



TLM Daily Devotions

August 2022





Bless the Lord O my soul

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass

And whatever lies before me

Let me be singing

When the evening comes

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

You're rich in love

And You're slow to anger

Your name is great

And Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons

For my heart to find

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

And on that day

When my strength is failing

The end draws near

And my time has come

Still my soul will Sing

Your praise unending

Ten thousand years

And then forevermore

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name



God is hearing

Luke 11:9 Therefore I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.

Our lives and our prayers must be about the kingdom of God and His will. This is the main point of the Lord Jesus in this parable: If sinful humans will answer the request of someone who has asked so diligently, how much more will the Father in heaven give us all that is good, according to His will.

Jesus does not promise to always give us whatever we ask. When we come to Him in prayer, our request should be something that pleases Him and glorifies His name. So, when we pray, don't ask for something selfish. Ask, seek, and knock for something that will please God and behold God will fill our lives with blessings we never even thought of.

I have the experience of how God hears my prayers.

One day, a nephew from my father's family wanted to live with us to continue his studies at one of the universities in Dili. At that time my mother did not know that my father had agreed already with their family. My parents should have agreed together due to our economic situation, our big family, and the living cost in the city is increasing day by day. The next day when the nephew came, my parents started a big fight so serious they mentioned a divorce just because my mother didn't agree and didn't consent for him to stay with us. When I listened to the quarrel, I was broken hearted and very sad, and I could only pray and ask God especially for my mother so she can open her heart and mind to accept this situation because culturally this something about my father pride as a man in our family. I prayed every day for this intervention. I could see that less than 2 weeks later, my mother had changed significantly. She began to accept the situation and tried to accept the nephew with care and love as she does for all of us, it wasn't easy I know.

My mother continued to show her genuine love and care during the 4 years he stayed with us until he finished his studies at the university, graduated and the whole family were happy to celebrate his successes.

This experience made me understand the importance of praying in any situation intentionally and rely only on God's response for the solution of any problem because only God can change someone's mind/ attitudes and heal the broken heart.

“PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS” and something will happen at the right time when we pray and ask for something good sincerely from the heart.

Silvina Idalina de Jesus - Medical Officer The Leprosy Mission Timor Leste.



The Magnificence of the Cross of Calvary – Part 3

The Cross of Forgiveness

Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The criminal on the cross at Calvary who spoke first, mocked Jesus right along with everyone else. He joined the Jews, the Romans, the people around and also the second thief. Essentially both the criminals reviled Jesus when the day began.

To the religious leaders (priests), Romans, and the soldiers, Jesus was a joke. They said, 'let the Christ, the King of Jews, come down from the cross so that we may see and believe. They humiliated, insulted, and made fun of Jesus. When the soldiers had cast lots for Jesus' clothing it meant that the Lord had hung on cross, naked. Being stripped of clothing was gross indignity for an Israelite. Yet, Jesus prayed for all the wicked people around Him, including the priests who plotted to kill Jesus.

Even when he was unjustly sent to the cross, heckled and jeered by the crowd, Jesus did not retaliate. He did not summon legions of angels to destroy the people who tormented Him. Those who were scoffing, mocking, and railing were the ones for whom He prayed. It was for their sake then and for ours' now that He didn't save Himself on the cross. There was no exhibition of power of retribution but only an exhibition of power of forgiveness. It was a show of God's divine mercy.

In our world if one is being nailed to the cross, none would ask for forgiveness of the tormentors unless there is something supernatural in the person being crucified. Sometimes the gift of forgiveness is going to take supernatural power to exercise it. By saying "God, forgive them" Jesus gave us the grace, ability and set the standard to forgive even at the time of our worst hurts.

If it is not for the cross there is no hope of forgiveness of man's sin. So Jesus looked down from His cross at his executioners and prayed to God, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." What were they guilty of? In essence, they were guilty of not knowing who Jesus was. They were guilty of being ignorant of His identity. He revealed the meaning of scriptures to people, healed the sick, raised the dead and forgave the sinners. But His tormentors still refused to believe His divine identity. Some possibly knew their sin but betrayed Jesus anyway. They kept silent.

Jesus pleaded for forgiveness of the sins of the unbelievers. What Jesus said was, 'they are blinded by their sin, their sin is so overwhelming that they can't see the truth of who I am. God, don't hold this against them. The very reason for my cross is that people like these can be forgiven of their sin.'

None who gathered around the cross showed any mercy to Jesus or said a kind word. On the contrary, all they indulged in was mocking and beating Him. Yet, Jesus on his part called out to His Father and pleaded for His forgiveness over them. Even after the severe beating and abuse that Jesus had received from the

Jews and the Romans, He still loved them. He was concerned of God's judgment over their actions. The only escape route for them was God's forgiveness. He prayed for that.

Jesus' prayer for forgiveness for His enemies did not go in vain. The second criminal cried out in confession "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." The cross of Jesus teaches and gives us the power to persevere and the ability to forgive. Jesus gives us a glance of God's grace to forgive.

The power of forgiveness is in the cross of Jesus

In gratitude for His glory.

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



Healing touch

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ² A man with leprosy^[a] came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. ⁴ Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Matthew 8,1-4

"I have sometimes wondered why Jesus so frequently touched the people he healed, many of whom must have been unattractive, obviously diseased, unsanitary, smelly. With his power, he easily could have waved a magic wand. In fact, a wand would have reached more people than a touch. He could have divided the crowd into affinity groups and organized his miracles--paralyzed people over there, feverish people here, people with leprosy there--raising his hands to heal each group efficiently, en masse. But he chose not to.

Jesus' mission was not chiefly a crusade against disease (if so, why did he leave so many unhealed in the world and tell followers to hush up details of healings?), but rather a ministry to individual people, some of whom happened to have a disease. He wanted those people, one by one, to feel his love and warmth and his full identification with them.

Jesus knew he could not readily demonstrate love to a crowd, for love usually involves touching."

