NEWSLETTER 2021-7

To: MY Fellow Saints and Friends

Date: December 21, 2021

Re: "Never Alone!"

My Beloved Brothers, Sisters and Friends, the enclosed was laid on my heart some months ago and I pray that you will be richly blessed. No matter what challenges that are ahead of us, God is above all odds and circumstances and He has guaranteed that we will never be alone!

The following I am quoting from a wall-plaque here at home:

FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times during the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your time of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

The beauty of the Christmas message is still with us despite the continued, all-out efforts to commercialized and distract from what the heart of the Christmas message conveys to the world. Many have become so adjusted to a way that is not only inconsistent with the established standards of God's Word but has led to chaos, compromise and the catastrophic conditions of the world . . . sin is still a reproach! (Prov. 14:34).

Too many do not know what are the significances and objectives of the Christian's special days of celebration (especially Christmas and Easter). The birth of Jesus Christ holds particularly special meaning for us, for example: Jesus Christ overcame all odds, making it possible for us to be overcomers (Rom. 8:37). Christ was able to live and endure this world in human form, He taught, demonstrated love for others and pointed them to the Father. He conquered death hell and the grave and is coming back again!!

I will not be able to go in full details in regards to the subject for this presentation but will commit it all in God's hands; as noted above our topic is "Never Alone!!" This is an essential part of the Christmas message and is seen in Isa. 7:14, a prophecy made approximately 700 years before Christ's incarnation (John 1:14). Isaiah's prophecy was not only for the Old Testament people but for all people (example Matt. 1:18-25, NB v. 23; also Luke 2. NB Vv. 8-11).

It's obvious that so many are too busy, especially with self, that they cannot see the needs all around them, challenging them day after day. It is more like The Jewish leaders who saw a fellow Jew robbed, beaten and left to die but they were more focused on their personal agenda than to render acts of mercy and love (Luke 10:21-37, NB Vv. 30-37). The times are challenging; we understand and reach out with God's love; this is our assurance, no matter what our experiences are, we are not forsaken, Jesus has come! He sticks closer than a brother!!

The Song: Come unto Me (Partial quote)

I hear the blessed Savior calling the oppressed, "O ye heavy-laden, come to Me and Rest; Come, no longer tarry, I your load will bear, Bring me every burden, bring me ev'ry care."

<u>Refrain</u>

Come unto Me, I will give you rest; Take My yoke upon you, hear Me and be blest; I am meek and lowly, come and trust My might; Come, My yoke is easy, and My burden light.

Beloved, because of the coming of Jesus Christ we are **"Never Alone!"** No matter the situations that confronts us . . . **we are not alone! Matt. 1:23:** ". . . they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us."

"God with us. He is God manifested in human flesh. The word 'Emmanuel' is not a name or title. It is a descriptive term. It characterizes a person. Jesus is Emmanuel: God with us, God revealed in human flesh (cp. Isa. 1:26; 9:6; John 1:1, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19; 1 John 1:2)." (POSB)

A. Coming of the Promised One Matt. 1:22-23

As it relates to our need for salvation, man was and is unable to deliver himself from the bondage of sin. The importance of the virgin birth cannot be overemphasized. In order for our Redeemer to qualify to pay for our sins and bring salvation, He had to meet certain criteria: He had to be fully human and He had to be sinless and fully divine (Heb. 7:25-26). The virgin birth satisfies all these requirements and a way was made for our salvation!

The birth of Jesus Christ brings into effect a Reformation (John 3:17-21).
 The world that Christ came into was dark, dreadful and hopeless because of sin.
 God's purpose, in sending His Son, was not to condemn but to save and to give eternal life. Nevertheless, we put ourselves under condemnation when we refuse to believe in Him. We cut ourselves off from the source of life . . . we all need Jesus!

A chaotic and troubled world points to the reality that man's most essential need is missing. Many people do not want their lives exposed to Gods light (John 3:19) because they are afraid of what will be revealed. They do not want to be changed! Irrespectively that change is compulsory and available through Jesus Christ; to reject is to deny self of the only way to a better life and with the hope of eternity with God.

2. The birth of Jesus Christ means the **Realization** of a long awaited promise (Col. 1:27). The "mystery" (v. 26) refers to the long awaited promise of the "Redeemer." This promise was made when Adam and Eve fell by transgression (Gen. 3:15 and through the centuries it was highly anticipated.

The Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ was not known in the world until it was **revealed** in Jesus Christ. The **"mystery"** is **Christ living in us** whether Jews or Gentiles. Oh, Beloved! Despite all the difficulties, **Jesus Christ in us is the hope of glory!** Definitely, we are "... born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:3 ESV).

Thomas Nelson notes:

"Hope' means 'certainty of the future,' that is; for a Christian it is the joyful and confident expectation of salvation 'Glory' here refers to the glorious state to be enjoyed by the believer in heaven. Thus the hope of glory refers to the certainty of heaven. The Christ life character, virtues, values, thoughts, attitudes and deeds present in a Christian is evidence that he is headed towards glory (heaven)."

"Better Days Are Coming! By and by!!"

3. The birth of Jesus Christ is God's supreme **Revelation** Heb. 1:1-2
God speaking at **various times** and in so many **various ways** shows the incompleteness of the Old Testament revelation. In the Old Testament, God spoke only through those He had inspired, but now He has spoken once for all through His

Son. God spoke to our fathers in the faith, the chosen Israelites but He now speaks to us, their spiritual heirs. The full revelation of God in the Son completes the partial Old Testament revelations and help us to understand them better.

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment and culmination of God's revelation. Because Jesus Christ is supreme over all things, God's Word through Him is full, final complete and to transcends all who were before Him. He is man's final hope; He is God's hand extended in mercy, grace and love!

4. The birth of Jesus Christ assured man's **Redemption** Eph. 1:7.

You may be acquainted with the "Slave Market" illustration that explains "redemption." Briefly noted:

Lost men are the slaves in slave market for sale. Jesus Christ is the One who paid the ransom for the slaves.

- (a) Christ enters the slave market and purchased the slaves in the market.
- (b) He (Christ) then takes them out of the slave market.
- (c) Finally, Christ sets them FREE!!

Matt. 1:21 is a part of the Christmas story! **Jesus Christ came to set the captives free!** Oh! Beloved! <u>He has the power to break EVERY CHAIN, EVERY YOKE!!</u> Absolutely! There is power in the name of Jesus!! He is no longer a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, He is the emancipator!! And who He sets free is free indeed (John 8:32).

We are out of time. Please note two of my other pointers

- 5. The birth of Jesus Christ is the **Ray of hope** (Isa. 9:2; Matt. 4:16).
- 6. The birth of Jesus Christ **Reveals** the true nature of God (John 1:18
- 7. Etc.

Luke 2:10 NKJV

"Then the angel saith to them, Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."

We will not be able to discuss the remaining three main points in details, therefore, I will present some highlights from the remaining first two (main points).

B. Comforter's Presence John 14:15-21

Jesus was promised and for centuries remained the long awaited mystery (Col. 1:26-27). Before His departure Jesus promised that He would send another Comforter. He, the Holy Spirit, is a promise to the Church (John 14:16-18). **He is here for <u>ALL BELIEVERS!!</u>** O spread the tidings round

Wherever man is found,

Wherever human hearts and human woes abound;

Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound:

The Comforter has come!

1. The Holy Spirit Comforts us! (John 14:16)

As Comforter, He encourages or exhorts; He is one called upon to help. Pure and genuine comfort come from God which is made available through the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit understands the deeper things in God's Word (1 Cor. 2:10-12).
 The Holy Spirit knows completely the things of God and His intention for man. The Spirit is thus the effective channel through whom we may receive God's revelation.
- 3. The Holy Spirit enables us to produce the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). The contrast in Gal. 5:16-26 are the acts of the sinful nature in comparison to a single-minded lifestyle called "The Fruit of the Spirit." Here is the indisputable powerful testimony of a genuine Spirit-filled life . . . "The Fruit of the Spirit!" This is produced in God's children as they allow the Holy Spirit to influence and direct their lives enabling them to live victorious lives over sin, be effective witnesses to the glory of God and maintaining fellowship with God!

