



# **TLM Daily Devotions**

**May 2016**





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## Season of Pentecost 2016

*Lord, the light of your love is shining*

*In the midst of the darkness, shining*

*Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us*

*Set us free by the truth you now bring us*

*Shine on me, shine on me*

*Shine, Jesus, shine*

*Fill this land with the Father's glory*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze*

*Set our hearts on fire*

*Flow, river, flow*

*Flood the nations with*

*grace and mercy*

*Send forth your word, Lord,*

*and let there be*

*light!*



## Treasures in jars of clay

*"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal"*  
2 Cor 4

This May Shirley and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary. As we will not be at home in Australia with the family on the actual day, we held an early celebration with family, friends and neighbors. All told there were nearly 100 people present at our daughter's home and it was such a special time together. There were not a lot of speeches, but our elder daughter gave a comprehensive overview of our life together over those 50 years and the many places we have lived, travelled and some of the fantastic people we have met in that time. Many of them are men and women of faith who have influenced us so much.

As we look back we feel so blessed....blessed because of the privilege and joy of being involved in global mission and the work of the kingdom. We first went to PNG in 1971, not as mission workers, but in business. But it was there that our passion for mission was first stirred, meeting Christian workers from all over the world serving with MAF, Wycliffe Bible Translators, New Tribes and so many more.

There is a perception by some believers that Mission workers are 'extra-special' in some mysterious way because they have *"given up so much"*. I recall Paul Brand saying that when people said that to him he responded by saying *"I would just love to do it all over again"*.

Of course there are costs; I have two friends about to start mission service in a very challenging country, taking their six month old son with them. They have been challenged as to the wisdom of this, even by their own family. But the call is there and they are simply being faithful to that call and it's more than possible that they will look back in 50 years and feel as we do.....that it has been a precious and fantastic journey.

In that wonderful passage in second Corinthians 4 headed 'Treasures in jars of clay' Paul finishes by saying *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal"*

To be involved in the work of God is simply the richest and most rewarding enterprise imaginable.....I wouldn't trade that for Bill Gates entire fortune!

**Ken Martin** TLMI Chair

*With thanksgiving and prayers we wish the Lord's ongoing blessings to Shirley and Ken for their next 50 years!*



## Are you in, or are you out?

*He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.  
Ephesians 2:14*

I've been reading recently about the way people who follow Jesus express their faith in different countries. One author noticed that in some countries (South Korea, for example) the way 'church' is done looks very much like in Europe or North America. Not at all like how Korean people normally meet together. So he looked for people who were following Jesus in ways more normal for their culture. We don't even need to go overseas to think about this sort of question. In many countries people are abandoning the church, but not always turning away from Jesus. Younger generations especially can find the way we 'do church' a bit weird compared with – well – anything else they do.

The book talked about the Insider Movement. Wikipedia calls this 'a group or network of people from a non-Christian religion who consider themselves followers of Jesus while remaining relationally, culturally and socially a part of the religious community of their birth'. Note that they call themselves 'followers of Jesus' rather than 'Christians'. In some cultures, there is a world of difference between those two descriptions. With a 'Christian' label you might find yourself alienated from your culture, losing the opportunity to 'show' Jesus to those around you.

Now, this is a controversial topic in some mission circles. But it got me thinking about **inclusion**. That's one of TLM's global values. People affected by leprosy want above all else to be included by the family, their community. We work hard to make that happen. Tragically, churches are sometimes the worst at excluding leprosy affected and disabled people – totally reversing the work of Jesus, who seemed to be drawn to people who were in any way marginalised or excluded. And to me, the first words of our global values are the most important: they say 'Because we follow Jesus Christ, we value ... (inclusion, compassion, justice, integrity, humility).

Sadly, although we follow Jesus, we so easily label, or categorise, people. Some people call this 'binary thinking'. That means that we classify people as either one thing or another. With us, or against us. Positive, or negative. In, or out. Usually we do this with very little thought at all. We may try not to, but it comes easily to us. In times of danger, that is very useful. But mostly it's a problem. Binary thinking means putting up barriers against the people we classify as 'negative' or 'out'. It means exclusion.

This was a problem in the Ephesian church. Believers from a Jewish background had been brought up to believe that they were 'in' and all others (the Gentiles) were 'out'. Paul shows how Jesus broke down the barriers that result from that kind of thinking. The very people that we are inclined to think are 'out' are the ones that Jesus died for. Like Jesus said about God's 'wedding banquet' at the end of time, we will be surprised at some of the people who will be there. People that we thought would be 'out' but whom God has declared to be 'in'.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, help us to see all people the way that you do. Guard our hearts and minds against the tendency to separate and exclude. Fill us with your love for all people.



## The greatest of these is love

### *1 Corinthians, chapter 13 verse 13*

While considering this quarter's topic I read 1 Corinthians, chapter 13. A famous chapter often read at weddings. Why is that? Perhaps because two people have fallen in love and want to commit to each other for the rest of their lives, and all on the horizon seems bathed in light and happiness? Or perhaps, because love is the necessary ingredient for a contented life? Verses 4 – 8 of this chapter gives us a clear definition of what love is, and what it is not. Whatever the reason for choosing the passage at marriage services, the outworking of love requires the laying down of one's own life, for another which takes a life time.

That is what Jesus did in obedience to the Father's will for him, so that God could redeem a people from a fallen world, (*1 John chapter 3:1 and 4:9*), and that we may live through him. The outworking of love is what Christians have struggled with ever since Jesus said "*love one another as I have loved you*". I remember being challenged by this during my first term as an overseas worker, as I struggled to get alongside equally strong minded colleagues. I remember recognizing the need to forgive as well as needing to ask for forgiveness, and remembering that others would "*know we are Christians by our love*"; but actually working that out in daily living was a challenge then and has continued to be so today!

The last verse of chapter 13 says there remain three things – faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love, because that is the quality which goes on into eternity.

I now live in a town where the population is mostly elderly, and since living here I have encountered much more the great needs of elderly people all around us, even in our street. I wonder what the answers are for their physical and psychological needs we encounter daily, the struggles with frailty of body and mind. How we need to exercise patience and kindness when others are slow and obstructive. Faith is challenged, hope is certainly challenged, but love endures even when it is challenged. My prayer is, that we may we know increasingly the empowering of God's Holy Spirit as we allow the love of Jesus to live in us in practical daily living; whether we are young and full of energy, or whether we are struggling with impairments and the challenges of growing old. *The greatest of these is love.*

### **Joyce Missing**

Living in retirement in the south of England. Formerly a staff member. I worked in Bhutan from 1973 – 1991 [nurse/administrator]; then at the International Office 1991-2006.



## The Pearl of Great Price

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:44-46, NIV)*

These are two very short parables, and yet they teach us a truth of utmost importance—regarding the kingdom of heaven and concerning our lives.

In the Gospels, when Jesus speaks about the kingdom of heaven (or kingdom of God) he speaks not only of a glorious place somewhere beyond earth. He much rather speaks of a realm: Where God rules. Where His will is being done. Where intimate fellowship with God is being enjoyed. Not only in heaven, though it will have its ultimate fulfillment there. But even already here on earth. Not only in the future, but even already here and now, in a very real sense in and through our lives.

Let us not misunderstand the present two parables as if we could obtain this kingdom of heaven simply by selling all we have. It would never be enough. Not the sum of our possessions, nor the sum of our efforts or merits could ever grant us entry. Jesus Himself is the door through which we must enter. He is the way, the only way, into a life of fellowship with God. Jesus laid down His own life and thus paid the price so that by grace, by faith our sins can be forgiven and our fellowship with our Father in heaven restored. The kingdom of heaven is a free gift.

And yet it costs us. Not just a little bit here or there, but everything. Not merely outward things, but our very heart. Our entire allegiance. Our entire being. Everything that we have and are. Jesus says that we cannot serve two masters. We cannot have things in our life that take Jesus' place, and still have Him. Author John Piper puts it this way: "There will be no people in heaven who want to be around their things more than Jesus."

