The Spirit of the Lord Shall Raise Up A Standard
A Testimony for the Ages

Oftentimes when we think of the verse that speaks of the enemy coming in like a flood and the Spirit of the Lord raising up a standard, our minds like to think about the times in Scripture when the Lord stepped in to rescue His people with an amazing deliverance just in the nick of time. Daniel in the lions’ den, his three friends in the fire, David against Goliath, King Jehoshaphat’s “army of praise,” or the angel striking down 185,000 Assyrians in the days of Hezekiah are familiar and encouraging accounts of the Lord’s intervention that we like to think about. Danger was knocking on the door, God’s people threw themselves wholly on His mercy by humbling themselves and putting away any sin, and the Lord wrought a great victory that future generations would hear about. A flood of evil was vanquished by the Lord’s people trusting in their covenant-keeping God, and that same God showed His power in amazing ways. Yet, there are times when the flood came and the standard was raised by an obscure follower of Jehovah. They would not bow to evil nor tone down their fervent testimony of devotion to the Lord, but the result was not the type of victory that we relish. One such example lived in the days of great turmoil and apostasy in the land of Israel, and though we don’t even know her name, her testimony is one of the brightest in all of the Bible.

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Being a godly family in “northern” Israel was no easy task after the split with Judah following Solomon’s death. The record tells us that no truly godly king ever ruled from the time of Jeroboam until the Assyrians came and took the majority of
the inhabitants into captivity roughly 250 years later. Those who longed to worship the true God were outnumbered by those who followed the easier path of idolatry. It must have taken a great firmness of purpose and a fervent love for the God of Israel to stand firm in the days of Ahab, Jezebel, and the other motley crew of royals that led "Ephraim" further and further away from their ancient worship. Yet, the short account of the healing of Naaman the Syrian strongly implies that a young girl from such a family boldly witnessed for the Lord in the midst of overwhelming obstacles. As the nation of Israel was subject to raids from other enemy nations, this unnamed girl was swept away from her God-fearing parents by a wild band of Syrian raiders. One can only imagine the grief of the parents as they realized that their precious daughter was now the slave of wicked heathens and the likelihood was that they would never see her again. For the girl, all of her dreams of marriage, family, and a "normal life" would go up in smoke. The hand of Providence had seemingly moved against her, and had she allowed bitterness to creep into her spirit, it would have been understandable. Yet in the face of God’s silence and her heartache, she testified for the Lord to her captors.

If this Israelite girl had an ounce of carnality in her soul, she would have rejoiced at Naaman’s calamity. Whatever cruelty Naaman and his men had done to her people was not able to extinguish the godly concern in her soul for her master and his family. Her home training evidently made a way for her to serve in the great warrior’s house. Her compassionate spirit earned her the opportunity to comfort Naaman’s wife in her hour of sorrow. Her faith in the Lord gave her boldness to testify of His ability to work through His chosen prophets to bring great miracles to pass. Though not much is said in this short account, it does not take much imagination to realize that her vibrant testimony, cheery spirit, and unparalleled work ethic gave her a “pulpit” to preach to this heathen family of the miracle-working power of the God of Israel. When the time came and the door opened, she preached a message of deliverance that gave hope to a heathen man who had never encountered such a message before.

The healing of Naaman the warrior was directly related to the testimony of victory proclaimed by a slave girl who overcame great obstacles to keep her soul clean and her profession vibrant and fresh. An hour of trial has come to the Christians of America; perhaps an hour of trial that exceeds in severity what previous generations have faced. It is altogether fitting and proper to continue to pray for national deliverance and that the Lord would raise up a standard in the form of nationwide reformation and revival to drive back the flood of iniquity that has poured forth upon the country. However, we know not the future, and we must prepare to raise up a standard in our own individual lives in the midst of increasing darkness. Whether there is political deliverance or not, individually we can have testimonies to Gospel victory. Our families can have testimonies of devotion to Christ and not a single “hoof” or child left behind in Egypt. Our churches can have testimonies of fervent singing, prevailing prayer, anointed preaching, and services where people not only hear about God but meet with God as well. If the people of God draw nigh unto God in the midst of this dark time, there is no doubt that we will see young and old arise to the occasion and that the brightness of Spirit-filled disciples will shine gloriously in the darkness and “heathens” will know our God still changes lives.
God is at work in the city of Danville, Pennsylvania. In the early part of the last decade, God began to stir the heart of Pastor Jacob Martin (presently serving as conference president) for a God’s Missionary Church in downtown Danville. A building was found which had been used as a Grange Hall, and we were able to purchase the property for $60,000. The first service was Sunday, June 22, 2008, with Rev. Kenneth Miles serving as senior pastor and Rev. Joshua Neidermyer (and family) filling the role of an assistant.

