



The Pilgrim News

September 2013

Volume 63, Number 8

"There go the ships:"

—Psalm 104:26a

"Holiness Unto The Lord"



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EDITORIAL . . .

Rev. Paul Case
Conference President



“MOVING FORWARD”

Our walk with the Lord is one of progression as we follow His leading set forth in the Bible and then the inner persuasion of the Holy Spirit, Who will not allow anyone to fall if they listen closely. There are all manner of voices which try to attract one's attention to delay, defeat, discourage, or destroy our faith in God. We must rise above and move forward in the graces of the Lord to overcome and withstand what could send us to defeatism — and finally quit — which would gain us nothing. Be a good soldier of the Lord Jesus, stand firm and yes, take a step forward in faith, believing God will see us through the darkest of times as we strive to remain His faithful servants.

The admonition of the apostle in writing to the Ephesians in chapter 6 gives us a variety of things which, if followed, will enable us to “move forward” in our walk with the Lord. The progression of the apostle's thought concerning the whole scope of the Christian life of these Ephesian Christians is very similar to our present day regarding family and church-related needs. So his words in verse 13, “wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day,” should be the basis of our dependence upon the Lord and will enable us to move forward as directed by either the Word of God or the Holy Spirit prompting of our inner man. To be on the move for God and holiness should be the highest thoughts and actions of our living. The results of our dedication to the Lord will show in our adherence to what is written for our reading, studying, and living as we advance in our personal experience of salvation. Grace does not stand still as we follow its instruction; it will move us forward to new steps of faith and open to us avenues which will place us closer to our eternal goal of Heaven. Heaven is just a step away from where we are at any given mo-

ment in life, if we have taken the admonition of the scripture and applied it to our lives, “moving forward” to reach our goal.

Let me share another thought as we consider the subject of “moving forward.” It takes courage to be at times the only one who values his walk with the Lord as the most important place to live. Being in a crowd of believers does not make it as hard to voice your position as it would if you were in a place by yourself and then were asked the question of your faith. But if we practice daily our walk with the Lord and have settled it in our heart that we will be true regardless of what others say or do then the force of the apostle's words will give us the stamina we need according to the end of verse 13: “and having done all, to stand.” What you believe in your heart as a Christian will help you to either stand or to suffer defeat when the testing time comes. I believe that is why it is emphasized so strongly in verses 10–18a, so that whoever reads it will find the answer to give courage for holding fast to their faith in any personal experience.

I further believe that the events and the world situations that arise all around us point to the fact that we, like Christians in other countries, will be called upon for our faith. Will we stand or crumble under the oppression that may come? The stronger the rise of Satanic forces of evil, and the less practice of Christian principles, the more we are unarmed to withstand in our day. The Bible states clearly signs that will usher in terrible oppressions of wickedness and evil activity which will stop at nothing to destroy the faith, as well as the believer. Study the parts of the “armour” listed in the text prayerfully, asking the Lord if you have them in place for the protection you need now, and what you will need in the future. We should be on the alert for the things which are around us with subtle influences that are often un-

noticed, and yet have a silent effect upon our living. Pray that the Holy Spirit shall ever keep us awake to the danger of being hindered in "moving forward" in our walk with the Lord. Keep our spiritual eyes set on the things of eternal worth and look up, because life's day will soon be passed; we shall see Him for Whom we have looked and will be ready to be received in to His Kingdom forever and forever. Praise His Wonderful Name!

One further thought is that we are creatures who are not just at a standstill, but we move forward in the pursuit of daily living. All the while it seems just mundane living, marking time and place in our lives.

But, it behooves us to watch carefully what we allow to occupy our minds and fill the space of time while we daily march forward in life. Watchfulness and careful planning will save us from suffering defeat or spiritual loss, which are the result of doing nothing about seeing the dangers which lay in wait to ruin our faith. Every step forward should be carefully planned, lest we falter in "moving forward" and suffer some loss of spiritual life that we vitally need daily. You need it and I need it, sometimes more than we think!

Blessings as you journey toward that everlasting City of our God and Savior. 🏰

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My calendars
Other calendars

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September 23-28, 2013

Sunday School Emphasis Week

October 5, 2013

Annual Sunday School Rally Day

October 11, 2013

Bi-monthly Conference-wide Day of Prayer and Fasting

November 5-7, 2013

Interchurch Holiness Convention (IHC) in Schenectady, NY

November 24, 2013

November Self-Denial Offering for Foreign Missions

December 13, 2013

Bi-monthly Conference-wide Day of Prayer and Fasting

January 15, 2014

Last date for proposed Discipline changes to the Polity Committee

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Conference News and Notes . . .

