

# Wholeness

Quarterly World Digest of Christian Healing

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From the  
Editor

## "I BEAR YOUR NAME, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!"

John Ryeland, *Connections (CHM)* Aug. 2010

Do you feel special? All of us can think of Christians who are quite clearly special, people whom we really admire and respect. In comparison it can be tempting to think of ourselves as not so effective, too quiet, or perhaps just plain lacking in some way. However, the reality is that the New Testament does not make any such differentiation; there is no mention of an 'A' team and a 'B' team. Rather, we are all included in the stunning truth of 1 Corinthians 6.19, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" I love the way that phrase begins, "Do you not know . . .?" The clear implication is that this is something we jolly well ought to know, and so it shouldn't be staggering news for anyone!



John Ryeland

After stating that the body is the temple of the Spirit, Paul reminds his readers that the Spirit is indeed in them, not just in some of them, **but in every one of them!** What is more, it is God himself who has given us this Spirit; it is not our doing, it is totally of grace; it is God's gift of himself to us. When Paul encourages us to see ourselves as temples, he yearns for us to take our status seriously; to take a hold of that truth so that it makes a vital difference in our lives. The key to doing this is actually quite simple; **we just have to believe it!** We are so quick to let God's truths disappear. Like cultivating seeds, we need to take time to water them, allowing his truths to become a part of us. I will share a way of doing this shortly, but first I want to look at another beautiful verse that affirms our theme.

We can appreciate that the prophet Jeremiah truly knew God's presence. He wrote the astonishing words found in Jeremiah 15.16, words that are now even more true for us who are on this side of the cross, "I bear your name, Lord God Almighty." Now the 'Name of God' as a phrase is not just something that indicates how we should address God, but is more to do with his character and his presence. Those who bear his Name carry with them his actual presence! Let me repeat, **those who bear his Name carry with them his actual presence!** To facilitate this truth sinking in, there is an exercise that we can do that will take only five minutes a day.

- Find a quiet place and sit comfortably without any other distractions.
- As you slowly breathe in, whisper or envisage the words, "I bear your Name".
- As you slowly breathe out, speak the words, "Lord God Almighty".
- Maintain this confession for at least five minutes.

Whilst doing this in the morning it might be helpful to let the day ahead play through your mind, as you affirm that he will accompany you from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. If you are doing this in the evening, contemplate the events of the past day as a way of recognising his presence with you, even when you might not have been aware of it at the time. Once this exercise has become more natural, you may well find that the words

will be there in your mind and heart during the day, even when you are not consciously praying. They will bring to remembrance that astounding truth of your relationship with your Father.

Coming to this awareness will be an epiphany for each of us. If, before praying, especially when we are involved in ministering healing, we can recognize and dwell upon this amazing truth - the truth that we carry within us the Name of the Lord God Almighty, that **we carry within us God himself**; then our confidence, hope and expectation are going to increase without bounds. How gloriously liberating to know that it is not just us doing what we can, but it is the person of God who is choosing to work through us to realise his own divine purposes! The person working is the same God who proclaimed in Jeremiah 32.27, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" We are freed from all pressure over the outcomes of our prayers and our ministry, for 2 Corinthians 4.7 assures us, "...we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." The vessel through whom he works is us, yet the miraculous works themselves are his! Rejoice that you know, and are known by, the one true and living God! Say it now,

**"I Bear Your Name, Lord God Almighty!"**

## His Grace is Sufficient

"He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3.11) We are indeed born with unspoken hopes; and just as surely we are incapable of realising or even defining them. Each person tries to find their place in the universe, wondering, "What is the meaning of life? Why am I here?" The preacher, the writer of Ecclesiastes, considered this at length and came to the same forlorn conclusion that all honest mortal men come to, "All is vanity." From the perspective of human endeavour, all is indeed vanity.

However, in the corrupted world of human existence it is possible to find answers. The preacher eventually came to know that, "After all this, there is only one thing to say: have reverence for God, and obey his commands, because this is all we were created for." (Ecc. 12.13) He identified God's claim upon mankind, fallen though we are. Centuries later Jesus' privileged followers heard the words that announced a new way, an end to man's separation from God, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved." (John 10.9) And again, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father apart from me." (John 14.6)

Truly, Jesus is the reason anything at all exists, "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1.15-17) Without our having any merit of our own, God has placed us in his Son and his Son in us. We have been raised up with him to a place of immeasurable honour in this world and in the next. Our role is simply to accept what God has done. From that acceptance springs forth our service to God and to the Body of Christ and to mankind. What a calling!

The bible begins by telling us of the origin of all things, "In the beginning God ...", and ends with a blessing for each of us, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you." His grace is all we need now and forever. Amen.

