

## ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

By Nell Truesdell

SPIRITICITY, with this March, 1949 issue, enters its ninth year of publication. The paper has survived because the Spirit of the Lord is upon it. You who have subscribed to it have helped to invoke that Spirit which keeps alive anything that is valued and appreciated. You have shared the cost of the monthly issues, and your cooperation is prized by Mr. Truesdell and me. We hope that you will continue to be friendly toward us, and that you will draw from our ministry the spiritual instruction and sustenance you seek.

Frequently, I tell students that there is such a thing as ministry to which they may turn, and from which they will receive help. In this Anniversary Message, I shall try to tell you about ministry and how it works.

Ministry is a commodity; but it can never be sold for favor or for money. Unless spiritual ministry is given freely, it fails to fulfill the implied promises that may be anticipated by anybody who turns to it for up lift or release from trouble, whether for himself, or for some loved one in whom he is interested. If an attempt is made to barter ministry, its virtue is impeded - like a bird with a broken wing, it flaps about and gets nowhere. On the other hand, ministry that is sought by the cunning, the willful, and the unappreciative, draws its robes aside and passes on to drop its blessings upon the guileless. Ministry must be sought, and it should be valued. A sincere minister is always diligent, but there should be some reciprocal action on the part of a petitioner if he hopes to receive the full benefits of consecrated prayer.

True spiritual ministry exudes an essence which reveals its intrinsic nature and which bears witness to the minister's conscious contact with almighty God. It is also a performance which is the result of his coming together with the Divine in a way so true that an influence sheds itself freely through him to span space, dissolve time, and spark vital but indolent elements within people and circumstances into revived activity. Often, the highest degree of this activity formulates in what are called miracles by startled observers.

True spiritual ministry is an accomplishing power for Good only. It is free of ulterior motives, unburdened of selfishness, and unobstructed by passions. It is impartial, and it drops its blessings freely upon the responsive soul, regardless of his status.

True spiritual ministry is never directed toward a person by good thoughts. It is not sent out on thought waves, love waves, telepathic waves, by the means of guides, or any other so-called media, or influences; nor is it ever forced upon a petitioner by pressure of the personal will of a well-intentioned practitioner who tries to prove his spiritual prowess in the realms of mind and "matter".

Its gentle action, its unobtrusive infusion into and through consciousness belies its potential strength and vigor. Once invoked, nothing can obstruct its flow nor stop its intention to manifest itself in the "form" of Good best suited in a given situation. That "form" may be something tangible, it may be a

quality of character, or it may be a clear-cut aspiration (always the forerunner of ultimate high achievement).

When its miracle-working power becomes manifest (or appears), a woman or man may be tempted to believe he has done something of himself. But the only Power that works is the Power of God. No man wrests that Power from God; but His Power will flow through anybody who invokes it in Love for the benefit of his fellowman. Paul's caution to the Corinthians should warn anybody who is prompted to believe he does something of himself, to take heed lest he stumble:

"For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and consecration and redemption; therefore, as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord.'" (The Revised Standard Version of New Testament - Thomas Nelson and Sons, New York, 1946)

The Greatest Minister of all time never claimed that He did anything of Himself, but he relegated all Power to accomplish to God.

A true minister of the Gospel need not dramatize in order to build up a market for his wares. He should quietly offer ministry as a free gift. Released in behalf of a seeker, the virtue in ministry will expand sufficiently to penetrate and dispel the cloud - and - darkness atmosphere that hugs a man round about and shrouds the Good in mortal consciousness. By the Light which spiritual ministry emits, benefits within easy reach are illuminated and can be had for the taking.

Whenever you turn to receive ministry, you will experience a definite change for the better in your entire field of life; its many activities will begin to harmonize in such ways that you will be free from the need to exercise great mental effort to make a "go" of it. Peace and ease of mind will supplant worry. Health will improve. Finances will stabilize. Relations with people will be more agreeable. And, to your surprise, you will enjoy a new love for God. You will awake to a realization of His immediacy, His interest in you. You will feel that His all-infolding Love protects, gently guides, and continuously draws you higher in consciousness toward His freedom, His understanding, His grace. Just as fast as you are able to receive Him into consciousness, just that fast will you enter (consciously) into the Good the Father has already prepared for you. True spiritual ministry aids you toward that goal.

When a mood of doubt is upon you, you might feel that, after all, nothing actually is done for you. However, we believe if you will honestly sum up all the changes for the better that have transpired for you over the period of time since you requested ministry, you will appreciate more fully the widened spiritual freedom and visible benefits you now enjoy; and doubtless, you will admit, "I did not realize what was being done in my behalf." Occasionally a dissatisfied person will voice his grievance that ministry was ineffective, though he felt sure he had had sufficient faith in God's Power to help him and in his minister's efforts in prayer. However, when his complaint is investigated, he will confess, "Yes, I felt better for a while; but here I am in the same condition I was before."

