



HOPE HORIZONS

Volume XLIII

October/November 2019

No. 7

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

13 Marietta Menn. Church
OCT Marietta, PA | 10:30AM

13 Blandon Menn. Church
OCT Blandon, PA | 7:00PM

15 Banquet | Chambersburg Menn.
OCT 1800 Phila. Ave. Chambersburg | 6:30PM
Call 717.485.3390 for complimentary reservations!

16 Beth-El Christian School
OCT Belleville, PA | 7:00PM

17 Banquet | Shady Maple
OCT 129 Toddy Dr., East Earl, PA | 6:30PM
Call 717.866.4697 for complimentary reservations!

20 Bittinger Menn. Church
OCT Bittinger, MD | 10:30AM

20 Mountain View Menn. Church
OCT Salisbury, PA | 7:30PM

CANADA EVENTS

27 Donegal Mennonite Fellowship
OCT Atwood, Ontario | 10:45AM

27 Arthur Mennonite Fellowship*
OCT Arthur, Ontario | 10:45AM

27 Crystal View Mennonite Church
OCT Wallenstein, Ontario | 7:45PM

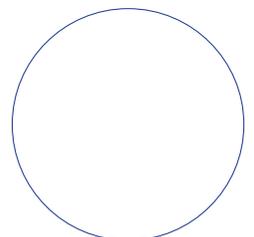
27 Hesson Christian Fellowship*
OCT Moorefield, Ontario | 7:00PM

30 Sharon Conservative Menn. Church
OCT Sugarcreek, OH | 7:00PM

3 Calvary Chapel
NOV Sturgis, MI | 10:30AM

3 Bethel Conservative Menn. Church
NOV Nappanee, IN | 7:00PM

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." (Matt. 9:37) Please join us to learn how being laborer with Heralds of Hope is helping to gather the harvest. **Pastor Vijay from India** will be our special guest at all the programs (*except 2 in Canada). If you live within reasonable driving distance of one of these programs, we look forward seeing you!



A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING (CONTINUED)

do those who follow Him. A cross-centered gospel requires cross-carrying messengers. When Jesus declared, *“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me”* (Matthew 16:24), these words are to be taken much more literally than we are accustomed to doing.

The demand of Jesus on His followers is to tread the path of martyrdom. As He prepared to send His disciples out as sheep among wolves, He told them that they would likely die in the process of carrying out their ministry. In order to build His Church His death was necessary, as He points out in Matthew 16:18-21. This is the foundation. Without Christ’s death there is no redeemed community. But just as Christ’s cross was needed to establish His Church, our crosses are needed to build His Church (16:24). Both are needed. As Josef Ton observed, “Christ’s cross was for propitiation. Our cross is for propagation.”

This understanding that sacrifice, suffering, shame, and even death were the normal cost of discipleship fueled the evangelistic efforts of the first century Church.

Rather than following the common Western practice of thanking God for freedom from suffering, the early Christians thanked God for the honor of suffering for His sake (Acts 5:41). They knew that in order to bring life to others, they must die; to see others experience peace with God, they would have to suffer the violence of the world; to bring the love of God to a dying world, they would have to face the hatred of those whom they were seeking to reach.

This is the reality of persecution today. We continue the task of taking the gospel to the end of the earth, knowing that He goes with us and that we do not suffer alone. In all of our afflictions, God is afflicted and just as Jesus demanded of Saul of Tarsus, so He asks of today’s persecutors, *“Why do you persecute Me?”* The knowledge that nothing can separate us from Christ’s love (Romans 8:35), that the Spirit

prays for us when we can only groan in agony (Romans 8:26, 27), and gives us His words in the face of our accusers (Matthew 10:19, 20), provides the help that the disciples of Jesus require to remain faithful witnesses. God has provided all that is necessary for the disciple to stand firm.

There may be fear, but by God’s grace it need not control us. There may be terrible suffering, but suffering is not the worst thing that can happen to the child of God; disobedience to the Father is.

This is part one of an article written by Glenn Penner, and made available by www.idop.org. Part two will be continued in the next newsletter. It has been edited because of its length.

Sincerely in the HOPE of the Gospel,



J. Mark Horst, President
HERALDS OF HOPE, INC.



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I cannot express enough, the worth that Heralds of Hope radio program yields to us, my fellow brothers and sisters. The messages have, and still do, sustain us to endure the hardship we are in. Keep sending the program on air, as it is useful.

LISTENER TESTIMONY:
ETHIOPIA
OROMO LANGUAGE





THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING (PART 1)

It is well recognized by those who work among persecuted Christians that few attempts have been made to develop a biblical theology of persecution. This is to be expected since most Christians in the West have little or no experience with persecution per se. The tendency is for Western Christians to misapply these passages to situations of general physical, psychological, and spiritual suffering because the biblical texts that speak to suffering for righteousness cannot readily be applied to a setting where there is little or no persecution.