Dr. Paul Wilson Brand, CBE- (17 July 1914 India – 8 July 2003 US) was a pioneer in developing tendon transfer techniques for use in the hands of those with leprosy. He was the first physician to appreciate that leprosy is not a disease of the tissue but of the nerves: it is the loss of the sensation of pain which makes sufferers susceptible to injury and leads to tissue rotting away, especially in the extremities. Brand contributed extensively to the fields of hand surgery and hand therapy through his publications and lectures, and wrote popular autobiographical books about his childhood, his parents' missionary work, and his philosophy about the valuable properties of pain. One of his best-known books, co-written with Philip Yancey, is *Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants* (1993), republished in 1997 as *The Gift of Pain*



Father Damien about missionaries

John 15, 14-16

“Jesus Christ treats missionaries in a very special manner, for it is He who guides their footsteps and preserves them from all danger. I find my consolation in the one and only companion who will never leave me, that is, our Divine Saviour in the Holy Eucharist. . . .

It is at the foot of the altar that we find the strength necessary in this isolation of ours. Without the Blessed Sacrament a position like mine would be unbearable. But, having Our Lord at my side, I continue always to be happy and content. . . .

Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the most tender of friends with souls who seek to please Him. His goodness knows how to proportion itself to the smallest of His creatures as to the greatest of them.

Be not afraid then in your solitary conversations, to tell Him of your miseries, your fears, your worries, of those who are dear to you, of your projects, and of your hopes.

Do so with confidence and with an open heart.”

Father Damien or Saint Damien of Molokai, or Saint Damien De Veuster (Dutch: *Pater Damiaan* or *Heilige Damiaan van Molokai*; 3 January 1840 – 15 April 1889), born Jozef De Veuster, was a Roman Catholic priest from Belgium and member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, a missionary religious institute. He was recognized for his ministry, which he led from 1873 until his death in 1889, in the Kingdom of Hawai'i for people with leprosy (Hansen's disease), who lived in government-mandated medical quarantine in a settlement on the Kalaupapa Peninsula of Moloka'i.

During this time, he taught the Catholic faith to the people of Hawaii. Father Damien also cared for the patients and established leaders within the community to build houses, schools, roads, hospitals, and churches. He dressed residents' ulcers, built a reservoir, made coffins, dug graves, shared pipes, and ate poi with them, providing both medical and emotional support.

After eleven years caring for the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of those in the leprosy colony, Father Damien contracted leprosy. He continued with his work despite the infection but finally succumbed to the disease on 15 April 1889. Father Damien also had tuberculosis which worsened his condition, but some believe that the reason he volunteered in the first place was due to his illness of tuberculosis.

Father Damien has been described as a "martyr of charity"



Psalm 91

¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

⁸ You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

⁹ If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,

¹⁰ no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;

¹² they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."



Psalm 92

A psalm. A song. For the Sabbath day.

- ¹ It is good to praise the LORD
and make music to your name, O Most High,
² proclaiming your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night,
³ to the music of the ten-stringed lyre
and the melody of the harp.
⁴ For you make me glad by your deeds, LORD;
I sing for joy at what your hands have done.
⁵ How great are your works, LORD,
how profound your thoughts!
⁶ Senseless people do not know,
fools do not understand,
⁷ that though the wicked spring up like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they will be destroyed forever.
⁸ But you, LORD, are forever exalted.
⁹ For surely your enemies, LORD,
surely your enemies will perish;
all evildoers will be scattered.
¹⁰ You have exalted my horn^(b) like that of a wild ox;
fine oils have been poured on me.
¹¹ My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries;
my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes.
¹² The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
¹³ planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
¹⁵ proclaiming, "The LORD is upright;
he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."



Another powerful “ladder-sermon” - just for you!

NB – A “Ladder-Sermon” makes use of the same ‘chapter and verse’ numbers (eg. 6:8) from different Books of the Bible: This sequence then forms a powerful message!

1) Genesis 6:8 – “And Noah found favour in the sight of the LORD.”

->Do you also want to find favour in the sight of the LORD?!

2) Exodus 6:8 – “I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.”

->Do you also want to inherit a blissful ‘Beulah Land’ – eternally?!

3) Leviticus 6:8 – “The LORD spoke to Moses....”

->Do you also want to hear from God on a regular basis?!

4) Numbers 6:8 - “All the days of his separation he is holy to the LORD.” (ie. Nazarene)

->Do you also want to live in a holy relationship with Almighty God?!

5) Deuteronomy 6:8 – “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul and might.

And these words that I have commanded you today shall be on your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children....

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and forehead...”

->Do you also want a purposeful life, pleasing God and influencing others?!

6) Isaiah 6:8 – “And I heard the voice of the LORD saying, ‘Whom shall I send and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me!’”

->Give yourself over to God – ‘lock, stock and barrel’!

7) Micah 6:8 – “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.”

->From now on, walk with God in all uprightness, love, integrity and humility!

8) Matt.6:8–“Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

->Entrust yourself to God daily, to look after you, according to your body, soul and spirit!

9)Mark 6:8 – “He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff

– no bread, no bag, no money in their belts.”

->Start serving God from scratch- simply and sincerely from the heart!

10) Luke 6:8 – “But He knew their thoughts, and He said to the man with the withered hand, ‘Come and stand here.’ And he rose and stood there.”

->Minister with more and more discernment, dedication and devotion to Jesus Christ!

11) John 6:8 – “One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him,
‘There is a boy here who has 5 barley loaves and 2 fish...’”

->Minister with as little or as much in the situation, as Jesus supplies!

12) Acts 6:8 – “And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs
among the people.”

->Minister in the fullness of the Holy Spirit: Do not minister in your own fame/name!

13) Romans 6:8–“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him.”

->Minister in the grace that the true ‘exchanged life’ enables you!

14) Galatians 6:8–“For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption,
but the one who sows in the Spirit will from the Spirit reap Eternal Life.”

->Minister in the light of God’s glorious Eternity!

15) Revelation 6:8–“And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And it’s rider’s name was Death,
and Hades followed him. They were given authority over a quarter of the earth,
to kill with sword and with famine, and with pestilence and wild beasts...”

->Minister until the end of the age: God is long-suffering, but the End will come! – Amen!

Otto Kingsley erstwhile Cape Regional Director - TLM Southern Africa



Our Challenge! – Part 1

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.

*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.



Our Challenge! – Part 2

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?
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- 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.



Ask for more!

