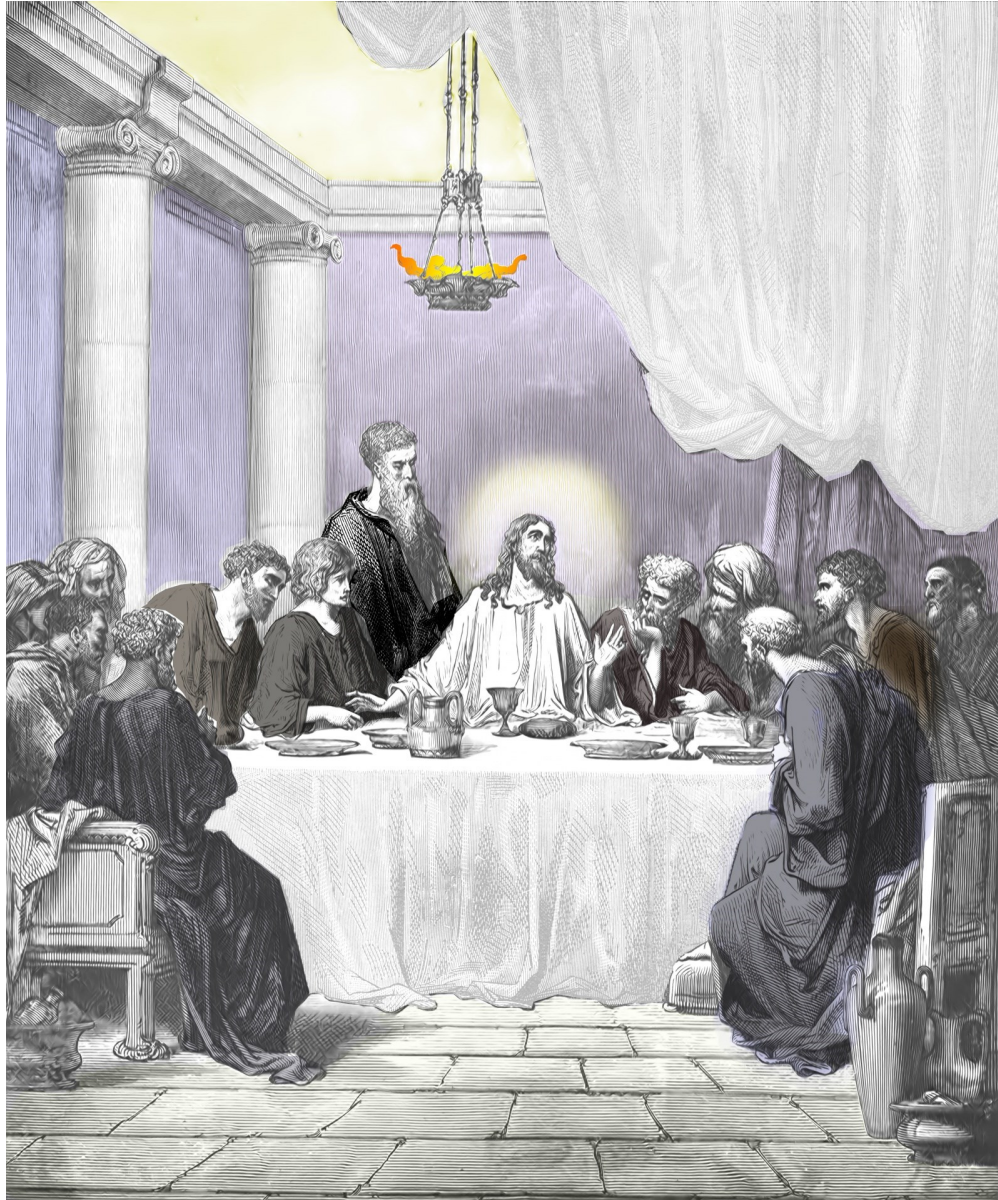


St. Timothy's Banner

Pentecost 2022



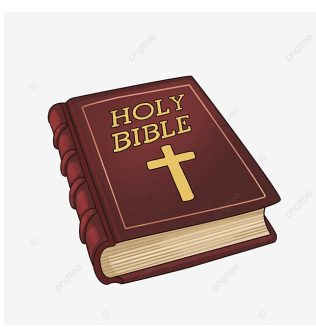
John 14:16,17a And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.

