

Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

August 2015

“Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” (2 Corinthians 1:4).

Tennessee Camp Meeting: Berean Ministries is hosting a camp meeting in Roan Mountain, TN, September 20-26. Call 423-772-3161 for information.

Georgia Camp Meeting: TRSC is hosting a camp meeting in Talking Rock, GA, September 25 - October 4. Call 706-692-8954 for information.

Who is Your Father?

by Lynnford Beachy

Every one of us has/had a man who is our earthly father. Being a father is a huge responsibility, and one that none of us have mastered. The teachings of a father have a big impact upon the children with whom he is entrusted. Our lives are shaped to some degree by who and what kind of a man our father is/was.

However, Jesus said something startling that deserves our attention. He said, “And call no man your father

upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven” (Matthew 23:9). Wait a minute; we all have fathers, why can’t we acknowledge them? I don’t believe that Jesus is encouraging us to disrespect our earthly fathers by not addressing them as “dad” or “father.” Instead, He is referring to a fact that changes the way we live our lives.

You were born on this earth because you had a father, who had a father, who had a father, all the way back to Adam. This life you received from Adam is naturally bent toward



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Longing for Rest..... page 5
by Ed Short

Prophecy Seminar page 9

Young at Heart..... page 10

sin. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). The birth that you experienced when you were born into this world is what Jesus called being "born of flesh" (John 3:6). Your father passed on to you certain characteristics, which may included: hair, eye, and skin color, but also certain character traits. These are transferred by genetics and strengthened by the way your father lived his life.

But there is another birth Jesus told us about that has the power to break the chains of our first birth. He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:5, 6).

In our first birth we were born in the flesh, with natural tendencies toward sin, but the new birth allows us to be born of the Spirit so we can be free from sinful tendencies. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2). This new birth gives us a new Father and all things become new. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). How much is "all things"? That means everything is new. Our earthly father and the mistakes he made does not have to dictate how we live any longer. Christ is able to make all things new. That is why we are not to call any man on earth our father, because from the standpoint of being born again,

none of the old life is to rule us. By faith we can be completely new, where our only Father is in heaven.

God is Your Father

Jesus told us how to pray. He said, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9). Jesus encouraged us to recognize God as our Father. After He was raised from the dead He said to Mary, "...go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (John 20:17). Jesus' Father is our Father. That makes us brothers. "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Hebrews 2:11). When we are born again by our heavenly Father, we are part of a new family.

You do not have to let what other people have done to you, or anything that you yourself may have done, rule your life today. You are a new person with a new Father. Live your life from the place where you are now, as a beloved child of God, instead of from the experiences of the "old man" who has died. "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds" (Colossians 3:9). You are no longer the person you once were. That person is gone. You are brand new! "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin... Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:6, 11).

A Parable

In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus gave us a fantastic example of what His Father is like. “And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and

let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry” (Luke 15:11-24).

Satan has so misrepresented our heavenly Father that few are comfortable approaching Him. But notice the character of the father in this parable. As soon as he noticed his wayward child returning, he ran to meet him with a hug and a kiss. Then when the prodigal son tried to belittle himself to the status of a servant, his father would not even consider it. He viewed him as his beloved son regardless of all the mistakes he had made.

Our heavenly Father wants you to know how precious you are to Him, and to live your life as a beloved child of God. When God looks at you He does not merely put up with you; He *delights* in you. You are not a mistake. When you were conceived there were millions of possibilities, and you were the one who was born. God is delighted to call you His child.

An Illustration

There is a wonderful illustration recorded in the sixteenth chapter of Ezekiel, of how God cleanses a sinner. God says, “When I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.” (Ezekiel 16:6)

Blood, in this context, is referring to sins (Isaiah 4:4). God is telling us that when He passed by us we were polluted in our own sin, and He then gave us eternal life. After we are given this eternal life (it could be none

other because we already have physical life), then God offers to cleanse us from our sins.

Reading on in Ezekiel, “Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.” (Ezekiel 16:8) God considers us His, even when we are yet in our sins, and He enters into a covenant with us.

