

Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE
PROCLAMATION OF THE
WORD OF GOD



Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.



JUNE 2011

THE ONLY WAY

Jesus said, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** (*John 14:6*) Have you ever wondered, dear friend, "What is the way to the Father or the way to heaven?"

Jesus chose twelve disciples and ordained them to go forth and bear fruit for the kingdom of heaven. They bore witness to the doctrine of Jesus, the one and only way to the Father. The disciples did not know that Jesus was to abide with them for only a short time. He had come into the world to perform a great task, to reconcile God and sinful man. When this was finished, He was to return to the Father.

The disciples had come to love Jesus. He had comforted them when they were troubled, cheered them when they were depressed, rescued them when they were in danger. Now, O Lord, are You going to leave us without a comforter in this dark, sinful world? Jesus said, *These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you... Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. (John 14:25-26, 28)*

For some there appear to be numerous roads leading to that place of celestial glory and it makes no difference which road one takes, for eventually all will lead to the hoped-for destination. Some think it is only necessary to be a member of a religious denomination, attend church regularly, pay tithes, pray fervently, and lead a pious life. Having done this, the person concludes, "Surely God will forgive my few sins when I pass through the valley of death. He will let me enter the portals of heaven." The devil has blinded many with the garb of self-righteousness and is leading them along a road which ends at a broad, deep pit, full of fire and brimstone. Others follow roads which are not narrow, whose pilgrims need not crucify their flesh. Sin, though not in extremes, is permissible. Many console themselves by saying that God's grace is greater than sin and indulge in sin, owning mercy which does not belong to them. Such a person does not see what sin has brought upon mankind—eternal death and isolation from God the Father. *But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. (Romans 5:20)* Grace is truly accepted by those whose spirit is broken and whose heart is troubled because of sin. There are also those who live in solitude and seclusion, vowing to spend their lives isolated from the world and its sinful activities, thinking that such a period of solitude and self-denial will suffice an eternity of happiness. There are countless roads pursued by people who desire to reach the heavenly abode. Many conclude after looking at the majority of people that all roads must lead to heaven, for the majority can not go wrong.

It may not make much difference which road you take to reach an earthly city, for it can be approached from various directions and you may reach it even by a round-about way. Many roads may lead to an earthly city, but there is only one road which leads to heaven. Jesus said, *...strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matthew 7:14)*

Few, indeed, find the road which leads to eternal bliss. What can be the reason, *For many are called, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:14)* Since there is but one way and one gate through which we must enter, it is necessary that those who follow the narrow way have come by the same gateway. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door*

into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep... I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (John 10:1-2, 9)

God's way is the one way by which we can come to this road. Let no man set up his own way by which he intends to reach heaven. God has set a way—the only way—which has stood firm thus far and shall remain so forever. *My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. (Psalm 89:34)*

The Holy Bible—God's unperishing Word—reveals one way, the way the holy prophets, patriarchs and apostles traversed, but the leadership and guidance of God's Holy Spirit is necessary to understand this way. It is hid from the wise and prudent and revealed to babes, for so it seemed good in the sight of the Father. The scriptures tell of the conversion of many, but the most familiar one is that of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-18), after Jesus had been crucified and had founded His kingdom upon this earth. *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:45-47)*

**The doctrine of Christ
has always caused
wonder and amazement...**

The doctrine of Christ has always caused wonder and amazement among those who witnessed its work. *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. (Matthew 7:28-29)*

The question may arise, "Where is the kingdom of God?" The scriptures confirm it is where His humble followers are found. You need go no further than to the believer who has through grace been moved from the road of death to the road of life. The kingdom of God is on this earth and from it only is the forgiveness of sins preached. God has lowered His altar of mercy so that the greatest sinner can reach it. The Lord is still

calling those who are aliens to this great heritage, for He says, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

May the grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ abide with you now and forever. Amen.

*the late Reverend Waino A. Karvonen
Submitted by Bernie and Hester Lampinen
Ashby, Massachusetts*



The Bridegroom Is for Us

...so will I also be for thee. (Hosea 3:3)

Christ has loved us and given Himself for us (Ephesians 5:2). The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20). Yes, Himself! What is the Bride's true and central treasure? What calls forth the deepest, brightest, sweetest thrill of love and praise? Not the Bridegroom's priceless gifts, not the robe of His resplendent righteousness, not the dowry of unsearchable riches, not the magnificence of the palace home to which He is bringing her, not the glory which she shall share with Him, but Himself! Jesus Christ, who bore our sins in His own body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24); this same Jesus, whom having not seen, ye love (1 Peter 1:8); the Son of God, and the Man of Sorrows; my Savior, my Friend, my Master, my King, my Priest, my Lord and my God—He says, "I also for thee." What an I! What power and sweetness we feel in it, so different from any human "I," for His Godhead and His manhood are concentrated in it, and all for thee!

