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ARTICLES BY ALVA L. TURNER

**With a Memoir of Him
And Tributes to Him
After His Homegoing**

**Compiled By Duane V. Maxey
From The Missionary Revivalist**

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Digital Edition 09/07/2000
By Holiness Data Ministry

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INTRODUCTION

This publication consists of 4 Articles by Alva Lester (A. L.) Turner followed by a
Memoir of him and tributes to him following his homegoing -- all compiled from issues of The
Missionary Revivalist.

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01 -- THE BEAUTY AND TRAGEDY OF HOLINESS

From the July, 1966 Missionary Revivalist

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There is a definite and consistent emphasis of True Holiness throughout the Bible. The wonder has been that so many have overlooked this significant emphasis, for it is there from beginning to end.

The term "the Beauty of Holiness" occurs four times in the Word of God. "Holiness" is defined as the state or quality of being holy; free from sin; spiritually perfect; pure in heart.

In Ephesians 1:4 we read that " . . . He (God) hath chosen us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Looking back to the time of the Wesleys, Luther, the Bible days of Paul and Peter, on back to Isaiah, Job, Abraham and Noah, we read of holiness being the will of God for man; the promises given unto us of being partakers of the Divine Nature; of the highway of holiness over which no unclean thing should pass; of walking before God as just and perfect men in their generation. Thank God, it is for us all today, and still works in the hearts and lives of men and women wherever obtained. We are a holiness, and, I trust, a holy church. God has called us to this.

God is a lover of beauty. Look over the hills, mountains, rivers. oceans, lakes and woods where only the hand of a great God has touched, and we conclude that our God is a lover of beauty. But nothing compares in real, lasting beauty to that of a life touched and transformed and filled by the mighty power of a holy God, a life lived to meet the challenge of the present hour and come out more than conqueror through Him. Bless His name!

Holiness is Beautiful in the Purity it brings to the heart of man. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. Peter said in Acts 15:8 and 9, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." In regeneration, the seeker receives a new heart. In this second work of divine grace, he receives a clean heart. There will be a purifying from the self-life, self-seeking, self-promotion, harshness, a spirit of criticism, envy, strife, division and many other carnal traits, to a heart that contains nothing but pure love, devotion, pure motives, and faith; a heart that is undefiled, untainted, free from evil stains, and all that would be aversive to God and righteousness.

Holiness also contains the Beauty of Humility. Holiness and humility walk hand in hand. Paul said, "... Love (holiness) vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own " It is never egotistical nor boastful. It never has the purpose or motive to exalt, magnify or promote self. It never pulls wires to gain position. It will take the lowly path when in the wrong and admit that wrong. Dr. J. G. Morrison said, "Humility is a low, sweet, aromatic plant that flourishes in a shy manner at the bottom of a deep ravine, the sides of which are so steep and precipitous that few venture down to where it grows. Humility loves to serve, and let the other fellow receive the credit for the deed accomplished. It is as happy laboring in the background as in the forefront." This is what John the Baptist manifested when he said, "He (Jesus)

must increase, but I must decrease." Holiness enables one to as willingly become the "salt of the earth" as the "light of the world." It is not the attitude of "one on the right hand and the other on the left," but that which says, "anything, anywhere, for the sake of Jesus and to be a blessing." Paul spoke of this when he said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." This will largely settle church differences, fusses, feuds and divisions.

Holiness includes the Beauty of an Everlasting Inheritance. Who does not love to read of that good land that God promised to Israel, and finally brought them into, described in Deuteronomy, chapters eight and eleven? A land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills, a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of oil olive and honey, wherein is no scarceness, where we shall not lack any thing, a land that drinketh water of the rain from heaven, which the Lord careth for and whose eyes are upon it, from the beginning of the year even to the end of the year, wherein we may eat until we are full, and then bless the Lord who hath given it to us for an everlasting possession. Blessed be God, it speaks of a glorious experience of heart that is good when all goes well and when all seems to go in reverse. Dust storms, drought, shortages and lack of things we feel legitimate, conditions about us, circumstances we face and all other things, do not reach deep enough to rob us of the spiritual land of everlasting possession. It is a land of rest for the soul. What a blessed reality after wandering, drifting, battling with the carnal nature, and trying to keep the old man subdued, to find this second rest! If we will take the route that leads to crucifixion and death, there can be a resurrection and a crossing over into the beautiful heart experience that brings the rest of satisfaction and sufficiency.

