

**Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.**

*"The Word Made Alive"*

*Living in Christ*

*A Merry  
Christmas!*

*30th Anniversary Edition*

Volume 0042~ December 2019

News Magazine



# *In This Issue*

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# Experiencing the Times



By Pastor Owen Alston

**Luke 12:31,32**

***“But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”***

These are exciting times that we are experiencing on the earth in this hour. As the word of God is being fulfilled, and at the same time we get to experience and live out all that is being done. Jesus taught His disciples to pray that the kingdom and will of God come to the earth as it is in heaven. Jesus’ ministry on the earth was to qualify the earth to receive God’s kingdom. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ have given us access to the kingdom of God that has come to the earth. Therefore, according to our text, every man has been given the privilege of seeking the kingdom of God. The preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ is what reveals the kingdom of God to us. We were instructed by Jesus to preach this gospel to all people and who ever would believe and be baptized would be saved, those who choose not to believe would be condemned (Mark 16:15,16).

Now, to those who have chosen to believe, you are the ones who have been given the privilege of living this amazing life in God’s kingdom, YES, NOW while you live out your days on the earth. Consider our text if you will – “but seek the kingdom of God and ALL these things shall be added to you.” What are the things that the scripture is speaking of? Look with me if you will at II Peter 1:2,3 – “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...”

We must understand that the kingdom of God has come, and we have been invited in through Jesus Christ. According to our text, we are no longer like the rest of the world – “And do not seek what you should eat or

# GROW *in the* GRACE *and* KNOWLEDGE of JESUS.

*2 Peter 3:18*

what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things (Luke 12:29,30). Now, as children of God living in His Kingdom, we live by our faith. We simply seek the kingdom of God and all these things are added to us.

Now, some may say – well, I just don't understand how that can work!

Once you have heard the gospel and have made the right choice, from that point you must grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18). It is the responsibility of every believer to discipline him or herself to pray and give themselves to the word of God. This should be a daily practice. Your prayer practice will develop humility in you and the word of God will grow your faith. Remember, "The just shall live by his faith." Now that you are in the kingdom of God, you no longer live by your senses but by your faith. If you fail to grow and understand the principle of living by your faith, you will always try to add what God said that He would add to you. Your faith is what makes this work. You must believe that God will do exactly what He said He would do. This is the Rest that God has promised us. This is what makes this present hour so exciting. This new kingdom life is one that we never experienced before. "Therefore, if anyone is in

Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God..."

Living in God's kingdom and being in Christ are one and the same. God's word says if I'm in Christ, I am NEW, not only am I new but old things have passed away. "Now all things are of God". If all of this is true – and it is, how can I help but be excited?

I encourage all who read this article to meditate this word and allow God to reveal the reality of seeking and living out the kingdom of God. I believe that God is searching for those who will live out his kingdom in this hour that He may show Himself mighty in you so that others can see the kingdom in you and be drawn in.



BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD  
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,  
AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU.

MATTHEW 6:33



# We are What We Think



*"I will Meditate on your Precepts and Fix my Eyes on your Ways".*

*(Psalm 119:15)*

**By: Marilyn Phillips**

## **Filtering our Thoughts**

Often, we may hear individuals say we are what we eat. However, I believe that more importantly we are what we think. We are constantly making choices concerning the foods we consume daily. Undoubtedly, we should certainly be conscious of maintaining a healthy body through diet and exercise. Many people may frequently attend the gym and observe closely their consumption of fruits and vegetables. Yet, how closely are we monitoring the way we think? What we ponder in our thoughts can affect our actions and eventually our lives. God loves us and is deeply concerned with what we dwell on. He states in Psalm 104:34, "May our meditation be pleasing to him, for we rejoice in the Lord." The Bible also reminds us to concentrate on things and desires that keep us on the right path. The Word declares "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23). We should place boundaries on what we consider because it will dictate our day and eventually our lives. We can, therefore, program our mind to reflect on things that are pleasing to God.

## **Change your Thoughts and Change your World**

Positive and pure thoughts will yield to joy, peace, productivity, happiness and ultimately a healthy life. They can also produce a life leading to love, forgiveness and righteousness. Whereas, negative thoughts of unforgiveness, blaming, condemnation, anger and bitterness may cause depression, heart disease, cancer, hypertension and even suicidal thoughts. If we can change our thoughts, we can change our world. God's Word can be used as an awesome tool to filter our thought process. Do our thoughts align with God's Word? When negative thoughts arrive, we can shift and dispel them utilizing God's Word. God knows the power in His Word affects the things we ponder. He states in Hebrew 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." His Word can penetrate our thoughts and decisions.

## **Meditating on His Precepts**

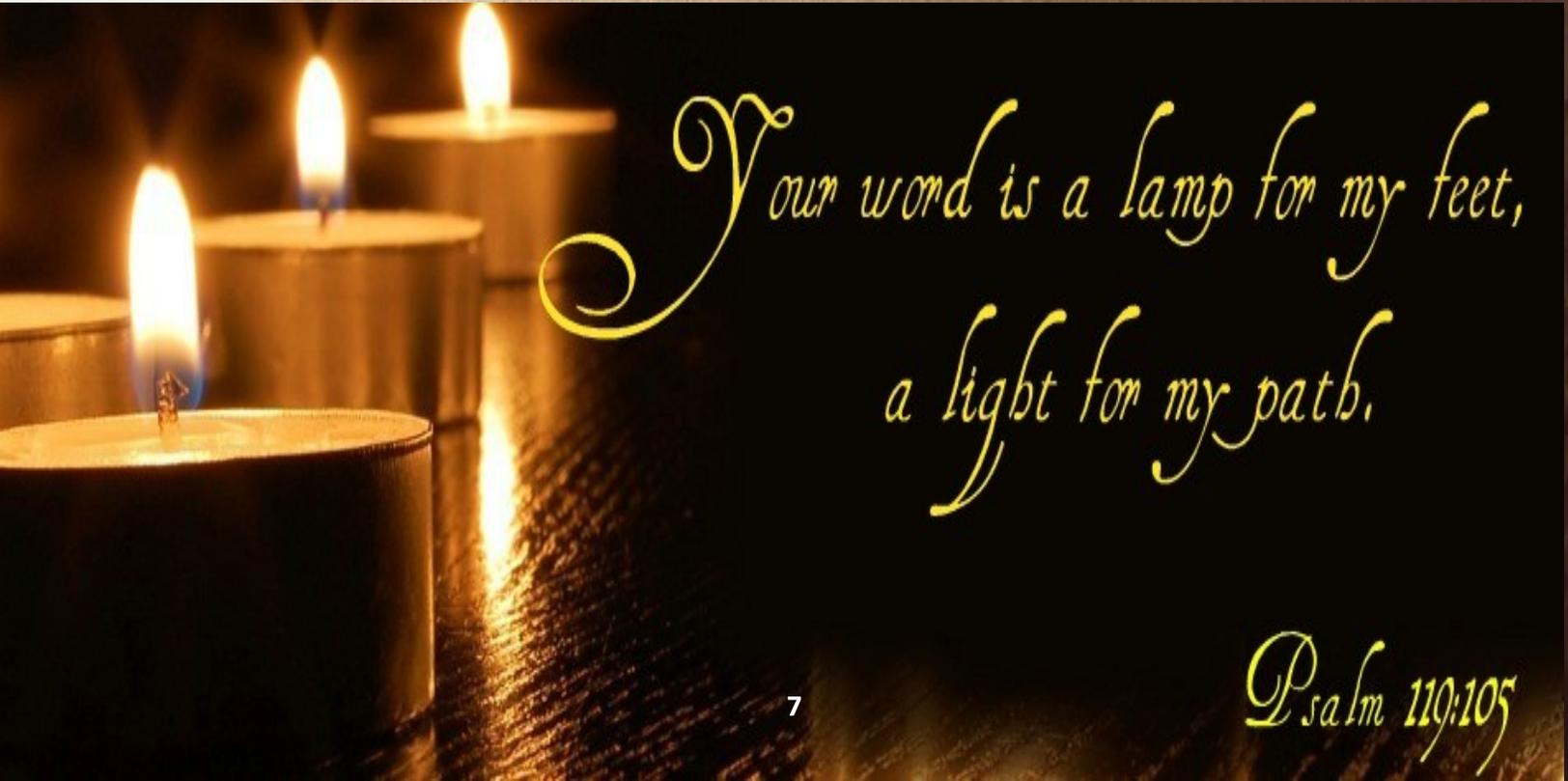
We can make the decision to contemplate on what's negative or what's positive, pure, and lovely. Surprisingly, we can only allow one thought process at a time. The choice is ours. God advises us how to decide. He states in Psalm 119:15, "I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on

