

MIDWEST

Pilgrim News

Spring 2020

Publishing Holiness since 1962





From the Editor

Redemption or Ruin?

The religious climate of our nation has certainly changed in recent years. It was not so long ago that blue laws restricted the sale of alcohol, and businesses were closed on the Sabbath. People respected ministers and apologized if they said a by-word in their presence. Common law relationships were looked upon with shame, and church parking lots were full. It was not even unusual to hear that the town drunkard had come to church and been saved. But the America we see today is vastly different from the one we once enjoyed. People are brazenly wicked. They have no fear of God, or respect for the church. They hate righteousness and do everything they can to oppose God. In fact, it is no secret that many are working diligently to undermine Christian influence in America, and turn our nation into a very sinful and secular society. And that is not to mention, a church who seems as fascinated with the sins of the culture as their non-Christian counterparts.

What has happened to our nation? Why does evil seem to be winning? Is there any hope for America's redemption, or are we facing the ruin of our faith?

While I certainly feel the temptation to doubt, I for one choose not to succumb to its embrace. The church is not facing anything it has not faced before and I believe there is no problem today that a good old-fashioned revival will not cure.

Consider some American history with me and be encouraged:

In spite of the 2nd spiritual awakening that took place at the turn of the 19th century, by the mid 1840's the spiritual fervor began to subside. America began to sink back into alarming levels of unbelief and wickedness. Drunkenness became an epidemic. Out of a population of five million, 300,000 were confirmed drunkards, of which fifteen thousand died each year. Profanity was of the most vile and disgusting sort. Prostitution was rampant. Good women were afraid to go out at night for fear of assault. Bank robberies and fights were daily occurrences. Men held other men as slaves, depriving them of their God-given rights.

Ironically, this was also a time of prosperity for America. Crops were plentiful. The industrialization of the nation was in full swing. The railroads companies were expanding and large tracts of land acquired through the Mexican war were luring settlers to the western states. Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California leading 300,000 people to pull up stakes and rush off in pursuit of earthly riches.

Sadly, the church had lost her ability to impact the culture. The Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians all lamented the...**To Page 8**



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Mission Statement: The mission of the PNN is three-fold: 1.) We desire to glorify God and facilitate the worship of His person. 2.) We seek to promote the Gospel of Christ with its beautiful message of heart holiness. 3.) We seek to be an encouragement to our readers spiritually, as well as, an informative source of information to those who are connected with, or interested in, our Conference.

Direct comments to the editor: midwestphc@gmail.com

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The President's Page

Rev. Donald Nichols



Serving Jesus is the joy of life here on earth. There are many people today who are listless, seeing no purpose, feeling, or passion, and just swept along with the passing of time. When you come to know Jesus as your Savior, all that changes. He brings purpose and meaning to living. He fulfills like nothing else can do. When one senses, God through Christ, is using him for Kingdom business, it brings unparalleled joy. Oh, may each of us joyfully serve Him!

God is at work among our Pilgrim churches, and as Ruth and I travel across the Conference, we are heartened with how our people are facing the challenges of the day, striving to win and disciple new people, provide better ministry facilities, support our missionary endeavors, and be involved in Conference activities. We just came back from a missionary trip to the Caribbean. It was a real joy to see our Dominican churches rebounding from the horrible damage of Hurricane Maria. As I chaired the Annual Assembly, I watched as Pilgrims aired their differences but came together in harmony for the good of the Kingdom. Dr. Dahler preached with God's help on the "Importance of Love" in the rally at the Petite Soufriere church. A pitch-in dinner was enjoyed after the morning service. Then, my wife met with the ladies and challenged them to holy living. She defined for them the meaning of "Pilgrim Holiness Church." She also gave each of them a little notebook gift. I had the privilege of dedicating the newly-built church in the afternoon service. I wish you could have seen Pastor Latigue John. He was so happy he was nearly beside himself. At the edge of the platform, he had knelt after he had found the church building completely blown away. He said he just bowed his head and cried. But this day, he rejoiced at what God had brought about with the rebuilding of the church. Thanks to all of you who gave and prayed that this might be accomplished. To God be the glory! The following weekend the Dahlers and Nichols ministered in the Spiritual Growth Conference at the church in Golden Grove in Antigua. There again, we saw the people working together to see God's Kingdom come. It was a privilege and an honor to speak to these dear people and spend time in fellowship with them.

