

The VINE & BRANCHES

The Newsletter of WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, inc.

Incorporated September 28, 1999

Charter 01552809-01

Post Office Box 4217 Brownsville, Texas, USA 78523-4217

Office Telephone (956) 574-9475

E-Mail: workerstogether@aol.com

Web Site: www.workerstogetherwithhim.org



Jesus said, "For without Me, ye can do nothing."

Greetings to you in the name that is above all names, Jesus Christ! All praise and honor be to the One in whom "we live, and move, and have our being."

As the summer of 2001 so quickly comes to an end, I am once again reminded why this life is referred to as a *race*. This month we recognize the second anniversary of Workers Together With Him. No, two years is not a lot of time. Then again, it seems like a year has passed just since the last issue of the Vine & Branches, so much has happened. And as I write this letter, more is in store.

I am very excited to present you with this issue of our newsletter. I first heard Rev. Pyle teach his message "The Divine Kiss" at the conclusion of a Weapons of our Warfare class in Louisiana this summer, and it has brought joy and rejoicing to my heart ever since. Rev. Pelidis has another stirring and challenging message for us, certain to shake the cobwebs out of our hearts and minds. Through the Word of God, Rev. Pekel makes known "Man's Best State."

It is with mixed feelings that I let you know that very soon, Todd and Evi Pekel will be leaving Brownsville to return to Greece. I cannot fully express the great contribution they have made to our lives and to the work of the ministry here. For entirely selfish reasons, Nelly and I are very sad to see them go. But at the same time we are very excited to see the things the Lord has in store for them in the next chapter of their life.

Rudolf Illavský of Austria has written a wonderful message concerning the Weapons of our Warfare class which was held this summer in Sonntagberg, Austria. Over the years I have known him, Rudi has shown himself to be a faithful minister of the Lord and servant to the people of God, and I am very proud to be his co-worker and friend. He was a wonderful host to all of us during our stay in Austria, and I would like to thank him once again. I would also like to join Rudi in thanking Gabi Helmer from Ger-

many for the outstanding job she did in translating the class into German.

At August's end, at the invitation of Jerome Lucas of London, I returned to England to present my seminar "If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall." I had not taught this material for several years, and I was very excited to pick it up again. This seminar concerns the Christian values of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. These Christian ideals could well be called "the things that accompany salvation" (Heb. 6:9). Once again, Jerome made full proof of his ministry in his faithful and tireless service to the Lord and the people of God. I am always very glad to take part in the wonderful work of God that is going on in England under his pastorship. Once again I offer my gratitude to everyone who worked so hard to put on this event. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Heb. 6:10). Jerome gives us his own report of this event in this issue as well.

My next scheduled trip is the Weapons of our Warfare seminar from October 20 to 28 in London. From November 2-4, I will be teaching at the home of Jim and Shawnee Vickery in Okemos, Michigan. And I have been invited to teach "If Ye Do These Things" at the home of Carl and Vivienne Roberts in Wales from December 1-2.

Once again, thank you for striving together with me in your prayers and support. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen" (2 Corin. 13:14).

In the service of His Majesty, the King of kings,

Rev. Tim Sullivan

The Divine Kiss

By Rev. Evan Pyle

Mercy and truth are met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed
each other.

(Psalm 85:10)

In the above statement the Psalmist brings together two seemingly opposite concepts. The lovingkindness, mercy and grace that are God's divine nature are met together with His unbending and unchanging demand for truth, righteousness and judgment. And they are not just met together; they actually come together in a divine kiss. Brothers and sisters, let us explore together how these different concepts are met together in our Christian walk.

Remember, our Christian life isn't about who we are trying to be (or who we want others to think we are), but who we really are. God knows our innermost parts and with the New Birth, He has given us an innate desire to be pleasing to Him. There must be a sense of honesty and reality to our lives if we are ever going to learn anything and if we are to be truly pleasing to Him.

If mercy and truth met together, if righteousness and peace kissed each other, they must have been apart. This divine meeting was made possible in Jesus Christ.

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (Jn. 1:17)

The gulf between God and man is so vast than no man can span it. God is merciful, but mercy must be on the proper grounds to meet truth. Mercy cannot nor will not grieve the holy nature of a judging God. Salvation is not "free" as some have termed it, but exacted the cost of the lifeblood of God's dear only-begotten Son. The mercies of God are not a thing to be demanded when we have sinned against God or when we have found ourselves in a bind. Mercy must be on the proper grounds and the proper grounds were found in Christ, on Calvary's hill. The Law's unbending demands were thus quieted and the veil that kept mercy and truth separated was dramatically rent...torn wide open for all that receive the Lord. In the Cross God turns His mercy toward sinful man without violating His perfect Truth.

