



TLM Daily Devotions

September 2022



Intro to the month of September

The month of September is a long-awaited time in the life of The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship! Due to the epidemic period, the international big family is meeting for the first time in three years at the Lane End conference center in England! On 29th September the country leaders and chairs of the member countries, followed by the two-day Members' Meeting, then Fellowship Sunday... In the first days of October the sessions of the international board and committee work will follow.

Let us pray for the delegates, for their long journeys as they come together from all ends of the Globe, for their health and safety in the critical world situation, and above all: for God to inspire and guide the thoughts, proposals, decisions and give his blessing to our mission as a whole!

Marta Risko



A Medical Missionary - Explores the World – Part 3

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

The Leprosy Mission had for many years been a generous supporter of the 200-person leprosarium and beds for 50 leprosy patients as part of the general hospital at Chikankata. Even more than that, we valued the visits of people like Eddie Askew and Alan Waudby who not only monitored what was being done, but also brought welcome encouragement. After one of the visits I was invited to be honorary field representative for TLM in Zambia. This would involve visiting leprosy projects, liaison with government and reporting back to the international directorate in order to strengthen its role with ILEP.

The task involved the occasional visits to various parts of the country, meeting staff of different backgrounds, seeing patients in different settings and recognising different patterns of the prevalence of the disease in different geographical settings. It prompted me to ask several questions. For instance, 'Does the local ecology affect the way mycobacterium leprae affects homo sapiens?'

I met staff in Zambia's Eastern Province – Anglicans at St Francis Katete, Evangelicals at the Reformed Church Hospital in Nyanje. The Adventists flew me in a light aircraft from Lusaka to Yuka Hospital in the Western Province, tilting the plane to one side so that we could see the lechwe antelope in the swamps of the Kafue River. Also in the Western Province I visited Catholics in Mongu, and swam in the Zambezi at sunset!

But probably the most memorable visit of all was to be met in Mongu by Dr Jim Rennie of Chitokoloki Hospital in the Northwest Province and to be transported by motorboat up the Zambezi to the CMML hospital with its Brethren background. There was always a purpose in these visits, of course, but seeing the beauties of creation as I travelled was an added plus. The work of the visit completed, Jim said to me: 'I could take you back by boat, but how about hiring a local dug-out and you'll be poled down the Zambezi? You'll be following in Livingstone's footsteps,' he added. It took most of the day as I sat quietly trusting the skills of two young Zambian men. They knew how to negotiate the hippo-crowded confluence of the Lungwebungu River with the Zambezi. We arrived safely.

Livingstone had come down this river which flows over a massive gorge to become the Victoria Falls (Mosi-oa-Tunya – the smoke that thunders) and wrote of it. 'Scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight.' He explored the world, discovered the world, and obviously appreciated it.

In the midst of facing the effects of a destructive disease I hope we can still revel at the glory of creation in all its variety and beauty, and of the creator who made it so.

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.

Former parts of this series can be read on the 22nd July and 19th August.



God in His majesty

Here is a prayer that I have put to music. The author, Simon the younger (960 – 1022) is a little known cleric who lived in the Middle Ages. It carries his belief in the divine powers of God so beautifully.

Thou art flaming fire and reviving water,

Thou consumest yet,

Thou art overflowing with bliss, and thou redeemest from evil.

Thou makest men into gods and darkness into light,

Guidest back from the nether world, endowest the deed with immortality, leadest out of darkness into light.

Thy hand closeth the door of night, Thou surroundest the heart with a halo of light.

Thou transformest me completely, unitest Thyself with men, making them into gods.

Thou inspirest them with Thy love, Thy infancy, Thy grace through the spirit: as God thou unitest miraculously all that is separated from Thee.

You can listen it HERE:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CT5nQK0NiXw210tCTjOnNL2Q7_4JsBA6/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.



Psalm 99

¹ The LORD reigns,
let the nations tremble;
he sits enthroned between the cherubim,
let the earth shake.

² Great is the LORD in Zion;
he is exalted over all the nations.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name—
he is holy.

⁴ The King is mighty, he loves justice—
you have established equity;
in Jacob you have done
what is just and right.

⁵ Exalt the LORD our God
and worship at his footstool;
he is holy.

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
Samuel was among those who called on his name;
they called on the LORD
and he answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;
they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them.

⁸ LORD our God,
you answered them;
you were to Israel a forgiving God,
though you punished their misdeeds.

⁹ Exalt the LORD our God
and worship at his holy mountain,
for the LORD our God is holy.



Psalm 100

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.



Monday is for ministries!

Our Heavenly Father this morning I present the ministry of The Leprosy Mission to you, as they prepare themselves for this week and the future please give them:

1. **Wisdom:** *...you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” James*
2. **Favour:** *“Now God had cause the officials to show favour on TLM. (Daniel 1:9)*
3. **Insight:** *“How much better to get **wisdom** than gold, to get **insight** rather than silver!” Proverbs 16:16 . Wisdom, favour & insight will provide provision.*
4. **Effective staffing:** *“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.” Romans 12:11 “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people... Ephesians 6:7 - May this be the objective of every staff member.*
5. **Protection:** *“But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.” Psalms 3:3 Protection against the wiles of the enemy, false accusations, miss understanding, errors & anything that would want to or could damage the Missions reputation & purpose.*
6. **Open doors:** *“...I have placed before you an open door that no-one can shut...” Revelation 3:8 Our Heavenly Father please open doors for the Mission.*
7. **Jesus as the centre:** *“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” John 12:32 . Let the primary focus of the Mission be Jesus!*

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.



God Provides All Our Needs

“How will he not also give us everything with him, by grace?” Romans 8.32

The Bible says, "He who spared not his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also give us everything with him, by grace?"

One day, a man sees a child attacked by hoodlums. He rushes into the fray, saves the boy, and takes him to the hospital, and takes care of it. When he learns that the little one is an orphan, he decides to adopt him and give him his name. Some time later in the middle of the night, the father hears his son crying hot tears on his pillow. He goes to see him and asks him the reason for such grief.

The child replies: "Dad, I am afraid of the future.

☞ What will I eat?

☞ How will I dress?

☞ Where will I sleep?

The father is disturbed and declares to him: "I thought I had explained it to you? Listen to me: I risked my life to save you. I donated part of my savings to treat you. You bear my name. I call you my son. I will never stop meeting your needs".

Beloveds of the Mission! Here are three issues that deserve our attention.

1. Would God have saved us and expect us to worry?
2. Did he teach us to walk only to see us fall?
3. Was he nailed to a cross for our sins, only to ignore our prayers?

Would the Bible mock us when it says:

"For he will command his angels for you to keep you in all your ways" (Ps 91:11)?

Friends of the Mission, sometimes we look to the future, to the small remuneration, to housing, to the family... instead of looking at the one who called us.

We must stop tormenting ourselves and learn to rely confidently on his promises: because he is full of grace, he will supply all our needs!

Prayer of the day: *Thank you, Lord, Master of the Mission, for your unconditional love. Amen !*

Dieu pourvoit à tous nos besoins

« Comment ne nous donnera-t-il pas aussi tout avec lui, par grâce ? » Romains 8.32

La Bible dit : « Lui qui n'a pas épargné son propre Fils, mais qui l'a livré pour nous tous, comment ne nous donnera-t-il pas aussi tout avec lui, par grâce ? »

Un jour, un homme aperçoit un enfant agressé par des voyous. Il se lance dans la mêlée, sauve le garçon et l'emmène à l'hôpital, et prend les soins à sa charge. Quand il apprend que le petit est orphelin, il décide de l'adopter et lui donner son nom. Quelques temps plus tard au milieu de la nuit, le père entend son fils pleurer à chaudes larmes sur son oreiller. Il va le voir et lui demande la raison d'un tel chagrin.

