ocie Ruus Posbus 1957 AANLYN-UITGAWE Potchefstroom 2520 Tel: (018) 293 1996 www.goodnewsmessage.co.za ONLINE EDITION 2023

Moenie bang wees nie, Ek is by jou, moenie bekommerd wees nie, Ek is jou God. Ek versterk jou, Ek help jou, Ek hou jou vas, met My Eie Hand red Ek jou (Jes. 41:10 NV).

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand (Is. 41:10).

Do not fear [anything], for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, be assured I will help you; I will certainly take hold of you with My righteous right Hand [a Hand of justice, of power, of victory, of salvation] (Is. 41:10 AMP).

Schau nicht ängstlich nach Hilfe aus, denn Ich, dein Gott, Ich stehe dir Ich helfe dir! Ich halte dich mit qui fait justice (Es. 41:10). Meiner rechten und gerechten Hand (Jes. 41:10).



bei! Hab keine Angst, denn Ich bin toi; ne sois pas angoissé, car moi je suis ton Dieu. Je t'affermis, dein Gott! Ich mache dich stark und je viens à ton secours, pour sûr, je te soutiens 'de mon bras droit'

Se boife, gonne Ke na nao! Se tlalelwe, gonne Ke Modimo wa gago! Ke a go tiisa, ee, Ke a go thusa, ee, Ke go tshegeditse Ne sois pas effrayé, car je suis avec kaletsogo la Me le le jang le le pholosang (Jes. 41:10).

BLADSY 2 GOEIE NUUS/GOOD NEWS TEL. (018) 293 1996 JULIE 2023

Die Alleen-mens is 'n Mens in Nood, Smart en Ellende!

Die alleen-mens is 'n mens in nood, smart en ellende!

In 'n stukkende wêreld leef ons tussen baie mense wat gebroke is deur hulle omstandighede. Ons hoor roepstemme wat gedurig opgaan: "Wie sal my kom help?" "Wie sal my hulpgeroep hoor?" Wat is ons taak as gelowiges in Jesus Christus?

Paulus het in 'n heidense wêreld 'n noodroep ontvang: "En Paulus het 'n gesig in die nag gesien daar staan 'n Macedóniër wat hom smeek en sê: 'Kom oor na Macedónië en help ons!'" (Hand. 16:9). Hier was groot nood! Hulle het God dringend nodig gehad!

Het jy ook al so 'n oproep gehoor? Inderdaad, ons almal het al. Jesus het gesê: "Gaan die hele wêreld in en verkondig die evangelie aan die ganse mensdom" (Markus 16:15). Dit is die Groot Opdrag, net voor Sy hemelvaart. Maar wat moet ons spesifiek doen, en hóé moet ons te werk gaan?

Kom éérs tot stilstand aan die voete van Jesus. Iemand het tereg gesê: "Die Groot Opdrag word voorafgegaan deur die Groot Gebod."

DIE GROOT GEBOD

In Markus 12:28-34 lees ons dat daar 'n sekere Skrifgeleerde na Jesus gekom het en Hom gevra het: Wat is die grootste gebod van almal? Waarop Jesus antwoord met 'n teks uit die Ou Testament: "Die eerste van al die gebooie is: Hoor, Israel, die Here, onse God, is 'n enige Here; en jy moet die Here jou God liefhê uit jou hele hart en uit jou hele siel en uit jou hele verstand en uit jou hele krag. Dit is die eerste gebod. En die tweede, hieraan gelyk, is dit: Jy moet jou naaste liefhê soos jouself. Daar is geen ander gebod groter as dié nie."

Daarop antwoord die skrifgeleerde: "Goed, Meester, U het met waarheid gesê dat God een is en daar geen ander is as Hy nie; en om Hom lief te hê uit die hele hart en uit die hele verstand en uit die hele siel en uit die hele krag, en om die naaste lief te hê soos jouself, is meer as al die brandoffers en die slagoffers." Toe sê Jesus vir hom: "Jy is nie ver van die koninkryk van God nie."

Die skrifgeleerde het dit alles verstaan, maar net teoreties, en dit nog nie prakties toegepas nie. Sal Jesus dit vir jou en vir my ook sê? So naby, en tog ook so ver? Die Skrifgedeelte wat Jesus aangehaal het, kom uit Deut. 6:4, "Luister, Israel, die Here is ons God, Hy is die enigste Here. Daarom moet jy die Here jou God liefhê met hart en siel, met al jou krag. Hierdie gebooie wat ek jou vandag gegee het, moet in jou gedagtes bly. Jy moet dit inskerp by jou kinders en met hulle daaroor praat as jy in jou huis is en as jy op pad is, as jy gaan slaap en as jy opstaan. Jy moet dit as herinneringsteken vasbind aan jou hande, en dit moet 'n merk op jou voorkop wees. Skryf dit op jou deurkosyne en op jou stadspoorte. Die Here jou God sal jou bring in die land waarvan Hv met 'n eed aan jou voorvaders Abraham, Isak en Jakob beloof het..." (1983-vertaling).

Hierna sterf Moses voordat hy die land kon ingaan, en die jong Josua moes oorneem. En ons lees in Josua 1:8, "Hierdie wetboek mag nie uit jou mond wyk nie; maar bepeins dit dag en nag, sodat jy nougeset kan handel volgens alles wat daarin geskrywe staan; want dan sal jy in jou weë voorspoedig wees, en dan sal jy met goeie gevolg handel."

WAT BETEKEN DIT ALLES VIR DIE NUWE TESTAMENTIESE GELOWIGE?

Eerstens, die Allerhoogste God is die Enigste HERE. Daar is géén ander God naas Hom, by Hom en met Hom nie. Ons moet onthou, Jesus was in gesprek met 'n groot skrifgeleerde, 'n teoloog van sy tyd, 'n kenner van die Wet van Moses. Hy het geweet wat in Deut. 6:4 staan. En tog het hy nog in die Wettiese Bedeling geleef. Die Gebod van Liefde, die Groot Gebod, moes nog vir hom oopgaan.

