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CHRISTIAN MONTHLY

May 2006

As the Father Hath Sent Me
I am Persuaded
The Gift of Prayer
The Virtuous Woman
God's Peace from Iraq
Children's Page
Love Not the World
Walking in Truth
Invitation to the Convention
Convention Annual Meetings
The Faithful Comrade

Sebastian William Meyer

Alvin Holmgren
Ron Holmgren
Leona Matson
Proverb 31
Barry Mattson
Gwen Wilson
Ken Storm
Arne Nordahl
Hockinson Congregation
Central Board

Go Ye into All the World, And Preach the Gospel To Every Creature

Mark 16:15

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

I Peter 1:22-25

As My Father Hath Sent Me, Even So Send I You

(John 20:21)

This commission of Christ's and the giving of the Holy Spirit are inseparably connected. The commission can only be accomplished by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus met his disciples on the evening of the day of Resurrection, his first words were a comfort to his troubled followers. Not long before this momentous meeting, Jesus had said to them, *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)*

But much had taken place between that meeting and this Resurrection Day meeting. Fear gripped their hearts as they waited behind closed doors. In a reassuring manner, Jesus greeted them with peace: *Peace be unto you. (John 20:19)* Then He showed them his nail-pierced hands and sword-riven side. Joy flooded their hearts, dispelling sorrow over the events of Good Friday and their succeeding hopelessness. Jesus repeated this greeting, *Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. (John 20:21)* When He had said these words, He breathed on them and said, *Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. (Verses 22-23)*

Peace is the fruit of the Lord's resurrection. Without this final victory-gaining conclusion to his atoning and reconciling ministry, no soul would ever experience peace here in this life, or victory over sin, or be able to rest in the quiet embrace of peace in eternity.

The peace of Christ is hidden from mortal senses. It is not of the nature which the world pictures and seeks, nor such as we can understand through intellectual powers alone.

Jesus told the disciples that they would experience tribulation in the world, but He encouraged them to be of good cheer because He would overcome the world. The peace of God, which passes all understanding, is the means by which our hearts and minds are guarded through Christ Jesus.

As Christians, we are content having the Lord as our Friend, and, through Him, God as our gracious Father, who daily desires our spiritual and temporal welfare. It is his will that eternal peace be our portion in the life to come.

Having given such a great gift as his peace, Jesus spoke the words whereby it has been said that He established his kingdom -- the kingdom which He repeatedly described as not of this world. It is the purpose of this kingdom, which He often called the Kingdom of Heaven, both to know and to show how we may be freed from sin and its condemnation, and possess righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

These commissioning words of Jesus are important: *As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.* As his followers, we are to preach the Word that we have heard and received from Him. When He finished the work which He came here on earth to do, He did not take the ministry of the Word with Him to Heaven, but He left it here in his kingdom as a special calling and commission for his followers. He has given us both the ministry and the Word of reconciliation.

All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the

world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (II Corinthians 5:18-19)

Special power is required to accomplish this work -- a power that is not human, but divine. Jesus did not equip his followers with natural swords, or with carnal or worldly power, but with the Holy Spirit. *He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (John 20:22)* and then the authority: *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. (Verse 23)*

Although the power to remit sins belongs to God only, He exercises and imparts it through the office of the Holy Spirit by means of the ministry which Jesus gave to his disciples with these words: *As my Father hath sent me.* This commission is not something assumed or appropriated by man, nor performed by human will and power, but by the authority and on the command of Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. It extends further than all other authority known here on earth because it opens Heaven itself to all who believe the Gospel.

**"The word is nigh thee,
even in thy mouth."**

In writing about the only acceptable righteousness which the Apostle Paul terms the righteousness which is of faith, he states, *But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:6-10)

From these Biblical teachings, and from the words of our Lord in particular, we can understand the significance of this commission. Regarding this, Luther wrote: "Even if we could ascend into Heaven on a golden ladder, we could accomplish nothing in that way because the words of Jesus still remain: *As my father hath sent me, even so send I you.*

We should not try to reach God in a different way than that which He ordained. This is the true doctrine concerning the kingdom of Christ and the office of the keys. Let us act accordingly and remain Christians, who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, are then prepared for all things in our relationship both with God and our fellow men. This kingdom was established so that the inhabitants of this world may obtain a treasure that cannot be bought with money. Let us be grateful to our Lord and Saviour, who, through his Resurrection, founded this kingdom of grace wherein all our spiritual needs are satisfied."