L'enfant répond : « Papa, j'ai peur de l'avenir.

☞ Je mangerai quoi ?

☞ Je m'habillerai comment ?

☞ Je dormirai où ? »

Le père est troublé et lui déclare : « Je croyais pourtant te l'avoir expliqué ? Écoute-moi bien : j'ai risqué ma vie pour te sauver. J'ai donné une partie de mes économies pour te soigner. Tu portes mon nom. Je t'appelle mon fils. Jamais je ne cesserai de répondre à tes besoins ».

Bien-aimés(es) de la Mission ! Voici trois questions qui méritent notre attention.

1. Dieu nous aurait-il sauvé pour que l'on s'angoisse ?
2. Nous aurait-il appris à marcher pour nous voir tomber ?
3. Aurait-il été cloué sur une croix pour nos péchés, pour ensuite ignorer nos prières ?

La Bible se moquerait-elle de nous quand elle dit :

« Car il donnera pour toi des ordres à ses anges pour te garder dans toutes tes voies » (Ps 91.11) ?

Amis(es) de la Mission, il nous arrive de fois, à regarder à l'avenir, à la petite renumération, au logement, à la famille...au lieu de regarder à celui qui nous a appelé.

Il faut cesser de se tourmenter, et apprendre à se reposer en toute confiance sur ses promesses : parce qu'il est plein de grâce, il pourvoira à tous nos besoins !

Prière du jour

Merci Seigneur, Maître de la Mission, pour ton amour inconditionnel. 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



My Jesus and I

The most important Person in the universe is the Lord Jesus Christ – and the most needy sinner is you/I !

And when the two of us come together, the closest relationship forms – 2nd to no other! The following verses will examine and confirm our intimate relationship with King Jesus:

1) John 1:9 – *“The True Light, which gives Light to everyone was coming into the world.”*

->Has Jesus Christ become a Vital Reality to you yet?

2) Mark 1:9 – *“I have baptised you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.”*

->Have you experienced Jesus’ baptism with the Holy Spirit yet, + have you been baptized?

3) 1 Cor. 1:9 – *“God is faithful, by Whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

->Are you experiencing God’s faithfulness and the fellowship of His Son?

Work at keeping Jesus as your Lord in all things and at all times!

4) 2 Cor. 1:9 – *“Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God Who raises the dead.”*

->Have you already experienced God’s phenomenal support in your most desperate times?

5) Gal. 1:9 – *“As we have said before, so now I say again:*

‘If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.’”

->Have you already been tempted to ‘water down’ the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Don’t do it, lest you be severed from Him!

6) Eph. 1:9 – *“Making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ.”*

->Have you been tempted to move away from God’s will and purpose for your life?

Don’t do it, lest you lose your vital relationship with Christ!

7) Philip.1:9-*“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.”*

->Have you been tempted to become more callous and less loving in life?

Don’t do it, because you will lose God’s guidance and God’s discernment at the same time!

8) Col.1:9 – *“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”*

->Have you been tempted to stop interceding for others? Don’t do it, constant praying will keep you close to God and will use you ‘to move the hand of God’!

9) 1 John 1:9 – *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

->Have you allowed conceit and wickedness to harden your heart before God?

Don't stop approaching God in total repentance and contrition:

As the old hymn goes:

'...nothing between me and my Lord and my Saviour...!' -Amen.

Otto Kingsley erstwhile Cape Regional Director - TLM Southern Africa



The Magnificence of the Cross of Calvary – Part 5

The Cross of Compassion

John 12:23-24 *'Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, 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.'*

Philippians 2:8 *"Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross".'*

Ephesians 1:7 *'In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.'*

We must focus less on 'how' Jesus died on the Cross and turn our attention more to 'why' he died! Then we would truly comprehend the magnificence of the Cross. He died to pay the penalty for our sins. If it were possible for sinful men and women to be made right with God any other way, the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross was unwarranted. Shedding His blood was the only acceptable payment for man's sins. He bore the burden of separation from His Father for saving the human soul. Jesus who bore no sin submitted to the humiliation of the Roman cross for the sake of man.

Every good thing has a price tag. Compassion has a price to pay. Nothing comes free or without sacrifice. Salvation is not pardoning man without payment for his crimes against God. Jesus on the Cross paid the price for our sins, in full, once for all. The ultimate sacrifice by Jesus had opened the door of salvation for man. *It was the sacrifice for salvation.* At the Cross, God's compassion was at its splendid display.

The Father/God paid a heavy price to restore man's rightful place of being in His presence. The price of compassionate love of God was the blood of His only begotten son Jesus shed on the Cross. God so loved man, who He created in His own image, that He sent His Son to bear the burden of sins of man on the Cross. The long and arduous path that Jesus took to the Cross of Calvary was paved with God's compassion to redeem man. *Compassion is the compelling yearning of God.*

The One who did not deserve to die, was crucified alongside two men who did deserve to die. Jesus had all along lived His life with people who had fallen from the grace of God. At the Cross, He brought them back into a loving relationship with God. As the Triune God, Jesus had the power to stop his tormentors at any moment. He restrained Himself from annihilating those who caused Him immense pain. He willingly submitted himself to His execution in accordance with God's purpose.

Jesus did not condemn those who humiliated him physically and verbally. In condemnation, there is confrontational hatred. In conviction, there is compassionate love. Jesus convicted people to come to God through his compassionate words and deeds, including the death on the Cross. Compassion was exhibited when Jesus prayed to God to forgive man for his sins. Christian walk is not a bed of roses. Hurdles are stepping-stones to a life lived with compassion.

The Cross of Calvary symbolizes God's abundant grace. God's grace is so abundant, more than we can ever imagine, ask or hope for. It is there for the asking. It does not require practicing torturous religious rituals. Greater is my faith in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, greater is God's grace poured out into me and through me into others. He gives us grace not because of our good deeds, but out of His abundant love.

The Spirit that strengthened Jesus to obey God's Will on the Cross is with us now, the Holy Spirit. Compassion and forgiveness are essential factors to win souls for Jesus. The compassion of Christ on the Cross had compelled one criminal to confess and commit his life to Jesus.

The Cross of compassion of Christ embodies the love of God

In gratitude, for His glory.

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



Reflection on memory

A few months ago I was at a planning day for the Leprosy Mission Scotland.

The day started, as these days so often do, with an icebreaker activity.

After introducing ourselves we then had to say what animal, real or mythical, we would choose to be for the day and why.

My default animal in these situations is an elephant.

Nothing to do with strength, chunky legs, thick skin or greyness but everything to do with an elephant's alleged memory¹. As the saying goes, 'An elephant never forgets.'

The purpose of the day was to plan how we fulfil our strategic goals, given the current economic climate we are in and likely to be in for a while.

My reason for choosing an 'elephant'? I felt we needed to remember where we had come from and what God had already achieved through TLMScotland, and to ensure that whatever we did next was in keeping with our well-established vision and values.

Somewhere from the back of my brain I dredged most of the often-quoted aphorism, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it²."

For Christians memory is an important faculty and remembering an important activity.

Together, we remember most obviously when we come around the communion table.

Why is it so important for Christians to remember? Simply, so that we don't forget.

Don't forget all that Jesus has done for us.

Don't forget where we were heading without Jesus.

Don't forget God's love, mercy and grace.

Sadly, the track record of God's people is that we all too readily forget. (Have a read through a few chapters of Judges.)

Peter writes his first letter to Christians scattered across what is now Turkey.

They lived in the midst of a culture that was suspicious and antagonistic, a dominant culture that marginalised and often persecuted them.

Peter writes to remind them of who they are in Jesus.

"But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted."

He reminds them of these truths to encourage them to live lives that are holy, to strengthen their faith and to embolden them to live lives that demonstrate the transformation that only Jesus makes.