Linesville Vacation Bible School

God still answers prayers! For our Vacation Bible School this year, Sr. Kelly Crouch from Utica, PA came and presented the theme "Jesus the Good Shepherd." Throughout the week we had several who expressed a desire to ask Jesus into their hearts! The children had fun hearing Bible stories and a character story, singing new songs, playing review games, doing Bible drills and enjoying a snack each day.

This was one of the best VBS efforts we have ever had in terms of attendance, response and behavior of the children. We averaged 18 children per day, with our biggest day being 21. The children's ages ranged from infant to 16. We had five new children come that had never be-



fore been to our church, and three have said that they will begin attending our Sunday school.

We want to thank the Lord for answering our prayers and giving us a great week of Vacation Bible School. We also want to thank the Holiness Advancement Foundation for making our VBS possible this year.

—Submitted by Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Clark

Judith Carol Hunter, 1939–2013

Judith Carol Hunter, born November 13, 1939 in Eden, NY, daughter of Edwin and Winifred Norton, entered into eternal rest the 30th day of July, 2013. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Rev. Lee J. Hunter of Donna, TX, and their children Matthew (Nancy) Hunter of Mitchell, SD; Naomi (Douglas) Smith of Albion, MT; Miriam (Kenneth) Fultz of Sunbury, PA; one sister, Margaret Geise, of Grand Rapids, MI; one brother, John F. Horton, of Charlotte, NC; fifteen grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Sr. Hunter was a missionary to the Spanish-speaking people of Texas and Mexico for 43 years, serving along side of her husband as pastor's wife, Sunday school teacher, church pianist, church treasurer, Bible school cook, colporteur, and prayer warrior, while also maintaining correspondence with a large group of people all over the country.

—Submitted by her husband, Rev. Lee Hunter

See the left side of page 2 for ways to get your news to the editors.

LIVING FOR GOD

... after the mountain experience

“Like a mighty army, moves the church of God.” How we could sing that song at our camp meeting! In case you’ve never been fortunate enough to attend camp, it is a time when fellow believers from various areas around the state and even the nation come together to a central location to worship God. It is an encouraging time when the ranks are swollen and one realizes that the church triumphant is much larger than the smaller numbers of our local churches. It takes faith to remember the true church of God is alive and well when we go back to our smaller, plodding churches. It reminds me of the time that Jesus and His disciples Peter, James and John went up onto the mount. As they were there, Jesus was transfigured and Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Christ. There was such a sense of the glory of God that Peter suggested that they build three tabernacles and just stay there. Christ knew that was not good, for there was work for them to do back in the valley.

In I Kings 19, we are told of Elijah at a time when he was discouraged and God was teaching him a lesson. A great strong wind rent the mountains, an earthquake shook mightily, and a fire raged, but he sensed that God was not in any of these demonstrations. Then a still small voice spoke and God’s presence was revealed to Elijah through the words spoken. Again, big events may be impressive, but remember that God will at times come in a quiet, small way and do His greatest works.

Sometimes after a great thing is done, a smaller, quieter thing seems vain and unprofitable. Jesus often ministered to small groups, and seemed to have the greatest impact under those circumstances. Many will run after the loaves and fishes, and the miracles; they will follow the crowd. But many also are the groups of one and two, and more, that Jesus has made special effort to minister to because they were hungry to learn of Him.

Naaman was a leper who was referred to the prophet Elisha for cleansing. After traveling many miles he did not see the prophet, but a messenger was sent to Naaman telling him that Elisha said to go dip seven times in the river Jordan and he would be healed. Naaman was angry, thinking the rivers back home were cleaner and better than here. His servant reminded him that if the prophet would have given a big ritual, or had given him some hard mission to do, that he no doubt would have done it. He just felt insulted by the “littleness” of attention, and the small deed he was required to do. When he agreed to obey and take the humble route of dipping seven times in the dirty Jordan, he was healed!

There is a great Christian song that says, “Little is much, when God is in it.” When you return to your home church after camp meeting, a big concert, a seminar, or whatever large “mount of transfiguration” you may have attended, remember God is still in control and longs to meet with His people, even though it may be a smaller group and not such a large fanfare. Much of God’s great and lasting work is accomplished in these settings. Don’t get discouraged, but continue to live for God and serve Him in the smaller group, expecting great things from Him.

—by Rev. Larry Major

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FAREWELL, TO A LABOR OF LOVE

About a year ago, I indicated to our Conference President that I would prefer to be relieved of the editing and layout duties for the Pilgrim News. I requested that a willing replacement be found, and that search recently concluded, for the time being.