Revival season is in progress as I pen these words. I challenge each of you to be "all-in" when it comes to the effort of revival. Commit to faithfully attend each service. Spend much time in prayer and fasting. Encourage others to join you in the revival effort. Obey the "leadings" of the Holy Spirit as He brings the conviction of truth to your heart. God will give revival as He has promised. The late Rev. Leonard Ravenhill said, "the only reason we do not have revival is because we are willing to live without it." Let's search our hearts, humble ourselves, obey, and believe God for a mighty move of revival across our conference of churches. It is the only hope for our nation in these days of political tension and moral degradation. May God send a mighty revival!

Rev. Don Nichols

Rev. Donald Nichols pastors the Lima PHC. He also directs an ACE school operated through his church. Rev. Nichols is married to Ruth, and has 3 grown children and 8 grandchildren. Rev. Nichols was elected to the Conference Presidency in 2015.





Rev. and Mrs. Gary Grissom

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Larry and Trish Jewett
Song Evangelists
Indianapolis, IN



Dr. Timothy Cooley Sr.
Evangelist
Penns Creek, PA

Midwest PHC Ministerial

May 5-7, 2020
PHC, Noblesville, IN



Tuesday Evening, May 5
7:00 P.M. Evening Service

Wednesday, May 6
9:30 A.M. Devotional
10:30 A.M. Morning Session
2:00 P.M. Afternoon Session
4:00 P.M. Catered Banquet
(Family Life Center)
6:30 Inspirational Service: UBC
7:00 P.M. Evening Service

Thursday, May 7
9:30 A.M. Devotional
10:30 A.M. Morning Session
12:00 P.M. Fasting and Prayer
2:00 P.M. Afternoon Session

*Conference Committees meet during the Ministerial.

*The Council will meet Thursday after the afternoon session.

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Lodging Information

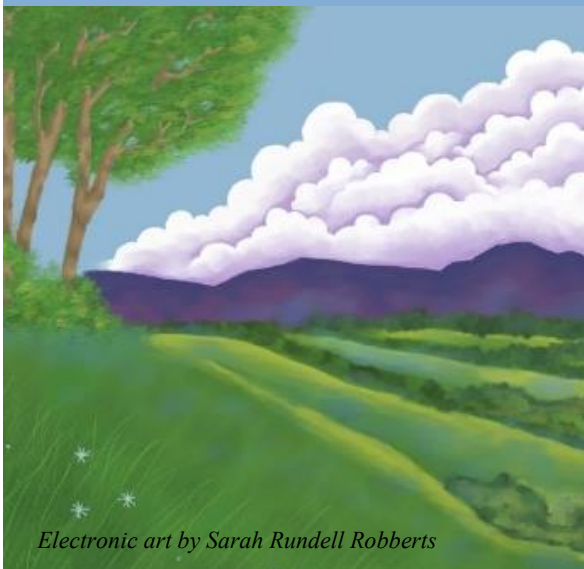
Baymont Inn & Suites
(317) 770-6772

Cambria Hotel & Suites
(317) 773-4970

Fairfield Inn & Suites
(317) 776-9900

Holiday Inn Express,
Carmel (317) 575-0000

Quality Inn
(317) 776-7088



Electronic art by Sarah Rundell Robberts



54th Annual Camp Meeting

....of the Midwest Pilgrim Holiness Church Inc.



Rev. and Mrs. Don Nichols
Conference President

June 19-28, 2020

Held at Frankfort Camp Ministries: 1058 Freeman St. Frankfort, IN.