But there is another side to all of this. The writer to the Hebrews in chapter four gives faithful warning, lest a promise of entering into this rest be left to us, we should seem to come short of it. Herein is the Tragedy of Holiness. When Israel came to Kadesh-Barnea and received the report of the ten unbelieving spies, they turned and went back into the wilderness, to wander restlessly on and on, crossing and recrossing their former paths and finally perishing and bleaching their bones for an average of one hundred funerals a day for thirty-eight long years. In that wandering they experienced the Tragedy of Substitution. Jeremiah 7:24 tells us that "... they..., went backward and not forward." They began to substitute sacrifices for obedience to God. They substituted lesser, unprofitable things for the glory of God. In the present day we can see this being done in big entertainment programs, recreation, promotionalism, fellowship halls and church-sponsored games of all kinds; crowning of kings and queens, until the glory departs, God is grieved, and the cause of Holiness is dragged in the dust.

We may experience the Tragedy of Unwillingness because the walls are too high, the giants too big and the price too great.

Then there is the Tragedy of Total Rejection. When one comes to the light of holiness he will do one of two things, either walk in that light, pay the price and get the blessing, or turn from the light to a life of uncertainty and backsliding, and drift back to the old life of sin, deeper than before, until the beauty is departed, the gold has become dim, the Holy One leaves the sanctuary of the heart, and the soul is dead.

There came a time in Israel's life when they desired to go over, but God through Moses said, "No, you cannot go now, for God is no longer with you, because you refused at God's appointed time." Read Numbers 14:12 and Deuteronomy 1:42. Catherine Booth once said, "You will never know what you have missed, and others you might have influenced, by not being filled with the Spirit." One holiness lady who nursed in an eastern mental hospital told of many who were there as inmates, who, in their rational moments, told her, "Our trouble began when we faced the light of holiness and backed up."

We will either experience the Beauty of Holiness, or the day will come when we will experience its Tragedy. ". . . Let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." Hebrews 6:1

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02 -- LOST THROUGH DRIFTING

From the September, 1968 Missionary Revivalist

The fifteenth chapter of Luke has been called the "Lost and Found" chapter of the Bible. Jesus was speaking to a needy crowd. The scribes and Pharisees were the greatest enemies Jesus had to encounter in His holy career of mercy and salvation. They were filled with spiritual pride and self-righteousness; they would not come to Jesus in penitence, nor allow others to come.

Herein is given one of the most wonderful and convincing pictures and accounts of the compassion of Jesus, the outreach of His heart to a lost and needy world, and the length to which He will go to bring back the one who has lost his way in the darkness of sin's night. How many times the reading and the preaching of this wonderful account has brought benighted men to their senses and enabled them to see that there was hope when all else seemed futile and despairing.

However, on the other side of the picture, one wonders what caused this sheep to be adrift from the fold and lost from the flock. The four accounts Jesus gave in this chapter reveal four ways men can become separated from God. This first part of the parable portrays the truth that there is the possibility of becoming "Lost Through Drifting."

Christ's object in this teaching is at least fourfold. In the first place, this reveals Jesus' willingness, His readiness and His ability to receive and restore the truly penitent soul. The Word says, "Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37) The second object is to reveal Christ's two-fold desire. Verse 2 of this chapter states that He desires to "Rave." "This man receiveth sinners." The second clause of the same verse conveys the truth that His desire is to "Fellowship." "He eateth with them." A little girl by the name of Edith rushed home from Sunday School saying, "Oh, Mother, my name is in the Bible." "It can't be" said the mother. "But it is, Mama; the preacher announced it today. He read, 'this man receiveth sinners, and Edith (eateth) with them.'"

Jesus' third object in this parable is to reveal His singularity of interest and concern for those lost. Only one was out; ninety-nine were safe, yet He went after the one. All through the

Scripture this truth is evident. The Woman at the Well; the story of Christ's conversation with Nicodemus and many others bring home this truth. Thank God, He sees; He knows us, not collectively, but individually. Only Christianity is represented by God seeking after man. There is a fourth object in this parable, that of man's inability to find his own way back to the fold. Adam Clarke says, "No creature strays more easily -- is more heedless -- and none so incapable of finding its way back to the flock, as the sheep. None is more defenseless. Dogs, wild beasts and scavenger fowls seek their destruction. The fowl will pick the lamb's eyes out until it cannot see its way. Satan does this, then finds man an easy prey to tumble him into perdition."

