

# *the* **Banner** *of Truth*

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The Official Periodical  
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Leaning



*"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*



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## Meditation

### God Continues in the New Year

Rev. H. de Leeuw, Franklin Lakes, NJ

*“And Daniel continued even unto the first year of King Cyrus” (Daniel 1:21).*

In verse two of this chapter we read, “And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand.” The king of the promised land was given into the hand of the heathen Nebuchadnezzar. In our text words Daniel is spoken of in a very remarkable way when Israel was under the judging hand of God. Daniel’s cradle had been in the promised land. He was probably born towards the end of the reign of King Josiah, the king who was used by the Lord for the last reformation in Judah. Daniel was born under the judgments. What a thought, my dear reader, to be born under the judgments. How many of our children and grandchildren are not born under the judgments? What must become of them? How must it go? No doubt many are filled with that question at the beginning of a New Year and the times in which we are living. How many parents in Israel also were occupied with such thoughts? Our text, however, reveals that God had a solution. Oh, dear reader, the Lord is the God who may chasten very sore, who will punish the sins of His people but who will always provide for them according to the greatness of His mercy.

Daniel came into Babylon as a captive, and soon the demands of Babylon were upon him and his three friends. You read that Daniel’s purpose of heart was not to defile himself with the king’s meat. That was a choice he made together with his friends. This was an impossibility and also a dishonor to the Babylonians. How many of his peers fell here into the weakness of the flesh, but then you read again key words in distressing times: “Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.” Daniel did not know how he would survive this trial either, but God provided something. May I ask a question, dear reader? Under the judgments would God still be able to provide something for you? Or do you have it figured out with maintaining and protecting yourself? The impossibilities from man’s side are God’s opportunities.

Captive—do you know what that is? First of all, it is being taken against your will. No one goes into captivity voluntarily, but people are *taken* captive. Daniel did not seek it. God allowed that this captivity came upon Daniel. There he had to experience the power of the enemy. It left him powerless. Read, then, how for those powerless ones God is laboring to give them power and strength. Wonderful ways are provided for captive and powerless people. Many in captivity fell to the power of the enemy, but Daniel

and his three friends, by grace, remained standing because of God’s power.

Powerless—what does that mean? It means we do not have any strength. We are confronted with our weakness, a weakness in the mind and our will. With all his skill, wisdom, and knowledge, Daniel could not save himself. Yet it leads to a place—a place of refuge in the midst of all the affairs for which he was responsible. My dear reader, answer honestly between the Lord and your soul; when you experience weakness, where does it bring you? Daniel bowed his knees three times a day. Why? He had no power of himself but was made dependent upon the LORD for strength. Does it lead you to your inner chamber on your knees? That is where it brought Daniel.

What did Daniel experience in his prayer chamber? There he received supplications. What a humbling benefit when those who need the Lord in the midst of their impossibilities receive supplications. Daniel 6 says that he made supplication, but he also received something else: thanksgiving. To have prayers of thanksgiving during trials—is that like the Pharisee, “God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are”? No! This is the prayer of thanksgiving that God continued with Daniel. He did not leave him over to himself. The Lord did not give Daniel over to the power of the idol worship all around him. The Lord was with him. Did he always receive opening in prayer? The Bible does not say that, but three times a day it was the desire of Daniel’s heart to seek God’s countenance, to beg for help and strength, and to thank Him that, by grace, he may be what he is.

Daniel continued. Until when? Until God’s counsel was complete. Church of God, we have entered a New Year, a year of which we know not what it holds. See what is written of Daniel. Nothing of himself, but the Word speaks of the God of Daniel who still prospers the work of His own hand so that for all His blood purchased possessions it may say, *continued*. What was God’s counsel? “Continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.” Daniel would be used to deliver God’s people. Church of God, you are one year closer to continue to serve Him eternally but then without sin. The might of Nebuchadnezzar, Evil-Merodach, Belshazzar, and Darius all failed. Their might was conquered, their kingdoms ended, but Daniel continued.

Would that still have value for you and me today? The might and faithfulness of God in the life of Daniel is evident, but how is it now? The Lord Jesus Christ continues; that points to His eternity, His omnipotence, His omnipresence, and His great mercy. He never had a beginning; He always

continued. His Church continues because He continues. In the days after Christmas we read in Luke 1:80a, "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit." He continued. He began His earthly ministry, to continue. He suffered and died, to continue. He arose from the dead and is sitting at the right hand of the Father, to continue. He will come again, to continue. Do you see the value? Daniel continued because He who has loved him with an everlasting love continued. My dear reader, the uncertainties are from our side. The hindrances for our peace and freedom will only come from man's side, but through it all the Lord Jesus Christ continues. What strength! What majesty!

My unconverted reader, you may read this as well. Is there a message for you? Oh, most certainly. Your soul

will continue; your soul is eternal. How is it in your life? Have you no thoughts about it? Will it be just a New Year in which you will continue to serve self? How poor your life is! You continue but on your way to eternal condemnation. The Lord Jesus Christ, however, also this year, continues with the casting out of the net. Why? More fish will be led by Him in their impossibilities for whom He will continue to give Himself. Seek Him who says that He will continue so that He may make a beginning in your life.

Weak believer, He continues. Perhaps you say, "I cannot continue; I can only ruin." God's Word testifies, and notice how personal it is, "Daniel continued." May the Holy Spirit work faith in your heart so that, by grace, it may be your name and then "continued." He continues! ☐



## *Bible Study*

### **The Life of Daniel** (11)

*Rev. C. Vogelaar, Clifton, NJ*

#### *Daniel 6:1-11*

**T**he prophet Daniel was crowned with tokens of honor. He had honored His God and proclaimed faithfully what the Lord had made known to him and what the end of Belshazzar would be. This king had not humbled his heart but had provoked the Lord by desecrating the holy vessels of God's house and feasting while the enemy was so near to him. In that night, the king of the Chaldeans was slain. The successor of Belshazzar was Darius the Median, who was about sixty-two years old when he began to rule. Also, during this reign, Daniel continued and was a living example of the fear of the Lord and faithfulness of His service.

#### **Daniel's position**

We read in chapter 6:1&2a, "It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; and over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first." We read, indeed, that it pleased Darius. He was a sovereign ruler and did what he delighted in, although it was not Darius's good pleasure but actually God's good pleasure which would be executed and manifested also in the exaltation of Daniel. The reason that he was preferred above the presidents and princes was because there was "an excellent spirit in him." Daniel was now a very old man. He was in captivity in Babylon about seventy years; during this time he had remained faithful to His God despite all the temptations and several changes of throne. What a privilege it is that also in the evening of his life this testimony may be given of him, "an excellent spirit."

We read in Psalm 92:14, "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing." This may also be said of Daniel. Those that honor Him the Lord will honor, and so Daniel received his high position in a strange country. This caused the enmity and the envy of his colleagues, the other presidents and princes. Not only was there jealousy among them but also there was hatred in their hearts. The Lord has said in His Word that the world will hate His church because when God's people walk in the tender fear of His name, their conduct accuses the enemies of God. Even without words, their walk is speaking loudly. It is a judgment upon the church if those people with "an excellent spirit" are taken away and the foolish and the wise virgins are sleeping while the Bridegroom may be near. Those enemies hope they can find something inconsistent or some failure in the walk of life of God's dear children, but here in the case of Daniel, they could not. His conduct was perfect, honest, and free of partiality even in his high position so that they could find no ground for accusation. However, the devil provided a plan so that their envy could be gratified. It is true, the other rulers could not find any fault in Daniel's official and public life, but perhaps they could ensnare him in his religious life. It was a very evil plan, but in all this, the Lord would clearly show the beauty of His grace in the heart of Daniel.

#### **The new law**

We read in Psalm 2:2, "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His anointed..." The devil will try to

destroy God's work or to take away such God-fearing people. His instruments are fully responsible for what the rulers do, and they ask the king for a decree, a new law. This law would state that nobody might ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days. It is hard to imagine a more unreasonable law than this. All prayer was suspended, and once the law was signed according to the constitution of the Medes and Persians, it could not be changed or abolished for any reason at all; neither could pardon be given to any offender.

The king had no idea that this law was aiming to remove Daniel from his position. People may have flattered him that according to this law, no petition could be made to any god or man, "save of thee, O king." Every request had to come to the king alone. It has often been, not only in those days but also later, when the Christian church was young, that rulers as kings and emperors would be honored as gods. The emperor-worship was the cause that many Christians had to pay for their belief and their refusal to bow before a human idol. How is that in our days? Whoever dares to refuse to bow before the idol of the anti-discrimination laws may expect persecution, sometimes in a more subtle way but more and more in a very open way.

No, this does not mean that we may discriminate against those of another color or race, but in today's philosophy, anti-discrimination also implies that we have to agree and may not say anything negative about what God has clearly forbidden in His Word. That will bring into conflict our laws and God's testimony. Though we have to be obedient to the government when laws are made, if practices are promoted which go against His will, then we have to obey God rather than man. Would we be as faithful as Daniel was?

He knew what was at stake when he went to his house to bow his knees before his heavenly Master, the supreme King before whom all kings will one day have to bow.

### Daniel's prayer

Will Daniel now quietly go home, seek a hidden place, keep His religious devotions private, and bow his knees where no one can see him? We read something else in verse 10: "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." No, Daniel did not deny His Master. He was steadfast and confessed Him publicly.

The Pharisees also loved to pray in public in the days of the Lord Jesus, even on the corners of the streets. They did so because they liked to be seen and honored by others. They desired to be respected as godly people while they sought their own glory only. No, Daniel's heart was not longing for honor like this, and he knew very well the enmity that surrounded him. Yet, he did not seek a hidden place but bowed before windows open toward Jerusalem. Daniel did not complain to Darius and come against the absurdity, impiety, and iniquity of the edict. He also did not make an effort to have it repealed or try to obtain some ruling in his favor. He was determined to set an example of His religion without fear of what man could do unto Him. He did what David had done as we read in Psalm 55:17: "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."

No, Daniel did not walk blindly into a trap. Daniel knew that the writing was signed, that is, he understood; he saw the danger. It is a blessing when we are not blind to the dangers, the allurements, the devices, the efforts that are made to lead us astray from the right paths. He had been in a strange heathen land so long already, but he was kept by the power of God. His windows were open, which means he was looking out, expecting, hoping, begging as a needy person. His expectation was from the Lord alone. He had a praying life.

In paradise heaven was open. There was God's nearness. There was His favor and love. We left the Lord, closed the door, and from our side, there is no way back to God. It would be just if the Lord would refuse to listen also to the cries of those who need Him. Some may experience a hidden God and many enemies who say, "The Lord has cast you off," and that would be righteous, but the Lord is merciful and gracious. A way is opened because Christ was nailed on the cross, nailed below a closed door to the house of the Father. He made a way to God by His bitter suffering. Now there is a door of hope in the valley of Achor (Hosea 2:15). There is hope for lost sinners. Guilty sinners may appear before Him, and they will experience, "He hath heard my voice and my supplications." It was a precious place for Daniel where he could pour out his heart, ask for wisdom, and beg for God's nearness. The Lord will not forsake those who in the midst of all opposition, enmity, and impossibilities may flee unto Him. □

*(To be continued)*

Christian, let God's distinguishing love to you be a motive to you to fear Him greatly. He has put His fear in your heart and may not have given that blessing to your neighbor, perhaps not to your husband, your wife, your child, or your parent. Oh, what an obligation should this thought lay upon your heart to greatly fear the Lord! Remember also that this fear of the Lord is His treasure, a choice jewel, given only to favorites and to those who are greatly beloved.

