



# Prayer/News Update

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The need for a genuine revival could not be over-emphasized in a time like this when:

1. **Knowledge is increasing:** Academically, politically and even religiously. The problem is that of ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. We hear a lot of teaching; but have not *seen* what God is saying. Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened." <sup>Ephesians</sup>

<sup>1: 17,18</sup>. When man speaks, we hear, but when God speaks, we would see. It is sad that today, the more we hear with itching ears from our teachers, the more there is disrespect for God. This has opened the door for the second characteristic of the end time.

2. **Sin is abounding:** If we look back to Jesus' statement, this is the very time that Jesus was talking about. Sin is not only being openly practiced on the streets, but it has found its way into the Church—even the pulpit. And because iniquity shall abound, Jesus said:

3. **The love of many is waxing cold:** The lukewarm, nonchalant attitude of most Christians toward the preaching of the Gospel (which is the primary mandate of the Church), the quest for material wealth and the diminishing desire to hear and retain the truth, are sure manifestations of faith that is growing cold. Love for God is waxing cold. Love for self has replaced brotherly love; and love for heavenly things is waning. This has brought in the fourth peril.

4. **Departure from the faith:** "The faith" I am talking of is not just the creed and customs of fathers, nor a mentality that says, "seeing is believing." I am talking of the paradoxical faith, which motivates one to follow and submit to God without asking why; the faith of Abraham, which is the faith of Christ. It moved Abraham to forsake the seen for the unseen, to hold on to the revealed Word of God in spite of physical problems. This faith worked by love in Christ and motivated him to endure the cross because he was seeing the glory that would follow. <sup>Heb.11: 8-10; 12:2</sup>. Many today are departing from this faith into fantasy. Without the faith-life of Abraham, they claim the blessings of Abraham and forget that without the cross there can be no crown.

These four plagues occurred to the Israelites (Judges 2:10-19) and four tragedies fell on them: war, famine, pestilence and finally captivity. Is the Church not

## Genuine Revival

by Moses Osho,

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experiencing these woes today? We are truly in the period of apostasy: all the ten virgins are asleep. We need a genuine revival now.

### What is Genuine Revival?

Let me first explain **what it is not**. It is not a scheduled program of dancing and clapping in our church or camp ground. This in most cases could be described as bodily exercise which profits little. <sup>1 Tim.4:8</sup>

It is not an inscription with which to identify a particular place (such as Revival Center).

**What it is:** It is an operation that brings to life again that which was dead and the restoration of the old path or practice, which, as a result of negligence or apostasy, has become obscured. It is an act of the grace of God for His people to bring them back to Himself when they have acknowledged their sins, repented, brought forth fruits of repentance and called upon the name of the Lord.

An example is Judges 3:9-10: "And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer ... And the spirit of the LORD came upon him, ..."

As the spirit of the LORD came upon Othniel, so it must be for one who seeks to encourage revival. Nehemiah 9:1-3 reads, "Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with *fasting*, and with sack-clothes, and earth upon them. And the seed of Israel *separated themselves* from all strangers, and stood and *confessed their sins*, and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place, and *read the book* of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and *worshiped* the LORD their God."

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." <sup>II Chronicles 7:14</sup>

### History of Revival

Since the fall of man, God has been sending His prophets to lead revivals:

1. Enos was the first man to lead a genuine revival. <sup>Gen. 4:26</sup> The world had gone away from God into wickedness: murder, polygamy and disrespect for God. (Read Genesis 4.) It was during that woeful period that God appointed another seed unto Adam, Seth, who begat

Enos. Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD. <sup>Gen.4:26</sup> And it is written that "... whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." <sup>Rom.10:13</sup> What God did in the time of Enos led to the salvation of many. Glory be to God.

2. Another genuine revival, which led to national repentance, deliverance, victory and restoration of the true worship of Jehovah, was led by the Prophet Samuel. "And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your heart, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only. So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto to the LORD." <sup>I Sam. 7:3-17</sup>

3. During the reign of King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, the nation of Israel came into a state of apostasy, a time of confusion when the people could not openly worship the true God. Idolatry had become the state religion. God spoke to Elijah to challenge the priests of Baal and call the people of Israel to choose between the true God and Baal. Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under." And they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. They prophesied until the time of offering of the evening sacrifice, [but] there was neither voice, nor any that regarded.

"And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me.

"And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. Elijah prayed and the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and

the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, the LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God." This was a genuine revival that turned a whole nation to the LORD in one day.

Paul was an apostle whom God used to bring to light the hidden truth concerning the Church. <sup>Eph.3:5-11</sup> We have considered Enos, Samuel, Elijah and Paul; now let us ponder on this question: *what would be revived in my own day and tenure?*

### The Man God Uses for Genuine Revival.

God's problem is not the hardness of the work, nor His opponent in the warfare; but His people are His problem. When God gives a command, they will reply, "All that the LORD hath spoken we will do," <sup>Ex.19:8</sup> but the reverse is often the case. God lamented through the Prophet Isaiah, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me."

<sup>Isa. 1:2</sup> As God intended the nation of Israel to be a kingdom of priests, to serve as God's light to the nations and to be God's salvation unto the end of the earth, <sup>Isa. 49:6</sup> so also He intends for the Church. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." <sup>Acts.1:8</sup>

But after the persecution occurred, which resulted in Stephen's death, the believers that were at Jerusalem were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, *except the apostles*. It was these same apostles who, after the dispersion of the church which was at Jerusalem, entered into compromise, and started to practice Mosaic ordinances and their fathers' traditions in Jesus' name (read Acts. 21:17-24). But for the grace and sovereignty of God that preserved the scattered disciples in Antioch, where Paul was groomed, the plan of God for world evangelization would have been frustrated and destroyed. That would have been the end of the worldwide salvation revival purposed by God.

