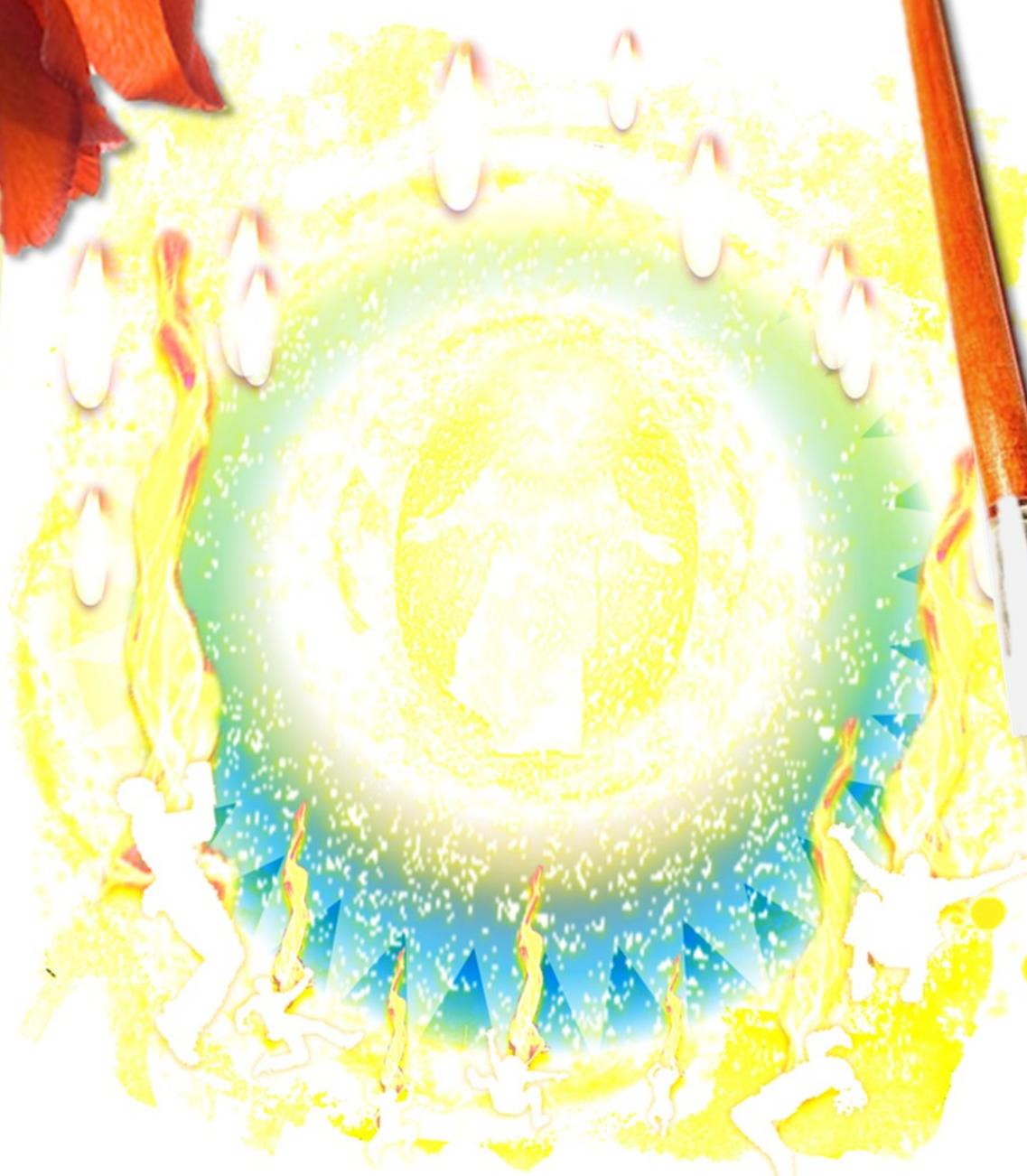


HOPE

“...Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13)



The Berean Lamp
For the Body of Christ.

