



Dear Covenant Friend,

Blessings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My heart is troubled this morning as I think about the attack that is upon our Kingdom Family by the devil. Yes, the entire world is under the curse and paying the price. I could get into a spiel about how the sins of the world have come full circle for punishment for all. But, you know that and you see and hear about it day in and day out. And really, the worst is yet to come for the world, if not from this current crises, then from the next crises, or the next. However, listen my Friend, **you are not of this world**. You live here, but this is not your home. Your home is in Heaven, you are just passing through this life. *“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you,”* **John 15:19**. Wow, you have been chosen by the Holy Son of God the Father of all creation, the LORD that is the Great **“I AM THAT I AM!”**

I know that there are many heavy decisions you have to make every day. Around each decision and step we take in this world, we are faced with the fact that there is the potential of harm and/or danger in our path if for no other reason than the fact that we are children of the LORD. Look around and you will see a low level of *panic*, by the time this letter reaches you, you may be looking at a larger scale of *panic* in our public streets. Many people are hoarding supplies fearing that they will be caught shorthanded. Besides food and toilet paper, there is even large scale buying of weapons and ammunition. Again I say, **you are not of this world**. *“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims,”* **1 Peter 2:11**. Therefore, our goal should not be *“how many supplies can we lock up and protect?”* Rather, we should be looking at how we can live in faith and surplus in Jesus when the rest of the

world lives in fear and want.

This is the time that we must have faith in our LORD and **stand** on His Holy Word. We need to have His Word of power and supply in our hearts and on our lips. If we are of the Kingdom of God, we need to **stand our Holy Ground**, hold up the Banner of Faith in Jesus, and live in the expectancy that **we are survivors during the battle and victorious at the end of the war**.

Want? There is no want in our LORD! *“And [the widow of Zarephath] said [to Elijah], ‘As the LORD God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.’ And Elijah said unto her, ‘Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, ‘The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the Earth.”* And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the Word of the LORD, which He spake by Elijah,” **1 Kings 17:12-16**.

Yes, this was a miracle of the LORD through Elijah, but don't forget that *the miracle was from God*, not from Elijah. I remember as a child there were times when we did not have food in the kitchen cabinets for supper. I also remember Mom and Dad were believers in faith and we never missed a meal. There was never a big whoop-de-doo over the lack of food supplies in the pantry, nor a *panic* prayer because there was no food in the house or money in the purse. No, just a steady everyday unwavering faith and trust in God and a spiritual standing the ground that all of our needs WERE (are) met by *His Riches in Glory*, even before we saw the answers being met before our eyes. *“My God shall supply all your need according to His Riches in Glory by Christ Jesus,”* **Philippians 4:19**. Once a lady from church stopped by just before supper time with two large grocery bags full, to running over, with food, and said, *“Ethel, I just bought too much food, can you use this?”* **WOW**, there were meals for a week for a family of nine, supplied by God through a dear saint. At the time, we lived over 30 miles from church, so this Sister was not just in the neighborhood.

This was not the first time that there was a shortage in our home and it was not the first time they had believed God for their answer. No, Mom and Dad had proven the faithfulness and power of the miracle working Hand of our LORD many times before. They knew His Word. They knew that It was True and could be trusted in times of plenty and in times of lack. *“But I rejoiced in the LORD greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked*

opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through [Jesus] Christ [who] strengthen me,” Philippians 4:10-13.

Remember, I say again, **REMEMBER**, you are not of this world! Listen to what Jesus prayed to His [our] Heavenly Father: *“I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy Truth [Word]: Thy Word is Truth. As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the Truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the Glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are One: I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved Me. Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My Glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee: but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me. And I have declared unto them Thy Name, and will declare It: that the love wherewith thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them,” John 17:15-26.*

THERE is so much truth in those verses. Verse 20 says that Jesus prayed for us because we believed the written words of those who were following Him. Therefore, Jesus prayed for YOU! **AND**, He prayed that we would be kept from evil because we are in the world [not of the world] and we are sent to be a witness to the world around us, especially in times of need and *panic*. Yes, we are to be strong leaders of our Christian Faith, not only for our walk with Him during troubled waters, but to draw and lead others to the source of our supply, GOD. *“I [Paul] would [you] should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the Gospel; So that my bonds in [Jesus] Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the LORD, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the Word [of God] without fear,” Philippians 1:12-14.* When we stand strong in Faith, Prayer, and God’s Word, we can encourage the Kingdom’s Family and the world through the life we live and the voice of Truth that we speak. It is easy for a face to wear a smile when the road is smooth and times are good. *“Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gen-*

tiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you,” Matthew 6:31-33.

It takes grit and faith to stand in the face of trial to put a real and genuine smile on our face and raise our voice in Praise unto the LORD for Who He is, for His Son Jesus, and for what He has given us, His Children. Yes, Children of Faith, have Faith in His Love for us and trust in His ability and desire to meet our needs! *“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full,” John 15:11.*

When Dad needed some land in the mountains of Haiti to build a church and school, he went to the office of the dictator of the country, François Duvalier, known and called Papa Doc. Dad expressed to the ruthless dictator why he wanted to buy the land from the government; the isolated mountain community needed both the school and the church. The dictator, Papa Doc, asked dad, *“Well Mr. Buttram, just how to you propose to buy this expensive piece of property from the government?”* Dad’s reply was swift and solid, *“Sir, my Father owns cattle on a thousand hills, and money is no problem for Him!”* Papa Doc just gave a big belly laugh as he leaned over and pulled something from a bottom desk drawer. He wrote upon it, then, handed dad a signed photograph of him sitting in the palace office and said, *“Here Lester, here is your property, and just show this photo to the palace guards anytime you want to come see me.”* The miracle of free land was through Papa Doc, but **it came from the LORD.**

That is how God works for His Children. He knows our needs. We believe while we pray (ask) God for the answer that is in His Word. We stand believing on His Word as we step out in faith toward God’s answer. Most of the time *‘stepping out in faith on God’s Word’* simply means standing still and let God be God. He knows, He cares, and He will move on the behalf of His Children whom He loves, a love that sent His Son to the Cross for us! Read, pray, trust, believe, praise, and stand! **Praise the LORD forever!**

Your Covenant Brother in Jesus Christ,

Phillip Buttram
Phillip L Buttram

PLEASE NOTE: We did not enclose an Offering Form this month as we know so many of our Covenant Family are suffering financially. We are enclosing a Prayer and Message Card because we do want to hear from you! Please send us your prayer request, and any praise report that gives glory to our Eternal Heavenly Father. We give all Praise, Honor, and Glory to the God of the universe, our Father!