

IF TODAY WAS YOUR LAST DAY ON EARTH

Three years ago, the daily newspaper carried a story of a traffic derailment of a passenger ferry in Mombasa, one of the famous cities in Kenya. Many lives were lost. I grieved with the bereaved families and when I tried to picture the accident, my attention turned to the passengers caught up in it. What had their thoughts been as they woke up that morning? What were their thoughts a second before the accident occurred? What plans did they have for the coming day? What unfinished tasks did they hope to accomplish? What family decisions were they expected to make that evening?

Perhaps some were business men and women on their sales trips, who hoped to be home in time for the family meal. Some were on their way to school in joy and harmony to meet their parents at the lunch hour. And of these people one can ask so many questions. All in all, what did these people plan for the future? Did any of their plans involve God? Did they know of God's mercy and His amazing grace to redeem man from sin? Had anyone of them given their hearts to Jesus? As their life records were suddenly truncated by that dreadful accident, how did they stand with God? Were they found in harmony with God's word? Were their names in the book of life? Or were their bad deeds still retained in the record books and their names written

in the book of death awaiting the dreadful declaration—"I NEVER KNEW YOU: depart from me ye that work iniquity." Matt. 7:23.

Each time in my life when I learn of a life suddenly cut short, these thoughts come to my mind with an awful weight and clarity. I cannot help but cry out, "How long, O Lord? How long will men continue to suffer?"

James was my cousin, who was in the prime of life. He had just finished his first degree in medicine and the future looked bright with opportunities. Following his assignment to a district hospital, he proposed to a young college girl who gladly accepted him. Not long afterwards he drove into the city among the weekend traffic to work out final plans for the wedding. On his way back, the tires of his car blew out and this resulted in a major accident, and death took my cousin. Could anything be more painful? The only son of a widowed

mother
with
bright
prospects about
to marry...

In all the countries of the world, the prediction made in Genesis 3:19 which says, "in the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. You are dust and to dust you shall return," is fulfilled every day as thousands return to the dust of the ground. There is practically no safe place on the planet earth. Fire, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, cold, heat waves, deadly gases, horrible diseases and accidents claim thousands of lives every day around the world. And just as if this was not bad enough, man has become his own worst enemy! Men taking the lives of other fellow men, the greatest menace of all.

Friend, if today was your last day on earth, how would you spend it? What would you do? How many wrongs would you have to make right? How many letters would you have to write? What legacy would you leave behind? If today was your last day on earth, how would you spend it? You might be nervous, you might even be afraid. If today was your last day on earth,

what would you do? Whatever it is, do it now. Don't think of tomorrow, but for today, "whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, wither thou goest." Eccl. 9: 10. the Bible reminds us that all of us will have to pass through the grave unless Jesus comes before we die. In that event, we will be translated to heaven with Him. But it is not God's plan that we should go into the grave without first knowing the good news about Jesus Christ and the good news about the kingdom of God. Unless we have embraced the good news about Jesus, the judgment is really a terrible thing. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after that the judgment." Heb. 9:27.

Paul is not the only one concerned about the judgment. The subject is frequently presented by the Bible writers. Enoch pictured the Lord coming to execute judgment. (Isa. 66:15). Daniel also foresaw the time when the judgment was set and the books were opened. (Dan. 7:10). Jesus Himself frequently referred to the final judgment. He declared that the ancient Sodom and Gomorrah would be treated more leniently in the judgment for refusing the light they had, than the cities of His day that had rejected Him. (Matt. 10:11, 14, 15). Verse 14 and 15, "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city". He asserted that men would give an account of every idle word in the judgment unless he/she confesses and is pardoned. (Matt. 12:36). Paul declared that God has appointed a day on which

He will judge the world. (Acts 17:31). No one can escape the judgment, all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ; and the decision of the judgment for those who have not accepted Christ are based on the unrepented-of sins we have committed. (2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 7:16-20). And yet whether we accept the scriptural teachings of the judgment or not, whether we like it or not, each one of us has a case pending in court (not on earth but in heaven where our cases will be decided). And from that decision, there will be no court of appeal. The decision will be righteous, (Rom. 2: 2-5) and eternal in its consequences. We shall all give an account of ourselves to God (Rom 14:12). Young people, ignorant, careless, are striding towards the judgment. The aged with slow and unsteady steps are trembling towards it. The rich in their stretch limousines are also driving towards the judgment. The poor in their threadbare clothes will also be there. Yes, we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

Every sin of which we have not repented will be brought into judgment. Every lie will be exposed. Everyone will have his/her life-record open, and nothing will be covered up. Is there anything in your life-record that will be hidden? Every sin, every deed of law-breaking, or any sinful thoughts are all recorded in the book of records. Here is where God, the Judge of all the universe examines the evidence and

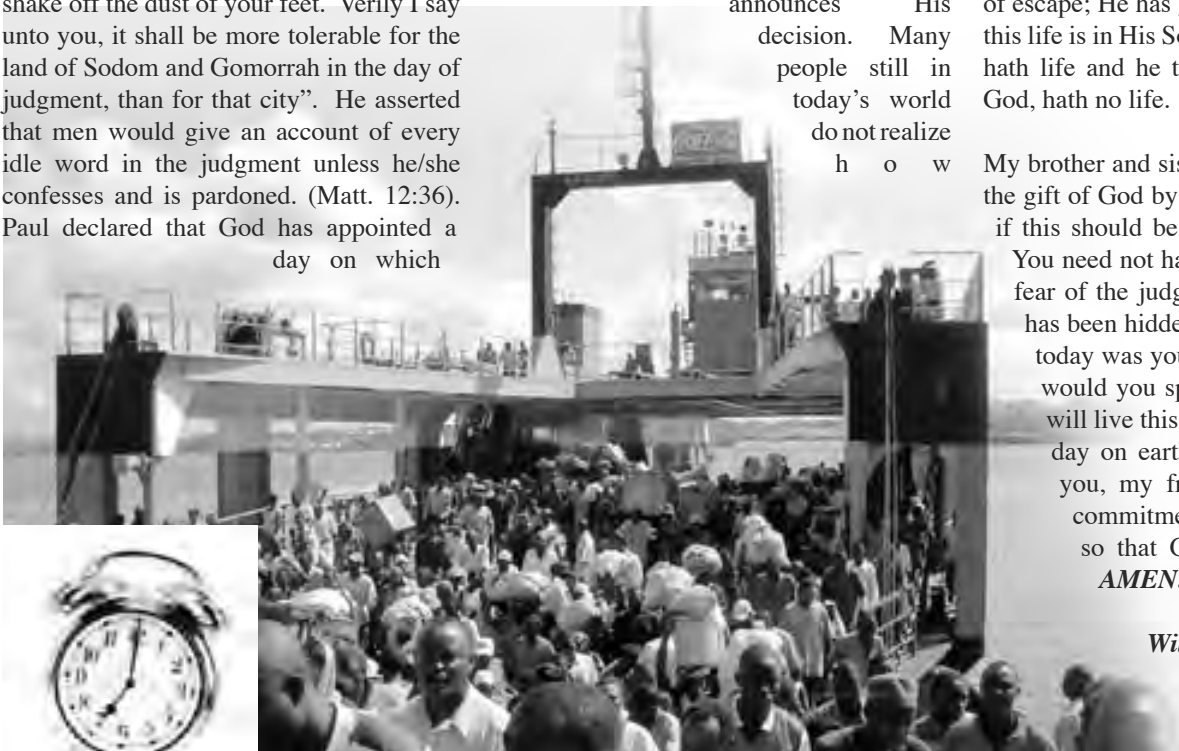
announces His decision. Many people still in today's world do not realize how

narrow the road to heaven is. There will be no group-entry into the city of God. We enter as individuals only when our sins have been washed by the blood of the Lamb and have accepted Him as our personal Saviour. The Bible says that the road that leads to eternal life is a narrow one and few travel upon it. When it comes to matters of eternal life or eternal death, you stand alone; the decision for Christ and eternity is all yours. Nobody can make it for you. There is a time when each one will give an account of himself/herself to God and nobody will speak for the other.

TERRIFYING!!! Well, no court case is terrifying if one knows the judge and can get some assurance from him. We have that assurance from God, also He says, "verily, verily, I say unto you; He that heareth my word and believed on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." John 5: 24. Wonderful assurance! We shall not come into condemnation, says Jesus. This is a revelation of God's plan to save every redeemed man and woman who has accepted His provision. Everyone of us is under condemnation for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Rom 6:23 says, "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God does not want us to die in our sins. He has provided a way of escape; He has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son, hath life and he that hath not the Son of God, hath no life.

My brother and sister, I urge you to accept the gift of God by accepting the Son, even if this should be your last day on earth. You need not have fear of the future, no fear of the judgment, because your life has been hidden with Christ in God. If today was your last day on earth, how would you spend it? I pray that you will live this day as if it was your last day on earth. It may be today for you, my friend, therefore make a commitment to Christ your God, so that God can save you now.
AMEN.

