the message illuminated in light, glory, sweetness and love, trimmed in grace until it flows as it were on the wings of a dove over time, as we listen and wait.

The poor, the halt, the maimed and the blind have often been scattered and neglected throughout the course of time. There are dear ones who are struggling to get by and it seems like they are forgotten, but they are not. The Lord does not ever forget anybody. “Holy Spirit, faithful guide, ever near the Christian’s side. Gently lead us by thy hand. We are pilgrims in a barren, desolate land.” Thank you Jesus for your mercy. We give you praise, glory and honor. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

In Jesus’ Name,

Loran W. Helm

Loran W. Helm

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Mark and Joy Donnelly sent the following writing to us. May it encourage each of you as you read it. This writing takes in everyone. It doesn’t make any difference whether we are high or low or where we live or what we know. It is a beautiful picture of faithfulness and obedience.

A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light and the Savior appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin.

The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all of his might. This the man did day after day. For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing signs of discouragement, the adversary decided to enter the picture by placing the thoughts into the man's weary mind, "You have been pushing against this rock for a long time and it hasn't budged. Why kill yourself over this? You are never going to move it." Thus, giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man.

"Why kill myself over this?" he thought. "I'll just put in my time, giving just the minimum effort, and that will be good enough." This he planned to do until one day he decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, giving all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half of a millimeter. What is wrong?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you your task was to push against this rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you have come to me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and the muscles in your back are strong. Your hands are strong from the constant pressure applied. Your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and push and exercise your faith and trust in my wisdom. This you have done my friend. We'll now move the rock."

At times when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what he wants. When actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in him. By all means exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves the mountain.

When everything seems to be going wrong, just PUSH. When the job gets dull, just PUSH. When people don't react the way that you think they should, just PUSH. When your money looks gone and the bills are due, just PUSH. When people don't understand you, just PUSH. PUSH on until something happens. PUSH until all the friends and loved ones who may need this get it just in time.

One of our daughters sent another writing we thought you might enjoy about love.

LOVE is giving with no thought of getting. It is tenderness enfolding with strength to protect. It is forgiveness without further thought of the thing forgiven. It is understanding of human weakness, with knowledge of the true man shining through. It is quiet in the midst of turmoil. It is trust in God with no thought of self. It is the one altogether lovely, the light in the mother's eyes, the glory in the sacrifice, the quiet assurance of protection.

It is in the expectation of our Father's promise coming true. It is the refusal to see anything but good in our fellow man. It is the glory that comes with selflessness and the power that comes with assurance of the Father's love for His children. It is the voice that says "no" to our brother, though "yes" might be more easily said. It is resistance to the world's lust and greed, thus becoming a positive law of annihilation to error.

Love...the one thing no one can take from us...the one thing we can give constantly and become increasingly rich in the giving. Love can take no offense, for it cannot know that which it does not of itself conceive. It cannot hurt or be hurt, for it is the purest reflection of God, Good. It is the one eternal, indestructible force for Good. It is the will of God, preparing, planning, proposing always what is best for all His universe.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Tyler Garth has had it on his heart for quite some time to record a CD. Tyler had spoken of it previously to Rev. Helm, but the Holy Spirit recently began to deal with Rev. Helm that now is the time to do it.

Tyler has spoken with a producer in Nashville, Tennessee and most of the arrangements have been made, but the exact date of recording has not yet been scheduled.

Would you please make this a matter of prayer and ask the Lord to anoint, bless and help in the recording of this CD?

For those interested in purchasing a CD when they are completed (or if anyone is interested in helping him financially toward the cost of production), you may contact him at:

Tyler Garth
P.O. Box 687
Parker City, IN 47368
(765) 468-8449

Revival For Our Day

November 2000

Dear saints of God in Christ Jesus, greetings in Jesus' holy name. I want to give praise to God in Christ Jesus for all he has done for us and for those of Revival For Our Day that have prayed and lifted up supplications on our behalf. We appreciate your prayers and also your financial sacrifice and help to us. We want to express praise to God for each of you and let you know to keep praying for us. We are unworthy but thankful.

