

Vol. XXXII November 2009 No. 11



International Day of Prayer

for the Persecuted Church

Can you devote some special time in prayer for persecuted Christians this November?

Christians around the world face abandonment for their faith in Jesus. Some are expelled from their homes. Others are rejected by family and friends. Converts are sometimes even viewed with suspicion and fear by fellow Christians.

Stand with your brothers and sisters. Show them they are not alone by praying for your persecuted Christian family on November 8 -- the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). Whether you take part as a church, a group or simply spend time in personal prayer for the persecuted, your prayers will be a powerful way to remember those suffering for their Christian witness.

See "The President's View" (on page 3) for a specific prayer need you can participate in. Hebrews 13:3 reminds us, "Remember them that are in bonds as being bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."

HOPE PR TEAM SCHEDULE

Join us and be encouraged!

Wed. Nov. 11 @ 7:30PM Fairview Mennonite, Reading, PA

A Blessed THANKSGIVING
to the HOPE Family
from
the Board of Directors
and Staff of
Heralds of Hope, Inc.



Listen to THE VOICE OF HOPE on WKVX 960 AM, WOOSTER, OH Sunday at 8:30am starting Dec. 6th



Typical Kenyan dwelling

At the meeting of the HOH Board of Directors on October 15th, unanimous approval was given to pursue the broadcast opportunites with TWR-Kenya! As reported in last month's newsletter these programs will be in English and Swahili. The Swahili programs will be aired on network of 6 FM stations in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many Swahili speakers are unreached, Muslim peoples!

Since we sense the clear leading of the Lord in this decision, we invite you to join us in asking God to work out the logistics of this process and also to provide the necessary funds for these broadcasts.

HE IS FAITHFUL!!

Sermon of the Month

True Discipleship Means Mission

This is the first message in a series titled, "Back to Basics." The series contains 5 messages by Dr. J. Otis Yoder from the book of Acts. We trust they will bless and inspire you to renewed faithfulness to the divine mandate.

Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16 that He was going to build His church. After Peter made his confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," then Jesus said, "I will build my church."

The question is, "How will He build His church?" At the creation God spoke things into being, from nothing. So He could have spoken the church into existence.

But God chose to build the church another way, by delegation and by proclamation. Believers should be proclaimers. And the message is Good News. The mission is set forth in Acts 1:1-11.

From these verses God gave us **FUNDAMENTALS** upon which the disciple's mission must rest. If you are a follower of Jesus, then you must understand that TRUE DISCIPLESHIP MEANS MISSION.

THE PROOFS OF THE RES-URRECTION define the first fundamental. There can be no question, the death of Jesus Christ is absolutely essential. It is referred to in this text as His passion.

In our wildest imaginations we can't conceive what the Saviour eperienced. Whether in the garden, where He sweat as it were drops of blood, or the mockings, where the crown of thorns was smashed upon His head and the whip lashed his back, or the cross where the nails pierced His hands and feet and the spear His side. But His death was absolutely essential.

Then there was the tomb in the garden. The Saviour was born to die, differently than any other man. The resurrection is supremely necessary, for if He did not rise then our

faith is vain and we are yet in our sins. This text tells us that for 40 days He showed Himself alive to the disciples by many infallible proofs.

Salvation rests upon this fact. The Scripture tells us there were 40 days of evidence, 40 days of teaching. Some say He wasn't really dead. Some say He revived in the tomb, therefore it is not a resurrection. Others say that when the disciples and women came to the tomb they came to the wrong one.

But my friend, the infallible proofs of the resurrection are a fundamental upon which our mission must rest. These are historical points that cannot be pushed aside. They are irrefutable evidence. They are fundamentals upon which the disciple rests his mission.

THE POWER OF THE REGI-MENT undergirds the disciples commission. The disciples became that regiment to carry the banner in the march with the orders to <u>take</u> the kingdom. I didn't say to build it; I said to take the kingdom.