Do we feel uncomfortable with this? Are we unwilling, or even just reluctant to pay that price? Then we have not yet understood the treasure, the pearl. Note what the parable says: In his *joy* the man went and sold all he had to obtain that treasure. The value of the pearl is so great, so precious, that it is worth giving everything we have for it. Gladly! To know Jesus. To love Jesus. To have Jesus. To live for Jesus with all that we have and are. This is what we were created for. There is no greater fulfillment. There is no greater joy.

As people so joyous, so immeasurably blessed, we can reach out and truly be a blessing to the people around us.

**mzf**



## Who Accomplished the Greatest Mission here on Earth?

Many amazing Christians could be named here at this point: The Apostle Paul, Johannes Hus, Martin Luther, William Carey (Who said: Attempt great things for God; Expect great things from God!). But the overwhelmingly correct answer is : King Jesus Christ – now living and reigning in Heaven, after a perfect and extremely difficult. Mission here on earth! So we rightly honour Him on this majestic and meaningful Christian holiday! But just imagine, if Jesus Christ had failed at any given point, during His Mission of a Lifetime here on earth!?

### 1) Praise God He didn't fail on the MOUNT OF TEMPTATION! (Matth. 4:1-11)

When tempted to turn stones into bread (the lust of the flesh) - He responded: Primarily, live by every Word of God! When tempted to jump from the temple (the lust of the eye) - He responded: Beware, never tempt God vain-gloriously! When tempted to own all and bow to Satan (the pride of life) - He responded: Worship God only and always - never self! - Jesus was tempted in every way, as what man is tempted daily – yet He never succumbed to sin even once (Heb.4:15)! Today, you and I can overcome sinful habits and wicked temptations by His Word and by His Power! Thank You Lord for this grace!

*1 Cor.10:12-14 – “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man, but God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, BUT with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry!”*

### 2) Praise God He didn't fail on the MOUNT OF TEACHING! (Matth. 5:1 – 8:1)

Also known as the Sermon on the Mount, in Galilee: What picturesque instruction and unequivocal Heavenly standards! Today many religious pundits would only be too happy to classify King Jesus as a famous orator or scholar of sorts. BUT King Jesus knew that His Mission on earth included more than just talk.....it also included His blood, sweat and tears, for you and for me! *Matth. 20:28 – “Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a Ransom for many.”*

### 3) Praise God He didn't fail on the MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION! (Matth. 17: 1-9)

At this blissful point in Jesus' successful earthly ministry, the Heavenly Father COMMENDED His faithful Son. The Heavenly Father did not take this opportunity to COMMAND His Son to 'bail out' prematurely! Sometimes the Heavenly Father also COMMANDS us to 'hang in there' a little longer, for His Names' sake – therefore, keep focus and keep pressing on! *Rom.12:12 – “Rejoice in Hope, be patient in tribulation, pray without ceasing!”*

### 4) Praise God He didn't fail on the MOUNT OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION! (Matth. 27:27 - 28:10) On

Mount Calvary, God's judgement upon mankind's sin fell most vehemently upon the body of the PERFECT SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD! Here in Jerusalem, Jesus was finally grabbed, crucified, dead, buried, and victoriously risen! HE the FIRSTFRUITS....and we too, after His impending. Ascension and Glorification, daily readied for an eternity with HIM (Please read 1 Cor. 15: 22 – 26).

### 5 ) Praise God He didn't fail on the MOUNT OF TRANSITION! (Matth.28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53)

40 days after Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, He and His closest friends walked to Bethany (near Jerusalem). There, from Mount Zion, Jesus transitioned back - from earth to Heaven - in a cloud! His whole Mission would have failed, had He not categorically given to His faithful and willing disciples, at this farewell juncture, THE GREAT COMMISSION! Wherever you and I now go here on earth, we are to be His eyes, His heart, His hands, and His feet - for as long as we live, or until He comes back to fetch us! By His Holy Spirit He would subsequently now work both with us and through us, to perform His Father's Kingdom Mission here on earth ( Philip.1:6).

Start by praying for significant and insignificant people groups everywhere (1 Tim.2:1-7).

Spontaneously reach out to folk all around you (Acts 1:8).

Seek to equip your brothers and sisters in Christ, to reach the next level of usefulness in God's Kingdom (Eph 4:12)





## We Will See His Face!

*Revelation 22, 4/a*

I would recognise him even among half a billion Han-Chinese faces. Almost every day his figure comes back into my mind. March 2012, farewell - evening with project-staff in Jing Hong, China. Maekong-riverside, huge square, loud music. Hundreds of dancing people. An open-air free ball. Once hardrock, then tango. Suddenly: a waltz of Vienna, the rhythm very familiar to my Central-European ears, close to Vienna! They danced, one-two-three – the 3:4 rhythm of the waltz, light, in pairs, men and women.

But an elderly man... had no partner!! He danced alone, but held his arms, his hands in a way as if the lady would have been there! It was an amazing, tearfully – wonderfully beautiful scene. A small Han-Chinese man about 70, dark suit and tie, leading in dance an invisible lady, feeling an invisible body, holding two invisible small hands,  $\frac{3}{4}$  beat on and on... He was not a funny clown! It was a deadly serious dance! Turning, leading the “lady”, he smiled all along, nearly talked to “her” --- who was not there at all! But he turned “her”, one-two-three, the waltz of Vienna, admiring “her face”, embracing “her body” affectionately, carefully. He nearly flew with joy, lightly, lovingly.

I tried to find out who the invisible “lady” might be. His late wife? Died of cancer? Or in accident? His first, early-spring, burning, teenager-flame? Or his last, late-autumn, deep, senior-love? No idea.

For me invisible, non-existing.

But for him: an Existing, Real Person!! All he did, as he danced, as he smiled: supposed “her” to be existing for him! He knew whom he smiled on! He knew the face he admired! He knew the hands he held! He knew her eyes! He felt her heart! He not just knew her, but seemingly deeply loved her! So suggestively, affectionately loved “her” so that, despite her invisible existence, suddenly I also got to see the (invisible) figure of a smart Han-Chinese lady, smiling at the man, reversing his affection, holding his hand, touching his body. I saw “them” in a complementary way, as a couple. How they loved each other! Despite death, loss, separation, this life and ....what might this man believe in? I have no idea – but he SAW her truly, verily, his other half, and helped me through his love to “see” her, though invisible, as well!

*“We will see His face...”* Holding His hands, looking into His eyes, admiring His face, feeling His heart: Him, whom we cannot see here, but we do love despite all our sins and failures and brokenness – we can make Him **VISIBLE** through our gestures, hands, smiles, shining, our steps, our dance, our love, ... that all watching us may see Him, truly, verily, perfectly, powerfully; see Him, the Almighty, The First and The Last, The ALL; whose heart we now feel so close - we will feel forever! Whose body we take here in that bread and wine or juice or anything – there we will **SEE**! See Him Who we so much love here – indeed we will be with Him forever and see His glorious face! There, where will be no tears, no pain, no separation, no death, where He is All in All.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come!**





## May His beauty rest upon me

*from a song by Kate Wilkinson. Find at Youtube: "May the mind of Christ, my Saviour"*

I attended a meeting of NZR, the Dutch Mission Board. It was about China, about what the growth in the Chinese Church might tell us (the Church in The Netherlands). The guest-speaker, Rev Bas Plaisier, former chair of the main Protestant Church in the Netherlands, considers the development in China's Churches as 'the miracle of present-day Christendom'. (NZR – Nederlandse Zendingsraad)

The Church survived after 1949 when Mao Zedong kicked out missionaries and foreign Churches. In 1979, after decades of communist oppression, suppression of religion, torture of believers and closure of all churches, Deng Xiaoping granted religious freedom. The Church counted 1 million believers. Today there are more than 100 million Christians in China.

Just pause a minute. Thank God for how He sustained and encouraged His Church.

