

HE LIVES!

By Esther P. Plyler

After a week of evangelistic services, the Rev. A. H. Ackley concluded the series of services by preaching about the divine presence of Jesus in the world and in our hearts. After that last service, a young Jew, who had attended most of the services that week remained after the service because he had one question to ask the evangelist: "Why should I worship a dead Jew?"

The evangelist answered him enthusiastically with these words: "He lives! I tell you He is not dead but lives here and now. Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before. I can prove it by my own experience as well as the testimony of countless thousands." The evangelist then tried to persuade the young man to take the first step by surrendering his life to God in accepting Jesus Christ as his Saviour. This encounter prompted Rev. Ackley to write not only the words to the well-known Easter hymn, but also to compose the music to it.

As one biographer pointed out: "The scripture evidence, his own heart, and the testimony of history, matched with the glorious experience of an innumerable cloud of witnesses that He lives, has left us with the conviction that for a Christian, Christ does indeed live."

The coming of Easter and our singing of this hymn with conviction express once again the truth of the following words:

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today;

I know that He is living, whatever men may say.

I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,

And just the time I need Him, He is always near.

In all the world around us I see His loving care;

And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair,

I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast.

The day of His appearing will come at last.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing

Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!

The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find

None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Chorus:

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.

*He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.*

*He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

Easter – I'm ready!

By Terezia Faulkner

(Excerpts from her letter)

I received letters from all over the world. Everyone is asking for prayers. "Pray for me." There are health and financial problems. Yet we have so much to be thankful for. We still have freedom to go to church and to celebrate Easter. I heard a reporter on TV ask a group of people what Easter meant to them. Some children responded, "bunny rabbits, chocolate, candy." Other said "fun time, no school, Spring break." One person said "Easter to me is the resurrection of Jesus Christ." And I said Amen when I heard that. I agree that satan is busy to cover people's eyes and hearts not to see the truth. Like Christmas, Easter is also commercialized. For us Christians, the focus of Easter is Christ. As we read 1 Corinthians 15:17, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." ... it is as simple as that. If Christ is still dead, than He cannot be our Savior; and He cannot be the Son of God if He died like all men. Praise the Lord! He is alive, so we can have hope.

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25) We cannot say it enough; the Christian faith is different because we have the empty tomb. We have the living Savior. So we surely are able to say we have a beautiful future. Jesus himself told us in John 14:2-3 "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Do you need more assurance? I'm happy I belong to Jesus, and He is coming back. There are many signs showing the time is near. I know I'm ready. Yet as long as He lets me to do His will, I will work and I am happy to do it.

I am usually saying a little about my family. Ron and Mary celebrated their 24th anniversary in February. Dustin celebrates his 16th birthday on April 19th. He is still having difficulty speaking, but his sister Amanda is working with him. She will be receiving her degree in speech therapy this year. I would like to go to her graduation which takes place May 15th. Lee and Amanda will celebrate their 2nd anniversary, May 31st. Time flies. I hope to celebrate my 87th birthday with them during my stay.

Praise the Lord for His goodness...

A Taste of Mueller and His God

by John Piper

Pastor George Mueller was born in Germany in 1805, spent most of his life in Bristol, England, preached nine times in Minneapolis in 1880, traveled to 42 countries between the ages of 70 and 87, and died at the age of 92, the most famous orphanage founder in the world. He built 5 orphan houses, cared for 10,024 orphans in his lifetime, pastored the same church for 66 years, never incurred debt, never asked anyone for money, didn't take a salary for 68 years, and never went hungry. He lost three children in infancy, his first wife Mary after 39 years, his second wife Susannah after 23 years, and his daughter Lydia when she was 58. In response to the new teaching that Christ snatches the church out of the world before the Tribulation, Mueller reportedly said, "If you can show me a trumpet after the last and a resurrection before the first, then I can believe this new doctrine." He was a Baptist who admitted people to his church as members who had only been sprinkled as infants. He served the Lord's Supper weekly. He rejected life insurance and retirement accounts, preached for Charles Spurgeon, inspired Hudson Taylor, and did follow up for D. L. Moody. Here are some quotes to give you a flavor of his relationship to God.

