



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

January 2022

## FROM US TO YOU

We certainly hope that all of you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Day. However, the holidays are over now and it is time for some sharp realities. This world is heading into a period of more danger than it has ever been in before. For starters, the Russians are preparing to take over Ukraine, a separate country. China is making plans to take over Taiwan. And both Russia and China have nuclear weapons! The United States is involved in trying to discourage both events. However, under the current administration, America seems weak and inept. As if we, as a nation, don't have worries enough, the Iranians, who have chanted “Death to the United States. Death to Israel” are well on their way toward making an atomic bomb that could reach the United States. We Americans have always felt safe in our own country. That has changed since the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001. America has always depended on her military and weapons to defend itself. However, that is not the reason why we were so strong. It was because we were a God-fearing Christian nation that we did so well. God fought for us, as He did for Israel (Joshua 23:3). That is not the case anymore. America has lost its fear of God (see Psalm 111:10). It's sin and blasphemy has become a stench in God's nostrils. And through its movie industry and television, it has spread its sin all over the world and greatly influenced those at home.

Domestically, there has always been crime in America. But there used to be a saying, “Crime does not pay.” Even that has changed in some states that have liberal legislators and mayors whose sympathies are more with the perpetrator than the victim. And new diseases, like COVID, are popping up at an alarming rate. It is for these reasons that we are repeating an article first published in our May-June 1997 issue of “The Good News Letter” entitled “Mystery Babylon.” For it has never been more apropos! Our purpose is not to scare you, but to encourage you to get ready and have oil in your lamps before it is too late. The “oil” is a metaphor for the Holy Spirit (1 Samuel 16:13), which you will need in your heart in order to survive the trials and tests of faith that will grow worse before Jesus returns for His church at the time of the Rapture (1 Corinthians 15:50-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18).

Jesus told us this parable to the church regarding His return. “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were on their

way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with Him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ But He replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don't know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour” (Matt. 25:1-13 NIV).

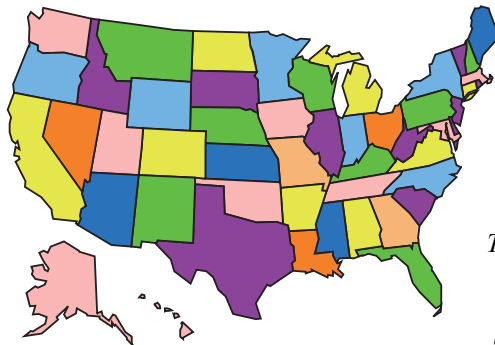
The Lord's parable is a wake-up call to His backslidden, lukewarm church (Revelation 3:16) to get ready for His return. For after the Rapture, the Antichrist will be revealed (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3) and the Tribulation will begin. And you will not want to be around for that! “For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again” (Matthew 24:21 NIV). The Tribulation will be God's way of shaking up the people (Revelation 6:15-17) of the earth and persuading them to repent before it is too late and they end up in Hell (see Revelation 20:10,15). This world is a mess right now, because it is being run by the devil and his demons, the fallen angels, whom he controls (Revelation 12:9 and Ephesians 6:12).

Liberals often speak about global warming. A favorite phrase of theirs is “This is the only planet I have to live on.” That's not necessarily true. And this world will not last much longer anyway. “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way,

what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly live as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him” (2 Peter 3:9-14 NIV).

So, don't be like Lot's wife (Genesis 19:26). “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife!” (Luke 17:26-32 NIV).