And not only all, but *ever* for thee. His unchangeableness is the seal upon every attribute; He will be "this same Jesus" forever. How can mortal mind estimate this enormous promise? How can mortal heart conceive what is enfolded in these words, "I also for thee"?

One glimpse of its fullness and glory, and we feel henceforth it must be, shall be, and by His grace *will* be our whole-hearted cry: **"Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee!"**

Frances R. Havergal

GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN



"Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt... Points to the refuge, the mighty cross... Whiter than snow you may be today... Will you this moment His grace receive? Grace that will pardon and cleanse within. Grace that is greater than all our sin."

(Julia H. Johnston)

As the selected lines from the song "Grace Greater than Our Sin" express, our God is ready to pardon and His grace is immeasurable. As one precious brother in Christ said, "It is not the enormity of a man's sin that condemns him, but the rejection of God's grace condemns him." The devil likes to go fishing in the sea of grace to dredge up our past sins, to cause us to be discouraged and lose our focus on Jesus Christ. The devil has only one purpose toward the children of God. As Jesus makes known: *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...* But Jesus reassures us: *...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* (John 10:10)

May we rejoice and praise God for the revelation of Jesus Christ in saving us from our sin. Apostle Paul says, *That Christ may dwell*

in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

When we comprehend God's love, it motivates us to reach out to others with the desire that they, too, would come to know His love. God has comforted us not for our comfort alone, but also that we would be comforters to others in need. The blessings we receive from God, we pass on to others. *2 Corinthians 1:4* instructs us in this way: *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

When we comprehend God's love, it motivates us to reach out to others...

By grace may our faith be exercised in the milk and meat of His Word. Apostle Peter has good instruction for us as Christians: *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:3-8)*

"O happy day when we shall stand, amid the heavenly throng, and sing with hosts from every land the new celestial song, the new celestial song." (*Wilhelm A. Wexels*)

*Constrained by the love of God,
Dave Impola
Everett, Washington*



The Music of His Name

Who can sing the wondrous love of the Son divine?
O my Lord, there's none so dear to me
As He who bore the burden of all of my sin,
And so freely died to set me free.

Tune your harps, ye ransomed throng, and extol the Christ,
Sing the Name that opened mercy's door;
'Tis music, sweetest music, to the sinners lost,
Sweetest to the saints forevermore.

Oh, let saints and angels join in triumphant song,
Let the music of all worlds accord;
And in holy anthems high over all, proclaim,
"Glory be to Jesus Christ the Lord!"

Daniel S. Warner

THREE IN ONE

The word "trinity" is not in scripture, but the concept is much more than a word. May we spend a few moments in God's Word to show the oneness of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Faith in Christ is of the utmost importance and, since we are in faith, we should seek to know God, not superficially but beyond the reason of our minds, through the eyes of faith as revealed by His Word.

When I first was given faith to believe in the finished work of Christ for my redemption, life had meaning. I was transported from feeling alone to being loved by the Creator of all. When God opened the understanding of the trinity to me by faith through His Word, the gift of salvation became more precious than the purest gold, clearest diamonds or earthly love. It brought a breath-taking reality of how much our God loves us. I was brought before the cross in humbled silence. I was overwhelmed with the thought of the Creator loving His creation so much that He died for it! For He loved the world...

In trying to understand the trinity, scripture speaks of the oneness of the Godhead. For example, *1 John 5:7* says: *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

The first commandment states: "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." We ask, "What is meant by this?" *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me. (Exodus 20:4-5)* From this, we understand we are not to offer worship to any other than the true God. Since time was set in motion by God, He has called us to worship Him alone. The Israelites committed spiritual adultery with false gods and offered worship to idols. In response, we see the strong rebuke of God. These warnings are also a great call to repentance for all people.

