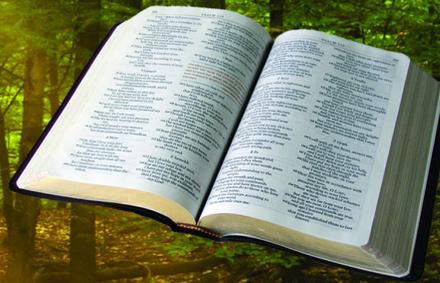


# Christian MONTHLY

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.

May 2012

## Mother Love—The Gift of God

J. N. Thompson; May 1963 CM

Submitted by John Matson; Brush Prairie, Washington

**God's love and gift to mankind is His Son, Jesus Christ: 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. (John 3:16)**

Out of this bottomless love, He has given to mothers the greatest treasure on earth: mother-love. This gift He has bestowed upon all motherhood, upon all creatures—flying, running, creeping or crawling. Take an example from an animal mother. The strongest will fight to death for its young ones. That is mother-love. The weakest will run from danger, but will cry, weep and lament. That, too, is mother-love. Anyone who has seen the little bird we call the killdeer will know how it will drag its wing, as though it were broken, and it will fall on its side as though it were wounded, exposing itself to great danger in order to draw attention to itself and away from its young ones. That is mother-love.



A human mother will go through fire and water to save her child if it is in danger. That is mother-love, the gift from God. Jesus referred to mother-love when He said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered my children, even as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings and you would not (Matthew 23:37)." The mother who brings her child to Sunday School or any other place where Jesus' love for children is taught and where God's love and ways are told to the child,

whether she knows it or not, has in her mother-love committed her child into the hands of the living God. Thereby she has obeyed the Word of God where it says, *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)* Jesus says, *Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:14)* There are two ways to come into the hands of the living God—to commit ourselves or to fall into the hands of the living God. May God in His mercy forbid that any of us shall fall into the hands of the living God!

It is with sorrow we say that any mother who, in blind mother-love, places her child in a position to seek worldly fame has in her ignorance placed her child on the wrong road. She wants her child to be something in this world, but she has placed her child in danger by making her a target for all the poisonous arrows the devil and his agents and servants can shoot into this innocent child's heart, only because this mother misused that gift God had given her. Hollywood is full of such souls who have sought fame, but have gone lost. Let us take heed of Jesus' words: *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36)* So also today, what is the reward? A life without God and the loss of everlasting life. But even such a mother will fight to the last ounce of strength to save her child when her mother-love is awakened and she can see her child is in danger; for nothing can destroy the mother-love in a mother's heart, because it has been planted there by the almighty, loving God. What He has given to us, He will not take away.

One treasure far excels all else in worth. It is mother-love—unselfish, pure and true. It puts a song in human hearts on earth. It is so fine it brightens heaven too. But there is still a greater treasure which God offers us in His Son: the forgiveness of sins and peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ~

# One Flesh

Jorma Pesämaa

Rauhan Sana, September 2011

Translated by Ken Helmes; Espoo, Finland



**For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.**

(Ephesians 5:31)

**I**t is truly amazing that a Christian marriage unites a man and a woman as "one flesh!" Still, our reason questions: "Is this only an allegory, or does one really need to take this literally?" A person who desires to give even the slightest amount of glory to God has to conclude that the idea of one flesh is greatly emphasized in the Bible. God stated these words already when the first couple was married. Our Savior Himself used these words more than once when speaking about marriage. The Lord's apostle also writes about becoming one flesh when teaching the congregations.

God desired to institute marriage with the intent that it would be a help and joy for a person. In Proverbs it is written beautifully ...*Rejoice with the wife of thy youth ...Be thou ravished always with her love.*

(Proverbs 5:18-19) Still, because of our corrupt flesh the "marriage happiness" for many turns to the "marriage problem." A spouse seems to have so many faults; this attitude makes love grow cold and makes the mind bitter.

A worldly-minded person's solution to get out of this dead-end is often divorce—and later finding a new spouse. Reason again concludes: "I did my best to fix things; now it's best to put a stop to this relationship." But a person who takes God's Word into account looks for another solution. He or she remembers Jesus' words about marriage: *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.* (Mark 10:9) A horseman can exchange a horse for a new one when problems start to arise with the current horse.

