



# WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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## FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you June 2025 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. This is the 60<sup>th</sup> and final edition of our magazine for now. We will be taking a break to be able to focus more on other aspects of our outreach and mission activities.

First, I want to thank you our esteemed readers and all whose contribution makes possible the publication of this magazine since the maiden edition appear of our website five years ago. My prayer is that both sowers and readers and all who benefitted from all or part of the sixty copies published will receive from the Lord tremendous reward both on earth and eventually in eternity in Jesus name. Within the next few weeks we will make all the sixty copies available online so that those of us who miss out on any of the copies can get them as well as those who want to archive them for further and future reading and reference.

The theme of this edition is "Restoration". This theme is significant and needed for the encouragement of those whose journey to heaven appears turbulent and are overwhelmed by temptations, pressure of besetting sins or overbearing activities of persecutors. It is not impossible that many such individuals have lost hope of recovery. Some presumably have gone so far from God that they may be wandering whether God can accept them back again. If you are in such condition or state, this edition of Watchman's Trumpet is for you.

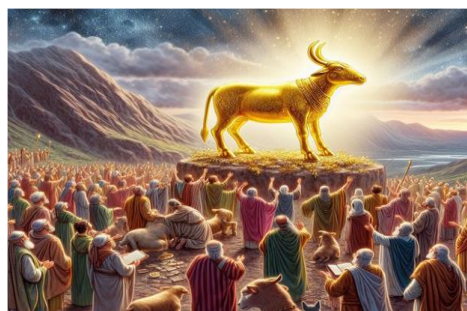
*The main message is for you to know that it is not too late to return to the Lord. Actually God is more than willing and ready to accept you if you will turn to Him right now and pray.*

*In this edition we prepared and served a blend of spiritual menu that speaks to everyone; to those who are standing by faith and to those who have fallen through the cracks. While we do not play down on the dire consequences of backsliding especially those who failed or delay returning to the Lord like Judas Iscariot, we highlight the pathway to restoration for those who want to come back. Finally, we presented the recipe that can protect and immune serious believers from backsliding. All of us must focus and remain focused on the Lord Jesus Christ for continuous supply of sufficient grace that can sustain us till the very end of our Christian race and life on earth.*

*"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 24, 25. "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. " Welcome!*

## LAMENTATION OVER A BACKSLIDDEN NATION

*"Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel.*



## Inside...

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*The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise; she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up. For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live: But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought. Seek the Lord, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel." Amos 5:1-2, 4-6*

Amos chapter five recorded Amos' third sermon which among other things include a call to repentance and restoration that he proclaimed to Israel in a backslidden state. The consequence of heeding this call or failure to do so was also highlighted. The opening verses started like the previous two sermons or chapters.

He called the house of Israel to come and listen to his lamentation over their spiritual state.

He described them as a virgin who has fallen and can no more rise. She lies cast down on her land with no one to raise her up. When a virgin loses her chastity to the wrong person and in the wrong circumstance like Tamar did to Amnon her brother, she is irreparably damaged because in Israel of old none would marry her. If she was engaged to be married, the marriage had to be broken up. Sin deprives men of spiritual purity and presents the sinner in a fallen state. It will take whole-hearted repentance and faith in the blood the Christ shed on the cross of Calvary to raise him up from the fallen state. Jesus also in the gospel described the church as made up of virgins in the parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Mathew 24. He in it presents a lesson on the necessity of spiritual alertness and watchfulness as we await the second coming of the Lord.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Spiritual destitution of a careless virgin
2. Social and moral sickness of an estranged people
3. Sure reward for all who seek the Lord

### 1. Spiritual destitution of a careless virgin

*"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."*

**2 Corinthians 11:2-3**

In describing Israel as fallen and forsaken virgin, Amos described the nation's state of social isolation and spiritual destitution in his days. The men that she sought for help decline to help her. Yet she does not have the support of her God. She had been estranged from Him because of sin.

Those who put their trust in men and turned their back on God would neither have men's help or God's favour. According to Jeremiah they will be lonely Jeremiah 7:5, 6. Next, he called them to repentance. He presented the nation's spiritual and moral state as that of someone sick and dying, whose life is drifting away. He told them to seek God so that they could revive and live. Breath of life is necessary to a dying man like food is to a hungry man. Jesus described himself as the way, the truth and the life. Those dead in sins and trespasses require His grace the way an unconscious person requires artificial respiration or Life Support to be revived. He also revealed the consequences of sin, or continuing in sin. The sinner is spiritually dead. If he continues in that state till his life on earth ends, he will die eternally. He will be eternally separated from God and banished to Hell.



