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The Messenger

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WESLEYAN NAZARENE CHURCH

WESLEYANNAZARENECHURCH.ORG



Thanksgiving Poem

BY KATHRYN BLACKBURN PECK

*For beauty of the autumn trees
That lift their branches high;
For whispers of the summer breeze,
And blue of bending sky;
For grasses nodding at our feet;
Soft clouds that float above;
For all that makes the earth so sweet,
We thank Thee, God of Love.*

*For precious friendships, tried and true;
For smiles that cheer the heart;
For love's assurance ever new,
For songs when teardrops start;
For love of home that never dies
Wherever man may rove;
For good intent that hidden lies,
We thank Thee, God of Love.*

*For leadings of Thy Spirit blest,
For guidance of Thy hand,
For blessed toil; for promised rest
Within Thy Promised Land;
For sorrows and for testings sore
Our spirit's gold to prove;
For faith that clings yet more and more,
We thank Thee, God of Love.*

From The Desk of The General Superintendent

ENRICHED BEYOND MEASURE

“Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God” (II Corinthians 9:11).



Paul's eloquent words of thanks giving in his letter to the church at Corinth elicit the same expression

in my own heart as I am sure it does in every wholly sanctified soul. Paul in talking about the grace of God named himself as the least of all saints in Ephesians 3:8:

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

Someone criticized Paul's grammar to which one responded, “I don't know about his grammar, but I do not appreciate him taking my place.” Again the sanctified feel his own unworthiness and is not a position seeker, but is humbly grateful for any part in God's great kingdom among His holy people.

But concerning riches, I do not believe Paul had anything over on me. I recognize that in intelligence and ability and work accomplished, I am not even close to being in his class, but when it comes to riches, I refuse to take second place to anyone. I AM RICH! And I thank

God for my riches. My blessings are more than can be numbered. Salvation from sin has to top the list. It is unspeakably wonderful to be delivered from all sin. The forgiveness of sins committed is an experience too great for words. When I had sinned against heaven and deserved hell, the mercy of God was extended to me. I can never celebrate thanksgiving of any kind without thinking of the blood bought pardon that is mine.

The song writer said, “When I came the second time to Him for cleansing from the inbred sin, He did not fail me then.” I cannot sing that phrase or hear it sung without thanking God for the personal experience of heart holiness. I thank Him for sanctifying my unworthy heart. My gratitude is genuine that the experience of entire sanctification is up to date today.

Yes, I am a rich man. God gave me a wife who loves this narrow way and who has never been a discredit to my ministry. I am thankful to God that my children and grandchildren are all serving the Lord. I do not report this with any sense of smugness or feeling of self-accomplishment. I bow in humble gratitude and a sense of utter unworthiness when I consider what Jesus has done for me in this regard.

Then, I must thank God for my heritage. I was not born in a country steeped in spiritual darkness. I was

born in a holiness home in the United States of America. My mother and father directed my steps in this good way. I am thankful for the rich heritage of great godly men that helped form my spiritual philosophy and ethical standard.

Since November of 2008 I have been a part of the Wesleyan Nazarene Church. The people that comprise this wonderful church are a part of my rich blessings from God. It is so good to be a part of a group that loves the narrow way and love each other. It is our responsibility to pass this heritage on to the next generation. To God be thanked for His help in accomplishing this imperative duty. We are blessed with youth that have a hunger for God and are serving Him. I praise God for our young people who make up a good number in the morning prayer meetings each year at camp. They have had a taste of the glory of God. I remember as young person experiencing God's presence in such a measure that I purposed that I would not be without it.

In the words of Paul, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” My eyes are on the goal, and by the grace of God and with a grateful heart, I mean to make the landing.

†DNH

Guest Editorial: Do I Need To Change?

REVEREND JOSHUA DAVIS

If you were to hear me say, “Let’s talk about ministry,” would you assume I am talking to preachers? It’s an easy assumption, especially when the word ministry and minister share the same root. But ministry is every Christian’s calling.