your ways.” Many believers choose to focus on the positive side no matter what occur in their lives. God encourages us in Psalm 119:23: “Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.” There are others though, who may seem to discover something negative despite all the available positives. The Bible demonstrates what we should meditate on. Philippians 4 :8: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Are our meditations lovely? Are they just? If not, then we can discard them. This is seen in Psalm 119:9, “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.” God knows that positive lovely thoughts produce positive living; in the same way negative thoughts produce negative living. The Word also declares in Psalms 119:97, “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all day.” Jesus also encourages us to find pleasures in His laws. According to Psalm 1:2, we must “Delight in the law of the Lord, and on his law, meditate day and night.”

#### **Allow the Gift of Righteousness to Reign**

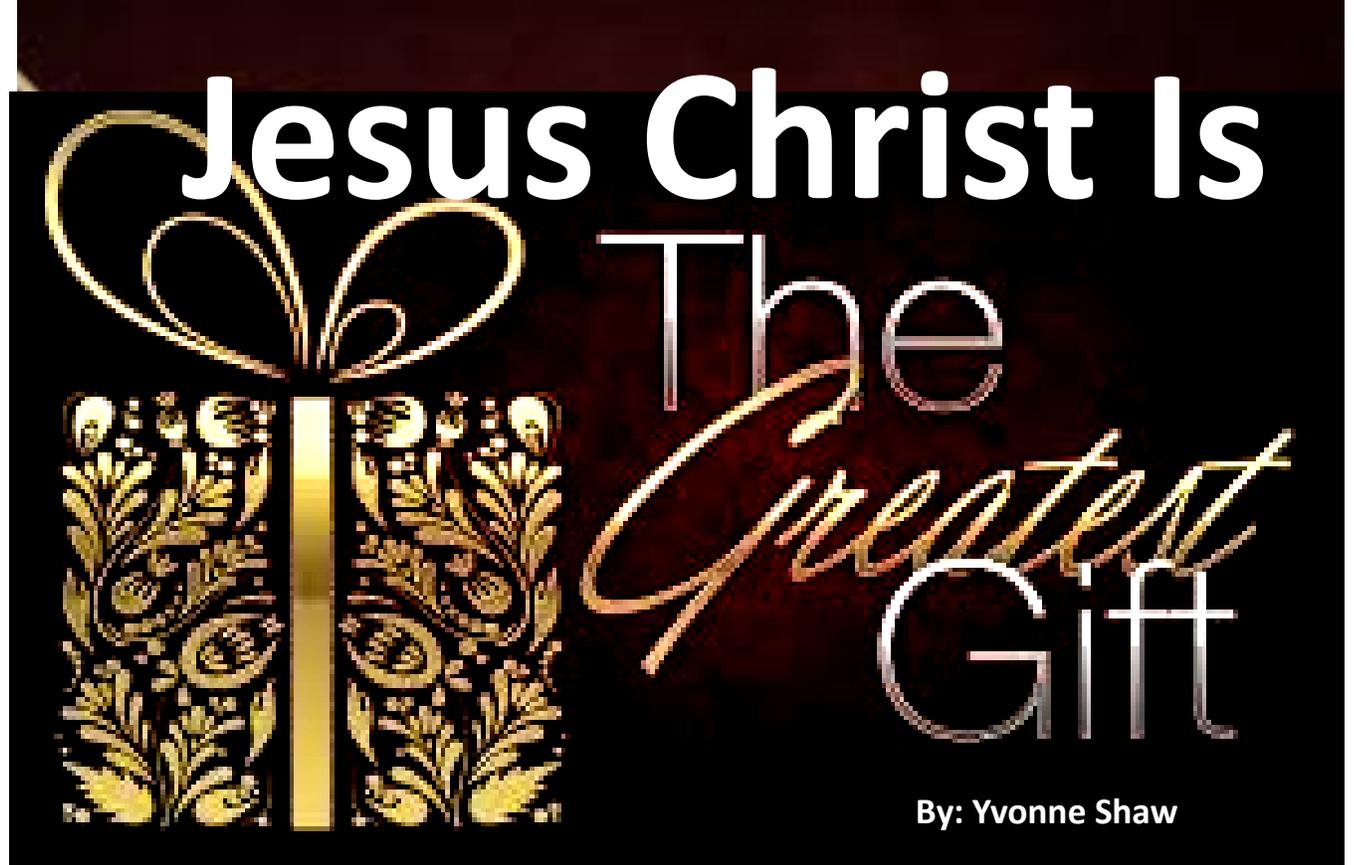
God desires us to know his ways and what pleases Him. He states in Psalm 25:4, “Let me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.” What we permit in our mind determines also what we say and ultimately our actions. What we speak then produces life or death according to Proverbs 18:21. Many thoughts may enter our minds, but we make the decision on what we absorb or expel with the

knowledge of God’s Word. Jesus also reminds us to fix our thoughts on what’s right and true. Even though there may be negative around us, God comforts us by reminding us to meditate on Him. Additionally, we can guard our thoughts and mind by the choices we accept in our eye gates, from movies, television, magazines and the internet. We are reminded in Romans 12:2, “Not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” We can also destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (Second Corinthians 10:5). As new creatures in Christ we can capture every thought and yield it to Christ. Muse on the truth which is God’s Word. The Bible is our navigator, and roadmap to guide us along the safe and correct path. It steers us from obstacles to avoid. The Lord said in Psalm 119:105, “Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” He also states in, Psalm 119:6, “Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.” Our minds, thoughts and our bodies belong to God. He states our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit within us, whom we have from God. We are not our own, for we were bought with a price. So, we will glorify God in our bodies” (First Corinthians 6:19). We can attain peace and joy with a renewed mind and spirit. Therefore, let’s honor God with our bodies, thoughts and minds and allow the gift of righteousness to reign in our lives through the One Christ Jesus.



*Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light for my path.*

*Psalm 119:105*



During this joyous Christmas season, we celebrate the greatest gift that we will ever receive and that gift is the **birth of Jesus Christ!** All who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior experience the opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life and understand the sacrifices that were made on our behalf. That's why praising and worshiping God is not something that's done as a routine, it's an expression of gratitude to show God how grateful and appreciative we are for the love that He's given to us. Take a moment and breathe...that's ***God's breath that He breathes into you.*** ***"then the LORD God formed [that is, created the body of] man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being [an individual complete in body and spirit]."*** ***Genesis 2:7***

Take a moment and look at how beautifully created the sky, stars and clouds are. ***God created them.*** Several years ago, I was on a cruise ship and had the opportunity to have lunch with my granddaughter at the back of the ship and we sat back just taking in God's creation and how amazing it was. We were surrounded by water, no land in sight. All we could see was the ocean and just how beautiful the water was (you will have the opportunity to experience that next year on our cruise) and how peaceful and amazing the water was. ***God created it.*** Just think of all that God has done and we each have to take inventory of our lives then we understand that praise and worship is what we do because we are grateful to God, no encouragement needed. "We were dead in our trespasses and sins, and Jesus came that we might have life and life in all its abundance." In our sinful stage because of God's mercy and grace, we did not receive what we were entitled to "For the wages of sin is death, but

the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

Consider if you had a bill and absolutely no way to pay it and the due date was within a few days and then you received just prior to the final date a letter that stated your bill was paid-in-full how would you feel? How might you express your gratitude? If that person asked you to do something, would you willingly and eagerly do it? That’s what Jesus did for us we didn’t deserve His love but yet He loves the unlovable and that was us. Jesus paid for our sins on the cross because He loves us just that much.