Among essential characteristics of the Church are personal Bible-reading and prayer. Believers boldly identify themselves with Jesus. They rely on the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Their lives change when trusting God. There is a strong sense of community. Healing draws millions of people. Research demonstrates that a very large proportion of new believers joins the Church because of experience with faith healing or with people who are ill and yet are a blessing to others.

When I travel to a meeting of the NZR I know I will be there because there are people who live with leprosy. I do not represent a Church. I always carry with me one of the various small booklets which write about the history of the Mission to Lepers or The Leprosy Mission. This time I read in the train 'With strange surprise'. Walter Fancutt, a former Editorial Secretary of TLM, tells in it the remarkable story of Wellesley Bailey and The Leprosy Mission. Among the stories he tells about China.

TLM started to support China in 1890. Dr Cousland of the English Presbyterian Mission pulled us in. The first donation, £ 200, was meant for a male ward. Another £ 6 was donated: "... to support a Christian leper who devotes his time to teaching afflicted brethren in the leper village". After starting to assist people in China the Mission changed its name: from 'The Mission to Lepers in India' to 'The Mission to Lepers in India and the East'. (Note: this chapter in the booklet mentions the names of English missionaries. It does not give us the name of the person who with a donation of £ 6 could carry on teaching in the village of people affected by leprosy. The Mission could have gone one step further at that time already and rename the Mission from 'The Mission to Lepers' to 'The Mission by Lepers'. And, yes, we are all glad that the word Leper is not used any longer.)

That brother of us, the Chinese man who taught his brothers, made me think. Although he lived with consequences of leprosy in a leprosy village he gave himself to others. There is good reason to believe that he has been a blessing to others. That kind of life draws these days millions of Chinese people to Jesus (according to the Rev Bas Plaisier).

After thanking God for how He sustained and encouraged His Church in China, we could pause and thank God for pain and sorrow we personally are living with. Our response to pain and sorrow, with our eyes turned to Jesus, attracts others to Jesus. You may not always know, but your life, your ongoing interest in and care for people around you tells the story of Jesus to others.

Why exactly is that true, I do not know. How it works may belong to the mystery of what living in faith, or trusting God is. But I have experienced this and learned about this in various ways.

My aunt was a shy person, but when she suffered pain and shortage of breath the last three weeks of her life, she boldly shared with us her faith in God. I was 13 years old, but the moment she spoke to us was a decisive moment for me as this event changed the course of my life.

Instead of trying to understand this deeper, I try to thank God for pain and sorrow, for things that give me stress and I ask Him to let His light shine upon my life.

**Piet Both**, retired TLM staff. Becoming more engaged as volunteer with Leprazending Nederland.



## Jesus Anointed at Bethany

*John 12 v 1 – 8*

This is a story told in all four gospels, it is a story, which God wanted us to hear. Only in John is the woman identified as Mary sister of Lazarus and Martha. It is a well known incident where Mary took a jar of expensive Nard and poured it over the feet of Jesus and then if that wasn't enough she then wiped his feet with her hair. There are lots of wows in this story!

The perfume was very expensive and very precious.

No decent woman would appear in public with her hair unbound and not only was her hair unbound she then used it to wipe Jesus feet. That was an incredibly intimate act. It also showed Mary's humility, as normally only a servant would touch someone's feet. This is a story of reckless generosity and a story where social norms are completely turned around.

Judas of course complained at the waste of money, saying that the money could have been given to the poor. Jesus, however, leapt to Mary's defence because he understood it for the act of love that it was. Jesus saw this as a generous act, prompted by love and devotion. This was a love stronger than convention where caution was thrown to the wind as Mary literally let her hair down and wiped the feet of Jesus.

Now I don't know about you but reckless generosity, extravagance, social norms completely turned around, caution thrown to the wind, these are not phrases I would normally use to describe Christians or the church. But there are times when perhaps we should be extravagant. I think as Christians we should have generous spirits and that is not just about money but we should be generous with our time, our forgiveness, in our friendships and with little acts of kindness.

Poor Mary was misunderstood and not for the first time. Previously Martha had complained about her at another meal where Martha had done all the work while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and just listened. Now some were complaining about the waste of valuable perfume. Jesus defended her on both occasions.

When I look at Mary I have to ask myself how extravagantly am I prepared to love Jesus?

How willing am I to give up my most treasured possession? How eager am I to spend stretches of time with God?

Do I ever shed my inhibitions and worship God in a physical way?

Those like Mary who love extravagantly display that deep inner love that would have them act no other way. Does the thought of loving Jesus in an extravagant way scare you? Mary's act was heart led not head led.

People make incredible sacrifices for those they truly love. I don't think this is about us planning an extravagant act for God. Rather than focusing on what we can do for Jesus, focus on simply loving him and ask the Holy Spirit to bring us deeper each day into a loving relationship with Jesus. Acts of extravagant love flow from hearts that truly know how to love.

**Alison McDonald**, previously a Physiotherapist with TLM in Bangladesh, retired Chair of the Board of TLMS and currently a volunteer speaker with TLMS.



## What is in your hand? – part 1

*Exodus 2:11-13, Exodus 3:1-12, Exodus 4:1-4*

I have 3 questions for you:

- What has God laid on your heart, or as Bill Hybel's would say what is your holy discontent, what makes you angry, upsets, motivates or envisions you?
- What is in your hand? What life experience; resources, gifts; talents? How has God wired you? What has he ordained that only you can do?
- What are you going to do about your "holy discontent" with what is in your hands?

My first experience of our work overseas was a trip to Indonesia. The trip was arranged soon after I started to give me first hand experience of our work so I could promote it better. The majority of leprosy affected people I met on that trip were children. Up until then my main service for God was as a youth worker!

Can you imagine what that experience did to the heart of a youth worker? God was bringing together the strands of my holy discontent (injustice, stigma & poverty) together with my heart for young people together with His compassion for those affected by leprosy. With what God has laid on my heart and has put in my hands I will work in partnership with God to achieve a world without leprosy. The stakes are high.

I had always thought that Moses call to leadership came at the burning bush but it started much earlier. The burning bush was only an attention grabber. What Moses saw that day when the slave was being beaten, the thing that made him so angry that he took action, was the same as God had been seeing, hearing and watching? Neither could stand it any longer. God chose Moses because he had the same:

- Passion
- Emotions
- Capacity for action

God took that and harnessed it and used it for good:

The cartoon character Popeye is an underdog with a long fuse and a keen sense of fair play. This most unlikely hero falls for the least likely of sex symbols: Olive Oyl. Flat as a board, with a pickle-shaped nose and fickle heart to match, Popeye's "goil" puts him through his paces. Her only real competition is spinach. After a can of spinach he was unstoppable.

Everyone identifies with him when he finally says, **"That's all I can stand, and I can't stand no more!"**

Moses had his "Popeye" moment when he saw the Egyptian treating the slave so badly – he had had all he could stand he could stand no more!

David had his "Popeye" moment when he heard Goliath slagging off his God - he had had all he could stand he could stand no more! Picked up his sling and killed Goliath.

We are moved to action when we can stand no more!

When Wellesley met people affected by leprosy for the first time he remembers: *"I almost shuddered... yet at the same time [I was] fascinated, and I felt, if ever there was a Christ-like work in the world it was to go amongst these poor sufferers and bring them the consolation, the hope of the gospel".* – he had had all he could stand he could stand no more! **What causes your 'stands no more'? What are you going to do about it? Today? This week?**



## What is in your hand? – part 2

*Exodus 2:11-13, Exodus 3:1-12, Exodus 4:1-4*

Moses has a staff in his hands – a shepherds crook. He is commanded to throw it down and it becomes a snake, it becomes alive – a dead piece of wood becomes alive. He picks it up and it is a staff again, it dies. What is in Moses hand – his staff is a symbol of his:

- identity – Moses is a shepherd – the staff is a symbol of his career
- income – Moses owned sheep – they were his bank balance, all Moses assets were to be found in his flock – (they were the creation of his wealth)
- influence – he used the staff to move sheep from point A to point B, to pull or push or poke

God asks Moses to lay down his:

**Identity - Income - Influence**

Never again in the Bible will it be referred to as Moses staff but rather “the staff or rod of God”. It will used to:

- Divide the Red Sea
- Tap a rock and water rushes out
- Carry out the 10 miracles that leads to the slaves being liberated after 400 years.

