

A Call for Help

Dearest children,

As we look around us, we see that the world is a mess. People are in trouble on all sides. Gloom pervades in millions of lives. Most people feel like life only consists of broken homes, drunkenness, fights, loneliness, and sadness. Few realize there is real purpose to life. Sad to say, these things have not just affected grown-ups, but their nasty hands have reached into the lives of thousands of children. Little children of all races and nationalities have no idea what true love and happiness is. They have never experienced one moment of real peace. They have never heard of a Jesus who loves them.

Neither do they understand that He longs to be their personal friend! Perhaps they know Jesus died, but what they do not know is that He died for them.

Every night hundreds of children lie on their beds and cry, not from physical pain, but from the anguish of a soul that does not know Jesus. Oh, how they long for just one true friend who truly cares for them. Somebody they can trust. Somebody they can talk to. Someone who will be with them no matter what happens. If they could just have one taste of genuine happiness and peace!

The crying turns to weeping, and yet they have no hope. No one cares that they are not happy. No one even notices the grief in their eyes. Everyone is too busy in his own pursuit for happiness. Despair sets in. Is there any reason for life? Any hope at all for the future? Does anyone care about them? Is there anyone or anything that can help?

These questions reach out and resound to you, dear children. You who have been saved and have found the answer to life—Jesus. You have been given a job to answer the pleas of these children. You have been

assigned to tell and show to as many as possible the way to find satisfaction. You have not been saved because you are better than they are or because you deserved it more. You are saved because God desires for you to use what you have to reach the lost and dying world.

You may feel like you are too young to help. Perhaps you think you do not have much to offer. Yet if you have real joy, you have something the majority of young people know nothing about. You are their only hope. If you do not help them, who will?

You need not wait to go to a “foreign” mission field. There are plenty of children right here who need to know about Jesus. Maybe you are not a singer or preacher. You do not have to be to let someone else see Jesus in you.

Helping souls is not an option. God demands it from you. Look around you! Can’t you hear the fervent pleas and see the despairing looks? The children of this world are begging for your help. Will you answer their plea? Oh, will you answer it in time? ☞

—Sis. Elizabeth O’Shea

Bible Word Search

I. One in Eternity Past

A. Jn. 17:5 "And now, O _____, glorify Thou Me [_____], with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."

B. Heb. 9:14 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit [_____] offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

II. One in Creation

A. Gen. 1:1 "In the beginning God [includes the _____ and _____] created the heaven and the earth."

B. Jn. 1:1,3,14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things were made by Him [_____]; and without Him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

C. Gen. 1:2 "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God [_____] moved upon the face of the waters."

III. One in the Work of Salvation

A. Jn. 3:16 "For God [_____] so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten _____, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

B. 1 Pet. 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit [_____] unto unfeigned love of the brethren..."

C. Jn. 14:16-17a "And I [_____] will pray the _____, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth [_____]."

IV. One in Baptism

Mt. 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the _____, and of the _____, and of the _____:"

V. One in Keeping Grace

2 Cor. 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ [_____], and the love of God [_____], and the communion of the _____, be with you all. Amen."

VI. One in the Throne

A. Rev. 5:6 "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne [of the _____] and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb [_____] as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth."

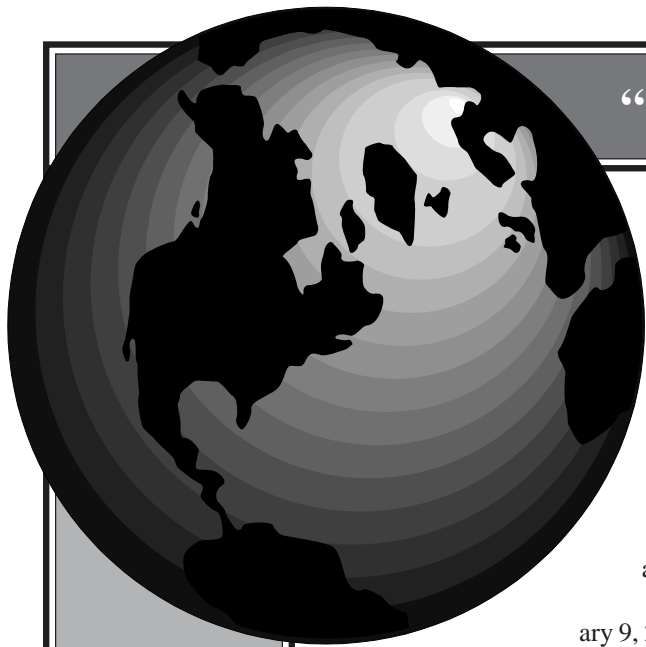
B. Rev. 1:4 "John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits [_____] which are before His throne;"

VII. One in Prayer

A. Mt. 6:9 "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our _____ which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name."

