ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

The good brethren at Getwell are still working and happy. We are missing some faithful members who have had health problems of late. We do pray for them, both publically and privately, and trust they will be able to back in services soon. Until we have to miss the Bible Studies and worship services we do not realize what encouragement we receive from others to live the Christian life. The services are adapted to help us to continue to live as we should for the Lord.

THE SPIRITUAL SWORD publication, edited by Alan Highers, and which includes many writers, continues to receive rave reviews from its readers. Contributions continue to be made by faithful brethren to help send these teaching articles all over the world, and these are certainly appreciated. It is a large operation to set the themes, print the books, for the secretaries to prepare these for mailing, have two pickups to carry them to the post office, and send them on their way! But it is a work of love on the part of all who participate in the endeavor. Your prayers are also requested for the continuance of this good work. If you are not receiving these materials, we would be happy to hear from you and to include you in the mailing. The subscription price is only $8.00 per year for the quarterly.
Jesus said to His disciples, “With men this [salvation, GC] is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26). Again He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless, not what I will, but what thou wilt” (Mk. 14:36). Perhaps you have heard the old adage “Anything is possible if you only believe.” But from the Bible we learn of some things that are not possible and will not happen. There are at least six things that are impossible: 1. It is impossible for mankind to be redeemed from sin with animal sacrifices. The Hebrew writer said, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” (Heb. 10:4). This is because there is no sacrifice except the perfect sacrifice of Christ that will take away sins. 2. It is impossible for anyone to be saved without the cross of Christ (Mk. 14:35-36). If ever there was a time when God would have overlooked sin, it would have been to spare His only begotten Son from the horrors of the cross! 3. It is impossible for death to hold Jesus. Peter said on Pentecost, “Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it” (Acts 2:24). 4. Because of God’s promise and His oath, it is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18). 5. It is impossible for you to live on this earth without temptation. Jesus said, “It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!” (Lk. 17:1). 6. It is impossible for you to please God without faith. The Hebrew writer says, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6). Though we understand that these things are impossible, according to the Scriptures, there are some amazing things that seem impossible but that are possible in Christ! The obedient are able to have remission of sins (Acts 2:38). The unbelieving sinner by obedience is able to become a changed, righteous Christian! Those who live faithfully on earth can enter Heaven, which is beautiful beyond description! (Rev. 2:10). And it is possible that we can be great servants of our Lord, despite the weaknesses and frailties with which we wrestle! (Rom. 6:1-4,16-18). By living in Christ faithfully, others are able to see Christ living through us! Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). It is true that Christians serve an infinitely powerful, gracious, merciful, and resourceful God! Will you become a Christian today?
In the early 1970s the elders at Getwell, which included W. T. Hardwick, made a decision to hire two young men from the Harding Graduate School to work with the young people. Their names were Terry Hightower and Lindsey Warren. Along with their wives—Lindsey’s wife, Susan, and Terry’s wife, Vicki—they had a very positive spiritual influence on the group of young people to whom they ministered. One of these young people was me. I was baptized in June 1973. I give credit to these four individuals along with others, including a godly mother, for leading me to Christ. You may ask, why this trip down memory lane? I am glad to say that the majority of those young people in that group have remained faithful to Christ. Last week, Vicki Hightower passed to her reward. Among those who mourn her passing are the young people from 40 plus years ago, who were given a good start in their walk with Christ by Vicki along with her husband, Terry, and Lindsey and Susan Warren. We will miss you, Vicki.

Don’t forget the upcoming Sweetheart Luncheon on February 12. This luncheon is an annual event to honor our widows and widowers. We have some special entertainment planned. Keep in mind we had to reschedule the Freed-Hardeman University Chorale performance. They will be at Getwell following evening services on February 19.

On February 5-9 the 81st Freed Hardeman Lectureship takes place. The theme of this year’s lectureship is “Identity In Crisis—Daniel’s Vision For The Future.” I have looked over the program, and, as usual, it is a quality lectureship worth making time to attend. There are many classes taught by sound teachers. One group of classes that always catches my attention are those directed toward young people and youth leaders. They call these classes the teen lectureship. Let me encourage you to make a trip to the center of the universe, Henderson, Tennessee.

Another lectureship coming up in March is the Memphis School of Preaching lectureship. The theme this year is “Build Your Hope on Things Eternal.” The dates are March 26-30. Also keep in mind the Faulkner Bible Lectureship at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, March 5-9. The theme is “The Holy Spirit.”

We have a team of young people who will be competing in the Bible Bowl competition at the Lads to Leaders gathering in April. These young people are Byron Hampton, Joseph Hutchinson, Laterika Johnson, and Jaquan Smith. Please encourage these young people as they prepare for this competition.

The new issue of THE SPIRITUAL SWORD has come out. It is titled “The Militant Church.” Every issue of THE SPIRITUAL SWORD is always well done. Brother Highers does an excellent job in selecting subjects and writers. This particular issue I thoroughly enjoyed and came away edified. Brother Highers in his opening editorial defines militant as “vigorously active, combative and aggressive especially in support of a cause.” He continues to point out it comes from Latin meaning “to serve as a soldier.” The writers in this issue compose their articles with the word militant and its meaning in mind and apply it to the Lord’s church. I will now conclude my article with the same verse with which brother Highers concluded his article in this issue, Jeremiah 20:9: “But he declared that God’s word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones. I hope after reading this issue it will ignite a fire in your bones.

--Ron Wallace