The condition of this sheep was three-fold. It was helplessly lost, without a guide, and exposed to the storm. Thus is man outside the grace of God. In the storms of life, and when the storm of God's wrath breaks, we will need One who knows the way to see us through.

There were at least three reasons why this sheep was lost. It may have been, first, because of its heedlessness of the Shepherd's watchcare: Every expression of Christ's love, His call, His warnings, His chastisements, are evidences of His watchcare over His own. We must take heed unto His ways. A second reason may have been the "following of the majority." Many times one sheep will follow another and on and on until the majority are going in the same downward direction. In slaughter houses, sheep do not have to be driven to their death, but by following the one before them, they come to their destruction. We live in a day when many are not making their decisions by what God's Word says, or by the convictions God gives an individual, but by what the crowd does. "Everybody is doing it" is a most dangerous method of making our choices. God give us men, women and young people who are not afraid to take their stand for right against wrong in this day when so many are going the way of least resistance.

The third reason for the lost condition of this sheep may have been Drifting. Drifting from one tuft of grass to another, farther and farther away, head down, sense of direction lost, possibly in a fog, on and on until it is lost. Stock have many times drifted in and with a storm right into a river or swampy quicksand. Churches can do this, and have. Individuals may do this. Lot's first step was the sad one. He pitched his tent toward Sodom. It is not hard to drift on after the first step is taken. There is today the evidence of many being lost through drifting. So many can do things, go places, wear clothing, adorn themselves, condone things in other people, that once they stood firmly against. Friend, God never changes. His requirements remain the same. What He told you at the altar, He expects you to abide by through life. : "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Hebrews 2:1 Catch yourself, friend, if there is evidence of drifting in your life. You can be "Lost through drifting."

In conclusion, the parable closes with a joyful note. The sheep is recovered; the lost is found. It is brought back. The sheep becomes everything to the shepherd and the shepherd becomes everything to the sheep. Thank God, the world can lose its attraction. We can sing, "I'd rather have Jesus than anything." "There's no thirsting for life's pleasures, nor adorning rich or gay; For I've found a richer treasure, One that fadeth not away." There is joy in the soul, and rejoicing in heaven, when the lost is found. The Finder, the ones found, friends, loved ones, the church, all heaven rejoices through time and eternity over that one brought back out of the night, out of the storm, into the fold.

John Newton thought back to the dreadful storm at sea, when as a slave trader he promised God if He would get him out of the storm safely, he would serve the Lord the rest of his life. God took him at his word. Inspired by that dreaded night at sea and the marvelous Grace of God that saved him, he wrote the immortal words:

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear,
And Grace my fears relieved:
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis Grace hath bro't me safe thus far,
And Grace will lead me home.

Newton then comes to the expression of joy in heaven over the recovery of the drifting soul that was lost, and finished this undying hymn:

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright, shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Then when we first begun.

Oh, Soul, beware of any downward trend. Remember you can be "Lost Through Drifting."

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03 -- LOST THROUGH CARELESSNESS

From the October, 1968 Missionary Revivalist

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The fifteenth chapter of Luke is actually one parable in three parts. The teaching of the whole of the chapter is that Christ is seeking, and longs to find the lost of the earth and bring them back to the fold of His care and fellowship, and into a right personal relationship with Him. In all three cases, The Sheep, The Coin, and The Son, are those who were once in the hands and care of the one who represents Christ, The Spirit of God, but who had gotten away through various causes. The first, The Lost Sheep, represents that one who had become "lost through drifting" and, though possibly unintentionally, was lost in the night and in the storm.

The second part of Jesus' parable gives the story of The Lost Coin which was once safe in the hand of the woman of the house, but, possibly through carelessness, had now become lost. This carelessness is never on Christ's part, but can be on our part. It could speak of one who was, or became, lost while right in the church. There are many today in the church, carrying on their labors, going through the same procedures that they have for years, yet who have become so busy with important and legitimate things until, through a neglect of that which is vital (their own souls), they have lost the touch of God, the once keen edge has become dull, the light has gone out, and they carry on the same program, but without God. Dr. J. B. Chapman once said, "There are many churches in the holiness movement who could carry on the same as they are now if God Were dead." What an indictment!