Evangelist



Rev. Darrell Stetler

Evangelist



Dr. Paul Kaufman

Singers



Rev. Darrell and Regina Stetler

Children



Sarah Robbins

Youth



Rev. John Zeigler

Lodging information: Leanne Zeigler, Home: 812-247-3710, Mobile: 812-454-7501

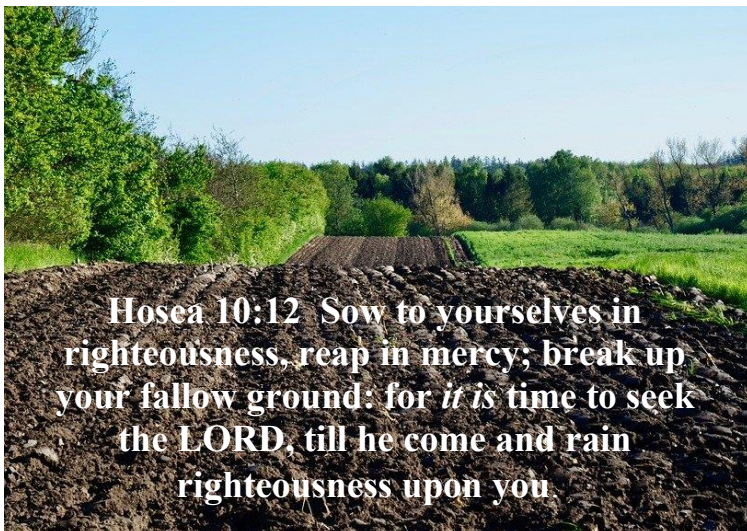
General Information: Rev. Don Nichols, 419-234-6335

Camp Meeting Schedule

Weekdays: Rising Bell: 6:30 A.M. - Prayer: 7:30 A.M. - Breakfast: 8:30 A.M. - Children's Service: 10:00 A.M. - Preaching Service: 10:00 A.M. - Youth Service: 10:00 A.M. - Ministers' Wives: 1:30 P.M. - Supper: 4:00 P.M. - Inspiration Service: 6:45 P.M. - Evangelistic Service: 7:30 P.M. (First service Friday, June 19, 7:30 P.M.)

Weekends: Rising Bell: 6:00 A.M. - Prayer: 6:30 A.M. - Breakfast: (First meal served) 7:30 A.M. - Praise Service: 9:00 A.M. - Special Children's Service: 9:00 A.M. Tabernacle: (Last Sunday only) - Children's Service: 10:00 A.M. - Preaching Service: 10:00 A.M. - Dinner: Noon - Preaching Service: 2:00 P.M. (Last Saturday only, 1:30 P.M. Missions Service - Supper: 4:00 P.M. - Inspiration Service: 6:00 P.M. - Evangelistic Service: 6:30 P.M.

Educational and Examining Board: June 20, 8:00 A.M. - Annual Conference: June 22-24, 12:30 P.M.



Francis Asbury once called camp meetings "a battle axe and weapon of war," that broke down walls of wickedness throughout America. He believed camp meetings were a great means of grace. In 1812 he estimated that these spirit-filled gatherings brought together one-third of the total American population. Let's allow God to use our own camp meeting to draw us together and revive us again.

*See page 10 for a personal, spiritual health checklist.

Celebrate Easter

By Luke Forsee

For a Christian, there is no more important holiday on the calendar than Easter. It is during this season that we celebrate the centerpiece of our faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our society, where it is common to hear people scoff at the resurrection, Christians sometimes become insecure or fearful. After all, the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that if Christ was not resurrected, then our faith was in vain. (1 Cor. 15:14)

Here are several evidences for the resurrection. Christian, we do not believe in vain; we have a reasonable faith based on factual evidence.

***The tomb was empty:** It has been demonstrably proven that the tomb was empty. (Matt. 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-9, 12; John 20:1-10) If not, the Jews could simply have brought out the body of Jesus to prove that He was still dead. It has been shown elsewhere that it would have been impossible for the disciples to steal the body, given the security measures put in place around the tomb and the fearful, incompetent temperaments of the disciples. (Matt. 27:62-66; Matt 28:11-15) We know the tomb was empty, so where did Jesus go?

***We have multiple witnesses:** The empty tomb is attested to in all four gospels. J.P. Moreland gives additional sources like the book of Acts and 1 Corinthians. Additionally, around 500 people claimed to have seen Jesus after he died; (1 Cor. 15:6) also, consider that accounts of the resurrection appeared very early after the alleged event, which is very significant. There was hardly time for a plot to be organized.

