



# The Sharon Star

## Enter In

*By Nat Swaan*

Psalms 100:1-5 tells us:

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generation."

Have you ever wondered; "How do I find the presence of the Lord?" God has provided the answer in this psalm. Come before his presence with singing. Don't honour the enemy more than you honour God. Don't fill your heart and mind with anxieties, with doubts, with regrets, with condemnations, or accusations.

Get your heart and mind centered on God. The best way to do that is to sing. Singing songs to the Lord pushes these attacks from the enemy out of our hearts and minds. Then we can approach his gates.

We enter his gates with thanksgiving. Begin to think of all the times God has helped you. Think of all the blessings we have in this land. Thank him for the fellowship we have. The list is endless once you start. Don't think of YOUR need. Think of God's blessing upon you. As you begin to be thankful, the Holy Spirit begins to fill your heart with praise. You are entering his courts.

When you allow his praise to fill you; you begin to worship. Your whole heart and mind and soul become immersed in worship and you are there in God's presence. Ephesians 5:13-21 states:

"But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Where-

fore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

This scripture from Ephesians in the New testament tells us a similar thing. It takes the light of God to change things and to manifest his presence. Our heart has to be open and soft before him so that when the light shines on our hearts and minds, the incorruptible seed of Christ that is planted in us, as Christians, can blossom out and bear fruit. We need to be awake and aware for that to happen.

There are two ways to be asleep as a Christian. One way is when you have most of what you need and things are going well. You become kind of lethargic and apathetic about the things of the Lord. The other way is when things have not gone well for some time. You have given up hope for change. You just drag yourself from one day to the next. You are numb from the burdens and trials and almost dead, drifting aimlessly in time. This is the situation I believe this scripture is talking about.

This scripture tells us to stop and think. Don't be like the fool and say in your heart "there is no God". Recognize that though the days are evil, and times are difficult, nothing given to God is wasted; rather it becomes blessed. Even

if you think you have no time at all for all the things that have piled in upon you, God has a way to redeem, and increase time given to him.

What is the will of the Lord? Just that you love him and give all your heart and mind and strength to him so that he can empower you, bless you, and bless others. This scripture then repeats the message of Psalm 100; but adds even more. We don't have to get drunk to forget our problems. We don't have to use any other type of avoidance or self gratification for momentary pleasure to push away our problems. We have a God that can solve every problem. We have an anointing available to us that can make us more than conquerors.

Our tendency as humans is to meditate on the negatives, to think of everything that could possibly go wrong to keep us from our goal. When we have had a few setbacks in life, this tendency to look at the negatives becomes an attitude that we are "in our own sight as grasshoppers" (Numbers 13:33); we can never enter in. There is a way to drive out this negative attitude that the enemy brings into our minds. Ephesians repeats it to us; start singing. Your thoughts may be negative, but we have positive, thankful, praise filled psalms, and hymns. As you sing them and meditate on them, they will open the door for the Holy spirit to give you spiritual song. A beautiful melody of worship will fill your mind and heart as you submit to this pattern God has given. Thankfulness will fill you instead of complaining and doubt as you submit. That spirit of submission will flow over you and your attitude and spirit will bring you into the courts of the Living God where he can speak to you, comfort you, fellowship with you, fill you and renew you.

# A Preface, A Vision, A Doorway, A Warning, An Interim: God's Kingdom, His Government and His Sons

“Until” is a word used in the scriptures, and it is indicative of a period of time, or an interim period. God uses time for His purpose and for His plan. God made time, and He wants to use it for His purpose and His plan. Before time, there was God. God introduced time when He made this physical realm in which we live and dwell. “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). In other words, God’s order for the universe (of which we are a part) falls under and is inclusive of time.

“He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). He made the seasons to follow each other in perfect order. Fall follows summer, which follows spring, which follows winter, and on and on it goes. Order in time.

God has taken out of eternity an interim and called it “Time.” God has taken you out of eternity and inserted you into that interim called Time. “A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;” (Ecclesiastes 3:2).