Although I'm sure nobody bearing the name of a Christian thinks quite this lightly about changing spouses, the threshold for divorce seems to have gotten lower here and there in our movement—to the point of becoming like the world. Let's not be led astray! The

"one flesh" instituted by God is still valid. May we remember that the Bible places adultery and whoredom in the same category as other heathen sins.

The apostle vividly describes caring for a marriage in his letter to the Ephesians: *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies... For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it...* (Ephesians 5:28-29) Surely no man or woman actually hates their hand, foot or some body part so much that they would like to amputate it—no, not even if there are bad deficiencies and ailments. Rejecting a member of our own body is simply not an alternative or solution to the problem. No. If some body part is somehow handicapped, one wants to sacrifice all his wealth and energy to take care of it until it is better. In the same sacrificial way, spouses are to take care of each other so that their "one flesh" is restored.

Let it be mentioned that there have been special cases in the history of our Christianity where a Christian has had to move separate from their spouse because of, for example, verbal abuse or physical violence. Being separated is milder than divorce in the respect that one is waiting for the situation to improve and doesn't want to break up the marriage. Paul also spoke about a marriage so bad that, for some reason, ended in divorce. In that case, the divorced were to remain single so that the possibility to return to the marriage was still there, and reconciliation was still the goal. *And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband...* (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

So, God's Word firmly unites spouses as one flesh. Because of our corrupt flesh, not one marriage is without trials. There are faults in every Christian man and woman—God knew and knows this. As the medicine, as the fountain of power and love, He offers Christ's example in His Word—Christ's sacrificial love and unending forgiveness. May this medicine be enough for us as well!

Another would have rejected me,  
And given reasons to flee,  
But me, You endure, and continually bear;  
My debt You know—You paid it on Calvary there.  
(Zion's Song, number 95) ~

## Did You Know?

The average number of articles in each *Christian Monthly* edition, including poetry, is twelve. This includes articles from within our Federation and other articles selected by readers. This is an excellent example of the priesthood of the believers, defined by some as "the doctrinal responsibility or right to preach and expound the Christian faith." This is appointed to every member of the Church.

It first came to the public eye when Martin Luther and his followers wrote, preached and sang about the priesthood of all believers as emphasized in 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 5:10. Luther put forth the doctrine that all baptized Christians are "priests" and "spiritual" in the sight of God.



**Martin Luther taught about the priesthood of all believers.**



# Spiritual Gifts

the late Alvin Holmgren

**I**n his writings, Apostle Paul gives us a list of gifts that God has given to the church—gifts that are to be used *for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* (Ephesians 4:12) He likens the body of Christ to the physical body and its members, explaining that each member in the physical body has its own peculiar function and that all of the members work together for the health and the welfare of the whole. There is no competition among the body's various members; each one by nature performs the function for which it was designed by our Creator. In applying this analogy to the body of Christ and to the gifts God chooses to give to individual members of that body, we can see how God has planned for the work of the Gospel to prosper.

Among the gifts Paul lists are apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healing, helps, governments and diversities of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:28). Although these gifts are diverse, they have been given by the same Spirit; although there are differences of administration, it is the same Lord; although there are diversities of operations, it is the same God that works in all (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

As we observe the variety of gifts that God has distributed in the fellowship, it is important for us to remember that they are His good gifts and that their use in the work of His kingdom and to His glory is good. The apostle's example is for us to recognize these gifts in one another and to encourage their use. At times we may find ourselves comparing our gifts with those God has given to someone else. In so doing we may become like Paul's example where the head says to the feet, "I have no need of you;" or the ear says to the eye, "Because I am not the eye, I don't belong to the body (1 Corinthians 12)." My father always told me that all of God's gifts are good; He does not give any gifts that are unnecessary or useless. He always encouraged me to use and develop the gifts that God had given me, no matter how small the seed. As parents and elders in

the church, we also need to encourage our youth in the ways and the work of the Lord. When we see the Spirit's work in them and recognize God's leading, let us encourage them and also endeavor to provide opportunities for them to use their gifts.

This does not mean that we do not uphold the Biblical teaching that the younger are to be subject to the elder and that the elders who rule well are to be counted worthy of double honor. But as elders we are also to remember that we are not to be lords over God's heritage, but examples to the flock. Apostles Peter and Paul were elders in the early apostolic church. Let us learn from them something about the use of the gifts that God has given.