Tweedens, ons moet God bo alles en almal liefhê (die Griekse woord waarmee God se allesoortreffende en diepgrondige liefde beskryf word, is <u>agapē</u>). Hy moet eerste in ons lewens wees. Die skrifgeleerde het verstaan wat in Deut. 6:4 staan. Is dit nie die teks wat die Israeliete vir hulself en vir hulle kinders moes inskerp nie? Moes hulle nie dié Woord op hulle deurposte en op hulle stadspoorte skryf nie?

Ja, die Israeliete moes dit op hulle en hulle kinders se gewrigte en op hulle voorhoofde vasbind, sodat hulle dit nóóit sou vergeet nie! Die Ieerband met Ieerhouertjie met Deut. 6:4 moes hulle aan hulle hande en voorhoofde dra. Dit word genoem die gedenkseëls (of 'phylacteries'). In die huidige bedeling skryf die Heilige Gees die liefde van God en die liefde (<u>agapē</u>) vir God op die tafels van ons harte, en nie 'n teks wat opgeteken is in 'phylacteries', in leerhouertjies nie. Dit is die vrug en werk van die Heilige Gees (Gal. 5:22) in die harte van die kinders van die Here.

God moet dus <u>eerste</u> in ons lewens wees. In Openbaring 12:11 lees ons van getuies vir Jesus Christus wat tot die dood toe onder vervolging God eerste liefgehad het: "En hulle het hom (Satan) oorwin deur die bloed van die Lam en deur die woord van hulle getuienis, en hulle het tot die dood toe hulle lewe nie liefgehad nie."

Gee jou lewe dus geheel en al oor aan God, sodat jy Hom altyd eerste sal stel in jou lewe. Dit is die Eerste Gebod van die liefde. Al sou die doodstraf onregmatig oor jou uitgespreek word, bly getrou, soos Stéfanus, die eerste martelaar vir Christus toe hy gestenig is (Hand. 7). Want God het so liefgehad dat Jesus tot die dood toe op die kruis vir ons gesterf het (Joh. 3:16). So moet ons Hom ook liefhê - omdat Hy ons eerste liefgehad het!

Dan kom ons by die Tweede Gebod: Jy moet jou naaste liefhê (met agapē) soos jouself. En dít werk jy ook op jou knieë deur. Jy vra vir God om Sy liefde in jou hart uit te stort, eerstens vir Hom, en dan vir jou naaste. Daarmee saam sal God jou hart vul met Sy smart, Sy droefheid en medelye vir mense wat in nood verkeer, sodat jy 'n verskil in hulle lewens sal kan maak. Dit is die voortvloeiing van agapē, en dit lei na die Groot Opdrag.

Jesus sê aangaande die tekens van die tye: "En omdat die ongeregtigheid vermeerder word, sal die liefde van die meeste verkoel." (Matt. 24:12). Waar is die Kerk van Jesus Christus tydens al die smart en ellendes van noodlydendes? Kyk na gebeure rondom ons en vra vir God waar iv 'n verskil moet maak, gegee jou unieke agtergrond, opvoeding, vermoëns en vaardighede, bedieningsgawes en talente. Dit is te sê, as die liefde in jou hart uitgestort is. Dit is die pad van liefde vir God en liefde vir jou naaste. Alle ander paaie kom neer op bloot humanisme. 'n Jammerhartigheid wat uit die mens self gebore is. Vir diesulkes sê Jesus: "<u>Jy is nie ver van die koninkryk</u> van God nie." Hy gee wel erkenning vir alle goeie menslike werk, want dit berus op Bybelse beginsels, maar God se Hand moet ook daarin gesien kan word. Dit beteken die werk wat ons doen, moet ook tot 'n hoogtepunt kom: Lei die mense in nood ook na Jesus toe! Dan sal geen mens rede tot roem hê nie.

Ja, waar is die Kerk van Jesus Christus? Ons hoor gedurig oor die nuus en lees ook op *Maroela Media* van o.a. die volgende noodtoestande:

- Daar is 'n pastoor in Stofberg wat dwelmverslaafdes in sy huis inneem en rehabiliteer. Hy werk met 18 mense op 'n keer en lei hulle na Jesus toe.
- Mense se huis het afgebrand. Twee kerke, die NG-Kerk en die AGS, stel hulle klerebanke oop vir diegene wat ALLES verloor het.
- Touwsrivier, eens 'n vooruitstrewende dorp, het nou 'n haglike werkloosheidsyfer van 80%. Gelowiges uit die gemeenskappe span saam en een so 'n groep gee vir 1 000 mense kos elke dag.
- Daar is rampspoede. Vloede. Tornado's. Mense se huise wat wegspoel. Hulle het niks. Wie gee om? Noodtoestande neem met rasse skrede toe kort voor die Wederkoms. Dink aan die Tekens van die Tye in die Bybel. Tog gryp hulpledigingsorganisasies in en verlig die nood van mense.
- Droogtes. Waternood. Wie gee om?
- Kosnood oral. Wie gee om?
- Daar is oral mense wat God nodig het. Dit help nie om te redeneer oor wie die skuldige (die Regering of ander instansies) is nie. Of om te sê "Jy het dit oor jouself gebring" nie. Sulke uitsprake help niemand nie.
- In Oekraïne is daar noodtoestande en die gelowige sendelinge help die mense om oor die grens te vlug en so die dood te

Wat leer ons dus? Wat moet óns doen? En hóé moet ons dit doen? Ons moet God en ons naaste liefhê en die evangelie verkondig! Gaan in gebed na Jesus en meld aan vir diens om die mens in nood, smart en ellende tegemoet te snel! En wees só die SOUT van die aarde en die LIG vir die wêrold!