God is asking us to lay down our lives and he will use us, he will do miracles through us. We are made by God for God. Everything we have is from him – our identity; our income; our influence.

Our vision is ‘leprosy defeated, lives transformed’ – will a future generation look back and ask why did they allow that to go on for so long e.g.

- Slavery – how could they read their bible and keep slaves
- Segregation in the US
- Apartheid
- Aids
- Poverty – half the world exists on less than \$2 a day
- Unfair trade rules
- Illiteracy – half the world is functionally illiterate
- Disease – people are still dying from diseases that they found a cure for in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries – malaria, polio, measles, typhoid, dysentery, TB
- leprosy

As Christians we must say enough is enough! We can defeat leprosy! We must defeat leprosy! Rick Warren: “As God said to Moses he is saying to each one of us “I want to use you”. God is working in this world. You can either watch history or be part of it. Pray for a Holy discontent and be wholly surrendered. Who God calls he equips; pray for anointing. Its all about God and his plans and his purposes. Pray for God to start in my life, church, organisation, community, country and world. **Use me!** May we have the courage to partner with God for.....” ..... not just leprosy defeated but poverty and all disease too.



## Who is this God who wants to partner with us? (part 3)

### Exodus 3.13-15

The Egyptians had many gods by different names. Moses wanted to know God's name so the Hebrew people would know exactly who had sent him to them. It is important because the Israelites believed that the name reflected an individual's essence. In Genesis different aspects of God's nature are highlighted by the names used to designate him:

- El Elyon – God most high Gen 14:18-20
- El Roi – God who sees me Gen 16:13
- El Shaddai – God almighty Gen 17:1
- El Olam – the eternal God Gen 21:33
- 

Here God introduced himself by the personal name **Yahweh** translated in most English versions as the Lord. The Hebrew divine name Yahweh is closely related to the phrase in v 14 which maybe translated in a variety of ways: "I am who I am", "I will be who I will be", "I will be what I was". An abbreviated form of this phrase comes in the statement "I AM has sent me to you". Unlike previous names Yahweh does not limit God's nature to any particular characteristic: he is what he is. Further more his nature does not change. He is the God worshipped by earlier generations. God called himself I AM, a name describing his eternal power and unchangeable character. In a world where values, morals and laws change constantly we can find stability and security in our unchanging God.

The God who appeared to Moses is the same God who can live in us today. Heb 13.8 says God is the same "yesterday, today and forever," Because God's nature is stable and trustworthy we are free to follow and enjoy him rather than spend our time trying to figure him out. God wants us to know him as "the one who is always present" with us in our daily lives. As we trust him and live for him we too will experience God's power in our lives.



## Who am I?

*A reflection on Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush, Exodus 3 & 4*

One day Moses was looking after his father-in-law's sheep. Suddenly his attention was arrested by a strange sight — a bush was on fire but did not burn up! When he goes to have a closer look he hears a voice call his name, "Moses, Moses," and he replies, "Here I am."

In the subsequent conversation God gives Moses a special task to fulfil. Moses responds with five reasons why he can't do it. These excuses each reveal something Moses has come to believe about himself but God has an answer to each one.

**Moses:** "Who am I to do this? (Exodus 3:11) — I'm not important. I'm not significant or valuable to God. I'm a nobody."

**God:** "I will be with you"

**Moses:** What shall I say (or do)? (Exodus 3:13) — I don't know what I am doing. I'm not capable or qualified for the job. I am inadequate.

**God:** "I am who I am, I will tell you what to say and do."

**Moses:** What if they don't believe me, or won't listen to me? (Exodus 4:1) — It's not going to work. I'll mess things up.

**God:** "What have you got? I'll use what you have"

**Moses:** I can't do it. (Exodus 4:10) — I'm not good enough. I can't say what I mean. I always say the wrong things!

**God:** "I'll help you; I'll teach you."

**Moses:** Please send someone else. (Exodus 4:13) — I can't change! I'm not like. . . . This is the way it will always be.

**God:** "What about your brother, Aaron?"

At the burning bush Moses is assaulted by the insecurity developed through past mistakes. "Who am I," he says. "Who am I to do anything great or important? I've really messed my life up and now here I am just a man in the desert looking after someone else's sheep!" and God replies, "It's not about who you are. Nor is it about what you can do. It's about who I am and what I can do through you. I am with you to help you." "What if they don't believe me?" says Moses, and God replies, "What is that in your hand?" He then proceeds to show Moses how to use what he has to support the message he is asked to take.

God invites us to give him what we do have rather than focusing on what we do not have; to focus on His adequacy rather than on our own perceived inadequacies. In God's hands what we see as insignificant or inadequate is transformed into more than we can imagine.

Remember how God used a little bit of flour and oil to feed Elijah, the widow and her son throughout the days of famine (1 Kings 17) and how Jesus fed more than five thousand people with just five loaves and two fish (Luke 9). Read the rest of Moses' story and you'll see how he grew in his relationship with God achieving far more than he ever thought he could. The same God is at work in you and me.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and

ever! Amen. *Ephesians 3:20-21*

**Kathleen Gavin (nee Finlay)** - New Zealand Physiotherapist with TLM in India, Nepal & Bangladesh 1981-1996. Now an ordained Anglican Priest and Spiritual Director living in Raglan, NZ and member of the Leprosy Mission NZ Board.



## In Corneliu's house

### Acts 10 v 34-43

This beautiful story show us how God lead Peter to meet Cornelius, a newly converted Romans centurion (v.2).

Peter, who had not received the vocation to become "apostle of the Gentiles" (as Paul claims it in Romans 11:13), will experiment a real interior conversion.

This happen for him in two stages. First, reflecting on his famous vision (v 9), the words translated by image's for understanding, and then all the events that led him to be confronted with something he does had never experienced until then : go to a Roman man very close to Judaism faith, with the desire to do one more step with some of his soldiers and a few family members, but they still are neophyte. Perhaps this knowledge of Judaism will help Cornelius to understand the Christianity which is being born. We can imagine the case of consciousness in the heart of very first Christians, when they asked the question : should we be Jewish before being Christian ?

The Holy Spirit plays an important role in the proceedings : « *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.* » (V 44). And it is also Him who inspires the gestures and words of Peter. This is a major turning point in the life of the early Christian community, and when we are seeing the first baptism of non-Jews, we understand the importance of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Cornelius had some knowledge of Judaism, he was very pious, but probably not really converted. Here's how the Roman military, mobilized the land of Israel for the maintenance of order, had his heart touched and seized by God. Its interesting that the verses 36-39 places great emphasis on the geographical aspect : Israel the country of the Jews, Galilee and Judea, but the verses 40 and 41 show us that the " Risen One " appeared not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. "... *While the people had received the message of the prophets* (v. 43).

They had to extensively examine those early's Christians to unravel all the questions: should we practice all the Mosaic Law as the Pharisees criteria or only the spirit of the law with the commandments of love ?

That story tell us, that a changing must be operate in our lives to not being afraid anymore to proclaim the Gospel to anyone.





## The truth will set you free

Paul's letter to the Colossians is a wonderful declaration for Christian living, with two fundamental "already done" truths in chapter 3. First truth: Christ is your life. As a result of this spiritual union, you are where he is, raised with Him in heaven today (already done). Because of this, the life of Christ in you needs to increase, as this is your present and future destiny. Second truth: you have died with Christ (already done). As a result you must put to death what is dead and earthly because it doesn't belong with you anymore.

Remarkably logic and simple! And yet, as RC Sproule writes...