## CONFESSION

*Forgive us Lord, for everything that makes us less than our better selves.*

*For moodiness and irritability, which make us difficult to live with.*

*For everything that has spoiled our witness for Thee.*

*That so often no one would know we had been with Jesus and pledged ourselves to Him.*

*That so often we have denied with our lives what we have said with our lips.*

*For our sins of omission, for the encouraging word seldom said, for forgetting the difference a warm smile can make.*

*For the times we waste Your precious time by not getting our priorities right...*

*for being slack in prayer and slow to witness, for the sins of pride, for passing judgement, and assessing the faults of others as worse than our own...*

*without knowledge of their difficulties.*

*O Lord, before whom our hearts are laid open and bare forgive us, and by Thy grace and power help us to do better, through Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.*

*Reprinted from Wholeness No. 53 1 February 1971 E.L. Mulcock*

## WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY

*Based upon the writings of Roy Clarke.*

What do you do when your friend is hurting, and everything within you wants to offer words of comfort and encouragement, but you don't know what to say? It shouldn't seem strange that there is a time when it is right to say ... nothing. We can find no better example than that provided by Job's friends. You will remember



that the most grievous of calamities had struck Job; all of his livestock, servants and shepherds had been stolen or killed. That was bad enough, but then on the very same day all of his children were killed, and then he himself became infected with sores over his entire body. At least Job still had his wife, although that may not have seemed like much of a positive at the time, with her best advice being to, "... curse God and die." (Job 2.9) So, not surprisingly, Job's three friends who had come to mourn with him and to comfort him "... saw that his grief was very great." (Job 2.13)

While the friends subsequently became misguided in their ministry to Job, they did start out well; they sat with him for seven days and seven nights without saying a word. Seven days of silence. It's hard for us with our 21st century addiction to music, conversation, activity and information overload to imagine that week that Job spent in his friends' company. But there's nothing wrong with silence. When face-to-face with deep suffering, your role isn't to be a fixer or a theological expert, **you're simply there as someone who cares.** Just being present can be a balm of compassion to a friend's wounded heart.

At the start of Job's long road to recovery we see more wisdom displayed by his friends as they wait for him to break the silence. When he did finally speak, they listened thoughtfully. From that point on, as we know, their "comforting" of Job involved the lengthy sharing of theological reasons as to why their friend was in his predicament, lacking any empathy at all for the turmoil in his heart. It may be easy for us, after reading the entire book of Job, to ask ourselves why his friends didn't simply say, "I don't have an answer to the complex problem of human suffering. But I will listen to your heart. I care deeply for you in this season of pain. I'm here for you!" We might also ask ourselves why more people don't simply say these things today.

Above all, in the most trying of circumstances, love and kindness are called for. Let us each pray and trust that when we are in the position of Job's friends, God will guide us in expressing a sincere, caring heart. We can tell him or her what a good friend they have been to us, perhaps sharing an unforgettable memory of a time we were together. We can tell them they can count on us for anything that they or their family may need. "Just call on me any time." "I love you."

The first time we read the book of Job we may well be expecting God to give a definitive answer to the problem of human suffering. But no, we don't find God giving answers here. Like all of us, Job wanted to know, "Why did you?" But God responded with "Who I am." Human nature is to want answers, even for the inexplicable. But when we ourselves try to provide answers that only God can give, and that he may be withholding, we are playing God.

The ending to Job's life story (ch 42) is a very happy one, but does that mean we can promise a happy ending to our friend's personal predicament? Of course not. As Hebrews 11 tells us "... some escaped the edge of the sword ... and some were slain with the sword ..." (v 34, 37). Paul survived being stoned to death, twice, yet faithful Stephen died under the same cruel punishment. Just as there is a mystery in suffering, there is a mystery in recovering. We don't know what the Lord will do in the future for our friend or loved one who is under such distress. But we can in all confidence be an encourager who takes the time to listen and to lovingly share words of kindness, hope and honesty. "... the tongue of the wise brings healing." (Proverbs 12.18) There are situations, like terminal illness, where it may be right to ask, "Are there any questions you are struggling with?" Whatever our friend's reply, if they reply at all, at least we have offered them our own heart.

There is nothing better we can do in the hour of someone's need than to go to them; to go in love, with a listening ear, to go with confidence that the Spirit of Jesus goes with us. We will have done well, if, after our visit, our friend can relate a little more closely to Job's testimony, "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth ... I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes..." (Job 19.25-27) What is happening in our friend's heart is between them and God, but what a privilege it is that our presence can help shape that relationship.