In the Book of Acts, it seems there are three different types of churches:

1. Acts 1-8:3, a congregational church wherein the multitude of those that believed stood fast in the doctrine of the apostles taught by a few prominent men. This is the type of church that is common today—a church of one-man ministry, which makes the church like a stadium where a selected

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# Jim Lucas' Column



Francille and I just returned from a two-month trip to Mexico and Belize, Central America. We were much encouraged in the Lord Jesus.

In order for you to appreciate this report, you should know what led up to this trip.

The year of the big snowfall, 1969, We had three feet of snow in Leaburg, Oregon where we lived on the McKenzie River. In the Cascade Mountains where we had our small logging operation, there was four times that much. I was prepared to sit back and read Louie Lamour paperbacks and wait for spring. Our Heavenly Father had other plans. Francille and I were both saved that winter, thanks to our Lord Jesus and his faithful servant Orville Tadlock, who was also a logger. Orville had recently been saved and was very bold in preaching the Word of God. So I ended up reading the Bible all winter.

By 1972 things had changed. We had given away our business and moved to Bend, Oregon, to take the missionary training course. On April 16th we left for Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, where I had enrolled in a language school. We didn't know anybody there; we couldn't speak Spanish; we had four children and Francille was five months pregnant. But our hearts were filled with God's promises and we were cast upon Him for our support. We did not fear because we knew that He who had called us had a plan. I was a novice and knew very little about missionary work, but I knew I was to preach the Gospel and I wanted to see the Lord Jesus raise up a church.

Guadalajara is a large city and there are many outlying villages. I prayed and asked the Lord Jesus if we were to preach in the city or in the villages. He said, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shall find it after many days." <sup>Ecc. 11:1</sup> So we did. We preached everywhere, in the villages and throughout the city. The Lord Jesus saved some families in the area where we lived, and we were meeting in our home and teaching them on a regular basis. I was quite excited about what the Lord was doing and was looking forward to working there for many years. Then our Father called me to prayer for several days. The big news was that he wanted us to commend the believers to Him and move on. This was hard for me to understand, but thought it best to do what we were being told.

We left Guadalajara much like Abraham: "By faith Abraham, when he

was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." <sup>Heb. 11:8</sup> We journeyed to the state of Veracruz. It was the rainy season and it rained every day, exceptional rain, and floods. We looked for a house to rent in city after city and found nothing. We slept in our van most nights; occasionally we would rent a room and shower. After thirty days we ended up in Bochil, a small village in the highlands of the state of Chiapas. This was a dirty little town (with pigs walking about the streets) in a very remote area. There were many tribal people without the Gospel living in the mountains. Again our Father encouraged me to preach to all men. We met a few Christians living in town that were not in a congregation of believers and they desired teaching. We started holding regular meetings and we also evangelized many of the neighboring Indian villages. There was much opposition to the Gospel; the reception was minimal, and accompanied with much persecution for those who came to Jesus. We sometimes walked six hours into the villages but it was not in vain: we did see some fruit among the Sinicantecos.

Among the brothers in Bochil there was a mechanic named Nolasco. His wife Phitalina was very faithful and a true servant of God. Even though they were poor, daily she sent to our house hot, hand made tortillas at the mid day meal (main meal in Mexico). They had an eight-year-old son named Pedro who had fallen from a tree when he was very young and had damaged his spine; his arm was curled up and his legs also. Unable to walk, he crawled around dragging his legs. One day I said to Pedro, "Get up, you can walk." He looked at me with piercing eyes and stood up, then I said, "Walk to me," and he did.

There was a Brother named Eluterio and his wife Apolita, both faithful and zealous for the Lord Jesus. They had a son-in-law who came to the meeting and went through the motions, but never had a strong witness of the Lord Jesus. His name was Lencho. We were not surprised, after we left, to hear Lencho had fallen away to sin. Our time in Bochil was very challenging, but we saw the faithfulness of our Lord in so many ways. One year later we were to go on to Belize, Central America. The trip down was very eventful with many fiery trials and visitation of angels.

Belize was an English colony at the time. English is the national language, but

there are several tribes in Belize—Garifina, Mayan, and Ketche; also Creole people, Spanish speakers from various countries in Central America, and quite a few Chinese. We spent most of our time living in an all black town called Dangriga. The people were very involved in witchcraft. They would go to the Catholic or Anglican Church on Sundays, but worship the devil all week. Our closest neighbor was the second-strongest witch in the country. But she informed my daughter that after we moved there, she could do nothing: she said the Spirit we had was greater than the spirit she had.

The spiritual darkness in Belize was alarming; many had heard the Gospel again and again, but very few knew the Lord Jesus. The Garifina tribe was the darkest of all. There were a few—very few—Mayan Christians in the south of the country, but none in the Stan Creek district where we lived. The Ketche had even less. Immorality and drunkenness were rampant. Those who had heard the word had never been taught, and there was no godly example of a true Christian.

Eventually we began to see some fruit from our labors. Several young Creole people came to Jesus: Basil Marin, John, Gerald Lopez, Ruth Tillet and her mother. (She was dying with cancer but the Lord Jesus healed her and she was saved). We were very encouraged when Calvin Nunez, a young, one-eyed Garifina man, was saved. Then Paulino and his wife Santiaga, who are Mayan, were saved. Eduardo Che and his family, Manual Cal and his family, Jose and family (This Jose was bitten by a poisonous snake and the Lord healed him), Santiago and family, young Manual Che and his wife. We also saw fruit among the Spanish-speaking people; we enjoyed working with Julian and Esmerelda Polanco.

Things were developing nicely, then our Heavenly Father called me to pray for a few days. He revealed to me that it was time to move on. This time it wasn't such a shock, but it was still difficult to leave the brethren. I felt like they needed us in order to develop in their faith. Our Father saw it differently, and I began to realize that He is building His Church and knows what is best.

