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“Those Who Sow in Tears...”

Back in 1921, a missionary couple named David and Svea Flood went with their two-year-old son from Sweden to the heart of Africa - to what was then called the Belgian Congo. They met up with another young Scandinavian couple, the Ericksons, and the four of them sought God for direction. In those days of much tenderness and devotion and sacrifice, they felt led of the Lord to set out from the main Mission Station and take the Gospel to a remote area. **This was a huge step of faith.**

At the village of N'dolera they were rebuffed by the chief, who would not let them enter his town for fear of alienating the local gods. The two couples opted to go half a mile up the slope and build their own mud huts.

They prayed for a spiritual breakthrough, but there was none. The only contact with the villagers was a young boy, who was allowed to sell them chickens and eggs twice a week. Svea Flood, a tiny woman of only four feet eight inches tall, decided that if this was the only African she could talk to, she would try to lead the boy to Jesus. And in fact, she succeeded. But there were no other encouragements.

Meanwhile, malaria continued to strike one member of the little band after another. In time, the Ericksons decided they had had enough suffering and left to return to the central Mission Station. David and Svea Flood remained near N'dolera to go on alone.

Then, of all things, Svea found herself pregnant in the middle of the primitive wilderness. When the time came for her to give birth, the village chief softened enough to allow a midwife to help her. A little girl was born whom they named Aina. The delivery, how-

ever, was exhausting, and Svea Flood was already weak from bouts of malaria. The birth process was a heavy blow to her stamina. She lasted only another seventeen days.

Inside David Flood, something snapped in that moment. He dug a crude grave, buried his twenty-seven-year-old wife, and then took his children back down the mountain to the Mission Station. Giving his newborn daughter to the Ericksons, he snarled, “I’m going back to Sweden. I’ve lost my wife, and I obviously can’t take care of this baby. God has ruined my life.” With that, he headed for the port, rejecting not only his calling, but God Himself.

Within eight months both the Ericksons were stricken with a mysterious malady and died within days of each other. The baby was then turned over to some American missionaries, who adjusted her Swedish name to “Aggie” and eventually brought her back to the United States at age three.

This family loved the little girl and were afraid that if they tried to return to Africa, some legal obstacle might separate her from them. So they decided to stay in their home country and switch from missionary work to pastoral ministry. And that is how Aggie grew up in South Dakota. As a young woman, she attended North Central Bible College in Minneapolis. There she met and married a young man named Dewey Hurst.

Years passed. The Hursts enjoyed a fruitful Ministry. Aggie gave birth first to a daughter, then a son. In time her husband became president of a Christian College in the Seattle area, and Aggie was intrigued to find so much Scandinavian heritage there. One day a Swedish reli-



David and Svea Flood



gious magazine appeared in her mailbox. She had no idea who had sent it, and of course she couldn’t read the words. But as she turned the pages, all of a sudden a photo stopped her cold. There in a primitive setting was a grave with a white cross - and on the cross were the words SVEA FLOOD.

Aggie jumped in her car and went straight for a college faculty member who, she knew, could translate the article. “What does this say?” She demanded.

The instructor summarized the story: It was about missionaries who had come to N'dolera long ago... the birth of a white baby... the death of a young mother... the one little African boy who had been led to Christ... and how, after the whites had all left, the boy had grown up and finally persuaded the chief to let him build a school in the village. The

article said that gradually he won all his students to Christ... the children led their parents to Christ... even the chief had become a Christian. Now there were six hundred Christian believers in that one village... All because of the sacrifice of David and Svea Flood!

For the Hursts' twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, the College presented them with a gift of a vacation to Sweden. There Aggie sought to find her real father.

An old man now, David Flood had remarried, fathered four more children, and generally dissipated his life with alcohol. He had recently suffered a stroke. Still bitter, he had one rule in his family: “Never mention the Name of God - because God took everything from me!” After an emotional reunion with her half

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STILLE GELOOF EN VERTROUW

Ek volg die afgelope tyd die geskiedenis van die Apostel Paulus, en lees dit met aandag deur in die boek Handeling. Ek lees daar van wonders en tekens wat God deur hom gedoen het. Maar ek sien ook daar van sy lyding en smart, sy vervolging en hoe dikwels hy in doodsgevaar verkeer het. Dan word dit baie duidelik dat juis wanneer hy in die grootste lewensgevaar verkeer het, hy telkemale die wonders van God beleef het.

Soms was hy alleen voor God; soms in ernstige gebed het hy sy grootste nooddoomblikke beleef. Maar hy moes ook voor die Sanhedrin, die hoogste Joodse Raad, as beskuldigde verskyn. Maar ook voor die hoogste Romeinse rade, goewerneurs, en hooggeplaastes van die Romeinse Ryk, destyds die wêreldregering van sy tyd, moes hy in die beskuldigdebank staan. Hulle wou hom doodmaak en uit die weg ruim.

Ons hoor egter hoe Jesus met hom praat in sy hoogste nood: *“En die volgende nag het die Here by hom gestaan en gesê: ‘Hou goeie moed, Paulus, want soos jy aangaande My in Jerusalem kragtig getuig het, so moet jy in Rome ook getuig’”* (Hand. 23:11).

En terwyl hy besig was om skipbreuk te ly, sê hy vir die skipbreukelinge: *“Maar nou vermaan ek julle om moed te hou, want daar sal hoegenaamd geen verlies van lewe onder julle wees nie, maar alleen van die skip. Want daar het in hierdie nag by my gestaan ‘n engel van die God aan wie ek behoort, wat ek ook dien”* (Hand. 27:22-23).

Hierop kan ons vra: Hoe het hy deur al hierdie aanvegtinge en vervolging gekom? Deur geloof en vertroue het hy gebid, maar hoe het hy antwoord op sy gebede gekry? Hy wat ‘n mens was soos u en ek? **Hoe kan ons ook antwoorde kry tydens óns nood?** Hebreërs 11:1 verklaar: *“Die geloof dan is ‘n vaste vertroue op die dinge wat ons hoop, ‘n bewys van die dinge wat ons nie sien nie.”*

“Om te glo, is om seker te wees van die dinge wat ons hoop, om oortuig te wees van die dinge wat ons nie sien nie” (Nuwe Vertaling).

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (King James Version).

Die Amplified Bible se weergawe is: *“Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality - faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]”*.