***Women saw Jesus first:** This doesn't mean much in our modern society, where men and women have equal rights and privileges; but in the time of Jesus, the testimony of women was not very credible evidence in a court of law. If the disciples simply made up the resurrection account, they never would have cited women as the first witnesses. (Matt. 28:1-8)

***The apostles died proclaiming the resurrection:** History has it that nearly all of the Apostles died violent and painful deaths because they would not renounce the resurrection. If the disciples knew the resurrection was a lie, would they really have gone to such extreme lengths to spread their message? Chuck Colson reminds us that "men will die for they believe to be true, but only fools die for they know to be a lie." Their transformation suggests they had been transformed by something or someone very real.

***The resurrection message changes lives:** One can deny or minimize the facts surrounding the resurrection account, but no one can legitimately deny the power of the resurrection message. (2 Cor. 5:17) Millions of people across the course of history have received assurance of sins forgiven and had the power of sin broken in their lives. The old way of thinking and behaving is gone, and they are enjoying a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It's hard to argue with someone who is different, inside and out.

If you reject Jesus and the resurrection, you cannot do it based upon a lack of evidence. If you would like to read more, I would encourage you to check out *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell, or *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel. Additionally, you can check out <https://www.topchristianbooks.online/christian-books-on-the-resurrection/> for more resources.

Luke Forsee recently graduated from Union Bible College with a degree in Pastoral Ministry. He currently resides in Galax, Virginia and is engaged to Marissa Leib. They have plans to be married in May. This article was written for the spring issue of his home church magazine (Franklin PHC) in Spring of 2018.



Sermon Shorts

The Beauty of an Intercessor

Charles Spurgeon

Jer 14:22: “*Art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee*”

Jeremiah interceded for the people, but we have not to seek far before we discover the reason why he did it. God, in infinite mercy, gave the weeping prophet to His sinful people in order that they might not be left as sheep without a shepherd, and be quite given over to utter destruction; and wherever you meet with a man, who intercedes with God for His fellow-men, and makes this the main business of his life, you see in him one of the most precious gifts of God’s grace to the age in which he lives

It is God that writes intercession upon men’s hearts. All true prayer comes from Him, but especially that least selfish and most Christlike form of prayer called intercession; when the suppliant forgets all about Himself, and his needs, and all his pleadings, his tears, and his arguments are on behalf of others.

I repeat that such men are the most precious gift from heaven; and I feel certain that, before the Reformation, there must have been hundreds of godly men and women who were day and night interceding with the Lord, giving Him no rest until He answered their supplications; and Luther and the rest of the Reformers were sent by God in answer to the many prayers which history has never recorded, but which are written in the Lord’s book of remembrance.

And when Wesley and Whitfield, in more modern times, stirred the smoldering embers of religion in this land, it was because godly people, perhaps poor, obscure men and women in their cottages reading the scriptures, saw the sad state of irreligion and indifference and groaned over it and spread the case before God. I know not how to estimate the worth of even one man who has power with God in prayer. When John Know went upstairs to plead for Scotland, it was the greatest event in Scottish history.

There is no power like that of intercession. All things are possible with the man who, like Elijah, cries unto Him that heareth prayer. The secret springs that move the puppets of earth are the prayers of God’s people. If the Lord make you an intercessor, my dear brother, even if you cannot speak with men for God, if you know how to speak with God for men, you occupy a position that is second to none. God help you to fill it well!

Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol. 47, page 446

A Revival of Prayer

Rev. Ernest Plemmons

Psalms 109:4: “I give myself unto prayer.”

Prayer is a communication between God and man. With all the messages you have heard, and all the books you have read on the subject, on the job training is the most effective way to receive anything from God. The text would probably eliminate most of us. . Very few people have really given themselves to prayer. If it fits into our busy schedule we might pray, but if not, we use the excuse, “God understands.” 1 Samuel 12:23 says, “God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.” Many times prayer has become an option, and that has caused a lukewarmness, a barrenness, and a spiritual drought. If only we could return to our prayer closets and repent of our prayerlessness, revival would again be a reality.

In Acts chapter 6 there was a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews because the widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, “It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables.” They were told to seek out seven men full of the Holy Ghost and to appoint them over this business. Verse four says, “But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and the ministry of the Word.”