Willkister Akinyi-Outah



What had their thoughts been as they woke up that morning?

Introduction

IN THE COMPANY OF JESUS

Our emotions and spirits often are raised whenever we receive a commendation - "You look nice," "I love you," "I have missed you dearly"... as in encouraging and motivating what is acceptable in our human nature. How can this commendation be compared with, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world," Matthew 25:34 as a welcome into the company of Jesus? Oh no! Ear has never heard nor eye beheld the throngs where but purity reigns with Jesus as the leading Commander. Certainly it does thrill one's heart, as it will with unfathomable joy on that appointed time. It will be a scene of admiration by all - the condemned wicked and the approved righteous. When the curtain is thus lifted before the time, the unspoken perception, the low tone whispers and the *desire* is that "I wish I would be there!" It leaves us with the question "how did those who are behind Prince Emmanuel get there? The Lord's will is to show us the path to be taken by all who will then sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. He has shown us the street lights and signals in the various inspired illustrations as we take precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, to make the link whole and the path sure.

Jesus' promise to the disciples and all that believe on Him still remains; "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2b, 3. This promise of coming again to take all of His followers to where He dwells, elevates our minds to "have a vision of the future and of the blessedness of heaven. Stand on the threshold of eternity, and hear the gracious welcome given to those who in this life have co-operated with Christ regarding it as a privilege and an honor to suffer for His Sake." 8T 44

"There are revealed in this last days visions of future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God and this should be dear to His church. What sustained the Son of God in His betrayal and trial? He saw of the travail of His soul and was satisfied. He caught a view of the expanse of eternity and saw the happiness of those who through His humiliation should receive pardon and everlasting life... His ear caught the shout of the redeemed. He had the ransomed ones singing the song of Moses and the Lamb." 8T 45. Dear reader, Christ sought out your company at the cost of His own life. What value do you place upon the opportunity to live with Christ for eternity?

WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

The Good Shepherd welcomes the ransomed ones that make a shout of victory. "They shall hear my voice" John 10:16. What voice are they/we to hear? It's a voice of invitation "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink," For them that labour and are heavy laden is the invitation also made, "come unto me,... and I will give you rest" John 7:37. Matthew 11:28. What of the ignorant? The Good Shepherd will be to them a wonderful Counselor, and will counsel them saying, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me." Matthew 11:29a. The beginning of the end - New Jerusalem is here defined. In the world of din as it may be, identify the voice of the Good Shepherd from many that claim to be. Heed the invitation, Heed the counsel, and make your first step forward till the beauties to the eye, consoling music declare - home at last - Paradise. Let us believe this to be true and possible because if it were not so, He (Jesus) would have told us. "Learn of me," says Jesus; "for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye

shall find rest.” Matthew 11:29. “We are to enter the school of Christ to learn from Him meekness and lowliness. Redemption is that process by which the soul is trained for heaven. This training means a knowledge of Christ. It means emancipation from ideas, habits, and practices that have been gained in the school of the prince of darkness. The soul must be delivered from all that is opposed to the loyalty of God.” DA 330

There is no sure way of entering into the school of Christ than beholding the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. By constantly beholding, we will be changed to be what we see and hear from Him - meekness, lowliness of heart, patience, longsuffering, forgiveness, forbearance, unselfishness - fruits of the spirit, all crowned by His own character of love. We would have then set ourselves to die daily which means forfeiting the ideas, habits and practices that have been gained in the school of the prince of darkness, till we are completely dead to the world. “For he that is dead is freed from sin” Romans 6:7. “And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?” 1 Corinthians 15:30

“You have repeatedly said, ‘I can’t keep my temper,’ ‘I have to speak.’ You lack a meek, humble spirit, self is alive, and you stand guard continually to preserve it from mortification or insult. Says the apostle; ‘For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.’ Those who are dead to self will not feel so readily and will not be prepared to resist everything which may irritate. Dead men cannot feel. You are not dead. If you were, and your life is led in Christ, a thousand things which you now notice, and which afflict you, would be passed by as unworthy of notice: You would then be grasping the eternal and would be above the petty trials of this life.” 2T 425

IMMUTABLE PURPOSE

God’s object of creating man has never changed even after the fall of our first parents at the Garden of Eden. “Higher than the highest human thought can reach, is God’s ideal for His children. Godliness - godlikeness - is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continuous progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes

everything good, and pure, and noble.” Ed. 18.

After the earth with its teeming animal and vegetation life had been called into existence, man the crowning work of the Creator, and the one for whom the beautiful earth had been fitted up, was brought upon the stage of action. To him was given dominion over... all the earth... of which Christ asserts with the cheer, “Fear not little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32, which Satan claims to be his by ensnaring Adam to eat of the forbidden fruit thus subjecting him to be a slave in the very world where God had declared him (Adam) ruler... “for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” 2 Pet. 2:19b. “Christ assured the angels that by His death, He would ransom many, and would destroy him who had the power of death. He would recover the Kingdom which man had lost by transgression, and the redeemed were to inherit it with Him, and dwell therein.” PP 65.

Down from Adam’s generation to the present one that is on the verge of destruction, the guilt of sin censuring our conscience often perplexes us to hide ourselves from the face of our God as did our past parents. “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.” Genesis 3:8. The same feelings and thoughts of doing contrary to God’s biddings, as found in us today is an undoubtable evidence that we are partakers of this nature as it is manifest in Adam i.e. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world.” Romans 5:12. In hiding themselves from the presence of God, this does not lessen or thwart the grand purpose of God to see Himself in one (Adam) that He created in His own image. It’s for this reason that He (God) calls Adam inquiring, “Where art thou?” Genesis 3:9b.

While God was seeking man’s good, Satan was seeking his ruin. Satan presses them with a sense of guilt to have them flee from their only way of securing that which they had lost - privilege of God’s company and holy angels. However, with their running away from the presence of their Creator, this yet opens an opportunity that God may reveal and teach them His misrepresented

character of love. He pursues them with the inquiry “where are thou? And the invitation, “Come now, and let us reason together,... though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18. This invitation comes sounding down along the lines to us today. Will you let Him reason with you? Will you commit to Him the keeping of your soul as unto a faithful Creator? Come then, and let us live in the light of His countenance, and pray as did David, ‘Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.’ Ps 51:7” ISM 330.

We are no different than what Adam and Eve did in hiding themselves from the presence of God. Each one of us with our peculiar individualities are hiding ourselves in our secret lives, from which God is calling us that we reason with Him, that he may introduce us to the company of Holy Angels. He has given us opportunity to willingly expose our unfaithfulness of every kind now in this time of probation for reformation before that awful hour as pictured herewith; “In that solemn and awful hour the unfaithfulness of the husband will be opened to the wife, and the unfaithfulness of the wife, to the husband. Parents will then learn for the first time, what was the real character of their children, and children their parents. The man who robbed his neighbour through false representations, is not to escape with his ill-gotten gains. God has an exact record in His books, of every unjust account and every unfair dealing.” Maranatha 340 From the canopy of your grove, God’s entreaty to us all is ‘step out’ into the noon day light, for thy light is come.

DIVERSE IMPRESSIONS

David, in his personal examination, with a deep sense of conviction declares, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made” Psalms 139:14. All could claim this peculiarity world-wide for though the world consist of six billion people, not even one of this 6 billion would bear your personality. At one time, one of my college teachers wanted to prove this, taking the 46 members of our class as the sample of his experiment. He brought to class a picture of an old woman and let each of the 46 students observe it critically in turns until they all were satisfied. When this was done, he asked the class “what did you see on the picture?”

It was amazing to find that from the same simple picture, everyone of the 46 students gave a distinct observation concerning the picture.

As with the different observations that were made in this class of 46 students so it is with choosing to leave the grove in which we are sheltering and come out to the open place where we can see and be seen of all men. From the grove of our sins, what do we see in Jesus, the light of the world that draws us to Himself? "By an agency as an unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the

receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ. These may be received through meditating upon Him, through reading the scriptures, or through hearing the word from the living preacher. Suddenly, as the spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion, but it is the result of long wooing by the spirit of God, - a patient, protracted process." DA 172.

The divinity of Christ flashing to humanity will quicken our minds to discern what we are lacking. Hence, with our peculiar personalities, our impressions on the

beauty that attract us to Jesus vary, but most surely what we lack and dearly need. For this reason, numerous appellations are ascribed to Jesus: - Prophet, Healer, Teacher, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Lovely Jesus, Son of David, Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, Refuge, Advocate, High Priest, Light of the World, Water of Life, Salt, the Way and the Truth, etc. "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." Colossians 1:19 - 20. Have you identified a virtue in Christ of which you feel you are devoid of? It's time to stitch this virtue into the garment to be worn by all guests invited to the wedding of the Lamb.

"The way has been made clear for all those who choose to hear, repent and believe. All heaven is waiting the sinner's cooperation, and the only barrier that stands in this way is one which he alone can remove, his own will. He must submit to the will of God, and through repentance and faith, come unto God for salvation. No one will be forced against his will; Christ draws, but never compels." RH 3 - 24 - 1896.