Wat beteken “vaste vertroue”, “seker te wees”, “assurance”, “substance”? Die Griekse woord is *hupostasis*, wat uit twee woorddele afgelei word en dit is “onder” (*hupo*) en “staan” (*stasis/histēmi*). Dit is iets wat onder iets anders staan, m.a.w. die fondament soos van ‘n gebou. En hierdie Fondament is Jesus Christus en God die Vader. **Jesus is die Rots waarop ons bou.** Jesus Self het gesê: *“Elkeen wat na My toe kom en na My woorde luister en dit doen, Ek sal julle wys soos wie hy is. Hy is soos ‘n man wat ‘n huis bou, wat gegrawe en diep ingegaan en die fondament op die*

rots gelê het; en toe die vloedwater kom en die stroom teen daardie huis losbreek, kon hy dit nie beweeg nie, omdat sy fondament op die rots was” (Luk. 6: 47-48).

Die Heilige Gees help ons om ons geloof se grondslag in Jesus te vind. Jesus is die Rots waarop ons bou. Hy is ook die Lewende Woord van God. Ons vaste vertroue vind ons deur die Woord te bid wat deur die Heilige Gees lewend gemaak word in ons harte, terwyl ons vir ons krisis na God gaan. Hy moedig ons immers aan: *“...en roep My aan in die dag van benoudheid: Ek sal jou uithelp, en jy moet My eer”* (Ps. 50:15). En ook: *“Bid, en vir julle sal gegee word; soek, en julle sal vind; klop, en vir julle sal oopgemaak word. Want elkeen wat bid, ontvang; en hy wat soek, vind; en vir hom wat klop, sal oopgemaak word”* (Luk. 11:9-10). **Glo jy dit? Bid met geloof wat deur die Heilige Gees in jou opgewek word!**

Dan volg daar nog ‘n woord in ons teks: “bewys”, “oortuig”, “evidence”. Die Griekse woord hier is *elenchos*. Hierdie woord vind ons ook in 2 Tim. 3:16-17. Dit lees so: *“Die hele Skrif is deur God ingegee en is nuttig tot lering, tot weerlegging, tot teregwyding (elenchos), tot onderwysing in die geregtigheid, sodat die mens van God volkome kan wees, vir elke goeie werk volkome toegerus”*. Hier word dit vertaal met “teregwyding.” Ander vertalings in Engels is “reproof” en ook “conviction”. Wat sê dit vir ons? Dit beteken dat wanneer ons na God gaan in gebed, die Heilige Gees ons gebed sal toets en beproef en vind of dit waarlik

gelowig in ooreenstemming met God se wil is, want dit moet ‘n gebed wees wat in die geloof God sal behaag! Hebr. 11:6 verklaar immers: *“En sonder geloof is dit onmoontlik om God te behaag; want hy wat tot God gaan, moet glo dat Hy is en ‘n beloner is van die wat Hom soek.”* Dit beteken dat wanneer ons in benoudheid verkeer of wanneer ons ‘n krisis beleef, wanneer daar absolute nood is waar ons nie onself kan help nie, dan kan ons dadelik in geloof tot God roep, en Hy sal ons uithelp!

Daar kom tye wanneer ons ‘n behoefte het om in gebed tot God te gaan en ons te verootmoedig voor Hom. Hoe weet ek dat my gebed deur Hom verhoor gaan word? Jakobus sê selfs: *“Julle kry nie, omdat julle nie bid nie. As julle bid, ontvang julle nie, omdat julle verkeerd bid: julle wil net julle selfsugtige begeertes bevredig”* (Jak. 4:2-3 NV). Ja, dit is waar ons gebed deur die Heilige Gees getoets word: Wat is ons motiewe om iets van God te ontvang? Watter doel en uitwerking gaan dit in ons lewe teweegbring?

Bedink hierdie Skrifgedeeltes, en laat ons ons dan beywer om in die Gees te bid, in ooreenstemming met die wil en bepalings van God. As jy dán bid, soos Paulus, met die Gees of in die Gees (1 Kor. 14:15; Efes. 6:18), sal jou gebed beantwoord word. Verder, as jy van God ‘n taal gekry het, bid ook in die taal. Neem ook tye van vas en gebed. So ‘n gebed sal deur God beantwoord word. **So ‘n gebed wat in geloof gebid word sal deur God verhoor word, en jy sal Sy oneindige vrede ervaar.**
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FAILURE IS NOT FINAL

“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...” (Philippians 3:13, NIV).

Are you down on yourself today because of past mistakes you've made or because you're not where you want to be in life? God knows every poor choice, every difficulty, every wrong turn you may have made, and He's already planned your comeback!

In Scripture, the prophet Jonah took a detour, so to speak. It took him a little bit longer, but because he called out to God, because he believed, God not only rescued him, but God got him to his final destination.

Friend, know today that failure is not final. God always has the final say. Mistakes don't have to keep you from your destiny. God's plan can override every setback. Your world may be in turmoil today in a relationship, in your finances, or health. But know this: not only will God rescue you, **He will set your feet on a rock and lead you to your final destination in life.**

Remember, the promise He placed on the inside of you didn't go away because you had some personal failures. No, that failure is only temporary, **but His Word remains forever!** Keep hoping, keep praying and believing because He will move you into the blessing and victory He has prepared for you!

U Woord is
'n lamp vir
my voet en
'n lig vir
my pad.
(Ps. 119:105)



THE FAITHFUL FEW

Then those who feared and loved the Lord spoke often of Him to each other. And He had a Book of Remembrance drawn up in which He recorded the names of those who feared Him and loved to think about Him. "They shall be Mine," says the

Lord Almighty, "in that day when I make up My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares an obedient and dutiful son.

"Then you will see the difference between God's treatment of good men and



bad, between those who serve Him and those who don't" (Malachi 3:16-19).

beauty.

Be willing to allow God to make you a jewel, ask Him to chip and polish where needed; and be patient while He works. Be sure you are ready to change, because when God begins to make a jewel, He doesn't stop until it is perfect!

[Life Application Bible, Tyn-dale House Publishers, USA, 1988].

AGS BAILLIE PARK

KERK IN BEWEGING
Dienste @ 09:30 elke Sondag

PREDIKER: PAST. JOHAN NORTJE
083 280 8971
SONDAE OM 09:30
WYNNESTRAAT 18 POTCHEFSTROOM

Pastoor Johan Nortje 083 280 8971

God's people are called jewels. A jewel is made from raw material that is exposed to time, heat, and pressure to change it into a valuable gemstone. The stone must then be cut in order for its real beauty to be seen. A craftsman takes a stone and chips away a rough edge, minimizes a fault, polishes, and put it into just the right setting to display its



A KAGISO YA KERESETE E NNE REFERII MO PELONG YA GAGO

(Let the peace of Christ be the referee in your heart)



DIKAKANYO

Go kwadilwe mo bukeng ya Bakolose 3:15: "A kagiso ya Keresete e nne referii mo pelong ya gago." O ka itse jang fa o se ka mo molaong mo motshamekong? O ka itse jang fa o fositse se Modimo a ne a go se batla? Go na le referii ka mo teng ga pelo ya gago go go kaela tsela e e siameng. A o bone mo motshamekong wa kgwele ya maoto? Ga go nke go na le motshameko kwa ntle ga referii ka gore mongwe le mongwe a ne a ka dira jaaka a rata mme a tlola melao mo motshamekong. Fa go na le referii, fa go tloiswa melao ya motshameko, referii e letsa phala.

