

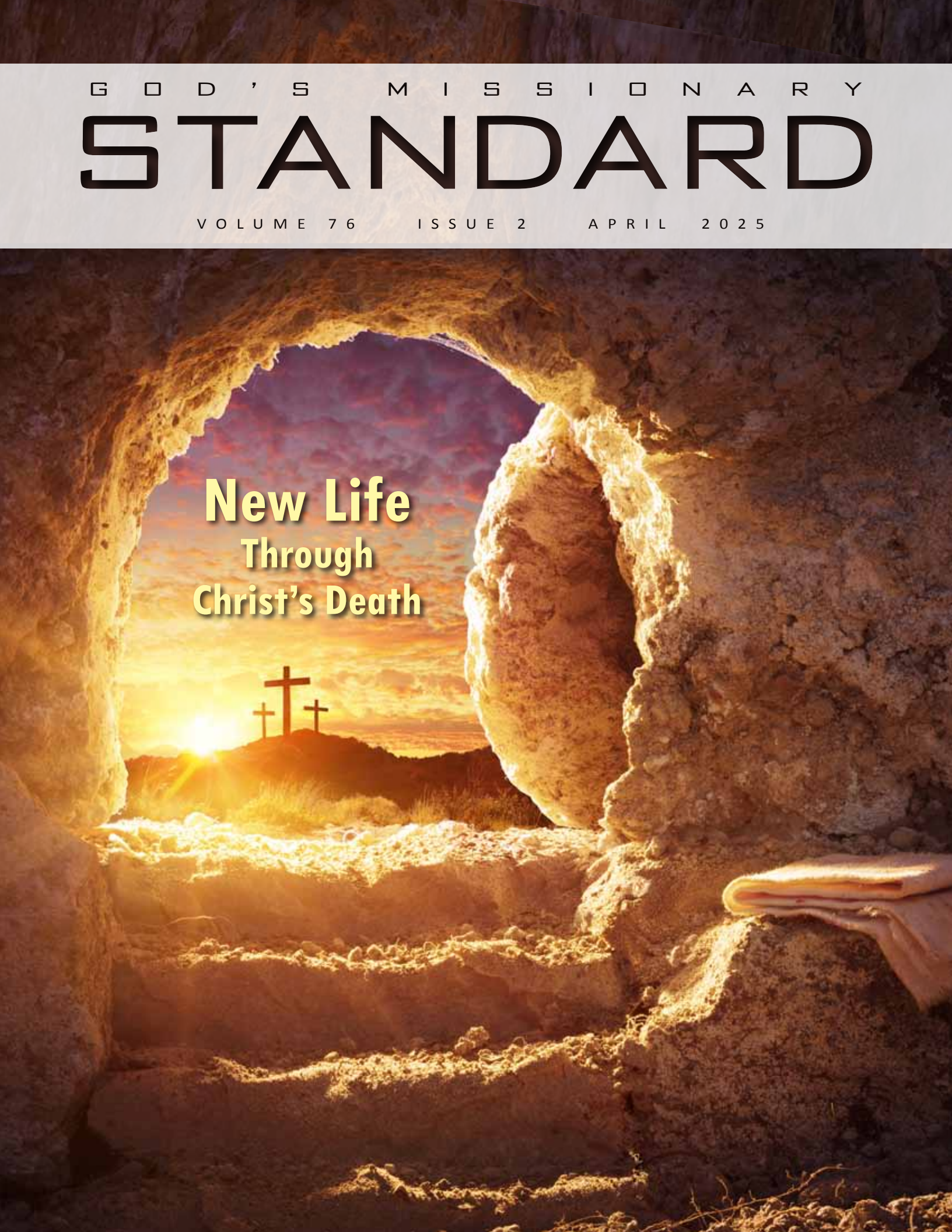
G O D ' S M I S S I O N A R Y

STANDARD

VOLUME 76

ISSUE 2

APRIL 2025



**New Life
Through
Christ's Death**



Dr. Brian Black

New Life through Christ Jesus

In winter everything seems so dead. The plant world shows no life. People often stay inside and hibernate until warmer weather comes. Yet, there is the promise of spring. Trees that have seemed dead all winter begin swelling with sap and putting forth leaves. Grass turns green and comes back to life. Spring is an exciting time. New life replaces that which seemed dead.

Similarly, in the spiritual realm, the world was dead in sin and without hope. Yet, there was the promise given by the prophets of a coming Savior that would deliver from sin and death and bring new life. It was in the springtime when Jesus came forth from the tomb, declaring victory over death. It is this promise of life that is given to the Christian. Thus, Paul cries out that “death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? . . . But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Co. 15:54-57) He has come that we might have life and might have it more abundantly. (Jn. 10:10)

The very purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ was to “save his people from their sins.” (Mt 1:21) Christ came to “destroy the works of the devil” (1Jo. 3:8) which had caused sin and death. The final goal of Jesus was to present “to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Eph. 5:27) Christ has totally overcome and destroyed sin and we must claim complete victory through His blood.