In Ephesians 4, Paul the Apostle is writing about the body of Christ. He gives a short list of different types

of ministries to which “members of the body” are called. The error many have made is thinking this to be a complete list of callings. He is making a point regarding the importance of every member of the body, regardless of what part they have to play. In the 16th verse, he tells us the whole body is fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth. This passage teaches that every member has something to supply. That is ministry, supplying your part in the body of Christ.

Whether an Apostle, preacher, teacher, song leader, usher, janitor, or blue-collar worker, you have a calling to minister to those around you. Don’t let the body of Christ suffer a lack of supply because you are not fulfilling your role in ministry. We all have a place in ministering to the world around us. Winning souls is every Christian’s duty.

By the grace and mercy of God, I am learning and growing in this area.

I have so much to learn, yet I have learned so much. I want to share what God is teaching me in this journey. It has changed me in so many ways. I pray it will be as helpful to you as it was to me.

They say “insanity” is doing the same thing over and over while expecting different results. When I heard this, I thought, “I would never do that!” But I was not taking a proper inventory of my life to see if I was violating the “insanity” rule. What about my ministry? Have I looked at the way I am doing ministry? These are some of the questions God began to ask me.

I began to look at myself and ask, “Am I succeeding in my endeavors for God?” I had to first get past the natural defense mechanism that kicks in whenever someone suggests that I am falling short. It was easy for me to judge other people in their ministry endeavors. But our measurement is not others, but Christ. God took the critical question I had thought to ask others and turned it around on me. He asked me, “How many new souls have you led to Jesus in the last two years? Are those you have led to the Lord growing? Is your church growing? Are you consistently bringing new people to church?” I was not satisfied with my answers. It was uncomfortable to answer back as God dealt with me on each point. So, WHY were my answers

to these questions uncomfortable?

God revealed that I was making excuses as I began to answer the why. Here are some of the excuses that came to mind. They included, “The devil is just fighting,” “We are living in the last day,” and “People are just hard to get these days.” As God dealt with me, He seemed to ask, “Are these legitimate excuses?” As I looked at each excuse, I began to talk to myself like this:

“Is the devil fighting? Well... yes. But that’s no good excuse. The devil has ALWAYS been fighting. When I read thrilling stories of the great moves of God in days gone by, I relish the “old days” and wish to see them again. The truth is, the devil was fighting in the “old days,” and the devil is still fighting today. In other news, God is winning. God doesn’t just win in the end; He is winning every day. When Jesus rose on the third day, He was victorious over sin, death, Hell, and the grave. God is as strong today as he was in the “old days.” Today, He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to him. The Scriptures are full of promises for me to receive an increase from my labors. So, “The devil is just fighting” is not a good excuse.

Are we living in the last days?

Every generation has thought they were living in the last days. My job is to occupy until He comes. When the disciples asked this question of Jesus, He responded by telling them it was not for them to know. My job is to go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. When was the last time I baptized a new convert? Today is the day of salvation. The promise that applies to me today is electrifying, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:" Has this been my experience? If not, it's not because I live in the last days.

Do people respond to the Gospel today? Of course, they do. My experience tells me the world is full of people searching for something to fill the void inside their souls. God is faithfully doing the same thing He has always been doing, "drawing all men to Himself." I am called to be a small part of that process."

The point is simply this: I had no good excuses for not succeeding in my endeavors for God. Others were having success all around me, but I was not having success. I could have claimed the successes around me, but they were the endeavors of others. So why was I making excuses for the lack of success in my efforts? A shock wave went through me as I realized what God was trying to get through my thick head. I had never considered the possibility

that I was the problem. I'm not suggesting anything sinful was going on, but I needed to change.

I will share two of the most impactful pieces of wisdom God used to change me and transform my mind. Remember, you can be sanctified holy and dead wrong at the same time. These changes came after I was sanctified. I am not sharing this because I think I have "arrived." I am sharing them because they are true. Here is some of what I have learned.

The first thing God used to begin a change in me came in the first few years of pastoring. I was talking to a man God had put in my life, brother Phil McCormick. He shared this with me one afternoon. "Sometimes God does not give us new people because He cannot trust us with new people." God asked me, "Can I trust you with new people?" As pure as my heart was, my approach needed serious adjustment so God could trust me with new souls. I needed to change my mindset, philosophy, ideology, and more. I had to be willing for God to show me where I was wrong. I was so opinionated I was unable to learn. I was so convinced that I was right. God was having difficulty showing me I was wrong. I wanted God to trust me with new people.