*"Multitudes start the Christian life with a flair. They learn a few Bible verses, make a cursory reading of the New Testament, take a crash course in evangelism, learn a few perfunctory prayers and then level off on a plateau of stagnated growth."* (In the Presence of God)

I wonder what place you are at this morning, if you are being renewed, lying down in green pastures, basking in the glowing rays of a happy season, or walking through the valley of the shadow of death, experiencing faith and fellowship with God like never before. Or perhaps you have experienced God, but that was a while back... honestly at the minute you are running on empty, and this quote painfully resonates with you. I do see in myself and other Christian friends the capacity to welcome status-quo.

Call it pride, or call it ease, but the result is that we can get stuck. The plateau is an easy and familiar ground, but it is more of the same, until we finally accept that we need to change our attitude. But how do we change? Is justification God's work, and sanctification my work? Or do I just need to sit back and let God change me? Here is some food for thought about spiritual growth.

### *Read Colossians 3:1-17*

Paul wrote to this letter to address a problem that the church was facing, with a group of people trying to influence believers with principles based on human commands, a new set of rules that they were to follow to become better Christians, which was attacking the sufficiency and supremacy of Christ.

We see through what Paul prescribes that there is a deliberate intention and actions involved in "setting your mind" on Heaven, and "putting to death" what is earthly in you, in "clothing yourselves" with godly qualities, and "putting on love", doing all in the name of Jesus. However these rules for holy living are not really rules, like a formula to follow. They are rather focused on an attitude of the mind and of the heart which is set on the truth. Even though sanctification is not our work, we are to cooperate with God by setting our heart and mind on Jesus, the source of life, and live life in light of the cross, the resurrection and of his return, when we will appear with him in glory. Failure to do is become not better, but bitter, like this grumpy Ebenezer Scroodge we have all met once, in our church or family, that we do not want to be like!

May the truth that you belong in heaven captivate your imagination, your mind and your heart. May your primary business be to have your soul happy in the Lord. If you are in a plateau of stagnation, keep seeking him. Keep the wonder alive. Keep stretching. Keep dying to self. And keep growing!

**Aude Ingrand.** - Born in Paris, trained as a teacher and have worked as a Civil servant for the French government administration. Three years ago, I have moved to Belfast to study. Passionate about languages and cross cultural mission. I have recently started to work at the office in Northern Ireland (July 2015). It is exciting to be part of the mission at a time of transition



## Be filled with the Spirit! *Ephesians 5:18*

Apostle Paul writes to the church in Ephesus with a lot of emotion and love. Paul was the senior pastor in that church for three years. This period was one of the most intensive revival periods in church history. Now Paul is writing to all his old friends and his beloved church from a prison in Rome, reminding them of the secret of their church.

**1. It all started with the work of the Holy Spirit.** In Acts 19 we can read how it all started in Ephesus and it's so interesting to read about that special time. When Paul arrived in Ephesus during his third mission trip, he met a small group of disciples. His first question was: *"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"* When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied." Peter started a Bible School and this was the beginning of an intense mission period in the church when they covered the province of Asia with the Gospel. *"God did extraordinary miracles through Paul"* (Acts 19:11). The receiving of the Holy Spirit changed everything in a positive way. Paul stayed in Ephesus during the years of 54-57.

**2. The work of the Holy Spirit continued in the church.** The letter to Ephesus was written in year 61, four years after he left the town. He underlined in his letter the necessity of not just starting with the Spirit, but to continue to be filled with the Spirit. Jesus said in *John 7: 38-39* *"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive"*. The Spirit is like rivers of living water that is continually flowing through our lives and in the church.

So the message of Paul was: Be filled with the Spirit! It is a personal responsibility to be filled with the Spirit, to open our lives and let the Spirit continue to flow through our lives. Let our hearts and minds be open for God and his Spirit.

**3. "Hear what the Spirit says to the churches!" (Rev. 2:7)** Another letter to the church of Ephesus 34 years after Paul's letter. It's now year 95. This time the Apostle John writes on behalf of Jesus to the church. The message this time was: *"Repent and do the things you did at first."* (Rev 2:5). The church had lost something very important and had to return to their first experience of the Holy Spirit and once again open up for the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the church.

For us as individuals and as The Leprosy Mission Fellowship, we have to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to fulfil our task of supporting people affected by leprosy and to serve the Lord in his power. The Holy Spirit is the secret of a real discipleship and Christian life for each one of us. It is also the secret of a successful mission work for a church and a Christian organization.

Let us never forget the words of Jesus to his disciples after his resurrection: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*



## **‘...for He cares for you.’**

*1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV)*, ‘For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ *Psalm 91:11-12 (NIV)*

A few years ago, I had a very painful right knee. It was painful to walk and it caused me so much pain that I decided to go to the doctor – a very unusual occurrence for me! I was sent for an x-ray and later I was given medication: tablets to take for an unspecified period of time. They didn’t help. I got weary and discouraged, wondering how long I would be in this condition.

One Saturday afternoon, in my little house, all alone, I thought I should watch the God Channel on TV. I had only subscribed to this satellite service because I intended to watch lots of Christian TV, but until then, never had really.

I came across a worship/preach meeting led by a person I’d never heard of before, but who happened to be from England, the same as me. For three whole hours, I immersed myself in the programme, worshipping and praising God as loudly or as quietly as I wanted to – in my own little house, all alone, in my own way! I listened to the preacher’s fiery, passionate word from God and all in all had a really wonderful time in the presence of God: all of this with my leg up on a footstool because it was so painful.

And then . . . at the end of the programme, I stood up to go about the tasks I should probably have been doing anyway! It really was a miracle! I could walk without pain and unhindered: not clinging to any available wall, chair, table etc., to get around.

I hadn’t set out to try and get healed. My intention was to worship the Lord, with all of my heart. No one knew what I was doing. . . but God. God knows and sees all things.

**‘for He views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.’ Job 28:24 (NIV)**

God saw my heart that day, as He does every day, and I believe He had compassion on me, but also He encouraged my discouraged heart.

For a long time, I used to think this was a small thing, maybe even inconsequential, to our Mighty God, but now I recognise that He cares. He cares as much about little me as He cares about the big disasters that happen and for whatever reason. If we call out to Him, if we give our all to Him, He will listen and act.

After all, **‘He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.’ Psalm 147:4 (NIV)**

*And ‘Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Luke 12:7 (NIV)*

God is a God of infinitesimal detail and He knows and cares about us all. Hallelujah!

**Marie N Arnachellum** - Prayer and Resources Co-ordinator for TLMEW. I have been with TLMEW since November 2003!



## Space for Grace

Some time ago I became a member of a network that encourages leaders working with Christian organizations to increase awareness of God's opportunities in order to get a positive development in their organization and work toward positive change. Once a week I get an email entitled *Space for Grace* where someone has written a reflection of their own experience.

In the beginning, I saw the title just as a title, but after a few weeks began to think more about what the real meaning was and the heading became more and more intrusive. Space for Grace what does it really mean? What does that mean in my own life? What does it mean in my relationship with others?

Grace is the greatest gift that God has given us. You can never earn it, you can only receive it as a gift. In John 1:16 we read "And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace."

What does it mean in our lives? It shows that grace is a free gift from God. Philip Yancey writes in his book "What's so amazing about grace" that grace means, there is nothing we can do to make God love us more, but grace also means that there is nothing we can do to make God love us less. It does not depend on me but on him who has given everything for my salvation. Grace is God's gift for free.

If this is true, it means that we have to leave room for his grace in our life. We must learn to see ourselves as a part of his grace. When that knowledge become a reality, not only in our mind but also in our heart, we can see that this grace also applies to all other people around us. The space I need for grace in my life is for everybody. In socializing with others in daily work, church, or wherever you are, there must be a space for grace. It can be like a shock-absorber that provides the prerequisite for good relations. Nobody is perfect. We all make mistakes and sometimes we feel that we have been treated wrongly. Remember that in every situation you will find a space for grace.

*The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:20-21*

### Eva Fryxell

Chair of TLM Sweden since 2004. Before that I was member of the board for some years. I got my first experience of leprosy as a missionary in Tanzania in 1971 to 1985.



