

EXALTING **CHRIST** • EQUIPPING **BELIEVERS** • EVANGELIZING **THE WORLD**

CORNERSTONE

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024

The Steward of the **Gospel**

Guarding Our Hearts

**The Priesthood
of All Believers**

...and more

...JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF **CORNERSTONE** • EPHESIANS 2:20

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.” Psalms 86:11-12

When the Lord decided to replace Saul as king, He spoke to him through the prophet Samuel: *“But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart...because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.”* (1 Sam. 13:14).

The Lord had already found David, a man after His own heart, whom He would later anoint king over Israel (1 Sam. 16; Psa. 89:20). Years later, Paul recounts the event in Antioch of Pisidia: *“I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.”* (Acts 13:22).

The heart is our innermost being, the control center of our thoughts, emotions and desires. It influences our will, what we choose to do. Sadly, the human heart has been damaged by sin. Jeremiah 17:9 says: *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?”* Though the believer is a new creation in Christ, our sin nature remains and still adversely affects us. It is only through abiding in Christ, that we can have the divine enablement to wholeheartedly serve the Lord according to His will. What characterizes one who is a man (or woman) after God’s own heart?


“It is only through abiding in Christ, that we can have the divine enablement to wholeheartedly serve the Lord according to His will.”

The all-encompassing attribute is a zeal for Christ through our knowledge of Him. David testified: *“One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple”* (Psa. 27:4). Moses and Paul also joined David in expressing a holy desire to intimately know the Lord (Exo. 33:12-18; Phil. 3:10). Do we follow their example, spending time in His Word and prayer? Do we hunger for an intimate fellowship with Him? Its realization is contingent upon knowing and zealously obeying His Word (John 14:21-23). Moreover, fruitful service is built upon the foundation of our

love for Christ. When restoring and commissioning Peter, the Lord asked him three times *“Do you love Me?”* (John 21:15-17). Our love for Him will understandably develop into a growing revelation of Christ in our lives as we commit to being doers of His Word. Paul desired that his ministry and life be a: *“manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God”* (2 Cor. 4:2). Do we have the same desire to accurately reflect Christ and His interests during our sojourn on earth?

A man after God’s own heart diligently watches over his own heart (Prov. 4:23) because he knows *“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he”* (Prov. 23:7), and *“As water reflects the face, so one’s life reflects the heart.”* (Prov. 27:19, NIV). He is blameless, confessing and forsaking sin before the searching eyes of Christ (Heb. 4:13). His heart’s cry is *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting”* (Psa. 139:23-24).

He is also lion-hearted, *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind”* (2 Tim. 1:7). Yet, he is humble before God, exalting His Savior *“...who humbled Himself...”* (Phil. 2:8; Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:6). He has a heart for the lost because the Lord is *“not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Pet. 3:9). His heart is also lovingly and practically knit with the saints because all believers in Christ are *“beloved of God”* (Rom. 1:7; 1 John 3:16) and to receive them is to receive Christ (Matt. 10:40).

In his charge to Solomon, David said: *“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts...”* (1 Chron. 28:9, NASB). Do we have the hearts that He is looking for? 



by George T Ferrier

George lives in southern Ontario and fellowships at Bethel-Park Bible Chapel (Brantford, ON). Commended to the Lord’s work in 2013 by Bridlewood Bible Chapel (Ottawa), he engages in an itinerant preaching and teaching ministry at North American assemblies, camps, and conferences. He is on the board of Cornerstone Magazine Inc. where he also serves as editor.



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A photograph of a person from the waist down, wearing a grey suit jacket, dark trousers, and a white shirt with a belt. They are holding a thick, old Bible in their right hand and a brown leather satchel with a strap over their shoulder. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green grass and trees.

THE STEWARD OF THE GOSPEL

A CHARACTER SKETCH

Preaching the gospel is a sacred stewardship and Scripture sets a high standard for those who undertake this ministry. First Thessalonians 2 teaches that fruitfulness in ministry is directly proportional to the preacher's character. Paul and Silas suffered physical torture in Philippi (Acts 16:22-24; 1 Thess. 2:2) before landing in Thessalonica. The enemies who chased them from Thessalonica were also engaged in undermining their character. To counter these false insinuations and gossip, it was necessary for Paul to defend both the integrity of their character and the transparency of their ministry. Let us consider eight principles which enable a steward of the gospel to be fruitful as well as a model servant bringing utmost glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Preaching the gospel is a sacred stewardship and Scripture sets a high standard for those who undertake this ministry.”

Free of Error, Immorality and Deceit (v.3)

Paul begins by outrightly rejecting the accusation that his preaching came from error. The exhortation of Paul and his men was in genuine compliance with Scripture and stood in stark contrast to the delusional teachings of false teachers. The preaching of the gospel should never wander away from Holy

Writ. Humanistic, liberal ideologies and worldly philosophies have no place whatsoever when it comes to the preaching of the gospel. Secondly, the apostle argues that their preaching did not stem from uncleanness. Sexual immorality was rampant at Corinth and Thessalonica, especially in religious services and temples. Scripture does not divorce doctrinal purity from moral purity. In fact, one who plays fast and loose with doctrine will soon find themselves crossing moral boundaries (2 Pet. 2:18). Paul disclaims any unclean motive behind his missionary activities in Thessalonica. Thirdly, the apostle says his exhortation did not come from deceit. The Greek word “*dolos*” means bait and its first ominous occurrence is in relation to the plotting to arrest Christ (Matt. 26:4). We would do well in light of the Judgment Seat of Christ to stay clear of using ministry opportunities as a bait to gain something for ourselves. Let our preaching be free of error, immorality and deceit.

Approved of God (v.4)

Paul could confidently say that he, his companions, and their ministry were approved by God. The perfect tense of the Greek “*dedokimasmetha*” involves not only the process of testing but also success and approval following the test. These missionaries were no novices. Paul was tested by God for some fourteen years in Damascus, Arabia, Jerusalem, his hometown of Tarsus, and Antioch before he was confirmed through the Holy Spirit by the Antioch church for his work among the Gentiles (Acts 13:1-3). Silas had already gained a considerable commendation from his brethren in Jerusalem for they called him a “*chief man*,” a leader (Acts 15:22). The Scriptures present young Timothy as someone who was in good standing with the saints in both Lystra and Iconium (Acts 16:2).

In the end, the Judgment Seat of Christ is the ultimate court of appeal where all ministries will be weighed. The right question every preacher should ask is “will my preaching stand or burn up” at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Cor. 3:15). We would do well to take a regular inventory to see if we are in pursuit of man’s approval or God’s approval when it comes to our ministry and lifestyle.