The sermon I want to share with you is from a couple of weeks ago when the Lord enabled me to preach in Parker City. It is a marvel how the Lord helped in that service. Many testified and when the service was over at 10:00 p.m. that evening, we did not want it to end. We are in debt to the Lord for his help and anointing and precious insight as we spoke.

.....

In the book of St. John, chapter four, it says, "When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs go through Samaria. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour."

I want you to notice that Jesus was weary. What? You mean he made the blind to see and the lame to leap and he was weary? Here is the divine Son of God, but he is human and he is weary. And he chose the side of Jacob's well as his resting. Here is the Christ, the Savior of mankind, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and the Morning Star, the King of all kings, the Ancient of Days, the Mighty One, the Lilly of the valley. He has all things in his hands and he was with the Father when the world began. He came all the way from Jerusalem to Samaria and he was wearied and tired.

Verse seven says, "There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (for his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."

Jesus had asked her for a drink of water and she was startled. He was tired, weary and sitting on the well when this woman came to draw water. As she drew it, he asked her to get him some also and he himself was the water of life. Someone said, "Why would he ask her that?" To open the door so that she could get a good drink of the everlasting water. Isn't that a wonderful picture? Jesus knew she was coming by the well long before she came. That may have been why he was weary. He could have spoken in the twinkling of an eye and been any place at any time. But he was weary and he was waiting for her.

The word indicates here that the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. There were resentments between them. It didn't say the Samaritans had no dealings with the Jews, but that the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. I want you to see that this woman was puzzled when Jesus spoke to her and asked her for a drink.

Picture this if you may. The disciples have gone away to buy food and Jesus is alone with an adulteress woman and asks her for a drink of water. It is a drama. Jesus condescends to men of low estate. She told him, "I don't know why you would talk to me. I am a Samaritan and you are a Jew. We are looked down on by the Jewish people." But not by Jesus. Jesus looks up and says to her in verse ten, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

What is the difference between the water in the well and the water he had in his life? There are two wells here-the physical one she is at, but Jesus is another, the living water. He told her that, if she knew whom she was talking to, she would ask of him and he would have given her living water. Did you get a swallow of it just then? It seems like it went down the spiritual esophagus and took all the thirst out of it until we seem like we are floating again and resting on the promises of God. "Sir, give me to drink of that water." She wanted to know where that living water is. She was prepared to draw water. What do we have to draw with?

Jesus said, "And I will be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." He is saying, "If I come into your heart, I am going to be a well of water." Can you imagine laymen like this, with the Well of water springing up? Preachers and helpers are drooping along. But Jesus said that he would be in us a well of water springing up!

When God is in us we look alive and victorious. Praise the Lord! This water will quench your thirst and lift you up. Hallelujah!

Verse eleven says, "The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw."

The scripture could be written to say that all people are welcome at the feet of Jesus. This story is not just for the woman. It is for all the ages to let everyone know that Jesus loves everyone the same. Jesus broke through all the barriers of society and culture to minister to this woman.

She asked him, "Art thou greater than our father Jacob?" Yet Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I AM." That is thrilling! That is great joy! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! "Art thou greater than our father Jacob that dug this well?"

I want you to know that the well had to be guarded or strangers would have come along and filled it up with bricks of criticism and gravels of bewilderment. They would have filled that well with the rocks of analysis. They would have had it all clogged up and there would not have been any water in it. So often people have their well filled up with all kinds of trash - the trash of disobedience. It just fills the old wells up and we are not on our feet as lights in the world. Instead, we are

filling the wells that would be an artesian for our posterity, our neighbors, our friends and our enemies. Probably our enemies, because they are thirsty. They are thirsty for a drink of compassion and understanding, of love, tenderness and His presence. It is enough to make a dead man shout. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

