



# WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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## FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

*Happy New Year! I welcome you to this new month and present to you January 2024 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "A model of steadfastness - Ruth".*

*Ruth is both the title of a book in the Bible and the name of the person the book was written to honour. The story contained in the book has its setting in the black context of the events in the book of Judges when judges ruled Israelites. At national level, it was a period of disobedience, rebellion, lawlessness, strife, savagery, lust and cruelty. In contrast, it tells a story of unquenchable love and devotion towards God and His people by an outright stranger to the commonwealth of Israel and God's providential and great reward of the same.*

*The book described the fortunes of the family of Elimelech of Bethlehem who migrated to Moab to escape famine, one of the agencies of divine chastisement for Israel's disobedience and rebellion at that time. He died there with his two sons. Subsequently, his widow Naomi returned to her homeland with Ruth her widowed daughter-in-law who devotedly insisted on accompanying her. There in their distress, God's providential care brought her to the field of Boaz, a near kinsman who begins to love, protect and*

*provide for her. He also willingly assumed full responsibilities of a goel, or next of kin (redeemer), by marrying Ruth, thus raising and preserving a family for the dead son of Naomi. The son born grafted her into Messianic lineage as she became the great grandmother of David.*

*This encouraging story of steadfastness, faith and faithfulness in a time of national faithlessness revealed how God's love and obedience to his laws by faithful remnant can bring tremendous blessings to a community, a nation and our world. Jesus like Ruth was always ready to knock down manmade social barriers for the sake of love and the privilege to being a blessing to others. May God give us the diligence, courage and resilience to follow His example as we read this edition of Watchman's Trumpet: Welcome!*

## DISASTROUS MIGRATION OF ANXIOUS BELIEVERS

*"Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife*



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*Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband." Ruth 1:1-5*

At the time that Judges ruled, a man of Bethlehem, to escape famine that in most cases in the book of Judges are a result of Israel's apostasy and judgment migrated to Moab which in that dispensation was a country of immoral seducers and idol worshippers. He went with his wife and two sons. Instead of finding bread, Elimelech met death

which was probably an evidence of God's displeasure with his decision. We are warned never to despise God's chastening Hebrews 12:5. If God chastises Israel for going astray, while He left Moab uncorrected though they are totally given to immorality and idolatry, it is the evidence that Israel was His dear son. The same the Lord does for believers too to make us partake in His holiness and not be condemned with the world.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Danger of unequal yoke in marriage
2. Cleaving to Israel's God in hopeless circumstances
3. Best wishes from a godly mother-in-law

### 1. Danger of unequal yoke in marriage

*"And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly".*

**Deuteronomy 7:2-4**

The second error of judgment by Elimelech's family was his sons' marriage to daughters of Moab. After the marriage, the two sons died, leaving a house comprising of only women. All these happened within a space of 10 years. Naomi then heard that God has visited His people and had given them bread. So she decided to return to Israel. God will not forsake His people or Israel His inheritance.

He is a merciful God who never keeps His anger forever. We can reduce the days of suffering by responding to God through repentance if we have erred. The decision of Naomi to return was a noble one though it carries no assurance of hope or a better future. Casting ourselves upon God in difficult moment is sufficient especially when we reach our wit's end.

The loneliness and emptiness that these three women felt was all evident in their mourning after the male members of the family had died. This nullifies the false assumption on what benefit is derivable from same sex marriage in flagrant disobedience to God's order, commandment and institution of marriage. When God declared that it is not good that man should be alone, His programme for a help meet involves heterogeneous relationship: a man and a woman.

### 2. Cleaving to Israel's God in hopeless circumstances

*"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation" Habakkuk 3:17, 18*

Orpah one of Naomi's daughters-in-law tearfully said goodbye and returned to her country but Ruth cleaved to her mother-in-law and wanted to return to Israel with her. She accepted to serve Naomi's God, joined Naomi's people, and live, die and be buried with her.



By so doing she was totally abandoning herself and whatever hope of future she had into the hands of Israel's God and God's people. We have here a pattern of good relationship among in-laws most especially the women folks.



### 3. Humble and godly response to divine chastisement

*"And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?" Ruth 1:20, 21*

*"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." 1 Peter 5:6*

Naomi reciprocated the kindness of her daughters-in-law by praying for them when it was clear that she cannot reciprocate their kindness in any other way. She was not only concerned about her loss, she sympathized with her daughters-in-law for their losses as well. She did not suspect them that they are the cause of the loss of her sons as it happens sometimes in some cultures.

