



TLM Daily Devotions

November 2022





This day a tradition is to celebrate those passed away. Instead of doing this in a retrospective way we celebrate in hope God Almighty, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Eternal.

A New Heaven and a New Earth

Revelation 21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”¹ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’² or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹²It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. ¹⁶ The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia³ in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits⁴ thick.⁵ ¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.⁶ ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its

lamp. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.



A Medical Missionary - Part 5

Facing the End

'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!' (Mark 9:2)

'It is the word of a gentleman of the most strict and sacred honour, so there's an end of it!' he says to himself as he places his finger for the thousandth time on the text on which he stakes his life. *'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'* He is surrounded by hostile and infuriated savages. During the sixteen years that he has spent in Africa, he has never before seemed in such imminent peril. Death stares him in the face. He thinks sadly of his life-work scarcely begun. For the first time in his experience he is tempted to steal away under cover of the darkness and to seek safety in flight. He prays! 'Leave me not, forsake me not!' he cries. 'Should such a man as I flee?' he asks himself. 'Nay, verily, I shall take observations for latitude and longitude tonight, though they may be the last. I feel quite calm now, thank God!'

The incident would be repeated time and again. That's F.W. Boreham, writing in 1920 in a style that seems uncomfortably out of date today about David Livingstone. As is often the case,, the challenge to 'Go into all the world' was accompanied by a promise. *'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.'* He had adopted the text as his own. It sits there in the subconscious. It comes into its own when the pressure builds up. We feel alone. He did, even though there were others, admittedly different, around. 'Is this genuine?' one might ask, or is it just a platitude to keep me going?

The medical missionary of the 21st century might not be exposed to the difficulties Livingstone faced, but weariness and burnout still occur; disappointments can lead to despair; unfulfilled hopes and unrealized goals may lead to depression. Questions around faith do arise. I have known of some former TLM colleagues who have, over time, chosen no longer to believe. The overwhelming burden of working in the world of suffering took its toll. Intellect replaced faith. Agnosticism became atheism.

In my practice as a palliative care physician in later years I often found believers approached the end with great uncertainty. 'Is it really genuine?' was probably in their mind too. Is it truly a living faith or self-deception? 'He said he would be here,' I would tell them, 'Just imagine him here.' That seemed to help.

I wonder what was ultimately in Livingstone's mind as the end finally came. Did he hold fast and say once again: 'It is the word of a gentleman of the most strict and sacred honour.' Or did he say with the father who wanted his epileptic son to be healed by Jesus:

'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.'?

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.



A Sheep... Not a Lamb!

Luke 15:1-7

This passage is the story of the lost sheep which the shepherd goes out to look for. Recently I was visiting friends on their farm where, amongst other activities, they have a flock of sheep. My friend had written a book about her husband the shepherd. Having read the book and chatting with them during that visit, I was reminded that a good shepherd knows his sheep. My friend has given each of his sheep a name and I know that he can tell just by looking which sheep is in front of him, which sheep has something of a problem, which sheep is not eating properly etc. It is a good reminder that our Good Shepherd, Jesus, knows each of us by name, knows what our problems are, knows if we are under the weather and not eating properly – He knows each individual sheep – that's you and me. That is an encouragement when things are not going so well BUT it is also an encouragement when things are going well, or when He is leading us to new pastures for different food or comfort.

But the story is also a reminder that with wonderful encouragement that Jesus knows me, knows all about me, all about my needs etc. A reminder that in that relationship with the Good Shepherd, I have a responsibility as well as encouragement. A responsibility that Jesus set out for Peter in John 21:15-19 and which comes down to us today – a responsibility to care for His sheep and to feed His lambs.

In her book, my friend quoted a poem which she had read. This poem reminds us clearly of that responsibility.

A Sheep...Not a Lamb!

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb that went astray in the parable Jesus told;

'Twas a grown-up sheep that wandered away from the ninety and nine in the fold;

*And out of the hilltop, and out in the cold, 'twas a sheep that the Good Shepherd sought;
And back to the flock and back to the fold; 'twas a sheep that the Good Shepherd brought.*

*Now why should the sheep be so carefully fed and cared for even today?
Because there is danger if they go wrong, they will lead the lambs astray.*

*The lambs will follow the sheep you know wherever they wander, wherever they go.
If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long 'til the lambs are as wrong as they.*

*So still with the sheep must we earnestly plead for the sake of the lambs today;
If the lambs are lost what a terrible cost the sheep will have to pay.*

Author unknown

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



Build good relationships

“Do not seek your interest, but seek the interest of others” Philippians 2.4

These words that Paul writes to the Philippians involve acting on five points:

1) *Genuinely care about others:*

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; Weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:15). This is only possible by taking the time to discover the universe of the other.

2) *Be optimistic:*

“A joyful heart gladdens the face, but sadness discourages the mind” (Prov 15:13, PDV). Don't unload your problems on others, they have enough of their own. Bring them to the Lord in prayer.

3) *Watch your words and never reveal all your thoughts:*

“The fool displays all his feelings, but the wise refrains from showing his” (Prov 29:11). The form of a speech is as important as the content. So always be friendly and courteous.

4) *Be dependable:*

The Bible says that in the end times, men will be, among other things, traitors (see 2Ti 3.1-4), but we do not have to confirm to this prophecy. Just keep your promises. Actions count, not words. It is therefore necessary to do and mean what you say.

5) *Be Encouragers:*

Barnabas was known to motivate and encourage believers (see Acts 11:23). If you push a child on a swing, he starts pumping and moving on his own. He just needed a little help getting started. A single smile can do wonders. Job said:

“When I smiled at them, they dared not believe it, watching my face for a benevolent sign” (Job 29.24, BFC). Sometimes it's so simple!

