

Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.

"The Word Made Alive"

Celebrating



Volume 0043~ March 2020

News Magazine

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Being Steadfast in Your Calling



By Pastor Owen Alston

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58

We are celebrating thirty years of ministry here at Harmony and the calling and vision is just as strong today as when we first began. What can we attribute this success to? I can assure you that it is not the result of human effort, but is totally the grace of God that has worked mightily in us. One of the things taught me by the Holy Spirit is that you must believe the word of God as well as do what it says. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable," whatever Holy Spirit tells you to do, lock in on it and don't be moved by anything. When you know that God has directed you to do something, never allow anything to re-direct you. Often the adversary will create circumstances to cause you to shift your direction. If God has spoken something to you, He is well able to bring it to pass, no matter what the circumstances may look like. This ministry was started from ground zero. We began in the basement of my home. Everything that you now see is the work of God's

hand. The vision was very clear. I knew that God wanted a no-nonsense ministry of excellence. I knew that I was called to demonstrate God's love to people and that He will do exactly what His word says He will do. It began with my own heart. To be immovable from the calling that God has assigned you requires you to have no agenda of your own. I have no other agenda. I only want to abound in the work of the Lord. Paul's attitude in Acts 20:22-24 says it best:

"And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

STEADFAST

How does one develop such a passion? It begins with a personal commitment to The Lord Jesus Christ and a consistent diet of prayer and the word of God.

"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.... (Luke 18:1)

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—Ephesians 6:18

As you begin to grow in this grace, it is the power that is in God's word that will develop this level of passion in you. Humility is a major factor in bringing you to this place of immovability. "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4: 6b). And in First Peter 5: 5-9, you are urged, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

EMBRACE GOD'S

GRACE

EPHESIANS 2:8



Resist him, steadfast in the faith....” Let us not be moved from this wonderful calling whereby we have been called, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” Revelation 22:12

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.



One Body With Many Gifts

By: Marilyn Phillips

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" Romans 12:4-5

As we commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of Harmony Ministries USA, we can certainly appreciate the work of God's divine power in all He has done during the past three decades. We can reflect on God's awesome grace, faithfulness and goodness and strive to emulate daily, God's character. Therefore, with grateful hearts we aspire to remain faithful to God's plan for our lives and welcome avenues to serve Him and others with the gifts and abilities with which he has uniquely blessed us. The Body of Christ, the church, is composed of numerous and different members from several backgrounds with various gifts and abilities with one goal. This objective is to elevate the kingdom of Christ by demonstrating His love and sharing the gospel of salvation. Christ does not wish that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance (Second Peter 3:9). Everyone has an important role to contribute which is designed by God according to His purpose. God's return is drawing near.

Jesus utilizes the concept of the human body to remind us how Christians should work and live together. Just as the brain is the central control system that directs the body, so Christ should be the main center of our desires and plans. His Word states, "for as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:4-5). He also illustrated in, Ephesians 4 :15-16, "we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love".

God has given us these abilities to establish and build up His church. Firstly, we must recognize that these gifts derive from God for His purpose. "But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." We should also comprehend that not all of us have the same gifts. God in His divine wisdom

has distributed these abilities according to His purpose as stated in Second Timothy 1:9, "Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began." God loves us and sent His son to die for us. We have the greatest gift which is eternal life. Additionally, He has placed His Holy Spirit in us for His purpose and plan.

We should be eager to utilize these gifts and abilities wholeheartedly for God's service. We are to be grateful for our brothers and sisters whose gifts are completely different from ours. This is God's desire to complete His purpose and ministry in the body of Christ. The Word states, "For the body does not consist of one member but of many." The analogy continues, "If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? (First Corinthians 12:12-18). But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each

one of them, as he chooses. In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are the most necessary. As Christians, each of us has a specific function that is necessary for the body of Christ which is united in one spirit.

"Finally, as we embrace each other abilities and gifts to complete the ministry, let's all of us, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind" (First Peter 3:8). We will continue to be sensitive and have genuine love and affection for others. We will be mindful that each person's gift is precious and valuable to God including ours. We will be persuaded to remain "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (First Corinthians 15:58). We will continue to, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord we will receive the inheritance as our reward for we are serving the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24)

Happy thirtieth anniversary Pastor and First Lady Alston and all the members of Harmony Ministries USA.



*Come Celebrate
With Us!*



YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.