In the New Testament, we see the consistent message of the sole worship of God. Jesus brings this out when facing the

temptation. *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (Matthew 4:8-9)* The devil is seeking worship as though he is worthy of it. Our Lord answers with the truth of scripture consistent with God's commands. *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (Matthew 4:10)*

In other places in scripture the offer of worship to someone other than God is rejected and corrected. Peter follows the instruction of the Lord and goes to Cornelius. *And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. (Acts 10:25-26)* Cornelius's offer of worship to Peter as a representation of the Lord is not acceptable before God; therefore Peter cannot and will not allow it.

Even the servants from heaven are not to receive worship. *Revelation 22:8-9: And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

We see by the Word that only the true God is worthy to receive worship, and none other. We have seen a few examples of false worship. Now in dealing with the trinity, how does Jesus—God incarnate—fare in terms of worship? Is the worship of Jesus accepted or rejected?

The worship of Jesus starts in scripture at His birth. *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. (Matthew 2:1-2)* This worship is not rejected as Jesus is worthy of worship.

Scripture makes it well known that only God is worthy of worship, so we are starting to gain insight into the trinity exemplified through the life of Jesus. Many places in scripture show the open worship of Christ, and never is it spoken against.

For example: *And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. (Matthew 8:2)* All others who are given worship are corrected or spoken against; yet worship of Jesus the Christ is acceptable.

This brings us to a conclusion: if we are to worship none but the true Creator God, then we must understand that worship accepted by Christ and not rebuked by God the Father affirms what was prophesied long before. *Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Matthew 1:22-23)* The prophet called Him "Emmanuel, God with us." He did not say "like God," but "God with us." Jesus Christ is God in the flesh and scripture confirms this. If we try to separate Jesus from the Godhead, then God would be jealous of His own Son because Jesus receives worship. God the Father would not recognize the worship of God the Son and there would be division between them. Scripture tells us, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

We also understand, as scripture instructs, that the Holy Spirit comes forth from God the Father. Jesus makes it known that God the Father sends the Holy Spirit: *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26)* Now we need to see how He came.

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. (John 20:21-22) The Holy Spirit is shown to come forth from God and is brought forth by Jesus.

The thought of dividing the Godhead is a fleshly invention brought about by our lack of ability to understand our amazing God. It may be hard for the human mind to comprehend the trinity by reason. This is why we say, "Thanks be to God, we are children of faith and not children of fleshly reason."

*In the love of Christ,
Pastor Jesse Aho
Alston, Michigan*

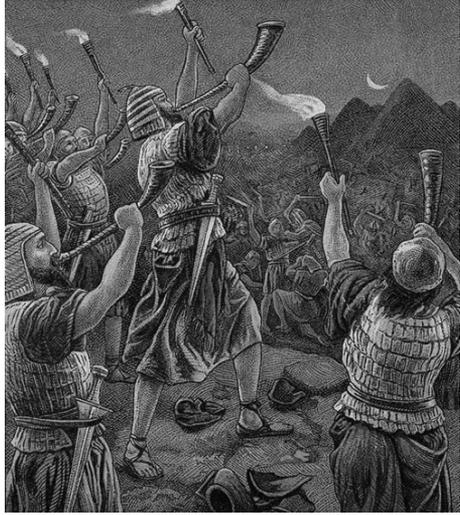
Hello Children,

I have been reading the Bible from Genesis and am now in Judges. I would like to share the story of Gideon, from *Judges, chapters 6 and 7*.

GOD GIVES GIDEON A VICTORY

The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. (Judges 6:1)

The Midianites made life very hard for the Israelites, who were in great need and cried to the Lord for help. God heard their cries and sent an angel to speak to Gideon. Gideon was threshing wheat when the angel appeared and said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor." (*verse 12*)



Gideon asked, "If the Lord is with us, why have all these bad things happened to my people?" The angel said that he, Gideon, would save the Israelites. *And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite (kill) the Midianites as one man. (verse 16)* Gideon asked, "Lord, how will I save Israel?" He wanted to be sure it was the Lord speaking through the angel. He offered a gift of prepared meat, unleavened bread, and broth, in a separate pot. The angel told him to put the meat and the bread on a rock and to pour the broth out. The angel touched it with his staff and it burned up with fire. Then the angel disappeared from Gideon's sight.

And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom (meaning, God sends peace)... (verses 22-24)

Gideon had a great task ahead of him. He said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as You have said, I will lay a fleece (piece of wool) on the floor. In the morning, if it is wet and the floor is dry, then I will know that You are with me." In the morning Gideon found the fleece wet and the floor dry. Gideon asked the Lord not to be angry with him, and if he could lay the fleece out one more night, and this time he wished the fleece to be dry and the ground to be wet. In the morning he found it just so. The Lord had answered his request. Gideon knew the Lord would be with him.