## Twisted organisations and twisted minds

*Hebrews 12: 1 -3 So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. So keep your mind on Jesus, who put up with many insults from sinners. Then you won't get discouraged and give up.*

*Romans 12: 2 Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.*

I recently read a best-selling Dutch management book titled 'twisted organisations, back to the meaning' by Wouter Hart. It made me reflect on my own TLM organisation and on my personal life.

The theory is based on three circles, which apply to all organisations, be it businesses, governments, NGO's and even churches.

1. Inner circle: all organisations are started with a specific goal or mission ('the purpose'). It might be making profit or a good product (a car, bread), providing a service (e.g. education or healthcare), transforming the lives of persons with leprosy or being the body of Christ in your home town.
2. Middle circle: all organisations operate in in a certain sphere ('the world we live in'), where it performs it's activities and does the right things in line with the purpose (e.g. baking bread, teaching children, nursing the sick, raising funds, sharing the gospel).
3. Outside circle: all organisations need to set up systems ('the system world') to better organise itself, be more effective and efficient and meet the requirements of the outside world.

We need all three circles, but the line of thought of every organisation and member of this organisation should be from the inside out, starting with the purpose. In our strategies we are trying to organise that based on our Mission and Vision. But in practice too many organisations and people start their daily thinking from the outside in, from the system world and it's requirements and organising their activities, work, goals and lives accordingly.

This leads to distractions, loss of flexibility, loss of customer/stakeholder focus, the wrong choices and priorities. These are twisted organisations, with twisted mind-sets, missing the essence of their purpose. Many employees are assessed and appreciated more on how well they are meeting system requirements and less on how they really support the purpose of their organisation.

Now read the Bible verses at the top and consider it from the perspective of 'twisted organisations' for your personal and church live.

- Are you still determined to run the race ahead of you? Is your purpose still clear and your eyes on Jesus? Is your mind still on Jesus, from the inside out, or are you set in your ways and set in your systems and really looking from the outside in? What change is needed in your life today to put your mind back on Jesus and His purpose for you?
- Is your church focussed on reaching outsiders or is it preoccupied with keeping the internal church operations and systems running?

Where are most of your time, efforts, attention, resources focussed? Is it in alignment with Gods purpose for your life or church?

I hope and pray that this will help us today to change the way we think. Then we will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him according to his purpose.



## Nowhere to go!

*Luke 17:11-19 (NIV UK)*

When I phoned a supporter this morning to thank him for his generous gift to the Leprosy Mission, he spoke to me about the one person (out of ten) who returned to Jesus to thank Him for his healing from leprosy. “You are like that man”, he said, “You are one of very few organisations that thank their donors personally!”

His comments made me think afresh of Jesus’ encounter with ten men who lived with the consequences of leprosy, as it played out in their day. Despite their different backgrounds, they were forced by their respective communities to survive on the outskirts of their villages and ended up living together: the kindness of some family and friends kept them alive with gifts of food. They were barely alive, but without love, without hope, without the joy and dignities of life: like being smiled at, like being greeted on the street, buying fresh fruit and fish in the market, talking politics by the fountain in the public square, laughing, getting to work, operating a business, haggling over prices with a shopkeeper, getting an invitation to attend a wedding, singing hymns in the synagogue, celebrating Sabbath and Passover with their families.

When Jesus heard their anguished cry (they called Him *Master*, a term used by disciples of a rabbi), He sent them away to the priests (Lev 14:2-32). As they departed, they were healed.

Confirming healing from leprosy by a priest at the synagogue or temple perhaps had not been a regular occurrence in hundreds of years, but healing from leprosy was clearly associated with the evidence of the predicted coming of the Messiah (Luke 7:22). For nine out of ten they would not have had to travel far to find a priest to examine them and confirm their healing, as the priests lived in communities in most villages. Of course going to the temple in Jerusalem was also an option, but that would have meant three days’ travel from where they were. The Samaritan though faced an awkward situation, as the temple built by the Samaritans on Mount Gerizim, near Shechem, in the days of Nehemiah, was destroyed by the Jews in 128 B.C. This deed added to the animosity between Jews and Samaritans. A Jewish priest would have sent him away. The Samaritan had nowhere to go!

Sounds familiar? In life’s journey, when we are at our wits’ end or in our darkest hour and have nowhere else to turn, the best is to turn back to Jesus! Besides the Samaritan’s desperate predicament, when he noticed the healing in his body, his heart was full of thanksgiving as he rushed back to the Master, now praising God in the same loud voice he used to warn people of his presence. He fell face down at Jesus’ feet and thanked Him. What happened to the other nine who were similarly healed? Only the foreigner, the Samaritan, showed his gratitude. They all received healing, but he also experienced a further blessing: salvation – a soul healing that is more than skin deep!





## Jesus Invites Us All to Join His Ministry as Full Participants

*Jesus travels the Galilean countryside with The Twelve and some women (Luke 8:1-3)*

*After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases; Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susana; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. (Luke 8:1-3)*

Luke 8: 1-3 details Jesus travelling the Galilean countryside proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. He is travelling with the Twelve, which would not have surprised the first listeners of Luke's gospel, but what would have been a surprise was that Jesus was also travelling with some women. Culturally at this time, for women to be travelling unaccompanied, apart from their husbands or families, would have been viewed as being completely inappropriate.

And what of these women accompanying Jesus – they come from such different backgrounds, what is bringing them all together? Joanna is a woman of status, the wife of Cuza, a steward in Herod's household, and someone of economic means (8:3). Is she temporarily apart from her husband and household or is she permanently travelling with Jesus? Contrast her with Mary Magdalene, who has been cured of evil spirits and infirmities (8:2). People who were ill or demonised would normally have been ostracised from society and yet here is Mary, included as one of Jesus's followers. Why is this so?

We are also told that these women are helping to cover the expenses of Jesus and the Twelve from their own means (8:3). If Jesus is able to do miracles, cast out demons and heal the sick, then surely Jesus can provide for his own followers material needs? Why does he not do so rather than having them use their resources?

Jesus has liberated these women from sin and their (sometimes) demeaning social status and invited them to work and serve alongside him. He is calling both men and women to his ministry as full participants. And herein is the theological message of 8:1-3. Jesus is creating a holistic membership in the kingdom, inviting both men and women, regardless of their social position, to become productive members of the body of Christ. One of the reasons why Jesus and the Twelve were so effective is that followers like these women gave sacrificially and totally of themselves in support Jesus's ministry. It is this kind of devotion that Jesus requires of us too. Amen.

**Brent Morgan**

is Executive Director of TLM New Zealand and International Director (designate).





## Why did Jesus have to die?

*Hebrews 2: 14-15, "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death"*

For a number of reasons, Jesus' death on the cross is **singular, uncommon and unique** in world history. It stands apart from many happenings and incidents. It paved the way for man to overcome spiritual death and have eternal life. It is essential to truly reflect on what happened on the cross. Some aspects of death of Jesus on the cross are:

- **A sacrificial death**

*2 Corinthians 5:21, He made Him who knew no sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

A sinless man gave his life for a sinful world. It came out a deep sense of love for a fallen world. It saved the sinners through the ultimate sacrifice of giving up His life. God's love for man took Jesus to the Cross as a sacrificial lamb.

- **A substitutionary death**

*Hebrews 7: 25, "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that came to God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them"*

Jesus stood in the gap between man and God so that man can step over into God's presence and His righteousness. Jesus is the intercessor who has appeased the wrath of God and turned it away so that His church is saved today. God is God of justice, the disobedience of man has to be paid for by His obedient son.

- **An uncommon death – crucifixion, death on the cross**

Cruel death on the cross like a common criminal for the one who preached and practiced love and compassion. It is a shameful death, stripped of all but his loin clothes. The King died as a common criminal.

- **A humble death**

*Philippians 2:8, "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-even death on a cross"*

Jesus was son of God but obeyed God's will as son of a man. He went through the excruciating pain of death on the cross. He humbled himself as a man who obeyed his father.