## LISTENING

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer as quoted by E.L. Mulcock.  
Reprinted from Wholeness no 53 February 1971.*

The first service that one owes to others as Christians consists in listening to them. Just as love for God begins with listening to His word, so the beginning of love for one's brother is learning to listen to him. It is because of God's love for us that He not only gives us His word, but also lends us His ear. So it is His work that we do for our brother when we listen to him.



*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Many people are looking for an ear that will listen. They do not find it easily among Christians, because too often Christians are talking when they should be listening. But he who can no longer listen to his brother will soon no longer be listening to God either. This is the beginning of the death of the spiritual life, and in the end there is nothing left but spiritual chatter and condescension arrayed in pious words. Anyone who thinks his time is too valuable to spend keeping quiet will eventually have no time for God nor for his brother, but only for himself and his own follies.

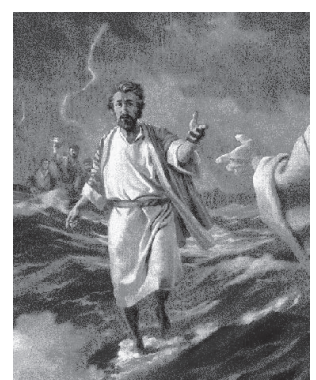
*Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran Pastor, who, in the early days of Nazism raised the first and virtually lone voice for church resistance to Hitler's persecution of the Jews. He declared that the church must not simply, "... bandage the victims under the wheel, but jam the spoke in the wheel itself." Bonhoeffer was martyred in a concentration camp in 1945. His theological writings and his views of Christianity's role in the secular world continue to be very influential to this day.*

You need forgiveness. You can not just throw off your past by will power or by telling yourself to get your act together. Christ must pronounce you forgiven and accepted by God, adopted into his family and sent by him to serve him. It is something that nothing else and no one else can do for you. It is the sure way to say "Farewell" to the past and "Hello" to the future, "Farewell" to the old you and "Welcome" to the new you.

*John Borman, Faith for Daily Living*

When you set your own goals you lack a heartfelt confidence that God is doing the work, so you wear yourself out thinking it's all up to you. However, when you know God has given you a vision for your life, you trust Him, even when you can't see any way to bring it to pass.

*Bob Gass*



## Blessed Assurance

*by Joan Suisted (submitted by Don Trotter)*



I'm leaving my sickness, to go into health; my meagre resources for God's boundless wealth. I'm exchanging my weakness, my sorrow and pain, for fullness of joy, and infinite gain.

I'm leaving the shadows, to go into light; I'll be finished with faith, for I'll walk then by sight. I won't need to trust, when I see what he's planned, and hope becomes certainty, in that blessed land.

I'll be finished with failure, temptation and sin; the doubts and the questions, the fears deep within. The trials and testings, the battles will cease; and I shall rejoice, in His victory and peace.

I've finished with earth, its toil and its care; I'm going from time, to eternity there. To share in the glory, He promised to give, I'll be finished with death,

**AND I'M GOING TO LIVE!**

# ORDER OF ST. LUKE

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contact "Wholeness" using the addresses on page 4.



## "Who touched me?" (Luke 8.45)

Jesus and his disciples were making their way through the crowds with Jairus, the leader of the local Synagogue. Jairus had a daughter who was seriously ill, and Jesus was on his way to heal her. Progress was slow as the people pressed around them trying to get close to Jesus. In the crowd



was a woman who had suffered bleeding for over 12 years and could not get any relief. She should not have been in the crowd that day, let alone touching anyone, because her condition made her unclean. However, she was desperate to get close to Jesus, thinking that if she could but touch the hem of his robe she would be healed. She managed to press through the throng; and as her fingertip touched his robe she was healed immediately. Jesus stopped and looked around and said, "Who touched me?" What a strange question to ask because it could have been any one of several people from the crowd who were milling around, and Peter said as much. But Jesus insisted that someone had touched him because he had felt power go out from him. At that point the woman came trembling and knelt in front of Jesus. She declared that she had believed that if she could touch his robe she would be healed, and she testified that she had been healed at the moment of contact.

If Jesus had not stopped she would not have had the chance to declare her faith and the outcome of it. Nor would she have heard Jesus' words, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace." Jesus honoured her faith and declared that it was because of that faith that she had been made well. Also,

he called her 'daughter' to assure her that she was part of the family of God. There is power in testifying to the healing received from Jesus. We can reach out and touch him anytime and anywhere, but how often do we declare what he has done for us? When we tell of what Jesus has done for us we encourage others to reach out in faith to him for help and healing as well.