The silver coin brings to our mind, as Jesus gives this picture, four great lessons. First, the innate value of the soul of man; second, the possible lost condition of that soul; third, the soul's utter helplessness within itself when in that lost condition; and fourth, the fact that it can be brought back into its proper place, in God's will, care and keeping.

While Jesus always was and always will be against all positive wrong, yet He gave in Scripture much warning against man's becoming careless, failing in his duty to God and becoming guilty of "sins of omission." In fact, the one outstanding definition of sin in the Bible, given in James 4:17, speaks of the sins of omission in saying, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Under this warning, Jesus gave the parables of the "Buried Talent," the "Five Foolish Virgins," the "Barren Fig Tree," and in the account of the "Last Judgment" some were condemned because "Ye did it not."

Back to the thought of becoming lost right in the church. One may pay his tithe, be a member, be sympathetic, a regular attendant of the services, teach a Sunday School class and many other things, and yet be without that vital, rich, inner Divine Presence and assurance that all is well in his soul. Right in the church, you can go most any place, wear most anything, do anything and yet profess to be saved and sanctified. Over-busy in religious matters, yet easily offended, carry grudges, hurt feelings and ill will. They now become suppositional and feel that they are honest, busy, faithful in giving support, all is well, and they go on and on in such a state, hoping to be accepted in the last day. The sad fact is, Christ is gone, they are worldly, powerless and prayerless. Right in the church, but lost.

This loss can come about through the carelessness or neglect of another. Girls have fallen, jails and penitentiaries have been filled to overflowing, young people have left the churches, keeping company with the unsaved, because parents have desired that they be popular, accepted and more like the general run of youth. One father gave his son five dollars each morning to spend as he wanted. No wonder he became a gangster. The father of John Dillinger, who was in jail at the age of fifteen and was finally shot down, stood over the dead body of his son with the remorseful admission, "I was too busy making a living to take an interest in my boy." Roger Babson once told of visiting a wealthy stockman. While he was being shown the fine cattle, the daughter of the stockman came in the barn to notify her father that she and a young man were going out together for the evening. Babson asked the father who the young man was. "I have no idea," stated the father. "But where are they going and for how long?" asked Mr. Babson. "I do not

know," said the father. Roger Babson looked the man square in the face and said, "Man, you mean to tell me that you know your cattle by name, their history, and keep papers on each one, and yet you do not know anything about where your daughter goes, or with" whom?" Yet how many are under the same condemnation and are helping, through their own carelessness and neglect, to bring about the lost condition of their children.

Then, this lost condition can come about through carelessness on one's own part. Carelessness regarding their devotional life, Sabbath observance, their language, the company they keep, the places they go, attitudes, spirit manifested, until the power of spiritual resistance is broken down and they can no longer say no to questionable things. Sin has cut them off from God, just through their own carelessness. One like this can go on and on, working and professing, but all the while the degree of tarnish builds up; the hope of finding their way back decreases; sin multiplies; they are growing older; the Spirit strives less and less; and their chances are, fading. Great God, keep us awake, alive, stirred on our toes for God, prayed up and blessed in our souls!

The woman of this scripture did three things. First, she lighted a candle. The Holy Ghost will faithfully show man his Sin, his Surroundings, and his Separation from God; He will light the way back. Second, this woman swept the house, and third, she sought diligently. So the Spirit of God does all in His power to bring man back to Him. But also, there is something we must do to find our way back if we are lost. First, we must follow that light which the Spirit of God has lighted. Second, we must set our house in order; move things around; put away evil doings; leave sin and the ungodly crowd; clean up the outward man. Jewelry, make-up, cards, etc., will go. Questionable magazines and such forms of reading will be cleared from shelves and tables, unwholesome radio programs turned off, for "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away, and behold, all things are become new." Third, there must be a diligent seeking the Lord with the whole heart. Cry out to Him; meet His conditions; repent, confess, forsake, restore, and be through with sin forever. This is the way back. This route has never failed, nor will it ever fail, to bring victory.

All this, friend, if you have lost your way, But Christian soul, there is power in God's grace to keep you from falling. Pray, live in His blessed will, keep your eyes on Jesus, walk in all the light, lest you, too, as have many, become "Lost Through Carelessness."

