



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you December 2024 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Witnessing the Empty Tomb".

This month's magazine focuses on the events of the first few hours of Christ's resurrection as documented in the Gospel of John (John 20:1-17). The resurrection of Jesus from the dead has been at the heart of the gospel message from the beginning. Closely linked to it is the reality of a grave that lies empty close to where the Lord was crucified and from which He arose. Without the mention of Jesus' emptied Tomb, the message of resurrection is incomplete. The Empty Tomb presents the first ray of hope of a better future, and abundant and endless life in a world which daily catalogues and records much death, disease and disabling physical ailments and suffering. Through it we have assurance of the permanence of believers' future glory.

John's Gospel and narration gives Mary the role of first witness of the empty tomb, explaining that only after her claim did he and Peter go to see for themselves. They came and did not find the body in the grave and returned home. But Mary Magdalene stayed back and continued her search. Eventually the Lord appeared to her. She was the first to see and preach infallible proof of Christ's resurrection. It all started with the Empty Tomb.

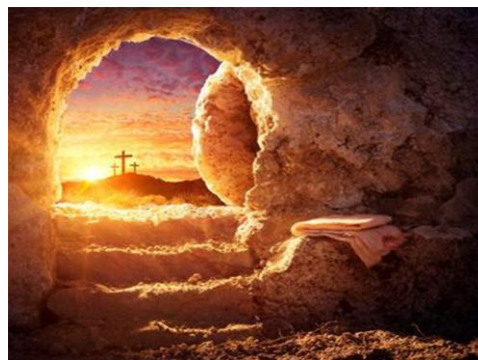
The Empty Tomb tells a story of how impossible it is for grave and death to hold on to Jesus. The Empty Tomb reveals that God is faithful and that His promise to redeem us and heal our ruined and decaying world from bondage to corruption is sacrosanct. It clearly illustrated how God can give beauty for ashes and give men a new beginning; we have through it the possibility of earth's blossom and the springing from it the hope of a life that shall ever be.

The Empty Tomb is a constant reminder that Jesus is alive and among us. The Empty Tomb speaks that one day we'll go to heaven and get compensated for our losses here on earth. It is the guarantee that our redemption and deliverance shall ultimately be full and total; through it is the undeniable fact that there lies ahead for us a world of joy, peace and righteousness. The Empty Tomb is God's great guarantee that, at the end of the day, beauty will not be sullied, truth shall triumph, goodness will overcome, and diseases and death will not have the last word in the life of men.

May these revelations explored in this edition of Watchman's Trumpet enrich and continuously transform you as you read. Welcome!

DISCOVERING THE EMPTY TOMB

"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark,



Inside...

About Watchman Outreach	
Mission	3
Watchman Prayer Hour	3
Disciples race to the tomb	4
Reward of unwavering love	5
The joy of seeing the Lord	6
Missionary of the Month	8

dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre."John 20:1

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. While it was yet dark
2. The witness of two or three
3. Orderly well-arranged folded grave clothes

1. While it was yet dark

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men, and the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."John 1:4, 5

According to John the writer of John's Gospel, early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the Tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away. She ran and found Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved and told them that the body of the Lord has been removed from the Tomb, and that she and other women that went to the place could not find His body.

There is an important reason why John started His resurrection account with events that began when it was still dark. In John's Gospel darkness, even when literal is symbolic. It means the absence of Jesus the light of the world and associated fears, worries and anxiety. These succinctly captured Mary Magdalene's experiences and feelings as she approached the Tomb that Sunday morning and found it empty. The desire for Jesus and for the light of understanding about what actually happened to His body made Mary to continue to linger and search when others have given up. The world without Jesus will be very dark, a world bedeviled by darkness of ignorance superstition, idolatry, sorcery and witchcraft. Besides and poetically peculiar to John's writings is a sense that transition from darkness to light is a transition towards new beginning and creation. This is what Christ's resurrection on that Sunday morning represents.

2. The witness of two or three

"... In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." 2 Corinthians 13:1

Mary ran to find and inform Peter and the beloved disciple because they were together at the cross and witnessed Jesus' death John 18:15-18, 25-27, 19:26-27. They perhaps followed to witness His burial by Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus. Mathew 27:56 and Mark 15:10 including Luke 24:10 attested to the fact that other women (female disciples) were also with Mary Magdalene on that Sunday morning when she discovered the empty Tomb. Mark observed that they have earlier brought spices with which they wanted to come and anoint the Lord's body (Mark 16:1). Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved, believed by scholars to be John the Gospel writer ran to the Tomb.