Vol. 7

August 2012



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Hopes of Confidence-Men
by Nathan Warner - Page 5

Lives of the Christians - Page 7

Hope Amidst the Horror
by Brian Kuch - Page 7

The Helmet of Salvation-
Our Identity in Christ
by Jani Lynn Warner- Page 9

Exiles (Poem)
by Nathan Warner - Page 10

Sing a New Song - Page 11

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
by Maggie Moller - Page 11

Throwing Aside Our Cloaks
by Natalie Madsen - Page 13

Hope for the Future
by Dave Weatherly - Page 14

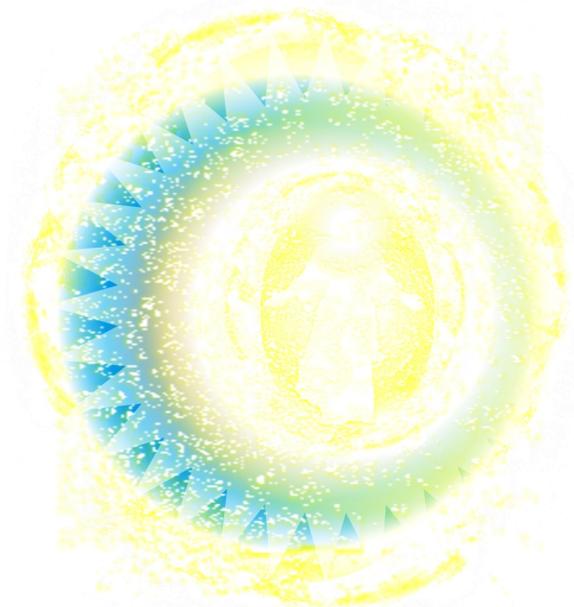
The Berean Lamp Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Berean Lamp Ministry. Visit our website at www.bereanlamp.org. The Berean Lamp Ministry is a service of the Berean Christian Fellowship of Zimmerman, MN.

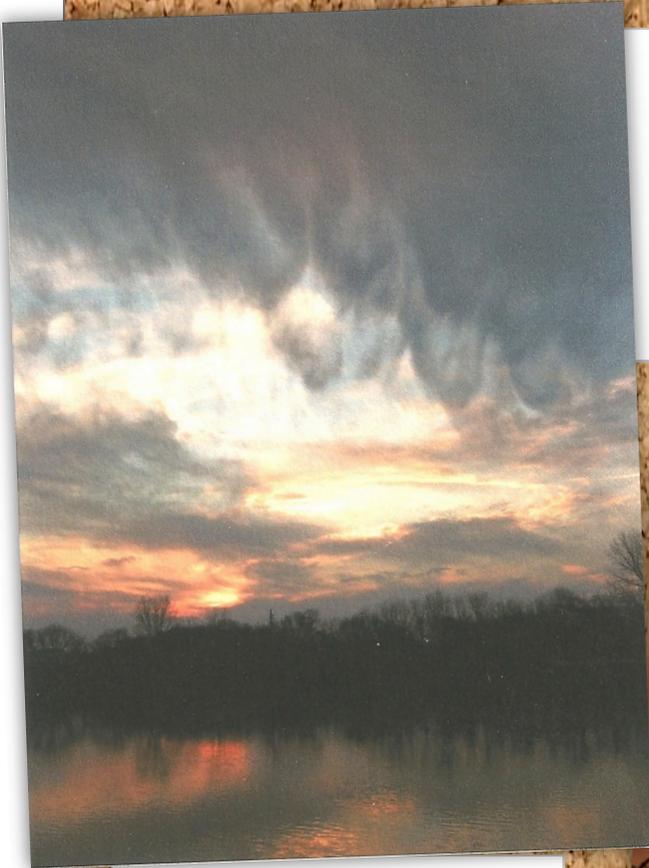
The Berean Lamp Ministry seeks to:

1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
2. Minister to non-believers; be a witness for Christ and a testament to His Body in the world.

We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

- Pastor Scott Moller





Eternal Home
By Lynn Warner

“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

(2 Corinthians 5:1)