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04 -- LOST THROUGH DELIBERATE CHOICE

From the November, 1968 Missionary Revivalist

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We have been considering the fifteenth chapter of St. Luke's Gospel, which is known as the "lost and found" chapter of the New Testament. In recalling to mind the illustrations given by Jesus to the publicans and sinners, the Lost Sheep is a picture of one who may be lost through Drifting. The second, that of the Lost Coin, pictures one who may be lost through Carelessness. In this third

and last, the Lost Son, we are face to face with the fact that it is possible for one to be lost through Deliberate Choice. Every individual who may be lost today is lost through one of these three ways.

The parable of the Lost Son is known as the most familiar of all Bible parables. It has been called "The Prince of Parables." While it gives forth the warning against man's becoming lost, it also gives promise that through the grace of God there is a door of hope for the weary wanderer who is desirous of returning to the sheepfold of the Great Shepherd.

In that day and country, property was not distributed by a will at the death of the head of the family, but was given at the request of the son. Therefore, the request of this son was quite proper as far as custom and law of that day were concerned. But the spirit and motive underlying his request seemed unholy. He seemed to say, "I am now free to go and to do as I please. I am no longer under bondage." Augustine defined the "far country" as forgetfulness of God. This is the chief sin of this present day. This leads to a condition or sphere of living where God is unknown, or left out of our plans and desires.

Many are forgetting God today because thinking of God convicts them of their sinful living. They forget by allowing baser things to become large in their thinking, until material things, money, farms, jobs or pleasure replace God, take the uppermost place in their hearts, and now they do things they once condemned, try to hide it from man, and forget that God sees all things. In this state the call of the world becomes loud; they convince themselves that there is plenty of time to care for the things of the soul, and they become unwilling to meet God's requirements for their lives. They are able to claim new light now on the things once called sin, when the truth of the matter is that they have so mistreated light that it has become darkness, the "no harm" devils have taken control, and they have become lost through deliberate choice.

Did you ever stop to wonder just why this young man of Luke 15, verses 11 to 24, went from home to the far country? He possibly thought things were too strict at home, and he could throw off father and mother's restraint, get away from the strict church, no longer have to listen to preaching on what many term non-essentials, and he would find perfect happiness. He may have felt this would be advantageous to his own future betterment. He could find a companion, make more money, fulfill his own desires, and get somewhere in the world. All this was his own personal choice. He was not pushed out nor forced to leave. It was a willful separation, thus Deliberate. Deliberate sin in the face of light can lead to the sin against the Holy Ghost. Not only was it deliberate, it was Dishonorable. He went down in the estimation of others. Respect and confidence of others will come to the person, young or older, who leaves all to follow Jesus. How wonderful to see one cut every shoreline, burn every bridge, launch out into the deep and say good-bye to all but God and righteousness. Nothing less than this will bring joy and satisfaction to the soul. This young man's choice was Deliberate, Dishonorable and Degrading. He started DOWN when he left home. That road, now as then, leads to reckless living, miserable blight, despairing effort, friendless condition, and; lands one on the bottom. It always will in time. Reaping in full may not come in a day or a month; nor in the first few years. But it ALWAYS comes.

One who forsakes the Lord may have said, "I would never go back to this or that," but when the restraint of the Spirit of God is released, that person will never know how far down they

will go. It is the first thought of sin, the first look toward Sodom, the pitch of the tent in that direction, that is dangerous. After one who has abhorred sin begins the downward journey, the next step is to condone or tolerate sin. Soon this is followed by the embracing of sin. Beware of that first step.

We are grateful that the story does not end there. Five things took place after this young man had reached the bottom that spelled hope and opened the door for his return. There were Reflection, Return, Repentance, Reception and Restoration. Find these in verses 17 through 24. Someone might have said, "Young man, recover your wasted money, have your diseases cured, put on suitable garments, and win back the respect of your neighbors; then you will be taken back." Any one of these would have closed the door forever against him. In his helpless, hopeless, deplorable condition, he came back. What did he receive? The kiss of reconciliation, the best robe, the ring on his hand, shoes on his feet, the fatted calf and a feast; for the dead was alive; the lost was found. Glory be to our Saviour! He never turns any away. Man may be lost through Drifting, through Carelessness or through Deliberate Choice, but when he "comes to himself," turns about and begins the return trip back to God, there is victory for him. To remain in a lost condition only means to go further and further down, with less and less chance of getting back, and will lead at last to eternal despair.