In Acts chapter 12, the apostle Peter was cast into prison. About that time Herod stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. He killed James the brother of John, and proceeded to take Peter also. Verse five says, “Peter was therefore kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.” Verse seven says, “And his chains fell off.”

The text suggests a full surrender to the will of God. One must surrender himself in order to give himself to prayer. While preparing this message the Blessed Holy Spirit is helping me to see the importance of giving myself to prayer.

The prophet Joel cried out, “Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests; howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God. Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, and cry unto the Lord.” The result of this was a promise of the Holy Spirit coming on all flesh, and the Lord God of heaven knows we need a fresh appearing of His divine presence. One writer said, “Where there is no intercessor, there is no revival.” I wonder what would happen if a few faithful Pilgrims would, “Give themselves unto prayer.”

Rev. Ernest Plemmons is a retired minister in the MPHC. He lives in Indiana with his wife and family. This article is adapted from an article he wrote for the Pilgrim in 1990. It’s sentiments are just as true today as they were then.



Redemption: From Page 2... situation but were powerless to stop it. They testified to losing more people than they were taking in.

Rev. Samuel Shepherd of Lennox, Massachusetts, in sixteen years had not taken one young person into fellowship. The Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New York, Bishop Samuel Provost, quit the ministry completely: he had confirmed no one for so long that he decided he was out of work, so he took up other employment. The Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall, wrote to the Bishop of Virginia, James Madison, that the Church "was too far gone ever to be redeemed."

It seemed as if Christianity was to be ushered out of the affairs of men. Maybe Voltaire and Thomas Paine would be justified in their jubilant claims that "Christianity would soon be forgotten."

But as He often does, God had other plans. He decided to send what some historians have called the "year of grace."

On September 1857, a praying Christian businessman named Jeremiah Lanphier felt led to start a prayer meeting in the upper room of the Dutch Reformed Church Consistory Building, in Manhattan, New York City. From his own money he printed 20,000 fliers and distributed them in the city of one million people. In response to his advertisement, only six people out of the population of one million showed up. However, the following week, there were fourteen, and then twenty-three, and then forty - when it was decided to meet every day for prayer. By late winter, they were filling the Dutch Reformed Church, then the Methodist Church on John Street, then Trinity Episcopal Church on Broadway at Wall Street. In February and March of 1858, every church and public hall in downtown New York was filled.

Horace Greeley, the famous editor, sent a reporter with horse and buggy racing around to the prayer meetings to see how many men were praying: in one hour, he could get to only twelve meetings, but counted 6,100 men attending. Then, a landslide of prayer began, which spread throughout New England, then west to Cincinnati, Chicago and beyond. Church bells brought people to prayer at eight in the morning, twelve noon, and six in the evening. People came to the meetings first out of curiosity but went away converted. First a trickle of converts, and then a stream and then a mighty torrent of souls.

At one point, people were being converted- ten thousand a week in New York City alone. When the revival went up the Hudson river and down the Mohawk, the Baptists had so many converts they cut holes in the ice and baptized them in the frigid waters. The same scenes were soon reported from all over the nation, from New York to California, Florida to Maine. It affected judges and college students, businessmen and housewives. At times, schools had to close in order to pray and seek God. General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army experienced revival, 150,000 soldiers being converted. Trinity Episcopal Church in Chicago, (the church D.L. Moody was saved in) had 121 members in 1857, in 1860, 1400. That was typical of the churches. By May 1858 there were 50,000 converts. By 1860, a million converts had been added to American churches out of a population of 30 million. *(Some sources put the number of converts much higher than this.)

"The difficulty used to be to get the people into the church," wrote a minister, "but the difficulty now is to get them out." The benediction would be pronounced again and again, but each time the irrepressible petitions of the praying people would burst forth afresh, or the cry of the penitent, mourning over sin, would break upon the ear, and so the meeting would of necessity be protracted—perhaps into the early hours of the morning.

Space limits our story—but this same revival jumped the Atlantic, appearing in Ulster, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, then England, parts of Europe, South Africa, and South India—anywhere there were searching hearts. It sent missionaries out to many countries. The effects were felt well into the 20th century; Billy Sunday's ministry not starting to ebb until the 1920's. Having begun in a movement of prayer, it was maintained by a spirit of prayer.