401 Chestnut St., Lakehurst, NJ 08733, Ph: 732-657-9660

Celebration Begins Monday, April 20th, 2020



Rev. Clarence Bulluck

EPIC Christian Center,
Sayerville, NJ
Monday, April 20th @7pm



Pastor Lecarston Chestnut

Abundant Life In Jesus Christ,
Wendell, NC
Tuesday, April 21st @7pm



Pastor Roger Breedlove

In Christ New Hope Ministry, Inc.,
Rochester, NY
Wednesday April 22nd @7pm



Apostle Michael Freeman

Spirit Of Faith Christian Center,
Brandywine, MD
Thursday, April 23rd @7pm



Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.

401 Chestnut St., Lakehurst, NJ

As Part of Our

30th Anniversary Celebration

There Will Be A

Formal Gala

Friday April 24th at 6pm
at the



Sheraton, Eatontown, NJ

Tickets are available

Cost Per Person is \$85

Children under 12yrs. \$36

Please purchase your tickets before April 12th

Please call Brenda Carter at: 732 597-8177 or

Maria Clausen, Harmony Ministries Admin. Office at: 732-657-9660



An *Rejoice with those who rejoice* Amazing Journey

By Brenda Benjamin

“Happy (blessed, fortunate, enviable) is the man who finds skillful and godly Wisdom and the man who gets understanding (drawing it from God’s Word and life’s experiences) for the gaining of it is better than the gaining of silver and the profit of it better than fine gold.” Proverbs 3:13-14(AMPC)

When I walked through the doors of Harmony Ministries USA, in April 1996, I didn’t know or understand the profound impact that decision would have on my life for eternity!

On the outside I looked very successful wearing a silk designer suit, large straw hat, and designer handbag, and driving a brand new pink car. I was a Senior Director with a Fortune 500 direct marketing cosmetic company, but on the inside, I was a broken, clinically depressed, sad, miserable human being filled with fear, anxiety, hopelessness and dread.

I received Jesus Christ as my Savior in 1992, through a Bible study that was held by another Sales Director, but I didn’t understand how to yield my life to Christ so that He would be the Lord and Master of my life.

The church that I attended for four years gave me a lot of information but didn’t give me answers to the many questions that were in my heart and

mind, When I heard Pastor Alston teach the Word of God to the congregation, I knew in that instant that my prayers were answered, and I was in the right place. God heard my prayers and answered them. He loved me enough to truly care about the questions that concerned me. God opened the doors for my life to begin to change from a life of loss, suicidal depression, strife, un-forgiveness, bitterness, and resentment to a life filled with love, healing, peace, joy, self control, happiness, prosperity, divine relationships and connections.

Pastor Alston said in 1996, and still says it today, that the answer for every circumstance, situation and problem is in the Word of God. Jesus has done all that He is going to do, that is why He is sitting down and now it is up to us to spend time with Him to live a victorious life.

Pastor teaches that after being born again you must be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues to be able to walk in power. Luke 11:13 (AMPC) says, “If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts (gifts that are to their advantage) to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!” When I received that gift of the Holy Spirit, everything in my life began to change. Back then

Pastor recommended that we pray for a half and hour every morning or at least once a day and that seemed like a long time, but it became my life line along with the Word of God. Today, it is still part of my time with God, but He has encouraged me to take the first hour daily and pray spirit to spirit with Him. First Corinthians 14:2 (AMPC) says, "For one who speaks in an (unknown) tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the (Holy) Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things (not obvious to the understanding)."

I wanted my life to change so badly and I knew that spending time with God daily in prayer, studying His Word and being in union with the Holy Spirit was my only hope. Matthew 6:33(AMPC) urges, "But seek (aim at and strive after first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right) and all these things taken together will be given you beside." I needed things because at the time it seemed like everything was lost, but Almighty God, Jehovah Jireh my Provider had a plan as stated in Philippians 2:13 (NLT), "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him".

It took me many years of listening to the lies of



devil and his forces to get my life into the mess that it was in, but when I received Jesus as my Lord and Master, the last twenty-four years have been an amazing process of change. This time of transition has resulted in supernatural healing of suicidal clinical depression, restoration of stolen years, renewed relationships, financial increase, love, joy, peace, tranquility of mind, and a new life beyond words.

I am forever thankful to Pastor Owen Alston and our beautiful First Lady Rose Alston for their commitment to the Body of Christ through their unconditional love, never judging, criticizing, betraying a confidence, or condemning, but always ready to share God's Word, believing the best of every person and bringing light to every situation, circumstance, question or problem through the Wisdom of God.

I am very excited about what the Lord Jesus Christ has in store for Harmony Ministries and I am eternally grateful and thankful to the Great I AM for the amazing journey that He has ready for us.

2020 Our Year of New Vision, Living in Christ and Great Change!



Happy 30th Anniversary Harmony Ministries, USA

"And become useful, and helpful, and kind to one another, tenderhearted, (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted forgiving one another (readily and freely) as God in Christ forgave you!"

