



# **TLM Daily Devotions**

**July 2022**





## How great is our Lord!

Of all the miracles and signs and wonders Jesus would have performed, this is the only one recorded in all four Gospels! No matter how often I read it or hear it, I am blessed and encouraged by the fact that Jesus can do so much with so little when it is given unreservedly to Him.

*John 6:5-13 NLT Jesus soon saw a great crowd of people climbing the hill, looking for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Philip, where can we buy bread to feed all these people?"* He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

*Philip replied, "It would take a small fortune to feed them!"* (In fact, about eight months' wages – and without wondering where you could get enough food in such a short time, miles from anywhere! A remote place – and it was late in the day – most shops would be shut by now!).

*Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?"* (I wonder what kind of stares Andrew received from the other disciples at that moment... well, that's useless, that's ridiculous, that's outrageous, that's impossible, what's he thinking of, that's almost an insult to Jesus!) But...

*"Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus ordered. So all of them – the men alone numbered five thousand – sat down on the grassy slopes. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and passed them out to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate until they were full. "Now gather the leftovers," Jesus told his disciples, "so that nothing is wasted." There were only five barley loaves to start with, but twelve baskets were filled with the pieces of bread the people did not eat!* (One basket for each disciple to take home? Perhaps, as a reminder, or an object lesson for each family?)

Jesus used what was *given* to Him, just one young boy's lunch! The Word says, "*Jesus already knew what He was going to do!*" Today, God invites us to have a part in what *He* wants to do through the work of The Leprosy Mission. When we willingly dedicate our own small resources to Him – our time, our talents, our treasures, our all – He can work miracles to bless countless others. If He can feed and fill thousands of people with one small lunch, and have plenty left over, surely, He can take our limited resources and multiply them beyond our wildest expectations, to bring physical and spiritual healing to thousands, even millions, of people, who need Him so desperately at this time

We may feel today we are just a small group of people, alone, separated, some of us even 'passed our prime' ... but as we seek to serve the Lord through the ongoing work of The Leprosy Mission, with even our 'little', if it is 'all' we have, including our trust in Him to answer our prayers, God will take it and multiply it over and over and over, to accomplish His purposes. So let us be encouraged that as we come to Him today, "*by His mighty power within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or think...*" (Ephesians 3:20, NLT.) Not just more, or even much more, but *infinitely* more!

“Little is much (infinitely more) when God is in it.”

People’s lives will be changed forever because we are praying today – *and* because God has promised to, and delights to, answer our prayers!

*Praise the Lord! How Great is our God!*

**Val Dunleavy** - TLM Australian Supporter

This devotion was given by Val at a TLMA Support Group Prayer Afternoon.



## Psalm 81

*For the director of music. According to gittith. Of Asaph.*

<sup>1</sup> Sing for joy to God our strength;  
shout aloud to the God of Jacob!

<sup>2</sup> Begin the music, strike the timbrel,  
play the melodious harp and lyre.

<sup>3</sup> Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,  
and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;

<sup>4</sup> this is a decree for Israel,  
an ordinance of the God of Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> When God went out against Egypt,  
he established it as a statute for Joseph.

I heard an unknown voice say:

<sup>6</sup> "I removed the burden from their shoulders;  
their hands were set free from the basket.

<sup>7</sup> In your distress you called and I rescued you,  
I answered you out of a thundercloud;  
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

<sup>8</sup> Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—  
if you would only listen to me, Israel!

<sup>9</sup> You shall have no foreign god among you;  
you shall not worship any god other than me.

<sup>10</sup> I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you up out of Egypt.  
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

<sup>11</sup> "But my people would not listen to me;  
Israel would not submit to me.

<sup>12</sup> So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts  
to follow their own devices.

<sup>13</sup> "If my people would only listen to me,  
if Israel would only follow my ways,

<sup>14</sup> how quickly I would subdue their enemies  
and turn my hand against their foes!

<sup>15</sup> Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,  
and their punishment would last forever.

<sup>16</sup> But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;  
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."



## Psalm 82

*A psalm of Asaph.*

<sup>1</sup> God presides in the great assembly;  
he renders judgment among the “gods”:

<sup>2</sup> “How long will you defend the unjust  
and show partiality to the wicked?

<sup>3</sup> Defend the weak and the fatherless;  
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

<sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> “The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.  
They walk about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup> “I said, ‘You are “gods”;  
you are all sons of the Most High.’

<sup>7</sup> But you will die like mere mortals;  
you will fall like every other ruler.”

<sup>8</sup> Rise up, O God, judge the earth,  
for all the nations are your inheritance.



## In unison

Four weeks ago, on the 10<sup>th</sup> May [a day of some import to your correspondent], Darren Harrison [39], was flying home from Marsh Harbour in the Bahamas to Florida. Seated at the back of the Cessna Caravan, he was enjoying the view over the ocean, when suddenly his pilot collapsed at the controls, plunging the Caravan in a dive towards the sea. Darren had no pilot training, but instantly realised that he had to save the situation and so scrambling forward, he reached over the unconscious pilot and eased the Cessna out of its dive. Once he had moved the pilot from his seat, he took charge of the Caravan and miraculously made contact with Palm Beach tower, where Robert Morgan was one of the controllers on duty. Robert is also a flight instructor, but had never flown a Caravan, so he printed the layout of the controls and with this in front of him, gave Darren his first flying lesson, guiding him to a safe landing – despite Darren being unable to see the information displayed on the Caravan’s ‘glass cockpit’. This is one of the most extraordinary incidents in civil aviation – who could have imagined disaster being averted in such a fraught situation?

Who will be remembered as the hero of this story? Darren certainly deserves every accolade that will come his way, but the outcome would have been entirely different without the extraordinary guidance received from Robert. What should have been the stuff of nightmares will surely become *the* textbook example of teamwork.

The Scriptures abound with examples of teams: Moses and Aaron, David and Jonathan, Elijah and Elisha, Paul and Barnabas, and Paul and Timothy are some that come to mind. Maybe you can think of others?

When it came time to send out His disciples, Jesus sent them in pairs:

*“Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.” Mark 6:6-7*

God has ordained Holy partnerships with abilities that defy human reasoning:

“Aaron and Hur held Moses’ hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.” Exodus 17:13

We all face our ‘plunging to the ocean’ moments and as in the case of Darren Harrison, we will need at least two things:

Very cool heads - “he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding” Proverbs 17:27 ESV

and a wise mentor - “And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

If you don’t have a mentor, today would be a good day to start seeking one. Practicing mentorship will also stand you in good stead. There comes a day when each one of us receives a call from someone at the controls who has never flown before – we may be all that stands between them and catastrophe. Make sure you are fully equipped to guide them to a safe landing. And every day is a good day for practicing the discipline of

self-control [Galatians 5:23] which produces that cool spirit which is so important in seasons of crisis, whether we are mentoring or being mentored.

**Peter Laubscher** - Country Leader, Southern Africa. Peter and Elizabeth Laubscher have worked with the Leprosy Mission since 1981. They are blessed with three children. Peter cruises the waters of False Bay when he's not trying to polish scratches out of telescope mirrors.



## Being involved

*Galatians 6:2. "Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfil the law of Christ."*

Leaders have subordinates and often find themselves able to delegate. As a leader, we can make them do everything. We can leave them to deal with problems and stay away from embarrassing, frustrating, tiring, and mundane jobs. It is an easy safe and hassle-free way out that most of us would prefer. On the other hand, staying close to the seemingly dirty tasks makes us human, humble, real, authentic, and most of all relatable. Not being a gutless manager/boss and deciding to be a leader instead by demonstrating the value of getting your hands dirty, is a philosophy that is desirable in a leader.

