



# **TLM Daily Devotions**

**January 2024**



## **Intro to the month of January**

What a month and what a year!

The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our mission and the celebration of God's eternal grace!

The entire story of The Leprosy Mission until now is the story of God's faithfulness. He started it, He led it until now, and we beg for His inexhaustible faithfulness not only for this year 2024, but for all the years he still has a plan for.

We celebrate Him with joy and thanksgiving, with gratitude for those who have gone before us, and with excitement about all the surprises that God will prepare.

To Him be the glory!

**Marta**



## A new year – with the same Lord!

### Psalm 90

*A prayer of Moses the man of God.*

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

***Blessed new year, TLM!***



## Read through your Bible in one year

*Today the lovely Otto Kingsley is offering a wonderful tool and guide to us for reading the Bible through in one year!*

01-Jan	Matthew 1:1-25	Genesis 1:1-2:17	Psalms 1:1-6
02-Jan	Matthew 2:1-18	Genesis 2:18- 4:16	Psalms 2:1-12
03-Jan	Matthew 2:19-3:17	Genesis 4:17-6:22	Psalms 3:1-8
04-Jan	Matthew 4:1-22	Genesis 7:1-9:17	Proverbs 1:1-7
05-Jan	Matthew 4:23-5:20	Genesis 9:18-11:9	Psalms 4:1-8
06-Jan	Matthew 5:21-42	Genesis 11:10-13:18	Psalms 5:1-12
07-Jan	Matthew 5:43-6:24	Genesis 14:1-16:16	Psalms 6:1-10
08-Jan	Matthew 6:25-7:23	Genesis 17:1-18:33	Proverbs 1:8-19
09-Jan	Matthew 7:24-8:22	Genesis 19:1-20:18	Psalms 7:1-9
10-Jan	Matthew 8:23-9:13	Genesis 21:1-23:20	Psalms 7:10-17
11-Jan	Matthew 9:14-38	Genesis 24:1-67	Psalms 8:1-9
12-Jan	Matthew 10:1-31	Genesis 25:1-26:35	Proverbs 1:20-33
13-Jan	Matthew 10:32-11:15	Genesis 27:1-28:22	Psalms 9:1-6
14-Jan	Matthew 11:16-30	Genesis 29:1-30:43	Psalms 9:7-12
15-Jan	Matthew 12:1-21	Genesis 31:1-55	Psalms 9:13-20
16-Jan	Matthew 12:22-45	Genesis 32:1-33:20	Proverbs 2:1-11
17-Jan	Matthew 12:46-13:17	Genesis 34:1-35:29	Psalms 10:1-11
18-Jan	Matthew 13:18-35	Genesis 36:1-37:36	Psalms 10:12-18
19-Jan	Matthew 13:36-58	Genesis 38:1-39:23	Psalms 11:1-7
20-Jan	Matthew 14:1-21	Genesis 40:1-41:40	Proverbs 2:12-22
21-Jan	Matthew 14:22-15:9	Genesis 41:41-42:38	Psalms 12:1-8
22-Jan	Matthew 15:10-39	Genesis 43:1-44:34	Psalms 13:1-6
23-Jan	Matthew 16:1-20	Genesis 45:1-47:12	Psalms 14:1-7
24-Jan	Matthew 16:21-17:13	Genesis 47:13-48:22	Proverbs 3:1-10
25-Jan	Matthew 17:14-18:9	Genesis 49:1-50:26	Psalms 15:1-5
26-Jan	Matthew 18:10-35	Job 1:1-3:26	Psalms 16:1-11
27-Jan	Matthew 19:1-15	Job 4:1-7:21	Psalms 17:1-5
28-Jan	Matthew 19:16-30	Job 8:1-10:22	Proverbs 3:11-20
29-Jan	Matthew 20:1-19	Job 11:1-14:22	Psalms 17:6-12
30-Jan	Matthew 20:20-34	Job 15:1-18:21	Psalms 17:13-15
31-Jan	Matthew 21:1-17	Job 19:1-21:34	Psalms 18:1-6
01-Feb	Matthew 21:18-32	Job 22:1-24:25	Proverbs 3:21-35
02-Feb	Matthew 21:33-22:14	Job 25:1-29:25	Psalms 18:7-15
03-Feb	Matthew 22:15-46	Job 30:1-32:22	Psalms 18:16-24
04-Feb	Matthew 23:1-39	Job 33:1-34:37	Psalms 18:25-36
05-Feb	Matthew 24:1-31	Job 35:1-37:24	Proverbs 4:1-9
06-Feb	Matthew 24:32-25:13	Job 38:1-40:2	Psalms 18:37-42

07 Feb	Matthew 25:14-46	Job 40:3-42:17	Psalms 18:43-50
08 Feb	Matthew 26:1-30	Exodus 1:1-3:22	Psalms 19:1-6
09 Feb	Matthew 26:31-46	Exodus 4:1-6:12	Proverbs 4:10-19
10 Feb	Matthew 26:47-68	Exodus 6:13-8:32	Psalms 19:7-14
11 Feb	Matthew 26:69-27:10	Exodus 9:1-10:29	Psalms 20:1-9
12 Feb	Matthew 27:11-44	Exodus 11:1-12:51	Psalms 21:1-7
13 Feb	Matthew 27:45-66	Exodus 13:1-14:31	Proverbs 4:20-27
14 Feb	Matthew 28:1-20	Exodus 15:1-16:36	Psalms 21:8-13
15 Feb	Acts 1:1-22	Exodus 17:1-18:27	Psalms 22:1-11
16 Feb	Acts 1:23-2:21	Exodus 19:1-20:26	Psalms 22:12-21
17 Feb	Acts 2:22-47	Exodus 21:1-22:31	Proverbs 5:1-14
18 Feb	Acts 3:1-26	Exodus 23:1-24:18	Psalms 22:22-31
19 Feb	Acts 4:1-22	Exodus 25:1-26:37	Psalms 23:1-6
20 Feb	Acts 4:23-5:11	Exodus 27:1-28:43	Psalms 24:1-10
21 Feb	Acts 5:12-42	Exodus 29:1-30:38	Proverbs 5:15-23
22 Feb	Acts 6:1-7:19	Exodus 31:1-33:6	Psalms 25:1-7
23 Feb	Acts 7:20-43	Exodus 33:7-34:35	Psalms 25:8-15
24 Feb	Acts 7:44-8:3	Exodus 35:1-36:38	Psalms 25:16-22
25 Feb	Acts 8:4-40	Exodus 37:1-38:31	Proverbs 6:1-11
26 Feb	Acts 9:1-31	Exodus 39:1-40:38	Psalms 26:1-12
27 Feb	Acts 9:32-10:23a	Leviticus 1:1-3:17	Psalms 27:1-6
28 Feb	Acts 10:23b-11:18	Leviticus 4:1-5:13	Psalms 27:7-14
01 Mar	Acts 11:19-12:19a	Leviticus 5:14-7:10	Proverbs 6:12-19
02 Mar	Acts 12:19b-13:12	Leviticus 7:11-8:36	Psalms 28:1-9
03 Mar	Acts 13:13-41	Leviticus 9:1-10:20	Psalms 29:1-11
04 Mar	Acts 13:42-14:7	Leviticus 11:1-12:8	Psalms 30:1-7
05 Mar	Acts 14:8-28	Leviticus 13:1-59	Proverbs 6:20-29
06 Mar	Acts 15:1-21	Leviticus 14:1-57	Psalms 30:8-12
07 Mar	Acts 15:22-41	Leviticus 15:1-16:34	Psalms 31:1-8
08 Mar	Acts 16:1-15	Leviticus 17:1-18:30	Psalms 31:9-18
09 Mar	Acts 16:16-40	Leviticus 19:1-20:27	Proverbs 6:30-35
10 Mar	Acts 17:1-21	Leviticus 21:1-22:33	Psalms 31:19-34
11 Mar	Acts 17:22-18:8	Leviticus 23:1-24:23	Psalms 32:1-11
12 Mar	Acts 18:9-19:13	Leviticus 25:1-26:13	Psalms 33:1-11
13 Mar	Acts 19:14-41	Leviticus 26:14-27:34	Proverbs 7:1-5
14 Mar	Acts 20:1-38	Numbers 1:1-2:9	Psalms 33:12-22
15 Mar	Acts 21:1-26	Numbers 2:10-3:51	Psalms 34:1-10
16 Mar	Acts 21:27-22:21	Numbers 4:1-5:10	Psalms 34:11-22
17 Mar	Acts 22:22-23:11	Numbers 5:11-6:27	Proverbs 7:6-20
18 Mar	Acts 23:12-35	Numbers 7:1-65	Psalms 35:1-10
19 Mar	Acts 24:1-27	Numbers 7:66-9:14	Psalms 35:11-18
20 Mar	Acts 25:1-22	Numbers 9:15-11:3	Psalms 35:19-28
21 Mar	Acts 25:23-26:23	Numbers 11:4-13:25	Proverbs 7:21-27
22 Mar	Acts 26:24-27:12	Numbers 13:26-14:45	Psalms 36:1-12
23 Mar	Acts 27:13-44	Numbers 15:1-16:35	Psalms 37:1-9
24 Mar	Acts 28:1-16	Numbers 16:36-18:32	Psalms 37:10-20
25 Mar	Acts 28:17-31	Numbers 19:1-21:3	Proverbs 8:1-11
26 Mar	Mark 1:1-28	Numbers 21:4-22:20	Psalms 37:21-33
27 Mar	Mark 1:29-2:17	Numbers 22:21-23:26	Psalms 37:34-40
28 Mar	Mark 2:18-3:30	Numbers 23:27-26:11	Psalms 38:1-12