The work has progressed, but not without tremendous challenges to overcome. For a short period of time services were cancelled due to water damage to the building which required extensive remediation and remodeling. In 2013, Pastor Justin Stanton and family were enlisted to re-launch the ministry. There were many improvements, and God’s blessing rested upon this season of the church’s development – not the least of which was when a young man by the name of Nathan Yohe was called to assist in the work through the influence of Pastor Jacob Martin and a ministerial internship at Sunbury Church. Brother Nathan Yohe officially became the associate pastor in 2013.

Two years later the church at Danville was at another crossroads. After much prayer Nathan Yohe was installed as the senior pastor. That same year there was a transition in the Home Missions Department of God’s Missionary Church. Bro. Jacob Martin was elected conference president, and I (Jeremy Fuller) was elected to the vice-presidency and asked to lead the church planting department of GMC. It was in August of 2015 that I begin to work with Pastor Yohe in the development of this local church.

In 2016 Pastor Nathan married a young woman named Anna. She has proved to be a wonderful treasure and blessing to the ministry at the Danville Church. In 2020, Robert Goodrich (and family) became the associate pastor of the church after a year of attending and supporting the services in various ways. This family has become a tremendous force for good within the local congregation, and we are blessed and thankful to have their partnership in the ministry.

Some have planted, some have watered, but God has given the increase. As in every church it takes a visionary pioneer to lay the foundation. The Church is not a building, but someone has to have the vision for a building – a place to meet and to worship God corporately. This takes courage which is just another way of saying it takes faith, prayer, tears, and patience. It is impossible to recognize all the people who have helped to make this church possible. There are hundreds of people who have made donations. There are people who have stepped forward to do improvement projects, roof, electrical, heating & cooling, landscaping, etc., and to serve as church treasurers, most notably Lewis Ray Hoover, who was serving in 2015 when I became the director. We also extend our thanks to the faithful work of the present church treasurer, Karen Swisher. Their reward for faithful service will be great in Heaven.

It is my prayer that God will continue to make the God’s Missionary Church of Danville a lighthouse in the city that is home to the Geisinger Medical Center. It is the only holiness church in a city of nearly 5,000 precious souls. The future is bright as Pastor Nathan Yohe and Pastor Robert Goodrich lead the local church into this new season of ministry (conference status). May the God who called them into His service continue to endue them with fresh power to lead many to the foot of the old rugged cross, and there may they find Jesus Christ – Savior and Lord!

Congratulations, pastors and people!

And now may our great God and Master grant you all the patience of Job, the vision of Joseph, the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of Daniel, the zeal of Paul, and the meekness of Jesus. Amen!
Our mightiest trophy in that campaign against sin was an infidel. He was a number one infidel, the head of an atheistic society in London. He used to stand on the stone wall at Tower Hill and quote Charles Bradlaw, Tom Paine, etc. and talk about what he called all the mistakes of the Bible. As he lectured he always carried a large thick walking stick in his hand. Our Gospel preaching was often drowned out by the hilarious laughter of his crowd as he pointed at us in scorn with his stick, saying, “Now look at these gullible people who believe such nonsense.”

I had been trained at fifteen and sixteen years of age by a famous Protestant debater in Glasgow on the art of debate. This debater would take on debates with infidel lecturers on such subjects as the deity of Christ, and these debates would go on nightly for weeks on end in the open air.

