



The Good News Messenger



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God Gives A Good Land

Devotional Excerpt from "Springs in the Valley"

"For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; A land of wheat and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; A land wherein thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee." (Deuteronomy 8:7-10)

We are entering upon a new year—surely we cannot but believe, a new age. If we have rightly learned the lessons of the past, there lies before us a heritage of unspeakable blessing, which none of these vivid metaphors can too strongly describe; infinite sources of blessing, for the fountains and waterbrooks are but the figures of God's illimitable grace. For with Him is the fountain of life.

A Fountain Fed By Eternal Springs!

They tell us of boundless supply: "Bread without scarceness," the olive oil that speaks of the Holy Ghost, the honey that tells of the sweetness of His love, and the pomegranates that are the seed fruit which speak of a life that reproduces itself in the blessing of others.

They tell of the "nether springs" which flow from the depths of sorrow, in the hard places, in the desert places, in the lone places, in the common places which seem farthest from all that is sacred and divine.

How delightful it is to have His gladness in the low places of sorrow, and to be able to glory even in tribulation also.

They tell us of pleasures that come out of the very heart of trial, treasures wrung from the grasp of the enemy.

How precious the springs that flow into the places of temptation, for there is nothing in life so trying as the touch of Satan's hand, and the breath of the destroyer. Oh, how sweet it is, even there, to find that the light is as deep as the shadow, and heaven is nearest when we are hard by the gates of hell, so that we can count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations, and can say, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him."

How blessed to drink from the springs of health, and find our strength renewed day by day, and the life of God flowing into even our physical organs and functions!

"All my fresh springs are in thee!"

Beloved, God has for us these springs, and we need them every day. Let us drink of the living waters. Nay, let us receive them into our very hearts, so that we shall carry the fountain with us wherever we go.

- A. B. Simpson

We shall never be "springs" until God comes to us. We shall never be fresh, or fruitful, or useful to others till God comes to us. If we do not have constant visitations of God, we shall soon cease to be "springs," and shall go back to the old dry and barren days.

-*Helena Garratt.*

Let us claim our inheritance in these coming days, and find the hardest places of life's experience God's greatest opportunities and faith's mightiest challenge.

Springs in the valley are very unusual; but He will give us both the upper and the nether springs!

The Fur Coat

Taken from the book "Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag"

At one time I was in great need of a fur coat, for the winters are very cold in the northern states and Canada. So I set my heart on having a fur-lined coat listed in the Sears Roebuck catalogue for \$57.25. I asked the Lord if I could have it and He answered, "Yes."

Shortly after this matter had been decided, a brother came to me and said, "You need a fur coat and here are ten dollars to start toward it. Others wrote sending money specifying that it was for a fur coat until I had \$36.50. Then a whole year passed and nothing came. The following November I went to Rice Lake, Wisconsin to hold a meeting for Bro. E. G. Ahrendt. It was very cold and there was lots of snow. On my arrival Brother Ahrendt said to me, "Haven't you got a fur coat, Brother Susag?" I answered, "Yes." He said, "Why don't you wear it this cold weather?" I answered, "I have it by faith - have had it for a year and a half and have \$36.50 laid for it that was given me towards buying a coat, but the price is \$57.25." Then Bro. Ahrendt went upstairs and was gone for a long time. When he came down again, he said, "Brother Susag, before you leave here you are going to have a fur coat." I said, "Is that faith or presumption?" To which he replied, "If it isn't faith, I have never had faith." I said, "Praise the Lord; good for you and good for me."

When the meeting was over Brother Ahrendt said, "Did you get the fur coat?" I told him, "No." He then asked me where I was going tomorrow night from here, and I told him that I was going ten miles out in the country to a little meeting house for service. He said, "I'll go with you."

After the service that night Brother Ahrendt again asked, "Did you get your fur coat?" I said, "No." Upon which he inquired where I was going that evening. I told him that a family had invited me to their home and had offered to take me to another railroad over which I would be able to reach home sooner. Brother Ahrendt declared he was going with me until he saw my last foot safe in the train, "and," he said, "if you haven't got that fur coat by then I'll not know what to think of myself or my faith." (By way of explanation would say here, that the

The Fur Coat

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offerings I received went for my general expenses; the money for my fur coat was to come from other sources. The Lord had promised me the fur coat.)

That night I had a dream. I woke up about three o'clock in the morning, and as I stirred a little, Brother Ahrendt whispered, "Are you awake?" I told him I was. "Did you have a dream?" he asked. I answered, "Yes, a woman came to me and gave me four bills!" "The fur coat! The fur coat!" he excitedly said. We got so happy that we couldn't sleep any more and we shouted, "Glory to God!" We made so much noise that we disturbed the folks downstairs, and when we went down they said, "What is the matter with you brethren making so much noise?" We told them we were so happy that we could not help ourselves.