We were on the road again after saying goodbye, weeping with the saints and commending them to the Word of His grace. I thought it would be good to go to Costa Rica, so we departed in our

Dodge van pulling a utility trailer. I wasn't sure what the Lord had in mind for the future, but I knew we were to leave. We had traveled only a few miles when we had a flat (it was pouring rain) and that seemed to begin a series of events that would make this a very special trip. Before we crossed the border, the trailer hitch broke and had to be welded. Then, in the jungles of Quintanaroo, Mexico, a wheel came off the trailer and rolled out into the jungle. It was one thing after another. We spent many days on the road.

Traveling south of San Cristobal, Chiapas, another bearing failed and the other trailer wheel came off, destroying the axle. San Cristobal isn't all that far from Bochil where we had lived, so we had visited there several times in the past. I knew there was a great need there for the Gospel, but I never liked the place because lots of tourists go there. Now, for many days, we were camped out along the road, the girls and Francille sleeping in the van, the boys and I on the ground, unless it rained. Then one morning while praying, our Father said to me, "Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee." <sup>Ps. 32:9</sup> I knew then that we were not going to Costa Rica. We would look for a house in Chiapas—but not San Cristobal. Finally we had the axle fixed and headed for Chiapa de Corso passing back through San Cristobal. About three miles north of town, we lost another wheel. I said, OK, Jesus, I finally get it; we will look for a house in San Cristobal. By then, we had been on the road about a month.

Within a few days I was astounded with the wisdom of God. He knew it was time for evangelism and the making of disciples in this area. There are about eight different unreached tribes in the area. Wycliff translators had been working there for many years preparing Bibles in the languages of the people. But very little evangelism was going on. Again the Lord instructed us to preach to all men, and to all men we preached; in the streets and parks; in the villages and neighboring towns. Persecution came immediately, even to those who would just talk with us; but this did not stop people from hearing Jesus' voice and following Him. We had the privilege of seeing a few saved in most of the tribes and we were blessed to lead several young Mexicans to the Lord Jesus.

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Our Father sent Ron Randall and family to work with us; they labored with us about seven years very faithfully. Peggy Mott also came and helped with our children. We led a schoolteacher to the Lord Jesus (Huberto). His wife (Irma) was a very faithful Catholic, strongly opposed to the Gospel. She and I had a love hate relationship: I loved her and she hated me. After a time she learned not to hate me, but still refused to come to Jesus. Huberto's father was also converted at an old-age and had a good testimony. We held Bible studies and Sunday Services in his home. He had a large family; only a few of them came to Jesus. After we arrived in San Cristobal other men came there also to preach the Gospel; so we started meeting with them and praying together. We formed a school and taught all day Saturday. This went on for several years.

We spent nine years in San Cristobal, then went on to Aguascalientes, then Australia, Siberia, Russia; and then Kenya, Africa. We found many ethnic groups also in Siberia and Kenya and had the privilege of making disciples of Jesus among them. We had been back to visit Southern Mexico and Belize only a couple of times in many years, and we desired to take this trip to see how the saints were doing.

After we left Guadalajara in 1974 and committed the believers to the Word of His grace, our Heavenly Father sent many others to help the Church there—Larry Gallegos when he was single, then later with his wife Peggy and family, Rick and Debbie Gardner, Steve and Linda Montgomery and family, Pat and Kerry Harigan and family, and Cliff Hufmire. The believers in Guadalajara have benefited and grown in the Lord Jesus because of them, also through Dick York's teaching given in conferences over the years. The believers have multiplied and work goes on in many surrounding cities. The Gospel has gone to North Africa and Pakistan by our Mexican believers.

### Our Trip March-April, 2005

Our Heavenly Father provided us with a 1995 Buick Park Avenue; excellent for long distance traveling and very economical. With gas at almost three dollars a gallon in Mexico, this was a real benefit. Our first place to visit was Fullerton, Ca., with Fred, Daniela and our five grandchildren. We stayed about five days. Then we left for Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico to see Ed, Abby and four more grandchildren. We helped Steve and Linda Montgomery fix up the house they were moving into. Four days later we left in Ed and Abby's Dodge Caravan with the four grandchildren, headed for Belize, Central America.

Twenty-six years had passed since we left Belize. Would we be able to find the Brothers? Would they still be walking with Jesus? One of the first brothers we found was

Calvin Nunez, our Garifina brother. He was very surprised when he came home to find us sitting in his yard under a tree, talking with his wife. We had a lot of catching up to do. He informed us about his preaching on the radio for many years in the Garifina language and how, through that ministry, there developed a conference ministry that brings Garifina people together all up and down the Caribbean Coast. About 400 people come to these conferences. Praise the Lord Jesus—previously, there were no believers in that tribe.

Calvin spoke about the many young Creole brothers that we had discipled. Most of them have been serving the Lord Jesus and some of them have been very fruitful, like Basil Marin. He was seventeen when he was saved and has had a fruitful ministry in Belize and the United States. It was a blessing to preach in the church in Hopkins (Calvin's home town) and meet with Garifina believers. They had been so opposed to the Gospel.

We found Paulino and Santiago living in the same place, doing the same thing they always have done. They are both faithful and have born much fruit among the Mayan people. Paulino told me he had prayed that he could see us one more time before I died. The Mayan people are not emotional. But when we left, Paulino and I both were quite emotional. Julian had fallen away from the Lord but says that he is doing fine now. Esmerelda is doing well. We also found Manuel Cal, who now has a large family, and almost all of them are serving the Lord Jesus. There are many Ketche Christians now. We didn't find Eduardo Che. In time past he has had a very fruitful ministry, but just recently he and his wife have been divorced. We did see Leona his wife. She is a broken woman, please pray for her.

Except for the bugs, we enjoyed our time in Belize. After six days, we returned to Mexico with mixed feelings. We would have liked to stay longer, but we also wanted to see how our dear brothers in the highlands of Chiapas were getting along. The trip up to San Cristobal was amazing; we didn't have one break down, and we didn't lose even one wheel.