In preparing to say goodbye, I looked back at several old papers. Recently, I acquired many years of archived Pilgrim News issues from Bro. Charles Ginter, as he was preparing to move to PA. Due to my birthday being last month, I sought out the August 1966 copy, locating it quite quickly thanks to Bro. Ginter's fine organizational habits! In addition to announcing my arrival, it contained three other birth announcements, four main articles, detailed news updates submitted from 15 different churches, an obituary, the evangelists' slate, the Sunday School report for July 1966, a Labor Day Youth Rally announcement, and several other brief snippets to fill the six pages of available space. I also looked at some of the early issues that were published from my designs; my first digital issue, November 2004, was a 12-page paper that had a missionary editorial, a brief report and some comments from the September 2004 Sunday School Seminar, some calendar reminders, three double-page spreads with many pictures featuring mission works in Brazil, Haiti, and Winnipeg, respectively, the required 2003-04 postal report, our evangelists' slate, one birth announcement, two brief, personal notes of interest from churches, a "thank you" to the HAF, a subscription reminder, and an announcement of the 2004 Self Denial Offering. However, though that was my first digital issue, it was really my second round of such responsibility...

While I was growing up, my father, Rev. Kendall C. Straight, Jr., owned and operated a small, turn-of-the-century (from the 19th to the 20th, mind you!) letterpress print shop. Some of my earliest memories revolve around that shop, the name of which was "The Pilgrim Press." You see, although dad took in some supplement to his pastoral income through that shop, its true purpose was to be a vehicle through which God could be glorified. Over many years of existence, thousands and thousands of copies of The Pilgrim News, church revival announcements, Annual Conference Minutes, church and Conference letterhead, and other assorted printed goods went out the doors. The last several years of his work included printing funeral cards and folders for several local funeral homes, which was a steady supply of decently paying work that benefited the family budget and also constantly reminded us of the brevity of life. Because of that obligation, it was in that shop where I printed the cards for my nephew Rick's funeral, something my father requested of me to save him the added stress after that family loss. As my last act in a shop that had been much less active following Dad's waning health over nearly a year and a half, I printed cards with his name on them as well, in July 1995. When Mom passed away in late 1998, though Dad's shop had been closed for over three years, and the funeral homes had taken over their own printing duties with computers and desktop printers, I requested to make a special card for my mother, feeling that it somehow gave me a better sense of closure in my grief.

I distinctly remember a tabbed manila folder on which were written the words, "Finished Work." When a job was complete, Dad would take

a fresh copy of the product off the stack, placing it carefully in that folder so billing could be done accurately; he sometimes wrote details of the job on the back, since prompt billing was not his specialty! In truth, he was not always prompt with desired production time lines, but it was generally because of his generosity with time and consideration given to others, not careless tardiness. In fact, when he and Mom would sit down to write bills, usually because they had some payments that needed attention themselves, I clearly remember the process. Not infrequently, Dad would dictate details of a job, perhaps for a church or a fellow minister, while Mom would write them on a blank statement; ironically, he rarely had printed products for himself! Then he'd pause, perhaps pensively rubbing his ear with one hand while holding the item from the "Finished Work" folder in the other, and he'd say something like this, "They're having a pretty tough time right now — just mark that one 'Paid in Full,' with today's date." And Mom would sigh, sometimes audibly, as she did what he requested, knowing that our bills were still due. We who were observing that scene learned more than we could have ever imagined about what service truly means.

So from my pre-school years onward, I would sit at our kitchen table with the rest of the family each month, collating hundreds of pieces of folded, printed paper together, getting "The Pilgrim News" ready to mail. It was six or eight pages long, and mostly text, since printing pictures was more expensive, and the resultant quality in a letterpress environment was not great. There was a lot of content in those pages, as I've previously mentioned!

Well, that's quite enough nostalgia — today, this periodical is constructed digitally on the computer screen, using Adobe InDesign, industry standard publishing software. After the pages have been properly filled, draft-printed, proofed, and corrected, a press-ready file is sent electronically to Country Pines Printing, where the paper is then printed, assembled, and bulk-mailed in a largely automated environment. A few days later, the final results show up in your respective mailboxes.

When Bro. Myers preached my father's funeral sermon, he used the words that I've included on the cover of this, my final issue: "There go the ships," from the beginning of Psalm 104:26. There's no doubt that emotional reminiscing about my parents as I worked on this issue prompted that decision; but, it also seemed fitting as I turn this "helm" over to new personnel. In the self-introduction I included back in December 2004, I wrote these words: "I believe the mission of this paper goes far beyond our glossy stock, color covers, and full-bleed capability — this publication could plant a seed within the heart of an individual, causing a subsequent search for meaning that could ultimately lead to that soul following Christ! What an awesome responsibility!" I still believe those words! I'm saddened that the number of pages has diminished in the time I've done this work; I simply could not maintain more regular streams of new content, and time did not allow me to go back to historical archives as often as I would have liked.

Bro. Montgomery and Bro. Samborski, may God richly bless you as you now assume this responsibility. May He bless this periodical to the saving of souls in preparation for His return, and may He bless the Pilgrim Holiness Church of New York, Inc. —DCS



Evangelists' Slate

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