"Every one that will submit to be ransomed, Christ will rescue from the pit of corruption and from the briars of sin. 'Desponding soul, take courage, even though you have done wickedly. Do not think that perhaps God will pardon your transgressions and permit you to come into His presence. God has made the first advance, while you were in rebellion against Him, He went forth to seek you with the tender heart of a Good Shepherd He left the ninety and nine and went out into the wilderness to find that which was lost. The soul bruised and wounded and ready to perish, He encircles in His arms of love and joyfully bears it to the fold of safety.'" COL 188.

A FRIEND INDEED

The sent of heaven has so long desired to have us sinners become intimate friends. For this sole purpose, "the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost," Luke 19:10 This is contrary to the doctrines and commandments of men that say He came to condemn the world. Hence in seeking the sinner, He becomes a friend of the sinner(s). In doing this, Jesus says,



Philip findeth Nathanael

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.” John 15:16a. He so delights to have us in His company - a company redeemed who He teaches/instructs how to wash their robes and make them white in His own blood, and present them faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” Jude 24. “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” John 15:15.

As a dear friend Jesus would like to show us where He lives, should we wish and aspire to be there with Him. “Then Jesus turned and saw them (John’s disciples) following, and said unto them, what seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi (which is to say, being interpreted, Master) where dwellest thou? He said unto them, come and see. They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day. How vital it is to know that Jesus still holds the same wish of not only showing us where He dwells, but to reside with Him and not for a while but for eternity! “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: For thou lovedest me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:24. How prepared are you to appear before a Holy God, holy angels, holy patriarchs, holy disciples and all saints in general?

Isn’t it a noble thing to recount what we have heard and seen in the dwelling place of our friend and Saviour Jesus Christ? All the beauties that draw us to Him are known to us once we visit freely. What would be worthwhile to do after having been with Jesus? To publish abroad what we have seen and heard of Him. “Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” John 1:45. In a similar manner, the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well who perceives Christ as a prophet hesitates not to rush into the city with the message, “Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” John 4:29.

The will of the Lord in preparing the great supper is that as many people may come so that His house may be filled. His command was and is “Go out quickly into the streets

and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.” Luke 14:21 – 23.

From the preceding examples, Christ does not segregate as to who would be His friend(s). He had an open invitation to all who will to come into that trinity circle and enjoy a face-to-face communion with the Holy God and Jesus Christ who He has sent to reconcile if possible the whole world to Himself. He not only invites us but has strategically laid before us advertisement posters of the glories we are to enjoy in the association of the holy angels, and with Himself and His Father, who is to be our Father forever in the eternal home.

HEAVEN IN MINIATURE

“We may have a vision of the future, the blessedness of heaven. In the Bible are revealed visions of the future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God, and these are dear to His church. By faith we may stand, on the threshold of the eternal city, and hear the gracious welcome given to those who in this life cooperate with Christ...” AA 602 In showing us the heavenly pictures, our Just, Merciful and faithful God would wish us to take Him by His word as true and real. We need not suppose as how it looks like, but He reveals it to us that we may covet it. A proof of this left the beholders startled, gazing with a deep yearning to be one of the redeemed company. Their testimony was and will be:

“As God has shown me the travels of the Advent people to the Holy City and the rich reward to be given those who wait the return of their Lord from the wedding, it may be my duty to give you a short sketch of what God has revealed to me. The dear saints have many trials to pass through. But our light afflictions, which are but for a moments, will work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory - while we look not at the things which are seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. I have tried to bring back a good report and a few grapes from the heavenly Canaan, for which many would stone me, as the congregation bade

stone Caleb and Joshua for their report. (Numbers 14:10) But I declare to you, my brethren and sisters in the Lord, it is a goodly land, and we are well able to go up and possess it.” EW 13, 14.

What report/vision do we have as pre-heirs of the Kingdom and its treasures? “We saw the great city, with twelve foundations, and twelve gates, three on each side, and an angel at each gate. We all cried out ‘The city, the great city’... ‘I saw most glorious houses, that had the appearance of silver, supported by four pillars set with pearls most glorious to behold... I saw many of the saints go into the houses, take off their glittering crowns and lay them on the shelf, then go out into the field by the houses... I saw another field full of all kinds of flowers... I saw a field of tall grass, most glorious to behold; it was living green and had a reflection of silver and gold, as it waved proudly to the glory of King Jesus. Then we entered a field full of all kinds of beasts--the lion, the lamb, the leopard, and the wolf, all together in perfect union...

“As we were traveling along, we met a company who also were gazing at the glories of the place. I noticed red as a border on their garments; their crowns were brilliant; their robes were pure white. As we greeted them, I asked Jesus who they were. He said they were martyrs that had been slain for Him. With them were an innumerable company of little ones; they also had a hem of red on their garments... And I saw the little ones climb (on mountains slopes) or, if they chose, use their little wings and fly, to the top of mountains and pluck the never - fading flowers. There were all kinds of trees around the temple to beautify the place: the box, the pine, the fir, the oil, the myrtle, the pomegranate and the fig tree bowed with the weight of it’s timely figs - these made the place all over glorious. And we were all about to enter the holy temple, Jesus raised His lovely voice and said, ‘only the 144,000 enter this place, and we shouted, ‘Alleluia.’

“The wonderful things I there saw I cannot describe. Oh, that I could talk in the language of Canaan, then could I tell a little of the glory of the better world. I saw their tables of stone in which the names of the 144,000 were engraved in letters of gold. After we beheld the glory of the temple, we went out, and Jesus left us and

went to the city. Soon we heard His lovely voice again, saying, 'Come, My people you have come out of great tribulation, and done My will; suffered for Me; come in to the supper; for I will gird Myself, and serve you.' We shouted, 'Alleluia! Glory!' and entered into the city. And I saw a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, 'Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life and drink of the fountain.' And He said, you must go back to the earth again and relate to others what I have revealed to you.' Then an angel bore me gently down to this dark world." EW 17 - 20. This is the heavenly report, what do we do with it? In faith, are you numbered as one of them in this company of Jesus?

A PALATABLE THOUGHT

The expected end of all that have chosen the company of Jesus has been revealed by Christ Himself; they belong unto us and our children forever. As the needle is to the pole, "the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it shall surely come, it will not tarry," Habakkuk 2:3.

It is a wonderful thought to be in the company of the redeemed led by the Redeemer Jesus Christ, seeing Him face-to-face and communing with Him heart-to-heart. Certainly, this will be a restored race, representatives of those sinless realms over which Satan had thought to establish his dominion. Nevertheless, they are redeemed in the blood of the Lamb that God purposed, - "Man to have dominion over the fish of the sea, and ever the fall of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the

earth, and ever every creeping thing that creeping upon the earth."

"Then it is that the redeemed from among men will receive their promised inheritance. Thus God's purpose for Israel will meet with literal fulfillment. That which God purposes, man is powerless to disannul. Even amid the working of evil, God's purposes have been moving steadily forward to their accomplishment. It was thus with the house of Israel throughout the history of the divided monarchy; it is thus with spiritual Israel today." PK 720

All that heaven can do to have man (me & you, reader) saved is already done. The Master of the ceremony (Jesus Christ) invites you to be one of the honored guests at the high table whose length extends even from the East to the West.

His wish is to serve you with



honor the invitation even now to subsist only on that which is provided on that table without indulged appetite? "My brother my sister, I urge you to prepare for the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven. Day by day cast the love of the world out of your hearts. Understand by experience what it means to be in fellowship with Christ. Prepare for the judgment that when Christ shall come, to be admired in all them that believe, you (we) may be among those who will meet Him in peace." 9T 285.

"Do not become overwhelmed with the great amount of work you must do in your lifetime, for you are not required to do it all at once. Let every power of your being go to each day's work, improve each precious opportunity, appreciate the helps that God gives you, and make advancement up the ladder of progress step by step. Remember that you are to live but one day at a time, that God has given you one day, and heavenly records will show how you have valued its privileges and opportunities. May you so improve every day given you of God, that at last you may hear the Master say, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'" MYP 46.

In faith I see you there, and do wish that we have blessed converse in the radiant light from the face of Jesus, with the commendation "I was a sinner, without God and without hope in the world, and you come to me and drew my attention to the precious Savior as my only hope... I now see Him face to face. I am saved, eternally saved, ever to behold Him whom I love," Maranatha 303 This is my living hope to you. May it be a reality that we are found together in this blessed company of Jesus. AMEN.

*John Riang'a Obwocha,
Nairobi - Kenya*

t h e fruits of the tree of life and drink water drawn from the river of life. Will you

LET US FOLLOW JESUS



“Follow Me.” This is Jesus’ invitation to every one of His disciples. These words were heard by Peter and Andrew as they were casting their net into the Sea of Galilee; and the Scriptures tell us that they immediately left their nets and followed Him. (Matthew 4:20)

“Follow Me” were the words heard by James and John, two brothers who were casting their nets a few meters away, and again we are told that they immediately left their boat and their father and followed Him. (Matthew 4:21, 22)

“Follow Me,” Jesus told Philip, a man from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter, and he brought along his friend Nathanael.