[*On his Calvinism*] I had been much opposed to the doctrines of election, particular redemption, and final persevering grace; so much so that . . . I called election a devilish doctrine. . . . But now I was brought to examine these precious truths by the word of God. . . . To my great astonishment I found that the passages which speak decidedly for election and persevering grace, were about four times as many as those which speak apparently against these truths; and even those few, shortly after, when I had examined and understood them, served to confirm me in the above doctrines. As to the effect which my belief in these doctrines had on me . . . by the grace of God, I have walked more closely with Him since that period. . . . Thus, I say, the electing love of God in Christ (when I have been able to realize it) has often been the means of producing holiness, instead of leading me into sin. (*Narratives and Addresses*, Vol. 1, pp. 46, 40)

[*On his first wife's death*] When I heard what Mr. Pritchard's judgment was, viz., that the malady was rheumatic fever, I naturally expected the worst, as to the issue, on account of what I had

found out about the action of my dear wife's heart, when I felt her pulse; but though my heart was nigh to be broken, on account of the depth of my affection, I said to myself, "The Lord is good, and doeth good," all will be according to His own blessed character. Nothing but that, which is good, like Himself, can proceed from Him. If he pleases to take my dearest wife, it will be good, like Himself. What I have to do, as His child, is to be satisfied with what my Father does, that I may glorify Him. After this my soul not only aimed, but this, my soul, by God's grace, attained to. I was satisfied with God." (Vol. 2, pp. 398-399)

[When he almost lost his daughter] My dear wife and I were at peace. Why? Because we did not love her? We loved her intensely. But we were satisfied with God, whatever he might do. (Vol. 2. p. 746)

The Lord never lays more on us, in the way of chastisement, than our state of heart makes needful; so that whilst He smites with the one hand, He supports with the other. (Vol. 1, p. 61)

For the first four years after my conversion I made no progress, because I neglected the Bible. But when I regularly read on through the whole with reference to my own heart and soul, I directly made progress. Then my peace and joy continued more and more. Now I have been doing this for 47 years. I have read through the whole Bible about 100 times and I always find it fresh when I begin again. Thus my peace and joy have increased more and more. (Vol. 2, p. 834)

According to my judgement the most important point to be attended to is this: above all things see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord. Other things may press upon you, the Lord's work may even have urgent claims upon your attention, but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek above all things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself! Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life. (Vol. 2, p. 731).

In what way shall we attain to this settled happiness of soul? How shall we learn to enjoy God? How obtain such an all-sufficient soul-satisfying portion in him as shall enable us to let go the things of this world as vain and worthless in comparison? I answer, This happiness is to be obtained through the study of the Holy Scriptures. God has therein revealed Himself unto us in the face of Jesus Christ. (Vol. 2, p. 731) What should we make of Mueller? Another clay pot who shows us the surpassing power that belongs to God and not to us.

Mátrai Mihály

1927. április 14 –
2010. március 4



Mátrai Mihály Budapest XVI.-ik kerületében, azaz Rákosszentmihályon született. Öt leány testvér között nevelkedett. Szülei rendszeresen elvitték a Rákosszentmihály-i Baptista Gyülekezetbe. Ennélfogva ismerte a Bibliát és részt vett az ifjúság tevékenységeiben; mint pl. a zenekarban, ifjúsági órákon, stb. Tizennégy éves kora körül, egy vasárnap az Újpest-i Mászáros Sándor lk. testvér evangélizált gyülekezetében, amikor ő – 19 helyi fiatallal együtt – szintén elfogadta az Úr Jézust s velük együtt alámerítkezett. Utána még lelkesebben szolgált, imaórákat és ifjúsági órákat is vezetett, gitározott, tanulmányozta a Bibliát, és imádkozott.

Négy elemi után négy pogárit végzett, majd elment a budapest-i MAVAG gyárba esztergályos tanoncnak, ahonnan sikeresen levizsgázott, majd ugyanott – esztergályos segédként tovább dolgozott. Viszont a második világháború után beiratkozott a Népszínház u.-i Felső Ipari Iskolába s három év múlva leérettségizett. Ezután idővel – műszaki tisztviselőként – visszament a Budapest-i MÁVAG-ba dolgozni ahonnan 1948-ban áthelyeztette magát a Díósgyőribe. Ott ismét kedvet kapott a továbbtanulásra s ennek következtében beiratkozott az esti műszaki egyetemre.

