



# The Trumpet Call

Messages and Reports

July - August 2012

Evangelist Edgar Martin

## A Time for Rest and a Time for Work

**“Arise and depart, for this is not your rest”—Micah 2:10 “Come to me . . . and I will give you rest . . . you will find rest for your souls”—Matthew 11:28, 29 “There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.”—Hebrews 4:9**

**Knowing when it is not time for rest:** Rest is a universal human necessity, yet many are seeking rest in the wrong way. Like Samson, who slept with his head in the lap of Delilah. Like the five foolish virgins who slept until the midnight call found them unprepared.

The bride of Christ is represented by the Shulamite maiden in the Song of Solomon, sleeping while the lover of her soul called her to come away with him, but her response was too late. Sorrowfully, she sought for Him (Song of Sol. 5). The church today slumbers and sleeps while Christ is standing at the door of our hearts, our homes and our churches calling us to awaken, to rise and come away with Him for sweet fellowship. He will lead us to secret places of quietness and rest. He will also lead us to service where He will labor with us. When He is with us our rest will be sweet and our work productive.

**Knowing when it is time for rest:** Zealous activity is admirable, but church leaders who labor under a heavy work load may be in danger of burn out. Zeal that is driven by personal ambition is the wrong kind of zeal. This self-motivated zeal can destroy one’s home, marriage and family. It can rob us of our prayer time and our personal relationship with God. To all those who are living under stress and are heavy laden, Jesus says: “Come to **Me** for rest. Take **My** yoke upon you and learn from **Me**” (Matt. 11:28, 29). Lay down those extra projects that you have taken up or that others have put upon you. Drop the extra weight. Nothing is as important as **His** yoke, **His** task, **His** calling. Only what Christ begins and leads in will count for eternity! Other yokes will not fit, but His yoke is formed and shaped just for us. It will be a sacred bond between us and our Lord because He wears it with us. We are His yoke fellows! As we labor together with Christ, we feel the tug of His loving guidance. He lifts our burden and carries our load. He knows when it is time to rest and when to work. He makes our work productive and our rest sweet. His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

**Rest comes while working:** Resting the body and not the soul will only make us more restless. Vacations are appealing, but true rest does not depend on pleasant surroundings. Our Father will prepare a table for us in the presence of our enemies. He feeds us with hidden manna and honey from the rock. In the hour of trial He strengthens us and gives us songs in the night. Paul and Silas sang at midnight in the prison (Acts 16). Bound with chains, Peter slept soundly on a cold prison floor (Acts 12). Jesus slept in a tossing boat during a raging storm (Mark 4). This is perfect, God given rest in the midst of Kingdom service. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God (Heb. 4:9).