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JULIE 2023 GOEIE NUUS/GOOD NEWS TEL. (018) 293 1996 BLADSY 3

Want 'n Kind is vir Ons Gebore!

ny het die mooiste, fynste vingertjies gehad. Haar ma se hande, het ek etlike minute na haar geboorte al gesê, terwyl ek nog na asem gesnak het oor die wonder van haar daarwees. Haar ma se hande. Ek kon my verkyk! Vyf volmaakte vingertjies aan elke handjie. Die naeltjies so perfek gevorm, so piep, piep klein. Die vuisie wat knie en knie terwyl sy drink, die vingertjies wat sag om my groot vinger vou en verbasend sterk vasvat en hóú. Die oop handjie, pienk palmpie boontoe, so weerloos wanneer sy slaap.

So het ek haar gekry, vroeg die oggend. Ek kon maar net nie gewoond raak aan die wonder van haar nie - was smôrens heelwat vroeër as gewoonlik wakker, ten spyte van die onderbroke nagte. Dan het ek so sag as moontlik opgestaan om nie die nuwe moeder te steur nie, wiegie toe

gesluip en net daar gaan staan. O, om net na haar te kyk en te kyk terwyl 'n nuwe dag breek! As ek ooit so gek sal wees om in 'n God te glo, sal dit wees oor die wonder van 'n nuwe mensie en oor niks anders nie, het ek dikwels gedink. En dan vir myself gelag - geswore ateïs, jou kind maak jou kop vol watte! Die deining van die borsie soos sy asemhaal, die roering van die wimpertjies, die skaars waarneembare asempie deur die halfoop mondjie...

Maar dié oggend was daar niks. Sý was nie daar nie. Net die leë lyfie. Die bleekblou skynsel om haar mond. Die weerlose, oop handjie, palmpie weggedraai, ondertoe Doodstil.

Doodstil. Vir sekondes, minute, ure...! God, vir hoe lank het ek net daar gestáán...? Doodstil, en toe, ek onthou vaagweg, die kreet uit my bors wat skeur soos lap, my

vrou se skrik, die dokter se magtelose meelewing... En die sneeu wat kraak onder my voete soos ek loop en loop en loop. Veld in. Loop net. Loop! Weg. Weg van die weerlose, willose handjies en die weergalmende pyn! Weg! Weg van die woede. Weg van die woede. Weg van die woéde...

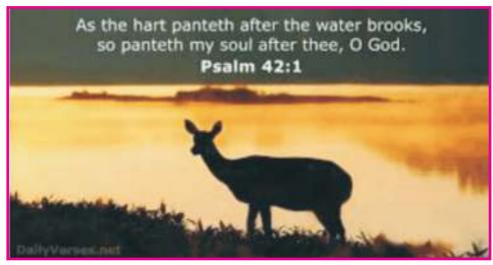
Maar ek kry dit nie reg nie. Die woede jaag my, hap honger aan my hakke, brul binne-in my soos 'n gevange dier. Tot dit onkeerbaar by my mond uitbars: "Ek haat jou, ek haat jou, ek haat jou! Jy wat kastig as God, die Vader, bekend wil wees. Hoe durf jy jouself 'n Vader noem as jy so iets toelaat? Ek haat jou! Hoor jy my? EK HAAT JOU!!!!!" skree ek op iemand wat ek nog altyd geglo het nie bestaan nie.

Die stilte na my uitbarsting was skoon, soos die nuwe sneeu. Behalwe vir my eie snikke was daar niks te hoor nie. Net, op die wind, so sag dat niemand behalwe ek dit sou kon hoor nie, 'n Pa-Stem wat troos: "Ek verstaan, Seun. Ek huil saam met jou. Ek weet hoe lief jy vir haar was. Ek het jou nog oneindig liewer..." En later, toe ek bedaar het: "Ek het haar vir julle gestuur. Met 'n opdrag, 'n taak: Sy moes julle harte na My toe draai... Ek het haar weer kom haal. Sy is nou by My. Ek wil só graag vir jou ook 'n Pa wees..."

Ek het al op die paadjie van my eie, woedende spore teruggestap huis toe. Vroeër het ek die toegesneeude veld ingestorm, 'n verontregte ateïs. Nou het ek daaruit gestap, 'n vergeefde seun. Pasgebore, leeggehuil, stilgetroos. Eerste treë, huis toe. Want vir ons is 'n Kind gebore...

[Uit: Dis Weer Daai Kat!, Annalise Wiid, Annie's Song, 2003].

KE TSHWERWE KE LENYORA Ek is Dors! / I am Thirsty!



DITEMANA

Loso Iwa ga Jesu: Morago ga moo, ka Jesu a itse gore tsotlhe di setse di weditswe gore Lokwalo lo dirafadiwe gotlhe, a re: "Ke nyorilwe!" (JOHANE 19:28)

Jesu a mo fetola a re: "Mongwe le mongwe yo o nwang metse a, o tla nyorwa gape; mme yo o ka nwang metsi a nna ke tla a mo nayang, ga a ka ke a tlhola a nyorwa ka bosenabokhutlo; mme metsi a ke tla a mo nayang a tla nna motswedi mo go ene o o elelang go isa bophelong jo bo sa khutleng." Mosadi a mo raya a re: "Morena, a o ko o mphe metsi ao, gore ke se tlhole ke nyorwa, le e seng go tla kwano go ga" (JOHANE 4:13-15).

Re lalelediwa pholoso ya Modimo: "Heelang! Lona lotlhe ba lo nyorilweng, tlayang kwa metsing; ba lo se nang madi, tlayang lo reke mabele, lo je. Ee, tlayang lo reke mabele kwa ntle ga madi, weine le mašwi kwa ntle ga tefo (JESAYA 55:1).