B. Heb. 7:22, 25 "Jesus,... He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God _____ by Him, seeing He [_____] ever liveth to make intercession for them."

C. Rom. 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit [_____] itself maketh intercession for us..."



“...Go ye into all the world, and preach

MISSIONARY REPORTS

Philippines

It is so wonderful to see, in this end time, how the Lord is saving souls and gathering His children home to Zion. He has commanded us to pray for more labourers, and as we are praying for more, we are thankful for the missionary work that is already being done. It was such a blessing to be a part of the group of missionaries that went to the Philippines for three months at the beginning of this year. I am sure that you would be interested in knowing more about the work in the Philippines and what the life of a missionary is really like.

The group of missionaries which left from California on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, consisted of Bro. John Strizu, Bro. Alfred Oppel, Bro. Bill & Sis. Melissa O’Shea with 6-month-old baby Kaylin, Sis. Elizabeth O’Shea, Sis. Elizabeth Strizu, and Sis.

Megan Scott.

When we first arrived in the town of San Jose City, we had to stay in hotel rooms until we could find some place to rent. On the second day we moved into two 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom apartments which were across the street and around the corner from each other. Bro. John and Bro. Alfred shared one while the rest of us shared the other. After moving our meager belongings and getting settled in, we were able to begin “normal” missionary life.

Each morning we would cook breakfast, usually oatmeal, and eat together around 8:30 a.m. Our lunch, which we sisters took turns fixing, was normally eaten around 1:30 p.m. and usually consisted of rice and a variety of vegetables, including carrots, potatoes, peppers, cabbage, green beans, garlic, and onions. Sometimes the meal would also contain chicken or Filipino-style hot dogs. Other household duties included sweeping and mopping the floor every morning, washing dishes (in cold water), cleaning the “comfort room” (bathroom), doing laundry by hand in our front “yard” and hanging it up to dry, and setting the trash out once a week. As we had no hot water in the house, our daily showers were on the cooler side. Our drinking water was purchased from a water purifying place in 5 gallon jugs which we had to refill almost every single day.

We had to learn how to share our living space with a variety of creatures. The tiny red ants faithfully tried to carry away our trash and other dead bugs (one tiny piece at a time!), but they also got into our snacks sometimes. We saw many cockroaches—big and little—and often had butting (lizards) running around on our walls and ceilings. More than once the neighbours’ cats tore up our trash, and several times they walked right in through the open door.

Carabao, a kind of water buffalo, are used for pulling wagons and farming machinery. Goats, chickens, ducks and pigs are also commonly seen as they are raised for eating.

By now I am sure you are wondering what kind of spiritual labour and outreach we did. Since the restoration work in the Philippines is quite new, there are not large established congregations there. We could not just go in and have a big camp meeting like you may be used to attending in West Milton, Ohio. A big part of



Getting to know the people

the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15




Some of the
Filipino
children

missionary work is getting to know the people—to win their love and confidence. Although we were able to hold some meetings, and we did have regular services on Sundays and Wednesdays, a lot of our time was spent in visiting people in their homes (when we could find them at home) or just living normal, everyday lives and being seen around town and in the market, where we often went to buy our weekly food supply. We made several visits to a number of Barangays, or villages, where we always found lots of children of all ages eager to learn who we were, listen to the Bible songs and stories we shared, and enjoy the candy we tossed out to them afterward. In some places we would visit house to house with some of the parents of the children or play with the children games such as basketball, baseball, jump rope, or “Which Kind of Cake Do You Like?”

Although we lived in apartments in San Jose City in the center of the main

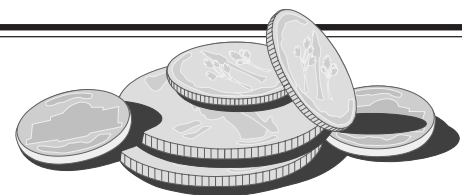
island of Luzon, we traveled quite a bit to other parts of the Philippines as well. We visited two other islands—one by airplane and one by ferry. In both places we found precious children of God who are hungry for truth and restoration and were able to visit homes and schools and hold meetings. On the main island of Luzon, we traveled by jeepney, van, or bus to several distant locations where, again, we found good contacts and had good reception. We had many opportunities to share the Word of God by singing, testifying, and preaching. Many of the souls there are so hungry to learn more about the church of God and the ongoing restoration. Many are disappointed with the so-called Christianity and the various religious groups there. They are hungry to see and be a part of Holy Ghost leadership and true spiritual worship.