- **A purposeful death**

Death is the most feared experience of man. It a time of leaving the pleasures of this world and entering into an unknown future. Death cripples human hope. The purpose of Jesus' death is to overcome the fear of death itself. Unless Jesus dies, he can not be resurrected and overcome death ie., being separated from the loving relationship with God. Salvation is possible only through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In his death, Jesus did not die to establish a religious order but re-establish a broken relationship and eternal (spiritual) life. Jesus became a saviour. A broken relationship lead to death of man (because of the devil); the death of a man (and resurrection) re-established the relationship with God.



## When I hurt

A few years ago Babs 'n I visited Venice - an ancient city built in water, narrow passages & old buildings. Yet around every corner was a shop showcasing various masks, expensive & ornate, designed to hide a face. These masks staring into space, lifeless, unmoving, emotionless.

**Do we Christians wear masks?** Do we often "brave it through" life - wearing a mask. There is a common thread in life: We hurt, we get hurt & we feel deep emotional challenges, yet we are afraid to be real!

**So what is the right ointment** for our hearts, souls & minds, how can we be healed?

*Psalm 42.1... As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" ... "Where is your God?" Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.*

### 1 Recognise the pain and understand it is OK to hurt.

Sometimes we seek to cover the pain by ignoring it or through other means and think it will go away. These will only cause us to get **infected and reverse** the healing process. Like a deep wound, we must apply the right ointment & healing process so we can begin to heal.

### 2 Understand that it is OK to hurt, but not to stay that way!

In our attempts to push the hurt away, we actually put on a "Venetian mask"

- We need to **realise how frail we are** and see our great need for God.
- We need to **reflect** on the **true meaning of life** and the opportunity to draw close to God.
- An opportunity to **respond** with empathy toward others
- **You cannot do all of these things if you try to ignore the pain.**

### 3 Seek the Healer. Seek God as your healer!

Just like you tell a doctor your symptoms, **tell God how much you are wounded and need His healing touch.** He **will hear** the cries of the broken hearted

✂ God **will spend as much time and as many years** as necessary to help you through it. He wants to apply the daily salve or ointment of His Holy Spirit to your heart **until your heart is healed.**

*King David said in Psalm 56:8 - The Message: You've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights, each tear entered in your ledger, each ache written in your book.*

*Psalm 34:18 "The LORD is **close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit,**"*

**4 Reach out to others.** *Ecclesiastes 4:1: Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors—and they have no comforter*

**Ask God to use you to encourage others through their pain.** *...for who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

By reaching out to others, our own pain will begin to disappear; the holes in our hearts will begin to close.

**2 Corinthians 1:4** Healing some times takes time, seek the healer & be healed.

**Psalm 126:5** "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy."

**Dan Izzett** - Zimbabwe. Retired pastor. I was diagnosed with lepromatous leprosy in 1972. Served on TLMI board for eight years and on the Zimbabwe board for 15 years. I now serve on the ALM board and do advocacy for them.



## Soaring in the headwind

*Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Christmas was coming. The weather was turning. With not many shopping days left, I headed into town one wet and blustery afternoon to get those last few gifts.

Coming out of a shop I was met with a blast of freezing wind, and driving rain that was almost horizontal. Out on the rain-slicked pavements people hurried past, battling against the wind, clutching umbrellas that seemed determined to turn inside out. Every step was a struggle for these poor souls.

I sheltered in the shop doorway, hoping to wait out the worst of it. Then I looked up, away from the struggling masses, and saw a seagull shining white against the grey sky. It's not often a seagull inspires me, but this one did.

The wind was blowing strongly against it and it was getting nowhere fast. But it was bobbing gently up and down, riding out the gusts. It wasn't struggling or fighting, simply floating there until the wind died down and it could be on its way.

The shoppers were fighting against the elements, every step hard-won and tiring. The seagull was meeting the blasts head-on but not exhausting itself battling something it couldn't control. It made me think of the verse in Isaiah about soaring on eagles' wings. I don't think seagulls are often compared to eagles but this seemed a fitting comparison.

Life can often feel like walking head first into a gale. We can't control that, but we can control our response. Eagles (and seagulls) can fly because the wind under their wings lifts them up. Perhaps when the storms come, that's the time to hold our heads up and our arms out, and let God carry us through.



## His Word – our joy

*Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard... and he read from it...from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. (Nehemiah 8: 2-3)*

As I write this, it is the week of prayer for Christian unity here in the UK. At least once a year, Believers are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services.

As I was in church this morning thinking about Christian unity, it got me thinking of unity in the TLM Global fellowship. Certainly, as I pray for unity among Christians worldwide, I pray specifically for our unity as the Global Fellowship.

In Nehemiah chapter 8, Ezra is able to unite the people through the reading of Scriptures. They all as one responded to God's word. God's word is able to reach out to each one of us, no matter our country, our culture, our language.

**We are united by the Word of God**, whether we read it in English, French, Hausa, Amharic, Tamil, Arabic, Pidgin etc! Whether we read it in book form or on a gadget or have it read to us. It is the same Word, the same inspired, life-giving word that Believers throughout the ages have heard. In Him the living Word, and through the inspired word of God, the Bible, we are one.

Verse 8 tells us that the ears of all the people were attentive to the Law. The Bible is not just given for our individual learning. The Bible is given for the common good (check how many times the word 'all' is found in the first 10 verses of Neh. 8!) The people listened as one, responded as one.

*"So the people went away...to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them". (v12)* His Word is our joy!

In Luke 4:14-21, Jesus reads from the book of Isaiah) in the synagogue. When he had finished he said **"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing"**. I often think of this as Jesus is the one fulfilling it, and it certainly does mean that. But in church this morning, the preacher encouraged us to also consider it another way: **"In your hearing"** – i.e. as we live out what we have heard, the Scripture is fulfilled.

Don't just listen to the word, **do it!** We are those who present His Word 'in word and deed' to a waiting world.

**Jannine Ebenso.**

With TLM since 1991. Served in Nigeria for 16 years. At TLMI since 2008. Head of Quality Assurance at TLMI since May 2014.



## DO I KNOW HOW TO WAIT?

*“Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.” Psalms 86: 11 – 12.”*

Near the end of my study term, many people started asking me: “Where are you going? Which country are you going to serve? Are you still serving the leprosy affected people? When will you go? Why don’t you stay longer for the summer course?”

At the moment I do not know the exact answers, but I do know this is the time to finish my study and then return home, to wait for God’s plan for my next phase.

But how long do I wait? And do I know how to wait? Many friends knew me well that I am such an active person; very difficult to wait and be still; because it seems to me “not-doing” is not productive. However, I have learnt that a “not-doing” that leaves adequate space and time for God’s imitating actions through others. It involves a means of detaching my ego, my still immature understanding of the way God works but without forcing His ways, let Him do His work in me. It is a difficult lesson to learn, but I am willing to learn.

When looking back my last eight months study time, I am richly blessed by His word and His people, I have such an intimate time with God, to mediate on His word and completely rest on His presence. Although study has occupied most of my time, but the chance to share my missionary journey in different fellowships and among the college students was very fruitful, to encourage them to trust God and walk by faith, some of them have been touched by my story, and realized that God is so real and alive in our daily life.

There were also some frustrations about my health during my study time, due to ageing I need to face different problems from degeneration of my knees, my back and my eyes. However, I was encouraged by reading an article recently, to remind me five things how to stay young, I would like to share with you:

1. Our mind isn’t old, so keep developing it, watch less TV and read more.
2. Our humor isn’t over, keep enjoying it. Laugh helps remove some of the lines on our face.
3. Our strength isn’t gone, keep using it. Stay active, eat right, watch our weight, and keep doing it.
4. Our opportunities haven’t vanished, so keep pursuing them, take risk and challenge.
5. Our God is not dead, keep serving and seeking Him. Continue to enjoy some time alone with my Lord. It is important.

My teachers always remind me to walk in God’s truth with an undivided heart, to know my Bible well, and give myself to God’s words whatever I can.