Free of Flattery and Greed (v.5)

Paul could confidently argue that his ministry was not tainted with flattery or covetousness. Flattery is deceitfully saying nice things to gain a following. A godly steward’s preaching must “comfort the afflicted and afflict the comforted” and should be exercised for the common good (1 Cor. 12:7, RSV). The goal of a preacher is not popularity but to convince, rebuke and exhort, instilling in his audience a high view of God and leading them to a place of worship. Furthermore, Paul did not need a pretentious cover for covetousness because his heart was free of greed. A desire to have more is an evil companion for a preacher. A preacher’s attitude towards money speaks volumes about his character.¹ Stay clear of flattery, greed, and selfish ambition (Phil. 2:3).

Seeking God’s Praise (v.6)

As a heat-seeking missile, Paul was in constant pursuit of God’s praise and approval. The Greek word for “glory” is “*doxa*” meaning dignity, preeminence. Here, the word “glory” probably indicates some kind of material gifts or stipend.² Paul refused to be put on a pedestal with its associated material gain, standing in stark contrast to Diotrophes who desired preeminence in the assembly (3 John 9). The Lord Jesus both taught and demonstrated to His disciples the attitude of humility and service (Luke 22:27; John 13:3-17). Therefore, His servants do not have any reason to seek after man’s praise. Let the stewards of the gospel seek after divine approval and, like Paul, glory in nothing but the cross of Christ (Gal. 6:14).

Gentleness (v.7)

Paul now moves on to talk about the manner of life they had practiced among the saints in Thessalonica. Paul and his helpers were gentle among them as a nursing mother. The word “*epios*” is used to portray the kindness that parents have toward children. Instead of making demands, they exercised the same gentleness which a nursing mother would show her child. This figure of a nursing mother, as opposed to a hired nurse, shows a special effort to provide earnest care even to the point of self-sacrifice. Do we have such a care toward the people to whom we preach?

A Shepherd’s Heart (v.8)

Paul had an affectionate desire for the saints at Thessalonica. It is only too easy to remain aloof when preaching. This was an alien concept to Paul’s heart. As a result of their intense longing for the saints, there came the continuous delight to share not


only the gospel with them but also their very lives. Paul and his men were ready to “*spend and be spent*” for their converts (2 Cor. 12:15). The supreme example of Christ who laid down His life for the sheep, motivated these missionaries to do both the work of an evangelist as well as the work of a shepherd. May the Lord of the harvest raise up more preachers with a shepherd’s heart.

Sole Dependence Upon God (v.9)

Paul and his companions’ hands were also “lined and calloused by hard work.”³ Paul recalled their around-the-clock labor to support themselves so that they could present the gospel “free of charge” (1 Cor. 9:18). Part of the upbringing of a Jewish child involved learning a trade and Paul had been taught the trade of tentmaking (Acts 18:3). Paul would later tell the Ephesian elders that he not only worked hard to support himself but also the others who were with him (Acts 20:34). Whether the preacher supports himself with a secular job or is commended by the local assembly for full time work, they must solely look to God for their sustenance, avoiding unhealthy ties with organizations that could undermine their dependence upon the Lord alone.

Vertical and Horizontal Integrity (v.10)

Men can see our conduct but only God can see our motives. For this reason, Paul appeals to God and the Thessalonian saints as witnesses to his character and to that of his fellow-laborers. Their manner of life was an open book which could be read and inspected by anyone. The word “devoutly” speaks of one’s relationship and duties to God Himself; the word “justly” shows one’s transparent dealings with other men; the word “blamelessly” means no charge could be brought up and proved. Both vertical and horizontal witnesses to integrity are essential for a fruitful steward of the gospel.

The preacher is a favorite target of the enemy. Therefore, such men must take heed to both their private and public lives so that they might always be “*bold in our God*” to carry out what God has called them to do (v.2). 

Endnotes:

¹E. Wilson, *What The Bible Teaches*, 1 Thessalonians (Kilmarnock, Scotland: John Ritchie Ltd., 1983), p.23

²W.E. Vine, *The Collected Writings of W.E. Vine*, Vol. 3 (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996), p.32

³Wilson, *What The Bible Teaches*, 1 Thessalonians, p.25



by Collins Peter

Collins Peter, with his wife Kelsi, live in West Kelowna, British Columbia. They are in happy fellowship and serving the saints at Westbank Bible Chapel.



GUARDING OUR HEARTS

TWO BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

In ancient times the narrow Gaza Strip, measuring 140 square miles, was given the name *Philistia* by the Greeks. The Philistines were an aggressive, warlike “Sea People” who arrived on the southern shores of the Mediterranean from Crete in about 1208 B.C. After an unsuccessful invasion of Egypt, they settled in the coastal area of the southern Levant – about two centuries after the arrival of Joshua and his conquering Israelite armies. Like their Canaanite neighbors, the Philistines were polytheistic, claiming Dagon as their chief deity.

Most of the original Philistine population was dispersed over the centuries by several world powers including the mighty Babylonian army. Archaeological records indicate they ceased to exist as a separate entity by the late 5th Century B.C. For a time, however, these militaristic people proved formidable archenemies of Israel, especially during the time of the judges and the reigns of kings Saul and David.

Many incidents and pitched battles are recorded in Scripture. In these accounts we are introduced to several valiant Israelites who were prominent in freeing their nation from the grip of the Philistines. These included two judges, Shamgar and Samson, three kings, Saul, David, and Hezekiah along with Saul’s son, Jonathan.

Despite the heroics of such warriors as Shamgar and Jonathan, two towering, larger-than-life figures emerged in

this prolonged war against the Philistines; two very distinct individuals who strode dramatically across the landscape of ancient Israel - Samson and King David.

Samson

Samson (Jdg. 13-16; Heb. 11:32) lived at a time in Israel’s history when the country spent long stretches subjugated by the Philistines. Hand-picked by God to help free Israel from these oppressors and endowed with super-human strength, Samson proved to be a real thorn-in-the-side of these persistent adversaries.

Five distinct occasions are recorded in which Samson wreaked havoc against Philistia:

- When his wife’s betrayal caused him to lose a bet at their wedding, he became enraged and killed 30 men in Ashkelon to pay off his losses.
- When his wife was given to another man, he set fire to the grain fields of the Philistines.
- When his wife was murdered, he slaughtered a great number of Philistines.
- When the Philistines came to arrest him following the previous incident, he killed 1000 with the jawbone of a donkey.
- Finally, when blind and bound in the temple of Dagon, he brought the building down, killing 3000 Philistines to avenge the loss of his two eyes (Jdg. 16:28).