1950-ben megnősült. Feleségül vette a – régen kiszemelt – Fülöp Irmát, akivel gyerekkorában együttnevelkedett a Rákosszentmihály-i gyülekezetben. Az ifjú házaspár Irma szüleihez költözött, aminek következtében Mihály visszahelyeztette magát a Budapest-i MÁVAG-ba, és a Budapest-i műszaki egyetem esti ta-

Honorary and Memorial Fund

Sister *Ethel Kish* had encouraged us during the 2009 Convention to establish an "Honorary and Memorial Fund" for the purpose of supporting the missionary initiatives of our young people. Donations from this fund will be allocated by the Missionary and Benevolence Board at its mid-year meetings. The written applications addressed to the MBB should state the goals and the duration of the mission trip, and should include a letter of support from the pastor of the applicant.

The initial deposit is the money donated in memory of *Ernest J. Kish*.

We request donations to the Fund mailed to the Treasurer.

gozatán folytatta tanulmányait. 1953-ban megszületett első gyermekük, Enikő, s ugyanabban az évben Mihály megszerezte a gépészmérnöki diplomát is.

1956-ban – az akkor már második gyermeküket váró – feleségével, Enikővel, apósával, és anyósával Ausztriába menekült, ahonnan – velük együtt – az USA-i New York városába immigrált. Ott bekapcsolódott az ELSŐ MAGYAR BAPTISTA GYÜLEKEZET életébe – s mint titkár – több éven keresztül szolgált. New Yorkban, 1957 áprilisában megszületett Dorottya lányuk és 1958 szeptemberében George fiúk. Így lett Mihály három gyerekes családapa. Mind a három gyermek New Yorkban hívta szívébe az Úr Jézust és merítkezett alá Fülöp Árpád, azaz Mihály apósa, illetve az ő nagyapjuk által.

Az USA-ban eleinte mint rajzoló dolgozott, de amint megtanult angolul, gépész-mérnöki beosztást kapott. 1974-ben családjával Palm Bay, Floridába költözött és először a Bethany Baptist Churchbe, majd a Bethesda Baptista Gyülekezetbe tartozott és szolgált; ahol diakónus is lett. 1991-ben, fiatalon nyugdíba ment. 2010. február elején rohamosan gyengült és kórházba került, ahol megállapították, hogy az előző évi „quadruple bypass” műtétje következtében először csak víz, majd véres víz, s végül csak vér gyülemlt össze a bal tüdeje alatt. Ez okozta a gyengeséget, mivel vérének Hemoglobinn tartalma túlzottan alacsony lett. Tekintettel arra, hogy az orvosok nem találták meg a vérzés eredetét, s ennélfogva képtelenek voltak megállítani az állandó vérvesztéséget; bal tüdejének működése idővel teljesen leállt. Ekkor lélegeztető gépre tettek, de ez csak ideiglenes megoldás volt, mert a vérvesztés és légzési zavarok tovább tartottak. Viszont fájdalmai egyáltalán nem voltak. Ezért az egész négy heti kórházi és rehabilitációs kezelése alatt nyugodtan pihent. A vége felé már beszélni és enni is képtelen volt. Ezen idő alatt történt, hogy felesége kétszer is megkérdezte tőle: „Szeretnél hazamenni Jézushoz?” S ő a fejével határozott „IGEN”-t intett. Végül 2010. március 4.-én du. fél négykor kivették a lélegeztető gép csöveit a szájából. Ezzel egy kicsit megkönnyebbült. Majd este 8-kor még – mintha búcsúzkodna – megszörította a jelenlévő Dorottya lányának és feleségének kezét – aztán két kis lélekzetvétel után békésen elaludt.

Búcsúztatása 2010. március 13.-án, a Bethesda Baptista Gyülekezetben Rev. Denzel Alexander; Mihály unokája, Chrissy és Caleb Hon; valamint fia, Mátrai George, és (Dorottya lánya nevében) Mrs. Alexander közreműködésével történt sok testvér, barát, szomszéd és kollega jelenlétében.

Mátrai Mihályné Fülöp Irma