Go tlhologelelwa Modimo: Sefela sa thuto sa boora Kora se se kwaletsweng moopedisi. Mowa wa me o lelela go wena Modimo, jaaka tholo e lelela metsi a melatswana. Mowa wa me o nyorelwa Modimo, Modimo o o tshelang. Ke tla fitlha leng teng gore ke bonale fa pele ga sefatlhego sa Modimo? Dikeledi tsa me ke dijo tsa me bosigo le motshegare, ka ba tlhola ba nthaya ba re: "Modimo wa gago o kae?" (DIPESALEME 42:1-4).

"Gonne morafe wa me o dirile masula a mabedi: Ba ntlogetse ke le motswedi wa metsi a a phelang, ba ya ba ikgabela dikgatampi, - e leng dikgatampi tse di phanyegileng, tse di sa tshwareng metsi (JEREMIA 2:13).

Morena, ò tsholofelo ya Iseraele. Botlhe ba ba go tlogelang ba tla tlhajwa ke ditlhong. Ba ba fapogang mo go nna, ba tla kwalwa fa fatshe. Gonne ba tlogetse motswedi wa metsi a a phelang, e leng Morena (JEREMIA 17:13).

DIKAKANYO

Mo nakong ya jaanong go diragala gantsi gore batho ba tlhoke metsi. Go tlhoka metsi ke tlhokego e e fetang le tlala tota. Ga twe motho a ka phela kwa ntle ga dijo kgwedi e le nosi go ya tse pedi. Lenyora lona le thata go feta. Ga twe motho a ka phela fela malatsi a mararo a se na metsi. Metsi ruri ke bophelo. Karolo ya mmele ya motho e kgolo ke metsi. 50% go ya go 70% ya boima jwa mmele ke metsi.

Metsi ke ntlha e e botlho-kwa thata. Motho a Fa re batla lefoko lenyora mo Beibeleng re fitlhela ditemana tse di buang ka lenyora. Fa o buisa ditemana tse di fa godimo o tla bona gore le Jesu o buile lefoko le la lenyora. Nako e Jesu a ne a bua ka lenyora ke nako e a ne a le mo mathateng a magolo mo sefapaanong. O ne a le gaufi le go ntsha mowa wa bofelo mo lefatsheng mme a tlogetswe ke Modimo. Sekao se sengwe ke fa Jesu a ne a dutse mo sedibeng mme a bua le mosadi wa Mosamaria ka metsi a bophelo.

Mosadi yo o ne a kopa Jesu gore a mo fe metsi a bophelo gore a se tshwarwe ke lenyora gape. Lenyora le go buiwang ka lone fa ke lenyora la go amogela bophelo yo bo sa khutleng. Temana ya sekao e e latelang ke e e reng metsi a ke metsi a a sa tlhokeng madi. Go tima lenyora le go amogela bophelo jo bo sa khutleng ga go go tlhoke madi. O ka bona



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metsi a mahala. Modimo a re batho ba tlogetse Ene le Jesu.

Jesu a re ke Ene metsi a bophelo. A wena o nyorile? A wena o ikutlwa o tlhoka metsi? Fa o kile wa tshwarwa ke lenyora la metsi o tla itse gore go thata jang. Jaanong fa o gopola bophelo jo bo sa khutleng o tshwanetse go na le lenyora la teng.

Fa o sa tlhomamise gore o tlile go amogela bophelo jo bo sa khutleng o tla tshwarwa ke lenyora le legolo. Mosadi o kopile Jesu gore le ene o kopa metsi a bophelo. Fa o santse o phela o ka kopa le wena go amogela metsi a bophelo. Jesu a re mo go Ene go tswa metsi a bophelo. Le wena a ka go fa metsi a bophelo fa o amogela Ene go nna Mopholosi wa gago. Kopa jaanong. Metsi a bophelo ke metsi a mahala.

THAPELO

Jesu ke kopa gore o mphe le nna metsi a bophelo. Ke kopa gore o mphe le nna metsi a bophelo gore ke se tshwarwe ke lenyora gape. Ke kopa o nne Mopholosi wa me. Ke batla wena mo bophelong jwa me. AMEN. BLADSY 4 GOEIE NUUS/GOOD NEWS TEL. (018) 293 1996 **JULIE 2023**

MALI: GOSPEL MELTS HEARTS OF INMATES AND PRISON OFFICIAL

crowd of murderers, thieves, and other violent men, women and minors in Mali were incarcerated in the same prison when guards called them into the courtyard.

An officer told the inmates that Christians had come from hundreds of kilometres away to give them advice, and that they should please listen to them.

The hardened faces softened as the native Christian worker spoke of disobedience, sin and, salvation. The worker knew this might be the only chance the criminals, who belonged to different tribes, had of hearing the Gospel.

Within minutes, a voice cried out, "I am guilty - this man is telling the truth! God help me!" You could see each of them whispering similar things to themselves;

others had reddened eyes and tears. As if a light had just burst forth in the midst of darkness, more faces were unravelling certainly the power of God was there!

As a spirit of repentance dissolved the prior atmosphere of misery, the prison officer also confessed to the inmates: "This word also concerns me - I am also guilty towards God. May God help

The officer and inmates pleaded for the workers to pray for them. It was as if a heavy burden had just been unloaded from each shoulder, and joy was on everyone's lips!

The workers gave Bibles to each inmate. When they called the prison warden the next day, he screamed for joy. The atmosphere had been completely trans-



formed: peace, happiness and joy now reigned supreme in the prison. He reported that fights, tantrums, violence, insults, nastiness had completely disappeared. Some prisoners were engaged in discussing the

previous day's message, while others were reading their Bibles. These Christian workers are sharing the Gospel in various parts of the country. Please pray for them.