### 2. Social and moral sickness of an estranged people

*"They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly. Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them. For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right."* **Amos 5:10-12**

According to Amos, seeking God has both positive and negative sides. To him seeking

God implies abandonment of the idols and the shrines of the idols that estranged them from God in Bethel, Gilgal and Beersheba. These shrines and idols themselves shall be consumed in the flame of God's judgment. The Lord threatened that unless they began seeking the Lord, the idols and its worshippers shall be consumed together in flame of God's judgment.

We have a nature prone to temptation, worldly care and pleasure. Every missed Bible Study and Sunday School, quiet-time, family devotion, prayers, fasting, meditation and fellowship opportunities, and opportunity to obey God and serve His people leaves an injury or scar upon your life. At some point the damage may become irreparable. It may result in permanent separation from God. We must beware! Our text refers to the possibility of loss of salvation experience by neglect. It tacitly refers to the grave consequences of such loss. Spiritual life like plant must be tended, guarded and protected.

### 3. Sure reward for all who seek God

*"Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken."* **Amos 5:14**

All hope is not lost. God invited Israel to seek the Lord. By asking them to seek the Lord, He is asking in essence that they make use of all resources that God has provided to ignite and sustain in them spiritual life and relationship with God. Under the gospel dispensation that would be referring to the interactive benefit of prayers, scripture reading, obedience to God and regular fellowship. These we must do daily to remain spiritually alive and retain the life of God we received at the time we received the New Birth experience.





## 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 - June 2025*

1. Thank God for the salvation of our souls and hope of everlasting life
2. Pray for life of consistent victory over sin and the strivings of the flesh
3. Pray for grace for freedom from all sins and righteous living
4. Pray for sustained and daily commitment to prayers, scripture reading, obedience to God and regular fellowship.
5. Pray against making bad choice and distractions on the highway to heaven
6. Pray for constant vigilance and watchfulness by our ministers as they care for God’s people to forestall members and congregational backsliding
7. Pray for spiritual alertness and watchfulness as we await the second coming of the Lord.
8. Pray that all of us who started this heavenly race well will end well

“..... *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.

## WARNING AGAINST BACKSLIDING AND APOSTACY: The story of Judas Iscariot

*“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.” John 12:3-6*

Judas means “let God be praised”. This meaning was not evident in the way Judas Iscariot’s life ended because of the bad choices he made. His story was a tragic one, one of good beginning and but bad ending. Until date and in many languages his name became synonymous with betrayal. The account of his life and ending teaches all believers today that ending well a journey that we began well is of utmost importance especially in the heavenly race.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The calling of an Apostle
2. The making of an Apostate
3. The damning end of a reprobate

### 1. The calling of an Apostle

*“And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: And Simon he surnamed Peter; ... And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: ...” Mark 3: 13-16, 19*

It was a great morning when Jesus, coming out of a mountain range where He spent all night in prayer chose twelve out of the large crowd following Him and conferred on them special status.



He designated them Apostles. Judas Iscariot was one of the Twelve. He wanted them to stay close to Him more than the rest so that He can train them, mentor them, equip them and commission them to continue His work on earth. Interestingly, others equally capable were there like Mathias who was later chosen by the eleven to replace Judas when he fell. They were also committed and faithful but the Lord did not choose them at that time. It must then have been a great privilege for him to make the list of twelve. In the process of their training and mentorship, the Lord conferred on them authority to drive out unclean spirits and heal all manners of sicknesses and diseases. He does have a taste of the power of the coming kingdom. He lived and dined with the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. When Christ promised each of the Apostles hundredfold return for their sacrifices, and that each of them in the kingdom will sit on a throne to rule over one of the tribes of Israel, Judas Iscariot was one of those who received these great promises. But he never received or enjoyed any of them; he is in Hell right now. According to Peter, he fell from apostolic commission “by transgression”. His story provided warning monument for today’s pilgrims especially gospel ministers.

### 2. The making of an Apostate

*“The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.” Mathew 26: 24-25*

What happened to him was that he has a

besetting sin he could not overcome which led to his backsliding. From the backslidden state, he grew worse and became an apostate because he ignored all the warnings of Christ about his spiritual state. Christ repeatedly warned that one of the twelve was a traitor and was planning His betrayal. He repeated this and the consequence of such action repeatedly, in most cases in association with the prediction of His sacrifice and death on the cross. In fact, at the time the Lord for the third and final time spoke about it and directly indicated that Judas was the man, the price of betrayal was already in his pocket. Nothing ruins sinners and backsliders’ eternal wellbeing and seals their destiny like obstinacy.