In Christ alone we have all things, for God has made Him to be *unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (I Corinthians 1:30-31)*

*Pastor Alvin Holmgren
Seattle, Washington*

I am Persuaded

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38)

When Apostle Paul wrote these words, something had effected a great feeling of confidence within him. He broke forth in a spirit of joy, and wrote what would be known as one of the most comforting statements in the New Testament.

He tells us that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God that we have in Christ Jesus. What could cause a man to make such a claim? He must know that man is weak, and that the enemy of the soul is going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

What about the question of sin? Doesn't it separate us from God? There are times when I feel so far from God, and wonder if He even knows or cares that I'm here. All the powers of darkness seem to be arrayed against us at such times.

We must look back in the previous chapters of Paul's letter to experience what he claimed. He addressed all of the questions about what has, and can, separate us from a just and holy God. He established that all of us have come short of the glory of God, and that it is not enough to be an outward observer of righteousness. We must be clean in our thoughts as well as our deeds.

Jesus was clear about this in the Sermon on the Mount. There was no one who could escape from the all-seeing eye of the Lord. Paul wrote, *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20)* Follow along with him as he continues. There is new hope in the message. He soon speaks of a different righteousness. It shines in its beauty as we learn about it in the next few chapters.

God has revealed to us the way to his heart. We can stand in the firm hope of life eternal. Sins are forgiven, man is blessed, and we are reconciled to God to find the great truth that He loves us, and wants us for all eternity.

The way of the new life begins with repentance. In Romans 7:14, the Word tells how we die to ourselves and live in Christ Jesus. A change takes place that breaks us free from the Law that we were married to. We now have been joined to another husband, and we see it is Jesus.

But you ask why you still struggle with sin. How is it that you still feel the motions of sin in your mind and heart? Read on in the seventh chapter, and you will see that Paul knows full well what we struggle with. Then see the wonderful words that open the eighth chapter, *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)* Here is the mystery revealed. In Christ Jesus, and in Him only, can we say with Paul, *I am persuaded.*

Oh what joy we have when we have been changed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus. He paid it all. He is our all in all. In Him we have the victory.

Free from the Law, oh happy condition,
Jesus has bled, and there is remission;
Cursed by the Law, and bruised by the fall,
Grace hath redeemed us, one for all.

P.P. Bliss

*God's peace,
Pastor Ron Holmgren
Hockinson, Washington*

The Gift of Prayer

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6)

There are many different meanings of the word “pray” in the world today. Most of those meanings, however, do not apply to Christians.

Prayer should not be a ceremony preformed out of tradition. It is also not a mystical mantra repeated to gain favors. It is not a required duty performed in order to reach Heaven. Instead, prayer is merely -- and amazingly -- communication with God. God, the Creator of the universe, the great, omniscient, and powerful being, which called all life into existence, allows us to access Him through prayer. What an incredible gift! We, God’s created children, can come before Him and call him Father.

I have been blessed to be able to travel. Sometimes, however, I want to talk to my family. I am thankful that today’s technology allows me to do just that. I can write an e-mail message, and in one click it has arrived on the other side of the world. Travel and e-mail remind me of how we are all on a journey away from home, and that we, too, want to communicate to the father we all have: our Heavenly Father. When we pray, it’s like we’re e-mailing God, but we don’t need a computer, and we know there’s no delay. With e-mail, I always wonder when my message will be read, and when I’ll get a reply, but with prayer, we know that God instantly hears our prayers.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: (I John 5:14) God may not answer when we want Him to, or in the way we want Him to, but we know that, like an earthly father, He has our best interests at heart. Just as we treasure the messages we receive from those we love, God also treasures the prayers we send to Him.

I enjoy receiving mail, and therefore I save e-mails or letters from my friends and family. Our Heavenly Father wants to hear from us too, and when He does, He, too, saves the correspondence we send. The Bible tells us of the *golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. (Revelation 5:8)* Unlike me, God, as can be seen in this verse, does not save our prayers in a dusty box at the top of a closet, or in a seldom-visited e-mail folder. Instead, He stores our prayers in golden vials. Our prayers are that important to Him.

This gift of prayer is given to all of God’s children. It doesn’t matter where we live, or what we do, or when we became Christians. We all have access to God through prayer. As Paul wrote, *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)*

This gift isn’t given to us because we deserve it. It’s given to us because God loves us, and because, when He looks on us, He sees, not fallen creatures, but precious children washed clean in the blood of his Son.