Source: Christian Aid Mission

Horizon Dr. Ed Young The Winning Walk

against me, but God meant it for good..." (Genesis 50:20).

The best teacher in the world is hunger. The best teacher in the world is cancer. The best teacher in the world is heartache or brokenness.

All too often we tend to coast through life until the bottom falls out. Then we realize that we've been living in the power of our own strength and resources. We realize that we've forgotten the vertical, which is the reality of God.

Vertical people are those for

"And as for you, you meant evil whom God is real. They understand that in the temptations of life, the injustices of life, and even in the exaltations of life, God is at work.

> Vertical people look up and above, not down and around, because they are focused on the wonderful panorama God provides for those who keep their eyes on Him.

> Are you a horizontal person, or a vertical person? If you're ready for a new adventure in your walk with God, decide today to become a vertical person who seeks God and His perspective in every situation.

"So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God..." (2 Kings 5:14).

Naaman, the captain of the army of Syria, had leprosy, so he went to the prophet Elisha to be cured.

But Naaman's real problem, greater even than his leprosy, was his pride. Before he could be healed, he had to swallow three very bitter pills. The first was the fact that his healing was free, which meant that his money and his possessions were useless. The second was that Elisha's instructions were very simple, so Naaman could not impress anyone with his courage or military might. And the third was the exclusivity of



the instructions. Naaman had to follow the instructions precisely - there was no other way.

That sounds familiar, doesn't it? Humility, not pride, is what God requires when we are ready to listen to His prescription for healing from the disease of sin.

- Dr. Ed Young

JULIE 2023 GOEIE NUUS/GOOD NEWS TEL. (018) 293 1996 BLADSY 5

ASSESSING YOUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE

ND TO THE ANGEL (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the trusty and faithful and true Witness, the Origin and Beginning and Author of God's creation:

I know your [record of] works and what you are doing; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot!

So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth!

For you say, I am rich; I have prospered and grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing; and you do not realize and understand that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to purchase from Me gold refined and tested by fire, that you may be [truly] wealthy, and white clothes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nudity from being seen, and salve to put on your eyes, that you may

Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict and convince and reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic and in earnest and burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude].

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears and listens to and heeds My Voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [will eat] with Me.

He who overcomes (is victorious), I will grant him to sit beside Me on My throne, as I Myself overcame (was victorious) and sat down beside My Father on His throne.

He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches) (Rev. 3:14-22 The Amplified Bible).

Laodicea was the wealthiest of the seven cities of Asia, known for its banking industry, manufacturing of wool, and a medical school that produced eve salve. But the city always had a problem with its water supply. At one time an aqueduct was built to bring water to the city from hot springs. But by the time the water reached the city, it was neither hot nor refreshingly cool - only lukewarm. The church had become as bland as the tepid water that came into the city.

Lukewarm water is unpa-

latable. The church in Laodicea had become lukewarm and thus distasteful and repugnant. The believers didn't stand for anything. Indifference had led them to idleness. By neglecting to do anything for Christ, the church had become hardened and selfsatisfied. The church was destroying itself. Are you lukewarm in your devotion to God? Some believers falsely assume that lots of material possessions are a sign of God's spiritual blessing.

Laodicea was a wealthy city, and the church was wealthy too. But what the Laodiceans could see and buy had become more valuable to them than what is unseen and eternal. Wealth, luxury, and ease can make people feel confident, satisfied, and complacent. But no matter how much you possess or how much money you make, you have nothing if you don't have a vital, living relationship with **Christ!**

Laodicea was known for its great wealth - but Christ told the Laodiceans to buy their gold from Him. The city was proud of its cloth and dyeing industries but Christ told them that they were naked and should purchase white garments from Him. Laodicea prided itself on its precious eye salve that healed many eye problems - but Christ told them to get medicine from Him to heal their eyes so they could see the truth!

Christ was showing the Laodiceans that true value was not in material possessions, but in a right and holy relationship with God. Their (our) possessions and achievements were (are) valueless compared with the everlasting future of Christ's Kingdom!

Because the Laodicean church was complacent and rich, they felt fulfilled, but they didn't have **Christ's Presence among them!** He knocked at the door of their hearts, but they were so busy enjoying worldly pleasures that they didn't notice He was trying to enter.

The pleasures of this world money, security, material possessions - can be dangerous, because their temporary satisfaction makes us indifferent to God's offer of lasting satisfaction.

If you find yourself feeling indifferent to church, to God, or to the Bible, you have begun to shut God out of your life!

Jesus is knocking on the door of our hearts every time we sense we should turn to Him. He wants to have fellowship with us, and He wants us to open up to Him. He is patient and persistent in trying to get through to us - not breaking and entering, but knocking. He allows us to decide whether or not to open our lives to Him. Do you intentionally keep His life-changing Presence and power on the other side of the door?

[Life Application Bible].

Although very wealthy, this rich

church was in actual fact a very poor church in God's estimation! No virtues are recorded, only sins and weaknesses (lukewarmness, spiritual conceit, no conscious need of God, spiritual poverty and spiritual blindness). The church of Laodicea typifies the last days' churches - popular, self-satisfied, worldly churches!

[The Thompson Chain-Reference Bible, NIV]

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24 NIV).

LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO

he beautiful hymn, *O Love* of working it out myself." that Wilt Not Let Me Go, was written by George Matheson who was born in Glasgow, Scotland on 27 March 1842.

At the age of twenty, studying for the ministry, he got engaged. Soon after, he discovered that he was going blind. His fiancée broke off the relationship, not seeing her way forward. His sister moved into his home and cared for him as he went blind.

Twenty years later his sister decided to get married. He was heartbroken and despondent, once again facing a bleak, companionless future. That's when he received the assurance of God's love and the inspiration to write this hymn. Afterwards he wrote, "I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction. This came like a dayspring from on high."