This woman was saying she was a descendant of her father Jacob. He had given them that well and it had been preserved. She was there to get a drink and Jesus told her to give him a drink first. He was willing to drink out of her dipper. He didn't say to sterilize it. He was going to drink out of the same dipper that she did. Jesus told her that the well had water in it and that if she took a drink from it that she would have to come back tomorrow for another. The water of this world just doesn't quench your thirst. We get so excited about ball games and such, but if we don't get that excited about Jesus then we are backslidden. Jesus told this woman, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. When you get this salvation you are satisfied. But if we don't testify and obey we lose it. Although there are people who say that once you get it you never lose it, we need to pray and testify because the Word tells us that we overcome the devil only one way and that is by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony regarding that Blood. I wonder how many church people actually know this in their heart. I have tried to preach it through the years. Jesus said, "The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." But if we don't testify, read the Word and pray, we will lose the victory. We will lose the intimacy; the sweetness and that something that only obedience can bring us into. Obedience is the cross. If we fail to take the cross and deny ourselves, then we lose the victory and there won't be any joy.

Verse fifteen says, "The woman saith unto him, Sir." Notice here that she did not address him as the Christ. He had introduced himself as the living water but she did not know who he was. "Sir, give me this water that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw." She wanted that water. She believed right away that he had the water. Jesus had given her an altar call right there at the well side and she said, "I want it. Give it to me."

Jesus said to her before she could get it to go call her husband. Verse seventeen says, "The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly." Jesus told her a great volume here, for she later told the men of the city, "Come see a man, which told me all things that ever I did."

Verse nineteen says, "The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet." She didn't know him until now. He was hidden from her. How do you think she looked when Jesus told her she had five husbands? Was she astonished, amazed, or overwhelmed? She was surprised. Now she is a believer. She told them, "Is not this the Christ?" Can you see her countenance and her eyes when she realized Jesus knew everything about her? Jesus knew things about her that nobody else knew.

Verse twenty says, "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men

ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that the messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he."

Look at the introduction. Do you see it? See the scene change in this drama of truth and declaration. Look! She has come from the edge of the well to the drama. He lifts the curtain. "I that speaketh unto thee am he, the Christ, the Son of the living God." Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Glory to God. Praise thee Jesus. What a scene! What a wonder. He is having a great meeting with an adulteress. He is sharing his life and telling her all things that ever she did. It is not written here. He is treating her as a queen. He is gentle with her. He didn't reprimand her. He didn't scold her. He said, "You have been with five men, and the man you are now with is not your husband", but there is tenderness. There is sweetness, not coercion or harshness. There is just his love for a woman lost in adultery. He lifted her out and she finds him in her heart.

Verse twenty-seven says, "And upon this came his disciples, and marveled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? Or, Why talkest thou with her?" When the disciples came the whole scene changed. They marveled that Jesus talked with her, but they did not say so. They could not understand why he would talk with her. Wouldn't you like to take a little walk through the minds of the apostles and see what they thought and how surprised they were? Were they as surprised with Jesus as she was? They wondered if he knew who she was but he had already told her who she was and he was treating her with tenderness. He dealt with her with such wonderful compassion and understanding.

In verse twenty-eight, "The woman then left her water pot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?" The woman left who she came for and didn't even think about it anymore. From the time she left the well to the time she got to the men, she was converted. She said, "Come and see! I found him! I walked with him and talked with him. He was here and asked me for a drink out of my dipper. Come and see him! I want you to see him. Come and see a man that told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ?" She is convinced that he is not just a "Sir" any longer, not just a Jew or a stranger any longer. He is the Christ, the magnificent One, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the Savior of mankind - no longer "out there" but with her in salvation. She testified, "I want you to get what I have found."

The story continues. "Then they went out of the city, and came unto him. So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." They needed

her as an evangelist to the Jewish people at that time. She convinced a whole bunch of Samaritans to believe and hardly any of the Jews believed him. She was an adulteress and now an evangelist. She convinced all of them. Isn't this a sermon? She convinced the unbelievers to believe that Jesus was the Christ. They believed because of Jesus, but if she had not had an impressive word they would never have come out to him. They left their jobs and homes to go out and see Jesus. "Come and see a man which told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ, the Son of God, the King of glory, Jesus, the Lamb, the Lion, the glorious One?" In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Praise the Lord for his mercy. May you be encouraged and lifted. Thank you again for praying for us, for we need it much. We thank the Lord for each of you and your prayers and support. We appreciate all of it.