"You don't have, because you don't ask." James 4.2

What are you able to ask for in prayer? In 2 Kings 2.9: *"Elijah said to Elisha: Ask what you want me to do for you (...) Elisha answered: May there be on me, I pray you, a double part of your spirit!"*

Some may be shocked at his answer, consider it arrogant and declare, "Be humble and grateful for the privilege of serving a great prophet like Elijah. It is a real blessing that God allows you to succeed him in his ministry." But Elisha was not shy, and Elijah was not offended. Results? Elisha got his double portion and ended up doing twice as many miracles as Elijah.

When you pray, God does not say, "Be reasonable and pragmatic in your requests." He wants prolific and not parsimonious requests. And what about that great promise in Psalm 2:8: "Ask me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession"? Do not limit God!

Think about it: if he is ready to give you "the nations for your inheritance", he will surely save your loved ones, heal your body, give you that job, that house or that marriage, all those things that you have prayed for.

Jesus said in John 14:13: *"Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it"*. In the Bible, only two people caused the admiration of Jesus by their words. Either way, it was a bold show of faith in the face of a crowd of religious skeptics.

So here is your word for the day: ask for more!

Our journey for the day ends. Let us pray together to honor our God.

*"Thank you, Lord, for you give to me beyond my expectations!
To you be the kingdom, the power, and the glory, amen!"*

Demandez davantage !

*Vous ne possédez pas, parce que vous ne demandez pas.
Jacques 4.2*

Qu'êtes-vous capable de demander dans la prière ? Dans 2 Rois 2.9 : *"Élie dit à Élisée : Demande ce que tu veux que je fasse pour toi (...) Élisée répondit : Qu'il y ait sur moi, je te prie, une double part de ton esprit !"*

Certains peuvent être choqués de sa réponse, la juger arrogante et déclarer : "Sois humble et reconnaissant du privilège de servir un grand prophète comme Elie. C'est une vraie chance que Dieu te permette de lui

succéder dans son ministère." Mais Élisée n'était pas timide et Élie n'était pas offensé. Résultat ? Élisée a eu sa double portion et a fini par faire deux fois plus de miracles qu'Élie.

Lorsque vous priez, Dieu ne dit pas : "Sois raisonnable et pragmatique dans tes demandes." Il veut des demandes prolifiques et non parcimonieuses. Et que dire de cette grande promesse dans le Psaume 2.8 : "*Demande-moi et je te donnerai les nations pour héritage, et pour possession les extrémités de la terre*" ? Ne limitez pas Dieu !

Réfléchissez : s'il est prêt à vous donner "*les nations pour héritage*", il sauvera sûrement vos bien-aimés, guérira votre corps, vous donnera cet emploi, cette maison ou ce mariage, toutes ces choses pour lesquelles vous avez prié.

Jésus dit dans Jean 14.13 : "*Tout ce que vous demanderez en mon nom, je le ferai*". Dans la Bible, seules deux personnes ont provoqué l'admiration de Jésus par leur propos. Dans les deux cas, c'était une démonstration de foi audacieuse face à une foule de religieux sceptiques.

Voici donc votre parole du jour : demandez davantage !

Notre parcours du jour se termine. Prions ensemble afin d'honorer notre Dieu.

"Merci Seigneur car tu me donnes au-delà de mes attentes !

À toi soient le règne, la puissance et la gloire, amen !"

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 world is mine

Psalm 31, 14-24

Today, upon a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman and wished I were as beautiful.

*When suddenly she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and used a crutch.
But as she passed, she passed a smile.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two legs; the world is mine.*

*I stopped to buy some candy.
The lad who sold it had such charm.
I talked with him, he seemed so glad.
If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me,
"I thank you, you've been so kind.
It's nice to talk with folks like you.
You see," he said, "I'm blind."
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two eyes; the world is mine.*

*Later while walking down the street,
I saw a child I knew.
He stood and watched the others play,
but he did not know what to do.
I stopped a moment and then I said,
Why don't you join them dear?"
He looked ahead without a word.
I forgot, he couldn't hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two ears; the world is mine.*

*With feet to take me where I'd go,
With eyes to see the sunset's glow,
With ears to hear what I'd know,
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.*



Psalm 93

¹The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

²Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.

³The seas have lifted up, LORD,
the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea—
the LORD on high is mighty.

⁵Your statutes, LORD, stand firm;
holiness adorns your house
for endless days.



Psalm 94

- ¹ The LORD is a God who avenges.
O God who avenges, shine forth.
- ² Rise up, Judge of the earth;
pay back to the proud what they deserve.
- ³ How long, LORD, will the wicked,
how long will the wicked be jubilant?
- ⁴ They pour out arrogant words;
all the evildoers are full of boasting.
- ⁵ They crush your people, LORD;
they oppress your inheritance.
- ⁶ They slay the widow and the foreigner;
they murder the fatherless.
- ⁷ They say, "The LORD does not see;
the God of Jacob takes no notice."
- ⁸ Take notice, you senseless ones among the people;
you fools, when will you become wise?
- ⁹ Does he who fashioned the ear not hear?
Does he who formed the eye not see?
- ¹⁰ Does he who disciplines nations not punish?
Does he who teaches mankind lack knowledge?
- ¹¹ The LORD knows all human plans;
he knows that they are futile.
- ¹² Blessed is the one you discipline, LORD,
the one you teach from your law;
- ¹³ you grant them relief from days of trouble,
till a pit is dug for the wicked.
- ¹⁴ For the LORD will not reject his people;
he will never forsake his inheritance.
- ¹⁵ Judgment will again be founded on righteousness,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.
- ¹⁶ Who will rise up for me against the wicked?
Who will take a stand for me against evildoers?
- ¹⁷ Unless the LORD had given me help,
I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death.
- ¹⁸ When I said, "My foot is slipping,"
your unfailing love, LORD, supported me.
- ¹⁹ When anxiety was great within me,
your consolation brought me joy.

²⁰ Can a corrupt throne be allied with you—
a throne that brings on misery by its decrees?
²¹ The wicked band together against the righteous
and condemn the innocent to death.
²² But the LORD has become my fortress,
and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
²³ He will repay them for their sins
and destroy them for their wickedness;
the LORD our God will destroy them.