It is not unusual for a darkened consciousness, overwhelmed by the suddenness of spiritual ministry, with its healing, prospering benefits, to be unable to retain the Good. It prefers to hold the negation fast in its possession and refuses to let go. An example of this decline to yield to treatment was revealed by a woman honest enough to confess why she failed to receive an immediate healing. She said, "I came to you for relief from a persistent headache. While we prayed, I could feel the pain slip away, but I would instantly grope after it in my mind and pull it back because 'it felt funny' to be without the headache." Actually, she chose to refuse ministry. This is not an infrequent occurrence among students; so, they ask, "Why wasn't I healed?" or, "Why didn't I make a demonstration?" Whenever anyone determines to return to an old familiar state, he has made a perfect demonstration.

If a petitioner is free for five minutes, or an hour, or a day, he has been healed, or prospered - whatever the case may be. However, freedom from the effects of old states is so unrealistic that the sufferer tends to recall and actually sets back into place the unwanted symptoms and lacks by his will to retain them.

At this point, I shall tell you what a stranger said about our ministry. He wandered into a Sunday morning devotional service and listened attentively to our messages. After the meeting, he introduced himself to us and made these remarks: "I have visited all the churches and other religious meetings in Fort Worth, and I can say with sincerity, I like your service best." This man was full of years, alert, independent, and self-contained. He was not just making "nice remarks." He went on, "All we hear from the pulpits these days is talk about airplanes, armaments, economic conditions - the things going on in the world - but you point straight to God, never wavering, and give food for a man's soul."

I have thought much on that last statement. Surely there is no goal but God, and no food but the Word of Truth. What else is there to offer when people come for ministry? These are accessible to anybody willing to spend even a little time in seeking them. The Master sought God diligently and his awareness of God became a healing unction to all who contacted Him; and he was able to deal bread to the hungry also.

So, emulating the Master, the true minister of the Gospel persists in keeping his inner vision lifted away from seeming negation in the world, and the claims to lack, illness, and suffering by those who turn to him for help and relief, and he recognizes and acknowledges the Reality of God, manifest here and now. His steadfastness tunes in, we might say, to the Omnipresent Good in such a way that it becomes available for use - though it is never absent from anyone for an instant. Even those who are afar off are inadvertently blessed when they so much as think about him; for there is no separation in Spirit, and all who are in rapport, participate in and share the common Good.

It is so natural for a person to feel well, or to have abundance, that he is apt to forget he had sought spiritual help and had received it. The time element enters in for some who are loath to admit that spiritual aid is effective. But the ministry goes on, and eventually (sometimes it takes years), the seeker enjoys a state of conscious well-being. Even though he forgets he had asked for help, God remembers; and so does his minister.

We see you change (some rapidly, others more gradually), under the mystical influence of spiritual ministry. You are healthier, happier, kinder,

more gracious, genuine, radiant, hopeful, trustful, because you are God-full. You are firmer in your love for and faith in God. Where before you were disquieted within, now you smile and reflect the assurance that all is really well with you. Your general attitude toward life has improved vastly. You approach your daily tasks more leniently - you do not gnash your teeth, or boil inside, or hate without reserve. While you know you are not superior, you do possess an attitude that lifts you above pettiness. Now, you know you are building the God-consciousness; and you know it is acquired in a gradual, assured, steady movement upward in consciousness toward the heights of Be-ing. That, now, is your goal. The ministry of the CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE can promise to continue to point you toward that goal, through CHRIST in you, your hope of glory.

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SPIRITICITY March 1949

FACE REALITY

By Alden Truesdell

Man looks into the world about him and sees forms and pictures that do not bear out the claim of a good Principle creating only that which was said to be very good: "Behold, it is all very good." Most appearances are just the reverse. We might say they are in reverse; and just as senseless as were the experiences of Alice when she stepped through the mirror. We remember she dealt with what we would call shadows, reflections, and vain imaginings. If Alice had considered these reflections to be the reality of life, she would have lost her own identity in illusion.

In our Scripture, the Lord is reported to have said, "And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face." It is as if man, the reflection of God (as in a mirror), had suddenly turned his back upon God and undertook to walk away from Him.

People who are interested in God know they must, at some time or other, make a very definite right about face; and they know that when they do turn toward God, many of the concepts and things that were highly valued in the old order of direction, are as out of place in the new order, as Alice would find her looking-glass playmates in real life. Things desirable to a man in his semi-dream, or reflective state, are of no value in his wakened state; unless, possibly, they become symbols of reproduction.

Jesus comforted His disciples with the promise that anybody who left the past behind him for His sake would receive a hundred-fold more of everything he had relinquished. Reflections - images - would be traded in for Reality. Thus, the rich man is advised that his way will be hard if he tries to draw his accumulations into the state of Reality where there is no want, lack, deprivation, separation, or idea of accumulation.

Alice in Wonderland came to herself as soon as she got back on the right side of the mirror. So man comes to himself when he identifies himself with this real Source. When he speaks and acts from the side of Reality, the Lord's side, he is able to say with conviction, "The Lord is Good." "God is Good, and God is all."

God is Spirit. There is nothing real or true but Spirit and the manifestation of Spirit. To behold this truly for a season is to become its true reflection - or image.