During this brief time, or interim, God has a purpose to accomplish in you and I. He has chosen time as His instrument to bring us into His Order, that He may have full fellowship with us, and we with Him, that we may be made in His image and His likeness, that we may be full-grown Sons, and not babes. The manifestation of the Sons of God will take place in time, but His purpose is not for time alone, but that His Sons, His Bride, His Church, the “Body of Christ” will transcend time and enter eternity.

Time will be swallowed into

Eternity. But we today must be concerned with the present time. Our responsibility lies in the interim—the “Until”.

Ephesians 4:13 tells us, “Till [Until] we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

God has great expectations for us in the fullness of time, but what is His purpose, and what is He trying to accomplish in the interim period? In other words, What is happening now?

God’s plan is always quite simple and effectual. It is man who complicates.

Just as God can take His prism and break light down into every colour of the spectrum (a rainbow is a good example), He can also break down the word of life, or light—He said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12); by His Spirit. His Spirit is that prism that helps us see the light of life. As He holds that spiritual prism out before us, we see the different aspects, the revelation of His Spirit.

We could liken this spiritual process to a natural one. When as a child, and I attended grade one, three basic things happened:

A. Learning Time – For example, my teacher taught the class the alphabet.

B. Testing Time – The teacher eventually tested us after several lessons on the alphabet.

C. Achieving or Passing Time – We mastered the alphabet, and passed on to the next lesson, making words.

This process went on for an entire year. We mastered our basic lessons to equip us for life. Then we went on to grade two and the process continued.

In the realm of the Spirit, we have:

A. Learning Time – Revelation by His Spirit.

B. Testing Time – Walking in the revelation; becoming doers (obeyers) and not hearers only.

C. Achieving or Passing Time – Walking through that Door.

A. Christ said, “I am the door” (John 10:9), “no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

B. We heard God call; we also heard Satan call.

C. We walked through the Door of Salvation and passed into Eternal Life.

I found in my own experience a desire to learn. I wanted to be able to read. I remember my desire to be able to master my lessons in printing, arithmetic, etc. I also remember a time when I would pretend.

All children, it seems, like to pretend. We loved our play time in which most of it, as I recall, involved pretending to be grown up. I remember as a preschooler pretending to be able to write. I would carefully inscribe on a paper, and then I would ask my mother to read it for me.

I recall having a respect for my teacher and trying to obey her. I also recall the effects of disobedience. I was not the perfect student.

The word I am searching for here is obedience. Many times in my early years, Christ talked to me about that door of Salvation. But many times I only heard, and didn’t obey. Finally the day came when I obeyed my Father’s call, and I walked through that door into Eternal Life. Over time I had finally realized I didn’t want to face life alone, and I obeyed His call. Then what?

This process is basic and repetitive: A. A new revelation, B. Another test of obedience, and C. Passing through a new Door.

The Door of baptism in water was opened, and I entered.

The Door of baptism in His Spirit

was opened, and I entered in when I received the infilling of His Spirit, and I received power from God to walk with Him. I received a new language at that time that only God understands. When I talk to God in this new language, I am built up spiritually—I am edified. When we stop our progression, we stop entering these doors. The only thing that will stop us is disobedience.

Many today refuse the revelation of the infilling of His Spirit. They say that they have it all because they have received Salvation. They close their eyes to the new door—the new revelation, that progression in their experience. Pentecost isn't relevant today, they say. Sectarianism is the result. Denominationalism divides. You will have a sectarian spirit if you reject what God has established.

As He has empowered us with His Spirit, He has also given us tools to accomplish His purpose with that same Spirit.

A new door was then opened to us in this progression in our walk, and “when He ascended from death, He defeated death and gave men gifts of Himself” (Ephesians 4:8 paraphrased). He gave men His ministry. He gave men His abilities by His Spirit. He said, “greater works than these shall [ye] do; because I go to my Father” (John 14:12). When gravity could hold Him here no more, He gave us of Himself. He divided severally to us of His ministry as He wills.