In the Lord's service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



# Mystery Babylon

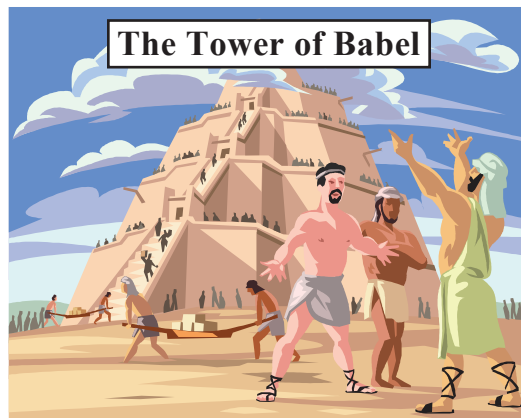
By Anne Kaestner

It's no secret that Americans are suffering these days. What is happening? Why is America suddenly experiencing so much pain? And, many may wonder, why is God letting this happen? Has God rejected the United States? No. The United States has rejected God! (See Jeremiah 5:19, Amos 4:7-11, and Deuteronomy 32:21-29.) Today we hear a lot of talk about the "Constitutional separation of church and state." It is widely implied by Liberals that our founding fathers intended to create a condition whereby Christianity would be expelled from public schools, rampant pornography would be protected, and Satanism would be considered a religion worthy of a tax-exempt status! Yet in reality, nothing could be further from the truth! The original immigrants who settled this nation put their faith and trust in God, and they built a government that was anchored securely on the solid Rock of Jesus Christ (Psalm 19:14 and Matthew 7:24-27)! Therefore, despite the many hardships endured when this nation was in its infancy, their legacy to us prevailed. But all of that has changed now, for this nation has lost its fear of God (Proverbs 1:7 and Jeremiah 5:22-25). While visiting Washington, D.C. in the mid 1990's, I noticed that statues of idols are throughout the city (Exodus 20:4, Deuteronomy 4:15-18, 5:8)! When we toured the government-funded Smithsonian museums and saw their displays of pagan civilizations, it was the culture of the idol worshipers that was promoted! Inside of the dome of the Capitol building there are frescoes of Greek and Roman gods! Today evolution is taught in public schools, not Christianity! All of this is offensive to me, because I love the Lord, and I feel His pain (Gen. 6:6) at a land that has been so greatly blessed by Him, but now, not only scorns Him, but encourages other nations to do so! However, the sin that infuriates me the most is seldom mentioned, even in churches. That sin is blasphemy! Whenever I see even a few seconds of it, I can feel the anger of the Holy Spirit inside of me!

For example, a few decades ago I watched in stunned disbelief at one particular scene I saw in a sitcom while I was channel surfing. It was on a show called "Night Court." A man and a woman had entered a motel room together. She was married to another man. The woman went into the bathroom to change her clothes, and while she was in there, the man was seen praying on his knees outside the door. His prayer was not for the purpose of repentance. He was praying that the woman would have sex with him when she came out! I wish I could tell you that this was a rare occurrence, but from what I've been able to ascertain, this type of sacrilege is the norm rather than the exception! A show called "Seinfeld" was apparently very popular. Only once did I ever see it, and to my disgust, the entire episode was about the men on the show urinating in the parking lot of a shopping mall! Has this country sunk to such a low level that such a thing is considered entertainment? The Bible tells us that the further a society gets from Jesus Christ, the more insane it becomes, for sin brings about spiritual and moral insanity (Romans 1:21-32)! It has also become quite common for people to use the name "Jesus" or "Christ" as if it is profanity. You never hear them say, "Oh, Buddha!" or "Mohammad!" when they break a dish or stub their toe. It's my Savior's name that they blaspheme! (See Exodus 20:7 and Galatians 6:8.)

In the Bible one of the earliest rulers was named Nimrod. I want you to notice the similarities between his kingdom, Babylon, and the United States today. In the days of Nimrod all the people worked

together to build a giant tower that they felt would enable them to reach into Heaven (Genesis 11:4). They actually believed that they could contact God through their own efforts, technology, and sacrifice, instead of by obeying His Word and humbling themselves before Him (1 Timothy 2:5-6, John 14:6, 10:1-9). It is believed that Nimrod's tower was a ziggurat, and may be what the Bible refers to as "high places" in scriptures such as Leviticus 26:30, Numbers 33:52, and Deuteronomy 33:29. They were astrological observatories where Babylon's "wise men" could study the stars. They were also used for the worship of pagan gods. How much this is like the United States today as she attempts to reach into the heavens without God! Some of the names given to United States spacecrafts have even paid homage to astrology (Isaiah 47:13 and Deuteronomy 4:19, 17:2-5), or to pagan gods (Deuteronomy 5:7, 32:16), such as the Gemini Program between 1965 and 1966, or the Apollo Program from 1968 to 1972. In the Babylon of Nimrod's day people started out speaking just one language. They were of one culture, religion, and ideology, but God confused them with strange languages and scattered them all over the world (Genesis 11:1-9). Today, the United States is a reverse Babylon, absorbing people from every national origin, and uniting them with one language! Human sacrifice was practiced among the Babylonians, especially to Baal and Moloch. Could abortion be America's way of



sacrificing live human beings (2 Kings 17:17, 21:6) to these filthy demons who pose as gods? (See Deuteronomy 32:17-29.) Aside from ancient Babylon, the United States also bears a striking similarity to another Babylon mentioned in scripture. It is a land called Mystery Babylon, a prophetic nation greatly blessed by God. Even so, her sins eventually become so bad that He brings against her an alliance of mighty nations for a sneak attack. It is much like the Japanese assault on the U.S. Military base, Pearl Harbor in 1941, which occurred while the Japanese Ambassador was in the United States

