ZION FAITH HOMES NEWSLETTER

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"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

THANK GOD FOR JESUS, IMMANUEL!

The Old Testament prophets were all looking for His coming. They wrote about Him. Isaiah 7:14: "*Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* That virgin would bear a son and that son would be God. Just think of the God of heaven coming down to earth to live with people like us. I wonder if we grasp it – GOD WITH US.

In the first chapter of Luke, we find that the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would have a child and He would be great and would be called the Son of the Highest. He is higher than the angels or any other created one. I imagine that when Mary was a little girl, her mother told her about the coming of the Messiah. Now the angel Gabriel stood before her to tell her that she would be the one to be the mother of Jesus.

In Luke 2 we find that the shepherds heard the word and wanted to go and see. What would we have done? Do we believe His Word today? I do want to believe His Word more.

Let us keep the words of God and ponder them in our hearts as Mary did. We have been told to pray, "Make Your Word alive to me,' and I have been trying to do that. I love His Word and I am thankful for it.

I am thankful that Jesus came and that He was willing to give up the riches of heaven and to be born in a stable so that you and I could know Him and have His life.

Excerpts - Barbara Haselip (McNutt)

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THERE IS GREAT POWER IN THE WORD

My heart is rejoicing tonight because I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is my testimony. He has made me an object of His Grace! He has prepared a wonderful salvation for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. It tells us in Eph. 2:8,9, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast*." Tonight, I want to make my boast in the Lord for He has so freely bestowed upon me His wonderful love. I

have done absolutely nothing to deserve this love, nor can I ever hope to. All I can ever do in return is to render much thanksgiving and praise to this wonderful Savior for His abundant mercy.

In the 10th chapter of Romans, verse 9 we read: "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved*." Too often we think of this verse as being directed only to the sinner, when in reality it applies to the Christian as well. When we confess our thoughts of doubt and fear, we find ourselves in darkness, but when we confess God's thoughts, we find ourselves in the LIGHT. There was a time in my Christian life when I went through a period of great doubt concerning my salvation. It seemed to me that I had never been saved and it was all a lie. The devil injected these unbelieving thoughts into my mind, and I foolishly went along with him in that vein of thought. It was not hard to believe him for I was beginning to see many unlovely things in myself that the Lord had been uncovering. So perhaps this contributed to my state of mind, for how could I be a Christian and still have such wicked things in my heart? One day I was pressed upon by the Holy Spirit to get to business about this matter and to settle it once and for all. The Holy Spirit is our Faithful Guide and so He always leads us into the Word of God. I was definitely led to look up all the Scriptures pertaining to salvation and God's love for the sinner. Thus, with an audible voice, I reaffirmed my faith in Jesus Christ and declared my belief in Him, using the Word of God as my basis. The doubt which had so gripped my heart was broken and fled away from me. From that time to this, I have never doubted that God saved me.

There is great power in the Word of God. I would have been crushed long ago and cast away if it were not for that Word. It has sustained me through periods of testing; it has upheld me when I needed strength; it has given me great hope and confidence when all around seemed so hopeless and confused. It has given me encouragement when I felt like giving up, and the courage to press on just a little bit farther. We need to declare God's Word in the face of all doubt, fear, and unbelief. All these are tools of the devil to destroy our faith in God. Try saying God's thoughts before Him and see what happens! Why, your whole attitude will change from unbelief to faith and hope. Say what God says! His thoughts are never negative, they are ALWAYS positive and full of much faith, hope, and confidence. No matter how wicked you may feel, no matter what kind of hopelessness sweeps over you, you need not be defeated if you will simply take the Word of God and declare it and believe it.

There is a great battle for the mind in these treacherous days, and we as Christians need to know how to overcome these fiery darts of the wicked one. Thank God, it is through the Word of God, which is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. For God is ALWAYS in His Word. He is never absent from it. Our God wants us to experience His saving power in our lives every day and we can triumph over all the power of darkness if we will but do the very simple thing which He has stated – *Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, and thou SHALT BE SAVED.* Praise the Lord!

Rev. Ruth Lade

A PREACHER WITHOUT A BIBLE

"I started out back in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. I did not know very much. I have not learned a lot since, but I knew precious little in those days. However, I believed in the Bible. I just took it and read it as it came. I started in Genesis and was having a great time, taking promises right and left, just like a boy picking apples off a tree in the orchard."

(((Sadly, this young man encountered over time 'Believers of sorts' who discouraged faith in the Bible as being the Word of God. They didn't take promises or show much interest in the Bible. Did they think they could rewrite, redefine, recreate Christianity? The man was pressed but did not give up his faith in God, His Son Jesus, His Holy Spirit, His written Word..))) an anchor.

" Finally, I said, "Lord, I have heard of a man without a country. If this thing keeps up, I am going to be a preacher without a Bible. Will you give me a verse I can stand on? I will have to have it in a hurry, because they are just about to take it away from me.

I got down to that verse, "*Let God be true, but every man a liar*," Ro. 3:3,4 I have been standing on it ever since! BROTHER, I TELL YOU, I BELIEVE IT IS ALL FOR ME, AND I ENJOY IT.

We need that childlike enjoyment of the Word of God. Today we have gotten to the place where people are taking the Bible apart and then trying to put it back together, analyzing it, dissecting it -not enjoying it. There needs to be a childlike enjoyment of God's Word and a sweetheart love for Jesus." -Vance Havner- Herald of Hope

GOD BLESS YOUR CHRISTMAS

God bless your Christmas wherever you are
And keep your courage bright;
For the spirit of man is the candle of God,
And it burns in the darkest night.

God bless your Christmas wherever you are
And keep you strong in faith;
For the Spirit of God is the refuge of man
And the light is His dwelling place.

Hazel Adams

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly
To remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
And open the door of love
All over the world.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing
That Christ brings,
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy
To be thy children
And the Christmas evening bring us to our beds
With grateful thoughts,
Forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake,
Amen - Robert Louis Stevenson

LORD, SHOW ME THY HANDS

Lord, when I'm weary with toiling
And burdensome seem Thy commands,
If my load should lead to complaining,
Lord, show me Thy hands.
Thy nail-printed hands, Thy cross-torn hands,
My Savior, show me Thy hands.

Christ, if ever my footsteps should falter,
And I be prepared for retreat
If desert and thorn cause complaining Lord,
show me Thy feet -
Thy bleeding feet, Thy nail-scarred feet.

O God, dare I show Thee
My hands and my feet?

Amy Carmichael

WALK IN IT

Behold, I say to you, This is the way. Walk in it. I am the way. Walk in Me. I am the truth. Believe Me, (trust in Me). I am the Life. Live in Me, and share My Life with others. For you know not what I do now, but you will know hereafter. (Now we see in a glass darkly, but then, face-to-face. Now our grasp of the ways of God is incomplete, but as we move on, we come to understand what He has been endeavoring to do in our lives.) Rejoice. Rejoice not so much in victories as in the fact that I am leading. Praise me. Not so much for My blessings as for My love that prompts them. Serve Me with gladness, not for the ultimate nor present reward, but for the thrill of knowing that we labor together; that I stand beside you in every enterprise, however trivial. -F. Roberts

For our light affliction which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. 2 Corinthians4:17

FAITH HOME NEWS

May we bless the Lord this New Year! May He Bless all of You. And let's PRAY & PRAISE Him! We thank God for you all!