After a while the sister asked me to come out into the kitchen. She gave me a chair and I sat down. She at once began to unburden her mind and said, "Did you understand when I spoke to you at the campmeeting at St. Paul Park three or four years ago that I was intending to give you some money for your trip to Europe?" I answered, "Yes, I thought so." "But" she said, "you said you had the fare." "Yes," I answered, "I had it by faith." Then in surprise, she asked, "But didn't you have the money in your possession? Weren't you then already on your way to Europe?" "I was on my way to Europe," I answered, "but did not have all my fare – only by faith."

She then told me that she had been sick for about two years. She said, "I have been prayed for often, and have received some help, yet I gradually got worse. Finally," she said, "I got desperate about it and said to the Lord, 'What's the matter with me anyway; I cannot get well and I cannot die?' The Lord said, 'Do you know the Brother you intended to give some money before he went to Europe?' I said, 'Yes, in a way, but he's back now.' The Lord said, 'That does not make any difference; how much was it?' 'Fifteen dollars,' was my answer. 'That's right,' the Lord said, 'but there is ten dollars interest on that now.' 'I'll give it to him the first time I see him,' I said. Then I was prayed for and healed at once." Having said this, she handed me the money, "Here it is," and it was FOUR BILLS! I took it and commenced to shout the glory of God. In came Bro. Ahrendt and I held up the four bills for him to see. He shouted, "The fur coat! The fur coat!" Then I related my experience to her of my praying for a fur coat and said to her, "If you had given me the money when I came back from Europe I would not have had to suffer cold for about a winter and a half." The sister was healed and blessed, and I was kept warm for many a day inside that fur coat.



Prayer of the Month

To Trust in Thee

By: Rixie Lusk Smith



How can I say "Thou knowest best,"
When I am grieving in the test?
How can I say "Thy way is right"
When I am drained, too weak to fight?

O Lord, If I should challenged be,
Give me the faith that trusts in thee.
Let me go forth from where I stand,
And leave the matter in thy hand.

I May Not See The Answer Now

By: Gertrude B. McClain

He promised He would give to me the things I need each day,
And I believe it in my heart each time I kneel to pray.

For when I call upon His name and seek His face in prayer,
Through faith I see the answer is just waiting for me there.

I may not see the answer now but still I must believe,
For He has never told a lie and never will deceive.

He gives me everything I need and even so much more
My mind just cannot comprehend the blessings left in store.

The answered prayer may not be "yes" Or it may not be "no"
And yet He answers for the best because He loves me so.

And He can see beyond this day just what is best for me,
So I must pray "Thy will be done" and then wait patiently.

A Testimony of Divine Healing

Sister Edna Roberts – DeGraff, OH

Psalm 34:19, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."

The Lord has healed me of many afflictions: dropsy (which is called edema now), shingles, and many more afflictions, but never one like this! I had hives on my legs, arms, and body. I had spent a lot of money on tubes of lotions to get help for itching. One evening before bedtime I got so nervous I could not stand it. My daughter Lola, suggested I call our pastor, Brother Snapp. I agreed, and she called him and he prayed for me over the telephone. But I could not lay down in my bed, so I sat in my recliner. It seemed to me about thirty minutes or so had passed when I felt something come out of the center of my body. That was a strange thing, but somehow it relieved the pain and I began to thank the Lord. Then the strangest thing happened. It would be hard to describe in words, but it was as though I got a new body. I felt young again.. I felt lighter in body and I thought, "How wonderful!" I felt like I had a resurrected body, is the best way I can describe it. How I thanked the Lord and was so happy. Shortly after that I went to sleep and slept good all night.

The next morning when I awoke, I still had my 86 year old body, but no hives. I called Lola and she was amazed, too. All of the hives on my legs and arms were gone. I had no more itching.

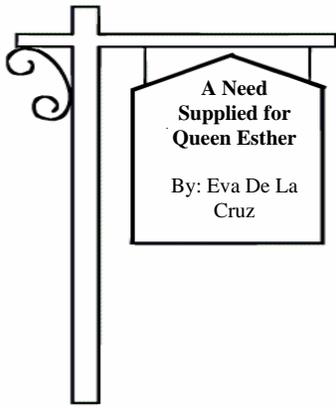
What a mighty God we serve. Truly, the best is yet to come when we reach our heavenly home.

From Twelve Baskets Full

By: Lonnie Chancellor

We take too many things for granted – seeing as how some of them never were granted.

A one-track mind is tolerable – if it is headed in to the right station.



Taken from the Book of Esther, Chapters 1-10)

One would never think that the great Queen Esther would have any needs in her life, but she did. It all started out when the King of Persia died, and his son, Ahasuerus, became king in his place. Ahasuerus was a very proud man who was fond of feasting and other pleasures.