Working in a mission hospital helped us demonstrate 'getting our hands dirty', time and again. We'd stay up the night on very busy days with the junior doctor on duty even if we were not on call, In busy emergency rooms, we would write up discharge notes, fill up prescription or lab orders, write a death report, start an IV line or put in a catheter just so that the staff on call could cope. As a consultant, we need not have done this. Our dictum was, never ask someone to do a task that you are not prepared to do. Its reaped benefits. Not only did it earn respect from juniors and other staff, leading to an extremely pleasant cooperative work environment, problems were quickly solved, and efficiency increased. And most importantly, these values were imbibed in the budding leaders.

In the parable of the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) we see the master going out to hire workers for his harvest though he had foremen designated to do the job. But he chose to do it himself. I am sure he was in the field the whole day getting dusty and sweaty, monitoring the progress of the harvest, and going back four times to the marketplace to get workers, when he thought it was needed. He was getting his 'hands dirty' and demonstrating his involvement and intervening when it was needed.

God also demonstrated this when he sent Jesus to this world. He could have given directions, made plans, and got them executed from up above, but He chose to get involved, become a human, experience the joys and sorrows, trials, and temptations that all of us face. That is why we know, He understands. Do you want to be a leader about whom your colleagues and subordinates say, 'he understands'? Cast aside those prejudices, roll up your sleeves, get your hands dirty and get involved!

*Prayer: Lord, grant me the grace and wisdom to practice servant leadership in my place of work. Break those barriers that prevent me from getting involved.*

**Joydeepa Darlong Dr** Head of Knowledge Management, The Leprosy Mission Trust India. A Family Physician, worked as Consultant and Deputy Superintendent for 15 years at The Leprosy Mission Hospital, Purulia, West Bengal, India.



## Dear Tom

I enjoyed our conversation the other night about whether the miracles performed by Jesus in the Bible really happened. It set me thinking!

A miracle has been defined as *'an extraordinary and welcome event that cannot be explained by natural or scientific laws'*.

The Bible records many extraordinary and welcome events in the life of Jesus that cannot be explained by natural or scientific laws. Stories of people who, for example, were miraculously cured of blindness, lameness or leprosy; or thousands of people who were fed by tiny amounts of bread and fish.

Those who say that they don't believe these things happened need to think how they might answer the questions below.

For example, do they believe that the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John just made up these stories? If so, why do they think they would do that?

Or, do they believe that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John got together and agreed to lie deliberately about what had happened? Again, why would they do that?

Remember, the Gospels were written after Jesus died, so it was already too late to stop him from being crucified?

Perhaps they believe that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John really did get together and agreed to write about things that couldn't possibly have happened. If so, how did they decide which miracles to make up? And did they also agree who would record which miracles in which Gospel, because not all the miracles are included in all the Gospels?

Even Jesus' bitter enemies, the Scribes and the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day, accepted that Jesus performed miracles. What made them cross was not that Jesus performed miracles, but because he sometimes did these things on the Sabbath which was against the law. Or because Jesus forgave the sins of some of those he had miraculously cured, and only God could do that according to the Scribes and Pharisees.

Just because it may not be possible to explain in natural or scientific ways how a miracle happened, doesn't mean that it did not happen. That's why it's a miracle!

I hope this helps. Please keep asking questions; they make me think.

Next time, perhaps we can talk about modern miracles.

Taid (a Welsh word for Grandfather)

**David Parry** - David Parry was a member of the TLM England and Wales Board from 1990 to 2002 and its Chairman from 1995 to 2002, and a member of the TLM International Board from 2001 to 2013 and its Chairman from 2009 to 2013. He is currently enrolled on a Certificate in Theology course at St Albans Cathedral, England where he has been a Guide since 2009.



## Tell your children

*"Tell it to the future generations" Psalm 48:13*

*"And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord" (Jug 2.10, NBS).*

Why ? Because their parents didn't tell them.

Read these three verses carefully.

1) "To tell it to the future generation. This is the God who is our God eternally and in perpetuity; he will be our guide until death" (Ps 48:14-15).

2) "We will not hide them from our children. We will tell future generations of the glorious deeds of the Lord" (Ps 78.4, PDV).

3) "Each generation will praise your exploits to the next, it will tell of your exploits" (Ps 145.4, PDV). You say, "We need a better government or a better school. Perhaps, but it is the parents who educate the children. As a parent, you are called to lead your home and train your children in the ways of the Lord. To His honour! Give your children deep spiritual roots as early as possible. They will undoubtedly be rebellious. The prodigal son came from a stable home, yet he left. But he came back because he remembered the values he had been taught.

At the end of his life, Joshua called together the leaders of the nation and declared, "You have seen all that the Lord has done" (Jos 23:3). Then he asked them to tell their children. Did they? No. And what was the result? Their children ended up marrying strangers and adopting their sinful lifestyle. Don't let that happen to your children.

Prayer of the day

*Thank you, Lord, for the word that I must transmit.*

## DITES-LE À VOS ENFANTS

*« POUR LE RACONTER À LA GÉNÉRATION FUTURE » PSAUMES 48.14*

*« Et il se leva après elle une autre génération, qui ne connaissait pas le Seigneur » (Jug 2.10, NBS).*

Pourquoi ? Parce que leurs parents ne le leur ont pas raconté. Lisez bien ces trois versets.

1) « Pour le raconter à la génération future. Voilà le Dieu qui est notre Dieu éternellement et à perpétuité ; il sera notre guide jusqu'à la mort » (Ps 48.14-15).

2) « Nous ne les cacherons pas à nos enfants. Nous raconterons aux générations qui viennent les actions glorieuses du Seigneur » (Ps 78.4, PDV).

3) « Chaque génération vantera tes exploits à la suivante, elle racontera tes exploits » (Ps 145.4, PDV). Vous dites : « Il faudrait un meilleur gouvernement ou une école plus performante. » Peut-être, mais ce sont les parents qui éduquent les enfants. En tant que parent, vous êtes appelé(e) à diriger votre foyer et à éduquer vos enfants dans les voies du Seigneur. À vous l'honneur ! Donnez à vos enfants des racines spirituelles profondes le plus tôt possible. Ils seront sans doute rebelles. Le fils prodigue venait d'un foyer stable,

pourtant il est parti. Mais il est revenu, parce qu'il se souvenait des valeurs reçues. À la fin de sa vie, Josué a réuni les dirigeants de la nation et déclaré : « Vous, vous avez vu tout ce que l'Éternel a fait » (Jos 23.3). Puis il leur a demandé de le dire à leurs enfants. L'ont-ils fait ? Non. Et quel a été le résultat ? Leurs enfants ont fini par épouser des étrangers et adopter leur style de vie pécheur. Ne permettez pas que ça arrive à vos enfants.

Prière du jour

*Merci Seigneur pour la parole que je dois transmettre.*

**Reverend Elie FOFOLO** - Born on August 5, 1964, son of a Baptist Pastor, both parents died. I am a pastor of vocation and formation, in 2001 I had my degree in Theology at the Protestant University in Congo (U.P.C). After working as a Pastor in the local Church of Kingabwa 1 from 2004 to 2011, I had a meeting with Angelika Piefer who headed the Coordination of the Mission against Leprosy in the Democratic Republic of Congo, from where I had this passion for people affected by Leprosy and I invited Angelika to come to World Leprosy Day in our church on Sunday 29/01/2012, in Kingabwa. This work led us to discover two girls from the same family with signs of leprosy, and their brother ended up being infected, but all three were treated and in good health. This sparked this passion to work as a volunteer in raising awareness, mobilization and the relationship with the local churches of the platform "Church of Christ in Congo" (E.C.C in acronym). - In July 2019, I obtained the Master in Psychotrauma, at the University of Kinshasa, at the Faculty of Medicine. Training that allows me to better listen to and accompany people who suffer trauma and stress for biopsychosocial care. - I am married to only one woman, Madame Espérance since 16/10/1988. From this union God gave us five children including two girls and three boys. Just like Abraham and Sarah, my wife and I, are willing to give up everything and go where the need for the Mission is felt. - Elie Fofolo is currently pastor at the local church of Masina 3, the 15th Congo Baptist Community in Kinshasa



## The Word became Flesh

*John 1 : 14, So the word of God became a person, and took up his abode in our being, full of grace and truth; and we looked with our own eyes upon his glory, glory like the glory which an only son receives from a father.*

It might well be held that this is the greatest single verse in the New Testament; therefore it is good to spend much time upon it so that we may fully understand its riches and true meaning.