No longer the one-man Christ accomplishing the purpose of God in the earth, but Christ in the corporate Body, the Body of Christ, which we are, living and moving and having our being in Him. This Body, throughout the earth today, is accomplishing the Father's will. God spoke very plainly to us through prophecy a number of years ago when He said, “At this time I will restore the nine gifts of the Spirit, and they shall be received by prophecy and the laying on of the hand of the presbytery.” Fifty short years ago, this door was opened wide, and many have entered. The fact that this has happened is evident throughout the earth today.

These agents—gifts, as they go forth as ministers of the reconciliation, shall shake Satan's Kingdom until it is totally overthrown. Then the Kingdom of God will be on the earth. Each door in our walk is an important landmark.

Each door/experience is ongoing. Each door/experience is preparatory for the next. Now, what I've said above is but a preface. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). Now, let us enter the door toward our vision by hearing and doing.

The next door we come to is of tremendous importance to us, if we are to accomplish what the mind and will of the Father is for us. If I had not mastered the basic building blocks of communication through the written word, which is our alphabet, there is no way I could write to you today to accomplish what the Spirit has to say. God wants us to receive of His word. He wants us to walk in that revelation of His word, to master that lesson, to become doers and not hearers only of His word. He wants us to **WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR!**

This door of which I speak, if entered, is the door into God's Order. An order for the use and administration of your gifts and ministries! An order with a sure foundation and with a headship. An order that will bring peace to this world. It will bring unity. Where insubordination to God's authority was once the norm, there will be total submission to the absolute. I see many at this crucial doorway today!

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;” (Ephesians 4:11). “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Just as He has created order for His universe, we see Him bringing into order fallen man. Through Calvary, we entered His house (the household of God), the foundation thereof having the very Son of God as the chief corner (this speaks to me of the Absolute, this speaks to me of His perfect plan, His divine order for His house) and the apostles (translated “those who are sent of God”) and prophets (a spokesman for God, one inspired of God) constituting the entirety of the foundation. So we see the entirety of

the foundation for the household of God in Christ as the headstone, chief corner stone for His house, and the apostles and prophets as those working together with Christ to create a sure foundation for His house. Christ said, “I only do and speak what the Father tells me” (John 12:50 paraphrased). Likewise, His apostles and prophets will do and speak those things that Christ tells them.

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God” (I Corinthians 11:3). Paul said the head of Christ is God, and the head of every man is Christ, and the head of woman is man. Christ also has shared His headship (authority) with man.

After He put death under His feet, He gave gifts unto man. Gifts of Himself. As we know, a gift doesn't accomplish anything until it becomes active; thus creating the ministry out of the gift. Out of the ministry, the office is born.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;” (Ephesians 4:11). Out of the resurrected Christ came the gift; out of the gift, the ministry; and out of the ministry, the office: thus, the foundation for the Church, His household; and thus, the headship for the Church, His household. We have our foundation in Christ and His apostles and prophets. We have our headship in Christ, and His holy apostles and prophets.

There is a very definite function in and purpose for this headship in God's household, as we see in Ephesians 4:12: “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” It is to: 1. Perfect the body, 2. Minister to the body, and 3. Build up the Body of Christ.

You may say all the responsibility lies in the Headship. “I can sit back and let George do it.” The scripture tells us quite the opposite. Let me paraphrase Ephesians 4:16: “Christ is the one who has fitly joined His whole body together and compacted us all together by that which every joint or member supplies, and not only compacting or unifying His body, but also making increase of His body through our love for one another, and by the ‘effectual working in the measure of every part.’” What,

you may ask, is the “effectual working in the measure of every part?” It is your ministry, as we shall see.

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men” (Ephesians 4:7-8). The responsibility lies in the ministry of apostles and prophets for the orderly use and administration of the gift or ministry. In other words, part of their ministry to the body for perfecting and edifying includes God’s order for the use and administration of your gift or ministry.

Now let us look at this doorway via another route. This is a warning! This is the man who is a hearer, but not a doer: his actions belie his hearing; he is a pretender. The pretender is found in Isaiah 48:1, “Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness.” Many have received gifts, and many have developed into good ministries. But many have stopped there. They endeavour to enter the Kingdom without a foundation of a headship. Submission is foreign. Headship is refuted! Any act that challenges God’s authority on any level is insubordination. Human reason takes over. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” The natural mind receives not the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness to him, and he can’t know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Do you have a natural mind? I do, and I struggle with it all the time, and it gets me into trouble. “Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little” (Isaiah 28:9-10).