29 Mar	Mark 3:31-4:29	Numbers 26:12-27:11	Proverbs 8:12-21
30 Mar	Mark 4:30-5:20	Numbers 27:12-29:11	Psalms 38:13-22
31 Mar	Mark 5:21-6:6a	Numbers 29:12-31:24	Psalms 39:1-13
01 Apr	Mark 6:6b-29	Numbers 31:25-32:42	Psalms 40:1-8
02 Apr	Mark 6:30-56	Numbers 33:1-34:29	Proverbs 8:22-31
03 Apr	Mark 7:1-30	Numbers 35:1-36:13	Psalms 40:9-17
04 Apr	Mark 7:31-8:13	Deut. 1:1-2:23	Psalms 41:1-6
05 Apr	Mark 8:14-9:1	Deut. 2:24-4:14	Psalms 41:7-13
06 Apr	Mark 9:2-32	Deut. 4:15-5:33	Proverbs 8:32-36
07 Apr	Mark 9:33-10:12	Deut. 6:1-8:20	Psalms 42:1-6a
08 Apr	Mark 10:13-31	Deut. 9:1-10:22	Psalms 42:6b-11
09 Apr	Mark 10:32-52	Deut. 11:1-12:32	Psalms 43:1-5
10 Apr	Mark 11:1-25	Deut. 13:1-14:29	Proverbs 9:1-12
11 Apr	Mark 11:27-12:12	Deut. 15:1-16:20	Psalms 44:1-12
12 Apr	Mark 12:13-27	Deut. 16:21-18:22	Psalms 44:13-26
13 Apr	Mark 12:28-44	Deut. 19:1-20:20	Psalms 45:1-9
14 Apr	Mark 13:1-31	Deut. 21:1-22:30	Proverbs 9:13-18
15 Apr	Mark 13:32-14:16	Deut. 23:1-25:19	Psalms 45:10-17
16 Apr	Mark 14:17-42	Deut. 26:1-28:14	Psalms 46:1-11
17 Apr	Mark 14:43-72	Deut. 28:16-68	Psalms 47:1-9
18 Apr	Mark 15:1-32	Deut. 29:1-30:10	Proverbs 10:1-10
19 Apr	Mark 15:33-57	Deut. 30:11-31:29	Psalms 48:1-8
20 Apr	Mark 16:1-20	Deut. 31:30-32:52	Psalms 48:9-14
21 Apr	Romans 1:1-17	Deut. 33:1-34:12	Psalms 49:1-20
22 Apr	Romans 1:18-32	Joshua 1:1-2:24	Proverbs 10:11-20
23 Apr	Romans 2:1-16	Joshua 3:1-5:12	Psalms 50:1-15
24 Apr	Romans 2:17-3:8	Joshua 5:13-7:26	Psalms 50:16-23
25 Apr	Romans 3:9-31	Joshua 8:1-9:15	Psalms 51:1-9
26 Apr	Romans 4:1-15	Joshua 9:16-10:43	Proverbs 10:21-30
27 Apr	Romans 4:16-5:11	Joshua 11:1-12:24	Psalms 51:10-19
28 Apr	Romans 5:12-21	Joshua 13:1-14:15	Psalms 52:1-9
29 Apr	Romans 6:1-14	Joshua 15:1-16:10	Psalms 53:1-6
30 Apr	Romans 6:15-7:6	Joshua 17:1-18:28	Proverbs 10:31-11:8
01 May	Romans 7:7-25	Joshua 19:1-21:19	Psalms 54:1-7
02 May	Romans 8:1-17	Joshua 21:20-22:34	Psalms 55:1-11
03 May	Romans 8:18-39	Joshua 23:1-24:33	Psalms 55:12-23
04 May	Romans 9:1-21	Judges 1:1-2:5	Proverbs 11:9-18
05 May	Romans 9:22-10:4	Judges 2:6-3:31	Psalms 56:1-13
06 May	Romans 10:5-11:10	Judges 4:1-5:31	Psalms 57:1-6
07 May	Romans 11:11-32	Judges 6:1-7:8a	Psalms 57:7-11
08 May	Romans 11:33-12:21	Judges 7:8b-8:35	Proverbs 11:19-28
09 May	Romans 13:1-14	Judges 9:1-57	Psalms 58:1-11
10 May	Romans 14:1-18	Judges 10:1-11:40	Psalms 59:1-8
11 May	Romans 14:19-15:13	Judges 12:1-13:35	Psalms 59:9-17
12 May	Romans 15:14-33	Judges 14:1-15:20	Proverbs 11:29-12:7
13 May	Romans 16:1-27	Judges 16:1-17:13	Psalms 60:1-4
14 May	1 Cor.1:1-17	Judges 18:1-19:30	Psalms 60:5-12
15 May	1 Cor.1:18-2:5	Judges 20:1-21:25	Psalms 61:1-8
16 May	1 Cor.2:6-16	Ruth 1:1-2:23	Proverbs 12:8-17
17 May	1 Cor.3:1-23	Ruth 3:1-4:21	Psalms 62:1-12
18 May	1 Cor. 4:1-21	1 Sam.1:1-2:26	Psalms 63:1-11
19 May	1 Cor.5:1-13	1 Sam.2:27-4:22	Psalms 64:1-10

20 May	1 Cor.6:1-20	1 Sam.5:1-7:17	Proverbs 12:18-27
21 May	1 Cor.7:1-16	1 Sam.8:1-10:8	Psalms 65:1-13
22 May	1 Cor.7:17-35	1 Sam.10:9-12:25	Psalms 66:1-12
23 May	1 Cor.7:36-8:13	1 Sam.13:1-14:23	Psalms 66:13-20
24 May	1 Cor.9:1-18	1 Sam.14:24-15:35	Proverbs 12:28-13:9
25 May	1 Cor.9:19-10:13	1 Sam.16:1-17:37	Psalms 67:1-7
26 May	1 Cor.10:14-11:1	1 Sam.17:38-18:30	Psalms 68:1-6
27 May	1 Cor.11:2-34	1 Sam.19:1-20:42	Psalms 68:7-14
28 May	1 Cor.12:1-26	1 Sam.21:1-23:29	Proverbs 13:10-19
29 May	1 Cor.12:27-13:13	1 Sam.24:1-25:44	Psalms 68:15-20
30 May	1 Cor.14:1-19	1 Sam.26:1-28:25	Psalms 68:21-27
31 May	1 Cor.14:20-40	1 Sam.29:1-31:13	Psalms 68:28-35
01 Jun	1 Cor.15:1-34	2 Sam.1-2:7	Proverbs 13:20-14:4
02 Jun	1 Cor.15:35-49	2 Sam.2:8-3:21	Psalms 69:1-12
03 Jun	1 Cor.15:50-16:4	2 Sam.3:22-5:5	Psalms 69:13-28
04 Jun	1 Cor.16:5-24	2 Sam.5:6-6:23	Psalms 69:29-36
05 Jun	2 Cor.1:1-11	2 Sam.7:1-8:18	Proverbs 14:5-14
06 Jun	2 Cor.1:12-22	2 Sam.9:1-10:19	Psalms 70:1-5
07 Jun	2 Cor.1:23-2:11	2 Sam.11:1-12:31	Psalms 71:1-8
08 Jun	2 Cor.2:12-3:6	2 Sam.13:1-39	Psalms 71:9-18
09 Jun	2 Cor.3:7-18	2 Sam.14:1-16:12	Proverbs 14:15-42
10 Jun	2 Cor.4:1-18	2 Sam.15:13-16:14	Psalms 71:19-24
11 Jun	2 Cor.5:1-10	2 Sam.16:15-18:18	Psalms 72:1-20
12 Jun	2 Cor.5:11-6:2	2 Sam.18:19-19:43	Psalms 73:1-14
13 Jun	2 Cor.6:3-7:1	2 Sam.20:1-21:22	Proverbs 14:25-35
14 Jun	2 Cor.7:2-16	2 Sam.22:1-23:7	Psalms 73:15-28
15 Jun	2 Cor.8:1-15	2 Sam.23:8-24:25	Psalms 74:1-9
16 Jun	2 Cor.8:16-9:5	1 Kings 1:1-2:12	Psalms 74:10-17
17 Jun	2 Cor.10:1-18	1 Kings 2:13-3:15	Proverbs 15:1-10
18 Jun	2 Cor.11:1-15	1 Kings 3:16-5:18	Psalms 74:18-23
19 Jun	2 Cor.11:16-33	1 Kings 6:1-7:22	Psalms 75:1-10
20 Jun	2 Cor.12:1-10	1 Kings 7:23-8:21	Psalms 76:1-12
21 Jun	2 Cor.12:11-21	1 Kings 8:22-9:9	Proverbs 15:11-20
22 Jun	2 Cor.13:1-14	1 Kings 9:10-11:13	Psalms 77:1-9
23 Jun	Luke 1:1-5	1 Kings 11:14-12:24	Psalms 77:10-20
24 Jun	Luke 1:26-38	1 Kings 12:25-14:20	Psalms 78:1-8
25 Jun	Luke 1:39-56	1 Kings 14:21-16:7	Proverbs 15:21-30
26 Jun	Luke 1:57-80	1 Kings 16:8-18:15	Psalms 78:9-16
27 Jun	Luke 2:1-20	1 Kings 18:16-19:21	Psalms 78:17-31
28 Jun	Luke 2:21-40	1 Kings 20:1-21:29	Psalms 78:32-39
29 Jun	Luke 2:41-52	1 Kings 22:1-53	Proverbs 15:31-16:7
30 Jun	Luke 3:1-22	2 Kings 1:1-2:25	Psalms 78:40-55
01 Jul	Luke 3:23-4:13	2 Kings 3:1-4:37	Psalms 78:56-72
02 Jul	Luke 4:14-37	2 Kings 4:38-6:23	Psalms 79:1-13
03 Jul	Luke 4:38-5:16	2 Kings 6:24-8:15	Proverbs 16:8-17
04 Jul	Luke 5:17-32	2 Kings 8:16-9:37	Psalms 80:1-7
05 Jul	Luke 5:33-6:11	2 Kings 10:1-11:21	Psalms 80:8-19
06 Jul	Luke 6:12-36	2 Kings 12:1-14:22	Psalms 81:1-7
07 Jul	Luke 6:37-7:10	2 Kings 14:23-15:38	Proverbs 16:18-27
08 Jul	Luke 7:11-35	2 Kings 16:1-17:41	Psalms 81:8-16
09 Jul	Luke 7:36-50	2 Kings 18:1-19:13	Psalms 82:1-8
10 Jul	Luke 8:1-18	2 Kings 19:14-20:21	Psalms 83:1-18

11 Jul	Luke 8:19-39	2 Kings 21:1-22:20	Proverbs 16:28-17:4
12 Jul	Luke 8:40-9:9	2 Kings 23:1-24:7	Psalms 84:1-7
13 Jul	Luke 9:10-27	2 Kings 24:8-25:30	Psalms 84:8-12
14 Jul	Luke 9:28-56	Jonah 1:1-4:11	Psalms 85:1-7
15 Jul	Luke 9:57-10:24	Amos 1:1-2:16	Proverbs 17:5-14
16 Jul	Luke 10:25-11:4	Amos 3:1-4:13	Psalms 85:8-13
17 Jul	Luke 11:5-32	Amos 3:1-27	Psalms 86:1-10
18 Jul	Luke 11:33-54	Amos 6:1-7:17	Psalms 86:11-17
19 Jul	Luke 12:1-34	Amos 8:1-9:15	Proverbs 17:15-24
20 Jul	Luke 12:35-59	Hosea 1:1-2:23	Psalms 87:1-7
21 Jul	Luke 13:1-30	Hosea 3:1-5:15	Psalms 88:1-9a
22 Jul	Luke 13:31-14:14	Hosea 6:1-7:16	Psalms 88:9b-18
23 Jul	Luke 14:15-35	Hosea 8:1-9:17	Proverbs 17:25-18:6
24 Jul	Luke 15:1-32	Hosea 10:1-11:11	Psalms 89:1-8
25 Jul	Luke 16:1-18	Hosea 11:12-14:9	Psalms 89:9-13
26 Jul	Luke 16:19-17:10	1 Chron.1:1-2:17	Psalms 89:14-18
27 Jul	Luke 18:1-30	1 Chron.2:18-4:8	Proverbs 18:7-16
28 Jul	Luke 18:31-19:10	1 Chron.4:9-5:26	Psalms 89:19-29
29 Jul	Luke 19:11-44	1 Chron.6:1-81	Psalms 89:30-37
30 Jul	Luke 19:45-20:26	1 Chron.7:1-9:1a	Psalms 89:38-45
31 Jul	Luke 20:27-21:4	1 Chron.9:1b-10:14	Proverbs 18:17-19:2
01 Aug	Luke 21:5-38	1 Chron.11:1-12:22	Psalms 89:46-52
02 Aug	Luke 22:1-38	1 Chron.12:23-14:17	Psalms 90:1-10
03 Aug	Luke 22:39-62	1 Chron.15:1-16:36	Psalms 90:11-17
04 Aug	Luke 22:63-23:25	1 Chron.16:37-18:17	Proverbs 19:3-12
05 Aug	Luke 23:26-56	1 Chron.19:1-22:1	Psalms 91:1-8
06 Aug	Luke 24:1-35	1 Chron.22:2-23:32	Psalms 91:9-16
07 Aug	Luke 24:36-53	1 Chron.24:1-26:19	Psalms 92:1-15
08 Aug	Galatians 1:1-24	1 Chron.26:20-27:34	Proverbs 19:13-22
09 Aug	Galatians 2:1-10	1 Chron.28:1-29:30	Psalms 93:1-5
10 Aug	Galatians 2:11-3:9	2 Chron.1:1-17	Psalms 94:1-11
11 Aug	Galatians 3:10-25	Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22	Psalms 94:12-23
12 Aug	Galatians 3:26-4:20	Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12	Proverbs 19:23-20:4
13 Aug	Galatians 4:21-5:6	Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:12	Psalms 95:1-11
14 Aug	Galatians 5:7-26	Ecclesiastes 9:13-12:14	Psalms 96:1-13
15 Aug	Galatians 6:1-18	2 Chron.2:1-5:1	Psalms 97:1-12
16 Aug	Ephesians 1:1-23	2 Chron.5:2-7:10	Proverbs 20:5-14
17 Aug	Ephesians 2:1-22	2 Chron.7:11-9:31	Psalms 98:1-9
18 Aug	Ephesians 3:1-21	Song of Songs 1:1-4:16	Psalms 99:1-9
19 Aug	Ephesians 4:1-16	Song of Songs 5:1-8:14	Psalms 100:1-5
20 Aug	Ephesians 4:17-5:7	2 Chron.10:1-12:16	Proverbs 20:15-24
21 Aug	Ephesians 5:8-33	2 Chron.13:1-15:19	Psalms 101:1-8
22 Aug	Ephesians 6:1-24	2 Chron.16:1-18:27	Psalms 102:1-11
23 Aug	Philip. 1:1-26	2 Chron.18:28-21:3	Psalms 102:12-17
24 Aug	Philip. 1:27-2:11	2 Chron.21:4-23:21	Proverbs 20:25-21:4
25 Aug	Philip. 2:12-30	2 Chron.24:1-25:28	Psalms 102:18-28
26 Aug	Philip. 3:1-4:1	2 Chron.26:1-28:27	Psalms 103:1-12
27 Aug	Philip. 4:2-23	2 Chron.29:1-31:1	Psalms 103:13-22
28 Aug	Colossians 1:1-23	2 Chron.31:2-33:22	Proverbs 21:5-16
29 Aug	Colossians 1:24-2:5	2 Chron.33:21-35:19	Psalms 104:1-18
30 Aug	Colossians 2:6-23	2 Chron.35:20-36:23	Psalms 104:19-30
31 Aug	Colossians 3:1-4:1	Micah 1:1-4:13	Psalms 104:31-35