In both of his letters to Timothy, whom he called his own son in the faith, Paul acknowledged the work of God that was evident in Timothy and then gave him both counsel and encouragement. In his first letter, he warned Timothy against neglecting the gift that had been given him, and in his second letter, which is believed to be his last writing, Paul encouraged him to stir up the gift of God which he possessed.

In Apostle Peter's writings, we are told that every man who has received a gift is to minister as a good steward of the manifold grace of God. And if any man speaks, Peter wrote, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man ministers, let him do it with the ability that God gives, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 4:11).

Whatever our gift may be, let us always remember that how the gift is used is more important to the work of God's kingdom than how we or others may rank our gift. Love is to be desired above all gifts and in all gifts. Certainly this is what Apostle Paul teaches when he says: *But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.* (1 Corinthians 12:31; 13:1-2) ~

## A Christian's Daily Schedule

1. Daily—yes, every day—maintain a friendship with one's God.
2. Not a faith that best fits oneself, a faith of feelings, a faith of worthiness, but only of the Word.
3. The Word says Christ has taken it upon Himself to take care of our affairs with God. We are allowed to take care of a few small things down here on earth. Christ is in God's sight righteous for the unrighteous. We should here below love one another and do as love demands.
4. Don't forget the difference in point number three.
5. Never forget in happy times to fear our so good God. Neither should we ever forget in the dark hour the

- cleansing blood and God's presence.
6. Let us daily request something of our God.
7. Let us prepare ourselves for suffering and humiliation!—Patience! Be watchful and pray.
8. Let us read something from God's Word every day. The main thing—that which most comforts me—is that Christ is the Good Shepherd who cares for, feeds, bears and clothes His sheep and lambs according to their needs. Dear brothers and sisters! I leave you to God and His gracious Word. He is mighty to keep you unto eternal life, and one day will let us meet with the joy that we will never need to be parted again.

C.O. Rosenius

# Believe in Me!

Gwen Wilson  
Ridgefield, Washington

**I** hope this finds you well. We are well and happy as we welcome a new member into our family—baby boy Elliot Oscar, born Saturday, March 31, to our third son, Brian, and his wife, Rosa. This new little life comes with the newness of springtime and new life to the earth, and most importantly the new life we have because Jesus rose from the dead at Easter, which we remember at this time of year. I want to look into the time when Jesus went back to heaven in *St. Luke 24*.

Jesus had already died and been buried and had risen. Two women had gone to the tomb; they found it empty and two angels sitting on the stone that covered the opening. They were told that He had risen as He said. These women ran to tell the disciples, who didn't believe them. Two of the disciples went to see for themselves and found it as the women had said.

Most of the disciples stayed together in one place, but two of them started walking to another village. On the way, they were talking about all the events of Jesus' death, and their hearts were still very sad to have lost their friend. While they were walking, Jesus came near. He already knew what they were talking about, but He pretended He did not. He asked why they were so sad and what they were talking about. They asked Him if He was a stranger and if He had heard about the things that had happened. They did not recognize Jesus and told Him all that had happened the past days with Jesus' death, and Jesus just listened.

Then he said unto them, *O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? (vv. 25-26)* He probably wanted to plead with them and say, "**Believe in Me.**"

Jesus then told them many things about Himself that were prophesied long before His death. As these three came near the village, it was almost evening, and Jesus made it appear that He would not stay with the men, but they asked Him to stay with them, so He did. Again I'm sure Jesus wanted to say, "**Believe in Me.**" The two disciples still thought they were in the company of a stranger.

They all sat down to eat and Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to the men. Immediately their eyes were "opened" and they knew who Jesus was, but Jesus had vanished. **Believe in Me.** The disciples were excited and remembered how they had felt warmth in their hearts when they talked with Jesus on the road. They left that village immediately and

headed back to Jerusalem. They found the other eleven disciples together and told them that Jesus had risen indeed, that they had walked and talked—and even eaten—with Him.