Now on Tower Hill began the debating battle between “little David and the mighty Goliath,” because sometimes when I would arrive to preach I would find he had taken my usual spot. When that happened, the police would not let me have a meeting because there was no more room for me, as the crowds would overflow into the traffic. Please remember that this was right in the heart of the great city among the teeming millions. At such times my only course was to stand among the crowd and heckle the atheist. continued on page 10
In the 1800’s there was a notable German pastor who left his mark upon the spiritual life of his country. In Louis Harms, a strong spirit ruled an equally strong physical and mental nature. This German was known for his tenacious faith and the spirit of prevailing prayer which he believed to be vital to any last- ing accomplishment in the Kingdom. Like other saints of God, he had known a time in his life when he had yielded body, soul, and spirit to the Sovereign God for His will to be wrought out.

When Louis Harms entered upon his labor for God, a dead orthodoxy prevailed in his area. A visiting minister would be more likely to enquire, “How are your cows?” than to enquire of the state of the soul. The spiritual demands made upon unilluminated ministers irked them. It was not strange, then, that they would oppose the labors of men who insisted upon the aid of the Holy Spirit in all their endeavors.

Like many another vineyard laborer, Harms was caught in the net of such multiplied duties that time for prayer did not have priority. Once when visiting a Quaker, he recounted his multitudinous responsibilities. The Quaker quietly remarked to him, “Brother Harms, if thou speakest so much, when art thou quiet?” Harms was deeply impressed and from that time sought to give to each day a certain portion of retirement.

His parish was ten miles square, comprising seven villages, with a population of four thousand four hundred. A thousand at a time would come flocking from these villages to the sanctuary on the Sabbath where they could hear the inspiring messages from Harms’ lips. Four hundred would often meet on Wednesday. Drunkenness and poverty were unknown there. Their villages were models of tidiness. Besides preaching, Harms conducted prayer-meetings every evening in his house, and two meetings almost daily for enquirers concerning both spiritual and temporal matters.

Besides all this, with studying and letter writing, he organized the congregation into a missionary society, sending out their own members to the foreign field; building for themselves a Mission ship, which they kept continually passing from Hanover to the stations in Africa; editing a monthly missionary journal of which fourteen thousand were published; training the missionaries for their work; and finally, superintending an establishment for discharged convicts. A peculiar disease which robbed him of sleep provided him with extra time for these colossal labors.

His view of prayer and his use of it are strongly exhibited in one of his enterprises. An immense difficulty – impossibility, unbelief would have called it – met him. Thus he describes his course; “Then I knocked diligently on the dear God in prayer.” Then came relief, and then another great difficulty. Of that he thus speaks, “That was a time of great conflict, and I wrestled with God; for no one encouraged me, but the reverse; and the truest friends and brethren hinted that I was not quite in my senses. I prayed fervently to the Lord, laid the manner in His hand; and as I arose at midnight from my knees, I said with a voice that almost startled me, “Forward, now, in God’s name.”

Harms enjoyed a constant state of revival for seventeen years. “Hermannsburg rivaled any other community perhaps in the world,” stated his biographer, E. N. Kirk, in his Lectures on Revivals. “Probably not a parish in Christendom equals in spiritual attainment that of Hermannsburg. Zwemer, in Taking Hold of God, says, “Pastor Louis Harms by faith and prayer led the peasants of the Hermannsburg Church to plant the Gospel abroad, so that after thirty-one years he had put into the field three hundred and fifty missionaries and at the end of forty years his mission gathered out from heathenism a church of more than thirteen thousand members.”
THE CALL TO BATTLE
Adapted from “Successful Praying” by F. J. Huegel

Some years ago in this land to which my heart is now bound by ties which are only forged in the propagation of the cause of Christ, Communism came in as a flood which threatened to overthrow the old order and take over the country. Education was revamped on a basis of atheism; night after night from radio stations blasphemy was poured out over the land; a terrific tension gripped hearts, and fear with paralyzing power took over. A group of pastors and missionaries came together to see what could be done. The conclusion was that the only hope was divine intervention. Had not the Lord said, “Call unto me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee”? The decision was to meet each morning at six-thirty for prayer, and to hold on until deliverance came.

Weeks went by and then months while they held firm in prayer. Never a morning did the prayer warriors fail. They found themselves in a mighty conflict with the powers of darkness. They wrestled not with flesh and blood but with principalities and powers. They represented different denominations, but all thought of sectarianism was lost. In the awful crisis of the hour they became absolutely one in Christ. One great passion consumed them. For six months in the early morning hours they bombarded heaven with strong crying and tears. There were not formal gatherings for prayer. Pastors and missionaries were down on their faces before God pleading the promise and claiming the victory in Jesus’ name.