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. (Prov. 16:6)

This divine meeting in a Christian's life is not a once-in-the-past happening, but a daily reality in our walk of faith. Our walk must be in truth and righteousness or it is just a sham. Our walk must be in mercy and peace or else

we receive the rightful payment for our works, which is death. But there has been a move, really a dramatic shift, in the modern Church away from the divine marriage of grace and truth found in the Lord. It is something I call "Christianity-Lite." It is the feel-good gospel that likes to deny sin and call it dysfunction, or broken fellowship, or blame it on somebody or something else. The gospel of truth and righteousness recognizes the hopeless state of man and the ugliness of his fallen condition. It calls it like it is... "for the wages of sin is death..." and then provides the remedy for all time for all people "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: (Pro. 3:3)

Have you ever noticed a believer, maybe even yourself, eagerly accept God's grace and mercy but be less than eager to hear of God's righteous demands? I wanted God's grace and mercy, but I wanted to forge my own path and have God there to help me. I wanted God's peace, but I didn't want to labor to enter into the promised rest (Heb. 4:9-11). But God does not withdraw His requirements. His demands are also known as His will. Mercy and grace meet together in our walk with righteousness and truth when we submit to and follow God's will for our lives. Nothing less will satisfy His claims on us, for we are bought with a dear price! When we die to our own desires and wishes in favor of following God's plan for our life, we are blessed with the Divine Kiss.

When we stand before the Lord to give account of our lives before Him, He will want to know if we followed His plan for our lives, not just if we obeyed the biblical commands. Paul could have obeyed the Bible's demands without ever walking in the apostleship to which Jesus called him. But Paul's response, as should be ours, was "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. (Psa. 2:12)

...and knew the grace of God in truth: (Col. 1:6B)

I pray that *we* may know the grace of God *in truth*. In Christ both peace and righteousness are to be met together. May this be a reality in our moment-by-moment walk.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. (Rom. 14:17,18)

What Manner of Persons Ought We to Be?

By Rev. Dimitris Pelidis
Thassos, Greece

Everyone prepares for a special event. Whatever the occasion, it goes without saying that certain adjustments have to be made as the big day draws closer and the anticipation grows higher. Why is it then, that so many of us Christians are not preparing appropriately for THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD? Most likely, it is because we have somehow missed what the future really holds. I for one, used to believe that the day of the Lord would be a bright, sunny day and no doubt it will be. Yet, there is a dark side to it that should not be overlooked.

Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. (Amos 5:18)

To what end is it for you, brother and sister? Perhaps we are too at ease with the idea that the righteous shall be saved, but not so aware that "the righteous scarcely is saved." We JUST make it! Truly our escape will be very narrow!

For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? (1 Pet. 4:17-18)

In the Day of the Lord, the Lord Jesus shall baptize the world with the baptism of judgment as prophesied by John.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He That cometh after me is mightier than I, Whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with Holy Ghost and with fire: Whose fan is in His hand, and He shall gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. (Mt.3:11-12)

This day is sneaking up like a thief in the night.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (2 Pet. 3:10)

We shall be saved, yet so as by fire. It is our works that must stand the test of the flame.

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built there-

upon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (1 Cor. 3: 13-15)

In light of the above a very poignant question arises:

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT WE TO BE IN ALL HOLY CONVERSATION AND GODLINESS [emphasis added]? (2 Pet. 3:11)

We ought to be holy, for He is Holy.

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (1 Pet. 1:14-16)

God's will for His people is very clear!

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God...For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. (1 Thes.4:3-5, 7-8)

We are not people who don't know God. We have tasted of His goodness, mercy and grace. God has given us his holy Spirit so we, being His children could be like Him. His great longing has always been to have a nation of people who would love Him and portray His excellence.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Pet 2:9-12)

There is nothing that corrupts the soul more than lust and nothing that restores it more than holiness. Actually if we are to win any other souls it is first by keeping our own pure from lust and sin. We should arrive at the point where we determine that we no longer live the rest of our time in the flesh to the lusts of men but to the will of God (1 Pet. 4:2). Aren't we sick and tired of wasting our lives like that? Doesn't our heart crave for holiness? Isn't it time for us to make the difference?