He Bowed the Heavens

By Lynn Warner

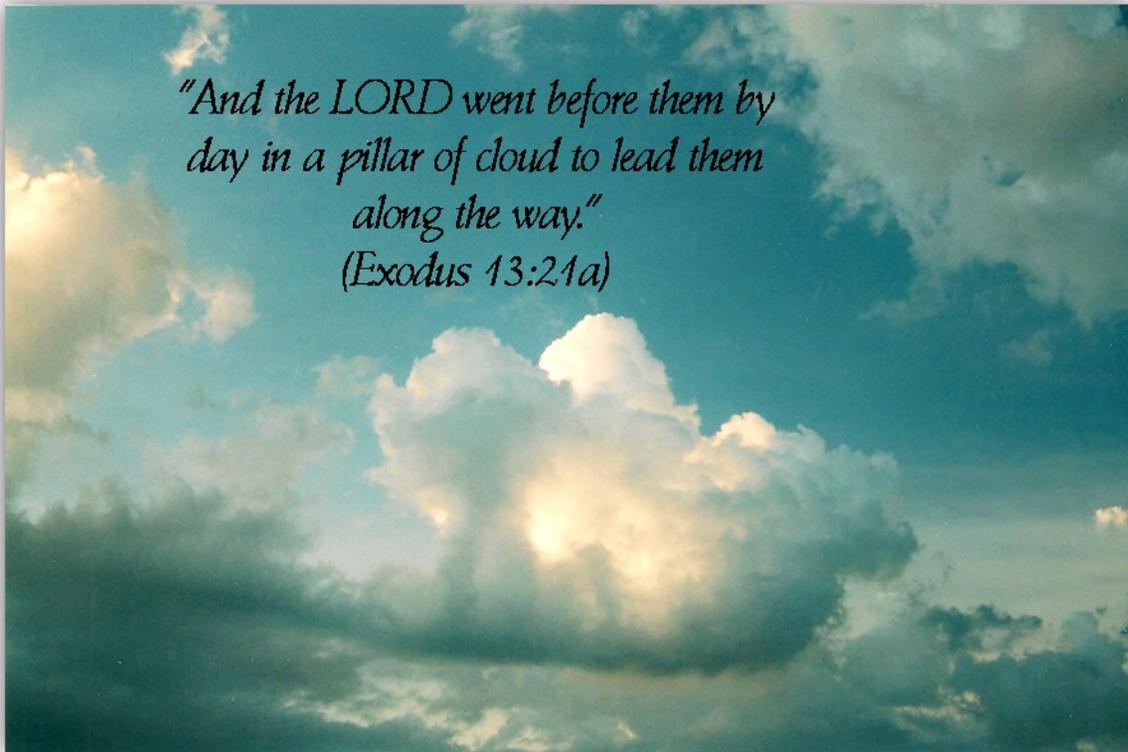


“In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears...

“...He bowed the heavens and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.
He rode on a cherub and flew;
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.”

(Psalm 18:6 & 9-10)

Editor-in-Chief: Nathan Warner
Oversight Committee: Pastor Scott Moller, Deacon
Bob Larsen, Nathan Warner
Editors: Natalie Madsen, Jani Warner, Julie Moller



Daniel 7:13-14

“...And behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

“And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

Hidden Glory
By Nathan Warner

Hopes of Confidence-Men

By Nathan Warner

Hope is a desired destination. We look towards our hope, and what we see from a distance offers us assurance of its truth. Faith and trust are the firm, grounded substances needed for us to “walk” to that Hope. When Believers look for Hope in any situation, they always find themselves “*looking to Jesus*” (Hebrews 12:2a) and their Faith in Him is “*the substance of things hoped for*” (Hebrews 11:1a KJV). This substance supports their walk towards their Hope.

Hope found by looking in any other direction or into any face other than Jesus is a false, vain hope that may appease our feelings and senses for a time in its emotional con-game but ultimately will prove its falsehood when the snare is sprung. Con-men often use “hope” to get what they want. They offer people the hope of making easy money, hope that something will solve someone’s problems, hope that they can get someone out of trouble, etc. Hopes are a hot commodity in the world because all humanity is searching for some assurance in their lives that they can trust in, some reassurance that things will turn out okay or that they can improve their situation.

False prophets are spiritual confidence-men (the root for con-man) that earn people’s confidence, trust, support, loyalty, money, etc., by peddling “hope” in tough times or by ascribing a higher power’s approval or mandate for an action in order to lull people into trusting them enough to enter a snare.

False prophets try to make people feel good about themselves and their behavior, or they try to create a false sense of guilt to leverage for their purposes. A false prophet has no desire to speak the truth because the “*the truth will set you free*” (John 8:32b) from the snare they are leading you towards. They do not wish to improve the fortunes of the people they are deceiving but rather to keep them in bondage to themselves or to whom they work for.

Ezekiel gives us a vision of what this looks

like: “*Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain. And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ when the LORD has not spoken. The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without justice*” (Ezekiel 22: 27-29). Here we see false prophets covering for the actions of evil men. How often in the apostate church today are pastors, teachers, and leaders speaking words for God that are not His, covering for extortions and robberies done by wicked men who are destroying lives?

Jeremiah tells the hopeless people of Jerusalem after the destruction of their land, “*Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading*” (Lamentations 2:14). Any false or misleading direction encourages someone to abandon the Way and leads them into snares, mire, and traps that end in destruction, desolation, and despair. We are not to listen to false hopes: “*Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you’*” (Jeremiah 23:16-17).