And then one glad morning after six months of groaning in the Spirit before the throne of grace, one of the pastors came in with the morning paper. There was the answer. The president had dismissed the “Reds” from the cabinet and had turned right-about-face. The dark cloud that had been upon the nation lifted. The Sun of Righteousness appeared with healing in His wings. The backbone of the monster was broken. God had laid bare His mighty arm and had wrought a glorious deliverance. Fear was gone. Joy flowed like a river which swept everything before it. There was gladness like in the days of Queen Esther. Years have gone by, and there is no sign of the monster’s return to power. Oh, yes, if we will only agree according to the Savior’s promise, there is no limit to the power of prayer.
Count von Zinzendorf was a man of affairs and an ardent Christian from boyhood. He decided to open the doors of his great estate to persecuted evangelicals of Europe that they might find a refuge from the storm. Christians came from far and near – believers of every theological color and of all the sects.

Then began Zinzendorf’s travail. He had hoped for love and understanding. What he heard was the voice of controversy. Strife over a thousand and one secondary matters in the realm of doctrine and practice was bitter and unceasing. Zinzendorf longed to see God’s people become one, even as the Savior had prayed, and on fire with a holy zeal for missions. As to foreign missions, Protestantism was dead. Her life was being consumed in endless theological strife. Oh, to see the wounds of Christ’s body healed and to see it function in fulfillment of the Church’s marching orders: “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel.” Von Zinzendorf spent whole nights in prayer. Others caught the spirit and joined him, filling up what was lacking of the afflictions of Christ.

The answer came on August 13, of the year 1727. Zinzendorf called for a communion service which all might attend. It was in the partaking of the emblems of the Savior’s broken body that “the Sun of Righteousness arose with healing in His wings.” The glory was more than flesh could bear. Believers were prostrate in the presence of God. The Cross in all its vast significance was unveiled. When the congregation arose an immeasurable transformation had been wrought. Henceforth Christ was all and in all. The so-called Moravian movement got under way. They prayed with the clock, groups taking their turns and praying twenty-four hours of the day. The result? In twenty-five years one hundred missionaries had gone forth to all parts of the globe. These Moravians spearheaded a worldwide movement in the preaching of the Gospel which eventually swung Protestantism from polemics to missions. The great century of modern missions owes all to von Zinzendorf and the Moravians. John Wesley, himself a spiritual child of the Moravians, after the great experience of Aldersgate, went to Herrnhut to observe firsthand what the Lord was doing. He wrote home to friends, saying: “I have found a church in which one breathes the very atmosphere of heaven.” If ever prayers made history, those of Count von Zinzendorf did.
I shall never forget a scene I witnessed many years ago in Boston. It was held at the International Christian Workers Convention which was held in the old Tremont Temple, seating thirty-five hundred people. It was my privilege to preside at the convention. On a Saturday morning at 11:00 the Tremont Temple was packed to its utmost capacity, every inch of standing room where men and women were allowed to stand was taken, and multitudes outside were still clamoring for admission.

The audience was as fine in its quality as it was large in its numbers. As I looked back of me on the platform, it seemed as if every leading minister and clergyman, not only of Boston but of New England, was on that platform. As I looked down in front of me I saw seated there the leaders in not only the church life but in the social and commercial and political life of Boston and the surrounding country. I arose to announce the next speaker on the program, and my heart sank, for the next speaker was a woman. In those days I had a prejudice against any woman speaking in public under any circumstances. But this particular woman was a professing Christian and a Presbyterian.

She had been what we call “a worldly Christian,” a dancing, card-playing, theater-going, low-necked-dress Christian. She had had, however, an experience of which I had not heard. One night sitting in their beautiful home in New York City, for she was a woman of wealth, she turned to her husband as he sat reading the evening paper and said: “Husband, I hear they are doing a good work down at Jerry McAuley’s Mission. Let us go down and help them.” He laid aside his paper and said: “Let’s go.” They put on their wraps and started for Jerry McAuley’s Mission.

