

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

Three Roads That Lead To Hell

WOE UNTO THEM!
FOR THEY HAVE GONE IN THE WAY OF *Cain*,
AND RAN GREEDILY AFTER THE ERROR OF *Balaam*, FOR REWARD,
AND PERISHED IN THE GAINSAYING OF *Core*.

JUDE 11

“ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH *thanksgiving,*
 AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH *praise*
 BE *thankful* UNTO HIM, AND *bless* HIS NAME.”
P SALMS 100:4

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STREAMS IN THE DESERT

Devotional

Thanksgiving
Rev. A. B. Simpson
November 22, 1924

This brief but blessed message was written by Dr. Simpson in November 1887, and appeared in *The Word, Work and World*, a monthly magazine edited by him, before the weekly paper was started. It is a fitting word of thanksgiving for this year and every year.

The day of National Thanksgiving and the nearing close of another year recall some special grounds of thankfulness at this time.

Thus David thanks Him, for Divine Healing.

Let us touch again David's harp of ten strings in all its chords. Here are seven of them.

1. "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." (Ps. 103:1-5).

So let us praise Him for our physical life, for healing all our diseases, for delivering us from special danger and "destruction," for the ground we have for this is His "redeeming" love, and for the renewing and sustaining of our life in the freshness of "youth" through His own constant resurrection life. Let us not forget to praise Him for revealing to our hearts this blessed truth of life, and in this day so widely diffusing the knowledge of it throughout the land, and the world. And, notwithstanding many errors, and extravagances, the solid growth of sound knowledge upon this subject, in every part of the land.

Let Us Thank Him, for Spiritual Blessing.

2. "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Col. 1:12). This is a

song of praise for spiritual blessing. It is a thanksgiving for the grace we have received. We complain a good deal of our failures, and almost hint that God has failed to bless us; but do we think enough of His abundant grace in our life? Do we recognize enough what He has done in us, and for us? Has He indeed made us meet for that inheritance? Has this year brought us Divine Holiness? Then it is Thanksgiving indeed.

Let Us Thank Him, for The Great Privilege Of Service In The Kingdom Of God.

3. "I thank my God for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." This is a note of praise for the great privilege of service in the kingdom of God. It is a great honor, and priceless blessing, that He should choose us, and when so worthless should "count us faithful," and then lift us up by His grace and supply of the Holy Spirit, to His counting, and then reward us for it, is a sovereign mercy; for the work we, have been permitted to do, we do bless Him.

"One more year's work for Jesus, How sweet the work has been: To tell the story, To show the glory, When Christ's flock enter in, Lord, if I may, I'll serve another day."

Thanks, for Answered Prayer.

4. "I love the Lord because He heard the voice of my supplications." Thanks for answered prayers. That is the next chord. How it vibrates. How it recalls the past. How echoes all along the lines of memory. Have we acknowledged His answers? Have we praised as much as we have prayed? Let us pay our vows unto the Lord, which our lips have uttered, and our mouth hath spoken, when we were in distress. Let us keep the record of our answers, and when depressed recall them like David and sing "O my God, my soul is cast down within me, therefore will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar, or the little hill." (Ps. 42:6)

Thanksgiving of Faith.

5. "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I know that thou hearest me always"

(John 11:41-42). That is a strange note of praise. It comes before the answer. It is the thanksgiving of faith. It is the true Berachah song that anticipates the victory and celebrates it from afar. Last year we were much mixed by a brother, announcing in the Thanksgiving service that he was going to praise God for the year to come. We have watched that brother since and there has not been one cloud on his brow all this year. Richard Baxter tells how while recording in his diary his thanksgiving to God, for the removal of a cancerous wart in his mouth, it immediately began to disappear, and before the close of that Sabbath day it was gone. Let us praise more, and when we cannot pray, let us sing.

I Thank My God on Every Remembrance Of You.

6. "I thank my God on every remembrance of you" (Phil. 1:3). This was a song for his Christian friends. How much cause we have to praise for them.

What a goodly fellowship God is giving us. What a glorious Church He is preparing. Thank God for them all. Thank God for the old ones, and the new ones, which this year has given.

Thanks Be unto God for His Unspeakable Gift.

7. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2Cor. 9:15). Well may this sum up the whole. The best is, we have found Him, and we have found Him to be the First and the Last, the substance of all truth, the truth of all holiness, the source of all life, the spring of all healing, the bond of all friendship, the best of all beloved ones, the unspeakable blessing which no words can express or justly praise. As the old writer used to say in closing all sacred themes, "Blessed be God for Jesus Christ.

"I'm so glad I've learned to trust Him, Precious Jesus, Saviour, Friend. And I know that He is with me, Will be with me to the end." Jesus, Jesus, how I love Him—How I've loved Him o'er and o'er. Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus, O for grace to love Him more."

Three Roads That Lead To Hell

By Pastor Dale Deems

Jude 1-11 "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."

Although there are many roads that lead to hell, in this message we focus on the roads taken by Cain, Balaam, and Core. (Jude 11) These three men lived their lives with no regard for God, driven by pride, selfishness, jealousy, greed, lust for power, and disregard for God's will. (Jude 1-11)

We know that there is one main thoroughfare, so to speak, but there are many paths that will lead you to that thoroughfare. We also know that there is only one way that leads to Heaven, It is the "straight and narrow way" (Matt. 7:14), but there are many ways that lead to Hell. It is possible to do right in one way; it is possible to do wrong in many ways. Jude said, "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." (Jude 11) These are three roads that lead to Hell.

THE WAY OF CAIN.

"THE STRAIGHT ROAD TO HELL"
And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden." (Gen. 4:16) This road

leads out from the presence of God. Cain went forth from the presence of God. He had had enough of God! The presence of God was a source of pain to him; the eyes of God judged him; the purity of God condemned him; his conscience was seared. Genesis tells us that he dwelt in the land of Nod, or the land of wanderings, (Gen. 4:16).

Wandering away he finds himself excluded from the divine presence, shut out from the light of God's eye without convictions. God has ceased to be a consideration in the mind of Cain. "The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes." (Psa. 36:1) "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God..." (Psa. 14:1) In other words, the fool hath said in his heart, "No God! I don't want anything to do with you! I want to live without your conviction in my life; I want to run in my own paths and desires. Don't bother me and I won't bother you!" This is the way of Cain; it ultimately leads to an unstable life (Jam 1:8), wandering without God. Cain went from one pursuit to another and yet he never found true happiness from the

moment he turned his back on God.

Although he didn't know real happiness, he had plenty of the world's enjoyments. He had a promising family with many successors. One of his descendants was the first man to learn superiority over the animal kingdom. He learned that the herds on the mountain and the wild beasts of the field could be brought under man's control. Another descendant of Cain was the first to discover the hidden treasure beneath the earth's surface, gold, silver, copper, and iron. Another invented musical instruments. Cain was the father of all those that deal in cattle and the father of our agricultural industry. What a successful man Cain was.

There Cain was, building a city, gathering around him every luxury and every source of wealth imaginable. What a prosperous life. What else could such a successful man need? He may have appeared to have it all, but he lacked what was most important. God was not in his thoughts; he had walked straight out from the presence of God.

There are many children of Cain

today. Respectable people who by man's standards are a success. They possess all, but like Cain, they have turned their back on God and have set their face towards a world of pleasure. They have lived for their future and have lived for their own pleasure. They have spent their whole lives moving farther and farther away from him. Drawn away into the regions of darkness, they are already in the land of wanderings. The land of wanderings on earth is but a prelude to that eternal wandering that is leading them to their terrible doom that will be discovered when it's too late.

THE WAY OF BALAAM.

"THE CROOKED WAY TO HELL"
Num. 22:4-12 And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed. And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak. And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam. And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee? And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying, Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out. And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed. 2 Pet. 2:15 "...the

way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness..."

What kind of man was Balaam? Some might say he was a hypocrite, but do hypocrites spend all night in prayer? This man on two different occasions spent all night in prayer before God. Do hypocrites put themselves under the divine will? This man had silver and gold untold offered to him, yet he would not move one step from what he knew was the divine pleasure.

He tried to persuade himself that he could in some way deflect the divine purpose, to justify his own covetousness. He was a man of great devotion, great earnestness and zeal, a very religious man. He wanted to serve God well, but himself better.

Has our religion ever shut us out of advancement? Has being a Christian kept you from mixing with influential people? Has it ever prevented us from occupying a position which we hoped and intended to occupy? Has your Christianity ever been a hindrance to you in the acquisition of a fortune because you would have to be dishonest? Has it ever stood in the way of our gratification and pleasure? It did for Balaam, his religion was a terrible encumbrance for him.