A re akanye gore re tshameka motshameko wa kgwele ya maoto

mme referii e letsa phala. Botlhe ba emisa go tshameka. Mme wena ga o mo kgathale mme wa itumela mme wa re, "Go monate!" Jaanong fa botlhe ba emisitse go tshameka, a ke ye go nosa nno!" O ka nosa nno mme referii a ka go bitsa mme a laola gore buse bolo mme ga se nno. Ga go na nno epe ka gore go ne go na le tlolomolao metsotso e le 2 pele ga gore o nose nno mme tlolomolao o tshwanetse go baakanngwa pele. Jaanong wena ka matlhabisa-ditlhong o tshwanetse go busa bolo mme babogedi ba go goe mme ba go tshege. Dinno tsa gago ga di badiwe ka gore phala e ne ya lela.

Se jaanong sa re eng mo bophe-long jwa gago jwa Bokeresete? Fa o lemoga gore mo segakoloding sa gago gore referii e letsa phala mme o dirile sengwe se se sa siameng, o dira eng? Gongwe o buile le mosadi wa gago kgotsa le bana ka mokgwa o o sa siamang. Kgotsa madi a o a tshotseng ga a a tsewa ka mokgwa o o siameng. Gangwe fa phala e lela mme o dirile phoso, se o se direlang Morena morago ga moo ke nno e e sa letlelelwang. Morena a re, "Boa o tle go baakanya pele. Tsamaya o ye go kopa mosadi le bana gore

ba go itshwarele. Se ye go leka go rera kgotsa go direla Morena, tsamaya o kope tshwarelo. Dino tsothle di ka se badiwe."

A kagiso ya Keresete e nne referii ya gago. Fa o latela melao ya referii bophelo le motshameko wa bophelo o tsamaya sentle. O tllile go tsaya sebaka se se kana kang gore o reetse mme o ikobele referii? A o bone mo metshamekong gore batshameki ba na le go lwa le referii? Referii nako yotlhe e fenywa ntwaga mme e ka fa batshameki le dikata tse di serolwane kgotsa se sehibidu. Taolo le lefoko la referii ke molao mme ke makgaolakgang. Nako e nngwe batshameki ba kobiwa mo lebaleng fa ba sa batle go utlwa. Ka jalo se lwe le referii mo pelong ya gago, o tloga a go fa karata mme a go koba mo lebaleng. E re, "Go siame Morena. Ke tla dira se o se laolang." Baakanya diphoso mme tswelela pele. O ka itse jang gore phala e a lela? Fa o sa tllhole o na le kagiso mo pelong o ka se utlwe phala. Kagiso ke referii. Fa o se na kagiso ka sengwe mme o tshwenyegile, le fa o ya kerekeng o se bule molomo. Mo molomong go tlaa tswa fela tshwenyego le ngongorego. Se bue gope fa o tenegele mme o ngongoregile. Le



Johan Zerwick
Sêlê ke 083 458 3837

kwa gae, fa o tshwenyegile ka sengwe go botoka thata gore bogolo o se bule molomo. Fa o tenegele mme o ngongoregile referii ya kagiso e letsa phala. Emisa! Baakanya pele! Baakanya tlolomolao pele. Nako e nngwe le e nngwe fa o se na kagiso, go raya gore go na le tlolomolao. A kagiso ya Keresete e nne referii ya gago.

THAPELO

Morena ke leboga ka o le referii ya kagiso mo pelong ya me. Ke kopa o nthuse gore ke utlwe phala nako yotlhe. Nthuse gore ke dule ke arabetse melao le ditaolo tsa gago mme ke tshameke motshameko wa bophelo ka mokgwa o o siameng.

Ntshwarele ditlolomolao tsa me le dibe tsa me. Ke leboga fa o phimotse dikarata tsa me tse di serolwane le tse dikhwibidu. Ke leboga madi a mahibidu a Gago a a tlhatswitseng dibe tsa me gore nna ke se bone karata e khwibidu. AMEN.

“Those Who Sow in Tears...”

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brothers and half sister, Aggie brought up the subject of seeing her father. The others hesitated.

“You can talk to him,” they replied, “even though he’s very ill now. But you need to know that whenever he hears the Name of God, he flies into a rage.”

Aggie was not to be deterred. She walked into the squalid apartment, with liquor bottles everywhere, and approached the seventy-three-year-old man lying in a rumpled bed.

“Papa,” she said tentatively. He turned and began to cry. “Aina,” he said. “I never meant to give you away.” It’s all right, Papa,” she replied, taking him gently in her arms. “God took care of me. The man instantly stiffened. The tears stopped. “God forgot all of us! Our lives have been like this because of Him.” He turned his face back to the wall.

Aggie stroked his face and then continued, undaunted. “Papa, I’ve got a little story to tell you, and it’s a true one. You didn’t go to Africa in vain. Mama didn’t die in vain. The little boy you won to the Lord grew up to win that whole village to Jesus Christ. The one seed you planted just kept growing and growing. Today there are six hundred African people serving the Lord because you were faithful to the call of God in your life. ...Papa, Jesus loves you. He has never hated you.”

The old man turned back to look into his daughter’s eyes. His body relaxed. He began to talk. And by the end of the afternoon, he had come back to the God he had resented for so many decades.

Over the next few days, father and daughter enjoyed warm moments together. Aggie and her husband soon had to return to America and within a few weeks, David Flood had gone into eternity.

A few years later, the Hursts were attending a high-level Evangelism Conference in London, England, when a report was given from the nation of Zaire (the former Belgian Congo). The superintendent of the national church, representing some 110 000 baptized believers, spoke eloquently of the Gospel’s spread in his nation.

Aggie could not help going to ask him afterwards if he had ever heard of David and Svea Flood. “Yes, Madam,” the man replied in French, his words then being translated into English. “It was Svea Flood who led me to Jesus Christ. I was the boy who brought food to your parents before you were born. In fact, to this day your mother’s grave and her memory are honoured by all of us.”

