

Our Missionaries Speak



TRIUMPHANT—IN CHRIST

Rev. K. E. Gorman

2 Cor. 2:14 "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ . . ."

Our English word 'triumph', (and all related words with the same root,) comes from the Latin 'triumphus', meaning a triumph. If we are to fully understand and appreciate the thought presented to us by the Apostle, it will be necessary to note just what an ancient 'triumph' really was.

"A triumph in Rome was a magnificent procession in honor of a victorious general, and the highest military distinction which he could obtain. It was granted by the senate only to one who had held the office of dictator, consul, or praetor, (a magistrate ranking next to consul) and after a decisive victory in the complete subjugation of a Province. The victorious general entered the city in a chariot drawn by four horses. He was crowned with laurel, having a scepter in one hand and a branch of laurel in the other. He was preceded by the Senate and Magistrates, musicians, the spoils of his victory, and the captives in fetters; and followed by his army on foot, in marching order. The procession thus advanced along the Via Sacra to the Capitol, where a bull was sacrificed to Jupiter, and the laurel wreath deposited in the lap of the god." (I.S.B.E.)

From the above description, one can easily imagine the scene, as thousands of people lined the route to pay tribute to the one whose achievements had entitled him to a 'triumph'. It is more difficult to try to recapture even a part of the spontaneous feelings of joy which must have surged through that great throng, and welled up within the heart of him who was so honored. Perhaps one could compare a 'triumph' with the emotional experiences we felt when final victory came in the Second World War, and tumultuous welcomes were given to our returning soldiers.

However, a 'triumph' had a religious significance as well, as noted in the sacrifice to their god, and the laying down at his feet of the crown of laurel. Paul knew this well, and used the same term when writing to the Christians at Corinth and at Colosse. (Colossians 2:15).

Our text suggests that the children of God can always know the fruit and blessings of a life of victory. Paul made no exception to the rule, and made no allowance for hard circumstances. Writing with a full knowledge that persecution was causing many to seal their testimony with their blood, he encouraged the Church to look upon their martyrdom as the greatest victory possible. And as we read of the heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11, and later heroes down through the years to our very day, we ought to be inspired and encouraged ourselves.

To be 'triumphant' is to exult in victory. It was this that made Paul and Silas sing at midnight in the inner prison of the Philippian jail. They had received many

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PRAYER CALENDAR — JULY 1963

1. Praise for the excellent Easter District Meeting at Lujojwani, Paulpietersburg Dist.
2. Praise for revival of the work at Opuzane Outpost, Paulpietersburg District
3. Helen Gorman—Birthday
4. Prayer of thanks for continued financial support for Bethesda Hospital
5. Miss Manasia Ndlangamandla, teacher at Grootspuit, Paulpietersburg Dist., Holds three Sunday Schools in the area
6. Prayer for seekers, old and young in the Hartland Area
7. Communion Sunday at Ermelo—Rev. Charles Sanders in charge
8. Annual South African Church Conference July 8-14 at Louwsburg—prayer for rich blessing upon our African church people as they meet
9. Prayer for our church members at Odolongwane, Paulpietersburg District, where there is a strong Zionist influence
10. Mrs. Grace Titlestad, Vryheid, as she does personal work among the natives who come to her store
11. God's blessing during Missionary Day at Beulah Camp—for an increased interest in missions—both home and foreign
12. Prayer for possible Teachers' Institute for Sunday School Workers tentatively scheduled for July
13. Prayer of thanks for building site at Vryheid for European Church
14. Regular Sunday evening services held for Europeans in a rented hall at Vryheid—Rev. Karl Gorman in charge
15. Prayer for nurse at Hartland Clinic—that she may have an effective witness among her patients
16. Rev. and Mrs. E. A. M. Kierstead and the work of Superintending the general foreign mission field activities
17. Charles and Myra Sanders directing the mission work in the Ermelo District, S. A.
18. Lic. H. Mdalosi, Sunday School Promoter for Natal Province Reformed Baptist Churches and the Sunday Schools under his direction
19. Bill and Elsie Morgan directing the mission work in the Louwsburg District, S.A.
20. Karl and Helene Gorman, missionaries in the Paulpietersburg District, S.A.
21. Communion Sunday at Gobeni, Louwsburg District — Rev. William Morgan in charge
22. Beverly Kierstead—Birthday
23. Glendon and Betty Kierstead directing the work in the Altona District, S.A.
24. Rhodesian African Church Conference—July 24-28—prayer for a visitation of the Holy Spirit upon the church during these meetings
25. Paul and Mary Sanders as they begin their furlough
26. Eric and Nina Haywood—that the Lord may grant journeying mercies as they return to the Rhodesian field
27. Gene and Cheryl Hudson as they work at Bethesda, Rhodesia, in the schools and hospital
28. Communion Sunday at Cibini—Rev. Karl Gorman in charge
29. Uta Chase and the Monday evening kraal visiting which she is directing at villages neighboring Bethesda—for needed revival in the area
30. Storer and Wilma Emmett—ministry in the hospital and the schools in Rhodesia
31. Harold and Shirley Kierstead—administration of the Rhodesian Field.