### 3. The damning end of a reprobate

*“Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, what is that to us? See thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.” Mathew 27:3-5*

Judas Iscariot for a price betrayed his master with a kiss. He later regretted his actions when it became clear that it was leading to Jesus’ crucifixion. He attempted returning it to Jewish council but they already labeled it “blood money” and would not accept it. He tried to confess his sin but to the wrong people; people who has no hope of forgiveness, restoration or assurance of everlasting life to offer him. He confessed to those who could not grant him forgiveness. He became depressed. Tormented by his own conscience and possessed by evil spirit, in desperate quest for relieve from sin, guilt and peace of mind; he could not approach Christ for forgiveness and did not forgive himself; he committed another sin – suicide, which led to his death. His sin became unpardonable.

## CONSTANT VIGILANCE OF SPIRITUAL WATCHMEN

*“And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff to Tobiah out of the chamber.”* **Nehemiah 13:7-8**

The reversal of the gains of costly reform instituted by Nehemiah after a period of his absence highlighted the reality and possibility of backsliding and need for vigilance by spiritual watchmen. Eliashib who had the charge of the store rooms of the house of the Lord during Nehemiah's earlier reform was a close associate of Tobiah the Ammonite. While Nehemiah was away; He had provided Tobiah with a large room to live in the Temple by converting one of the store rooms to living room. Besides those who were supposed to be on full-time service like the levites and musicians had gone back to their secular work while Nehemiah was away. There was also the perversion of Sabbath regulations and God's instructions on separation from the heathen nations in marriage; practices that was almost eroding the gains of earlier reform. This called for a second- tier reform.

The lesson here is that it will take constant watchfulness by spiritual watchmen placed over the household of God to make God's people persist and persevere on the narrow way that leads to heaven.



### 1. Possibility of degeneration and backsliding

*“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”* **Mathew 24:12-13**

Within a short time, a once well revived people in Nehemiah 10 soon lapse into corruption, compromise with the enemy, misappropriation of resources, desecration of the holy place and unequal yoke in marriage. Their descend to this to level of degeneration within a short time reveal to us the reality of the fact that there is no spiritual height from which people cannot fall back into sin.

To backslide means that one who has previously realized his sinfulness and had truly identified with Christ, experienced manifestation of divine presence, and has been empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a life that is in consonance with the word of God is now living in rebellion against God. He now experiences and expresses apathy towards Him.

*Causes of backsliding include:* 1. Desire for forbidden things 2. Self-management 3. Carelessness and taking undue liberty 4. Self-confidence 5. Being spoilt by earthly pleasure and kindness from others. 6. Presumption 7. Pre-occupation with difficulties rather than focus on God's power and ability 8. Harshness of spirit 9. 10. Neglect of prayer and Bible study

### 2. Restoration from backsliding

*“Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he*

*hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.”* **Hosea 6:1-2**

Nehemiah's action revealed how those who are still in faith and in the lord could help restore those who have strayed, it also reveal how spiritual and church leaders should confront and tackle mass or group backsliding. He uncovered the problem and revealed it to those who would not or could not see it. He brought God and scriptural perspective into the situation. He took strong, unmistakable action He disciplined those he had to. All his actions were undertaken in love, fairness and guided by the fear of God; and it was perceived to be so. He showed the way and led the path to repentance, restitution, restoration to God and to the path of duty.

### 2. Eternal vigilance: price of liberty

*“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* **Mathew 26:41**

*“Christian seek not yet repose, hear thy guiding angel say, thou art in the midst of foes, watch and pray”.* Sense of duty and need for watchfulness made Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem after a while to see whether the structures he put in place during his earlier reform was still standing.

The first lesson coming out of this is the benefit of full-time ministry or at least asking those who are *“tent makers”* to seek employment in or seek posting to their place of assignment; that is, the town or nation where their congregation resides. We are witnesses to the great damage absenteeism of parents are causing in the upbringing of children in the family. This can also happen to a congregation if ministers do not stay or reside in their place of primary assignment. Converted souls need constant oversight.



