

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Of the three lifestyle gifts of Louise Clark
and
A call to a 3-year experience
of
Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

by Glenn Clark, 1939

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

“And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshiped him; and opening their treasures they offered unto him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

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Louise Clark, wife of Dr. Glenn Clark, died in the late fall of 1939. In her honor, 300 Athletes of the Spirit committed to three years of giving to the Christchild, as Louise did throughout her life, the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The story of her legacy is told in this booklet.

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

On October third at exactly nine o'clock in the evening, my dear partner of thirty years stepped from this little room of Time into the larger room of Eternity. She was the most perfect example of the paradoxes described in Jesus' Beatitudes that I ever knew. Physically frail but strong spiritually, with arteries too weak to hold the life, and a body too weak to hold her great love, the Soul broke forth from its casings and flew into Heaven. She is now awaiting us in the Kingdom Farthest Out.

The famous evangelist Wickfield ascribed the success of his great preaching tours to the prayers of a little lame man who always accompanied him but who rarely left the hotel room. I can ascribe my success to the prayers of my "little bird with a broken wing" who rarely could accompany me on my journeys, but who always kept a light of prayer in her heart for me wherever I might be.

The light of that prayer is burning for me far more powerfully and radiantly than ever before. One friend said to me, "You have leaned upon her in so many ways; but where she has been a crutch to you in the past, she will now be wings."

And it is because of the strength that is coming to me through these wings that I am writing this.

As my memorial to Louise I want to share with you the secret by which she was able to accomplish so much in spite of so great a handicap. And her secret was this: *Every day, she brought to the altar of the Christ Child three gifts—gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

I.

When we were first married she wanted me to tithe. I postponed it for twelve years. My grounds for postponing it were that she had a tendency to worry about money matters, and I couldn't see my way to give—till we could do it with joy and abandon. Her earnestness, sincerity and persistence finally won, and we began. It was in 1924 when I was receiving a professor's salary, hardly adequate for caring for our family of five. But the moment we began to tithe something began to happen. My income increased, almost doubled, and we never again had any occasion to worry about money.

Moreover, tithing brought a new element of intense happiness into our home. Never did we have so much fun spending money as we did in distributing the tenth which we brought into the storehouse of the Lord. With an income of around \$3,000.00 we had \$300.00 that we could use for gifts to God. About \$100.00 we gave to our local church. Another fifty was divided up into the Community Chest, the Red Cross, and a score of lesser things that deserved support. Then we had plenty to give in small sums to needy students, to friends in great need, and to the occasional unfortunates that came across our way. That left a hundred which we could use for truly "big" things, as we called them. One year we pledged \$500.00 to the college we graduated from for its endowment fund, payable in equal installments over a five-year period. When that was paid off, the college where I was teaching undertook a similar campaign, and we pledged the same amount to it. Then our church built a new building, and we pledged \$500.00 to its building fund.

As I look back upon the past twenty years, I can see how half my bonds rolled into the Atlantic ocean when the depression hit us in 1929 but of our tithing nothing was lost. When friends said it was absurd for us to give so much away, we exclaimed, "Our tithing is our one safe investment!" And as we watched this sum through the years bring returns in character development in individuals, and in spreading the Kingdom in colleges and churches, great was our joy and happiness.

The memorial I am building for my wife consists not in building a monument, but in planting three seeds in the form of three requests to the world in general and to friends in particular:

The first seed I would plant in your hearts is the request that you gather for yourself the joy and the blessing that comes from taking a tenth of your income each year to the altar of the Christ child.

II.

The second gift that Louise brought to the feet of the Christ was the gift of frankincense.

By that I mean the setting aside of a period each day for Prayer and Meditation. She and I observed these periods each day alone in the morning hours. But in the evening, we invariably ended the day with a prayer together, I praying first and she following me. It was always amazing to me the way she never failed to cover in her prayer everybody or every need which I forgot to include in mine. Where I reached out for the world in general, she never forgot the sick neighbor next door or the distant stranger who had written to me for help in his dire need. How I depended upon her to come along in her careful mothering way to see that no one was ever overlooked!

I did not know what she did in her morning meditations. But after she had left us I discovered some note books filled full of her thoughts and prayers during the morning meditation hour. It was like discovering a gold mine or cachet of precious jewels. I have been reading these with deep inspiration ever since, and perhaps in the spring may publish them for all the world to read.