For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: (1 Pet. 4:3-4)

Awkward as it may seem, if the world is *not* speaking evil of us; if they do *not* find it strange that we don't go down the same stream of sin that they are, then there is strong indication that we are not living a holy life and that we are not making any difference at all.

We should honestly answer for ourselves the question of whom we are yoked to. Are we yoked to the master or to the world? The Bible warns. "Evil communications corrupt good manners." (1 Cor. 15:33) and "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (Jms. 4:4b).

Where I come from there is a saying that in essence reiterates this truth: "Tell me who your friend is and I'll tell you who you are." Are you still a friend of the world? Sooner or later you will be reduced to an unbeliever having been corrupted by evil communications. The Biblical instruction is clear and simple.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Cor. 6:17-18)

Notice that **FIRST** you come out from among them and **THEN** God receives you and is a Father to you.

Dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Cor. 7:1)

Holiness is perfected in the fear of God and not by taking Him lightly. It is by the precious blood of His only begotten son Jesus that we have access into the heavenlies.

For through Him we both have access by one spirit unto the Father. (Eph. 2:18)

Let us therefore enter into His presence and fellowship with Him, "with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our minds washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:22). Let us choose the company of His friendship. Finally, let us, as the elect of God, be holy as He is Holy. We must follow holiness, "without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14).

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. (1 Thes. 5:23-24)



Man's Best State

by Rev. Todd W. Pekel

Yesterday, I had a few minutes between classes so I popped open my Bible to read a Psalm or two and came upon some verses of Scripture that are truly outstanding.

LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. (Ps. 39:4,5)

What is our life, *really*, in the grand scheme of things? Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. (Jms. 4:14)

Recently, I was made to understand how totally self-ish, self-centered and absorbed in our own little, mundane world we can be at times! What's the big picture, one asks? What's it all about, we cry? Well, the big picture is God and it's all about His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. After all, it's *His* gospel, *His* eternal kingdom, and *His* work. *He* is the Head above all in the Church.

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (Eph. 4:15)

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)

Unfortunately, it's easy to get so absorbed in our own little world, that we lose sight of the big picture. Brothers and Sisters, these things ought not to be. As the Psalmist above declared, "man at *his best state*, is altogether vanity."

They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah. (Ps. 62:3,4)

Man delights in lies. They consult to cast God down from His excellency. Whether of low or high degree, God says man is *lighter* than vanity.

Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. (Ps. 62:9)

Wow! "They are altogether *lighter than vanity*." Man is less than useless on his own. There is *nothing* man can do or bring to God in an attempt to justify himself or proclaim himself righteous, worthy, or just in the eyes of

our God. Even our righteousnesses are as filthy rags before His glorious presence.

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isa. 64:6)

How underwhelmingly inconsequential man is apart from, and separated from God. In “his best state, man is altogether vanity,” we have read. Is there anything we can do on our own? Our Lord has given us that answer.

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (Jn. 15:5)

Without our Lord, we can do nothing. Even as our Lord, without His Father, could do nothing.

If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. (Jn. 9:33)

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. (Jn. 5:30)

So what’s the point you ask? Our Lord just supplied us with the answer; did you see it? “I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”

When teaching His disciples about prayer, Jesus Christ taught the following:

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (Mt. 6:9-13)

The words “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,” are *emphatic*. One could well read and understand them as, COME! Thy Kingdom, BE DONE! Thy will, in earth as it is in heaven.

When we seek the Kingdom of God and *His* righteousness, everything that we have need of, will be added unto us.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Mt. 6:33)

After all, if our Lord sought the will of His Father and could do *nothing* of His own (and *He* was the sinless Son of God mind you) how much more should *we* seek and pray that God’s Kingdom come and *His* will be done? Let us be *doers* of the will of God and not hearers only.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (Jms. 1:22)

It is the *only way* we can be blessed.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (Jms 1:25)

By doing the will of God we can escape *man’s* best state, which is altogether vanity, and enter into *God’s* best state of righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 14:17)

Let us pray, “Come! Thy Kingdom; Be Done! Thy will, on earth as it is in heaven.”



When the God of All Comfort Makes You *Uncomfortable*

By Rev. Tim Sullivan

For many people, the world in which we live is a cold and lonely place. Theirs is an existence without hope or meaning, without joy or comfort. For them, happiness is only a fleeting shadow, vaguely familiar, while despair is a constant companion. The oppressor has no pity for the oppressed.