Jesus told them order was very important. They must take their orders from the Captain. He said, "Wait for the promise of the Father." It's important to get the right order of action. "You wait for the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

In their minds, they were not only to take the kingdom, but they were waiting for the establishment of the kingdom. So they raised the question, "Is this the time when you're going to restore the kingdom again to Israel?" And Jesus told them that those are matters that the Father has in His authority.

"But what you will receive," He

said, "is the dynamite of the power of the Holy Spirit". You will receive that kind of power once the Holy Spirit has come upon you. "And you shall be witnesses unto me."

Let me point out to you in that powerful text the fact that here is a point of time: after the Holy Spirit has come upon you, then you will have the dynamite of God's power. It is God's timing.

There is also a point in terms. "You shall be witnesses". My friend, we don't have any options. We have no other alternatives. Jesus said, "Once you have received the power you will be witnesses unto me."

Some debate the function of this power. Some insist that the function of the power is simply to be able to speak in ecstatic tongues. Some argue for another aspect or another. Let me urge you to understand that our mission must rest upon this fundamental power of the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is an irresistible power, the dynamite of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses unto Christ.

THE PROMISE OF THE RETURN fills the disciple's mission with joy. I always rejoice when I come to this part of this text in Acts. The ascension is essential, it is vital. He went back to glory. Without the ascension the resurrection is pointless. Had He stayed here He could not have fulfilled the role of our intercessor at the right hand of God. Without the ascension the second coming is groundless. But He went back to glory.

We speak of the first advent and the second advent. The first advent was when He came from heaven to

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The President's View

Remember Those In Bonds...

Sunday November 8th is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Please join millions of other Christians around the world, praying for our suffering brothers and sisters.

Two young women who converted from Islam to Christianity may face execution or at least life imprisonment after an Iranian court officially charged them with apostasy and propagation of the Christian faith.

Marzieh Amirizadeh Esmaeilabad, 30, and Maryam Rustampoor, 27, were detained in March for practicing Christianity after authorities raided and confiscated materials from their home. Authorities also accused them of "engaging in anti-government activities" but that charge was dropped during the unexpected hearing at the Revolutionary Court on October 7.

Both women have refused to renounce their faith in Christ, despite reported pressure from authorities. The two young women are to appear in front of a regular court, trial observers said. Iranian Christians have expressed concerns about the health of the women, held in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison

On October 4, Maryam suffered severe food poisoning, but was given medical attention only after much insistence. "Maryam and Marzieh have now been in prison in Tehran because of their faith for over six months and their health is deteriorating," explained 'Pray for Iran', an Internet initiative of Iranian churches, which has closely followed the case.

"Both women are suffering from irregular, painful stomach aches and often intense head aches. Both have lost much weight during their ordeal, because of their sickness and lack of nutrition. Marzieh's tooth infection is only being treated by painkillers and if the infection spreads it could become critical. Due to overcrowding in the prison and the limited facilities, they have not received adequate treatment."

"This is the most urgent matter for prayer - that the Lord heals them directly and miraculously for the glory of His name and their encouragement," 'Pray for Iran' said.

International Christian Concern (ICC) said it remains hopeful that Iran will eventually release the women. "We urge Iranian officials to drop charges of apostasy and propagation of Christianity, as well. As party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Iran has an obligation to respect the right of Maryam and Marzieh to follow the religion of their choice."

Iranian Christians say there has been growing "government intimidation" of Christians in Iran. In recent months dozens of Christians are known to have been imprisoned and there were reportedly some cases of torture.

Sincerely in HOPE of the Gospel,

HERALDS OF HOPE, INC.

Stewardship

Giving Thanks at Year-End

Please review the enclosed brochure that includes a variety of ideas to maximiz e the tax and. other benefits of your year-end gifts. These final months of the year are a time to express thanks to God by sharing of His blessings to enable others to hear the Hope of the Gospel.