After Jesus gave the man with the palsy the order to arise, take up his bed and go home, the Saviour of the world came across a tax-collector named Levi and in other words told him also to arise when He said to him: *“Follow Me”*, and we read that Matthew left all, rose up, and followed Him. (Luke 5:28)

Who was this apparently simple man, without an outstanding formal education, with no home and a doubtful origin, that people would leave everything they had to follow Him? Nobody asked that question. Attracted like a magnet, they followed the carpenter’s son from Nazareth.

Where did He take them? To a mountain beside the Lake of Gennesaret. There He poured His blessings upon them, such blessings that if they looked into their own hearts, they would realize they could not receive them, because they were meant for the meek, the merciful, the pure of heart. Then He gathered them around Himself and *“He gave them power [against] unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease”* (Matthew 10:1)

“Follow Me.” Do you remember what you were doing when Jesus told you these words? That day, He took you to a mountain above the darkness of the world in which we live, and He poured His blessings upon you. He gathered you into His church and gave you the same power He gave His disciples: power over all kinds of sickness, to cast out demons, etc. Did the disciples make use of that power? We know very well the case of the man who brought his devil-possessed son and the disciples could not heal him because they were discussing who was the greater, instead of seeing how they could grow in faith. Are we using that power today? If we are not, could it be for the same reason?

“Follow Me,” He is still saying today, every day, every moment. *“Follow Me and do not look back.” “Follow Me and do not look at yourself.” “Follow Me and do not worry about the way.” “Remember My promise, ‘And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.’”* (Matthew 19:29). *“Follow Me without fear.” “Do not identify yourself with anything you were before, neither with your country, nor with your profession, and even less with your sinful life.” “Follow Me, I am leading you along a secure way full of surprises.” “Rest in Me, I am at your side.” “I am at the steering wheel of your life that like a boat plies the immensity of the ocean. I will quiet down the storms for you.” “Follow Me in full trust that I have overcome.” “Do not make plans for yourself, just watch how I lead your life; give Me your will and wait patiently to see what I will do with you.” “But, follow Me, do not sleep; do not stay motionless, do not allow situations, no*

matter how hard they are, to paralyze you; walk over the waves, allow Me to work miracles in your life. Trust Me, I want to raise you above this world, to carry you on eagles' wings to a very high mountain from which you may have a broader view, I want you to reach My stature."

Let us follow Him, the Light of the world, in full trust, because His promise is, "He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12).

AMEN. Teresa Corti



Follow Me

*Yes, Lord, I want to follow You wherever you lead me,
Through valleys of tears,
Abysses of despair and humiliation,
Or heights of complete bliss.*

Follow Me

*Yes, Lord, I want to follow You in full trust
That whichever cup you give me to drink
Is with the purpose of healing my soul
And making me reach the goal.*

Follow Me

*Yes, Lord, I want to follow You, far from the lusts of my flesh
Above my twisted thoughts and contradictory feelings,
To a complete new dimension,
Where Your Spirit reveals to mine Your will for me.*

Follow Me

*Yes, Lord, I want to follow You,
Wearing on my head the helmet of salvation,
And having in my hand the shield of faith
That in Your infinite grace You have given me.*

Follow Me

*Yes, Lord, I want to follow You, without asking where, or why
Because my soul knows very well that You are leading me to eternal bliss
Either when I see the light or when I walk along a dark tunnel
Simply because "Your banner over me is love."*

Follow Me

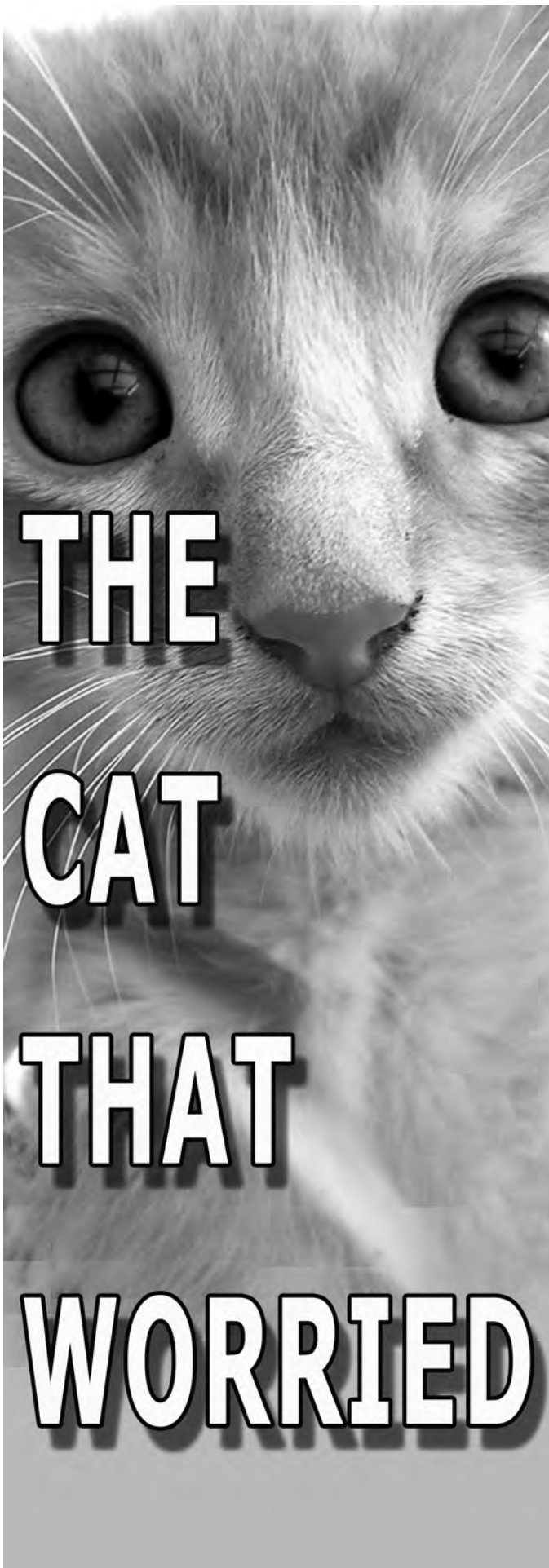
*Yes Lord, I want to follow You within the sanctuary,
Before the presence of my heavenly Father,
To praise His name in eternity,
And from the new Jerusalem, I will follow You,
Lamb of God, wherever You may go.*

Follow Me

*Yes, Lord, "work in me both to will and to do of Your good pleasure"
And I will follow you, "for without You I can do nothing." AMEN.*

Teresa Corti





THE

CAT

THAT

WORRIED

Once there was a cat that worried. “Impossible,” you say, “Animals can’t even think, let alone worry!” Well, wait until you hear the story.

Her name was Jewel, and she was a lovely cat. (She had a sister named Loving. Unfortunately Loving was not road wise. She played too near the road one day and her sad mistress had to search for her, and carry her in, and bury her.) Anyway, back to the Jewel Cat that worried.

Jewel Cat became a momma, and had one fat kitten. He was called Garfield. About the same time, another cat, Ginger, became a momma also, and produced several furry babies.

Ginger Cat had all she could do to care for her brood, whereas Jewel had only one to feed. One day her mistress had a bright idea. Why could not Jewel Cat care for another baby? So she offered one of the wee ones to her. Jewel Cat proved her large heartedness in one second. She nabbed the little kitten by the skin of its neck, as all good momma cats do, and hurried away to her nest to bring Garfield a friend. (If I remember correctly she also adopted two more). At the time she was living in the open attic above the mistress’s cabin. Up the ladder she went with each baby in her mouth.

After living in the attic for some time, her mistress noticed one day that the little family had been moved, they had all disappeared. Upon careful searching the cat family was found under a nearby shed, where they lived for some time. But one day, the visit was in vain, Jewel Cat and her family had disappeared again.

Again, careful searching found the small family. But what a state they were in. Up to the dilapidated attic of an old abandoned log house mistress went. Her ears followed the mournful sound of mewing, hungry, cold, lonely baby kittens. Jewel Cat was not to be seen. The only quiet one was fat Garfield.

Down from the old attic mistress brought the babies. Soon Jewel Cat was found—but in a state of exhaustion. She had worried and worked herself into a nervous breakdown. No place had seemed safe or secure for her precious babies, and she had moved and moved them until she broke down and abandoned her family.

What is the lesson we can learn from all of this? Our Lord Jesus said, “Don’t be anxious about anything; but in everything make known your requests unto God.” One worry leads to another, and if you allow yourself to be harassed by doubts and fears, they will multiply, and chase you until you drop from exhaustion. When troubled by fears and forebodings, stay still, and plead for help. By running you only entice the enemy to chase you, and chase you he will.