The second request I wish to plant in your hearts is this: that you may gather for yourself the strength and inspiration from keeping a Quiet Time for meditation and prayer each day.

III.

Her third gift was the gift of myrrh.

Myrrh is the ointment for the healing of sick bodies. The most wonderful ointment Louise and I discovered for the healing not only of sick bodies, but also of sick minds and sick souls was the ointment of Love.

Many years ago she started the practice of broadcasting Love to people. We often did this together and we discovered that a proper mixing of both, i.e., love and prayer, makes the most powerful medium for creating miracles in all the world. Let me share with you some of the wonderful things that came out of the Love broadcasts from our little home.

We began with our neighbors. Louise was Exhibit A when it came to being a good neighbor. When I was at some big meeting in the Twin Cities, she was content to be standing, trowel in hand, in our

back garden talking to the neighbors to the right and left and rear of us. Our garden became a regular Mecca for the neighbors. In our garden she knew and treasured every flower given to us by our neighbors for blocks around; and many "neighbors" in distant cities sent flowers that were represented there. A garden is the heart of any neighborhood, and Louise, who loved gardens, was herself the heart of our neighborhood.

If there were ever any clashes or misunderstandings among the neighbors, they were all washed away in Louise's and my love broadcasts at nightfall.

Our church grew so fast that I could not keep up with the new people and new faces that came into it. I complained that it was a "cold" church. "Why is it cold?" asked Louise. "Is it not because people like you and me are too busy, or too delicate in health, or too lazy to give the time we should to getting acquainted with the new people and loving them? But there is one thing we can do. Let us send forth showers of love to all the people in the church every night."

And that is what we proceeded to do. And I believe these showers of love were the most valuable gift that we ever gave to our church. I have no doubt that they had something to do with the fine spirit that is flowing into it now.

Next came the college. Twenty-five years ago there were traces of discord which I noticed. She asked, "Whose fault is that? Are we not equally to blame? Let us do our share." So again we broadcast love until the college became through our love and that of many others, a veritable heavenly place of harmony and peace and joy.

Finally we went on to broadcasting love for the city, the nation and the world.

But here we were getting out of Louise's depth, she claimed. She loved the little things, the little groups. She loved to broadcast love to all the world, but she suggested that I get Muriel Lester, Gandhi, Kagawa, Rufus Jones and other great souls whose followers were legion to share with me in these larger broadcasts. But this was her sweet modesty as all who knew her, know.

Now let me tell you of the strange experience that I have had since she left us. I KNOW THAT HER SHARING WITH ME IN THESE BROADCASTS OF LOVE AND PRAYER NOW THAT SHE IS IN HEAVEN IS INFINITELY MORE POWERFUL THAN WHEN SHE WAS ON EARTH. FOR NOW HER PRAYER AND HER LOVE ARE JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER BUT WITH THIS DIFFERENCE—THEIR ANSWER IS MULTIPLIED BY INFINITY.

And so this is the third seed I would plant in your hearts: I want you to enjoy the marvelous joy, the heavenly joy and thrill, that comes only to those who shower forth love to others. So will you join Louise and me by broadcasting love to your friends, your neighbors, your churches, your institutions, your country and the whole world?

IV.

And now, because Louise was very practical and very concrete, because she regularly set aside her time for these things and never let anything prevent her from fulfilling them, and because she

regularly set aside the exact sums that should be given to the Lord, I am going to try to be as concrete and definite and practical as she might be in telling you what I would love to have you do.

I want all of you who read this booklet to plant these three seeds in your hearts. The seed may take root and grow in some hearts. In others it may be delayed for years. I haven't forgotten that I waited for twelve years before the seed of tithing that Louise planted in my heart finally came to fruition. Perhaps you may want to wait twelve years, too. It is not for me to try to dissuade you. But oh, the joy that you will be missing, and oh, the good that the world will be missing, and oh, the blessings that both you and the world will be missing that you might be sharing together!

I do not expect that all of you who receive and read this message will bring all three gifts to the altar of the child Jesus. But I do know that some of you would like to bring one gift and some another, each guided by his interest and his convictions and the measure of his capacity to give. Wonderful things would happen if a few hundred would join the three wise men and follow the star.