Salvation radically transforms an individual’s life. Scripture says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2Co. 5:17) If a person cannot live victoriously as a Christian, it is because he lacks the sufficient grace and power of God since “His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.” (2Pe. 1:3) This spring as we celebrate the new season and the death and resurrection of Christ, let us each apply the power of the new life through Christ to every aspect of our lives. ☑

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Web www.godsmissionarystandard.com
Facebook facebook.com/gmstandard
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Editor **Brian Black**

Assistant Editor **Paul Ryan**

Advisors **Timothy Cooley, Sr.,
Matt Kilgore, Jamison Plank**

Business Manager **Shane Walter**

Design **Heidi Hoffman**

Printing **Country Pines Printing**

News & Articles **Brian Black**
godsmissionarychurchstandard@gmail.com

Subscriptions & Address Change **Shane Walter**
29424 Connelly Mill Road
Delmar, MD 21875



God's Missionary Church

Conference President **Jacob Martin**
216 Schoch Street
Middleburg, PA 17842
jacobmartin@juno.com

Vice President **Jeremy Fuller**
jfuller@embarqmail.com

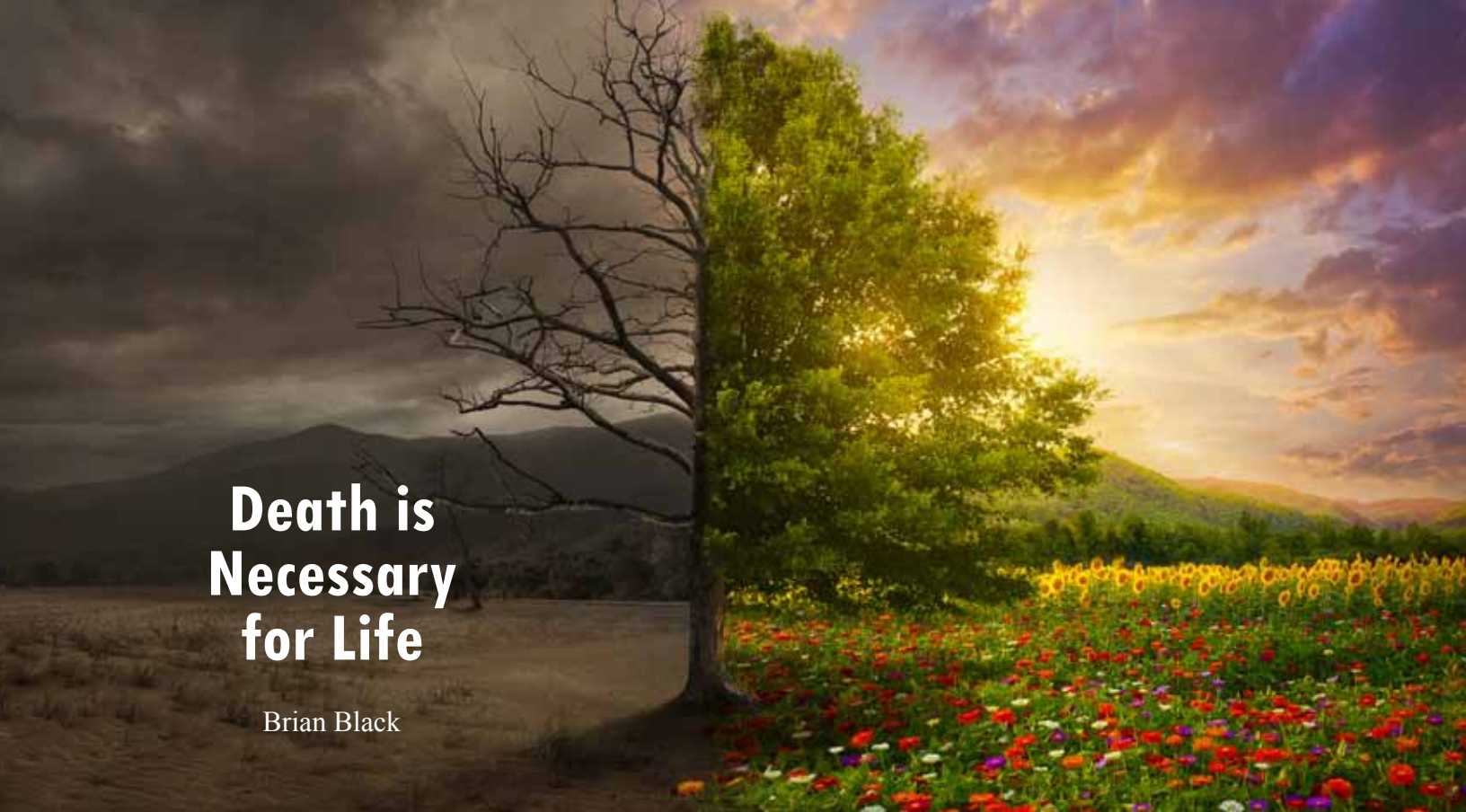
Secretary **John Zechman**
jwzechman@pvbi.edu