To put into writing what it was like and what we found there is very difficult. The highlands of Chiapas is a very special place for me and the family, especially Abby, our little Chiapaneca. All of our children spent most of their formative years there. Many memories kept flooding our hearts and breaking out in our conversation as we entered into the area where the Gospel before had not been welcome. Nevertheless we had seen lives changed. Remembering the many trips walking into the villages to visit people who would run and shut the doors; remembering those who had received Jesus and how they had suffered. Remembering the times on the streets

in the city preaching while the people mocked; and the times when we would give them the Gospel and then say, Is there anybody here who is not ashamed of Christ Jesus and would like to give their life to Him? Then one or two would step forward, in spite of the crowd of mockers, and give their lives to Jesus. The times of preaching in the public market where so many Chemulas, Zinicantecos, Tzozal, Hueztecacos and others would feel bold and give their lives to Jesus because they were far from their villages. We Remembered how the Lord raised up places of refuge for the persecuted believers who were run out of their homes, and how these places of refuge became little cities of believers; places called Belen and Nuevo Esperanza (New Hope). We remembered the day they buried brother Felipe, the Chumula brother, who died after they tortured him and poked out his eyes. It was the biggest funeral the city had ever seen.

We thought much about the congregation of believers we had left in San Cristobal that was made up of all different types of people: poor Mexicans and the not-so-poor, and the many Indian brothers from various tribes. We had taught them, prayed with them, played with them, and labored much with them. We had heard different reports over the years. We mostly heard they were doing well, but we also heard some had fallen away, like Jose and Mario, which really hurt; we had spent so much time with them. We also heard that many had left the church. We had a lot on our minds as we entered the city.

The first place we visited was Uberto's parents' place, the Ahillanegi family. Like old times we were sitting around Dona Gloria's huge dinning room table while she chatted and served at the same time. Dona Gloria had gone back to the Catholic church for a while, but she is now on fire for the Lord, and she was excited because her youngest son Fernando had just been saved. Her sons, Eddy and Jorge, both wanted to talk to me, and both are about to give their lives to Jesus. Uberto is now retired and is dedicating all his time to the teaching of the Word. And not only Uberto, but also my old enemy, Irma his wife. She is now saved, on fire for the Lord Jesus and is holding classes with women all over town—late bloomers.

An announcement went out to the ones who had known us, and a meeting was held at Brother Angel's house where a new congregation is meeting. We were quite surprised at the number of people that came. Most of them Ron Randall and myself had led to Jesus and discipled. They represented at least six different churches. The original group became a Tzetal Church and the others have gone with their distinctive people. We discovered that many of the people we discipled have

become the leaders of these groups. Jose was there with his Japanese wife and their baby. He has been back with the Lord since 2001, and they both love the Lord. Mario is still out in the world, but he will come back because he has to be most miserable. The Lord's way of building His Church is much different than the way I would build it. Birds of a feather flock together. I liked the variety and thought they should remain that way. But we do see in Rev. 5:9 that all the flocks will be gathered together around the throne of God. And they all shall bear the image of Christ Jesus. It is very obvious to me that our part is preaching the Gospel and making disciples, and the Lord Jesus will build His Church.

We went to Bochil; we had heard about the new road that is about an hour shorter. It takes you back through some huge mountains where the Chamulas and Tzotzil de San Andres live. While we lived in Bochil, this was where much of the guerilla warfare took place. It appears that they are still having some problems, for we saw soldiers looking for someone in several spots along the way. We used to ride eight hours on horseback into the villages in these hills. I believe Francille and Abby really enjoyed seeing the places we had talked about so much but they had never seen. Richard and Steven went with me into these places a lot, but not the girls. One place we had visited often was San Cayatano. Located high up on the mountain, it was very difficult to get to, but now we drove right to it. I showed them the place where about fifty drunk Indians almost killed Eluterio, Miguel, and myself. Then we found Andre's place. Sure enough he is still alive and was very surprised to see us; the whole family was really glad to see us. Andres was the only Christian in the village the first time we went in there. I was a little surprised to see that he is confused about some things and obviously has suffered for lack of teaching. Later, when talking to the brothers in Bochil, they agreed to visit him.

The brothers in Bochil were surprised to see us. Brother Eluterio and Lencho both wept and said they had been praying to see us one more time before we died. Lencho said, "I wanted you to know; I am walking with Jesus now."

I said, "Praise the Lord! How long ago did you come back to Jesus?"

He said, "About four months."

We lived in Bochil in 1975—thirty years ago—and Lencho is just now bearing fruit. It was so good to see Phitalina and young Pedro, he was grinning from ear to ear and walking upright in Christ Jesus.

The saints asked us to consider coming back to San Cristobal for a while. We would like to go back for a month or two perhaps next year. Please pray for the Lords will to be done.



## Jerry Skiles

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. <sup>Mt 28:18-20</sup>

“All nations” refers to ethnic groups. According to research, this remains an unfinished task. All the nations have not been taught. For 2000 years the Gospel has not been introduced to some of the isolated people groups in the world.

My wife and I have witnessed people who have heard the Gospel for the first time. I can testify of God’s miraculous power being demonstrated as the Gospel has been taken to these unreached people groups. There are fierce spiritual battles being waged on these remaining strategic battlefronts. It is in these settings that God is coming to His servants’ help to move His kingdom forward against these remaining strongholds of Satan.

In Ghana, a country in West Africa, there are reported to be two remaining tribes that have yet to have any Christians. There is also a multitude of ethnic groups in this country with only a minute percentage of believers. Yet this country is open to missionary workers. Visas are currently easy to obtain. The national language is English. The door is wide open in many ways for a missionary thrust to reach these remaining tribes.

I believe that God is mobilizing His Church to take the Gospel to these remaining ethnic groups in Ghana. I

personally have a desire to be involved in this. I would like you to be praying with me to know how best to approach this new field of ministry.

The two tribes in Ghana that are reported to be completely untouched by the Gospel are the Kamara people, population 1,230, who are currently practicing their ethnic religion, and the Kantosi people, population 2,660, who are Muslims.