Human nature loves to have “reasons” that justify why we behave the way we do. The sinful flesh loves to have blessings for the behavior that it wants to do. The flesh loves to live in the delusion because it believes it is acquitted of responsibility for its actions. So many churches now encourage the ways of the World in their congregation saying, “No disaster will come upon you!” They condone adultery, fornication, stealing, and deception with their false prophecies: “*An appalling and hor-*

rible thing has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?" (Jeremiah 5:30-31) As Jeremiah points out, everything seems to be going along just fine until the con is finally sprung and disaster falls on everyone who believed in the false hope. There is an "end" to false hope, and it is disaster, ruin, and further despair for the people deceived, while the con-men "*revel in their deceptions*" (2 Peter 2:13b). But Scripture warns them that "*the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands*" (Psalm 9:16b).

Most people who have been conned learn from the experience and do not fall for false hopes again, but some people perpetually fall prey to con-men, loving the emotional high they get when they believe and trust in the lies and the false hopes that they are special, will succeed, or will gain what they desire. How quickly they forget the "disaster" afterwards: "*as a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly*" (Proverbs 26:11).

False prophets are not a relic of the ancient world; Jesus warned us to "*watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves*" (Matthew 7:15). He told us that in the Last Days "*many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people*" (Matthew 24:10-11). We are also warned in Revelation about the False Prophet that will prepare the way of the Beast with false signs and wonders. There are so many "sheep without a shepherd" in the churches of our time, led about from con-man to con-man, always trusting no matter that they are always led astray with false hopes.

The True Hope – the Hope of Believers will be manifest in the Resurrection of our corruptible bodies into incorruptible bodies in the New Heavens and the New Earth. All believers before us have "*died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on*

the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland...a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:13-14 & 16b).

But as Believers who have to live daily in the world, how do we avoid the snares of confidence-men and false prophets while we wait for our Hope? David explains: "*The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts*" (Psalm 119:110). It is by living in God's Word and walking after Him when He says "follow me" that we safely navigate the wiles of the World and the Devil. Only by "fixing our eyes on Jesus" do we have assurance in a "*living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*" (1 Peter 1:3), fleeing to Him from the dead, decaying hopes of the World that are dressed up as living and paraded on the stage.

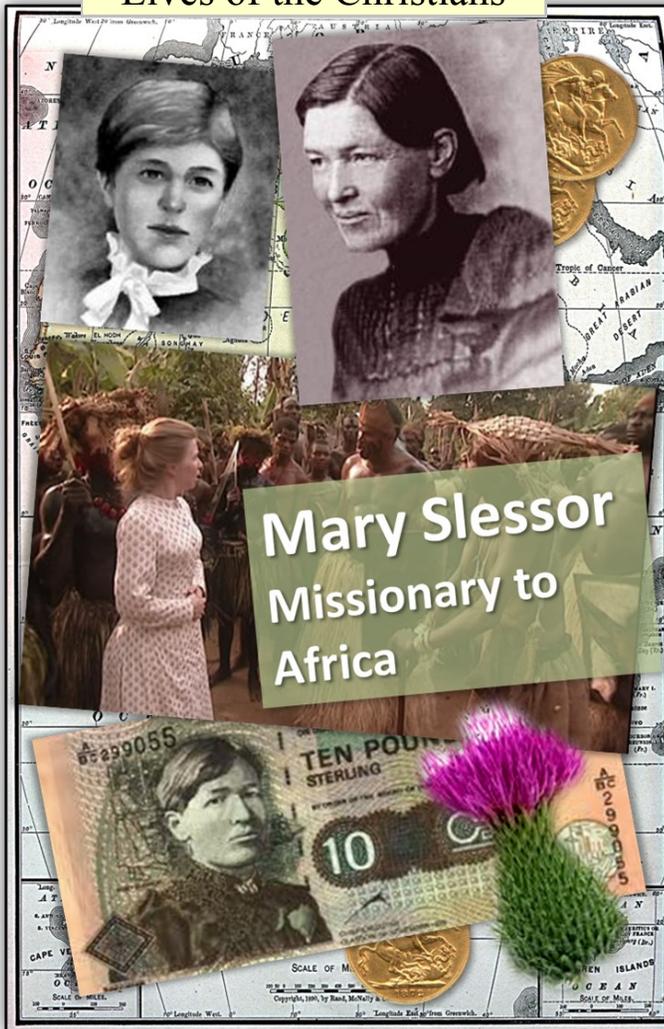
"We who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 6:18b-20).

The Hope of God is no road-show or stage production to entertain us along the straight and narrow road. It is a living, lasting, and enduring Hope - a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul that keeps our eyes fixed on Jesus and strengthens our legs to follow Him in Faith and trust.

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word."

