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Saturday evening 3rd January, 1970. Prayer meeting at Ebenezer Chapel
Clapham.
Pastor Presiding.

Opening Hymn:- 700. "Great God, to thee we come, And solemnly confess"

First Reading:- 23rd Psalm.

Address by Pastor:- There are three things in this Psalm I would just briefly mention.

The first is PROVISION:- "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." What a mercy if we can feelingly say "The LORD is my Shepherd" - if that is really true, everything else necessarily follows. What is the provision? It is the blessed gospel. We need nothing else for the nourishment of our souls! It is the blessing of that gospel in its application to us that feeds and nourishes our souls and keeps us alive in the Truth.

The second is PROTECTION:- "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;" this was not a vain confidence on the part of the author, rather, we may conclude that the Psalmist felt the safety of that divine PROTECTION that covered him, that ROCK, that SHELTER, that PROTECTOR both in life with the dangers that attend it, and the article of death.

the third is HABITATION:- This is the last verse "I will dwell in the House of the Lord for ever." If the first verse of the Psalm is true of us, then the last verse will be, for they are intimately connected, one with the other. We have a Sovereign Protector and Provider, One Who has provided a habitation where all the redeemed of the Lord will dwell for ever, where they will never sin, a habitation where their peace and happiness will be perfect for ever!

I do not purpose speaking any longer to-night, as I realise that this is the first Prayer meeting in the New Year we have just entered.

I have noticed in looking at my records that in January 1966 I have a note saying "A particular occasion." In January 1968, "A good meeting", and in January 1969 "Eight brethren engaged in prayer".

My desire this evening is that we might devote our time to seek the Lord and humble ourselves before Him. To seek His blessing upon this year: - that He will maintain our Cause, supply our need, and if His holy will, increase us, and hold us up. If not, may He grant us the best blessing of all, that is "HIS PRESENCE IN OUR MIDST" so that it may still be a solemn Sanctuary of sacred communion.

I may not be able to ask all our dear brethren, but I would like to have as many as time allows, and may each consider the other.

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May the Lord grant His blessing.

P.T.O.

Prayers:- Mr. R. West. Mr. A Levell. Mr. G. Hunt.

Second Hymn:- No.1, verses 1 & 2 and 5 @ 6
"Great God how infinite art Thou!"

Prayers:- Mr. A. Allen. Mr.P. Brunner. Mr.A.Burbridge
Mr. F. Burbridge.
