ZION FAITH HOMES NEWSLETTER

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2820 Eshcol Avenue, Zion, Illinois 60099

"COME UNTO Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

NOW, JESUS IS CALLING YOU TO HIMSELF

He will lead us to abandonment – rest – etc., if we but follow Him – only Him. M. W. Robinson

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THY WORD IN MY HEART - Ruth Lade FML

"*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."* Lam. 3:22,23. I am coming to realize, more and more, how very dependent I am on the mercy of God. Our righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight. There is nothing we can present to God as a reason why He should love us or bless us. We fail so many times to carry out even the smallest of His commands. Luke 17:10 tells us that when we have done all those things which are commanded, we should say: "we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." Thank God we can depend on His mercy, for His compassions fail not. They are new every morning!

"Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to thy Cross I cling." Let us not carry the problems of today over to the next day. When you go to bed tonight, commit them to the Lord. Put all your shortcomings and failures under the Precious Blood of Jesus and leave them there. Tomorrow there will be new mercies to carry you through. I am so glad His love is steadfast and sure. It is something that can be depended on. If we fully realized how great His mercies are toward us, our praises would sound forth continuously.

Psalm 119:41 "*Let thy mercies come also unto me, Lord, even thy salvation, according to thy word."* His mercies are numberless and can fill countless needs in our lives. They are FULFILLING MERCIES which redeem us, save, perfect, cleanse, sanctify, and heal us. When we are asking for His salvation to come to us, we literally are asking for JESUS, for He is God's Salvation.

Verse 42, "*So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproaches me: for I trust in thy Word."* The accuser of the brethren loves to accuse God's children. He will make you feel hopeless and condemned when you have failed in some way to please God. He will make you feel that it is useless to go on. Oh, how many are his devices to discourage the child of God. But thank God, we read in Rev. 12:11 "*And they overcame him (the accuser) of the brethren) by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."* When you have experienced God's saving mercies in your life, you have somewhat to say to this accuser. You know that the Blood of Jesus Christ has cleaned away your sin, and you know that His Blood pleads for you even now. You have an Advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ. It is very important to give our word of testimony. Declare it regardless of your feelings, for feelings have nothing to do in this matter of faith. Your trust should be in the Word of God and in the Cleansing Blood of Jesus Christ. When you are rooted and grounded on that solid foundation, nothing that the accuser can say against you will turn you aside from your purpose to follow Christ.

Vs. 45 "*And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts."* This is not liberty to do as you please and to follow the desires of your own heart. This liberty is freedom from SELF-SEEKING. When you are busily engaged in pleasing yourself you are in bondage to that thing. Whoever commits sin, is the servant of sin. To whatever you yield yourself, to that very thing you become a slave. God wants to deliver us from this bondage. He wants to bring us into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. His precepts are instructions for living. He is interested in making us into LIFE-GIVERS. He wants to find someone through whom He can pour out His love – a channel, a way

through. As we seek His precepts, He will teach us how to give life to others, and then we will experience what it truly means to walk at liberty.

In Romans 8:31 we read, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Did you know that God is FOR YOU, and not against you? He NEVER condemns you. Yes, He may convict you, but with that conviction He will show you a way to victory. And that way of victory is through the power of the Holy Spirit in your life – to reveal Christ to you and his mighty power to save. Vs. 32 "He that spared not his only Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" God just wants to give, but can He find someone who will just take it freely and not try to earn it? Vs. 33 *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?* It is God that justifies." It is through the Blood that you are able to come boldly to the throne of Grace. There your Advocate stands to plead for you.

Vs. 34 *Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.* This is my testimony - Christ died for me, and rose again, and now makes intercession for me. Praise the Lord forevermore. Declare these truths in the face of condemnation and discouragement. There is One who loves you, and who has provided all you will ever need as an atonement for your soul. Vs. 35-37 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter, Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.* He wants to make us MORE THAN CONQUERORS! And He will do just that if we will allow Him to. Our part is to yield and believe what He says about Himself and declare it in the face of seeming defeat.

Ps. 108:13 *Through God we do valiantly, for it is Him that shall tread down our enemies.* Praise God, for He is the One that will do it – not our puny efforts. Then in Romans 8:38 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, not depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Thank God for HIS WONDERFUL LOVE!