—John Bunyan

From the Editor of *The Banner of Truth*  
**David's Prayer—Standing upon the Threshold of a New Year**

*Rev. J. den Hoed, Lynden, WA*

***“Hold up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not”*** (Psalm 17:5).

We, *The Banner of Truth* committee, wish for you, our readers, the Lord's indispensable blessing upon the newly begun year. When we look back at a year gone by, then there is no doubt that the Coronavirus has dominated much of the year for all of us. If we observe that which we take for granted as if we have a right to it—our going to church, being together round about God's Holy Word, or our children going to school, receiving a Christian education—how soon all can be taken away from us. These difficult times should teach us the great, God-given privilege that we and our children may have, meaning, the Word of the Lord, the callings, “prepare thy house for thou shalt die.” This should fill our heart with a humble acknowledging that the Lord, in spite of our backslidings, continues to preserve His Truth for us in our congregations and in our schools. Then, in spite of all the trials in a year gone by, we may say—how great is the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord. May that humble our heart and be our prayer, “Lord, prepare us to meet Thee in righteousness.”

We, as the Banner committee announce with sadness that our managing editor, Dr. Edward Nieuwenhuis,

has been forced to lay down his position because of health reasons. For fifteen years he has been the main motivation in preparing *The Banner of Truth*, making sure that each month it had a place in the homes of our people. He would be the first to say, *only with the help of the Lord; my shortcomings were there daily.* We wish to thank you, Dr. Nieuwenhuis, and may the Lord give you and your wife to experience the nearness of a faithful God in the years to come.

May the Lord also remember our new assistant managing editor, Mr. James Okken, as he adjusts to the transition of this new task. To help James in preparing our monthly periodical, *The Banner of Truth*, there is an entire Banner committee who edit the articles and prepare the issue. We thank you, as well. May all of us say, “Lord, hold up our going in Thy paths that, indeed, the path opened in the blood of the Saviour may be our path.” It will not always be easy, but those who may travel that path are always upheld by a faithful, covenant-keeping God. Then, when their journey ends, they may come to that place where they will never slip again.

Dear readers, may our Banner continue to have a place in your home and heart, and may you experience the Lord's spiritual blessings. This is my wish and prayer for each of us.



## *From Our Inheritance*

### **New Year (2021)**

*Rev. A.F. Honkoop (1921-2008)*

(Translated from *De Saambinder*, January 6, 1972)

***“The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms”*** (Deuteronomy 33:27a).

Because of the goodness of the Lord, we have again been able to begin a New Year. It is a new year of which we do not know what it will bring us. What will we meet therein, and what will we come across? What will be given unto us, and what will be taken from us? There is no one who can give us an answer to these questions. Will it be war, or will it be peace; will it be prosperity or adversity, riches

or poverty, joy or sorrow, singing or weeping? The most important question is, however, will it be living or dying? We do not know. This, however, we do know, that if the blessing written above this meditation is fulfilled for and in us, then we need not fear. It was the last blessing which Moses had proclaimed to Israel before his death, and we find it in the end of the blessings which Moses declared unto the twelve tribes of Israel.

What Moses wishes here for Israel, the Lord's covenant people, is that God will be a refuge for them. He did not

envision that only for the earthly Canaan in which the Lord had promised Israel they would live. No, he desires much more for them than any earthly good or temporary refuge. His wish for them is that the Lord would be a refuge for them and that they might live in the Lord Himself; that they might dwell and reside in God's blessed communion. Only therein lies life and salvation, for outside of God there is only misery and death.

At one time, in the state of rectitude, this was life; then, man lived in blessed communion with God. He was in God, and the Lord was his dwelling place. However, because of sin, by nature, we stand outside of and without God; because of uninhibited and willful disobedience man has torn himself away from God. We have broken the bond that united us with God, the fountain of life and salvation. If we now wish to live and be saved, then we must be brought back to God; we must again be united with God, to again be in God. We must be restored into communion with God. For the upright in Zion, this is where it must begin. By means of the enlightenment of God's Spirit, they begin to see that they are outside of God. They realize that they are exposed to all types of terrible dangers, and they seek safety for their soul.

Returning unto God is possible in and through Christ. He has satisfied God's justice, carried the punishment for sin, and silenced God's wrath. With this Christ we must again be united in the baptism of the rebirth. In this manner God's elect are brought into a lively communion with Him in the hour of their being made alive. They are in Him and through Him in God. The Lord Jesus speaks of this in His High Priestly prayer in John 17, "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us." Oh, in being one with God lies everything that cannot be missed for this life and our salvation; yea, it is salvation itself.

When Moses, therefore, prays for Israel "that the eternal God be their refuge," he means first of all that we may be taken out of our state of being estranged from God and spiritual exile and be brought to a new communion with God. We also wish to make this our prayer. May there be many who are brought by and to God in this year. May the eternal God be your refuge. May God grant you grace that you may be brought from outside of Him into that communion with God. It is undeniable that Moses has meant even more. Of what benefit is it to have such a refuge and not to know it, for then we can also not make use of it. For many of God's people, it can remain so hidden and assaulted as to who God is and will be for them. According to their estimation they can be so far from the Lord, and even though there exists a longing after God for that safe refuge, they cannot always believe that God will also be such for them. Yea, even though they cannot deny that they may frequently hide by God, yet they miss the certainty and the light and knowledge of faith in what God will be

*Returning unto God is possible in and through Christ. He has satisfied God's justice, carried the punishment for sin, and silenced God's wrath.*

for them. Oh, that this light might break through in your soul and that God would grant growth in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, that you might know what has been granted you by God. Oh, that the eternal God, who is the refuge for His people, would pour out and reveal Himself to your soul. In this year, may it become true that the eternal God is also my habitation, my Rock, who will never falter.

Consider how safe this refuge is. It is the eternal, unchangeable God. Therein lies the steadfastness and the strength of that refuge. No storm can damage or destroy that refuge. The devil and all his powerful cohorts cannot overthrow it, for God is an eternal Rock. No matter what temptations, strife, or difficulty may come, in God there is complete safety.

Well now, my reader, may the eternal God also be a refuge for you, and to this Moses adds, "and underneath are the everlasting arms." These last words are frequently read and understood in a wrong way. The meaning is this—that the eternal God may be the eternal arms under you—arms which are under you and carry you. That is what we are so much in need of and what God's children will continually experience. We are so deeply dependent. We are more helpless than a newborn child. We must be carried, not by the arms of man but by the eternal arms of God. God's delivering and keeping arms must be under us, and we must

be carried upon the arms of His grace. We cannot do that ourselves; we cannot trust ourselves, for when we lean upon our own arms, we will stumble and fall. Oh, if we seek the strength in ourselves, we will time and again be ashamed. What painful ways and bitter lessons are frequently necessary for God's people before we are prepared to let ourselves be carried. That is so deeply humbling for our proud heart.

On the other hand, how blessed it is when we cannot help ourselves anymore, when there is no strength in us, and we may become aware of those carrying arms underneath us. Then there is no longer any concern because the arms of the Lord are eternal arms. They are arms which do not become tired from carrying, and they always remain stretched out so that we cannot fall. Therefore, when Moses says, "and underneath are the everlasting arms," he wishes for Israel that the eternal God may prove to be the strength in their weakness and that, as weak ones, they be placed and carried in God's arms no matter where the way might lead. In short, he wishes that the Lord may keep them in safety, care for them, comfort them, and remain with them in love. These carrying arms are stretched out; therefore, there is no want, not in this year either. May God grant us the grace to give ourselves over to these arms and to trust in them; then it will always be well, eternally well. ◻

# The Birth of Christ

Rev. W.C. Lamain (1904-1984)

(Taken from the December 1996 issue of *The Banner of Truth*)

That which took place in the manger at Bethlehem was a manifestation of the eternal good pleasure of God and was founded on that alone. The incarnation of the Son of God took place by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. Most certainly the eternal God had already determined the incarnation of His Son from all eternity. Accordingly, Christ came in the name of the Lord and was sent from heaven as the chosen One of the Father to magnify the divine perfections and to save His people. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

He prepared a way where there was no way. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9). Oh, this love is great beyond words; it can never be comprehended.

In sending the Son of His love, the Father also loved Himself most perfectly. When God created man, He adorned him with His own image, so that He beheld His own likeness in the man He had created, a man without sin and without blemish. It was the Creator's will to behold His likeness in His creatures, and He did so until we lost that image by sin. It pleased God, however, to choose a Mediator in His eternal love and to execute this decree by His omnipotence. In this Mediator, God chose a people unto Himself, and Christ came to restore God's image in them so God could again behold His own likeness in His creatures. Now once again the name of God and the image of God are fully magnified in and by the Son.

On the other hand, now the church may again behold God because He sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. Here God's people see Him through a glass darkly, but in anticipation they sing:

*Soon I in glorious righteousness  
Shall see Thee as Thou art;  
Thy likeness, Lord, when I awake  
Shall satisfy my heart.*

—Psalter 33:5

The eternal decree unfolded most wondrously at the birth of Christ, but also His marvelous love manifested itself most evidently. It was the will of Christ to become incarnate because of His love for the Father and for His honor. Hence, He also loves the people whom God formed for Himself that they should show forth His praises and exalt the Triune God. Christ's love of the perfections and honor of God was the reason why He gave Himself. The love for His Father, for His people, and for the covenant impelled Him to take upon Himself the form of a servant.

Now it became the Father, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make this Christ perfect through sufferings. The Holy Spirit must instruct us, that we may learn in our own soul that reconciliation proceeds from the Father and is brought about by the satisfaction of the Son. Only then do we begin to understand the just demand of the Father that Christ be born in Bethlehem's manger. Comprehending even a little of this will cause us to hide our faces in the dust before God.

Due to our fall in Adam, we have no longer any love in our heart. We manifest nothing but hatred and enmity against God in our heart and life. Oh, how bitterly this causes us to lament when God begins to convince us by His Spirit. There is nothing that humbles a person more and melts his heart faster than the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Alas, we can but stammer concerning these things as we commemorate the birth of Christ. The half has not been told us. May our heart be filled with this love and, as it were, be swallowed up in the infinite love of God on Christmas Day. Then we shall truly glorify Him through Christ. He did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up to suffer and die for enemies. May God take possession of our heart so that we shall give our heart to Him. Outside of Christ all is void and cannot give true satisfaction, but when we are in Christ, then He is all and in all. David declared in Psalm 36:9, "With Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light."

After man fell and the Covenant of Works was broken, God in His sovereign grace and eternal good pleasure made known the Covenant of Grace. Christ was promised to Adam and Eve after they had cut off all possibility of life. We read of this promise in Genesis 3:15, which also speaks of Christ's conflict and triumph.