He embraced her in a long, sobbing hug. Then he continued, “You must come to Africa to see, because your mother is the most famous person in our history.”

In time that is exactly what Aggie Hurst and her husband did. They were welcomed by cheering throngs of villagers. She even met the man who had been hired by her father many years before to carry her back down the mountain in a hammock-cradle.

The most dramatic moment, of course, was when the pastor escorted Aggie to see her mother’s white cross for herself. She knelt in the soil to pray and give thanks.

Later that day, in the church, the pastor read from John 12:24: *“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”* He then followed with Psalm 126:5: *“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”*

[TEARS IN MY HEART, James Collins, Xulon Press, USA, 2007].

GOD SE LIEFDESBRIEF: 'N BOODSKAP VAN HOOP

Géén tye in ons lewe is só hopeloos dat God se Woord nie lig op die situasie sal werp en ons sal vertrous nie.

Ek ken talle ouers wat die Woord van God gebruik om hulle gevoel van hopeloosheid omtrent hulle tieners se optrede teë te werk. Hulle gaan na die kind se kamer en lees eenvoudig die Skrif hardop. Nie net het hoop in hul eie hart opgevlam nie, maar hulle het ook kort daarna veranderings in hulle kinders bemerk - selfs wanneer die kind nie daar was om dit aan te hoor nie.

As jy met hopeloosheid, verlies, siekte of versoekings worstel, moet jy sorg dat God se Woord voortdurend teenwoordig in jou lewe is. Koppel jou daaraan soos aan binnearse voeding en laat dit

onafgebroke deur jou geestelike are vloei. Die lig daarvan sal hopeloosheid uit jou lewe brand!

“Alles wat vooraf in die Skrif opgeteken is, is tog opgeteken om ons te leer, sodat ons deur die standvastigheid en bemoediging wat die Skrif ons gee, vol hoop kan wees” (Romeine 15:4).

Moet dit nie eens oorweeg om 'n lewe te probeer bou sonder om God se Woord as kraggereedskap te gebruik nie; trouens, maak juis dít jou fondament!

Wanneer jy ook al voel jy is in die donker of op onvaste bodem, vra God om die lig van Sy Woord in jou hart te gee. Sê: *“Stuur U lig en U waarheid dat dié my lei en my bring na U heilige berg”* (Psalm 43:3). **As jy wil verstaan hoe die lewe werk, lees net Sy Handboek.**



As jy moet weet waarheen jy veronderstel is om te gaan, sal Sy waarheid jou in die regte rigting stuur, jou pad verlig en voorkom dat jy die pad byster raak.

Wees honger vir God se Woord soos vir kos.

Ontwikkel 'n dors daarna soos na water.

Baai daarin soos in 'n borrelbad. Trek dit aan soos 'n kledingstuk.

Verweef dit met jou siel sodat dit deel word van die weefstof van jou lewe. As jy dit doen, sal jy nie

bloot op die pad voortsukkel nie; jy sal in die voetligte dans!

NET God se Woord in ons gemoed, in ons hart, en op ons lippe, sal die duisternis van leuens verdryf en ons bewapen met 'n tweesnydende swaard wat kragtiger is as enige wapen wat die opposisie teen ons kan gebruik!
[NET GENOEG LIG VIR MY VOLGENDE TREE, Stormie Omartian, Struik Christelike Boeke, 1999]



IF MY PEOPLE...



"IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME will HUMBLE themselves, and PRAY and SEEK My face, and TURN from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14). **It should be clear from this Scripture how crucial the Church's role is for the destiny of the nations.**

God promises that He will bring healing to the land, IF His people will fulfil their calling and play their role! It is an amazing thought that there is a possibility for our nations to experience the healing power of God, and how we need that power among the nations today!

God has set up four requirements for His people to fulfil before He can come and heal the land. It is important for us to observe that there are four, not one!

The first one is: **HUMBLE** yourselves! What would it profit if we prayed and prayed and prayed, and God did not listen to us? Unless we know how to humble ourselves before God, we can forget about being heard in heaven.

Remember the parable Jesus told about the Pharisee and the tax collector? The Lord did not listen to the Pharisee. All his boasting and self-righteous prayers were totally ignored by God, because his heart was full of pride. But the tax collector, who **humiliated** himself before God, went home justified!

If there is anything God despises it is pride! *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble"* (1 Peter 5:5). If therefore, we have pride in our hearts, we have turned God into our enemy and He will be resisting us all the way. Without learning to humble our-

selves and to live in humility, we shall never be able to lay hold of the grace of God!

The second requirement is **PRAYER**. There has never been a national revival anywhere in the world at any time in history that was not generated through prayer, and I mean real prayer: massive, united and persevering prayer by a hungry and desperate Church! We need to ask God to do great things for our nation because He is a great God, worthy of great petitions and well able to give us exceedingly far above what we ask for, or even think!

It is time for us to make concrete requests to God for our nation. Like the Scottish reformer, John Knox, who came before God in a time of great need for Scotland and prayed: "Lord, give me Scotland or I die!" God honoured this faithful man of prayer and gave him Scotland through sending over the land what is known as the Presbyterian Revival.

In the third place we have to **SEEK** God's face. This is more than just praying. It means that we actually come face to face with the Lord. God wants us to get away from praying our own thing, and come to the point where we can be **fully available for the burdens of the Holy Spirit**.

Seeking God's face is not so much taking our concerns to the Lord as it is **learning to listen to what is upon His heart**. It is the experience of many that we can be seeking God for a long time and wonder why we never find Him. The reason is that we seek Him according to our mindset and tradition instead of seeking Him according to His way!

We must learn to lay down all of our own self and come before God with empty hands ready to hear

His Voice and do His will. That is what it means to seek God's face, and that kind of consecration and **availability** is a requirement if we are going to see God heal our land!

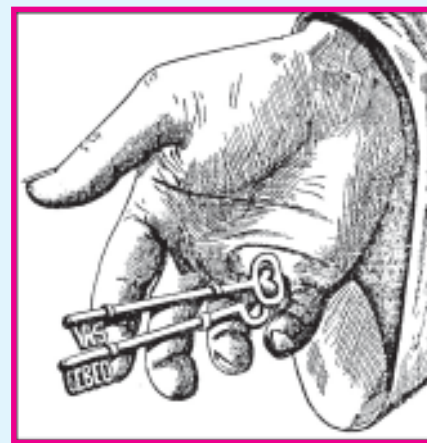
The fourth requirement speaks about **REPENTANCE**: Turn away from your wicked ways. God requires true repentance as a prerequisite for the healing of the land. It is my experience that believers do not fully understand what repentance is. We often confuse it with forgiveness, but asking forgiveness and receiving it, is not the same as repentance.