When they got there they found the Mission Hall full and took seats back by the door. As they sat there and listened to one after another of those rescued men, they were filled with new interest, a new world seemed opening to them, and at last the woman turned to her husband and whispered: “I guess they will have to help us instead of our helping them. They’ve got something we haven’t.” And when the invitation was given out, this finely-dressed, cultured gentleman and his wife went forward and knelt down at the altar in the sawdust along with the drunken men and other outcasts of the waterfront, and they got real salvation.

But of this I knew nothing. I only knew the type of woman she had been, and when I saw her name on the program my heart sank, and I thought, “What a waste of a magnificent opportunity. Here is this wonderful audience and only this woman to speak to them.” But I had no authority to change the program; my business was simply to announce it. And summoning all the courtesy I could command under the circumstances, I introduced this lady and then sank into the Chairman’s seat and buried my face in my hands and began to pray to God to save us from disaster.

In a little while I took my face out of my hands and began to watch as well as pray. Every one of those thirty-five hundred pairs of eyes were riveted on that little woman as she stood there and spoke. Soon I saw tears come into eyes that were unaccustomed to weeping, and I saw men and women taking out their handkerchiefs and at first trying to pretend they were not weeping, and then, throwing all disguise to the winds, I saw them bow their heads on the backs of the seats in front of them and sob as if their hearts would break. And before that wonderful address was over, that whole audience was swept by the power of that woman’s words as the trees of our Western forests are sometimes swept by the cyclone.
“How do you know there is no God? How do you know the Bible is not true? How can you prove that death ends all?”

Once, after one of his great orations against immortality, I cried out, “So when you die you are going to die like a dog and that is the end of you?”

Thus, in different ways I could “needle” him. Once I cried out to the crowd, “Do you see that man there? One day by the power of God he is going to stand in that same place preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus!”

A laugh went up from the crowd. However, some weeks after I made this prophecy, we discovered to our astonishment that the man had not turned up for the past four days. After much inquiring and searching we found where he lived and some earnest soul winners visited him in his home in a poor section of the city. They discovered that he was ill. When he saw them he cursed and stormed and screamed, “Don’t you dare come into my room. You can go to hell!”

“Go to hell?” they asked, “Why, you don’t believe in hell. Send us to some place you believe in.”

We sent messages to pastors all over the country asking for prayer for his soul. The man came under great conviction of sin as he lay at death’s door and was afraid to die. He cried to God to have mercy on him and God heard his prayer. God raised him up from his sick bed to stand on the very same wall where he had denied the existence of God, this time to testify to the salvation of Jesus Christ to his soul. What a sight to make angels weep for joy! The crowds gathered in amazement to see and hear this well-known character of London preach the faith he once tried to destroy.
June 28 - July 01: Rhoda and I took a few vacation days in the Amish country of Ohio with her sister, Carm and husband, Doug. We celebrated our 35th anniversary while they celebrated their 40th anniversary.

July 02: Hanover Camp. You sensed that God had been helping when you stepped on the grounds. God’s people enjoyed camp. Rev. Randy Neville preached a good practical message.

July 03-04: Sermon prep and I also preached Sunday afternoon at Mt. of Blessing camp meeting. I also stayed for the closing service of camp. To God be the glory for another great camp.

July 05: P.V.B.I. I met with President Durkee. I appreciate the great job he is doing at the school.

July 06: I spent most of the day with Rev. Chad Clark from ICHA. It was great to get to know him better.

July 07: Beulah Camp. We sure missed Ernie Gessner who passed away in a trucking accident. He would have been pleased that the work goes on and God supplies the needs of the camp.

July 08: Zoom meeting with Rev. Sidney Grant, Rev. Rex McDowell, Jr., Rev. Jeremy Fuller, and myself to discuss our partnerships with HIM Spanish ministries. We appreciate the excellent meeting we had together.

July 09-10: I needed a couple days to catch up trimming and mowing grass at the headquarters building and my property.

July 11: We went to Beulah camp in the morning. Rhoda and I then went to Ono camp in the evening. Rev. John Zecheman preached a good message. There were some who sought God at the altar.