We see that John has certain great words which haunt his mind and dominate his thoughts and now we are to look out and understand how his whole message is elaborated. Here we have three more of these words.

1. The first is Grace. This word always has two basic ideas in it.

It always has the idea of something completely underserved. It always has an idea of something that we could never have earned or achieved for ourselves. The fact that God came to this earth to live and to die for us is not something humanity deserved; it is an act of pure love on the part of God. The word grace emphasises on God's goodness and at the same time the helpless poverty of man and the limitless kindness of God.

God gives grace to those who are in need and who humbly come to him for help. His grace supplies us with power to serve, preach the gospel, endure suffering persecution and hardship.

2. The second word is *truth*. This word is one of the dominant notes of the Fourth Gospel. We meet it again and again. Here we can only briefly gather together what John has to say about Jesus and truth.

a. Jesus is the embodiment of the truth. He said " I am the truth " ( 14:6 ). To see the truth we must look at Jesus. Ever since men began to think about God, they have been trying to define just who and what he is - small minds get no nearer a definition. But we can cease our thinking and look at Jesus Christ and say: " that is what God is like. " Jesus didn't come to talk to men about God; he came to show men what God is like, so that the simplest mind might know him as intimately as the mind of the greatest philosopher.

b. Jesus is the communicator of the truth. He told his disciples that if they continued with him they would know the truth ( 8:31). He told Pilate that his object in coming into this world was to witness the truth (18:37). Jesus is the one who, amidst the shadows makes things clear; who at the many crossroads of life, shows us the right way; in difficult moments of decision, enables us to choose the right; who, amidst the many voices which clamour for our allegiance, tells us what to believe.

c. Even when Jesus left this earth in the body, he left us his spirit to guide us into the truth. His spirit is the truth (14: 17, 15: 26, 16: 13). He did not leave us only a book of instructions and a body of teaching. We do not need to search through some unintelligible textbook to find out what to do. Still to this day, we can ask Jesus what to do, for his spirit is with us every step of the way.

d. The truth is what makes us free (8: 32). There is always a certain liberating quality in his truth. The truth which Jesus brings liberates us from estrangement from God; it liberates us from frustration: it liberates us from our fear and weaknesses and defeats. Jesus Christ is the greatest liberator of the earth.

e. The truth can be resented. They sought to kill Jesus because he told them the truth (8: 40 ) The truth may well condemn a man; it may well show him how far wrong he was. Men may shut their ears and their minds to the truth; they may kill the man who tells them the truth-- but the truth remains. No man ever destroyed the truth by refusing to listen to the voice that told it to him; and the truth will always catch up with him in the end.

f. The truth can be disbelieved (8: 45).; There are two main reasons why men disbelieve the truth. They may disbelieve it seems to be too good to be true; or they may disbelieve it because they

are so fastened to their half- truths that they will not let them grow. In many instances. Half - truth is the wrost enemy of a whole truth.

g. The truth is not something abstract; it is something which must be done (3: 21). It is something which must be known with the mind, accepted with the heart, and acted out in the life

Therefore it's become very important for us as Christian to check and remind ourselves regularly to see the presence of these two.....**Grace and God's Truth** in our daily lives. Not only we should feel the presence of these two in our lives but also other individuals who are connected and interact with us on a daily basis should be able to notice these blessings in our lives.

**Pradeep & Sarah Failbus** - Worked for 39 years and 29 years with TLM( most at Anandaban,Nepal) Now retired and settled at: Kathgodam, District Nainital Uttarakhand, India



## Psalm 83

*A song. A psalm of Asaph.*

- <sup>1</sup> O God, do not remain silent;  
do not turn a deaf ear,  
do not stand aloof, O God.
- <sup>2</sup> See how your enemies growl,  
how your foes rear their heads.
- <sup>3</sup> With cunning they conspire against your people;  
they plot against those you cherish.
- <sup>4</sup> “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation,  
so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”
- <sup>5</sup> With one mind they plot together;  
they form an alliance against you—
- <sup>6</sup> the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,  
of Moab and the Hagrites,
- <sup>7</sup> Byblos, Ammon and Amalek,  
Philistia, with the people of Tyre.
- <sup>8</sup> Even Assyria has joined them  
to reinforce Lot’s descendants.
- <sup>9</sup> Do to them as you did to Midian,  
as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,  
<sup>10</sup> who perished at Endor  
and became like dung on the ground.
- <sup>11</sup> Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,  
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,  
<sup>12</sup> who said, “Let us take possession  
of the pasturelands of God.”
- <sup>13</sup> Make them like tumbleweed, my God,  
like chaff before the wind.
- <sup>14</sup> As fire consumes the forest  
or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,  
<sup>15</sup> so pursue them with your tempest  
and terrify them with your storm.
- <sup>16</sup> Cover their faces with shame, LORD,  
so that they will seek your name.
- <sup>17</sup> May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;  
may they perish in disgrace.
- <sup>18</sup> Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD—  
that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.



## Psalm 84

*For the director of music. According to gittith. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.*

- <sup>1</sup> How lovely is your dwelling place,  
LORD Almighty!
- <sup>2</sup> My soul yearns, even faints,  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh cry out  
for the living God.
- <sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may have her young—  
a place near your altar,  
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who dwell in your house;  
they are ever praising you.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
- <sup>6</sup> As they pass through the Valley of Baka,  
they make it a place of springs;  
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.<sup>(a)</sup>
- <sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength,  
till each appears before God in Zion.
- <sup>8</sup> Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty;  
listen to me, God of Jacob.
- <sup>9</sup> Look on our shield,<sup>(b)</sup> O God;  
look with favor on your anointed one.
- <sup>10</sup> Better is one day in your courts  
than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.
- <sup>12</sup> LORD Almighty,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you.



## A Story of Change

### 30 plus years serving The Leprosy Mission – God’s way not me.

*Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”*

I have been working for 30 years with The Leprosy Mission, many missionaries I have served know- me as Jimmy, here is my story.

Born in Kalabahi - Alor, Indonesia on July 21, 1961, I moved to Dili Timor Leste with my brother who is an Indonesian Police officer. In 1979, I graduated from high school in Dili and have worked in various job until 01 October 1991. Then I worked with TLM Indonesia and I currently work with TLM Timor Leste, soon to be Misaun Lepra - TL.

I am the second child of seven siblings, from parents Daniel Lalang and Martha Toh Lalang; my father is a nurse at the Kalabahi General Hospital, and my mother is a housewife. In 1957 my father was appointed as the head of the leprosy program in Alor district, and at that time the main activity that was often carried out by my father was home visits to leprosy patients in the rural villages to treat their wounds, and I often went with him.

I was inspired by my father’s dedication, loving and care to those leprosy patients and had desires in my heart as a child to follow his footsteps as a health worker and treat leprosy. But every human being is created with a different way of life, and when 1973 my father passed away in 1973, and we were faced with a very difficult life situation, the dream to follow my father's footsteps as a health worker was become impossible. My father left us his pension of Rp.3000 Indonesian per month equal to less than 1 USD at the moment: to support his wife and 7 children was very difficult, dream for education just disappeared.

I was 12 years old when my father died and decided not to continue my study so I could work to help my mother and my other siblings so they can continue their education rather than me. In that very moment, sometimes I blamed God's for the destiny of my life. It felt unfair because He took the person that we relied on, the only breadwinner in our family has left us early and I had to give up all my dreams and take the responsibility to help my mother to fulfil the needs of our family.