Repentance requires more than that. **It requires that we change**

our way radically and stop doing the same thing anymore. That is the real meaning of the word "repent": **to change your direction!** To confess a sin, ask for forgiveness and receive it, is something we can do over and over again, but that does not mean that we have repented of it. Unless we change our direction completely and turn our backs on our wicked ways, we have not repented in the true, biblical sense of that word. And until we turn from our wicked ways we cannot make a way for the Lord to come and heal our land!

[Extracts from: *The Powerhouse of God* - Johannes Facius, Sovereign World, 1995]

GOD SOEK...



DONKER ONHEILSWOLKE pak al meer en meer saam oor ons samelewing. Vloedgolwe van misdaad en perversiteit rol oor ons heen en sleur ons mee, om ons genadeloos teen die rotse van afvalligheid en goddeloosheid tot sandkorrels te vergruis! Verwoed loop die duiwel rond soos 'n brullende leeu en soek wie hy kan verslind (1 Petrus 5:8).

Christen, is jy paraat en opgewasse teen die sielevyand? Is jy **LIG** vir hierdie wêreld en **SOUT** van die aarde? Of het jou lig só dof geword dat jy in die skemerte tuis voel soos die wêreldling?

"God deursoek die hart, toets die niere, om aan elkeen te gee na sy weë, volgens die vrug van sy handeling" (Jeremia 17:10). Hy, die Allerhoogste, roep ons tot stilstand en nadenke: *"Maar selfs nou nog, spreek die HERE, bekeer julle tot My met julle hele hart, en met vas en geweën en rouklag. En skeur julle hart en nie julle klere nie, en bekeer julle tot die HERE julle God; want Hy is genadig en barmhartig, lankmoedig en groot van goedertierenheid..."* (Joël 2:12-13).

Gryp die verskrikkinge en duister lot van ons dorpe, stede en land jou aan die hart? **Luister dan na God se oproep!** *"En Ek het onder hulle 'n man GESOEK' wat 'n muur kan bou en voor my aangesig in die bres kan staan vir die land, sodat Ek dit nie sou verwoes nie; maar Ek het niemand gevind nie"* (Eségiël 22:30).

Mag God ons behoed indien ons nie bereid is om in die bres te staan vir ons dorpe, stede, ons land Suid-Afrika, en selfs die hele wêreld nie! Ons versuim sal tot ons eie ondergang lei! Kom laat elkeen van ons elke dag ten minste vir 'n halfuur vir ons woonplekke en land intree!

"[As] My volk, oor wie My Naam uitgeroep is, hulle verootmoedig en bid en My Aangesig soek en hulle bekeer van hul verkeerde weë, dan sal Ek uit die hemel hoor en hulle sonde vergewe en hulle land genees" (2 Kronieke 7:14).

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THE AMAZING STORY OF A SECRET CHRISTIAN

When Sister Ki was a child in North Korea, her father came home one day, completely distraught, crying so loudly that she feared the neighbours would tell the police. She thought someone must have died.

Ki's intuition was correct. Her father's younger brother had been executed for his faith in Christ.

She was then let in on the family secret: most of her relatives were Christians! But Ki knew that 'threats' against the Government were not tolerated, and she did not want to have anything to do with the Christian faith.

"I wanted life to go back to normal, so I focused on school," she told Open Doors.

Nevertheless, she wanted to leave North Korea. When the North Korean State gave her the opportunity to go to China in a sponsored student programme, she refused. "

Going abroad under the umbrella of the State meant they would severely monitor and control me. No, if I wanted to leave, I had to go by myself without telling anyone."

Some time after leaving school, she went to the Chinese border and swam across the river that divided the two countries. She then trekked inland until she came to a village.

"I was caught by human traffickers and sold to a Chinese farmer," she recounted. "He wasn't as bad as most Chinese men who buy North Korean women. I had a child with him. But still I thought I could never feel at home in this family."

Her mother-in-law also lived with Ki and her Chinese husband, and Ki began to notice 'suspicious behaviour' by the woman. Some days the mother-in-law left the house without telling where she was going.

"One night, I decided to follow her. It was a long way before she

reached the place where some kind of meeting was going on. I called her. Of course she was very surprised to see me, but she also invited me to participate. I quickly discovered that it was a Christian meeting, which made me uncomfortable, because in my country I had always been against Christianity. My curiosity beat my fear and I decided to stay to learn more about God."

Ki continued to go to the meetings with her mother-in-law, and grew in faith and knowledge of God. After some time, Ki wanted to let her family in North Korea know that she had become a Christian. However, her Chinese family, probably less naïve than she was, did not want her to make this dangerous journey. But in the end they let her go.

The border crossing into North Korea went horribly wrong. Ki was almost immediately arrested by a military patrol and sent to prison. *"When I saw how the other prisoners and I were treated, as if we weren't humans, I gave up on life. I trembled often in prison and thought I would never see my Earthly family again."*

But after some time, something stirred in her heart that was impossible to resist. *"It was like an invisible power," she said. "I felt it every time I wanted to give up hope. That power was God Himself. He was with me and didn't want me to give up."*

Ki remembered Bible verses she had memorized, especially verses 6 and 7 from Psalm 62: *'Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God; He is my mighty rock, my refuge.'*

"Then, I begged God for mercy. All I wanted was a chance to be reunited with my family and to worship God together with them."

After a few months in the camp, the prison guards found out her family background, and - as is the custom in North Korea - she was transferred to a camp closer to her hometown. This camp had less surveillance.



"I took this as a sign from God to try to escape," she recounted. "I knew He would protect me. One night, the guards were drunk and they hadn't locked the door of the barracks. I snuck out and ran through the gate. My heart was pounding so fast! I didn't stop running until I came to a sign that pointed me the way to my hometown."

After her escape, Ki was finally reunited with her North Korean family. *"It was the most joyous experience ever," she said. "We were so happy to see each other, and for the first time, we worshipped God together as a family. Later, I also attended small gatherings of other Christian families. Slowly, I came to the realization that God had guided me every step of the way. He had a purpose for every experience, no matter how painful it was. It all happened to prepare me to share the Gospel to the lost people in North Korea and China. First and foremost, to the next generation."*

"That's why I decided I needed to go back to my Chinese family. My husband and my son had to hear the Gospel too. It was a dangerous trip. I could get arrested again and be severely punished. But nothing could extinguish my passion for Christ."