So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter. (Eccl. 4:1)

Look around you and you will see a world of comfortless people trying to anesthetize the nagging pain of their existence. The marketplace has many opiates from which to choose, some that deaden the body and others that deaden the mind. But whether lost in themselves or in the company of strangers, theirs is a common quest – to escape to a place where they cannot feel their pain any more.

This is the world we live in. These are the people we live among, people who need Jesus Christ and the comfort He promises. Jesus said, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (Jn. 14:18).

“I, even I, am he that comforteth you,” says the Lord God (Isaiah 51:12). As we read, “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mer-

cies, and the God of all comfort” (2 Cor. 1:3).

The story of Noah teaches us about the comfort that God brings. The name Noah means “comfort.”

And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed. (Gen. 5:29)

What is the story of Noah if it is not a story of comfort and newness of life? “Old things are passed way,” we read in 2 Corinthians 5:17. “Behold, all things are become new.” We are comforted in God’s promise to recompense good for good and evil for evil.

The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. (Ruth 2:12)

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:30-31)

We are comforted that by His mercy our iniquity is pardoned.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. (Isa. 40:1-2)

Our warfare was accomplished when Jesus Christ made atonement for our sins on the Cross. Praise be to God, our iniquity is pardoned! What comfort indeed! This is the comfort wherewith God “comforteth those that are cast down” (2 Cor.7:6A). This is the comfort that comforts us in all our tribulation.

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (2 Cor:1:4).

This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. (Psa. 119:50)

So long as we live in this world, God wants us to be comforted. But that is not to say He wants us *comfortable*. There is quite a difference. The parable of the “certain rich man” is the story of a man who wanted to be *comfortable* in this world.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. (Lk. 12:19)

The problem with the Church of Jesus Christ today, like the church of the Laodiceans written of in the book of Revelations, is that is she strives to be *comfortable*.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that

thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (Rev. 3:17)

The Laodicean church typifies a church that subscribes to the “gain is godliness” doctrine that is so popular today. Because she was abounding in material things, she believed she was likewise abounding spiritually. But in the eyes of God, she was wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

Remember the title of this lesson: “When the God of all comfort makes you uncomfortable.” A comfortable church is a stagnant church, a church that has fallen asleep. God wants His church stirred to action.

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (Rev. 3:18-19)

God wants us “zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14). He wants us awake and not asleep. You see, the more comfortable the bed, the more inviting it is to stay asleep.

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man. (Prov. 6:9-11)

It is far easier to sleep in the dark.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. (Jn. 3:19-20)

In the light, you have only two choices: either to close your eyes or repent unto good works.

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. (Jn. 3:21)

Have you ever sat through a sermon that made you squirm in your seat because you knew God was using that preacher to speak right to you? Maybe you tried hiding behind your Bible or ducking down beneath the pew! You see, for us mortals, one of the most *uncomfortable* places to be is in the light of God. In the light of God, we see the nature of our sinful deeds, and this makes us very uncomfortable indeed! It was as Paul stood in the light of God that he exclaimed, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom. 7:24).

How did God bring you to Christ, except that He first made you uncomfortable with your sinful condi-

tion? In your Christian walk, God draws you closer to Him by first showing you the way of repentance. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel!" (Mk. 1:15). When God wants to spur you toward a new stage in your Christian life, He first makes you uncomfortable with your present condition. He snatches the pillow out from under your head. He shakes your bed. He wakes you up.

Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. (Eph. 5:14)

Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God... (1 Cor. 15:34A)

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. (Rom. 13:11)

There are many "Laodicean Christians" in the world today who swear they'll "join the cause" once the going gets *really* tough. But those who are waiting for our adversary to become obvious are already under his spell. The effectiveness of his attack lies in his subtlety. The devil is more than happy to see Christians cozy in their beds, groggy with spiritual slumber. "You don't need to change," he lullabies into their ear. "I like you just the way you are. I accept you just the way you are. Now, go back to sleep!"

The more we desire to be comfortable, the less likely we will be to finish our race. Like the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane, our great challenge will be to stay awake, "lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping (Mk. 13:36)."

Yes, when Jesus Christ comes knocking at your door, He comes to give you a wake-up call. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20).