In light of these facts, maybe we should not give up the cause just yet. Maybe America can be redeemed. Let us believe that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If God saved our country from ruin in the past, He can certainly do it again. Let's discipline ourselves to pray and fast that we can be the type of people He can use in another spiritual awakening. ~Editor

March 20, 1858, Editorial from the New York Times

The great wave of religious excitement which is now sweeping over this nation, is one of the most remarkable movements since the reformation. Travelers relate that in rail cars and steamboats, in banks and markets, everywhere through the interior, this matter is an absorbing topic. Churches are crowded; bank-directors' rooms become oratories; school-houses are turned into chapels; converts are numbered by the scores of thousands. In this City, we have beheld a sight which not the most enthusiastic fanatic for church-observances could ever have hoped to look upon; we have seen in a business-quarter of the City, in the busiest hours, assemblies of merchants, clerks and working-men, to the number of 5,000, gathered day after day for a simple and solemn worship. Similar assemblies we find in other portions of the City; a theatre is turned into a chapel; churches of all sects are open and crowded by day and night. It is most impressive to think that over this great land tens and fifties of thousands of men and women are putting themselves at this time in a simple, serious way, the greatest question that can ever come before the human mind 'What shall we do to be saved from sin?'

"There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer." DR. A.T. Pierson



This Moment

By Jarilyn Gibson

Sally stared out the window wistfully as her older brother and sister drove away to spend the night camping with their friends. Just moments before she had been yelling, "But, Mom, why can't I go? Deana and Derrick get to do all the fun stuff while I'm always left behind."

Her mother had wearily sighed at the familiar argument that had taken place hundreds of times. "They're older than you, Sally. They sometimes get more privileges than you but -"

"I know," Sally had cut in, "they also have more responsibilities than I do." Her tone was one of sarcasm as she had lifted her delicate, pointed chin with defiance. "But Deana doesn't have harder chores than I do, and Derrick just works outside more. May I go if I work outside?"

"No, Sally," her mother had replied with an amused chuckle, "Deana and Derrick's privileges are more than doing chores."

Nine-year-old Sally had huffed as she turned away from her mother and waltzed away in frustration. "I don't get it."

"One day you will," her mother had patiently called. "Just enjoy this moment that you have right now. Tomorrow will come soon enough."

Sally didn't really understand what her mother meant by enjoying this moment. How could she enjoy it when she never got to do anything she wanted?

Sadly, Sally never really could figure out just what her mother had meant. She maintained a dissatisfied attitude throughout her teenage years and on into adulthood. Even when her parents gifted her a brand-new sports car for her 17th birthday, she failed to fully enjoy the car because of the limitations her parents gave her concerning it. She focused on all the rules her parents gave her and anxiously wished for college so that she could embrace independence.

But when Sally got to college, she found the work tedious and wished for the day it would be past. She met an attractive young

man at college as well, and she spent much of their dating and engagement in agony for want of marriage. She made no effort to contact her parents after leaving home and was horrified to receive a phone call one dreadful night telling her that her parents had perished in a house fire. She realized with regret that she could never have back the time she had missed with them.

Unfortunately, however, Sally didn't learn from her parents' death. Instead of being joyful upon marriage and her first pregnancy, she begrudged her children because their timing didn't align with hers. It was only after her children had married and left home that she realized how much she had lost by not enjoying the daily moments with them.

But most eye-opening of all was when she lost her husband and brother in a fatal, unexpected car crash, completely tearing her world apart. It was then she realized how wrongly she had spent life. She began to wish for just a little more time - just one more moment.

This story may seem sad and even unrealistic to you, but I think stories like this happen more than we think. So often we overlook one of the greatest gifts we've been given - this moment.

What Sally's mother said to her at the beginning of the story is really the key. It's similar to what Jesus said in Matthew 6:34, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." In this verse Jesus is more specifically dealing with having faith and not stressing about the needs and crises of the future, but it can also be applied to the lesson we learn from Sally's story. We can spend so much of our lives looking for the next moment that we miss the one we have now. And if we're not careful, we can end up like Sally and waste this moment until it's gone.