Bring them here to me

Thirty-one years ago, a group of entertainers boarded the *Oceanos*, a passenger ship which was due to sail from the South African port of East London to Durban, 460 kilometres to the north. One of the entertainers was Moss Hills, a musician who had played in a band that had been popular in South Africa during the 1960s. Shortly after leaving East London, the *Oceanos*, which was poorly maintained, ran into a horrendous storm off the Wild Coast, and swiftly became disabled. Without a word, the crew abandoned the ship, leaving the 500 odd passengers to the mercy of the raging elements. Moss and the other entertainers were forced to take charge of the situation. They began to sing to the passengers to calm them and eventually Moss was able to use the ship's radio to summon help. The South African air force sent helicopters which rescued the passengers on the morning of 4th August 1991. Moss assisted the passengers into slings so that they could be hoisted from the deck. He was one of the last to leave. A few minutes later, the *Oceanos* slipped under the waves. None of the 581 people who had boarded the *Oceanos* perished.

The sinking made headlines due to the appalling behaviour of the crew and the magnificent bravery of the entertainers. Thanks to Moss, most passengers remained calm and were able to cooperate with the rescue process. It is truly miraculous that none of them died, given the harrowing conditions which they endured.

When Moss first picked up his guitar, I doubt that he thought that his ability to entertain people would one day become a means to saving a ship-load of people from drowning.

We should never underestimate the talents which the Lord has entrusted to us. When we place what we have into His hands, the results will astound us and bring praise and glory to Him.

Two thousand years ago, a young boy was intrigued by a large crowd gathering around a teacher near the town of Bethsaida. Eager to join the action, he was nevertheless wise enough to go prepared, taking supper with him. Which youngster doesn't enjoy a picnic on the shores of a lake? He couldn't have guessed that a few hours later, that the pupils of this Man, to whom the crowd was paying such close attention, would come and ask him for his food. Never could he have imagined that two thousand years later, people would still be learning about how that Man took *his* five loaves and two fish, fed more than 5 000 people, and then sent his followers to collect twelve basketsful of left over food. Yes, there was more than enough food for everyone. For once, the people 'were satisfied' [Matthew 14: 20]. Had more people joined the crowd, they too could have been feed. Why didn't they join the feast? Too busy or too lazy? In the end, is there a difference? This Man was exceedingly generous. And this boy is part of His story.

I don't need to remind you that this world, like the *Oceanos*, is a sinking ship. When we place our talents in the hands of the Captain, we are assured that He will multiply them that they will become effective in hoisting others, along with us, off the deck. Music or medicine, let your talents become 'food' for multitudes as you entrust them to Him. We are surrounded by hungry people. Jesus says, "*You feed them.*" [Matthew 14:16].

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.



The size of God

A boy asked his dad, "Dad, how big is God?"

Then the father looked up to the sky and saw an airplane and asked his son:

"How big is this plane?"

The boy answered. "It is very small. I can barely see it."

So, the father took him to the airport, and as they approached a plane, he asked:

"Now my son, how big is this plane?"

The boy replied: "Wow, dad, it is huge!"

The father said to him, "So the size of God depends on how close you are to him or far you are from him."

The closer you are to him, the bigger and bigger he will be in your life. That is the truth.

Your intimacy will show you the greatness of God.

Unknown author

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know^{me} my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14,5-14"

La taille de Dieu

Un garçon a demandé à son papa : « Papa, quelle est la taille de Dieu ? »

Puis le père leva les yeux vers le ciel et a vu un avion et demanda à son fils :

« Quelle est la taille de cet avion ? »

Le garçon répondit.

« Il est très petit. Je peux à peine le voir. »

Ainsi, le père l'a emmené à l'aéroport, et au fur et à mesure qu'ils s'approchaient d'un avion, il demanda :

« Maintenant mon fils, quelle est la taille de cet avion ? »

Le garçon répondit :

« Wow, papa, mil est énorme ! »

Alors le père lui a dit : « Alors, la taille de Dieu dépend de la façon dont tu es près ou loin de lui. Plus tu es proche de lui, plus il sera grand et énorme dans ta vie. C'est ça la vérité.

Ton intimité te présentera la grandeur de Dieu. »

Auteur inconnu



Something for nothing

“Freely you have received, freely give.” Matthew 10:8

Time to renew my motor insurance. Same time every year. Do I look for a new insurer, or stick with the old? Everyone seems to want my business. Adverts everywhere saying, “We’re cheaper than the others. Save money with us.”

I had this idea. If I went to an insurer who said he was cheaper and got a quote, I could mention that to the next insurer and get one cheaper still. Then on to the next and, if I worked at it, I’d get insurance cover for nothing. And, in my deepest fantasy, someone might even pay me for joining them.

The trouble is it doesn’t happen like that. Something for nothing never works out that way. Not just in motor insurance but in relationships too. Relationships cost. They cost in commitment; we can change our motor insurance every year but if we try that in our relationships we’re soon in trouble. They cost in effort too. In caring for the other person. It doesn’t come cheap but, in our relationships, the more we give the more we get in return, although that’s not why we do it. It’s all about that four-letter-word: love.

*Generous Lord, nothing comes for nothing, except your love.
Thank you.*

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)

Extract from Chasing the Leaves first published 2003. With the kind permission of Judith Merrell – Book selection and Publishing Manager, TLM Trading



From Where Does My Help Come

On a recent trip to the Island of Mull, I was able to find a quiet spot to sit out on the deck of the ferry from Oban – yes it was a bit windy and a bit cool but that suited me just fine. I had a lot to think about during my few days away.

As the ferry drew away from the sheltered harbour I started to look around and as I did, I realised that in every direction there were hills – some were mountains and some were just hills. That is not an unusual situation in Scotland and indeed from my windows I can most days look in every direction and see hills and water. As I sat on the ferry looking at those hills I was drawn back to the Psalms. In childhood one of the Sunday afternoon activities was to learn the words of a psalm so that I could recite it. And so, I was taken that afternoon on the ferry – yes to the words of Psalm 121 which begins:

'I lift my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth' (verses 1 and 2).

As I sat looking at the hills, I was able to recite to myself the words of the psalm and to gain strength and comfort from them.

Psalm 121 is one of the “songs of ascent” which were sung by the Israelites as they journeyed to Jerusalem. The hills surrounding Jerusalem were dangerous for travellers, even during Jesus’ ministry, and the Israelite pilgrims would sing as they travelled in groups to Jerusalem. I am sure that this particular Psalm would be a great comfort to them during their difficult and dangerous journey. Listening and joining in with others would also bring them a sense of unity and strength – many people on a pilgrimage today will sing hymns as they journey bringing that encouragement of being together walking (or travelling) in the presence of the Lord.