Despite being called by God to deliver his people from the hand of the Philistines (Jdg. 13:5), Samson's motivation was always personal and followed on the heels of a particular slight. Revenge seemed to be the sole motive that spurred him into action.

Never does Samson lead an army into battle; never does he assault the Philistines when the Lord God of Israel is disparaged by them. He was carnal and narcissistic, too often only interested in satisfying his own immediate desires. He may even be seen as a collaborator, for despite being one of Israel's judges, he went so far as to marry into Philistine society, which God had strictly forbidden (Deut. 7:3). Although he does cause quite a stir from time to time, his responsibilities as Israel's judge did not free the Israelites from bondage, for this was never one of his priorities.

King David

David was the epitome of a warrior king, one who spent his life courageously leading his armies into battle. Four specific instances stand out as occasions that made a real impact in removing Philistia as a threat to his people:

- The first and most famous incident was his battle with the Philistine giant, Goliath. When the giant goaded the Israelite army and denigrated their God, David stepped to the forefront and killed Goliath in battle. His motive was not for selfish gain or revenge, but because this enemy offended the God he loved. *"For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"* (1 Sam. 17:26)
- The second incident was when Saul attempted to entrap David by demanding 100 Philistine foreskins in exchange for his daughter's hand in marriage. David returned with 200 foreskins (1 Sam. 18:25-27)
- The third event occurred when David and his men saved the town of Keilah from the Philistines (1 Sam. 23)
- The fourth and most important event took place in the Valley of Rephaim where David's army soundly defeated the Philistines (2 Sam. 5:17-25). Here, David twice asked God for guidance and twice the Lord responded with encouragement and direction.

Conclusion


Samson was one who was supremely gifted by God; one who could have rallied Israel against the Philistines as did Deborah, one of the nation's more successful judges (Jdg. 4-5). Yet Samson persisted in acting as a lone wolf, only responding to the Philistines after enduring a personal offense. David, on the other hand, worked in dependence upon God in subduing the troublesome Philistines and as a result they never again enslaved His people.

In these two men we find two principal attitudes which are prevalent among many believers today:

1. Despite his shortcomings, Samson was a man used of God; in fact, he is listed among the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11. His biography, however, leaves us wondering how much more he might have accomplished if he had walked with the Lord as David did. Samson's incredible strength caused him to become proud and self-sufficient. As a result, he turned his back on God and lost his way. It was prophesied to his mother that her son would *"begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines."* Although he did indeed begin this work, he ended up leaving it for another to complete – King David. Second Timothy 2:4 says: *"No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."* (ESV)

"SAMSON AND DAVID WERE BOTH GREAT NATIONAL HEROES WHO SHARED MANY POSITIVE TRAITS (I.E., COURAGE AND CHARISMA), BUT THEIR HEARTS WERE VASTLY DIFFERENT."

2. For most of his life, David was sold out for God and loved the Lord with all his heart. Despite his mistakes and sinfulness, he was still a man after God's own heart and was used mightily in His service (1 Sam. 13:14). Colossians 3:23 says, *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."* (ESV)

Samson and David were both great national heroes who shared many positive traits (i.e., courage and charisma), but their hearts were vastly different. 

See page 14 for a comparison chart of David and Samson...



by Nathanael Reed

Nathanael is a retired elementary school teacher and principal. He and his wife, Joyce, presently live in St. Thomas, Ontario, and fellowship at Southdale Bible Chapel in London. Nat has authored six books including *Designated for Assignment: God's Love in the Minor Prophets* (John Ritchie Publishing).

THE GOSPEL HERALD



"Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day."

I Chronicles 16:23

Like Father, Like Son

THE TESTIMONY OF JIM PAUL

Early Beginnings

I was raised in a Christian home by parents who fellowshipped at a small assembly in my hometown of Broxburn, Scotland, 12 miles west of Edinburgh. My father had become a Christian in his late teens and was the first to get saved in his family. Later he led his mother and three sisters to the Lord while others rejected the Gospel. My mother's family was my main spiritual link and many of her uncles and aunts were connected to various brethren assemblies. My grandmother's home was a spiritual hub and many Saturdays the family would meet and have some wonderful discussions on the Scriptures. As a boy I loved to listen to them. After I was saved, I had some great fellowship with those godly men and women who were a big spiritual influence on my life.

My Favorite Uncle

From childhood I attended Sunday School and later the Bible Class (which was the youth group). At one point my Bible Class leader John Miller taught through the book of Exodus

for one hour each week. Although I wasn't saved at that point, he left a deep impression that remains with me to this day. The biggest single spiritual influence was my uncle Jim Paterson, my mother's youngest brother. When I was born, he was only 9 years old and as a boy he would take me for walks on Sunday afternoons. He would go to his friend's house, change his clothes, and then go to the park for a game of football (soccer). In those days if the police saw you playing, they would chase you home as it was in their eyes the Sabbath Day. Afterwards he would go back and change his clothes again to return home. When he was 18 years old, he joined the Royal Air Force. One weekend when home on leave my father led him to the Savior and he was wonderfully saved.

Spiritual Convictions

I was brought up under the preaching of the Gospel from an early age and never doubted the truth of what I heard. However, it had little effect on me until I reached the age of 13. At that time very few people had TVs, but my mother's aunt had one. I went once a week to watch my favorite program there. In March 1955, Billy Graham came to Glasgow for a major crusade. There were no religious broadcasts on TV then, but the BBC allowed

one service of the crusade to be shown. That night when I went in to see her, she said, “Jim, your program cannot be watched tonight because there is a young American evangelist speaking on TV.” My Uncle Bill wanted to see it. Although I was a little disappointed, she gave me the option to go home or stay so I decided to stay. My aunt was not a believer, but Uncle Bill was, although he was not walking with the Lord. He was going out to work the night shift but had 15 minutes to see “what this American was like.” Once the service started, he never moved for an hour until it was finished. At the end Uncle Bill said, “he’s got the real thing.” Then he left. Sometime after that my aunt was saved! When I walked home in the dark, I was under deep conviction about my sin that stayed with me all through the summer. I could not shake it off. In the month of October my grandmother whom I loved dearly became very ill. She was a godly lady who influenced my life in a big way. I knew she prayed for me every day. My mother and little sister Ann went for two weeks to stay with her. I thought she was going to die, and I would never see her again. As it turned out, she lived another five years before the Lord called her to her heavenly home.