Let us always remember to thank and praise God for his gift of prayer.

Leona Matson
Langley, British Columbia, Canada

*Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.
The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall
have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her
life.*

*She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She
riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a
portion to her maidens.*

*She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she
planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth
her arms.*

*She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out
by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the
distaff.*

*She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her
hands to the needy.*

*She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household
are clothed with scarlet.*

*She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and
purple.*

*Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders
of the land.*

*She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the
merchant.*

*Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to
come.*

*She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of
kindness.*

*She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the
bread of idleness.*

*Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he
praiseth her.*

*Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord,
she shall be praised.*

*Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in
the gates.*

Proverb 31:10-31

Happy Mother's Day to All Mothers

God's Peace from Iraq

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq. I wanted to share news with you of God's goodness during my deployment among many brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

I urge you to continue to pray for our deployed troops, not only in Iraq, but also in Afghanistan and elsewhere in harm's way. For all of us, whether at home or in a strange land, God can seem very distant at times. This can be enhanced in an isolated environment. It's almost as though we have not only left family and friends half a world away, but that we have also arrived at a place empty of God's love. Many troops can lose touch with reality and feel very alone.

These are the moments when the Devil, the world, and our own flesh find points of vulnerability and attempt to take hold. I have found myself struggling with evil thoughts, doubts, temptations, and lusts of the flesh. If it were up to me, I would fail. Such struggles don't only occur in hostile Muslim countries, but can also happen at home when we get caught up in our daily activities and are too busy to study his Word.

Thank God for his abundant love and Christ for his ultimate sacrifice to grant us safe passage during these stormy times. I know that prayers from friends and family have brought great blessings in my life, and God will always be faithful. Even in the worst times, when we don't feel God's presence, we must remember that faith does not equate to feelings. God is still with us, and cares for us deeply.

This brings to mind Paul's teaching to the Romans: *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)*

Isn't it amazing to think about? Even if we are thousands of miles away from everyone who loves us, God is still with us. In my own struggle, He led me to some friends with whom I could talk through these issues. In our unique battles, we were able to help each other, but we all know that this help truly came from God. Even with today's technology, this place can seem very far away from the real world, and it is important to stay focused on Christ.

There are men and women here who travel past death's door every night. I have gotten to know a team of them from the E-108th Cavalry, an Army National Guard unit from Georgia. They are heroes who have seen day after day of combat and, after a long year, are preparing to go home to family and friends. When asked how they have dealt with wartime stress and family separation for so long, the answer is simple: Jesus Christ. They do not forget that God loves them and sent his Son to die for their sins. They pray together for their families, and for a safe mission each night before they head outside the wire into dark territory. God has seen them through, and now their time away from home is drawing to a close. May He bless them with a safe return.

Many units are not as fortunate to have such a tight bond, and prayer before combat patrols is not common in most teams. I'm sure many of God's children have had a much harder time holding onto faith than this group whom I have come to know.

Please remember all of our brothers and sisters in your prayers, whether they are childhood friends such as Drew Holmgren, serving at the tip of the spear in the Afghanistan mountains, or the loved ones left behind, such as Wendy and Logan Argel, the wife and newborn son of my friend, Derek, who lost his life here in Iraq. For all of us, comfort comes from one place, and that is faith in Jesus Christ.

Tribulations, persecutions, peril, sword, and death can separate us from many people. None of these can separate us from the love of God, for He has said, *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Hebrews 13:5-6)* Of course we can pray for the safe return of our troops, but this verse reminds us that it is more important to have the Lord with us wherever we are.

Remember to pray for our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, as well as their brave families, that Jesus Christ may be their helper and their strength. Pray that each of their lives would be, as Paul describes, *hid with Christ in God*. There is no safer place. Then, *when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:3-4)*

*God's peace,
Barry Mattson, Capt, USAF
LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq*

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31

The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly.

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Psalms 118:14-15, 17

Children's Page

Hello Children!

The story last month was of Jesus' crucifixion and rising from the dead after three days. He then spent forty days on this earth, teaching his disciples more things that they needed to know before He returned to Heaven. In the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we find some things that happened during those forty days.