The second profitable instruction came while reading a book on leadership. God spoke to me so clearly with a spiritual application to what I had just read. You see, we often settle for the smallest amount of progress. Everyone agrees that zero progress is terrible, but we rarely

consider little progress as bad. For example, I could start a pastorate with just a handful of people and 40 years later have 30 people. Is this growth? Well, yes, but is it the kind of growth that God intends for me to have? God took the words from that book and asked me, "Is your church growing BECAUSE of you or IN SPITE of you?" My church was growing because of some Godly people in my church, but was there growth as a result of what God was doing in me? Was the growth minimal because of my imperfections and weaknesses? God said to me, "Your ministry may be growing by some standards, but I have a better standard of growth that can happen if you let me change you." The hard truth I faced with the help of God. My church was not growing so much because of me as it was in spite of me. Humility is the currency of heaven. I humbled myself at the feet of Jesus and admitted I desperately needed a transformation of the mind. My statement returned to haunt me: not only can sanctified people be dead wrong, but I, even I, can be sanctified and dead wrong, and I was.

Here is my call to action. Consider the possibility that you are the one that needs to change to propel forward progress. Ask God to show you what may stand in the way of experiencing significant growth in your endeavors. With God's help, I have done this, and it has changed my life. Remember, humility is the key that opens the door to heaven's help. Don't forget that even the sanctified must continually exercise humility.

World Missions Report

Reverend Brent Woodard



DO YOU HAVE A VISION?

“WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH.”

It really doesn't matter what the level of work you are involved in as a Christian, everyone needs a vision. By this we mean, every pastor, every christian worker, teacher, missionary, etc, needs to have a vision for the work. What does it mean to have a vision?

1. You should have a long-term goal in mind for your ministry. Whether it be growth, or outreach plans, you need to be looking into the future. I remember as a boy our pastor had a map on the wall in his office and every part of the city we lived in was mapped out and he had certain goals in mind for visiting those neighborhoods. Have you established a plan to spread the gospel to your community?
2. You should have a short-term plan for your ministry. This would simply mean that there should be some reasonable efforts that can be completed in a short amount of time to get your church or ministry before the people your influence reaches.

3. A vision would further indicate that you need a God-influenced plan for your ministry. We are not seeking simply the human hand at work. God is able to help you establish a plan that works for your community and area of labor. It might be that there are ways of church growth that don't work in your area. I recently spent a frustrating day calling, only to discover that “ring doorbell” helps people to avoid answering the door when you are on their porch. God knows all of these things and is able to give us insight into ways to do outreach that is effective and workable. Every revival would be enriched by planning ahead for ways to notify prospects so that the evangelist has an audience to preach to when he arrives.

Many churches are perishing because there is no vision of how to proceed. It is almost time to turn the page on a new year. Would you make it a matter of prayer to ask God to give you some reasonable goals to do something to reach the souls that are hungry for truth in your community?

What The Bible Says About Thanksgiving

BY E. E. WORDSWORTH

NEVER in the history of mankind have we had greater reasons for expressing thanks to Almighty God. He is an ingrate indeed that is insensible to the manifold benefits received. Ingratitude is a marble-hearted fiend. This year has witnessed the end of the gigantic struggle against Fascism, Naziism and the Nipponese Empire. Multiplied thousands of saints were praying for a speedy end to the war with Japan, but like the Early Church praying for Peter's deliverance from prison, we were all surprised when the atomic bomb so quickly brought an answer to our prayers and Japan surrendered unconditionally.

With the close of World War II multiplied thousands of lives have been spared and many homes have had occasion for deep-felt thanksgiving by the return of loved ones from overseas. It is true many are saddened by grief at the loss of a son or daughter, but remember that behind the cloud there is always the silver lining. "He knoweth the way that I take" and "Underneath are the everlasting arms." The dungeon makes or breaks us. It becomes a huge stone to crush us or a stepping stone to lift us to a higher level.