***“He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross [willingly offering Himself on it, as on an altar of sacrifice], so that we might die to sin [becoming immune from the penalty and power of sin] and live for righteousness; for by His wounds you [who believe] have been healed.”***

**1 Peter 2:24**

Jesus said: “If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching...” (John 14:23). God our Creator has poured out His gifts upon us. Our lives. Our talents. Every moment of every day, every breath we breathe and every ray of sunshine is a gift from God. We have the opportunity to enjoy the splendors of His Creations. God loves us so much that His only son, Jesus Christ, was born as a sacrificial lamb for our sins. God Himself provided the only acceptable sacrifice, Jesus, who could atone for our sins. God’s perfect Son, Jesus, fulfilled God’s perfect law to bring us back to God to restore the relationship God intended in the beginning.

***“He made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God [that is, we would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness].***

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

We now have the chance to live a life of prosperity and peace, with the understanding that God supplies all of our needs; our peace and prosperity is all wrapped up in His word. When we dedicate our lives to Christ and develop an intimate relationship with Him it is no longer, we who are responsible for our lives but Christ who now resides within us allowing us to live a life of wholeness lacking nothing.

***For in Him all the fullness of Deity (the Godhead) dwells in bodily form [completely expressing the divine essence of God]. And in Him you have been made complete [achieving spiritual stature through Christ], and He is the head over all rule and authority [of every angelic and earthly power].***

**Colossians 2:9 - 10**

Salvation is God’s continuous gift to us; we need only to ask and accept it. God made His gift available to everyone giving us the free will to unite with Him. We have the option to receive this wonderful gift of salvation and live eternally with Christ Jesus or to reject Him and live a life of eternal damnation. Accepting His gift, that Christ was born and freely died to give us, brings many benefits. In order for these benefits to activate in our lives, we have to receive them.



***“But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature together with its passions and appetites.”***

***Galatians 5:22-23***

However, like all gifts they are useless to us if we do not receive and apply them to our lives. God does not want us to only hear His word but to be doers of the word (James 1:22). As families gather together at Christmas showing love and affection for one another, exchanging gifts and singing

songs, let us remember the greatest love story and the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Displaying God’s characteristic, we are to demonstrate that same love to one another.

***“For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge and condemn the world [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but that the world might be saved through Him.”***

***John 3:16 - 17***

Have you opened your gift today? If you have not received the gift of salvation do not wait now is the opportunity to do so. God’s arms are wide open waiting to receive and accept you into His kingdom of righteousness. God will meet you right where you are; you don’t have to wait until you make changes in your life God loves you just the way you are don’t wait. Once you become a child of God, you are also an heir and entitled to the many benefits our Father has already given to us. Those benefits are in our life manual, God’s word.

***“ For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other***

  
 BUT THE FRUIT  
 OF THE SPIRIT IS  
**LOVE,**  
 JOY, PEACE  
*patience*  
 KINDNESS  
 GOODNESS  
 FAITHFULNESS  
*gentleness &*  
**SELF-CONTROL.**  
 GALATIANS 5:22-23

*created thing, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

**Romans 8:38 - 39**

This Christmas do you have that greatest gift? It's not in Macy's, it's not in Nordstrom's, it's in Jesus Christ! All you have to do is unwrap the gift and experience all that God has given to you. Don't leave these precious gifts unopened! Salvation is a package that contains a lifetime of never-ending joys and delights as we partake of Christ, finding Him as our daily portion. This Christmas, be sure you have opened your pre-

sents given by Jesus.

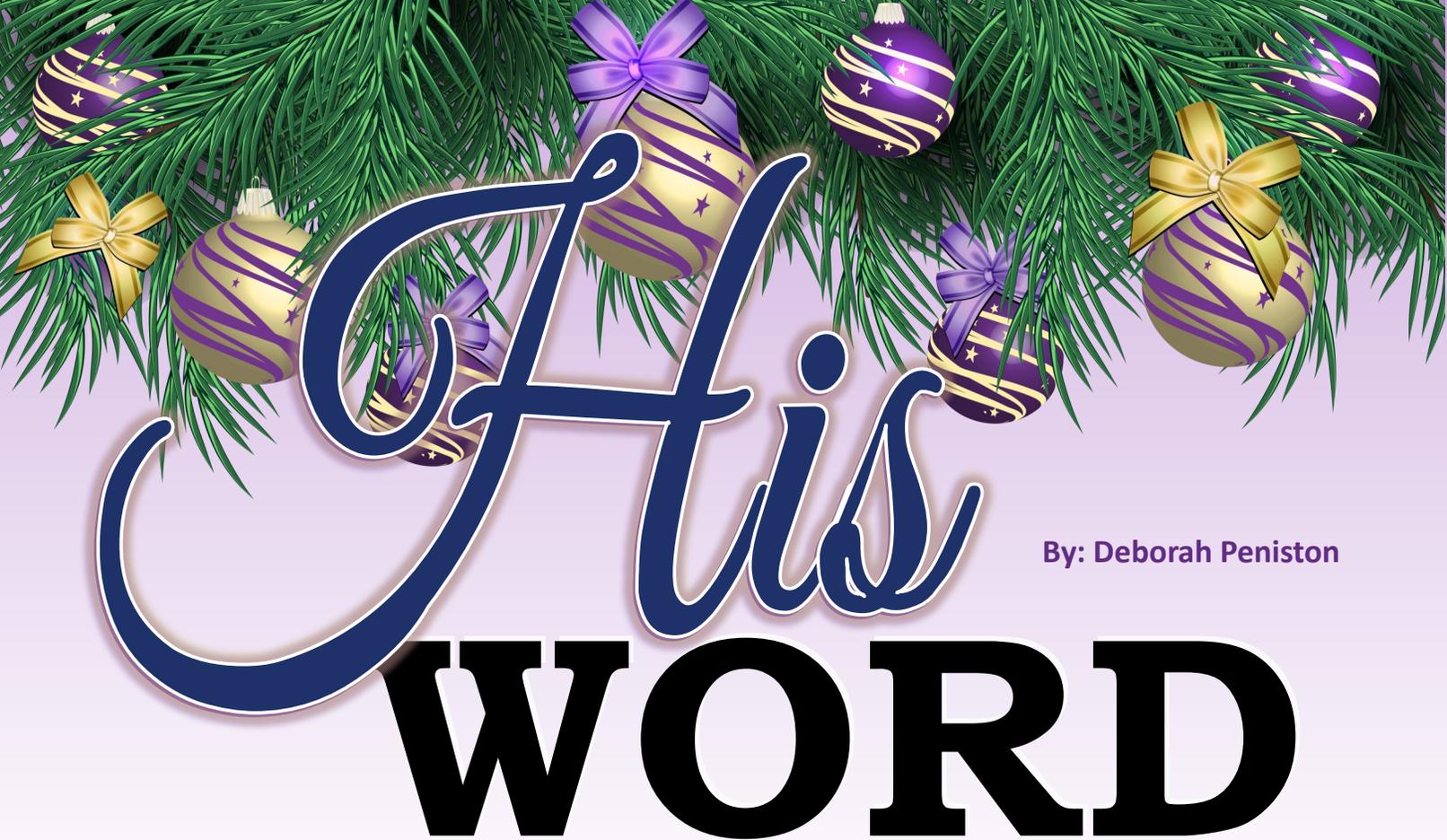
As you think about Christmas the gift giving and receiving, be sure that you open the only gift that will really make a difference in your life. Christmas is a time to remember what we are truly grateful for: the greatest gift who is Christ, given to us by God because of his love for us. The love of God, manifested in Christ Jesus, is an example of the ultimate act of giving and of sacrifice. Let us all reflect this love in sharing our love with others.