In a world that is not too dissimilar Peter goes on to say remembering leads to action.

“Live an exemplary life in your neighbourhood so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they’ll be won over to God’s side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.”

1 Peter 2.11-12 The Message

Peter’s call to remember is just as necessary for us today, to hear and live out.

John Twynham - Perkins - Formerly chair of TLMScotland

¹Article in Scientific American Jan 2009 Fact or Fiction?: Elephants Never Forget

²George Santayana, The Life of Reason, 1905



Psalm 101

Of David. A psalm.

- ¹ I will sing of your love and justice;
to you, LORD, I will sing praise.
- ² I will be careful to lead a blameless life—
when will you come to me?
I will conduct the affairs of my house
with a blameless heart.
- ³ I will not look with approval
on anything that is vile.
I hate what faithless people do;
I will have no part in it.
- ⁴ The perverse of heart shall be far from me;
I will have nothing to do with what is evil.
- ⁵ Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret,
I will put to silence;
whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart,
I will not tolerate.
- ⁶ My eyes will be on the faithful in the land,
that they may dwell with me;
the one whose walk is blameless
will minister to me.
- ⁷ No one who practices deceit
will dwell in my house;
no one who speaks falsely
will stand in my presence.
- ⁸ Every morning I will put to silence
all the wicked in the land;
I will cut off every evildoer
from the city of the LORD.



Psalm 102

A prayer of an afflicted person who has grown weak and pours out a lament before the LORD.

¹ Hear my prayer, LORD;
let my cry for help come to you.
² Do not hide your face from me
when I am in distress.
Turn your ear to me;
when I call, answer me quickly.
³ For my days vanish like smoke;
my bones burn like glowing embers.
⁴ My heart is blighted and withered like grass;
I forget to eat my food.
⁵ In my distress I groan aloud
and am reduced to skin and bones.
⁶ I am like a desert owl,
like an owl among the ruins.
⁷ I lie awake; I have become
like a bird alone on a roof.
⁸ All day long my enemies taunt me;
those who rail against me use my name as a curse.
⁹ For I eat ashes as my food
and mingle my drink with tears
¹⁰ because of your great wrath,
for you have taken me up and thrown me aside.
¹¹ My days are like the evening shadow;
I wither away like grass.
¹² But you, LORD, sit enthroned forever;
your renown endures through all generations.
¹³ You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to show favor to her;
the appointed time has come.
¹⁴ For her stones are dear to your servants;
her very dust moves them to pity.
¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the LORD,
all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.
¹⁶ For the LORD will rebuild Zion
and appear in his glory.

¹⁷ He will respond to the prayer of the destitute;
he will not despise their plea.

¹⁸ Let this be written for a future generation,
that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:

¹⁹ "The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high,
from heaven he viewed the earth,
²⁰ to hear the groans of the prisoners
and release those condemned to death."

²¹ So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion
and his praise in Jerusalem

²² when the peoples and the kingdoms
assemble to worship the LORD.

²³ In the course of my life[Ⓜ] he broke my strength;
he cut short my days.

²⁴ So I said:

"Do not take me away, my God, in the midst of my days;
your years go on through all generations.

²⁵ In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶ They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.
Like clothing you will change them
and they will be discarded.

²⁷ But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.

²⁸ The children of your servants will live in your presence;
their descendants will be established before you."



“... if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment...”

1 Corinthians 11:31 (23-32)

I heard an idea recently which got me thinking: How was Jesus treated when he trod the earth 2000 years ago, and does that compare with the way we treat his symbolic body and blood in Holy Communion today?

When the incarnate Lord walked the earth some people followed him and wanted to be wherever he was, many listened to his message, some found healing and new life, some were intrigued by him but kept their distance, some questioned him. But some found him offensive, threatening, too challenging, -and the most influential and powerful of them contrived to get rid of him. They, and those who fell under their control and intimidation -even some who had previously admired Jesus- ridiculed him, insulted and maltreated him, called for his execution, killed him, -and watched his death with satisfaction, -or perhaps with horror and regret.

Shifting those images to today: whatever we believe about Holy Communion, it reflects the body of Jesus Christ given for us. For some, the bread and wine almost literally *become* the body and blood of Christ; for others they are symbolic elements for remembrance and obedience, -“*Do this in remembrance of me*”. It is also a statement of unity, as we are the body of Christ on earth, we belong together in him, as he is in us.

The question is, how do I -or we as Christian communities- approach this act of obedience, this sacrament, ordinance, eucharistic meal, Mass, Holy Communion (we all have different words and shades of understanding)?

Leaving the theology aside for the moment, let’s focus on this challenge: Do I approach the celebration and remembrance of the body of Christ with reverence and respect, gratitude and sober reflection? Or am I casual -even contemptuous- of this holy meal, this act of obedience, this body of Christ?

To return to the original idea: if I had been in Palestine when Jesus came, when he was in Jerusalem for that final Passover, what would my response have been? And does my approach to Communion *today* show the place of the Lord of life in my own life? I’m not expecting you to answer, but I am challenging myself to come to the Lord’s table in the right manner, to be “*more discerning with regard to*” myself and my approach to God.

As I church minister I nearly always used Paul’s words from 1 Corinthians 11 to introduce Holy Communion. But I usually read verses 23-26 only. Rarely (and never without a word of explanation) did I go on to verses 27-32. It is a passage that might put us off even coming to a Communion service, but that is not Paul’s intention. Rather, it is that we should come with fitting self-examination and preparation (v. 31) and, therefore, approach the Lord’s table with appropriate humility, repentance, gratitude and a sense of the deep significance of what we are doing.

And one more thought: for those (increasing numbers it seems) who say they can be Christian without coming to church, without being part of a Christian community, -can they? In one way or another being present at this significant, symbolic meal is a statement of *belonging*. Can we be fully part of the body of Christ if we are able to come, but *choose* to stay away?

May the Lord deepen our sense of being invited, and of belonging, as we gather around his table.

Blessings,

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



The bliss of bringing men together

Matthews 5: 9 (Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God)

When we returned to India in mid 2006 from Nepal, after staying and working at TLM Hospital Anandaban for a very long time, we had to learn many things in India and also faced many practical problems. Even though we were Indians and India is our motherland. One of the biggest problems was understanding and dealing with relatives in our workplace with TLM at Lucknow and also in our hometown in Almora. One of the main reasons was that we were in Nepal for a long time and had no relatives there with us. So we had no experience in dealing with relatives and also in India the culture of family and relatives changed over the years.

One of the main things which disturbed me then in those early years and even today is the bad and bitter relationships among our Christian relatives. Someone is annoyed with other relatives, and not telling them about their hurt but not talking to them. The other person does not even know what the reason is. The other relative is angry with some other relative, so stopped all communications and relationships. Such relatives are bitter in their hearts and sad. No one in these situations wants to resolve the problem and other relatives also do not take initiatives to bring reconciliation in their hurt relationships.. These angry and hurt relatives are not ready to forgive each other and do not want healing in their relationship with such other relatives.

I, sometimes with my family members and other Christian people, took the initiative many times in such a few cases to bring forgiveness and reconciliation. There was an improvement in very few cases, the relationship improved and there was a happy ending. But in most cases we are discouraged from being involved in such cases and when we tried, our efforts were rejected. We were not successful in bringing PEACE among them and their relationship. I still feel bad about these situations, where all these Christian relatives are still bitter, angry and have no communication and relationships with other relatives.

I have since then and even today have this strong feeling that we must do something for these such relatives and their bitter hearts. We as Christian must take initiatives to resolve these bitter relationships and work to bring peace and happiness in their relationships.

This particular saying of Jesus, verse of the Sermon of Mount, *Blessed are peacemakers*..... has always encouraged me to improve my and our relationship with others and we also want the same for these relatives but feel very discouraged and sad that I have not been very successful in bringing peace in these bitter relationships.