John outran Peter and reached the sepulcher first. He stopped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there without the body of Jesus. When Simon Peter arrived he went in and noticed that the linen wrappings but he also observed that the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded and lie apart separate from the linen. John eventually came inside, saw these things too and they inspired him to believe as he connected what he witnessed with scriptures' prophecies concerning the resurrection of Jesus. Then they went home. Mary in her own opinion theorized that a grave robbery had taken place. She presumed that unknown persons, perhaps the authorities that crucified Jesus, have taken away His body. But the visit of Peter and John and their scrutiny of the interior of the Tomb in connection with the position and arrangement of the clothes that covered Jesus' body proved otherwise. Their coming satisfied the established of two legal witnesses' requirement by law for the veracity of the fact that Jesus resurrected.



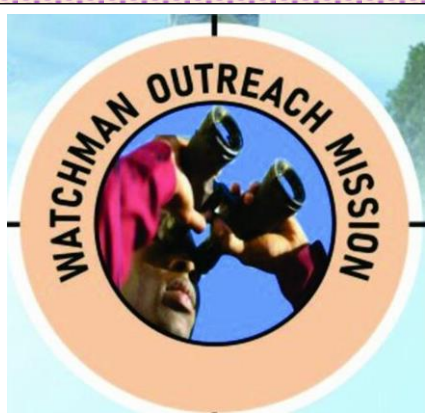
3. Orderly well-arranged folded grave clothes

"Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself." John 20:3-7



The grave clothes left behind in the Tomb and arranged in orderly manner, specifically the napkin that covered His head revealed a manner of rising by resurrection, as if from sleep rather than a forceful removal by a grave robbers and it is consistent with scripture's prophecy Psalm 16:9-10. The grave provided visual evidence that Jesus' body was not stolen. It also served a theological function. When Lazarus emerged from the dead, He did so wrapped in burial clothes. Bystanders had to free Him for him to resume normal earthly life John 11:38-44. He still lived and died. But Jesus emerged from the Tomb with a glorious body, leaving grave clothes behind; He will never again need them. So shall we on resurrection morning when we put on immortality.

John testified that spark of faith ignited in his mind occurred when it became clear to him that the empty tomb did not take on the appearance of a crime scene but one in which the person who was laid there woke up, unwrap the cloth around Him especially His head, folded it neatly, laid it on one side, stood up and walked out. Until that time, John and all other disciples never understood what it means to rise from the dead the way Jesus did although they heard it prophesied by Him many times and knew that it was prophesied in the scripture John 20:9 We can only profit from the scripture that we understanding. We need to meditate and pray on the word of God we read or that are preached to us for illumination and understanding so that we can profit.



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 parables 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 - December 2024

1. Thank God for the benefit of Christ’s resurrection and the significance of Jesus’ Empty Tomb
2. Pray for grace to seek God personally, honestly, diligently and obediently
3. Pray for grace to seek the Lord continuously especially in challenging times
4. Pray for grace to live the kind of life that attests to the power and possibilities of Christ’s resurrection power
5. Pray that our encounters and relationship with Christ will make us more and more effective Gospel witnesses
6. Pray that rewards of sincere and faithful seekers of the Lord will be ours as we daily seek the Lord.
7. Pray for encounters with the Lord that will enrich our lives and bring us full, real and lasting joy

“ 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.

DISCIPLES RACE TO THE TOMB

“So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.” John 20:4

The disciples' race to the Tomb when informed that the body of Jesus was missing teaches important lessons. First, we have from it, especially from the role played by Peter, the understanding that Peter had fully repented of his denial of Christ and had become fully restored to the Lord and to the church. Presiding ministers over a congregation have a leading role in this Mark 16:4-7. The church need to be taught to avoid stigmatization of those who fell through the cracks and are trying to find their way back to God and to the fold Galatians 6:1-2. Love is the key. In the spirit of love, we must teach the church on the need to moderate their pains of personal disappointment over people's failure so as to be able to help them. If we do not, we shall be unable to perform our God-ordained duty towards them especially, the duty of intercession and social support necessary for their restoration Ezekiel 22:29-31.

1. Different traits in demonstration of commitment to service and allegiance to Christ

“And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,” John 20:5-6

Peter and John exhibited clear difference in their race to the tomb and the manner in which each acted when they got there. John was young fast, gentle, quiet, tender and reserved.