Treasurer **Alan Walter**
alankwaller@gmail.com

Bookkeeper **Rob Dicken**
rdicken2002@gmail.com

Home Missions Director **Jeremy Fuller**
jfuller@embarqmail.com

World Missions Director **José Cancio**
joserecancio@gmail.com



Death is Necessary for Life

Brian Black

Life in Christ is based upon our death with Him on the cross and the application of His resurrection power to our lives. It is through the power of His blood that the sin which has corrupted every individual of Adam's race may be destroyed. Each person must apply the blood of Christ to his own personal need. As Paul stated, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20). Through Christ we must crucify the old man and put to death the body of sin and reckon ourselves dead to sin, but alive unto God (Rom. 6:6,11).

If we live in Christ, the old man must die. If the old man lives, it will destroy us and we will die spiritually. There is no common ground in the middle. God will either have all of us or He will accept none of us. We can never compromise on the promise of life through Christ.

This truth of the necessity of undergoing death for eternal life can be illustrated by Caligula, a Roman emperor (37-41) considered by many of his contemporaries to be crazy. In four short years he brought the empire to the point of collapse. Had he continued to live, the empire would have died. He rapidly spent the entire large surplus in the state treasury accumu-

lated by the previous emperor. He then used extortion to confiscate the estates of leading Roman citizens. He restored trials for treason and began killing anyone he wished or who might be a threat to his power. He engaged in a number of imprudent acts such as building a bridge of boats to cross the Bay of Naples just to prove he could ride his horse across. He is accused of making his favorite horse a senator and a consul. He marched the army to the English Channel in preparation for an invasion of Britain, but then ordered the men to collect seashells as the spoils of war

from conquering an ocean.

While it is debated whether some of these insane acts actually occurred, the reality was that the empire was crashing. Either Caligula died or the empire died. Because Caligula was assassinated, the empire survived.

In just the same way the inherited nature of sin must be put to death or it will eventually destroy us.

The inherited nature of sin must be put to death or it will eventually destroy us.

Effective ministry also depends upon dying to self and being reborn through Christ. John 12:24 states, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abi-

continued on **page 10**

New Life through Prayer

From *The Power of Prayer* by R.A. Torrey

“Ye have not, because ye ask not.” - James 4:2

A message from God is contained in those seven short words. . . . These seven words contain the secret of the poverty and powerlessness of the average Christian, of the average minister, and of the average church. “Why is it,” many a Christian is asking, “that I make such poor progress in my Christian life? Why do I have so little victory over sin? Why do I win so few souls to Christ? Why do I grow so slowly into the likeness of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?” And God answers in the words of our text: “Neglect of prayer. You have not, because you ask not.”

“Why is it,” many a minister is asking, “that I see so little fruit from my ministry? Why are there so few conversions? Why does my church grow so slowly? Why are the members of my church so little helped by my ministry, and built up so little in Christian knowledge and life?” And again God replies: “Neglect of prayer. You have not, because you ask not.”

“Why is it,” both ministers and churches are asking, “that the church of Jesus Christ is making such slow progress in the world today? Why does it make so little headway against sin, against unbelief, against error in all its forms? Why does it have so little victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil? Why is the average church member living on such a low plane of Christian living? Why does the Lord Jesus Christ get so little honor from the state of the church today?” And, again, God replies: “Neglect of prayer. You have not, because you ask not.”

When we read the only inspired church history that was ever written, the history of the early church as it recorded by Luke (under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) in the Acts of the Apostles, what do we find? We find a story of constant victory, a story of perpetual progress. We read, for example, such statements as this in Acts 2:47, “The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved;” and such statements as this in Acts 4:4, “Many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand;” and such statements as this in Acts 5: 14, “And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.”

And such statements as this in Acts 6:7, “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

So we can go on, chapter after chapter, through the book, and in every one of the twenty-seven chapters after the first we find the same note of victory. I once went through the Acts of the Apostles marking the notes of victory, and without one single exception the triumphant shout of victory rang out in every chapter. How different the history of the church as here recorded is from the history of the church of Jesus Christ today. Take for example, that first statement, “The Lord added to the church daily ...those that were be-



ing saved.” Why, today if we have a revival once a year with an accession of fifty or sixty members and spend all the rest of the year slipping back to where we were before, we think we are doing pretty well. But in those days there was a revival all the time and accessions every day of those who not only “hit the trail” but were (really) “being saved.”