Jewel Cat recovered from her exhaustion with tender, loving care, and a release from her furry problems. Ginger resumed care of her entire litter, and Garfield grew up to be one of the healthiest and nicest cats you would ever want to know.

“God is good,” says my soul, “therefore I will trust in Him.”

AMEN.

There is a time of trouble coming, and we should prepare for it by having repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Fears and

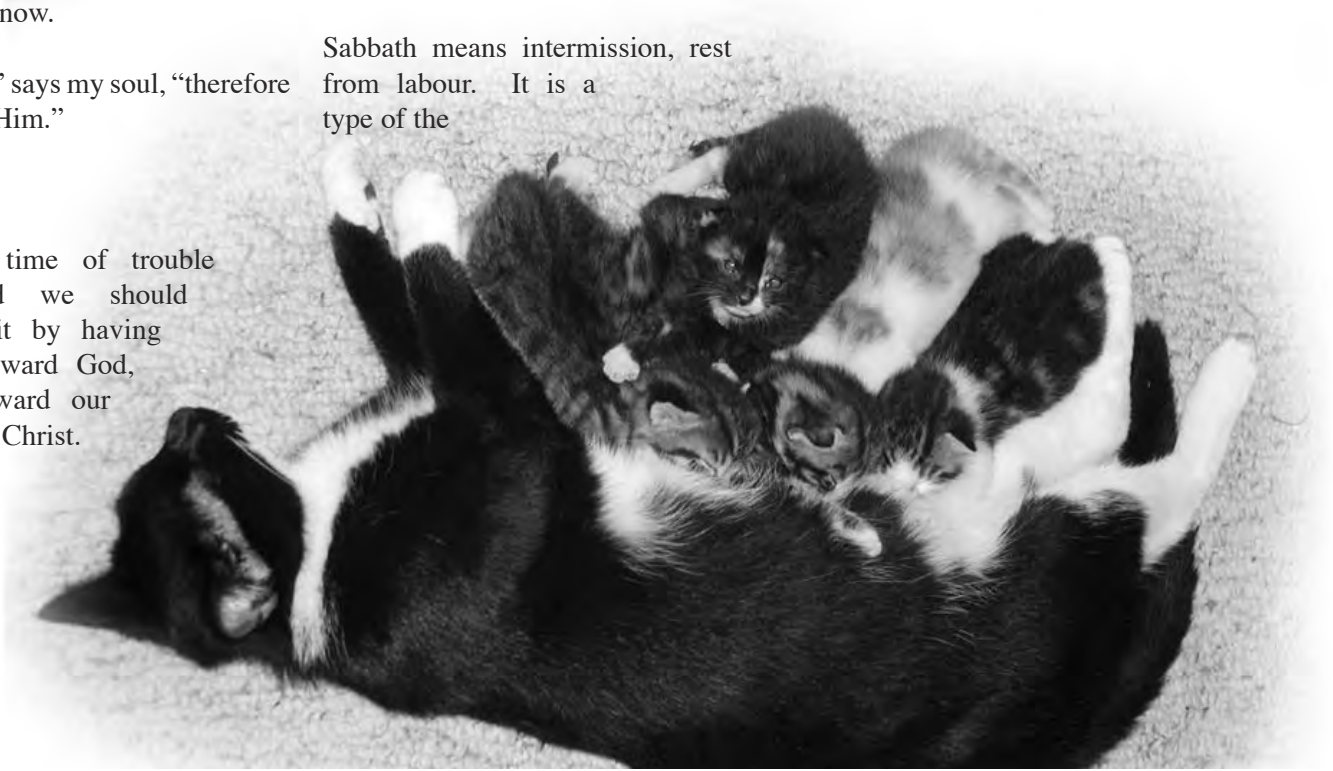
forebodings will do us no good, but only harm. “There was no assurance of safety in any place.” 9T 93.

“The crisis is gradually stealing upon us...” WC 8.3

Sabbath means intermission, rest from labour. It is a type of the

rest of soul that we can have in God our Father and Husband. He is our confidence.

Kathleen Ross, Alberta, Canada



CANADIAN CONFERENCE

*You Are Invited To Attend
In Toronto
July 29, 30, 31, 2005*

For More Information Please Contact:

*Timo Martin:
416-252-1197 or 416-235-0667
timom@sympatico.ca*

Additional Information:
www.imssdarm-bg.org • www.ims.truepath.org





DELEGATES, SOUTH KOREA



BR. LEE & FAMILY



LUNCH TIME



BAPTISMS IN SOUTH KOREA

SOUTH KOREA



CHILDRENS MEETING @ CONFERENCE



DINNER @ THE CONFERENCE



SPECIAL SONG BY THE CHILDREN



SPECIAL SONG

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR



PART 1

In the light of the recent world catastrophe, the tsunami in Indonesia, the question is asked...

Let us consider the question of a “certain lawyer”. Luke 10:25 – 37
“And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him(Jesus), saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.”

“But he (the lawyer), willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?”

“And Jesus answering said, A certain [man] went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded [him], and departed, leaving [him] half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side, and likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked [on him], and passed by on the other side, but a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion [on him] and went to [him], and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave [them] to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.”

“Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he (the lawyer) said, He that showed mercy on him.”

Then the command of Jesus... Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”

In the story of the good Samaritan, Christ illustrates the nature of true religion. He shows that it consists not in systems, creeds, or rites, but in the performance of loving deeds, in bringing the greatest good to others, in genuine goodness.

As Christ was teaching the people, “a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted Him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” With breathless attention the large congregation awaited the answer. The priests and rabbis had thought to entangle Christ by having the lawyer ask this question. But the Saviour entered into no controversy. He required the answer from the questioner himself. “What is written in the law?” He said; “how readest thou?” The Jews still accused Jesus of lightly regarding the law given from Sinai; but He turned the question of salvation upon the keeping of God’s commandments.

The lawyer said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.” Jesus said, “Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.”

The lawyer was not satisfied with the position and works of the Pharisees. He had been studying the Scriptures with a desire to learn their real meaning. He had a vital interest in the matter, and had asked in sincerity, “What shall I do?” In his answer as to the requirements

of the law, he passed by all the mass of ceremonial and ritualistic precepts. For these he claimed no value, but presented the two great principles on which hang all the law and the prophets. This answer, being commended by Christ, placed the Saviour on a vantage ground with the rabbis. They could not condemn Him for sanctioning that which had been advanced by an expositor of the law.

“This do, and thou shalt live,” Jesus said. He presented the law as a divine unity, and in this lesson taught that it is not possible to keep one precept, and break another; for the same principle runs through them all. Man’s destiny will be determined by his obedience to the whole law. Supreme love to God and impartial love to man are the principles to be wrought out in the life.

The lawyer found himself a lawbreaker. He was convicted under Christ’s searching words. The righteousness of the law, which he claimed to understand, he had not practiced. He had not manifested love toward his fellow man. Repentance was demanded; but instead of repenting, he tried to justify himself. Rather than acknowledge the truth, he sought to show how difficult the fulfillment of the commandment is. Thus he hoped both to parry conviction and to vindicate himself in the eyes of the people. The Saviour’s words had shown that his question was needless, since he had been able to answer it himself. Yet he put another question, saying, “Who is my neighbour?”

Among the Jews this question caused endless dispute. They had no doubt as to the heathens and the Samaritans; these were strangers and enemies. But where should the distinction be made among the people of their own nation, and among the different classes of society? Whom should the priest, the rabbi, the elder, regard as neighbour? They spent their lives in a round of ceremonies to make themselves pure. Contact with the ignorant and careless multitude, they taught, would cause defilement that would require wearisome effort to remove. Were they to regard the “unclean” as neighbours?

Again Jesus refused to be drawn into controversy. He did not denounce the bigotry of those who were watching to condemn Him. But by a simple story He held up before His hearers such a picture

of the outflowing of heaven-born love as touched all hearts, and drew from the lawyer a confession of the truth.

The way to dispel darkness is to admit light. The best way to deal with error is to present truth. It is the revelation of God’s love that makes manifest the deformity and sin of the heart centered in self.

“A certain man,” said Jesus, “was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, which both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance a certain priest was going down that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And in like manner a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side.” Luke 10:30-32, R. V. This was no imaginary scene, but an actual occurrence, which was known to be exactly as represented. The priest and the Levite who had passed by on the other side were in the company that listened to Christ’s words.

In journeying from Jerusalem to Jericho, the traveler had to pass through a portion of the wilderness of Judea. The road led down a wild, rocky ravine, which was infested by robbers, and was often the scene of violence. It was here that the traveler was attacked, stripped of all that was valuable, wounded and bruised, and left half dead by the wayside. As he lay thus, the priest came that way; but he merely glanced toward the wounded man. Then the Levite appeared. Curious to know what had happened, he stopped and looked at the sufferer. He was convicted of what he ought to do; but it was not an agreeable duty. He wished that he had not come that way, so that he need not have seen the wounded man. He persuaded himself that the case was no concern of his.

