"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, God's own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

I Peter 2:9

Peter wrote these wonderful things to the churches in the northern part of Asia Minor. At this time, Peter was in Rome and it was written just before his death. Peter's letters were to be an encouragement to the Body of Christ. Concerning today, is it not true the one Body of Christ, worldwide, needs again the encouragement, which God's truth can bring? Consider the Christians in Iraq, Palestine, Sudan, Indonesia, and even in America and Canada.

Recently I was reading the most edifying introduction to Arthur Hertzberg's Volume regarding Zionism, written by Doctor Emanuel Neumann. Doctor Neumann speaks of the religion of the Jew as being "an Ethical Creed, the moral heritage of the Bible". He writes that the Jew, in these latter years, was to be "a guide toward the ideals of justice and righteousness as revealed in the Bible".

Reflecting on Christianity of today, it is my belief and surely the belief of the Christian Church generally, that as Christians, we believe in an Ethical Creed taught to us from God's Word. Also, we too believe that we as Christians are to guide mankind toward the ideals of justice and righteousness revealed in the Bible. The Jew is looking for the Messiah and so are we.

In the present era, the youth of America have again been called upon to stand for the great vision of the "Land of the free and the home of the brave". A soldier in a Vietnam prison wrote about the factors which sustained the lives of those who were with him: "Love of God, love of our nation, and love of one another". Jeremiah Denton applied God's truths to his situation and his hope. His hope was a truly Christian hope, which America and the world need today more than ever before.

We need to know who we are and what this world was created for. Without vision, we will perish. We need to again catch the vision and re-ignite the fire of God's love across the world. The time is late. The Messiah is coming again. We must unite and be ready. Give us, O Lord, the unity of Godly love which Jesus so wonderfully demonstrated for us all, every creed, every race, every church, and every assembly.

A poem from Dr. Ben Rush for us to think about:

**THINGS UNKNOWN**

As I came across the levee
How was I to know that you were watching the rippling of the river
As you dreamed of a peace yet to be
Where our love would never die.

Thank you Ben. God bless you.
OPEN MY HEART
THAT I MAY SEE

I stood looking out of a window
And complained in my usual way
Of the rain that was steadily falling,
Upsetting my plans for the day.

I didn’t know someone had heard me,
So it gave me somewhat of a start
When I heard a quiet voice ask me,
"Have you looked for the sun in your heart?"

Then I saw the little old lady
Whose voice made a path through the gloom,
And the weather outside was forgotten
As her smile seemed to light up the room.

I wondered what power had given
Such strength to a body so frail;
Then I saw she was reading her Bible,
Yes, her Bible – printed in Braille.

John W. Williams
DeWitt, Iowa

2006 CALENDAR

Mar 4-18       ETHIOPIA, AFRICA
               Mission Trip
               Dr. Reed to be part of
               team

May 8-12      RIPLEY, WV
               WV Spring CFO
               Speaker-Dr. Reed
               Contact-Faith Sherlock
               (740) 569-7759

EVERY TUESDAY

10:30 a.m.    Bible Study
              Rev. Tom Wade

12:00 p.m.    Bring a Sack Lunch

              Potluck
              (First of Each Month)

1:00 p.m.     Dr. Reed Speaking

2:00 p.m.     Healing Service

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