All the prophets of ancient times prophesied concerning the coming of the Messiah, the one more gloriously than the other. When Malachi, the last of the prophets, prepared the way for His coming, we would almost expect the event to take place immediately. Yet, it waited four hundred years, during which time the voice of prophecy remained silent. It became so dark in the world, in the church, and in the heart of the people of God that it seemed as though all hope was gone. Then, in that dark night, the promise was fulfilled. It is the same way in the life and heart of every saint of God when Christ is born within. That takes place when all hope is gone, and when it seems more impossible than ever before.

Everything is employed by God to carry out His counsel, if need be, even Caesar Augustus, the mighty Roman

emperor. “For, lo, He spake, and it was done, and all with sovereign power begun, stood fast at His command.” In Bethlehem, the “house of bread,” the living Bread that gives life to the world came down from heaven. Oh, marvel at the condescension on the part of the eternal Son of God. He left His throne and royal crown to be born in a stable. What incomprehensible humiliation! It can be neither fathomed nor described! “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

My dear fellow travelers, do not be offended at the fact that the Son of God was born in a stable. Asaph confessed to be a “beast” before the Lord, and it is for such people alone that this humble birth becomes, and is, such an infinite wonder. If Christ had been born in Herod’s palace or in the mansions of the Pharisees and scribes, or even in the inn, there would be no hope for poor, guilty, wretched, and condemned sinners such as we are. Yet, God must open our eyes to see ourselves as such undone sinners; indeed, we must become the “greatest” of sinners. When that takes place, a voice in our heart says, “There is no help for you in God.” Indeed, the enemies of our soul and our salvation scream from every side that we can never be saved anymore. Satan does everything he can to draw us away from God and to obscure the grace of God in Christ. Moreover, when we look inside ourselves, all hope and expectations must fail us, for within we can discover nothing but sin and misery.

Christ was born in a manger, in a stable. He could not possibly stoop any lower, thereby signifying that He is willing to take up His abode in our beastlike hearts in order to purify and sanctify them and change them into a habitation of God by His Holy Spirit. Bethlehem’s stable opens a possibility for all who are sad, for all who are in distress, and for all who are burdened with debt. On this Christmas Day may there be found such as would flee to the solitude of a field, a wood, a cellar, or an upstairs room, groaning under the burden of their sin and guilt.

There is a fullness to be found in Bethlehem’s stable. All who come to Christ He shall in no wise cast out. May God grant courage to the fainthearted and comfort to the disconsolate. What an experience it would be for all of us if we were drawn by the Father through the Holy Spirit unto the stable in Bethlehem to find the Mediator there! “For whoso findeth Me findeth life” (Proverbs 8:35). He is a perfect Saviour and will save to the uttermost all those who come to God through Him. He has purchased full salvation. We cannot add one sigh to it; neither need we do so, but He also applies His salvation.

Oh, that we may look beyond those swaddling clothes and see Him in all His divine glory, for He is the only begotten Son of God. There, in that humble manger lies the eternal Son of God. He is the true God and eternal life. Oh, how His people should acknowledge, love, and adore Him. He is truly altogether lovely. May we exclaim with the bride, “This is my Beloved, and this is my Friend, O daughters of Jerusalem!” □

## “I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last”

*Rev. W.C. Lamain (1904-1984)*

(Translated from *De Saambinder*, January 2, 2014)

*(Revelation 1:11a)*

**T**he Old Year with all of its trials and tribulations, surprises and disappointments, joy and sorrow, but also with all of its guilt, sin, and shortcomings, again lies behind us. That year will never return except in the day of eternity. Then it will be a personal question for each of us. How will that year then come back to us? Will it be for our joy or our condemnation?

For most people, entering the New Year has taken place thoughtlessly. The exchange from the Old into the New Year for many has taken place in drunkenness and gluttony, all kinds of foolishness, and many more things where the time has been spent to put away thoughts of death and eternity, if something of a conscience still remains.

The great mass of people, unfortunately, no longer know anything of the meaning of hell and heaven. Even

with those who confess the truth, life has become so materialistic that they follow the customs of the world. The hearts are hardened more and more, and in complacency man goes from one year into another without realizing that without regeneration no one shall enter the kingdom of heaven.

Fear may well fill our heart if we consider the seriousness of the condition in which we, our families, and the churches find ourselves. Yet, no matter how dark it is—it is becoming darker and darker under the judgments of God’s rejection and the hiding of His countenance because of our sins and our great guilt—there will be a remnant according to the election of grace. No, we do not have to provide for that. God Himself will take care of that according to His eternal counsel and the bowels of His divine mercies and lovingkindness in Christ Jesus.



## For Young and Old

### National Outlook

J.K. Popham (1847-1937)

(Two letters to the youth written in 1919 and 1925)

My dear young friends,

How quickly the months pass away, and how often I seem to be writing to you. If apology were needed, it would be my interest in you and my desire for your welfare. Your life is full of difficulties. It will be all but impossible for you to escape entirely the influence of the spirit of the times. Where is it not as a storm rooting up old customs, carrying away many honored traditions, a subtle atmosphere insinuating itself into everything? No place, no sphere of life is free from it. Home, school, workshop, ideas of honor, views of contract, all places and things are invaded by this evil.

It may be asked if the change which has come to our beloved land can be rationally accounted for. I believe it can. 1. *There is a cause for it.* 2. It may be regarded as an effect.

1. There is a cause for it. The cause is *the rejection of the Word of God*. Read the calamities of the Jews as set forth in Jeremiah 8; and if you ask *why* such terrible judgments, turn to the verse 9. "The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?" That explains all, and has England not rejected the God-given treasure of the Bible? We have chosen our own way, and there is no wisdom in us.
2. The troubles now in our midst may be regarded as an *effect*. When men, when nations, vex the Almighty, He turns to be their enemy. "Shall not My soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" He chooses His own weapons. "I also will choose their delusions." None can properly doubt that He is punishing us. May He, in the midst of wrath, remember mercy!

One word of advice I venture to offer you, my young friends. Keep close to those who fear God; listen to them with respect to the Word of God. Avoid the intoxication of present-day teaching with respect to removing of ancient landmarks. The Lord help you to revere His sacred Word, help you to seek His favor, teaching, and salvation, and the security which His children enjoy in Him. "And of Benjamin he said, the beloved of LORD shall dwell in safety by Him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between His shoulders" (Deuteronomy 33:12).

Your affectionate friend,  
J.K. Popham  
(September 1919)

*Although the references to communism in the following article may sound somewhat strange to our ears, a close reading of the letter will show that they are also the forces which are at work in our nation today, perhaps under different names and titles. We have need to be vigilant, and to let our voices be heard, and to pray that the Lord will remember our nation in mercy—Ed.*

My dear young friends,

Mercy to our beloved country is much in my thoughts just now, and I am therefore writing a few words to you on this very important subject. Holy Scripture tells us that He is the "King of nations." And Christ, who is God, says, "By Me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By Me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth" (Proverbs 8:15&16). And the Holy Ghost, by Paul, tells us that the Son of God upholds the worlds. He made them, and it is His prerogative to uphold, that is, rule over them, guide them, and see that they fulfill His purposes in making them. How little we think of this divine superintendence when we read of the affairs of the nations of the world.

Sparrows fly or fall just as He wills. How much more men, statesmen, rulers, powers that be, "angels and authorities and powers," must be under the King of kings and Lord of lords. Though the confusion we see everywhere—violence, oppression, gambling, and now one of the worst of all known evils, Communism—make it difficult for all but the true believer in God, to believe that order and good can be evolved out of the seething evils, yet Christ, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, shall show in His time things which, when seen in the light of Christ, will appear not only right but wonderful in their fitting each into the other and their ultimate setting—the glory of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.

Now with regard to our own nation, who can doubt the wonderful, merciful working of God in the timely discovery of the plots of Communists against peace, order, and good government? Probably, if all could be told us which is well known, we should be filled with amazement at the kindness, wisdom, and power of God in our protection, preservation, and good.

The inhuman aim of Communism is the overthrow of all moral good, carrying with it the destruction of material prosperity. It begins with terrible Atheism. In the *Times* of December 29, it is said that Zinovieff—a name too well

known in England—has “issued an anti-religious appeal,” in which he said (I hardly like to write the shameful words), “We will grapple with the Lord God in due season. We will vanquish Him in His highest heaven, and wherever He seeks refuge we shall subdue Him forever.” (Zinovieff was a Soviet Communist who was often alleged to have promoted communist revolution in England—*Ed.*) This unspeakable blasphemy makes one shudder. To what does it lead? “A Bolshevik war on religion,” and the young are being taught that there is no God.

(The Bolsheviks were the radical, far-left socialist, Marxist faction which became the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and promoted revolution and socialism across Europe—*Ed.*) The Communists—only another name for the same enemies of God and man—have many schools in this country and in France. In the latter country, according to the *Daily Mail* of January 2, it is reported that a “boy of twelve presides at a congress.” A congress of child Bolsheviks was recently held at the Paris headquarters of the Communist party, and was presided over by a boy of twelve! At this congress “Resolutions were adopted by which the children pledged themselves to do their utmost to avoid singing patriotic hymns...To decline to raise their caps to the head-master and other teachers, and to denounce

capitalistic principles and history.” Now if such meetings are not publicly held today in our own beloved country, it is because God has recently exposed Zinovieff and his party, but there is no change in the men or their devilish principles. How far they may be working in secret God knows perfectly, and it is to be hoped that our government has some information.

If any of you should meet with a youth who by suggestion or a word shows disrespect to our king and the institutions of the realm, and good laws and order, part company with him at once. Never forget Romans 13:1-10.

How can we be sufficiently thankful to God for His goodness to England? Value your birthright, and seek by all means to maintain it. Read the Word of God; listen to the preaching of the truth; read the history of our dear fatherland, of the Reformation; follow good men; cleave to Protestantism; and seek to fear the “King of nations” (Jeremiah 10:7). With, and above all this, may the everlasting goodness, wisdom, and power of God bring you into the citizenship of the commonwealth of spiritual Israel (Ephesians 2:12). □

Your affectionate friend,  
J.K. Popham  
(February 1925)



## *Media Use*

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### **A Fearful and Overwhelming Onslaught from the Powers of Darkness**

*NRC Synodical Modern Media Committee*

*(This article is Part 6 and final in a series by the NRC Synodical Modern Media Committee on the dangers of pornography.)*

Over the past several months we have summarized the grave dangers our families and church communities face in this technological era. While we recognize that “there is nothing new under the sun” in regards to sin, it must also be recognized, today, that Satan has unprecedented new tools in his arsenal and unprecedented methods and opportunities to access both us and our children. Those who shrug off the dangers of smartphones and other devices with Internet access are simply refusing to recognize that these dangers are *real* and *imminent*. The poison that has seeped into our communities through these devices is already destroying marriages, hardening hearts, spreading addiction, and ensnaring the youth in unprecedented numbers. We say this not to sow fear but to strengthen resolve and to spur the conviction that we must prayerfully fight against these dangers.