Both of these men were in sacred office, and professed to expound the Scriptures. They were of the class specially chosen to be representatives of God to the people. They were to “have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way” (Heb. 5:2), that they might lead men to understand God’s great love toward humanity. The work they were called to do was the same that Jesus had described as His own when He said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance

to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.” Luke 4:18.

The angels of heaven look upon the distress of God’s family upon the earth, and they are prepared to co-operate with men in relieving oppression and suffering. God in His providence had brought the priest and the Levite along the road where the wounded sufferer lay, that they might see his need of mercy and help. All heaven watched to see if the hearts of these men would be touched with pity for human woe. The Saviour was the One who had instructed the Hebrews in the wilderness; from the pillar of cloud and of fire He had taught a very different lesson from that which the people were now receiving from their priests and teachers. The merciful provisions of the law extended even to the lower animals, which cannot express in words their want and suffering. Directions had been given to Moses for the children of Israel to this effect: “If thou meet thine enemy’s ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.” Ex. 23:4, 5. But in the man wounded by robbers, Jesus presented the case of a brother in suffering. How much more should their hearts have been moved with pity for him than for a beast of burden! The message had been given them through Moses that the Lord their God, “a great God, a mighty, and a terrible,” “doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger.” Wherefore He commanded, “Love ye therefore the stranger.” “Thou shalt love him as thyself.” Deut. 10:17-19; Lev. 19:34.

Job had said, “The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveler.” And when the two angels in the guise of men came to Sodom, Lot bowed himself with his face toward the ground, and said, “Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and tarry all night.” Job 31:32; Gen. 19:2. With all these lessons the priest and the Levite were familiar, but they had not brought them into practical life. Trained in the school of national bigotry, they had become selfish, narrow, and exclusive. When they looked upon the wounded man, they could not tell whether he was of their nation or not. They thought he might be of the Samaritans, and they turned away.

In their action, as Christ had described it, the lawyer saw nothing contrary to what he had been taught concerning the requirements of the law. But now another scene was presented:

A certain Samaritan, in his journey, came where the sufferer was, and when he saw him, he had compassion on him. He did not question whether the stranger was a Jew or a Gentile. If a Jew, the Samaritan well knew that, were their condition reversed, the man would spit in his face, and pass him by with contempt. But he did not hesitate on account of this. He did not consider that he himself might be in danger of violence by tarrying in the place. It was enough that there was before him a human being in need and suffering. He took off his own garment with which to cover him. The oil and wine provided for his own journey he used to heal and refresh the wounded man. He lifted him on his own beast, and moved slowly along with even pace, so that the stranger might not be jarred, and made to suffer increased pain. He brought him to an inn, and cared for him through the night, watching him tenderly. In the morning, as the sick man had improved, the Samaritan ventured to go on his way. But before doing this, he placed him in the care of the innkeeper, paid the charges, and left a deposit for his benefit; and not satisfied even with this, he made provision for any further need, saying to the host, "Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee."

The story ended, Jesus fixed His eyes upon the lawyer, in a glance that seemed to read his soul, and said, "Which of these three, thinkest thou, proved neighbour unto him that fell among the robbers?" Luke 10:36, R. V.

The lawyer would not, even now, take the



name Samaritan upon his lips, and he made answer, "He that showed mercy on him." Jesus said, "Go, and do thou likewise.

Thus the question, "Who is my neighbour?" is forever answered. Christ has shown that our neighbour does not mean merely one of the church or faith to which we belong. It has no reference to race, color, or class distinction. Our neighbour is every person who needs our help. Our neighbour is every soul who is wounded and bruised by the adversary. Our neighbour is everyone who is the property of God.

In the story of the good Samaritan, Jesus gave a picture of Himself and His mission. Man had been deceived, bruised, robbed, and ruined by Satan, and left to perish; but the Saviour had compassion on our helpless condition. He left His glory, to come to our rescue. He found us ready to die, and He undertook our case. He healed our wounds. He covered us with His robe of righteousness. He opened to us a refuge of safety, and made complete provision for us at His own charge. He died to redeem us. Pointing to His own example, He says to His followers, "These things I command you, that ye love one another." "As I have loved you, that ye also love one another." John 15:17; 13:34.

The lawyer's question to Jesus had been, "What shall I do?" And Jesus, recognizing love to God and man as the sum of righteousness, had said, "This do, and thou shalt live." The Samaritan had obeyed the dictates of a kind and loving heart, and in this had proved himself a doer of the law. Christ bade the lawyer, "Go, and do thou likewise." Doing, and not saying merely, is expected of the children of God. "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." 1 John 2:6.

The lesson is no less needed in the world today than when it fell from the lips of Jesus. Selfishness and cold formality have well-nigh extinguished the fire of love, and dispelled the graces that should make fragrant the character. Many who profess His name have lost sight of the fact that Christians are to represent Christ. Unless there is practical self-sacrifice for the good of others, in the family circle, in the neighborhood, in the church, and wherever we may be, then whatever our profession, we are not Christians

Christ has linked His interest with that of humanity, and He asks us to become one with Him for the saving of humanity. "Freely ye have received," He says, "freely give." Matt. 10:8. Sin is the greatest of all evils, and it is ours to pity and help the sinner. There are many who err, and who feel their shame and their folly. They are hungry for words of encouragement. They look upon their mistakes and errors, until they are driven almost to desperation. These souls we are not to neglect. If we are Christians, we shall not pass by on the other side, keeping as far as possible from the very ones who most need our help. When we see human beings in distress, whether through affliction or through sin, we shall never say, This does not concern me.

"Ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness." Gal. 6:1. By faith and prayer press back the power of the enemy. Speak words of faith and courage that will be as a healing balsam to the bruised and wounded one. Many, many, have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, when one word of kindly cheer would have strengthened them to overcome. Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him of the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God.

All this is but a fulfillment of the principle of the law,—the principle that is illustrated in the story of the good Samaritan, and made manifest in the life of Jesus. His character reveals the true significance of the law, and shows what is meant by loving our neighbor as ourselves. And when the children of God manifest mercy, kindness, and love toward all men, they also are witnessing to the character of the statutes of heaven. They are bearing testimony to the fact that "the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Ps. 19:7. And whoever fails to manifest this love is breaking the law which he professes to revere. For the spirit we manifest toward our brethren declares what is our spirit toward God. The love of God in the heart is the only spring of love toward our neighbour. "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" Beloved, "if we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us." 1 John 4:20, 12. (D.A.)

Amen

Raewyn Jones, Brookhampton, Australia



THE TURNING

POINT!

Psalm 73:3-5

“For I was envious of the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no pangs in their death; but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.”

The problem of the ever-increasing and illusive prosperity of the wicked has perplexed Christians and God’s children for centuries. The burning and agonizing question arises; “why do our unsaved friends seem to escape complex and distressing trouble, while we Christians and devout believers have more grievous burdens than we are able to handle?”

It is often said, even in the secular world; “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.” The contrasts and the gaps are widening daily at every turn of the scheme of life, it seems. Never has the display and evidence of wealth been so rampant, and furthermore, the number of millionaires and billionaires is escalating yearly, worldwide; But, why? We knew it was coming, and now it is here, if we refer to the scriptures and prophecy; “... and the merchants of the earth are grown rich through the abundance of her delicacies.” (Rev. 18:3).

When we begin with the first verses of Psalm 73, we read that the traditional believer looks around at the apparent prosperity engulfing him in ancient Israel; “pride, violence, fatness, corruption, oppression, ungodliness.” We, too, are plagued with the same elements, and perhaps, more. The candid believer now looks around too, and also sees, his neighbours, relatives, believers in the church, believers in other faiths, in government officials, in employer-employee relations, in entertainers, sports figures, scientists, professionals, writers, commentators, corporate officials, media personages, academic figures, designers, and on-and-on.

They, the rich, incessantly seem to escape sickness, sorrows, grief, and attacks, while the poor seem to be forever plagued by them! What else does the psalmist say? “I have been a Christian in vain.” He cries out further, “Is it worth at all to be saved?”

Blasphemies, cult movements, New Age inroads, spiritualism, satanic beliefs, demonism, etc., are on the rise. Ungodly books, such as “The Da Vinci Code,” which is fictional, but which the author claims is fact-based, alleges “scientific evidence that the New Testament is false testimony.” (p. 341). Furthermore, that Christianity is a lie and stolen from pagan religions. Although a novel, this conspiratorial murder mystery claims to be based on well-researched historical facts—facts that contradict historical Christianity.

But, “We did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,” (2 Pet. 1:15). The Apostle John wrote, “Beloved do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God; Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and is now already in the world.” 1 John 4:1-4.

So, with such relentless exposure and experiences to the worldly influences of above, many Christians do now know where to turn. The cruel attacks cause many others to begin to doubt the Word of God,

the Spirit of Prophecy, Heaven, Jesus, God, and the Church. The Truth! Many others are brokenhearted, confused, abandoned, and discouraged.