Spiritual Conversion

While mum was away, I stayed at home with my Dad. I always enjoyed his company. He was a very quiet man and although I had never heard him preach publicly, he was a soul winner. One night on the 18th day of October 1955, I got into bed beside him and asked him to tell me about World War 2. He loved to tell stories, so he told me a few things about it. Seeing he had my attention he said to me, “You know Jim, those brave men and women left home to fight a dangerous enemy. Many of them laid down their lives so that we might be free.” There was a short time of silence. Then my Dad said, “That’s not totally right Jim for none wanted to die there, they all wanted to come home. Only one person laid down his life willingly and that was Jesus.”

Continuing on He told me about Calvary and how Jesus suffered to pay the price for my sin. Quoting John 3:16, he told me that God loved me and that if I believed Jesus died for me, I would be ready for heaven. That night turning to my Dad I said, “I believe it with all my heart and now I am saved.” What joy filled my soul, and that decision changed my life forever! Maybe someone reading this has never trusted Jesus as their Savior. I urge you to put your trust in Him, believing that He died and rose again for you. Doing this, your sins will be forgiven, and you will know that you are on your way to heaven. Do this before it is too late!

A Passion For Souls


On the 23rd of May 1956, I was baptized and began walking in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). On the 27th of May I was received into fellowship with the Broxburn Assembly and for the first time broke bread in remembrance of the Lord who died for me. At that time our assembly had a Monday night tract band

activity, when some went out into the town and surrounding villages giving out tracts and preaching in the open air. I soon joined them and got involved in tract distribution and open-air preaching.

“I pray that some believer reading this today will seek to become a soul winner. May the Lord encourage your heart to get involved in some of the many areas of evangelism.”

During one of my first experiences at age 15, excitedly venturing out on my own in fear and trembling, I walked up a very large driveway where there was an elderly lady working in her garden. She was probably not that old (at 15 anyone over 30 seemed old). I offered her a Gospel tract. Well, she stood up straight and said, “I don’t need that. Do you realize who I am? I am the daughter of a minister of the Church of Scotland and when I die Saint Peter will be waiting for me at the golden gate of heaven to welcome me in.” Being my first attempt at evangelizing I said, “You can’t get to Heaven unless you are born again.” She replied, “How can I possibly be born all over again?” I said, “There is a man in the Bible who asked the very same question, and the Lord Jesus explained the difference between a physical birth and a spiritual birth.”

At that point she raised her garden rake and proceeded to chase me halfway down her driveway. I asked myself, “Why am I running away from an old woman?” So, I turned and faced her saying, “Jesus said, you must be born again to enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Well, she chased me the rest of the way out. That night on my knees I prayed for that dear lady who thought she was going to heaven just because of who she was. This gave me a real desire to get out and speak to more people about the Lord. After all these years I still enjoy door to door visitation.

One of my favorite verses of Scripture is “*He who wins souls is wise*” (Prov. 11:30). I pray that some believer reading this today will seek to become a soul winner. May the Lord encourage your heart to get involved in some of the many areas of evangelism. 



by Jim Paul

Jim was commended to the work of the Lord by his assembly in Broxburn, Scotland in 1981 and by the Bridlewood assembly in Ottawa, Ontario in 1991. Jim has been involved in prison ministry, camp work, volunteer on call hospital chaplaincy, and has preached the Word throughout Canada and the US. He presently lives in Port Colborne, Ontario with his wife, Elizabeth.

Report: The Emmaus App



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A Brief History

IN 1938, Ed Harlow, a young missionary in the Belgian Congo, felt a divine calling to establish a Bible school in North America. Shortly after, he left his mission station and traveled to Toronto, Canada, where, in 1941, he, along with John Smart and Ernest Tatham, founded Emmaus Bible School.

After the first year, it became clear that many others were eager to benefit from the solid Bible teaching offered at Emmaus Bible School. However, not everyone could attend the school in Toronto. To address this, Harlow and Smart created correspondence courses based on the material taught at Emmaus, effectively establishing the Emmaus Correspondence School. This school became an independent organization in 2002, separate from Emmaus Bible College.

The reach of the Emmaus Correspondence School grew from the local distribution of three courses created from lecture notes at the Toronto school to a worldwide distribution of over 40 million courses in 100 languages across 120 countries by 2011.

My own experience with Emmaus courses began in June 2013, as a diploma student of the Emmaus Correspondence Centre Canada. Having recently been named an elder in my

local assembly, I needed a more disciplined approach to Bible study to be better equipped as an elder. Before long we were using several Emmaus courses for our mid-week Prayer and Bible Study meetings. Four years later, I had completed the 144 course credits required for the diploma. It was during this time, as a recent retiree from secular work, that I sensed the calling to be involved in the Emmaus ministry. My assembly commended my wife, Murielle, and I to the Lord's work at the Emmaus Centre as well as to the ministry of the gospel in northwestern Quebec both at the local assembly and in camp work.

Disruption Advances innovation

Whether disruption be political, technological, or other, organizations need to be flexible to respond. Consider the disruption that digital cameras represented to Kodak and its business model that was based on the sale and processing of film. The disruption would further be exaggerated when cameras were included in the modern smartphone.

Prior to my retirement as a member of a provincial distance education team, I remember a colleague reaching into his pocket for his smartphone and exclaiming that this device would be the platform for future distance education courses, replacing the personal computer. I was a bit skeptical as I wondered how a 3.5" screen would replace a 15" screen.

My colleague was correct, and the principal reasons were mobility and affordability. There are an estimated 6.7 billion smartphone subscriptions worldwide making the devices almost ubiquitous even in poorer countries where cellphone usage varies between 33 and 55% (2021).

In 2015, during the refugee crisis in Europe, particularly in Germany, ZAM (Zentralafrika-Mission) sought to provide evangelical literature, specifically Emmaus courses, to refugees. Realizing that they did not have the resources to distribute Emmaus paper courses, the idea of creating a mobile application was conceived.

After many months of planning, developing, and programming, the Emmaus App was launched in October 2017, initially offering courses in six languages, with about six courses in each language. Additional languages and courses were gradually added, and the app now offers courses in 31 languages, totaling 461 courses.

As regional director for French-speaking North America, I was invited to join the team of connectors in 2021 as usage of the mobile app by francophone students grew exponentially. Peter Kerr, regional director for English Canada took on the responsibility for Canada, the UK, and Ireland. My first assignment was to be a connector with students from Haiti and before long expanding to francophones worldwide.

The Emmaus App was well positioned to be quickly adopted, as the existing network of worldwide regional directors would be trained on the use and promotion of the app in their respective countries. Many of these directors would also be responsible for seeing new languages and courses added to the app.