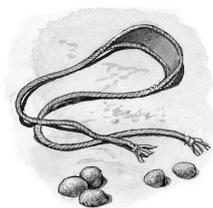
He gathered 32,000 men to fight, but the Lord said Gideon had too many men. He said if any were afraid of fighting, they should go home. 22,000 men went back, leaving 10,000. The Lord said Gideon still had too many men and to take them to the water. The men who lapped the water with their tongues, lifting their hand to their mouth, were the ones Gideon was to take with him. Only 300 of them lapped the water; these would go to battle. The remaining 9,700 were to go home. Wow! Gideon must have been surprised to see how few men were going with him, but he trusted God.

Gideon divided his men into groups of 100. Each man carried an empty clay pitcher with a candle in it, and a trumpet. They spread themselves around the enemy camp, and, when the enemy was sound asleep, Gideon blew his trumpet. The other men blew their trumpets, too, and they broke the pitchers and held the lamps in their hands and shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" The enemy heard the loud trumpets and saw the lights, but they were confused and did not know what was going on. The Midianites and Amalekites ran and turned and killed one another. Gideon and his men were victorious, just as God had promised.

God has always loved His people; it hurts Him when they turn from Him time after time. His people—that includes us—cry to Him and He hears and answers our prayers. He has been doing this for thousands of years and will until Jesus returns.

I pray that God's children will trust in Him and turn from sin and one day be victorious and have a home forever in heaven. God bless each of you and keep your minds on Jesus.

*God's peace,
Gwen Wilson*



THE FAITH OF DAVID

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine... (1 Samuel 17:32-37)

The faith of David is clearly shown here, faith in his God to deliver him. Can you picture him, a shepherd boy who was small even for a boy his age? How could he have such faith? Goliath was over nine feet tall, a warrior of warriors. He was mighty and strong. I ask myself these questions because, in the face of many giants in my own life, what would I do? Would I run, or would I trust in the Lord for His deliverance?

Let's look at this passage. What had happened previously in David's life? He describes how he killed a lion and a bear that were attempting to ravage his flock. Now, think about taking on a lion or a bear... uh... yeah, well not only that, but in your youth. Ok, that is unbelievable. But here is the key that comes to my heart. David says: *The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.* This is a bold, faith-filled statement. How can he say this? Because he has witnessed the Lord's delivering hand. Through these experiences, faith and trust are built toward his God, the God of Israel.

Here are two key places in the Bible where this building of faith and trust is supported. *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying*

of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (James 1:2-4) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Romans 5:1-5) Let us stand firm today in our Great Deliverer! Jesus is our Great Deliverer!

*Joshua Saari
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin*



"There is no music in a rest, but there is the making of music in it." In our whole life-melody the music is broken off here and there by "rests," and we foolishly think we have come to the end of the tune. God sends a time of forced leisure, sickness, disappointed plans, frustrated efforts, and makes a sudden pause in the choral hymn of our lives; and we lament that our voices must be silent, and our part missing in the music which ever goes up to the ear of the Creator. How does the musician read the rest? See him beat the time with unvarying count, and catch up the next note true and steady, as if no breaking place had come between.

Not without design does God write the music of our lives. Be it ours to learn the tune, and not be dismayed at the rests. They are not to be slurred over, not to be omitted, not to destroy the melody, not to change the keynote. If we look up, God Himself will beat the time for us. With the eye on Him, we shall strike the next note full and clear. If we sadly say to ourselves, "There is no music in a rest," let us not forget "there is the making of music in it." The making of music is often a slow and painful process in this life. How patiently God works to teach us! How long He waits for us to learn the lesson.

*from Streams in the Desert, Compiled by Mrs. C. E. Cowman
Submitted by Dave Impola, Everett, Washington*

THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHANTS



The first Christians sang hymns. The Savior went to His passion with a song on His lips. Matthew and Mark agree that the last act of worship in the upper room was the singing of a hymn. *And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26)*

How we wish that the words of that hymn might have been preserved! Perhaps they have. Many Biblical scholars believe that they may be found in the so-called "Hallel" series in the Psalter, consisting of Psalms 113 to 118 inclusive. It was a practice among the Jews to chant these holy songs at the paschal table. Fraught as they were with Messianic hope, it was fitting that such a hymn should ascend to the skies in the hour when God's Paschal Lamb was about to be offered.

