



The Shining Light[®]

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RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

What
Would
You
Do?



Sunday

*I become conscious of a sound. A persistent sound. It doesn't stop. It's my alarm clock. I reach over to turn it off. I look at the time. It's 7:45 am. It's time to get up. It's time to get ready for another day. But today is not just any other day. It is Sunday. Sunday...
A Sunday in January.
A Sunday in 2021.*

As the sleep from my eyes and the fog from my brain clear away, the wheels of my mind begin turning. Questions.

Will it be a drive-in service? Will we step out of our vehicles? Will we go inside the meeting house? Will the police ticket us? Will the protesters be parked along the side of the road? What will happen? Will our friends and brethren from Toronto be there? Questions.

I reach for my Bible. I wonder where to read. I turn to Isaiah.

I get down on my knees to pray.

"Lord, please bless the service today! Help us to trust You. Please be with us, Lord!"

I comb my hair. Thinking.

I eat breakfast. I check the time. It's 9:30. We leave in half an hour.

I periodically look at my phone, checking if any messages concerning this morning's service have come in. None.

9:45am I quickly finish some last minute things.

9:50am I put on my winter coat. It's cold outside. And it gets cold in the vehicle.

I put on my Sunday shoes.

I grab my Bible.

9:55am Time to go. My family is waiting in the truck.

The drive to the meeting house is short—five minutes. As we near the meeting house, we see that vehicles have begun to line the shoulders of the road. Most of them belong to protesters. We pull onto the meeting house property. Church of God security team members stand at intervals along the driveway. Some of the team members direct parking. We park on the grass along the side of the driveway. We face the meeting house. There is a trailer stage set up in front of the

meeting house. Speakers, facing the parking lot, have been set up.

We weren't the first ones to arrive. We recognize the vehicles of some of our friends, who have already arrived. We watch as more visitors and friends show up. Some are not just "visitors" anymore—they have become a part of the family.

There is a general feeling of excitement and anticipation in the air.

We tune in to the 87.9 FM radio station. Sounds of singing come over the airwaves.

10:22am Some of the visitors get out of their vehicles to greet one another. And then...

A dark blue Subaru, followed by a grey Volkswagen Tiguan, pulls onto the driveway. It is our beloved pastor, Bro. Henry Hildebrandt!!! He is greeted with smiles, waves, and honks.

10:27am Drive-in service will begin shortly.

Pastor Hildebrandt (the name by which Bro. Henry is affectionately known) walks down the parking lot waving at, and greeting, the visitors.

10:30am Five singers file onto the stage. According to restriction regulations, only five people are permitted to be outside for the service. The song leader announces, "Number 333! Sing along with us!"

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine..."

The singing is finished. A brother takes the stage and shares a powerful Scripture, and then he leads us in prayer.

After a pause...

Our beloved pastor walks up on stage! Two brothers stand with him on stage to back him up. The audience, honking their car horns, excitedly welcomes Bro. Hildebrandt.

Bro. Hildebrandt greets the crowd. And now it's time to hear from heaven.

Periodically vehicles drive by and honk their displeasure. A police SUV drives slowly by.

We sit under an open heaven as Bro. Hildebrandt preaches. "Don't mess with God! You can do nothing *against* the Truth, but *for* the Truth!"

There are many ways the audience is backing the preacher. One man sticks a Bible or a cross out of his car's sunroof. Most agree by honking their car horns.

11:26am Bro. Hildebrandt is speaking a few closing remarks.

We end the service with prayer. Truly, God blessed us with an amazing service!

This story is one of many stories that could have been written. There have been numerous times when we would exit our vehicles and stand outside in a group around Bro. Hildebrandt as he preached.

In the summer and fall of 2020, benches facing the stage would be set out on the parking lot for visitors and saints to sit on and enjoy the service. The ministers and choir would sit behind the stage. On other occasions, we have gone into the meeting house. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, God has been and always will be, "a very present help in time of trouble."



THE SHINING LIGHT

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DRIVE-IN SERVICES

Aylmer, Ontario, Canada

2021

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Praise the Lord! In 2020 and 2021, life has changed for everyone. Not only has this “pandemic” spiked the rates of suicide which are rapidly increasing, but also it has divided the human race, eliminated individuals’ health, and much worse.

Vaccination, masking, and social distancing—how are these practices affecting us as the population? Well, the evident answer lies in the mouth of many oppressed, including the youth. Masks have blossomed into what many accept as the “new normal,” but all it has done for them is weaken their immune systems and put enmity between those who favor the mask and those who don’t.

What about the elderly? Will social distancing be their aid when they are on the verge of suicide or death?

Our current situation has frequently reminded me of a particular event from the past. What is this event? This event is commonly known as “Nazi-East-Germany.” I know everything I have written has already been said, but we, the youth of 2021, hope every soul will wake up.

Sis. Cheyenne F. (Age 11)



Praise the Lord, precious fellow children!

I am so thankful that I can be in the drive-in services and for what the Lord is doing for us. I think it is so exciting to park on the parking lot and watch the preacher preach. We honk our horns in agreement to the preacher and wave to each other from our cars. Even though I miss Sunday school and children's singing, it's so exciting to make so many new friends and greet the many visitors.