He outran Peter and was the first to arrive at the Tomb. On the other hand, Peter was zealous, fervent, impulsive and daring. He obviously did not have the speed of John but made up for it by the boldness with which he entered the tomb when he got there while John still stopped down and was looking in. Each expressed his hope, fears, anxiety and expectation in different and peculiar ways to the glory of God. There may be many in this kingdom who loves the same Lord and Saviour but exhibit different character traits in their commitment to service and demonstration of love and allegiance to Christ: some work at different speeds as a result of differences in constitution and personality traits. We must be careful in judging others or comparing ourselves with others 2Corinthians 10:12. We should give our best to the Lord as much as possible and help others to do the same.

2. Mary's diligent, persistent, persevering search

“Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,” John 20:10, 11

After the disciples have gone back to their homes, Mary Magdalene stayed back. She stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb again not minding the fact that Peter and John had previously gone into this same tomb and found nothing. The tenacity of her search is noteworthy.

When we lose something valuable, we must look again and again at the place where we last left it. That is what anyone will do and that is what Mary did weeping. Those who have lost Christ's presence or are separated from Him have every reason to weep, like those who lose the illumination of their lamp in a dark world. Mary's diligent search paid off because as she stopped down and looked into the tomb, she saw two angels in white sitting where the Lord's body had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. They asked her why she was weeping. God in heaven was obviously concerned about the depth of sorrow that she felt about her losing her Lord; Christ was too. The angel's appearance was perhaps an initial attempt to bring her comfort. They wanted her to see that there was no reason to cry.

3. Model of how to seek God

“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:12, 13

Mary here gave us a model of how to seek the Lord if we hope to find Him. We are to seek the Lord personally, honestly and diligently. We are to seek Him reverently and obediently. We are to seek Him through prayer-personal and corporate, we are to seek Him through fellowship with His word and people. His promise remains eternally true that if we seek Him we shall find Him and when we find Him, He will roll away our captivity. This is what happened to Mary Magdalene. Jesus eventually appeared to her and called her by her name. She responded by calling Him *“Rabboni”* meaning *“Teacher”*. She rushed to Him and according to Mathew 28:9 clung to His feet and worshipped Him.

REWARD OF UNWAVERING LOVE

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

Our love for Christ will always be rewarded. The more diligently and perseveringly we express our love for Christ the more the privileges we will enjoy. Love made Mary linger at the empty tomb after others have gone home. She reaped a great reward. Love whether towards God or men is a seed we plant for harvest of great blessings. She saw angels, she also saw the Lord. All these Peter and John who hurried away from the tomb never saw. It is clear too that divine privileges are sometimes never granted by appointment or church titles or offices. A new convert or younger believer like Samuel may receive more from the Lord or have greater encounter than an Apostle if his heart is right with the Lord. Clearly those who honour Christ will be honored by Him.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Beauty for ashes
2. Why men weep and comfort for mourners
3. Focus on author and finisher of believers' faith

1. Beauty for ashes

“To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they



might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.” Isaiah 61:3

Mary was greatly honored by the Lord at a time and in a dispensation or culture when a woman could not witness in court. Jesus could have picked Peter, James or John to be His witness immediately after resurrection but He did not. The Lord could even have picked Mary His mother or Mary of Bethany who anointed Him before death. Mary Magdalene was the kind of person whose past demonic experiences before coming to Christ would make despicable in public eye. The Lord's choice to make her the first to bear witness to His resurrection presents a ray of hope to all who are struggling with sin and guilt including ruined public image and attested to the fact that Jesus can give beauty for ashes. He can save any and every one. Her experiences that morning demonstrated how our sorrows will turn to joy on the day we literally see Jesus in His glory.

2. Why men weep and comfort for mourners

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” Mathew 5:4

The Angels John 20:3 and Jesus John 20:15, asked why Mary Magdalene was weeping. It could be a question for anyone in tears right now or a question for the whole humanity. Why do men weep? Men weep because of sorrow; sorrow due to the loss of a valuable and precious person or thing. Men weep because of perceived vulnerability, helplessness and hopelessness.

People also weep to identify with those who hurt and are in pains. We sometimes shed fears of love and sympathy to express compassion for our loved ones. It is not unusual to see people shed tears when they confront and cope with consequences of failure, frustrations and disappointments Some of these disappointments we experience when we feel that God is not working or things are not working in the way we think they should. Finally, the deeds of wicked and evil men sometimes bring tears to our eyes. There are thoughts that we need to process in our minds at such times that can prevent us from being overwhelmed by sorrow over anything and for any reason. The first is God's sovereignty. The second is divine providence. The third is compassion of the Lord. Finally, we are comforted in all our sorrows by the consideration that we serve a risen and living Lord. While we may not know exactly why God allowed a loved ones to die, we know that the risen Lord has a greater purpose for our lives and sympathizes with us John 11:1-15, 23.