**John 14: 16,17a And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another
Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth.**

TRUE KNOWLEDGE

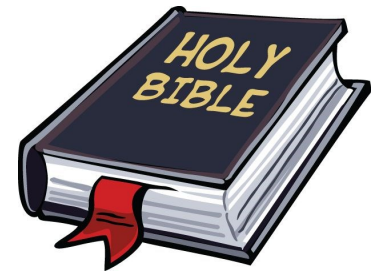
By Do Fox

The only true knowledge
Is knowledge of Me.
This experiencing of Me
Leads you into a higher realm of being.
Did I not make the universe?
False knowledge can lead many astray.
The most important thing to know
Is My Love for you -
Such inner Life can be yours
If only you would seek it out.
I am a Relational Being,
And when you relate with Me
I lift you up into the pure understanding
Of what life is all about!
Life is the gift I give to you,
Freedom of choice I give you,
But choices have consequences.
As you grow in Me, you will see that.
I want to share, not only My Love,
But My Wisdom with you.
This will lead you to make Godly decisions.
This is the knowledge
That leads to real living.
The kind of life
You were designed to live!



Spiritually Restored

By Paster Dan



(Are you a human being or simply human? Mankind or God's kind?)

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you". (John 14:15-18) NKJV

The Christian faith has two far out doctrines without which there is no Christianity: the *incarnation of God* and the *ascension of man*. Or, to put it another way: the divine becoming human and the human "returning" to the divine. These are the most fabulous doctrines because they are the most fabulous things. First, what is the incarnation of God? It is the infinite Spirit God willingly becoming a limited human being. It is God who created all things (visible and invisible) and thus transcends all that was created, becoming human. The incarnation is the act of the holy, immaterial, incorporeal, immortal spiritual creator of everything (material and immaterial), becoming a material, mortal, corporal creature as well. The Christian faith claims that the person of Jesus Christ was and did that. He had a pre-human existence as the divine Logos – or Word, or Wisdom of God - which became human. That claim comes from Jesus himself as recorded in the Gospel of John and from its author.

In the creation account of Genesis, God spoke the universe into existence from nothing – step by step – and saw that it was very good. Meaning, since Jesus Christ had a pre-incarnate existence as the divine *Logos*, then at the incarnation he entered and became part of the same world that he himself created. He became part of his creation at his conception as a human being – and in the most vulnerable of ways – as a living human fetus, then a new-born baby, completely dependant upon other human beings. That is what Christian's believe. But we see in the incarnation a contrast with the Genesis account: if God created man in his own image and likeness, and it was good, why the need for divine incarnation? Why would God need to become human if humans were already created in God's image and likeness? What was the problem and from where did it come? I'll get to that later. Before I do, I want to examine the other far out doctrine of Christianity – the ascension of man – beginning with one man, Jesus Christ.

According to the Christian faith, Jesus Christ's ascension is the event where the same divine person who was pre-existent as the divine Logos and became human (while retaining the divine Spirit) "returned" to the unlimited position he held before his incarnation. The Spirit of God in Jesus had only been confined, or limited in Jesus' human body (even obscured somewhat by his natural body and duties). The Spirit of God nevertheless had become *immanent* (rather than *transcendent*) in the created universe within the body of Jesus ("... you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you"). Furthermore, through his incarnation as Jesus, the divine Logos acquired human qualities forever. Christ's ascension could have simply been called a "returning" had it not been for humanity being added. But because humanity had not experienced the pre-incarnate existence before this event, the ascension was as new and dynamic as the incarnation had been: the human, or material part of Jesus became unlimited, being taken into the divine habitat (or kingdom) forever. Jesus remained human, just as he had remained God in the incarnation, even as he was taken up and released again into the divine and unlimited habitation. And he will take our world into his kingdom upon his return to earth.