While the disciples told their exciting news of Jesus, He suddenly came into the room. The men were very afraid and Jesus asked them why were they afraid. He said, *Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. (v. 39)* He then showed them His hands and His feet. **Believe in Me.**

The men were so joyful to see Jesus but yet they were still not sure if all that was happening was real and if it really was Jesus. Jesus saw this and asked if they had any food. They gave Him some fish and honeycomb and He ate. He wanted them to see that you have to be real to eat, right? **Believe in Me.**

They watched in amazement and listened to Jesus tell again all the things about Himself that He had told His disciples already. He wanted them to understand that everything that happened to Him had to happen, and He wanted them to understand the Scriptures. He wanted them to understand that His death meant life eternal for all, and also that they were to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all the world, beginning at Jerusalem. **Believe in Me.**

He told them they were witnesses to all these things and that He would send the promise of His Father, the Holy Spirit, upon them. God would give His people power from on high to do His work here.

Jesus led His disciples out to Bethany. He lifted up His hands and, while He was blessing them, He was carried up to heaven. The disciples were full of wonder and joy, and they worshipped Him.

We thank God for sending His Son to die for us so we can have a forever life with Him in heaven one day. We thank God that the disciples believed and continued to preach Jesus so that even now we have the Bible and have faith to believe the Scriptures. I pray that you will always love Jesus. Be still and hear Him say, "**Believe in Me.**" ~



When we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," we are, in a measure, shutting tomorrow out of our prayer. We do not live in tomorrow but in today. We do not seek tomorrow's grace or tomorrow's bread. They thrive best, and get most out of life, who live in the present. They pray best who pray for today's needs, not for tomorrow's, which may render our prayers unnecessary and redundant by not existing at all!

Edward M. Bounds

# Little Children's Relationship with God

Pastor Arne Nordahl  
Vancouver, Washington

**L**ittle children have a blessed relationship with God. Because of Christ's work of redemption, all children are born in a saved condition, even if their parents are not Christians and the little children have not been baptized. I will briefly try to explain the reason that little children are in a saved condition and confirm my faith and writing with the Word of God.

Apostle Paul writes: *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. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:19-21)* We notice it says, "not imputing their trespasses unto them." If God does not impute their trespasses, then He has forgiven them their sins. The reason mankind has been reconciled to the righteous and holy God is only by faith in the redemptive work of Christ ...*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)* This is the reason the prophet says that everyone can come to buy wine and milk without money and without price (Isaiah 55:1).

We know that a newborn child has neither done good nor evil; they are innocent of actual deeds of sin, but that is not the reason for their salvation. It is written: *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalm 51:5)* Because of the fall of our first parents, all are in need of redemption in Christ, as Apostle Paul explains: *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. (Romans 5:17-18)* These verses tell of the fall of mankind but also of the gift of grace freely come upon all people by Jesus Christ. We have this gift of grace, because of Christ's work of redemption, when we have faith in our hearts. Faith is a gift of God, and a living faith is the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22, Galatians 2:20). God's Word testifies clearly that Jesus loves the little children and that they believe (Matthew 18:6), and it would be unwise of us to say otherwise regarding their soul's condition even before baptism. They are partakers of the faith of Jesus Christ. His faith has been given or imputed to little children and all who believe; therefore they and all believers are partakers of the righteousness of Christ which is also the righteousness of God. Likewise, Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness (Romans 4:22).

When God gives the gift of faith to a person, that faith embraces everything His Son has provided for us,

which is alone pleasing before Him. In the Old Testament, God established a covenant with Abraham and gave the commandment that all male children should be circumcised on the eighth day. This was a sign and seal of the righteousness that Abraham had while yet being uncircumcised (Romans 4:11). This was also a sign of belonging to the children of Israel which has the spiritual meaning of being a child of God. Baptism is a sign or identification and confirmation of God's righteousness bestowed upon us through the righteousness of Christ which we have when we believe. All children are a gift from God and the Lord Jesus Christ; in truth, they belong to Him. Although Christ says that the little ones believe in Him, it is important that we, as parents, rear them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord so they would be fed by the Word and encouraged in faith all the days of their life. An infant begins its life with the faith of Christ and has a right relationship with God because of this living faith; but if in the process of time this person does not continue in this faith, and is in a spiritually dead condition of soul, then he needs to be born again through repentance and the preaching of the forgiveness of his sins in Jesus' name and blood (Luke 24:47, Acts 13:38).