For the vigilant Christian, being uncomfortable is a way of life. The more we try to live up to our Christian calling, the more our inadequacies will become obvious to us. But be of good comfort! God shows us our weakness so that we learn to rely on His strength. And when the God of all comfort makes you uncomfortable, it is because He is stirring you up to a greater level of spiritual awareness and growth.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (Rev. 3:19)

BOOKSTORE

By Rev. Tim Sullivan:

The Weapons of our Warfare

Forty-four chapters of Biblical teaching on the Weapons of our Warfare, the nine spiritual gifts given by God to the Church today. (432 pages, published 2001) Suggested donation \$20.00.

Walking On The King's Highway

Including: *A Time of War; The Prosperity of the Lord's Servant; Discretion Shall Preserve Thee; The Generation of Jesus Christ; Disappointed in God; Holistic Christianity* and *Walking on the King's Highway*. (110 pages, published 1999) Suggested donation: \$10.00

Auf Der Strasse Des Königs Gehen

The German edition of *Walking On The King's Highway* translated by Beatrice Mantock. (84 pages, published 2000. Available in Europe only). Suggested donation \$10.00

If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall

Lessons on: *Faith; Virtue; Knowledge; Temperance; Patience; Godliness; Brotherly Kindness and Charity*. (120 pages, published 1998) Suggested donation \$10.00

By The Grace of God I Am What I Am

Featuring: *Precepts and Premises; A Fountain of Life; The Evidence of Things Not Seen; But Ye Say* and *By the Grace of God I Am What I Am*. (100 pages, published 1996). Suggested donation \$10.00

By Rev. Todd Pikel:

The House Of God

Chapters entitled: *Christ The Spiritual Rock, Christ The Foundation, Christ The Chief-Cornerstone, Christ The Head, Christ The Temple* and *Christ The Door*. (58 pages, published 2000). Suggested donation \$10.00

The policy of Workers Together With Him is to freely distribute our classes and materials, that we might "make the gospel without charge." The suggested donation is intended to help us recover our printing and shipping expenses, and provide funds for our continued work. Please make checks payable to Workers Together With Him.



The Weapons of our Warfare Class in
Sonntagberg, Austria
 Reported by Rudolf Illavský

"The living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy..." (1 Tm. 6:17)

This verse was with us from beginning to end of the Weapons of our Warfare class in July in Austria. Yes, God gave us richly, starting from excellent teaching to great deliverance, from excellent food to great healing, from breathtaking scenery to noble accommodation, from sweet fellowship to great learning etc., etc., etc.

At least one source talks about the fact that in the early middle-ages, our class location used to be a pagan cult place. It was Christianized and the Catholic church erected a huge cathedral (see pictures at our website) on the mountain and from there, the gospel was spread in this area of Austria. Today, the place is under the authority of the Catholic church and we felt very welcomed by the people who are in charge of it.

There are many forms of giving reverence to the true living God and it is not without significance that God chose this specific place for the seminar, since there was great learning for all of us in being surrounded by devout Christians, who reverence God differently than we.

...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." (1 Sam.16:7b)

The Word declares that our Lord dealt with people individually, and only via the gifts of the Spirit we are able to deal with every person, knowing how to meet special needs, no matter what their religious background. The important thing is to win souls for Christ and not arguing about unnecessary facts, which probably raise up more questions than answers. There is no need to be in conflict with other Christian denominations about certain interpretations of specific matters.

Be of the same mind one toward another. (Rom. 12:16)

...one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:4-6)

The cornerstone of our being like-minded is Jesus Christ and the sharing of the fullness of grace which is in Him. He died for us, He was resurrected, He sits at the right hand of God, He is our Lord,

...and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (Phil. 3:15B)

God Almighty will take care of someone's erroneous theology. Didn't God set many of us free from our intellectual approach of His Word?

The students of the class want to thank our sister Gabriele Helmer from Germany for her excellent job in translating the whole seminar live into German. It was for us like reading subtitles and we all were very blessed by her humble and faithful service to the Lord and us. In the class we used the 1984 version of the Martin Luther Bible. Now and then there were little differences in harmonizing the King James Bible with the Luther Bible, but the great thing about the class is, that, as Tim pointed out, concepts are being presented, concepts which can be applied by every tongue and nation.

Everybody who has already taken the class knows about the rich teachings, which are being presented in a very simple way. Numerous times I was granted to realize again, that the scripture is very clear and logical and that verses were still dust covered by my intellectualism. I can bear witness, like I read in other class reports in previous V&Bs, that hearts of beloved brothers and sisters were changed within the week and year long unseen barriers between brothers were broken.