Prayer of the day

Teach me Lord to encourage others.

Bâtir de bonnes relations

« Ne cherchez pas votre intérêt à vous, mais cherchez l'intérêt des autres » Philippiens 2.4

Ces mots que Paul écrit aux Philippiens impliquent d'agir en cinq points.

1) Se soucier sincèrement des autres :

« Réjouissez-vous avec ceux qui se réjouissent ; pleurez avec ceux qui pleurent » (Ro 12.15). Ce n'est possible qu'en prenant le temps de découvrir l'univers de l'autre.

2) Se montrer optimiste :

« Un cœur joyeux réjouit le visage, mais la tristesse décourage l'esprit » (Pr 15.13, PDV). Ne déchargez pas vos problèmes sur les autres, ils en ont assez des leurs. Amenez-les au Seigneur dans la prière.

3) Surveiller ses paroles et ne jamais dévoiler toutes ses pensées :

« L'insensé étale tous ses sentiments, mais le sage se retient de montrer les siens » (Pr 29.11). La forme d'un discours est aussi importante que le fond. Il faut donc toujours rester aimable et courtois.

4) Être fiable.

La Bible dit que dans les derniers temps, les hommes seront, entre autres, des traîtres (voir 2Ti 3.1-4), mais on n'a pas à confirmer cette prophétie. Il suffit de tenir ses promesses. Les actes comptent, pas les paroles. Il faut donc s'arranger pour donner du sens à ses propos.

5) Encourager.

Barnabas était connu pour motiver et encourager les croyants (voir Ac 11.23). Si vous poussez un enfant sur une balançoire, il se met à pomper et à se mouvoir tout seul. Il avait juste besoin d'un peu d'aide pour démarrer. Un seul sourire peut faire des merveilles. Job a dit :

« Quand je leur souriais, ils n'osaient pas y croire, guettant sur mon visage un signe bienveillant » (Job 29.24, BFC). C'est parfois si simple !

Prière du jour

Apprend-moi Seigneur à encourager les autres.

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



Psalm 117

¹ Praise the LORD, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.

² For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Praise the LORD.



Psalm 118

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

² Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”

³ Let the house of Aaron say:

“His love endures forever.”

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say:

“His love endures forever.”

⁵ When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD;
he brought me into a spacious place.

⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?

⁷ The LORD is with me; he is my helper.

I look in triumph on my enemies.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in humans.

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to trust in princes.

¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹¹ They surrounded me on every side,
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹² They swarmed around me like bees,
but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

¹³ I was pushed back and about to fall,
but the LORD helped me.

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:
“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”

¹⁷ I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.
²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
²³ the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.
²⁵ LORD, save us!
LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.
From the house of the LORD we bless you.
²⁷ The LORD is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up to the horns of the altar.
²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Rooted and built up in Him

It was a privilege to be able to attend the Global Fellowship Members Meetings at the end of September, all the more so as these were the first 'in person' meetings for 3 years. They took place in Lane End Conference Centre in the UK, which is set in the most beautiful grounds.

To take advantage of the beautiful setting, some of us met at 6.30am to go for a walk. And how the Lord rewarded us for dragging ourselves out of bed! Beautiful sunrises, galloping deer, and magnificent trees.

I was invited to lead one of the Morning Prayer sessions, and the beautiful, autumnal horse chestnut trees inspired me. I love horse chestnut trees because of their golden autumn leaves, and because their 'fruit' they bear in autumn: horse chestnuts, also known locally as 'conkers'.



These beautiful trees can live for up to 300 years, and grow to about 40 meters tall. They are so old, yet seemingly timeless; so tall and upright despite their age. Also so strong, in the face of the many storms and climate shocks they must have withstood in their long lives. However, all of the qualities we see are dependent on the quality of what we cannot see: the trees' roots.

The Leprosy Mission is as old as many of the beautiful trees in Lane End. It has stood strong for almost 148 years old. It has stood firm despite many storms over those 148 years. The reason why? Because of the health of its roots.

As we face this new day, where we play our part in delivering our God-given vision to defeat leprosy and transform lives, can I suggest the following Bible verses for today:

'So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.' Colossians 2: verses 6&7

These verses inspire us to:

Live Our Lives in Him

Let us bring Christ into everything we do- our lives are His; this is His Mission. If we surrender to his will, he will bring about 'his good purposes for His Mission

Be Rooted and Built Up In Him

A tree is as healthy as its root system. The deeper the roots, the healthier the tree. Our faith is the same way. The deeper we go in our relationship with Christ, the greater our impact becomes.

Our roots must dig deep into Christ through His Word, worshipping Him, and reflecting his character to those around us.

Be Strengthened In the Faith

Over time, our faith will become stronger or weaker, but it will not stay the same. We have to work on our faith, intentionally, for it to get stronger.

Be Overflowing With Thankfulness

Thankfulness breeds faithfulness.

Let us keep our eyes on the goodness of God, and we will be overflowing with thankfulness because of what He has done for us, is doing for us, and will do for us, and for His Mission!

Jo-Anne Thomson - Head of Fundraising, International Office



The Magnificence of the Cross of Calvary - Part 6

The Cross of Crossover

Luke 23:42-43 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Mathew 27:51 'At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom....'

There were three types of people at the Cross with Jesus. First, the followers of Jesus who courageously followed him to the cross. Second, the clueless people namely Roman soldiers doing their job and the two criminals receiving punishment. Third, the self-righteous religious leaders.

A spiritual war took place on Mount Calvary on the crucifixion day. One criminal called out to Jesus to release him from the cross and relieve his pain. He did not think of what he can do for Jesus, but only what Jesus should do for him. The other criminal accepted, 'I know that I deserve what I am getting but I want more than just my pain to go away. I want to be in Paradise with you, Jesus. Only you can grant me that.' He pleaded with Jesus to save him spiritually; to take care of his soul.