I envision reaching these tribes by a coalition of believers and churches. If you or your fellowship would like to be on the ground floor, involved in seeing these two tribes reached for Christ, I’d love to be in communication with you.

I am trusting that the Loran and the Loma tribes, with whom we have been working for many years in neighboring Ivory Coast will also be used in this work. They are in a country that continues to be torn by civil strife. Yet I know these disciples will be willing to give what they can for the cause of the Kingdom.

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**Following is a report from a missionary news service. It is relevant because the plight of the saints is our concern, whether or not they are known to us, and also because of its proximity to Ghana which, as you have read in the preceding report by Jerry, God has laid upon our hearts.**

### **Togo: Political Strife Endangers Native Missionaries**

Tension between supporters of Togo’s new president Faure Gnassingbe and supporters of opposition leaders has impacted local ministries, according to native mission leaders. “Some have said that government leaders want to take action against churches in days to come,” writes one native missionary. “Please pray for us.”

The conflict began with the election of Faure Gnassingbe earlier this month, an election many observers have claimed was fraudulent. Citizens took to the streets in protests, many of which turned violent. Over 100 people have been killed since the election. Thousands of Togolese worried about escalating violence have fled to neighboring Ghana and Benin.

Remaining in the troubled country are many native Gospel workers. They are committed to sharing God’s truth in such volatile times. Writes one native missionary in an email, “I cannot run away because of the mission God has called me to for the salvation of my countrymen. During this difficult period, my team and I are trying to preach the Gospel to people in some houses. We know that could be their last occasion to hear it before death arrives, either through gunshot, starvation or sickness.”

Togolese Christians may be in even more danger than other citizens because, “the new government perceives them as unsupportive.”

The steady advance of Islam in this part of Africa is another concern of missionaries. One writes, “During the reign of Eyadema [Faure’s father], we were under an embargo of the European Union. During that period, Arab countries deployed billions of dollars not just to help meet economic needs but also to Islamize the country. They dug wells, built bridges on the roads, took in orphans and then constructed mosques.”

Native Gospel workers sense the urgency of their mission. They preach the message of Christ door to door and have experienced breakthroughs in several areas, starting small congregations of former Muslims. Togo’s current situation has worsened an already struggling economy, making survival even more difficult for native missionaries. Please pray with them for safety and provision. Pray that the Gospel would continue to advance in this troubled country.

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### **WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY OPENS IN SUDAN AS PEACE ACCORD HOLDS**

Expectations are high for Christian outreaches in Sudan following the much-acclaimed peace deal in the non-Muslim southern part of the country. “There’s a lot of optimism in Southern Sudan as a result of the peace accord, so there’s a lot more people going into southern Sudan right now assessing the situation on the ground there,” says

Joseph Owens of the Bible League. “You can see that there’s a lot more activity along the border,” Owens says; because the peace deal is holding, the ministry’s teams can move around.

The timing is important as he describes a recent discovery.

“As we started to work in southern Sudan, we found inventories of Bibles in Kenya and Uganda that were not being distributed—tens of thousands of Bibles just sitting on pallets and needing distribution. For probably more than 20 years, not many Scriptures have gone into southern Sudan.”



I wanted to let you know how things are going for Peter and I in Nanjing, China. This next week the students have a one-week holiday break. So we are planning on visiting Beijing. I am excited to see some of the sights like the Summer Palace and the Great Wall.

A couple of weeks ago I visited Shanghai for the weekend. I really enjoyed it. People in China consider Shanghai the New York of China because of its many large modern buildings.

Peter and I are reaching the midpoint in the school semester. I believe it has been a good experience for me to come to a foreign country and to learn to prepare to teach several different classes for a whole semester. But please pray for me as I am struggling to reach some of my students in a couple of the classes. I want to be able to reach these students, but at times the language barrier is difficult to overcome.

I have started helping Peter with a Bible study on Monday nights with several students that are excited about learning about the Bible. These students are atheists like most other students; but, through the studies in Genesis, the students are starting to believe for the first time that it is logical for God to exist.

The weather is starting to get hot in Nanjing. Nanjing gets so hot during the summer that it is considered one of the “four furnaces” of China.





My students are always concerned that the weather is too hot and unbearable for me. But I explain to them that the weather is just like the city that I am from. Maybe I

should tell them that I also come from a great furnace in Texas, called Dallas.

Please pray for Peter and me as we are missing having the same regular fellowship that we had in America. We have attended a Christian Church in Nanjing, but the services are only in Chinese and so we cannot understand what is being shared.

Please pray that the Lord will bring encouragement to Peter and me.

Also, please continue to pray for us as we work with our classes and as we look for opportunities to share with the people here in China. The Lord bless you.

Love in Christ, John



We also received the following from Peg, April 29, 2005:

High regards for the author of Ecclesiastes, but there are new things under the sun. Ozone depletion strikes Karaganda. The month of April began with freezing rain and snow due to a "Sputnik" launched from near here in Kazakhstan. Don't you know rockets break a hole in the ozone and the weather is adversely affected?

The month is ending and I have a suntan, an exotic and rare condition for me, due to two weeks of summer weather. Spending a few days walking outdoors in a sleeveless top made it hard to go in and teach. So we took a field trip. The students wrote nature and city guide speeches and led our groups on a tour of the park and botanical garden.

We got a little more sunshine when our ESI regional director, Joel, came to visit for a week. He took us out to eat three times! He sang gorgeous kareoke to us and did the third-part harmony with Donelda and I on "You are my Sunshine." He joined us on a retreat in a village resort where we watched the poplar tops begin to green and soaked up more rays, solar and Divine.

Dancing like sprightly sunbeams, a couple in my ballroom dance group won first in the city hobby class championship. At the victory party afterwards, the young man asked questions about my faith. Shine, Jesus, shine!