In 1979, I moved with my uncle who was a police officer got transferred to Timor-Timor at that time and now we know as Timor Leste, and at that time there were many conflicts in that area. While in Timor-Timor, my uncle supported me to continue my study and I managed to finish until I graduated from high school; I tried to become a police officer but I didn't pass the test. Again I felt broken and lost but I found courage to pray and leave my life to God and continue life. In 1987 I met my wife Alice Fernanda da Costa Lalang, a godly women, we got married and were blessed with 4 children, but we only have 3 children left as the third became God’s angel.

In October 01, 1991, God fulfilled my childhood dream in different way. At that time I was working as a driver at the Public health Office in Dili suddenly to be an officer to help people with leprosy with Mrs Filipa ( Australia), Mrs Carry ( UK) and Mrs Tanny (Indonesia). Since then my whole life changed, I worked with happiness as I know my father must be very proud of me, Even though I only work as a driver, I have learnt a lot about leprosy diseases, the sign and symptoms, the treatment and the life consequences living with leprosy because I meet them almost every day, sit, eat, discuss anything, transport them, take care of them, and sometimes stay with them. I love my job so much, it's not only job, it a matter of pride for me because I can help them, I am contributing to reduce leprosy burdens in Timor Leste.

From all of these experiences I come to understand how God's plan has manifested in my life.

*Sometimes, I don't understand His way but I know that His way always better than any human being's way, so keep trust in God.*

*Kindly shared by TLM Timor Leste*



## Some biblical thoughts on VENGEANCE versus RIGHTEOUSNESS

In Genesis 4:23,24 we read about Lamech's resolve, to kill a man for having harmed him, and to kill a youngster for having struck him! His argument being:

*"If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."*

Jesus however taught His disciples as follows:

*Matth.5:38-41 – "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you "Do not resist the one that is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other cheek also...And if anyone forces you to go 1 mile, go with him 2 miles.'*

Jesus' righteousness had this consideration in mind:

Matth.5:20 – "I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Jesus' life, and style of ministry, usually presented as follows:

Is.42:1-3; Matth.12:20 – "A bruised reed He will not break, and a smouldering wick He will not quench, until He brings justice to victory; and in His Name the Gentiles will hope."

Take a few moments now, to contemplate the response of Jesus in John 18:22,23

- having just been struck in the face by an official: When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

"Is that how you answer the high priest?"

Jesus answered him, *"If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but what I said is right, why do you strike Me?"*

Paul impresses upon us in his Epistles, to live a righteous life in Christ:

LIVE WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING –

Eph.4:1 – "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

LIVE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL –

Philip.1:27 – "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent; I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel."

LIVE WORTHY OF THE LORD –

Col.1:10 – *"...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."* -Amen.



## Truth and Love

### *Ephesians 4:1-16*

A couple of times recently I have been reminded of a verse in Ephesians where Paul urges his readers to “speak the truth in love”. While this is sound teaching, it’s also possible that these are among the most dangerous words in the Bible! Sadly, they have been misused on far too many occasions and have caused great distress to the person on the receiving end.

I think there are two things to be aware of to help us steer clear of misusing this phrase. The first is that it’s a very easy-to-remember phrase but not so easy to remember the other verses in which it is set – the context. Just a few verses earlier Paul writes

*<sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

This sets a solid foundation for any conversation we might have with a fellow believer: humility, patience, love unity and peace! If I do have something difficult to say to a brother or sister in Christ, as I read these lines, I realise it’s not so easy to hold them all together. It’s a big challenge.

The second thing to remember is that while Paul encourages us to speak the truth in love, we also need to examine ourselves in how much truth we hold and how much love can we show. We do not have a monopoly on the truth in any situation and I would suggest that none of us has a monopoly on love either.

In fact, there is only one person who ever lived who could claim these things – and that is Jesus himself. As he entered his greatest trial – his self-sacrifice on the cross, he responds to Thomas’ question at the Last Supper “*I am the way, the truth and the life*”. And a little later he gives his disciples a very specific instruction “*Love on another as I have loved you*”. Very clearly Jesus, and only Jesus, has demonstrated that he holds the truth to all things, and that he has shown to the world through his obedient sacrifice on the cross the fullest expression of love.

So next time any of us are preparing to challenge a fellow believer in Christ on something they have done that we don’t very much like, or think is wrong. Let the alarm bells of **caution** ring loud in our ears! There is an English proverb (not in the Bible) “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread”. Let’s tread lightly.

**Trevor Durston** - General Director from 1993-2006. Now retired and working as a volunteer speaker for TLM.



## Jesus is Lord!

Jesus Christ is not just a good man or a good teacher even though anywhere He went He was always doing good.

When I looked at His life and words. Do good teachers repeatedly claim to be God? Do they claim to be one with the Father? Do they say they have come to die for all of mankind? Do they raise people from the dead and walk on water and calm storms? Those are strong claims and strong deeds.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. In him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

*Jesus is Lord!*

*Colossians 1:15-20*

**Bunmi Oluloto** - Bunmi and Loveth Oluloto live in Niamey, Niger Republic. Bunmi works for TLM as Country Leader for Niger and Chad

... and you can listen and join singing, TLM worldwide, wherever you are:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HHYt40whHQ&ab\\_channel=ChetValleyChurches](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HHYt40whHQ&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches)



## Our Challenge!

Scripture quotes from : English Standard Version

The world we live in is going through a tough time! People are fearful of the future, their safety and are exhausted by the waves of challenges they have to face. As Christians where do we fit in, our very core beliefs are being attacked, even by other believers. What are we to feel, is God still in control? How do we respond...?

There is a battle for our minds, lifestyles and our beliefs.

There are two kingdoms operating in this world: the Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. The Kingdom of God created all things then through the sin of pride, greed and the desire for power the kingdom of darkness has attempted to wrestle control over God's creation. The apostle Paul explains it this way:

*Ephesians 6:10, 12-13*

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.** Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."*

### It's a spiritual battle!

- Un-renewed minds to the requirements, ways and things of God will loose this battle and live in confusion, defeat, loss and fear.

*Romans 12:1-2 ESV*

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship.** **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**"*

If it's a spiritual battle the rules for engagement can only be found in the handbook of life that our creator has given us, The Bible. The unchanging, timeless Living Word of God! Our unrelenting mantra should always be: "It's not the **will** of God if it goes against the **Word** of God.

The warping and manipulation of biblical truths is a very common practice. The new term is '**deconstruction**' of tried, proven and lived by tenants of God's Word. Let scripture help us understand what this means.

*1 Timothy 4.1-3* Now **the Spirit** expressly says that in **later times** some will **depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons**, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

The Bible has always been true and will always remain true throughout eternity even when time no longer exists The Bible will still be there unchanged! Deconstruction has always been there, it was the very first doctrine that the devil used with Adam and Eve.

*Genesis 1.1... Now the **serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, ...***

The genesis of all false doctrine is: **Did God actually say, ...**

Have you heard that phrase at all? It is presented in so many different candy coated ways to us and they all sound so plausible to us. Could it be because we are wanting to continue with sin, we want to forsake the Ancient Paths as required by the standards set out in the Bible or just being deceived as Adam and Eve were?

Can we ask a few questions? What... **Did God actually say, ...**

- That all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...
  - What does the Bible teach about salvation?
  - About the sanctity of life in the womb?
  - About marriage?
  - About sexuality?
  - About eternity?
  - About doctrines of demons?
- 
- It's a spiritual battle!
  - It's not against flesh and blood!
  - Our minds need constant renewing to the Bible ways because they are under continual attack by the media, social interaction, peer pressure and doctrines promoted by demons!

*It's a battlefield my friend not a recreation room,  
It's a fight and not a game,  
Run if you will, run if can,  
But I came here to stay!*

**Dan Izzett** - Zimbabwe. Retired pastor. I was diagnosed with lepromatous leprosy in 1972. Served on TLMI board for eight years and on the Zimbabwe board for 15 years. I now serve on the ALM board and do advocacy for ALM and TLM. We have relocated to the UK to live with our children.