Ephesians 4:32 (AMPC)



THE POWER of FAITH

By Yvonne Shaw

This year is a special year for Harmony Ministries as we celebrate our 30th anniversary of ministering God's Word...*The Word Made Alive*. Our Pastor, Pastor Owen L. Alston, is steadfast in teaching God's Word not based on world opinions but directly from the Bible, not based on what's comfortable to hear but based on God's word "thus said the Lord." In today's world we need to know what does Jesus say about every situation and circumstances and the Bible is the only source to obtain that information.

The history of our church demonstrates how Pastor exercised his faith in trusting God at His Word. This faith that carried Harmony Ministries for 30 years remained steadfast, unmovable no matter what the situation looked like and that same faith is available to us to exercise in our lives today. Romans 1:17 tells us "The just shall live by faith."

Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]. For by this [kind of] faith the men of old gained [divine] approval. By faith [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring

confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God] we understand that the worlds (universe, ages) were framed *and* created [formed, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose] by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Hebrew 11:1 – 3

Faith is trusting and having confidence in God for every aspect of our lives. We have to be vigilant in our faith walk because the adversary takes great pleasure in deceiving us where we think we are walking in faith but we are not. In some cases, there might be situations that we control that are tangible but that's not faith. How do we handle situations that we have no control of when it appears that there's no way out? This could pertain to health, finances, family or people we interact with. Do we trust God and know that He is in complete control of our lives or do we try to figure it out? Faith is trusting God even when we don't see the outcome; that's when we really know if we are walking in faith. If we discover we need to increase in our faith walk; it's never too late to ask God to teach us how.

"Thus says the LORD who made it, the LORD who formed it to establish it (the LORD is His name): 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and

show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'
Jeremiah 33:2-3

- Faith believes even when it makes no sense to believe, not because of the proof before us, but because of the trust we place in Christ.
- Faith is being confident in what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
- Faith is not in our abilities, but in God and His abilities.

Faith in God is a life changing power; it has nothing to do with how we feel.

If we trust only as far as we understand, then there is a reason to be anxious because we are not walking in faith and we don't know as much as we would like to think we do. But if we choose to have faith in God, to trust our Lord who is the Master Builder of our lives who guides everything in heaven and on earth, then we are freed from bondage no longer responsible for worrying about our lives. We are not our own for we were bought with a price, the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins. God has a perfect plan for each and every one of his children. He has



planned our whole life, with love and care. When we truly believe this, we will understand that we don't have a single reason to be anxious. We can cast all our cares on Christ and focus our energies on doing His will instead of worrying about everything past, present, and future because He loves us.

"For I know the plans *and* thoughts that I have for you,' says the LORD, 'plans for peace *and* well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11



WINNING WITH JESUS

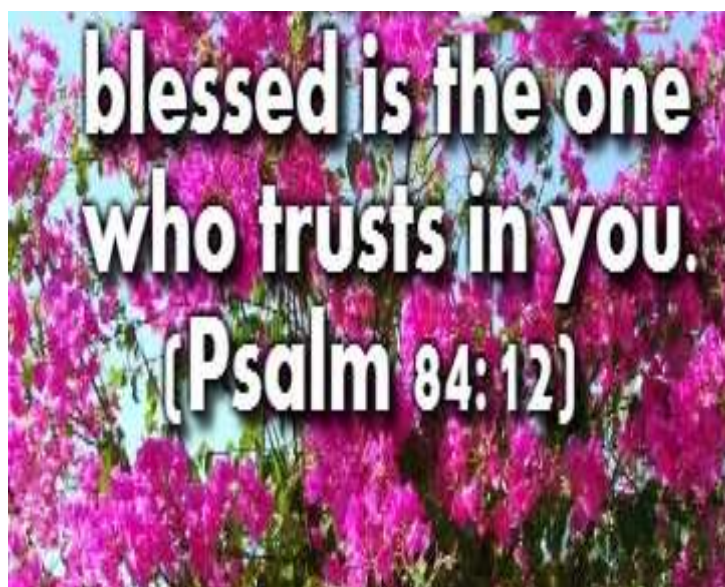
Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

by Cindy T. Brown

Jesus is real and He speaks directly to my spirit. I know He is real because He hears my voice and He answers my prayers. I know He is real because He comforts me, and He heals me. I know He is real because He provides for me, and He protects me. Jesus literally does all these things for me, and although I cannot see Him, and I cannot hear His audible voice, Jesus is tangible to me.