01 Sep	Colossians 4:2-18	Micah 5:1-7:20	Proverbs 21:17-26
02 Sep	1 Thes.1:1-2:16	Isaiah 1:1-2:22	Psalms 105:1-11
03 Sep	1 Thes.2:17-3:13	Isaiah 3:1-5:7	Psalms 105:12-22
04 Sep	1 Thes.4:1-18	Isaiah 5:8-8:10	Psalms 105:23-36
05 Sep	1 Thes.5:1-28	Isaiah 8:11-10:19	Proverbs 21:27-22:6
06 Sep	2 Thes.1:1-12	Isaiah 10:20-13:22	Psalms 105:37-45
07 Sep	2 Thes.2:1-17	Isaiah 14:1-16:14	Psalms 106:1-15
08 Sep	2 Thes.3:1-18	Isaiah 17:1-19:25	Psalms 106:16-31
09 Sep	1 Timothy 1:1-20	Isaiah 20:1-23:18	Proverbs 22:7-16
10 Sep	1 Timothy 2:1-15	Isaiah 24:1-26:21	Psalms 106:32-39
11 Sep	1 Timothy 3:1-16	Isaiah 27:1-28:29	Psalms 106:40-48
12 Sep	1 Timothy 4:1-16	Isaiah 29:1-30:18	Psalms 107:1-9
13 Sep	1 Timothy 5:1-6:2	Isaiah 30:19-32:20	Proverbs 22:17-27
14 Sep	1 Timothy 6:3-21	Isaiah 33:1-35:10	Psalms 107:10-22
15 Sep	2 Timothy 1:1-18	Isaiah 36:1-37:38	Psalms 107:23-32
16 Sep	2 Timothy 2:1-26	Isaiah 38:1-40:31	Psalms 107:33-43
17 Sep	2 Timothy 3:1-17	Isaiah 41:1-42:25	Proverbs 22:28-23:9
18 Sep	2 Timothy 4:1-22	Isaiah 43:1-44:22	Psalms 108:1-5
19 Sep	Titus 1:1-16	Isaiah 44:24-46:13	Psalms 108:6-13
20 Sep	Titus 2:1-15	Isaiah 47:1-49:7	Psalms 109:1-20
21 Sep	Titus 3:1-15	Isaiah 49:8-51:16	Proverbs 23:10-18
22 Sep	Philemon 1-25	Isaiah 51:17-54:17	Psalms 109:21-31
23 Sep	Hebrews 1:1-14	Isaiah 55:1-57:13	Psalms 110:1-7
24 Sep	Hebrews 2:1-18	Isaiah 57:14-59:21	Psalms 111:1-10
25 Sep	Hebrews 3:1-19	Isaiah 60:1-62:12	Proverbs 23:19-28
26 Sep	Hebrews 4:1-13	Isaiah 63:1-65:16	Psalms 112:1-10
27 Sep	Hebrews 4:14-5:10	Isaiah 65:17-66:24	Psalms 113:1-9
28 Sep	Hebrews 5:11-6:12	Nahum 1:1-3:19	Psalms 114:1-8
29 Sep	Hebrews 6:13-7:10	Zephaniah 1:1-3:20	Proverbs 23:29-24:4
30 Sep	Hebrews 7:11-28	Jeremiah 1:1-2:11	Psalms 115:1-11
01 Oct	Hebrews 8:1-13	Jeremiah 2:31-4:9	Psalms 115:12-30
02 Oct	Hebrews 9:1-15	Jeremiah 4:10-5:31	Psalms 116:1-11
03 Oct	Hebrews 9:16-28	Jeremiah 6:1-7:29	Proverbs 24:5-14
04 Oct	Hebrews 10:1-18	Jeremiah 7:30-9:16	Psalms 116:12-19
05 Oct	Hebrews 10:19-39	Jeremiah 9:17-11:17	Psalms 117:1,2
06 Oct	Hebrews 11:1-16	Jeremiah 11:18-13:27	Psalms 118:1-16
07 Oct	Hebrews 11:17-40	Jeremiah 14:1-15:21	Proverbs 24:15-22
08 Oct	Hebrews 12:1-13	Jeremiah 16:1-17:27	Psalms 118:17-29
09 Oct	Hebrews 12:14-29	Jeremiah 18:1-20:18	Psalms 119:1-8
10 Oct	Hebrews 13:1-25	Jeremiah 21:1-23:8	Psalms 119:9-16
11 Oct	John 1:1-28	Jeremiah 23:9-25:14	Proverbs 24:23-34
12 Oct	John 1:29-51	Jeremiah 25:15-26:24	Psalms 119:17-24
13 Oct	John 2:1-25	Jeremiah 27:1-29:23	Psalms 119:25-32
14 Oct	John 3:1-21	Jeremiah 29:24-31:14	Psalms 119:33-40
15 Oct	John 3:22-36	Jeremiah 31:15-32:25	Proverbs 25:1-10
16 Oct	John 4:1-26	Jeremiah 32:26-34:22	Psalms 119:41-48
17 Oct	John 4:27-42	Jeremiah 35:1-37:21	Psalms 119:49-56
18 Oct	John 4:43-5:15	Jeremiah 38:1-40:6	Psalms 119:57-64
19 Oct	John 5:16-30	Jeremiah 40:7-42:22	Proverbs 25:11-20
20 Oct	John 5:31-47	Jeremiah 43:1-45:5	Psalms 119:65-72
21 Oct	John 6:1-24	Jeremiah 46:1-47:7	Psalms 119:73-80
22 Oct	John 6:25-59	Jeremiah 48:1-49:6	Psalms 119:81-88

23 Oct	John 6:60-7:13	Jeremiah 49:7-50:10	Proverbs 25:21-26:2
24 Oct	John 7:14-44	Jeremiah 50:11-51:14	Psalms 119:89-96
25 Oct	John 7:45-8:11	Jeremiah 51:15-64	Psalms 119:97-104
26 Oct	John 8:12-30	Jeremiah 52:1-34	Psalms 119:105-112
27 Oct	John 8:31-59	Habakkuk 1:1-3:19	Proverbs 26:3-12
28 Oct	John 9:1-34	Lamentations 1:1-2:6	Psalms 119:113-120
29 Oct	John 9:35-10:21	Lamentations 2:7-3:39	Psalms 119:121-128
30 Oct	John 10:22-42	Lamentations 3:40-5:22	Psalms 119:129-136
31 Oct	John 11:1-44	Obadiah 1-21	Proverbs 26:13-22
01 Nov	John 11:45-12:11	Joel 1:1-2:17	Psalms 119:137-144
02 Nov	John 12:12-36	Joel 2:18-3:21	Psalms 119:145-152
03 Nov	John 12:37-13:17	Ezekiel 1:1-3:27	Psalms 119:153-160
04 Nov	John 13:18-38	Ezekiel 4:1-6:14	Proverbs 26:23-27:4
05 Nov	John 14:1-31	Ezekiel 7:1-9:11	Psalms 119:161-168
06 Nov	John 15:1-16:4	Ezekiel 10:1-12:28	Psalms 119:169-176
07 Nov	John 16:5-17:5	Ezekiel 13:1-15:8	Psalms 120:1-7
08 Nov	John 17:6-26	Ezekiel 16:1-63	Proverbs 27:5-14
09 Nov	John 18:1-24	Ezekiel 17:1-18:32	Psalms 121:1-8
10 Nov	John 18:25-40	Ezekiel 19:1-20:44	Psalms 122:1-9
11 Nov	John 19:1-27	Ezekiel 20:45-22:22	Psalms 123:1-4
12 Nov	John 19:28-20:9	Ezekiel 22:23-23:49	Proverbs 27:15-22
13 Nov	John 20:10-31	Ezekiel 24:1-25:17	Psalms 124:1-8
14 Nov	John 21:1-25	Ezekiel 26:1-27:36	Psalms 125:1-5
15 Nov	James 1:1-18	Ezekiel 28:1-29:21	Psalms 126:1-6
16 Nov	James 1:19-27	Ezekiel 30:1-31:18	Proverbs 27:23-28:6
17 Nov	James 2:1-13	Ezekiel 32:1-33:20	Psalms 127:1-5
18 Nov	James 2:14-26	Ezekiel 33:21-35:15	Psalms 128:1-6
19 Nov	James 3:1-18	Ezekiel 36:1-37:28	Psalms 129:1-8
20 Nov	James 4:1-17	Ezekiel 38:1-39:29	Proverbs 28:7-17
21 Nov	James 5:1-20	Ezekiel 40:1-49	Psalms 130:1-8
22 Nov	1 Peter 1:1-2:3	Ezekiel 41:42-20	Psalms 131:1-3
23 Nov	1 Peter 2:4-25	Ezekiel 43:1-44:31	Psalms 132:1-18
24 Nov	1 Peter 3:1-22	Ezekiel 45:1-46:24	Proverbs 28:18-28
25 Nov	1 Peter 4:1-19	Ezekiel 47:1-48:35	Psalms 133:1-3
26 Nov	1 Peter 5:1-14	Daniel 1:1-2:23	Psalms 134:1-3
27 Nov	2 Peter 1:1-21	Daniel 2:24-3:12	Psalms 135:1-12
28 Nov	2 Peter 2:1-22	Daniel 3:13-4:18	Proverbs 29:1-9
29 Nov	2 Peter 3:1-18	Daniel 4:19-5:16	Psalms 135:13-21
30 Nov	1 John 1:1-2:11	Daniel 5:17-6:28	Psalms 136:1-12
01 Dec	1 John 2:12-27	Daniel 7:1-8:14	Psalms 136:13-26
02 Dec	1 John 2:28-3:10	Daniel 8:15-9:19	Proverbs 29:10-18
03 Dec	1 John 3:11-24	Daniel 9:20-27	Psalms 137:1-9
04 Dec	1 John 4:1-21	Daniel 10:1-11:1	Psalms 138:1-5
05 Dec	1 John 5:1-21	Daniel 11:2-12:13	Psalms 138:6-8
06 Dec	2 John 1:1-13	Haggai 1:1-2:23	Proverbs 29:19-27
07 Dec	3 John 1:1-14	Zech. 1:1-4:14	Psalms 139:1-16
08 Dec	Jude 1:1-25	Zech. 5:1-8:23	Psalms 139:17-24
09 Dec	Revelation 1:1-20	Zech. 9:1-11:17	Psalms 140:1-5
10 Dec	Revelation 2:1-17	Zech. 12:1-14:21	Proverbs 30:1-10
11 Dec	Revelation 2:18-3:6	Esther 1:1-2:18	Psalms 140:6-13
12 Dec	Revelation 3:7-22	Esther 2:19-5:14	Psalms 141:1-10
13 Dec	Revelation 4:1-11	Esther 6:1-8:17	Psalms 142:1-7