Unfortunately, this misapplication is subsequently turned upon the text itself in future readings. So, the application influences future interpretations, resulting in the typical Bible student in the West never suspecting that the biblical texts that deal with pain and suffering might be dealing with suffering for righteousness' sake rather than suffering because of sin. This influences how Western Christians view and deal with those who suffer for their faith. **We fail to recognize that persecution is normative for the follower of Christ historically, missiologically, and (most importantly) scripturally.**

There is a clear scriptural link between persecution and discipleship. Indeed, there can be no discipleship without persecution; to follow Christ is to join Him in a cross-carrying journey of reconciling the world to the Father.

Persecution is hardly an exclusively New Testament phenomenon. Numerous passages refer to the suffering inflicted on the people of God throughout the Old Testament historical narratives. The psalms of lament address the issue of the suffering of God's people more clearly than any other portion of Scripture (including the New Testament). This train of thought is amplified by the call of the prophets to look ahead to the Day of the Lord, believing that history is under the control of an Almighty God who, from the foundation of the world, has set His plans in motion of reconciling the world to Himself.

All of this comes into focus with the coming of Jesus Christ, the revelation of the triune God. Through Christ, we see that sacrificial love is in the very nature of who God is. To suffer and die to accomplish His Father's purposes was not to be unexpected. Weakness, suffering and sacrifice are God's *modus operandi*. This is how God accomplishes His work: not through strength or compulsion but through love and invitation. The Son of God suffers and dies, as

Continued on page 2

Stewardship

THANKS & BLESSINGS

The harvest season is a time of giving thanks and counting our blessings. We bless you by sharing the following "harvest" report. Your vital, eternal investments of prayer and financial support impact many lives for Jesus.

"I have found Jesus and because of you I am joyfully living my faith!" - Algeria

"Your Messages of Hope programs help me to understand the Bible. I'm a young believer but because of your programs I'm learning a lot about faith." - Albania

"I became born again twenty years ago, but I never had a Bible. With this gift, I will read, memorize and teach others around me." - Malawi

I'm excited to report that the 10,000 Hope Bibles your gifts enabled us to print, were shipped by sea container last week. We sent 3,000 copies each to our Ministry Partners in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi as well as 1,000 to Pastor Mulugeta in Ethiopia for his outreach to college students.

For God's Glory,
Bob Kauffman

RADIO LISTENERS RESPOND!



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My parents & relatives rejected & persecuted me. I left everything for my Lords' sake & kept on praying. Jesus answered me & now all my family members are believers in Christ through daily hearing the wonderful program. I am so blessed & living happy. Thanks TWR-Nepal.

LISTENER TESTIMONY:
JIVLAL KUSUM IN NEPAL
NEPALI LANGUAGE



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The turning point of my life was when I listened to HOH programs. I am an uneducated man, but I could understand the word of God and His purpose for human life. I was not a Christian, but I knew a little about this religion. The first time hearing this program I decided to know Jesus.

LISTENER TESTIMONY:
SOMA MARDI IN NEPAL
NEPALI LANGUAGE

NEPAL : NEPALI LANGUAGE

“I am from a Mongolian tribe of Hindu religion. I wasted my life for 39 years in Hinduism. I received Jesus as personal savior one year ago. Your program caused me to grow up in faith within a very hard situation. My parents and relatives rejected and persecuted me. I left everything for my Lords' sake and kept on praying. Jesus answered me and now all my

family members are believers in Christ through daily hearing the wonderful program. I am so blessed and living happy. Thanks TWR Nepal.”

- Radio listener Jival Kusum

(Testimony edited for brevity and clarity. Representative photo via pixabay.com)

FEATURED PRODUCT FOR THANKSGIVING

Sod House Winter | ~~\$20~~ **\$16**

What's Inside: - 5 CDs

Canadians have their national Thanksgiving Day on Oct. 14 and the US follows with theirs on Nov. 28. These days are set aside as a time of reflection on God's blessings that we North Americans enjoy.

But the foundation for many of our blessings was laid by hardy immigrants to this continent. One such family emigrated to America from Sweden in the middle of the nineteenth century. They settled in a cabin on a small Wisconsin farm, then later moved to a Minnesota homestead where they lived in a sod house and prospered in their new country.

Help give your children an appreciation for their blessings by listening to this exciting audio book, *Sod House Winter*. Read dramatically by “Uncle J” (J. Otis Yoder) you will follow the Larson family through the joys, sorrows, travails, and triumphs of settling in a new country.

To order *Sod House Winter*, call our offices toll-free at 1-866-960-0292, or email us at hope@heraldsofhope.org