Briefly, let us summarize the solutions we have proposed. We hope that as a result of this series, readers more fully understand that restrictions on the Internet have not been suggested out of a desire to place burdensome rules on people but rather to protect our marriages and families from the unimaginable tidal wave of grotesque sexual filth that pervades the Internet. We remind readers once again that many of those addicted to pornography *did not seek it out*—but that the porn industry works relentlessly through pop-up ads and other methods to place such imagery before our eyes and the eyes of our children. Those running these websites seem to have a better understanding of human nature than we do. We often seem to believe that we can withstand temptation when we are faced with it. Those seeking to hook us with sexual imagery know that the majority of people will eventually give in to temptation. We, who believe in the total depravity of the human heart, should be far more on our guard than we are and should be working to protect our children with the understanding that they, too, were conceived and born in sin.

Collective action will be necessary to address and uproot the increasingly widespread practice of pornography consumption. As mentioned previously, we strongly urge parents to *delay giving children smartphones or other mobile devices with Internet access as long as possible*. It is unfair to expect our children to withstand temptations that many adults cannot withstand, and it is the responsibility of parents to protect their children from this poison. Children who become hooked on pornography face long-term spiritual, relational, and physiological consequences. It transforms their minds, profoundly damages their relationships, and hardens them to the gospel. Providing them devices with access to this poison is negligence; there is simply no other way to put it. Comprehensive Internet filters on all available devices as well as accountability programs on smartphones when teens do receive them are also extremely important. There is simply too much at stake for families to outsource these discussions to consistories or school staff. We must all take responsibility.

It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that parents instruct their children when they are still young and, according to their age, speak with them about how wonderful the Lord has made us. Further, we must explain that we are not to allow our eyes, ears, and bodies to do what we would like to do, namely, yield to and indulge our evil desires and lusts. The spiritual consequences of giving in to such grave sins as pornography and adultery are far reaching. The heart becomes hardened, and we become less and less sensitive to the Word of God and His commandments. Being busy with these things will also take prayer away. It can be that we still pray out of custom, but then our prayers consist only of words we speak. Slowly, but surely, the Prince of Darkness takes prayer away from us altogether.

It might be helpful to note that the damage caused by long-term pornography use is not being noticed by only church leaders and religious people. Several Scandinavian nations have begun to call for action to keep pornography away from young people. The government of the United Kingdom has been working for years to create an age verification system that all Internet service providers will be forced to implement in order to keep pornography from those under eighteen. Canadian Members of Parliament

voted unanimously to instruct the Standing Committee on Health to research the connection between pornography and sexual violence, problems of which our communities have not been immune. Since 2016, seventeen U.S. states have declared pornography a public health crisis, a position also formally held by the Republican Party. Secular academics and journalists are also increasingly sounding the alarm. Even those who despise biblical teachings on sexuality realize that pornography is destroying everything we hold dear. It is long past time that we realized this, too—and that we take decisive action to protect ourselves and our families from this digital poison with unprecedented access.

Therefore, may our families be found praying families at the throne of grace. If there is one weapon in the spiritual armour which Satan cannot stand, it is the weapon of prayer. Paul speaks after having mentioned all spiritual weapons, of the importance of prayer so that God's Word will not be closed but opened to us. We hope that our parents would pray not only *for* their children but also *with* their children; we hope that the Lord would keep them from these grave sins and convert parents and children as He converts all of His people. Besides, we must take all necessary measures to keep these dangers out of our houses as much as possible. The biblical command is "watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." As mentioned before, Internet filtering is an important, but outward and imperfect, component of "watch and pray." However, the inward filter of the fear of the Lord is indispensable because this fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. May this fear of the Lord be found in our heart. Then others will notice that work of the Lord in our heart and realize what they are still missing so that they become jealous of that work of the Lord in our life and learn to ask for the Lord and His strength. How blessed are those people who have learned to know the filthiness of their heart and have a desire to be cleansed from all of their sins. The fruit will then be evident, namely, they will hate and flee from sin including the sin of pornography. May there be found many young people and adults in the congregations who have received this blessed portion. □

*(This installment marks the end of this series.)*

Affliction is one of God's medicines. By it He often teaches lessons which would be learned in no other way. By it He often draws souls away from sin and the world, which would otherwise have perished everlastingly. Health is a great blessing, but sanctified disease is a greater. Prosperity and worldly comfort are what all naturally desire, but losses and crosses are far better for us if they lead us to Christ. Let us beware of murmuring in the time of trouble. Let us settle it firmly in our minds that there is a meaning, a "needs be," and a message from God in every sorrow that falls upon us. There are no lessons so useful as those learned in the school of affliction. There is no commentary that opens up the Bible so much as sickness and sorrow. The resurrection morning will prove that many of the losses of God's people were in reality eternal gains. Thousands at the last day will testify with David, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted" (Psalm 119:71).

—J.C. Ryle



## Questions & Answers

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### Questions from Our Readers

Rev. H. Hofman, Kalamazoo, MI

*Must a person who thinks he knows of a Peniel experience in his life be able to describe a Bethel experience, as well as identify a particular text that accompanied both?*

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). About Bethel and Peniel, as well as the “receiving of texts” much has been written. The matter raised in the question above, I think, deals with the Lord’s peculiar dealings in the life of Jacob. In order to come to an answer, it is important to take into consideration the following elements:

1. The Lord is free in the ways He chooses for His people. I think we need to be cautious, on the one hand, to prescribe how the Lord “must” work out His counsel in the life of His children while, on the other hand, we must exercise just as much effort to discern a certain divine order in what Scripture shows us as the Lord’s common ways. Careful, prayerful reading of the Bible, with the help of sound (exegetical) commentaries is paramount to avoid erroneous interpretations.

2. Further to what is mentioned above it is important to realize that we may not allegorize the Bible. Allegorizing the Bible spiritualizes, e.g., a biblical history and then interprets its meaning literally in a spiritual sense. The danger in allegorizing is that it often leads to using a Bible history to turn it into a precast mold of how the Lord works his grace. An example of where this often leads to arbitrary and “forced” exegesis is the book of Ruth. Again, careful exegesis of the Scriptures is indispensable to avoid falling into unscriptural notions or experiences which may be true and upright in themselves (let’s be careful not to judge one another here) but are not based on the intent of Scripture. One such pitfall is that man chooses so that what is important and what is maybe less to his understanding or even liking is avoided, or unscriptural notions become a norm for how the Lord leads His people. Let Psalm 43:3 be our fervent and earnest prayer: *“O send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy hill, and to Thy tabernacles.”*

3. When it concerns the Lord’s personal dealings with, e.g., the patriarchs we must also not forget these two important elements: there is a historical narrative, with a strictly personal leading and application for the Bible saint in a given time and circumstance. on the one hand, and there is the soteriological element, the unfolding of God’s plan and counsel of salvation in a more general sense. To discern this rightly requires the indispensable leading of God’s Spirit and, again, careful, honest, faithful exegesis.

Instead of saying “This is this” in spiritual life and “This is that,” it is probably safer to say, “Here are lessons for the life of faith; here we see a clear picture of how the Lord works.”

Applying all of the above, we may conclude that the Lord chose to deal with Jacob in a way that was unique to Jacob’s needs and circumstances. Yet, as I just stated, the question indeed may be asked: Can lines be drawn to God’s common way with His children from this? Are there applications to be obtained when a word becomes powerfully effectual in the life of a child of God? To this I would wholeheartedly answer, yes. What the Lord showed Jacob at Bethel was personally necessary and profitable for Jacob, and what happened at Peniel was no less so.

At Bethel, Jacob saw a “ladder set up on the earth.” Does this not point to the joyful experience when Christ, the Ladder set upon the earth, is revealed? Blessed are those who may experience as did Jacob, “This is none other but the house of God.” We read of his later experience in Genesis 32:30, “And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” The God of Jacob determined the intensity, depth, timing, and fruit of His teaching at both places. What an eternal wonder that Jacob’s sins are forgiven, and he may receive the new name of Israel. There is peace between a holy God and a wretched sinner based on the perfect sacrifice of the blessed Mediator Jesus Christ. There is now no condemnation for them who are found in Him.

Concerning the second part of the question, “identifying a particular text to accompany both,” I would say it is a blessing when the Holy Spirit applies a word with power, but what ultimately counts is not the receiving of a text; it is the gift of and walk by faith alone. In that walk it is the Lord Himself who leads, guides, and teaches what He deems necessary for one to know and what serves most to His honor and glory. Sometimes these leadings are by the still waters; sometimes they lead to places so solemn and impressive, that Moses said, *“I exceedingly fear and quake”* (Hebrews 12:21). I believe that in the further leadings of the Lord with His own, the walking by sight, that is, that which is emotionally experienced must often give way to less of that which is emotionally charged and more to a relying on the naked Word of God. The poet of Psalm 40 wrote, *“And set my foot upon a rock and established my goings.”* Such an exercise of faith is in no wise to be minimized but actually in an earnest way to be coveted. The Lord’s way with Jacob’s was a way of many trials and afflictions. Think only of Jacob when, *after* Peniel, he had to live twenty years yet with Joseph’s bloody coat of many colors; he had no

more than what God had shown him! It was a way he had not known.

Then sometimes the living, severely tried Church desires that they had more feeling and more emotion, but the Lord takes the resting ground out of those experiences. In Joseph, the Lord had given Jacob a precious promise, but how this was to be realized was a complete mystery for Jacob. Dear reader, would Jacob have been helped if someone had said to him, “In this and this way it has to go”? Here we would not say that it “must” go this way, but “*Shew me Thy ways, O LORD; teach me Thy paths*” (Psalm 25:4). Is this also not the way an awakened sinner is led to Christ?



## Current Events

### Another Muslim Christian Receives Eighty Lashes for Drinking Wine

On November 15, a 37-year-old Christian prisoner in Iran was given eighty lashes for drinking wine as part of Holy Communion. This man, a convert from Islam, is a deacon in the Church of Iran house church network, and is currently serving a six-year prison sentence in Tehran's Evin prison. He was arrested in May 2016 with his pastor and fellow house church members. In July 2018, they began serving a ten-year prison sentences for “acting against national security through propagating house churches and promoting Zionist Christianity.” Following a retrial in May 2020, he and another arrested had their sentences reduced to six years in prison. Part of these sentences included eighty lashes each for drinking wine during communion at a service. One of the prisoners was given his lashes in October 2020 after his prison sentence ended. This was internationally condemned, including by the U.S. State Department. It had been assumed that the remaining prisoners would also not be lashed until after their release from prison, but one was summoned from prison on November 15 for his lashing sentence to be carried out. Only non-Muslims are permitted to drink alcohol in Iran, but since leaving Islam is forbidden, converts to Christianity are not recognized as non-Muslims, and thus may not drink alcohol.

—ChurchInChains.ie

### Bill Proposed to Make “Conversion Therapy” a Crime

A perverse and troubling bill is moving quickly through the House of Commons in Canada. Bill C-6 is a proposed act to amend the Criminal Code of Canada to make “Conversion Therapy” a crime. Conversion therapy is defined in the bill as “a practice, treatment, or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender, or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behavior.” This is concerning for Christian parents, pastors, and counsellors seeking to faithfully guide youth in this wicked time. The Bill starts with the sentence “Whereas conversion therapy causes harm to the persons, and in particular the children, who are subjected to it.” Later the Bill specifically calls out “Everyone who knowingly causes a person who is under the age of eighteen years to undergo conversion therapy is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment...”