By way of illustration, in June of 2021, there were roughly 5,000 active students and by January 2024 an estimated 15,500 active students would be studying Emmaus Correspondence courses online. Students from 195 different countries have completed 274,000 courses since the Emmaus App launched in October 2017.

One of the most notable features of the Emmaus app, aside from the courses themselves, is the opportunity for the student to connect with a mentor. These mentors, also known as “connectors” in the Emmaus community, provide feedback, answering questions as well as providing prayer support to the students.

As impressive as the story that the quantitative data conveys, how much more extraordinary are the personal stories of spiritual growth, commitment to Christian living, and testimonies of those having come to Christ for salvation after reading in a course that the Bible teaches that salvation is by grace and not of works.

A Tour of the Emmaus App

Currently, the English version of the Emmaus App is the home of 50 Emmaus course titles which can be studied on or offline. Each course has integrated Bibles in many languages with footnotes, cross references, and search functions. The student can complete courses anonymously or submit

completed courses to a mentor for comment. The app is available on iOS (Apple) and Android devices as well as a web version for browsing on your personal computer (app.emmaus.study/en/courses).


The courses are typically divided into 6 to 12 lessons with each lesson followed by a multiple-choice exam and a short-answer question, as well as a space to ask a question, share a prayer request, or to simply comment on the course.

Sven Becker, the app team leader with ZAM, recently shared that there is a major app update planned for 2024 which promises to provide students with more motivation in working with the Emmaus app.

How To Access the Courses

Intrigued? Why not download the app and give a course a try. The app is 100% free. The Emmaus App ministry looks solely to the Lord to meet the needs of the ministry.

Simply visit www.emmaus-app.com or scan the QR code to get started. You will be richly blessed.

For those more comfortable with the traditional paper courses, they can be purchased from Emmaus Worldwide at emmausworldwide.org (USA) or from The Emmaus Correspondence Centre Canada at ecccanada.org. 



by Rick Beaulieu

Richard is an elder at l'Assemblée Chrétienne Évangélique in Notre-Dame du Nord (Québec). In addition to his involvement with the Emmaus Centre Canada, he also serves in camp work at Camp Joli-B.



FOUNDATIONS *of the faith*



The Priesthood *of* All Believers

way for every believer in Himself to come boldly to the throne of grace “to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16). There is no need for any person on earth to represent us before God. Positionally, we have been raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places with Christ (Eph. 2:1-6) despite what we were before we came to faith in Him. This means we can enjoy access into God’s presence all the time through faith in Him – praise the Lord.

One of the greatest privileges that every Christian possesses is access into the very presence of God. Romans 5:2 reminds us that we have “access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” We rejoice not only because we are accepted in Christ and have a perfect standing before God, but also because this access is not dependent upon the spiritual efforts of someone else. Every believer has already been “made fit” through the merits of Christ (Col. 1:12), the only truly qualified Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5). Because of His sinless life and sacrificial death at Calvary, Christ opened the

In the Old Testament, God had said to His people, the nation of Israel, that they were a “special treasure” and “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:5-6). As such, they could have and should have enjoyed ongoing access into the presence of God. However, at Mount Sinai they failed miserably in their spiritual privileges by committing idolatry and immorality (Ex. 32). When Moses challenged the people to take a stand for the Lord, only the tribe of Levi came forward to express their allegiance to God. Others faced severe chastisement because of their sin. As a result, the tribe of Levi was honored with the

priesthood which became their exclusive privilege from that time forward.

In the Old Testament, the role of Israel's priests in the service of the Tabernacle (and later with the Temple) was to represent the people before God. Priests had the responsibility to take the offerings that were brought to them and then bring them to God on behalf of the offeror. In effect, it was a two-class system – the people who brought their sacrifices, and the priests who offered up those sacrifices to God while other Levites served in other ways. The priest's focus and responsibility were heavenward and related to worship while other Levites' focus and responsibility were horizontal and related to service among the people. This is how spiritual service was accomplished.

However, despite this tremendous privilege and responsibility there was still much failure on the part of the priesthood. The Old Testament is replete with examples of rank irresponsibility within the priesthood. This was true throughout Israel's history, especially during the dark days of the judges and right down to the time of Malachi. Some priests, like Samuel, demonstrated faithfulness to God, but others did not. Nevertheless, the priesthood was established by God and constituted the spiritual life of His people.

In the New Testament however, we see a completely different picture in the spiritual life of God's people, the Church. Instead of the two-class system that existed in Israel, we see no distinction in spiritual worship and service among God's people. Instead, all believers are entitled to access before the Lord in worship as well as the spiritual privilege to serve.


In Matthew 27:51, we read that at the precise moment the Lord died on Calvary, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Made of thick cloth, the veil represented a barrier between God and man thus preventing access into His presence except for the high priest once a year (Lev. 16). No hand of man could have ever torn that cloth. The fact that it was torn from top to bottom indicated that it came from the unseen hand of God which made it possible for this to take place. In the words of a Fanny Crosby hymn, He was opening "the life gates that all may go in."

What it means to us today is that there is nothing that bars anyone from coming into God's presence when they come through faith in Christ and His finished work. Additionally, this means that a believer does not have to rely on the work of another person to represent them before God. It also means that service for the Lord is not the exclusive privilege of a separate

class of people, but rather it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer in Christ. As 1 Peter 2:5 puts it, we are a "holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." This truth is written to all believers, not just to a separate class. The focus is an upward worship of God to offer up spiritual (not physical) sacrifices, one that does not require the services of another. Further, in verse 9, the Word of God states that we are a royal priesthood to "proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." The emphasis here is on our witness and service for the Lord – a horizontal emphasis compared to the vertical emphasis on worship in verse 5.

The New Testament truth of the priesthood of all believers stands in direct contrast to present-day Christendom. By relegating these privileges to a certain class of people, Christendom reverts to an Old Testament model of clergy-laity distinctions and disregards this truth of access and service to be exercised by all believers. One part of Christendom emphasizes the need for a particular individual to represent the people, while another emphasizes the need for education and theological training to qualify such an individual for spiritual service.

Not so! These distinctions have been put away in Christ. What was true in Israel before the events at Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:5-6) has been restored through the Lord's finished work of redemption. There is now no "clergy-laity" distinction. If anything, it is not the "clergy" but the "laity" concept that is the problem today! Continuous access into the presence of God and service for the Lord through the spiritual gifts given to each one is the privilege and responsibility of every believer in Christ. It is not just the domain of a certain group of people (see Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:27).

The priesthood of all believers is a treasured truth of New Testament teaching. May each Christian fully understand their blessings and privileges in Christ and act on them in their daily walk with Him. 