Miss Whitfield, with twisted fingers and gnarled hands and suffering with arthritis, a shut-in of the great state of Arkansas knows more about wild flowers anyone else in the state. Her pains became a boon. Her cheer and skill are beyond words and Harvard University wants to buy her exquisitely-painted five hundred specimens. So let us learn to be grateful even under pressure, trial, suffering and great loss. Kipling's "Lest We Forget," a poem written at the request of the British Government, was first not well received, but upon reflection and deeper thought it was recognized as expressing the real heart-throbs of the nation and Empire. And if we all think deeply enough we can find real cause for thanksgiving today.

There are two significant passages in the Bible I wish to use. "In everything give thanks" (I Thess. 5:18). "Giving thanks always for all things unto God" (Eph. 5:20). A brother mistakenly testified, "The Bible says, 'Give thanks in every thing but not for

everything.'" But note the words in the texts "in" and "for." In what seems adverse—for nothing is really so (see Rom. 8:28)—give thanks. Jacob thought all things were working against him, yet in reality everything was working for him, even the loss of Joseph, for he preserved the lives of Jacob and his household. And the things that happened unto Paul were for the furtherance of the Gospel. Therefore we should give thanks for all things, the adversities as well as blessings, for God, the Fountain of every blessing in creation, providence, redemption and eternal glory doeth all things well.

Furthermore we should pay our vows with thanksgiving (Psalm 50:14); church vows, tithing vows, service vows, all vows. Rejoice and be glad in divine service.

When attending the house of God we ought to be deeply thankful. "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving" says the Psalmist. Singing and gladness should characterize divine worship. I saw a young man arise to preach. His face was so radiant with the glory of God that instantly the great audience caught the spirit of the anointed servant of Jehovah. People asked after the service, "Did you see his face?"

Prayer also must be with thanksgiving; "by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving" (Phil. 4:6). There is an asking side to prayer but with this there should also be much expression of gratitude.

Doubtless Paul and Silas made many requests of God in the jail of Philippi, but "at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises to God." It brought an earthquake, a revival, the founding of a Christian church and changed the Christian map of the world.

In all Christian service the deep spirit of praise is indispensable. Let us give with hilarity, serve with gladness, pray with praise, enjoy our salvation and shout the victory. Amen and amen!

(Editor's Note: This article was written right at the close of World War II. I did not redact it at all.)

Holiness in Character and Life

BY H. A. ERDMANN

When holiness is wrought in the human soul, it will entirely transform the life and character of the one in whom it has been performed. Such a condition cannot exist without demonstrating its presence, not only to the consciousness of its subject, but also to all around. The outward as well as the inward man will be transformed.

When the soul is justified before God and renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit, there will be always, as a result, the transformation of the character and life. No man in this state will live in sin. He will keep the commandments of the Lord; he will be outwardly blameless. He is, as a justified and regenerated person, delivered from the dominion of sin, so that when the work of holiness is performed and its fruits are enjoyed, the outward change in these respects will not be so observant, because that change has been already in existence. In so far as honesty, justice, uprightness, truth, fidelity, and outward correctness of life are concerned, the change will not be so marked.

The painful fact is that, in too many instances, the ordinary life of the professed Christian is very far below that of the required life of a justified believer. It is this which cramps and cripples the effectiveness of Christendom. When those who are called Christians are seen at the theater, the circus, the rodeo, etc., and seldom at prayer Meeting, when they pour hours over a novel or in front of a TV set, and give scarcely moments to the Word of God, it is not to be expected that they should have much desire for "true holiness."

While these things are too true of many, yet there are those who,

walking in the light, have not only seen their need of holiness but have actually come to its enjoyment.

When Christ becomes to the believer sanctification as well as justification, antagonizing elements are removed from the soul. The mists and clouds, the shadows and fogs, which so often blurred and obscured the soul, are dispersed, and the clear, steady radiance of the Son of righteousness shines ever upon it.