Why this difference between the early church and the church of Jesus Christ today? Someone will answer, “because there is so much opposition today.” Ah, but there was opposition in those days; most bitter, most determined, most relentless opposition, opposition in comparison with which you and I meet today is but child's play. But the early church went right on beating down all opposition, surmounting every obstacle, conquering every foe, always victorious, right on without a setback from Jerusalem to Rome, in the face of the most firmly entrenched and most mighty heathenism and unbelief. I repeat the question, “Why was it?” If you will turn to the chapters to which I have already referred, you will get your answer.

Turn, for example, to Acts 2:42, “And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.” That is a very brief but very suggestive picture of the early church. It was a praying church. It was a church in which they prayed not merely occasionally, but where they all “continued steadfastly . . . in the prayers.” They all prayed, not a select few, but the whole membership of the church; and all prayed continuously with steadfast determination. “They gave themselves to prayer,” as the same Greek word is translated in Acts 6:4. Now turn to 6:4, and you will get the rest of your answer: “We will give ourselves continually to prayer.” That is a picture of the apostolic ministry—it was a praying ministry, and a ministry in which they “gave themselves continually to prayer,” or, to translate that Greek word as it is translated in the former passage (Acts 2:42), “They continued steadfastly in prayer.” A praying church and a praying ministry! Ah, such a church and such a ministry can achieve anything that ought to be achieved. It will go steadily on, beating down all opposition, surmounting every obstacle, conquering every foe, just as much today as it did in the days of the apostles.

There is nothing else in the church of today, and the ministry of today, or, to be more explicit, in which you and I have departed more notably and more lamentably from apostolic precedent than in this matter of prayer. We do not live in a praying age. A considerable proportion of the membership of our evangelical churches today do not believe even theoretically in prayer; that is, they do not believe in prayer as bringing anything to pass that would not have come to pass even if they had not prayed. . . .

And with that part of our church membership that does believe in prayer theoretically – and thank God I believe it is still the vast majority in our evangelical churches – even they do not make the use of this mighty instrument that God has put into our hands that one would naturally expect. As I said, we do not live in a praying age. We live in an age of hustle and bustle, of man's efforts and man's determination, of man's confidence in himself and in his own power to achieve things, an age of human organization, and human machinery, and human push, and human scheming, and human achievement. In the things of God this means no real achievement at all. I think it would be perfectly safe to say that the church of Christ was never in all its history so

We neglect to look to God for power.

fully and so skillfully and so thoroughly and so perfectly organized as it is today. Our machinery is wonderful, it is just perfect; but alas, it is machinery without power; and when things do not go right, instead of going to the real source of our failure, our neglect to depend upon God and to look to God for power, we look around to see if there is not some new organization we can set up, some new wheel that we can add to our machinery. We have altogether too many wheels already. What we need is not so much some new organization, some new wheel, but “the Spirit of the living creature in the wheels” which we already possess.

Prayer has as much power today, when men and women are themselves on praying ground and meeting the conditions of prevailing prayer, as it has ever had. God has not changed; continued on page 10

Florida Camp 2025

The excitement about this year's camp was felt by us all. There were three new pastoral families that stayed on the campgrounds—God has answered our prayers! The dorms were full, the RV area looked great, and the attendance at camp was as high as I can remember. The fellowship with God and each other is always special at our camp.

God's Missionary Youth Crusaders President, Rev. Daren Fisher, and his wife, Christina, came down to camp to focus on our young people. There were three nights of special youth devotions, along with activities from Tuesday through Friday afternoons. Board games, volleyball, ping pong, dodgeball, soccer, and mixed-up versions of some of these were enjoyed. Of course, some of the other adults—and even some of the older ones, like Bro. Wilmer Paulus and myself—got in on some of the action. It's like a big family. As Bro. Harry Plank would say a few times, the fellowship outside is special. You'll see a lot of bikes being ridden by children, teens, and even a few older ones. Golf carts and tractor rides are always special.

The new thing this year was Bro. Jim West overseeing the children and a few teens safely wood splitting with a hammer and a mallet. The fellowship in the dining hall during meals, and afterward in the snack shop, was excellent. A special thanks goes to the Spanglers, Hoovers, and a lot of other helpers. The campfires sometimes included instrument playing and singing—always accompanied by fellowship and prayer.

The spiritual impact of this was seen in our services. God used Pastor Ryan Martin and his family to minister to our children. God settled down in a special way during their services. God's people testified and worshipped our God. Some sought God around an altar of prayer. One morning, people started to share life verses, and God came in a powerful way. God's promises are true!

Rev. Harry Plank, Rev. Darrell Stetler, and Paul Stetler preached excellent truths from God's Word. The singing from the Stetlers was anointed. We appreciated the excellent youth messages by Rev. Alan Christner, Rev. Ryan Martin, and Rev. Scott Hartman. The chalk drawings on the last Sunday of camp by Bro. Andy Heinzelman and Bro. Ryan Martin really added to our Lord's Day worship!