*I wish you and your families a  
Merry Christmas  
and  
a Blessed New Year.*



*Immanuel*  
G O D   W I T H   U S





# His WORD

By: Deborah Peniston

And the Word became 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. John 1:14

God's plan of salvation was fulfilled through His Son, Jesus the Christ, the Word. He is the sole expression of the glory of God (the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine), and He is the perfect imprint and very image of (God's) nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. (Hebrews 1:3a Amplified)

We are introduced to Him in the book of Genesis, when the very words of God created the heavens and the earth, and when God made man in His image. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:1-4). After the fall of man, God promises a Savior, "...and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis

3:15). God's redemptive plan was put into motion with His covenant with Abraham. God needed a people through which Christ would come. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie... (Hebrews 6:17-18a). The Sovereign God went to great lengths to convince those who would inherit the promise that His plan was eternal. He made an oath by "two immutable things" His promise and His oath...His Word. For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself (Hebrews 6:13). He did this knowing that Jesus would be God incarnate, human and divine, Savior for all mankind. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you (1 Peter 1:20).

He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him, and He is be-

fore all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence (Colossians 1:15-18).

He made His advent through the Virgin Mary. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus (the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior), for He will save His people from their sins (that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God). All this took place that it might be fulfilled which the Lord had spoken through the prophet, Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel—which, when translated, means, God with us (Matthew 1:21-22 Amplified).

This good news means we are not alone and no longer separated from God by sin. The Spirit of Truth can now dwell in us. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are

one (1 John 5:7). Jesus also says, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him” (John 14:23). Believers have the word of God, His very words written for our edification, and believers have the Word, Jesus Christ. We hide both in our hearts.

For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power (making it active, operative, energizing, and effective); it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and (the immortal) spirit, and of joints, and marrow (of the deepest parts of our nature), exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 Amplified)

Therefore, let the Word dwell in you richly, being fully persuaded that the Lord our God devised a master plan of salvation that rests on His Sovereignty... “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Mark 12:29). He sent Himself, His WORD, and healed us.



# REJOICE

# Casting Your Cares:

## The Power of Forgiveness

By: Brenda Benjamin



*And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly]. Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him. For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it]. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings. (Mark 11:22-26 AMPC)*

Roll all your cares over onto the Caretaker, His Name is Jesus, because without faith, it is impossible to receive anything from God. (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is the currency of heaven. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, which is created in Christ.

There are six I's of faith (Mark 11:22-25)

1. I believe
2. I will
3. I take it
4. I have it (receive it)
5. I thank you for it

I forgive if I have aught against any

When you pray for something, start believing right then that you have received it. Believe that it will come to pass by speaking it and receiving it. Before you receive, you must forgive because without forgiveness you don't qualify for healing, prosperity or any other blessing. You won't be free until you forgive. Forgiveness is a command from God, not a suggestion. Our response should be, "Yes, sir, I will do it."

Not walking in forgiveness can be a very unhealthy habit if it is not dealt with. You can create or break a habit by doing something over and over again for twenty-one days. Your body can be in the habit of hurting or your mind can have the habit of not forgiving if you have been practicing it by holding grudges and speaking about hurt feelings so long it becomes a stronghold or barrier against the commandment of God to forgive. You can change that stronghold into a stronghold of forgiveness by making a quality decision to walk in love and forgive at all cost with the help of

the Holy Spirit, who has been sent to every born-again child of God. Once you have made that quality decision, which means no retreat or turning back from but forging ahead, you can control your thoughts to forgive and refuse to think about the things that offended you. You have the mind of Christ. (1Corinthians 2:16).

Jesus said, we are to forgive 490 times a day if necessary. When you took on Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you became born again and put on a new man, created in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). As a new creation in

FAITH is not just believing that 'GOD CAN',  
It's believing that 'GOD WILL'  
Move that mountain for you.

JESUS, the Music of My Soul . . . †

"Have faith in God,"  
Jesus answered. -Mark 11:22

Christ, you are to put away lying and speaking only truth. (Ephesians 4:25)

**The Word of God tells us the following:**

Be angry and sin not. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation). Ephesians 4:26

Don't give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:27

Don't go to sleep afraid that something is going to come back on you. Speak in faith about your situation whether it be healing, finances, or relationship issues before you go to sleep.

Don't go to sleep with care, unforgiveness, or worry on your mind. Repent and ask God to forgive you of anything that doesn't please Him according to His Word. Go to sleep with thanksgiving and gratitude in your heart and mouth.

**Why is it so important to forgive?**

Whose word did you put in your mouth? Jesus'  
Who has to back those words? Jesus'  
Whose Name does that mountain (situation) have to bow its knee to? Jesus'  
Under whose law do you live, Moses' or Jesus'?  
Jesus'  
What is that law? The law of love!  
Who is the author of your faith? Jesus  
Who said, "Have faith"? Jesus  
Who said speak to the mountain (situation)?  
Jesus  
Who said believe that you receive? Jesus  
Who gave Himself for you? Jesus  
Who receives and blesses our tithe? Jesus  
Who is faithful and just to forgive our sins when we confess them? Jesus  
Who cleanses us from all unrighteousness? Jesus  
Whose light do we walk in as He is in the light? Jesus  
Whose blood cleanses us from all sin? Jesus  
Who gave the command to love The Lord thy God?  
Jesus  
Who commanded us to love one another as He has loved us? Jesus  
Who said, "When you stand praying forgive"? Jesus  
Jesus said it; we must do it! That settles the whole issue. Forgive by faith!  
If being unable or unwilling to forgive has been a part of your life until now, I invite you to pray this prayer to be free in Jesus and let the Holy Spirit help you through this process.



*Heavenly Father, in the Name of Jesus, I thank you for allowing Jesus to take on my cares, worries, unforgiveness, resentment and bitterness, because He loves me. I choose to give them to Him and not take them back. I ask the Holy Spirit to help me choose to live a worry-free life without the stronghold of unforgiveness by being willing to forgive at all times. You are faithful! Thank you and I receive by faith all that I have asked of You, in the precious Name of Jesus. Amen*

# The History of Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.



As we celebrate the thirty year anniversary of Harmony Ministries USA, Inc., Pastor Owen Alston looks back on how it all began. "I was brought up in the church. Church was the first public place I remember going to." His parents loved the Lord. His father was a deacon in the small North Carolina

church the family attended. While stationed in Europe, Pastor knew that there was a calling upon his life. "I knew I was going to be a carrier of the Gospel, thirteen years before I ever preached a sermon. God's not in a hurry. He prepares you to do the things He has called you to do." Pastor reminds us that when God first



**Baptism at Lake Horicon**



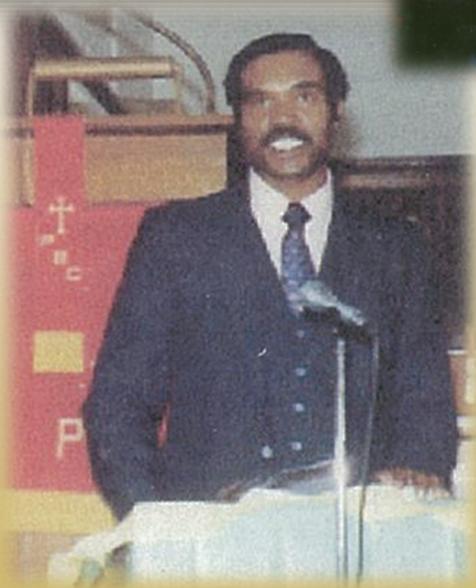
spoke to Abraham, there was a span of years before He said something else. "That's the way my life was. God spoke to me and I knew I had to do this but there was a period of silence for thirteen years.