Troubles may arise and assail the sanctified soul; temptations may distress it; afflictions and adversities may fall in storms upon it; it may have to pass through a seven-times heated furnace; but, in the midst of all, there will be the consciousness of the divine approval—"The peace of God which passeth all understanding." Hence the prophet Isaiah says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusted in thee." Holiness is not a mysticism; it is a reality. Holiness is religion shining. It is religious principle put into action. It is faith gone to work. It is charity coined into actions, and devotion breathing benedictions on suffering humanity.

Such a life will awaken the opposition of the formal, the hypocritical and carnal-minded in the ranks of Christendom. God has designed that the church should antagonize every form of evil, impurity and sin, and that it should come into direct conflict with the world and all forms of worldliness. This is the conflict of the ages. But holiness will triumph over sin, truth over error, and God over all His enemies.

Holiness is not only purity, and love, and peace. It is also power—power

to defeat the devil, power to walk straight, power to live right.

The world and carnal church members may hate genuine holiness and persecute its possessors, but it cannot frown, or reason, or persecute, or crush it or them out of existence. It is the one great, all-convincing, overpowering and unanswerable argument for the truth of Christianity. Hell has never yet invented a weapon keen enough, or strong enough, to penetrate the "armour of light." All its darts have fallen pointless from its shield and breastplate, all its lances have been shattered here, and all its legions have had to retire from this conflict defeated, crestfallen and overwhelmed.

It is when the church is "bright as the sun, and clear as the moon," that it is terrible to its enemies "as an army with banners." It is then, on this chosen battlefield with a proclaimed hostility, an eternal and uncompromising antagonism against sin, worldliness, and unbelief, that the church, arrayed in its beautiful garments of a blood-purchased holiness and girded with the might of omnipotence, is to meet and hurl back all its foes and, not only to come off conquerors but more than conquerors, through Him who hath loved us."

What a pitiable sight it is to see a church dallying with its foes and seeking to effect a compromise with them and, in turn, scorned, scoffed, and insulted for its cowardliness and pusillanimity, sitting in the dust, with the bandages of captivity upon its neck and its garments all bedraggled in the filth and mire of worldliness when it ought to be hurling disaster and defeat upon its enemies and bearing the crimson banner in triumph over the world. O that the trumpet-call of God would be heard throughout the church in America saying, "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion: put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem."

The Wesleyan Nazarene Church News

Continental District Camp Recordings 2023

The sermons, special songs, Sunday School lessons are available on thumb drives with MP3 format. You may obtain them @ \$20.00 each. Contact:

Rev. Chet Waters

479-340-4299.

District Camp Meetings 2024

June 5-9

Alaska Conference and Camp Meeting

June 22-30

Continental Conference and Camp Meeting

CONTINENTAL DISTRICT

PREACHERS' MEETING

January 10-12, 2024

First Service Wednesday @ 7:30 P.M.

Bentonville, Arkansas

Wesleyan Nazarene Church

Speaker: Dr. Paul Kaufman

For more information contact host pastor:

Rev. Melvin Waters, at 479-531-0802

Conference Room Reservations are available at:

Comfort Inn

3001 NE 11th St.

Bentonville, AR 72712

Phone: 479-254-7800

Rooms are \$75 per night + tax.

The Wesleyan Circuit

SEPTEMBER 11 - OCTOBER 8, 2023

Wednesday, September 13, I began revival at the Lower Light Church in Petersburg, Michigan. Brother David Voss is the pastor. God gave us a good revival. Brother Darwin Highlen pastors a church near there and we were able to eat with him, his wife Nancy and daughter Rebecca. He served as the Men's Dorm Supervisor when I was President of Bible Missionary Institute. It was so good to be with them again.

September 18-23 we were able to see our grandson Chet Waters, his wife Brooke and their daughter Ariella. It was nice to have a week where we were able to get some rest, though I did set up an office and get some work done.

September 24, we began revival in our Rainsboro Church where Chet is pastoring. He is doing a good job and God gave us a good revival. Brother and Sister Waters have a children's ministry every Sunday night. God is blessing their efforts. We were able to visit

with Brother Stright. This is a good godly layman who is a sick man. He has not been able to attend church for quite some time, but gave a victorious testimony when we visited him. Please continue to pray for Brother and Sister Stright and grandson Jim.