Now let's go back to the Genesis account and look at the contrasting problem of the creation of man in God's image and likeness, and the need for God's incarnation as man. Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, 'Let us **make** man in **our** image, according to **our** likeness...' ". That is juxtaposed to God making all other living creatures according to **their own kind**, or species. Verse 27 says, "God **created** humankind in **his own** image, in

the image of God he created them, male and female he created them". Again, why the need of divine incarnation (and the ascension) when man had been created in God's image and likeness? It could only be because something of God's image and likeness that man had been given at creation was subsequently taken away, lost, or forfeited somewhere down the line. So we must ask two questions – what is this "something" of the image and likeness of God that man lost, and when did that happen? What is the image and likeness of God? Was it being a spirit? Being more than material? A living spirit? It is interesting that this account of man's creation is first in Genesis 1:26-27. Then comes Genesis 2:7 which says, "Then the LORD God **formed** a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man **became a living being**" (Gen. 2:7). What does that mean? What is a living being? Is any plant or animal a living being? What is it to be a human being, as opposed to being merely human? Why do we call ourselves human beings? Why do we tend to think of ourselves as special, above all other creatures? Is it our intelligence? If that is all it is then there would be nothing wrong with having superiority complexes or prejudices over and against any person who was less intelligent than ourselves. If that is wrong – and I submit that it is – then being a human being must mean more than that. What is it then? Is it being male and female? Is it having dominion over every living thing? Is it the ability to understand and communicate with God? Is it that we possess what other creatures do not? Self awareness? A conscience? A will? A free-will? Is it that we possess the ability to create – even the very expression of ourselves? Or is it that we are everlasting souls? Perhaps it is all of the above, but only partially – again, because something was obviously lost. What could it be? God described himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14 as "Being" – The eternal, timeless Being. "*Ehyeh - Asher - Ehyeh*". "I Am that I Am" or "I will be what I will Be" depending on the tense. Translated into Greek "*Ego eimi ho on*" is "I am the one who is". The Hebrew name for God is YaHWeH. Sometimes translated simply as "Being". Other times translated as "the Cause to become". We humans took the term "being" from God through the Scriptures. We adopted it for ourselves because the same scriptures say, "God created humankind in his own image". But should we have adopted the word "being" for all humanity? Are we really "being" like God is, or is "being" what humanity lost?

From a Christian's point of view, whatever quality had made humanity like God was now lost – otherwise we would not have needed the incarnation and ascension of the divine to restore it. That very fact eliminates evaluating all the things I suggested that might make us more like God and different from other creatures because those differences remain even with what was lost. Still, there was *something* lost. The good news is that when we go back and look again at the Genesis account, we can see what was lost.

In Genesis 2, we see that there was only one condition that God gave man. And there was one specific thing that God said would be lost if that condition was transgressed – life itself. Genesis 2:15-17 says, "Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die'" (Genesis 2:15-17). Does God lie? No! Humanity lost divine life from the breath (or inspiration) of God by disobeying God's one command: eating of that one forbidden tree. And by losing divine life from the breath of God, humanity lost *likeness* to God. Humanity may retain some of the *image* of God but certainly lost God's likeness in losing the spiritual life from God – we know this as spiritual death. Humanity went on to exist on a lower plain, evidenced by the first death of a human being recorded in the Bible: the murder of Able at the hand of his brother Cain, out of nothing but jealousy (Gen. 4:1-8). In sinning against God's one command, human beings died spiritually and became simply human. Being simply human we cannot know God. God is beyond natural human perception or conception – in experience or comprehension. That is why we needed the incarnation, and ascension of God – for God to atone for our sin and then breath divine life back into us and bring us with him into heaven.

Now fast-forward to New Testament times, where in John 20:19 we read of Jesus' resurrection after his death. "Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to

them, "Peace *be* with you." ²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, **He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"** (John 20:19-22). We who receive the breath, or Spirit of God, through Jesus, are again restored to life through His breathing his Holy Spirit into us. This spiritual re-birth is made possible only by faith in Jesus' incarnation, life, sacrificial death, resurrection, and ascension. Only then can we be truly "being". Christ's resurrection and ascension are the basis of the Christian belief in each individual Christian's resurrection and ascension – and not only after our resurrection – even now in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:4-6 says, But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus". It is not that our spirits were pre-existent, but that Jesus' Spirit was. In his becoming human and atoning for our sin, he was able to do something for our souls that we couldn't do ourselves - breathe divine life into them with his Holy Spirit and raise them to life with him. Now we who were dead are alive forevermore! Praise God!