“Because of His sinless life and sacrificial death at Calvary, Christ opened the way for every believer in Himself to come boldly to the throne of grace.”

by Mark Kolchin
Mark served as editor of Cornerstone Magazine from 2018-2023. He travels throughout the US and Canada in a Bible teaching and conference speaking ministry. He also heads up Know the Word Ministries Inc., located on the web at knowtheword.com. He and his wife Cindy were commended to the Lord's work in 1993 from Bethany Bible Chapel in Toms River, NJ.





IN

bringing Israel across the Jordan, the Lord taught them that He was with them as He was in previous generations. They could with confidence know He was the living God and could confidently go forward with Him in faith (Josh. 3:10; 4:21-24). Have you gone forward with God by faith? May our brief personal account of the Lord's faithfulness encourage your increased confidence in Him (1 Tim. 4:10).

Stepping Out in Faith Strengthens Prayer

Since we began reducing our working hours twenty years ago, the Lord has always provided for us. Sixteen years ago, He directed us to move with our three young children to a new area. The purpose was for God to raise up a new assembly there, which He did six years later. With the planting of the new assembly, our heavenly Father arranged for us to leave full-time employment in order to have more time to invest in the Lord's work. These steps were taken as part of the body of Christ, seeking the local assembly leadership's agreement so that we were not acting independently (Acts 13:1-4). When spiritually or financially challenging times have come, we have been thankful to confidently remind our God that He led us forward.

The Lord Provides Well-timed Gifts

We have trusted God to provide for our needs without soliciting funds because we see this direct trust in God practiced

in Scripture. He sometimes has provided specific gifts from saints at specific times as a means of encouraging us. The first time we received a personal gift from a fellow believer occurred when we were praying about Bruce leaving his full-time job. The first time we received an assembly gift unrelated to a teaching visit was on the very day we asked God for extra confirmation about Bruce leaving his full-time job. Praise the Lord for His sovereign timing to encourage us!

The Lord Sovereignly Opens Doors

God's servants need the Lord to guide them and open doors. Having moved, we chose a piano teacher who turned out to be the wife of a department chair in a nearby college, whom we got to know. Later he asked Bruce to teach a course, which opened a door for ministry to students which is still ongoing. God had sovereignly chosen our children's piano teacher. Years ago, when he was in college, Bruce had changed majors thinking the new major might be useful if the Lord called him to missionary work. Guess what course needed an adjunct? The specific area Bruce had switched to. Our God had sovereignly arranged it as we walked in obedience to Him.

Our God Helps Us Go Forward

It can be intimidating to go forward with God using our spiritual gifts in the ministries He entrusts to us. But the work is the Lord's. How freeing that is. Be part of starting a new assembly? Actively engage in personal shepherding? Have forty

young people in our home each month for Bible teaching and homecooked meals? Yes! When so clearly prompted of God, it would be disobedience to not go forward by faith. We have often had concerns, yet the Lord has faithfully helped every time. It is so good to trust and obey Him.

The Lord Provides For Specific Needs

Our home has been a hub of rich teaching, shepherding and fellowship with about 10,000 visitors during the last 15 years, and Amie has fed many of them. The kitchen was very small with five doorways, so it was essentially a hallway. Neither good nor safe. Yet we persisted in serving and prayed for five years regarding improving the kitchen to better facilitate hospitality. Eventually, God gave us the idea to look for a “used” kitchen. He provided us with a barely used, eleven-year-old and fully outfitted kitchen for 10% of what a new one was worth. The hard surface countertops fit perfectly into the available space.

“WHEN SO CLEARLY PROMPTED OF GOD, IT WOULD BE DISOBEDIENCE TO NOT GO FORWARD BY FAITH...IT IS SO GOOD TO TRUST AND OBEY HIM.”

Building Fellowship

It is a joy being part of God’s work which brings closer fellowship in Christ’s body than we would otherwise experience. On one occasion, the Lord opened the door to drive six hours to teach, but we only had enough funds for gas to get there. A few minutes before we left, a brother from our assembly stopped by with cash that had been given to him, but which he did not think he needed. The Lord knew we needed it, so the Spirit put it on this brother’s heart though he did not know about our financial situation. It was an act of God’s kindness in answer to prayer and, as a result, we and this dear brother have a shared experience of the living God at work.

Stepping Out Into the Unknown


How blessed it is to genuinely walk by faith in Christ. There are times when, through communing with the Lord, we have a settled mind that He says to go forward even though we do not know how it will work out financially. We advertised our house in obedience to the Lord’s prompting us to move from York to

Mechanicsburg, not knowing how it would work out. We knew the Lord was guiding us, and the assembly and its leadership agreed. Praise God, the day our check left the mailbox for a down payment to purchase our new house, three separate tax refund checks replaced it, totaling twice the amount of the down payment. We journaled that day: “It is so unquestionably the hand of the Lord in timing! He withheld the returns until now, and yet was not a moment too late – for they ARRIVED the day we wrote the deposit check! Yes, the Lord is with us. Oh, my heart, do not forget it. Your God is directing. Trust Him and go with confidence in your living God!”

Ongoing Fellowship With the Lord

While the faithful care and mighty hand of God in the past encourages us, we have continuing fellowship with Him. We remember the past but also desire to continue actively and confidently trusting Him for the future (Josh. 3:10). While there are certainly times of struggle in prayer and need for patience, we would not exchange this living fellowship with the Lord for anything in the world.

Encouraging Others by Example

There is such joy and purpose in dependent obedience to the Lord. In a sense, this is just imitating Abraham, Joshua, Daniel, and Paul. May all our lives similarly inspire the next generation to active dependence on the reliable God. In the last few years, we have had the joy of seeing a young couple “risk on God” in moving to our area to support the assembly and a nearby camp ministry. They came, not knowing how their employment situation would work out but believing that the Lord had led them. In time, the Lord richly provided the needed job. Even more, He encouraged them forward in this joyful life of obedient faith in the Lord. May it be so for many more saints for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. 



by Bruce & Amie Hulshizer

Located in Mechanicsburg PA, Bruce and Amie minister in their commending assembly, to local college students, and in various ways at Greenwood Hills Bible Camp and Conference Center. Bruce manages Saints Serving music recordings, teaches at assemblies and conferences, and on the Encourage Depending YouTube channel.