Also notice that even though Jesus was on his way to the home of an important official who had a desperately ill daughter, he still took the time to stop and care for an unknown person in the crowd. No one is too insignificant and no need is too small for Jesus to care about. This is an encouragement to us that we are important to him and that our needs matter to him. Do not hesitate to reach out and touch him. And when you do receive an answer do not be afraid to declare what has happened, so that others may be encouraged to reach out as well.

Lionel Brown

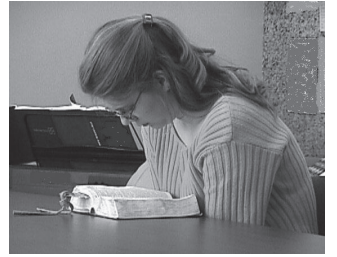


Rev. Lionel Brown

# WAITING UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Rev. Len Harris (condensed).  
Reprinted from Wholeness No. 56, 1 November 1971

Jesus spoke of, "...the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive." (John 14.17) By "the world" he meant those who live as if there were no



God, those people who leave Him out of the reckoning altogether as being irrelevant. Truly we can only see what we are wanting to see. A person who has eliminated God from their conscious or even subconscious thoughts never has any time of the day or the week to wait upon Him or to listen to His voice. He would think it a waste of time.

Just as with the unbeliever, Christians can be distracted by the world, the flesh and the devil so that they are too busy to give the Holy Spirit a chance to reveal His will. We can soon come to assume that our will is God's will; being so involved in good causes that we won't have any time for eternal ones. How easy it is to be busy working in one's own strength that one never knows the joy of God's power working through them.

We cannot hear the Holy Spirit unless we wait in silence and prayer and expectation. The Holy Spirit gate-crashes no man's heart; He waits to be received. So, when we consider the wonderful things that the Holy Spirit does and brings to life within a human soul, surely we will set apart some time amidst the bustle and rush of life to wait in silence for His coming and His power. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40.31)

## "I Was Sick and You Visited Me"

Rev. Jim Wilson (Rewritten from Wholeness February 1962).

We may not fully realise that when we visit the sick our care for them is love, and where there is love there is God. Whether or not the patient is a Christian is irrelevant. Visiting the sick is always an activity smiled upon by our heavenly Father. To really be a blessing we need to have faith, to know with all conviction, that the light of Christ's love does shine out from our heart. That's not a feeling, it's the truth. In claiming this anointing we will be well prepared to kindle faith and love in the heart of the one we are with.

The second thing to know is the truth that God is good and never sends sickness. Rather, He can be trusted to continue doing through us what He did through Jesus, "... who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him." (Acts 10.38) If God is with us, and if Jesus "... is the same yesterday, and today and forever." (Hebrews 13.8) then we shall indeed see the sick healed. Now, minister to the sick person in the enlightenment of those scriptures and you will really love and help them!

What to do in preparation for visiting the sick? Read the word of God, for "... faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10.17) Spend time in prayer, just learning to know God's love and joy and peace in your own heart. **Because what you**

**are will speak louder than any of your words.** Before visiting, pray specifically concerning what you will talk about. Keeping a notebook can be useful.

Now if you were ill, perhaps in hospital, what sort of a person would you like to visit you? Someone who was friendly and sincere and encouraging. Someone calm and quiet, not talking a lot, nor asking a lot of questions, but letting you talk if you wanted to. Someone not staying too long. Someone who, at the end of the visit, would say, "Well, now I must get ready to go, but let's have a few moments of silent prayer together, realizing God's presence here, and believing together for your healing." Of course, should the circumstances be right, or the sick person be at home, it would be usual to pray out loud. Reliance upon the Holy Spirit is so important.

If the sufferer isn't a Christian make a real effort to not just be a social caller, talking about the weather or listening to a long tale of woe each time. Redirect the conversation if necessary; but if your success in this is limited,



then as you listen to their story pray to yourself, "Jesus, shine through his darkness and show him your light." Look for an opportunity to give them a pamphlet on Christian healing to read. Next time you visit, mention the literature and ask if they would like to talk about healing. Offer to read a portion of scripture to them and to talk about the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, which may well lead into a time of prayer or meditation.

Remember that in every case of illness, however severe it may be, there are always two perspectives:

1. **The Facts.** They may be unpleasant; the patient may be looking much worse, or it may be terminal cancer.
2. **The Truth.** God is there working in him through your faith.