The illustration has been given of a young man who left his home in the Ozark country to go out on his own with the purpose to make money and forget about God and the spiritual side of life. In time he did make a great amount, had it piled up and was just ready to enjoy it when the crash came. Because of his utter loss of material things, he lost his reasoning. He took to the road in poverty. He was found by the law, drifting along not knowing where he was or where he was going. They heard him muttering to himself, "There is something better than gold, but I have forgotten what it is."

This is not the end of the one who will find the will of God and live in His will. Dear soul, reading these lines, if for any reason you must look back on the best spiritual days in your life, take courage, recover yourself, renew your vows to God, press your way to His side, and the joy of old-time salvation will become yours again. "It is just like Jesus to roll the clouds away!"

Repentance, Obedience and Faith still bring victory in this day.

* * * * *

05 -- ALVA LESTER TURNER -- GONE TO BE WITH JESUS -- By Lowell L. Foster

At 8:00 a.m. October 5, 1981, Rev. Alva Lester Turner went to heaven. Born November 17, 1914 at Manzanola, Colorado, called to preach at age 16, he had been a faithful full-time, uncompromising, yet tender preacher of the gospel of deliverance from all sin for 43 years. His prayer life matched if not exceeded his pulpit ministry. At conference, he once reported averaging 20 hours in study and prayer for each message he preached.

He married Edna Mae Johnson on January 25, 1937 at Newman Grove, Nebraska. Their first pastorate was at the Nazarene church in Alliance, Nebraska. Following this were pastorates at Herington and Kiowa, Kansas; Scottsbluff, Nebraska; Ontario, Oregon and Emmett, Idaho.

In 1956, he united with the Bible Missionary Church and became Rev. Glenn Griffith's assistant at Midway. Later that year, he assumed the duties of pastor of this mother church, a position he filled faithfully for 16 years.

He was the first District Moderator of the Northwest District, the first General Treasurer of the Bible Missionary Church, was elected to the General Board at the first General Conference and re-elected every four years afterward until his health forced him to resign in 1979.

I never heard him pray in public but heaven and earth came together. I never heard him preach but the anointing of God rested on him and was felt by the hearers, He was kind yet uncompromising for truth. He would walk away rather than listen to unkind remarks being made of an absent brother.

After resigning as pastor at Midway, he entered the evangelistic field. He loved this work and received many more calls than he could accept. He was one of the most sought after campmeeting preachers in our movement. Due to failing health, he accepted the pastorate at Kennewick, Washington. Blindness forced him to resign this last pastorate and he and his good wife moved to Emmett, Idaho where he lived until summoned home.

He was my friend. I met him first when I was a freshman in high school. He introduced me to my wife and later performed our wedding ceremony. I was honored and humbled to be asked to preach his funeral. General Moderator, Rev. Spencer Johnson flew from Louisiana to assist in the service.

Rev. A. L. Turner leaves to mourn his passing his faithful wife, Edna of Emmett; three children: Richard of Ft. Collins, Colorado; Loren of Nampa, Idaho; and Carol of Emmett, Idaho. Five grandchildren, three brothers, other relatives and many friends.

"He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and faith; and much people was added unto the Lord" (Acts 11:24).

"Servant of God well done,
Rest from thy loved employ.
The battle fought, the victory won
Enter thy Master's joy."

-- Submitted by Lowell Foster

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06 -- TRIBUTE TO BROTHER ALVA TURNER FROM HIS FAMILY

We can truthfully say we never heard a greater preacher of the Word than our loving husband and father. We never heard him preach without the anointing. He was firm, but tender, and "earnestly contended for the faith once delivered to the saints." He was a good husband and a loving and understanding father.

He testified often in the services of late about being homesick for Heaven. He is now in the land of perfect day; his eyes, sightless on earth, now behold the face of Jesus and the raptures and beauty of the Celestial City. He is now fellowshiping with dear Brother Paul King and many others who have gone on.

Would we call him back? No! A thousand times NO! There will always be a vacancy in our homes and hearts, but by God's grace, we mean to meet him in the morning.

We loved him for the way he fought
His battles in this world of men;
Though beaten down, he ever sought
To rise and struggle on again.

We loved him and we love him still,
Though at his humble task he died,
Though now he rests upon the hill,
His love and laughter sanctified.