But, I believe, of all of these, the feeling of worthlessness, and unimportance in this

use of five loaves and two small fish to feed a multitude. (John 6:1-14). That young man's contribution was important. So, each of us has something important to offer in His service. That was a turning point in that young man's life, and in the ministry of Jesus Christ for His doubting disciples.

the performance isn't complete until we do our best with what we have. We are important! You are important in the eyes of God. Every step in your life can be a "turning point."

But, let us return to our story and the question of the psalmist; his perplexities, and his "turning point." When he cried out again, "For all the day long have I been plagued and chastened every morning. If I say I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children; when I thought to know this it was too painful for me." (Psalm 73:14-16). Note carefully now as we see the "turning point" of the psalmist: Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end." (v. 17).

When the psalmist took an inside view of faith, then he saw the Truth. The sanctuary was no longer a mystery, and is no longer a mystery for us. We meet God, in the Most Holy Place, (since 1844), where our High Priest, and Intercessor is making atonement for our sins. "We have such an High Priest, who is on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." (Heb. 9:12).

Furthermore, "The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross, for by His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven." (GC, p. 489).

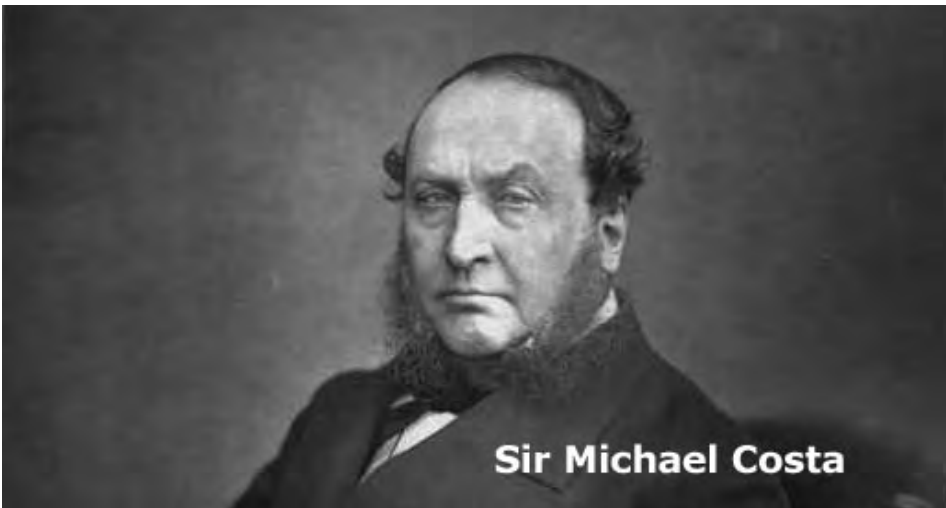
"The blood of Christ, while it was to release the repentant sinner from the condemnation of the law, was not to cancel the sin, it would stand on record in the sanctuary until the final atonement; so in the type the blood of the sin offering removed the sin from the penitent, but it rested in the sanctuary until the Day of Atonement. In the great day of the final reward, the dead are to be "judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their work." (Rev. 20:12).

"Then by virtue of the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, the sins of the truly penitent will be blotted from the books of heaven. Thus, the sanctuary will be freed or cleansed from the records of sin." (PP, p. 357).



world is the most tragic consequence of following the common path of the enticing, and often unavoidable worldly influences. It is true, however, that at certain times in our lives we may feel insignificant and

Sir Michael Costa was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great chorus. Halfway through the session, with trumpets blaring, drums rolling, and violins singing their rich



useless. Often surrounded by people with greater talent than ours, and prosperity, we are tempted, thereby, to just settle back and let someone else do the work, reasoning that what we have to offer won't make much difference anyway. We begin backsliding; praying less, reading the Word of God less, and begin to neglect the Sabbath Day. The insidious question again rises, "Is it worth it all to be saved?"

melody, the piccolo player muttered to himself, "What good am I doing? I might as well not be playing. Nobody can hear me anyway." So, he kept the instrument to his mouth, but he made no sound. Within moments, the conductor cried, "Stop! Stop! Where's the piccolo?" It was missed by the ear of the most important person of all.

It is much the same with the use of our abilities for the Lord. Whether our talents or resources are great or small,

We forget the truth suggested by our Lord's

Don't you want to praise God for what is happening in heaven's sanctuary today and for the time of the final atonement?

The psalmist realized the unsaved are really in slippery places. A terrible destiny for them is considered. The Jews lost sight of

Holy to the Most Holy."

Whenever you feel that it is not worth to be a Christian, a child of God, read Psalm 73:23-28: "Nevertheless, I am continually with thee; thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with



the sanctuary. Not only that, but Sis. White stated, "The churches have been filling up since 1844 with every unclean and hateful bird since Christ left the sanctuary from the

thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory, Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth,

but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. For lo, they that are far from thee shall perish; thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But, it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works."

This tells us in part that God is holding your right hand, guides you into this life, promises a crown of glory in the next life. The unsaved have passing riches, and pleasures. We have an eternal God.

Whenever a Christian is complaining in this life, it's because he is walking by sight and not faith. He sees the world with human eyes, and not the eyes of God, and not the eyes of faith.

So, what is the "turning point?" From just sighing to singing, in seeing things the way God sees them.

How do we do this? By transporting ourselves into the Heavenly Sanctuary. In the place of prayer, fellowship, and obedience. The Apostle Paul pointed his listeners beyond, to Christ's priestly ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. For the Lord loveth justice, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off... But, the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Psalm 37:1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 28).

What is the turning point in your life?
AMEN.

John Theodorou, USA



"AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"



Cain said to God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" He did not recognize himself as one having responsibility for his brother's welfare, but he certainly recognized himself as his brother's destroyer. And for 6000 years this attitude has ruled in the hearts of men; and it has caused untold amount of suffering and grief in the world. It is this attitude of Cain's that has caused wars, murders, terrorism, and crime, and even divorces and separations among the people. Men have become selfish and only care for themselves.

A thief goes out to steal without any thought of the sorrow he is causing to others. He only thinks of his own gain. A businessman has no concern for other companies in the same field. If others would go to bankruptcy, it would bring him joy. The fact that thousands of people starve to death daily in the poor countries brings little concern to the people in the richer countries. The only concern that most of the people have is their own luxury and pleasure.

Even many of the professed Christians are satisfied to save themselves, and have very little concern for the salvation of others. And the reason for all this neglect is that people do not consider themselves to be their brother's keepers. The words of Jesus, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," are mostly ignored.

The parable of Jesus of the lost sheep shows how the man who lost one of his sheep left the 99 and went to seek the one that was lost. Normally the opposite is done. A brother or a sister who is found to have fallen into sin is ignored, his sin is broadcasted to everyone and it is almost a crime if someone dares to befriend him and be kind to him.

The word of the prophet to these unfaithful shepherds is clear. "Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them." Ezek. 34:9. 10.

The Pharisees in their seeming righteous anger brought a woman who was caught in sin to Jesus and said that she should be stoned to death. The approach of Jesus towards this woman was completely opposite to that of the Pharisees. The spirit of condemning and accusing destroys, while the spirit of sympathizing and forgiving heals and saves.

When the disciples were angry with the Samaritans, they said to Jesus, "Wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven to consume them." Jesus said to them, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." The disciples did not realize that they were influenced by the spirit of Satan but thought that it was righteous anger that inspired them.

How many in the position of Joseph would have taken revenge on the brothers who had treated him so badly. But Joseph, instead of destroying his brothers forgave them and became truly his brothers' keeper by providing them their livelihood.

In this life we often pass through trials, sorrows, Satan's fierce temptations, discouragements and we may be in danger of losing our faith. Then even a few encouraging words can help us to get over our

discouragement and depression.

“Those who are fighting the battle of life at great odds may be refreshed and strengthened and encouraged by little attentions which cost nothing. Kindly words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep away the clouds of temptation which gather over the horizon of the soul.” M.L., p. 152.

“Kind, cheerful, encouraging words will prove more effective than the most healing medicines.” M.L., p. 152.

“You can do much to brighten the life of others and strengthen their efforts, by words of hope and holy cheer. There is many a brave soul sorely pressed by temptation, almost ready to faint in the conflict with self and with the powers of evil. Do not discourage such a one in his hard struggle. Cheer him with brave, hopeful words that shall urge him on his way. Thus the light of Christ may shine from you.” S.C., p. 120.

We sing in our gospel hymn, “O brother be faithful! Soon Jesus will come.” A mother and her daughter were holding on to a piece of wood in the water, as the ship in which they were traveling sank. The mother said, “I cannot hold on any longer, I must let go.” But her daughter said, “Mother, hold on a little longer, Jesus will save us.” Soon after, both were saved by a rescue boat.
Many

a soul could be saved to eternal life by little encouraging words: O brother, or, O sister, be faithful a little longer. Soon our trials will be over and we will be at rest.