First, Jesus told his disciples, *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28:19)* And, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel unto every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:15-16)*

In Luke, chapter 24, Jesus showed himself several times to his disciples, and even ate with them. One day, two of his disciples were very sad, still talking about Jesus' death. Jesus drew near and walked with them, and as they did not recognize him, they told him all about Jesus' crucifixion and their great disappointment that He was gone. Then, *beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he [Jesus] expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

Later, Jesus ate with those two disciples. *And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? (Luke 24:30-32)*

In the Gospel of John, chapter 21, The disciples were out fishing, and Jesus appeared on the shore. Jesus made a fire and had fish cooking there, and invited the disciples to join Him. *Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. (John 21:12-14)*

Jesus wanted the disciples to truly believe that He was their Lord, and that He meant what He said by rising again from the dead. He wanted them to believe that he was the Son of God, who has the power to save.

Jesus instructed the disciples to keep teaching about Him so that others may be saved and have eternal life. We can be so thankful we have God's Word to read now so that we can learn more about the great God who loves us and cares so much for each of us. He loves children, and watches over you wherever you go. He always will.

I leave you in God's care, with a prayer that you will keep on believing. Jesus' parting word for his disciples -- and that includes us -- can be found in Matthew 28:20: *Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

*God's peace,
Gwen Wilson*

Love Not the World

This exhortation from John is directed to the hearts of all of God's children without exception. From the youngest to the eldest, we all need to be reminded that though we are in the world and must dwell here as long as we have natural life, we are not of the world. Thanks be to God for the gift of his Holy Spirit to guide us and help us to distinguish between the things of this world and that which is of God. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are directed unto truth and righteousness.

Sadly, we must confess that we do not always heed the guiding voice of the Spirit. For this reason, we need the reminders and exhortations found in God's Word. This is not to suggest that we live by do's and don'ts to merit salvation, but rather that we would, by faith, yield ourselves to the Spirit, and remain apart from the world.

John, this epistle writer, tells us, *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)* Here John does not speak of the world in the context of this planet earth, but rather he speaks of the realms of sin and the shadows of darkness that sin casts upon the hearts of all who live according to the lust and desire of carnal flesh. Satan, the enemy of our souls, is extremely cunning and inventive, and has made the things that are in the world very enticing to our natural portion. They are the products of his deceitful arts, and their effect on men's hearts is both captivating and corruptive.

This does not mean that everything of this natural life is sinful. But those things that serve to blind our eyes to the love of our Heavenly Father are indeed sinful. They only draw our hearts away from our first love, and diminish the desire for that which edifies. The parable of the prodigal son illustrates well how the things of the world allure and can lead the unwary into great spiritual peril. Jesus said, *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24)* God and Satan cannot inhabit our hearts. Oh, that the love of God, and the love for God, would rule our hearts and minds in times like these.

Dear child of Christian parents, I encourage you to seek the godly counsel of your parents when you are confronted with this world's temptations. Christian parents have experienced many trials and temptations, and have been able to overcome by the power of Christ.

As I reflect on my childhood days, and the godly advice of my Christian mother, as she firmly but lovingly directed my young heart to higher ground, I humbly thank God for her guidance. I only wish I had

been more attentive as she, with love and patience, pointed the way homeward to her little, not-so-patient son. Only by God's grace can I, even today, be numbered among the flock of his elect. His grace is greater than all our sins, and his forgiveness is complete. His mighty arm is ready to deliver the soul who cries out for help in every time of need.

We pray, dear Heavenly Father, that thou stir within our hearts--whether we be children or parents--a sincere love to thee and to one another so that we may be drawn to Jesus, our Saviour. May thy love fill our hearts so that this world and the things that are in it would dim and lose their value, and that thy Son, Jesus, would be glorified in us. Amen.

*Pastor Ken Storm
Tapiola, Michigan*

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:2

Walking in Truth

Throughout time, God has spoken to people in different ways to awaken them from the sleep of sin. It is written, *For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man. (Job 33:14-17)*

God does this so that people's undying souls may be saved. Our Heavenly Father has no pleasure in the death of the unrighteous, but desires that people would repent of their sins, and believe the Gospel's glad tidings of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We are all created in the image of God. Therefore, we each have an undying soul that God wants to save from eternal death. He wants us, the children He created, to live forever with Him and our Lord Jesus, the angels, and the other redeemed souls who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. As it is written, *These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:14)*

This is the reason that God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, came to this sinful world to redeem mankind. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)*

The world mentioned above is all the people born into this world. Unfortunately, our common enemy, the Devil, has deceived many people so that they do not repent of their sin and unbelief. They do not believe in the redemption of God's Son so that their souls can be saved.

