Heaven – a place I long to be

 How many reading this Newsletter can honestly say, I’m longing for Heaven? I’m tired of this world of sin and woe? I’m now 67 years old. I have served my God for over 47 years and I have never in my life since I have been saved ever had a longing like I do now to leave this world of evil and trouble behind and be with the Lord! All the time anymore when I travel down the road, I look beyond the hills and gaze up into the blue sky, I look beyond the white clouds and I can almost see Heaven my home waiting. It fills my dreams. I see that beautiful foursquare city that’s 1500 miles long, 1500 miles wide and 1500 hundred miles high with walls of jasper shining like crystal glass and gates of whitest pearl. It’s the New Jerusalem, the city of God where the Lamb is the light, bright and fair. I see the street of purest gold and the river of life running through the middle of it. The Tree of Life is on each side of the river and its leaves are for the healing of the nations. No sin or death can enter there. No wars, no strife – it’s peace forevermore. No sickness, tears or pain will ever be known. No one grows old or feeble. It’s a place where there cometh no shadows of night - the Glory of Christ will be its light. I see glittering mansions. Peace and the Love of God radiates and fills the whole city. Little children with happy faces are playing around the throne. There’s nothing to hurt or mar there. I can see precious saints and loved ones who have gone on before – they are rejoicing and singing God’s praises! I see my precious Mommy and Daddy saying – Come on Son we are waiting for you, you can make it. Jesus is soon coming to get you! Thank God, Heaven is a place I long to be!

Think of all the songs about Heaven that has been written. The song entitled “**Heaven**” says – In childhood, I heard of a Heaven, I wondered if it could be true, that there were sweet mansions eternal, up there somewhere beyond the blue; I wondered if people really go there, then one day sweet Jesus came in, and I got a vision of Heaven, my soul in all Heaven I’ll spend; I got a vision of Heaven, my soul overflowing with love, my heart like the Saviour is broken, for those that will miss that home above; Then a voice from the hills of Judea, still singing its glad songs of praise, this world’s attractions don’t thrill me, my soul has found in Him relief. Some day

the gates of Heaven will swing open, the redeemed of all ages will sing; The throne of God sending bright rays of glory, on the mansions prepared for you and me; The tree of life standing by the crystal river, sainted millions saved by God’s redeeming grace, with all other loved ones gone before us, Oh won’t Heaven be a wonderful place. Heaven, happy Home above, Heaven, land of peace and love – Oh it makes me feel like traveling on; Heaven eternal, Heaven supernal, I’m so glad Heaven is real!

 The words to another song: I’m longing for Home, the sun goeth down; I want to go where sweet rest can be found; I’m just about through with this old house of clay, I’m leaving this world for glory someday.

 When the last weary mile has been traveled, and the gates of that city swing open wide, O what a glad feeling it will be, to know that Heaven is mine. Beyond the dark veil of sorrows, with Jesus forever I’ll be, Oh to that city I’m going – behold the Saviour to see! Can I tell my readers, Heaven is sounding sweeter all the time?! **I’ve never been this Homesick before**! There’s a light in the window, the table spread in splendor, someone standing by an open door, I can see a crystal river, I must be near forever, I’ve never been this Homesick before. I can see the family gathering, sweet faces all familiar, and no one is old or feeble anymore; My lonesome heart is crying, I think I’ll spread my wings for flying, I’ve never been this Homesick before! See the bright light shine, it’s just about home time, I can see my Father

Standing at the open door; This world has been a wilderness and I’m ready for deliverance, Lord, I’ve never been this Homesick before! To you who are troubled and hurting, to the weary and battle worn, to all God’s children that are tired of this ole sin cursed world and its woes – WE ARE JUST ABOUT HOME! Heaven is just a breath away. Hold on children a few more days, all our trials will be over!!