You will be blind to the further unfolding if you refute or refuse that which has been revealed by His Spirit. You will be as one who has ears, but

who cannot hear. You may clamour for revelation, yet not hear revelation because you now have a sectarian spirit, a spirit that refutes, that divides. Denominationalism in the earth is a testament to this sectarian spirit. No sectarianism will survive in God’s Kingdom. If you deny this order, antichrist has spoken. If the warning sign that you see is speaking to your heart today, you can turn off that road and on to a route that God has prepared specifically for you. Many times I’ve travelled it. It is called repentance. TRUE repentance will find you back on course and within His will.

An Interim!

As you walk through that door of submitting and being in obedience to the five-fold ministry, you are entering an order the order of God for His Church. An order that will bring unity out of disunity. Order that brings perfection out of imperfection, revelation and knowledge out of a partial knowledge, and a fullness of Christ in your stature. As we enter this door, we also find ourselves under a canopy (within an ark and a place of safety), within an order ordained of God that will bring blessing through obedience and submission to His will.

Disobedience or an unsubmitive spirit will find you outside of that order, and out from under the canopy.

We now come to Ephesians 4:13, “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ,” and to the word we started with, Until.

Until there is Unity of Faith.

Until there is full knowledge of Christ.

Until we are a perfect man.

Until we are in the fullness of Christ.

Until God’s purpose is fulfilled in the earth, which is His Kingdom, which is synonymous with the coming together of His Body, the manifestation of the Son of God.

What is it we are really looking for? What are we desiring? Is it not that we can overcome the power of Satan over us? Is it not to see this corruptible put on incorruption? To see death swallowed up into life? To see that unity of His Body to the extent that it will come together as one, and His Sons manifest in that Body? To see that government in the earth ruled by

God and His many-membered Body? His Kingdom in the Earth!

That vision is there before us. The way has been divinely and clearly laid out. God has drawn the blue print, that His spiritual house will be a perfect one. Our part in His plan, as workers and builders together with Him in obedience and submission, is to build according to His blueprint and His plan. Not some concocted idea of your human reason to help God. Not running before God with your agenda. Some very good men, with a good ministry, have made shipwreck of that because of their own agenda. Submission to His plan could have produced eternal results: a Kingdom with a government and Sons. Let me quote from “Messages to the Church” by Brother Holt (I may condense in some places): “If you see the kingdom, you will see the purpose of the Church. The church I speak of can’t be adulterated, though systems formed by men can. The modern idea of the church is far removed from what it really is.” Paul says, “It is His Body,” the Bride of Christ. There is no way you can sit in prayer all day to achieve what I’m really talking about. To the earthly, it sounds spiritual. The only thing that is spiritual is doing what the Absolute says to do. No mind of yours conflicting with His. Totally yielding to the abiding Holy Spirit. You will not be an achiever, but an obeyer.

To assist man, God has given the blessed Holy Spirit to indwell him, spiritual gifts to produce a ministry or purpose for him being in the Body of Christ. The multiple members harmonizing in ministry create the normal function of the Body of Christ. All the gifts of the Spirit operating in great power, not singularly, but in the corporate design of God. The one-man idea of sectarianism can never be permanent. The true church (that many claim they are) will have this very noticeable fact: life will flow from member to member, all in harmony and interdependent, the life of God indwelling the whole, bringing Sons unto God of the same caliber of the Son who was crucified, the fullness of the resurrection.

Let me quote from the book “Government” by Brother Hinchliff (I may condense): “It is of utmost importance that we learn to be governed, for that is the only way we

can govern.” “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). God, in His plan, has always governed through elders, or in this case, ministries.

It is God’s will to govern the whole earth in the same manner. There will not only be elders of churches, but elders of cities and elders of nations. This was practiced in Israel and is one of the things God will restore as His Kingdom is established in the earth.