Brother and Sister Larry Dillard were a wonderful blessing and boost to the meeting. Brother Dillard and I attended Bible college together. He is a faithful preacher of holiness.

Sunday, October 8, I preached for our Bentonville church in the absence of Pastor Waters who had gone to Pennsylvania for the wedding of James Luckey and Cheney Fisher. Congratulation to the newlyweds.

It seems that the signs of the last days are multiplying. Though we do not know the day nor do we know the hour of our Lord's return, we know it could be at any time. My prayer is, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Until then, "Keep looking up and listening for the shout!" †DNH

Where Is the God of Elijah?

BY A. MILTON SMITH

"Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"

(II Kings 2:14).

THIS was Elisha's question following the death of the prophet Elijah. It is a question that crystallizes the inquiring sentiment of thousands since his day. It is asked by the cynic and it is asked by the saint. It is an expression of derision, and it is the earnest inquiry of a seeking soul. It is upon the lips of the awakened sinner who would be saved, and it is in the anxious heart of a troubled believer.

Trusting souls who have not seen the hand of God as evident as they had hoped, have asked, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" It is the one inevitable question that arises in the days when the church is weak and powerless: the implication being, "Where is the God that does things?"

WE NEED GOD

God is the great need of us all—the God of Elijah. With Him all things else flourish, but without Him there is always decline and death. We need and must have the God of our predecessors. It has been said that "we do not need the antiquities of the past, nor the novelties of the present, nor the marvels of the future; we want the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and we shall then see the wonders of His power." He is the God of Elisha as well as the God of Elijah.

Why did Elisha, and why do we, ask "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"

Why not be satisfied with asking

"Where is God?" The answer includes several things.

ELIJAH'S GOD WAS REAL

In the first place, God was real to Elijah. He knew Him in a living and vital way. Religion to him was vibrant and alive. God was actual and real in his experience. His life had become dynamic through the divine energy of the living God. We are interested in Elijah and his God because there was more to it than just form and ceremony. The reality of God in his life is the point that grips us. If we want God, we want Him in a real sense; we want Him as we have known others to have Him. "God of Queen Clotilda," cried out the infidel Clovis I of France, when in trouble on the field of battle. "God of Queen Clotilda! grant me the victory." Saunderson, a great admirer of Sir Isaac Newton, made light of his religion in health, but was heard to say on his dying bed, "God of Sir Isaac Newton have mercy on me."

HE ANSWERED PRAYER

We are interested in the God of Elijah because He answered prayer when the prophet prayed. We want to know the God that answers prayer. He closed the heavens, and then He sent the rain in answer to prayer. Showers of blessings are always needed. If, when we pray, the refreshing showers of spiritual benedictions fall upon our souls, then are we glad. We want the God that sends such blessings to a needy people. God also sent the fire at Mt. Carmel in answer to prayer. The fire fell and consumed the sacrifice,

and licked up the water. The fire of the Holy Ghost needs to burn in our hearts today. Then, there are thousands of needs among us which call for a God that answers prayer.

HE STRENGTHENED

The God of Elijah strengthened him in the midst of the awful wickedness of his day. The prophet lived in a dark day both in religion and in government. Ahab and Jezebel were the unscrupulous and evil rulers. So ungodly and wicked was that woman that we still apply her name to wicked persons even today. False worship was accepted as the state religion, and the prophets of God were greatly persecuted. Wickedness of all kinds was rampant then, the same as it is now. Yet the Lord enabled Elijah to be faithful in spite of it all. He was given boldness to stand before Ahab, and to tell him that he and his household were the cause of the trouble in Israel. The God that can enable a man to be faithful in the midst of all kinds of sin, and give him strength in the time of danger is worth knowing.

HE COMFORTED

We are interested in the God of Elijah because He was a comfort to the prophet in the moments of weakness and discouragement. Elijah was not always on the mountain top. He lost courage often, and he sank low in the slough of despond. He sat under the juniper tree and felt that the cause was lost altogether.

The cave was his hiding place at another time. While standing at the mouth of the cave watching the fire burn and listening to the howling winds, the still small voice spoke to him. How bracing it must have been to hear that assuring voice! We all need to be lifted out of discouragement at times. It is heartening to know that He understands and that His patience is not exhausted.