In Jesus' Name,

Loran W. Helm

Loran W. Helm

Rev. Helm wanted the following letters included for your encouragement. He requests that we be sure to give God all the praise, glory and honor.

Dear Rev. Helm,

Praise the Lord! I want to apologize for not writing to you more than I have. It's been quite a while since I have written but I surely haven't forgotten you. I'm still praying for you.

I have been listening to your messages on "Forsaking All, Unhindered Prayer and Ye Are Not Your Own." To me, these are masterpieces of the gospel. I am convinced that I truly need to get this (to quote you) "great giant truth" in my heart. I have listened to each of these many times and they are still helping and convicting me and I appreciate them very much.

I appreciate the death that you went through and are still going through that we can have these treasures of truth.

When I listen to you, it's like I'm listening to the Apostle Paul or someone right out of the Bible. I am amazed of the depth that God has taken you to and continues to take you to in His sacred Word. I am thankful for every revelation He has given you concerning the scriptures. As I listen to "Ye Are Not Your Own" (I'm listening to it now) you said, "This message is all by revelation." How many people can say that what they preach is all by revelation? I know what you say is true and I can't tell you how appreciative and thankful I am for this. I'm trying to get a hold of it Rev. Helm because I know it's the truth and the truth will set me free if I believe it and grasp it.

It's no wonder that the powers of hell have set themselves against you because you preach by revelation from Jesus Christ, because you have the revelation that you are nothing and because you have forsaken all. I'm sure there are many other reasons that I don't know about but I do know that Jesus has given you "the power to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means harm you."

Thank you Rev. Helm for exposing the enemy, the powers of darkness and the carnality in my life. You said, "The more you love somebody the more you want them to go straight." Well I can tell you sure love me by your message.

Thank you for embarrassing demons and striving to set the captives free from the self-life. I still believe that "the best is yet to come!"

In the Name of Him who called you on the road of Windsor Village,

David Sorrell

Dear Uncle Loran,

Praise the Lord for your wonderful words of encouragement to my heart! I had been in prayer for a new acquaintance, and the fifth chapter of John was extremely comforting to me; as it helped me to know, as you wrote in your letter, that the Lord does not forget anybody. God did illuminate those words to me, trimmed them in grace, and brought sweetness and love to my heart, and I can hardly wait to share them with my new friend!

This morning as I was praying, and wondering where to read, I picked up the Voice book, and my eyes fell on chapter 9, A Child's Prayer. It seemed to me that it's exactly where our church is, and perhaps many others. I was again encouraged to know that through God, prayer and confessing our sins, there is great hope for us! This book contains truth that is so rich and rare in all the earth, speaking volumes of wisdom and hope to us. It's timeless. As we pray, repent and confess, I know God can bring us to this soul travail, and souls will be saved! Hallelujah! What hope we have in Christ!

I spoke with Georgine not too long ago on the phone, and she is always reviewing something she has read from the scriptures, from the Voice in the Wilderness, or something she heard from an audiotape from one of your meetings. I am continually blessed with all of these precious nuggets of truth and inspiration. In our last conversation she reviewed a phrase you spoke, that says, "Our obedience reaches beyond the universe." It's so high and wonderful I can hardly contain it in my mind. But it has been on my refrigerator, and every time I glance at the phrase, I am greatly encouraged, even though it still remains a mystery to me! If I can obey God to pray, then certainly he can reach down and save souls in this universe, if our obedience goes BEYOND the universe!

What a mighty God we serve! I just wanted to tell you how encouraged I have been with your letters, the Voice book, and reviewing all the many wonderful, inspired meetings and Waitings I've been able to attend with you. Your words of Life to me over the years have made such an incredible impact upon my life, I can't say thank you, and thank God enough!

Love in Christ,

Andria Helm

Dear Rev. and Mrs. Helm,

Praise God for His grace and mercy, and for the Blood of Jesus as our atonement.