We believe if Jesus tarries, He is going to continue to use our camp for His glory! ❏



God's Missionary Foreign Missions

By Jose R. Cancio



United States President Ronald Reagan once said, “There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit.” We can certainly apply this concept to the work our Commander in Chief Jesus Christ gave us to do before He ascended into heaven. He said to His disciples, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” And although we see examples in the New Testament of how the Gospel was spread throughout the world, Jesus Himself did not leave us with specific methods to accomplish this task. Our organization is not focused on empire building, and the World Missions Department has adopted the policy that if God opens a door in any part of the world to spread the message of holiness, as long as we have the means and the manpower, we will lock arms with that person or that organization to accomplish this task.

Besides what we consider our mission works in Brazil, Belize, Cuba, Haiti, and the Miami Hispanic Mission, we are partnering with the prison ministry of Simon Kuman in Papua New Guinea and the ministry of Pastor Shenouda Sami in Egypt. Simon Kuman, a graduate of Penn View, ministers in the prison system in PNG’s capital, Port Moresby. Brother Simon preaches to hundreds of male and female inmates every week, and hundreds have found Christ as their Savior. He also teaches/trains them using Shepherds Global Classroom material. In one instance when a female inmate was released from prison, she attended Bible school and now is back at the prison ministering to other women. We have invested several thousand dollars in this ministry, and we will continue to do so as the Lord supplies.

We are also partnering with Pastor Shenouda in Egypt. Pastor Shenouda is a member of the Free Methodist Church in Egypt and has been enlightened to the fact that scriptural holiness is a necessity. He pastors a church in Cairo, where we have visited, and he is responsible for the translation into Arabic and distribution of thousands of holiness books. The God’s Missionary Church World Missions Department supports this ministry with our finances and by our preaching when we visit.

continued on **page 9**



Preaching to Cubans



Egyptian church



Egyptian church leaders



Haitian graduates





Theological Thoughts

Regeneration and Suppression

Adapted from *The Old Man* by E. G. Marsh, former GBS president

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. PSALM 119:105

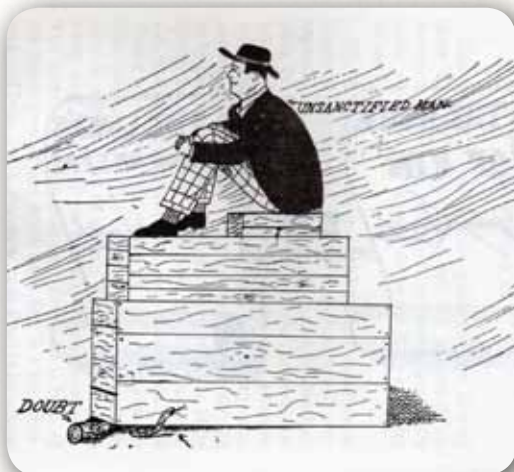
God is love. Love always plans for the best of those who are loved. Through the marvelous atonement, provision has been graciously and fully made whereby man may be delivered from carnality or the old man.

The first step in this great deliverance is the experience of regeneration. After a contrite heart truly repents, salvation is possible by a simple heartfelt faith in Jesus, the Lamb of God. Saving faith has been defined as "An act of venturing trust whereby one believes in his heart that God, for Christ's sake, pardons all his sins." "Regeneration may be defined to be that moral change in man, wrought by the Holy Spirit, by which he is saved from the love, the practice, and the dominion of sin, and enabled, with full choice of will and the energy of right affections, to love God and keep His commandments." Regeneration is a great work of grace. The penitent soul is freely and fully forgiven every sin ever committed. The heart is radically changed. One who is born of the Spirit passes from death unto life, is a new creature in Christ Jesus, has peace with God, is free from condemnation, loves the brethren, loves and forgives his enemies, has righteousness and peace and joy, has the witness of the Spirit, loves the Word and prayer and the things of God, has victory over sins, has the old man suppressed.

Glorious as is the work of regeneration, it does not destroy the old man. Carnality, or inbred sin, or the old man, etc., etc., is not destroyed when one is born of the Spirit, but is suppressed. By God's grace the converted heart can and does restrain or suppress this old man. Suppression is good as far as it goes. If there were nothing better provided for redeemed man than suppression, he ought to leap and rejoice with great joy over this victory over this great enemy. If a man has a family of children playing in a yard and a rattlesnake lives nearby, it would be far better to suppress the rattler than to let him go free. But the better thing would be to kill the old rattler so that he would never poison any of the children. It is good for a Christian to suppress the old man, but far better to have him destroyed. A family had a favorite dog. This dog was getting old and cross. He had been faithful and was dearly loved of all the family, but he was very cross to visiting children. To keep him from biting children who were playing in the yard, they would put a large box over him to suppress him, but he would growl on the inside. One day he became so stirred up that he got out of the box and bit one of the children. That night the family had a long consultation about what to do with old Rover. They loved him; he had been so true and faithful. Yet they wanted the children who came to be safe. At last, it was decided, as much as it grieved them, that old Rover must be killed. He was taken out into the woods and shot. He never growled again.