The Psalm continues to remind that it is The Lord who watches over us, day and night, whatever our circumstances or difficulties. We grow tired and weary, but He is the one who does not fall asleep while He watches over my life and over your life. The Hebrew word for “keep” is used six times in the last 5 verses of the psalm. That deliberate repetition is lost in our translations, but it is a wonderful reminder to us that He is the one who guards our lives, our thoughts, our actions, and our journeys. As the psalm says in conclusion: “The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.”

My journey on the ferry was neither dangerous nor difficult but the sight of the hills and the words of the psalm brought me comfort, peace, and encouragement.

Whatever your journey today, whatever your tasks for the day, I pray that you will be encouraged knowing that the Lord is there – your shade, your help, your protector. He is the One who is able to keep you in His care as you travel through today with Him.



A Medical Missionary – And Helpful Mentors – Part 2

To Timothy my true son in the faith.... Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved. (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 2:15)

Formal study was a necessary part of David Livingstone's preparation, as also with mine. It was necessary to seek the approval of professional bodies and licensing authorities, be that for medical practice or Christian ministry. But there's more to the formation of character and skills than certificates, diplomas or degrees. We all owe a debt to family background. Livingstone's family, as mine, had a great influence in shaping the foundations of faith. But there are others who contribute to our development.

I look back on teachers of significance for me: Mrs van Huysteen who recommended me for a scholarship for high school, and Cecil Clements who did the same for university. I admired many of my university lecturers, but probably none more than Professor of Medicine, Frank Forman, a gracious and gentle man who saw me rushing around the ward as his house physician and told me to 'go calmly' He also emphasised to us newly qualified doctors the importance of continuous learning. 'Your education has only just begun,' he would tell us. 'Keep reading, keep studying.' The few weeks with Stanley Brown at the Leprosy Study Centre some years later introduced me to mycobacterium leprae and to an experienced missionary for whom I developed enormous respect over later years.

Livingstone's work in Africa began in Kuruman where he worked under the tutelage of the well-experienced Robert Moffat. Marriage to the Moffat's daughter, Mary, meant that he also became part of the family. But probably the most important contribution that Moffat made was to tell his son-in-law: '... I have seen in the morning sun the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been.' He inspired Livingstone to stretch beyond where we are, to look beyond the horizon, and to go!

My arrival at Chikankata Hospital in 1968 was to join a Canadian missionary, Dr Gordon Carter. His experience, acquired in earlier service with Sudan United Mission at Vom in Chad, enabled him to provide me with an invaluable start. He would leave me to take over the leadership of the hospital 18 months later with lots of sound advice which I could absorb slowly. 'Don't expect everyone to approve of what you're doing all the time,' he told me, 'If you've got 60% you should be okay.'

I look back with gratitude at these and many more mentors over the years. I, like Timothy, have been fortunate to have those who have regarded me as a 'true son in the faith, They've helped me not only in my professional but also personal development. More important than a 60% rating with colleagues or 100% with a professional body is to present oneself to God as one approved.

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.

Part 1 of the series can be read on the 22nd of July 2022



Psalm 95

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

³ For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

⁷ for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Today, if only you would hear his voice,

⁸ “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.

¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.’

¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”



Psalm 96

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
- ¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- ¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.



This is my story....

Once upon a time a primary schoolgirl saw a television programme which portrayed nuns teaching deaf children. She was moved to pray, "Lord, let me do something like this when I am older, I too want to help handicapped people ". A few years later, at Sunday School she heard about Albert Schweitzer and identified with his feeling that "in youth I have received so much of good things- health, education, knowledge of the gospel, secure family life- that I should give back something in service to the world. When she was a teenager attending a Church Youth Club, she watched a film about The Leprosy Mission from which she learnt that only a small proportion of the people affected by leprosy were receiving medical care for their disease, and was shocked that -in the twentieth century- a treatable disease should go untreated while the people developed disability as a result.

Being a serious youngster, she immediately wrote to the Mission to say she hoped to work for them in future, and received a kind letter promising to send her regular information about the Mission's work for her to read as she prepared herself by going to university. At medical school she took every opportunity to learn about leprosy, but also about Christ and about missionary work, and was encouraged by those senior to her in the Christian community. But after years had passed and she had seen other openings beckoning to a newly qualified doctor she considered alternatives spheres of service, nearer to home, such as "general practice in a rundown Welsh valley".

At a Christian medical fellowship conference the young doctor heard a talk on the problem of making career decisions: the speaker said, in this country there are many Christian doctors, whereas in some other countries there are few of them but there is much more need for their services. The Lord would like to send many of His servants where there is much work to be done. Before considering any post in UK, I suggest any young Christian doctor should ask the Lord, should I offer for overseas service in a needy area? For some the answer will be, No, you are to work here. For others the answer will be, Go. So she thought about it, and it seemed the Lord said, you are fit to go, you have no-one dependent on you, no financial burden hampers you, why not go to The Leprosy Mission and offer your services? And she did just that. The godly leaders of the Mission said she needed more preparation but they could arrange for it.

Her resolve to do her best for her Lord strengthened by the trust put in her by the Mission's senior staff, in 1982 she took her leave of family and friends and home, then set out for India. She carried His instructions in her heart: *"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, cast out demons. You received without cost; give without charge" (New English Bible, Matthew 10 v.8).*

Many years later, she cannot claim to have raised any dead nor cast out any demons except perhaps, in some measure, resurrecting dead hopes and casting out demonic fear of illness. But she has no regrets about obeying the God-given impulse to dedicate her life to serving her Lord amongst the sick and those affected by leprosy. And she still feels she has not "given" a fraction as much as she has "received" in this life.

This is my story, but it is also the story of God preparing one small item of the human resources He needed to carry out work that needed to be done in His world.