"My hymn was composed in the manse of Innellan on the evening of 6 June 1882. I was at that time alone. It was the day of my sister's marriage. Something had happened to me which caused me the most severe mental suffering. The hymn was the fruit of that suffering. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice than

Matheson died on 28 August 1906. He never married but proved that it's possible to overcome a disability and serve the Lord.

The Scottish hymnal committee charged Albert Peace, a wellknown organist, to write the tune for the lyrics. The tune came to him as quickly as the lyrics had to Matheson. "After reading it over carefully, I wrote the music straight off, and may say that the ink of the first note was hardly dry when I had finished the tune.'

The first and third stanzas read:

O love that wilt not let me go I rest my weary soul in Thee. I give Thee back the life I owe That in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O joy, you seek me through the pain

I cannot close my heart to thee I trace the rainbow through the rain

And feel the promise is not vain Then morn shall tearless be.

Beloved, allow Him to use your tears and write a song of divine healing and grace as a profound blessing to others. Don't let your suffering have been in vain.

- Helen du Plessis, 083 332 0895

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QUITE SIMPLY, BEYOND PRICE!

T R Rachels

My wife Judy and I visited the Tower of London. We walked through its chambers, looked at the grounds, and relived some of its stories of blood and pain. Underneath the Tower, buried deep in vaults secured by guards and electronic equipment, are the crown jewels of the United Kingdom.

A woman asked her husband: "How much do you think they are worth?"

A warden answered: "You could estimate the value of all the gold, I suppose, and the value of all the diamonds, sapphires, rubies, emeralds, and pearls.

But how do you value the antiquity and the royal owner-

ship, the fact that these crowns have been worn by kings and queens of England? How much are the crown jewels worth? They are priceless, beyond price."

You can't put monetary value on the invaluable. The reason: They cannot be replaced! And there is nothing to compare with them!

There is another Tower - a monument to a King, a place of blood and pain. Nothing on Earth is like it. It is, quite simply, beyond price! It is the cross on which Jesus died. Our Lord freely gave up His life at Calvary and possessed for each of us riches which cannot be measured!

What happened on that Tower and what difference does it

make? Firstly, a transfer of ownership made heirs out of paupers. You and I, who had zero hope to get off this planet alive, were given a title deed at Calvary that redeems all claims against our inheritance and promises us eternal life!

Secondly, God deposited grace and power there to be drawn upon by whosoever. The Cross stands as the centre of God's investment on Earth. He endows Himself to all who will accept His sacrifice.

Thirdly, the Cross forever settled the question of who's in charge. The prince of darkness is out and the Prince of Peace is in! Satan may try scare tactics on God's people, but he is a defeated enemy! The God of love enfolds His children to His Own bosom in tender care.



And what difference does that make? It is a life-and-death matter!

LIFE, if you accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Death, if you do not! "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12, NIV).

QUITE SIMPLY, NOTHING CAN COMPARE WITH THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST!

- Selected

Chinese Christian had been asked to give money to a fund to be expended in sacrifice to idols as an insurance of his house against fire. He declined, because he trusted in the living God and declared that idols could not save from fire.

When the idolatrous ceremony was over, fire broke out in the street where his home was, and burned over 120 houses. When the flames were coming nearer and nearer to his house, they tried to persuade him to remove his furniture, but he refused and in their presence prayed to God to show them that He was indeed the Lord of hosts Who could send legions of angels to deliver him, if need be, from so great a calamity.

Nearer and nearer came the fire, until only one house stood between his own house and the flames. Suddenly there was a change of wind and his house was saved!

- New Century Leader



Stop Striving

drowning boy was struggling in the water. On the shore stood his mother in an agony of fright and grief. By her side stood a strong man, seemingly indifferent to the boy's fate.

Again and again the suffering mother appealed to him to save her boy, but he made no move. By and by the desperate struggles of the boy began to abate. He was losing strength.

Presently the boy arose to the surface weak and helpless. At once the man leaped into the water and brought the boy in safety to the shore.

"Why did you not save my boy sooner?" asked the now grateful mother.

"Madam, I could not as long as he struggled. He would have dragged us both to certain death. But when he grew weak and ceased to struggle, then it was easy to save him."

It is when we cease from our own works and depend helplessly upon God that we realize how perfectly able He is to save without any aid from us.

- Selected



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Waitin

Waiting can be hard.

Most of us would prefer quick, efficient, and, when possible, instant results and answers.

But waiting is a part of life.

We must wait for seeds to grow into food, for one season to fade into the next, for babies to mature into adults, and for trees to stand tall enough to finally offer shade.

Like it or not, waiting takes patience.

We can wait days, months, years, or even decades for a prayer to be answered, for an overdue apology, for the timing to be right, or for a dream to finally come to pass.

Waiting requires courage.

King David lived nearly 3 000 years ago, but he knew what it

meant to wait for God's timing, to wait to be king, to wait to be rescued from his enemies. He wrote: "Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord" (Psalms 27:14 NLT).

If David thought waiting on God was important enough to write it twice in one verse, we should probably pay attention.

But waiting patiently for the Lord isn't an excuse to do nothing.

We can proactively wait on God by staying in communication with Him, by looking for His fingerprints in ordinary moments, by reading about His story and His plans in His Word, by worshipping Him no matter what's happening across the globe, by serving the people both inside and outside of our circles, and by thanking Him for the gifts He's already given us.



Just because a specific door isn't opening, or a particular opportunity isn't available at this moment doesn't mean that God isn't moving.

Even when we are waiting - God is working.

Noah spent decades building an ark as he waited for God to do what He'd said. Ruth journeyed with her mother-in-law and worked in the grain fields while trusting in God's provision after her husband's death. Joseph stayed faithful in prison for several years before his promotion to second-in-command of Egypt. John trusted God's ultimate will for his life and wrote several books of the New Testament while sentenced to exile on the island of Patmos.