When Naomi got to Bethlehem, the whole community came together to welcome her when they called her name which means "pleasant" she stated that she did not deserve that name, she deserved to be called "Mara" which means 'bitter' because she bore in her empty and hopeless return evidence of severity of divine judgment. This confession should make every sinner to tremble and quickly repent. God could be great in His mercy but He is also great and severe in judgment most especially to the impenitent. Naomi's acceptance of her situation and submission to God and divine rebuke was also commendable and worthy of emulation. When we humble ourselves under the mighty hands of God, we are assured that He will exalt us in due time.





## ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

## WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



### *Prayer Points - For January 2024*

1. Thank God for His love, care and provision for the poor and under-privileged in our world, especially in His kingdom.
2. Pray for grace for steadfastness in the time of trials and troubles
3. Pray for divine help for all believers in nations facing crises such as famines, war, diseases and economic downturn
4. Pray for single brothers and sisters that God will guide them in choice of life-partners, pray that God will remove delays
5. Pray for widows, and orphans in our fellowships and congregations that God will meet all their needs and encourage them
6. Pray for rich saints that God will make them responsible stewards of the resources that He committed into their hands
7. Pray that God will prosper the carrier, employment, profession and businesses of His people.  
“..... *men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*’ **Luke 18:1**

**May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!**

**Watchman Prayer Hour** holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office at Amazing Grace House, Joy Estate, Olorunda -Abaa, Ibadan . Oyo - State. Follow us on any of our social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

## A FRIEND IN NEED

*“Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”* **Hebrews 13:1, 2**

Recorded in Ruth chapter two is the first meeting between Ruth and Boaz who later became her husband and brought her into the royal and Messianic lineage in Israel. The meeting initially was an act of coincidence. Sometimes what we call coincidence is divinely ordered by God who controls men, circumstances and events to make them achieve His purpose.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. God's provision and believers' responsibility towards the needy
2. Dignity of labour
3. Delicate responsibilities of spiritual parents

### 1. God's provision and believer's responsibility towards the needy

*“And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.”* **Leviticus 19:9**

*“When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.”* **Deuteronomy 24:21**

After settling down in Bethlehem, Ruth decided to reveal herself to the society by doing menial seemingly despicable job of gleaning to sustain her and Naomi her mother-in-law. Gleaning in Israel was established by God in the law as a poverty alleviating means of sustenance for the poorest among the poor. Circumstances of life and sin create and sometimes widen



the gap in social-economic status. God wanted everyone to have enough to eat and to spare. This view can be supported by various welfare schemes contained in the Bible expressing God's concern for the poor and addressing the needs of the underprivileged. God provided for the needs of the poor, the stranger and widows not just through the law on gleaning but the laws of tithing as well. True believers should have God's mind demonstrated by practical care for the needy and poor. We should remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus. There is a Lazarus on every rich man's doorstep. We must do all we can to share the love and care we have received from God with others in the society. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this – To visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions like Boaz did and to keep ourselves unspotted from the world James 1:26.

### 2. Dignity of labour

*“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...”* **Ecclesiastes 9:10a**

Ruth has the option of going into prostitution like many who lack finances and are desperate to continue their education in higher schools of learning. Rather than find some work to do or seek socio-welfare schemes they could buy into, they result to prostitution. We cannot use the excuse of poverty to justify lives of sin and crime. It is also clear in this story that the experiences of those in low socio-economic class present great challenges even in that dispensation. Poverty places men at a disadvantage in the society.

When things get really very bad, the only choice some poor people have is to beg. Begging and such humble survival strategies though may be socially acceptable in some settings makes such people open to abuses. It is very important for the society to identify those that socio-economic circumstances placed in vulnerable groups. We must do all we can to protect them. That was what Boaz did and God rewarded him not only with wealth but with being an ancestor of the lineage from which the Messiah came.

### 3. Delicate responsibilities of spiritual parents

*“Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?”* **Ruth 3:1**

On the first day, Ruth gleaned an ephah of barley and brought it to her mother-in-law. She gave her a detailed account of all that happened. Young people should be open and willingly share their experiences with the parents so that they can benefit from their wealth of experiences and by it be guided in the right way. Naomi, on hearing the report could see God's hand at work. She encouraged Ruth to be focused and consistent. Whenever we see evidence of God's working in our lives, we need to be focused and consistent so that God could perfect what He has started in us, through us and for us. Lack of focus, discipline and hard work, together with impatience have truncated several promising future contrary to the desires, programmes and expectation of God. Naomi could see God at work and she thanked Him. We are to thank God continuously for His great and abundant mercies, and for His providences and miracles. Naomi recognized that in spite of the past discipline, God was still able to show kindness to both the living and the dead.