In 1977, Pastor left Red Bank and moved to Ocean County. "This was the first major step. I had a great leading to move here so I did. I

didn't know it would turn out the way it did. Everything fell into place." He joined Community Baptist Church in Manchester. There he assisted Pastor Robert Tarver and began to develop and grow. "I was brought up Baptist but I knew the work God called me to do would be outside of that organization." Pastor was greatly influenced by the charismatic movement especially by Kenneth Hagin



**Original Building Interior**



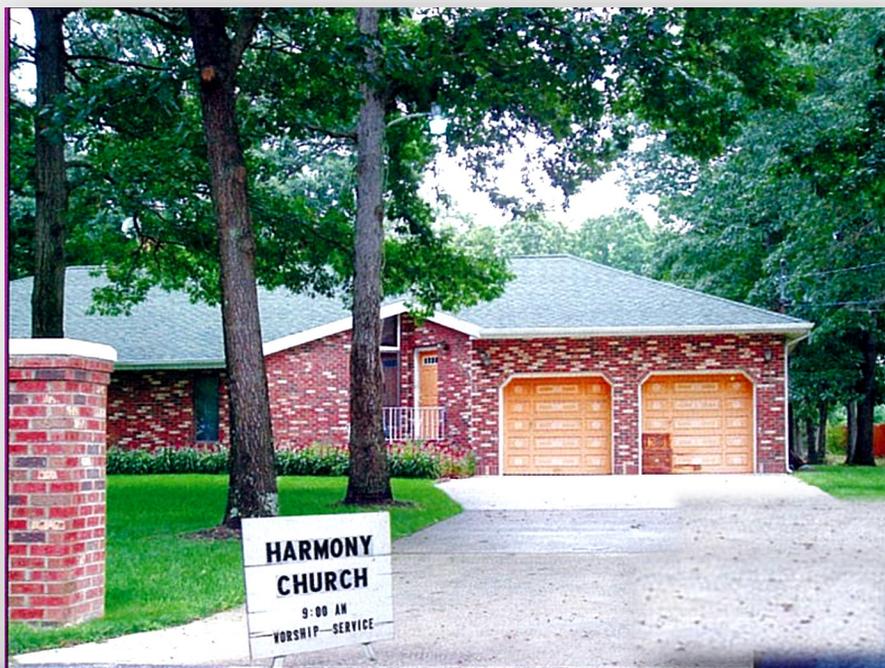
**Graduating Class MBI 1983**



Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He traveled to Tulsa to attend meetings and attended Pastor Hagin's East Coast crusades. "I learned a lot from that ministry. The charismatics were different. They were very Spirit oriented and very Word oriented. From them I learned to apply the Word to my life. That was the key. I did not know about applying Scripture to my life, and living it. I thought it was just a religious thing. God just wants you to do the best you can. I didn't know about authority. I didn't know the reality of being Spirit filled and actually living what the Bible says and doing

what the Bible says. The charismatic groups were teaching that and doing that. That was the key to my growth when the Word and my lifestyle met and now the lifestyle is a lifestyle of the Word." Pastor received his license to preach in 1978. He attended the Philadelphia College of Bible and graduated from Monmouth Bible Institute where he is now a teacher.

The church Harmony Ministries held its first service in the home of Pastor Owen and Rose Alston on the first Sunday in January 1991.



The basement of our home was the sanctuary for our humble beginnings.



Original Building

On February 2, 1996, we purchased the property of 401 Chestnut St. Lakehurst, NJ. The church building and the parsonage were renovated to create a single facility.



Pastor recalls, "There were about seventeen people there, mostly family but also people in the neighborhood who would come for Bible Study. Deacon Green was my right hand man. Since "there is no rule book for starting a church", Pastor was led by the Spirit of God working in him. He admits, " I was never frightened. I just did it and God honored my actions. I never worried about people coming or not." One thing Pastor was very insistent on was starting service on time. "One Sunday at 9:00 a.m. only

my wife was sitting there and I started just like there was a room full of people. That was the tenacity that God put in me to do what I knew was right. I learned this from the charismatics. When I would go to those meetings, they always started on time. I learned that and it has been a part of this ministry since day one. You can be on time if you want to." After Sunday service, there would be bagels and fellowship into the afternoon. Pastor recalls, "I was content in the basement. It was great. I was enjoying it. When it was



*Completion of Newly Renovated Church*



*Deacon Joseph Green*

time for us to move, I knew by the Spirit of God.”

The next step was sharing a newly constructed facility owned by the Moravian Church on Rt. 571. God led Pastor as he shared with a co-worker the need for a place to worship. He in turn asked his pastor if Harmony could rent

space in their facility. Permission was granted and Harmony Ministries had access to the building on Sunday and also for the midweek service. “We really started to expand and grow. People came. Some people from the Moravian Church actually became a part of us.” When the Moravian church closed and the building was put up for sale, Harmony was



*Renovation 2007*



## Christian Training Program Graduations We Periodically Conduct an 8 week class

given permission to stay in the building until it was sold; later a condition of the sale was that Harmony would be allowed to continue to use the building. Harmony remained there for more than a year. In 1995, the current property on Chestnut Street in Lakehurst was purchased from the Assembly of God. It was a small wooden structure that seated one hundred and a bi-level house, a parsonage, was attached. The closing was on February 2, 1996. As the church continued to grow, plans were made to rebuild it. Pastor remembers, "I learned to live by faith in a bigger way. We acquired a loan to purchase the facility. Now we needed to rebuild, but we didn't need another loan." An architect designed the build-

ing, the local planning board gave approval, the workmen were lined up, but there wasn't enough money. Pastor decided to get started. He called the excavator and had him dig the foundation. "When the excavator finished, I asked him for a bill and he said, 'Don't worry about it. I'll give it to you.' From that point on, it was one thing after another. St. John's Roman Catholic Church, let us use the chapel in the new parish center for our services. Father Bernie gave me a key; we were there six months. He never charged me a dime. We became good friends. In six months, we tore down the old building and put up a new building and never went to the bank. God did it. I'm not the head of the church; Jesus is the



25th Anniversary Cruise 2015



"LASALLE VILLAGE DU ROYAUME DE DIEU"  
 • EGLISE DE L'HARMONIE  
 • ECOLE MIXTE DE L'HARMONIE  
 • UNE EGLISE, UNE ECOLE  
 • UNE VISION, UNE EXCELLENCE  
 • 2<sup>ME</sup> CARREFOUR LASALLE  
 • ESAIE 61:1-3  
 • PASTEUR LUC DEMATUS



## Haiti Mission

boss." In 2007, two wings were added to the Harmony church which expanded the capacity to 350.

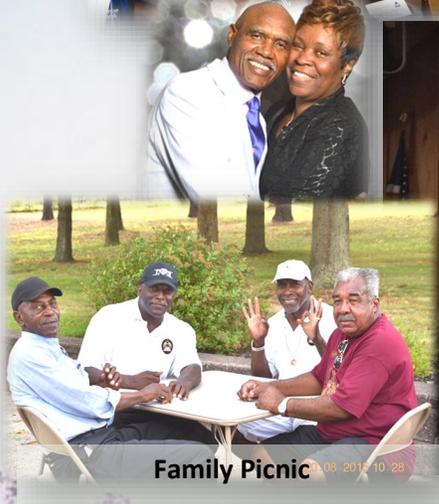
As for the future of Harmony, Pastor Alston has determined to focus on developing people. "Presently, God has given me a heart for the young people developing and setting an example for them. They face so much opposition. We have a government that has legislated sin as the norm. We have to make sure they know the truth." Pastor wants the church to learn how to love people. "The church has misunderstood and not known how to love the people and reject the lifestyle. Jesus never condoned people's sin, but He loved them. We have not been able to master that; we think we have to disqualify

people because of what they do. I'm not interested in your lifestyle. I'm interested in you. God showed me that in Luke 6:35, 'But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.'" He continues, "You're not responsible for people's conduct. Love them with the God kind of love. I love people more than I ever did since I've been on this planet. "

The name "Harmony Ministries USA" was inspired by the Harmony Ministries in Haiti which Pastor began working with during the eighties. Today that Harmony, under Pastor Luc, is our sister church and is supported by this ministry. The Harmony motto is "The Word Made Alive."