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THE BLESSING OF PRAISE

A Prophesy given by M.W. Robinson

It is the blessing through praise. It is the prayer that brings down the blessing through praise that is the form of prayer that I like best. I like the prayer that goes up in thanksgiving. I like the prayer of gratitude and of praises, of thankfulness, of rejoicing, and My people have not learned that lesson yet. My people are dull and heavy about that matter.

I cannot get you to praise unless you have the exhilaration and the spirit of praise in you. I cannot get you to praise as a duty that you owe to your God, as a part of service. I cannot get you to do that one thing simply because you do not feel like it. You consult your feelings about the matter.

I am going to have my people praise because I am worthy. There ought to be the sense of gratitude, even if there is no deep joy. There ought to be in their hearts the consciousness that God is very good, that God is very merciful, that God is very kind. "I owe Him the sacrifice of my lips." But you are not willing, will not sacrifice your lips. You do not sacrifice your lips to serve Me in praises, and I withhold My blessing. I tell you again, I want you to praise.

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THOUGHTS ON JOB

Job went after righteousness (more than anyone else) but he had not yet encountered the Lord Himself. God longed for a real relationship with Job. So, when Satan asked God for permission to test Job ('I can take Job away from You– let me at him and see'). God allowed him, but with limits. Job's friends (perhaps feeling for once they could rise above Job and be the 'right ones') tormented Job with their natural reasonings rather than giving comfort and encouragement to him. Job fell into the trap.

Job questioned God but did not reject or accuse Him. Job was not right. Job felt accused by his friends. His self-defense dug the hole deeper and pain increased.

The book of Job contains much of men's words and reasonings: mixed efforts to defend, be right or explain Job's sufferings and why. Nothing helped.

THEN GOD SPOKE! "Do you? Can you? Are you"- God? Job was humbled. God had spoken to him. He repented. God had spoken to him. He became a new man with a new relationship with God. His friends were humbled. Job prayed for them. PRAY. GOD BLESSED JOB. The testimony is alive today.

God speaks to us through Scripture and by the Holy Spirit. May we listen and obey His Holy Word! Let us keep praying and sharing our hearts and lives with our Heavenly Father. Pray, worship, read the Bible!

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Galatians 5:25 *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* This scripture is worthy of consideration in its two parts. As Christians having received the Lord Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, by faith (God's gift) in Him and His work of redemption at the cross, we have life by His Spirit within us. Luke 4:1 *And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.* Satan came and lied and lied and lied. Jesus spoke the truth of God's Word. Satan got nowhere with Him and left. Speak God's Word. Is. 31:1 *Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; … but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!* The world is not our way. God is with us. Are we with Him?

We who live by the Spirit, must also walk, step by step, leading by leading, prayerfully guided by the Holy Spirit. This, we know, requires a life laid down at His Cross, surrendered daily, a life turned and ever turning to Jesus, a heart-repentant and humble, and a mind governed by His Word and will (mercy/truth). Jesus is our Day and Way! A true believer strives to have his day, doings, and words in the power of the Holy Spirit. The flesh life and the world's way bare no fruit, give not peace or joy, nor glorify the Lord. God wants us to have Him! A life of selfless love is a life of liberty. "*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* 2 Cor. 3:17.

Jesus is our life. We don't want to have a secular life and a religious life. We want a Christ Life. So, live pleasing Him. Avoid engaging in things and activities that are not fitting for Jesus and would pull us out of His Presence or stumble another. Be careful to keep communion with Him, knowing He is with us always even when we are occupied with secular duties. He'll never leave us or forsake us!

Be quick to repent, to apologize, to bless and help another. Do praise and love your Savior!

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"Blessed Lord, as we study these holy words, increase we pray, our desire to 'ABIDE in Thy Words,' and teach us the path of the obedience of Faith which works by Love- the Path-of-Thy-feet. Blessed One, take our lives completely into Thy Hand, and use us as instruments of Thy Will to bring others to THEE, and to fill their needs." - R.B. Andrews