## GODLY CONDUCT OF BELIEVING BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

*“And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee. Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this? And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab: And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house. Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens.” Ruth 2:4-8*

Boaz was a praying believer. Apart from practical care, he prayed for her and also for his workers. It was obvious he desired their prosperity and dealt with them as just and as true as possible. It was interesting to see that though Boaz and Ruth are of different social status, their communication with each other even though they are meeting the first time was cordial, full of respect, courtesy and shows mutual admiration for each other's strong points. We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Harvesting in Bible days
2. Rare blend of godliness and great wealth
3. Demands of leviratic marriage and danger of unscriptural counsel



### 1. Harvesting in Bible days

*“So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.” Ruth 2:23*

There are three stages of grain harvest in practice in Bible days. First they bring in all the sheaves. Next these sheaves are threshed to separate the grain using a form of mill and finally the resultant grains and chaff are separated by using streams of air. This is referred to as winnowing. Streams of air passing through the chaff and grain separate the two. The separation occurs as a result of differences in weight of the two and effect of the combined influence of air current and gravitational force on them. The corn falls first together in one place being heavier than the chaff. The chaff falls at a distance separate and far from the grain. They are thus packed together and taken away to be burnt. This process is figurative of the separation that will take place between the righteous and the wicked on judgment day by Jesus Christ Matthew 3:1-12. Chaffs fall away from the grain because they are lighter and lack life substance. They are unprofitable and only good fuel for fire. Chaffs are dead, if planted they can never reproduce. Only grain can grow and reproduce the life in them. There are spiritual lessons to learn from this about divine and end-time judgment.

### 2. Rare blend of godliness and great wealth

*“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,*

*and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27*

Boaz in endowment, attribute and character blended a rare combination of wealth, holiness, compassion, humility and godliness. His case pointed to the fact that we can be holy and wealthy. We can be holy, wealthy and humble. This is first demonstrated in his visit to those who work in his field and the affectionate salutation that he gave to them. Finally, his concern for others whether poor or rich, employed or begging can be seen in how he took notice of Ruth and spoke comfortably to her and encouraged her. Boaz's example was in sharp contradiction to that of many rich today; who rather than show compassion towards the needy build their wealth on the tears, sweats and blood of the poor and gains of oppression. God is the judge of all.

### 3. Demands of Leviratic marriage and danger of unscriptural counsel

Leviratic marriage in Israel demanded that if a brother of the same family dies childless, the widow shall not marry a stranger i.e an outsider. Her husband's brother shall marry her and the first born from that union (Leviratic marriage) shall be named after the dead brother so as to continue the lineage and perpetuate the dead's memoriam and inheritance Deuteronomy 25:5-19

Naomi was well acquainted with this law and felt obliged to guide Ruth on how to remind her brothers-in-laws of their responsibility and duty with regard to her marriage and continuity of her husband's inheritance and lineage. However, the method which she counseled Ruth to adopt was questionable in the sense that it exposes Boaz to temptation of immorality and Ruth to the same if she gives her consent or rape if she does not. We are clearly commanded in the scriptures to abstain from all appearances of evil.



**PURITY AND DECENCY  
BY BUILDERS OF  
MARITAL FOUNDATION**

*"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."*  
**Hebrews 13:4**

As evidence of Boaz's approval of Ruth's chastity, his love and respect for her and her mother-in-law he sent her away with six measures of barley which he poured into her veil. It must also be stated that Boaz himself is a virtuous man and a man of honour and dignity. He did not taking advantage of Ruth, of her offer and circumstances and using it as an excuse to abuse her. This is commendable and worthy of emulation by other rich men in the church.

When Ruth returned she reported back to Naomi all that happened and gave her the measures of barley which Boaz gave to her. From this Naomi assured her that God was already in control and that she should patiently await the outcome. We cannot have a greater friend, mentor, guide and companion in difficult times greater than Jesus Christ. The Lord promised rest to all who come to Him; He promise to help us in times of trouble.



He promised never to leave us or forsake us. We are therefore enjoined to give our burden to the Lord and leave it there. After we have prayed about those concerns that make us



fret like Hannah in Shiloh, we are to rest and wait for divine intervention. We have need of patience after we have done the will of God to obtain the promise.