We are taught about Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. Without a doubt, this eunuch was awakened and had a need and prayer in his heart to be saved. Our Father in heaven was able to see his desire and sent Philip to minister to him even as He is able and willing to send one of His servants to a seeking soul today. The eunuch was reading from Isaiah and asked Philip to join him in the chariot. Philip was then given opportunity to speak the Word to him of Jesus and His salvation. They continued on their way and came to some water where the eunuch asked if he could be baptized. *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (Acts 8:37)* From this account, we are taught many things including the fact that Philip would not have baptized the eunuch if he didn't first have faith. This faith was a God-given faith. It is written: *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. (Hebrews 10:38-39)* It is only Jesus and His redemption that will save us when we have His faith in our heart. Apostle Paul writes: *Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (Romans 4:4-5)*



Apostle Paul writes: *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. (1 Corinthians 1:17)* He does not minimize baptism and the commandment we have concerning it, but Apostle Paul understood the way of salvation and the reason we are saved, which is only through faith. If baptism was so necessary in order to be saved, he would never have written the above quotation, but in all his writings he emphasizes the necessity of faith.

As Christians, we want to do the will of God so it is important that we obey the commandment of Jesus: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28:19-20)* In God's Word we read: *Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry... (1 Samuel 15:22-23)*

It is necessary to understand that the word baptism has more than one meaning in the original language.

There is spiritual baptism and water baptism, and also Apostle Paul speaks about the children of Israel being baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea (1 Corinthians 10:2). But God's Word is very clear in this matter that only those who are partakers of the righteousness of Christ by faith will be saved. Those who do not believe will not be saved according to the words of Jesus (Mark 16:16).

We ought to take heed of an Old Testament prophet: *The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. (Ezekiel 18:20)* Because all little children believe, even the children of unbelievers, their faith is counted unto them for righteousness. If you are unsure concerning the soul's condition of little children, pray to God our heavenly Father in Jesus' name that He will enlighten you about these things with His Word and by the Holy Spirit. Promise is given in His Word: *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. (1 John 5:14-15) ~*

## Memory

David Olson  
Rindge, New Hampshire

**A**s we get older, our memory starts to fade. First, we cannot remember if we took our pills this morning. Then we cannot remember what we had for supper last night. We forget we promised to do something for someone last week. We forget the names of people we have known for a long time.

But you have probably noticed some older Christians remember things of Christianity—the teaching of the Bible, the songs of Zion, and things of faith—which they learned in their youth. One older friend was on his death bed. His memory was quite foggy, but when his son came to visit and asked his dad for forgiveness for some failure, the father's arm reached up from that death bed and he blessed his son with the familiar and eternal blessing, telling him he should believe his sins forgiven in Jesus' name and blood. That blessing had not faded away into forgetfulness.

So, young people, read your Bibles. Spend at least as much time reading the Bible as you do texting. I do not condemn texting altogether; sometimes it is the best way to get a message where it needs to go. But read your Bibles and talk about the journey now when you are young. It will stand you in good stead when you are old and memory starts to fade. ~

## Preaching Schedule for Stig-Erik Enkvist of Finland

July	6	Friday—Arriving in Boston, MA
	8	Sunday—New Ipswich, NH
	9-15	Monday-Sunday—Convention Week
	16	Monday—Travel
	17	Tuesday—High Point, NC
	18	Wednesday—Greer, SC
	19	Thursday—Travel
	20	Friday—Brighton, MI
	21	Saturday—Travel
	22	Sunday—Tapiola, MI
	23	Monday—Atlantic Mine, MI
	24	Tuesday—Travel
	25	Wednesday—Lake Norden, SD
	26	Thursday—Watertown, SD
27	Friday—New York Mills, MN	
28	Saturday—Free Day (travel)	
29	Sunday—Spruce Grove, MN	
30	Monday—Travel & Portland, OR	
31	Tuesday—Astoria, OR	
August	1	Wednesday—Hockinson, WA
	2	Thursday—Clatskanie, OR
	3	Friday—Centerville, WA
	4	Saturday—Travel
	5	Sunday—Tri-Cities, WA
	6	Monday—Departing from Portland, OR

# Memories

Dad and Mom were married in 1925  
 With us seven kids to raise, they did manage to survive.  
 From the first to the last, we are Mil, Ev, Nor, Nan, Eun, Gene and Rod, too;  
 As I look back, I have many fond memories, as I'm sure you all do.

Dad had his ways when we'd disobey;  
 He'd get out the stick until we said, "OK."  
 Once in a while Mom pulled at our hair  
 She had a lot of patience, so we knew she was being fair.