14 Dec	Revelation 5:1-14	Esther 9:1-10:3	Proverbs 30:11-23
15 Dec	Revelation 6:1-17	Malachi 1:1-2:16	Psalm 143:1-12
16 Dec	Revelation 7:1-17	Malachi 2:17-4:6	Psalm 144:1-8
17 Dec	Revelation 8:1-9:12	Ezra 1:1-2:67	Psalm 144:9-15
18 Dec	Revelation 9:13-10:11	Ezra 2:68-4:5	Proverbs 30:24-33
19 Dec	Revelation 11:1-19	Ezra 4:6-5:17	Psalm 145:1-7
20 Dec	Revelation 12:1-13:1a	Ezra 6:1-7:10	Psalm 145:8-13a
21 Dec	Revelation 13:1b-21	Ezra 7:11-8:14	Psalm 145:13b-21
22 Dec	Revelation 14:1-13	Ezra 8:15-9:15	Proverbs 31:1-9
23 Dec	Revelation 14:14-15:8	Ezra 10:1-44	Psalm 146:1-10
24 Dec	Revelation 16:1-21	Nehemiah 1:1-2:20	Psalm 147:1-11
25 Dec	Revelation 17:1-18	Nehemiah 3:1-4:23	Psalm 147:12-20
26 Dec	Revelation 18:1-17a	Nehemiah 5:1-7:3	Proverbs 31:10-20
27 Dec	Revelation 18:17b-19:10	Nehemiah 7:4-8:18	Psalm 148:1-6
28 Dec	Revelation 19:11-21	Nehemiah 9:1-37	Psalm 148:7-14
29 Dec	Revelation 20:1-15	Nehemiah 9:38-11:21	Psalm 149:1-9
30 Dec	Revelation 21:1-27	Nehemiah 11:22-12:47	Proverbs 31:21-31
31 Dec	Revelation 22:1-21	Nehemiah 13:1-31	Psalm 150:1-6

**Otto Kingsley** erstwhile Cape Regional Director - TLM Southern Africa



## Chaplains in south-west London

*'Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?' (Acts 26:27)*

My return to clinical medicine at the bedside included six months at a hospice in south-west London. Its Catholic attachment was unobtrusive but obvious with a simple crucifix in each room. It conveyed a gentle assurance of a quiet spirituality.

I was warmly welcomed by the Sri Lankan-born medical director whose day usually began with time in the small chapel, prayers often led by one of the sisters from the community associated with the hospice. Priests from the local church visited as part-time chaplains. I got to know a couple of them. One in fact became an inpatient when his prostate cancer had damaged his spinal cord, resulting in lower limb weakness. He was determined to walk but then ended up on the floor.

'I'm totally embarrassed,' he confided in me. 'I can't let them see me like this.'

Not quite knowing what to say I paused for a moment and pointed to the crucifix.

'How many times did he fall?' I asked. 'He needed help. I think you do too.' He smiled weakly. The conversation continued as we acknowledged together that even a chaplain and a priest, to say nothing of a doctor, may need someone alongside them in their time of trouble.

Each week the doctors met for a lunchtime journal club. One of them was a retired psychiatrist generally regarded as the father of modern psycho-oncology.

'I'm here in a religious setting, but I'm not at all religious myself,' he told me. 'I try to understand it all, so I meet up with a priest for lunch once a week and he tries to convince me why I should be a Christian.'

He then continued with a challenge.

'Why don't you bring an article that will help me understand your claim that spirituality and religion are a significant part of palliative care?' I agreed. At one point I thought I might be getting somewhere. Perhaps, I thought, he was starting to understand the faith, though that was probably more in hope than with evidence. But he always responded, vigorously reinforcing his atheistic position. Nevertheless when it came to the time for me to move on he asked me to consider staying.

'We need you here to attend people who have a strong faith,' he told me.

I'd never met his lunch-time priest. But years later while collecting for The Salvation Army I knocked on the door of a house adjoining a Catholic Church.

'O do come in,' said the priest. 'I'll get you something.'

In a few minutes of conversation I discovered that he'd once been a chaplain at a hospital in south-west London. Yes, he was the priest who'd spent years trying to explain the faith to our mutual friend. Even a psychiatrist knows he really needs someone in times of need, I mused as I knocked at the next door. We just have to leave that to the Spirit.

*Please Lord, sustain those who faithfully try to witness to the one they follow.*

Although spending much of his working life with The Salvation Army, **Dr Paul du Plessis** has been involved in a variety of honorary roles with TLM.



## “A Mustard Seed of Faith”

*Matthew 17:20 “Jesus replied...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”*

Recently whenever I have turned to my Bible before a service or before a time of quiet reflection, I have been drawn to Hebrews chapter 11 – the story of faith in God through the history of His people and of Scripture, and what a story it is! I remember reading some commentary on Hebrews which asked the question – why is chapter 11 there? The epistle would read quite well if it were not there. Chapter 12:1 follows naturally from chapter 10 and verse 39, so why was the writer of Hebrews prompted by the Holy Spirit, to put these key truths from the journey of faith illustrated by the story of specific people in at this point?

One commentator calls faith “the greatest power in the world”. This chapter tells us a lot about faith through the people mentioned:

- Abel: faith worshipping
- Enoch: faith walking
- Noah: faith working
- Patriarchs: faith waiting
- Moses: faith warring
- Joshua and Rahab: faith winning

One thing this chapter shows us is that faith can work in the life of anyone who dares to listen to God’s word and surrender to His will. Just think about one of the people mentioned in this chapter – Abraham - God told him to leave home and ‘go...to the land I will show you’ (Gen 12:1). Sometimes we may think that living by faith is some kind of Star Trek adventure where we ‘boldly go where no man has gone before’. Perhaps, but more likely it means that we do what God says, one step at a time. Leaving home may not have felt like such a great idea, especially when you don’t really know where you are going – but God used Abraham’s step of faith to change history.

This morning, I was reminded of one of the Scottish Revivals, during a particular period where church attendances were getting smaller but dedicated groups of people were praying – praying in faith that God would work. From this, one minister decided that as people were not coming to church to hear the Gospel preached, he would take the Gospel to where the people were. So, in faith and believing that God would work, he started preaching in the market places and town squares – much as the apostles did at Pentecost – Luke tells us in Acts 2:41 that 3,000 were added to their number **that** day and that the Lord added to their number daily! Yes, and the preaching in faith here in Scotland way back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and at other times) added to the church here – the Holy Spirit at work through the faith of God’s servants.

The Leprosy Mission was born and cradled in prayer and by the actions of many people down through the years – actions inspired by the Holy Spirit and taken in faith. I am sure many of you can point to experiences of faith at work where you are and where you work and worship.

I pray today that you know Jesus' love leading and guiding you as you pray, as you listen to God, as you respond in action to the prompting of the Holy Spirit:

*“Such love springs from eternity  
Such love, streaming through history;  
Such love, fountain of life to me;  
O Jesus, such love.”*

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



## Faith Like Daniel

*Daniel 6<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.*

I'm told, that when I was a baby, my dad would often sing me to sleep.

As he held me in his arms he would always sing the same song, a chorus about Daniel.

*Daniel was a man of prayer.*

*Daily he prayed three times,*

*Even when they had him cast,*

*In the den of lions*

*In the den, In the den*

*Nothing could alarm him.*

*God just shut the lion's mouths,*

*So they would not harm him.*

My dad was not a singer. He sang in an off-key monotone. But there was something in his rhythmic, low, droning voice that was soporific; and I would fall asleep.

I sang the same chorus to my children and my grandchildren, with mixed results.

The words and the tune are embedded in my memory and play automatically if I read about Daniel, or he is referenced in some way.

And what good words to be rooted there.

The chorus reminds us of the importance of consistent prayer. A spiritual discipline to be practised and cultivated, to re-use Jesus' turn of phrase not three times daily but 30 times three.

Daniel is a model of persevering and consistent faith. Faith undeterred by circumstance. Faith, bold in the face of opposition. Faith rooted in God. Faith that grew continually.

Daniel also reminds us that we have a God who protects, who is accessible, who hears and answers our prayers.

Where did Daniel learn to trust God, to be resilient, to be bold?

Presumably in his childhood, from his parents. From living within a godly community.

His parents clearly followed Moses' injunction to,

*“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 11 <sup>18</sup>*

and,

*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.  
Proverbs 22<sup>6</sup>*

These words are as much a challenge today, whether we are parents, grandparents or the godly community surrounding each child in our fellowships.

These are words to us all of opportunity and duty.

**John Twynam – Perkins** - Formerly chair of TLM Scotland





## Psalm 47

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

- <sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you nations;  
shout to God with cries of joy.
- <sup>2</sup> For the LORD Most High is awesome,  
the great King over all the earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He subdued nations under us,  
peoples under our feet.
- <sup>4</sup> He chose our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.
- <sup>5</sup> God has ascended amid shouts of joy,  
the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.
- <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- <sup>7</sup> For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing to him a psalm of praise.
- <sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations;  
God is seated on his holy throne.
- <sup>9</sup> The nobles of the nations assemble  
as the people of the God of Abraham,  
for the kings of the earth belong to God;  
he is greatly exalted.



## Psalm 48

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

<sup>1</sup> Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,  
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

<sup>2</sup> Beautiful in its loftiness,  
the joy of the whole earth,  
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,  
the city of the Great King.

<sup>3</sup> God is in her citadels;  
he has shown himself to be her fortress.

<sup>4</sup> When the kings joined forces,  
when they advanced together,

<sup>5</sup> they saw her and were astounded;  
they fled in terror.

<sup>6</sup> Trembling seized them there,  
pain like that of a woman in labor.

<sup>7</sup> You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish  
shattered by an east wind.

<sup>8</sup> As we have heard,  
so we have seen  
in the city of the LORD Almighty,  
in the city of our God:  
God makes her secure  
forever.

<sup>9</sup> Within your temple, O God,  
we meditate on your unfailing love.

<sup>10</sup> Like your name, O God,  
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with righteousness.

<sup>11</sup> Mount Zion rejoices,  
the villages of Judah are glad  
because of your judgments.

<sup>12</sup> Walk about Zion, go around her,  
count her towers,

<sup>13</sup> consider well her ramparts,  
view her citadels,  
that you may tell of them  
to the next generation.

<sup>14</sup> For this God is our God for ever and ever;  
he will be our guide even to the end.



## Heart of gratitude

*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Ephesians 5:20*

As we start a New Year 2024, God's expectation for us is to cultivate a heart of gratitude as part of our lifestyle throughout the year.