Purity Program Ceremony



Family Picnic



2019 New Sanctuary



Youth Choir

Pastor says this was a “God given motto which is the heart of this ministry. James 1:22 says “Be doers of the word not hearers only”. God wants us to take the Word and apply it to our lives and let it make a difference in the way we

live; otherwise, it’s just religion.” Looking ahead to the next thirty years of Harmony Ministries USA, Pastor says, “It will be a continuation of the ministry of the Word of God. Whichever direction God takes us is the direc-

*Matthew 6:33 NLT*  
*Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.*

*grow in*  
**grace**

2 Peter 3:18

# All Are Called

By: Michael Clausen

*“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” Matthew 6:1-4*

There are two takeaways from Matthew 6:1-4; one is that you should not brag or make a show of your charitable actions; the other is that charitable actions are not for some, but for all. Notice that the passage says “when”, not “if”. Charitable actions are a commandment! This allows for three conditions of being: 1) The person who does not commit charitable actions and is not following one of Christ’s commandments, 2) The person who commits charitable deeds and then brags about them to others, being just like the “hypocrites in the synagogues”, and 3) Those who commit charitable deeds and keep it between themselves and God.

In James 2:15, the Lord teaches us “If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?” It is our responsibility to take care of those who are in need. First to provide them the immediate comforts they require, and then to help them to be able to provide for themselves, if they are able. We also know the Great Commission, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

So how does this all fit together? First, we go out spreading the Good News, and when we come upon a person or persons in need of physical comforts, we help them. For those who are not aware, Sister Marylin Phillips is the head of the Mission Outreach Program here at Harmony. There is so much more that she could accomplish with the support of the entire community.

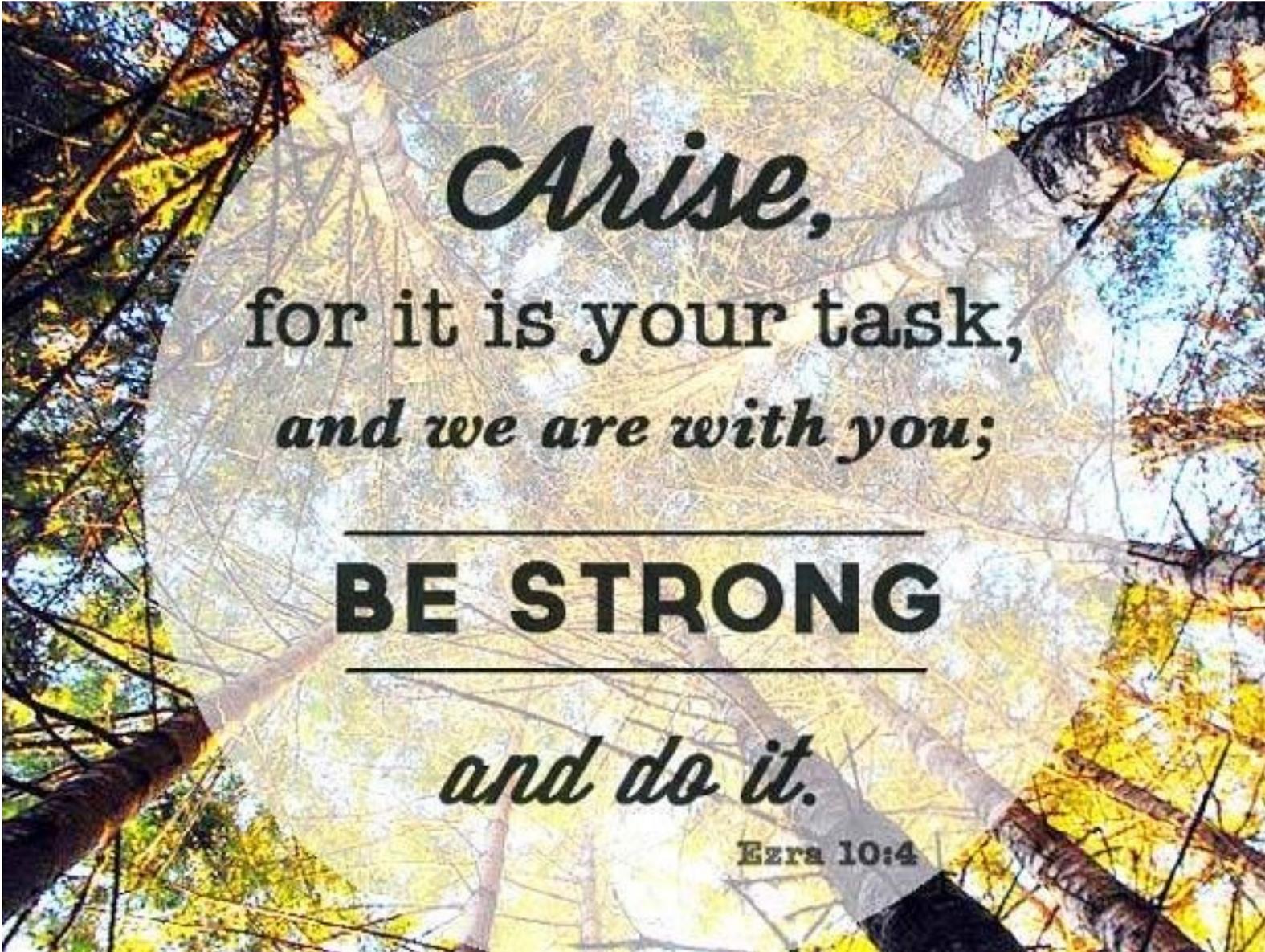
Harmony was founded 30 years ago because Pastor Alston met Pastor Luc of Harmony Ministries Hatti and was led to found Harmony Ministries USA, Inc. Our very beginning comes from a missionary’s perspective.

The story does not end there, we are ALL commanded by our Lord Jesus to “go out to the nations” AND to do charitable works. Not only does He tell us to do this, but He also tells us what to do in the process, make disciples and feed and clothe the destitute. Among the things the Mission Outreach program does is to go out to the surrounding community and tell people about Jesus and extend an invitation to join us at Harmony for Sunday worship. They also sometimes go out and give aide to less fortunate people in places like Harbor House in Toms River. This is a program for homeless teens to help them get on their feet and stay in school.

It is understood that not everyone is available to take the time away from work or family commitments to go out and knock on doors, but everyone can help in some way, be it other times or financially. Most importantly ALL are commanded to do something. We are not meant to feel obligated to do these things. We are blessed to be called His people and to have Him to dwell in our hearts; and show us that we can do these things and in all of that - He trusts us!!

Not that long ago I reminded the Church members of one of Pastor Alston's core teachings, the concept of seed time and harvest. The basis of this is found all around us, in the very creation process of the world.

Pastor teaches from his own experience of growing up on a farm. First you plant the seed, then the water, and eventually gather the harvest. In I Corinthians 3:6-8, the Apostle Paul writes, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor." It is not for all to do all, each of us has a specific purpose. We cannot expect that everyone we minister to will instantly come to Jesus. But some of us are meant to sow, some to water, and some to gather – but God provides the increase! Hallelujah!



*Arise,*  
for it is your task,  
*and we are with you;*

---

**BE STRONG**

---

*and do it.*

Ezra 10:4

**\*\*\* PRAYER OF SALVATION \*\*\***

**DO YOU KNOW...?**

**GOD LOVES YOU**

**JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS**

**YOU CAN RECEIVE JESUS NOW AND KNOW GOD'S LOVE**

The basis of the Prayer of Salvation comes from Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."

However, I would like to direct you to Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by Grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Grace is mentioned over 100 times in the Bible. Grace is God's unmerited favor and because of God's grace, we receive eternal life and a promise of heaven. Grace is necessary for salvation as we cannot do enough good works or make enough right choices to earn our salvation. The Bible teaches that we are justified by the grace of God (Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7). Justified means declared not guilty. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, all charges against us are dropped and we are free from sin. When God forgives our sins, the record is wiped clean. It is as if we had never sinned.