Thanks to various people who helped her she arrived safely in China. *"They were truly the Hands of God to protect and guide my journey. I wish more people could have the blessing that I received through them," she said. Now in her mid-forties, her husband and*

son, who became believers, are living in South Korea with her, and she said that they are happier than ever before and serve God by supporting a North Korean Mission.

"I will never forget my childhood," she stated. "There are so many Christian parents in North Korea who cannot share their faith with their children. It breaks my heart. I was once a victim of this too. But thanks to praying people, I found God in the end. And thanks to the prayers of my mother-in-law, I survived prison too."

My life story testifies of the power of prayer. *I hope this can be a call to all brothers and sisters in Christ to join in prayer, so that God will bring grace and justice to my country."*

North Korea is number one on the Open Doors 2018 World Watch List, making it the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. Despite this, they estimate that there are between 200 000 and 400 000 Christians in North Korea, worshipping secretly, or imprisoned in labour camps.

The Organization's workers risk their lives to smuggle Bibles and other vital aid, such as food and medicine, into North Korea, to support persecuted Christians. They also run safe houses for North Korean defectors in China, and broadcasts Christian radio programmes into North Korea. *Source: Sister Ki (anonymized) and Sheraz Khan, Joel News International, August 2018.*





Hendrik van Graan

Susana van Graan

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A LIFE IN THE HOLIEST

Oh the blessedness of a life in the Holiest!

Here the Father's Face is seen and His love is tasted.

Here His holiness is revealed and the soul made partaker of it.

Here the sacrifice of love and worship and adoration, the incense of prayer and supplication, is offered in power.

Here the outpouring of the Spirit is known as an ever-streaming, overflowing river, from under the throne of God and the Lamb.

Here the soul, in God's Presence, grows in more complete oneness with Christ, and more entire conformity to His likeness.

Here in union with Christ, in His unceasing intercession, we are emboldened to take our place as

intercessors, who can have power with God and prevail.

Here the soul mounts up as on eagle's wings, the strength is renewed, and the blessing and the power and the love are imparted with which God's priests can go out to bless a dying world.

Here each day we may experience the fresh anointing, in virtue of which we can go out to be the

bearers, and witnesses, and channels of God's salvation to men, the living instruments through whom our blessed King works out His full and final triumph!

O Jesus! Our great High Priest, let this be our life!

From: "The Holiest of All" by Andrew Murray.
Reference: Hebrews 10:19.



"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of living waters, and they have hewn for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns which cannot hold water" (Jeremiah 2:13).

The people in Jeremiah 2:13 worked hard to dig wells for themselves, but their wells could not hold water. I am sure they were very disappointed when they did not get the result they wanted after working so hard.

I know what it is like to work hard with no results. I have spent many years of my life digging "empty wells" like these, and that frustrated and discouraged me. It took me a long time to realize that unless *"the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it"* (Psalm 127:1).

You may be digging an empty well right now. You may be working on something or somebody. You may have your own little project going on, but you are doing it your way. You may be following your own little plan, trying to make things happen in your own strength and ability. **If so, it is not going to work if you have left God out of your plan!**

There is nothing more frustrating than trying to do something about something you cannot do anything about! It is similar to having your car stuck in the mud and continuing to press the accelerator down and spin your wheels until you burn up the engine. We often burn out from weariness due to "works of the flesh," which are works that do not work!

Many times we make a plan and then pray for it to work. **God wants us to pray first and ask Him for His plan. After we have His plan, then He wants us to trust Him to bring it to pass.**

Our activity birthed out of the flesh actually prevents God from showing Himself strong in our lives. That is not the way to live the higher life that God has prepared for us. **Ask God to help you and lead you as you work, so that your efforts will be productive.**

[The Everyday Life Bible, Amplified Old and New Testament, Notes and Commentary by Joyce Meyer, Faith Word, Hatchette Book Group, USA, 2006].

Wees nie bevrees nie, want Ek is met jou; kyk nie angstig rond nie, want Ek is jou God. Ek versterk jou, ook help Ek jou, ook ondersteun Ek jou met My reddende regterhand. - Jesaja 41:10



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NTHO E MOLEMO KA HO FETISISA BOPHELONG...

THE BEST THING IN LIFE...

A MELHOR COISA DA VIDA...

<div>1</div> <div>HA SE BOITHABISO...</div> <div>IS NOT PLEASURE...</div> <div>NÃO É PRAZER...</div>		<div>2</div> <div>HA SE BOTLE...</div> <div>IS NOT BEAUTY...</div> <div>NÃO É BELEZA...</div>	
<div>3</div> <div>HA SE THUTO...</div> <div>IS NOT EDUCATION...</div> <div>NÃO É EDUCAÇÃO...</div>		<div>4</div> <div>HA SE HO AHA MMELE KAPA HO IKWETLISA...</div> <div>IS NOT BODYBUILDING OR PHYSICAL EXERCISE...</div> <div>NÃO É O CORPO FÍSICO OU EXERCÍCIO FÍSICO...</div>	
<div>5</div> <div>HA SE MORUO...</div> <div>IS NOT WEALTH...</div> <div>NÃO É RIQUEZA...</div>		<div>6</div> <div>HA SE DIPAPADI...</div> <div>IS NOT SPORT...</div> <div>NÃO É ESPORTE...</div>	<div></div>


NTHO E MOLEMO KA HO FETISISA BOPHELONG...
THE BEST THING IN LIFE...
A MELHOR COISA DA VIDA...

7

HA
SE
SETUMO...

IS NOT
FAME...

NÃO É
FAMA...



8

EMPA NTHO E MOLEMO
BOPHELONG KE HO AMOHELA
JESO KRESTE HO BA
MOPHOLOSI WA HAO!

BUT THE BEST THING IN LIFE
IS TO RECEIVE
JESUS CHRIST
AS YOUR SAVIOUR!

MAS A MELHOR COISA DA VIDA
É ACEITAR JESUS CRISTO
COMO SEU SALVADOR!

9

KE LOKELA HO E TSA JWANG HO AMOHELA BOPHELO BO SA
FELENG?

Jeso are ho yena “Ke nna tsela, le nnete, le bophelo, ha ho motho ya tlang
ho Ntate, ha ese ka nna” (Johanne 14:6).
“Empa bohle ba amohetseng, le ba neile tokelo ya ho ba bana ba
Modimo, e leng ba dumelang lebitso la lona, ba sa kang ba tswalwa ke
madi, leha e le ka ho rata ha nama, leha e le ka ho rata ha monna, ba mpa
ba tswetwe ke Modimo” (Johanne 1: 12-13).