Now let me tell you my dream. It is a very precious dream. It is so precious that I hesitate to put it into words. I want to do something big for the Kingdom in memory of Louise, and I want three hundred people to help me. If three hundred readers of my books would consent to bring in a portion of their prayers, a portion of their love and a portion of their gold to share with me in building a concrete, definite program of spiritual action, we could render the world just the spiritual service that it needs more than anything else at this critical time.

I would call these three hundred helpers my Gideon's Band. But unlike the Gideon's men who went forth to destroy we would go forth like the three wise men with blessings to give.

I did not place a tombstone on Louise's grave. Tombstones at least in Acacia Cemetery, have gone out of fashion. Only simple markers are permitted there. I did not care to erect an obelisk or statue in her honor. In their place, however, I would like to see planted there three trees, a tree of gold, a tree of frankincense and a tree of myrrh. That which she so loved to give—the three gifts of the magi—we would then give in a way that would be most good for the most people in the most vital way.

The tree of Gold would be made up of three hundred branches. The topmost branch would be a gift of \$700.00 a year for three years. The next three branches would be \$300.00 a year, each, for three years. The next seven would be for \$100.00 for three years. The nine branches would be \$33.00 a year for three years. The hundred branches would be \$12.00 a year for three years. The remainder of the three hundred branches would be for any amount, large or small, (say seven dollars or three dollars) whatever the donor desires to give. A small amount given with great love and with great prayer is often the greatest gift of all.

700
300
100
33
12
3

Bring ye all the tithes
into the storehouse,
that there may be meat
in mine storehouse,
and prove now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts,
if I will not open you the windows of heaven,
and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room
enough to receive it.
Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.
For the same measure that ye mete withal
shall be measured unto you again.

THE TREE OF GOLD

The second tree that I want to plant in memory of Louise is the tree of Frankincense. I would love to know that three hundred people were sharing with me every day for three years in praying for two things: for a great spiritual awakening and great spiritual growth within themselves, and second, for a great spiritual awakening and a great spiritual unfolding to come to the world.

It would be helpful if, as far as possible, a regular prayer period might be observed each day. A portion of this time might profitably be given to the meditative reading of books on prayer, a short period to actual prayer itself, and a final period given to silence and listening to the guidance of God.

Prayer
Meditation
Asking - Listening

But I know, that even now
whatsoever thou wilt ask of God,
God will give it thee.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you
shall agree on earth as touching anything that
they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father
which is in heaven.

THE TREE OF FRANKINCENSE

As a basis for common understanding as to the method and the spirit of prayer it might be helpful if every one participating in this prayer broadcast should read, or be reading, *The Soul's Sincere Desire* and *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*, the two books which Louise loved and read over and over again.

I want to find three hundred persons who can love greatly and who can come to the altar of the Lord washed clean of all hates and rancor and bitterness. I should like to have these each day broadcast love to their neighbors, to their friends, to their city, to their nation and to their world. In preparation for this I would suggest that you read the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:3 to the end of the chapter and then I Corinthians 13. Read Drummond's "The Greatest Thing in the World." Above all, practice this loving in your daily life. Make yourself a specialist in friendship.

Once a week hold a special broadcast of love for world peace. Start this hour by reading prayerfully the psalm prayer on Love on page 105 in *The Soul's Sincere Desire* and then the psalm prayer on Harmony on page 109. Read and memorize the 4th verse from the second chapter of Isaiah. "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Then broadcast love every day or until the war is over, to the leaders, to the soldiers and to the people in the warring lands.

Love
never faileth.

God is Love.

Love your enemies.

Greater love
hath no man than this
that he lay down his life for his friends.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought
to love
one another.

THE TREE OF MYRRH

It is possible that a few persons would like to contribute to all three of these memorials. In football those players who can do three things well are called "triple threat men," and they often make the All-Conference or All-American teams. If you care to join all three of these memorials we shall have

to call you "trinity-inspired" and ask for God's blessings on you as one of His chosen disciples. But do not feel that you have to do so. Count the cost in time, energy and money before you lightly enter into this partnership of Gideon's Band.

V.

Those who contribute to this memorial whether in Prayer, Love or Money I shall call my "Athletes of the Spirit."

I played football for seven years and after that I coached football for another seven years. I found that the first two weeks of football are excruciating agony. The player is so soft when he starts training that every tackle and every fall *hurts*. But after the preliminary seasoning and hardening process is over he can stand anything and not mind it.

