



"...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." Matthew 13:47

Number 6

Volume XXXVII

December 13, 2021



FELLOWSHIP--When you read the word *fellowship*, what image comes to mind? Food? Get-togethers? As for me, I see the photo above. Foolhardy it was to strike out on a *lone ship* to traverse the vast ocean. Sailors of old clearly understood the importance of *fellowship* both onboard ship and the support of a *fellow ship* off the port or starboard bow. Without a *fellow ship* alongside, you would most likely neither make the journey nor fulfill the purpose for the trip. This is what I believe God wants us to have in mind when He speaks of *fellowship* in the Bible. In missions we need fellowship with God and with one another. What brilliance of the translators in the KJV to use this word *fellowship* to represent the Greek word *koinon-ee'-ah*, meaning "a passionate bond accepting interdependence as a necessity." Hence, fellowship!

Fellowship with God requires one to "walk in the light" and is the catalyst to enjoying fellowship "one with another". In relationships, the struggle to find true fellowship is real. Finding a co-laborer (yokefellow) with whom to make the journey and conquer new lands together is exceedingly more daunting than observed at first glance. Jesus sent His laborers in groups. The apostle Paul mentions in 2 Timothy 4 that Demas, Crescens, and Titus forsook him and that only Luke was with him. In John 6, Jesus loses all his disciples save twelve, and one of those remaining was a devil. Paul, however, had Timothy while Jesus had Peter, James, and John. Finding true fellowship is possible yet rare, even for our Lord.

One does not have to serve in ministry long to understand that people change their minds in the face of adversity and abandon ship. Jesus called us out to forsake all and follow Him. Oh, what joy it is when you find yourself sailing with another who has also counted the cost, burnt all bridges, and is committed to finishing the course, and fighting the good fight of faith! This kind of fellowship is a mighty wind in the sail.

When sailing with wind-driven vessels, there are times where there is no wind to fill the sails. This phenomenon is called doldrums. Sailors face struggles on three fronts. There is the struggle from

outside the ship, from onboard the ship, and from the struggles of the mind in the face of adversity as terror fills the mind. When doldrums (stagnant ministry) or storms come, we need to stay in fellowship with God and fellow servants. Never abandon ship on fellow servants, or the cause of Christ, but most of all, never abandon ship on God. A Mariner's Creed says, "Stick together or perish." This is fellowship.

Jesus called over half of His disciples from the fishing/boating profession. Could it be that Jesus was showing His church a pattern for true fellowship? Read Psalm 107:23-29. Those who understand the terror of the sea appreciate the need for fellowship when being a fisherman or a fisher of men. The journey is too hard and the task too great without fellowship. Stay close to Jesus and to each other.

--Missionary to Iceland, Patrick Weimer

CROSSING THE BAR—The poem written in 1889 by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, comes to mind as one of the many tributes to the life and passing of Brother Andrew Wayne Mund.

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have cros't the bar.

It is believed Tennyson wrote this poem as a metaphor to life, death, and the hope of what awaits after death. No doubt Tennyson's poem provides us introspection of our own lives and the hereafter, but it is nothing in comparison to what precious promises we have been given in our "Captain's log" through the Holy Scriptures that our great God and Saviour gave to us concerning life, death and eternity. My hope for you after reading the above is that many verses in the Scriptures came to mind, including Psalm 107:23-31. But the ones I want to bring to your attention have to do with our Hope. There are 58 verses in the New Testament that have the word "hope" in them. Concerning life there is 1 Timothy 1:1, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our

hope...". There are verses concerning death and hope in eternity. But what about the pilot in the poem? Do you "hope" just to see him, or is He your "hope" as Paul states in 1 Timothy 1:1?

Everyone will see Jesus Christ after death, but some to eternal damnation and some to eternal glory. The real issue concerns "...*Christ in you, the hope of glory*" (Colossians 1:27). Are you saved? Have you received Christ as your Saviour? Is He in you? Are you sure?

