

G R A C E

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS



CHRIST'S ENABLEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2000

Much is on my mind these days regarding God's call on my life. The only sure thing I know is that the life of Christ is most precious, and I have a deep desire to share that Life. It is not my nature to be so open and vulnerable like this, but it is the nature of Christ in me to reach out with His supremely open and vulnerable love to encourage and edify. This newsletter is simply an overflow of my heart to fellowship with you around the amazing gospel of Life – *Christ in you, the hope of glory* (Colossians 1:17). From my and Joy's hearts, Gregg

LIFE

Life only exists in Christ. Anything else that claims to offer life (including good works, health, and wealth) is only death in disguise. The greatest need of everyone is to receive and depend on Christ's Life. In trials, our greatest need is not rescue, but Christ's Life. He wants to endure the trials for us (2 Corinthians 4:8-11). Just look at the cross! It is His Life that overcomes (John 6:33).

REVIVAL

By Christ through faith, God literally "vived" me, meaning He enlivened me. I received the very life of Christ in my new heart! At that time, I sensed I was forgiven of all my sins, but I didn't really know I had been "vived." After trying hard to live the Christian life, God began showing me that Christ's Life in and through me is the Christian life!

So, "revival" is coming to mean to me "revelation life" - God's revelation of **vival** (life) in me! I have been "vived" and I don't have to be "vived" again. I just need to see by God's grace that I have already been truly "vived." Oh, how God wants to reveal His Son in us.

The principle of revival is throughout the Bible, and God indeed works through "revival" services. However, the word *revival* is not in the New Testament, and is only once in the Old Testament. That's fascinating to me. My conviction is that God wants our focus to be on the precious Life and Name of Jesus alone.

MINISTRY

I am growing in trusting God's ways and timing in revealing the Life of His Son to people with whom I share. A teenage boy is eagerly growing in recognizing the voice of Christ in his life. Another young man recently surrendered to trust Christ as his Life and is now involved with an evangelistic outreach at college. An older man continues to be burdened by his own efforts to make his marriage work; he sees Christ as his helper, but not as his Life.

God is showing me that a ministry is not just a part of my life – my whole life is ministry because Christ is living in me all the time. He is the ministry! I am noticing that sharing the life of Christ with others in my everyday life is becoming more natural. I am free to just be myself, trusting Christ as my life through my personality. By God's grace, we can trust Christ to be the fragrance to everyone we encounter (2 Corinthians 2:15).

GRACE NOTE:

Believing that grace is merely a gift from God can subtly lead to self-effort, with variable feelings and frustrations. Believing that grace is the gift of God Himself leads to an intimate oneness with God, and a peaceful rest in Him. In the economy of grace, the Gift and the Giver are the same!