Men's Breakfast - What Great Fellows

By Gillian Lindsay

I was praying for a ramp so that Fred could go outside in a wheelchair or with his walker and found a used one, still set up, online. The lady who had been praying for someone to take it away, wanted all of it gone, about 90'. I could not find anyone to take it down and set it up again and Sue asked if she could mention it to Pastor Dan. I responded negatively but it weighed on me that I was saying no to an answer to prayer, so buried my pride and accepted the kind offer from the church's Men's Breakfast group.

What a generous use of their time and effort to get a lovely ramp set up for us. They worked from 9am, maybe earlier, until 7pm leaving us with a completed ramp. Thanks to Robin, Pastor Dan, Ray, Martin, Chuck and Jonathan.

The left over part was used by my neighbour, who has been very kind to us, to build a deck, so the blessing has been expanded. Caregivers and PAD's have asked about the ramp and it is great to share that it is my church's men's group who built it and that it was in answer to prayer.





The Work of the Holy Spirit

By Harn Yawnghwe

John 3:8

“The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit.”

Some times we get depressed when our efforts to evangelize do not seem to bear fruit. We look at the huge mega churches and wonder if we are doing something wrong. Especially in this day and age when we are being constantly told that growth is the hallmark of success. But before we endorse such thinking, we should remember that it comes from the world, not Scripture.

Scripture instead reminds us that the work of convincing someone of sin is the work of the Holy Spirit. We cannot, and should not, second guess Him. At Pentecost, the disciples of Jesus were not planning an evangelization crusade. They were just gathered together. They were as surprised as anyone else when the Holy Spirit chose to give them voice.

Although many readily quote Acts 2: 46-47 – “And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved”. What about Acts 2:44-45?

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need”. These verses show the attitude of the disciples towards material wealth. They were not thinking about money, but about the needs of their fellow believers. No wonder “fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles” (Acts 2:43).

Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). It might be useful to examine if we are actually serving God or mammon. What is our attitude towards money and wealth versus our attitude towards the needs of those around us? Yes, we are to be good stewards, but what comes first – husbanding our wealth, or helping others?

Jesus also said, “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Matthew 6:20). How do we lay up treasures in heaven?

Jesus said, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Matthew 19:21). It is pretty clear where our priorities should be. Even when we have no wealth, we should not neglect our neighbours. For example, Peter said, “ ‘I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God” (Acts 3:6-9). Peter cared about the cripple. Do we care about our neighbours?

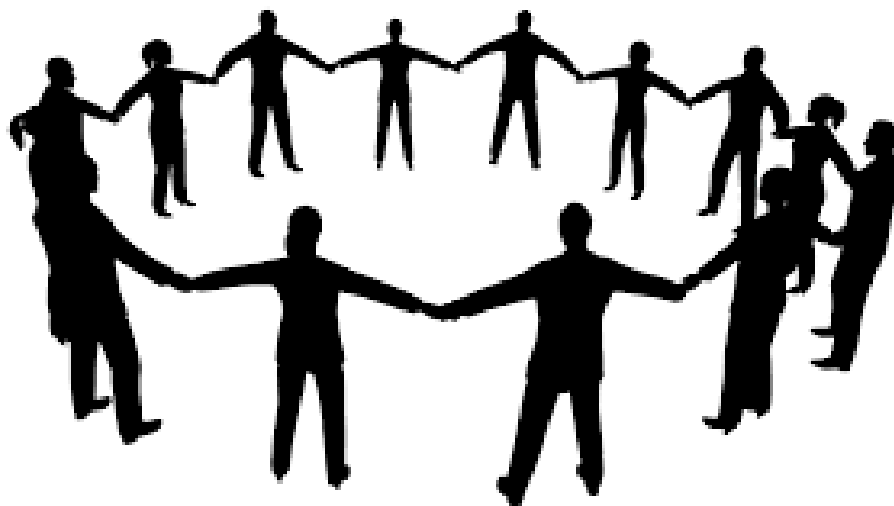
Acts 4 ends with these words, “Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. And

with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need. Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet" (Acts 4:32-37).