The only moment we have is the one we have now. You may think the future has the moments you want, but you don't know that you'll have them. The moment you do have is this moment. What are you doing with it? How are you spending it? **(Next Page)**



If we believe that God has a purpose for each of us - which I believe the Bible tells us He does - then do we not have to believe that each moment has a purpose as well? Obviously, every moment of our lives isn't going to be grand or seemingly life-changing, but I think we take our individual moments for granted. It's not what we do on a large scale that makes the most difference - it's what we do with our day-by-day moments.

The time to make a difference is now. Look for the opportunities you have today. An opportunity is something you can do now, not tomorrow.

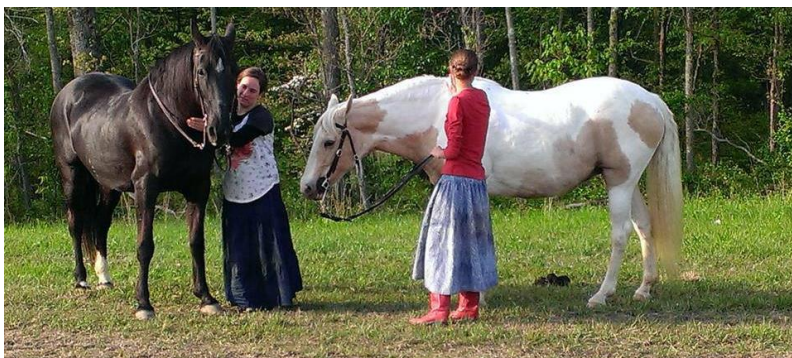
Not only is this moment now - it's short-lived. Like Sally, you can't get it back. It's what you have, and you won't have it for long. James 4:14b, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Make the most of this moment. Make it count. Take an extra moment with a family member, spouse, or friend. Stop and enjoy that person and the time you have with them. When life is overwhelming and nothing seems to be going right, take the time to breathe and experience the moment and the fact that you have it. Time is a gift. Let's treat it as such.

Many make the mistake of dreading tomorrow's moment because of the brevity of today's, but as stated above, Jesus tells us not to fret about tomorrow. This is the moment He has given us, and He desires that we embrace and enjoy it.

Most important, this moment is the best moment to sanctify yourself to God. Spring and the Easter season are quickly approaching, reminding us of Christ's sacrifice and the new life He offers us. There will never be a better moment than this to accept this new life. You will never be able to fully enjoy this moment until you have redeemed it by allowing Christ to have control of it and your life. This moment will always be a waste if Christ is not in control of it. If you want to make this moment count, give it to Jesus. He holds this moment and every moment after.

Jarilyn Gibson is 18 years old, and is from Shoals, IN. She is currently attending Union Bible College in Westfield, IN and is majoring in music ministry. She also sings with the music group Exaltation. Her greatest passion is singing, with writing a close second. One of her favorite hobbies is horseback riding.



Millerite Delusion

A Baptist minister by the name William Miller obtained a national following through his predicted date of the Lord's return. Some 500,000 followers believed Miller's predictions that Jesus Christ would return between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844. His people actually sold their property and gave their possessions to the poor in anticipation for this event. When the date passed without Christ's appearance, Miller set a second date of October 22, 1844. When that date passed and nothing happened, disillusionment caused thousands to abandon Christianity, and become bitter unbelievers and even atheists. This event has since been labeled as The Great Disappointment. The Great Disappointment largely contributed to the waning influence of the Second Great Awakening preceding the New York Prayer Revival. (See Editor's column: Page 2)

One lesson we can take from the Millerites is that the Church sometimes brings problems on herself. Let us not contribute to the skepticism of this age by failing to believe the Word of God concerning revival. Let us settle for nothing less than holiness of heart and evidence the power of God available to us.

DO WE NEED REVIVAL?

The following checklist can help diagnose our spiritual condition. We need revival when:

1. Prayer and bible reading cease to be a vital part of our life.
2. The quest for biblical truth ceases, and we are content with the knowledge already acquired.
3. Sports, recreation and entertainment are a dominant and necessary part of our thinking.
4. The acquisition of money and material things becomes the dominant part of our thinking.
5. We can mouth religious songs and words without the heart.
6. We can watch degrading movies or television, and read morally debilitating literature.
7. The Sabbath ceases to be our priority, and we easily withhold our presence and gifts from the body of Christ.