Peace in Hebrew *Shalom* is never only a negative state, it never means only the absence of troubles, in Hebrew peace always means everything which makes for a man's highest good. In the Bible peace means not only freedom from all troubles; it means enjoyment of all good.

We must remember when we read peace in beatitude, this blessing is on peacemakers, not necessarily on peace - *lovers*. They are thinking that they are loving peace, where in fact there are piling up troubles for the future, because they are refusing to face the difficult situations now. They feel happy in their comfort zones now and avoid the real issues of life, they do not want to face difficulties and troubles now. The peace which the Bible calls blessed does not come from the evasion of issues; it comes from facing them, dealing with them and conquering them. What beatitudes demands actively facing the difficult things, and the *making* of peace; even when the way to peace is through struggle.

The Authorised Version says that the peacemakers shall be called the *children* of God. The Greek version says: Blessed are the peace- makers, for they shall be called sons of God; what does this means is: Blessed are the peace- makers, for they shall be doing a God-like work. The man who makes peace is engaged in the very work which the God of peace is doing (Roman 15:33, 2 Corinthians 13:11, 1 Thessalonians 5: 22, Hebrew 13: 20).

It has been suggested that, since *shalom* means everything which makes for a man's highest good, this beatitude means: Blessed are those who make this world a better place for all men to live in.

This also means that the highest task which a man can perform is to establish the *right relationship* between man and man. That is what Jesus means.

There are people who are always storm- centres of troubles and bitterness and strife. Wherever they are, they are either involved in quarrels themselves or cause of quarrels between others. They are trouble - makers. There are people like that in almost every society and every church, and such people are doing the Devil's own work. On the other hand - thank God, there are people in whose presence bitterness cannot live, people who bridge the gulfs, patch up the differences and heal the breaches, and sweeten the bitterness. Such people are doing Godlike work, for it is the great purpose of God to bring peace to men and himself and between man to man. The man who divides men is doing the devil's work; the man who unites men is doing God's work.

So, then, this beatitude might read:

*The bliss of those who produce the right relationship between man to man,
for they are doing a Godlike work!*

My prayer is for God to use me, my family members and other people to do God's work to bring peace and harmony between these relatives who are bitter and not having relationships and communication with others. Let God use us to bridge their gaps of misunderstanding and bitterness and be an Agent of God to bring reconciliation of their relationship by forgiveness based on love and trust. Finally able to create a better family atmosphere and relationship.

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



The Start of Something...

I recently had a few days away visiting some favourite places in the Western Islands of Scotland. During those days I chose to do some reading from the Book of Acts the chapters telling of Saul's dramatic meeting with Jesus and the start of his ministry.

We all recall the dramatic event when Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus and how he was led first by his travelling companions and then through the Holy Spirit to Ananias. We recall how he went to Jerusalem and eventually after speaking boldly about Jesus, he was threatened and the Christians sent him off to Tarsus – they sent him home!! (you can reread all of that story in Acts 9).

I recently read these chapters in Acts telling of Paul's conversion and the start of his ministry. In the margin of my Bible I had written that Paul spent 7 years in Tarsus – by today's standards that is a long time in preparing for his missionary life, but remember Jesus spent 30 years at home before starting His ministry. As I look back over my life I can see where, without me being aware, God was preparing me for something that would happen later. Although we are not told what happened to Saul during those 7 years, I am sure he was not idle – God was preparing him for the amazing ministry he was to fulfil. Moving on with Saul we find, in Acts 11:25 and 26, that God led Barnabas to go from Antioch to Tarsus to fetch Saul. Now that is a journey of approx. 250 miles, so a week there and a week back!! I wonder what was in the mind of Barnabas as he travelled. Saul then spent a year there in Antioch "under training" with Barnabas. What an amazing preparation to an amazing ministry. I really had to stop and think when I put all that together – I guess I knew much of the story but just sitting thinking how God prepared Saul over "years" for the work of missionary made me wonder again about the training today for ministers and missionaries. In our world today we want everything to happen "immediately" and that is true for Christians too. We want people to move forward quickly after conversion, or after they feel called to some form of ministry, to get on with "what they are really called to do", without thinking too much about how they are prepared and trained for that work.

We move on to Acts 13 where we find the Church at Antioch worshipping and fasting, coming before the Lord, eager to hear Him speaking to them. That reminds me of the disciples met in the upper room in prayer and fasting before Pentecost. Just pause there, however, and look at some of the people in that worshipping community – a Greek Cypriot, 2 people from North Africa, a powerful acquaintance of Herod as well as Barnabas and Saul. The first missionary convention – and they were ready to hear God speak to them and to obey his instructions.

Some of you will worship in churches with people from different countries but all of us worship in churches with people of very different backgrounds and teaching. The multicultural leadership of the Church in Antioch was well placed to be in the vanguard of a mission to bring the Gospel to the Gentile world. It was out of their sincere worship, praying, fasting, and waiting that the Holy Spirit spoke very clearly, commissioning Barnabas and Saul. For a church to give up two fifths of its leadership to world mission was as great a challenge in the first century as it would be today. I wonder how many churches today would be

ready to wait patiently for God's leading and having heard Him speak clearly to them be ready to make that kind of sacrifice

As I read that part of Saul's story, I was reminded that when I was much younger, in the Church where we as a family worshipped, attendance at the prayer meeting was considered a prerequisite before someone could hold office in the congregation whether that was an elder, a Sunday School teacher, or... I am truly saddened that so many ministers and churches do not understand the need for and the blessings from coming together and waiting on God in times of prayer – is it any wonder that here in the UK, so many churches are struggling for members, so many churches do not understand how to bring the Gospel to their communities.

Luke had a clear message in the Book of Acts that the Christian Church is to advance into all the world and that the forces of opposition will fail. At the centre of that advance are churches and people listening for, and obedient to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and ready to make the necessary personal and corporate sacrifices. For Barnabas and Saul their commission was to go into a part of Asia that had never heard the Gospel – there are still such places today.

Jesus said *'Go and make disciples of all nations'* (Matt 28:19).

May the great commission be not just an article of faith, but also the practical outworking of our lives as we listen to what the Spirit is telling us today. God bless you today as you play your part in that ministry wherever you are and whatever your role.

Christine Osman – Scotland - formerly Treasurer of The Leprosy Mission International



The perils of public pianos

Last night, when I was flying out of King Shaka Airport, a lady sat down at the concourse piano and began to thump the keys, all the while conducting an animated conversation on her phone. She had a huge smile on her face as she assailed her unwilling audience with her loud and discordant barrage. I glanced around at my fellow victims. Some were smiling with embarrassment, others in disbelief and the rest were immersed in their phones, hoping that she would soon stop. However, she was merely getting into her stride and her aural assault acquired greater vigour.

Quite some time later, a group of young ladies walked past and exchanged cheerful greetings with her. Our pianist now went into full multi-tasking mode, continuing with both her telephonic conversation, her bashing of the keys and lively banter with her new friends, one of whom decided to try to give her an impromptu piano lesson. After the opening bars of a nursery rhyme, our entertainer abruptly rose from her seat and headed for the departure gate. Smiles of relief appeared on the faces of my fellow passengers, who were now free to contemplate the waiting horrors of budget flights. I'll give South African airlines their due – when they advertise 'no-frills' travel, they go all-out to live up to their promise.

We all have to start somewhere. Maybe this was the first time that this lady had had access to a piano. Elton John and other famous musicians taught themselves to play the piano, although in the case of my airport apprentice, I think it will be some time before she is able to sell out the O2 arena. Most of us need a teacher and formal training to develop a skill or master an instrument.

The Bible is full of people who served their apprenticeships in the most unlikely places – deserts, prisons and fishing boats, and, of course, a carpenter's shop. People free of the shackles of worldly status often seem to be the best-suited to devoted discipleship:

'For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.' 1 Corinthians 1: 25- 29

A few things to think about today:

- When did you realise that God was calling and preparing you for something special?
- Where did you serve your apprenticeship?
- Who were your most influential teachers? What are the qualities that you most appreciated about them? [One of my teachers learnt his craft in a prisoner-of-war camp, where prisoners traded skills with each other].
- What has surprised you about the skills and talents that the Lord has revealed and developed in you?

A closing meditation:

“Lord, in my imagination, I hear myself playing a great symphony, but to the people around me, I sound like a naughty toddler, hammering the keyboard. Teach me your ways, so that I might be in tune by being attuned to you.”

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.



For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Galatians 5 v 15

When I heard this verse read from Paul's letter to the Galatians chapter 5, I asked myself is that the only time Paul uses words attributed to Jesus in his letters. There are of course the words we use at communion see Luke and I Corinthians 11, remember that the epistle is written quite a few years before the gospel according to Luke. These words must have been circulating among the early believers.

Of course Paul did not have access so the gospels. I wonder how many of the parables and other teachings of Jesus he had heard.

But these words You shall love your neighbour as yourself are much older than the first century.

You may remember that In Matthew 22 a lawyer asks Jesus which is the greatest commandment his answer is « You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your should and with all your mind, the second is like it, *'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'* *On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.* » *Matthew 22 v 37*

The command to love your neighbour as yourself is vey old indeed; in our Jewish Christian history how often have people really followed it. When we travel or read how often one sees the marks of wars that raged though the Middle East and Europe and often further afield. Generations have not taken it to heart.

Is it because we don't know how to love ourselves that we can't love others? We can be very hard on ourselves thinking we should and maybe think we can be perfect; but we aren't and we can't be; we fall short, and we need and have to accept that. If we can accept that in ourselves maybe we can also accept in others.

In the short time my father spent preparing us for our marriage one thing he said was the importance of being kind.

Be kind both to yourself and others so that you can Love your neighbour as yourself.



Psalm 103

Of David.

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
² Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:
⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.

¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰Praise the LORD, you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
who obey his word.

²¹Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts,
you his servants who do his will.

²²Praise the LORD, all his works
everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the LORD, my soul.



Psalm 104

- ¹ Praise the LORD, my soul.
LORD my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.
- ² The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment;
he stretches out the heavens like a tent
- ³ and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.
He makes the clouds his chariot
and rides on the wings of the wind.
- ⁴ He makes winds his messengers,
flames of fire his servants.
- ⁵ He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.
- ⁶ You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
- ⁷ But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;
- ⁸ they flowed over the mountains,
they went down into the valleys,
to the place you assigned for them.
- ⁹ You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.
- ¹⁰ He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.
- ¹¹ They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
- ¹² The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.
- ¹³ He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.
- ¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:
- ¹⁵ wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.
- ¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
- ¹⁷ There the birds make their nests;

the stork has its home in the junipers.
¹⁸ The high mountains belong to the wild goats;
the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.
¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.
²⁰ You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.
²¹ The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.
²² The sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.
²³ Then people go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.
²⁴ How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.
²⁶ There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.
²⁷ All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
²⁸ When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
²⁹ When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.
³⁰ When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.
³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
³² he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the LORD.
³⁵ But may sinners vanish from the earth
and the wicked be no more.
Praise the LORD, my soul.
Praise the LORD.



Jesus is the Light of the World

John 9

They all looked but none saw him. If they saw him they would have to confront their own blindness. This man blind from birth is not just a single individual, he is every man, every woman. The only difference between him and all the others in today's gospel is that he knows he is blind.

Blindness is not about the quality of our vision or the condition of our eyes. It is not about the darkness around us but, rather, it's about the darkness within us.

How we see others, what we see in the world, the way we see life, is less about the objects of our seeing and more about ourselves. We do not see God, people, things, or circumstances as they are, but as we are.

And until our eyes are opened by Christ, our seeing is really just a projection of ourselves onto the world. What we see and how we see, manifests our inner world. They describe and point to the fears, attachments, and beliefs within us.

If we wish to see God, life, and others as they really are, then we must attend to what is going on within us. True seeing begins in the heart, not the eyes. And we must begin to acknowledge the fears, attachments, and beliefs that live within us and how they have impaired our vision.

As a boy Robert Louis Stevenson was intrigued by the work of the old lamplighter who went about with a ladder and a torch, setting the street lights ablaze for the night. One evening in Edinburgh, as young Stevenson stood watching with childish fascination, his parents heard him exclaim, "Look, look! There is a man out there punching holes in the darkness!"

With one statement of childish wonder, Robert Louis Stevenson summed up the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came into this world and accomplished many great and miraculous wonders, yet His primary purpose was to punch great gaping holes in the spiritual darkness that shrouded this world.

He came to be The Light of The World.

Gordon Brown

Scotland - 2008-2011 Vice Chair of TLM Scotland, 2011-2015 Honorary Treasurer of TLM International. Kindly sending his good wishes to the TLM family!



"He touched me"

"Jesus reached out and touched the man ..." Mark 1:41

Dozens of men, women and children crowded around the doctor and medical staff at the leprosy control clinic under the tree in the mountain valley in Nepal. It was a beautiful morning and most people were cheerful as they chatted and waited for their turn to be examined.

He was in his mid-40's and stood forlornly about 50 meters from the crowd, looking wistfully in the direction of the doctor. His sad, tired, resigned expression identified him as someone whose life had not been easy. The deformed, clawed hands testified to the tragic results of years of untreated leprosy and neglect.

Asking the interpreter to accompany me, I went to chat with the man. Knowing that in some cases it was now possible through reconstructive surgery to restore mobility and usefulness, I took his hand in mine and examined his fingers. Unfortunately, the degree of muscle absorption and general damage was such that, humanly speaking, very little could be done to help him.

Looking into his face to explain the situation, I was surprised and startled to see tears rolling down his cheeks. Realizing that his hands had become totally insensitive to feeling or pain, I knew that I could not possibly have hurt him, so I asked "Why are you crying?".

His response was significant "You are the first person in 9 years that has touched me. The gods have cursed me with leprosy, my wife and children have left me. I am just an outcast rejected by all. Why did you touch me? Are you not afraid?"

We shared the good news of God's love and referred to Jesus' willingness to reach out and touch all people in need. Regardless of our physical state or social status we all need to find forgiveness and life in Him.

He received Christ as his saviour and for many years he went from village to village telling people "God does not want us to be punished for our sins, He took them upon Himself in Christ Jesus. He touched me and made me clean and He can do it for you too."

Have I experienced His cleansing touch? If not, am I willing to come to Him knowing that He is willing and able to transform my life? If yes, am I reaching out and touching others in His name?



Good Attitude produces good outcome

“Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

Mark 7:28 – 29 (NIV)

Jesus Honors a Syrophenician (Gentile) Woman’s Faith and attitude and her story should get our attention as we think of the importance and outcome of having a good attitude. Here is a woman who is in serious need; her daughter is possessed and or oppressed by the demon; only God knows if this woman (who is not a Jew) is a single woman and may be her daughter is her only child, we don’t know, but what we can conclude is: this woman has been going through a lot of hardship, and is overwhelmed with the health challenge or wellbeing of her daughter. We expect such a woman to be stressed, and when under stress, it is natural for us to find it difficult to be polite, or cope well with our relationship with people especially people we knew could help us but are not willing. This woman has every reason to be upset with Jesus, for calling her a dog, for preferring to help another race and ignore her need. She has every reason to think life is not fair; her case should have received special attention but here she’s been ignored. But the woman persists begging Jesus to attend to her. Here is a woman who is ready to do anything to see her daughter delivered, a deep love of a mother to a child. When Jesus finally spoke, you would expect it to be an encouraging word, but Jesus makes it known to the woman that she is not his priority, *‘it is not right to take the food from children and throw it to the dogs’ (vs.27)*.