We have many reasons to give thanks despite the chaos in our world today. Paul encourages us to give thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, for **all things; this reason may include pleasant and unpleasant circumstances as follows:**

We are grateful for the full redemption we found in Christ, what Christ did for us by reconciling us to God and because of how God demonstrated His love to us by giving up His only son to die in our place.

*"...giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:12-14*

We thank God for not abandoning us to ourselves, for the undeserved favour and mercy that we received daily from Him.

We give thanks because it is only in Christ that all things hold together. *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossian 1:17.* Sometimes the world around us may seem to be falling apart such as our health, family, our Ministry, projects, fundraising, church, our job/vocation, relationships even our lives. We should continue to give thanks because we know that our identity in Christ and His word can sustain or keep us in such difficult circumstances like a house built on the rock. We should keep giving thanks because in Christ, we are assured of healing and inner peace. The Holy Spirit will be there to pull us together and keep us from falling apart as we continue to put our trust in Christ the great Porter, surely our world that seems marred will be put together by the force of His power.

Let us move on with this confidence that we have a God who holds all things together and He will surely help us and will not allow us to see decay or be desolate. The Psalmist said *'I will extol the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips....the righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken....no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned. Psalm 34:1, 19-22.*

Thanksgiving and gratitude should therefore be an attitude of every child of God, for it is where God affirm His blessing and make us indeed whole. The story of the 10 men who were affected by leprosy that were all cured when they encountered Jesus comes to mind here:

*“One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” Luke 17:15-19*

The big question in Christ mind to us is are we also going to continue to grumble and complain about unfair treatment to us or we will give thanks for everything at all times in Christ Jesus.

*May the Holy Spirit help us to develop the attitude of gratitude all through the year 2024.*

Amen!

**Bunmi Oluloto** - Bunmi and Loveth Oluloto with their 3 children are Servant of Christ and Missionary with The Leprosy Mission based in Niger Republic; Bunmi is TLM Country Director for Niger and Chad



## To God Be the Glory

That is the title to a famous hymn from the pen of Fanny Crosby. Recently I searched through various files in search of an alternate set of words which were sung at a TLM International event. I was preparing for our Ladies Bible Study group and title of the study was Radical Change and the passage was *Ephesians 2:1-10*.

Paul starts by reminding his readers about the significant changes that God has brought about in their lives – for the Jews this is about the contrast before and after the Exodus – for the Gentiles it is about the change from worship of Diana to the worship of the True God. So, from these backgrounds we have “...but God”. We all have a “before” and “after”. For some, that might be a dramatic event, while for others it might be harder to identify. I remember visiting a friend who was a lecturer at American Bible College back in the late 1960s. I attended a service there where the preacher had chosen this passage as the basis for his sermon. I have no recollection of the name of the preacher, although I can still see his face as he seemed to look directly at me when he reminded us that we all have a “before” and “after” every day when we come afresh to the Lord. Every time I come to read or study this passage or hear a sermon based on it, I am reminded that I have a “before” and “after” every day – we all have.

The words that were written for this hymn, seem to me to sum up the whole passage of Ephesians 2:1-10. I also think the words are particularly appropriate as we start this new year of 2024, reminding us that God is still doing great things and “His word never fails us; His promise is true.” We still have a work to do trusting in His word and His promise to work in us to “Spread His name through the land” – one street or house at a time.

Sing this hymn now.

*To God be the glory, great things He can do!*

*His word never fails us; His promise is true.*

*By working within us His power will fulfil*

*The pleasure and plan of His wonderful will.*

*Chorus:*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Spread His name through the land.*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

*Let the world understand*

*He ever is working to make all things new*

*O give Him the glory, great things He will do.*

*To Him who is able to do by His power  
Exceeding abundantly, lavishly more  
Than all we can ask or can ever conceive,  
To Him be the glory in all who believe.*

*O come sing His praises, His wisdom proclaim.  
Speak much of His greatness and honour His name.  
To Him who is able our worship we bring;  
All praise in the church give to Jesus our King.*

May God bless you, may He guide you, He will enable you, He will inspire you as you journey with Him into 2024.

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



## A chaplain in retirement?

*'There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.'* (1 Cor 12: 4-5)

'I'd like you to do your hobby in retirement,' my late wife, Margaret, told me.

'Hobby?' I asked.

'You've spent most of your time being an administrator and a leader. You need to go back to being a doctor.'

'It's too late,' I answered. 'I've been away from medicine for 15 years.'

Over coffee one morning I told my sister and brother-in-law I was considering becoming a hospital chaplain in retirement.

'Never!' was his reply: 'You won't be able to stop yourself telling the doctors what to do!'

With a year's gentle re-entry training I had seven very fulfilling years in palliative medicine. But the parallel profession of ministry didn't go away. There were endless opportunities for discrete expressions of faith. I had to be careful. After all the occasional doctor had faced disciplinary action for engaging in unwelcome conversations with patients that were interpreted as evangelism or proselytism. I had to be a doctor. And I also had to remember when it was appropriate to refer patients to the chaplain. I should not be taking over their work; nor should I be telling them what to do. Part of my refresher training was to learn about boundaries and overlaps - learning what a chaplain is expected to do

One Sunday morning I was doing a round in the hospice, introducing myself as usual:

'Good morning, I'm Paul, one of the doctors here. I've just come to ask how you're getting on.'

'O, thank God,' was his reply, 'I thought you were the chaplain.'

I giggled as I replied. 'I must look like one, then.'

'Not really,' he continued. 'I just thought you were coming to administer the last rites for me.'

But his comment had given me the opportunity to explore his fears and we talked at length, even though I wasn't the chaplain. After that I wondered whether I should walk around with a stethoscope dangling from my neck. I didn't.

Taking the history, listening attentively, offering the occasional comment, knowing what to prescribe, had become part of life for me. Other interventions took a little more practice. I recall an occasion when I was struggling to put a cannula into an emaciated patient. It took three attempts and I was clearly distressed by the experience. His wife was there watching.

'You've done well,' she commented kindly. 'We are most grateful.'

I nodded in appreciation.

'Here's something for you,' she said as she handed me a small booklet: its title: *The Lord is My Shepherd*. If the couple were facing the valley of the shadow of death, it was me who needed to be led beside still waters; my soul needed to be restored. It was she who had been a 'chaplain' to me that afternoon. I still have that little pamphlet.

*Thank you, Lord, for the opportunities to help others in their time of need, and for those who recognise ours.*

Although spending much of his working life with The Salvation Army, **Dr Paul du Plessis** has been involved in a variety of honorary roles with TLM.





## Those things that I knowest not

As I write, I'm in the midst of Spring-cleaning my office. The physical effort of cleaning is minimal, the decisions are hard. Will I really need this piece of paper next year? Why did I keep it in the first place? I can't remember why this or that document seemed so important to me at the time. More than once over the weekend [it has been along-weekend in South Africa], the words 'this too is meaningless' have come to mind!

Now there is a bag, groaning with recycling on my floor. Should I fill it a bit more; should I go through it to make sure I'm not being rash? When you've kept stuff longer than needed, it gets a life of its own. It seems valuable. Someone I know has his whole life in a back-pack. Why do I need so much space? When I got my first computer in 1986 [WordStar, anybody?], I was promised that I would soon be living in a paperless paradise. I want a refund.

By the end of the day, my desk will be clean. I feel that I'm ready for Janu-worry, but I know that within a few days of starting the new year, my desk will be messy. In a way, I'm glad at that prospect. It means I'm busy – no fundraiser ever wants to say 'What a nice quiet day that was...' but I do so wish that I had the discipline to keep things better organised.

That's one of the reasons why I draw such comfort from the following verses:

*"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."*

Isaiah 43:18-19

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* II Corinthians 5:17

In the Bible, we find the promise of renewal and change. We don't have to be stuck in old routines, hamstrung by bad habits.

The start of the New Year is a great time to take stock. What do I need to stop? What should I start doing?

We all need to take a moment to "clean our desks". What do we need to take with us into 2024? What will strengthen us? What should go in the bin?

As I've discovered this weekend, it is so hard to let go. It is equally hard to let go of stale routines, those invisible things that clutter our desks as surely as broken staplers and post-it notes that have lost their stickiness.

Being invisible, they're hard to spot. Let's start the year with this prayer:

*“Heavenly Father, you desire that I should live free from the habits that hold me back in my walk with You. Sometimes I know what those habits are. But some of them are invisible to me. Your Word promises me that when I call out to you, you will show me where I am going wrong and that you will help me walk in new ways [Jeremiah 33:3]. My desire is to live 2024, free of the burdens of 2023. I ask you to show me those things that I knowest not.”*

**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.



## Jesus

He alone is worthy  
He alone is all mighty God  
He alone became man  
He alone died for us  
He alone rose from the dead  
He alone defeated death

So that we can live  
So that we can spend eternity with Him  
So that we can be called sons and daughters of the Most High God  
So that our sins may be washed away by His precious shed Blood

My heart is filled with gratitude  
My heart overflows with thanksgiving  
My heart bows to His holiness  
My heart declares You are the risen Lord  
My heart cries out Jesus  
Oh, Jesus lover of my soul

**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 49

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

<sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples;  
listen, all who live in this world,  
<sup>2</sup> both low and high,  
rich and poor alike:  
<sup>3</sup> My mouth will speak words of wisdom;  
the meditation of my heart will give you understanding.  
<sup>4</sup> I will turn my ear to a proverb;  
with the harp I will expound my riddle:  
<sup>5</sup> Why should I fear when evil days come,  
when wicked deceivers surround me—  
<sup>6</sup> those who trust in their wealth  
and boast of their great riches?  
<sup>7</sup> No one can redeem the life of another  
or give to God a ransom for them—  
<sup>8</sup> the ransom for a life is costly,  
no payment is ever enough—  
<sup>9</sup> so that they should live on forever  
and not see decay.  
<sup>10</sup> For all can see that the wise die,  
that the foolish and the senseless also perish,  
leaving their wealth to others.  
<sup>11</sup> Their tombs will remain their houses forever,  
their dwellings for endless generations,  
though they had named lands after themselves.  
<sup>12</sup> People, despite their wealth, do not endure;  
they are like the beasts that perish.  
<sup>13</sup> This is the fate of those who trust in themselves,  
and of their followers, who approve their sayings.  
<sup>14</sup> They are like sheep and are destined to die;  
death will be their shepherd  
(but the upright will prevail over them in the morning).  
Their forms will decay in the grave,  
far from their princely mansions.  
<sup>15</sup> But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead;  
he will surely take me to himself.  
<sup>16</sup> Do not be overawed when others grow rich,  
when the splendor of their houses increases;  
<sup>17</sup> for they will take nothing with them when they die,  
their splendor will not descend with them.

- <sup>18</sup> Though while they live they count themselves blessed—  
and people praise you when you prosper—
- <sup>19</sup> they will join those who have gone before them,  
who will never again see the light of life.
- <sup>20</sup> People who have wealth but lack understanding  
are like the beasts that perish.



## Psalm 50

*A psalm of Asaph.*

<sup>1</sup>The Mighty One, God, the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

<sup>2</sup>From Zion, perfect in beauty,  
God shines forth.

<sup>3</sup>Our God comes  
and will not be silent;  
a fire devours before him,  
and around him a tempest rages.

<sup>4</sup>He summons the heavens above,  
and the earth, that he may judge his people:

<sup>5</sup>“Gather to me this consecrated people,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

<sup>6</sup>And the heavens proclaim his righteousness,  
for he is a God of justice.

<sup>7</sup>“Listen, my people, and I will speak;  
I will testify against you, Israel:  
I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup>I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices  
or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.

<sup>9</sup>I have no need of a bull from your stall  
or of goats from your pens,

<sup>10</sup>for every animal of the forest is mine,  
and the cattle on a thousand hills.

<sup>11</sup>I know every bird in the mountains,  
and the insects in the fields are mine.