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. (Psa. 119:130)

Besides the sessions, which took place in the mornings and afternoons, we had lots of time for fellowship and exploring the wonderful nearby countryside. The water baptisms in the rivers of Lower Austria, the dedications of little ones and blessings over people at the end of the seminar were again highlights for the participants, who were residents from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland and the USA. All of the ones who have been at the class want to give thanks, first of all to our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, who granted all of us to be a part of that blessed occasion, and we do thank our brother Tim Sullivan, who again gave his time in being a vessel unto God. Yes, we are a letter being read by people and as I heard recently in a sermon: The world will not read the Bible, they will read you. My life has been very much provoked by Tim many times just by reading his life.

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (Heb. 10:24)

Let us take the opportunity to be "a companion of all them that fear Thee, and of them that keep Thy (God's) precepts" (Psa. 119:63).

At the end of this brief report, let me cite a quotation out of the class, which became an almost daily reminder to me, a statement of Francis of Assisi: "Preach the gospel always, and if necessary, use words."

Dear Tim,

God bless you and your family. I wanted to say thank you for the presentation of the Weapons of our Warfare seminar in Austria. A short time before the class I received information from our Lord that He would show me new insights into His Word in this class. (Usually I do not like classes because of... you know.)

And so I have to say it was fantastic. The eyes of my heart were enlightened in so many teachings. Therefore many old ideas in me are now rooted out, pulled down, destroyed, throw down as well as planted and built.

A important new planted thought for me is "Fear is an indicator that you are looking at your own power and not to the power of God." That is very true and every time when I am afraid about something and God brings that thought to me, I am immediately encouraged. "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

Another very important new planted thought is that we have to search the will of God and not our own. We can be so good in our own eyes and maybe so wrong in God's. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." Unanswered prayers are also an indicator of looking at your own will. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

New to my understanding are many, many more truths I have been enlightened to: Baptism, faith which comes from God, the blessing of the Lord, THE FEAR OF THE LORD, God is so much higher than the devil, THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE, etc... For all above mentioned items and many many more I can just say thank you first of all to our Heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ. But especially also for teachers who are looking for the will of God and not their own.

Thank you Tim and Nelly and your whole family! Our prayers are with you. God bless you all! (Please say greetings from Austria to Monica!)

Erich & Gundi Hörtler,
Austria

The VINE & BRANCHES is distributed free of charge, financed by donations received by Workers Together With Him. Please let us know if you to be added or deleted from our mailing list. Written contributions are encouraged and may be submitted to our office for publication upon approval. We reserve the right to make editorial changes as needed, but without changing the original intent of the author.



"If Ye Do These Things Ye Shall Never Fall"

London, England

Reported by Jerome Lucas

It is with great joy that I give you this report on a seminar entitled "If Ye Do These Things, Ye Shall Never Fall." I am convinced in my heart of hearts that God wants us "to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).

We have had two wonderful days here in London, listening to the truths of 2 Peter 1:1-9 taught to us by Rev. Sullivan. In this epistle written by Simon Peter we saw Peters human weaknesses in various situations, as he followed the Lord Jesus Christ, the conclusion being that Peter endured by living the truth and teaching it unto the end of his life here on earth.

We had thirty three students present, eleven churches were represented from Anglican to Baptists an charismatic groups. The seminar itself was held in Grange Farm Community centre in Osmond Close in South Harrow on the 26 and 27 August 2001. We had believers from Ireland, Holland and various parts of the British Isles. It is such a joy and privilege to have our hearts enlightened to the truth of the gospel of good news. "The greatest gift we can give each other in the body of Christ is a good example, and to do it for the right reasons." To be motivated to live the truth we love, and show forth a life-style for others to behold is our responsibility before God, and brings glory to our wonderful Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity were the areas that were studied and clarified to us in order to build Christian character in our lives. I learned many things for which I pray for help to master in my walk with my Heavenly Father. He is so good and so gracious to show us these truths in His Word that it is the only response we can honestly have to endeavour to live them. The Gospel I read of in the Bible is to me an endurance gospel. I go through the trials and tribulations of life endeavouring to do so in a godly manner, or else I am no different to any other man.

In closing, I would like to thank Rev. Sullivan for making his life available to teach, and God my Father for making His wonderful Word live for me.

Oh, Victory in Jesus!