## Psalm 85

*For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.*

- <sup>1</sup> You, LORD, showed favor to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people  
and covered all their sins.
- <sup>3</sup> You set aside all your wrath  
and turned from your fierce anger.
- <sup>4</sup> Restore us again, God our Savior,  
and put away your displeasure toward us.
- <sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- <sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?
- <sup>7</sup> Show us your unfailing love, LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.
- <sup>8</sup> I will listen to what God the LORD says;  
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—  
but let them not turn to folly.
- <sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- <sup>10</sup> Love and faithfulness meet together;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- <sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- <sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed give what is good,  
and our land will yield its harvest.
- <sup>13</sup> Righteousness goes before him  
and prepares the way for his steps.



## Psalm 86

*A prayer of David.*

- <sup>1</sup> Hear me, LORD, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.
- <sup>2</sup> Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.  
You are my God; <sup>3</sup> have mercy on me, Lord,  
for I call to you all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> Bring joy to your servant, Lord,  
for I put my trust in you.
- <sup>5</sup> You, Lord, are forgiving and good,  
abounding in love to all who call to you.
- <sup>6</sup> Hear my prayer, LORD;  
listen to my cry for mercy.
- <sup>7</sup> When I am in distress, I call to you,  
because you answer me.
- <sup>8</sup> Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;  
no deeds can compare with yours.
- <sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made  
will come and worship before you, Lord;  
they will bring glory to your name.
- <sup>10</sup> For you are great and do marvelous deeds;  
you alone are God.
- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, LORD,  
that I may rely on your faithfulness;  
give me an undivided heart,  
that I may fear your name.
- <sup>12</sup> I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;  
I will glorify your name forever.
- <sup>13</sup> For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the depths,  
from the realm of the dead.
- <sup>14</sup> Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;  
ruthless people are trying to kill me—  
they have no regard for you.
- <sup>15</sup> But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,  
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.
- <sup>16</sup> Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
show your strength in behalf of your servant;

save me, because I serve you  
just as my mother did.

<sup>17</sup> Give me a sign of your goodness,  
that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,  
for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.



## Health

*We see a beautiful blueprint of how GOD intimately knows each of us.*

Scripture Reading: Psalms 139: 13-14, V13-*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. V14- I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.*

GOD created our inmost being," knit us together in our mother's womb, "and "saw our unformed body" He calls us "fearfully and wonderfully made. "How amazing is our GOD.

In this fallen world which we live, there will be struggles each of us face. Sometimes a health challenge is thrust upon us, while other times, we bring things upon ourselves.

Regardless of where we are in these areas of our health, when we wake up each morning, we have a reason to thank GOD for our spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health. Let's consider these habits as we walk in gratitude for our health:

1. **Honor your body:** Our bodies are God's temple; meaning His Spirit dwells inside of us. If we're able to exercise and eat healthy food, let's show our gratitude to God for having the ability to be active and choose the right foods for our bodies.
2. **Strengthen your mind:** Sadly, mental illness is a real threat and often keeps people imprisoned. Most of us know someone struggling with some version of it and that can be hard to navigate. If we don't struggle with this, let's be grateful to God for the ability to help others through their difficult season.
3. **Grow Spiritually:** Reading the Bible, attending Church, and gathering with fellow followers of Jesus is forbidden in certain parts of the world, yet many people risk their lives to do it anyway. If you have the freedom to pursue Jesus and share him with those around you, be thankful for this amazing gift!

### Reflection:

In this life, we'll experience many health issues. Some seasons will be harder than others. No matter what you're facing in the spiritual, mental, emotional or physical health realm, start each day with Psalms 118:24 which says

*"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"*



## Longing through the ages

*Come to us Christ in all your glory,  
 Come to our yearning souls.  
 Fill our hearts with your loving kindness,  
 Comfort our grieving souls.  
 Fulfill your promise, Return in great glory,  
 Come on the wings of your radiant light.  
 Return again in the clouds of your power,  
 Return to us here on the Earth.  
 Come long-awaited one, Come in great glory;  
 Thus it is written in letters of gold,  
 'For the powers of heaven shall be shaken.  
 And they shall see the son of man,  
 Coming in a cloud with power and great glory.'* \*

\*Gospel of St Luke 21 v26-27

Matthew 24 v30 *And then shall appear the sign of the son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

Matthew 26 v64 *Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*

Mark 13 and Mark 14 v62 *And ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*

Acts 1 v9-11 *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up and a cloud received him and of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold two men stood by them in white apparel: Which also said. Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go up into heaven.*

Revelation 1 v7 *Behold he cometh with clouds: and every eye shall see him.*

You can listen it HERE:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZN7PezP4vlj0Ra7ILNS89a2Kpijqcqbup/view?usp=sharing>

**Daniel Donahaye** - I am 85 years old and for the last year have been putting my poetry to music, having launched my first cd in June in support of the Australian Leprosy Mission. I am happily married having met my wife in Israel in 1957. I was born in France but grew up in England, where I spent most of my working life. We retired to live in Queensland in 1999. Our children and grandchildren are spread across the world, and so I would sum up by saying that I am a citizen of the world with a deep concern for my fellow human beings.



## Lord, make me a channel of disturbance

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

Where there is apathy let me provoke.

Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning.

Where there is silence, may I be the voice.

Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant disruption.

Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, grant the willingness to listen.

When laws dictate and pain is overlooked...

When tradition speaks louder than need...

Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it.

Disturb us, Lord.

To be with, as well as for, the alienated.

To love the unlovable as well as the lovely.

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.



## The Word Became Flesh

Salvation & Eternal Life in Jesus Christ

*John 1:12 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

The Word was with God. All things were made by Him. God sent his Son so that everyone who believes in Jesus Christ should not perish but have eternal life. This shows how qualified Jesus Christ is to redeem us to God. It is who Jesus Christ is and what he did on the cross at Calvary that opened the door for us to become the children of God and experience His eternal and unchanging love.

John did not present Jesus Christ as a great moral example or a great teacher of holiness. John did not record 'Behold, the great example' or 'Behold, the great teacher', but it was 'Behold, the Lamb of God' who takes away the 'sin' of the world. He proclaimed Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for mankind's sin of all generations; past, present and future. It is not sins of one persons or many persons, but sin of all human beings. It is the 'sin' of the mankind that Jesus Christ had paid for with his blood shed on the cross at Calvary.

The  $\lambda \acute{o} \gamma \omicron \varsigma$  (Logos) was of the same nature and stature as God. Yet the  $\lambda \acute{o} \gamma \omicron \varsigma$  did not want to be equal with God, he wanted to glorify God the Father. Disobedience of Man had separated him from God, but the obedience of the Logos unlocked the access for man's salvation and reunion with God. This was the purpose of the Word becoming Flesh, redemption of the human soul, yours and mine.

There can be contact without communion; there can be a relationship without fellowship. No man can ever enter into friendship with God by his own will, power and action. There is a big divide between man and God. We are mortals, He is divine. We can enter into his presence only when God in his love and grace opens the doors for us. Salvation is only by God's grace and love, made possible by the obedience of the Logos ( $\lambda \acute{o} \gamma \omicron \varsigma$ ). Those who receive Jesus Christ as their personal saviour are born (again) by the Spirit of God. They are the born again believers (like Nicodemus).

Jesus Christ came to save a lost world because it was the world of his own creation in the beginning. Jesus Christ had said that for man He is the ladder that the soul of man can mount leading to heaven. He alone can bring God to man and man to God. Salvation is possible in the name of Jesus Christ alone. He is our only intercessor with God. The man who lives a Christless life exists, but he does not know what life truly is. Jesus is the one person who can make our life worth living. His purpose was to bring to man "life... abundantly". The ancient Greek word for life is 'zoe', which means "the life principle," not 'bios' which is mere biological life. Jesus Christ brings this life to us; the giver of life is God.