So, no matter what you're facing, you can ask God for patience and trust that He is in control of your future. No matter what uncertainty lies before you, when you rely on the Lord, you can be someone who waits well!

- YouVersion

Setting Your Enemies Free

h e n dealing with past hurts, we all know that it's right to forgive, even when it's difficult. However, few of us rarely take the next step that God wants us to take.

A common misconception is that all we have to do is make the decision to forgive and our job is finished, but Jesus also said, "Invoke blessings upon and pray for the happiness of those who curse you, implore God's blessing (favour) upon those who abuse you [who revile, reproach, disparage, and high-handedly misuse you]" (Luke 6:28 AMP).

In addition, Romans 12:14 says that we are to bless the people who persecute us and treat us cruelly. We are to actively bless our enemies. God calls us to extend mercy to people who do not deserve it. Why? When you forgive, it



opens a door for God to heal you, but honestly, it doesn't do much for the person who offended you. But when you bless them, you ask God to bring truth to them so they can repent and experience the real freedom He provides. Forgiveness sets you free... but blessing your enemies sets them free!

Prayer: God, I thank You for helping me walk in forgiveness, but I don't want to stop there. I ask You to bless those who have hurt me. In the same way that You have brought healing to my life, bring healing to them so they can experience Your goodness and walk in Your love.

- Joyce Meyer

A MOTHER'S PRAYERS

or many years the mother of Tom Carter prayed that God would save her boy and make a preacher out of him.

Her boy was a wicked sinner. He landed in prison, but his mother still prayed for him, believing that God would answer her prayers. One day she received a telegram from the prison, saying that her son was dead.

few minutes. Then she went to her room. There she prayed with her open Bible before her. She said to the Lord, "O God, I

have believed the promises Thou didst give me in Thy Word. I have believed that I would live to see Tom saved and preaching the Gospel. Now a telegram says he is dead. Lord, which is true, this telegram or Thy Word?"

She rose from her knees and wired the prison: "There must be some mistake. My boy is not dead." And there was a mistake! Tom Carter was alive!

Not long afterward, he was saved. When he was released from prison, he became a mighty soul-winner and preacher.

The mother was stunned for a [Knight's MASTER BOOK OF NEW ILLUSTRATIONS by Walter Knight, W M B Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan].



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A Mother's "Always Faithful" Prayers

y brother and I joined the U.S. Marine Corps right out of high school and went away to World War II. Our mother, a true believer, wrapped us in Psalm 91 and claimed God's promises over us. He went to the Paramarine Raiders and I to the OSS. We both went through combat and returned home safely after the War.

In 1950, with the outbreak of the Korean War, we were both recalled to active duty with the First Marine Division. Our mother again wrapped us in Psalm 91, gave each of us a small New Testament, and again sent us off to war with the Lord's blessing.

As a 12-year-old, I had accepted the Lord but had never been welldisciplined or obedient. I wanted to play patty-cake in the sand piles of the world. At 25, when I went to Korea, I started reading the little New Testament my mother had given me. At the Inchon landing, and for the next two weeks of heavy combat as a rifle-squad leader, I read a few Bible verses every day. I loved my brother Marines who suffered and

died alongside me. As the death and destruction grew more intense and as I stood on the brink of eternity I did not like what I saw. As my corps attacked in the streets of Seoul, I was hit with machine-gun bullets. I made it to the back of a burning police substation in the middle of the street. My corpsman, Chico, dressed my wounds and as sniper bullets crashed into the street beside us, he laid on top of me, covering me with his own body and yelled in my ear, "You've had enough!" Other riflemen nailed the snipers and as Chico left me to help other Marines lying wounded in the street, he was hit by two bullets that blew the shin bone out of his leg. I never saw Chico again...

Several Marines threw a wooden door on the ground, rolled me on it and ran me down the street under heavy fire. It was a fearsome ride. I was placed on a DUKW, given a shot of morphine, and taken to Kimpo airfield for the flight to Japan.

During my three-month stay at Yokosuka Naval Hospital, I pro-

claimed my loyalty to Chico, my corpsman. One night, the Lord appeared to me. I saw the blood running down His forehead, into His eyes, and down over His cheeks. I looked into His bloodfilled eyes. He stretched out His bloody hands and said, "I did this for you."

I was willing to be loyal to Chico, but had not been willing to be loyal to the Lord. The Lord said, "Come and follow me. I will make vou a man. Put away childish things." I knew what He meant. I said, "Yes, Sir!"

With Jesus as Lord of my life, I rejoined my corps and went back into front line combat for another five months before returning home. My brother came home with frost-bitten feet and I with a tender rear-end. Our mother cried with joy unspeakable. We were both baptized and have been His loyal Marines ever since. Every day we say, "Yes Sir," to the Lord Jesus, our CHAMPION and HERO, our Lord and God.

Winston Churchill once said, "Courage is the most important



virtue because it makes all other virtues possible." As a senior in high school, ready to join the Marine Corps, I thought his statement was good. The sequence sounded right. As a 26-year-old veteran of front line combat in two wars, I came to understand that Churchill was not accurate. Courage is not the prime virtue. It is faithfulness, loyalty, and commitment that are the prime virtues. It is being faithful that makes all other virtues possible, including courage. The Corps has it right: semper fidelis: Always Faithful. "Moreover, it is required of stewards that a man be found

faithful" (I Cor. 4:2).

http://breadsite.org

MISDIRECTE

terrible blizzard was raging over the eastern part of the United States, making more and more difficult the progress of a train that was slowly making



Among the passengers was a woman with a child who was much concerned lest she should not get off at the right station.

A gentleman, seeing her anxiety, said: "Do not worry. I know the road well, and I will tell you when you come to your station."