We live in the last times, and the Devil knows that he has little time, so he tries to deceive many people with subtlety and lies. An example is written in the Scriptures. *A certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was

about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. (Acts 5:1-11) When we read this happening, we see that a lie was the reason for their deaths.

May God's love rule in our hearts so that we walk in truth, and that lies and deceitfulness may be far from us. When God's protective hands rest over us as we walk close to Him, there is no power on this earth that can destroy the eternal hope we have in Christ Jesus. Soon the Lord Jesus will come to take his bride to the eternal marriage that will begin but never end. May we, therefore, walk as the wise virgins did, with oil in our lamps of faith so that the love of Christ will always burn in our hearts toward Him and toward each other.

*God's peace,
Pastor Arne Nordahl
Vancouver, Washington*

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

I Samuel 12:24

Invitation to the Convention

The Hockinson, Washington congregation of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America extends a warm welcome as we host the 2006 Convention. It will be held at Skyview High School in the Salmon Creek area of Vancouver. The address is 1300 West 139th Street, Vancouver, Washington. Directions are given on the church website at: www.hockinsonchurch.com, and will also be sent to the congregations.

The services will begin at the Hockinson church on Wednesday evening, July 12 at 7:00 pm. Registration opens at 6:00 pm. Services will continue at Skyview High School on Thursday, July 13 through Sunday, July 16. Services will be at 10:00 am, 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm, with meals following each service.

You will have the opportunity to volunteer as a kitchen or dining room helper when you register. If your family situation allows, we'd appreciate your help.

Lodging information was previously sent to the congregations and is now posted on our church website. There will be no overnight RV parking at the school site. We will update the website with information on audio connections.

Please contact any of the following people for further information:

Chairman:	John Isaacson	360/-254-9281
Lodging & Registration:	Gregg & Vivian Walikainen	360/687-7560
Private Housing:	Ed & Carrie Holmgren	360/247-6508
Transportation:	Peter Tapio	360/772-1993

John 7:37-38 says, *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

May God bless our gathering together.

*Gregg and Vivian Walikainen
Lodging and Registration*

Convention Annual Meetings

The 98th Annual Meeting of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America will be hosted by the Hockinson Apostolic Lutheran Church, and will be held on July 13, 2006 at the Skyview High School in Vancouver, Washington.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Annual Reports will be read, the members of the Central Board, the Eastern Mission Board, and the Western Mission Board will be elected. All matters will be considered and acted upon. Congregations are requested to send their delegates to this meeting.

The schedule of meetings and services is as follows:

Tuesday, July 11	Ministers' Meeting: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Hockinson Apostolic Lutheran Church
Wednesday, July 12	Ministers' Meeting (con't): 9:00 am to noon National Sunday School Meeting: 1:00 to 5:00 pm at the Hockinson Apostolic Lutheran Church.
Thursday, July 13	Annual Business Meeting: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Skyview High School, Vancouver. The Foreign Mission Business Meeting will immediately follow the Annual Business Meeting.

Worship services will be held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, beginning on Thursday, July 13th through Sunday, July 16th. Ministers, members, and the general public are invited to participate in these services. The meetings will be held in conjunction with the worship services.

*On behalf of the Central Board of the
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America,
Richard Juuti, Chairman
Ivan Seppala, Secretary*

The Faithful Comrade

We have a faithful comrade,
A trusty friend is He;
If care or pain o'ertake us on our way,
This friend is near to chase the gloom away,
And help us faithfully.

We have a faithful comrade,
A certain guide is He;
Though in our journey we have lost the light,
Our friend is near to guard us through the night,
Wherever we may be.

We have a faithful comrade,
A noble heart has He;
When mean and sordid thoughts oppress the soul,
He still is near to point us to the goal
Of life: Eternity.

We have a faithful comrade,
A guardian brave is He;
If cowardice our selfish hearts assail,
This friend is near, and ever will prevail,
However weak we be.

Lord Jesus, faithful Comrade,
We meet to learn of thee;
O teach us, as before thy face we stand,
To love each other, labour hand in hand,
And faithful comrades be.

Sebastian William Meyer

Composed in the 18th century, this is a simple elegy on the death of a comrade in battle. The thought of Jesus as our Comrade is strengthened by remembering the etymology of the word, *comrade*. It means *the roommate*, and was first applied to Spanish soldiers who shared a common room. [*The Fellowship Hymn Book*]

O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.

Psalm 140:7