Eternal life is more than the physical duration of life; it is life of a certain quality. What Jesus Christ offers us is the serenity and power of life of God himself. In salvation, Jesus Christ brings God's Spirit to us in such a way that our soul / life is saturated with the Spirit of God. It is the Holy Spirit that leads us to the 'abundant' life in Jesus Christ, a life of joy and peace in this world of turbulent relationships and circumstances. A believer is assured that every challenge he/she faces in the world has already been overcome by Jesus Christ.

We remain at peace in the midst of every storm in our life since Jesus Christ is leading us every step of the way.

Salvation is by faith/conviction of the mind and soul that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and trusting in everything He said as truth. Then we stop existing and begin living a life pleasing to God. We prove to the world that we belong to Jesus Christ by living a Christ-like life every day. In our daily walk we must manifest our salvation (saved/born again in Spirit) by living as God's beloved children.

*We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ*

In gratitude for His grace.

**Dr PLN Raju** - Former Director (Resource Mobilization) The Leprosy Mission Trust India New Delhi



## A Medical Missionary - Part 1 - In Preparation

*'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. (Matt 10:7-8)*

Our family was part of a Salvation Army congregation in South Africa's Port Elizabeth. It was there I was schooled in the faith as a child; it was there I made a simple commitment to be a disciple of Jesus; it was there I entered into the full life of an active church as it created fellowship and responded to the needs around us. One of the special visitors to the church was from the *Mission to Lepers*. I listened with a young person's mixture of intrigue and revulsion, but felt strangely 'moved with compassion' to do something.

It was in that congregation that I discovered a vocation to cross-cultural mission and started on journey that took me to the University of Cape Town Medical School, and a few years later to postgraduate study followed by training to be an officer of Salvation Army's at its International Training College in London. Shortly after commissioning and ordination came appointment to the Chikankata Hospital in Zambia. Was I ready for this dual ministry of 'preaching and healing'? Medicine, my seniors felt, would be an invaluable asset. It was, but was I really ready?

As you travel south from Lusaka the road to the mission crosses the Kafue River and climbs into the nearby Munali Hills. There is a plaque commemorating the fact that David Livingstone (*Munali* - the red one!) had viewed the river there. As we passed it in later years I would often tell colleagues about it, and also that David Livingstone preached his first sermon in Africa in the Salvation Army hall in Port Elizabeth! It had once been a Methodist Church. That had been 1841.

Born in Blantyre, Scotland Livingstone did his medical training in Glasgow and then at the British and Foreign Medical School in London. He attended some theology lectures alongside his medical studies, but then spent 15 months with the London Missionary Society at Chipping Ongar in Essex. Dr Michael Waters drove us past the building in the early 1980s after we had done a joint review of leprosy patients at St Giles Homes and Hospital at East Hanningfield. Was it rather pretentious that I felt we had been part of the great surge in missionary activity that Livingstone had inspired?

When my wife, Margaret and I arrived at the mission, I wondered whether Livingstone felt as I did on arrival at what would be my first 'missionary' appointment - how best to retain this balance of medicine and mission. I recognised as a balance necessary for my own work. It is a balance also shared by the Leprosy Mission?

**Paul du Plessis** - Apart from his work with The Salvation Army, South African born Dr Paul du Plessis has had a number of honorary roles with TLM dating back to his work at TLM Field Representative for TLM for Zambia in the 1970s. He is a former vice-president of TLMI.



## Psalm 87

*Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. A song.*

<sup>1</sup> He has founded his city on the holy mountain.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the other dwellings of Jacob.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious things are said of you,  
city of God:

<sup>4</sup> "I will record Rahab<sup>b</sup> and Babylon  
among those who acknowledge me—  
Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush—  
and will say, 'This one was born in Zion.'"

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, of Zion it will be said,  
"This one and that one were born in her,  
and the Most High himself will establish her."

<sup>6</sup> The LORD will write in the register of the peoples:  
"This one was born in Zion."

<sup>7</sup> As they make music they will sing,  
"All my fountains are in you."



## Psalm 88

*A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah. For the director of music. According to mahalath leannoth.  
A maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.*

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, you are the God who saves me;  
day and night I cry out to you.
- <sup>2</sup> May my prayer come before you;  
turn your ear to my cry.
- <sup>3</sup> I am overwhelmed with troubles  
and my life draws near to death.
- <sup>4</sup> I am counted among those who go down to the pit;  
I am like one without strength.
- <sup>5</sup> I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,  
whom you remember no more,  
who are cut off from your care.
- <sup>6</sup> You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.
- <sup>7</sup> Your wrath lies heavily on me;  
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.
- <sup>8</sup> You have taken from me my closest friends  
and have made me repulsive to them.  
I am confined and cannot escape;
- <sup>9</sup> my eyes are dim with grief.  
I call to you, LORD, every day;  
I spread out my hands to you.
- <sup>10</sup> Do you show your wonders to the dead?  
Do their spirits rise up and praise you?
- <sup>11</sup> Is your love declared in the grave,  
your faithfulness in Destruction<sup>Ⓜ</sup>?
- <sup>12</sup> Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,  
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?
- <sup>13</sup> But I cry to you for help, LORD;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- <sup>14</sup> Why, LORD, do you reject me  
and hide your face from me?
- <sup>15</sup> From my youth I have suffered and been close to death;  
I have borne your terrors and am in despair.
- <sup>16</sup> Your wrath has swept over me;  
your terrors have destroyed me.
- <sup>17</sup> All day long they surround me like a flood;  
they have completely engulfed me.
- <sup>18</sup> You have taken from me friend and neighbor—  
darkness is my closest friend.



## Come and change the world

Steve Jobs was the leader of the famous data and smartphone giant company Apple. As a 21-year-old man Jobs created the very first computer for private use in his car garage. Apple has seen incredible growth and is today considered one of the largest companies in the world. Jobs, who saw his dream come true, died on October 5, 2011.

In a biography of Steve Jobs, we can read an interesting story about how the company started. At the time the company was small, Jobs turned to the head of Pepsi Cola, John Sculley, to recruit him to his company. He wanted "a big name" in the management of his company.

Recruiting the head of Pepsi Cola was a big challenge. It would take a brilliant speech to get the head of the well-known and respected company to give up his job for a company run by an unknown young man, who also spoke of a revolution in the world of technology.

Jobs formulated his speech to the head of Pepsi Cola as a short question: "Do you want to sell soft drinks for the rest of your life, or do you want to be part of changing the world with me?" He immediately started working for Steve Jobs. The development within the company brought about a revolution that shook computer technology all over the world and swept away many obstacles.

What change was Jobs talking about? Today, there is a computer, smart phone, iPod, iPad, or something else technical in almost every home and in almost every pocket. With the help of them we can pay bills from the living room, watch different TV channels, download food recipes from the internet, buy gifts, be in contacts with friends, discuss with different people and make calls to the other side of the globe.

Two thousand years ago Jesus called twelve men from Galilee, many of them were uneducated fishermen. *"Come, follow me" Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people"* (Matt 4:19). In other words: "Come, follow me and we will change the world". It was a scary calling Jesus gave to them! He asked them to leave their comfort zone, their nets and fishing boats to follow him towards an uncertain future. No exact plans, no guarantees, no assurances, but an exciting challenge to change the world, one person at a time. Jesus and those twelve men did really change the history of mankind! I'm sure the disciples didn't regret that they accepted the adventure to follow Jesus and to continue his work "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Today all of us are reached by the same calling from Jesus: "Come follow me and we will change the world!" He is not talking about smartphones and technology but about a much higher purpose.

As the Leprosy Mission we are called, through the Gospel, to "defeat leprosy and transform lives". We will change the world and finally defeat leprosy! We will do it together with others of course. And we will have the joy to see many lives and families transformed by the Gospel!

"Come and follow me, I will send you out" is still the calling to each and every one of us. Jesus was sent to the earth to change the world and to create salvation and reconciliation for every person.