Scripture is quite clear about whom we should be serving – God, not mammon – and what our priorities should be. The world tells us to save our lives by preparing for our retirement so we can live comfortable lives in old age. But Jesus said, "For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life?" (Mark 8:35-37).

"The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (2 Corinethian 4:4). So those of us who are enlightened by the Holy Spirit should be reaching out to those who do not see. "We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:12).

Finally, do not be discouraged. We just have to live our lives faithfully for Christ and the Holy Spirit whom we cannot see will do His work of bringing people to Christ.



God at Work

By Helen Yawnghwe

On Ascension Sunday, during the Prayers of the People, when Maria read out the list of more than 70 households who had come into the life of Saint Timothy's over the last ten years, I thought once again of how people move in and out of our lives for a season and of how we should seize the opportunity to love them. It was both a reminder of how God works in space and time and a reminder to keep praying for people even though we may no longer see them on a regular basis. God is always at work in our lives.

KALININGRAD

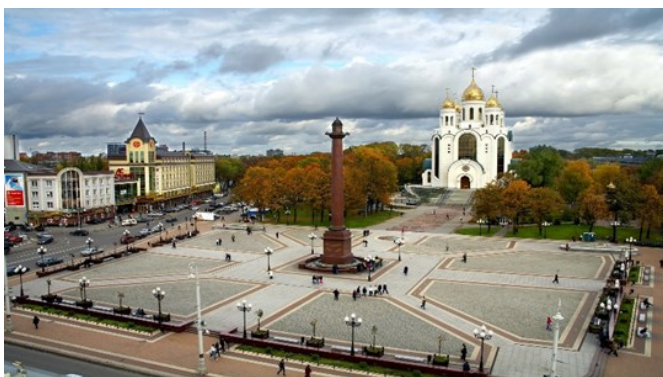
By Harn Yawnghwe

When the war in Ukraine started, I decided to study Russia and Ukraine in a bit more detail. Did you know that Russia has a major naval base – the headquarters of its Baltic Fleet – 360 kilometres west of its nearest land border? Kaliningrad is the only ice-free port of Russia and one of its largest industrial centres. But it is impossible to travel overland from Russia to Kaliningrad without passing through two countries – Lithuania and Latvia or Lithuania and Belarus. The Kaliningrad Oblast is the smallest Russian province and it is sandwiched between Lithuania and Poland. It covers over 15,000 square kilometres (3 times the size of PEI) and has a population of about 1 million Russians (same as Nova Scotia).

How did this happen? Kaliningrad was founded in 1255 as Königsberg by the Teutonic Knights during the Northern Crusades to aid Christians in their outreach missions in the Baltics. It became the capital of Prussia, and a publishing centre. The first book in Lithuanian, and the first Lutheran catechism, were

both printed in Königsberg in 1547. The first Polish translation of the New Testament was also printed there in 1551. It was a university city (Albertina University founded in 1544), and developed into an important German intellectual and cultural center. It was the home of Immanuel Kant, Hannah Arendt and others.

Kaliningrad was captured by Soviet troops from Germany at the end of the Second World War and the Potsdam Agreement of August 1945 (Attlee, Truman and Stalin) placed Königsberg under Soviet administration. The border of the USSR at that time extended west and included Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kaliningrad, Poland, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. These countries became independent in 1990 and so Kaliningrad was left isolated from Russia. In 1945, German inhabitants of Königsberg were expelled and replaced by Russians. Today, Kaliningrad's strategic importance has increased for both Russia and NATO.



TRANSNISTRIA

(Trans-Dniester)

Officially known as the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic, Transnistria is an unrecognised breakaway state in the narrow strip of land between the river Dniester and the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. The Republic covers an area of 4,163 square kilometres (smaller than PEI), and has a population of 475,500 Russian speakers (population of Newfoundland & Labrador). It has its own government, parliament, military, police, postal system, currency, and vehicle registration. It also has its own constitution, flag, national anthem, and coat of arms. But it is not recognized by the United Nations.