—Parl.ca

This is the way, then, that we ought to view Bethel and Peniel. What a blessing if such trials lead to more experience, to more humility, to more dying to self, and to more of trusting upon the Lord alone, no matter how dark the way may become. The Lord also knew the way Jacob took, and when he was tried, he came forth as gold. Job said: “*But He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? and what His soul desireth, even that He doeth*” (Job 23:13). “*And many such things are with Him*” (Job 23:14). ◻

Please send your questions to Rev. H. Hofman, 112 Pratt Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49001, or hofman@premieronline.net.

### Recreational Marijuana Legalized in New Jersey and Other States

On November 3, NJ voters approved a constitutional amendment to legalize cannabis in New Jersey, putting pressure on neighboring states like New York. After years of prevention in the legislative branch, New Jersey voters authorized the legal use of recreational marijuana in a year where supporters rallied around the disproportionate number of arrests for the drug in minority communities. The ballot question passed, as expected, by a wide margin. The vote allows New Jersey officials to begin the thorny, potentially lengthy process of establishing rules related to regulating and testing cannabis and issuing licenses, including how many permits to grant—and to whom. It also instantly increases pressure for lawmakers in neighboring states who support legalization to take action or risk losing the competitive edge to New Jersey in what is expected to be one of the largest marijuana markets in the country. Arizona and Montana also approved a ballot measure to legalize recreational marijuana, and voters in South Dakota faced a similar question. If the questions pass in all four states, a third of the country will soon live in a state or city where marijuana is legal. (Sadly, this did also pass in South Dakota, bringing the number of states with legalized recreational marijuana to fifteen, leaving only six states in which marijuana is still completely illegal—Ed.)

—NYTimes.com

### First Amendment Upheld by Supreme Court in Regards to Coronavirus Restrictions

The U.S. Supreme Court, on November 25, blocked the New York governor from re-imposing strict attendance caps at worship services in areas hit hard by the novel Coronavirus. The court ruled 5-4 to bar the governor from enforcing his October 6 “Cluster Initiative” against houses of worship that sued to challenge the restrictions. The order was also the first in which new Justice Amy Coney Barrett played a decisive role. Meanwhile, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's liberal wing in the dissenting opinion, which stated the court had acted rashly. The attendance cap initiative had created color-coded limits on mass gatherings and business operations in an effort to stem the outbreak in New York City areas that were experiencing a surge in COVID cases. Some suggest this was aimed at worship services at some synagogues

(continued on page 23)



# Timothy FOR THE YOUNG

## **The Confession of Faith** (13) **Article XX: That God Had Manifested His Justice and Mercy in Christ** (continued)

*Rev. A.M. den Boer (1929-2004)*

In the preceding issue we have spoken of the satisfaction of Christ. Since He underwent the punishment for sin, the Lord cannot and will not punish sin again in His elect. Thus it is expressed in this article where it reads, "We believe that God, who is perfectly merciful and just, sent His Son to assume that nature in which the disobedience was committed, to make satisfaction in the same, and to bear the punishment of sin by His most bitter passion and death."

This satisfaction consists of a twofold fulfillment of the Law, namely, the perfect keeping of the Law and the undergoing of the punishment of the Law. We know that Christ kept the Law because He could say, "Who reproves Me of sin?" He underwent the punishment of sin in soul and body. Neither angel nor fallen man could give that satisfaction but only that Mediator who is very God and real righteous man. He could give eternal value to His suffering of short duration: short, that is, when we consider that we deserved eternal punishment. If Christ had been only very man, He could not have borne God's wrath, nor have said, "It is finished."

The Mediator could say this, however, because He had all of the attributes necessary to this end. This mediatorial work of Christ was not an offence against God's justice and the Law; Christ had freely and willingly accepted this suretyship, and He fulfilled everything which He had promised. In Christ the handwriting which was against the Church is blotted out, for Christ underwent the punishment instead of His children.

This doctrine is rejected by the Arminians and by Rome. The Arminians say that God accepted Christ's suffering as satisfaction, but that in reality it did not have the same value as the eternal suffering which we deserve. Rome acknowledges the infinite value of Christ's suffering, but they say that one drop of Christ's blood would have been of the same value; therefore, that which He has done was excessive.

This reserve is then given to the Pope. For this they found a text in 1 Timothy 1:14, "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

In response to these above-mentioned errors the Reformed and Luther say that the satisfaction of Christ is sufficient for the salvation of the entire human race, but whether Christ had to make satisfaction for one or for the whole human race, it would not make any difference in the suffering itself; it would not be more or less. Christ had to undergo the punishment of the wrath of God which cannot be divided. The wrath of God is against the entire human race because of sin, and Christ has felt this wrath, but He underwent this punishment for His Church whom He represented already in the establishing of the Covenant of Grace.

We know that Christ is given for the fall and rising again of many. What will He be for us? If we are not partakers of His merits, then, because the Lord is just, we must make payment ourselves. This was also in force for Christ, for this article states, "God therefore manifested His justice against His Son, when He laid our iniquities upon Him."

Many raise the question whether Christ merited the absolute salvation for His Church so that they will certainly be saved or whether Christ merited only the possibility to be saved. Christ is a complete Saviour, who merited salvation and who also applies it. It is not a universal reconciliation of the whole human race with God but only of the elect. Thus, the work of a Triune God is glorified in the children of God; Christ gave satisfaction, the Father is completely satisfied in the work of His Son, and the Holy Spirit applies it as the Spirit of Christ. Salvation is sure in a Triune God. There was no other way to give satisfaction to God's justice than by Christ; He was the only One who could do this.

"And poured forth His mercy and goodness on us,

who were guilty and worthy of damnation, out of mere and perfect love, giving His Son unto death for us." This love of God is shown not to friends but to enemies, a guilty people who show that they have no desire in the service of God. The more we see our guilt and sin, the greater the miracle becomes that the Lord looks down upon such sinners. When it is not merely in our head and mind, then the Holy Spirit will show us some of the goodness and mercy of the Lord over us.

James has said in his epistle, "Mercy rejoiceth against judgment." How necessary it is to experience it in our life. From our side there is no hope and expectation, but God is able to quicken the dead sinner. Then faith is implanted, hope is worked in the heart, and love is poured out. The opening of God's Word gives light in the soul, and thereby we more and more see our misery. The Lord discovers our sins that we might seek refuge under the wings of Christ. The Law is a schoolmaster to Christ so that in our lost condition a door of hope may be opened. What a wonder it becomes that such a sinner can yet be saved. How much room there is in Christ for a lost sinner who has a debt which cannot be calculated and who does not have a farthing to pay. He can be saved without injuring the attributes of God, and this is all because of the work of Christ.

There are moments that sinners may taste of that love of God, even though they are not reconciled with God; they yet miss the application of the work of Christ in their heart. This is very well possible, and it happens so often that God's children come into great darkness and doubts because of the attacks of Satan. At such times, they cannot believe that the Lord is their God for time and eternity. It is therefore necessary to come to the change of state with knowledge of ourselves, and this will be experienced in the way of descending and decreasing. In such deeper discovery we learn not only to know our actual sins but also our original sin. There we lose all hope and expectation and confess that the Lord would be just if He rejected us forever. At the same time, we will cry out with Ruth, "Spread Thy wings over me." With all that has happened, God's children still miss the application of Christ's merits in their heart.

What a blessed moment when the death-awaiting and expecting sinner may, at God's time, come to the assurance that Christ is given unto him for time and eternity, as it is expressed in this Confession of Faith article, "And raising Him for our justification, that through Him we might obtain immortality and life eternal." Here the Pearl of Great Price becomes our possession.



## *Bible Stories for Little Ones*

### **The Israelites in the Wilderness** (3)

(Based on Numbers 13&14)

The children of Israel had been away from their real home, the land of Canaan, for many, many long years. The land of Canaan was where Jacob and Esau had lived and where Joseph had been born. I am sure that you still remember how Joseph had been brought to the land of Egypt and that his father and brothers had followed him there to buy corn. Then they had stayed there when Pharaoh gave them the land of Goshen in which to live. They did not go back home but grew up, got married, and had children in the land of Egypt. Now, after four hundred years, they were on their way back to their home.

So many years had passed since their forefathers had left the land of Canaan and everything had changed there. Many times, the children of Israel must have wondered what it would be like in Canaan.

Are the people friendly, or will they fight us? Is there good food to eat? They asked these questions because they had never lived there.

God knew what questions lived in their heart, so one day He told Moses to send twelve men into the land of Canaan to explore it. We call such men spies. Moses told the twelve spies to go to a mountain and to look out over the entire land of Canaan. Then they were to come back and let the others know what they saw.

The people who stayed behind waited excitedly. What kind of news would the spies have? Would they have a good report, or would it be bad? "Are we heading into a wonderful country," they wondered, "or into danger?"

One day the good news spread through the tents of the Israelites. "The spies are back; the spies are back," they cried. "Let's hurry and see what they have to tell us!"

Men and women dropped what they were doing and ran to greet the twelve men. The people saw the wonderful fruits the spies had brought back. There were grape clusters so big that they had to be carried by two men. They also brought back figs and juicy pomegranates.

"Canaan must be a beautiful, wonderful place," cried the Israelites. "Just look at all the beautiful fruit which one can find there." The spies agreed, "It surely is a beautiful land."

The Israelites smiled as they anticipated seeing the land themselves, but the spies continued, "We should not go there, for the people are dangerous. There are giants there, we could never fight against them. In addition to that, there are walls around the cities which we could never get through. The neighbors all around the cities are also enemies. We should just forget going there. The land is great, but we cannot fight these people."

Did all the spies say that? No, only ten of them did. Two of the men named Caleb and Joshua did not agree. "I think we should go up to Canaan," said Caleb, "God will help us to fight against the people."

The other ten spies, however, pushed Caleb aside. "No," they said, "We could never fight them and win. The people are too strong for us. Next to them we are like grasshoppers."

Now the people were afraid, and they were no longer happy. Now there was crying and complaining. "Why did we ever leave the land of Egypt?" the people grumbled. "We wish we would have died in the desert. Why did God bring us this far anyway because we are just going to be killed by those terrible people in Canaan. Why don't we go back to Egypt?"

"Yes," cried some of the others. "That is a good idea. Why don't we make us a captain, and he can bring us back to Egypt."

When Moses and Aaron heard this, they did not know what to do. They fell on their knees and prayed to the Lord for help. Caleb and Joshua kept encouraging the people that with the Lord, the great God

of the whole earth, it was certainly possible to defeat these people, but the children of Israel would not listen. In fact, they became so angry that they decided to throw stones at Joshua and Caleb to kill them.

Then, suddenly, a glorious white light filled the tabernacle. God had come down unto them from heaven. God was angry with His people because they did not believe that He could help them. His people would not listen to Moses, Caleb, and Joshua.