Dr. Cynthia Ruth Butlin, known as Ruth. British (63). My service with TLM is as follows: 1981- 1982: sponsored by TLM for 1 academic year at All Nations Christian College in Hertfordshire, UK. 6 weeks of linguistics course. 1982- 1991: Medical officer at Richardson Leprosy Hospital Miraj, in India, under Dr PD Samson. 1991- 2001: medical superintendent at Anandaban Leprosy hospital in Nepal. March - June 2001: Furlough. June 2001- 2003: Superintendent Purulia leprosy hospital and homes, West Bengal in India. 2003- 2007: Medical advisor at DBLM (hospital and field programme), Nilphamari, Bangladesh (then ended my time as expatriate staff). 2007-now Voluntary speaker for TLMEW. 2013- now, skilled volunteer, sponsored by TLMEW, mainly working for DBLM hospital and rural health programmes in Bangladesh (also some work for TLMNepal



Co-Workers of God

⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.¹⁶Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. 1 Cor 3,9-17

These two paragraphs are from a church newsletter I received yesterday:

“Deaf Ministries International: are rejoicing that Emmanuel Banda, a deaf man, wrongly imprisoned for murder, has been pardoned and released from prison, after 14 years. Neville Muir, DMI Aust., travelled to Zambia several times and worked hard to petition for Emmanuel's release.

Emmanuel Banda had a friend in partnership with God – labouring in prayer with God – who eventually gained his freedom.

God is still answering prayer!

“Evangelisation Society of Aust reports: 260 young people attended their recent summer camps, and a number made first-time commitments, whilst others were encouraged to grow in their faith and in following Jesus. One camper, experiencing Christian community for the first time, was excited to be given a Bible, and on returning home told her Mum she wanted to start going to church. The outcome is that the whole family is now going to church.”

Committed youth workers are labourers with God for the salvation of today's youth, here in Victoria!

God is still answering prayer!

I love reading such stories – lives being changed and enriched – God is at work, He is still on the Throne – interested in the life of each individual – a prisoner locked away unlawfully in Zambia, a young school girl in Victoria, with her life ahead of her – people from every tribe and nation are in His interest and control. But He works in partnership with us, His humble children – He has chosen us to bring His Word of reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing to those who can't find it by themselves. And He is using The Leprosy Mission today as 'labourers together with Him'.

We may feel our little prayer group is just a very tiny 'drop in the ocean' in the overall global work of The Leprosy Mission, but prayer links all the other bigger and seemingly more important pieces of the jigsaw together, and is the basis of all His blessings... God delights in answering our prayers – Let us believe and be

encouraged that lives world-wide will be changed and enriched eternally because we have prayed today. We are *all* labourers together, with God, no matter our role.

Val Dunleavy - TLM Australian Supporter

This devotion was given by Val at our March TLMA Support Group Prayer Afternoon



Grains of Wheat

"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12:24

In the late 1970's while visiting the Congo, I was invited to preach in a church in the North-East. It was a big congregation of a major evangelical denomination celebrating the centenary of mission work in the country.

The whole town was taking part in the celebration with banners, choirs, orchestras, singing, parades a kaleidoscope of colours and a cacophony of sounds. Long before the service started, hundreds of people packed the building and thousands filled up the space around it.

Aiming for a moment of quiet prayer, I went a little way into the jungle behind the building, found an overgrown path which I followed to a spot that had been used as a cemetery.

Looking at the crosses and reading the simple inscriptions carved on planks, I made a startling discovery. "...arrived for Jesus 1880, went to be with Jesus 1883". "...born 1881, went home 1882". In a period of less than 20 years, over 15 men, women and children had died of malaria, fevers, dysentery, snake bites, out of love for Christ and His gospel. Each year, facing rejection, persecution, sickness, death, they kept on coming, seeing very little fruit for their labour but motivated by His love.

One hundred years later, thousands were celebrating and rejoicing in Christ as Saviour. Instead of bringing the message I had prepared, we read the above passage, prayed the prayer "Lord help me to understand what it means to die to self that I may bring forth fruit and give me enough love for you to do it."

Then we walked silently past the graves and prayed the same prayer again.

Where do I stand today?

Silvano Perotti . Secretary for Europe then Deputy International Director and Director for Support and Development TLMI
Born in Italy - retired in Switzerland.
Worked with TLMI until 1990.



Have Faith and Pray!

Psalm 46: 1-3. 1 The place of God is our protection, and power, He always helps us in anytime through we had suffer. 2 So we do not afraid, even though its land shaking, event mountains falling to under the sea, 3. because of this situation happen cases of big waves sea.

In April 2021, big flooding flush entire Dili City of Timor Leste, everyone who lives in Dili got affected including my family. We lived in Tasi Tolu (three seas) three separated salt water lakes from the oceans.

It was 3 a.m., Easter Sunday morning that suddenly big windy and waves and heavy raining with thunders and lighting that woke up us with worrying and fears as nowhere to go because we know, we could not cross the lakes because the road we usually pass must be already covered by muds and water. We have 5 kids including my niece and nephew with us who started crying loudly because they see water entering our compounds. Our neighbors started running around to save their foods and house materials as water level increased, everyone become busy with their own things.

At that panicked situation, my husband called everyone to come together to pray, we prayed with tears, we cried out to God for help, we knew only God could save us from all of this. By the time we finished our prayer we could not open our door because outside the house is like another lake just like 1 steps away from us. We waited until 7 am, the rains stopped, water in our compound gradually reduced left thick mud for us to clean, but our house was safe and clean.

It's a big lessons learn for me and my family, that God can deliver us from devil, protect us from damage, save our lives when we put our hopes and beliefs Him with all our hearts. Miracle happened for those who pray and believe.

Joazina da Conceicao - Finance Manager, TLM Timor Leste



Volunteers recruited!

This verse of Isaiah sounds like a real job announcement: *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” Isaiah 6,8* Here is a job, suitable candidates are welcome!

Let us go through the main steps of this recruiting process!