At that period Jesus statement has justification, just like today we all have priorities and even as TLM we are careful to spend our resources only on people affected by Leprosy. Jesus was right to be focus on His primary task. It is not right to leave our primary assignment to attend to other things. But the woman refused to accept ‘NO’ for an answer. She admitted that what Jesus said was true; it is pointless to fight the truth. To admit or accept the truth will help us to go far in making progress in life. It is of no value to argue and explain away the truth and try to justify lies. The woman was able to seek for the dog portion as the scraps that fall from the table. This brings back memories of my life in the village at dinner time, you will see stray dogs waiting for leftovers or crumbs that accidentally fell to the ground from the table and they grabbed it fast, sometimes before the crumbs reached the ground.

The attitude of this woman to be contented with Jesus’ scraps or left overs, knowing that such a remnant is sufficient to cast out the demons oppressing her daughter makes the Lord to respond to her need and immediately her daughter was made whole. She received her request because she was humble enough to take whatever God offered her.

Whereas if I consider the children of Israel in the wilderness, even though they are the chosen ones, God was displeased with them because of their attitude. They murmured and complained over every provision of God; they complained about the manna and longing for meat, they complained about Moses staying too long on the mountain and sought for another god to worship, they murmured to Moses about the bitter

water, the lack of water and some even challenge Moses leadership. Their murmuring got to a point God was tired of their attitude and complaining and sent snakes to bite them. They refused to go to the Land of Promise because they saw giants and they felt like grasshopper in their size. God was so displeased with them that he decided that none of the men who left Egypt would enter Canaan except Joshua and Caleb.

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

At this challenging period in our world, what will help us to maintain our sanity and draw God's attention to meet our needs is right attitude. We need to cultivate the attitude of thanksgiving even when things are not working to our expectation. We need to appreciate God and submit always to His will and way even when we do not have clarity to what He is doing and where He is taking us. Let us be assured of His faithfulness and trust, He is the One who owns tomorrow and all shall be well with us.

Since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us give thanks, and through this let us offer worship pleasing to God in devotion and awe. Hebrew 12:28 (NET)

Peace!

Bunmi Oluloto

A Brother and Servant of Christ planted in Niger Republic as TLM Country Leader for Niger and Chad



hope ur ok

“Do I contradict myself? Very well then I contradict myself, (I am large, I contain multitudes.)”

This quote is from a book by Walt Whitman, but it's a pretty good description of God's Church, no? We disagree a lot. Often we disagree a lot more passionately than we agree.

I'm an Anglican and I saw that happen too much at the recent Lambeth Conference (a once-in-a-decade gathering of Anglican bishops from across the world). There were a number of bishops who refused even to attend because they disagreed so strongly with some other bishops on the question of human sexuality. When I think about how much the Anglican Church can achieve together, it makes me sad to see that some leaders won't even speak with others.

So can we, as Christians, show the world how to live together in perfect unity? I don't think so. I think that's a farfetched dream. But maybe if we can't do that, we could instead show the world how to disagree gracefully? We could show the world that it's possible to hold opposing views and still work together for the good of our world.

Are we there yet? Are we demonstrating this already? Sometimes. NGOs like TLM are a great example of when we do. But then you remember that public opinion of Christians often isn't informed by charities, but by popular culture.

Olivia Rodrigo is a 19-year-old pop icon. She has a song called 'hope ur ok'. In the song, she sings about a boy whose parents care more about the Bible than being good to their own child. It's not hard to pick up the subtext. She sings of the boy, 'I hope you know how proud I am you were created, with the courage to unlearn all of their hatred'.

When that's popular culture's understanding of what it means to be Christian, to disagree so strongly with your own child over things so simple and unnecessary and to cause such harm, we have a problem. Even more so when you realise that this perception of Christians is the norm, particularly among Rodrigo's generation.

So how do we show the world how to disagree gracefully? I don't feel hugely qualified to answer that enormous question, but I think I know where we should start.

Start by remembering that you never have - and never will - disagree with anyone who isn't made in the beautiful image of God. Every argument you have is with someone that is deeply loved by God for exactly who they are - exactly how He made them - and there's nothing you can do to change that.

If you disagree with someone's view or way of living, don't accuse them of following demons. Don't let them feel that God loves them any less than He loves you. Listen to them with compassion and hear things from their perspective. And while you listen, remember that one of God's two great commandments is to love that person, and all your other neighbours; to treat them how you want to be treated. That command doesn't come with caveats like 'only love your neighbour if they're a member of the same political party or religion or sexuality'. It means everyone.

No doubt there's a lot more to disagreeing gracefully than this, but it feels like a good foundation. That being said, I think it's also quite a difficult foundation to remember when you disagree so strongly with someone.

It's one I'm going to have to work at.

Tim Burton – Global Communications Lead at TLM's International Office.



God's Love

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17 (NABRE)

God's Love Creates

The starting point for understanding God's love is found in the story of creation in Genesis. Whatever God created, He found it "good." When He created man, He found it "very good." (Gen. 1:31). God created us in His image and likeness, thus we are created to mirror the nature of God. Because we are created by God who is love, we are made for love.

God's Love Saves

God is a father who passionately loves His children. He is a God who will "run out to meet us" whenever we decide to come back to Him; a God who will "come out" to comfort and assure us whenever we feel rejected, taken for granted, or hurt. The parable of the lost son (Luke 15:11-32). God is willing to give us all that He possesses even His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our redeemer, forgives our sins, restores us to communion with God (John 3:16)

God's Love Sustains

God is the giver of life. And since love comes from Him, it is also through Him that we are sustained in life. Thus, He gives us the Holy Spirit through Jesus. It is through the Holy Spirit that we are empowered to face life head-on. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in our prayers, unites us to Christ in the sacraments, and builds up our community and church. The Holy Spirit dwells in us and because of Him and through Him we can share in the exchange of love between the Father, who is Love, the Son who is Jesus, the beloved.

God's love is reflected in His creation, God's love is described in parable of the father and his two sons. But the fullest revelation of God' love is the sending of the Son to suffer and die that we may have life eternal.

How have you personally experienced of God's love?

For I have life, for I have breath, for I was formed in the womb of my mother, for I was born, for I was raised from a baby to an older person, for I have recovered from sickness, for I have been saved from accident, for I have family, for I have been baptized, for I am a Christian, and all of these uncountable moments are because of God's love given to me with such abundance.

Prayer:

Father in Heaven, thank you for your compassionate and merciful love. Grant me the grace to remember at all times, that Your love creates, Your love saves, and Your love sustains. I invite you to come into my life. I open myself to your blessings, forgiveness, and grace. I offer to you the areas in my life where I am asking for Your love to be manifest. Father, grant me the grace to know and love you more. Today I declare that I am your Beloved child. AMEN

Francisco da Costa. I joined The Leprosy Mission Timor – Leste in March 2013 and have managed three kinds of different five-year leprosy intervention projects.





Psalm 105

¹ Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.

² Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.

³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.

⁵ Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
⁶ you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.

⁸ He remembers his covenant forever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,
⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.

¹⁰ He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:
¹¹ "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit."

¹² When they were but few in number,
few indeed, and strangers in it,

¹³ they wandered from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another.

¹⁴ He allowed no one to oppress them;
for their sake he rebuked kings:

¹⁵ "Do not touch my anointed ones;
do my prophets no harm."

¹⁶ He called down famine on the land
and destroyed all their supplies of food;

¹⁷ and he sent a man before them—
Joseph, sold as a slave.

¹⁸ They bruised his feet with shackles,
his neck was put in irons,

¹⁹ till what he foretold came to pass,
till the word of the LORD proved him true.