God told the Israelites that because they did not want to go into Canaan, they WOULD NOT be able to go there. Every single one of them from the age of twenty years and older would die in the wilderness with the exception of Caleb and Joshua. The rest of the people would wander in the desert or wilderness until they died. They would never see the land of Canaan, but their children and grandchildren would go there. What an awful punishment this was.

Next, God made the ten wicked spies sick so that they died. Joshua and Caleb, of course, did not get sick and die.

Some of the people thought they were wiser than God. They decided together, "God promised He would give the land of Canaan to us, so let's go in any way! We sinned, but surely God will help us fight those people."

Do you know who those Israelites are like? They are like little children. When their mother asks them if they would like a piece of cake, they don't

want it, but when she puts it away and says they cannot have it anymore, then they want it.

Did God let these disobedient people enter the land of Canaan? No, He did not! When they went in, He did not help them at all. The strong people of the country fought against them and won the battle. The Israelites had to leave. It is quite likely that some of them were killed in the battle.

Now the Israelites had to face their punishment. They did not have a land to go to, and the Lord let them wander about in the wilderness for forty years. As they moved and wandered from place to place in the desert, gradually all of the people over the age of twenty years died and were buried. What terrible punishments we can expect when we disobey God's commandments.



*Spies return with fruit clusters from Canaan*



# Bible Quiz

## Leaning

Dear Boys and Girls,

Matthew kept his gaze forward, keeping his mind on what lay ahead. Every tired step brought him one step closer to their barracks. Ian leaned heavily on his arm, grimacing, and Matthew tried to give even more support as they labored on towards their destination. Their soldier's uniforms were stained and dusty, and sweat poured down their faces. Ian's leg throbbed. Hopefully, it was only a surface wound. He was almost back at camp, and he relied heavily on his friend to help him arrive there. Leaning on Matthew's arm, he hobbled on.

Ian needed Matthew's strength on which to lean, but Matthew also needed strength on which to lean. Quietly, as he continued walking, he was praying, praying for strength to go another step and help his friend who was in pain.

Everyone needs something or someone to lean on in difficult times. The Bible says, "Lean not unto thine own understanding." However, most of the time we think we can solve problems all by ourselves. We use all the things that can help us without asking the Lord to bless it. We turn to friends, and when they can no longer help us, we become desperate and upset. We might become angry that things have to be so difficult, and we try to change it. Do you know what Solomon wrote as the OPPOSITE of leaning on your own understanding? He said in Proverbs 3:5a, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart!"

If the Lord shows you your heart, you will learn that your own ideas, plans, and understanding will fail if you lean on them. Solomon is telling us in Proverbs that we should beg God to direct us in everything, even if it seems plain to us what we must do. When things are pleasant, remember that it is the Lord who gave them, and be thankful. When He sends help, realize that it is from Him and does not "just happen" to come your way. When things are not easy, submit under them. The Lord has promised that He will direct our paths if we ask Him, and that way is safe and good.

Often, when we have troubles, we do not lean. We stoically try to bear the trouble ourselves. We might ask for help from everyone else and forget to first ask God. True leaning is when we cannot do anything until we have prayed about it.

The men writing the Constitution of our nation found this out when they ran stuck while writing it. Finally, Ben Franklin declared that the Constitution was so difficult to finish because the men had forgotten to pray.

God's people sometimes send many cries for help up to heaven. That is leaning. It can be a strong, unshaken leaning, full of faith, in which they say, "I trust and know that my God will help me. I will stay upon Him." It is as though God is their companion in distress. The Lord is close and knows all about their heart, and they may lean on Him for everything.

It can also be weak leaning like a child holding out his hand, reaching for a mother or father. It can be like a child telling his father or mother all about something. If God's people could not depend on Him, they would have to sit down in despair. They may entrust all their concerns—concerns of their life, mind, and heart—to Him. God sees both the small and weak and the strong and full-grown in faith, and He loves to hear their cries.

God's Word can be a great comfort in times of distress. It can give quieting thoughts when one reads that He knows the way. "Be still, and know that I am God." It can give comfort when one reads that He is willing to help. "But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies." He is also so able. "I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for Me?"

*"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;  
and lean not unto thine own understanding"*  
(Proverbs 3:5).

1. "Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised \_\_\_\_\_, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him" (2 Kings 18).

2. "And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the \_\_\_\_\_, and He was intreated of them; because they put their trust in Him" (1 Chronicles).

3. "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my \_\_\_\_\_, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower" (Psalm 10:20).

4. "As for God, His way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler to all those that \_\_\_\_\_ in Him."

5. "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD our God."

6. "\_\_\_\_\_ thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."

7. "Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am \_\_\_\_\_: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed."

Use the clue to figure out the word. (The words are from #'s 1-7.) Write the word and then find the word in the word search puzzle at lower right of this page.

- A word that someone or something is known by  
Write the word: \_ \_ \_ \_  
found \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) in the puzzle
- Promise or involve oneself; pledge  
Write the word: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
found \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) in the puzzle
- Armor carried on the arm to intercept blows  
Write the word: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
found \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) in the puzzle
- Not having power; not strong  
Write the word: \_ \_ \_ \_  
found \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) in the puzzle
- A fight; part of a war  
Write the word: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
found \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) in the puzzle
- A tall slender piece of grass  
Write the word: \_ \_ \_ \_  
found \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) in the puzzle
- Have confidence or faith in—"We can trust in God."  
Write the word: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
found \_\_\_\_\_ time(s) in the puzzle

**For the Older Children**

8. Vowels in this text have been mixed up. An "i" might have to be turned into an "a" or an "a" into an "o." Some vowels are correct. Can you fix the text?

Tho God ef my rick; in Hem wall I trist: He us my sheold, and thu hurn of my silvation, my hogh tewar, and my rafoge, my Saviour; Thou sivast mi frim vailonce.

9. Place the tiles in the correct order to form a verse.

to all them that trust in Him	
the word of the LORD	He is a buckler
As for God,	to all them
His way is perfect;	is tried:

10. Fill in the missing words.

Apple tree Beloved mother wilderness

"Who is this that cometh up from the \_\_\_\_\_, leaning upon her \_\_\_\_\_? I raised thee up under the \_\_\_\_\_: there thy \_\_\_\_\_ brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee."

**For the Younger Children**

11. Who leaned on Jesus' breast at supper? (John 21:20) The disciple whom \_\_\_\_\_. Do you know which disciple this was? Hint: the author of the Bible book you were just looking up.

12. Who leaned on top of his staff while blessing his grandsons? (Hebrews 11:21) \_\_\_\_\_. What were the names of his grandsons? (Genesis 48) \_\_\_\_\_

N C E A U L C O M M I T T R U S T M A O  
 A M L N A E M A N C T K D A R D E E R R  
 M R T T E C C A M M I T K U T E D E T I  
 E M T M I M C E B U C K L E R M M E A U  
 S R A R C M E N A M E M A N L A E E A T  
 R N B U O R M I C T I M M O C N E M N E  
 E I U B S T E O T C O M M I T E R M C A  
 L U C T U D I N C E E R A T E R E M O A  
 K T K L E T C M L S T E I E D O L M M B  
 C T E E K I E T M S R M W E T L K O M E  
 U T R E E L T R U O M A E B K R C C I A  
 B A A E T A E R R O C R A E U E U D T D  
 M W E T B T T E C T M R K A C C B S O R  
 N T A M R E L K C U B T R E E D L K T T  
 T B T R U T U E T R U S A T U E K E K E  
 T M T E B R E L K C U B A T T E R A R T  
 D E W E A K E T T R U S T N B W T U E R  
 R E T A R E M T K W T R U S T E B W B W  
 E R E A T S A A C S B T C L R K A E W R  
 R T L R B D N B T A E E D A E E W E B R



# Letters to My Young Readers

Answers to December's "Rejoice" quiz:

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Always         | Philippians 4:4 |
| 2. Salvation      | 1 Samuel 2:1    |
| 3. Ark            | 1 Samuel 6:13   |
| 4. Trembling      | Psalm 2:11      |
| 5. Shout          | Psalm 5:11      |
| 6. Mercy          | Psalm 13:5      |
| 7. Glad           | Psalm 14:7      |
| 8. Hope           | Psalm 16:9      |
| 9. Banners        | Psalm 20:5      |
| 10. Strength      | Psalm 21:1      |
| 11. Trouble       | Psalm 31:7      |
| 12. Upright       | Psalm 32:11     |
| 13. Praise        | Psalm 33:1      |
| 14. Trusted       | Psalm 33:21     |
| 15. Joyful        | Psalm 35:9      |
| 16. Thy word      | Psalm 119:162   |
| 17. Their king    | Psalm 149:2     |
| 18. His salvation | Isaiah 25:9     |
| 19. Great things  | Joel 2:21       |
| 20. Thy King      | Zechariah 9:9   |
| 21. My Saviour    | Luke 1:47       |
| 22. That day      | Luke 6:23       |
| 23. Your names    | Luke 10:20      |

Answers to previous quizzes were received in November from:

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Anabelle Berkenbush 17      | Justin Okken 5              |
| Britni Blom 16              | Kirstin Okken 5             |
| Jenina Blom 15              | Lauren Pannekoek (2) 9      |
| Lawrence Blom 9             | Andrew Remijn 11            |
| Marissa Blom 16             | Lauren Remijn 7             |
| Hayley Bosch (2) 15         | Allison Rose 2              |
| Derek Brouwer (2) 15        | Micah Spaans 4              |
| Thomas Brouwer (2) 15       | Megan Taylor 11             |
| Kylie DeVisser 1            | Renee Taylor <b>6</b>       |
| Cody Driesen 16             | Colin Ten Hove <b>12</b>    |
| Toby Driesen 16             | Harley Timmer 16            |
| Lindsey Driesse 1           | Hunter Timmer 14            |
| Kyal Grisnich (2) 9         | Kadin Timmer 14             |
| Logan Grisnich (2) 10       | Laurencia Timmer 7          |
| Taryn Grisnich (2) <b>6</b> | Sierra Timmer 12            |
| Kari Groen 10               | Skye Timmer 14              |
| Kurtis Groen 10             | Wyatt Timmer 13             |
| Ailene Groenendyk <b>12</b> | Maurice Van Garderen 14     |
| Linda groenendyk (2) 2      | Emmalyn Van Garderen 14     |
| Ruben Groenendyk (2) 15     | Lydia Van Manen 19          |
| Jason Groeneveld 2          | Rosalee Van Manen 17        |
| Anthony Knibbe 5            | Taylina Van Wingerden 2     |
| Ashley Knibbe 17            | Alivia Vande Hoef <b>18</b> |
| Courtney Knibbe 17          | Micah Vande Hoef 15         |
| Lindsey Knibbe 17           | Jessa Vande Stroet 2        |
| Whitney Knibbe 17           | Raelene Vande Stroet (2) 5  |
| Abby Maassen 1              | Wyatt Vande Waerd 4         |
| Cody Maassen 1              | Renae Vandenberg <b>6</b>   |
| Kari Mans (3) <b>7</b>      | Helen Verhoef 7             |
| Lydia Mol 13                | Shara Verhoef 7             |
| Madeline Mol 5              | Jaydon Weeda (2) 3          |
| Olivia Mol 10               | Heidi Ymker 15              |
| Teddy Mol 13                | Paxton Ymker (2) <b>12</b>  |
| Marielle Neels 13           |                             |
| Emma Okken (2) 4            |                             |
| Shannon Okken (2) 3         |                             |
| Deanna Okken <b>6</b>       |                             |