I feel sad for people who think the Word of God is merely one opinion among many, and for those who are closed off, and cannot hear God, or see Him being active in their lives, because they are unwittingly playing right into Satan's hands. The enemy particularly wants to lure Christians away from God, and deceive them into thinking that their own sentiments or ideas could possibly be greater than God's ideas. The Word of God says, *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ...” (Isaiah 55:8-9)*... believe it!

The fact that God chose me humbles me, and makes me appreciative. I wish everyone could know Jesus, and have the same desire as I have to be close to Him, because that would solve every problem people wrestle with -- strife, jealousy, hatred, low self-esteem, lack, greed, immorality, lust, sickness -- all of it would be gone, and it would truly be Heaven on earth. Christians must hold fast to the knowledge that our God is the Creator of all things, and be chastened by



His awesomeness.

God has literally plucked me out of harms way on several occasions during my life, and because of those times my confidence and trust in His care has grown immeasurably. As a child and young adult, the Holy Spirit kept me from straying from my righteous calling, and God has literally kept me in the palm of His hand for all of my life. Even now, as I continue to heed His voice I grow closer to God, His voice resonates within me and directs my path. I recognize my blessings, and I am appreciative and thankful for them, especially because I realize that not everyone has a heart for God and will not know the blessings of being in His kingdom.

Although we do not see God, or hear His audible voice, God is very real and very present at all times. I don't think that any Christian

would deny a direct request from God if they truly believed that He is right now more real than anything physical that we can see or hear. However, the only way to attain that depth of understanding is to step out on faith, and believe His word -- just say "yes" to the righteous lifestyle that He has called us to live, regardless of our own opinions. Christians often make excuses for not fully embracing the things Jesus has asked of us. For one thing, Jesus told us that we must love Him above all else, and secondly to love our neighbors as ourselves; yet even Jesus-loving Christians sometimes try to find loopholes in these commandments, so that they can do things their way instead of God's way, and they allow distractions to keep them from the Bible.

I have found that the way to fall in love with Jesus and to trust Him is to get to know Him. Make a habit of making time for Jesus every day, and you'll soon find that you have more peace and joy as you carry out the other things on your busy agenda each day, and your load will feel lighter because you'll soon realize that none of it matters anyway, except for Jesus. Jesus truly is

Jehovah Jireh, our Provider, and nothing under the sun is more important than finding out about Him, and growing closer to Him. Wise Solomon told us that he tried everything there is to try, and possessed everything that there is to possess, and through all of it he found that the only thing that satisfies is Jesus. The Lord told Martha directly that all that is necessary is to seek His presence, and He said that when we put Him first, all things will be added to us. For me, "having all things added to me" includes the realization that this life is temporary, and therefore despite what it may look like at any given moment in this temporary world, I can have every confidence and assurance that everything will ultimately be alright. My eye is on the prize, and my goal is to be eternally worshipping God in Heaven, and that is the key to having the satisfaction and rest that we all seek. When we say 'yes' to Jesus, we will fulfill the calling that He has given to us, and for which we were designed by Him to do. Since God has the ultimate plan for our lives, and works everything out for our good, we can only win when we trust in Him.



The History of Harmony Ministries USCA, 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

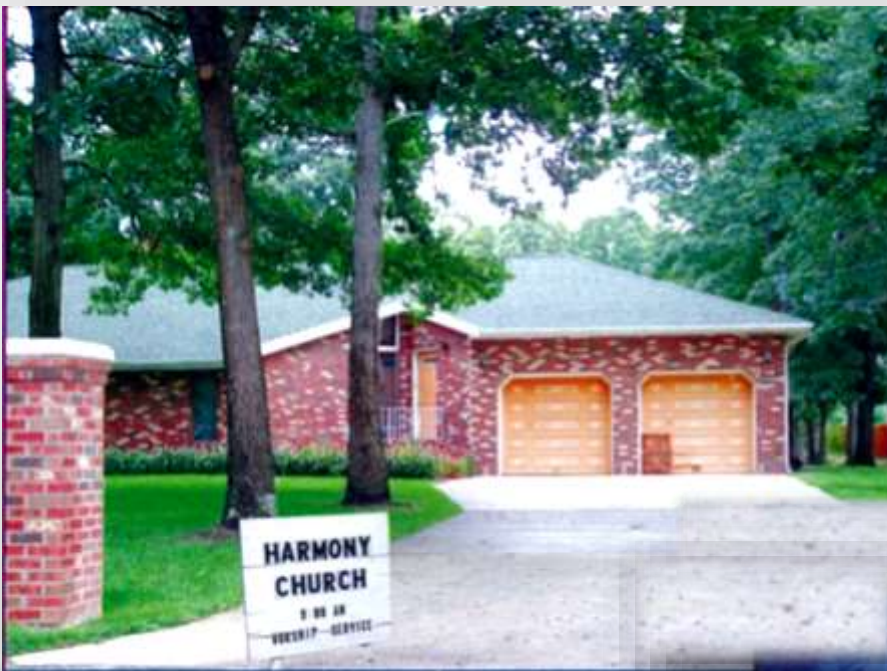


Graduating Class MBI 1983

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



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





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





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



2019 New Sanctuary



Family Picnic



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 direction we’ll go. Scripture says “Be led by the Spirit” and that’s what we do.