After God calls us His very own children, then He proceeds to cleanse us; and we read on: “Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood [sins] from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.” (Ezekiel 16:9)

God passes by and sees that we are polluted in our own sins, and with perfect love He accepts us, even though we are in our sins. Then God washes away the filth that pollutes us. Don’t let yourself think that you have to be good before you come to God, because if you think this way you will always be trying to get “good,” and the day will never come when you think you are good enough to come to Jesus. Christ says, “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37) Christ will not turn any away who come to Him no matter what condition they are in or how sinful they appear.

The Father Loves You

Some have thought that God, the Father, is cold and distant, and merely puts up with us because His Son asks

Him to. I saw a sign in front of a church once that said, “God condemns, but Jesus saves,” as if Jesus came to save us from His mean Father. I was horrified to see this terrible misrepresentation of God. Jesus said, “For the Father himself loveth you” (John 16:27). He also said, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...” (John 3:16). John wrote, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1). And Romans 8:32 tells us, “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

It was the Father’s plan to save you. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:3-7).

You have a Father who would give everything in the universe for you. He has made you accepted in His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. His acceptance is your acceptance because God loves you just as much as He loves His Son (John 17:23).

Conclusion

Your earthly father has made many mistakes that have affected your life. However, those things do not have to define who you are today. God has given you a new birth by a new Father and He has made old things pass away and all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Live your life knowing that you are a child of the Highest. Do not let what people have said or done in your past define who you are today. God has given you a brand new life, one that is fully accepted and transformed. He has “forgiven you all trespasses” (Colossians 2:13). In God’s eyes you stand before Him as though you have never sinned. If you fall, do not stay down, get up and continue living your new life in Christ.

If you keep living from the place where you were, born in the flesh, then your life will continue to manifest fleshly things. But if you accept the new life you have been given in Christ, knowing that your “old man” is dead, your life will be completely transformed.

Paul wrote, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things

which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before” (Philippians 3:13). We must learn to let go of those things that have held us down in the past, and press forward to those things that are before us, a new life in Christ. Accept by faith that you are a new person, and your daily life will reflect that belief.

Ask God for His Spirit (Luke 11:13), with the primary manifestation being love (Galatians 5:22), and accept that you have this new life that “suffereth long, and is kind; ... envieth not; ...vaunteth [boasts] not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). That is your new life in Christ. Accept it as a reality by faith even though you may not see the evidence of it now. Continue to believe that you have this new life because He promised, and after a few days you will notice that there has been a change.

Your heavenly Father is smiling at you in love! »

Longing for Rest

by Ed Short

Is it just me, or is life really demanding in the world we live in right now? It seems like no matter where I turn, there is some new conflict occurring within my little realm of the world. Whether at work or church, among relatives or friends, there

seems to be a lot of disagreements, creating hard feelings and disrupted relationships. So many people I know are struggling with illness, cancer, and loss of loved ones. People are experiencing financial difficulties, loss of jobs, and loss of relationships. And

let's not forget the world at large, with extreme cruelty abounding; with people being beheaded, burned alive, senseless torture and murder of hundreds if not thousands of people. There seems to be constant political conflict, with each party trying to gain some sort of advantage over the other, being more concerned about being in control than trying to do something constructive for our nation. One person explained it to me this way the other day: "There is just so much noise, I can't take it anymore. I just want get away from all the drama and conflict and go somewhere where I can experience quiet and rest."

Do you ever feel that way? Wanting to get away from it all and just rest? Do you know that God has a place of rest? Paul, in Hebrews 4:4, says, "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works." This is God, resting on the Sabbath to celebrate the work that he had finished in creating the world. "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, who shall stand as an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his place of rest shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:10).

Throughout the Old Testament God promised Israel that they would enter into His rest. "Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Is-

rael, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant." (1 Kings 8:56). But this promise was conditional. "The LORD



our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us: That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his

commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers." (1 Kings 8:57, 58).

Unfortunately, much of Hebrews chapter 3 tells the story of God's rejection of Israel, and of Israel not being allowed to enter into His rest. Why? Paul, in Hebrews, tells us: "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:7-13).