So we shall follow in the way
His feet have traveled firm and true,
And go to hear his kind voice say,
"I'm waiting on the shore for you. "

In loving memory,
Mrs. Edna Turner,
Richard, Loren and Carol

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07 -- EULOGIES

Following are the eulogies sent in to be read at Brother A. L. Turner's funeral service:

Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day, in Israel (2 Sam. 3:38).

Brother Alva Turner was truly a prince among preachers and a great and godly man. He was a great holiness preacher because he was a holy man. His spirit and humility were exemplary of what he preached. His message was biblical, sound in doctrine and practical for life and living. His faith and vision for God's cause and the Bible Missionary Church were far reaching. He was numbered among the first group that founded the church and lived to see it grow into the thousands and reach around the world with its message of complete deliverance from sin.

The ministry of Brother Turner was fruitful in many areas of the church. Pastor of the mother church at Midway near Caldwell, Idaho, District Moderator of the Northwest District with a wonderful group of preachers under his leadership, evangelist in great demand for revivals and camp meetings. His influence and his judgment were invaluable on the General Board where he served from the earliest days of the church until his health would no longer permit him to attend its meetings.

Now his work on earth is finished and he doubtless has already received his "well done" from the One he devotedly loved and faithfully served to his death. But think of the great host of people throughout the world that have been influenced for good by this princely and great man. We will never forget his ministry, sweet spirit, and radiant personality for his Lord. So it can truly be said today, "He being dead yet speaketh." "Good-bye, Brother Turner, by the grace of God we will meet you just inside the eastern gate in that better world." "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

Our prayers are with you, Sister Turner, and all the members of the Turner family and loved ones. I pray also that the mantle of dear Brother Turner will fall upon some of his fine sons to carry on the work of true holiness that he so nobly pioneered and loyally espoused until his death.

Joseph Eugene Cook,
General Moderator
Bible Missionary Church

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Our precious and beloved Brother Alva Turner has finished his course. He has completed the storm-battered voyage of this earthly life and has now cast anchor in Heaven's harbor.

He was the dean of pastors. He took the call to the ministry as a serious yet joyful responsibility. He once reported that he averaged 20 hours of preparation for each message he preached. Along with his faithful and devoted wife, Edna, he spent many fruitful years in the pastorate. He was one of the most spiritual and ethical men I ever knew. Even in his later years, when he passed through the furnace of affliction, the desire to preach still burned in his soul.

He was a man of great integrity. He stood firm and sweetly for the old-fashioned radical way of holiness. Due to physical weakness, he sometimes trembled but he could not be moved away from the truth.

My wife joins me in sending our deep and sincere sympathy to Sister Edna Turner, to Grandmother Dora Johnson and to the Turner children, Richard, Loren and Carol and their families. In the human, we weep with you because of the parting here, but we also rejoice with you because Alva Turner as a contestant has won the game of life and as a pilgrim, he has arrived safely at his eternal home.

The good influence of Brother A. L. Turner will linger long throughout the Bible Missionary Church and in the world. Like the glowing of the evening sky as though the sun in departing had forgotten to close the gate, he leaves behind him a trail of influence which will light the way for many other pilgrims who seek that city where never comes night. No doubt when the Lord returns and the trumpet sounds, many will rise up and call him blessed, in the words of the poet,

"Servant of God well done
Rest from thy loved employ,
The battle fought, the victory won
Enter the Master's joy.

"The pains of death are past,
Labor and sorrow cease
And life's long warfare closed at last
His soul is found in peace.

"Soldier of Christ well done
Praise be thy new employ
And while eternal ages run
Rest in thy Saviour's joy."

Spencer Johnson
General Moderator Bible
Missionary Church

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Dear Sister Turner and family, I heard of dear Brother Alva's homegoing this morning. I never knew a man that I believed in more. He was a good and great Christian and one of the great holiness preachers of this generation. My prayers are with you today.

Rev. Elbert Dodd
Gen. Moderator Emeritus
Bible Missionary Church

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A soldier has fallen. Brother A. L. Turner was a humble man. A preacher of righteousness. His godly life was an inspiration to me. May God raise up many of his character. -- Rev. A. J. Hoof, Mod. Louis.-S. Tex. Dist.