The gospel company returned to the homeland on the 3rd of April, but the work in the Philippines is far from finished. We must continually pray for

the work that has begun there. The dear souls we left behind were very sad to see us go and are very eager for us to return once more. Let us obey Jesus’ command to pray for more labourers, and also labour together with Him even now by being faithful to pray for the Philippines. 

—Sis. Elizabeth Strizu

In the next issue you can look forward to hearing from each of the missionaries as they share what a typical week in the Philippines was really like!



Pennies or Promises?

“If I had heaps of yellow corn
And fields of waving wheat,
I’d quickly send a cargo where
They’ve not enough to eat;
I’d load a ship myself alone,
With grain of every kind,
And make my harvest offering
The best that I could find.
Or, if I had just money, why,
That too would do much good;
For it should go to India
To buy the children food.”

’Twas little Rob who said these words,
So generous and so bold.
What he would do when he was rich
He very often told;
But, oh, this same dear little boy,
When he had dimes to spend,
Bought something for himself alone,
Had none to give or lend.
But truly, now, if Rob expects
To be a generous man,
He’d better practice when he’s small
By giving what he can.

Missionary Gems



*“I can do all things
through Christ
which strengtheneth me.”
Phil. 4:13*

Brother “Jed” joined one of the church of God schools and has been a real blessing. He got saved at a young age and loves the Lord very much. The Lord has brought him through a lot in his young life, and he is determined, by the grace of God, to make heaven his home.

When Bro. “Jed” first came to school, it was not too long before the teachers and students realized that he was a very special person. He smiled often, and would laugh whenever he “messed up.” As time went on, his classmates, instead of laughing with him, began helping him whenever he read out loud. The teachers began calling on him more in order to help him. They realized that the Lord was using many situations to teach the students how to work together, and help them better understand the meaning of the word “unity.”

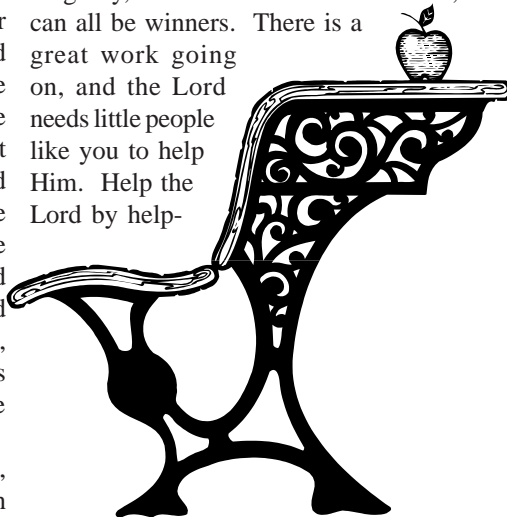
As the class prepared for their semester exams, Bro. “Jed” was called to the board to play “Around the World.” He hesitantly got up, walked over to the board, and waited for the signal to begin. Once given, he struggled through the spelling of a word. The game was a competitive one. The object of the game was to see who could write the correct answer the fastest. Another round came, and he was again called to the board. This time he had a determined look on his face as the teacher called his name. He quickly hopped up and walked to the board. The class could sense his determination. With chalk in hand, he waited to hear the word “go!” as the class looked on to see who would remain at the board, ready to challenge the next person.

The teacher read aloud the question, and then said, “Go!” The race was on, when

something beautiful took place. Bro. “Jed” tried and tried to write the correct answer. There was a strange quietness in the classroom while he wrote and erased and wrote and erased. The other student just stood still, with his chalk in his hand, while Bro. “Jed” kept trying. The teacher, realizing this to be a teachable moment, said, “Keep going; you’re doing well!” It took him a little while, but he did it! With his fellow students supporting him and his teacher backing him, he did it! As he turned around, his smile was worth it all. He was able to stay at the board and challenge the next person for the first time. This was a victory for the whole class, not just Bro. “Jed.” The whole class learned to work together much better because of it. Instead of laughing and making fun, they learned how to help their brother. As for Bro. “Jed,” he was much encouraged and learning how to persevere under pressure, with lots of support.