The apostolic ministries over the universal Church have helpers, traveling deacons, who are directed by the apostolic ministry.

The local church is built on exactly the same pattern, with elders as its

head. Deacons are the helpers God has supplied, and the people are those who are ruled over or shepherded.

The government of the home is very important to God, as it is the source of people who will be used by Him in carrying out His purpose in the earth and in the ages to come. This government has a head in the father of the home. Mother is given to the father as his helper in ruling and caring for the home. The children are those who are ruled over. The home is a little kingdom, and the children are the subjects of that kingdom.

Let me quote from “Messages to the Church” by Brother Holt: “When this Body of Christ stands as one man in its own rights, speaking the

same thing and believing the same thing, the prayer of Jesus will come to pass, ‘I pray that you all may be one, that the world may believe.’ In that day of full manifestation, the Body of Christ will walk into the presence of God, radiant with His Glory, into the Holy of Holies, where God is the light.” Oh, glory, glory, glory to God!

Years ago I obeyed the call as Christ opened that door to me to become His child. My prayer for myself, my family, and all of His Church, is for willingness to obey the call as that door has been opened so we can become full grown Sons of God. God bless you.

A Member of the Body

# The Grand Finale

*By Robert Oldridge*

We have spoken a great deal about the Kingdom, and rightly so, as it is a period of time, an age or dispensation; but it is more than that. It is a sphere of rulership that must first begin in the lives of God’s elect, and will one day fill all the earth. It is referred to as the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom rule in our lives is bringing us to full Sonship, which will bring full deliverance to the whole creation and usher in the Kingdom on the earth.

It is significant that the Lord’s prayer should begin with addressing the Father of all creation, and then praying for the Kingdom to come, where His Will will not only be done in the earth at large, but in the earth which we are. Then it gives some instruction concerning right relationships with each other, and then declares that the Glory, the Kingdom, is from everlasting to everlasting.

I want to speak, first of all, of the Kingdom as it relates to us. One of the first instances of the proclamation of the Gospel of the Kingdom was when Paul was isolated to his own hired house or the outskirts of Rome (Acts 28:30-31). Then, in Matthew 24:14, we read, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” When

Jesus sent out the twelve and the seventy, they were to heal the sick and proclaim that the Kingdom of God had come nigh to them (Luke 9:11; Luke 10:9). Again, He told them the manner in which the Kingdom would come. He said it would not come by observation, neither would they say, “Lo, here!” or “Lo, there!” for the Kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20-21). That shows it must first come in the hearts of His elect. In the final fulfillment it will certainly be seen in all the earth. One of the beatitudes expresses it well, “Blessed are the poor [humble] in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3).

In Luke 12:32, Jesus gave words of great comfort and consolation: “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” In Colossians 1:13 we read, “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” Notice it says “hath delivered us”; not will.

It simply means we should not put it off in the future, but begin to enter in now. Hebrews 12:28 also emphasizes that we begin to receive it now: “herefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God

acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” I believe I have given you sufficient references in regard to the Kingdom as it relates to us, but I will speak of many other aspects regarding the final fulfillment.

The Bible speaks of certain conditions that will be in the earth when the God of Heaven sets up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. So you see, it is an everlasting Kingdom, even though it will fulfill 1000 years of time often referred to as the Millennium. It says that, after this, “in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:7). I believe that we are getting close to that time when His Kingdom will be seen in all the earth because the outward signs of the closing of the age seem to be in full focus. May God have His way in our hearts, and may we fully yield our lives to Him so that Christ may be fully formed and take full rulership of our lives. So, the result will be, in that time before us when we will see the full manifestation of the Sons of God, the deliverance of the groaning creation, and all nations shall crown Christ King and Lord of all.