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

Tithing A Biblical Perspective

By Michael Clausen

Many people argue about the tithe. Should it be given? How much should it be? Isn't that an Old Testament thing? The fact is that the amount or percentage is described in the Old Testament, but the New Testament, under which is our Covenant, says that giving is important. The New Testament writers did not say how much or as often as Old Testament writers because to them, this was not something up for debate. This was how they lived their lives as God fearing Jews.

In Leviticus the amount of the tithe is set forth. This is part of the Law given to the people by Moses from the Lord: "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord.... And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30,32). The amount of the Tithe is, therefore, one tenth, or ten percent of the "income" or produce of the work of the people. Most of us in this bountiful nation are not farmers or herdsman, so what we

give is one tenth of what we receive, which is money. Let's just call it like it is; money is necessary in this day and age. With it we pay our bills, we buy our food and we do everything we need to do by using it. The same is true for the work of the church. It is from the donations and the tithes of the people that the church is able to do what it needs to do. Look around, is there much in your home that didn't come to be there by the judicious use of money on someone's part? Even gifts that we receive were paid for by others.

Now let's get down to the facts. The church needs to pay bills to stay open. Even though in this country churches don't pay taxes, there is still the electric bill, the water bill and so forth. Pastor Alston teaches that the tithe is not only necessary for the church to operate, but it is also a tremendous blessing to the giver. Nobody said this was an easy thing to do. Even Jesus in the story of the rich young ruler in Luke's Gospel account, says "how hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:24). Notice here that Jesus does not say "those with great riches" just "riches." In the story of the widow's mite, Our Lord does not tell the widow to take back her mere pennies, but accepts that this is a necessary part of the running of the Kingdom of God. In fact, He says that her blessing shall be greater, because she gave when it hurt, not just of her excess.

I can tell you from personal experience, my wife and I have received abundant blessing since we began to obey the Word and tithe. Over and over, the money we have needed to do the things



we have done keeps coming in. We are able to do so much more for the Kingdom because of the blessings that we have received, and it just keeps coming. Many will hear Pastor Dennis, for example, preaching about how his life has gotten better and better because of his giving and think, “well that’s well and good for you, you are a principal, and your wife is an attorney.” I can tell you for one thing, He didn’t get there because of anything he has done. They have been faithful and have put their money where their mouth is for much longer than he has been a principal. We are surrounded by the growth of the church. We see examples all the time, yet we still are hesitant to give what the Lord says to give. I am not writing any of this to brag. I simply want others to share in the blessings that my wife and I have received and continue to receive.

In the book of Hebrews it is written:

“And indeed those who are the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; but he who’s genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men received tithes, but there he receives them of whom it is witnessed that he lives.” Hebrews 7:5-9

It is right for Pastor as the “priest” of our church to receive the tithe from us who are the members. But, he also pays the tithe, just as the priests of old did in their time.

Many will say, “I give my time and that should be good enough.” We give of our time because we receive also from what we give. There are jobs that need to be done just like in any establishment. It is our privilege to do work for the Kingdom, and



everyone does their part. We are called to go out to the Nations and teach them to do all that Christ commanded us to do, and to baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This doesn’t mean that we are all to climb into the Baptismal pool and submerge each person who wants to be baptized. There is an order that must be maintained when it comes to how things are done and as in all things of this world, that order is important for things to work properly. One of the things that must be done in order, is tithing; it is about as important as it gets. Giving of our time and our resources is just a part of what living life as a Christian is all about. We do things with a spirit of excellence.

If you are tithing, great, wonderful, keep it up. Great things are coming your way and will continue to come. If you are not and are bothered by what is written here, think of it like this, it is probably the Spirit prompting you, and the enemy convicting you. Who are you going to listen to, the enemy who says to keep all you have for yourself, or the Spirit of God who is telling you that you will be blessed by your obedience?