When man faces his Maker, he is clothed upon anew, in garments of righteousness and peace. He comprehends the wisdom of God which is taught to him by the Spirit. He knows the value of forgiveness, praying for enemies, and he even lets those who take his coat have his cloak also; for he knows these represent concepts of Truth, rather than the Truth itself. And he is more willing to have garments that never wear threadbare, and wax not old.

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ON THE ATONEMENT

By Robert Applegate

A world, complete in Spirit, is all around us. Though we cannot see it with our fleshly eyes, we walk through it every moment of our lives. This world is the embodiment of the work of Jesus Christ. It is accessible to anybody who is willing to lift his inner vision upward and avail himself of the opportunity to know God through Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ knew God so intimately, and so completely, that he was the consummation and demonstration of the God-Presence among men. In Him were, and are, hid "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." He knew God so thoroughly that He and God were undivided; and He declared with conviction, "I and my Father are one."

He was so consciously at one with God that He, of all men, accomplished the atonement which now sets us free when we believe on Him. The purport of His atonement was not His suffering, but was (and is) what He knew, and what He demonstrated. The world is different because of this. Even in the material realm we reap, daily, the results of what Jesus Christ accomplished. All our progress, all our so-called scientific discoveries, our prided standard of living - all that we know and have today is simply the outworking of His atonement.

You may ask, "Why do not I show forth the same fulness if this is so?" A question might expose the answer more quickly than an explanation: "Are you impersonal in your desire to partake of the benefits of His atonement?"

We partake of his work by acknowledging that it is His work. "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." This does not mean that we are to make a display of confession through lip-service, or outward conformance to religious requirements; it is a matter of living-the-Life, secretly as well as openly, that bears witness to a consecration that stems from conscious alliance with God.

We partake of the accomplishment of any man by entering into a like performance. A good scholar acknowledges the work of his predecessors. A second-rate scholar may make like of the work of those who have gone before him, and may make sarcastic comments about their lack of knowledge, because they did not know all that he knows. But a good scholar is never guilty of such

misjudgment. He knows that if his predecessors had not prepared the way, he would to be able to do the work he is now doing. He acknowledges his debt, and that confession allows him to partake of the wisdom and understanding which had already been attained by others.

The disciples of Jesus Christ acknowledged the work He had done. This took courage because the new teaching was neither respectable nor tolerated in their day; but they bravely confessed their Master and their acknowledgment allowed them to partake of His power and His divinity. They went about in His Name, and were invested with the authority of that Name. Their message was the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the atonement which Jesus Christ performed for the salvation of the world.

They preached the remission of sins in His Name, and they both declared and proved that His Name was the only Name in heaven and in earth whereby men might be saved. Remission is sending back (from the Latin *remitto*); and the remission of sins is the sending back of our errors and mistakes to the nothingness whence they issued. This is the works which Jesus Christ accomplished, and it is the good news which the disciples announced.

His Name was their cloak of protection and their badge of allegiance. Their acknowledgment of His completed work made them partakers of the benefits of that work until they were imbued with the very Spirit of their Master. Thus, they spoke with new tongues, they healed the sick, they raised the dead, and they became a light to all succeeding generations; for without them, we should know nothing about the Savior. Their whole message was His atonement and the working power of His Name.

Every healer is familiar with atonement because every healing is atonement. Apparent conditions in a patient become nothing in the Light of his inner knowing, and healing manifests outwardly. This is the sort of atonement which Jesus Christ performed for the whole world. He proved that the ills of men and the world are false - deceptive artificialities - which must fade because they are contrary to truth.

The atonement of Jesus Christ is still going on, and whenever we find ourselves faced with an adverse situation, we can take refuge in His Name and announce the truth. Then we learn that the unreal is but the fruit of our temporary lapse in consciousness, when we fell away from our conviction of His Presence and Love and Power. To turn toward Him, is to demonstrate a measure of love for Him; to repeat the practice consistently, day after day, is to come to understand that we "are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus," and "have put on Christ."

"Herein is love," wrote John, "not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

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Alphabet of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day of the Month

MARCH 1949

1. We are AMBASSADORS for Christ.
2. We BEHELD His glory.
3. Ye are all CHILDREN of light.
4. The Lord heard and DELIVERED me.
5. He giveth us all things to ENJOY.
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7. If the Lord be God, FOLLOW Him.
8. GLORY in Him.
9. HEAR the words of the Lord.
10. Begin to INQUIRE of God.
11. Make a JOYFUL noise to God.
12. KNOW the love of Christ.
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14. While I LIVE will I praise the Name of the LORD.
15. Let thine heart be MERRY.
16. Sing a NEW song unto the Lord.
17. The Lord shall OPEN to thee His Good.
18. Make thy PRAYER unto Him.
19. We enjoy great QUIETNESS.
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21. RETURN, yea, RETURN again.
22. There SHALL be SHOWERS of blessing.
23. Do all THINGS without murmuring.
24. UNDERSTAND the lovingkindness of God.
25. Thine, O Lord, is the VICTORY.
26. All Thy WORKS shall praise Thee.
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28. Prepare YOURSELVES.
29. It is good to be ZEALOUSLY affected always in a good thing.
30. The Lord loveth the righteous.

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"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

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SPIRITICITY is the working Power of the Spiritual Principle,  
As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle.