

RESTORE IS THE CAMPAIGN | TRANSFORM IS THE MISSION

# RESTORE

DECEMBER 2019 HEAVENLY C. MINISTRIES FOR THE WORLD

## *This Christmas*



**FEATURING ARTICLES BY**  
ELDER JEFF COOK | PASTOR PHYLLIS CLEMONS  
CHERYL COOK | KELLEY FINKE | FELISHA COOK

***Will you be playing music from yesteryear this Christmas, or searching for the most current songs that remind you of the reason for the season? The reason is Jesus Christ. Maybe you have another music preference during this time, but what remain undeniable are that Jesus is alive, and His Spirit resides in every believer from around the world who has received Him as Lord and Savior.***

In this issue of Restore, we invite you not only to consider the song titles, but to venture somewhat deeper into the stories, testimonies, thoughts, and encouragement that the songs present. Grab a cup of coffee or tea, or your drink of choice, and snuggle in for some good reading from morning to night. We hope you experience His “Amazing Grace,” along with His call for the “Faithful” to the call of every heart to discover if there is “Room in the Inn.” May the “Light” of Christ shine even brighter during your quiet time. In addition, may each writing bring your heart—as it has brought ours—closer to God’s plans for every one of us in this season and beyond.

***Wishing to you and yours an extremely blessed Christmas and a wondrous 2020 with Jesus!***



from  
Elder Jeff and Cheryl Cook



# CONTENTS

**O' Come All Ye Faithful | 4**  
by Elder Jeff Cook

**Silent Night | 5**  
by Pastor Phyllis Clemons

**Amazing Grace | 6**  
by Cheryl Cook

**Psalms to Songs of the Season | 8**  
by Kelley Finke

**Jesus the Light of the World | 10**  
by Felisha Cook

**Joy to the World | 11**  
Word Search

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# O' COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

by Elder Jeff Cook

The word "faithful" can be found more than one hundred times in the Bible, which shows that the word "faithful" and being faithful are extremely significant to God. They are so important that He wants to "catch us" in the act of faithfulness. According to 1 Corinthians 4:2, we should be found faithful, or BFF.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" constitutes a call to Christians to come see the King and to adore Him. Faithful means being steadfast in affection or allegiance, and being firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty. It is a foundational word for all Christians. The Lord teaches that we should be found faithful in some aspect of life that connects us to God's kingdom. For example:

Be faithful to the Lord.

Be faithful to your spouse.

Be faithful to your children.

Be faithful to your church.

Be faithful to your family members.

Be faithful to your ministry.

Be faithful to the Word of God.

Be faithful to your job.

Be faithful to one another.

Do not wait to be asked to do the right thing, but be found, or observed, or be guilty of being found faithful in these things. O' come, all ye faithful. God is calling us, who are faithful. O' come!

# SILENT NIGHT

by Pastor Phyllis Clemons

I frequently look toward the heavens when I walk outside, where I give thanks to the Almighty for the privilege of beholding the expanse of the sky. I am in awe of Elohim, the Creator and Lord of the universe.

The starry hosts declare His glory as they appear in multitudes across the night sky. Their strategic placement in the heavens is a miracle, as well as a demonstration of the unmatched power of God, who spoke it all into existence.

According to the book of the prophet Habakkuk, "But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him" (Habakkuk 2:20 ESV). His message in this verse: silence is commanded, so that all may ponder His glory, majesty, and sovereign rule over everything He created.

Silence is challenging and uncomfortable, yet it is a necessary discipline for the created to hear the Creator's voice. The Lord provides vision, strategy, and direction in the silence. It is in the quiet moments that God formulates the content of the message that we will boldly proclaim to those in spiritual darkness. It is the hope that our silent time with the Lord will equip us to lead others to experience the awe and wonder of His glorious kingdom.

We were created as shining stars—lights of hope. So step away, my friends. Step away from the noise, crowds, and never-ending lists of tasks. Step outside; look up and behold His creation; and reflect on His grace and His love. Step into the silence to meet with God.