*What a privilege to follow Jesus and to be a part of his mission of transforming lives and the world!*



## Making prayer a priority

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12*

A doctor friend of mine told me about a patient who phoned early one morning. "Please can I come to see you? It's urgent." My friend's appointment list was full, but he told the man to come anyway, promising to fit him in as soon as he could. The man came and sat in the waiting room. After some time, the doctor called for him. "Sorry," said the receptionist. "He's gone. He said he couldn't wait any longer or he'd miss his prayer time. He said he'd come back later."

The patient returned, later in the day. He told the doctor. "I had a very painful abscess, but I had to go and pray. And," he added, "after I'd prayed, the abscess burst. I'm already feeling much better."

Talking to me later, my friend said, "Perhaps his prayer was more effective than my medical treatment would've been!" At least the man had a clear idea of his priorities, and put prayer higher up the list than his personal comfort or convenience.

There's a thought for all of us.

And it was only at the end of the conversation that my friend added, "Oh yes, one other thing... my patient was a Muslim."

*Lord, help me hold prayer as dear as he,  
and leave the judgement where it most belongs.  
With you.*

*Extract from Breaking the Rules, first published 1992*

*With the kind permission of Judith Merrell – Book selection and Publishing Manager, TLM Trading*

**Eddie Askew** (1927-2007) devoted half a century to leprosy and its consequences. In 1950 he and his wife Barbara set sail for India. Eddie's first placement was in Purulia, West Bengal. In 1965 Eddie took up the post of executive secretary at TLM's office in London. His first overseas visit in this new role was to Ethiopia, where he learned of plans to set up a leprosy training centre that would benefit patients and medics throughout Africa. He offered to become a founding member and signed TLM up to support what was to become ALERT (All Africa Leprosy and Rehabilitation Training Centre). The following year, the organisation now known as the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) was set up. In 1974 Eddie became general director of TLM. He was keen to develop TLM's work elsewhere, and took a team into the closed land of Bhutan in response to a request from its government. - Inspired by his travels and his Christian faith, Eddie found an outlet for his creativity in painting and poetry. He retired in 1987. From 1998 until his death he was TLM- vice-president, and in 2000 he was awarded an OBE. (Fiona Spence)



## **“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.”**

### *2 Corinthians 3:2*

Recently I saw an appeal for volunteers in a local organisation. When I responded they sent a job application form, a ‘one-size fits all’ document running to nine pages. It required details going back to my school examination passes over 50 years ago, -all for a little task for which they had asked for volunteers! We are seemingly obsessed with form-filling and qualifications, -bureaucracy, certification, record-keeping, -no doubt as protection from all possible misadventures and abuses.

When Paul wrote his letters to Corinthian Christians he was in a world of competition between travelling ‘apostle-speakers’ (2 Corinthians 10:10, 12:11) and with a fear of corruption (2 Corinthians 2:17; Philippians 1:17). Our world, beyond -and even within- Christian organisations, is not dissimilar.

So when recruiting -or applying- for a particular position, the way of the world is that of qualifications, training, certificates, references, letters of recommendation, etc.. But Paul turns a new light upon it. He writes: *“...do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”* (2 Corinthians 3:1-3). Imagine, instead of your paper qualifications or written references, you were able to bring to interview all those who had benefitted or been blessed by your life and work? Most, of course, you would not even be aware of.

Over recent years, through the covid pandemic and in other ways, the Leprosy Mission family has lost a number of wonderful people who have gone (perhaps too early from our point of view) to their heavenly home. Maybe you have also had personal bereavements. What they leave behind is not to be found in certificates and records, all of which become irrelevant. Of far more meaningful and lasting value are the example and grateful memories in our hearts. To paraphrase Paul, *“We ourselves are their letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone; a letter from Christ, the result of their ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on certificates or references but on our hearts.”*

Those we have admired, loved, and lost, are those who showed the character of Christ and ‘wrote on our hearts’ by *“the Spirit of the living God”*; letters which are *“known and read by everyone”* through our lives and conduct. We thank God for those whose lasting legacy of Godly example is indelibly written on our hearts and in our memories. As the psalmist put it, *“...surely I have a delightful inheritance”* (Psalm 16:6).

And of course our longing is that we in our turn will leave such letters on the hearts of those we have loved and worked with, letters of memory and gratitude which are not from us, but *“from Christ”*.

*God bless you in your ongoing letter-writing!*

**David Beazley** began involvement with The Leprosy Mission in 1992 when he came as Minister to a Church near the International Office in Brentford. He acted as an informal ‘chaplain’ to the Office, and served on the International General Council for some years. At the same time he became a member of TLM England and Wales Board, serving as Chairman for six years and on various committees. He chaired the Spiritual Ministry MAWG, and is also able to serve TLMI by leading retreat days and other such things as opportunity allows. He has recently retired from the pastorate but continues as a volunteer speaker for TLM



## A Memo from your Child

- 1) Don't spoil me - I know that I can't expect to get everything I ask for!
- 2) Don't be scared to treat me with firmness – boundaries actually make me feel safe!
- 3) Don't allow me to cultivate bad habits – I'm depending upon your early correction of me!
- 4) Don't make me feel small – it will cause me to vaunt myself inappropriately!
- 5) Don't correct me before others in public – I'd rather you deal with me about it in private!
- 6) Don't treat my mistakes as cardinal sins – that confuses my moral sense of values!
- 7) Don't protect me from my misbehaviour – I need to learn from its consequences!
- 8) Don't take it too personally, when I say "I hate you" – I'm actually balking at your authority!
- 9) Don't react at every silly antic of mine – possibly I'm just craving a little bit of attention!
- 10) Don't keep harping at me – it actually causes me to close up to you even more!
- 11) Don't keep on making and breaking empty promises to me – it causes heartache in me!
- 12) Don't expect me to present my case like a professional lawyer – I'm still maturing!
- 13) Don't keep on testing my honesty all the time – it could trigger a fibbing culture in me!
- 14) Don't be inconsistent towards me – you will confuse me and I'll lose trust in you!
- 15) Don't evade me when I ask you questions – lest I stop connecting with you completely!
- 16) Don't downplay my very real fears that I have – rather show me empathy and concern!
- 17) Don't let me get away without saying a sorry – true repentance is good for my soul!
- 18) Don't act as though you are 100% perfect – when I find out otherwise, I'll be shocked!
- 19) Don't stop me from growing up, developing, maturing, exploring, etc every day!
- 20) *Don't stop loving, caring and nurturing me into the right pathways of God (Prov.3:1-18)!*



## Rod or/and fish?

*For meditation and discussion:*

*<sup>16</sup> For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup> If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. <sup>18</sup> What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel. <sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. <sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. <sup>27</sup> No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Cor 9, 16-27*

“I was asked why I did not give a rod with which to fish, in the hands of the poor, rather than give the fish itself as this makes them remain poor. So I told them: The people whom we pick up are not able to stand with a rod.

So today I will give them fish and when they are able to stand, then I shall send them to you and you can give them the rod. That is your job. Let me do my work today.”

**Mother Teresa of Kolkata**



## Psalm 89

*A maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.*

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;  
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known  
through all generations.

<sup>2</sup> I will declare that your love stands firm forever,  
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

<sup>3</sup> You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant,

<sup>4</sup> 'I will establish your line forever  
and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

<sup>5</sup> The heavens praise your wonders, LORD,  
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

<sup>6</sup> For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?  
Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings?

<sup>7</sup> In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared;  
he is more awesome than all who surround him.

<sup>8</sup> Who is like you, LORD God Almighty?  
You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

<sup>9</sup> You rule over the surging sea;  
when its waves mount up, you still them.

<sup>10</sup> You crushed Rahab like one of the slain;  
with your strong arm you scattered your enemies.

<sup>11</sup> The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth;  
you founded the world and all that is in it.

<sup>12</sup> You created the north and the south;  
Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at your name.