***** 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



**THREE THINGS
WILL LAST**

FOREVER

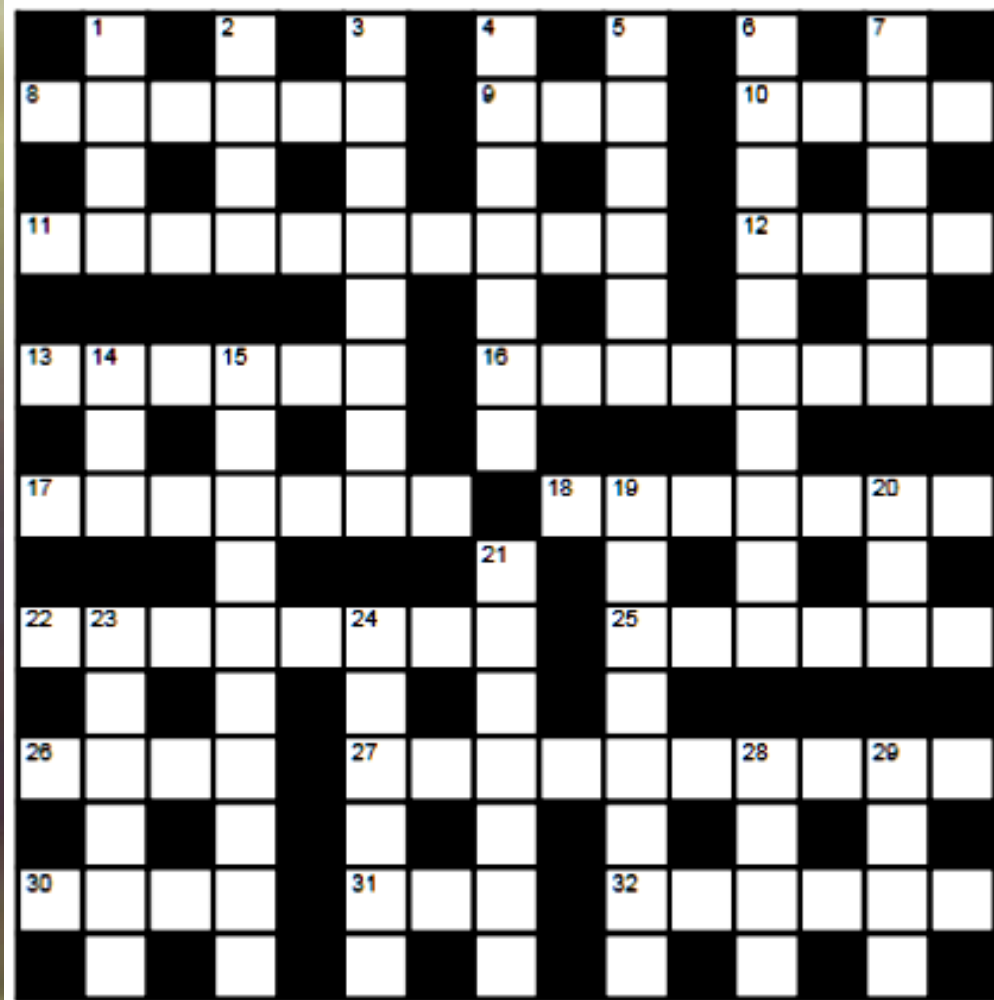
—FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE—

AND THE **GREATEST**
OF THESE IS

Love

1 Corinthians 13:13

GAMES



Across

- 8 Religious service (6)
 9 Vessel (3)
 10 Drive forcibly (4)
 11 Christ does this for us (10)
 12 Bethesda was the name of this (4)
 13 Servant of a prophet (6)
 16 One who leaves the straight and narrow path (8) 17 Check the money (7)
 18 Fragrant offering; make angry (7)
 22 Come out from among them (8)
 25 Works with clay (6)
 26 Main part of text (4)
 27 Chucked it too far (10) 30 Treachery sealed with this (4)
 31 Simon washed his (3)

Down

- 1 Standard for the tribe of Judah (4)
 2 Brother of James; Hardy book (4)
 3 Choice by vote (8)
 4 Evening glow (7)
 5 All sing the tune (6)
 6 To reduce deficiency (10) 7 Take no notice of (6)
 14 Look at (3)
 15 Alternative Revelation (10)
 19 Son of Jacob (8)
 20 The blind will (3)
 21 Regrets; Serpent (anag) (7)
 23 Angels by another name (6)
 24 Decorates (6)

Doublepuzzle 2

FUN PAGES

EDAYC
19 4 10

NUGORD
20 15 11 7

LEJWE
18 1 8

SLWA
17 9 16 3

NEERV
14 6

KIPC
12 2 13

LAEMR
21 5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

Quotefall 44

GGAC E P B A C E O T H O M
A O D O U R E F A F R O U
R N D E E T Y E R

MORE PUZZLES AT: [HTTP://BIBLEWORDGAMES.COM](http://biblewordgames.com)