The following are noted without comments

- 4. The Holy Spirit keeps us in contact with God (1 John 3:24)
 That is how we live obediently to God's established standards!!
- 5. The Holy Spirit guides us into the truth (John 16:13)
- 6. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray more effectively (Rom. 8:26-27)
- 7. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8)

C. Continuous and Comprehensive Caring Psa. 121

Beloved! God's loving care for us is comprehensive, compassionate, continuous and carefully administered to **all** God's people without partiality. As noted above, Isaiah prophesied of Christ's birth approximately 700 years before His incarnation (John 1:14; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25). Various aspects of Christ's ministry have been prophesied by the prophets as well as other Scriptures. When I look at Isa. 61 and Luke 4:18-19, I have seen so much connected to the work of Christ that I agree with the hymn "We Have a Story to Tell to the Nations!" The challenge resonates more and more in my heart, my will, my obedience to God because we do need Him more than ever and those needs are all around us!! Our service must never be personal oriented but God oriented because it is all about Him!!!

As observe for each main point I have included a background references to which others could be added. For Psalm 121, I will list the main points that I have observed and a brief comment.

1. God is our Supporter Psa. 121:1-2

"My help comes from the LORD" (v. 2)

Help does not come from the hills, but from the LORD, the Creator of the hills!

2. God is our Surety Psa. 121:3-4

"He will not allow . . . He who keeps will not . . ." (Vv. 3-4)

He is our eternal "Guardian." God is not like the pagan god who must leave his people unprotected while he sleeps (1 Kings 18:27)

3. God is our Safeguard Psa. 121:5-6

"The LORD is your keeper . . . your shade . . . the sun shall not . . ." (Vv. 5-6)
For all God's children there is **continuous** protection assured against all perils whether they come by **day** or **night**.

4. God is our Shelter Psa. 121:7-8

"Preserve . . . from this time forth and even forevermore." (v. 8)

The divine providence of God is promised not only when going up to the Temple (as it was believed to be the occasion when this psalm was written) but continuously . . . for the entire pilgrimage of our lives!!

As seen in the illustration entitled "FOOTPRINTS", there are times we do feel all alone be we must never panic nor loose hope in our God!! Definitely some experiences are very difficult but "we are NEVER alone!!" God will see us through!!

The ship may be battered and the sails are torn but our anchors hold firmly in Jesus Christ!! Even the boisterous raging winds obeyed Him (Mark 4:35-41)! He is still the same and will calm all troubled situations!!! "You Are Never Alone!!"

No Never Alone

I've seen the lighting flashing and heard the thunder roll; I've felt sin's breakers dashing, trying to conquer my soul; I've heard the voice of Jesus telling me to fight on; He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.

<u>Refrain</u>

No, never alone! No, never alone! He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone; No never alone! No never alone! He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.

The world's fierce winds are blowing, temptations are sharp and keen; I feel a peace in knowing my Savior stands between—
He stands to shield me from danger when earthly friends are gone;
He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone

When in affliction's valley I tread the road of care, My Savior helps me carry the cross so heavy to bear; Though all around me is darkness, earthly joys all flown; My Savior whispers His promise, never to leave me alone!

He died on Calvary's mountain, for me they pierced His side. For me He opened that fountain, the crimson, cleansing tide. For me He waited in glory, seated upon the throne. He promised never to leaving me, never to leave me alone!

Website Update (BRIEFLY)

We have added Psalm 6 along with the Answers for Review Questions. Psalm 7 is in process and you will be informed when it is added. I am in process of trying to present the lessons in Parts A and B. Psalm 1 was presented in two parts but that was a matter of compulsory. At this time, I am making special effort, God helping me, to present the lessons in a more concise way and not compromising the standard of God's Word. Beloved, your continued prayers are still so very important.

As I have stated before, this website is strictly to the glory of God with absolutely no ulterior motive and with God's continued help that is the way we will continue. It is all to the glory of God!

BLESSED AND HOLY SEASON!!

My brothers and sisters –in-the-LORD, as you all celebrate the festive season may you all have a most blessed and wonderful time in your choice of activities. You are always highly appreciated, loved and admired. I am conveying the blessings of God to your entire family irrespective where they are living; they are not out of distance for our prayers!!

I am closing with three quotes:

"God goes to those who have time to hear him – and so on this cloudless night He went to simple shepherds." (Max Lucado)

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts" (Janice Maeditere)

"And that, of course is the message of Christmas. We are **never alone**. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent." (Taylor Caldwell)

God richly bless you and your entire family!!

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