Now, we have spoken much about the Glory and the blessings to all

mankind. However, I must zero in on what is necessary to bring the Kingdom about. It can only come by the judgements of God. The scriptures tell us that when the judgements of God are in the earth, the people will learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:9). It also declares "that judgement must begin at the house of God", then "where shall the sinner and ungodly appear?" (I Peter 4:17-18). We are not speaking here of the judgement for sin that fell upon Jesus at Calvary. That was a finished work. The judgement we are talking about here is a form of chastisement or correction. We see that fulfilled in the raising of our children. Let the process go on till all come to the position of complete surrender to the rule of our Heavenly Father. The work is going on to bring it to that great finale in our lives, and finally in all the nations. A scripture comes to mind: "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness," (II Peter 3:11).

This is also clear in Ephesians 4, where it outlines the manner in which the whole body can come to full maturity and a holy temple can shed forth God's glory in all the earth. So may all schisms and anything that hinders or is imperfect be gone, and may we flow unhindered in the Kingdom of God. Let the judgements come and do the job to bring us speedily to that fullness God has purposed from the very beginning, as the Word declares: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

I am sure that we become anxious to see this come speedily when we see so much sickness, heartache and devastation on every hand, and often wonder how long it will take. Another scripture that has been a consolation to me, as well as to many others, is: "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). "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:4). It is easy for us to become impatient when we see all the outward signs pointing to the close

of the age. I think of many of God's servants who proclaimed 60 years ago that the time was ripe for the Kingdom to come, but we must remember that God's timing is different than ours. We do not see all the intricacies in the working out of His great plan and purpose. But, nevertheless, as the song goes:

"We're closer now than we've ever been before.

Get on your feet, let's take a stand;  
We're crossing over with this whole man.

Perfection tones are ringing loud and clear.

Off with the dross, down with our mind,

A brand new nature we will find.

This is the day."

I will zero in a little more on the judgements of God. One scripture tells us that when the judgements of God are in the earth, the people will learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:9). A song I heard recently, which is based on scripture, put it this way:

"My mercy is my darling attribute,

But My judgements are My strange acts of love.

When My people learn to love Me in My judgements,

They will then begin to understand My ways.

When My Righteousness in them comes to perfection,

Then My Glory will within them be displayed."

The Word of God, in speaking of this form of judgement as chastisement, says, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 2:11). May we then learn to welcome any form of chastisement or correction that may come into our lives. We must not sit in condemnation of ourselves or others, but simply let the hand of God work that in our lives which will bring us to that fullness in Him.

I have often said, "We do not know why many of these testings and sufferings come into our lives, but we know that the end result will be good." Another scripture declares, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things

which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Corinthians 4:17-18).

Speaking of all these things working toward that great eternal day, I might mention that during the October Scripture Studies, I chose "God's Great Eternal Plan and Purpose" as a topic for my sessions, for the grand finale we are speaking of really has no end, but will unfold from ages to ages. Thank God that this eternal plan and purpose is unfolding in our lives today. Sometimes I get so thrilled as I see the unfolding that I almost feel carried away into those Heavenly realms.

So let the Spirit of God continue to unfold and reveal these truths and bring us to that grand finale when all of creation will be reconciled, and God's righteousness shall fill the whole earth.

I close with two wonderful admonitions from God's word. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8). "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).

May we all find that completeness in Him.

## MINDEN NEBRASKA MEETINGS

September 24 - 26, 2004

For reservations contact  
Duane and Janice Olson  
Phone (306) 832-1712  
or email

mindenolsons@hotmail.com  
Reservations no later than  
September 10th.

## WINKLER LABOUR DAY WEEKEND CAMP

Held at Winkler Bible Camp  
Starts Friday, Sept. 3  
evening meal and ends after  
breakfast Monday, Sept. 6, 2004.

**RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY.**

Please contact: Bob Waldner  
Box 205, Altona, MB R0G 0B0  
(204) 324-5963

# Still Waters

"He leads me beside still waters, He restoreth my soul" is from Psalms 23. I have always heard this Psalm quoted altogether but hardly ever just this verse. In this day when lives are hurried, stressed and we are pulled on every side...it's good to be able to come to the "still waters" and drink deeply and be satisfied from the wells of our salvation. It seems as though in my life so many times the waters around me are anything but still. However, I am coming to realize the more I draw nigh to His still waters, the less the turmoil in the waters around me. There is a peace that dwells in the still waters - hence the term - still waters. If there was ever a time for peace in this earth it is now.