GOD IS WEANING US; GETTING US READY

 If you are a true praying child of God, you know you just don’t feel at home in this world anymore. Listen children, there is a pull on our soul like never before – we are feeling that upward draw. I can almost see Jesus coming in the clouds in glory bright, I can see His smiling face and hear Him calling – “Come away my Fair One, my children – I’ve come to take you Home with me.” The Holy Ghost is stirring the Church, the Bride of Christ, saying – “Let your loins be girded about. Keep your Lamps trimmed and burning bright that when Jesus comes and knocks, you’ll be ready and open to Him immediately.” Blessed are those servants whom the Lord will find watching when He returns. I believe the Spirit of the Lord is moving in His Church. God is calling out to every assembly and body of believers across this world – “I’m coming SOON! Lift up your heads and look up for your redemption is drawing nigh.”

Listen dear reader: There are many of God’s dear children suffering trials in different ways – inward battles, worries, fears, cares and trouble. Their faith is being put to the test and going through the fire. Many are the afflictions of the righteous in these closing moments of time. We are feeling the pressures and stress of this age as we see and hear all the ungodliness and evil that’s coming upon our land. These chaotic times are conditioning us and causing us to loosen our grip on this old fallen world and creating a longing to leave it all behind and forever be with our Lord! Our battles, fears and stress are preparing in us a greater desire for spiritual and heavenly things. They are pressing us into the arms of God, to get closer and draw near to Him. He is our anchor, our peace, our joy and Hope! The Spirit of the Lord is visiting God’s people all around the globe, He’s quickening our hearts to get ready! This old world is losing its charm.

Am I speaking these things because of my age – almost 68 years old? No! There’s something inside me that is making the vanities of this world to lose their appeal and fade away, they’re not important anymore. Jesus must be our everything, our all and all. I desire Him more now than I ever have!! Jesus said - The wise virgins know the hour, she knows it is late, she senses the coming of her groom. She is eagerly watching for Him and does not want to be caught off guard. She is drawing herself farther and farther away from this world and loosening her grip on material things that use to occupy her mind. The Bride, the Lamb’s wife is letting go of earthly pleasures. The sweet Holy Dove is now fluttering her wings over the Church. The Holy Ghost is saying – arise and stir thyself. Don’t be discouraged or lose heart. Don’t draw back in your faith. The final battles are now being fought. THE WAR IS JUST ABOUT OVER – Jesus is Coming!!

IT’S TIME TO SEARCH OURSELVES

**2Co 13:5** - Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

The Lambs wife (the Church) is searching her heart. She’s searching her garments to see if there’s any spots or wrinkles! She’s checking to see if there are any blemishes in her character. She is working on her faults, her character flaws and weaknesses. She is strengthening herself in her faith and obedience. She is praying and seeking God more and more. She doesn’t want to be found spiritually naked and unclothed in the Lord’s sight but wants to be worthy when He comes!! She wants her wedding gown to be clean and Holy, not one thing of this dirty world clinging to her.

THE TEN VIRGINS

**Mt 25:1** ¶ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten Virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

 **2** And five of them were Wise, and five were Foolish.

 **3** They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

 **4** But the wise took Oil in their vessels with their lamps.

 **5** While the bridegroom (tarried), they all Slumbered and Slept.

 **6** And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

 **7** Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

 **8** And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

 **9** But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

 **10** And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

 **11** Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

 **12** But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

 **13** **Watch** therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

 Notice the phrase – “While the Bridegroom (Jesus) tarried.” Because the Bridegroom was long in coming, He didn’t come as soon as they had expected and because there was a delay - they all Slumbered and Slept. Look at the word Tarried. We have taught and heard it preached all our life for many years that Jesus is Coming, He’s coming soon just any day. Because He has tarried and has not returned yet, people let up watching for Him and lose their zeal. They get slack when there’s a delay. It works in the spiritual as well as the natural – when there’s a delay it is easy to lose our expectancy and anticipation. The excitement wanes and other things occupy our minds. There is a danger in DELAYS! O how soon revival fire dies in us. I’m here to tell you – don’t lose your desire and vision of Jesus! Ready or not – HE IS COMING!