A huge promise and an awesome bribe was held out before him. The first offer did not move him, but when Balak's men came with a greater offer, Balaam had to make a decision. He was bound to obey God. He didn't want to curse Israel; surely he was a good and earnest man. Yes, but he found the crooked way that leads to hell. His first crooked step came when he sent word to Balak that he couldn't come, but he failed to tell him that God said not to curse Israel. How could this happen? Outwardly it appears that Balaam feared God. God had warned Balaam not to go, and not to curse Israel because they were blessed; yet, deep in the core of Balaam's heart there was a deep dishonesty and a lust for money. He was hardly conscious of it, but it was there, a love that had usurped the place of the Love of God. "He loved the wages of unrighteousness..." (2 Pet. 2:15)

Balaam was so blind, even his donkey saw more than him. So often

times, we don't see ourselves as we truly are. Many covetous people say they don't care about money, but they go to great lengths to gain a dollar. Many a pleasure-seekers will say, "I don't care about pleasures; but their lives tell on themselves. A proud filled man will speak of himself as being "humble". Balaam the prophet could speak of himself as despising wealth, "And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more." (Num. 22:18).

He could speak very slightly of the very power that shackled his heart. He even beat his donkey to take him in the wrong direction. His donkey tried three times to save Balaam's life from going to hell. This is a masterpiece of hell, when your angry at the person who's trying to keep you from going to hell. Satan needs nothing else because this is the highest point of deception, when we can no longer see our wrong motives, see our own hearts.

Could it be that we church going, prayerful, bible reading people may be taking the crooked way? If so, remember the doom of miserable Balaam, with his corpse lying on the battlefield. The sword of an Israelite had pierced his heart, and there he lay at his death, against the armies of the living God.

THE WAY OF CORE.

"THE GAINSAING OF CORE"

The third road that leads to hell is "The gainsaying of Core." (Jude 11) *Num. 16:8-14 "And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them? And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also? For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him? And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said,*

We will not come up: Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us? Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up."

Num. 16:23-33 "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me. But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: And

the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation."

Korah, Dathan and Abiram set themselves up against the representative of the priesthood of the Lord, Moses. Korah looking through the eyes of the flesh measured Moses as a self-appointed political leader. What he failed to realize was that Moses was not some dictator, but his main ambition was to serve God, rather than to control others. Dathan and Abiram wanted to go back to Egypt, the very place they had longed to leave, this is what led to their rebellion with Korah.

The road to hell is always the road we take when we join the rebellion of the gossipers and the disgruntled, which always find fault with their leadership. They began to magnify their difficulties. This always happens when we take our eyes off God and begin to whine and complain about our difficulties or how we've been treated. We must always realize that we are not the first nor the last people to have problems. When we feel that we've been mistreated, are we magnifying it to others, dragging them into our gainsaying group? If so, you are on a road to Hell with Korah. Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and all their families were taken to hell because of one man's rebellion, all because they didn't want a priest or a king.

Korah thought, "You take too much upon you in daring to represent us:

we can represent ourselves. Are not all the Lord's people holy and have not we a right to come into the holy place? Cannot we offer as good a sacrifice as you Moses? Why do I need a priest coming between God and myself? Why do I need some king to stand up as if he could help me with my relationship with God? Why would I want some pastor thinking he's sent from God trying to shepherd or be a watchman for my soul? I don't need anybody telling me what to do.

The "gainsaying of Korah" is very popular in 2010. In all of my dealings with Pastors, I find that there are many churches filled with religious people. It is not until we get down into the lowest place and find ourselves poor, empty and desperate for the divine presence that we can accept from the hand of his bounty, that which he desires to bestow. As it was with Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, so it is with many in our churches today. Their religion is a curse instead of a blessing to them. The fire of the consuming God attacks their soul and instead of consuming the dross and changing their ways, they walk out unchanged. Why? Because they take a false position, their not honest with God or man. They want a religion without a mediator, and a religion without a mediator is a religion in direct defiance to the revealed will of God.

These are three lives that lead to spiritual ruin. Saints, the time has come when all of our masks must come off. Child of God, deal with sin thoroughly and honestly before God and man. Let us allow Christ to search every area of our hearts and lives, and let us say yes to Him today.

God Bless You,
Pastor Duke Downs

"WOE UNTO THEM!
FOR THEY HAVE GONE IN THE WAY OF Cain.
AND RAN GREEDILY AFTER THE ERROR OF Balaam FOR REWARD,
AND PERISHED IN THE GAINSAYING OF Core."
JUDE 11

Substantial Life

By Pastor Daren Downs

THE MIRAGE.

A man is lost in the desert trying to find his way, his rations run out and weariness has set in. In time thirst begins to well up; first in his throat, then down to the bosom until finally it is all that he can think about and his body begins to pain for just one drink of water. Death's shadow has crept upon his shoulder. But then off in the distance he sees a pool of water. Can this be an oasis? He runs, stumbling through the hot sands as fast as he can. He comes up to the place where he saw the pool to find nothing but burning sand.

Can there be anything more cruel than a mirage? It is a deceiving illusion. What you thought was sure to satisfy that you exerted so much energy to reach has left you in worse condition than had you never even tried. This earthly life is filled with illusions.

There was a man from the southern part of what is now Turkey. He was a religious and devout man fulfilling every commandment and striving with everything in him to please his God. He happened one day to be in Jerusalem where a crowd of his fellow religious men had gathered. They had surrounded a young man and were angry, shouting words like "blasphemer." They began throwing off their coats to take up stones. Their coats were mound up at the feet of Saul that day as he gazed at a young man nearly his same age named Stephen. His face was glowing and he spoke with such authority. Saul had witnessed the death of a just man, and from that moment he would never be the same. Saul's heart was troubled within him, and it caused him to set out to prove his religious zeal. He began with fervency to persecute others like Stephen, but as the days marched on, the religious life was proving to be nothing more than an illusion – a mirage.

THIS CHRISTIAN LIFE IS REAL.

Phil. 3:14 "I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward."

Ps. 107:9 "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

Mat. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

If there is anything that this Gospel proves, it proves to be substantial. While nothing else in this world can satisfy; in this journey with Christ real longing meets real satisfaction, hunger is fed, and thirst is quenched as one comes to truly know the Lord Jesus Christ as his or her source of life. So many things sought for, though they are real as far as this earth is concerned, and can be touched and handled, mean nothing to the eternal soul – they are but a mirage. How many have finally gotten a hold of riches to find it only to be a mirage and the frustration and dissatisfaction is tearing their home apart. How many have reached the height of fame and the applause of men only to feel all alone. They stand in the midst of the cheers hearing the echo of a hollow distant sound of emptiness. It is all a mirage. But Saul found life's meaning, or should we say life's meaning found Saul. He had something going for him. He was a seeking man, but that seeking had to have its motive and aim shifted. It had to be shifted from the earthly to the heavenly, from the seen to the unseen. If this shift did not take place a life would be wasted, and all the energy spent would have been for nothing.

NOT TO BE WASTED.

Jn. 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

There is to the South of Jerusalem a deep narrow valley called Gehenna, where the idolatrous Jews offered their children in sacrifice to Molech. This valley afterwards became the common receptacle for all the refuse of the city. Here the dead bodies of animals and of criminals, and all kinds of filth, were cast and consumed by an ever-burning fire. It thus in process of time became the image of the place of everlasting destruction.

The Jews in that day used it as a living example of hell. Hell is the landfill of the refuse of this earth. Not everything thrown away is of no value, but everything thrown away has been wasted. Every soul has value, and every lost soul will have been wasted. The blood money – bought the broken vessels that no one wanted. God gave his only begotten Son that our life should not be wasted. Not just that we would not be lost forever, but that the great treasure that He has deposited in us would not be wasted in doing nothing. Moles have eyes but cannot see; the ostrich has wings but cannot fly; and so many Christians are living in such contradiction to their heavenly nature. How many are wasting their lives if not outright at least in a measure? If we are not living our life out fully for the Lord, then we are in some measure wasting our life. We are like the eagle with a great wingspan that never learned to fly. It doesn't mean that everyone has to be a pastor, a prophet, or a missionary to a foreign land. That is the extreme excuse. When the Lord gave out the talents it wasn't the one with five that was lost, it was the one that had been given a single talent and did nothing with it. Christians hold ambitions that if fulfilled would lead them out into the wilderness of this world; some Christians have ambitions that they believe would better the kingdom if they just had it. The Christian music industry with its very high amount of bad conduct, pride, and immorality have shown us that so-called Christian fame is also a mirage. Three well-known so-called Christian singers have confessed to being homosexual and countless more remain unconfessed; living in adultery, bound by cigarettes, alcohol and the love of fame and money – a mirage.

But though there are failures, life is as real as death; satisfaction is as real as hunger; quenching is as real as thirst – but how does one find an oasis in the wilderness of this life rather than a mirage? Ninety-nine percent of what is out there is a mirage and to seek after those things will end in a fate worse than death. The humiliation of being deceived, of

having thought that hot sands were cool waters is what will provide much of the torments of hell. If hell is the place of unfulfilled desires, then Heaven is the place where all true desire is fulfilled; where every longing of the hungry heart is filled to capacity and to overflowing fullness. A life can be wasted in this world or in the religious world just the same, but it is wasted nonetheless. But the everlasting eternal life knows real substance, and real satisfaction.

THE QUESTION IS HOW?

This is one of the hardest questions to answer. How does one find the answer? I was raised in church, I heard the truth, but for most of those years I missed it. Andrew was one day following the Lord Jesus, when suddenly the Lord turned to him and said, "What seek ye?" Where do you dwell? Come and see. (Jn. 1:35-) Phillip had been one of the longest following of all the disciples. He said to Jesus, "Show us the Father and it will satisfy us." To which Jesus replied, "Have I been so long with you and yet thou dost not know Me Phillip?" Phillip was in danger of missing it all.

Earlier this year my son had such an experience here. He said to me afterward, "Dad, what happened to me?" God did something personal in your life son, something that He wants you to grow to understand and know. He loves you personally, and wants you to know Him personally.

First of all the ambition and aim of our life should not be things, but a Person. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," or let the first and preeminent thing you seek be the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Christ Himself is the kingdom. I have met Christians in many countries of this world. I have met them that were rich and those that were so poor as far as this world's riches are concerned. But I have never met one yet whose heart was all for the Lord who felt this life to be a mirage. When we seek a mate more than we seek God, when we seek a position, a platform in life more than we seek God – we may be seeking a lawful thing, a thing that would be good, but to get there without the Lord being first in our life is to make our way to a mirage. The reason so many raised in church run into a mirage is that they are seeking things: righteousness, holiness, knowledge, faith, but they fail to seek for the Person. You never loved your parents for what they gave you, you loved them for who they were – they were your mother and father, and you loved them because they loved you. There

are many that were going to bring the Lord into their life, just as soon as they had sought out their own kingdom. That is seeking first our own kingdom and then trying to add the Lord to it in the end. It's a mirage. It is not what you accomplish in life, but it is rather Who you accomplish it with. You are not going to be judged on how much you accomplished, but rather on how faithful you were. When the longing comes you must feed that longing. When the desire for communion with God comes, you must commune with God. The first meeting of Andrew with our Lord was so simple and is only a few words, but Andrew discovered where the Lord dwelt, and since that day Andrew has been dwelling with Him. Andrew found the answer to his question. He found it by following the Lord. He went with the Lord that day and heaven only can tell of the experience he had. Phillip's motive and aim found their course, and we later find Philip preaching Christ to the hated and despised Samaritans. Still later we see him in a chariot sharing with one Ethiopian



man the Gospel of the Kingdom.

That one man is believed to have pioneered the Gospel in the African lands. We try to live from crisis experience to crisis experience, but most of our Christian life is made up of simple obedience. The same might be said of our physical life, we don't live on one binge meal and then do without for several days, weeks, or months and then have another binge meal – we may likely die of starvation before we get to the next meal. We live on our daily bread, satisfying our physical hunger day-by-day. That is health and will always produce growth.

There's another example that we must share. He was a man known as "A good man, filled with the Holy Ghost and with faith." Barnabas was a good man. Righteousness is goodness, and seeking the righteousness of the kingdom is to seek Christ's goodness to such abundance that it overflows our own life. Barnabas was a man that encouraged so many. He was incarnate encouragement. He knew how to put heart into people who had lost hope. He had skill to fling a sunrise into the

life that had grown dark and black with night. Despair fled at the sound of his footstep, and despondency simply could not endure the sight of him. He was a good man, and being good, he was generous in his judgments, generous in the use of his substance. He was so good that he won a new name, the Son of Consolation. In fact, he was so good that we cannot fail to see a family resemblance between him and Jesus Christ, whose goodness was goodness in perfection. You may never preach a sermon, you may never step foot in a foreign land, but your life is to make all the difference in every place where you go. It is to be to the spiritual world what the sun is to the natural. And when others come to know your life they will not find it a mirage but a life of substance – the substance of Christ.

A SATISFIED LIFE.

When you are young you strive for greatness, but as you grow older you come to value things differently. You discover that greatness isn't doing great things, it is doing the little things in a great way, and becoming a faithful and trustworthy person to all those that need you and rely on you. The whole world may not know you, but you can have a family that loves you and children that look to you with a loving heart. You can live out your life, passing through difficulties just as everyone does and finally coming to the end of your journey, but you don't have to pass alone. As your loving spouse holds your hand till you pass away you will feel another hand take hold – the hand of the Lord Jesus, and He will guide you through the gates of eternity. Pastor Clendennen was with an old saint of God before he died: "What has been your greatest experience?" Oh, I haven't had it yet. I have served him all of my life and tomorrow I'm going to see Him. It was a life fulfilled. Paul could say, "I have finished my course." There is no greater accomplishment than to finish our course. Jesus said, "It is finished." This life that has been given you can be a completed life, a satisfied life, a life that crosses the finish line. God so loved you. He loves you personally and made every provision that you would not only be saved, but that your life would not be wasted. The answer is not in all the things that you are trying to accomplish in life, the answer is in Who you will accomplish those things with. Christ is real and everything without Him is a mirage.

God Bless You,
Pastor Daren Downs

A Blessing TO THE NATIONS

BY PASTOR DAREN DOWNS

For many years Mexico has been a country that has been on the receiving end of missions. There have been churches planted across the country and there has been much growth. God has blessed Mexican ministers with an abundance of gifts and there are many strong churches throughout the land.

God is calling Mexico today to become a sending nation – a giving nation. Though this has already begun and Mexican missionaries are already moving out; we believe that God is going to greatly increase this in the end time.

Nearly fifteen years ago we met brother Carlos Mareñalarena and his wife Marilu. We were drawn to them from the day that we met them. They have been working in missions in Mexico for about seventeen years. Pastor Carlos has sent workers into many parts of Mexico where they have planted churches, work in the prisons, evangelize, and minister to the children. Today, God is preparing them to go even further – to carry the treasures of the heart of Christ to the nations beyond. We have always known Carlos to be a giving man, and a man that was always looking upward and beyond.

During our visit we ministered at an international missions conference hosted by pastor Carlos and his church Amistad Familiar of Mazatlan, Mexico. Many pastors and their wives came with a hunger and desire for more. It was the most open and receptive group of ministers I have ever ministered to in Mexico. Truly, times have changed and the hand of the Lord is upon Mexico.

Over one hundred years ago there were very few Christians in Korea. The missionaries went and Korea received. Today, Korea is the first nation in the world, surpassing even the United States in sending missionaries. This is by percentage. They don't have the finances that we have in America, but they are out-sending us. Brethren, they are making a greater sacrifice than we are! May God bless the Korean church! If God did this in Korea, He can also do it in Mexico.

Mexico faces great trials today of violence and drugs, but it only causes the church to shine even brighter in the midst of the darkness.

The answer to Mexico is the men and women of God and the churches that they are pastoring throughout the nation. During one of the morning services, pastors took hold of flags of the nations as an act of faith saying, I want to be a part of world missions. We prayed together with them that day.

While we were there we met a Mexican-American missionary who works in a Muslim country. We had not met him before and we found that we were in Mexico for the same purpose – to see Mexicans raised up in these last days as a light to the nations, and to see the churches of Mexico support world missions. The missionary presented a video, shared his vision, and in finality said, "Here's the door. It is open to you." During the conference plans were made for the pastors to raise support to go to this Muslim country in the coming year; it appears that several will be going. Glory be to God! God not only sent us to share with them, but the door was opened during our visit. We live in miraculous times.



Picture Above: Pastor Carlos and Marilu Marinelarena with their granddaughter Faith..



Picture Above: Mike Dueck, Pastor Kelly Starnes, Pastor Carlos Marinelarena, and Pastor Daren Downs.



Picture Above: Pastor Dean Helzer, Brother Carlos Ramirez, Pastor Daren Downs, and Pastor Kelly Starnes.