How can anyone in the world ever know a true peace I asked my husband today? Everything is so loud any more - music, movies, uncivilized voices in the land - where does anyone go to find peace and quiet. I have a place north of here at a friend's cabin. It is so peaceful in the boat on the lake. I've noticed even my little spot up at the cabin is in turmoil when the Minnesota winds get to gusting. Then I don't feel the peace there. I also enjoy watching a nice fire in the fireplace here in our house. However, even that comes to an end at bedtime. Yet I've noticed that it doesn't matter what the circumstances or time of day, I can come to the "still waters" and they are always still. That's true peace from above. His peace is always peace, it's never disturbed but always peace. That's the perfect peace of God. In Isaiah it says "He will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee". If I keep my thoughts on Him instead of the things that bring about the tossed seas then I can enter in to that perfect peace.

That's the peace that is in the "still waters" when I come and yea, I can say then "He restoreth my soul." I feel a deeper meaning to this verse everyday. We all should. For the answer to my question to my husband - how can anyone in the world ever know true peace? They can know it because we come to the "still waters" which run deep within us. They will know because when the seas are tossed, we

shall be drawing nigh to the "still waters" and saying to the tossed seas - "peace be still". The world will see we are at peace even if there isn't a fire in the fireplace or we aren't in a boat in the middle of a calm lake. We have peace in the middle of the storm because we know the Prince of Peace and He dwells

within us. He bids us to come and sit beside the still waters so He can restore our stressed and hurried lives. What a provision we have right at our fingertips if we will but come to the "still waters".

— Mrs. John (Mae) Olson  
A sister in the Church

## PARK VALLEY LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

HELD AT RAGNAR AARRESTAD'S FARM  
Starts Friday, Sept. 3, 2004 at 5:00 pm  
and ends Monday, Sept. 6, 2004 at 1:00 pm  
Contact: Ragnar Aarrestad, Box 515, Debden, SK. S0J 0S0  
Phone: (306) 469-4962

## HIDDEN ACRES FELLOWSHIP SHAKESPEARE, ONTARIO

Friday, September 3 - 6:00 p.m. to September 6, 2004 - 1:00 p.m.  
Please bring bedding, toilet articles, musical instruments, bibles, swimwear.  
Cost will be: \$20 - 13 years of age & older;  
\$10 - 12 years of age & under; or \$50 per family.

Please send reservations to:  
Garry Tyler, 360 Douglas Street, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 5R3  
or call (519) 271-7185 or  
Kelvin Martin, 14 Dickens Place, Stratford, Ontario, N5A 7G1  
or call (519) 273-4581 or email: garry.tyler@sympatico.ca

## NORTH CAROLINA CAMP MEETING

July 25 - August 1, 2004  
Catawba College, Salisbury, NC

Catawba College, site of the camp, is located in the town of Salisbury, NC, about 40 miles from either Charlotte or High Point via Interstate 85. The campus is about 3 miles west of Interstate 85 (Exit 76-B) on West Innes Street (Hwy. 601) and can also be reached from the west and Interstate 40 via Hwy 601 or Hwy 70. You may bring linens (single bed), towels & pillows or these can be rented at \$10 per set. Check-in time begins at 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 25. Meals will be served in the college dining hall beginning at 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 25, followed by the first meeting at 7:30 pm. The camp will conclude with the noon meal on Sunday, August 1. Buildings are air conditioned. Swimming pool, gym and other recreational facilities are available.

### CHARGES FOR ROOM & BOARD:

Age 0-3	No Charge
Age 4-6	\$60.00 per week or \$12.00 per day
Age 7-Adult	\$100.00 per week or \$20.00 per day

or Call: Anita Love 336-765-9271  
or Email: <aslove1@triad.rr.com>

Flight arrangements may be made to  
Charolotte or Greensboro, NC.