It seems that to receive God's rest, we must have a faith in God that leads to obeying his commandments. Is it no wonder that there is no rest in most of the world today!

Ahhh, but there is that one word that we don't like to hear... It's called obedience. Now you say, "Come on Ed, get real. Do you have any idea how hard I have tried to obey God? But I always end up failing. How can I ever come to the point where I can be obedient to God?" You see, that is the beauty of God's love for us, He has provided a way!

Look with me at Romans 5, verses 5 through 10; one of my favorite portions of scripture: "For we yet being without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). Being without strength refers to our lack of strength to obey God and follow His commandments because of our sinful nature.

"For one will with difficulty die for a righteous one, yet perhaps one would even dare to die for a good one. But God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7, 8). Do you see what the Bible is saying here? That God, knowing our lack of strength to obey his commandments because of sin, loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for yours and my sins; to bear all the guilt, embarrassment, and shame that we should have endured instead, and to die in our place.

Have you ever taken the time to look to see what is inside your heart? Just you and God looking at all those

not-so-good thoughts and feelings, and those things that you would do if you knew that you wouldn't get caught doing them; the embarrassment and shame you would feel if anyone ever found out about what is really inside your heart. You see, God already knows all about what is in our hearts, and yet He still loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die in our place.

But do you notice what it doesn't say? It doesn't say that when you are able to obey eight of the ten commandments, or two of the ten, or even one of the ten, that Jesus' blood would cover your sins. You see, Jesus didn't come to save us when we were at our best, but when we were at our worst, when we were still sinners. And best of all, salvation is a free gift that only requires us to accept it through faith. It is a gift that we cannot earn or pay back God for. It is simply free for all those who will accept it.

But you know what? This is just the beginning. It even gets better in the next few verses. "Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:9, 10).

I understand what it means to be saved by His death, but how are we saved by His life? Let's look at what Paul says in Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of

God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Let’s look further into what Paul says: “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness” (Romans 8:6-10).

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16-25).

When Christ died for us, He covered our sins with His blood and bore our punishment in our place of us. When we invite Christ to live in our hearts, He changes us by His presence. It is the Spirit of Christ, living and working in us, that produces the fruit of the Spirit, against such there is no law (Galatians 5:23). Thus we are saved by Christ’s righteousness working in us, through faith that brings about obedience to God’s law.

Look at what else Paul says: “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

This is what Jesus offers us: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Are you tired of all the “noise” in your life? Invite Jesus into your life. Accept His gift of salvation, offered freely to everyone. Daily invite Him into your heart to change you, and to produce the fruit of His Spirit in you.

And you will find rest for your souls! >>

(Ed Short works with Mark Martin and Rick Tyler at Prophecies of Hope in Staunton, Virginia. You can reach their ministry by phone at 540-296-4673, email: ed@prophecyhope.com. Visit their website at: www.prophecyhope.com.

Editor)

You are Invited to a Free:

END TIME

PROPHECY

Seminar

This World is Out of Control!

Who Controls You?

Are You Going to Give Up All Your Rights?

Come Out of Darkness into His Marvelous Light!

Meeting Location: Village of New London Community Center, 115 East Main St., New London, Ohio (across the street from Dollar General, behind the New London police station.)

Parking is available on the west and on the east side of the building, Additional parking is available in the dentist parking lot one block west of the meeting hall.

Meeting Times: Friday, August 28th 6:30pm, Saturday, August 29th 11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm

Please attend and be ready to be enlightened! Refreshments provided.