1. Who is the announcement coming from? - It is made by the Almighty God himself!
2. What is the job about? - There is always much to do! *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few!” (Luke 10,2)*
3. Who are expected to come? - Those who are ready and willing! They are the volunteers! *„And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6,8* – this is characteristic of the volunteers’ attitude! *„Send me! Just tell me where and what.... I am ready to go and do what you say!”*
4. What is needed from the candidates? - I see from the younger generations what a big job it is putting together all the needed certificates, diplomas, degrees, publications, presentations, references, etc. for a job application! Applying for God’s announcement needs different skills:
 - a.) humility. This is a key principle! The founder of TLM Hungary, Rev. Dobos, had a brilliant test for filtering humility. Whenever a new volunteer-candidate arrived offering his/her skills the wise minister warmly embraced the person and asked him/her to sit down and paste stamps on the pile of envelopes... Often a former director or high-level person disappointedly left: *“As a former senior in my job I came for something qualified!”* But those who humbly accepted this low level task and had patience, soon stepped up to the mark and got qualification!
 - b.) faithfulness is needed. Not just flaming enthusiasm, temporal excitement! But the spirit of steadfastness, as this matches our Lord’s attitude to us! He is faithful! Silent and firm dedication in a certain issue always moves the cause forward much more than rapid and loud promises!
 - c.) Joy. What a great temptation is to complain about being exhausted, overused, martyring! *“Why are others not coming? If we were more, the portion for each would be less!”* Heartfelt joy is a sign of blessedness and pure heart!
5. What is the reward of volunteering?
 - a.) The spirit of freedom. Volunteering on the call of God is not a “must”. Nor an obligation. But the freedom of “I may do so”. A free choice, above any expectation or burning need. Therefore volunteers are very rich people, who know about and practice the inner freedom of selfless offering, giving!
 - b.) We are called *‘co-workers of God’ (1Cor 3:9)*. Being ‘employed’ even at a lower level at XY firm of a great repute: what an honour! But how much more it is to be employed and to be “colleagues”, co-workers of the Almighty God in His Kingdom! All those offering themselves on the ‘announcement’ and invitation of the Lord, are given this honour!

c.) Volunteers' reward is the possibility of doing what they truly love. As for decades volunteering in TLM I know by experience what a passion and satisfaction, heartfelt joy and pushing force is to do what I LOVE! It is never a charge! But above the normal work, the joyful "plus"! But *"his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones"* - fire to go and do and never regret doing it!

d.) But the real and most precious reward is put aside and promised to be given in heaven. On earth there is no payment, no sufficient amount of thanks for those who voluntarily offer themselves. *"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour IN THE LORD is not in vain."* 1 Kor15,38

Marta Risko – country leader TLM Hungary.



Psalm 97

- ¹ The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice.
- ² Clouds and thick darkness surround him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- ³ Fire goes before him
and consumes his foes on every side.
- ⁴ His lightning lights up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
- ⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.
- ⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory.
- ⁷ All who worship images are put to shame,
those who boast in idols—
worship him, all you gods!
- ⁸ Zion hears and rejoices
and the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments, LORD.
- ⁹ For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
- ¹⁰ Let those who love the LORD hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- ¹¹ Light shines on the righteous
and joy on the upright in heart.
- ¹² Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,
and praise his holy name.



Psalm 98

A psalm.

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
- ² The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
- ³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
- ⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
- ⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
- ⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.
- ⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
- ⁹ let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.



The Gospel must remain the main theme of the Bible

When Charles H. Spurgeon preached, he 'ran cross-country' from his Bible text, to get to THE GOSPEL before his final "Amen"!

Let us refresh ourselves, from *Matthew's Gospel Ch.16*, with some GOSPEL FACTS!

For Fact One, read *vv1-4:-*

The Gospel is NOT some fruitless fair-weather speculations!

The Pharisees loved to speculate about the weather and other peripheral matters.

THE GOSPEL is a powerful, life-changing reality!

Jesus only cited "the sign of Jonah" to them – now compare Jesus with Jonah:

Reluctance...disobedience...3 nights in the deep...prayer...obedience...success...

For Fact Two, read *vv5-12:-*

The Gospel is NOT a keeping of a string of rules (eg. eating of unleavened bread).

Yes, God can provide manna for years and Jesus can feed thousands again + again

THE GOSPEL is a partaking of God's Heavenly Bread by faith; food for the sp./soul!

John 6:48,58,68 put it this way – *"I AM the Bread of Life...This is the Bread*

that came down from Heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died.

Whoever feeds on this Bread will live forever...Simon Peter answered Him,

'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of Eternal Life...!'

For Fact Three, read *vv13-20:-*

The Gospel is NOT giving glib assent to certain earthly teachers

(eg. John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, A.N.Other)

THE GOSPEL is a wholehearted confession of faith in Jesus Christ as one's MESSIAH!

Simon Peter said, *"You are THE CHRIST, the Son of the Living God!*

Jesus said, "Blessed are you Simon Bar Jonah!" Why?

Only the Tri-une God could work this powerful confession in his life, at that moment!

In John 3:3, Jesus teaches Nicodemus and us – "You must be Born Again!"

For Fact Four, read *vv21-23:-*

The Gospel is NOT a 'bed of roses'/'stroll in the park'.

Peter incorrectly responded, *"Far be it from You Lord! This shall never happen to You!"*

THE GOSPEL is a daily Spiritual Battle against self/flesh/world/the devil/demons:

We'll often have to shout: "Get behind me Satan!"

And "set our minds on the things of God, and not on the things of man." Cf.Rom.12:1,2.

For Fact Five, read *vv24-28:-*

The Gospel is NOT a 'Name it and Claim it' trick.

Rather it says here, *"...deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me ...and whosoever loses his life for My sake will find it ...what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul."*

THE GOSPEL is a CHALLENGE, a COST, a COMMITMENT and a CONSOLATION!

We get Forgiveness, Salvation, Everlasting Life (via a Galatians 2:20 lifestyle)

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me."

THE GOSPEL has proven it's power to transform sinners' lives over and over again!

In Psalm 73:23-26,28 Asaph testifies to it's saving grace in his own life:

"Nevertheless, I am continually with You; You hold my right hand. You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to Glory. Whom have I in Heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You. My flesh + my heart may fail, but God is the Strength of my heart + my Portion forever... For me it is good to be near God: I have made the Lord God my Refuge, that I may tell of all Your works."

Amen.

Otto Kingsley erstwhile Cape Regional Director - TLM Southern Africa



Psalm 121

We have been looking at the Psalms in the Bible Book Club (BBC) for a few months. Last month we looked at Psalm 121. Most of you I am sure will know it particularly in the King James Version. It is beautiful with some wonderful promises.

We did wonder though if there was a touch of the “prosperity” Gospel in it. What does our help mean? It can't be an avoidance of trouble, since you only ask for help when you are in trouble.