In the third year of his reign he became upset with his wife, Queen Vashti. He told her she could no longer be queen and

began to look for a new wife. In the town of Shushan lived a Jew named Mordecai. He was the uncle of a beautiful girl named Esther. Mordecai decided that he would take the young girl to the palace where the king was going to pick a new queen from the young women of his kingdom.

After a year of preparations, all the young women were presented to the King so he could choose one of them for a new queen. When Ahasuerus saw Esther, he knew that she was the one he wanted to be his wife, and he crowned her as the new Queen. It is a very high title to be queen of the land, and Esther was surprised to be chosen above all the other maidens.

Not long after Esther became Queen, problems arose for her Uncle Mordecai. He would not bow down to Haman, one of the King's top officers. Haman was a proud man, and became very angry with Mordecai. He went to the King and asked for something to be done to punish the man who would not bow to him. The King gave Haman permission to do as he thought best and make it a law. When he found out that Mordecai was a Jew, he wanted to get rid of all the Jewish people. Haman sent out a proclamation into all parts of the kingdom. It said that on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, all the Jews should be killed...men, women, and even little children. Now, is that not kind of scary? Well, when Queen Esther heard this she must have broken down and cried for her people. Is that not sad that her people would be killed? The very people she grew up around? Could she do something?

In the meantime, Mordecai still would not bow to Haman, and it continued to anger him. He decided he would take the matter into his own hands, and the King need never know about it. He built a gallows that he intended to hang Mordecai on and use him as an example to others who would not do the things he wanted them to do. Mordecai knew nothing of the gallows prepared for him, but he was distressed for his people and got word to Queen Esther that something must be done. He asked her to speak with the King. Esther was afraid to go to the King because of a law that said you must be invited first. If he did not agree to talk with her, he could have her killed for bothering him. She asked her people to pray hard for three days before she would go to see the King. She wanted God's help and blessing.

On the third day, she went before the King to plead for her people. She put on her finest clothes, and approached the throne room. In the throne room, the King extended his golden scepter toward her as a way to show he was happy to see her, and asked what he could do for her. Very cleverly, she invited him to bring Haman with him to a special banquet that day in her own palace. They consented, and after the feast was over, the King again asked Esther what she wished from him. He said he would give her anything, even to the half of his kingdom. The King must have loved her very much.

She then answered that on the next day they should come to another banquet and there she would tell the King her wish. The next day, after the meal, King Ahasuerus asked Esther to tell him what her request was. Then she said, "O King, if I have found favor in your sight, spare my life and the lives of my people. For I, too, am a Jew, and it is proclaimed that we must all be killed." The King then said, "But who is the man, and where is he, and who would dare to make a proclamation like this?" Then Esther pointed to Haman and said, "This wicked man is my enemy and the enemy of my people."

Haman was, of course, terrified. When the King found out from a chamberlain that Haman had built a gallows to hang Esther's uncle Mordecai, he told the guards to hang Haman on the gallows instead. Haman was brought to justice for his wickedness. Then, the King and his beautiful Queen created a new law so the Jews could defend themselves on the day they were supposed to all be killed.

On the appointed day, the ones sent to kill the Jews were beaten or killed. Don't you think that God surely did supply a great need for Queen Esther, Mordecai, and their people?

The Lord is my Shepherd

By: Bro. C.W. Naylor

The Psalmist says of the Lord, his Shepherd, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures of tender grass," or, as the Hebrew has it, "in pastures of tender grass." What a world of significance there is in this little sentence: "The Lord is my shepherd."

"He maketh me to lie down." He doth not compel me. That is not the Lord's method; He findeth a better way. If He compelled me to lie down, there would be no pleasure in it. When a sheep is compelled to lie down, it is in fear; it cannot but dread what is to happen to it. So the Lord doth not compel me. He leadeth me in the pastures of tender grass, and I eat until I am satisfied, and being satisfied with the sweet and luscious pasturage, I lie down, content. While the sheep is hungry, it will not lie down in the pasture; it desireth to eat. But when it hath eaten its fill, it lieth down and resteth and is satisfied. So He feedeth my soul day by day; the good things of His kingdom doth He give unto me. He satisfieth my soul with fatness. My soul desireth nothing more than what He giveth. If I hunger, He hath a supply, and He giveth me, and that with a generous hand. He knoweth all my needs. He supplieth every one, that I may be "fat and flourishing, to show that the Lord is upright."