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We were saddened to learn of the death of our dear friend, Brother Alva Turner. We express our deep sympathy to Sister Turner and the family and want to assure them of our prayers in the days which lie ahead. Brother Turner was a prince in Israel and a man of deep piety and his influence will live on. -- Rev. Foy Bullock, Moderator Southwest District

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I just learned of the passing of my friend and brother, A. L. Turner. I keenly feel our great loss. Brother Turner was a great man and I admired him. Your loss is heaven's gain. -- Rev. & Mrs. Frank Baldwin Moderator N. Central Dist.

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I received word this morning, October 5, of Brother A. L. Turner's promotion. Even though Brother Turner suffered a lengthy illness, it was a shock to learn of his passing. As was spoken of Barnabas, I could say the same of Brother A. L. Turner, "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith."

He was one of the most godly, humble men I've ever known. I've heard no greater preacher of the Word in my lifetime. How we shall miss him!

My sincere prayers are with Sister Turner and the children, Richard, Loren, Carol and their families.

May we all live as Brother Turner lived that we may join him in the morning.

Rev. Carl Dillard
General Secretary
Bible Missionary Church

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Our hearts were saddened to hear of the homegoing of dear Brother Alva Turner. We feel that he has made the landing safely. Our church has lost a faithful soldier of the cross. I know of none his equal in getting and keeping the anointing on his ministry. I am sure the secret was his faithfulness in prayer. I pray that his mantle shall fall on some young minister. His influence shall live on. He being dead yet speaketh.

Rev. L. P. Roberts
General Treasurer
Bible Missionary Church

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Brother Turner was a brother beloved. His Christ-like life and his great preaching ministry have been a great blessing to all of us. Our love and prayers are with Sister Turner and the family.
-- Rev. & Mrs. B. M. Loftin

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It was my privilege to pastor Brother Turner the last three years of his life. Though he was a sick man, he always manifested a spirit of devotion to the Lord. He did much of the public praying in our services and it was always blest of the Lord. Occasionally, he would miss a service and his absence was greatly felt. Many times, he mentioned going on to Heaven and I feel the Lord has answered his prayer. -- Rev. Wilbur Brown

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To Sister A. L. Turner, Richard, Loren and Carol, your companions and children and Sister Dora Johnson: With great sadness for your loss, we send our sympathy and especially our prayers. Brother Alva Turner was one of the greatest men we ever knew. As a young man, Brother Turner was a great influence in my life. Just 28 years ago, he married Marie and me in Ontario, Oregon. Across the years, he has been a prince of a man as well as a preacher. I was called to preach under his ministry. I've been privileged to live in his home while holding a revival for him in Emmett, Idaho. I personally feel a great loss. It was my privilege to follow him as pastor of our Midway Bible Missionary Church. He had faithfully pastored this church for seventeen years. A mighty prince and warrior has laid down his armor and gone home. He never gave up the fight. May we pick up the torch and carry forth the battle with the same spirit and passion for souls as he so faithfully showed.

Brother Turner, we shall miss you, but we mean to join you on the other side. Our prayers and love will be with all the family. May the Lord bless you. -- Rev. Robert Barker & family
Moderator Inter-Mountain Dist.

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Words cannot express the measure of appreciation we feel for the influence of Rev. A. L. Turner in our lives. He was always an example of Christ-likeness in life and spirit. We treasure the memories of days Brother Turner spent in our home. Our home was blessed by his prayers; our hearts were lifted by his spirit; our desire to be deeply spiritual was encouraged by his holy example. He was charitable toward all, never speaking an unkind or critical word about a brother.

We are thankful that we were able to sit under the ministry of Brother Turner in several revivals and campmeetings. His preaching was so scriptural, anointed and powerful. He was a master in the pulpit, truly a "prince of preachers." His personal piety added such depth to his pulpit ministry. In his pastoral ministry, he left us an example of compassion and faithfulness. He was and will continue to be my ideal.

Heaven became more real as last Thursday afternoon, we wept and prayed together by his bedside. Heaven opened and the glory of that fair land touched our hearts. Brother Turner rejoiced

in the blessed hope of heaven. There was no question but that he was ready for and awaiting God's call. We see that land by faith from afar but today, Brother Turner is beholding the Christ he loved and partaking of the joys his Master prepared for him, his faithful servant.

Our prayers are with his wonderful companion, Sister Turner, who so faithfully stood by his side through their years of ministry and through the years of his illness, and with his children, Carol, Richard and Loren and their families. -- Rev. Thomas & Carol McCall

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