²⁰ The king sent and released him,
the ruler of peoples set him free.

²¹ He made him master of his household,
ruler over all he possessed,
²² to instruct his princes as he pleased
and teach his elders wisdom.
²³ Then Israel entered Egypt;
Jacob resided as a foreigner in the land of Ham.
²⁴ The LORD made his people very fruitful;
he made them too numerous for their foes,
²⁵ whose hearts he turned to hate his people,
to conspire against his servants.
²⁶ He sent Moses his servant,
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
²⁷ They performed his signs among them,
his wonders in the land of Ham.
²⁸ He sent darkness and made the land dark—
for had they not rebelled against his words?
²⁹ He turned their waters into blood,
causing their fish to die.
³⁰ Their land teemed with frogs,
which went up into the bedrooms of their rulers.
³¹ He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,
and gnats throughout their country.
³² He turned their rain into hail,
with lightning throughout their land;
³³ he struck down their vines and fig trees
and shattered the trees of their country.
³⁴ He spoke, and the locusts came,
grasshoppers without number;
³⁵ they ate up every green thing in their land,
ate up the produce of their soil.
³⁶ Then he struck down all the firstborn in their land,
the firstfruits of all their manhood.
³⁷ He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold,
and from among their tribes no one faltered.
³⁸ Egypt was glad when they left,
because dread of Israel had fallen on them.
³⁹ He spread out a cloud as a covering,
and a fire to give light at night.
⁴⁰ They asked, and he brought them quail;
he fed them well with the bread of heaven.
⁴¹ He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed like a river in the desert.
⁴² For he remembered his holy promise
given to his servant Abraham.
⁴³ He brought out his people with rejoicing,
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
⁴⁴ he gave them the lands of the nations,
and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—
⁴⁵ that they might keep his precepts
and observe his laws.
Praise the LORD.



Psalm 106

- ¹ Praise the LORD.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- ² Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD
or fully declare his praise?
- ³ Blessed are those who act justly,
who always do what is right.
- ⁴ Remember me, LORD, when you show favor to your people,
come to my aid when you save them,
⁵ that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may share in the joy of your nation
and join your inheritance in giving praise.
- ⁶ We have sinned, even as our ancestors did;
we have done wrong and acted wickedly.
⁷ When our ancestors were in Egypt,
they gave no thought to your miracles;
they did not remember your many kindnesses,
and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.
- ⁸ Yet he saved them for his name's sake,
to make his mighty power known.
- ⁹ He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;
he led them through the depths as through a desert.
- ¹⁰ He saved them from the hand of the foe;
from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.
- ¹¹ The waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them survived.
- ¹² Then they believed his promises
and sang his praise.
- ¹³ But they soon forgot what he had done
and did not wait for his plan to unfold.
- ¹⁴ In the desert they gave in to their craving;
in the wilderness they put God to the test.
- ¹⁵ So he gave them what they asked for,
but sent a wasting disease among them.
- ¹⁶ In the camp they grew envious of Moses
and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD.
- ¹⁷ The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan;
it buried the company of Abiram.
- ¹⁸ Fire blazed among their followers;
a flame consumed the wicked.

¹⁹ At Horeb they made a calf
and worshiped an idol cast from metal.
²⁰ They exchanged their glorious God
for an image of a bull, which eats grass.
²¹ They forgot the God who saved them,
who had done great things in Egypt,
²² miracles in the land of Ham
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.
²³ So he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him
to keep his wrath from destroying them.
²⁴ Then they despised the pleasant land;
they did not believe his promise.
²⁵ They grumbled in their tents
and did not obey the LORD.
²⁶ So he swore to them with uplifted hand
that he would make them fall in the wilderness,
²⁷ make their descendants fall among the nations
and scatter them throughout the lands.
²⁸ They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor
and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods;
²⁹ they aroused the LORD's anger by their wicked deeds,
and a plague broke out among them.
³⁰ But Phinehas stood up and intervened,
and the plague was checked.
³¹ This was credited to him as righteousness
for endless generations to come.
³² By the waters of Meribah they angered the LORD,
and trouble came to Moses because of them;
³³ for they rebelled against the Spirit of God,
and rash words came from Moses' lips.
³⁴ They did not destroy the peoples
as the LORD had commanded them,
³⁵ but they mingled with the nations
and adopted their customs.
³⁶ They worshiped their idols,
which became a snare to them.
³⁷ They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to false gods.
³⁸ They shed innocent blood,
the blood of their sons and daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was desecrated by their blood.
³⁹ They defiled themselves by what they did;
by their deeds they prostituted themselves.
⁴⁰ Therefore the LORD was angry with his people
and abhorred his inheritance.
⁴¹ He gave them into the hands of the nations,
and their foes ruled over them.
⁴² Their enemies oppressed them
and subjected them to their power.

⁴³ Many times he delivered them,
but they were bent on rebellion
and they wasted away in their sin.
⁴⁴ Yet he took note of their distress
when he heard their cry;
⁴⁵ for their sake he remembered his covenant
and out of his great love he relented.
⁴⁶ He caused all who held them captive
to show them mercy.
⁴⁷ Save us, LORD our God,
and gather us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.
⁴⁸ Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Let all the people say, "Amen!"

Praise the LORD.



Meekness - Part 1

Bible Reading is taken from Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are (happy are) the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

What in the world is meekness and how can 'meek' people be happy?

I will confess, even I wasn't so sure at first. Looking at the teaching of Jesus, everything He says seems to challenge us to search for true happiness in places often overlooked.

But still – meekness? Happy are the meek?

What kid grows up with the goal of becoming meek? How many people do you know who put "more meekness" on their list of New Year's resolutions? This is a word difficult to get excited about because it's often totally misunderstood. Part of the reason is because of what it sounds like – *meekness sounds like weakness*. There is guilt by association. *I don't want to be weak, so I don't want to be meek.*

But there is nothing weak about meekness!

In fact, it's quite the opposite. The word 'meek' was often used in the context of taming or training a wild animal. It is their *strength* that is brought *under control*. It's the idea that *strength* doesn't have to be dangerous or threatening but can be incredibly useful – even a blessing. This is a strength that promotes security rather than elicits fear. It is not a *loss of power and strength*, but it is a *power of strength* that is brought into submission under the authority of a trainer or a leader.

This is how Jesus described Himself. Jesus is saying, "I will use My strength to carry your burdens. I will provide rest for your soul. Don't be afraid or intimidated by Me. My strength is a gift to you." [My paraphrase] *There is nothing weak about Jesus!*

Jesus harnesses His strength for the purpose of revealing God's love and grace. He lays down his life as the ultimate display of power over sin and death. Strength under control in submission to the Father. The ultimate example of meekness – the ultimate example of strength.

Dorothy Owen – On Behalf of The Leprosy Mission Papua New Guinea



Meekness - Part 2

Bible Reading is from John 3:27 "John answered, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

He lived in the wilderness and made his own clothes out of camel hair.

Sporting long hair and a beard, he was a man's man and I'm talking about John the Baptist.

In Matthew 11, Jesus says there was no man greater than John the Baptist. That's pretty high praise coming from Jesus. At the time, John the Baptist was leading a very large ministry. People came from miles around to hear him speak and to be baptized.

Throughout his ministry, John spoke about someone far greater who would be coming, the Messiah. Finally, at the height of John's popularity and amid the crowds of people gathered, Jesus showed up to be baptized by John. Think about what this would do for John's fame as a minister. He was the one who got to baptize Jesus. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. There was a voice from heaven saying, "This is My son whom I love and am well pleased."

In the midst of this amazing moment, something interesting begins to happen. All of a sudden, the attention moves from John to Jesus. John's followers see what's happening and begin to worry. We are losing our fame. We are losing our followers. Jesus is now more popular than John!