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 288

Matt. 25:1-22

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

The Parable of The Kingdom

ABILITY ACCOUNTS
CALLED ARRIVED
COMING BANQUET
DOOR DROWSY
HOUR ENTRUSTED
JARS FAITHFUL
KEEP GAINED
LAMPS HEAVEN
LIKE HAPPINESS
LONG JOURNEY
MEET KINGDOM
MONEY MASTER
ONES PROPERTY
OPEN RETURNED
RANG SERVANTS
READY TALENTS
TIME TRIMMED
WISE TRUTH
WORK WEDDING

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

MORE PUZZLES AT:
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POWER *Within*

By Deborah Peniston

*Jesus answered and said unto him, "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 NKJV)*

Please take a minute to think about what Jesus is saying here. In His conversation with His disciples, Jesus was preparing them for His departure. In verse sixteen of this same chapter, He tells them that if they love Him, He will pray to the Father to send another Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and He, **the Holy Spirit will abide with them forever.** As I reflect over the last twenty four years of my membership at Harmony Ministries USA, Inc., wonderful memories and life lessons flood my heart and mind, but it is this teaching that has had the biggest impact in my life.

I was raised in the church, and I have always attended church regularly. I even attended a Bible school for four years after I graduated from college. However, it was when I met Pastor Owen Alston, my senior year at this Bible school, that the Word started to take root in me. I always loved the Lord even as a child, but I do not think I fully knew who I was as a believer, and I definitely did not know what I had in Christ. John 14:23 revealed something I did not clearly understand. I had to have read this scripture many times, missing the truth behind it. I remember the first time I heard Pastor preach from this text, and future teachings solidified the truth behind God's words.

The Amplified says it like this, "If anyone [really] loves Me, he will keep My word (teaching); and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling place with him."

When He refers to "We," He is speaking of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, like He said in Genesis when He made man.

Then God said, "Let Us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]: and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps and crawls on the earth." So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them."

(Genesis 1:26-27 AMP)

Despite this, the first Adam fell, but the second Adam, Jesus the Christ, the anointed Son of God, redeemed us and restored all that was lost in the garden. Jesus, 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.” (John 1:14 KJV) After His death, burial, and resurrection, He appeared to His disciples and said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**” (Matthew 18:20 KJV) There it is again!

“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the **Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” (Romans 8:10, 11 NKJV) What does this mean? I do not have to be sick. I do not have to be poor. I do not have to be oppressed by the enemy because the greater one lives in me.

*“Little children (believers, dear ones), you are of God and you belong to Him and have [already] overcome them [the agents of the antichrist]; because **He who is in you is greater** than he (Satan) who is in the world [of sinful mankind].”* (1 John 4:4 AMP)

“Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that

*we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], **according to His power that is at work within us.**”* (Ephesians 3:20 AMP)

I found out this is actually true, but it takes faith to activate it, which leads to the next truth that I learned under the teachings of Pastor. “But without faith it is impossible to please Him...”

(Hebrews 11:6a KJV). Well, what is faith? “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1 KJV)

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed, both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed in a way that awakens more faith]. As it is written and forever remains written, “The just and upright shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17 AMP)

“So faith comes from hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the [preaching of the] message concerning Christ.” (Romans 10:17 AMP)

For me, it means being “fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform” (Romans 4:21 NKJV). That comes from hearing the Word and hearing the Word and



hearing the Word. Then remember, He told the disciples (that's us), the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, would come. "**But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...**" (Acts 1:8a AMP). I found out as a believer I had help, I was not alone because He said, "...I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up, nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you [assuredly not]!" (Hebrews 13:5 AMP).

"I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My ordinances and do them." (Ezekiel 36:27 AMP)

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." (John 16:13 NKJV)

My faith has been tested through the years, but I thank God He introduced me to Pastor and brought my family to Harmony Ministries. I am fully persuaded that He lives in me and He loves me. I live, move, and have my being because of the POWER within me.



Faith

Amen, Amen, and Amen.

35

YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

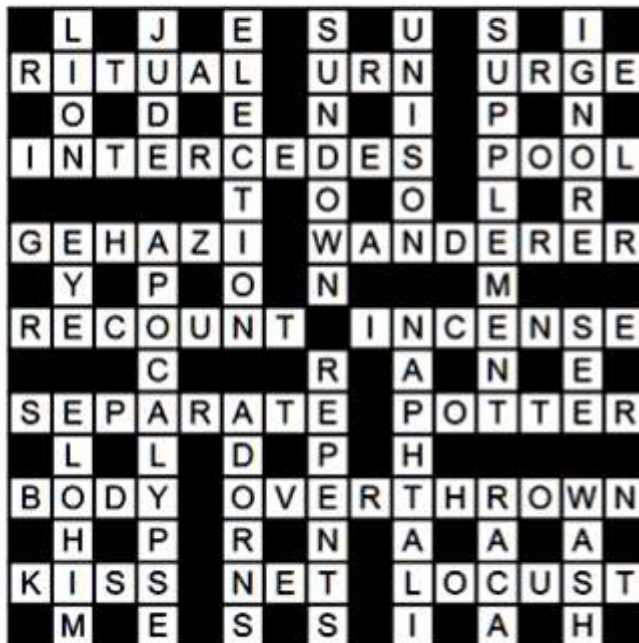
Moments...