**9 Bibles were sent to Boliva this month.**

Welcome to our new members:

*Kristin VandenBerg, Linda Groenendyk, Lindsey Driesse.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*You all did a wonderful job on the pictures you drew with your verse from Ephesians. Thank you for sending me photos of them.*

*Thank you all very much for your best wishes for the New Year, also. The year 2020 has been such a different year for all of us—full of uncertainties, changes, fears, and ways we were not used to in church, school, and home. Perhaps you have had times of sadness or loss. The Lord has spared each of us and brought us through thus far. How many callings we have received! When the Lord sent these things amongst us, and when the coronavirus has spread over the world, have you realized that the Lord is grieved with our sins and that we must be turned back from our wicked ways? What has this year done for us?*

*Perhaps we are becoming used to wearing masks, distance learning, going to church part-time, not seeing our friends as much, washing our hands, not traveling or having others travel to us, and hearing about how many people are sick in each state. The things that have happened this past year are a warning, boys and girls, and there is really just one question that is left at the end of the year: "Am I able to meet God, my Maker?"*

*I hope you may all be spared from harm, sickness, and death in the coming year, but above all, that the Lord will give each of you a new heart. I hope that, no matter what happens, you may receive a place in the only Hiding Place, the Lord Jesus. How happy you will then be.*

Love,  
Aunt LenaBeth

Please send your answers to the address shown below:

Aunt LenaBeth

180 Jacobs Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435

E-mail: [auntlenabeth@gmail.com](mailto:auntlenabeth@gmail.com)



# News & Announcements

## Ministerial Calls

### Extended:

To Rev. H. Hofman of Kalamazoo, Michigan, by the congregation of Lisse, the Netherlands.

To Rev. P. Van Ruitenburch of Chilliwack, British Columbia, by the congregation of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

To Rev. A.H. Verhoef of St. Catharines, Ontario, by the congregation of Corsica, South Dakota.

To Rev. A. Verschuure of Capelle a/d IJssel (Middelwatering), the Netherlands, by the congregation of Brant County, Ontario.

### Declined:

By Rev. E. Hakvoort of Norwich, Ontario, to the congregation of Sunnyside, Washington.

## Obituaries

BOUMA, John F. – Age 79, November 14, 2020; Choteau, Montana; Wife – Edith; Children – Les & Ginger Bouma, Lorealee & Bryan Schwanke, Raylene & Mark Casson, Janelle & Scott Teunissen, Judy & Glenn Rosenbaum, Doug & Kelsey Bouma, Mauricio Morales; 22 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren; Siblings – Ralph & Cornelia Bouma, Harold & Johanna Bouma, Jenny & John Luteyn, Fran & Larry Teunissen, Henrietta Van De Legemaat; Sister-in-law – Madalyn Bouma; predeceased by son Stanley Ray, and siblings Peter & Nellie Bouma, Henry & Paula Bouma, Ann & Hugh Greyn, Herman Bouma, Andrew & Marie Bouma, Francis Bouma, and Wulfert Van De Legemaat. (Rev. J.J. Witvoet, Psalm 16:11a).

PROL, Judith – Age 73, November 26, 2020; Allendale, NJ; Sister – Geraldine & Rodney Verblauw; survived by a number of nieces and nephews. (Rev. C. Vogelaar, Hebrews 13:14.)

SPAANS, Elizabeth (nee Fluit) – Age 83, November 27, 2020; Larchwood, Iowa; Husband – Leonard; Children – Herbert & Lavonne Spaans, Deborah & Ralyn Van Ginkel, Kevin & Ann Spaans, Linda & Leslie Roemen, Daryl & Jeanette Spaans, Sharla & Paul Van Beek; 25 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren; Brothers – Bert & Beverly Fluit, Teunis Fluit; Sister – Bernice Wiekamp; predeceased by sister Clazina Blom, brother Gerald Fluit, 2 infant brothers, brothers-in-law John Wiekamp and Arie Blom, sister-in-law Leona Fluit, niece LaRae Wiekamp. (Rev. J.J. Witvoet, Psalm 27:4.)

VAN DE VENDEL, Bertha – Age 92, December 3, 2020; Rock Valley, Iowa; Husband – “Cornie” (deceased); Children – Larry & Brandi Van De Vendel, Howard & Edna Van De Vendel,

Linda & Lloyd Arends, and son-in-law Lyle & Marie Wynia; 18 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren; Sisters-in-law – Lucy Ymker and Bernice Ymker; predeceased by daughter Sharon Wynia, sister Minnie Wallenburg, brothers John, Elmer, Fred, and infant brother Fred Ymker. (Rev. J.J. Witvoet, Matthew 18:3.)

VANDER HAVE, Clifford Alan – Age 73, November 28, 2020; Wayne, New Jersey; Wife – Janet; Children – Kimberly Ann, Karen Lynn & Michael Soliman; 2 grandchildren; Sister – Janyce & Anthony Van Grouw; In-laws – Richard & Trudy Nieuwenhuis, Marinus & Joan Van Peenen, Jake & Phyllis Van Peenen, Tunis & Janette Van Peenen, George & Pam Van Peenen, Betty-Ann & Mark Tietjen, Joanne & David Hoogmoed, Gary & Paige Van Peenen, Jennie Van Peenen, Raymond & Sue Van Peenen, Nancy & Doug Hertz, Carol & Griff Cummings, Ken & Jennifer Van Peenen, Linda Van Peenen. (Elder W. Mol, Psalm 90:12.)

VANDER MEULEN, Greta (nee Tigchelaar) – Age 79, November 14, 2020; Brant County, Ontario; Husband – George; Children – Herman & Evelyn Vander Meulen, Ann & Andy Defreitas, Karl & Audrey Vander Meulen, Benjamin & Grace Vander Meulen, Dave & Karen Vander Meulen, Fran & Andrew Damm; 20 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren. (Rev. A.H. Verhoef, Ecclesiastes 7:2.)

VAN LEEUWEN, John – Age 89, December 2, 2020; Norwich, Ontario; Wife – Marrie; Children – John & Cheryl Van Leeuwen, Wim & Nelly Van Leeuwen, Ria & John Van Vliet, Petra & Reny Van Lagen, Jerry & Joyce Van Leeuwen, Marga & Ken Byl; 41 grandchildren, 58 great-grandchildren; predeceased by daughter-in-law Jennifer, 1 granddaughter and 2 great-granddaughters. (Rev. E. Hakvoort, Psalm 121:1.)

## Installation and Inaugural Address of Rev. G.M. de Leeuw in Nobleford, Alberta

It was a special day for the new congregation of Nobleford, Alberta, when on November 24, just over a year since the congregation was instituted, Rev. G.M. de Leeuw was installed as their first minister. The installation service

## In Memoriam

### Mr. John Bouma

The consistory of the Lethbridge, Alberta, NRC, wishes to acknowledge the fact that Mr. Bouma led the services in Choteau, Montana, for many years. It is our hope and prayer that the labors performed may have been to the Lord's honor and the salvation of lost sinners.

was conducted by his son, Rev. H. de Leeuw, of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey. The text that he used was Revelations 1:17, “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.” The theme was, “A visit of Christ to His servant at the beginning of a new charge.” Rev. H. de Leeuw divided the text into the following three points: 1) Christ revealed in this new charge; 2) John's weakness experienced at the beginning of this new charge; 3) Christ's instruction to John for this new charge.

At the conclusion of this service Rev. H. de Leeuw read the Form for the Ordination of Ministers, whereupon Rev. G.M. de Leeuw answered the questions with, “Yes truly, with all my heart.”

That evening Rev. G.M. de Leeuw preached his inaugural sermon based on John 8:12: “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” The theme was, “Jesus Christ, the Light of the World” with the following points: 1) He is speaking again; 2) Saying what He is; 3) Foretelling what He distributes.

At the conclusion of this service, Rev. G.M. de Leeuw thanked Rev. H. de Leeuw for the fitting words spoken in the installation service. As moderator, Rev. E.C. Adams addressed Rev. G.M. de Leeuw and welcomed him on behalf of Classis Far West. Elder P. Neels spoke a few words on behalf of the congregation of Nobleford and asked the congregation to sing Psalter 444:9 for their new minister. Rev. G.M. de Leeuw then closed the service.

—Mr. M. Slingerland, *Clerk*

Anniversary and other announcements will be placed upon request. A donation for their placement would be appreciated. For consistency, size is limited. Please send your request to the managing editor, Dr. E. Nieuwenhuis, whose address is shown inside the front cover. Requests for placement should be made **by the first of the month prior to the month of publication.**

## ■ ■ ■ New Titles from Bible Truth Books

*Beginner's Bible History Books* by M. Waterman—In recent years we have distributed a series of children's books published by GBS on Joseph, Moses, David, Paul, the birth of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ. We are pleased to add five additional titles to this series: *The Life of Abraham*, *The Tabernacle* (by H. van Dam), *Parables of the Lord Jesus (Part 1&2)*, and *Around the Time of Pentecost*. Each of these illustrated paperback books is approximately 40 pages in length and is suitable for readers ages 6-8, \$3.25 each.

*Wheat Ready to Harvest* by B. Hooghwerff—Ten true stories for young children about who the Lord is for His people. Like wheat is brought into the barns at the time of harvest, so the Lord will bring His children home to Himself. Includes several stories from the life of Rev. Ledebor. For ages 7 and older. Hardcover, 60 pages, \$19.50.

*God Is Good to Israel* by Rev. A.D. Muilwijk—The second in a series of sermons by Rev. Muilwijk of the Old Reformed congregations. A companion to *Thy Sovereign Grace*, a previous volume of sermons by Rev. Muilwijk. Hardcover, \$16.50.

*Young Singers, Volume 10* by Joh. Westerbeke—Hardcover, \$16.50

*Preach the Word, Volume 6* by Rev. A.M. den Boer—This sixth volume of sermons by Rev. den Boer contains ten sermons, primarily consisting of seasonal sermons (Advent, Passion, and New Year's). Hardcover, 245 pages, \$8.30.

*Story Treasures* by Mr. A. Stoutjesdyk—Mr. Adrian Stoutjesdyk served as teacher and principal at the Mount Cheam Christian School for thirty years. During these years, he often used stories to illustrate biblical concepts and topics. Many of his students remember the engaging and instructive stories he wove into his lessons. This book contains 46 of the stories Mr. Stoutjesdyk used. Paperback, \$11.45.

The prices above do not include postage.

**Blue Book Sermons**—We also wish to remind our readers that Bible Truth Books maintains a collection of donated Blue Book Sermons. Therefore, inquiries from those seeking Blue Book Sermons are very welcome. These sermons are provided free of charge. In addition, donations of Blue Book Sermons are also greatly appreciated.