A Testimony of Deliverance

When Jesus ministered healing to a man who was in dire straits, He told the people who were there, "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house" (Matt. 9:6). Yes Jesus, the One -- the only one -- Who can forgive sins, is the same One who heals.

Mr. Johnson called me from Florida asking for help. He told me the seriousness of his condition, and that his doctors confessed they knew nothing more they could do to help him. My own thoughts went to the words of Jesus, "I can of mine own self do nothing." The only help I could possibly offer would have to come from God.

I told Maurice how in his weakness he had to look to God's strength. His deliverance was not staked upon the power of believing, but believing in God's power. I told him that we receive healing much like we receive salvation. "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise" (Jer:17:14). We receive from God not because we are good or deserving, but because He is good and merciful. Salvation comes from the Lord and not the one who tells you about the Lord. Healing comes from the Lord, and not he who ministers in His name.

I prayed that God in His love and mercy would meet my brother's needs, and give me the revelation I needed to minister healing to him. The Lord led me step by step, and I declared those things that were revealed to me, cleansing his blood and making him whole in the name of the One who shed His perfect blood for us on the Cross.

As you read this testimony, you will see the heart of a man who knows who healed him, the same One "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psa. 103:3). I asked if we could print his testimony in praise to God and as inspiration to others in need. He graciously submitted this report, for which I give thanks. To God be the glory!

Rev. Tim Sullivan

On bended knee with head bowed in complete submission as a willing bond slave to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, my personal savior, I submit to you that our God is Love. He is truly an awesome God, way beyond what our five senses can comprehend. In my spirit I see and feel His love passing through every cell in my body. On holy ground I stand, completely cleansed by His love and by the blood of His Son.

Over 3 months ago I was told I had leukemia and had maybe 6 months to live. "Mr. Johnson, comparing your situation to a baseball game, you are in the ninth inning." (I didn't dare ask what part of the inning I was in). He told me there was no treatment for me and any treatment that was available would kill me. Tears welled up in my eyes and my children's eyes. Even the doctor had tears running down.

I felt my body shifting inside preparing for death's onslaught. God-given super strength was building up. My body was ready to defend me against perceived danger, like a soldier having been told of an immediate attack and frantically digging a fox hole while looking over his shoulder wondering just where the enemy would first attack. My body didn't realize the battle was spiritual not physical.

God and I are no strangers and I immediately told the doctor that God was in control. I know if I could have seen what was going on spiritually in that room, angels were surrounding me, dispatched directly from God, telling me to fear not. Amazingly I left in peace.

Since then the load has sometimes been more than I thought I could bear. I found myself trying to figure out just what I needed to do for God to heal me. I know that He could and that He was willing and able to do what he has promised. I didn't really understand how God was in control. Works are not the answer. All I had to was trust Him. God's love is what heals.

Many people have prayed for me. Dave & Sue Duris, through their many prayers, have literally fought for my life as have many others. These prayers have been lifted up by righteous men and women of God and I know these prayers have availed much because the Bible tells me so. Last Tuesday, I went back to the doctor, which was my first time in 5 weeks. I sat in the doctor's office and the doctor looked at my blood tests and shook his head, saying, "I don't understand." I asked him if he had good news. He loudly said, "Yes! You are alive." He told me he couldn't believe that my blood count had improved, which he said was a miracle. I asked him if any new treatment had been discovered. He laughed and told me that if he had given me some new drug when I had first come to him, they would be calling it a "wonder drug" by now. But I had been given nothing, not even an aspirin. I immediately starting praising God and saying all the glory goes to God.

In Psalm 6:2, King David prays to God saying, "Have mercy upon me, Oh Lord; for I am weak: Oh Lord, heal me; for my bones are vexed." God operates on His timetable. He is never late. He says, "I will stand upon my watch... to see what he will say unto me... for the vision

is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak... it will not tarry” (Hab. 2:1-3). I know God will continue to love me, and it’s that love that heals us.

I’ve received much advice and council, the best I believe is to get my mind off me and stay my mind on God. It is awesome to know, “My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psa. 121:2). What more could we ask for! I give God all the praise and all the glory for carrying me this far, and I trust in Him. I trust Him with my life, and I know no harm will come to me or you. The last thing the doctor said was, “Whatever you are doing -don’t change it!”