<sup>12</sup>If I were hungry I would not tell you,  
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.

<sup>13</sup>Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup>“Sacrifice thank offerings to God,  
fulfill your vows to the Most High,

<sup>15</sup>and call on me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

<sup>16</sup>But to the wicked person, God says:

“What right have you to recite my laws  
or take my covenant on your lips?

<sup>17</sup>You hate my instruction

and cast my words behind you.

<sup>18</sup> When you see a thief, you join with him;  
you throw in your lot with adulterers.

<sup>19</sup> You use your mouth for evil  
and harness your tongue to deceit.

<sup>20</sup> You sit and testify against your brother  
and slander your own mother's son.

<sup>21</sup> When you did these things and I kept silent,  
you thought I was exactly like you.

But I now arraign you  
and set my accusations before you.

<sup>22</sup> "Consider this, you who forget God,  
or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you:

<sup>23</sup> Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me,  
and to the blameless<sup>d</sup> I will show my salvation."



## Building each other up in The Leprosy Mission

For me one of the special features of the organisation is that we call ourselves a mission.

There are many ways that people now define Mission and since I joined The Leprosy Mission about 30 years ago there have been changes to our mission statement and what that means in the way we operate and how we interpret Christ centredness. As I prepared for this devotion, I looked at the rather long definition of Integral Mission and the different activities which we undertake to maintain a mission focus.

When I joined TLMI in 2004 as a new employee we were given a book called An Inn called Welcome by Donald Miller which describes the start of the Mission to Lepers (now The Leprosy Mission) in 1874 up to 1917. In the introduction Donald Miller writes:

*And behind all the human partners has been the evident inspiration and guidance and help of God. That is why there runs through the various records a recurring note of gratitude and wonder that what would otherwise have been impossible was by God's Grace achieved. These pioneers, in serving man in his sore plight, encountered God in His saving power, and they became themselves participants in demonstrating that the Gospel of the Resurrection is indeed the 'power of God unto salvation'. A. DONALD MILLER November 1964*

As I look back, I would hope that one of the achievements of The Leprosy Mission globally has been to empower Christian brothers and sisters who work for and with TLM. That empowerment is not just so that they can do their work better but support them to grow in their faith and enable them to potentially take a more active role in their local Church. The development of Local Boards has I believe been part of that empowerment process and I know that Brent spends a lot of time with Country leaders offering them encouragement and support. I am also sure that the Leadership development programme plays another significant part in building up those who attend

I would like us to hold firm to what Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5 *For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

One of the advantages of Zoom meetings is that it saves money. One of the potential downsides is that it means that we are not meeting face to face and our opportunity of building each other up is reduced. Building each other up is at the heart of our Christ centredness.

In the busy world in which we live we are faced with time pressures which has the potential of reducing the time to build relationships and to build each other up. My prayer is that as Trustees and for all the staff in TLM we try and hold onto Paul's message to encourage and build each other up both in The Leprosy Mission and within our local Churches



*A prayer: Heavenly father. We ask that your Holy Spirit prompt us and guides us to serve you by building each other up so that your kingdom may be glorified. May that be true within TLM and also our local Churches. Help us to offer encouragement, inspiration and hope to many so that people can grow in their faith and trust in the Lord who is the only source of real hope . We pray that you will continue to lead and guide The Leprosy Mission. That our actions will be in accordance with your will and will enable the leprosy mission to continue to be a beacon of light to those affected by Leprosy in healing, in compassion and in Hope*

**Alan Gray** - Director of Operations and Finance TLMI 2004-2014 - Trustee of TLM Global Fellowship



## Life is for living

*Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. Luke 12:27 (New International Version)*

A friend gave us an amaryllis bulb for Christmas, complete with plastic pot and a small bag of compost. The bulb looked dry, lifeless, with a tangle of desiccated white roots but we potted it up, watered it, and put it on a warm window sill in the light.

Transformation. Three or four days later the first shoot appeared. It was very pale green and tentative, as though it was just sticking its head above the parapet to see what was going on, and ready to duck down again if it didn't like what it saw.

Each day it grew a little bigger, a little stronger, a slightly darker green. Then a second leaf appeared. That's where it is now, but I know from past experience that in a few weeks there'll be a straight and robust stem, several long dark green leaves and then the final glory of those huge brilliant scarlet flowers singing silent praise to their creator. That's God, not me, I only watered it. Actually, I didn't do much of that either. Barbara did.

When we were given the bulb we could have kept it carefully wrapped up in its box, but then it would never have grown. There'd have been no life, no flowers, no beauty. Life's for living. It can be tempting to stay quietly in our own little corner ignoring the world at large, but we can't, not really. We're part of the world, with all its ups and downs and we have a share in it. So come out of your box today, root yourself in reality and try life. There's a lot of beauty out there if you look for it. And you might even get in touch with the creator of it all.

*Lord of all energy, I come alive in you. Help me to share the joy and thrill of living out your purposes.*

*Extract from Love is a Wild Bird, first published 2003.*

**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)



## From Blantyre Missionary to Belmarsh Chaplain

*'I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'* (Matthew 25:36)

We first met in the 1980s when I visited Malawi where he and his physiotherapist wife were based. It was principally to explore the needs of disabled persons during the International Decade of Disabled Persons 1983 – 1992 and whether there was something The Salvation Army, with its experience with disabled children in neighbouring countries could and should offer.

A few days together and I soon heard his story. He'd grown up in Malawi, the son of an agriculturalist sent out during British rule. He'd then qualified as a lawyer in London. It was as a committed evangelical Anglican that he'd experienced an overwhelming calling to offer his service to the Army. They took little persuading to be convinced, and with two years of training completed he was back in Malawi consolidating the army's embryonic work there.

He recounted stories of days at a time visiting congregations and spearheading growth. He was in Livingstone country, doing the kind of work the famous missionary had in mind - breaking the legacy of slavery. But evangelism and church-planting were his emphasis.

The recurrence of his wife's breast cancer brought their Malawian years to an end and he was back in London supporting her and their young family through the end stages of her illness. His work as part of an editorial team seemed just coincidental. But was there perhaps a role for someone with a legal background as a prison chaplain? And now after decades of chaplaincy work, including years in one of England's top security prisons, he can tell stories of visiting detainees in single cells or together; of listening and more listening, and that in spite of his significantly impaired hearing; of worship services and Bible studies; of confessions and conversions; of friendships with other chaplains forged across denominations and faiths.

He's remarried, his wife deeply involved in work in the field of modern slavery. That's different from what was happening in Malawi but the overall purpose is the same. Yes, Livingstone would have approved.

When my late wife spent her last five years in a nursing home - and in some ways that's not dissimilar from a prison and other forms of isolation, leprosy included - they were among a group of friends who came to see us. It was social isolation, if not social exclusion. Again it was the visiting that mattered.

*Thank you, Lord, for those who come alongside us in the simplicity of a visit.*

Although spending much of his working life with The Salvation Army, **Dr Paul du Plessis** has been involved in a variety of honorary roles with TLM.



## What does Psalm 23 mean to me at the beginning of a new year?

“The LORD is my Shepherd” simply indicates to me to trust God for.....

- 1) Daily food for my body (v1)
- 2) Daily respite for my soul (v2a)
- 3) Daily liquid-refreshing for my health (v2b)
- 4) Daily strengthening of my inner-man (v3a)
- 5) Daily right-standing with God (v3b)
- 6) Daily protection – so wondrously measured out to me by my Father God (v4)
- 7) Daily vindication by my God before my enemies (v5a)
- 8) Daily joy and contentment in God (v5b)
- 9) Daily goodness and mercy from God (v6a)
- 10) Daily temporal and eternal spiritual security (v6b)

John 10:28,29 – “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish,  
and no one will snatch them out of My hand.”

*So, “for His Name’s sake”, I have 100% personal care from Him for my future!*

-Amen.



## A spirit-filled life

*“Do not get drunk with wine, but be filled with the spirit” Ephesians 5:18*

The Christian life is not just a changed life, it is an exchange of life. At the moment of conversion, we hand over our old life to God who gives us a new one and more: he comes to live in us through the power of the Holy Spirit! Paul contrasts the intoxication of wine with that of the Spirit. To binge drink is to lose control; but to be filled with the Spirit is to keep it. One is harmful, the other useful. One makes you powerless, the other powerful. One brings sadness, the other joy. This word is neither a promise nor an option, it is a command: “Be filled with the Spirit. » Paul gives three characteristics of a Spirit-filled life.

1) “Sing and celebrate the Lord with all your heart” (v.19).

It doesn't depend on the circumstances, because it says: “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God. Suddenly the doors were opened, and the chains of all the prisoners were loosed” (Acts 16:25-26). Praising God can open doors and break chains.

2) “Always give thanks to God for everything” (Eph 5:20).

Spirit-filled people also have problems, but they don't focus on them. They prefer to count God's blessings, which makes them optimistic and grateful.

3) “Submit to one another in the fear of Christ” (v.21).

Those who are filled with the Spirit are other-centered. They know that the good we do to our neighbors, God also does to us (see Eph 6.8).

Prayer:

*Lord, help me to count the blessings of God.*

## Une vie remplie de l'esprit

*« Ne vous enivrez pas de vin, mais soyez remplis de l'esprit » Ephésiens 5.18*

La vie chrétienne n'est pas qu'une vie changée, c'est un échange de vie. Au moment de la conversion, on remet son ancienne vie à Dieu qui nous en donne une nouvelle et plus encore : il vient habiter en nous par la puissance du Saint-Esprit ! Paul oppose l'ivresse du vin à celle de l'Esprit. Se gaver d'alcool, c'est perdre le contrôle ; mais se remplir d'Esprit, c'est le garder. L'un est nocif, l'autre utile. L'un rend impuissant, l'autre puissant. L'un apporte la tristesse, l'autre la joie. Cette parole n'est ni une promesse ni une option, c'est un commandement : « Soyez remplis de l'Esprit. » Paul donne trois caractéristiques d'une vie remplie de l'Esprit.

1) « Chantez et célébrez le Seigneur de tout votre cœur » (v.19).

Ça ne dépend pas des circonstances, car il est dit : « Vers le milieu de la nuit, Paul et Silas priaient et chantaient les louanges de Dieu. Tout à coup, les portes s'ouvrirent, et les chaînes de tous les prisonniers se détachèrent » (Ac 16.25-26). Louer Dieu peut ouvrir les portes et briser les chaînes.

2) « Rendez toujours grâce pour tout à Dieu » (Ép 5.20).

Les personnes remplies de l'Esprit ont aussi des problèmes, mais elles ne se focalisent pas dessus. Elles préfèrent compter les bienfaits de Dieu, ce qui les rend optimistes et reconnaissantes.

3) « Soumettez-vous les uns aux autres dans la crainte de Christ » (v.21).

Ceux qui sont remplis de l'Esprit sont centrés sur les autres. Ils savent que le bien que l'on fait à son prochain, Dieu nous le fait aussi (voir Ép 6.8).

PRIÈRE

*Seigneur, aide-moi à compter les bienfaits de Dieu.*

**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 51

*For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.
- <sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
- <sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,  
you who are God my Savior,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup> Open my lips, Lord,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- <sup>17</sup> My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart  
you, God, will not despise.

<sup>18</sup> May it please you to prosper Zion,  
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

<sup>19</sup> Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,  
in burnt offerings offered whole;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.





## Psalm 52

*For the director of music. A maskil of David. When Doeg the Edomite had gone to Saul and told him: "David has gone to the house of Ahimelek."*

<sup>1</sup> Why do you boast of evil, you mighty hero?  
Why do you boast all day long,  
you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God?

<sup>2</sup> You who practice deceit,  
your tongue plots destruction;  
it is like a sharpened razor.

<sup>3</sup> You love evil rather than good,  
falsehood rather than speaking the truth.