Therefore I warn you not to join my "team" until you have counted the cost. The first two weeks or two months may be hard. Ask yourself: Can I *give* till it *hurts*? Can I *love* till it *hurts*? Can I *pray* till it *hurts*?

When I began to tithe I found the first year I had to give up for several seasons the purchase of an automobile. When I began to pray I found I had to give up for several years my morning paper. When I began to love I found I had to give up my pet prejudices against lots of people. Yes, the beginning of the spiritual life sometimes *hurts*. But after the seasoning and disciplining process is over the hurts cease. But can you stand the preliminary seasoning process? In case you are in doubt, I suggest that you get a book like *The Soul's Sincere Desire* or *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes* and try keeping a quiet half hour every day for one week; that you try loving Hitler every day for say, a fortnight, and that you try tithing of your income for one month. There is no need to rush into this. For this Gideon's Band is not a mere flash in the pan. It is going to be a real little army and we are going to march places and do things.

VI.

Over in Europe the selfish interests entrenched behind the totalitarian governments are lining up in conflict against the selfish interests behind the democratic governments in a militant deadlock where one false step on either side may precipitate a storm that will destroy civilization. This is the fulness of time for the forces of Good to unite, to transform the deadlock of evil into a landslide for righteousness.

Now is the psychological time for three hundred persons to arise who are willing and ready to go all the way under the banner of God. I am going searching up and down the length and breadth of this nation until I find them. And the test will not be found in the way they drink of the Jordan as Gideon tested them. It will lie in testing how fully and completely they believe—yes, *know* :

First, that Love is the strongest force in the universe, so strong that it requires no other force to protect it or sustain it.

Second, that Goodness can overcome any evil in the world if we only have enough goodness.

Third, that Prayer is the supreme energy of the Christian.

Think what three hundred persons who believe in these things could accomplish if they should unite in broadcasting a prayer to God that the heavenly forces of light, of sanity, of harmony; of justice and of love might control the affairs of men, and that the Prince of Peace might rule in the affairs of nations!

Think what would happen if three hundred loving souls such as these might send one great united broadcast of love to the hearts of all warring leaders and warring nations every day for three months!

Think again what three hundred devoted praying souls linked up with possibly a much greater number of people praying behind Kagawa, and behind Gandhi, Muriel Lester, Rufus Jones, Dr. Schweitzer, E. Stanley Jones and George W. Carver, could accomplish in ending war! Think what might happen if seven leaders such as these should unite in sending a message to some leader or chosen group of leaders in the nations should another crisis occur!

If a mediator should be chosen, for instance, by the warring nations to mediate this present conflict, how it would strengthen his hand and safeguard him against a misstep if he knew that our prayers and those of our friends were behind him for guidance and inspiration.

In days of old there were prophets who dared to speak to the kings of this world with the words of imperative authority, "Thus saith the Lord." Perhaps this age would listen to such a Voice. Only those humble enough and selfless enough, who have borne the heat of battle and submitted to the fires of human suffering could be channels for this Word to speak through them. It is only the critical need, of the world in this hour, and the voice of God in my heart that leads me to write this letter which I feel should much more worthily and adequately come from some other.

Let me tell you a few things that Louise and I shall do for the world she in heaven and I on earth, with the money, the prayers and the love you will be sending us.

First, we shall take steps to link up together—by means of love, prayer, letters, words and actions—all the great spiritual movements such as Kagawa's Kingdom-of-God-Movement, Rufus Jones' Wider Quaker Fellowship Movement, Mrs. Alice Bailey's World Fellowship Movement, Frank Buchman's Moral ReArmament Movement, our own Camp Farthest Out Fellowship, and all the praying groups of Jews, Christians and others for a great united directing of our prayers toward making the Kingdom of Love dominant in the world of men.

Second, we shall link up by means of letters, telegrams, and personal contact all the great praying souls, such as Kagawa, Gandhi, Schweitzer, Muriel Lester, George Washington Carver, Rufus Jones, and E. Stanley Jones together with all their praying followers for some definite, concerted, united prayer and action together for international justice, world peace, social justice, better race understanding and above all, for deeper spiritual living all over the world.

Third, we shall make it one of our major objectives to cultivate the habit of keeping a Prayer Hour among as many individuals as we can. For that reason we urge all our friends to help us give as wide circulation as possible to books and other aids for making the prayer hours inspiring and profitable in every way.