3. Focus on author and finisher of believers' faith

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2

Another significant question Mary was asked at that tomb that day is *‘who are you seeking’*. We can learn from this too. Mary Magdalene, oblivious of the promises, prophecies and facts of resurrection was seeking a dead Master and Lord, and not the eternal and ever-living God who is our Messiah. We miss and loose much in life when our attention and focus is on wrong and temporal things much more than the eternal God.

THE JOY OF SEEING THE LORD

Mary "... seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus." **John 20:12-14**

A few verses after these experiences of Mary, it was stated that "then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord" John 20:20. This could be the testimony of anyone who refused to be fixated and distracted from commitment and service to the Lord by physical, transient and mundane things of this world or severed ties with men by circumstances or transition. Whatever we have or miss, whoever comes into our lives or leaves, our eyes and hearts must remain focused on the eternal Christ. We must seek Him continually and at all times for best outcomes in any situation and circumstance in life, most especially in challenging times Psalm 121: 1-8.



We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Voice of the true and Great shepherd
 2. Post resurrection appearances and controversy
 3. Bringing many sons to glory
- 1. Voice of the true and Great shepherd**

"Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him. Rabboni:



which is to say, Master." John 20:16

"... the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out." John 10:3

Jesus called Mary by name. He knows our names as much as He knows our needs and circumstances. He is ever ready to help. Mary recognized Jesus by His voice. True sheep recognizes the voice of their shepherd. They will not follow hireling or robbers John 10:3, 5, 14, 29. Nothing connects us with Christ's presence and reveals Christ to us like hearing His voice and listening to His words. Jesus cautioned Mary that she should not continue to cling to Him. Many of us often behave like Mary at the point or place of supernatural encounters. We want to build three tabernacles and remain there permanently on mountain top of encounters, forgetting that we have work to do and that there are uncompleted assignments waiting for us in the valley below and on earth. Every divine encounter we have with the Lord put us under evangelistic responsibility. Things that God gives or does for Jacob are for Israel's sake. Those who have seen the risen Lord should tell others and show others how to find Him.

2. Post resurrection appearances and controversy

"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father,

and to my God, and your God." John 20:17

In John 20:17, the Lord stated that Mary should stop clinging to cling to Him as He was yet to ascend to the Father. The textual difficulty of the meaning of this have been rigorously debated by Bible scholars most especially because this restriction seems to have been cast aside the next time Jesus appeared to the Eleven as documented in a few verses after the account. It is then logical to assume that between John 20:17 and John 20:19-20 as well as John 20:26-27, Jesus had ascended to the Father and returned. The controversy arose because many scholars think or assume that Christ's ascension to heaven was only once, that is, the account written in Acts 1:9-10 witnessed by the disciples. This perspective throws up another problem. It was clear that for the most part, Christ's post-resurrection appearances to the disciples were intermittent in the next forty days before His permanent departure to heaven. The question is that in-between any of these appearances, where was He? If we factor in the fact that post-resurrection glorified body that Jesus had was not subject to limitations of time and space



"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:12, 13



Luke 24: 31, the most plausible explanation of the meaning of Christ's statement to Mary is that Jesus ascended more than once to heaven and to the Father including the one He told Mary about on resurrection morning and that He conducted series of visitations and appearances over the next forty days before His final departure in Acts 1:9-10. By extension it is also reasonable to accept the fact that the glorious body which the Lord had after resurrection is adaptive for existence both in physical and spiritual realm like that of the angels.

Finally, another fact that aligns with the many ascensions of Christ to heaven and visits to earth is that when Jesus died on Friday afternoon, His spirit immediately went to paradise Luke 23:43 another name for heaven, 2Corinthians 12:4, Revelation 2:7 together with the repentant thief that was crucified with Him.

3. Bringing many sons to glory

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

Hebrews 2:10

Jesus sent Mary to the disciples who were previously in hiding and His message to them emphasized the filial relationship that existed

between them and Himself and between them and God. He never remembered or made reference to the fact that they abandoned Him in His trying moments. He even sent through an angel to specifically invite the one who denied Him to the place of His meeting with them Mark 16:7. It is therefore clear that Christ gives men a second chance. While there is life, there is hope. He forgives failure of the past and gives strength for upright walk on a new day. In every instance where we have disappointed Him or failed, if we can move past it and return to Him, we can still succeed. We can still succeed by appropriating the grace and strength that He gives.