Tonight the sunset at about 8:30 looked new, like none seen before. Actually, after working on APU papers all afternoon, my red eyes were refreshed by the sight of crimson rays filtering across the smoky steppe.



**A letter from Steve Montgomery to the church at Prineville, OR.**

Well, the conference is over and was a rousing success! [Also in Mexico regular conferences are an effective tool for edifying the believers] We filled a rented bus with people from here, then over-filled it with six from La Barca and six from Arandas! The suffocating heat of Manzanillo (the meeting place did not have air conditioning) took some putting up with, but the material was so good, so practical and so clearly biblical that everyone was encouraged and edified. The sessions were based roughly on Malachi 4:6 (turn hearts of fathers to children, hearts of children to fathers...), but dealt mostly with putting new wine into new wineskins, that is, the problem of trying to make the new life of Christ, with His new commands and priorities, into the forms the world

uses: dating, boy friend-girl friend, attitudes and motives for marriage, etc. It was especially directed to the younger people, but had plenty for us older ones.

We also celebrated a baptism while there. Otilia, from the congregation in Rancho Viejo, asked to be baptised; so on Sunday, after the last meeting, we moved to the hotel swimming pool to celebrate together. She asked me to baptise her and, while in the water, I asked that she state publicly why she wanted to be baptised. This is a simple woman with no schooling, living in a tiny village of the most rural of rural Mexico. Sheepishly, she replied, "What can I say? I just want to take this step of obedience to the Lord Jesus." She seemed unsure that she had said the right thing, but we all rejoiced in her straightforward declaration!

We are now back in Atotonilco and settling into the swing of things. Linda is recovering well from her oral surgery. Except for one or two occasions, she was not bothered by it at the conference. Ed and I will be going out today to visit some contacts whom he wants me to meet. Tonight is prayer meeting, during which we will pray for you and for the congregation there.

I saw Juan (of the tacos) [this is a believer who has no time to fellowship with the saints because of his taco business] briefly yesterday and told him he had missed a great blessing by not being in the conference. As we talked, I again challenged him to trust the Lord to cover the "loss of income" he imagines he would suffer by closing Sunday to be in the meeting. "If the Lord of heaven and earth isn't powerful enough to bless your sales Monday thru Saturday for you to confidently close on Sunday, perhaps He isn't who we understand Him to be!" I reminded Him. We've discussed these things before; but this time, it hit home. A large smile crossed his face as he captured the Lord's challenge to try Him, to test His promises (Mal. 3:10). Pray for clear fruit there.

Please greet all the saints there. We appreciate partnering with you for the Highlands.

Steve and Linda

**The following is from Larry Gallegos. Please lift this ministry before the Lord this summer.**

**Dear Brethren,**

**We are preparing for another intensive summer of ministry in Mexico. Our program this year will begin on June 29 and end August 5th. Our students will study languages for four hours a day. They also will receive a discipleship and a cultural orientation class.**

**We will again be involved in open-air evangelism both in Tonalá and in the Jalisco Highlands. There also will be opportunities for service projects.**

**Our students will live with a missionary family in the Casa Esperanza facility in Tonalá with approximately 15-20 other students from different cultures.**

**For more information about the course contact Lgallegos70@aol.com**

**Consider the tribes that are yet unreached; and the nations still under the oppressive rule of Allah, god of the Muslims. The Gospel is the liberator. God may have a place for you in bearing it to them. Make yourself available.**

**God is looking for FAT men.**

**Faithful  
Available  
Teachable.**

**Be a FAT man.**

## Steve Montgomery's Column



In Romans 15:18-19, the Apostle Paul gives us insight into his method of spreading the Gospel to new regions. Given his phenomenal success, we do well to consider what he says:

“For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”

There is something enigmatic about these verses that needs to be investigated. Paul says he will only speak of those things which the Lord has done through him, yet he goes on to speak of preaching the Gospel from Jerusalem to Illyricum (present-day Serbia and Bosnia). Paul did visit Jerusalem three times after his conversion, but two of those were very brief visits; and on the third, he spent most of his time in prison! It would hardly seem, therefore, that he could boast of “fully preaching the Gospel” there!

A quick glance at a map provokes other questions: When did Paul preach in Judea? He specifically says in Galatians 1:22 that the churches there had never seen him! And what of Samaria? Acts 15:3 tells of Paul passing through there and visiting the brethren, but does that quick trip constitute “fully preaching the Gospel” in this region? And we have no mention of his preaching in Galilee, either! How, then, did the Apostle Paul “fully preach the Gospel from Jerusalem and round about unto Illyricum”? We need to look closer.

The first thing we notice is that when Paul says, “round about” in this verse, he literally means it. The word here means, “in circles.” Paul says that in circles from Jerusalem to Illyricum, he fully preached the Gospel. That makes more sense when we see that the phrase “I’ve fully preached” also means “I’ve preached full,” that is, “I’ve filled it up.”

Now the passage begins to clear up. Paul saw the world as circles, regions or areas where the Gospel either has or has not been preached. For Paul, those regions were generally defined

## Running Circles Around Satan

by the Roman provinces. When he came to Christ, some of the circles around him had already received the Gospel. There were already churches throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria (Acts 9:

31). He came to Christ outside Damascus, the principle city of Syria, and there was already a congregation of believers there. Years later, he ministered beside Barnabas in Antioch, strengthening the church in the other major city of Syria.

When Paul and Barnabas were recommended to the work God had called them to among the Gentiles, Paul could look behind him and say, “I’ve filled up the region from Jerusalem to Antioch. There are no gaps. Behind me, there are Christians who can continue the work and continue to spread the Gospel in those circles.” He could look ahead and say, “The next circle on the map is Galatia.”

And years later, he could say, “I’ve filled up the circles so that there are Christians in the key cities from Jerusalem to Serbia .... Now, having no more place in these parts ... whensoever I take my journey to Spain, I will come to you [in Rome]” (Rom. 15:23-24).