The Best is Yet To Come!

ANSWERS

BIBLE CROSSWORD II - SOLUTION



Across: 8 Ritual, 9 Urn, 10 Urge, 11 Intercedes, 12 Pool, 13 Gehazi, 16 Wanderer, 17 Recount, 18 Incense, 22 Separate, 25 Potter, 26 Body, 27 Overthrown, 30 Kiss, 31 Net, 32 Locust.

Down: 1 Lion, 2 Jude, 3 Election, 4 Sundown, 5 Unison, 6 Supplement, 7 Ignore, 14 Eye, 15 Apocalypse, 19 Naphtali, 20 See, 21 Repents, 23 Elohim, 24 Adorns, 28 Raca, 29 Wash.

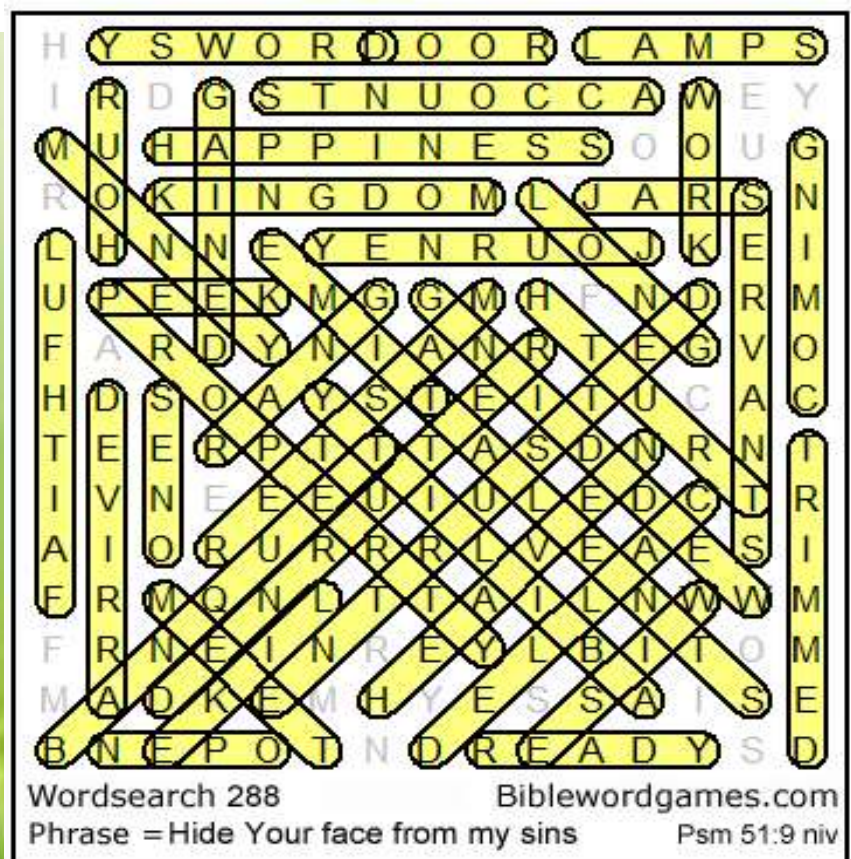
Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Solution to Number 44

**Grace be to you and peace from
God our Father**
(2 Cor. 1:2) KJV

Doublepuzzle 2 solution

DECAY, GROUND, JEWEL, LAWS,
NEVER, PICK, REALM
WISE MEN LAY UP
KNOWLEDGE (PROV.10:14)



Wordsearch 288

Biblewordgames.com

Phrase = Hide Your face from my sins

Psm 51:9 niv

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address, and email to:
Letters to the Editor*

"The Word Made Alive"

MAGAZINE

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Lakehurst, NJ 08733

Email: harmonyoffice@yahoo.com
Or through our website: hmusa.org

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

Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.

A background image of pink cherry blossoms on dark branches with green leaves. The blossoms are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

From:

Harmony Ministries USA, Inc.

401 Chestnut Street

Lakehurst, NJ 08733

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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!