He realized that he deserved to die for his crimes/sin. Yet, he saw a ray of hope in Jesus for eternal life after death. It took faith for the dying man to trust another dying man! He recognized Jesus as the King of humanity as well as the Triune God. So he said, Jesus, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." He saw the sufficiency of the Saviour in Jesus. He entrusted his soul to Him.

His pleading was not a single random utterance. He kept storming the ears of the Savior saying, 'Jesus, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom next time.' These words kept reverberating in the ears of Jesus. There was conviction in his words. Significantly, he did not say, "if," but "when". He believed that Jesus would come back next as the King of the world. He was sure of that. He believed that Jesus is God, who even while is being crucified on a cross can forgive him. He committed his salvation into the safety of Jesus Christ's hands.

And Jesus did not let him down. He replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise". Jesus was saying, 'I will do more than what you have asked. I will take you with me to Heaven, today'. Jesus granted him eternal life beyond this world, right there on the cross, not for his works but because of his great faith. "Truly I say to you", are words of commitment, confidence, assurance, truth and finality from Jesus. 'I will not fail you. You can depend on me'. In essence, these words were not from a cross, but from a King on His throne.

Jesus' reply was one of loving intimacy. The Lord's reply emphasized 'with me'. By these words, Christ exceeded the man's expectation. Christ told him, in effect, 'I need not remember your request, for today you will be with me in Paradise.' "Today" and "with me" tell us that both the sinner and the Saviour will together enter victoriously into God's presence, that very same day. By grabbing the opportunity of salvation without delay, the second criminal got saved. At his deathbed he found eternal life. When he closed his eyes and breathed his last on the cross, next when he opened his eyes, he saw Jesus in Heaven.

He 'crossed over' from this world into eternity with Jesus. A revolting sinner was transformed into a saved soul acceptable in the holy presence of God. While Christ was crucified between two transgressors, He assured salvation to only one of them; the one who was humble to accept his sins. The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the Cross is sufficient to make us right with the holy and righteous God. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ only. God's love is always for us. Jesus was betrayed, rejected and despised; yet He brought salvation to mankind, in His name.

The Cross of crossover is our only hope for eternal life.

In gratitude for His glory.

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



The Wonderful name of Jesus - Part 1

Do you know this could be the last time I'll ever write another article!

- Do you know this could be the last article you will ever read?
- Anyone of us could pass from life into eternity before the sun raises tomorrow morning or even sets today!

Are you ready for eternity? Are you well saved?

Hebrews 9:27-28 AMP And just as it is appointed and destined for all men to die once and after this [comes certain] judgment, so Christ, having been offered once and once for all to bear [as a burden] the sins of many, will appear a second time [when he returns to earth], not to deal with sin, but to bring salvation to those who are eagerly and confidently waiting for Him."

Please note: I have nothing to offer you of any value but Jesus.

I want to write about: **The Wonderful name of Jesus**

I wonder how many names there are in the world?

- Who knows?
- Like the grains of sand on the seashores of the world!
- Yet there's a single name that stands out of all the names in the whole world.
- This single name in all of history is the name **Jesus!**
- History is His-story - The story of Jesus!

Philippians 2:9-11 NIVUK Therefore God exalted Him (Jesus) to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

What does that mean to us today in the 21st century?

1. Salvation

What does salvation mean:

Being forgiven of my sins, cleansed by the Blood of Jesus so that I don't have to spend eternity separated from God in hell. (Very simply put.)

Acts 4:11-13 "Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." Salvation (forgiveness of my sin) is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

Paul writes this statement in relation to God & mankind:

*Acts 13:38-41 Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that **through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through Him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.***

Then the prophet Joel:

*Joel 2:32 And **everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved**; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls."*

Colossians 2:13-15 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

*Are you saved; are you **well saved**?*

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.



The Wonderful name of Jesus - Part 2

2. Because I've called on the Wonderful name of Jesus I'm a new creation

*2 Corinthians 5:17-18 NLT This means that **anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.***

My future

- I belong to the Kingdom of God because of the name of Jesus,

My future

- Because I belong to Jesus my past has evaporated! It no longer exists!
 - It's gone & it's forgotten & is erased in the eternal records of heaven.
 - People on earth may remember but heaven has forgotten. If you are reminded of your past sin it's from the enemy of our peace.

Here is a WhatsApp from heaven to you:

*Micah 7:19 You will again have compassion on us; **you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.***

Here's another one:

*Psalms 103:11-12 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.***

And yet another one:

*Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, **They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.***

Because I've called on **the Wonderful name of Jesus** I'm a **new creation!**

- I have no negative, unrighteousness, record recorded about me in heaven.

That's why the Heavenly call goes out: "You must be born again" - It obliterates our past!

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The Wonderful name of Jesus - Part 3

3. What more is there to say about the Wonderful name of Jesus

First things first I want to quote disciple John, the last verse of the gospel he wrote

John 21:25

*And there are also many **other things that Jesus did**, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even **the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.** Amen."*

Jesus is an inexhaustible subject!

- That's why I'm saying **The Name of Jesus is wonderful!**
- His name has influence with God Our Heavenly Father when we pray.

John 16:23-24 *In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you **whatever you ask in my name.** Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. **Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.**"*

In the gospel of Mark we're given the great commission and Jesus said this:

*Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he **rebuked them for their lack of faith** and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. He said to them,*

#1

***Go into all the world and preach the gospel** to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

This wonderful name of Jesus needs to be taken to the whole world.