Christ had previously referred to His disciples as His brothers during one of his teachings in Nazareth Mathew 12:46-50. His renewed emphasis of this fact in the message He sent to them through Mary Magdalene will most likely ignite hope, comfort and encouragement in the disciples who until recently responded with fear and despair to the ordeals of the cross. It will certainly make them to begin seeking Christ again. The message also put a glow and radiance around resurrection event and its potentials to bind and bring men into inseparable union with Christ and with God. We are by it assured that the Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ is our Father and God also, and we are reminded by it that



we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. Roman 8:17.

When Mary Magdalene got to the disciples, the way she summarized her experience was captivating and inspiring. She said *"I have seen the Lord"*. Of course, anyone who saw her when she left and saw her excitement now will not nurse any doubt that she had indeed seen the Lord. Clearly observable will be how her previous anxiety, worries and fears had turned to excitement and joy. Peculiar unique encounters with resurrected Christ transforms life and changes men, circumstances and situations because resurrection comes with power; and with grace from God to do all that He ordained. Saints should daily live lives that attested to the fact that they have seen the resurrected Christ and are in relationship with Him. Such life advertises the fact that we belong to a kingdom of power and possibilities. It will attract others to trust in Christ and follow Him. We must by the help, strength and comfort of the Spirit device ways of keeping Christian joy alive in the midst of changing circumstances of daily life. May God help us to continue to do so in Jesus name!

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Essek William Kenyon was born in New England to a poor family on April 25, 1867, in Hadley, New York. Although desiring to be an actor, Kenyon earned a living as a piano and organ salesperson. In an attempt to hone his acting skills, He attended the Emerson School of Oratory in Boston for one year in 1892. At the age of 18 he was converted in a Methodist prayer meeting. After a while he left the church because he had become disillusioned and desired to make a better income. His crisis of faith lasted for 2 1/2 years. He got restored in 1893 He and married his wife Evva on May 8, 1893.

In June of 1893, E.W. and Evva attended a meeting in the Clarendon Street Church in Boston. During the meeting, he came under conviction and rededicated his life to Christ. Evva, slightly less enthusiastic, joined him and were committed to walk the road together. Kenyon began an evangelistic work, but once again felt called to the ministry. After speaking in a Free Baptist church in Amesbury, Massachusetts the couple decided to join the denomination. Kenyon pastored several small churches in New York, and then Massachusetts. It was during this time that he came into the understanding of the Holy Spirit as a person. While in Massachusetts George Mueller's book came into his hands. He decided to believe that God could provide finances and not be dependent on constant fund-raising. The church could not see how this could work, so they left the denomination and decided to work independently.

The couple believed the Bible to be the very Word of God. They felt that it needed no explaining or interpreting, and it should be read and taken literally. They covenanted to act on it exactly as it was written. They went to the YMCA in Worcester and taught what they had come to believe. Converts began to come in. The Kenyons had been exposed to the belief in Divine Healing through the Free Will Baptists, but had never acted on it.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

E.W KENYON
1867-1948



A man with cancer came to live with them. One day while Evva was praying God gave her the scripture from Mark 16:18. *"they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."* (NASB) She went and prayed for this man and he immediately was healed. Kenyon felt that God had confirmed His written word and included healing in his services from that time on. Many healings began to occur in their meetings.

Young people began to come from all over the area to receive training. The Kenyons opened a bible school and began to train the young people. They purchased a farm and called it Bethel Bible School. They lived on faith every step of the way, struggling with financial need, but depending on God. Kenyon moved west in 1923, and settled in California where healings were a regular part of his ministry. He started a church which grew to about a thousand members. Then he moved to Seattle where he established New Covenant Baptist Church. He began a radio ministry, a Bible Institute, and the Herald of Life publication. Evva Kenyon died in 1914. Subsequently, Kenyon married Alice M. Whitney and had a son and a daughter with her. Kenyon died on March 19, 1948 and his daughter Ruth, with whom he was living, continued on with his publishing ministry.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"
1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

SONG OF THE MONTH

JESUS FROM THE TOMB HAS COME

1. Jesus from the tomb has come;
He to death did not succumb;
One another comfort, then
Praise His name in unison.
Now redemption's work is done;
Foe He's fought and overcome.
Once for all our sins He bore,
Now He suffers nevermore.
2. Hades, boulder, soldiers 'round—
None could harm or hold Him down;
Though He briefly suffered pain,
We eternal blessing gain.
He who died can die no more;
Satan's scheming days are o'er;
Since an empty tomb we see,
Countless tombs shall empty be.
3. From the grain of wheat that died,
Many grains were multiplied;
Once He was the only one;
Now the church He has become.
As His Body with our Head,
To the heavens we ascend;
With Him buried, with Him soar;
Praise His name forevermore.

Source: Hymnal.net

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