In my most recent letter to you, I wrote about a co-worker's

"Uncle Jim and Aunt Ann". I have now received a wonderful letter from them, expressing their appreciation of you and your message in "A Voice in the Wilderness".

May God bring help and healing to both of you.
With great love and honor,
Barbara

Greetings from West Virginia——!

I've been holding off the writing of this letter of thanks to you until I had completed the reading of "A Voice in the Wilderness". Now I've done just that and can truthfully tell you that it has been a most compelling book to read. I sincerely thank you for acquainting me with Bro. Loran W. Helm, a mighty man of God-a Warrior! But I also want to thank you for sending me a second copy of the book. Our son, John, hasn't finished the reading of his yet. He, too, is involved with the reading of several books at the same time-as I always am. But after I had read two or three chapters in Helm's book, I laid aside the other books and concentrated on it.

Wouldn't we all love to have a testimony to compare with his? I gleaned this most important factor from this book...that of trust and obey. In fact, that is the central theme of his life's story, that of trusting and obeying God. We want to do our own thing, our own way, at our own time and convenience, but that isn't what God wants for our lives. It's His way, His timing with us in subjection to His will.

I would love more than anything to be able to listen and hear God's voice instructing me on all the actions which I am to do. I know this can happen to anyone who completely surrenders his life and welfare into God's hands. This takes a long time to cultivate such a life-style. I wish I'd begun such a pattern from infancy as he did.

Barbara, it was so very nice meeting you and learning that we're brother and sister in the Lord. Thanks again for everything.

In Him,
Jim and Ann

Dear Brother Rev. Helm,

Praise God for all His wonderful mercies to his little ones. "Jesus never fails, heaven and earth may pass away, but Jesus never fails!"

I was sharing Acts 3:1-26 with the guys at the detention center Sunday. We had a good time examining the life of this poor old crippled beggar. We reviewed what a mess his life was...having to be carried by someone everyday so he could get to the temple where the cooler people were to beg them for money. That must have

been embarrassing and no doubt wore out his pride in himself and his manhood. He had to swallow a lot of stuff everyday to keep coming out there.

And there he sat that day, with crooked feet...like every other day for the past 40 years or so...begging, when Peter and John came by...men who had been with the Lord and had seen him risen from the dead. He had no expectations of healing or of his life changing, he just needed some cash. He had no faith to believe in this Jesus he had probably seen coming to the temple. But Peter did.

Suddenly, as this dude was sitting there, crippled, he's on his feet! Standing! In a moment, in the blink of an eye his life is totally changed! He now has possibilities of a job and family, or a home and a future. Nothing will ever be the same again, before he could realize what was going on...it was over.

The people in the temple could hear someone praising God real loud...real loud and said, "that sounds like old Joe, the crippled beggar...whaaas uup?" And when they found him he's hugging Peter and John as hard as he could. He had them in a bear hug...weeping and shouting and praising God, and the Living Bible says all the people were "inexpressibly surprised" and "everyone stood in awe..." Here's this ex-cripple shouting, running, leaping, giving high fives, hugging people...what a time that must have been.

Praise God, brother, that's just the way I was too. I was spiritually crippled, unable to walk and someone came by with the Word of God and I was healed in the blink of an eye. Suddenly I was not the same person, my future had changed, my plans had changed. I was in a whole new world of possibilities.

Who is sitting, begging for some help, waiting for us to come by and say, "in the name of Jesus..."-who is going to jump and shout and praise God and walk with him because we have faith to believe for them?

Won't it be interesting to meet him in heaven (by God's grace) and find out what he did after that? Did he become an evangelist? Did he witness to his neighbors and live for Jesus after that? Can't you just see him after a few days going to the people who had carried him to town everyday for all those years, and saying, I want to wash your donkey today, because you helped me so much...here's a pie I want to drop off to say thanks for all your help...I'm coming by this weekend to re-thatch your roof, 'cause I'm thankful that you got me to the place where Jesus could heal me! Praise God, I believe he was a changed man, a light...who never tired of telling of the day Peter came by and jerked him into a new life.

Because He lives,
Kim Gilbert

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