# AMAZING

God can do amazing things, and He reveals His “amazing grace” in our lives when we look to Him and listen for His voice. How many times have you known that the Lord had His handprint all over your connections when you have met certain individuals? We will find God if we look for Him wherever we are and wherever we go.

I too was once estranged from God. I was a young soldier in a country (Saudi Arabia) that did not wholly want to receive those who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Along with my company in the early 1990s, I was tasked to serve in King Khalid Military city, where I was introduced for the first time to dust storms. I became quite aware that women are served last in restaurants. Also, I was left alone for three days in a non-English-speaking hospital, and yet I found God’s amazing grace. I experienced the weariness of soldiers, who had battled more than one war in their lives, needing to turn off the sound of gunfire and explosions in search of peace. I saw a commander who felt the pressure and the fear that accompany responsibility for soldiers in wartime.

All of this, and do you faint, or do you arise in the midst of this great trouble? I could see the burning oil fields.

I had witnessed the atrocity in film of the danger of destruction by the chemical agent of the times—anthrax. One push of a button could have annihilated our entire area. However, the Lord, in His mercy sent foot soldiers and fighter pilots, and He had given our military wisdom regarding ways to damage incoming missiles. Taking cover in a bunker in this type of war seemed unusual. It was stranger still to hear the radio news from America about the war in which we were fighting. Where was God, and how was He demonstrating His grace?

Many people could relate their stories. I will tell you mine: I became ill during the war. Soldiers carried me to bunkers at times. One sergeant brought me food, from far and near, when my legs did not seem to hold up to walk. I was hand-carried to tent hospitals, and then on to a brick-and-mortar one filled with Saudis. My husband and church family prayed for my safety and sent care packages behind the scenes. There was family in the Pentagon inquiring on my behalf because of the attack on my body.



# GGGRACE

by Cheryl Cook

In addition, a preacher from Kentucky snagged a bus to catch fish like me, as he spoke so well about our being caught in the belly of a whale, as Jonah was. It was a transforming service in a foreign country, where Islam was the primary religion. I eventually found myself alone with God in the tent for the day in the desert. I gathered strength to get on my knees from the cot to pray. From the silence of the hospital bed, I wondered whether I would walk once again or even be well. I realized that the Lord had been with me all along in the silence, and He had used all of these wonderful saints and souls to carry me to Him. I learned to pray, and He taught me. I learned to wait. He showed me His love, His faithfulness, and something I did not deserve: His amazing grace at work in my life in the middle of the Persian Gulf War.

I was converted in the desert. I learned to pray, and my eyes and my heart could see the Lord, enabling me to do what I could never have done without Him. Maybe you need God's amazing grace today. My prayer for every season of life, including this Christmas, is that we would seek the Lord in prayer, learn about Him in His Word, and trust Him no matter what. He promises to never leave us alone (Deuteronomy 31:6).

**I ONCE  
WAS  
LOST,  
BUT NOW  
I AM  
FOUND.**



# PSALMS TO SONGS OF THE SEASON

by Kelley Finke

O come, let us adore Jesus this Christmas. According to Dictionary.com, “adore” means to regard with the utmost esteem, love, and respect; to pay divine honor; to worship. Colossians 3:15–16 read, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” Let us focus on a Psalm and a hymn for each letter of CHRISTMAS this season with these thoughts in mind.



C-Christ: It is only fitting that the C in Christmas represents Christ because Christmas means a Mass for celebrating Christ's birth. Christmas would not exist without Christ (also Messiah and Anointed).