(2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Lives of the Christians



Mary Slessor Missionary to Africa



Twenty-nine-year-old Mary Slessor was a young Scottish woman who had worked long hours in the factories of her homeland when she landed in Duke Town, Africa, as a missionary. The Duke Town mission had spread the word of God up and down the coastal areas, but no missionary had ventured inland successfully. As soon as Mary learned the languages, she traveled farther and farther from the mission and found the need greater every step she went. At night she would pray, "Oh Lord, I thank Thee that I can bring these people Thy Word. But Lord, there are other villages back in the jungle where no white man has gone. They need Jesus, too. Help me reach them!" She was given her own outstation at Old Town, and her first view coming up the river was of skulls above the doors of the huts. Mary was successful in teaching these people the Gospel of Jesus, but she was burdened to reach the remote and dangerous Okoyong tribe. The Okoyong were far more wicked than anything Mary had seen: they respected only vengeance and cruelty, but she made slow and steady progress with them and did what no soldier, trader, or diplomat had been able to do: open the region up to the outside world and change their hearts with the Gospel of Christ. Known as the "White Queen of the Okoyong," Mary traveled further inland and brought the gospel to the cannibal Azo tribe. Now in old age, Mary prayed that the Lord would give her strength to finish the work she had begun with the cannibals. Mary went to be with her Lord in January 1915 and left behind her an Africa changed by the Gospel of Christ.

Hope Amidst the Horror

By Brian Kuch

As we were all contemplating the topic of **hope** this past month, we were slammed with the **horror** of what happened in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20th, and now we're confronted with trying to work through how these two conflicting realities fit together: where's the **hope amidst horror**?

I'd like to thank all of you who have been praying for your prayers and concern for the people in Aurora, Colorado: for those who were in the movie theater that night, for the 58 injured, and for the close friends and families of the 12 that were killed in this terribly frightening and tragic event.

The nation watched as breaking news came

out from Colorado about the rising number of those injured and killed. We watched as information was released about the unthinkable extent to which this man went with elaborate booby-traps and explosives rigged in his apartment. For some, this information has been food for prayer. For others, it's been like watching a big-budget reality TV show. Perhaps in this past week there have been more prayers offered to our Holy God for the people of Colorado than there have since the 1999 tragedy at Columbine High School, just 17 miles away from the theater. How has this event affected your prayer life?

But already Aurora, Colorado, is fading from the headlines. I've even found that my prayers for these people have faded right along with the headlines. If people's lives, struggles,

and pain fade from our memories so easily, where is the hope in tragedy? The reality of our existence on earth is that we will all die. Solomon put this in perspective for us when he wrote that *“death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart”* (Ecclesiastes 3:19).

Is there hope in pain, in tragedy, and in death? Paul says in Romans 8:18, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”*

Paul is talking about his own personal sufferings he’s endured here, but wouldn’t you agree that the suffering in Aurora is personal for the people living there? We mourn those who have lost their lives, but we especially mourn those who died without the Savior. That day was a tragedy in Aurora for those without Christ. Let me clarify further – EVERY DAY is a tragedy for ANYONE without Christ!

Scripture even tells us why there are such tragedies, horrors, and frustrations in this life. Paul explains, continuing in Romans 8:19, *“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility [the NIV uses “frustration”], not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope.”* HE SUBJECTED IT – IN HOPE.

Whenever you feel overwhelmed by your own sufferings, or the sufferings of the world as you see it on television, remind yourself that this is not the final point of the Universe. We all suffer, and we’re all going to die! But where will you go when you die? Those of us that have the Eternal Hope of the Resurrection of Christ – we will live eternally with Him! We will be dispatched to Glory! *“In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death”* (Proverbs 12:28). What a perfect answer to Solomon’s observation in Ecclesiastes earlier.

Paul was not the first person in the Bible that we see endured suffering – look at Job. Where did Job’s Hope lie? Job boldly declares his hope in God when he says, *“Though He slay me, I will hope in Him”* (Job 13:15a).

In Ecclesiastes 7:3, Solomon writes, *“Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness the face of the heart is made glad.”* What does that mean? I think it means that this life is full of sadness and sorrow... and that life’s difficulties have the potential to awaken a spiritual dimension in us. Sorrow makes us think about life, its meaning, and our priorities. Sorrow and suffering often bring us to God.

For Christians, even these sad times **ought** to give us HOPE, peace, and strength. There is a maturing in Christ that takes place through affliction that cannot be obtained any other way. Hope doesn’t always come easy. In Romans 8:24, we see that *“in this HOPE, you have been saved [by the securing of our souls through Jesus Christ]. But who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it, with perseverance”* (emphasis added). It takes perseverance, and God willing, we will persevere in our hope with unshakeable Joy!

John 1:12 says that *“to all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God”*; thus, we who believe on Jesus can also cry, *“O Death where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?”* (1 Corinthians 15:55) Are we sharing this Hope? Are we praying for our friends and family who don’t yet know the love of Jesus?