We must learn to be positive in all our prayers, thoughts and deeds. It can be so much easier to think or say, "Oh dear, how dreadful," than to pray, "Dear Lord, your power is here to heal him. Thank you that you are sufficient. There is nothing too hard for you." If we can acknowledge Jesus' presence in us as we visit, we can also know that one day he will acknowledge our visit as if it were him we were caring for, "... I was sick and you visited me..." (Matthew 25.36)

## FOLLOWING JESUS

John Borman, Faith for Daily Living

**“The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.” Luke 23.55**

The women accompanying Jesus from Galilee had gone up to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. They seem to have gone along almost unnoticed by the gospel writers, as the disciples and the



enemies of Jesus took centre stage. However, when Jesus was arrested Mark, chapter 14, tells us it was the disciples who left him and ran away, but not the women. They stayed, and they were there all through Good Friday, following him as he was led out to Golgotha and was crucified. Then, while the soldiers cast dice to see who would get his clothes, while the crowd jeered and the priests taunted him, still the women stayed on, watching it all, wondering where his agony, and when their dismay, would end. For them, “following” meant sticking it out right to the bitter end until the body was laid in the tomb and the tomb

was sealed. Theirs was total loss. But, truly unimaginable rewards await those who follow to the end; perhaps none greater than the joy experienced by the two blessed women who returned to the tomb after the Sabbath, and were the very first to hear the greatest news in the history of the world. “He is risen!” (Matthew 28.6)

What does following mean for you? Just going to church, going through a few devotional actions, and being decent, kind and good? Or does it involve a long faithful obedience for the rest of your life, the rendering of selfless service and love, the paying of a serious price? Some are called to die for their faith. Whether or not that is our lot, Jesus calls each of us with the same words, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16.24)

### “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.”

(Matthew 5.6)

What a wonderful verse, containing five wonderful words:

**“Blessed”** – knowing God’s blessing, His favour, His provision, His smile, His presence; everything that is good in God’s eyes bestowed upon us!

**“Hunger”** – in order to be blessed we must really hunger after God; not just after an experience of Him, but after Him.

**“Thirst”** – we must also thirst after Him, after His Word, His presence. Thirst is an even greater measure of need than hunger, because we can survive many days without food, but only a few without water. How much greater is our need for the Water of Life.

**“Righteousness”** – all that is right and good and pure and holy in God’s eyes, because the Lord can only dwell with those who are prepared to be washed in His blood and clothed in His righteousness.

**“Filled”** – filled full and to overflowing; saturated! And filled with what? “Be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5.18)

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.”

*Intercessors for New Zealand*

## Do You Feel Insignificant?

Daily Bible Verse, Dave Whitehead, Senior Pastor, GraceNYC.org

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge

and of the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11.1,2)

Notice the imagery that starts this passage. There is a stump, assumed to be dead, but a shoot comes up from it! Scripture gives us a pattern: Sarah gives birth when she is past child bearing age, Joseph goes from the obscurity of slavery to being the Prime Minister of Egypt, and an unwed teen conceives the Messiah. Do you feel insignificant? Rejoice, for you fit the profile of those whom God uses to bless the world!

### “WHOLENESS”

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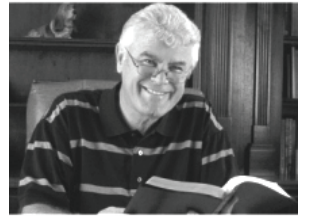
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## Use Your Gift

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us...”  
1 Corinthians 12.7

One of the great benefits of finding and fulfilling your life’s calling is that it settles the question of what constitutes true success. Many of us have a faulty



Bob Gass

definition. We’ve bought into the idea that success is measured by how well we do compared to how well others do. That’s surely a recipe for frustration! No matter what you do, someone else will always do it better. But when you define success in terms of God’s purpose for your life, the standard changes completely. True success is not what you’ve done compared to what others have done, but what you’ve done compared to what God assigned you to do. “Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.” (1 Corinthians 12.4 TM)

Jesus said He was successful because He accomplished the work His Father had sent Him to do. (John 17.4) Paul could confidently say at the end of his life, “... I have finished my course...” (2 Timothy 4.7) By this standard, success may mean leaving a lucrative job to follow God’s call. It may mean using your talents for His glory instead of chasing fame and fortune. Whatever it is, once you know you’re in your calling you can stop comparing yourself to others or wishing you were someone else. The Bible says we are each given gifts, “... for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12.7) Only when you’re using your gifts to bless others will you experience true satisfaction. Bonuses, promotions and commendations are positives, but they can’t take the place of divine purpose. Only in your calling will you experience real and lasting joy.

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## Wholeness Financial Update

Thank you to the many readers who are praying for our needs, and to those who have given generously. Please continue to ask God to provide for this ministry. From January to November our income in NZ dollars has been \$10,853.00, while our expenses have been \$15,057.00. While these are the facts, do have faith together with us that our God shall supply all our need. This is also a fact.

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