It is a sad fact according to experience that many regenerated saints do not always suppress the old man. At times, they give way to his stirrings and must repent and ask God's forgiveness. Thus, many live an up-and-down life for a time. This is not God's plan for His children. His plan, His provision, is that in a justified state, they suppress the old man. And to retain this experience, one must keep the old man down by God's grace. Failure to do this requires genuine repentance and a reinstatement in the grace of God. Others in a justified state live so close to God that the old man does not dare manifest himself. He is so suppressed that many justified people are deceived. They believe that, because they do not feel the stirrings of carnality within the heart, it is not there. Sometimes it is only by the searching of the Holy Spirit that inbred sin is detected. The heart is so deceitful that only God can know and search it. David was therefore wise when he prayed: "Search me, O God, and know my heart."

The old man will do anything rather than die. He would rather play possum and live in the heart of a believer than to reveal himself and die. For while in the heart, though playing dead, he is constantly defeating the believer from having the victory that God wills. While in the heart even in a quiet condition, he is constantly sapping the vitality of the believer. As some unknown disease in the body weakens the physical heart, so he is weakening the heart of the saint. Therefore, the old man is satisfied to play dead with many who walk close to God. Yet he is very much alive, and the time usually comes when he comes to life in full vigor. The old man, together with Satan, is too cunning and shrewd for man to overcome. It certainly behooves man, regardless of his profession of any state of salvation, to pray in all humility and honesty of heart: "Search me, O God, and know my heart." ▣



The rest of the mission fields are under the auspices of the God's Missionary Church. Our church in Belize sits in a quaint little village called Crooked Tree. They have been without a pastor for some time now. Different ones from the God's Missionary Church visit throughout the year. I was scheduled to visit in December of 2024 and Rev. and Mrs. David Walter in January 2025, but we had to forfeit our trips because the place was flooded and people had to get around in small boats.

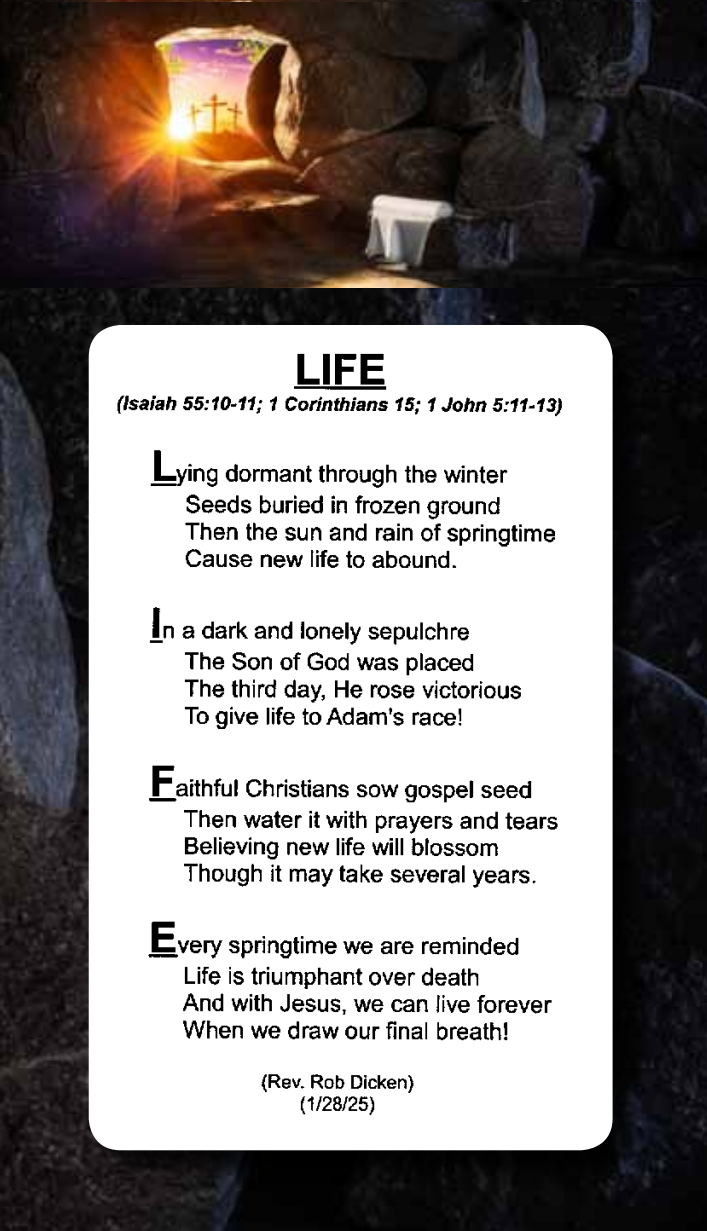
Our three churches in the state of Amazon, Brazil, are doing well. I visit there every year and have even tried to preach in Portuguese. I normally preach in Spanish, and they seem to understand; at least they tell me they do.