Genesis gives a clear account of the fall of man- the deception and the reception of Satan's lie. The curse is evident, but God does not abandon His creation. His heart and good will are here. It appears He had a plan doesn't it. Does He now? We know He does! The Old Covenant served its purpose. Light was given, but much more was coming. Faith had to be held by faithful ones, daily through it all. Is that our call? When the time was right, the Daystar came. Jesus is the One Light of the knowledge of the Glory of God. And that knowledge IS the knowledge-of-His-Will. Please know that the term, will of God means: God's will for man among men; and His Will for man-before God. It is His Will in relation to other human beings, and in the relation of your heart to God. Keep clearly in view, all the time, what CALVARY means. CALVARY is the Great Central FACT of all that has been made known of the Will of God in this world. We know and testify that Calvary IS the Mercy of God. We, who are born again in Christ must keep the Testimony of the love of God in Christ who died on the Cross to atone for our sins. When we do testify to God's saving Grace and Power, we unconsciously declare His WILL. Why? Because we are telling, witnessing, that which we do

KNOW, and that which we have SEEN -in our own lives. Be a witness and testify. His will is mercy. God, in Christ has made known His Will. God is revealed in His Son.

Mt. 9 "*Go and learn what this means, I will have mercy and not sacrifice."* Jesus healed the sick man saying to him: *Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.* Certain scribes, religious leaders accused Jesus in their hearts of evil. Jesus addressed their thoughts saying, "*Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, Your sins are forgiven you, or to say, Arise and walk? "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"* He said to the paralytic, "*Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."* And he did. The multitudes saw it and glorified God.

The Bible teaches that sacrifice is the only way to God. Jesus, God's only Son came and became, as the true Lamb of God, the Sacrifice for our sins. He bought us with His own Blood. He is God's Mercy to us. How is it we find such opposition in our own hearts to the Lord? We can be so self-willed, so stubborn and rebellious, so … . We don't 'feel' like praising the Lord. We don't want to pray for 'so and so'. It's hard for us to give, to serve. We want to be 'the one' and be exalted etc. We are unworthy of God's love, but He is Truth and true to who He is. Our evil can't change Him. He loves us. But we must realize and repent, believe and receive Him by faith in the truth of who He is. We don't define Him. He is God! Bow before Him. Love and adore Him. Sing praises. Be blessed and be a blesser. Give thanks.

(Some thought from Mercy St. 21, R. Andrews)

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FAITH HOME NEWS

This summer has been a pleasant one and we thank God for the beauty and genius of his creation. Fall is here with its special touch of God's artwork, depicting such majesty in death and the hope of new life coming. Every thing God does has meaning and purpose, doesn't it? Folks have travelled here and there – a change, a rest and lovely fresh air.

We are endeavoring, here in the Faith Homes to keep our focus and emphasis on Jesus Himself. In some ways we struggle to 'keep up' so to speak but we are so very thankful for our calling and by God's grace endeavor to hold fast to the faith; the daily walk with Jesus and the ministry. We consider ourselves very blessed and cared for by the Lord. May we be found faithful and rejoice with much thanksgiving for all members of Christ's Body and in each one answering His call and following His lead in daily life and ministry. We're saying, "we thank God for you." No one can do or be 'it all,' but by His grace we can be faithful to Jesus and His work here on earth. Everyone is important in the Body of Christ.

We thank God for our co-workers who are faithfully holding a position for the Lord. Bill and Judy Vines are "holding the Fort" in Hebron, KY and Collin & Barbara Hughes in Oshkosh, and Calvin and Marilyn Hughes in Cuba City (as well as popping in here now and then helping us). Thank you all. We've had missionaries come also. Veta Greenwood shared in a meeting. Mark Haney has blessed us as well as Wolski's. We recently had Amitai's here and they shared in a meeting. What a joy to have had time with these servants of God. Our dear brother, Roy Olsen who'd shared in a meeting some months ago is now residing in Heaven as also is our dear brother Fred Sindorf, Jr. We greatly miss them.

On September 25 we joyfully celebrated the ordination of Brad Goad. He has been a help here for some years and active in the meetings. We felt it was the Lord's time to take this next step. David Leopold, Ofer Amitai and Jerry Hegeman participated in the ceremony. We were all blessed and shared lunch and good fellowship following the meeting. Our God is marching on!

We've enjoyed visitors in the meetings quite regularly as well as guests who've stayed with us these past months which include: Calvin & Marilyn Hughes, WI; Evan McClure and Michael & Elisha Wheaton, KY; Tom & Pam Wolski, Victor Jardon Reyes, Josquin Jardon, Tom & Pam Wolski, IL; Robb & Sherlyn Reesberger, IN; David Terry, MO; Evelyn Falibene, and Ofer & Chris Amitai , Israel.

Much thanks also to our readers and supporters.

Love, Prayers and Blessing to you all.