Following God's example Deuteronomy 25:5-10, every human institution should have in place modalities for seeking redress in case of genuine grievances. The tendencies for oversight or neglect of responsibilities which may inconvenient others or lead to neglect, suffering and deprivation is higher and compounded by corrupt nature in men which manifests as selfishness as well as failing memories. However, seeking redress by believers must be done in such a way that is devoid of strife and vainglory Philippians 2:3. In case our rights are trampled upon deliberately or through forgetfulness or neglect, we can seek or explore peaceful, scriptural and God-honouring avenues to make our grievance known and draw the attention of those involved to the matter.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Emergency meeting of city counsel
2. Neglect of responsibilities and rejection by foremost kinsman
3. God's reward of believers faith and faithfulness

**1. Emergency meeting of city council**

*"And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down. And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's: And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people.*

*If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it."*

**Ruth 4:2-4**

Boaz, in line with his promise to Ruth went to summon an emergency council meeting of Bethlehem. He himself may have been one of them or relationship among Bethlehemites are closely knit such that those with one problem or the other, or those who have a matter that required public attention could easily get listening ears. This can be inferred from the reception Naomi got when she returned and the response of the council to Boaz's summons. We must have good relationship with our neighbours and maintain such. The Lord commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves. Boaz got ten of the elders in council together and invited the next of kin whom he mentioned to Ruth that was nearer to her than him. Before them he published the redemption of Elimelech's lineage. The first step involved was the buying back of Elimelech's portion of land which may have been mortgaged to buy bread in famine and secondly, marrying Ruth to raise a child in the name of the dead so as to continue his lineage.

The unnamed kinsman agreed to the first because it will increase his wealth and image but declined the second which was the responsibility attached to the privilege conferred by the first. Willingness to partake in privileges without consideration for responsibilities amounts to selfishness and insensitivity to the plight and need of others. It is an index of immaturity

*"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God"*  
**Ruth 1:16**

in the physical or spiritual family. God's people should discourage this as much as possible. Such attitude if allowed often results in conflicts. The refusal of the kinsman was because he felt it will mar his own inheritance. Sometimes selfishness and self-indulgences, unwillingness to patiently endure hardship or difficulties make us miss opportunities disguised as problems or challenges which would in the long run advance our course.

## 2. Neglect of responsibility and rejection by foremost kinsman

*"Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it."* **Ruth 4:5-6**

He presumed that the neglect of his responsibility contrary to the commandment of God implies enhanced spirituality and acceptance with God. Hardly did he know that the promised seed was connected by divine programme to the marriage he despised and rejected. Here we see an example of how the stone rejected by man became the cornerstone. The rejection of Ruth by the kinsman foreshadowed the rejection of Christ by the Jews in the time to come with the same outcome.



In the face of rejection like Ruth and Christ, believers are enjoined to remain steadfast and consistent in well doing. God is the judge and rewarder of all. We shall reap if we faint not.

The kinsman in line with the custom removed his shoe and gave it to Boaz, customary evidence that he had transferred to Boaz the right of purchase and ownership of Elimelech's redeemable inheritance. Boaz then called upon the elders to bear witness to the transaction which they prayerfully did. They prayed for God's blessing upon Ruth Boaz and upon the action.



## 3. God's reward of believers' faith and faithfulness

*"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David."* **Ruth 4:13, 17**

God responded to the faith, faithfulness and consistency of Ruth and Boaz and in answer to the prayer of the elders by giving them Obed which became the grandfather of David from whose lineage the Messiah came. We must be careful what we sow because it will surely grow. If we sow consistency and faithfulness into God's kingdom we will reap the same from the Lord who is the King of the kingdom. Naomi became the nurse to the baby that was born amid further

encomiums and prayers for the baby, for Naomi and commendation for Ruth the baby's mother.