We minister now in two churches in Cuba where the message of holiness is well received. The people there are going through hard times. There are many scarcities in Cuba but the main one is money. That is why a medical doctor often drives a taxi because his base pay from the government is approximately the equivalent of \$40 a month.

Travel to Haiti still remains a problem. Violent crime by gangs is not only a threat to visitors but also to local residents. In spite of that, our churches, college, and two Christian day schools are still operational, sometimes with limitations.

The Miami Mission had been without a permanent pastor for about one year. I served as interim pastor during that time, although I could not be there every Sunday because of my travels. We thank God for sending Rebekah Cooley Stence our way, who is now serving there as a missionary. I still frequent the Mission for there is a lot of work to do there.

We would like to thank all the God's Missionary Churches for their support to World Missions. ▣



LIFE

(Isaiah 55:10-11; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 John 5:11-13)

Lying dormant through the winter
Seeds buried in frozen ground
Then the sun and rain of springtime
Cause new life to abound.

In a dark and lonely sepulchre
The Son of God was placed
The third day, He rose victorious
To give life to Adam's race!

Faithful Christians sow gospel seed
Then water it with prayers and tears
Believing new life will blossom
Though it may take several years.

Every springtime we are reminded
Life is triumphant over death
And with Jesus, we can live forever
When we draw our final breath!

(Rev. Rob Dicken)
(1/28/25)

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And when you want to smile but have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must— but don't quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometime learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow.
You might succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man.
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup;
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt—
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem worst that you musn't quit.

From A Treasure Chest of Poems by Rev. and Mrs Teasdale



DEATH IS NECESSARY FOR LIFE continued from page 3

deth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” It is the power of God working through His people that God can effectively use. This is why Jesus emphasized that the disciples must tarry in Jerusalem until they were “endued with power from on high.” (Lu. 24:49) After receiving the filling of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles then transformed their world. It is impossible for one to give out that which he has never received. Only after one has died to self and has new life in Christ can one effectively bring forth the fruit of new life in others. ❑



NEW LIFE THROUGH PRAYER continued from page 5

and His ear is just as quick to hear the voice of real prayer, and His hand is just as long and strong to save as it ever was. “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save: neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear.” But “our iniquities” may “have separated between us and our God,” and “our sins” may “have hid his face from us, that he will not hear” (Isa. 59:1-2). Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer. But we must use the key. Prayer can do anything that God can do, and as God can do anything, prayer is omnipotent. No one can stand against the man who knows how to pray and who meets all the conditions of prevailing prayer and who really prays. “The Lord God Omnipotent” works for him and works through him. ❑

Travel notes with the president



Follow President Martin on Twitter
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Nov. 25: Penns Creek for the funeral of Carrie C. Bunch. Rev. Keith Bunch, her son, did an excellent job sharing a message on lessons his mom taught her children. One was to knock on doors for VBS children.

Nov. 26-30: Administrative work, Thanksgiving, and hunting. I harvested a doe.

Dec. 01: Lancaster. It was exciting to share God's Word with the congregation. I appreciate how God is using Rev. Daren and Cristina Fisher and others to reach out in their community.

Dec. 03-07: Administrative work, PVBI Christmas Banquet.

Dec. 08: Sunbury. PV choir did an outstanding job helping us to worship God.

Dec. 09-14: Home Mission zoom meeting. Exciting new things happening in the new year! I worked on my GMC Conference message and FL Camp preparations. I went to a wonderful Founder's Banquet and the Christmas Musical which was excellent.

Dec. 15: Sunbury to watch our grandchildren in the Christmas program. We appreciated the good attendance of 171. There was a beautiful mix of church and community children and new parents in! In the evening, we enjoyed the message of the program at Beavertown - "The Christmas Prodigal."

Dec. 16-21: Florida Camp and sermon preparation.

Dec. 22: Northampton. I preached on "The Creditability of Christmas." Rhoda shared a couple Christmas specials and made up Christmas treats to pass out.

Dec. 23-28: Florida Camp preparations. I met with someone about our Penn's Creek restroom remodel plan. On Christmas day, we enjoyed our daughter's family along with her in-law's family with whom we have been friends since college days. We had a wonderful Christmas meal and fellowship together!

I also went to Camden, NY, for the funeral of Jessie Pike (29), a younger sister to Rev. Matt Kilgore. Please keep this family in prayer. Rev. David Bubb did an excellent job ministering to the family. We thank God that she was clear with God!

Dec. 29: Sunbury for Rhoda to play the piano for Erica, our daughter, since she was not feeling well.