negotiating peace (1 Thessalonians 5:3)! But in the case of Mystery Babylon, the entire country is destroyed in just one hour (Revelation 18:10-19)! Mystery Babylon is also spoken of, symbolically, as a city, but I'll explain that later. Do not confuse her with ancient Babylon, for Mystery Babylon is a latter-day nation, the hindermost of nations! The United States is just two centuries old. She started out as part of the British commonwealth, with England being her mother country. Compare this to the destruction of Mystery Babylon. "Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the **hindermost** of the nations shall be a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert. Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues" (Jeremiah 50:12-13 KJV).

Mystery Babylon is a land that is filled with many waters (Jeremiah 51:12-13), unlike ancient Babylon, which is today Iraq, a desert nation. She is symbolized by great fluttering wings (Isaiah 18:1), such as those on our national symbol, the bald eagle. She is "...an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers" (Isaiah 18:2 NIV). Mystery Babylon is a country that has "...foreigners in her ranks!..." (Jeremiah 50:37 NIV), due to all of "...the mingled people that are in the midst of her..." (Jeremiah 50:37 KJV). She is rich and powerful, and many nations become rich by trading with her (Revelation 18:10-19). "How much she hath glorified



herself, and lived deliciously...” (Revelation 18:7 KJV). She is the hammer of the earth (Jeremiah 50:23). A hammer is strong and forceful, and when it is used with an anvil, it shapes things, just as the United States shapes the foreign policy of the world. Mystery Babylon is also a nation that becomes deeply involved in the occult, and encourages other countries to do the same (Isaiah 47:1-15). What’s alarming about this is that many of the churches in America today have fallen so far away from Christ that they have been seduced by “...deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” (1 Timothy 4:1 NIV) who are bringing witchcraft, psychology, New Age doctrines, and other occult arts into the body of Christ (2 Timothy 4:3), and thousands are being led astray by them! (See 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 and Matthew 24:24.) Other nations are certainly guilty of sins like this, but it is the United States that leads the way! At the Last Supper, Jesus passed a cup of wine around to His disciples, and He told them, “...This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you” (Luke 22:20 NIV). The United States was founded on that new covenant; therefore, she was much favored by God. Likewise, Mystery “*Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord’s hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad*” (Jeremiah 51:7 NIV. Also, see Revelation 18:3). We, who love Christ, drink from His cup, and He blesses us when we are faithful to Him. The United States once drank from this cup, a golden cup of blessings and prosperity. Yet that has all changed. America has taken that which belongs to Jesus, and has given it away to demons! A married woman who has sex with another man is committing adultery. Therefore, when the Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2) prostitutes herself by honoring every evil and foul spirit, she becomes God’s enemy (James 4:4)! When she feeds the world through movies and television with blasphemy and perversion, and it drinks her sin out of the golden cup that once contained the precious wine of God, she becomes an abomination to the Lord! This is the condition of Mystery Babylon at the time of her fall (Revelation 17:4-5)!

There is a difference between the Babylon of Revelation 17 and the Babylon of Revelation 18. The 17th chapter discusses a **religion** that began in ancient Babylon. It involves witchcraft, idolatry, magic, astrology, and animal and human sacrifice. This religion is generated by strong demon spirits! Probably the most powerful of them is Baal, also known as Beelzebub (Matthew 10:25, 12:27). In John Milton’s famous epic, “Paradise Lost,” Beelzebub is second in command after Satan, and I have reason to suspect that Milton was probably correct. Remember that Satan is the ruler of this current world system (Matt. 4:8-10 and Ephesians 2:2), which he finagled away from Adam (Genesis Chapter 3), to whom God had given it (Genesis 1:26-31). Therefore, the religious influence of Babylon has survived since the days of Nimrod! That’s because the same demon spirits that deceived gullible humans in Nimrod’s day still exist today, and the more that people rebel against God, the stronger demonic power becomes! (See Romans 1:18-32 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.) The 18th chapter of Revelation speaks of a **nation** that was once dedicated to God. All of us who truly love Christ become temples in which His Spirit can dwell (John 2:21, 1 Corinthians 6:19). Collectively these human temples form a spiritual “**city**” of believers faithful to God. This is the church known as New Jerusalem (Revelation 3:12, 21:2 and Hebrews 12:22-23). However, Satan, the great counterfeiter of Christ (2 John 1:7 and 2 Corinthians 11:13-15), will also have his “**city**” as well. It will be made up of humans who become so wicked that their bodies “...become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit...”