<sup>13</sup> Your arm is endowed with power;  
your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.

<sup>14</sup> Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
love and faithfulness go before you.

<sup>15</sup> Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,  
who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

<sup>16</sup> They rejoice in your name all day long;  
they celebrate your righteousness.

<sup>17</sup> For you are their glory and strength,  
and by your favor you exalt our horn.<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Indeed, our shield<sup>Ⓜ</sup> belongs to the LORD,  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>19</sup> Once you spoke in a vision,  
to your faithful people you said:  
“I have bestowed strength on a warrior;  
I have raised up a young man from among the people.  
<sup>20</sup> I have found David my servant;  
with my sacred oil I have anointed him.  
<sup>21</sup> My hand will sustain him;  
surely my arm will strengthen him.  
<sup>22</sup> The enemy will not get the better of him;  
the wicked will not oppress him.  
<sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him  
and strike down his adversaries.  
<sup>24</sup> My faithful love will be with him,  
and through my name his horn<sup>Ⓜ</sup> will be exalted.  
<sup>25</sup> I will set his hand over the sea,  
his right hand over the rivers.  
<sup>26</sup> He will call out to me, ‘You are my Father,  
my God, the Rock my Savior.’  
<sup>27</sup> And I will appoint him to be my firstborn,  
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.  
<sup>28</sup> I will maintain my love to him forever,  
and my covenant with him will never fail.  
<sup>29</sup> I will establish his line forever,  
his throne as long as the heavens endure.  
<sup>30</sup> “If his sons forsake my law  
and do not follow my statutes,  
<sup>31</sup> if they violate my decrees  
and fail to keep my commands,  
<sup>32</sup> I will punish their sin with the rod,  
their iniquity with flogging;  
<sup>33</sup> but I will not take my love from him,  
nor will I ever betray my faithfulness.  
<sup>34</sup> I will not violate my covenant  
or alter what my lips have uttered.  
<sup>35</sup> Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness—  
and I will not lie to David—  
<sup>36</sup> that his line will continue forever  
and his throne endure before me like the sun;  
<sup>37</sup> it will be established forever like the moon,  
the faithful witness in the sky.”  
<sup>38</sup> But you have rejected, you have spurned,  
you have been very angry with your anointed one.  
<sup>39</sup> You have renounced the covenant with your servant  
and have defiled his crown in the dust.  
<sup>40</sup> You have broken through all his walls  
and reduced his strongholds to ruins.  
<sup>41</sup> All who pass by have plundered him;  
he has become the scorn of his neighbors.  
<sup>42</sup> You have exalted the right hand of his foes;  
you have made all his enemies rejoice.  
<sup>43</sup> Indeed, you have turned back the edge of his sword  
and have not supported him in battle.

<sup>44</sup> You have put an end to his splendor  
and cast his throne to the ground.  
<sup>45</sup> You have cut short the days of his youth;  
you have covered him with a mantle of shame.  
<sup>46</sup> How long, LORD? Will you hide yourself forever?  
How long will your wrath burn like fire?  
<sup>47</sup> Remember how fleeting is my life.  
For what futility you have created all humanity!  
<sup>48</sup> Who can live and not see death,  
or who can escape the power of the grave?  
<sup>49</sup> Lord, where is your former great love,  
which in your faithfulness you swore to David?  
<sup>50</sup> Remember, Lord, how your servant has<sup>(a)</sup> been mocked,  
how I bear in my heart the taunts of all the nations,  
<sup>51</sup> the taunts with which your enemies, LORD, have mocked,  
with which they have mocked every step of your anointed one.  
<sup>52</sup> Praise be to the LORD forever!  
Amen and Amen.



## Psalm 90

*A prayer of Moses the man of God.*

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.
- <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the whole world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- <sup>3</sup> You turn people back to dust,  
saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.”
- <sup>4</sup> A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.
- <sup>5</sup> Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—  
they are like the new grass of the morning:
- <sup>6</sup> In the morning it springs up new,  
but by evening it is dry and withered.
- <sup>7</sup> We are consumed by your anger  
and terrified by your indignation.
- <sup>8</sup> You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- <sup>9</sup> All our days pass away under your wrath;  
we finish our years with a moan.
- <sup>10</sup> Our days may come to seventy years,  
or eighty, if our strength endures;  
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,  
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- <sup>11</sup> If only we knew the power of your anger!  
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
- <sup>12</sup> Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
- <sup>13</sup> Relent, LORD! How long will it be?  
Have compassion on your servants.
- <sup>14</sup> Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- <sup>15</sup> Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,  
for as many years as we have seen trouble.
- <sup>16</sup> May your deeds be shown to your servants,  
your splendor to their children.
- <sup>17</sup> May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands.

**Authors in ABC Order****Country****Textuarium in Canonic Order**

<i>Allan Ekstedt</i>	<i>25 July</i>	<i>Sweden</i>		Psalm 48,13	<i>7 July</i>
<i>Asaph, psalmist</i>	<i>2,3, 9 July</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Psalm 81	<i>2 July</i>
<i>Bunmi Oluloto</i>	<i>14 July</i>	<i>Niger/Chad</i>		Psalm 82	<i>3 July</i>
<i>Dan Izzett</i>	<i>15 July</i>	<i>Zimbabwe/UK</i>		Psalm 83	<i>9 July</i>
<i>Daniel Donahaye</i>	<i>19 July</i>	<i>Australia</i>		Psalm 84	<i>10 July</i>
<i>David Beazley</i>	<i>13 June</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalm 85	<i>16 July</i>
<i>David Parry</i>	<i>6 July</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalm 86	<i>17 July</i>
<i>Djemi</i>	<i>11 July</i>	<i>Timor Leste</i>		Psalm 87	<i>23 July</i>
<i>Dorothy Owen</i>	<i>18 July</i>	<i>Papua New-Guinea</i>		Psalm 88	<i>24 July</i>
<i>Eddie Askew</i>	<i>26 July</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalm 89	<i>30 July</i>
<i>Élie Fofolo</i>	<i>7 July</i>	<i>DR Congo</i>		Psalm 90	<i>31 July</i>
<i>Ethan</i>	<i>30 July</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Psalm 139,13-14	<i>18 July</i>
<i>Helen Walton</i>	<i>20 July</i>	<i>UK</i>		Proverbs 3,1-18	<i>28 July</i>
<i>Joydeepa Darlong Dr</i>	<i>5 July</i>	<i>India</i>		Matthew 5,38-41	<i>12 July</i>
<i>King David</i>	<i>17 July</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Matthew 4,19	<i>25 July</i>
<i>Mother Teresa of Kolkata</i>	<i>28 July</i>	<i>Albania/India</i>		Matthew 10,7-8	<i>22 July</i>
<i>Otto Kingsley</i>	<i>12, 27 July</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		Matthew 24,30	<i>19 July</i>
<i>Paul du Plessis MD</i>	<i>22 July</i>	<i>UK</i>		Mark 6, 6-7	<i>4 July</i>
<i>Peter Laubscher</i>	<i>4 July</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		John 1,12	<i>21 July</i>
<i>Raju PLN Dr</i>	<i>21 July</i>	<i>India</i>		John 1, 14	<i>8 July</i>
<i>Sons of Korah</i>	<i>10, 16, 23, 24 July</i>	<i>Israel</i>		John 6,5-13	<i>1 July</i>
<i>Trevor Durston</i>	<i>13 July</i>	<i>UK</i>		Romans 12,12	<i>26 July</i>
<i>Val Dunleavy</i>	<i>1 July</i>	<i>Australia</i>		1 Cor 9, 16-27	<i>28 July</i>
				2 Corinthians 3,2	<i>27 July</i>
				Galatians 6,2	<i>5 July</i>
				Ephesians 4,1-16	<i>13 July</i>
				Ephesians 6,10-13	<i>15 July</i>
				Philippians 4,6	<i>11 July</i>
				Colossians 1,15-20	<i>14 July</i>