Dearest little saints, do you realize that we can be workers *together* with God? (2 Cor. 6:1) Do you like to win? I do; I like to win! However, it feels wonderful whenever our brothers and sisters can win, too. The Bible says that we should encourage one another and build each other up. Do you feel good when your classmates or your brother or sister win? Or, do you feel all sullen and sad that you were not the winner? Do you know how good it feels to tell someone else these words, “You can do it,” “Keep trying,” “The Lord will help you,” or “You’re doing well”? It feels wonderful!

I am sure that Jesus is well pleased with you whenever He sees one of His children struggling, yet trying, and you come along and encourage him. Encouragement goes a long way, children. In the church of God, we can all be winners. There is a great work going on, and the Lord needs little people like you to help Him. Help the Lord by help-



ing one another. Pray for your classmates. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Encourage them to do their very best, and then do your very best! Imagine what can be done with people, including children, who are all giving their very best to the Lord! May the Lord help us all to put our whole hearts into His service. Keep going, children. Your labours are not in vain. 📖 —Selected

TESTIMONIES

Dear saints,

I love you and I’m thankful for the church of God. I want to keep going on. Pray for me that I would go on.

Cody Friesen (Age 6)
Texas, USA

Praise the Lord saints,

I’m so thankful that I have found the truth! I’m so thankful that I can be saved and sanctified. There is no other real joy besides the church of God. I’m thankful that I can be a part of this wonderful truth. It is a great privilege.

Helena Braun (Age 11)
Manitoba, Canada

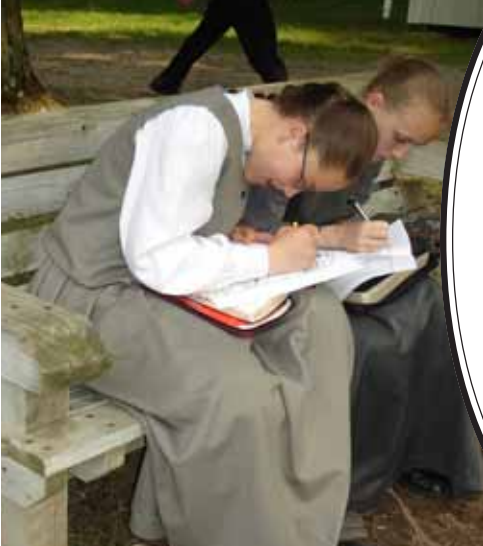
Dear saints,

Praise the Lord! I am very thankful to be saved and in the true church of God. The Lord has been so good to me. He’s saved my soul from terrible misery. He kept dealing with me when I did not want Him. I was locked and bound, lost not found, could not be free. Jesus did not give up on me. I am very thankful that He did not leave me alone. I remember when I wanted to sleep and I could not because he would not let me. I got saved November 18, 2007. I was eight and now I am nine. Praise God, He’s kept me that long. He’s never disappointed my soul, and He won’t disappoint yours if you just receive Him as your Saviour.

Yours in Christ,
Sis. Lydia Strizu (Age 9)
Indiana, USA

Jesus Is Near

Jesus is always very dear
And always very near.
He is with me every day
As I walk the narrow way.
Bro. Jacob Hale (Age 12)
California, USA



2
Ohio
International
Camp
Meeting
8





Isabel and Marion

The Cameronians

Times of persecution in Scotland which the Covenanters passed through were a trial to all, even boys and girls were called upon to suffer a great deal.

Claverhouse and his men were always ready to frighten them. Claverhouse himself would collect the girls and boys of country hamlets, some as young as six years, and placing them in front of his dragoons, ordered the children to pray, as he meant to kill them. In order to alarm them he sometimes ordered the soldiers to fire over the heads of the little things. He then would say he would spare them if they would tell him where their fathers and big brothers were hiding.

But the little children, generally, were not told about the hiding places of their elders, and could not say. Even if, as in some cases they did know, they would not tell.

Growing up as they did, surrounded by persecutors and swift death—hearing of the terrible fights in the hamlets and on the moors—finding that fathers or big brothers never returned—it was natural that the children of the Covenant were grave and thoughtful beyond their years. It seems as if they could never have known what childhood was—certainly not the gay childhood we know nowadays. Death seemed ever near. But, ah! some of these children could see a long way into Heaven by faith.