The Christian Church followed the example of Jesus and His disciples by singing from the Psalter at its worship. Paul admonished his converts not to neglect the gift of song. To the Ephesians he wrote: *...be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:18-19)* And his exhortation to the Colossians rings like an echo: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Colossians 3:16)*

The praying and singing of Paul and Silas in the midnight gloom of the Philippian dungeon, their feet being made "fast in the stocks," also is a revelation of the large place occupied by song in the lives of the early Christians.

The double reference of the Apostle to "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" would indicate that the Christian Church very early began to use chants and hymns other than those taken from the Psalter. The younger Pliny, in 112 A.D., wrote to Emperor Trajan from Bithynia that the Christians came together before daylight and sang hymns one upon another (*invicem*) "to Christ as God."

Ernest Edwin Ryden

Our Blessed Heritage

APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SEATTLE

The history of the ALC in the greater Seattle, Washington, area dates back to around the beginning of the 20th century. Our church had adherents in Kent, probably in the late 1800s. There was an ALC in Soos Creek, where many Finnish Christians had settled. At Richmond Beach, a group of Norwegian immigrants settled about the turn of the century. Across the Sound in Poulsbo was another settlement of believers, many of them immigrants.

Many families of the faith lived in Seattle itself in the 1920s and 30s, so consideration began to be given to organizing an ALC. When the economic conditions began to improve after the Great Depression, an influx of young single people came seeking employment. Services were held in homes—Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian Christians met together and translated sermons in an effort to benefit everyone.

An organizational meeting was held in April 1935. Isaac Seppala was selected as temporary chairman, Arnold B. Anderson as temporary secretary, and John Selin as temporary treasurer. They acted in these capacities until the constitution and bylaws were drawn up and approved. The first permanent board was elected in December 1935.

A committee was appointed to locate a suitable church. The Swedish Baptist Church on NW 67th St. was rented for \$5 per month. The congregation met there from 1935 until the summer of 1944. The membership fee was established at fifty cents per person per year. An offering taken at that early meeting amounted to \$3.75.

Isaac Seppala served as minister, although other brothers—John Fogman, Leonard Sather, John L. Johnson, Leppaniemi, and Arnold B. Anderson—participated in the services. Translations continued to be used in an effort to reach everyone.

In 1941 Chris Holmgren was chosen as assistant to Pastor Isaac Seppala. The two men continued in these positions until 1946 when Brother Seppala declined as minister. The roles were reversed, with Brother Holmgren as minister and Brother Seppala as assistant.

The congregation rented facilities from 1935 until 1950. In addition to the Baptist Church, we also used the Finnish Lutheran Church in Ballard. We conducted services at the Free Lutheran Church at Richmond Beach from 1945 to 1949.

Now see how God led us to the church that would become our church home for 24 years. In 1949, our national church invited the first Finnish Lutheran pastor to tour the United States after World War II. My father, Pastor Chris Holmgren, asked me to accompany him in the search for a church to rent for this occasion. As we drove slowly by the Zion Lutheran Church on NW 62nd St and 20th Ave NW we saw an open door. We knocked and inquired whether or not they would rent the building to us for services. The pastor invited us in and gave us a tour of the facility. Then he asked, "Maybe you would like to buy this church? It is for sale." They rented the church to us for three days of services, which gave our congregation sufficient opportunity to evaluate the building and consider purchasing it.

In 1950 we purchased the church for \$7500. A member of the congregation financed a loan of \$6000, interest free. We had joint occupancy until the end of the year. The Zion people used it in the morning, and we had afternoon services.

This is the oldest church building in Ballard still used as a church. Built in 1890, it is on the list of historic buildings and is pictured in a book of antique churches of western Washington. While we were still in this building, each year a professor in architecture at the University of Washington would bring his class to see this classic church.

Also in 1950, our congregation joined the federation of churches known as the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America.

Chris Holmgren and Isaac Seppala remained active in the ministry until advanced age. Both had passed away at the time of the decision to sell the old church and undertake the building of the new. I have often wondered how they would have accepted the change. Although I knew it was necessary and supported it wholeheartedly, I must admit that I still drive by the old church and pause in prayerful reflection and in thankfulness for those years of blessing under the guidance of God and the help of those elder teachers.

In 1972, the present location on the corner of N 198th St and Fremont Ave N was purchased for \$25,000. The Ballard church was sold. For six months, we shared our Ballard church with the buyer.