The concept of filling regions, or circles, by establishing churches in the key cities that would then fill their own smaller circles, is

a concept that we hunger to see here in the Circle of Silence.

The big circle, the six states with less than 2% believers, has congregations in the major cities. The metropolitan areas or the capital cities of these six states have congregations – not enough, not a finished work by any means, but churches that are taking responsibility for their city. The next step, however, is to see the Good News not only expand in the cities but extend to the towns and villages. And the first thing we can do to see that happen is to pray.

- Pray that the King of the harvest would send out laborers to that harvest.
- Pray that churches in the key cities of the Circle of Silence would see a larger circle than their own city and reach out to the regions that lie roundabout (Acts 14:6).
- Pray that workers from reached areas will be called by God and commended by churches to this unreached Circle.
- Pray that the few and scattered congregations in the medium-sized towns within the Circle of Silence will reach out to the villages and communities around them.
- And pray for the tiny church in Atotonilco, as we look at how to take responsibility for our town and for the communities around us: San Francisco, San Antonio, Milpillas, Maguey, Cucarachas, Rancho Viejo and others.

We hunger for the day we can look over this center region of the Circle of Silence and say, “The Gospel has been fully preached throughout this region. Now, having no more place in these parts ....”

### continued from page 1

few are functioning and a multitude of others are watching. God's original pattern for the Church was that every member should, by his or her spiritual gift, participate in the functioning of the Church. Eph.4:16; 1Pet.2:10-11

2. Acts 8:4-14:28, a missionary church with a true church vision. It was through this church that the genuine revival broke out, led by Barnabas and Paul, which swept across the entire world of that time.

3. Acts 15-21, a compromised church from whence many false doctrines and false teachers went forth and troubled the Church greatly (read Acts 15:1,2; 21:20-25).

In spite of severe persecution and false doctrines, God still preserved the church in Antioch. It was through this church that the genuine revival broke forth throughout the world of that time. God's program is not concluded yet. Here on earth there is no new thing, but God from heaven can do a new thing on earth. He is still looking for a man whom He would use for a genuine revival today. The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, searching for a man.

### What Type of Man?

1. A man after God's own heart, whose desire is to know and do the will of God at the expense of his own will.
2. A radical man of vision.
3. A man of the Book, who knows, understands and can rightly divide the Word of Truth.
4. A man with a new cruse. 2 Kings. 2:20-22.
5. A persevering man.
6. A man who is ready to be burnt off, i.e. dead to self glory.
7. A man who is ready to take risks like David and Esther. Est. 4:16; 1 Sam. 17:32, 39-52.
8. A man, not busy *for* God but occupied *by* God.
9. A man with a repentant heart.
10. An intercessor like Nehemiah and Daniel. Neh. 1:4; Dan. 9:1-5
11. A servant, not a master. Matt. 20:25-28
12. A facilitator, not a commander nor an autocrat.
13. A shepherd, not a head of state.
14. An example, not a dictator. II Cor. 4:1-2
15. A bold and courageous man, not a coward.
16. A trained man thoroughly furnished in

wilderness experience.

17. A purged man, in whom “I” has been crucified. Gal.1:15-16; 2:20; Phil. 1:20
18. A man of right attitudes in matters of money, women and home.
19. A man with the message. I Cor. 2:1-5
20. A leader, not a despot. I Cor. 11:1-2
21. A man under authority, not a usurper

Genuine revival waits for such a man that can say, “*here am i, send me.*” Though God is interested in accomplishing His plan, He is never hasty. He seeks a man after His heart. May He find him in me, amen.

### Effects of a Genuine Revival.

Just as the law of sowing and reaping is true, Gal. 6:7 so also there will be positive results whenever there is a genuine revival.

1. The true God will be known, believed and worshipped.
2. Righteous living will be restored. Ezra.10:3.
3. Sin will be openly confessed and renounced. Neh.9:1-3.
4. Idols and shrines will be destroyed. 2 Chr. 31:1; 2 Kgs. 11:18; 10:27; 1 Kgs.15:12.
5. Judgment would fall on wicked and evil works. I Kgs. 18:40.

6. The true worship of Jehovah will be restored. I Kgs. 18:39.
7. Commitment to God's work will be renewed. Ps.51:12-13.
8. Joy of salvation will be restored. Isa. 35:1-10.

### God Can Revive Us Again Today.

If we acknowledge our failures, determine to change and call upon Him. If we lay ourselves on the altar, we can turn our generation back to God. Our ministries will catch fire again and our dry bones will rise as a mighty army. From today, let us rise and shine for our light (DAY) has come and the glory of God shall be seen upon us. And the heathen shall come into our light, and kings to the brightness of our rising. Let us sing prayerfully this song:

Revive us again  
Fill each heart with thy love  
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above:  
Allelujah thine the glory; allelujah amen  
Allelujah thine the glory; revive us again.

# Conference News

The Memorial Day weekend conference is behind us. It was truly a memorable time. For the most part, it was an incredible demonstration of the leading of God's Spirit in providing and guiding the agenda. Of course, as usual, the conference was recorded. This time, though, we have it on CDs instead of cassettes. The keynotes by Steve Montgomery and Dick York are available on DVDs. All of these can be ordered through the SFMI office.

Now, looking ahead, more conference ministry is coming up. A major part of the ministry of SFMI is conferences, and we hope to expand that avenue in the future. Over the years, many believers have been encouraged to follow the Lord in some specific and special way. Many have caught a vision of the whitened harvest fields and have set their course to answer God's call—some to a work here at home, some to travel abroad. Others have found a fresh vision of the church and have a new appreciation for what it means to be in the body of Christ.