My Hope is in Jesus, and my Hope is *eternal*, but how many people in our own families or close circle of friends don’t have this same Hope? Life can be tragic and sad and hard, and we see in the Bible that we are not promised a life free from tragedy and affliction; Jesus tells us in John 16:2 that *“they will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.”*

The Helmet of Salvation – Our Identity in Christ

By Jani Lynn Warner

“But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.”

(1 Thessalonians 2:8)

The helmet was worn to protect the head against the broadsword, and it bore a crest (according to Noah Webster’s 1828 *Dictionary of the English Language*). A crest was a part of heraldry identification that answered the questions: Whose man are you? Whose side are you on? What do you stand for? What do you stand against?

Isaiah described Jesus as wearing *“righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head, and He put on garments of vengeance for clothing, And wrapped Himself in Zeal as a mantle”* (Isaiah 59:17). As Christians, the helmet and crest we wear is Jesus Christ, who is our Head, our Salvation, and our Hope. Paul warns us that *“the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night”* (1 Thessalonians 5:2), but the Christian is to be one of the *“Sons of Light and Sons of Day”* (1 Thessalonians 5:5a). He instructs us that *“it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light”* (Romans 13:11b-12).

When we are asleep, we are forgetting God and sleeping in the flesh. We are in sin and living with the wrong aim, missing the mark. We want to think our own thoughts and have our own versions of “reality.” Paul states that a trumpet of God will sound, and *“the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16b-17). We are to

remember to wake up to our true identity, to repentance and salvation in Christ Jesus, to warfare, and to fellowship with the Lord, both now and eternally.

Alas! We have no trumpet calls to wake us up (like the people of Israel in the Old Testament); however, we have an even better gift to help us awaken to God. Jesus said, *“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also...”* (John 15:26-27a).

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will sound the trumpet in our hearts and awaken us to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Like a muster call to spiritual arms, we should put on the helmet and emblem of our salvation, Jesus Christ, our Head, arming ourselves with the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-17) and preparing for battle. The Holy Spirit gives us power to return to God every moment we stray, in repentance and remembrance of Jesus, who is our Identity, our Head, and our Salvation.

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

(Romans 13:15)

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”
(Isaiah 40:8)



EXILES

Where the whirlwinds gather
They clothe themselves in dusts
And guide the weary Pilgrims
Through all the desert gusts.

The travelers cannot say
How they came together
Nor where the Spirit leads
Through wind and rain and weather.

The night will herald nothing
The days are lingering long
But the Hope that's in their hearts
Still draws them all along.

They wander through the desert
To a place beyond recall
Where wild seasons run –
No gate or fence or wall

No rooms or walls confine them
No gilded cages sell
There is no place to own them –
No land for them to dwell.

But still they seek a place
Not built by human hands
Not subject to the world
That fights for love of lands.

Their Home is beyond the reach
Of sorrow, fear, and pain
No war or death to conquer them
Where Love and Light will reign.

Their City is Jerusalem
As Born-again in Zion
Their God is Lord over all!
Their Savior - Judah's Lion!

By Nathan Warner

We are "...looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God."
(Hebrews 11:10)

Sing A New Song

Words by Louisa Stead

Music by William James Kirkpatrick

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
And to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus says the Lord!"



TRUST & ASSURANCE
442 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

G G: G C C E C G G D F# A7 E D

1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to take him at his word,
2 O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust his cleans - ing blood,
3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and self to cease,
4 I'm so glad I learned to trust you, pre - cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, Friend,

just to rest up - on his prom - ise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
just in sim - ple faith to plunge me 'neath the heal - ing, cleans - ing flood!
just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing life and rest, and joy and peace.
and I know that you are with me, will be with me to the end.

Refrain
G D Em G D G D F# A7 E D
Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!

G G: G C C E C G G C Am C G D G
Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust him more!

WORDS: Louisa M. R. Stead (1850-1917)
MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

TRUST IN JESUS
8.7.8.7. Ref.

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

By Maggie Moller

As I pondered this month's theme of "Hope," I was drawn to the hymn, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." As Christians, we have hope for life after death. What does the world have to put its trust in? Some people trust in themselves; others trust in their good deeds. Some simply believe this life is all you get and that life is just a continuous cycle. How wonderful it is to know that we have hope for eternal life because of what Jesus did for us all on the cross! We have hope because we can trust in Him. How sweet it is to know He is our hope! No matter what happens in this life, we can trust Him to be by our side. This knowledge is what prompted Louisa Stead to pen the words to "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

Louisa was born around 1850 in Dover, England. As a teenager, she felt God calling her into missions. When she was 21, she moved to America and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. While attending a camp meeting in Urbana, Ohio, she was again prompted by the Holy Spirit to pursue missions work. At first, she desired to go to China but was unable to go due to poor health.