"Now this I know: The Lord gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand" (Psalm 20:6).  
Hymn: "What Child Is This"

H-Holy: Many songwriters, poets, and authors have captured the beauty, mystery, and glory of the holy family on that blessed night. The most sought-after Christmas song/hymn of recording artists is "O Holy Night."  
Psalms 22:3; 30:4; 33:21  
Hymn: "O Holy Night"

R-Redeemer: Our heavenly Father knew that we needed a Redeemer ever since Adam and Eve introduced sin into the world. The Redeemer had to be holy and without sin.  
Psalms 19:14 and 78:35  
Hymn: "Joy to the World"

I-Immanuel: Matthew 1:18-25 concern the fact that Jesus was born of a virgin and would be named Immanuel, or "God with us."  
Psalm 46:7, 11  
Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

S-Shepherds: Do you ever wonder the reason that the shepherds received the very first invitation to see the precious baby Jesus? The Proverbs 31 website shares that the shepherds were humbled and honored because they never expected such an invitation. They responded with great joy by dashing to the manger. They told everyone they knew because they were so elated!  
Psalms 23 and 28:7-9  
Hymn: "The First Noel"

T-Thankful: Poet Carl Sandburg notes, "A baby is God's opinion that life should go on." This surely does not surprise us! We can be especially thankful in the case of God's Son!  
Psalms 9:1-2; 44:8; 57:9; 69:30  
Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

M-Manger: A lowly birth in a stable is a humble beginning. Interestingly, a manger is a feeding trough, and Jesus is to be our food—the Bread of Life.  
Psalm 23 and Proverbs 14:4  
Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

A-Angels, Alleluia: A heavenly chorus heralded the birth of our newborn King!  
Psalms 103:20 and 148:2  
Hymn: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

S-Savior: We all have the choice to accept Jesus as our Savior. This acrostic hopefully helped you to see that Christ truly is the best gift! Wise men still seek Him!  
Psalm 17:6-8  
Hymn: "Do You Have Room?" (for the Savior)

# JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

by Felisha Cook

We recognize that the Lord created everything from the very beginning. The third verse of Genesis 1 reads, "God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." He made the stars, the moon, and the sun all sources of light.

He separated the light from the darkness. God Himself called the light day and the darkness night. He even specified that the light was good! This is amazing—how truly amazing—when you stop to actually think about it.

I wonder what the angels thought when He did this. I guarantee it must have been better than any light show that this earth has ever seen.

We would still live in darkness if the Lord had not created light. Have you ever really thought about that? Darkness is not merely a physical aspect, though, but a presence and heaviness that you can feel, as well.

Christians face numerous forms of darkness today. You can feel the weight of evil and its activity in our culture. It is easy for many of us to want to shy away from any confrontation, or to be concerned about how others who do not share our views will perceive or receive us.

Yet, according to our heavenly Father, who is the very one who spoke light into existence, we are the light of the world. He explained that we are a city on a hill, which cannot be hidden. We are to give and offer light until all—unto all.

Even when it is not accepted. Even if we are rejected or misunderstood. We hold the light. We carry the light because we have God's truth within us. His truth sets anyone in darkness free.

The light that the Lord created literally shines around the world. We see it every morning when we are blessed to wake up, but He gives us a greater light to share with others, which is the true gospel.

Let us live boldly and share of that grace, which has been freely given to us.

# JOY TO THE WORLD

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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

ANGELS  
EMPLOY  
GRACE  
HILLS  
LIGHT  
MEN  
PLAINS  
REIGNS  
RING  
RULES  
SONGS  
WONDERS

EARTH  
FLOODS  
HEAVEN  
KING  
LOVE  
NATURE  
PROVE  
RIGHTEOUSNESS  
ROOM  
SING  
TRUTH

COME  
FIELDS  
HEART  
JOY  
LORD  
NATIONS  
PREPARE  
REPEAT  
ROCKS  
SAVIOR  
SOUNDING  
WORLD



THE AWARD-WINNING/NOMINATED  
CHRISTIAN ACTION-DRAMA, BY  
HEAVEN BOUND FILMS,

# ALAN IS RELEASING SOON!

SCREENING AND PURCHASE/STREAMING  
DETAILS ARE COMING JANUARY 2020

Thank you for your prayers and support through the years process of bringing to life ALAN AND THE FULLNESS OF TIME! We look forward with great expectation to sharing the full film and exciting developments over the coming months with all of you who have been involved and those who will join the film!

**FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK  
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