A regional conference in northeast Washington State has been growing over the past five years, and we look for a good crowd of eager saints to participate again this Labor-day weekend. That conference will begin Friday night, September 2, and will end at noon Monday, September 5. These events, of course, are not without expense; but we trust the Lord to meet those expenses through the freewill offerings of those who attend, or through His own means of provision. There is no specified charge for the Washington conference so that all may attend and none will be inhibited by limited resources. "As it is written, He that *had gathered* much had nothing over; and he that *had gathered* little had no lack." 2 Corinthians 8:15

Then, in October, we look forward to the first annual conference in Texas, Oct. 7-9, 2005 at Iron Springs Christian Camp in Whitney, TX. For more information about that event, please contact SFMI by phone or email, and ask for a brochure.

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## Labor-day Weekend Conference 2005 Shield of Faith Mission International

Registrars: *Brian and Peggy Martel*

Mailing Address: *2 Baxter Lane  
Kettle Falls, WA 99141*

Phone or Fax: *1-509-738-3122  
call first before faxing*

**Camp Gifford, 3846 N. Deer Lake Road, Deer Lake, Washington  
Sept.2 - 5 2005**

**How it Works:** Arrivals begin at 4:00 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2. The first meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. There will be no meal served Friday night. Please feel free to bring snacks. Saturday morning is our first meal and Monday lunch is our last meal. We have spaces available for tents and RVs. There are family cabins and lodging for others. Bring your own bedding, or bedding can be provided for those in need. Camp Gifford is a **non-smoking** facility. Pets are **not** allowed. Copy as many forms as you need. Mail completed forms to Shield of Faith office. We look forward to seeing you this year. **Register Early!**

### Family Registration:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please include infants.*

**Spouse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

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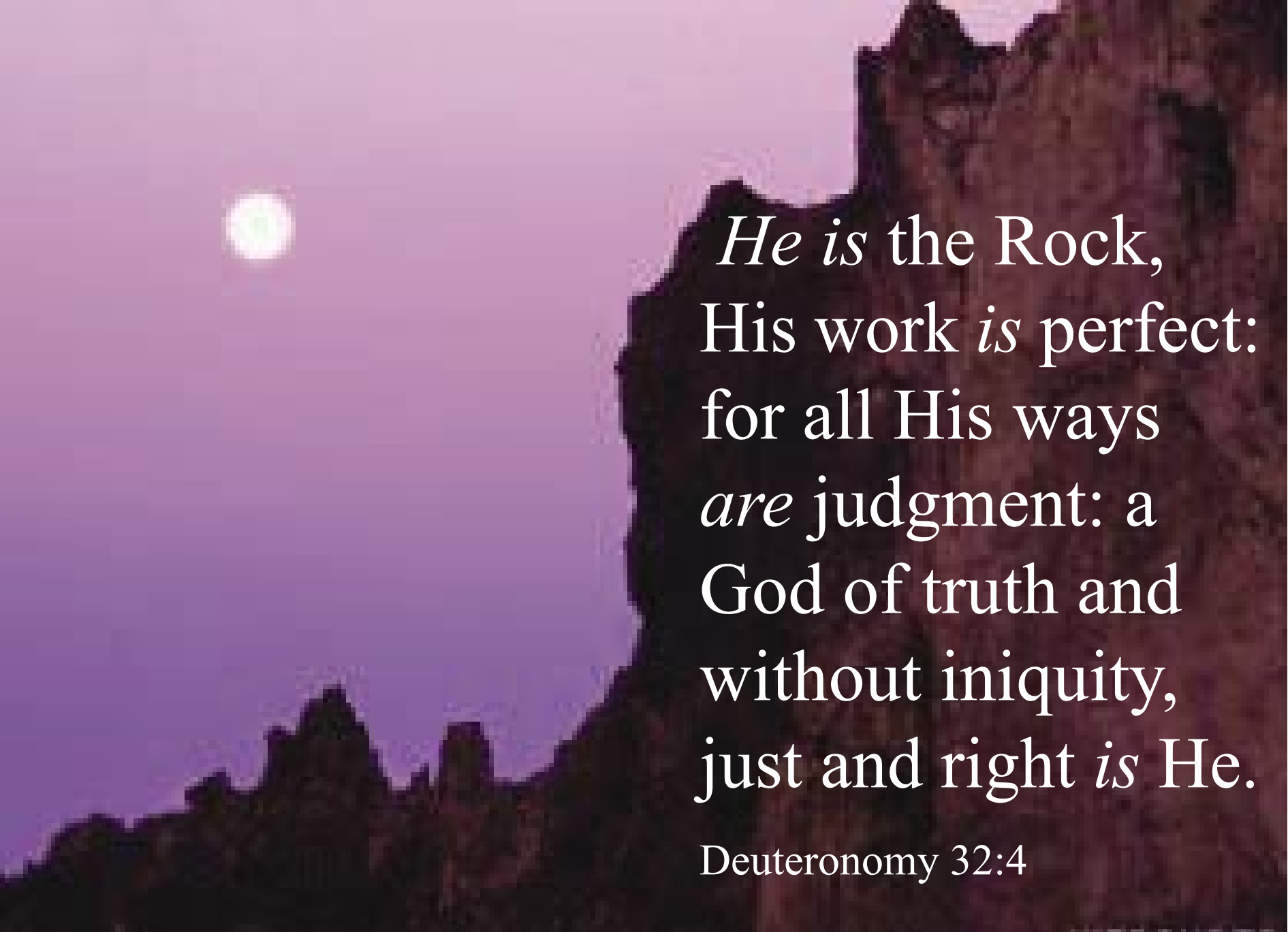
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### Circle Choices

Nights staying over:	Friday Night	Saturday Night	Sunday Night
<b>Sleeping Arrangements Needed:</b>	Room	Tent	RV
<b>Meals:</b>	Saturday Breakfast	Sunday Breakfast	Monday Breakfast
	Saturday Lunch	Sunday Lunch	Monday Lunch
	Saturday Dinner	Sunday Dinner	

*Special Requests or Needs:*



*He is the Rock,  
His work is perfect:  
for all His ways  
are judgment: a  
God of truth and  
without iniquity,  
just and right is He.*

Deuteronomy 32:4

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