They observed and remarked that Ruth was more profitable to Naomi than seven sons. We must take serious our responsibilities to others, especially to our immediate family members. We must not neglect our parents and in-laws. People are watching us and our attitude towards them and others. Their prayers for us too are also very important. Children should be a blessing and reward of God for their parents, toil and sacrifices especially in the old age. Through Obed we have the promise of future hope, secure inheritance and wellbeing for Elimelech's family that has almost gone into extinction. We see the working of God's power and ability to reverse all adversities in the life of those who trust Him and hope in His mercy. It is expected that children brought up and given privileges of responsible adulthood should be responsive in meeting the needs of those who raised them by reciprocating their love, care, sacrifice and kindness. That was the implication of the prayer of the women of Bethlehem for Naomi. Christ played the role that Boaz played in the lineage of Elimelech in the life of the sinner. Sinners are lost without hope of any inheritance in the kingdom of God. Sinfulness has made us forfeit all the hope we have and all the good we may ever hope to achieve in life and in eternity to Satan. Jesus Christ is our goel, our Redeemer, next of kin who purchased us with His own blood and restored to us the hope of inheritance and eternal life with God.

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**Frances Ridley Havergal** was a Christian devotional writer, poetess, hymn writer and musician. Born on December 14, 1836, into a cultured, religious family at Astley, Worcestershire, England, she was the youngest child of William Henry Havergal, a Church of England minister.

At the age of 3, Miss Havergal could read. At the age of 4, she began reading and memorizing the Bible; at 7 she began writing verse. When she was eleven, her mother died after a long period of suffering. Miss Havergal became converted and committed her life to Christ in 1851, at the age of 14. She said, *"I committed my soul to the Saviour ... earth and heaven seemed brighter from that moment; I did trust the Lord Jesus."*

Educated at home and in private schools in Worcester, England, and in Dusseldorf, Germany (1852-53), her scholastic achievements included proficiency in several modern languages, in addition to Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. She was also a devoted Bible student, memorizing the New Testament as well as the Psalms, Isaiah, and the Minor Prophets.

Although highly educated and cultured, she maintained a simple faith and confidence in her Lord. She lived a disciplined prayer life and it is said that she never wrote a line without first praying over it. Her life's mission was to sing and work for Jesus. She sang nothing but sacred music of the love of God and His way of salvation. Either at home or in mixed society, she always *"sang for Jesus."* Quite early in life, her poems were published in *"Good Words"* and other religious periodicals. She also wrote many small devotional tracts and narratives in prose and numerous little books of poems and hymn texts, all marked by the same earnest and practical piety. Themes for her writings were faith, consecration, and service.

One day she caught a severe cold which caused inflammation of the lungs. When told that her life was in danger, she exclaimed, *"If I am really going, it is too good to be true!"*

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

**FRANCES RIDLEY  
HAVERGAL  
1836 - 1870**



At another time she responded, *"Splendid! To be so near the gates of heaven."* At the very end, it is reported that she sang clearly, but faintly another of her hymns, *"Jesus, I Will Trust Thee, Trust Thee with My Soul."* Then, according to reports by her sister, she looked up steadfastly, as if she saw the Lord; and surely nothing less heavenly could have reflected such a glorious radiance upon her face.

*"For ten minutes we watched that almost visible meeting with her King, and her countenance was so glad, as if she were already talking to Him! Then she tried to sing; but after one sweet, high note her voice failed, and as her brother commended her soul into the Redeemer's hand she passed away".*

Frances Ridley Havergal died at Caswall Bay, Swansea, Wales, on June 3, 1879, at the age of forty-two. She never married. Her entire life was characterized by spiritual saintliness. She was buried at Astley, Worcestershire. In spite of being frail in health she lived an active and productive life until her death. In her lifetime, she authored about 100 hymns.

### SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

*"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge"*  
*Hebrews 13:4*

## SONG OF THE MONTH

### WHEREVER HE LEADS I'LL GO

1. "Take up thy cross and follow me,"  
I heard my Master say;  
"I gave My life to ransom thee,  
Surrender your all today."

*Wherever He leads I'll go,  
Wherever He leads I'll go,  
I'll follow my Christ, Who loves  
me so,  
Wherever He leads I'll go.*

2. He drew me closer to His side,  
I sought His will to know,  
And in that will I now abide,  
Wherever He leads I'll go.
3. It may be through the shadows dim,  
Or o'er the stormy sea,  
I take my cross and follow Him,  
Wherever He leadeth me.
4. My heart, my life, my all I bring  
To Christ Who loves me so;  
He is my Master, Lord, and King,  
Wherever He leads I'll go.

**Author:** B.B McKinney

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Joy Estate,  
Olorunda – Abaa, Ibadan,  
Oyo – State, Nigeria**

### BANK DETAILS FOR DONATION

**Bank:** FBN PLC  
**Acct Name:** Watchman Outreach Mission  
**Account No.** C/A 2016363366  
**GSM No.** +234-9026840215,  
8033846714  
8056671595