#2

*And these signs **will accompany those who believe:***

When we take this wonderful name of Jesus He backs us with **supernatural signs.**

Mark 16:19-20 *"So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And **they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.** Amen."*

What are these signs?

#3

*In my name they will **drive out demons;***

Demons flee at the mention of the wonderful name of Jesus

#4.

*they will speak in **new tongues;***

Christians are given a new language. The Babel separated people by different languages, the Upper-room outpouring gave mankind a new single language from God Himself, the language of Holy Spirit!

#6.

they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all;
We need not fear dangers. A snake bit Paul & he shook it off with no side effects.

#7

*they will **place their hands** on sick people, and they will get well.*
There is healing for our bodies in wonderful name of Jesus, that's why we pray for the sick.

Conclusion

We've just heard a little about the **Wonderful Name of Jesus**

- What's your relationship like with Jesus?
- Is it a mental thing or a **living day by day interaction** with Him?
- How often do you call on that Wonderful Name of Jesus?
- What a **Wonderful Name is the Name of Jesus!**

Jesus is the sweetest name I know,
And He's just the same as His lovely name,
That's the reason why that I love Him so;
For Jesus is the sweetest name I know.

*This could be the last article you would ever read on earth! Are you well prepared for **eternity**?*

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



Psalm 119

κ Aleph

¹ Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

² Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—

³ they do no wrong
but follow his ways.

⁴ You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.

⁵ Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!

⁶ Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.

⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.

⁸ I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.



Psalm 119

⌋ Beth

- ⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.
- ¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.
- ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
- ¹² Praise be to you, LORD;
teach me your decrees.
- ¹³ With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.
- ¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.
- ¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.
- ¹⁶ I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.



Finding inner calm

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you... Romans 15:7

Some people read the newspaper in the loo. That's easier with a tabloid than a broadsheet. But the other day a little book appeared on the windowsill in there. It was called *The Little Book of Calm* and the great thing about the book is that each page holds just one thought, a couple of sentences that you can read quickly and take to heart.

I say 'take to heart' – some of them you can take with a pinch of salt, like the one that says, 'Wear comfortable shoes'. A good idea, but not at the top of my list when it comes to measures to calm me down. 'Breathe less' is another. Slowing your breathing can help to calm you, but don't try to cut it out altogether. That would certainly calm you down but you wouldn't really feel the benefit.

Others are more helpful. 'Pretend to be human. Leave it to others to be perfect.' Now that's good advice. We try so hard to live up to other people's expectations, and our own. We try to be supermen and superwomen. Super cooks and super parents. We try to do everything perfectly. But it's not necessary. Now don't get me wrong. It's great to try to do the best we can but don't strive for the impossible. We're only human and that means none of us is perfect.

However hard we may try, we'll never be Nelson Mandela or Mother Teresa, Tom Cruise or Nicole Kidman. Just be happy to be you. Accept yourself as you are, that's the way Jesus accepts you, and then maybe a little calm will come into your life today.

Lord, you take my breath away. It's good to know that I'm accepted as I am. Teach me to open my arms to others as wide as yours are to me.

Extract from Love is a Wild Bird, first published 2003. With the kind permission of Judith Merell, Book selection and Publishing Manager, The Leprosy Mission Shop

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)



A message in the sand

NTD meetings brought me to Durban this week [via *that* public piano, this time being played rather more melodiously than on my previous raucous encounter].

During a break, I walked along the beach-front, admiring the sand-sculptures that adorn much of the promenade. Along with the usual “Welcome to Durban” and wildlife sculptures, the more enterprising artists now allow you to request dedicated messages, like birthday greetings and marriage proposals.

The idea is that as you coolly stroll along the beachfront, you exclaim to your partner, “Hey, look at that - someone wants to marry you!”

Do you get a refund if he / she says no?

I plan to commission a sculpture for World Leprosy Day 2023.

I admire these artists who have found a way to make a living from building sandcastles. [They’ve tried this in Cape Town, but the wind soon obliterates their handiwork – the balmy climes of Poison City are far kinder to the sculptors]. Where other people saw a pastime for children [of all ages], these sculptors saw an opportunity to create something interesting, entertaining and income-generating.

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.” Ecclesiastes 9:10

I’ve learnt a lot from these sculptors over the years, admiring both their artistic skills and their hard work and above all, their marketing abilities – they’ve learnt to craft ‘sandcastles’ that tourists find irresistible – we could learn a lot about fundraising from them.

No job is so humble that it is beyond the Lord’s ennobling blessing; and no job is so noble that it cannot be performed with Christlike humility.

As Christ transforms our view of our work, so too does He transform the view that we have of the work done by others. Let them know that you value their contributions. If they are in awe of you, remind them that plumbers have saved more lives than doctors – that’s why we promote WASH.

Sadly, the sandcastles, no matter how lovingly crafted, will eventually yield to the forces of the Indian Ocean. It is important that our work does not suffer the same fate. Today, you and I must build on the Rock, and we must build diligently.

Your hands will find work to do today. Make sure that it is work that is worthy of your fullest attention – ‘all of your might’. If it is worthy, then, in humility, you must approach it as the noblest of all enterprises.

May the Lord grant to each one of us today the grace to have hands filled with the works of His kingdom.

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 steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;”**

Lamentations 3:22 (New Revised Standard Version)

In UK we have been reflecting on the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Anyone in the country under 70 has never known another monarch, and we are now adjusting to (and praying for!) King Charles III. The Queen was a seemingly permanent figurehead, a model not just of sovereignty but of a life lived in the light and love of God and of Jesus Christ who, she said on several occasions, was her guiding light and eternal hope.