<sup>4</sup> You love every harmful word,  
you deceitful tongue!

<sup>5</sup> Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin:  
He will snatch you up and pluck you from your tent;  
he will uproot you from the land of the living.

<sup>6</sup> The righteous will see and fear;  
they will laugh at you, saying,

<sup>7</sup> "Here now is the man  
who did not make God his stronghold  
but trusted in his great wealth  
and grew strong by destroying others!"

<sup>8</sup> But I am like an olive tree  
flourishing in the house of God;  
I trust in God's unfailing love  
for ever and ever.

<sup>9</sup> For what you have done I will always praise you  
in the presence of your faithful people.  
And I will hope in your name,  
for your name is good.



## Diet sheet # 13 - Let Us be thankful!

### Preamble to the "Let us" Diet series.

Let's talk about going on diet!

- Have you ever felt the need to go on a diet? There are multiple reasons for dieting, you need to loose a few kilos, as a spiritual discipline or even to change an eating habit.
- Namely slowing down & less activity because of age, disability or circumstances.
- That's the physical aspect of life

What about our spiritual life?

- Have you got bored "doing" by doing the same routine every day?
- Have you listened to too many forwards from others, podcasts, prophetic words...
- Given your attention to different conspiracy theories?
- Have you lost a few spiritual kgs, put on unnecessary spiritual ideas?

The book of Hebrews has a "**Let-us**" diet!

*Hebrews 10:24-25 AMP*

*"and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching."*

*Hebrews 12:28-29 NIVUK "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'"*

- Thankfulness or gratitude is a sign of a relationship!
  - We have so-so much to be thankful for!

The key point here is

*...we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken...*

- We have chosen to establish our lives on the Rock of Ages!
- We have chosen to built on The Rock, Jesus.

Look back

*Hebrews 12:26-27 NIVUK "At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken – that is, created things – so that what cannot be shaken may remain.'"*

God is going to shake the whole universe!

- But what we believe in, what we trust in can not be shaken!

- The only unshakable thing in the whole of the creation is the Kingdom of God and daily we're growing in it!
- We have one foot in a shakable kingdom - it's where we are now living - and the other foot, heart, mind and soul in the unshakable Kingdom!
- This can be a tough balancing situation we often find ourselves in, but keep your focus on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith!
- Thankfulness or gratitude unto our Heavenly Father is a **worship style!**
  - I love just raising both hands in the air and saying: Thank you my God for all you do for me! It's refreshing
  - Try it now! Pause and do it now!
    - Did you pause?
  - Raising of hands is an **acceptable worship practice approved by God.**

*Psalms 141:2 NIVUK "May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice."*

*Psalms 63:4 NIVUK "I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands."*

*1 Timothy 2:8 NIVUK "Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing."*

Don't forget:

*...God is a consuming fire.*

**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.



## Diet sheet # 14 - Let Us go to Him!

*Hebrews 13:13-14 NIVUK "Let us, then, go to Him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come."*

This portion of scripture is focused at the time of Jesus's crucifixion.

- Calvary was outside the city Jerusalem, the place where Jesus was crucified.
- By going to Calvary we're identifying with Jesus.
  - Each one of us must make the choice either of ritualistic worship or heart worship of Jesus the Christ; between the two there can be no fellowship.
    - Ritualistic worship is like being on an evangelical treadmill of rote practices.
    - Heart worship is new every morning!
  - By identifying with Jesus we break away from a ritualistic form of worship to a worship that is a heart relationship with God through Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Worship outside the camp is Calvary based worship.

*John 8:34-36 NIVUK "Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'"*

Paul's observation is that the Galatians had move into ritualism. From being faith based to works based.

*Galatians 3:1-3 NIVUK "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?"*

- This backward move is akin to being bewitched!
  - Fooled by witchcraft and witches.

Paul adds flesh to ritualistic worship

*Colossians 2:16-18, 20-23 NIVUK "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind".*

*"Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 'Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!?' These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence." Let us, then, go to him outside the camp...*

Our Heavenly Father wants us to **connect with Jesus who is our all sufficiency**, He paid the physical price so that we can worship from the bottom of our hearts

- Heart to heart worship inspired by the precious Holy Spirit

**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.



## Even a chaplain must retire

*Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you. (Isaiah 46:4)*

We were together in The Salvation Army Training College and then commissioned to go our separate ways in ministry. By the time we met up for a refresher course for a few months nearly 20 years later he and his wife had led and pastored congregations from the north of Scotland to the south coast of England, some with just a few dozen members, others a few hundred. They'd even invited us to preach in some.

But it was really only when they had retired that we got to know them better. And that was especially when he joined the monthly men's breakfast that I host. At the time this was particularly to support men who, like me, were walking alongside a spouse with increasing cognitive or physical impairment. He didn't qualify on those grounds. He just wanted to be there.

Part of the time together was to share something of our own story. He told us some of his. How, though happily adopted, he eventually traced his biological parents. How he and his wife had found congregational ministry after many years of service increasingly draining, and how appointment as a chaplain at London's main airport came as a breath of fresh air. He told us how they would meet bereaved relatives in the arrivals hall, how he'd met Pope Benedict in the VIP lounge, how he had supervised the redevelopment of multi-faith chapels around the airport complete with a cross, a star of David, ablutions and prayer mats. He told us how he'd approached British Airways, asking them to carry sewing machines to central and east Africa for women's development programmes, and how they'd invited him to accompany the machines on one occasion, enabling him to visit some of the programmes they'd supported with 300 machines over the years.

But then came official retirement and with it the feeling that his task was not yet finished. So the next step was to apply for the post of part-time chaplain at a London teaching hospital. Sometimes he would come to the breakfasts with his bleep.

'Just in case,' he'd say, 'I'm on call today. Nearing the end and the need for a chaplain can be another kind of emergency.'

Without breaking confidentiality, he told us some of his experiences; of his deep sense of satisfaction in fulfilling a vocation that goes beyond 'official' retirement. But then the temporary cessation of duty during the pandemic, followed by concern for his wife's health led to the realisation that it was the time to step back from the work he loved. Formal employment would end. He wondered how he would cope with the sense of loss.

He still attends the breakfasts and there's often a story. Like trying to hire a mobility scooter for his wife, and the attendant recognises his voice. 'You were chaplain to my mum; she loved you. There's no charge for the scooter for you today!' We hear about funerals being conducted, some of the people whose families remembered his ministry; of phone calls and visits to people who are unwell; and of course there are the dozen or so of us 'breakfast men'. He's part of us.

Once a chaplain, always a chaplain, I say. His vocation doesn't end. Neither does ours.

*Thank you, Lord, for the opportunities you give us - yes, they come from you - even in our old age.*

Although spending much of his working life with The Salvation Army, **Dr Paul du Plessis** has been involved in a variety of honorary roles with TLM.



## The abundant outpouring God's Love - Jesus

In his conversation with Nicodemus on spiritual rebirth, Jesus said *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only [begotten] Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* (John 3:16-17). God's promise to the man who listens to the voice of the Holy Spirit is the Saviour, Son of God, Jesus Christ. This is the 'Good News' for the world. God's splendid love for man is at display in 'giving' his Son to the world.

For God **'so'** loved the world. **"So"**, an endearing love of forgiveness and compassion for man. The love is eternal, always present such that irrespective of who we are, where we are and what we are; God still loves us. One wonders why the great God should love a worthless world! He is merciful.

For God so **'loved'** the world. "Loved" is *agapaō*, the word used in the New Testament for the highest form of love, "to have a warm regard for and interest in another, cherish, have affection for love." **"Loved"** is modified by the adverb **"so,"** which indicates an intense degree of love. Though God's justice prevailed in the Garden of Eden, His love for man had never ceased.

The object of love is **"the world"**, the *kosmos*, a broad word that here refers to "humanity in general, the world." This verse shows that God's love is not limited to the Jewish people, or to the believers but encompasses all of humanity. God loves the 'sinner' as much as the 'born again' believer, of course for distinctly different reasons. The former with an eager expectation of turning to Him and the latter because they had made the choice to turn to Him.

**'He gave'**. Gave in John 3:16 is the common verb *'didōmi'*, "to give". It echoes the related verb *'paradidomai'* in Isaiah 53:12, "He was given up for their sins". The verb in John 3:16 is not "sent", but "gave", emphasizing the idea of sacrifice. God gave Jesus to humanity to save them from their sins. God gave someone who is very precious to Him, voluntarily to pay for the sins of man. Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross was not 'earned' by man through man's good works. God always 'gives' because God is 'love'. Giving freely is the very nature of God.

The words **'His only begotten Son'** clearly point to Jesus Christ as God's unique Son, one of a kind. We become sons and daughters of God by spiritual birth. However, though we strive to grow into the likeness of Jesus, He is unique in his relationship with God, since He is the Son from eternity.

In the verse **"that** He gave His only begotten Son **that** whosoever" we notice two 'that's'. The first "that" (*'hōste'*) indicates that God's intense love resulted in Him giving/sacrificing His Son. The second "that" (*'hina'*) indicates that God's love resulted in giving or sacrificing his Son for the purpose of not only (a) preventing man from perishing, but rather (b) having eternal life in God through Jesus Christ. God's purpose for us who believe in Jesus Christ is salvation and eternal life. God gave us Jesus Christ for a definitive purpose, to redeem us to Himself.

In 'not **perish**' the verb perish is 'apollymi', "to cause or experience destruction." It means, 'be ruined'; not just physical destruction but the hopeless destiny of eternal death. Of course, this description is symbolic rather than literal. But one shudders at the thought that if this is symbolic, the reality must be terrible beyond anything we can visualise. If we don't understand what it means to perish, we don't understand the greatness of the alternative, eternal/everlasting life.

"Eternal life". In the New Testament, Zōē is the word used for eternal life, rather than the other word for life, bios. Bios refers particularly to life in its appearance and manifestation in the world, distinguished from Zōē, the condition of being alive to a period of unending duration ie., time without end. "**Eternal life**" was used in the Judaism of Jesus' time as a synonym for entering or inheriting the Kingdom of God. That is the state where Man would be in the presence of God.

*God gave us His loving gift, Jesus so that we can have eternal life through faith in Him.*

In gratitude for His grace

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





## Katharine Hepburn's childhood, in her own words.

*I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20,35*

"Once when I was a teenager, my father and I were standing in line to buy tickets for the circus. Finally, there was only one other family between us and the ticket counter. This family made a big impression on me.

There were eight children, all probably under the age of 12. The way they were dressed, you could tell they didn't have a lot of money, but their clothes were neat and clean.

The children were well-behaved, all of them standing in line, two-by-two behind their parents, holding hands. They were excitedly jabbering about the clowns, animals, and all the acts they would be seeing that night. By their excitement you could sense they had never been to the circus before. It would be a highlight of their lives.

The father and mother were at the head of the pack standing proud as could be. The mother was holding her husband's hand, looking up at him as if to say, "You're my knight in shining armour." He was smiling and enjoying seeing his family happy.

The ticket lady asked the man how many tickets he wanted? He proudly responded, "I'd like to buy eight children's tickets and two adult tickets, so I can take my family to the circus." The ticket lady stated the price.

The man's wife let go of his hand, her head dropped, the man's lip began to quiver. Then he leaned a little closer and asked, "How much did you say?" The ticket lady again stated the price.

The man didn't have enough money. How was he supposed to turn and tell his eight kids that he didn't have enough money to take them to the circus?

Seeing what was going on, my dad reached into his pocket, pulled out a \$20 bill, and then dropped it on the ground. (We were not wealthy in any sense of the word!) My father bent down, picked up the \$20 bill, tapped the man on the shoulder and said, "Excuse me, sir, this fell out of your pocket."