Bible Truth Books  
P.O. Box 1290  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1290  
Phone / Fax: 616-776-2593  
BibleTruthBooks@igatweb.com

## ■ ■ ■ Thank You

As a denomination we wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Leona den Dekker who for a number of years has read *The Banner of Truth* on CDs for those with poor vision. We would also be remiss if we did not remember Mrs. Hakvoort who assisted her by reading the Dutch meditations when they still were published. We pray that the blessing of the Lord may have accompanied their labors. We welcome Mrs. Tillie Lamain, who hopes to commence reading *The Banner of Truth* with the February 2021 issue, and wish her the Lord's blessing.

## ■ ■ ■ Education

CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, COAL-HURST, ALBERTA, invites applications from teachers of any grade or subject specialty for the 2021-2022 school year, D.V. All applicants must be members of the NRC, or a closely related denomination, and must be eligible for Alberta certification. We are also seeking applicants for a new position of Operations Manager to begin as soon as possible. The successful applicant will be responsible for supporting delivery of Christian education through team-oriented leadership of School Operations (human resources support & oversight of janitorial, maintenance, and transportation personnel) and Policy/Compliance (development and oversight of OH&S program, etc.). Candidates for this position should be able to provide evidence of successful team oversight, management and supervision, with demonstrated skills in personal relations and conflict resolution. Excellent oral & verbal communication skills are required. Completion of post-secondary education and proficiency with a range of office software would be an asset. Teaching certification is not required. For more information about any position at CCS, please contact the principal, Mr. Marc Slingerland at 403-381-3030 or marc.slingerland@ccschool.ca. Should the Lord incline your heart to apply, please submit a cover letter, resumé or c.v., and references to office@ccschool.ca.

EBEN-EZER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO, is inviting applicants to fill a full-time educational assistant position. The position will be available in September 2021, God willing. We would be gladdened by an inquiry and application from someone who is qualified, versatile, and dedicated, who also loves the doctrine according to godliness. For more information on this position, please contact Mr. A. Vrugteveen by e-mail at principal@ecschool.ca or 905-563-3077. Please send applications to the secretary of the school board, Mr. G. Brouwer, 1385 Third Ave., St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 6P9 or email him at gerry@ecschool.ca.

EBENEZER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN, is in urgent need of a teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. We have a very small, multigrade classroom school. Certification is not required for this position although it would be helpful. Currently, the school board acts as principal with further oversight by the consistory. May this position and our need be bound upon someone's heart to come over and help us. Any questions regarding this position and all interested applicants, please contact Randal Teunissen at 920-828-0225 or e-mail, rdteunissen@yahoo.com.

MOUNT CHEAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, CHILLIWACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA, anticipates for the next school year having multiple openings for teachers both in elementary and secondary. Applicants must hold or be eligible for BC certification, and subscribe to the faith identity of the MCCS Society and the Reformed Congregations in North America, which is based on the KJV and the Three Forms of Unity. Wages vary depending upon experience and post-secondary education. Inquiries should be addressed to principal, Mr. Jan Neels, at jneels@mccs.ca. Please send your application, along with supporting documentation, to Mr. Jan Neels and to the Board secretary, Mr. Eric Van Maren, at ericv@vanmarengroup.com, or mail it to 48988 Yale Road East, Chilliwack, British Columbia V4Z 0B2.

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL POMPTON PLAINS, NEW JERSEY

### ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED

The School Administrator will strive to direct the school according to the Word of God, the Three Forms of Unity, the Constitution of the Netherlands Reformed Christian School, the policies of the NRC School Board, and the regulations of the New Jersey Department of Education.

The primary duty of the Administrator is to maintain productive relations with the school board, students, faculty and staff, parents and Community.

The successful candidate should have the following qualifications:

- A strong desire to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of the students;
- A clear vision of the purpose of Christian education and a desire to see it maintained in our present day;
- Be a male NRC member in good standing with a solid knowledge of the Scriptures and Reformed doctrines;
- Have a bachelor's degree or higher in Education with a willingness to consider additional education as necessary;
- Be willing to travel as necessary for educational conferences;
- Have good written and verbal communication skills and the ability to relate to people in all social capacities.

For more information, or to apply for this position, please email [nrcs\\_office@nrccsnj.org](mailto:nrcs_office@nrccsnj.org), contact John Van Der Brink at 973-628-7400, or contact Tim Mol at 973-204-5677.

NETHERLANDS REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, ROCK VALLEY/SIOUX CENTER, IOWA, is looking to fill openings for the 2020-2021 school year. We have openings in grades 7-12: math and/or science, English/language arts, literature, church history (grade 8-9), and part-time computer technology. Some of these positions could be combined depending upon qualifications and experience. We are also seeking a music teacher to begin at any time. The focus of this position would be instrumental (grades 5-12 band/orchestra) along with other opportunities in K-12 music.

Please contact the principal, Mr. Daniel Breuer, at 712-476-2821 or [danbreuer@nrccsia.org](mailto:danbreuer@nrccsia.org) for further information. Visit [www.nrccsia.org](http://www.nrccsia.org) to learn more about our school. Log in to the main site by registering as a new user and wait for approval.

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, invites inquiries from teachers interested in teaching in our small K-9 school. We presently have an opening at the elementary level. Please contact our principal, Tom Kwekel, at [tkwekel@pcskzoo.com](mailto:tkwekel@pcskzoo.com) or 616-644-2661 for more information.

PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, is accepting applications for possible openings for the 2020-2021 school year. Interested 7-12 applicants should send or email their resumés and/or questions to Mr. James Bazen, [jbazen@plymouthchristian.us](mailto:jbazen@plymouthchristian.us).

REHOBOTH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, NORWICH, ONTARIO, is currently accepting applications for an elementary leadership position, either as principal or a vice principal with the potential to assume a principal role in the future. We also continue to welcome applications from elementary and secondary teachers, or inquiries about our locally developed teaching program for those with a bachelor's degree. Please visit our website at [www.rcsnorwich.com](http://www.rcsnorwich.com) for more detailed information, or contact the director, Mr. John Heikoop, at [director@rcsnorwich.com](mailto:director@rcsnorwich.com) or 519-863-2403, ext. 223. Please submit cover letters and resumes to [hr@rcsnorwich.com](mailto:hr@rcsnorwich.com).

TRINITY REFORMED CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON, welcomes applications for a teacher/administrator for our small school. We are an approved school for grades K-8 but currently have students in the lower grades. We have a four-day school week to allow for adequate preparation and administrative time for our multi-grade classroom. To apply or request more information, please contact the school board president, Mr. Arthur den Hoed, at

509-786-2354 or email [artdenhoed@gmail.com](mailto:artdenhoed@gmail.com), or Maaiké Van Wingerden at 509-840-0437 or email [trinityrcs@embarqmail.com](mailto:trinityrcs@embarqmail.com).

### ***Come 2 Carterton, New Zealand*** **PONATAHI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Our long-standing principal is nearing his retirement and is considering his future. We are seeking expressions of interest for a successor. Please check out the exciting information about our school, church, and local community by visiting our school website at [www.ponatahi.school.nz](http://www.ponatahi.school.nz) (vacancies). For further information, please contact the Ponatahi Christian School Board of Trustees via email at [come2carterton@gmail.com](mailto:come2carterton@gmail.com).

### **To All Candidates for Teacher Positions**

Please visit [advertising.nrcea.education](http://advertising.nrcea.education) for an up-to-date listing of job openings in NRCEA schools as well as links to the school websites for more information about the positions and the schools. When accessing the job bank on the NRCEA SharePoint, please use the following:

User Name:

**[advertising@nrcea.education](mailto:advertising@nrcea.education)**

Password: **SchoolJobs!**

## **Current Events** *(continued from page 14)*

and Roman Catholic churches in parts of Brooklyn and Queens. "It is time—past time—to make plain that, while the pandemic poses many grave challenges, there is no world in which the Constitution tolerates color-coded executive edicts that reopen liquor stores and bike shops but shutter churches, synagogues, and mosques," wrote Justice Gorsuch.

—*FoxNews.com*

### **Targeted Violence Haunts Egypt's Sinai Christians**

International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that on November 8, 2020, three unmasked gunmen kidnapped a 61-year-old Coptic Christian in a city in Egypt's North Sinai. The incident was reported by his son. The kidnapping occurred at 8:00 p.m. while the streets were busy. The victim had left his home and was less than fifty meters away when the incident occurred. The victim's son said, "We work in the many fields of trading, such as phones and gold. Also, my father built the only church we have here..." The kidnapping occurred just two months after another Christian was kidnapped in a village located on the east side of the Suez Canal. His fate remains unknown. The targeted kidnapping of Christians living in the Sinai Peninsula is common, and their fate often ends tragically. Given this trend, the victim's family has expressed concern for his life and has subsequently filed a report at the local police station.

—*Persecution.org*

### **Many Cases in 2020 of Christian Persecution on India**

Six Christians in India's Telangana State were attacked and beaten earlier this month when a pastor and his mother visited a house rented by a Christian to hold a prayer meeting. The owner of the house "definitely despised" the prayer meeting and informed "fanatics" who had been hunting down Christians. Between fifteen and twenty people armed with bamboo sticks and rocks barged into the prayer meeting and started beating the Christians. The pastor was badly injured. The fanatics even beat the pastor's elderly mother and left another in need of urgent surgery. With attacks on Christians continuing relentlessly across India, 157 incidents have been recorded in the three-month period of July through September 2020, bringing the total recorded from the start of the year to over 450. This is "only a fraction of actual violence perpetuated and reported on the ground" as many cases of persecution are not reported due to fear. Recorded incidents include four murders, ninety-five cases of threat, harassment and intimidation, forty-six physical attacks, and much more.

—*ChurchInChains.ie*

### **■ The Banner of Truth in Audio Format**

Monthly copies of the articles which appear in *The Banner of Truth* are available on MP3s and CDs for those who have reading difficulties such as poor vision. These MP3 files are produced by a committee in Norwich, Ontario, with the support of the Norwich consistory, and they make the MP3 files available to the consistories of the end user. The consistories then distribute the MP3s and CDs which are provided at no cost to the end user.

You may contact Mrs. Tillie Lamain at 616-242-0291 or [blamain@netscape.net](mailto:blamain@netscape.net) to arrange for a free subscription or to be removed from the list of those receiving *The Banner of Truth* on CD.

## 1 Chronicles 16:23-36

Sing unto the LORD, all the earth;  
shew forth from day to day His salvation.

Declare His glory among the heathen;  
His marvellous works among all nations.

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised:  
He also is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the people are idols:  
but the LORD made the heavens.

Glory and honour are in His presence;  
strength and gladness *are* in His place.

Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people,  
give unto the LORD glory and strength.

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His  
name: bring an offering, and come before Him:  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Fear before Him, all the earth: the world also  
shall be stable, that it be not moved.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice:  
and let men say among the nations,  
The LORD reigneth.

Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof:  
let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein.

Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the  
presence of the LORD, because He cometh to  
judge the earth.

O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good;  
for His mercy endureth for ever.

And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation,  
and gather us together, and deliver us from the  
heathen, that we may give thanks to Thy holy  
name, and glory in Thy praise.

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel for ever  
and ever. And all the people said, Amen,  
and praised the LORD.