Real meekness was on full display in John's response. He doesn't become angry or frustrated that Jesus is suddenly more popular. He doesn't fight to hold onto his fame. Instead, John recognizes his place in a much bigger story. He acknowledges that from the beginning, this was never about him (John). He sees his story in light of God's glory. This is meekness. It's recognizing that God has given each of us a story and the point of our story is to reveal His glory.

The fact is, it has always been about God. Any fame or acclaim that comes our way is all about His name, not ours.

God may be using your life for very significant things, but when held up to the story of redemption, meekness sees your story as a very small part of what God is doing to reveal His glory. Meekness helps shape a proper perspective of life so that we don't get puffed up with pride or defeated in shame.

Meekness is an invitation to live for the Story that matters most of all.



Meekness - Part 3

Bible Reading is from: John 3:28-30 "You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him. The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore, this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease"

"Fake it 'til you make it."

It's a term we've all used and attempted to live out. Navigating a new destination, a family crisis, or just the day-to-day stresses of life – we've all tried to appear as if we've got it together.

If I'm being honest, there are many times when I feel insecure. Even if I act strong and tough on the outside, I often feel pretty powerless and insignificant on the inside.

Today, we tend to interchange the term *meek* with *weak*. But true meekness is anything but weak. In fact, *Jesus shows us that meekness is actually a strength. Using His strength, Jesus carried our burdens on the cross. Using His strength, He displays His gentleness and meekness to those recognizing their need for a Saviour.*

Jesus wasn't weak. But what does it mean for *me* and you to walk in meekness? For the rest of us, *meekness is an understanding of our story in light of God's glory.* It is a willingness to face the reality of who we are in the sight of a Holy God. Simply, it's viewing our life through the lens of the Gospel.

It's a perspective shift in how we view our lives. Meekness recognizes that all we have is from God and it is our joy in life to point back to Him. As John says, we need to get out of the way. God must increase and we must decrease. Why? Because the story that is being written with our life is a story that is all about Him. Our story is for His glory.

As we recognize our place in the story of God's love and grace, we begin to experience true happiness. If it is not about me or you, We, can truly celebrate & embrace each other. We can rejoice in the way God is using our life.

We can live with a settled assurance that for each one of us, the best is yet to come!



Prayer

Dear Father God

I pray for all those who are reading this devotional today. Please touch their lives in great and mighty ways. Please draw them closer to you and provide:

Comfort on difficult days,
Smiles when sadness intrudes,
Rainbows to follow the storm clouds,
Laughter to kiss their lips,
Sunrises to bring hope,
Sunsets to warm their hearts,
Gentle hugs when spirits sag,
Friendships to brighten their lives,
Beauty for their eyes to see,
Confidence for when they doubt,
Faith so they can believe,
Courage to speak the Truth in Love,
Patience to accept Your plans and purposes,
And love to complete their lives.

(Paraphrased from Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Help me to be faithful in prayer for others, as the Apostle Paul was for those he served.

Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labour of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends that God not only loves you very much but also has put His hand on you for something special. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

Thank You God for Your blessings for me and for each of Your children.

In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



Daily love

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

When we moved house we had to find a new plumber. It wasn't easy getting one, but when Jim turned up he was very helpful. He's a competent, conscientious and cheerful worker, and a conversationalist.

He told us a lot about his family. There's a teenage son, tragically hit by multiple sclerosis, and a wife Jim obviously adores. "She's a great woman, my wife," he said, "and we've got a good marriage. In 30 years she's never run out of coffee or toilet paper." We laughed.

There are many ways of showing love. The glossy magazines say diamonds are best. The slightly more modest weeklies advise us to say it with flowers. A hug, a kiss, a held hand, all help.

And there's the coffee and toilet paper way. I'm not suggesting this is women's work, but the faithful, quiet work that keeps homes going, keeps relationships good. The attention to detail, making sure that the everyday things are cared for. It may be earthy, but it's no less valuable for that.

The cup of coffee, and the rest, speak for themselves. Speak of looking ahead, anticipating needs, meeting them with loving ordinariness.

"Love is patient; love is kind..." writes Paul to Christians at Corinth, "Love will never come to an end." And whether we write books about it, or express it simply through the weekly shopping list, it all has meaning. Love expressed in an infinity of ways, mostly quiet.

Love is still at the centre of the universe. Still available. And God, who is love, is still trying to pour it into our lives.

*So many ways, Lord, in which you show your love.
Sometimes, its very ordinariness surprises me.
No drama here, no lightning flash or thunder-clap.
Just faithfulness, in spite of all I do to make it difficult.*

*I make myself unlovely, yet still your love surrounds me, seeks out the cracks in the hard shell of my ego,
and seeps in unrecognised.*

Extract from Facing the Storm, first published 1989. – with the kind permission of Judith Merell, 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)

Authors in ABC Order

Country

Textuarium in Canonic Order

<i>Bunmi Oluloto</i>	<i>21 September</i>	<i>Niger</i>	Genesis 1,31	<i>1 Sept</i>
<i>Christine Osman</i>	<i>15, 29 September</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	Psalm 99	<i>3 Sept</i>
<i>Dan Izzett</i>	<i>5 September</i>	<i>Zimbabwe/UK</i>	Psalm 100	<i>4 Sept</i>
<i>Daniel Donahaye</i>	<i>2 September</i>	<i>Australia</i>	Psalm 101	<i>10 Sept</i>
<i>David Beazley</i>	<i>12 September</i>	<i>UK</i>	Psalm 102	<i>11 Sept</i>
<i>David, psalmist and king of Israel</i>	<i>10, 17 September</i>	<i>Israel</i>	Psalm 103	<i>17 Sept</i>
<i>Dorothy Owen</i>	<i>26, 27, 28 September</i>	<i>Papua New-Guinea</i>	Psalm 104	<i>18 Sept</i>
<i>Eddie Askew</i>	<i>30 September</i>	<i>UK</i>	Psalm 105	<i>24 Sept</i>
<i>Élie Fofolo</i>	<i>6 September</i>	<i>DRCongo</i>	Psalm 106	<i>25 Sept</i>
<i>Elisabeth Barnett</i>	<i>16 September</i>	<i>UK / France</i>	Matthew 5,5	<i>26 Sept</i>
<i>Francisco da Costa</i>	<i>23 September</i>	<i>Timor Leste</i>	Matthew 5,9	<i>13 Sept</i>
<i>Gordon Brown</i>	<i>19 September</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	Matthew 28,19	<i>14 Sept</i>
<i>John Twynham - Perkins</i>	<i>9 September</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	Mark 7,28-29	<i>21 Sept</i>
<i>Otto Kingsley</i>	<i>7 September</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>	Mark 1,41	<i>20 Sept</i>
<i>Paul du Plessis MD</i>	<i>1 September</i>	<i>UK</i>	John 3,16-17	<i>23 Sept</i>
<i>Peter Laubscher</i>	<i>14 September</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>	John 3,27	<i>27 Sept</i>
<i>Pradeep and Sarah Failbus</i>	<i>13 September</i>	<i>India</i>	John 3,28-30	<i>28 Sept</i>
<i>Raju PLN Dr</i>	<i>8 September</i>	<i>India</i>	John 9	<i>19 Sept</i>
<i>Silvano Perotti</i>	<i>20 September</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>	John 12,23-24	<i>8 Sept</i>
<i>Tim Burton</i>	<i>22 September</i>	<i>UK</i>		
			Romans 8,32	<i>6 Sept</i>
			1 Cor 1,25-29	<i>15 Sept</i>
			1 Cor 11,31	<i>12 Sept</i>
			1 Cor 13,4-7	<i>30 Sept</i>
			Galatians 5,15	<i>16 Sept</i>
			1 Thess 1,2-4	<i>29 Sept</i>
			1 Peter 2,9-10	<i>9 Sept</i>