COMPARING THE HEARTS OF SAMSON AND DAVID

SAMSON		DAVID	
INCIDENT	SAMSON'S REACTION	INCIDENT	DAVID'S REACTION
<p>1. Personal Betrayal His Philistine wife betrays him at their wedding.</p>	<p>He leaves his wife and the wedding in a rage, kills 30 Philistines, and takes their clothing to fulfill a lost bet. (Jdg. 14)</p>	<p>Personal Betrayal Despite Saul's previous assurances, Saul goes back on his word and seeks to kill David. (1 Sam. 26)</p>	<p>David makes no effort to wrest the throne from "God's anointed" and grieves for Saul upon his death. (2 Sam. 1:17)</p>
<p>2. His Wife is Given to Another After Samson leaves his wedding in a huff, his father-in-law gives her to another.</p>	<p>Sets fire to the Philistines' grain fields. (Jdg. 15)</p>	<p>His Wife is Given to Another After David marries Saul's daughter, Michal, Saul gives her to Paltiel. (2 Sam. 3:14-16)</p>	<p>David retrieves his wife but makes no effort to seek revenge on Paltiel or any of Saul's family.</p>
<p>3. Taking Advice When Samson expresses his wish to marry a Philistine, his parents object. (Jdg. 14:1-4)</p>	<p>Samson insists and marries the woman. As a result, she is murdered along with her father.</p>	<p>Taking Advice Nabal insults David and refuses to help him. (1 Sam. 25)</p>	<p>David is convinced by Abigail not to take revenge. David agrees and later admits that this action was correct.</p>
<p>4. Who Gets the Credit? After slaying 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey, Samson creates a poem glorifying himself.</p>	<p>With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey have I struck down a thousand men. (Jdg. 15:16)</p>	<p>Who Gets the Credit? Despite being harassed by his enemies, David exudes confidence and gives glory to God.</p>	<p>He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah. God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness! (Psa. 57:3)</p>
<p>5. Taking God's Word Seriously Samson passes the carcass of the lion that he had earlier killed and sees a hive of honey in the carcass. (Jdg. 14:8-9)</p>	<p>Samson casually eats honey from the carcass (an unclean dead animal) and then gives it to his parents without telling them where it came from, rendering them unclean as well as himself. (Num. 6:6)</p>	<p>Taking God's Word Seriously Throughout David's life he persevered at following God's will and taking his commandments seriously.</p>	<p>The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (Psa. 19:7)</p>

ISSUES & ANSWERS

“SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES...”

JOHN 5:39

Should a Believer Worship the Holy Spirit?

First, we must have an appreciation for who the Holy Spirit is and how He functions within the Godhead. In the Great Commission, Christ affirms the deity of the Person of the Holy Spirit by stating the one singular Name of the triune God: “... baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19). Here, and elsewhere, the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is equal with the other two Persons of the Godhead. Paul cites all members of the Trinity as intrinsic to God’s redemption plan, co-equal, co-existent, and cooperating in securing the believer’s salvation (Rom. 8:8-11). Just two verses later, the Spirit of God is making believers “*sons of God*” (Rom. 8:13-14). How can He do such unless He is God?


Having briefly established His identity, it behooves us to measure His function within the Godhead. The Spirit of God has several roles pertinent to the believer’s relationship to Jesus Christ. First, He immerses or fashions us into the Body of Christ and He does so without a discriminatory agenda (1 Cor 12:13). Second, He performed a remembrance and illumination of Christ’s words to the disciples who authored the New Testament, even as the Lord prophesied in His Upper Room discourse (John 14:26). Third, the Spirit then taught and continues to teach post-apostolic believers all things (1 John 2:20, 27).

One of the more relevant observations is how the Lord Jesus explains the Spirit’s function in relation to Himself. For example, the Lord declares that the future work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify and testify of Him (John 15:26; 16:14). In fact, what He communicates will not be an independent ideology based upon His own authority, but truth that is given to Him from the Father (John 16:13). Furthermore, the Holy Spirit will serve to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ by giving this truth to His listeners (John 16:14). The concept of “glorify” carries this idea: “To influence one’s opinion about another so as to enhance the latter’s reputation, praise, honor, extol.”¹ Thus, if the Spirit is operating to elevate and enhance the presentation of Christ, then the Spirit is pointing worship to Him and not to Himself.

Perhaps the most graphic demonstration of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit is in the book of Revelation. In Revelation 4:5, we have a statement that describes the fullness of all the unique dimensions of the Spirit within the heavenly

throne room. Then, a series of worshipful expressions are pronounced. The first is from the four living creatures which, at a minimum, would represent some measure of angelic expression depicting facets of God’s unique character (4:6–8; cf. Eze. 10; Isa. 6). They worship the Father by declaring His pristine holiness. Then, the twenty-four elders enter the scene who reflect pre-tribulation saints who are giving their crowns to God. They also worship the Father (4:10-11).²

Notice, however, when the record moves to chapter five, the Lord Jesus becomes the central focus of attention (5:6a), while the Holy Spirit and all His fullness is still present (5:6b). The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures now express their worship directly to the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ (5:8-10). The Father is sanctioning the hour. Yet, the Holy Spirit in all His abundance is also present. No worship is given to the Spirit nor does He redirect the attention of the worshippers to Himself. Focus and adoration is only upon Christ. It seems that if we were to worship the Holy Spirit, this would be a significant occasion to establish that paradigm. Worship of Christ is further confirmed by innumerable angelic hosts joining to praise the Lamb. Then all creatures of the cosmos join in, both heavenward and earthward. Within this exponential explosion of worship, it is only the Father and Christ who are the objects of adoration (5:11-14).

Should we worship the Holy Spirit? Scripture does not support such worship. Rather, the Spirit would have us glorify the Son and the Father. May we do the same and follow the Spirit’s direction. 

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2000), p.258.

² John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), p.944.



by Steve Price

Steve and Janet Price live in the Kansas City area and have nine children and eight grandchildren. They fellowship at Bible Chapel of Shawnee where Steve serves as an elder. They were commended to full time work in 2017. Steve is involved in itinerant ministry, discipleship training, medical missions, Israel tours, and providing telemedical assistance to missionary and full-time workers through Assembly Care Ministries.

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27th Annual Ladies Retreat

► **September 27-29, 2024**

Camp Hope 7011 Pony Lake Rd Dahlonega, GA 30533

Come join them for a weekend of refreshment and encouragement in the Word. The speaker is Tammy Hollingsworth of Augusta, Ga. There will also be breakout sessions, craft time, free time to explore the area, and plenty of time for fellowship with other ladies. For more information and to register visit camphopega.org or call 770-536-4787.

Weekend in the Word

► **September 27-29th, 2024**

20 Bergen Ave, Voorhees, NJ

Community Gospel Chapel in Voorhees, NJ will be hosting their annual Weekend in the Word Bible Conference on Fri. Sept. 27 through Sun. Sept. 29th, 2024. Mark Kolchn from Know the Word Ministries will be the speaker. All sessions are in-person and on Zoom and YouTube. Local accommodations are available. For more information and to obtain Zoom login information, contact Sherman Fray at safray@msn.com.