Isn't it a comfort to know Who is really in control and that "...*the word of the Lord endureth for ever*", 1 Peter 1:25. "*Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee*" Psalm 33:22. "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...*" Psalm 33:12.

As Bro. Mund's objective in life was for you to be saved, we say, with confidence in the Scriptures, there is no greater joy for him now than for you to not only see Jesus, but to know Jesus is in you---your hope.

As for our dear departed brother in the Lord, fair winds and following seas are his in Christ. Shipmate, the watch stands relieved. We have the watch. Boatswain, standby to pipe the side; Shipmate's going Ashore.

Written very respectfully, with love in Christ.

--Tim Suveges

Senior Chief Petty Officer, USCG, Retired

BE A BLESSING—2 Corinthians 1:3-4, "*Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*" Do you realize that God formed you to be a blessing to others? He absolutely did. In fact, even the things you've been through in life can be a source of great encouragement to believers who are struggling. They can see they're not alone in their trials when they witness how God successfully got you through yours. That, in itself, is incredibly comforting. The issue isn't if you can be a blessing—it's if you will tell others how faithful God has been to you. You don't have to be a theologian; all you need is to start right where you are in your own quiet time, what are you struggling with, and how the Lord is teaching you through it. When you comfort others from your own struggles, it's very personal and powerful. God will speak through you in ways you can't imagine. So open your eyes to opportunities, your heart to others, and your mouth to all Jesus has done. You will be astounded at how the Lord works through your faithfulness.

TEN TOP PREDICTIONS FOR 2022

1. The Holy Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be THE MOST POWERFUL exercise on earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.

8. There will still be room at the Cross.

9. Jesus will still love you.

10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

THANKS TO GOD!

By August Storm (1891)

August lived most of his life in Stockholm, Sweden. He accepted Christ at a Salvation Army meeting as a young man. He soon joined them and wrote this hymn for their publication, "The Battle Cry". His life reflected a heart that was "...*giving thanks always for all things unto God.*" What an inspiration!

Thanks, O God, for boundless mercy from Thy gracious throne above:

Thanks for ev'ry need provided from the fullness of Thy love!
Thanks for daily toil and labor and for rest when shadows fall;
Thanks for love of friend and neighbor and Thy goodness unto all!

Thanks for thorns as well as roses; thanks for weakness and for health;

Thanks for clouds as well as sunshine; thanks for poverty and wealth!

Thanks for pain as well as pleasures—all Thou sendest day by day;

And thy word, our dearest treasure, shedding light upon our way.

Thanks, O God, for home and fireside, here we share our daily bread;

Thanks for hours of sweet communion, when by Thee our souls are fed!

Thanks for grace in time of sorrow and for joy and peace in Thee;

Thanks for hope today, tomorrow, and for all eternity!

FISHY QUESTION—Last edition asked where in the Bible do you find Peter wearing fishermen gear---the answer is John 21:7, "...*he girt his fisher's coat unto him...*". This time we present a riddle. Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? Write soon.

FISHY HUMOR

--Why did one fish slap the other? To snapper out of it.

--Which fish has the worst haircut? The mullet.

--Why did the fisherman quit playing the violin? He was all out of tuna.

--To what country can every fish trace their roots? Finland.

--What did the tuna say after the job interview? Thanks for the oppor-tuna-ty.

--How do shellfish take photos? With a clam-era.

--Where do fish sleep? In the riverbed.

--What is it called when a fish can't carry a tune? They are tuna-deaf.

--That fish is so classy, it's like he is so-fish-ticated.

--That's the thing about squids—they ink too much.

--When your fish boss is watching, you had better look e-fish-ent.

--What did the fisherman say to the magician? Pick a cod, any cod.

--It's funny how fish never seem to know what you're talking about.

--What do you call an illegally parked frog? Toad.

--If you think of a betta pun, be sure to drop us a line.