The Moldavian Autonomous SSR was formed in 1924 within the Ukrainian SSR. During the Second World War, the Soviet Union combined parts of the Moldavian Autonomous SSR and Bessarabia, which was in the Kingdom of Romania to form the Moldavian

SSR. When the USSR disintegrated in 1990, Moldova became independent and Transnistria (Pridnestrovian Moldavian SSR) was established hoping to remain within the Soviet Union, or unify with Romania or become independent. A war of independence from Moldova took place in 1992. A ceasefire supervised by Russia, Moldova and Transnistria was established but the territory's political status remains unresolved to this day.

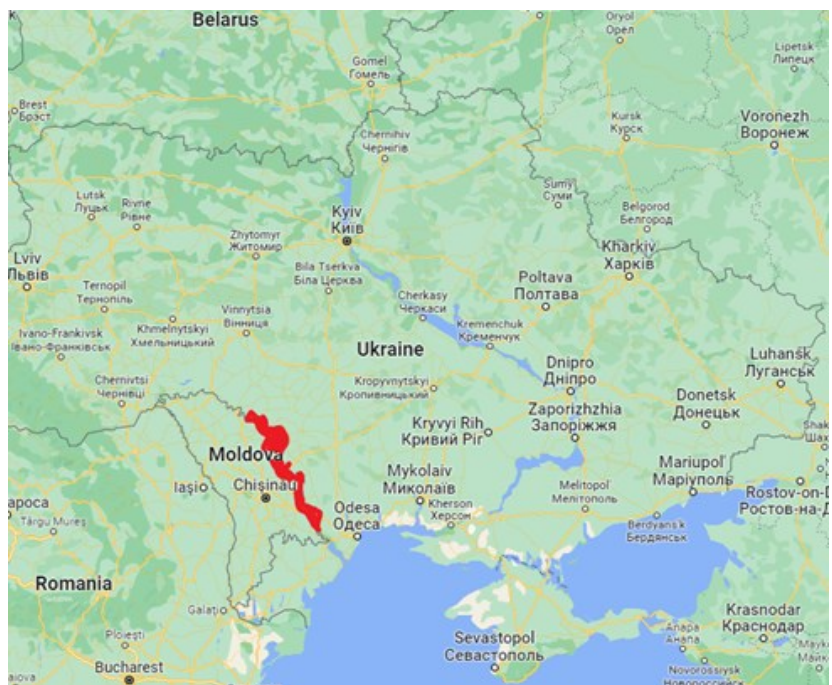
The Transnistrian village of Cobasna is the home of a Russian ammunition depot created in the 1950s as a strategic arsenal of the USSR. Russian troops are stationed there. If the more than 26,000 tonnes of arms and ammunition stored there were to accidentally explode like in Beirut, it would be equivalent to a nuclear bomb. The question today also is whether this tiny enclave will join Russian-dominated Ukraine.

CNN 26 April 2022

What is Transnistria and why is it important to Russia?

A top Russian general said last week that the military is aiming for "full control" over the eastern Donbas region and southern Ukraine -- and to gain access to Transnistria, the breakaway territory in the neighboring country of Moldova.

TASS quoted the acting commander of Russia's Central Military District Maj. Gen. Rustam Minnekaev as saying the goal was to create a land corridor between Donbas and Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014.



Another Oddity

By Harn Yawnghwe

Did you know that France is only 19 kilometres west of Canada? The islands of **St Pierre and Miquelon** that belong to France are just off the coast of Newfoundland in the Gulf of St Lawrence. In 1536, Jacques Cartier claimed the islands as a French possession on behalf of the King of France. In 1670, there were 4 inhabitants. The islands changed hands several times between the French and the British. Today they remain a French Territory. Law is enforced by the French Gendarmerie Nationale. They have two police stations and have maintained a patrol boat there since 1997.