As we all know, this past year has been one of economic challenges. We must all make careful choices about how to save, give, and spend our resources. Time spent considering how to best make your gifts can help you be a better steward. By choosing the best way to give, you may discover you can help in ways you never thought possible.

Please note, the advantages of giving appreciated securities can be additional tax savings with no tax due on any gain and it can free-up cash for other purposes.

Also, if you are over 70-1/2 and have an IRA, you can make charitable gifts directly from these funds. Amounts given in this way are not taxed as income to you and represent a way to make completely taxfree gifts. Those over 59-1/2 may be able to accomplish a similar result by combining a gift with a withdrawal. Some of these retirement plan giving options are only for gifts completed in 2009 Check with your financial advisor for the latest opportunities that apply to you.

Call me toll-Free at 866-960-0292 or email bob@heraldsofhope.org if you have any questions.

Thanks for your prayerful consideration!

Bob Kauffman

Letters From Our Hope Partners

I deeply appreciate the radio ministry of Heralds of Hope! I am always disappointed when I cannot be home to listen to the Saturday evening broadcast coming from WDHC. The message for Fathers was outstandly impressive and I'd appreciate a tape of that message. Thank You and I'll always consider your ministry a very worthwhile part of my life.

Mt Joy, PA

I praise and thank my Redeemer for your program. I am 86 years and can listen, learn, and be encouraged. This gift is to help keep you on the air 'til Jesus Comes in the air.

Middleburg, PA

Im writing you at this time from a state correctional facility. I listen to your teching by radio broadcast daily. The Spirit has put it in my heart to begin contributing what I can to the ministry which richly blesses me spiritualy. Please accept this small token of my deep appreciation, an offering of love. I would greatly enjoy receiving written literature and teaching, especially your teaching on "Order in the Church." May the God of grace and mercy continue to bless you as you continue to bless others.

R. H

Keep on Keeping on. God Bless you for you faithfulness to His Word!!!

Hanover, PA

Thank you for your biblically sound sermons and lovely music. I look forward to your program every Sunday and I'm encouraged in my walk with my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May God richly bless you and your ministry.

OR Portland,

I rejoice for the open doors for the Turkish and Arabic Broadcasts. Thank you Jesus! I love the praise reports in your Hope Horizon. My fasting, prayers and praise are seasoned with deep love for your prayer concerns for souls for the Kingdom. To God's glory!

Manassas, Va



BIBLE THANK-YOU LETTERS

Mohan whom we gave a Bible passed away. We came to know that his brother and his wife are believrs. We are glad to know from them that Mohan loved reading the Bible and read it often! When we visited the home at the time of his death, they asked me to pray for his family. We are very thankful for the minsitry of distributing the Bibles. It makes us very glad and we are encouraged that the Word of God is reaching many needy hearts like Mohan. May the Lord richly bless the donors, reward them and multiply their resources!

We gave a Bible a to a medical doctor who is a staunch Hindu. He is a pediatrician. We have know him for 26 years. We have prayed for him many years and gave him a Bible. Last time we met him, he said that he is reading the Bible and it makes a difference in his life. Please pray for his salvation.

Yours in His HOPE, Pastor Vijay

Thank you very much for supporting my Prision Ministry, now because of your help and prayers aboout 65 precent of the prisoners are Christians, despite that we are in the Moslems Community and because of the Bibles more Prisoners have repented. May the Lord bless you and refund any money you have spent on us.

Your Fellow Christian, Charles O Hanson

earth in the form of a baby. The second advent is when He will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The ascension is vital to this.

So the return is verified because of His departure. Those two who stood by, the disciples on the Mount of Olives said, "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven." He had a delegation there to announce His return, the two men said, "this same Jesus." So His return is verified.

My friend, our mission must rest upon this fundamental promise, the promise of His return. What an inspiration to us, He's coming back!

As disciples we have a glorious mission--to declare the Good News. Is that mission we must base our faith and actions on these fundamentals: the proofs of His resurrection, the power of His regiment, and the promise of His return.

J Otis Yoder