Those of you that have never been to our drive in service, WELCOME! Sometimes we get too excited to stay in our cars; then we jump out and shout and praise God. The Lord is being so good to us and letting us have service. I thank God to be a part of His wonderful work. Lord bless you precious children. I love you dearly! Sis. Deánza N. (Age 7)

Praise the Lord! This is an update on Aylmer: We have been holding Sunday drive-in services regularly for almost a year! On January 24, 2021, we had a drive-in service, but it wasn't *just* a drive-in service. Some saints were getting out of their vehicles and our pastor, Bro. Henry Hildebrandt, led the saints into the meeting house, and in the following weeks, saints were getting tickets for going into the meeting house. I want to talk about one sister in particular; she is 85 years old and a survivor of World War II. She got a ticket for attending the service! Only hard-hearted cowards can hand a ticket to an 85-year-old hero for "disobeying the law." Our school has reopened, which is something to be grateful for! We don't know what the future holds, but we know Who holds the future. Please keep on praying for our congregation and our beloved pastor, Bro. Henry Hildebrandt. May the Lord bless you all richly! Sis. Rosita W. (Age 11)



STEINBACH, MANITOBA

DRIVE-IN SERVICES

Have you ever heard of a highway service? Well, that's exactly what happened on November 29th, 2020. As we saints began to arrive, we were met with a great surprise—the drive-way was completely blocked by police vehicles! We turned our radios to 88.5 F.M. and listened to the service. Then, we stiffened in our seats as a tow truck attempted to tow away vehicles, yet failed. Because of things such as the key being pulled out of its place, and people screaming at him, the driver gave up and drove away. Bro. Tobias came on the back of a truck from the parking lot and began preaching to the police who were greatly disturbed by the extra commotion. The proud police also gave out some tickets. That Sunday morning was the first of our drive-in services. Then to our surprise, on January 31st, our pastor and Bro. Tobias stepped onto the stage and announced an indoor service was going to be held that morning instead of a drive-in service. We, with all the visitors, were overjoyed! The visitors clapped at each song's end. After that, we've had indoor services. I'm soooooo glad for a miracle-working God!

Sis. Coralee S. (Age 12)

Last year we were going to have a drive-in service, but when everybody was coming the police started blocking off the driveway, and we decided to have a highway service. Soon we started blocking off the drive-way too, and then someone crossed their vehicle across the road and there was a tow truck that was trying to pull them away, but he could not. That Sunday Bro. Tobias Tissen said, "Police, do you know you are doing this to God?" then the next Sunday we had a drive-in service, and the police did not disturb us again.

Leah M. (Age 7)

On Sunday morning, November 29, 2020, the sun was dawning brightly as usual, but we had an interesting and exciting morning. In the morning, we were going to start service at 9:30 A.M.; but interestingly, Bro. Tommy Wieler heard that the police were at the meeting house already at 8:30 A.M. When we got to the meeting house, we saw police, health officials, and news reporters, etc. waiting for the saints. Then we heard from the brothers that were directing us all, that we were supposed to block the road. So we started first the front ones then

more and more moved to the middle till it was totally blocked off. Cleverly, someone even parked opposite of the saints and visitors. Surprisingly, the police called the tow truck to tow their vehicle. Confidently, Bro. Tobias walked between the tow truck and their van. We had a wonderful day! After service, Bro. Tobias got a ticket and told us that the police chief told him that they would never block the road to service again.

Sis. Tamara S. (Age 10)

Every Sunday morning, we have very exciting drive-in services. We have lots of visitors all the time, who love our services. We've had two indoor services, and it is very exciting! Although we have police at our services, we just keep on going. On November 29, 2020, the police were blocking our parking lot. Because they were doing it, we had a highway service. It was very exciting. We've had a wonderful time together every Sunday. There was a tow truck there. He was going to tow one of the saints' vehicles while they were in it. They did not tow them because the helpful brothers stopped them and other vehicles blocked them. Bro. Henry and Bro. Tobias were standing and preaching on a trailer. We were so blessed with the message they preached. The dishonest news people kept on filming us. How brainwashed are those people!

Sis. Emily (Age 9)

On Sundays, we have drive-in service. It is so interesting to sit in our cars and view the preacher who is trying keep warm by preaching lively! Everyone honks and shouts when something blesses them. There is singing, prayer requests, and preaching, I like the singing best, especially when everyone is singing lively and jumping around. There are lots of visitors coming to our drive-in services. On November 29, 2020, we had an exciting service. There were police blocking the parking lot. Bro. Tobias and Bro. Henry preached standing on a trailer. Although the police tried stopping our service, we just kept on going! Because they tried blocking us, we had a highway service. The dishonest news people try videotaping us and putting us on the news. How brainwashing! Drive-in service is so exciting, but I like indoor service better!

Sis. Nikita (Age 10)



TICKETS

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

Church of God, Steinbach, Manitoba: 20 tickets

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Daniel 6:10

Church of God, Aylmer, Ontario: 20 tickets

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Daniel 3:16-18