There are many enemies about, but "he maketh me to lie down." I am in quietness. My heart is not afraid. The Shepherd standeth between me and those ravening wolves. The lion and the bear cannot harm me, for the Shepherd standeth as my protector. His eye shall watch while I lie down. His ear shall hearken and shall hear the sound of their footsteps if they come near. I trust the Shepherd; therefore my heart is not afraid and I shall lie down safely. It is trust that enableth me to lie down. If I were afraid, I could not thus rest. I should be watching and fearing and trembling. Every noise would alarm me. I should forget about the green pastures. I should forget the tender grass. But He is watching. He hath His weapon in His hand. He doth not fear my enemies, and while He is watching I do not fear them, for He is

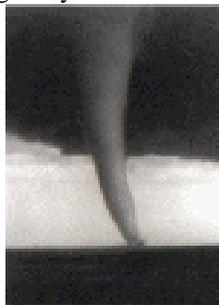
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Amazing Account of Protection

Taken from "The Life of Faith"

By: Paul D. Turnbow

I was working for Fred Matthesen in his dairy. One day I was warned by God that something was going to happen there on the dairy farm. At that time Fred lived on High street in the southeast part of Oklahoma City. I told my wife that something was going to happen here; I believe the Lord is going to try to wake Fred up as he wasn't living for the Lord. In the Mannford, Oklahoma in February and in received a letter from that a terrible storm blew it away, leaving walls of the house on them and spare prayer and spared the time that the been in the milk house at work at which time the milk house was totally destroyed and it being a concrete block building, you can imagine what would have happened to me, had I not heeded God's warning when I moved to Mannford and took the pastorate there. It pays to obey God. Thank God for His providential care.



meantime, I left and went to and took a pastorate. I left March, I believe it was, we Fred's wife, Rachel, saying had struck their place and them standing between the praying God to have mercy their lives. God heard their their lives. According to storm struck, I would have

rest in His love. Then as the evening falleth, He will lead me to His fold, and inside its walls of security I shall rest during the hours of the night. I shall not fear the darkness, for the Shepherd is watching.

I shall not fear the wild beasts round about, for they cannot harm me. He will watch over me and bear me up when I am weak. I can rest secure. My shepherd is the Good Shepherd. He loveth His sheep. They are a pleasure to Him.

Though He sometimes may need to lead by a rugged way, yet I am safe, for He careth for me. He will lead me in the way that I should go. He will enrich my soul with His goodness. Yea, "goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Gas Bill Paid in Answer to Prayer

By: Paul D. Turnbow

One time while I was pasturing a church, our money played out before all of our bills were taken care of. We still owed the gas bill. By the 10th of the month, the bill was due. After that, there was penalty added, and it was already the 12th of the month. By the 15th, you were cut off. I said to my wife, this is a need and God said He would supply all our need. I left the house and went to the church where I was doing a little work. I knelt in prayer and told the Lord all about our need. God assured me He heard my prayer by filling my soul with peace. I started to work in the back of the church and to my surprise I heard the door opening behind me. I turned to see who it was. It was my wife. She came to where I was and handed me a check. I looked at the check and it was made out for \$5.00 and our gas bill was \$4.55. I said to my wife, the gas bill and she said yes, I believe it's for the gas bill. God had gotten hold of a brother down in town. He said he felt like we needed it so he sent his wife to the house with the check and also some other things. God sent a good measure – and we had \$0.45 left. Oh, how I thanked God. I said to my wife, let's get down on our knees here and thank the Lord, and so we did. To God be all the glory!

I've Found It, Lord, In Thee

By: D.S. Warner

My soul in trouble roamed Upon a weary plain,
And, ever restless, longed A perfect bliss to gain.

Oppressed with guilt and woe, With fears of hell o'er-cast,
My soul no comfort knew Until I came to Christ.

I bore within my breast A deep and painful void,
I wanted inward rest, And peace that would abide.

My foolish soul had tho't To fill itself with mold
From earthly mines, yet bou't No true and lasting gold.

All in this world is dross; Its pleasures soon decay;
Its honors prove a snare; Its treasures fly away.

I have found it, Lord, in thee, An everlasting store
Of comfort, joy, and bliss to me; How can I wish for more?

The Lord is My Shepherd

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strong and mighty. He is greater than my foes. They know it and are afraid. They tremble at His voice. They flee away, but I lie safely. He hath said, "I will feed then in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel;...in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel."

"He leadeth me beside the still waters." When I grow thirsty, the river lieth at the foot of the mountain, and down the slope He will lead me, and there in the shade, in the quiet, restful coolness, I shall drink of the waters of quietness and shall be satisfied, and my soul shall delight in Him. The path down which He leadeth me may be steep; there may be thorns along the way; but so long as I permit Him to lead me where He will, He will lead me safely. I must not choose my own way. I must not run ahead of Him. I must not leave the path. I must follow close to Him. I must listen to His voice, and then He will lead me to the still waters, and there I shall

We have literature available for those who would like to study the

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Pastor: David Chancellor
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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Young People's Service	4:45 p.m.
Sunday Children's Service	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.