Fourth, we shall also make it one of our prime objectives to foster the establishing of effective prayer groups in as many churches as possible throughout the nation. It is one of our aims to create in every large city in the United States a little "invisible committee" whose passion will be the fostering and stimulating of such groups in every church in their area. Were we adequately endowed we would engage for every city the full time of some very selfless, spiritual person who was gifted in making such prayer groups contagious, to head up the movement in her area. While waiting for this we shall seek to find the right volunteers who have the proper spirit and adequate time to give to this project outside their regular work.

Fifth, we shall engage one full-time person, who possesses a contagious personality and a deep passion for spreading the message of the inner spiritual life who is familiar with the best technique for developing prayer groups, to make occasional journeys to the different cities bringing inspiration and encouragement to all. Glenn Harding, unless he is demanded elsewhere, would be our choice for this service.

Sixth, we shall change *Clear Horizons* from a mimeographed, occasional magazine to a printed magazine to be issued (at least in the beginning) every three months. A small subsidy at the first will be necessary to make this possible.

Seventh, we shall need adequate secretarial help to assist in handling our ever growing correspondence and aid us to carry on and nourish the spiritual growth and awakening and unfolding that all this working together in love and prayer will bring into being.

GLENN CLARK
St Paul, Minnesota

Dear "Coach",
I wish to join your team of "athletes of the spirit."

I. GOLD

I wish to bring the altar of the Christ my gift of Gold. As a part of my stewardship I shall try to send to "The Foundation Farthest Out" every year for the next three years the sum of _____ for the "Louise Memorial".

Signed _____

II. FRANKINCENSE

I wish to bring the altar of the Christ my gift of prayer and adoration. I shall try to give fifteen minutes a day for the next three years to tuning in with you in prayer and meditation especially directed toward the bringing in of a great spiritual awakening to our country and the world..

Signed _____

III. MYRRH

I wish to bring to the altar of the Christ my gift of Service and Love. I shall try to radiate Love in every way in which I know how for the glory of God and the blessing of men. I shall try to broadcast Love and Harmony for the quenching of war and strife in this world once a week, for the next three years.

Signed _____

IV. ALL THREE GIFTS

I aspire to be a "trinity-inspired person," and with the help of God and to the best of my ability I shall try to bring all three gifts to the altar of the Lord.

Signed _____

Two years later: Update Report of the Gideon Band

During her life time Louise Clark brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to the altar of the Christ child, and, after she went, instead of erecting a statue in her honor three hundred people for three years have banded together to give of their gold, prayers and love to the spreading of the spirit of the Christ. Seven things we have especially set as our objectives:

First, to take steps to link together all the great spiritual movements such as Kagawa's Kingdom of God Movement, Rufus Jones' Wider Quaker Fellowship, etc., so that we should all be one flock under one Shepherd. Now that the second year is drawing to a close *we can report remarkable progress in this regard.*

Second, to link up by means of letters and personal contact all the great praying souls such as Kagawa, Gandhi, Schweitzer, Muriel Lester, George Washington Carver, Rufus Jones, Frank Laubach and E. Stanley Jones, together with their praying followers for some definite concerted prayer and action together. *The fulfillment of this aim has been well nigh perfect.*

Third, the cultivating of the Individual Prayer Hour. *Thousands of letters from all over the world reveal that God is fulfilling this prayer in a large way.*

Fourth, the establishing of effective prayer groups or "prayer cells" all over the country. This is our prime objective for the coming year. This little booklet is one of the tools to this end. We are sending it free of charge to fifteen thousand key people, hoping that they, in turn, will spread the thought in their churches and in their neighborhoods. *We are confident of a splendid answer to this prayer.*

Fifth, the liberating, by occasional help, of certain persons in order to launch them upon wider work in the interests of the Kingdom. *A book would be required to tell of the scores of people to whom doors have opened to larger spiritual service.*

Sixth, to launch CLEAR HORIZONS as a quarterly magazine to bring to people spiritual food in an age of spiritual starvation. *This has been achieved beyond our fondest dreams.*

Seventh, by means of a very small subsidy we have been able to increase our secretarial help to the point where it can handle the enormous correspondence which all these things have precipitated.

Glenn Clark, "Facing the World with Prayer Groups", 1941