A preacher once explained grace with this acronym:

**God's - Riches - At - Christ's - Expense**

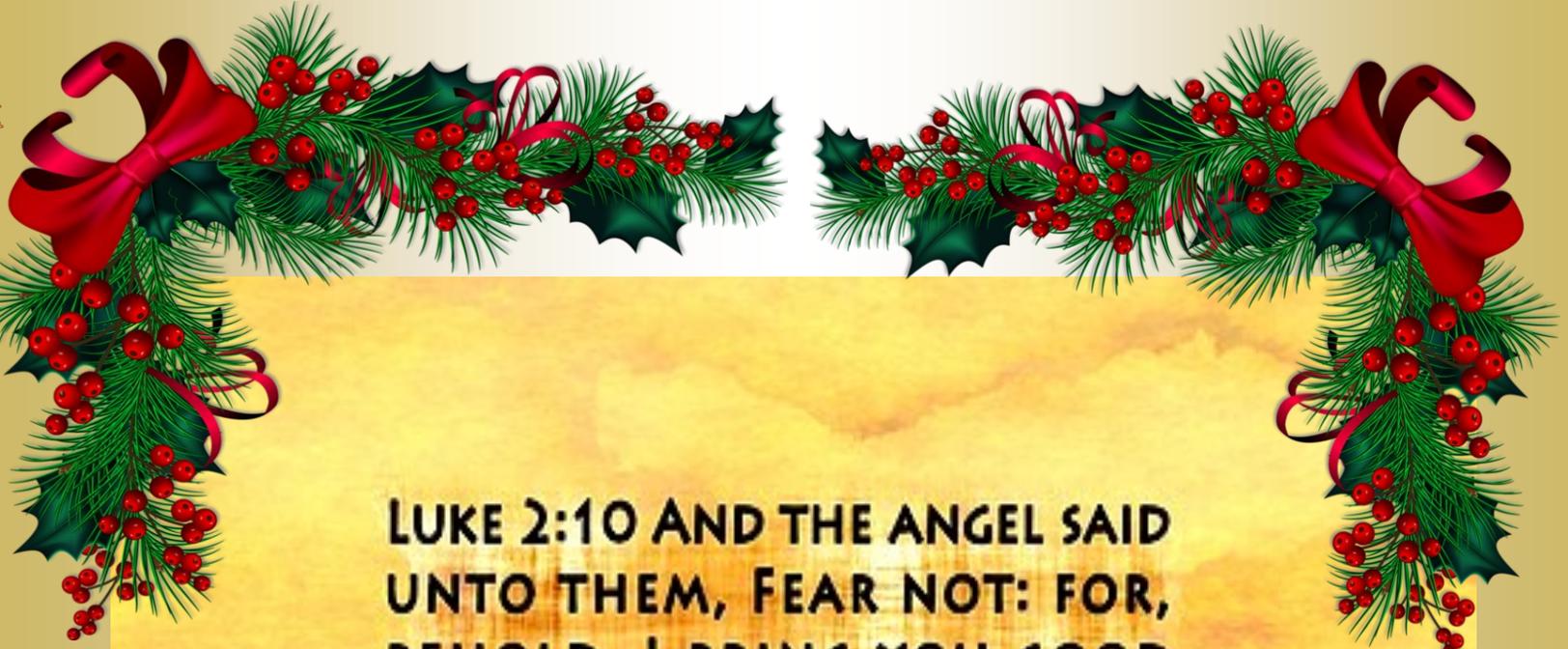
**PRAY THIS PRAYER OUT LOUD:**

Heavenly Father, In Jesus' name I repent of my sins and open my heart to let Jesus come inside of me. Jesus, You are my Lord and Savior. I believe you died for my sins and you were raised from the dead. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Thank you Father, for saving me in Jesus' name. Amen.

If you've prayed this prayer of salvation with true conviction, you are now a follower of Jesus.

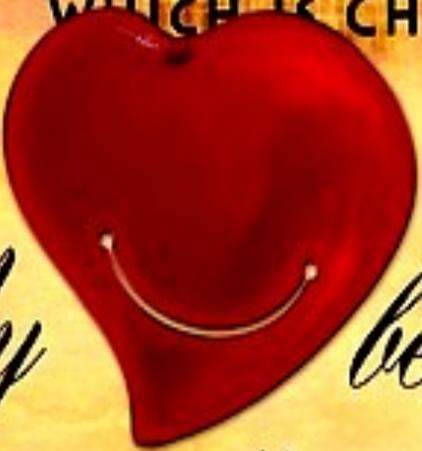
Welcome to the family of God! We encourage you now to find a local church where you can be baptized and grow in the knowledge of God through His Word, the Bible.

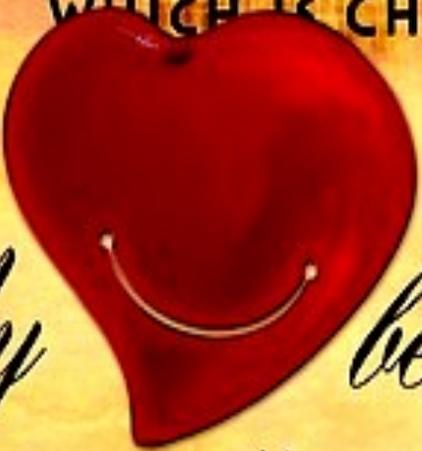
By: Jacqueline Cuavers



**LUKE 2:10 AND THE ANGEL SAID  
UNTO THEM, FEAR NOT: FOR,  
BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD  
TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH  
SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE.**

**2:11 FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS  
DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR,  
WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.**



*My*  *belongs to Jesus*  
*Merry Christmas*

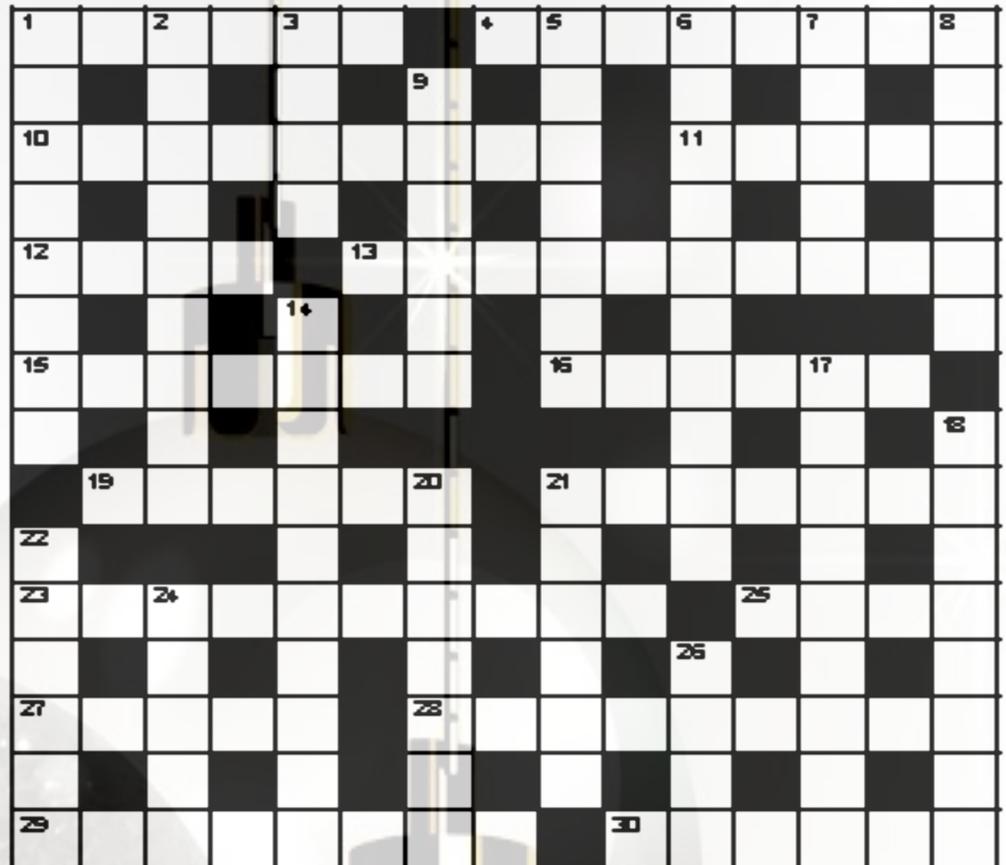
# GAMES

## Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a \_\_\_\_ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

## Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philoaus

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6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)

7 Jewish leader (5)

8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but \_\_\_\_\_ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)

9 Bread makers (6)

14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)

17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)

18 Stringed instrument (8)

20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)

21 Tiny amount (6)

22 Jesus did this with authority (6)

24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)

26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

# FUN PAGES

QUOTEFALL 41

Copyright 2002 - Bill Walters Publications

N	L	E	H	S	I	N	E	A	E	O	O	F	W
B	H	E	S	S	I	G	A	D	C	R	O	S	
T		T	R	R	H	H	T			U			

More Puzzles at: <http://biblewordgames.com>

Merry Christmas!

### Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 290 Matt. 26:1-25

P	D	T	A	B	L	E	S	A	D	U	J	U	S	T
R	E	O	S	R	O	I	D	E	T	T	O	L	P	L
E	H	I	U	E	A	R	R	E	S	T	W	P	L	I
A	S	R	S	A	L	C	N	E	L	P	E	E	R	A
C	I	I	E	D	R	T	R	R	T	R	T	E	S	L
H	N	B	J	R	R	E	E	U	F	S	X	E	T	A
E	I	Y	E	U	A	V	T	U	C	P	A	N	E	I
D	F	O	T	T	O	P	M	S	E	I	E	W	A	R
N	U	H	R	S	H	E	E	N	A	T	F	E	C	U
E	N	O	S	A	L	A	S	R	T	B	C	I	H	B
A	D	A	I	E	B	I	N	I	P	I	A	Y	E	D
R	P	L	M	F	V	B	R	Y	R	O	D	L	R	D
R	D	M	O	E	Y	W	I	P	O	O	R	O	A	G
C	O	I	N	S	E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	O
D	T	S	R	I	F	B	E	A	U	T	I	F	U	L

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

-----

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### Doublepuzzle 1

DAAM

PLSOGE

IETR

REAGV

GIHH

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But *Grow* in *Grace* and  
In a *Knowledge* of our  
*Lord* and *Saviour*  
*Jesus Christ*

2 Peter 3:18

**Please NOTE**  
**Due Date!**

# The Word Made Alive

## COMMEMORATIVE JOURNAL

*Pastor Owen L. Alston*

&

*Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.*

**Celebrating 30 Years of Ministry**

*One Body, One Spirit, One Family...with a Kingdom Mind-set*

**We are inviting our Friends and Partners to join us in**

**Celebrating our 30th anniversary**

**Congratulatory & Product Ad Placement Order Form**

Check which Ad(s) you would like to purchase

Full Page	\$300	Front inside cover	\$500	Quarter Page	\$75
Half Page	\$150	Back inside cover	\$500	Patron	\$15

We will be publishing these ads in our *30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal*

Church or  
Organization Name:

Address:

City State:

Phone Number:

Contact Person:

E-Mail Address:

Amount Enclosed:

Artwork Attached or  
emailed:

Please make all checks payable to: Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.

Mail to: 401 Chestnut Street

Lakehurst, NJ 08733

If you have any questions please call: 732-657-9660

**Ads must be received no later than JANUARY 3, 2020**

**All Ads are in Color and must be submitted in JPEG or PDF Format**



*Dearest Friends and Partners*

*It's Here!*

*We are delighted to announce our 30th Anniversary!*

*This will include a week of Celebration which will be ,*

*April 20-23, and on Friday the 24th there will be a*

*formal banquet at the newly renovated Sheraton,*

*Eatontown, NJ*

*and on April 26th we will embark on a 7 Day Bermuda Cruise.*

*You are all invited to attend the Formal Gala on April 24th.*

*Please contact Harmony Ministries' Admin office (732-657-9660)*

*to purchase your tickets \$85 per person.*

*Please call with any questions.*

Formal Gala  
April 24, 2020  
6pm



**Sheraton**  
**Eatontown**  
HOTEL

# *Norwegian Encore*



*Come celebrate with us!*



# ANSWERS

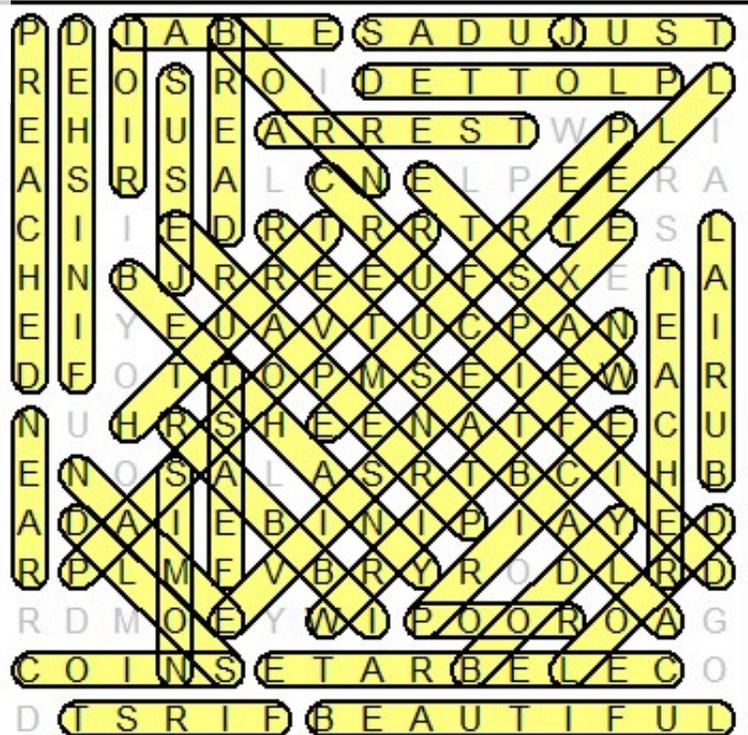
S	H	E	K	E	L	A	P	P	E	A	R	E	D
H	X	A	B	A	N	A	O						
E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S	C	U	B	I	T
A	O	T	K	S	H	B	I						
R	A	R	E	M	E	D	I	T	A	T	I	O	N
E	T	N	R	O	N	G							
R	A	I	S	I	N	S	N	A	T	H	A	N	
S	N	N	E	S	P								
A	G	R	E	E	D	T	O	R	C	H	E	S	
T	T	R	I	S	T	A							
A	T	O	N	E	M	E	N	T	S	B	A	A	L
U	M	E	A	T	A	R	T						
G	L	E	A	N	M	I	L	L	S	T	O	N	E
H	G	T	E	E	I	T	R						
T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	R	A	S	H	L	Y

## Solution to Number 41

**Blessings crown the head of the righteous  
(Proverbs 10:6) NIV**

## Doublepuzzle 1 solution

ADAM, GOSPEL, TIRE, GRAVE, HIGH  
GIVE GOD THE PRAISE  
(John 9:24) KJV



Wordsearch 290

Biblewordgames.com

Phrase = I will praise You O Lord my God

Psm.86:12 niv

# *Write to Us*

*Send Letters and comments about any  
article, include your name,  
address, and email to:  
Letters to the Editor*

*“The Word Made Alive”*

**MAGAZINE**

*Contact us at:*

**Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.  
401 Chestnut Street  
Lakehurst, NJ 08733**

Email: [harmonyoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:harmonyoffice@yahoo.com)

Or through our website: [hmusa.org](http://hmusa.org)

*Selected letters may be edited  
for length and clarity.*

*Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.*

**From:**

**Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.**

401 Chestnut Street

Lakehurst, NJ 08733

Phone: 732-657-9660

Fax: 732-657-4351

Email: harmonyoffice@yahoo.com

**TO:**



---

***Weekly Service***

**Monday through Friday Early Morning Prayer & Devotion 6-7am**

**Saturday Morning Prayer & Devotion 8-9am**

**Wednesday Bible Class 10am**

**Thursday Evening Bible Class 7pm**

**Sunday Service 9am**

---

***Youth Ministry Department***

**Special Programs To Be Announced!**