 Look at the words – Slumbered and Slept. The Holy Ghost made it important to make a distinction between them. These are two different words. Slumber means to nod off into a light sleep. In that state, the least noise or someone’s voice can easily arouse you and wake you up. In this story, all ten Virgins were tired and weary from the long waiting. The five Wise Virgins were more awake inside, they were ready with an inward prayer going on and listening for the Call. They were more awake than asleep. The word Slept means going into deeper sleep, not aware of anything going on around you – you are out of it. Your 5 senses are put to sleep. These five foolish Virgins went off into a deep sleep while the others were more guarded and alert inwardly as they lightly nodded off.

 When the loud cry went out at Midnight – Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him, every one of these professing Virgins arose to trim their lamps. This is when a Horrible Fear struck through the heart of the foolish – **Oh God, our lamps have gone out**!! We have let our vessels run out of oil in our lamps and we have no light to go forth! They cried to the Wise – give us of your oil! Not so said the Wise righteous, we’ve only got enough for us, you’ll have to get it for yourself.

 I want you to know, you cannot borrow a relationship from someone else and ride in on their prayers. This is a personal thing. It goes beyond saying you are a Christian and going to Church. It goes beyond hearing the preacher, it goes deeper than listening to the singers singing an anointed song and wiping a tear from your eyes. You can’t always drink the blessings from someone else’s well and believe you are ready for Heaven! You must have the Oil of God’s Holy Spirit and feel His witness inside your heart and know you are ready.

 I want you to know – there’s no fire without oil and there’ll be no light to light your way. The oil represents the sweet indwelling Holy Ghost.

 The Righteous Wise Virgins were telling the foolish ones – We’ve only got enough for us to make it. We went and got our Oil – we paid a price for it. You had the same opportunity as we did. We were determined to be ready and make it when the Lord called! Yes, we were tired and weary with the rest of you but we never lost our desire or vision to see the Bridegroom and be with Him!! The wise virgins told the 5 foolish – go buy for yourselves, and when they went to buy, they that were ready went in with Jesus to the Marriage feast and the Door was shut! When the foolish returned they knocked and pleaded at the door – Please Lord, Lord open to us – but it was too late. The voice on the other side of the closed door said – “I know you not!” O the fear on that day of being turned away and knowing it is too late to pray and dedicate.

I want to say to everyone reading this Newsletter – don’t wait too late to pray and get ready. Your time is running out fast! Jesus could come before you finish reading this letter. Before you lay it down, the Church could suddenly be called out – what then? You have one chance to make it through, only one opportunity to get it right. Don’t waste your precious time on vain frivolous things that will soon pass away. This world and everything in it is not worth it. It’s not worth your time and money. You cannot afford to lose God’s anointing and let the Oil of His Spirit leak out of your vessel and be left behind. Get ready children and stay ready in an atmosphere of prayer and listen for the Master’s Call – “Come Home my Children and forever be with me!” Heaven will surely be worth it all! Like the beautiful Hymn – “When I’ve gone the last mile of the Way” says -

If I walk in the pathway of duty,
If I work till the close of the day,
I shall see the great King in His beauty,
When I’ve gone the last mile of the way.

If for Christ I proclaim the glad story,
If I seek for His sheep gone astray,
I am sure He will show me His glory,
When I’ve gone the last mile of the way.

And if here I have earnestly striven,
And have tried all His will to obey,
’Twill enhance all the rapture of Heaven,
When I’ve gone the last mile of the way.

When I’ve gone the last mile of the way,
I will rest at the close of the day;
And I know there are joys that await me,
When I’ve gone the last mile of the way.

***May God Touch & Bless each and every one of my dear Readers & Keep you in His Love and Grace!***