I believe the comfort of the psalm is that God is always there with us. We are never alone. He is just waiting for us to call for help. As I thought about it I wanted to get to the essence of the psalm and so I did a little paraphrase which I share with you. It is not as poetic as the original but still I found plenty of food for thought.

Psalm 121

I look to the hills and the mountains; those high and eternal mountains that have always been there. Can I find my help in them? No.

My help comes from the One who made them; the creator of those mountains looks after me.

He won't even let me trip up let alone fall over. He is not going to be asleep on the job. He looks after the whole nation and is not going to doze or snore!

The Lord watches over you. He has got his eye on you all the time. There is no escaping His care. He is like an umbrella, providing shade and shelter. During the day, in the bright light, He will protect you and at night, under the moonlight, He will protect you from all evil.

The Lord is utterly reliable; He will keep you from all harm. Even if bad things happen they will not have the power to damage who you really are. Your pathway, your walk with God, you're going in and coming out will be safe because He is there; now and forever.

June Nash – UK - worked decades long for TLM as missionary, trainer and director. June passed away in June 2022 after her very long battle with cancer. After 9 years, June is finally free of pain and with her God, leaving an enormous spiritual legacy behind. She is lovingly remembered by her relatives and by her worldwide TLM-family.

May she rest in peace.



By Faith

Matthew 28,16 - 20

"When I left England, my hope of India's conversion was very strong; but amongst so many obstacles, it would die, unless upheld by God. Well, I have God, and His Word is true. Though the superstitions of the heathen were a thousand times stronger than they are, and the example of the Europeans a thousand times worse; though I were deserted by all and persecuted by all, yet my faith, fixed on the sure Word, would rise above all obstructions and overcome every trial. God's cause will triumph.

"I went to India as a missionary to save England from spiritual collapse."

For thought and prayer:

"I often think what interesting history we are making for the student of the twenty-first century."

William Carey (17 August 1761 – 9 June 1834) was an English Christian missionary, Particular Baptist minister, translator, social reformer and cultural anthropologist who founded the Serampore College and the Serampore University, the first degree-awarding university in India.

He went to Kolkata in 1793, but was forced to leave the British Indian territory by non-Baptist Christian missionaries. He joined the Baptist missionaries in the Danish colony of Frederiksnagar in Serampore. One of his first contributions was to start schools for impoverished children where they were taught reading, writing, accounting and Christianity. He opened the first theological university in Serampore offering divinity degrees, and campaigned to end the practice of sati.

Carey is known as the "father of modern missions." His essay, *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens*, led to the founding of the Baptist Missionary Society. The Asiatic Society commended Carey for "his eminent services in opening the stores of Indian literature to the knowledge of Europe and for his extensive acquaintance with the science, the natural history and botany of this country and his useful contributions, in every branch."

He translated the Hindu classic, the Ramayana, into English, and the Bible into Bengali, Oriya, Assamese, Marathi, Hindi and Sanskrit. William Carey has been called a reformer and illustrious Christian missionary.

William Carey spent 41 years in India without a furlough. His mission counted some 700 converts in a nation of millions, but he had laid an impressive foundation of Bible translations, education, and social reform. He has been referred to as the "father of modern missions", and as "India's first cultural anthropologist."

His teaching, translations, writings and publications, his educational establishments and influence in social reform are said to have "marked the turning point of Indian culture from a downward to an upward trend."

[Carey] saw India not as a foreign country to be exploited, but as his heavenly Father's land to be loved and saved... he believed in understanding and controlling nature instead of fearing, appeasing or worshipping it; in developing one's intellect instead of killing it as mysticism taught.

Carey's passionate insistence on change resulted in the founding of the Baptist Missionary Society.

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

<i>Christine Osman</i>	<i>18 August</i>	<i>Scotland</i>		Psalm 31,14-24	<i>12 August</i>
<i>Dan Izzett</i>	<i>9,10 August</i>	<i>Zimbabwe/UK</i>		Psalm 46,1-3	<i>25 August</i>
<i>Eddie Askew</i>	<i>17 August</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalm 91	<i>6 August</i>
<i>Élie Fofolo</i>	<i>11 August</i>	<i>DR Congo</i>		Psalm 92	<i>7 August</i>
<i>Father Damien</i>	<i>5 August</i>	<i>Belgium</i>		Psalm 93	<i>13 August</i>
<i>Joaozina da Conceicao</i>	<i>25 August</i>	<i>Timor Leste</i>		Psalm 94	<i>14 August</i>
<i>June Nash</i>	<i>30 August</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalm 95	<i>20 August</i>
<i>Marta Risko</i>	<i>26 August</i>	<i>Hungary</i>		Psalm 96	<i>21 August</i>
<i>Otto Kingsley</i>	<i>8, 29 August</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		Psalm 97	<i>27 August</i>
<i>Paul Brand MD, CBE</i>	<i>4 August</i>	<i>USA</i>		Psalm 98	<i>28 August</i>
<i>Paul du Plessis MD</i>	<i>19 August</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalm 121	<i>18 and 30 August</i>
<i>Peter Laubscher</i>	<i>15 August</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		Isaiah 6,8	<i>26 August</i>
<i>Raju PLN Dr</i>	<i>3 August</i>	<i>India</i>		Matthew 8,1-4	<i>4 August</i>
<i>Ruth Butlin MD</i>	<i>22 August</i>	<i>UK</i>		Matthew 10,8	<i>17 and 22 August</i>
<i>Silvano Perotti</i>	<i>24 August</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>		Matthew 14,5-14	<i>16 August</i>
<i>Silvina Idalina de Jesus MD</i>	<i>2 August</i>	<i>Timor Leste</i>		Matthew 14,16	<i>15 August</i>
<i>Val Dunleavy</i>	<i>23 August</i>	<i>Australia</i>		Matthew 16	<i>29 August</i>
<i>William Carey</i>	<i>31 August</i>	<i>England/India</i>		Matthew 28,16-20	<i>31 August</i>
				Luke 11,9	<i>2 August</i>
				Luke 23,34	<i>3 August</i>
				John 12,24	<i>24 August</i>
				John 15,14-16	<i>5 August</i>
				1 Cor 3,9-17	<i>23 August</i>
				Ephesians 6,10	<i>9 August</i>
				1 Tim 1,2	<i>19 August</i>
				1 Tim 4,1-3	<i>10 August</i>
				James 4,2	<i>11 August</i>