HE REMOVED DIFFICULTIES

We are interested in the God of Elijah because He removed the difficulties that Elijah was unable to handle. The heavens closed, and they opened, the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, the dead son was raised to life, and the waters of Jordan divided, all through the power of God. We are interested in a God that is able to open prison doors, shake down walls, snap the bands and set men free. That is why we are interested in the God of Elijah.

WHERE IS HE NOW?

The big and important part of the question is WHERE IS the Lord God of Elijah? He is not dead, neither is He on a journey, nor is He asleep. He still lives and watches over his own. Where then is He? He is in His heaven: "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." Again the psalmist said, "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God," Isaiah spoke of

him, saying, "It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth." God is still on the throne, and shall be there forever."

Where is the Lord? "The Lord is in His temple; let all the earth keep silence." "The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven? Isaiah saw the Lord in the temple of worship in his day: he saw Him high and lifted up, and he saw His glory fill the place. How glorious was His presence when Solomon's temple was dedicated! The promise is, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." The reason why some people never find the Lord is because they do not go to the place of worship where He is. He is in the sanctuary, the place of worship, and may be found there.

Where is the Lord? "*The Lord is nigh them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit*" (Psalms 34:18). He is far from those who are proud and haughty. God dwells near the broken hearted and lifts up the distressed in spirit. I have been conscious of His presence in the hospitals and in the homes of sorrow; among the aged and the young. I have been there with Him many times. He is near those who have a penitent heart, who seek Him for the forgiveness of sins. God is near needy humanity everywhere. He is near the suffering and dying of every battle front; He is with the poor in spirit of every land. Let all who are thus bruised and broken, humble and needy, look up and see Him standing there ready to minister to your need; for truly the "Lord is nigh unto them of a broken heart."

Where is the Lord? The Lord is still with His Elijahs—He is with His people.

Paul speaks of the mystery of the ages being "Christ in you, the hope of glory." It is written, "Ye are the temple of the Holy Ghost." Jesus said of the spirit, "He dwelleth with you and shall be in you." The Bible speaks, time and again, of God's people being filled with the Holy Ghost. God does live in His people. Isaiah's words are appropriate therefore when he said, "Cry out and shout . . . for great is the Holy One in the midst of thee."

HE LIVES TODAY

The God of Elijah still lives, and He is right where He always has been. Let no one feel that He has lost control of the universe. He is still on the throne, and He is still interested in needy humanity. Let us have faith in Him, and still trust in Him for all that we need. He can be real and satisfying to our hungry souls. May we lay hold of His abundant sufficiency for the days through which we are passing. All is safe in Him whatever may happen.

PRAYER

Shall we pray. O God of Elijah, Thou art our God; our trust is in Thee. Thou art our strength in weakness, our comfort in sorrow, our hope in despair, and our inspiration in life. Dwell Thou in our hearts that we may always be sure of Thee. Make us strong by Thy power even as the prophet of old was made strong. Work through us today as Thou didst work through him in his day. Grant that Thy manifest presence shall be so real until all who are beset by doubt may come to a solid faith. May Thy cause prosper unto the ends of the earth, and may the peoples of the world trust in Thee, the eternal God. Amen.

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Thank you to all of you that subscribe to The Wesleyan Nazarene Messenger. In last month's issue I expressed appreciation for the excellent work our editor, Rev. Robert Durr has done. He not only produced a wonderful publication, but he did so at sacrifice. His work was a labor of love. He also personally owned the printing equipment. Since that equipment is in Alaska, it would not be practical for the church to purchase it. The cost of printing the paper will increase. Our Publications committee is working on that and will have some recommendations for the General Board. The subscription price will likely increase. Those of you that have paid for a subscription can be assured that will be honored. You will be apprised of any changes that will occur. In the interim, if you would like to donate to support the increase in publication costs of the Messenger, please scan the QR code located below.

Your support and continued prayer for this ministry is appreciated. I believe the production of a holiness paper is a part of the Great Commission. We will work together to do the best we can in this divine assignment. †DNH



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