It was my privilege, with a few others representing TLM, to meet the Queen and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on the opening of the Princess Diana memorial fountain in Hyde Park, London, in 2004. The Leprosy Mission was one of the organisations of which Diana Princess of Wales remained Patron when she reduced her patronages in 1996. TLM therefore benefitted from the fund in her memory, with which the Noida Health Education and Media Centre in India was largely funded. We waited as the royal couple came along the line of representatives. We were all wearing TLM badges in different styles and colours. The Queen asked what the logo represented and we started by saying that they were all the same, to which the Prince -ever observant and sharp- retorted that obviously they were not all the same! So we explained the variations, but said that all were showing the representation of Jesus stooping to touch and raise the man with leprosy (Luke 5:13).

Since then our logo has been modified and reproduced in many forms, but the miracle shown is the same. In defiance of convention and religious purity laws, Jesus *“reached out his hand and touched the man”*; so he was not only healed but touched, spoken to, valued, and made ‘clean’ in religious terms, -no more stigma and discrimination, as we would think of it.

As I have treasured that memory since the Queen’s death I’ve been reminded that whatever the representations of our logo, on banners and badges, letterheads and leaflets, branding and publicity, the symbol and the fundamental ethos remain the same: reaching out in the name of Jesus Christ to those affected by leprosy. It leads me to reflect on the nature God’s love, -the same, yet shown in many forms. The Hebrew word is ‘hesed’, (חסד, pronounced kheh-sed”), which is translated in various ways, trying to capture the depth of meaning. It is the steadfast, abiding, compassionate, personal love of God, perhaps best characterised in Lamentations 3:22. It is the love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ, and now -we pray- reflected through us. To use a ‘theological’ term this is ‘incarnational’, God made flesh in us. You and I are -in that sense- *Jesus*, in whatever we do today. Let’s encourage and inspire ourselves with the truth that every aspect of TLM’s work is part of the body of Christ reaching out to those affected by leprosy. Everyone involved, from driver to surgeon, cleaner to clinician, fundraiser to researcher, is a vital part of that body. Our touch is his touch, our voice is his voice, today’s miracle of healing is followed through with the ‘cleansing’ of stigma, rehabilitation in families and communities, the dignity of self-help, vocational training and so much more. That is our ongoing vision, our privilege and calling.

May God bless you with joyful fulfilment today, whatever part of the body you are!

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 TLM 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



Five loaves and fishes - Part 1

Meeting the needs of others:

John 6: 1-13

The feeding of the 5000 is the one miracle, apart from the resurrection, found in all four Gospels. It shows that Jesus is the supplier of human needs, and sets the stage for the testimony that he is the bread of life (verse 35). This passage teaches us that meeting the needs of others is one of the great teachings of Jesus Christ, especially meeting the needs of others without their request is the greatest. Jesus sets this example for us in the incident in which Jesus fed the crowd of five thousand. Five thousand were men alone and then there were women and children in this crowd. This large crowd has been following Jesus for a very long time without rest and food. Most of the members of this crowd had been following Jesus for their selfish interest, maybe they wanted healing of their sickness or wanted resources to overcome their poverty. They wanted Jesus to help them in their problems. Very few may be there to listen to him because he was the son of God. But in this passage we read that Jesus is fulfilling the immediate and common needs of entire members of the crowd.

1. They were hungry and tired, and they must be fed. Jesus met and fulfilled their needs of hunger and rest: At sight of the crowd Jesus's sympathy was kindled. The crowd did not express directly and openly to Jesus but Jesus felt and experienced this need of others. This is great teaching to us by Jesus to us, to feel and realise the needs of others, that also without their request and expressions.
2. Jesus decided to immediately make arrangements to meet the needs of this crowd by asking disciple Philip to make arrangements for food for the crowd as he came from this area, Bethsaida (John 1:44) and would have local knowledge. We read in this passage that his response was despairing. He and other disciples also made excuses that arranging food at this time for the large crowd was not possible at all by giving many reasons. Like this we will also meet many people in our life, who will stop and discourage us when we want to follow the teachings of Jesus to help others for their needs. We have to learn here that we should not be discouraged and stop ourselves for meeting the needs of others.

3. Then Andrew appeared on the scene. He had discovered a boy who wanted to share his picnic lunch, five barley loaves and two fishes. We see two things here. The good character of Andrew, bringing other people to Jesus. At the very beginning, he brought Peter to Jesus and now he is bringing this young boy to Jesus. He is always ready to take second place, a great Christian character. Andrew did not know what he was doing when he brought that boy to Jesus that day, but he was providing material for a miracle. We never know what possibilities we are releasing when we bring someone to Jesus.

We see a big contrast between Andrew and Philip. Philip was a man who said: "The situation is hopeless; nothing can be done." Andrew was the man who said: "I will see what I can do; and I will trust Jesus to do the rest."

It was Andrew who brought that boy to Jesus, and by bringing him made the miracle possible.

No one ever knows what will come out of it when we bring someone to Jesus.



Five loaves and fishes - Part 2

Meeting the needs of others:

4. We also see here that the boy wanted to share his personal food (five barley loaves and two fishes) with others, even though it was not much and the quality was not of standard. Barley bread was the cheapest and considered poor man's food. But the great thing was that he offered his food to be shared with others. This teaches us that we must be ready to share whatever we have with others at the time of their needs. The boy had not much to offer but in what he had Jesus found the materials of a miracle. There would have been a greater deed fewer in history if the boy had withheld his loaves and fishes.

5. Jesus told the disciples to make the people sit down in rows on the grass field (near Bethsaida Julia's, other than Bethsaida in Galilee, Luke 9: 10, this was a grass field very near to the lake). In Luke, it is mentioned that the people were asked to sit in a row of 50. This shows that Jesus wanted things in an orderly and systematic way. Making rows of people is the best way for distributing the food, also eating the food in a sitting position is very comfortable. So we also have to learn from Jesus that we must also do things in our life in a well organised and systematic way.

6. Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks for them. Luke says He took the five loaves and two fishes and looked up into heaven and blessed them. When he did that he was acting as father of the family. The grace he used would have been the one that was used in every home. We may regard this simply as a miracle in which Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes. Some suggest that many in the crowd also had their own food which they did not show.

The loaves and fishes multiplied because blessings were asked before distribution. The blessings are said in every home in Palestine before every meal. Jesus would not eat without giving thanks to the Giver of all good gifts.

7. When they had eaten and were satisfied, Jesus said to the disciples: "Collect the broken pieces that are left over, so that nothing may be wasted". They filled twelve baskets with the broken pieces of the loaves which remained over after the people had eaten. At Jewish feast the regular practice was to leave something for a servant, no doubt the people left their usual part for those who have served them with the meal. Twelve baskets of the left over, the fragments were collected by the disciples.

Jesus needs what we can bring him in our life. It may well be that the world is denied miracle after miracle and triumphs after triumphs because we do not bring what we have and what we are. If we would lay ourselves on the altar of his service, there is no saying what he could do for us and through us. We may be sorry and embarrassed that we do not have much to bring- and rightly so: but that is no reason to fail to bring what we have. Little is always much in the hands of Christ.



Psalm 119

λ Gimel

- ¹⁷ Be good to your servant while I live,
that I may obey your word.
- ¹⁸ Open my eyes that I may see
wonderful things in your law.
- ¹⁹ I am a stranger on earth;
do not hide your commands from me.
- ²⁰ My soul is consumed with longing
for your laws at all times.
- ²¹ You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed,
those who stray from your commands.
- ²² Remove from me their scorn and contempt,
for I keep your statutes.
- ²³ Though rulers sit together and slander me,
your servant will meditate on your decrees.
- ²⁴ Your statutes are my delight;
they are my counselors.



Psalm 119

7 Daleth

- ²⁵ I am laid low in the dust;
preserve my life according to your word.
- ²⁶ I gave an account of my ways and you answered me;
teach me your decrees.
- ²⁷ Cause me to understand the way of your precepts,
that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.
- ²⁸ My soul is weary with sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word.
- ²⁹ Keep me from deceitful ways;
be gracious to me and teach me your law.
- ³⁰ I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I have set my heart on your laws.
- ³¹ I hold fast to your statutes, LORD;
do not let me be put to shame.
- ³² I run in the path of your commands,
for you have broadened my understanding.



“...as I have done for you...”

¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13

⁷Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13

A couple of Christmases ago I was given a book¹ containing 14 articles about contemporary Christians. The purpose of the book was to show how Christians across many spheres of life live out their faith, in sport, in politics, in academia, in finance and more.

Last Sunday I picked up the book again and began to read the chapter on John Lennox².

What struck me was not his robust defence of Christianity, but the influence and impact of his parents' faith lived out in front of him and in their community.

“His father ran a department store (in Armagh) employing some 40 people, and did so across the religious divide. It was a brave and costly stand to take, and left a lasting impression on the young Lennox: ‘My father had the deep conviction that all people were made in the image of God. His Christianity came across as really genuine.’”

Which got me thinking about my father. What lasting impression did he leave on me?

My parents were missionaries dependent on the generosity of God's people here and in other countries to enable them and their mission organisation to do the work that they were utterly convinced God had called them to.

As a boy, I remember hearing, many times, that the mission coffers were practically empty. Insufficient funds to meet the needs and responsibilities of the mission and its personnel.

And I clearly remember at those times my parents and all the other missionaries on the station and in each mission station across the organisation, praying.

Praying earnestly, praying persistently, praying continuously, praying believingly.

And at just the right time God answered their need, fully.

My lasting impression is of a father and mother who put their lives completely into the hands of a God whom they believed, knew and experienced to be a completely faithful God.

And of parents who did not doubt that God welcomes, hears, and answers the prayers of his children.

So, what will my children remember of me?

What lasting impression will my Christian walk have on my children?

But these are not just questions for parents and children. They are questions for all of us who walk Jesus' way.

What do my family, my friends, my neighbours, my doctor, the bus driver, the postman see of Jesus in me?
What do they see of Jesus in my conversations in my attitudes, in my behaviour?

John Twynam – Perkins - Formerly chair of TLM Scotland

¹Marcus Nodder, *City Lives* (10 Publishing 2018)

²John Carson Lennox (born 7 November 1943) is a Northern Irish mathematician, bioethicist and Christian apologist. *Wikipedia*



When God chooses you, who could against His decision?

Luke 11: 9-13 “And I tell you ask; and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone; or if he asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

First of all please accept my greetings to the Leprosy Mission families Peace be with you.

I want to use this opportunity to share my own story about God's blessings in my life.

My experience began with my battle with life: with no job and struggling as an eldest daughter and first child of my family. In 2019, after graduating, I started searching for a proper job to support my family. It took me 2 years to get the dream job with the leprosy mission in 2021. When I reflect on those 2 years, they were times of testing, years of fights, and years of believing that nothing is impossible for God. As a young woman in the patristic world, it was hard trying to compete for jobs that 'only a man' can do, but I got it. So, I have learned that when God chooses you, who can go against His decision?

I know my life journey will not be easy, it might be complicated, as I have experienced before with no money and not enough food, maybe I will have no job but one thing for sure is God is walking with me, I just need to trust, involve Him in every plan that I have and always ask for His guidance that I may overcome the situations and give glory to His name. Amen.

Joaninha da Graca – Gender officer

TLM Timor Leste

The Leprosy Mission family thanks for the precious Joaninha's greetings, praising God for her and wishing her every blessing!