(Revelation 18:2 NIV). The primary nation that will lead the way in blasphemy, and will sin boldly, even against the Light of Christ (John 8:12), is Mystery Babylon! By the time of her demise, she will have become a land filled with powerful human temples dedicated to New Age theology, witchcraft, and pseudo-Christianity! She will also persecute the righteous (Luke 21:12-13 and Revelation 17:6), and she will do it in the name of Christ, just as the Pharisees condemned Jesus in the name of God (John 10:33)!

The Chaldeans didn’t gain control over Babylon until 606 BC. The most famous of the Chaldean kings was Nebuchadnezzar II, who was used by God to punish the Jews after they fell into deep sin (Jeremiah 27:6). However, under the influence of the prophet Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar repented of his sins and accepted the one and only true God (Daniel 4:37), and the Lord blessed him for it. Nevertheless, the Chaldean Empire fell two generations later, after Nebuchadnezzar’s death, when his grandson, Belshazzar, became so wicked that the Lord brought instant judgment upon him and he was killed that very night. As is often the case, right before Belshazzar’s doom there was a party atmosphere present. His contempt for God was so great that he openly blasphemed the Lord by desecrating the gold and silver vessels that had been plundered from the temple in Jerusalem. He ordered them to be brought to the party so that, he, his wives, and concubines could use them in their drunken revelry to praise “...the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone” (Daniel 5:4 KJV). If he was trying to provoke God, he couldn’t have done a better job of it! (See Proverbs 1:7.) “*Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lamp stand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way*” (Daniel 5:5-6 NIV). I don’t wonder that Belshazzar was terrified. How would you feel if you saw the disembodied fingers of a human hand suddenly appear out of nowhere and write you a message on



the wall? “*The king called out for the enchanters, astrologers and diviners...*” (Daniel 5:7 NIV) to be brought before him, but none of them could translate the words. So finally, they called for Daniel, who interpreted it. “*This is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN ‘This is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians’*” (Daniel 5:25-28 NIV). Cyrus, King of Persia, advanced into Babylonia that night, and Babylon, the capital city of the Chaldean Empire, was taken without a fight in 539 BC.

Just as Belshazzar angered God by filling the sacred golden goblets with wine and using them to toast the gods of material wealth (Daniel 5:4), spiritually speaking, Mystery Babylon does the same thing (Jeremiah 51:7-9)! That’s because she was once a nation that knew Christ and proclaimed His Holy Word (John 1:14), for He is the light of the world (John 1:4), and the Bridegroom of the Gospel (John 3:25-29). And His church is His bride (2 Corinthians 11:2). It is her job to reflect His Light as a **city** on a hill (Matthew 5:14-16 and Hebrews 12:22-23), and to illuminate the darkness of this world (John 3:19-21, 8:12, 12:35-36). Yet the Bible says that Babylon will fall (Revelation 14:8), and “*the light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world’s great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray*” (Revelation 18:23 NIV). Magic has become a big business in America. **(Continued On Page 4)**

## Mystery Babylon (Continued From Page 3)

Walt Disney has made it look wholesome, cute and cuddly, but in the eyes of God, it is wicked! (See Deuteronomy 18:10-12 and Exodus 22:18.) Furthermore, I believe that the church has already drifted so far into New Age theologies that it won't be long before witchcraft is a regular component of many church services! *"And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found"* (Revelation 16:19-20 KJV). This occurs due to earthquakes (see Revelation 16:18) but the destruction of Mystery Babylon is precipitated by a vicious attack from other nations! This may be what triggers the earthquakes as the "arrows" mentioned in Jeremiah 50:9 which are probably atomic missiles!

I'm going to tell you something now that I never told you before. In the dream I was someplace in outer space looking down on the earth. There was no one else around, but I was aware of events that were taking place on the earth. I don't know what year I was seeing, but it was in my lifetime, for I instinctively knew that Eric and I were out of the country at the time, in a foreign nation somewhere far in the southern hemisphere. We were still actively living for Jesus, but our ministry was much bigger than it is today. And we were holding some type of evangelistic crusade in the land we were visiting. What I was seeing pertained to future events!