Your brother in Christ,
Maurice Johnson

“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”
Psalm 107:20

The ability to heal in the name of Jesus Christ, as well as the healing itself, is a gift of grace from our merciful God. By virtue of the gifts of the Spirit, and “by the mutual faith of you and me,” a servant of the Lord can minister healing to those in need. If you are in need of prayer or ministry, please feel free to call the offices of Workers Together With Him at (956) 574-9475. You may also reach me via my mobile phone at (956) 534-6032.

Tim Sullivan

Testimonies from the workplace

Seeing GOD at Work

Today it happened again, so I would like to share this with you. If you think it sounds funny, know that I think it *is*, but that is the beauty of it.

My workplace is the home of my husband David and me, for I am a housewife. Where we live, it is the countryside, and it is beautiful. It is called “The Spinney” because there are woods just across our lane.

When David is at work, it is of course my job to do the shopping and run other errands. Now, to walk to the super-

market, which is fortunately one of the nearest shops, it takes twenty minutes; to the actual town centre where many other important shops are, it is twice as far. There are local buses, but they don’t run very frequently, plus the bus stops and routes aren’t very convenient. I don’t like to spend money on taxis, either. Besides, I love to walk, even if it means that I feel like a mule, when, packed with rucksack and bags, I am trudging home after a lot of shopping.

When the weather is fine and dry, this is not so bad, but when it is raining ...

I haven’t mentioned that we live in England, and you probably know what this country is famous for, weatherwise.

In the beginning, when we had just moved here to Haslemere, I did a few of these shopping tours in the rain, from slight rain to heavy rain to freezing rain. Then I started praying.

Now I honestly can’t remember the last time I had to go out in the rain. Of course, I am planning ahead a bit, checking the weather forecast every now and then, looking at the sky and the clouds for indication. But most of all, when the weather looks uncertain and I know that I have to go out, I ask God to show me when to leave - in the morning, in the afternoon, or in between. Then I say, God, I know it is silly and not important, but if it pleases you, keep me dry until I am back home again, please.

The forecast for today’s weather was: cloudy with some rain in the morning, probably better in the afternoon. A few drops had already fallen in the early morning, and I wasn’t very eager to leave the house. Later in the morning, when the sky still looked cloudy and dark, I suddenly felt inspired to go. So I got ready, said my prayer and left the house, taking the umbrella with me. Just before I reached home again, a few tiny drops fell, just a drizzle. About two hours later it began to rain heavily, and it hasn’t stopped since.

And it has happened like that so many times before. I don’t really know why, but I know that God has repeatedly answered that specific prayer of mine.

Once, the weather was fine when I entered the supermarket. I did considerable shopping, so it took quite long. When I left the supermarket, it also wasn’t raining (anymore). Some huge puddles revealed what must have happened in the meantime.

I won’t make it my mission to preach about “the importance of rain-free shopping,” and I know there are far more important issues in life, but when I see how God pays so much attention to details, it makes me think of how much we should strive to be faithful in the little things.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much ... (Lk. 16:10A)

Glory be to God for His faithfulness and mercy!

Beatrice Mantock
Haslemere, England

Let the
high
praises
of God
be in their mouth,
and a twoedged
sword in their
hand;
Psalm 149:6

THE
WEAPONS
Of Our
WARFARE

will be presented in London, England from
October 20-27, 2001 at the Harrow Teachers
Centre, Tudor Road, Harrow.

**“If Ye Do These Things,
Ye Shall Never Fall”**

will be presented in Wales, UK
December 2-3 2001.

*For additional information, or to request a
class in your area, please write or call our
office.*

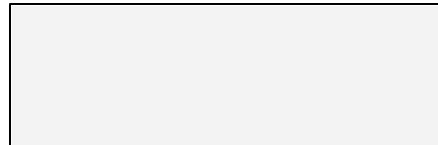
Workers Together With Him

P.O. Box 4217

Brownsville, Texas USA 78523-4217

Phone/Fax: 956-574-9475 e-mail: workerstogether@aol.com

Visit our web site at www.workerstogetherwithhim.org



Workers Together With Him is an international Christian ministry dedicated to the furtherance of the message of Salvation and the education of Christians to the end that they be a living testimony of God's love, power and glory. Teachings are distributed via congregational meetings, seminars and various publications. This ministry is financed entirely by the tithes and offerings of its supporters.

All Scripture referenced in this publication is from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible, as quoted in Power BibleCD, Copyright 2000 by Online Publishing, Inc. 127 N. Matteson Street PO Box 21, Bronson, MI 49028 bible@mail.com.