WHAT MUST I DO TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE?
JESUS SAID: “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to
the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).
“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become
children of God, to those who believe in His Name: who were born, not
of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”
(John 1:12,13).

O QUE DEVO FAZER PARA HERDAR A VIDA ETERNA?
Respondeu-lhe Jesus: “Eu sou o caminho, e a verdade, e a vida;
ninguém vem ao Pai, senão por mim” (João 14:6).

“Contudo, aos que o receberam, aos que creram Emseunome, deu-
lhes o direito de se tornarem filhos de Deus, os quais não nasceram por
descendência natural, nem pela vontade da carne nem pela vontade de
algum homem, mas nasceram de Deus” (João 1:12,13).

10

“Hobane Modimo o ratile lefatshe hakalo, o bile wa le nea Mora wa wona
ya tswetsweng a nnotshi, hore e mong le e mong ya dumelang ho yena. A
se ke a timela, a mpe a be le bophelo bo sa feleng” (Johanne 3:16).

“Ka nnete nnete ke re ho lona: Ya utlwang lentswe la ka, mme a dumela
nthomileng, o na le bophelo bo sa feleng, ha a ka ke a tla kahlolong, empa
o tlohile lefung ho kena bophelong” (Johanne 5:24).

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in
Him Who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into
judgment, but has passed from death into life” (John 5:24).

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that
whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting
life” (John 3:16).

“Eu lhes asseguro: Que-mouve a minha palavra e crênaquele que me
enviou, tem a vida eterna e não se-rá condenado, mas já passou da
morte para a vida” (João 5:24).

“Porque Deus tanto amou o mundo que deu o seu Filho Unigênito,
para que todo o que nele crer não pereça, mas tenha a vida eterna”
(João 3:16).

11

HA HO MOTHO EMONG YA TLA HO PHOLOSA. TSHEPA JESO
KAJENO!

1.Dumela hore o etsa dibe.
2.Baka mme o lahle dibe tsohle.
3.Dumela hore Jeso Kreste o ho shwetse.
4.Dumela hore o tsohile bafung mme o dutse letsohong le letona la
Modimo, Ntate.
5.Rapela mme o kope Jeso ho kena bophelong ba hao ho ba Morena le
mopholosi wa hao.

NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU. TRUST JESUS TODAY!

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Repent and be willing to turn from sin.
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you.
4. Believe that He rose from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father.
5. Pray and invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Saviour.

NINGUÉM ALÉM DE JESUS CRISTO PODE SALVÁ-LO!

1. Admita que você é um pecador.
2. Arrependa-se do seu pecado com arrependimento.
3. Acredite que Jesus Cristo morreu por você.
4. Acredite que ele ressuscitou dos mortos e senta-se à direita de Deus Pai.
5. Convide Jesus para sua vida e peça que ele seja seu salvador pessoal através
da oração.

12

RAPELA KA MOKGWA O LATELANG:

Modimo ya lehodimong, ke moetsadibe mme ke hloka tswarelo ya dibe tsa ka. Ke
dumela hore Jeso Kreste o shwetse dibe tsa ka mme madi a hae a bohlokwa a
ntlhatsitse. Ke lahla dibe tsohle tseo ke neng ke di etsa mme ke mema Jeso Kreste
ho kena pelong le bophelong ba ka jwale ka Morena le mopholosi wa ka. Amen.
HO AMOHELA JESO KRESTE HO BOLELA?
* Tshwarelo ya dibe tsohle tsa hao tse fetileng!
* Bophelo bo botjha ho Jeso Kreste.
* Tshepo ya bokamoso bo hlohonolofetseng le tiisetso ya bophelo bo sa feleng le
Modimo Ntate, Jeso Kreste mopholosi, le Moya o Halalang jwaleka motataise.

PRAY AS FOLLOWS:
Dear God, I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His
precious blood for me and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from my sin. I now invite
Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Saviour. Amen.
TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST MEANS...
* Forgiveness of all your past sins!
* New life in Jesus Christ.
* Hope for a blessed future and assurance of eternal life with God your Father, Jesus
Christ your Saviour, and the Holy Spirit as your Guide.

FAÇA A SEGUINTE ORAÇÃO:
Pai Celestial, sou um pecador merecedor e preciso do Seu perdão. Eu acredito que Jesus
Cristo derramou Seu sangue precioso e morreu por mim. Não quero mais pecar e peço
Jesus que vem morar no meu coração como meu Salvador pessoal.
Amém.
O QUE SIGNIFICA PARA VOCÊ AGORA SE JESUS CRISTO É SEU SALVADOR?
* Todos os seus pecados são perdoados.
* Você recebe uma nova vida em Jesus Cristo.
* Você ganha um futuro promissor e tem a certeza da vida eterna com seu Pai, Jesus
Cristo, seu Salvador, e o Espírito Santo como seu Guia.

Word 'n Dader van die Woord

'n Mens staan dikwels verstom oor alles wat jy op die televisieskerm en in tydskrifte sien. Daar is die een belofte na die ander dat hierdie of daardie produk jou lewenskwaliteit sal verbeter of die een of ander revolusionêre verandering in jou lewe sal bring.

Hierdie tendens sien mens ook in die politiek, veral met verkiesingsveldtogte, wanneer beloftes en voornemens een na die ander uitgeryg word. Woorde is egter goedkoop, en dikwels kom daar nie veel van nie.

Christene maak hulle dikwels daaraan skuldig dat hulle woorde en hulle dade nie klop nie.

'n Mens kan nie sê dat jy aan God behoort en deel van Sy volk is, en voortgaan om aan die wêreld en sy waardes vas te klou nie. Jy kan die mooiste dinge sê en die

pragtigste standpunte hê, maar as jou praktiese lewe van elke dag nie die egtheid van wat jy sê, bewys nie, is dit alles nutteloos.

Jakobus konfronteer sonder om doekies om te draai die gelowiges wat so die wêreld (en hulleself!) 'n rat voor die oë wil draai. 'n Christelike lewenswyse is nie net iets waaroor 'n mens moet praat en waaraan jy moet glo nie; jy moet dit prakties uiteleef!

"Wat help dit, my broers, as iemand beweer dat hy glo, maar sy dade bevestig dit nie? Kan so 'n geloof 'n mens red?" (Jak.2:14).

Dit is die hoofsaak van dit wat God deur Jakobus in hierdie brief vir jou wil sê. Jou lewe van elke dag is soos 'n televisieskerm wat wys wat daar tussen jou en God gebeur; wat wys of jy regtig in God glo en jou aan Hom onder-

werp het.