Personal Testimony and Prophetic Words 1.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

I was recently reminded of a milestone in my faith journey and am prompted to share it with readers of the Bridge. It goes back to May 1976 when my wife and I were rapidly discovering what it meant to be active rather than passive Christian believers.

A few months earlier we had been talking with a single mother in our church who told us she was moving away from the area. We thought she might need some practical help in packing etc. so asked if there was anything we could do. She said nothing at the time, but a few days later the phone rang, and she asked to come round to talk.

We knew she had two daughters, one over 18 and capable of independent living and the other in her mid-teens, so we sat together, drank coffee, and listened to her story. Our church friend was moving quite a distance away to care for her elderly mother, but her 14 year old daughter didn't want to go with her. So, her question to us was would we look after her!

It was one of those God moments when without consulting, we both knew we had to say yes, so Annie moved into our spare room just before Christmas 1975.

We very quickly learnt that this was a complicated set-up, as she had a boyfriend who was 21 years old at the time. In this day and age this would have been an issue to report to the authorities, but in the 1970s things were very different.

Our life changed very quickly as we tried to provide a home for Annie, and generally things went OK – until we got to May the following year. On the eve of my wife and I leaving the country to help with a school trip to France, Annie came home late, and distraught. It's probably better I don't share the details, but it really needed us to contact the police or some other authority, but we were leaving early the following morning, and this was impossible. So we decided to wait till we returned, which was a week later, late on a Sunday. We were very nervous about what to do the following day, and anyway both of us had jobs we had to get to so it had to wait till 6.00.

The following morning the post on our doorstep included a letter from a close Christian friend who knew nothing of our dilemma. We opened it quickly before work and thought "that's nice" then put it aside. After work we visited the local police station (a very small unit) to be met with the friendly face of the sergeant whom my wife knew as the father of one of the children in the school where she taught. Praise God! He put us at ease, told us that he knew all about Annie and her family and had been keeping an eye on them. There was nothing to worry about. He also thanked us for what we were doing for her. We went home much relieved!

Continued tomorrow....



Personal Testimony and Prophetic Words 2.

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Joel 2:28

Continued from yesterday...

After supper we sat together to reflect on the day and opened our friend's letter again. It contained the following:

On 30th April 1976 after a period of prayer for a friend, I was moved to feed some paper into my typewriter. I was in complete control of all my senses and faculties – I was "normal". During the next hour or two I was "given" the following lines, I did not think them out, they just came as word, or a few words at a time. You may find a copy of them helpful. 12.5.76

*Listen to me O my people, hearken now and hear my voice;
For when you listen I will speak, and when you hear me you will know
That I am still the God of miracles, that I am still active among you
That my love for never ceases towards you and that you are mine.*

Lord do you really care? Do you really care for me?....

*Why do you doubt me? Why do you doubt my word?
Have I ever let you down? Have I ever failed to meet your needs?
Come and I will give you rest, come and I will give you life,
Bring your doubts – I'll give assurance
Bring your sins – I'll give release
Bring your sickness I will heal you
Bring your fears – I'll give you peace.*

*Jesus now to you I come, coming bring my all, claim forgiveness and your cleansing.
At your feet I fall....*

*Stand and look into my face. Reach out and touch my hand.
If you let me I will lead you, I will guide you in my plan.
Come now let us walk together. Let me fill you with my love.
Then each day will bring you nearer to our Father's home above.*

To my knowledge this is the one and only time our friend had been moved to share a prophetic word in this way. As you can imagine, we wept, we laughed, and we thanked God for his reassurance at a time when we both really needed it.

Annie stayed with us two years, then after splitting up with her boyfriend went to live with her mother – which is of course where she should have been all along!



The Spirit of Father Damien

The Leper Priest – A Saint for our Times

By Jan de Volder

Source: internet

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13,34-35

Damien had entered a house of death. From the moment he arrived at the leprosy settlement, his faith and his intellect intuitively knew that this was the challenge for which his huge missionary’s heart was longing.

Amid these biblical outcasts, who were not only utterly rejected but also radically disfigured, he understood that his presence could make a difference. These poor unfortunates were like sheep in need of a shepherd, children yearning for a father’s love.

“They are repugnant to look at, but they also have a soul redeemed at the price of the precious blood of our Divine Savior.’ – he wrote to his superior. ‘He too in this divine love consoled lepers. If I cannot heal them, as he souls, at least I can offer them comfort.’

That was Damien’s choice: to look at lepers with the loving eyes of Jesus.

Though we do not use any more the word “leper”, but the spirit and sense of duty of Father Damien is the very same and actual in our days, too: to make a difference by the power of love and compassion, to bring the good news of salvation to the sufferers, and look everyone with the loving eyes of Jesus... until leprosy is defeated. m-r-



Psalm 119

He

- ³³ Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.^[b]
- ³⁴ Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.
- ³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.
- ³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.^[c]
- ³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant,
so that you may be feared.
- ³⁹ Take away the disgrace I dread,
for your laws are good.
- ⁴⁰ How I long for your precepts!
In your righteousness preserve my life.

...and now start preparing your Christmas Bible-verse game for tomorrow!...



The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1,26 - 38

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[b] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



Have you ever played the “Christmas Bible-Verse Game”?!.....

Cut out 20x blank cards.

Numerate each of these 20 cards on the one side, from card Nr.1 to card Nr.20.

Write the appropriate Christmas Bible-Verse on the opposite side of each card

(Please use the suggested numbers and verses here below).

Between 1 and 20 players can participate in a single game.

Begin with card Nr.1 – read the verse out aloud and then elaborate upon it ad lib.

The game ends, when all 20 verses have been read out and commented on.

Players who participated sincerely and in Truth are the winners.