## LOOKING UNTO JESUS

*"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 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 12:1-2

The temptation to backslide, to go back or turn away from Christ is one that have confronted almost all believers over the ages since the world began. While some have been overcoming, others have yielded and their carcasses littered the highway to heaven. By yielding to temptation, or lusts, pressure by persecutors, juicy offers of the devil, deceitfulness of riches, crave for power or positions, they have become victims and have fallen by the wayside. You will not fall and if you have fallen, today, the Lord will raise you up. The promise of preservation in our text today is for all who are being tempted to give up the faith. If you believe, it will work in your life



We shall consider three points

1. Salvation in the look of faith
2. Subtle temptation to look back
3. Steadfast look and the final destination

### 1. Salvation in the look of faith

*"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there*



*is none else."* Isaiah 45:22

The journey to heaven started by faith must by necessity continue by faith. The Christian armor listed in Ephesians 6:10-18 have no covering for the back and those who turn back make themselves easy prey or target for the devil and his agents. There is no problem too difficult for God to solve, there is no difficult situation and challenge that Christ cannot give us the power to overcome. Hence, there is no reason for us to begin to doubt His power and ability. After all, whatever God does not do, no man can do it for you. Move on therefore, keep your eyes on Jesus, He will save you, not only from sin but from all life's challenges and circumstances that may ever come your way. Isaiah 35:4 *"... he that beleiveth on Him shall not be confounded"*

### 2. Subtle temptation to look back

*"And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."* Genesis 19:17, 26

The temptation to backslide always start as a subtle suggestion inside the heart. When do this temptation come?

1. Whenever the giants of unbelief, doubts fears, worries and anxiety over the future bars the way to the promised Land

2. Whenever there is strong deceptive pressure and persecution
3. Whenever long-standing problem suddenly assumes an overwhelming dimension
4. Whenever the road to the promised land seems long
5. Whenever Satan dangles cheap, easy alternatives
6. Whenever there are envisaged problems in our attempt to conform to particular doctrines
7. Whenever the world suddenly becomes attractive



8. Whenever unbelievers demand compromise as a pre-condition to receiving and enjoying a much deserved and much expected privilege
9. Whenever the cares of life multiples

At such moment, look unto Jesus. He will see you through Hebrews 2:18

### 3. Steadfast look and the final destination

*"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."* Acts 20:24

Jesus in His trying moments endured the cross and contradiction of sinners,

**"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. Hosea 14:4**



opposition and mockers. He concentrated on the joy set before Him; the joy of being eventually enthroned with God. His victory is an encouragement and source of strength to all true believers who are being tempted today that though weeping may endure for a night, joy cometh in the morning.

Practical counsel for those being tempted:

1. Keep looking at Jesus
2. Rest upon His promises
3. Intensify your prayers for strength and courage when going gets tough and difficult
4. Keep thinking of the joy of seeing Jesus Christ and redeemed saints at the end of your journey and in heaven
5. Think of the magnitude of reward awaiting you in the end
6. Consider the “well done” the Lord will say to you when you see Him in heaven
7. Resist the temptation; resist the devil, he will flee from you

### TESTIMONY OF RESTORATION

*I was born to parents who raised me up to believe in the traditional, and to follow ancestral worship and false gods. But during my childhood the gospel of God concerning His Son (Lord Jesus Christ), started reaching remote areas where we lived. Eventually, an aunt became a Christian, renounced traditional religions, worship of idols and started trusting in and following the Christ.*

*And the Lord used her to witness to us, telling us about how God sent His Son to save and redeem sinners.*

*This greatly disrupted everything our parents believed and taught us. Nevertheless, they did not prevent her taking us to church and hear the preaching of God’s word. By the time I had become a young adult, the more I went to hear God’s word, the more I became convinced of the true God and His gospel.*



*I kept remembering about God’s judgment to come, heaven or hell questions, and that God wills to save and redeem sinners through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I was a sinner through and through and in need of God’s salvation. The word of God had taken hold of my heart, and I believed the gospel. By grace and mercies, God granted me repentance and faith to believe in Christ Jesus my own Lord and eternal Saviour. I started trusting in the Lord, calling on his name and seeking him. I found peace with God and I wanted to know more about Him and to grow in the Christian faith.*

*Many years later, I found myself changing city in search of work. Then comes a period when I failed to trust God. I remember getting mixed up with the wrong church movements i.e., those pushing the “prosperity-type gospel”. I got carried away with this for some time, and initially thought they are Christians. My fellowship with these hurt me in so many ways: causing me to doubt and despair of Christianity itself. The prosperity-gospel church movement is strewn in self-seeking, man’s glory, sugar-coated teaching, manipulation and deceit.*

*The results are hypocrisies, false profession, and lukewarmness. But the Lord remained faithful. He did not stop correcting, chastising, warning me about these errors and reminding me about Christ. I had so many troubles and I lost so much because of the backsliding. I could not continue this way anymore, and the guilt of straying away from God who so loved me was so unbearable. I was tired of nagging and guilty conscience and sought the Lord in repentance from these hypocrisies and backsliding. God enabled me to see the end of prosperity-type gospel, end of self-seeking and backsliding. I don’t want any more of these. All I want is Christ Jesus my Lord and Saviour; to rest in Him and trust in Him and by Him totally surrendered to God. By grace, God restored me and I started enjoying fellowship with Him.*