There were two girls, named Isabel Alison and Marion Harvie, about 17 years old; both of them Cameronians—that clan which was to be hunted down, and none of which was to have shelter or help.

These two girls, because they were Covenanters, were seized and imprisoned in Edinburgh. Whilst they were there, their judges sent a minister, named Archibald Riddell, to visit them.

Once he had been a minister of the Covenant, but the prospect of persecution had been too much for him. He had given way, and was preaching against the Covenant. He was not of those steadfast bands who gathered on the high and lonely moor at Irongray, 1678, to celebrate together for the last time the Lord's Supper. Many of that gathering were killed afterwards. It is more than likely that Isabel and Marion had been there.

The two girls regarded this man very solemnly whilst he tried to persuade them to conform as he himself had done. And when he ended they assured him it was useless.

He looked at them in silence for a moment or two. Was he thinking, with some regret, of his weakness as compared with the steadfastness of these frail lasses?

“Shall we pray?” he asked them. But the girls refused.

“Your prayers will be like unto your discourse,” said Marion. “We could not join you in such a prayer.”

“I will not mention your principles, but only ask the Lord to let you see the evil of your doing,” he answered.

“We are not evildoers, nor busybodies. We do but stand by the truths of the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ. How, then, can we join you in that prayer?” was the answer of both, given almost in one breath.

And so Archibald Riddell left them. He saw that they could not be moved. They would stand by the Covenant whatever betide.

As he turned at the door for one last look at the young girls, he must have realised how different *he* was. They were facing death for conscience' sake—he had stifled his conscience, and was taking the ease which his conformity afforded. But was he as happy as those two persecuted, imprisoned maidens? No, he knew he was not. He had weakly denied his Lord by turning to the idolatrous form of worship which was enjoined by the king, and enforced by Claverhouse and his soldiers. Better far for him had he yielded up his life like the brave and gallant Hugh Mackail, the young Covenant minister, who died on the scaffold, crying out joyously: “Welcome, sweet Lord Jesus. Welcome eternal life. Welcome Glory!”

Riddell's last glance at the bright girlish faces must have cut him to the heart, and filled it with regret and remorse. He would never forget them and their courageous stand for the Lord. It is most likely that it gave him strength in the sufferings which later he endured at the hands of the king's men.

Next day Marion and Isabel were brought again before their judges in Edinburgh Council Hall. Word of their refusal to listen to Archibald Riddell in prayer had been passed on to the court officials, and the hard-hearted Bishop Paterson taunted them with it.

“Marion,” said he, “you did own ye never would hear a curate. I warrant ye shall be forced to!”

He ordered one of his curates to pray.

The curates who had been foisted on the people were rough and rude—picked up from anywhere, and they enjoyed the power they held. You may be sure that this curate's prayer would have been more of a coarse sermon preached at the girls, than a prayer to the Heavenly Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Marion knew this. She had heard curates years before. She also knew that false representations would be made, if they consented to listen to this “please all.” “Come Isabel, dear friend, let us sing our beloved Twenty-Third Psalm,” she cried.

At once Isabel joined her, for all the Covenant children learnt those sweet words as soon as they could talk.

“The Lord Himself my Shepherd is:

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; He leadeth me

The quiet waters by.”

Clearly and sweetly they sang it through, and especially that verse about the valley of the shadow of death, for they themselves would soon be passing through that valley. But His rod and His staff would comfort them, they knew, and they would dwell in the House of the Lord for ever. The curate's prayer was not heard at all.

They were led to the Grassmarket on January 26th, 1681, to be beheaded. The crowd watched the girls on the scaffold, where mocking words and jeers followed them. The young martyrs did not mind. Isabel said she had hoped for such a lot, but had never thought it would be such a high one. And Marion cried out to the Lord—so near, so beautiful did He seem—“O, my Fair One, My Lovely One, come away!”

Just before the executioner struck off their heads, they sang the 84th Psalm. Read it, and you will see how happy, how sure, they felt. They could see where they were going:

“Far o'er yon horizon rise the City towers,
Where our God abideth; that Fair Home is
ours.”

As you read this true testimony, ask yourself, had you been in their position, how would you have acted? The Lord Jesus is the only One who could enable you.

From *Twelve Youthful Martyrs*,
by E. E. Enock,

Copyright © 1999 by Schmul Publishing
Company, Nicholasville, KY.

Used by permission.