The aim of the game is to ‘put Christ back into Christmas’ during each new Advent Season!

Card Nr 1: Gen.3:15 – *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”*

Card Nr 2: Numbers 24:17a.....

Card Nr.3: Psalm 2:7,8.....

Card Nr.4: Isaiah 7:14.....

Card Nr.5: Isaiah 9:2.....

Card Nr.6: Isaiah 9:6,7.....

Card Nr. 7: Micah 5:2.....

Card Nr.8: Matth.1:18.....

Card Nr.9: Matth.1:21.....

Card Nr.10: Matth.1:23.....

Card Nr.11: Matth.2:10,11.....

Card Nr.12: Luke 1:30,31.....

Card Nr.13: Luke 1:35.....

Card Nr.14: Luke 1:37,38.....

Card Nr.15: Luke 2:6,7.....

Card Nr.16: Luke 2:10,11.....

Card Nr.17: Luke 2:14.....

Card Nr.18: John 1:14.....

Card Nr.19: 1 Cor.1:27.....

Card Nr.20: Gal.4:4,5 – *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”* - Amen.



Biblical “load-shedding”!

From just after the Fall of Man(Genesis Ch.3), work has become a necessary load for all!

Genesis3:19– *“From the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken.....and to dust you shall return.”*

Psalms 90:10- *“The years of your life are 70, or even by reason of strength 80; but their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.”*

Galatians6:5- *“For each will have to bear his own load.”*

Yet, throughout this life-long calling of work-load, we notice that God stoops to help us!

GOD CARRIES OUR LOAD

Deut. 1:31 – *“In the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.”*

Isaiah 46:4 - *“Even to your old-age I am HE, and to grey hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and I will save.”*

HALVE YOUR LOAD

Luke 10:1,2- *“After this the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them on ahead of Him, 2 by 2, into every town and place where He Himself was about to go. And He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few..... pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.’”*

Galatians6:2- *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*

1Peter4:10- *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”*

COMMIT YOUR LOAD TO THE LORD

Psalms10:14b- *“...to You the helpless commits himself; You have been the Helper of the fatherless.”*

Psalms37:5 – *“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act.”*

Psalms55:22- *“Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved.”*

LAY DOWN YOUR BURDEN

Psalms38:1,4- *“O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger.... for my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.”*

Hebrews12:1- *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...”*

“MY BURDEN IS LIGHT”

For tired laborers and heavy-burdened folk, Jesus wants to give His sufficient grace....

Matth.11:28-30- *“Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

1Cor.12:4-7- *“Now...there are varieties of gifts/service/activities, but it is the same God Who empowers them all in everyone,...”*

Matth.25:14,15- *“...to one He gave 5 talents, to another He gave 2 talents, to another 1,*

to each according to his/her ability..."

John15:16a- *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain,..."*

Eph.2:10 – *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

"When we allow God to shift, share or re-adjust our burden, we will be able to cope with it!"
-Henry Drummond (1851-1897)

Otto Kingsley erstwhile Cape Regional Director - TLM Southern Africa



USA Kansas senate session opening prayer:

This interesting prayer was given in Kansas, USA, at the opening session of their Senate. It seems prayer still upsets some people. When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father*, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says: "Woe to those who call evil good", but that is exactly what we have done. * We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. *

We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism. *

We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism. *

We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle. *

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. *

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. *

We have killed our unborn and called it choice. *

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. *

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. *

We have abused power and called it politics. *

We have embezzled public funds and called it essential expenses. *

We have insitutionalised bribery and called it sweets of office. *

We have coveted our neighbour's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. *

We have ridiculed the time-honoured values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, *Oh GOD*, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest.

In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively.

Kindly shared by Christine Osman

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

<i>Christine Osman</i>	<i>3 November</i>	<i>Scotland</i>		Psalm 117	5 November
<i>Dan Izzett</i>	<i>9, 10, 11 November</i>	<i>Zimbabwe/UK</i>		Psalm 118	6 November
<i>David Beazley</i>	<i>16 November</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalm 119	12,13,19,20,26 Nov
<i>Eddie Askew</i>	<i>14 November</i>	<i>UK</i>		Eccl 9,10	15 November
<i>Élie Fofolo</i>	<i>4 November</i>	<i>DRCongo</i>		Isaiah 41,10	23 November
<i>Father Damien</i>	<i>25 November</i>	<i>Belgium</i>		Lamentations 3,22	16 November
<i>Joaninha da Graca</i>	<i>22 November</i>	<i>Timor Leste</i>		Joel 2,28	24 November
<i>Jo-Anne Thomson</i>	<i>7 November</i>	<i>UK</i>		Mark 9,2	2 November
<i>John Twynham - Perkins</i>	<i>21 November</i>	<i>Scotland</i>		Luke 1,26-38	27 November
<i>John, prophet</i>	<i>1 November</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Luke 11,9-13	22 November
<i>Otto Kingsley</i>	<i>28–29 November</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		Luke 15, 1-7	3 November
<i>Paul du Plessis MD</i>	<i>2 November</i>	<i>UK</i>		John 6,1-13	17,18 November
<i>Peter Laubscher</i>	<i>15 November</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		John 13,14-15	21 November
<i>Pradeep and Sarah Failbus</i>	<i>17-18 November</i>	<i>India</i>		John 13,34-35	25 November
<i>Raju PLN Dr</i>	<i>8 November</i>	<i>India</i>		John 21,15	11 November
<i>Trevor Durston</i>	<i>23-24 November</i>	<i>UK</i>		Romans 15,7	14 November
				2 Cor 5,17	10 November
				Phil 2,4	4 November
				Col 2,6-7	7 November
				Hebrews 9,27-28	9 November
				Revelation 21	1 November