*And I sought to be in fellowship with a true Christian church, where I would be nurtured by the precious word of God and the faith of Christ. I found and joined one in 2013 and continued to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. I am trusting and resting in the Lord, and knowing that God is sovereign over all, and to depend on Him alone. Truly, the only way to be happy in God is to trust and obey Him. God is faithful and He continues to conform me to the image of His Son. I want to live the all of my life knowing and serving the Lord Jesus Christ my Saviour by the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God.*

**Source:** Backsliding: God Restored Me

By Mary | Mar 24, 2024 | Testimonies

<https://dailydewtestimonies.com/backsliding-god-restored-me/>

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**Isaac Watts** was born July 17, 1674 at Southampton, England, the eldest of nine children. His father was a Dissenter from the Anglican Church and on at least one occasion was thrown in jail for not following the Church of England. Isaac followed his father's strong biblical faith. Isaac was a very intelligent child who loved books and learned to read early. He began learning Latin at age four and went on to learn Greek, Hebrew, and French as well. From an early age Isaac had a propensity to rhyming, and often even his conversation was in rhyme.

Because he would not follow the national Church of England, Isaac could not attend the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford. Instead, he attended an academy sponsored by Independent Christians. After completing his formal schooling, Watts spent five years as a tutor. During those years he began to devote himself more diligently than before to the study of the Scriptures. In 1707 he published his first edition of Hymns and Spiritual Songs.

For a few years Watts served as an assistant and then pastor to an Independent congregation in London. A violent and continual fever from which he never recovered forced him to leave the pastorate. Sir Thomas Abney received Watts into his home, and Sir Thomas' family continued to provide a home and serve as Watts' patrons for the next 36 years!

Though naturally quick to resentment and anger, the Lord used Watts' sufferings to produce a gentle, modest, and charitable spirit. Out of his compassion, one-third of his small allowance was given to the poor. Watts' tenderness to children can be seen reflected in his lovely "*Divine Songs for Children*" published in 1715.

Watts' most published book was his Psalms of David, first published in 1719. In his poetic paraphrases of the

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

**Isaac Watts**  
1674 - 1748



psalms, Watts adapted the psalms for use by the Church and made David speak *"the language of a Christian."* Examples of Watts' method can be seen in his paraphrases of Psalm 72 into the hymn *"Jesus Shall Reign Wh'er the Sun,"* Psalm 90 into *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past,"* and Psalm 98 into *"Joy to the World."*

Benjamin Franklin first published Watts' psalm paraphrases in America in 1729. Franklin was not the only American publisher to take an interest in Watt's hymns. In Boston his hymns were published in 1739. They were well-loved by Americans of the Revolutionary period.

Besides over 600 hymns, Watts published 52 other works, including a book of logic used in the universities, books on grammar, pedagogy, ethics, psychology, astronomy, geography, three volumes of sermons, and 29 treatises on theology. After his death on November 25, 1748, a monument to Watts was erected in Westminster Abbey. His greatest monument, however, are the hymns to his God still used by Christ's church.

## SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

*"Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up." Hosea 6:1*

## SONG OF THE MONTH

### Lord, I'm Coming Home

1. I've wandered far away from God,  
Now I'm coming home;  
The paths of sin too long I've trod,  
Lord, I'm coming home.

Refrain:

*Coming home, coming home,  
Never more to roam,  
Open wide Thine arms of love,  
Lord, I'm coming home.*

2. I've wasted many precious years,  
Now I'm coming home;  
I now repent with bitter tears,  
Lord, I'm coming home. [Refrain]
3. I'm tired of sin and straying, Lord,  
Now I'm coming home;  
I'll trust your love, believe your Word,  
Lord, I'm coming home. [Refrain]
4. My soul is sick, my heart is sore,  
Now I'm coming home;  
My strength renew, my hope restore,  
Lord, I'm coming home. [Refrain]
5. My only hope and only plea;  
Now I'm coming home;  
That Jesus died, and died for me;  
Lord, I'm coming home. [Refrain]
6. I need his cleansing blood, I know;  
Now I'm coming home;  
Oh, wash me whiter than the snow;  
Lord, I'm coming home. [Refrain]

Source: William J. Kirkpatrick

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Amazing Grace House**  
**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