Historic Ballard Church

Ground breaking for the new church was on October 7, 1973, and the first service was conducted on March 31, 1974. Dedication was on June 2, 1974, the Day of Pentecost that year.

In 1955 I was asked by the congregation to lead in prayer, give testimonies of faith and lead the weeknight Bible studies. I was ordained into the ministry in June 1958. In 1964 I was chosen as pastor, and in February 1965 began full-



time ministry in our congregation. Brothers Ivan Seppala and Ben Johnson, who also began their preaching here, served with me until they moved from the city.

We have hosted two national church conventions. The first was in 1980, just a month after the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Pastor George Wilson, chairman of the Central Board at that time, received many calls from throughout the country asking to move the convention to a safer place. Some thought attendance would be severely curtailed for fear of other eruptions. Cancellation would have resulted in penalties as all arrangements had already been made, so the convention remained in Seattle and attendance was greater than we had expected. We held a second convention in 1998.

In 1995 I went into semi-retirement and, in 2005, I tendered my resignation and look forward to full retirement. I acknowledge my thankfulness to God for brothers Stan Lampinen, Bruce Selin and Gene Mixon. It is a privilege to have them working together in the ministry. I trust God will continue to guide the Seattle congregation.

Pastor Alvin C. Holmgren, 2005

Afterword: In 2006, Pastor Gene Mixon was selected pastor, to replace the retired Pastor Holmgren. To date, Stan Lampinen and Bruce Selin serve as associate pastors together with Pastor Mixon.

MEETING NOTICE

The 103rd Annual Meeting of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America will be hosted by the Apostolic Lutheran Churches of the Copper Country, Michigan, and will be held on July 7, 2011, at the Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Annual Reports will be read; the members of the Central Board, the Eastern Mission Board, the Western Mission Board, and the Southern 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 are as follows:

- Tuesday, July 5** **Ministers Meeting** 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Zion Lutheran Church, Hancock, Michigan
- Wednesday, July 6** **National Sunday School Meeting**
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Eastern Mission Meeting 3:00 PM
Zion Lutheran Church, Hancock, Michigan
- Thursday, July 7** **Annual Business Meeting**
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Foreign Mission Business Meeting
Immediately following Annual
Business Meeting
MTU Student Development Complex
Houghton, Michigan

Devotional services will be held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, beginning on Thursday, July 7th, through Sunday, July 10th. Ministers, members, and the general public are invited to participate in these services. The meetings will be held in conjunction with the devotional services.

*On behalf of the Central Board
of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America,
Wilfred Sikkila, Chairman
Gary Bertram, Secretary*

*Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand:
repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Mark 1:14-15

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Jukka Malinen of Pyhajoki, Finland

July

3 Tapiola/Atlantic Mine, MI	20 Centerville, WA
7-10 Convention	21 Clatskanie, OR
11 Pike, MN	22 Astoria, OR
12 New York Mills, MN	23 Travel
13 Spruce Grove, MN	24 Seattle, WA
14 Lake Norden, SD	25-26 Travel
15 Watertown, SD	27 Brighton, MI
16 Travel	28 Toronto, Canada
17 Hockinson, WA/Portland, OR	29-30 Travel
18 Travel	31 New Ipswich, NH/ Ashburnham, MA

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Prayer of Thy Congregation

O Father, compassed 'bout with power,
Thy Word hath all things wrought.
To Thee we come, this sacred hour;
Of Thee we would be taught.

Bear with our poverty of soul,
Our sluggishness of thought.
Do not, dear Lord, from us withhold
Of all to learn, we ought...

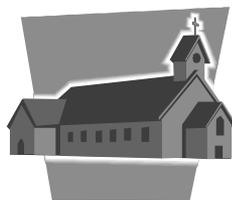
Of things sublime, of treasures fair
That Thy dear Book doth hold;
Of wondrous things without compare
Unto our hearts be told.

Do not disdain to call us Thine,
Whom Thy dear Son hath bought;
Thy congregation e'er remind
Of Love which hath us sought.

Speak clearly to our hearts that we
With certainty may know
Of Mercy great and Grace so free
Through Christ Thou dost bestow.

Worth and merit we have none
With which to take such fare;
Alone hath wrought Thine only Son
Such gifts for us to share.

In Jesus' name we pray... Amen.



*Pastor Reino Maunu
Watertown, South Dakota*

Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise. For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Psalm 33:1-5