From a far distance I looked down on a country that had once been a powerful nation. Its idolatry, through its culture, had been exported throughout the whole earth and many other civilizations had become rich as a result. Yet now all of that was gone! I can't tell you what my emotions were as I saw the entire country spread out before me. I didn't seem to have human emotions at all. However, I think that I perceived an indescribable feeling of waste, of what might have been as compared to what had occurred! And there was some sadness, but not in the way humans might feel it. It was more the way that God describes His feelings in the Bible, and His constant frustration at the foolishness and self-destruction of mankind. For the nation before me was no more. It had been completely annihilated! The entire landmass was as flat as a pancake! There were no trees, no mountains, no rivers, no birds, no fish, no people! All was charcoal gray. Then, I seemed to zoom in on the earth, like the lens of a camera, and as I did, I saw the ashes of what had once been. There was nothing but smoldering embers of burned soil! There was no life there at all! While I looked on the scene before me, life continued on the rest of the planet as before. Other than Russia, and the nations with her that had launched the attack, it seemed as if the rest of the world had not yet become aware of what had just transpired. The charred wreckage of a lost civilization smoldered from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. What I looked down on had once been the United States of America! (See Revelation 18:9-19.)

Like most Christians, I used to feel that even if the scripture about Mystery Babylon does apply to the United States, it won't affect the Born Again in Christ (see John 3:3) because the Rapture will come first. However, I'm not so sure about that anymore! Nevertheless, this belief on the part of the church, has contributed toward her current slumber (Romans 13:11). Revelation 4:1 has been interpreted by many Bible teachers as being the Rapture of the church that Paul spoke of in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. However, during the Rapture of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

the redeemed are not taken straight to the throne room of God, as occurred to John in Revelation 4:1, they are caught up to meet Christ in the air. Neither can it be assumed that the events described in the book of Revelation occur in consecutive order. For instance, the fall of Satan occurred before mankind was even created. Jesus stated that He saw Satan fall from Heaven (Luke 10:18). Therefore, the passage in Revelation 12:7-12 refers to past events of long ago. The Lord is saying, "Your nation is under judgment. Repent before it is too late!" Yet many believers today are wondering why they have had to endure such painful experiences (Hebrews 12:5-11) and have lost so much (Mark 8:36-36 and Luke 12:15-34). Their thinking is, "I'm a good person. I live for Jesus. Why am I going through such sorrow?" However, you do not see yourself as God sees you! (See Psalm 14:3 and Matthew 7:11.) You are comparing yourself to this sinful world instead of to the high standards of Christ, and He wants to wake you up (see Revelation 3:2-3) before it is too late!

In 1912 a British ocean liner set out on her maiden voyage from Liverpool to New York. She was the ultimate in luxury and decadence. She was named the Titanic after Greek mythological "gods." The Titanic was promoted as being unsinkable, a symbol of man's triumph over the forces of nature. Therefore, the number of lifeboats on board was inadequate. When interviewed by the press, her captain said, "Even God couldn't sink this ship." Just before the midnight hour on April 14th, the Titanic hit a huge ice-



berg 95 miles south of Newfoundland and 1,513 of her 2,220 passengers perished! I was watching a British made documentary about the ship. Some of the survivors were interviewed. They told of the screams they heard as the passengers drowned in the icy water. Just hours earlier, most of them had been having a good time. The casualties included some of the world's richest and most powerful men and women. Some of them had heard that the ship was sinking, but they did not board the lifeboats because they didn't believe it! But now their desperate prayers could be heard by those on the lifeboats. They wanted God's help, but it was too late! (See

2 Corinthians 6:2.) The whole world was stunned by the sinking of a ship that was said to be unsinkable. It was not only the sinners who drowned with the Titanic, but some of the righteous as well. For many missionaries were in the steerage part of the ship. They didn't know, when they boarded it, that their journey would take them all the way home (John 14:2-3). Among them was a man I'll call John Herd, for I don't recall his last name. Unlike the lost, he was not concerned about his own welfare. Even in his dying breaths he brought new fruit into the kingdom of God (see John 12:24).

Sometime after the tragedy, a young man walked into a small prayer meeting in New York, desiring to give his testimony. "I was one of the passengers on board the Titanic when it sunk. I am John Herd's last convert," he said. "He and I were in that frozen water together, and he said to me, 'Young man, have you accepted Christ as your Savior?' He led me through the sinner's prayer, and after that, a huge wave came along and separated us, and he was pulled under the water." John Herd's faith remained solid even as his earthly tabernacle perished. For it was built on an unshakable foundation (see Hebrews 12:26-28), and washed in the blood of our risen Savior, who said, "...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die..." (John 11:25-26 NIV).