The Praying Mantis

Can you imagine a creature with five eyes, one ear, and long arms with spikes? It's a praying mantis. It has five eyes: Two big ones and three small ones. It also has one ear – in the middle of its back. Its head can turn completely backwards, making it the only insect that can do that without its head snapping off.

The praying mantis is pretty cool, but it has a short life time. It only lives one year. It usually grows to be about 2-3 inches long. However, some people in China found one that was long as the length between my elbow to my hand. A praying mantis looks like a bunch of bugs smashed together, but its closet relatives are actually termites and cockroaches. (Bleh!)

Praying mantises also eat a lot. They only eat meat, though. They eat insects, spiders, lizards, mice, small birds, and even other mantises! (Gross!) They get their food by waiting patiently and being very still. Then, when a bug goes by, WHAM! It catches it in its front arms and eats it! (Yuck!)

You may think, "Why did God make praying mantises?" Well, they DO have a purpose. They eat all kinds of harmful bugs. They are actually farmers friends because they act as natural pest control. As you can see, praying mantises are kind of weird, but that doesn't mean they aren't special. God loves them just as much as He loves any other animal that He created. This reminds us of how God offers salvation to everyone, not just people who are beautiful, have lots of talents, or seem to deserve it. He loves everyone just the same, and wants all to be saved.

1Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world save sinners; of whom I am chief.



Larissa Robberts (Dr. Booplesnoot) is 13 years old and lives in Kansas. She travels with her parents doing Vacation Bible Schools in the summertime and loves to teach others about the Christian faith. She attends the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Ottawa and has one sister and one brother. We are featuring her creation lessons over 4 issues of the MPN.

Editor's Note

Seeing a praying mantis can be considered good luck or bad, depending on your culture.

Because of the "praying" hands, some believe the praying mantis represents spiritualism, or piety, and if found in your home, may mean that angels are watching over you. Some Muslims claim that the praying mantis is always facing toward Mecca. In Italy, some believe that if a praying mantis looks at you menacingly, it can make you sick. In Japan, it is thought to be a harbinger of your death. Thankfully, these things are just superstition. The praying mantis is simply a unique creation of God with a big message of His love.





Testimony Time

If we as humans could only see as God sees then we would never doubt, we would never have anxiety or worry, we would never be depressed or ungrateful for circumstances. If Christians really believe that God works all things out for good because He loves us, then we should be able to get through any trial with confidence. That is a lot easier said than done, because of the enemy trying to confuse our minds. Lord, please help me to see things the way you see them. Lord, please open my mind and don't let the devil cloud my mind and judgment, so that I may be able to be used of you more effectively.

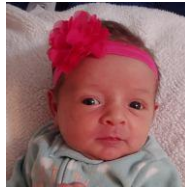
Caleb Line is 21 years old and lives in Kokomo, IN. He attends the Kokomo, PHC and is active in their youth ministry.



Caleb Line

News from Noblesville

Greetings from Noblesville PHC, ... As it says in Lamentations 3:23, "...great is thy faithfulness." 2020 has once again proven God's faithfulness over and over in our services. God has met with us in many ways and met so many needs throughout our congregation. Our church was recently privileged to purchase a new (to us) 2007 Thomas Freightliner Mercedes-Benz powered church bus. This will be a wonderful asset to our bus ministry and a nice upgrade from 'Old Blue'.



In other news, we are blessed to have two very special new members to our congregation. Ava Grace Carey, daughter to Joe and Janelle Carey was born on 12/17/19. She was 7 lbs, 2 oz, and 19 inches. Charlotte Ann Johnson, daughter to Chris and Shaina Johnson, was born on 2/6/20. She was 7 lbs, 5 oz, and 20.5 inches. May the Lord's mercies show themselves new to you each and every morning this year.

Revival: From Page 10

8. Breaches in the brotherhood do not concern us.
9. The slightest excuses keep us from spiritual duty and opportunity.
10. We are not consistently testifying and praising God.
11. We can't testify with clarity and conviction.
12. We are more comfortable with worldly people than with genuine people of God.
13. We are not passionate or active in outreach.
14. We are lacking in discipline, joy, faith, and love for God.

~Selected