Jakobus begin sy brief met 'n tipiese brief-aanhef en daarna roep hy die gelowiges op om bly te wees wanneer hulle beproef word. Hy verduidelik waarvoor God beproewings gebruik, waar versoekings vandaan kom, en watter positiewe rol God in die gelowige se lewe speel. Hy beklemtoon dat gelowiges bereid moet wees om ander se standpunte te eerbiedig, en om nie net die Woord aan te hoor nie, maar dit ook te doen. Hy wys dat gelowiges ander nie volgens hulle uiterlike mag beoordeel nie.

In die grootste deel van sy brief skryf hy oor die verhouding tussen geloof en daad. Eers wys hy dat **geloof wat nie lewenspraktiek word nie, geen ware geloof is nie**, en daarna gee hy riglyne vir die praktiese uitwerking

van 'n mens se geloof. Hy doen 'n beroep op die gelowiges om hulle in te span om hulle tong te beheers. Hulle moet ook die wysheid wat van Bo kom, prakties uitleef in hulle houding teenoor besittings, in hulle onderwerping aan God, in hulle verhouding met hulle mede-gelowiges, in hulle afhanklikheid van God, in hulle rykdom, in hulle volhardende wag op die Here se koms, in hulle integriteit (5:12), in hulle swaarkry en vreugde (5:13), en in hulle siekte en sonde (5:14-20).

Hierdie brief is dus vol praktiese riglyne vir jou lewe. Elke gelowige wat die woorde van hierdie boek biddend ter harte neem, sal beseef dat 'n Christen se lewe wys of hy/sy regtig 'n kind van God is. Word 'n dader van hierdie Woord! *[Die Bybel in Praktyk, onder redaksie van Wil Vosloo en Fika J van Rensburg, CUM, 1993].*

PSALM 33

Benescke Janse van Rensburg

Op 'n vraag hoe die Heilige Gees se Stem dan klink, het 'n predikant onlangs hierdie ware verhaal vertel - 'n verhaal wat in sy eie lewe afgespeel het:

Dit was 'n Dinsdagaand, 19:00. Die ingenieurstudent, Sias, het net voor sy lessenaar ingeskuif om te begin studeer vir 'n toets. Skielik het 'n frons op sy gesig verskyn.

“Wat, Here? Wat sê U daar? Maar Here, ek het dan nou net klaar geëet?” Vir Sias het die opdrag wat die Heilige Gees pas op sy hart kom lê het, glad nie sin gemaak nie. Tog het hy besluit om gehoorsaam te wees. Met sy beursie in sy hand het hy in sy kar geklim en na die winkel gery om ’n brood te gaan koop. ’n Vreemde opgewondenheid het in sy hart kom lê. Wat op aarde sou die Here tog met hierdie brood wou doen?

Nadat Sias die brood gekoop het, het hy vir 'n rukkie in sy kar voor die winkel gesit en wag. Dalk wou die Here 'n arm persoon oor sy pad stuur sodat hy die brood vir hom of haar kan gee? Daar was egter niks. Na 'n paar minute, het hy maar weer sy kar aangeskakel en begin om na die koshuis terug te ry.

stadig. Dalk wou die Here vir hom iemand langs die pad wys vir wie hy die brood moes gee. Weer was daar niemand nie. Dit is toe Sias voor die koshuis parkeer dat hy begin wonder het of hy homself dan verbeel het. Dalk het die Here nie met hom gepraat nie?

Sias was amper heel bo teen die trappe, op pad na sy kamer, toe een van die eerstejaarstudente van bo af by hom verbystap.

“Dit is hy”. Die Heilige Gees se Fluisterstem was duidelik. “Maar”, wou Sias protesteer. “Wat as...” Binne-in sy hart het hy egter instinktief geweet wat hy moes doen.

“Uh, skuus tog,” het hy nou na die jonger man geroep wat reeds besig was om by die trappe af te draf. “Ja?” Daar was ’n vraag op die jong student se gesig wat nou na hom gedraai het. “Ek weet dit mag dalk vreemd wees, maar... uh... hier is vir jou ’n brood.” Die vraag wat oomblikke gelede op die jong student se gesig was, het nou na skok verander terwyl trane stadig oor sy wange begin vloei.

Daardie oggend het die jong student by God gepleit om aan hom 'n teken te gee dat Hy werklik bestaan. Die student was moedeloos en depressief oor al die uitdagings in sy lewe. Selfmoord was sy volgende stap. Dit was immers waarheen hy op pad was toe hy by die trappe afgestap het. (Daarom het hy daardie oggend besluit om vir die mees onwaarskynlike teken te vra. As God werklik bestaan en vir hom omgee, moet Hy asseblief vir hom iemand stuur wat vir hom 'n brood sou gee). Daardie aand, 19:15 het die student sy brood gekry. Die Here het van hom geweet. Die Here het 'n lewe kom red!

Ek wonder, voel jy dalk vandag soos een van hierdie twee mans? Dalk wonder jy ook of God enigsins vir jou en jou probleme omgee? Of dalk wonder jy of dit werklik die Heilige Gees is wat iets op jou hart kom lê het?

Vir beide groepe wil ek vandag sê: Die Here hou jou dop. **Hy weet van jou pyn, jou hartseer en van elke probleem of hindernis op jou pad.** En op hierdie oomblik is Hy besig om mense en dinge in plek te stel om daardie seer van jou beter te maak. Hoe weet ek dit? Ek glo wat Dawid in Psalm 33:13 geskryf het: *“Uit die hemel sien die Here al die mense raak, want Hy kyk van Sy troon af na al die aarde se inwoners”* (Die Lewende Bybel). Op hierdie oomblik hou God jou dop - hier waar jy hierdie artikel sit en lees.

Kan ek jou dus aanmoedig om gehoorsaam aan God te wees as Hy jou vandag as Sy instrument wil gebruik? Wees gehoorsaam as die Heilige Gees iets op jou hart kom lê - selfs al is dit ook die vreemdste versoek. Hy het immers vir Sias met sy brood gebruik om 'n lewe te red! Sterkte!

Vader God, dankie dat ek kan weet dat U my raaksien vandag. Dankie dat ek kan weet dat U arm nooit te kort is om te help en U oor nooit te doof om te hoor nie. Dankie dat ek kan weet dat U altyd gereed is om my te help. Help my asseblief vandag om nie moed te verloor nie, maar om my hoop in U te vind. Ek plaas my verwagting in U. Ek bid dit in die Naam van Jesus Christus. Amen.

(*Benescke Janse van Rensburg is 'n vryskut-skrywer vir verskeie geestelike en inspirasietydskrifte).

Jer. 20:11 ★★ ★ **B & B**  *Uit die Hand*

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