Presenters will be:

Dan Johnson
Lynnford Beachy

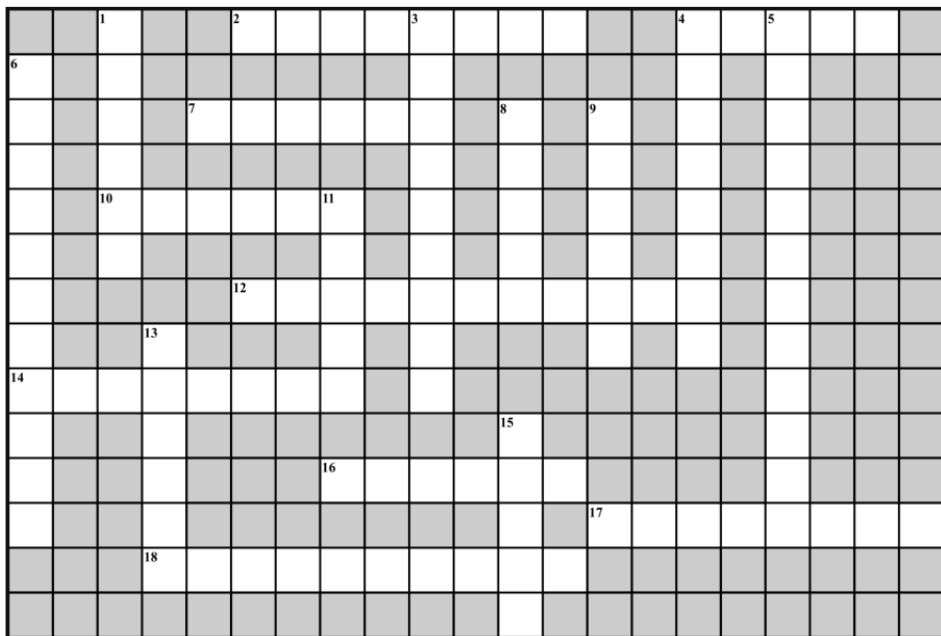
“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20).

Everyone is welcome! All Seating is Free! Seating will be first come, first served.

Present Truth **Something for the Young at Heart**

This month we are continuing a series of studies written by my children. In order to maintain the flow of the study, this crossword puzzle is not split into Across and Down sections—Across or Down is indicated at the end of each line. (The KJV is required.)

Power - by Zachariah Beachy



Answers will be printed on the back page of next month's issue.

- "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the ____, nor the power of God." Matthew 22:29—**18 Across**
- "And they were all ____ at the mighty power of God." Luke 9:43—**9 Down**
- "Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the ____ of God." Luke 22:69—**15 Down**
- "For I am not ashamed of the ____ of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16—**7 Across**
- "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish ____; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18—**12 Across**
- "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, ____ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." 1 Corinthians 1:24—**1 Down**
- "That your faith should not stand in the ____ of men, but in the power of God." 1 Corinthians 2:5—**16 Across**
- "For though he was crucified through ____, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with

him by the power of God toward you." 2 Corinthians 13:4—**4 Down**

➤ "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto ____ ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:5—**3 Down**

➤ "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second ____ hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Revelation 20:6—**8 Down**

➤ "Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God ____, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." Revelation 11:17—**14 Across**

➤ "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, ____, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Revelation 5:13—**2 Across**

➤ "Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and ____, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." Revelation 5:12—**13 Down**

➤ "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive ____ and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for

thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11—**11 Down**

➤ "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my ____ unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:" Revelation 2:26—**4 Across**

➤ "To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, ____ and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 1:25—**17 Across**

➤ "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and ____ among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:18—**6 Down**

➤ "That I may know him, and the power of his ____, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." Philippians 3:10—**5 Down**

➤ "Finally, my brethren, be ____ in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Ephesians 6:10—**10 Across**

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

Answers to Last Month's Crossword Puzzle

Present Truth is published monthly by *Present Truth Ministries*. It is sent free upon request. **Duplication of these papers is not only permitted but strongly encouraged, as long as our contact information is retained.** *Present Truth* is available online at www.presenttruth.info, and you may also request to receive it by e-mail.

Note: If you move, please send us your new address. If you inadvertently get deleted from our mailing list, without your request, please write us and verify your valid address.

Editor: Lynnford Beachy, PO Box 315, Kansas, OK 74347, **phone: (304) 633-5411.** Jim Raymond, phone: (407) 421-6025, e-mail: newsletter@presenttruth.info.

Present Truth Ministries
PO Box 315
Kansas, Oklahoma 74347
U. S. A.

¹ Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
KANSAS OK
PERMIT NO. 5