Satan is attacking every child of God, members, young people, even the ministers and the leaders of the churches. Therefore we need to speak encouraging words to everyone and pray for them. God is speaking to us, “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.” Isa. 40:1.

God’s people had passed through difficult times. Their enemies had been attacking them, and therefore many were discouraged. The work of comforting the people of God was left on the ones who even in the time of adversity did not lose their faith.

Isaiah writes further, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound... to comfort all that mourn.” Isa. 61:1, 2. This is the work that Jesus did while on the earth, and this is also our work today; to bind the brokenhearted and to comfort all that mourn.

We are truly our brother’s keepers. The Lord will ask each one of us one



day, “where are your brothers?” Do you then answer like Cain, “Am I my brother’s keeper,” or do you answer, “here they are, all saved.” Then the Lord will say, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.” May the Lord help us to realize our responsibility for our brothers and sisters, and be faithful in comforting all that are discouraged.”
AMEN.

Timo Martin, Canada



TORONTO CHURCH ORGANIZATION 2005



| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Church Leader | Timo Martin |
| Assistant Leader | John Bescec |
| Secretary | Christina McTavish |
| Treasurer | Helen Marttinen |
| Deacon | Alberto Romero |
| Assistant Deacon | Abel Conde |
| Deaconess | Lucy Flores |
| Assistant Deaconess | Shartery Garcia, Fanny Ramirez |
| Missionary Leader | Mike Newby |
| Missionary Assisstants | John Formosa, Reyna Conde |
| Youth Leader | John Formosa |
| Assistant Youth Leader | Edwin Alfaro |
| Health Teacher | Karl Chernuska |
| HealthAssistant | Helen Marttinen |
| Ushers | Alberto Romero, Abel Conde, Debbie Conde |
| Music Director | Christina McTavish |
| Caretaker | Alberto Romero |
| Social Leader | Pasita Medina |
| Social Assistant | Emelina Garcia |
| | |
| Elder | John Bescec |

Church Committee:

Timo Martin
Christina McTavish
Helen Marttinen
Joaquin Hidalgo
Abel Conde

Please pray that the new officers will perform their duties to the honour and glory of God. AMEN.

THE ACCIDENT THAT CHANGED MY HEART



CHILDRENS CORNER

Sometimes bad things happen to good people and we wonder why. Paul wrote, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28. Sometimes God allows accidents to happen because we are too busy with our own lives and not taking time to listen to Him so that we can get direction and guidance from Him. The accidents may come because that is the only way we will stop and listen to God. In this true story this is exactly how a lady, Heather, describes the consequences of her accident.

Heather was out on the lake one sunny day boating with her husband. She stood up to move to the other side of the boat and just at that moment the boat jostled from the wake of another large boat that had passed by them quickly. She lost her balance and fell into the water. Her husband circled the boat around to come back to pick her up and was heading straight towards her, but something went wrong; the boat's steering cable jammed, making it impossible for him to turn to avoid her. He was heading straight towards her.

Heather now tells of her own experience:

I watched hopelessly as the boat headed straight for me. In a split second the propeller sliced into my face and right arm like a butcher's cleaver carving a prime rib.

The next thing I was aware of was someone in white cutting my throat to perform a tracheotomy. I felt no pain, only numbness. But I distinctly heard one doctor say, "Every bone in her face is broken. Her brain has got to be damaged. From all that force hitting her there's just no way her brain could have escaped."

I wanted to shout, "No, it isn't." But I couldn't talk. Yes, every bone in my face was broken. My eye sockets were crushed, leaving my eyes without

support. A portion of my upper lip was cut away. My chin bone was split in half. My mouth was almost entirely gutted except for my tongue.

For three days I lay in intensive care in that hospital in Panama City, Florida. My condition was too critical for surgery. No visitors were allowed, but more than a hundred travelled from my small hometown of Enterprise, Alabama, just to ask about me. Prayer vigils were set up in several states. I lay like a corpse; yet everything in me fought to survive.

I was airlifted to a hospital in Birmingham. When I drifted out of my coma, I felt unbearable pain. Finally, five days after I arrived, I was wheeled into the operating room for thirteen hours of surgery.

Seven more times in the next two months I went back under the surgeon's knife. I was plagued by pain and more pain. The doctors used my bone fragments and plastic plates to reconstruct cheekbones; they inserted plastic eye sockets to hold my eyes, placed a splint in the top of my mouth, and implanted seventeen teeth into my gums.

In the final surgery,

they bored holes in my forehead and inserted wires to hold my face in place. Staring in the mirror, I was horrified at the sight: a woman with metal wires like antennae sticking in the air. My face was distorted beyond recognition. "My career as an interior decorator is ruined," I wept. Why had God allowed this to happen? I felt so sorry for myself.

When I was released to go home for a while, my daughter patiently squirted liquids through a syringe into my mouth. One day when I complained, she told me to be thankful for soup; it was keeping me alive.

All of a sudden I saw how ungrateful I had been. Over the next four months I had plenty of time to think about my life and realize my priorities had been wrong. My days had been full of activity, but empty of meaning. I thought a lot, too, about God, but I didn't know how to contact Him.

Finally, I was on my way back to Birmingham to get the wires removed. The procedure went as planned, but doctors determined that my appendix was on the verge of



rupturing. More surgery, and then my intestines quit functioning. Tubes were put back down my nose. IV's were started in both arms. This pain was worse than any I had experienced before. As waves of nausea rolled over me, I begged God to let me die, just like Elijah had prayed in the



desert to let God allow him to die. God did not grant Elijah any reprieve, nor did He give me reprieve from my suffering either.

My husband, Harold, left the room and returned with a large Bible. "Why?" I wondered. We had a Bible that we took to church. Why sit and read to me here in the hospital when I am in so much pain, I won't retain anything.

But Harold started reading and he read for hours. Some passages comforted me – especially Jesus' words "In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not

so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:2, 6. Suddenly I saw it: Jesus was my way to God, the only way. He had prepared a place in heaven for me. While the words offered comfort, they did not ease my excruciating pain.

The next morning I was still pleading silently with God to let me die in peace. I didn't tell Harold about my secret desire, but later that day, I had let it slip without meaning to. He hadn't left me for a few days, but now he needed to go out for shaving supplies. "Be good to the children when I'm gone," I whispered as he walked towards the door.

He pivoted around, with hurt etched in his deep blue eyes. "You can't give up now, Heather. You've come through too much. Mrs. Cross, a lady down the hall, isn't expected to live. But you are. You are going to live."

Just as I asked God one more time to take my life, Mrs. Evans, a nurse came in and bathed me. She was humming a song I remembered from childhood: "God Will Take Care of You"--- "Through every day."

As she hummed, the room filled with light that seemed to penetrate through me. I could feel the presence of Jesus. He was so real, so personal – there with me. "Oh, dear God," I managed to whisper, "forgive my selfishness." I had a sudden inner drive to live, to see each one in my family know the Lord and His presence just as I was experiencing Him at the moment.

Awed by what was happening, I prayed again but changed my plea. "Lord, if you let me live, I will spend the rest of my life living for you." There was no bargaining, no more begging Him to remove the pain, no more wishing to die.

Over the next few hours, my pain and nausea left. I started having a lively conversation with the nurse, who was so surprised to see me so animated. The tube placed in my abdomen to pump out poisons was removed the next morning. The IVs were soon gone too, and nurses' aides began walking me up and down the hall. Two days later I had an urge to go pray for the woman down the hall, Mrs. Cross.

Harold had said she was dying; her fever was so high she was packed in ice. But I had never prayed aloud for anyone. What would she think of me? For six hours I fought an inward voice that whispered, "Go pray for her."

Finally, I threw the covers back and inched myself out of bed. Clinging to the sides of the walls, I shuffled slowly down to her room. A sign on the door read: "Family Only," But that didn't stop me. Pushing the door open, I tiptoed over to her bed and laid my hand on her knee. She opened her eyes.

"I would like to pray for you," I explained.

"Oh, thank you," she whispered, "no one is praying for me."

"Lord Jesus, I don't know how to pray for this lady. But will you please heal her if it is your will?" I didn't know what else to pray because I had never heard anyone pray for a miracle before.

The next morning when the nurse came to take my vital signs, she was obviously excited. "Mrs. Cross's doctors are amazed at her rapid recovery. She's going to be fine." I uttered a silent prayer of thanks.

Mrs. Cross went home two days later. She may have had a miracle. But I definitely did as well! I went home with wires removed from my face and with the crust removed from my heart. I was now more sensitive to other people's needs and less focused on my own.

It had been twenty-five years since my boating accident. My face will never be whole – not in this life. But I am glad to be alive! Through my sufferings, I discovered a personal Lord who cares about me. He has straightened out my priorities. I no longer am too busy for God, my husband, my children, or neighbours. Moreover, my own metamorphosis prompted a change in my husband and four children. They have all turned their hearts towards Him.

Today I can thank God for the accident. He cared enough about me to stop me in my tracks and turn me around – placing my feet in the right direction.