For Greensboro Airport pickup call  
Dave Heath at 336-841-0607  
or email <DDPACK@juno.com>

SEND RESERVATIONS TO:  
Global Missions Regional Camp  
c/o Mrs. Anita Love  
112 Queensbury Rd.,  
Winston Salem, NC 27104

For airport pickup in Charlotte call  
Kim Kaufman at 704-583-0651  
or email <kkaufman@carolina.rr.com>

## DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Camp North Battleford .....	July 4-11, 2004
North Carolina Summer Camp .....	July 25 - August 1, 2004
Caribbean Camp, Trinidad .....	August 1-7, 2004
Pinelow Summer Family Camp .....	August 9-15, 2004
Young People's - Hidden Acres, ON .....	Sept. 3-6, 2004
Young People's - Park Valley, SK .....	Sept. 3-6, 2004
Family Camp - Winkler, MB .....	Sept. 3-6, 2004
Minden Meetings .....	Sept. 24, 25, 26, 2004
New York Camp .....	Oct. 29-31, 2004
Pinelow Fall Family Camp .....	Nov. 11-14, 2004

## PINELOW SUMMER CAMP

North of Spokane  
**August 9-15, 2004**

From Spokane, North on Hwy 395 toward Coleville, past Loon Lake 3.1 miles or 5 km, turn east on Deer Lake North Road 1.7 miles or 2-3/4 km to Pinelow Park.

**Adults: \$85, Children 3-11: \$45,  
Family Rates with children  
up to 18 - \$285.  
(Rates - US Funds)**

Send reservations to:  
NOTE: Daryl Martz is taking reservations for Pinelow Camps.  
Ph. (604) 858-9009  
Fax: (604) 795-5365  
email: martz@shelbrook.com  
(NO PETS)

*Campground registration starts at  
4:00 pm, August 9, 2004*

### Please be advised that our **CARIBBEAN CAMP**

will be held in Trinidad  
El Dorado Youth Training Center  
**DATE: Aug. 1 - 7, 2004**

#### CONTACT PERSON:

**Crafton Lewis**  
Holder's Terrance, Stanislaus St.  
Success Village, Laventille  
Trinidad, West Indies  
Ph. 868-623-1141  
Fax: 868-623-1684  
email: craflew@hotmail.com

### **Pinelow Fall Camp Family Camp November 11-14, 2004**

Contact: Daryl Martz  
Fax (604) 795-5365  
e-mail: martz@shelbrook.com

## New York/New Jersey Camp Meeting October 29 to 31, 2004

Leibenzel Retreat Center,  
Schooley's Mountain,  
80 Pleasant Grove Road, New Jersey 07079

Please bring your own linens (single bed), towels & pillows, as these will not be available at the campground. A limited amount of linens can be rented for \$5/set for those travelling from further away.

Registration begins at 3:00 pm on Friday, October 31. Meals will be served in the dining hall, beginning at 5:30 pm on Friday, followed by the first meeting at 7:30 pm. The camp will conclude with the noon meal on Sunday, October 31, 2004.

**Charges for your room & board:**  
Under 3 years of age - no charge  
Age 3-10 - \$20.00  
Age 11 - Adult - \$60.00

For transportation contact  
Cleveland Gajee at debgaj@aol.com  
or Phone 201-486-5644

Please RSVP by October 13th to:  
New York, New Jersey Camp  
c/o Brad & Carrie Wensley  
10 Penn Commons  
Yaphank, NY 11980 or  
Phone: 631-924-7626  
or email: carriemw@optonline.net

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Minden, NE 68959  
Permit No. 40

## CALLED HOME

**Edith Dedio**  
February 20, 2004  
Thornsby, Alberta

• • •  
**Elsie Victoria Sybil (Joseph) Bailey**  
March 31, 2004  
Loubiere, Dominica, West Indies

• • •  
**Margaret "Ella" Hingston**  
April 9, 2004  
Regina, Sask.

• • •  
**Jessica "Elizabeth" Crawford**  
April 14, 2004  
Calgary, Alberta

**Sharon Children's Homes and Schools**  
Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3

The Sharon Star is a monthly paper, published and mailed out on the free-will offering plan, as a medium of information for all who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

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