HISTORY

Originally a French settlement, the British took control of the islands in 1713, 1778, 1794, 1803, and 1815, with the French taking back possession between each of these occupations. Eventually, the French took control of the islands once again in 1816, this time permanently.



Man's Dominion and territories may change with time, but God's sovereignty over the earth is constant.



The Pale Blue Dot



A NASA mission was leaving the solar system years ago, when at the request of Carl Sagan, it was commanded by NASA to turn its camera around and take a last photo video of earth across a great expanse of space. The following words were spoken by Carl Sagan.

That's here, that's home, that's us. On it everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero or coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every superstar, every supreme leader, every saint and sinner in the history of our species, lived there....on a mote of dust suspended....in a sunbeam. The earth is a very small stage, in a vast, cosmic arena.

Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors, so that in glory and triumph they can become the momentary masters, of a fraction... of a dot.

Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel, on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner. How frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds. Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion, we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet....is a lonely speck in the great, enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere, to save us from ourselves. The earth is the only world known so far to harbour life. There is no where else, at least in the near future to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes, settle, not yet. Like it or not for the moment, the Earth is where we take

our stand. It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits, than this distant image. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.

Adapted from a u-tube video sent to us by Carolyn White



Our Little Earth

By Do Fox

This "pale blue dot" that is our home
May seem so small in space,
Yet on it walked the Son of God
Who had a human face.

Creator of the Universe
Chose this to be His home,
He could have settled anywhere,
But He chose here, to roam.

At Pentecost, the Spirit came,
Like Fire from above,
God's Grace enfolds, and changes us,
And spreads His Heavenly Love!

Someday He will return to reign
And bring His Heavenly Peace,
No other planet has this boast,
His Light will never cease!



Humour



I hate it when I see an old person and realize we went to school together.

At my funeral, take the bouquet off my coffin and throw it in to the crowd to see who is next.

I thought growing old would take longer.

A dog accepts you as the boss...a cat wants to see your resume.

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed; we're having a staff meeting.

I won 't be impressed with technology until I can download food.

I really don't mind getting old, but my body is having a major fit.

I don't care who dies in a movie, as long as the dog lives.

The world's best antidepressant has 4 legs, and a wagging tail and comes with unconditional love.

Love is how excited your dog gets when you come home.

Submitted by Barrie Fox

Activity Page

43

Chapter Headings for Acts

S I P T C O N I U M U M A G R I P P A R
N P I H H E V C O R I N T H E N S E C O
A L E E D E A O N S L U T O O O T R O S
I T H N R S F N S E F E E I T P E S R E
T H E S T O N I N G O F S T E P H E N D
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T X I L E F O T H E B E U Y C I L I H P
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N E S P D S T E R I P P I L I H P S U S
S N I R D E H N A S N O I S R E V N O C

AGRIPPA

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

ARREST

ASCENSION

ATHENS

CHRISTIANS

CONVERSION

CORINTH

CORNELIUS

COUNSEL

ELDERS

EPHESUS

FELIX

FESTUS

ICONIUM

MISSIONS

PENTECOST

PERSECUTION

PHILIPPI

PRAYER

ROME

SANHEDRIN

SHIPWRECKED

STAIRS

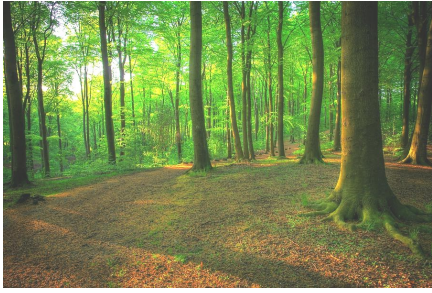
TEMPLE

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

THE FIRST DEACONS

THE STONING OF STEPHEN

53



A Second Eden



By Do Fox

A second Eden dawned,
The Light Eternal shone,
When our Lord rose from death,
With God's Almighty Breath!

The rescue had begun
To save God's wayward son,
As Pentecostal fire
Ignited our desire!

Our God offers His Love
As gentle as a dove,
And generations share
In His Eternal care.

Let's celebrate our Lord
Without thought of reward,
And share His Risen Life
That saves us all from strife.