Louisa married in 1875, but tragically her husband died while attempting to rescue a drowning boy. It is thought that Louisa wrote the lyrics for "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" shortly after her husband's death.

All the time Louisa had been living in America, she never gave up her hope of pursuing foreign missions work. Finally, around 1880, Louisa and her daughter Lily set out for South Africa. She met Robert Wodehouse there and remarried. After serving in South Africa for 15 years, she returned to America to recover her health. In 1901, she returned to

missions work and served in Rhodesia. She died on January 18, 1917, in Zimbabwe. Her daughter Lily married D.A. Carson and became a missionary like her mother.

William James Kirkpatrick composed the music for this hymn. He was born on February 27, 1838, in Duncannon, Pennsylvania, where his father was a schoolteacher and musician. Growing up with musical parents laid the foundation of his musical abilities, and in 1854, he left for Philadelphia to study music and carpentry. At the time, his ambition was to become a violinist. He studied music under Professor T. Bishop and became a versatile musician playing the cello, violin, flute, fife, and organ, while also receiving vocal training. In 1861, he joined the Wharton Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, where he served in the choir and taught Sunday school.

Kirkpatrick married in 1861 and joined the 91st Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers as a Fife-Major during the Civil War. He returned to Philadelphia in October 1862 after the position was terminated. For the next 11 years, he supported his wife by working in carpentry.

During this time, he was introduced to John Sweeney. They soon became musical partners, working on many

major hymnbooks together. In 1878, Kirkpatrick's wife passed away, and William gave up his career in carpentry, devoting his life entirely to music composition. Between 1880 and 1897, Kirkpatrick and Sweeney published 49 major hymnbooks together. It is unknown when Kirkpatrick composed the music for "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus," but it may have been during this time. Kirkpatrick remarried in 1893 and continued to write hymns until his death on September 20, 1921. Over the course of his life, Kirkpatrick published nearly 100 major works of worship music, including special works for Easter, Christmas, and children's choirs.

*"And I will... Refine them as
SILVER is refined,
And test them as GOLD is
tested.*

*They will call on My name,
And I will answer them; I will
say, 'They are My people,' And
they will say, 'The LORD is my
God.'"*

(Zachariah 13:9)

Refined

By Nathan Warner

Throwing Aside Our Cloaks

By Natalie Madsen

“Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’”
(Mark 10:46-47 NASB)

Tucked into the tenth chapter of Mark is a little story that so perfectly parallels our helplessness and only Hope in Christ Jesus. Blind beggar Bartimaeus, seated near the road, heard of the Christ coming down the path, and in his great need, he cried out for Him. Resembling our own weak state, we likewise often collapse on the side of our path to eternal life with our Savior, weakened by worldly chaos and suffering. To whom can we cry for help? Our Lord Jesus, the Son of David – the One who is the *only* hope we have to renew our strength and lead us onward.

“Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’”
(Mark 10:48)

When we as Christians fight confusion and fail on our own to travel lightly the journey set before us, the world stifles our cry for help and even tries to offer some substitution as a remedy for our pain. But who is our ultimate focus on? and who do we allow to persuade us? The many that restrained Bartimaeus caused him to cry out “all the more” to the Savior: the world and its petty restraints should not hinder our longing for Christ but should result in increasing it all the more! The sinfulness and frailty of man on earth can offer nothing compared to our eternal inheritance. Our only Healer and Hope is Christ Jesus. Let us shed all things – ideas and temptations, desires and

dreams – for the sake of focusing our gaze on Christ, the King of Kings.

“And Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him here.’ So they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you.’”
(Mark 10:49)

Jesus heard this man’s plea amidst the multitude of people that surrounded Him and bade him come. What an admonishing thought it is to “take courage, stand up!” for He is calling our names. *“Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass”* (1 Thess. 5:24). He promises to hear our cry to our Heavenly Father, and in answer, when the Lord calls us, we cannot and should not stay still. Our only rescue is in His Almighty Hands.

“Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus.”
(Mark 10:50)

When we hear His voice, let us *leap* to Him, throwing off all that hinders us – all that is of our worldly possessions! The poor blind beggar owned but a cloak for warmth – and he *flung* it off and leaped into *darkness* toward the voice of the only One who was able and willing to help him and to loosen the burden on his back. Let us cling to the One in whom we have hope, discarding all that clings to us in order to trust in Someone greater than all other safety nets or insurance plans we may have. He is our one Joy, Peace, and All in All. He is Faithful beyond comprehension and Wonderful beyond belief.