The man understood what was going on. He wasn't begging for a handout but certainly appreciated the help in a desperate, heartbreaking and embarrassing situation.

He looked straight into my dad's eyes, took my dad's hand in both of his, squeezed tightly onto the \$20 bill, and with his lip quivering and a tear streaming down his cheek, he replied; "Thank you, thank you, sir. This really means a lot to me and my family."

My father and I went back to our car and drove home. The \$20 that my dad gave away is what we were going to buy our own tickets with.

Although we didn't get to see the circus that night, we both felt a joy inside us that was far greater than seeing the circus could ever provide.

That day I learnt the value to Give.

The Giver is bigger than the Receiver. If you want to be large, larger than life, learn to Give. Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything. The importance of giving, blessing others can never be over emphasised because there's always joy in giving. Learn to make someone happy by acts of giving.”

**Katharine Houghton Hepburn** (May 12, 1907 – June 29, 2003) was an American actress whose career as a Hollywood leading lady spanned six decades. She was known for her headstrong independence, spirited personality, and outspokenness, cultivating a screen persona that matched this public image, and regularly playing strong-willed, sophisticated women. Her work was in a range of genres, from screwball comedy to literary drama, and earned her various accolades, including four Academy Awards for Best Actress—a record for any performer. In 1999, Hepburn was named the greatest female star of classic Hollywood cinema by the American Film Institute.



## Psalm 53

*For the director of music. According to mahalath. A maskil of David.*

<sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart,  
"There is no God."  
They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;  
there is no one who does good.  
<sup>2</sup> God looks down from heaven  
on all mankind  
to see if there are any who understand,  
any who seek God.  
<sup>3</sup> Everyone has turned away, all have become corrupt;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one.  
<sup>4</sup> Do all these evildoers know nothing?  
They devour my people as though eating bread;  
they never call on God.  
<sup>5</sup> But there they are, overwhelmed with dread,  
where there was nothing to dread.  
God scattered the bones of those who attacked you;  
you put them to shame, for God despised them.  
<sup>6</sup> Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
When God restores his people,  
let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!



## The Word Day of Leprosy

### People on a Journey Together

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." - Genesis 12:1-3*

As we come to World Leprosy Day 2024, we celebrate a special milestone in the life of The Leprosy Mission, for it is 150 years since our founding in 1874.

And what a journey it has been! Across two millennia and three separate centuries, through two world wars and numerous other regional conflicts, two global pandemics and many other disease outbreaks, a global economic depression and multiple other financial crises. Yet through all these challenges, and many more, God has been faithful to His Mission, as we have journeyed together towards seeing leprosy defeated and lives transformed.

The Leprosy Mission Fellowship Charter, the founding document upon which our global organisation is established, speaks of Fellowship Members being in 'covenant relationship' with one another before God.

What is a 'covenant relationship'?

We are familiar with idea of covenants from the Scriptures;

In the Old Testament, God's 'chosen' people were in a covenant relationship with God which was initiated by Him. God promised to bless them so that they might be a blessing to others (Genesis 12:1-3).

Through his blood of the new covenant, Jesus has reconciled us with God, and in response, we want to model his example in our relationships with one another.

We describe covenant relationship for TLM as one of **'people on a journey together'**

He has called us to *go* – to minister to those in need with His help (Mark 6:33-44). We are people who have heard and responded to God's call to follow him into this particular work, among those who are affected by leprosy. We experience God's presence with us and we are further changed into His likeness as we move with Him on the journey to which He has called us.

The covenant provides a strong bond between all those within the covenant, however different they might be. A covenant embraces parties that are not equal but who belong to one another in God's love, who live by the rules of the covenant, and keep the discipline of travelling together.

2024 is a time for celebration and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness to The Leprosy Mission for our journey over the last 150 years. We are all on journeys within the body of Christ. God has called us to follow Him into many different ministries, be they in our local community or further afield. Regardless of where you have been called, love Him who has called you, love those you serve, love the journey He has called you to, and love those you are journeying with. Amen.

**Brent Morgan** - International Director of The Leprosy Mission (based in London)



## Life and light – Part 1

*John 1: 4 In him was life and life was the light of men.*

In a great piece of music the composer often begins by stating the theme which he is going to elaborate in the course of the work. That is what John did in the fourth Gospel. *Life* and *Light* are two of the great basic words on which this Gospel is built up. They are two of the main themes which it is the aim of the gospel to develop and expand to.

The fourth Gospel begins and ends with *life*. At the very beginning we read that in Jesus was *life*; and at the very end we read that John's aim in writing the gospel was that men might "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have *life* in his name" ( John 20: 31). The word is continually on the lips of Jesus. It is his wistful regret that men will not come to him that they might have *life* (5: 40). It is his claim that he came that men might have *life* and that they might have it abundantly (10: 10). He claims that he gives men *life* and that they will never perish because no one will snatch them out of his hand (10 :28). He claims that he is the way, the truth and the *life* (14: 6). In the gospel the word *life* occurs more than thirty five times and the verb *to live or to have life* more than fifteen times.

What then does John mean by *life*?

1. Quite simply he means that life is the opposite of destruction, condemnation and death. God sent his Son that the man who believes should not perish but have eternal *life*. (3:16). the man who hears and believes has eternal *life* and will not come into judgment (5: 24). There is a contrast between the resurrection to *life* and the resurrection of *judgment* (5: 29). Those to whom Jesus gives *life* will not perish (10:28). There is in Jesus that which gives a man security in this life and in the life to come.
2. But John is quite sure that, although Jesus is the bringer of *life*, the giver of life is God. Again and again John uses the phrase *the living God*, as indeed the whole Bible does. It is the will of the Father who sent Jesus that everyone who sees him and believes in him should have life (6: 40).
3. We must ask what this life is. Again and again the fourth gospel uses the phrase *eternal life*. The word John uses for *eternal* is. Clearly whatever else *eternal* life is, it is not simply life which lasts forever.
4. The true sense of the Word *only God* is *anions, eternal*; therefore *eternal life* is that *life* which God lives. When Jesus came offering men *eternal life*, he was inviting them to enter the very life of God.
5. How, then, do we enter into that life? We enter into it *by believing in Jesus Christ*. The word to *believe* occurs in the fourth gospel no fewer than seventy times. "He who believes in the Son has eternal life" (3:36). "He who believes "says Jesus "has eternal life (6; 47). It is God's will that men should see Son, and believe in him, and have eternal life (5:24)

What does John mean by *to believe*?

He means that we must be convinced that Jesus is really and truly the Son of God. He means that we must make up our minds about him. We have to think out for ourselves who he was. We have

to look at him, learn about him, study him, and think about him until we are driven to the conclusion that this is one more than the Son of God.

*For John, belief means conviction of the mind that Jesus is the Son of God.*

**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



## Life and light - Part 2

*John 1: 4 (continue) In him was life and life was the light of men*

The second of John's key- words which we meet here is the word *light*. This word occurs in the Fourth Gospel no fewer than twenty one times. Jesus is the *light* of men. The function of John the Baptist was to point men to that *light which* was in Christ.

Twice Jesus calls himself the *light* of the world (8: 12; 9: 5). The *light* can be in men (11: 10), so that they can become children of the *light* (12: 36), "I have come," said Jesus, "as light in the world" (12: 46). Let us see that we can understand something of this idea of the *light* which Jesus brings into this world.

1. The *light* Jesus brings is the *light* which puts chaos to flight. In the creation story God moved upon the dark, formless chaos which was before the world began and said "Let there be light" (*Genesis 1: 3*). The new created light of God routed the empty chaos into which it came. So Jesus in the *light which shines in the darkness* (1:5) He is one person who can save life from becoming a chaos.
2. The *light* which Jesus brings is a revealing light. The *light* which Jesus brings is something which shows things as they are. We never see ourselves until we are ourselves through the eyes of Jesus. We never see what our lives are like until we see them in the light of Jesus. Jesus often drives us to God by revealing us to our4.
3. The *light* which Jesus brings is a guiding *light*. If a man does not possess that *light* he walks in darkness and does not know where it is going (12: 36). When a man receives that *light* and believes in it, he walks no more in darkness (23: 46).

One of the features of the Gospel stories which no one can miss is the number of people who came running to Jesus asking: "What am I to do?" When Jesus comes into life the time of guessing and groping is ended, then the time of doubt and uncertainty and vacillation is gone. The path that was dark becomes light: the decision that was wrapped in a night of uncertainty is illuminated. Without Jesus we are like men groping on an unknown road in a blackout. With Jesus the way is clear.

**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



## **An accurate diagnose**

## **The greatest disease**

“The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy;  
it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for.

We can cure physical diseases with medicine,  
but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love.

There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread  
but there are many more dying for a little love.

The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty –  
it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality.

**There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.”**

**Mother Teresa of Kolkata**



**Authors in ABC Order****Country****Textuaries in Canonical Order**

<i>Alan Gray</i>	<i>15 January</i>	<i>UK</i>		Genesis 12,1-3	<i>28 January</i>
<i>Asaph</i>	<i>14 January</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Daniel 6,10	<i>5 January</i>
<i>Brent Morgan</i>	<i>28 January</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalms 23	<i>18 January</i>
<i>Bunmi Oluloto</i>	<i>8 January</i>	<i>Niger/Nigeria</i>		Psalms 47	<i>6 January</i>
<i>Christine Osman</i>	<i>4, 9 January</i>	<i>Scotland</i>		Psalms 48	<i>7 January</i>
<i>Dan Izzett</i>	<i>12, 22, 23 January</i>	<i>Zimbabwe/UK</i>		Psalms 49	<i>13 January</i>
<i>David, king of Israel</i>	<i>20, 21, 27 January</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Psalms 50	<i>14 January</i>
<i>Eddie Askew</i>	<i>16 January</i>	<i>UK</i>		Psalms 51	<i>20 January</i>
<i>Élie Fofolo</i>	<i>19 January</i>	<i>DR Congo</i>		Psalms 52	<i>21 January</i>
<i>John Twynam-Perkins</i>	<i>5 January</i>	<i>Scotland</i>		Psalms 53	<i>27 January</i>
<i>Katharine Hepburn</i>	<i>26 January</i>	<i>USA</i>		Psalms 90	<i>1 January</i>
<i>Mother Teresa of Kolkata</i>	<i>31 January</i>	<i>Albania/India</i>		Isaiah 43,18-19	<i>11 January</i>
<i>Otto Kingsley</i>	<i>2, 18 January</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		Isaiah 46,4	<i>24 January</i>
<i>Paul du Plessis Dr</i>	<i>3, 10, 17, 24 January</i>	<i>UK</i>		Matthew 17,20	<i>4 January</i>
<i>Peter Laubscher</i>	<i>11 January</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>		Matthew 25,36	<i>17 January</i>
<i>Pradeep and Sarah Failbus</i>	<i>29, 30 January</i>	<i>India</i>		Luke 12,27	<i>16 January</i>
<i>Raju PLN Dr</i>	<i>25 January</i>	<i>India</i>		John 1,4	<i>29 January and 30</i>
<i>Sadhu Sundar Singh</i>	<i>26 January</i>	<i>India</i>		John 3,16	<i>25 January</i>
<i>Sons of Korah</i>	<i>6, 7, 13 January</i>	<i>Israel</i>		Acts 20,35	<i>9 January</i>
				Acts 26,27	<i>3 January</i>
				Hebrews 10,24-25	<i>22 January</i>
				Hebrews 13,13-14	<i>23 January</i>
				1 Cor 12,4-5	<i>10 January</i>
				Ephesians 2,1-10	<i>9 January</i>

				Ephesians 5,18	19 January
				Ephesians 5,20	8 January
				1 Thess 5,9-11	15 January

The Bridge Editor: Marta Risko - Theological lector: Allan Ekstedt – Grammar proof: Christine Osman