From our parents we learned about respecting others  
 Also to love and obey our fathers and our mothers.  
 Dad worked in the mine, did a little farming, and loved his fishing as well;  
 Mom was a homemaker, wrote poems and did the milking to sell.

As Mom loved to play Scrabble, Dad teased the grand tots;  
 Mom was good with her words and, of course, won the games a lot.  
 When we were teenagers and sometimes missed the bus to school  
 Dad made us find our own ride, which always was the rule.

Dad loved to laugh and with Mom we had fun  
 We giggled with Mom while Dad almost cried before all the laughing was done.  
 The delicious pans of donuts Mom made and had ready on the table  
 We'd hurry to enjoy after school and had as many as we were able.

Rod learned to make clusters, which is still a family treat  
 Some of the grandchildren now make them for our gatherings, as we all love to eat.  
 Some are now using Mom's recipe of her favorite homemade white cake  
 Remember—to become yummy, white frosting and bananas it did take.

Jello with real whipping cream was a special Sunday wish,  
 Or maybe rice, topped with home-canned berries, as Mom spooned them into each dish.  
 Sometimes we attended Sunday School as with neighbors we were brought  
 Together, Mom and Dad didn't go to church a lot, but through their parents the love of God was taught.

We're thankful to God as the years did go by  
 He led them to know they'd have to be ready to die.  
 Isn't it wonderful that we are now all finally together?  
 Let us enjoy and cherish these moments as ones we will always treasure.

*the late Nancy Helmes*

**Life is short.** Eternity existed before the day of our birth, and eternity exists after the day of our death. In between is a small segment of time that we call our life. It is short when compared to eternity (Job 14:1). We might view life as a small valley that exists between two huge mountains. We can do nothing about the eternity that came before, but we have been given an opportunity to enter the eternity that lies ahead. While we are living, we are offered the gift of eternal life by the Author of life (Romans 6:23).

God requires some action from us. To seek Him in all humility, to repent when we know our offenses, to believe in redemption through Christ, and to resist sin through obedience to Him for the rest of our days. Those actions form holy righteous character in all who diligently obey Him. The conversion to having a thinking, working existence for eternity is not impossible and does not take a lifetime. It does take a humble, believing heart. Let us make the most of our life so we can gain life eternal.

*Author Unknown*

*Submitted by Alvar Helmes; Battle Ground, Washington*

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## Meeting Notice

The 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America will be hosted by the Apostolic Lutheran Churches of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, and will be held on July 12, 2012, at the Mascenic High School in New Ipswich, New Hampshire.

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 10      Ministers Meeting 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the ALC, New Ipswich, NH
- Wednesday, July 11      National Sunday School Meeting 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM and  
Eastern Mission Meeting 3:00 PM at the ALC, New Ipswich, NH
- Thursday, July 12      Annual Business Meeting 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM at Mascenic High School, New Ipswich, NH  
Foreign Mission Business Meeting immediately follows the Annual Business Meeting.

Devotional services will be held in the morning, afternoon and evening, beginning on Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. 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*

## Mother's Day

When there isn't a Wife's Day,  
 What can I say?  
 But honor the mother of our children  
 On this her day.  
 To turn a child to a lady or man  
 Is something only a mother can.  
 Teach them to laugh, to sing.  
 Real happiness bring  
 To work and to play  
 To hear and to pray  
 To lead and obey  
 To prepare them unto their way.  
 Each one being different  
 Their wants and their needs  
 I am sure God above  
 A mother's prayer heeds.

Thanks, Mom.  
Dad



*W. Jack Hurula  
Jackson, Michigan*

## Western Fall Services

The Hockinson Apostolic Lutheran congregation welcomes everyone to the 2012 Western Fall Services. Services will be held August 17, 18 and 19 at our church at 16108 NE 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Brush Prairie, WA.

We request pre-registration from everyone (including our local people) who will be attending so we can accurately plan meals. Please visit our church website at [hockinsonchurch.org](http://hockinsonchurch.org) for registration and information.

### Service Schedule:

Friday, August 17	2:00 PM, 5:00 PM
Saturday, August 18	10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM
Sunday, August 19	10:00 AM, 2:00 PM

*God's peace!  
John Isaacson (360) 903-1379  
in behalf of the Hockinson Congregation*