Picture Above: Pastor Kelly with Mike, Gaby and Faith Dueck.



Picture Above: Church Service



Picture Above: Pastor Kelly with Brother Carlos Ramirez.

Fruit From The Prisons



Picture Above: Brother Carlos and Pastor Dean preachin in the prison.

Brother Carlos Ramirez was once an inmate in the United States. His family had come to America illegally when he was very young. As he grew up he became involved in gangs and wound up in prison. While he was in the prison God saved him. He became an interpreter for pastor Robert Frias and the volunteers from Living Waters that go into the prisons. After serving his time he was sent back to Mexico where he has been involved in ministry ever since. God has blessed him with a beautiful family, a wife and new baby.

We were amazed as God used him to interpret for us. He translated three messages a day and many conversations as well. We thank God that He went into the prison in America and found a young man and placed a great treasure into his heart. The work in the prisons is producing ministers of the Gospel. Thank God that He gave His only begotten Son that lives would not be wasted.



It was nearly eight years ago that we traveled to Thailand to put the School of Christ into the Karen language. There was such a hunger then in their hearts to have the teachings that they were attempting themselves to voice over another school. God opened the door for brother Daren Downs and David Jacobson to go put the school into their language.

During our time there a young girl in the school came to class one morning and said, "Last night I had a dream. There was a bridge that went out from this place and went out beyond." We thought that the Lord was confirming that He would take the school from our location out to the rest of the Karen in the refugee camps of Thailand and into Myanmar. Eight years later we have come to see a real miracle of God. The school went to the Karen in the refugee camps and more than five thousand students have attended the school. The United Nations came up with a plan to send the Karen from the refugee camps to nearly forty nations around the world.

We have reported in previous articles that the Karen are in many of the states in America, and they are planting new churches. But the same can be said for other countries as well. Now that the Karen are relocated and facing new trials and tests in new lands, there was a need to teach the School of Christ to those that are now living in first world countries. They are sending their children to our schools and having to get jobs in our busy cultures and some of their leaders were asking us if we could teach the School of Christ anew to them. In August of this year we went to Omaha, Nebraska where we taught about one-third of the lessons to Karen representatives from different areas of the United States. The Spirit of God was on the lessons and the Lord spoke currently and directly to the needs of the Karen in the new nations that they have entered.

We are preparing now to go to Brisbane, Australia in January 2011 to teach another third of the school to the Karen there. The final third of the school will likely be taught to the Karen in Canada. Who would of thought that the school would find a path with the Karen people into many nations of this world? God always goes beyond what we can see and so far exceeds our expectations.

Please keep us in prayer in this ministry with the Karen and believe God with us that He will make the Karen a blessing to the nations.



Picture Above: Pasor Somchai, Pastor Daren, Pastor Lyle, Pastor Ner Clay, and Brother Joesph.

Living Waters 2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Campmeeting 2011

January 18th - 20th (Tue-Thur)

Schedule:

Prayer Meeting: 8:00am - 9:00am

Breakfast: 9:00am - 10:30am

Morning Service - 10:30am

Lunch: 12:00pm (*Pastors and out of town guests only, please*)

Evening Service: 7:00pm

Please call Vanessa or Cheryl for
hotel information at (909) 590-4222.

Youth Night

Living Waters will be hosting our second annual youth night:

GENERATION UNITED 2011

Friday, January 21st @ 7:00pm

Living Waters Church

Speaker: Brother David Owens

We encourage you to bring your youth and college age groups
for this revival service. Pizza fellowship to follow.

Please reserve your spot for your group
by calling Vanessa @ (909) 590.-4222

LIVING WATERS MEDIA

To place an order please contact us at:
www.lwmedia@lwofc.com or call (909) 590-4222

Website Updates

To hear our Sunday morning messages or
to check out our latest literature, please visit our website:
WWW.LIVINGWATERSOFCHINO.ORG

What's New?

THREE ROADS THAT LEAD TO HELL SERIES

Two Messages By Pastor Duke Downs

CD-\$10.00, DVD-\$12.00

Although there are many roads that lead to hell, in this series we focus on the roads taken by Cain, Balaam, and Core (Jude 11), who lived their lives with no regard for God, driven by pride, selfishness, jealousy, greed, lust for power, and disregard for God's will. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

Living Waters Church

6010 Walnut Avenue

Chino, CA 91710

Toll Free: (888) 777-5259