Dec. 30 - Jan 04: Travel notes and FL Camp preparations. We celebrated our "Christmas" on New Year's Day with our family. I also worked on my conference president message and a devotional for an upcoming strategic planning meeting.

Jan. 06: General Bd. and Pension Bd. meetings.

Jan. 07-08: FL Camp preparations.

Jan. 09-30: FL trip. I preached at Seffner twice and was involved in workdays and a FL District zoom meeting. God gave us a wonderful camp. Great preaching and singing by Rev. Paul Stetler and Rev. Darrell and Regina Stetler. You can go to godsmissonarychurch.org for a full report. I went over to Camp Freedom for a service. I watched some good shuffleboard games and enjoyed Rev. Harry Plank and PV Praise Singers as they ministered in the afternoon service. We appreciate the director Rev. Ritchie and Rev. Steve Miller and all the others who make camp possible.



JACOB MARTIN

Jan. 31 - Feb. 01: Administrative work and sermon preparation. I also went to Lewisburg to the Miller Center to watch some of the activities of the young people from the Youth Convention. I was privileged to watch most of the Youth Convention online. God surely moved in a special way.

Feb. 02: Coopersburg. I went to preach and enjoyed a wonderful meal with the Dormans. They invited several people from the church for lunch. Their hospitality was appreciated by all of us. Please continue to pray for Rev. Van Dorman; he is done with 2/3 of his cancer treatments.

Feb. 03: Sermon preparation and worked on a Florida District camp report for our website.

Feb. 04: Penns Creek, Gen Bd. meeting.

Feb. 05- 06: Administrative work and had my taxes done.

Feb. 07: Beavertown GMC Bates Center. PV Strategic Planning meeting with Mr. John Zeswitz who served as executive vice president at Lancaster Bible College with Dr. Peter Teaque. He did a great job guiding us through this process. Tony Byers did a wonderful job preparing our lunch and supper.

Feb. 08: Danville. I met with the pastors and three other men of the church to discuss their starting a Trail Life, USA ministry.

Feb. 09: Pillow. It was exciting to preach and dedicate their beautiful new church van that God provided. It was given to the Pillow Church! We praise God for all the work done in the sanctuary, bathrooms, etc. Thank you, pastor and people!

Pension Board Challenge

Our retired ministers receive a small pension provided by their churches. We would like to give more if funds could be donated for those who have given their life serving God.

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GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARDS
P. O. BOX 970
PENNNS CREEK, PA 17862

New Life through Revival

Summarized from The life of Charles Finney by A.M. Hills or Charles G. Finney by G. Frederick Wright.

Charles G. Finney had been invited to fill the pulpit at Rochester for a time in 1831, but most of his brethren were unanimous in the opinion that he should accept another invitation to go to New York City or Philadelphia. Yet, that evening when alone with God, he was impressed that it was God's leading for him to go to Rochester. Instead of heading east on the boat the next morning, Finney and his wife took the boat west. Here he began the practice of using the anxious seat. He noticed that one of the greatest obstacles for the higher classes to overcome was their fear of being known as anxious inquirers. He set aside certain seats and called upon all who were willing to renounce their sins and give themselves to God to come forward and offer themselves up to God, while he made them subjects of prayer.

God had also led a prayer warrior friend of Finney's, Abel Clary, to go to the city and pray for the revival. His spirit of prayer was such that he gave his whole time and strength to prayer, was often unable to stand, and would writhe and groan in an agony of prayer. In much the same manner, another friend, Father Nash, along with three deacons were also giving themselves up in prayer to God for Finney.

It was soon seen that the Lord was aiming at the highest classes of society. Nearly all the lawyers, judges, bankers, merchants, master mechanics, and leading men and women in the city were converted. God blessed Finney's preaching and all this prevail-

ing prayer in a wonderful way. Twelve hundred people joined his denomination besides the vast numbers that joined other churches. At least forty of the young men who were converted entered the ministry. The whole character of the city was changed, and for years the city was famous for its high moral tone. Even the courts and prisons bore witness to its blessed effect. There was a wonderful falling off in crime. The courts had little to do, and the jail was nearly empty for years afterwards.

Ministers and prominent people came into Rochester from neighboring towns and cities and even from other states to see this mighty work of God and went away carrying the revival fire with them. The work spread like waves in every direction. Keeping Rochester as the center Finney would sally out to preach a few days. The greatness of the work was such that it attracted the attention of

ministers and Christians in other states, and the fame of what God was doing was an efficient instrument in the hands of God to promote revival in other places. Dr. Lyman Beecher, a contemporary of Finney, stated, "that was the greatest work of God and the greatest revival of religion that the world has ever seen in so short a time." It was reported that one hundred thousand people were brought into the churches as a result of the revival in Rochester, in the surrounding area, or in other places which were impacted by the news of what God was doing in Rochester. ■