3rd Annual Danforth Bible Conference

► **November 1-3, 2024**

Danforth Gospel Hall

2237 Danforth Ave. Toronto, ON. M4C 1K4

Danforth Gospel Hall will be celebrating their 125th anniversary with special anniversary presentations. The theme is: "Great is thy faithfulness." The expected speakers are Jack Baker, Bruno Morel, and Bill Yuille. For more information contact Michael Thomas at 416-795-0389 or big_m_prop@hotmail.com.

Camp Hope Fall Family Conference

► **November 8-10, 2024**

7011 Pony Lake Rd Dahlonega, GA

The Fall Family Conference begins Friday at 6:00 pm ending Sunday 1:00 pm. It is a weekend for families to get away and enjoy in-depth teaching from the Word of God and fellowship together. The speakers this year are George Ferrier (adults) and Nate Thomas (children). There will be a time for family activities, a campfire, ice cream sundaes, and great fellowship. For more information and to register, please contact Steve Roys at admin@camphopega.org or (678) 316-7309 or visit www.camphopega.org/fall-family-conference.

Help Wanted: Camp Hope

7011 Pony Lake Rd, Dahlonega, GA

Camp Hope has an open position for the Director of Maintenance. This is a full-time, salaried position responsible for the maintenance and repair of the camp's facilities, working with rental groups, and other duties. On campus housing or a stipend for off-campus housing will be provided. The candidate must have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. For qualifications and more information contact Steve Roys at 678-316-7309 or admin@camphopega.org.

Help Wanted: Rest Haven Homes

(www.resthavenhomes.org)

Rest Haven Homes, an assisted living facility in Grand Rapids, MI is seeking a Human Resources Director. The key responsibilities are: manage and facilitate recruiting, on-boarding, and retention of top talent; maintain compliance with regulatory issues relating to HR; oversee the benefits and salary administration; maintain records of staff licenses and trainings; and oversee any disciplinary issues. The qualifications are a bachelor's degree Human Resources, business management, or similar degree, and have at least 2 years of experience. The candidate must be a born-again Christian with a good testimony and commitment to fundamental biblical principles. For more information or a full job description please contact Isaac Taylor at itaylor@resthavenhomes.org or 616-363-6819.

Verdugo Pines Bible Camp Opportunities

Verdugo Pines Bible Camp is an assembly operated summer camp in Southern California, located in the Los Angeles national forest. There are two immediate openings: camp director and maintenance manager. The Director of Operations has overall oversight of camp facilities and operations, including spiritual leadership, upholding of camp standards and policies, representation of the camp to the public, execution of the camp board approved budget, security, and safety. The maintenance manager ensures the overall maintenance and cleanliness of the camp facilities and grounds, and is a representative example of the camp to internal staff and external visitors. For more information including a detailed job description please contact Dan Lim at daniel.000.lim@gmail.com, or Shawn Wicks, at parsonwicks@gmail.com or the camp at 760-249-3532. For camp information see www.verdugopinesbiblecamp.com/.

Help Wanted: Western Assemblies Home

Western Assemblies Home is prayerfully seeking to fill the position of Maintenance Tech. This is a salaried position, responsible for maintenance, yard work, and light repairs for 11 houses and the 10,000 square foot main building. The position will be available before the end of 2024. Western Assemblies Home is an assisted and independent living facility located 25 miles east of Los Angeles in Claremont, California. Compensation will be based on the needs and qualifications of the applicant. For more information please contact Lynn Hughes at lynnhughes@wahsocial.org or 909-626-3711.

Language School Director in a Special Area

There is a desire to develop a language school in Central Asia that teaches English and the local language. The objective is to train and equip believers to make disciples and then replicate the model in multiple cities. Initially it is preferred that the candidate is commended by their local assembly. The ideal candidate has a passionate commitment to Christ, experience in teaching and administrative abilities, and is fluent in English. Knowledge of the Russian language would be a plus. For more information, a complete work description, and to connect with those engaged in this ministry see <https://www.cmml.us/opportunity/language-school-director-special-area> or contact Craig Fritchey at CMML (ccfritchey@cmml.us).

The Heart of the Lord | F. B. Hole

Take the case of the woman who came behind the Lord and touched the hem of His garment. She had a great need, and by that simple act of faith her need was met. She had not ventured to touch the Lord in vain, she had got relief and was going away satisfied with that. But the Lord was not satisfied with that, He wanted her to know more than the virtue that could heal her, He wanted her to know the love that He had for such needed ones as she was. So now, He is not the Saviour merely to relieve us of our burden of sin and corruption, He is that, blessed be His name, but He would draw those He relieves into a close relationship with Himself. They have felt the extent of their need, He wants them to know the warmth of His heart that has relieved them of it. Acquaintance with the grace that saves us is wonderful, but acquaintance with the One from whom the grace comes is the greater blessedness.

https://www.stempublishing.com/authors/hole/Art/Heart_of_the_Lord.html
(Extracted from Scripture Truth Vol. 31, 1939, page 192.)

DECEMBER 27-30, 2024
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STEADFAST.
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Keeping Your Heart Close to God



*God's Holy Spirit now lives in your heart
To help you choose what is right.
But with frequent temptations to sin,
It's often not God, but ourselves, we delight!*

*In the Bible God gives us warnings,
That our heart we should carefully guard.
For it's easy to make wrong choices,
Causing closeness with God to be marred.*

*So, when you know in your heart you've failed,
Confess to God your particular sin.
He'll forgive wrong thoughts, words, and deeds—
Then you can sense His nearness again.*

*Each day of the week, prayer is vital,
And quality time in God's Word.
Take time to meditate on it,
And don't let life's busyness deter!*

*Seek God's wisdom and guidance each day;
Rejoice and sing in your heart to the Lord!
Tell others of His work in your life;
Pray that His truth will not be ignored!*

*Be wary of thinking too much of yourself,
And the things you feel you deserve.
For the Bible gives us instruction
That it's others we're to whole-heartedly serve.*

*Often spend time with God's people
Who have chosen the Bible as guide.
For together you can worship and grow,
And be encouraged to walk close by God's side.*

*And when life's trials come upon you,
And it seems that God is not near—
Remember His promise never to leave you;
He can give your heart peace to overcome fear.*

*So daily, with all of your heart
Seek to love God, to trust, to obey,
To serve, to follow, and to quickly return
When your heart has gone astray.*