In due course the train stopped at the station before the one at which the woman wanted to get off.

"The next station will be yours, ma'am," said the gentleman. Then they went on, and in a few minutes the train stopped again.

"Now is your time, ma'am; get out quickly," he said.

The woman took her child and, thanking the man, left the train. At the next stop, the conductor called out the name of the station where the woman had wished to get off.

"You have already stopped at this station," called the man to the

"No, sir," he replied, "something was wrong with the engine, and we stopped for a few moments for investigation!"

"Oh no!" cried the passenger. "I let that woman get down in the storm when the train stopped between stations!"

Afterwards, they found her with her child in her arms. Both were frozen to death! It was the terrible and tragic consequence of the wrong direction being given!

Still more terrible are the results of misdirecting souls on their way to eternity!

- Billy Sunday, Knight's Master Book of New Illustrations

(This story dates from World War II). There was a battleship whose forward watch spotted a light that appeared to be heading straight for the battleship.

A radio message was sent:

Unidentified ship: You are on a collision course.

Change direction 10 degrees starboard.



The battleship again sent a message saying:

This is a United States warship. Change direction 10 degrees starboard!

And once again the reply came back: *No.*

The admiral was awakened and notified and the battleship sent yet another message again repeating:

This is a warship on official maneuvres. You are ordered to change direction. Signed - Admiral Peacock.

A few moments passed and the reply came back:

No. Signed - Seaman Smith, Tender of the Lighthouse.

Often it is WE who are the ones who need to change course. The clear light of God's Word for us does not change. - Selected

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The Rosebud



A young preacher was walking with an older, more "seasoned" preacher in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had in mind for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice.

The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals. The young preacher looked in

disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry. Because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact... It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...

It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.
The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens flowers so sweetly,
When in my hands they die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him to lead me Each moment of my day. I will look to Him for guidance Each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me, Only my Heavenly Father knows. I'll trust Him to unfold the moments, Just as He unfolds the rose...



GETUE SONDER TONG

'n Suid-Koreaanse Christen het aan die ergste graad van melaatsheid gely. Dit was in oorlogstyd en hy is in 'n Amerikaanse sendinghospitaal opgeneem. Die man was verskriklik geskend deur sy siekte. Sy voete was so misvorm dat hy nie kon loop nie. Hy het geen vingers aan sy hande oorgehad nie. Die siekte het sy oë, sy tong en tande, selfs sy lippe verwoes. Só het hy in sy hospitaalbed gelê: verlam, doof, stom, blind.

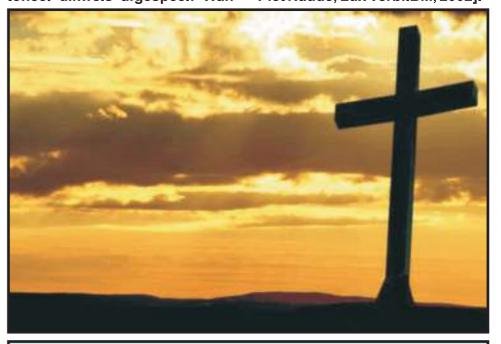
Maar drie dinge kon hy nog doen: Hy kon aanvoel wanneer iemand in sy kamer kom as gevolg van die vibrasie van die voetstappe op die vloer. Hy kon sy vingerlose hand so effens oplig. En hy kon nog onverstaanbare geluide maak.

Dit was vir hom genoeg om teenoor die mediese personeel van sy Here te getuig. In die dodekamer het die volgende toneel dikwels afgespeel: Wanneer iemand daar ingekom het, het die melaatse dit aangevoel en sy vingerlose hand opgelig om te wys na die houtkruis wat hy geweet het bokant sy bed hang. Só het hy weggewys van sy eie pyn... na sy Verlosser, Christus die Here. Dan het die blinde, sterwende man liploos geglimlag en opgewonde hyggeluide gemaak.

Niemand wat hom gesien het, kon twyfel aan wat hy wou sê en aan die krag van sy getuienis nie.

"Christene is op pad deur die nag in die rigting van die dagbreek. Al wat ons hoef te doen, is om vir die ander reisigers deur die nag in die rigting van die Lig te wys. Hulle sal verstaan dat ons daarmee sê: 'Kyk, daar kom die Son op!'" (Daniel Fackre).

[Uit: Stories vir die lewe Omnibus, 'n Boek oor lewenswaardes, Piet Naudé, Lux Verbi.BM, 2002].



A Prayer Miracle

Dr. Newman Hall stood early one morning on the summit of Snowdon with 120 other people who had been attracted by the promise of an unusually grand sunrise. They were not disappointed. As they stood watching the sun tinge the mountain peaks with glory, Dr. Hall was invited to preach. He was so overcome with emotion that he could not preach, but felt led to pour out his soul in prayer. As he prayed, tears rolled down the faces of the people. A superhuman stillness possessed them. Quietly, with solemn awe, they descended the mountain and scattered.

Afterward, visiting this region, the preacher was informed that 40 people had been converted that morning.

"But," said he, "I did not say a word, I only prayed!"

"Yes, and more wonderful still, they did not understand a word you said, for none of them can speak a word of English, only Welsh!"
- OR Palmer, Knight's Master Book of New Illustrations, 1973.

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JESUS! HOPE OF EARTH AND JOY OF HEAVEN

JESUS OUR SURSTITUTE

"For He made Him Who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

JESUS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

"Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His Own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:12).

JESUS OURADVOCATE

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father" (1 John 2:1-2).

JESUS OUR MEDIATOR

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Timothy 2:5,6).

JESUS OUR INTERCESSOR

"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

GOD'S WORD AND LOVE IN ACTION!

He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay, I needed Someone to wash my sins away.

And now I sing a brand new song: Amazing Grace
Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay!

- Sent in by Chris van der Merwe, 082 922 1134.