“And answering him, Jesus said, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ And the blind man said to Him, ‘Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!’”
(Mark 10:51)

Sometimes my sight has faltered from seeing the Lord’s Will in things or from seeking Him solely in everything I do. But He alone is my Redeemer, my Hope. I pray that when we

break our gaze from Him that His Spirit would convict us so that we cry out for Him to restore our sight. We need to come to Him and ask His Will to be shown to us: let our eyes be opened and give us sight, Lord, to see You and Your Hand in our lives. Without Your Spirit within us, we are alone on the side of the road. Outside of Your presence, we are poor. Trusting in ourselves, we have nothing and are beggars. Without looking to You, we are blind.

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.”
(Mark 10:52)

Lord, restore our sight to You!

Hope for the Future

By Dave Weatherly

Simply defined, hope is the Christian’s attitude towards the future. Hope anticipates what God will yet do as promised in Scripture. Christians are not to hope half-heartedly but with finality, without any doubt concerning the promises of God: *“He has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant”* (Colossians 1:22-23).

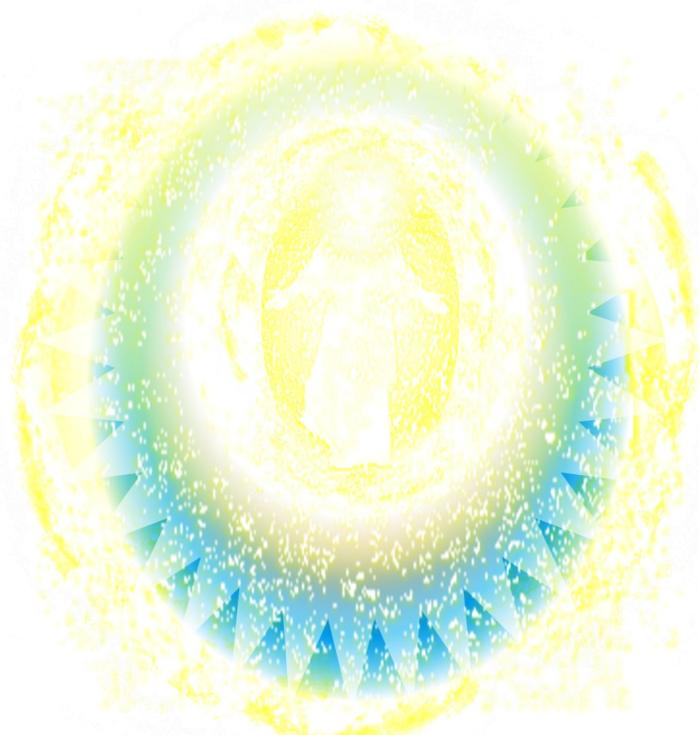
Believers owe their hope exclusively to God’s graciousness and faithfulness. He provided the perfect Salvation in Christ, which resulted in the forgiveness of all our sins (past, present, and future) and our transformation from the Kingdom of Darkness to the eternal Kingdom of Light. God has been

faithful in the past, is being faithful in the present, and will be faithful to all His promises for the future: *“God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”* (1 Corinthians 1:9).

The unbelieving world knows only dying hopes, but Believers have a Living Hope that will come to a complete, final, and glorious fulfillment. It is this Hope that Peter describes when he wrote, *“But in keeping with promise we are looking forward to a new Heaven and a new Earth, the Home of Righteousness”* (2 Peter 3:13).

This Hope was what prompted Paul to tell the Philippians, *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”* (Philippians 1:21). At death or the Rapture, the Believer’s Hope becomes reality as they enter the glorious presence of God and joyous fellowship with the Trinity and other Believers.

“For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.”
(Galatians 5:5)





We wait in *hope* for the LORD;
He is our help and our shield.
In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name.
May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD,
even as we put our *hope* in You.
Psalm 33:20-22

We Wait in Hope
By Maria Madsen



“The LORD will
guide you
continually,
And *Satisfy*
your soul in
drought,
And
Strengthen
your bones;
You shall be like
a watered garden,
And like a spring
of water, whose
waters do not
fail.” Isaiah 58:11

The Lord Will Satisfy Your Soul
By Ginny Larsen

*"He makes the **clouds** His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind." (2 Corinthians 12:9a)*



*"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen."
(Revelation 1:7)*

He is Coming
By Nathan Warner

September Newsletter Theme—Patience
Submission Deadline: September 2
Publish Date: September 9

Theme: Patience, longsuffering, bring forth fruit with Patience, tribulation works Patience, follow after Patience, the Patience of Job, Patience of the Saints, Patience in difficulty, let us run with patience the race that is set before us, etc...