July 12: G.M.Y.C. recap meeting. We appreciate Rev. Matt Maloyed, our Youth Camp President, and the Board. They continue to look for ways to make the camp better.

July 13: Oakland Mills Camp. Rev. Andrew Thomas preached a challenging message. I also enjoyed the singing of Ben and Jaylena McDowell.

July 14: Hanover Kids Camp, a record-breaking number of 114. The junior staff and older staff do a wonderful job of making this an exciting camp for kids. I was amazed at how the children’s evangelist, Ryan Martin, has developed his talents and skills for God. “Well done, Ryan,” from Dad!

July 15-16: Sermon and camp meeting preparations. We also had our Penns Creek Camp workday. We appreciate each one who came to work.

July 17: We went to two of our friends’ funerals today. The first was Bro. Raymond Spade who attended our Newport Church. He was a faithful Christian who inspired all of us to give to God’s work. The second funeral was Sister Carol Burkey. One of her daughters is Christa Dicken, the pastor’s wife from our Mt. Road, GMC. Sis Carol left a beautiful testimony of salvation and letting her smile be used for God.

July 18: Alexandria. We were privileged to preach and then to share a great meal with 4 of the church people and David and Francis Fuller. Rhoda and I then went to Oakland Mills for their final night of camp. The full tabernacle was a great sight.

July 19: General Board Meeting. Today we met with the World Mission Board to elect a World Mission Director. Rev. Cancio was given a two-year term. We appreciate his love for souls and GMC.

July 20: PVBI board meeting. We appreciate each board member and their commitment to our school.

July 21: Two interns from Beavertown church, Ephraim Maurival and Joshua Stamper, and I spent time together sharing about the Sunbury Church and G.M.C. We also talked about how God called them into the ministry.

July 22: 86th Conference of G.M.C. We are so blessed to have such good unity among our preachers and delegates.

July 23 - Aug. 01: Penns Creek Camp. God moved upon us in a special way. Young people and older ones were saved and sanctified in the services. A more complete report can be found at godsmissionarychurch.org under “articles.”

Aug. 02-06: Penns Creek Camp Clean-up. Thanks for the help. Administrative work, sermon preparation. It was an honor to attend Barry and Gertie Mason’s 50th anniversary celebration.

Aug. 07-10: Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. I was privileged to preach at the Pilgrim Nazarene Church. It was great to be with their pastor, Jamison Plank, and his wife, Sarah.

August 11-17: Administrative work and sermon prep. I preached and participated in Danville’s Graduation Day. From not having a church, to a Home Mission church, to Conference status. A special thanks goes to the pastoral team. The Nathan Yohe and Robert Goodrich families have done a great job. I preached at Sunbury in the evening. It was my first time to preach in their beautiful new sanctuary. I also shared a devotional at Penn View, “Going with God’s Guidance.” We thank God for all the wonderful staff and faculty that He has sent Penn View.


Aug. 20: PVBI Back-to-School Rally. The concert on the lawn and fireworks made for a wonderful evening.

Aug. 21-26: Administrative work, scheduling services, prep for FL Rally, and Conference.

Aug. 27-28: Florida for the viewing and funeral of Rev. Michael Jay Smalley. Sr. Rev. Harry Plank and I counted it an honor to have part in the service. Bro. Smalley taught us to use our talents and gifts for God. He used his saw, snack shop, speaking, and singing with his guitar to be a blessing to God’s people. Let us continue to pray for Sis Smalley.

Aug. 29: Bloomsville. We appreciate the Fisher family and how God is using them to see the work go forward.

Aug. 30-31: General Board meeting and follow up calls. We appreciate their wisdom and unity.
This was Saturday morning. The following Monday morning Dr. Broadbeck, at that time pastor of the leading Methodist Church in Boston, came to me and said with a choking voice, “Brother Torrey, I could not open my mouth to speak to my own people in my own church yesterday morning without bursting into tears as I thought of that wonderful scene we witnessed here on Saturday morning. When that wonderful address was over, some of us went to this woman and said to her: ‘God has wonderfully used you this morning.’

“Oh,” she replied, ‘would you like to know the secret of it? Last night as I thought of the great throng that would fill the Tremont Temple this morning, and of my own inexperience in public address, I spent the whole night on my face before God in prayer.’