**Yuek Ming Poon** (Hong Kong) Worked with The Leprosy Mission for 22 years. 1993 – 2000 seconded to INF to work in Nepal in leprosy clinic as Clinic Manager. 2002 – 2004 worked with TLM as POID Technical Officer in India, 2005 – 2012 worked with TLM as Country Leader in China and Laos, 2013 -2015 worked with TLM in PNG as TLMPNG Capacity Building Advisor. June 2015 left TLM and then studied in Vancouver Regent Bible College from September 15 to April 2016.



## Our Awesome God

*Isaiah 40: 21-31*

When I was asked to write for The Bridge I was reminded of another bridge about a mile (1.5km) from where I live.

It is an amazing bridge. It is an incredible piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century engineering – all steel girders and big rivets. Somewhere along its length is a gold rivet – the last rivet fitted, driven in by a prince. Tourists come from miles around to see it and take photos of it. Cruise ships come up close to get a better look. Last year it was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

And if that wasn't enough it's now got two neighbours and when the newest one of these is finished later this year we will have the only place in the world where a major body of water is crossed by three bridges built in three different centuries. And yet, most of the time those of use that live in its shadow don't even notice it. It's just there every day, part of the background scenery.

Sometimes we can treat God a bit like that. We get used to Him being there. He can become part of the scenery of our lives that we take for granted will always be there.

Sometimes we need to be reminded just how awesome He is.

Isaiah's description is awe inspiring. The creator the entire universe who is enthroned above the circle of the earth, who put every star into place and knows each of their names also knows each of our names and has even counted the hairs on our heads (Luke 12: 7).

He has reigned since before time began and all of time is like a blink of an eye to Him.

And yet this same God loves me. And you. And all of us so much that he became a baby in Bethlehem, grew into a man to healed the sick, loved the poor and the outcast and died in our place to allow us back into a right relationship with God.

This same God has called me, and you, and everyone who works for or supports The Leprosy Mission to serve Him by loving the sick, the poor and the outcast and all those affected by leprosy today.

Take a moment today to look up at the stars, to look out at the world around you, even to run your fingers through your hair and be reminded that the God who made and knows intimately all that you see also knows and cares for you, and me, and this His Leprosy Mission.

Trust in the Lord and, as Isaiah tells us, he will renew our strength and we will soar like eagles in His power and strength.

**Stuart McAra**

Communications Manager, The Leprosy Mission Scotland. Lives near Edinburgh and has been with TLM since 2004.



**“For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.”**

**Psalm 18:28** There’s a lamp on my desk. An oil lamp – maybe you’d call it a kerosene or a paraffin lamp. Standing about a foot tall, battered, black and totally utilitarian in design, it’s not much to look at. An odd choice for a desk ornament. Yet it has an intriguing feature. Instead of glass windows, it has metal slits. When you light the lamp, you quickly discover that it doesn’t light up the room. Who would design a lamp that sheds no light? Who would use it?

To answer this question, you need to stand up, pick up the lamp and hold it by its long handle. You’ll find that it hangs just above ankle height, shedding a pool of light around your feet and nowhere else. From September 1940, lamps like this were a common sight in cities like London, where night after night, air-raid wardens donned helmets, lit lamps and strode out into the streets, making sure the cities were in darkness. A glimpse of light might be enough to lead an enemy bomber to its target. These lamps guided the wardens’ feet whilst hiding them from the aircraft overhead.

I wonder about the person who held this lamp. What were his thoughts as he swung the lamp by his side, the air dense with the sound of sirens, the distant clamour of the anti-aircraft battery growing ominously more insistent, searchlights sweeping the darkened sky? Was there time for fear as he made sure that people were observing the blackout? My Mom remembers the man who patrolled her street and how strict he was, insisting that the black-out curtains were tightly closed. What was it like – the darkness, with only a pool of light at his feet? Did he long to see further down the road? How did he feel on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, when he put away the lamp forever, knowing that blackouts were a thing of the past? Was he part of the crowd at Trafalgar Square? I hope so. Each step he took during the Autumn of 1940 was a step towards the victory of the Spring of 1945. Surely Shakespeare had men like him in mind as the words of King Henry [Henry V, Act 4, Scene 3] flowed from his quill? We few, we happy few...

I suppose all of us long at times to see further down the road. Sometimes the Lord grants us those majestic views [II Kings 6:17], but most of the time it’s a pool of light for our feet that He gives to us [John 12:35&46]. But what a light. **“The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear?” [Psalm 27:1]** Yes, only our feet are illuminated, but that is enough for today.

The air raid wardens were fearless, thanks in part to the pool of light at their feet. Their resolve to go out night after night routed an invasion.

The Lord has given us a lamp. Let us pick it up each morning, for in this a strange and broken world, people walk in darkness, even when the sun shines at its brightest. Like the wardens of 1940, let us overcome that darkness, step by illuminated step.

**Peter Laubscher** Country Leader, Southern Africa. Peter and Elizabeth Laubscher have worked with the Leprosy Mission since 1981. They are blessed with three children. Peter cruises the waters of False Bay when he’s not trying to polish scratches out of telescope mirrors.





## I have learned in whatever state I am to be content

**Philippians 4 verse 11** Paul had gone through so many experiences, shipwrecks, imprisonment, beatings etc., but he can say whatever he has gone through, he has learned to be content. I was pretty sure I could say the same until last August when I had a bad fall and could not move for a while because of severe pain. In hospital X-rays were done but there was no break, just soft tissue injury. After some physiotherapy I was sent home with a Zimmer frame, but unable to do anything much because of the pain. It was a time of darkness and despair for me.

I thanked God that Joyce shared the same house and was willing to give me full time care. After being independent all my life the loss of mobility and independence was like a millstone round my neck.

After about 2 months I realised I had developed a foot drop so it was back to hospital again and eventually had a nerve root injection and cord epidural which after a while relieved the pain which was wonderful, and I could start walking around with a rollator, and do more for myself.

In November I had nerve conduction studies which was analysed over the next 3 weeks. Last month I saw the spinal consultant again, and he told me that the neurologist had identified the damaged nerve, and his opinion is that there should be some recovery in the next six months. Hopefully if the nerve heals the paralysis should recover. I still wear a big L plate while learning to be content!

There are so many leprosy patients around the world, many I remember who had foot drop and other paralysis leading to disabilities, but have not had all the help I have. Perhaps it is privilege to suffer a bit of what they suffer. For me it feels like I am dragging round a bit of dead meat that does not belong to me! But now I have hope for nothing is impossible with God, and there may be other options later. The National Health Service have been so helpful to me.

Many leprosy patients are unable to get the help they need, and with the paralysis there is so much they miss. First the joy of sensation when they touch a baby's cheek or soft cloth. The joy of feeling the warm sand trickle through fingers and toes. The feeling of danger when something is too hot to touch. The inability to grasp a pen or other small items. The awfulness of facial paralysis, and the lack of pain to prevent injuries. One doctor I worked with many years ago referred to it as exquisite pain, I understand that now. There is so much about touch that we enjoy, but patients with lack of sensation miss out on. Just take a moment to think of all the things you love to touch.

I am writing this in Lent and my thoughts go back to some very disabled patients in Purulia, who inspite of looking like wrecks of humanity, were filled with joy and hope as they looked forward with great hope to their resurrection body. It is time for me to be truly content in the state I find myself.

**Mollie Clark.** Overseas worker in India and Bhutan for 26 years and 8 years in the International Office.



## Paliasse – mattress filled with straw

Healing, the Bible and imagination :

Careful or attentive comparison of stories in the Bible can be surprising. In Mark chapter 2 and in Luke chapter 5, we read stories in which Jesus heals a paralysed man. In Mark 2 : 1-12 the four « friends » who carry the man to Jesus discover that access to the packed house in Capernaum is impossible. So they remove the roof and let the ill man down into the crowd. Jesus' surprising reaction is to tell the invalid that his sins are taken away, a word that implies forgiveness. The bystanders disapprove, because only God can forgive sins. The story teaches us that healing in the widest sense of the term is effective, because Jesus is God made man.

The writer of the Fourth Gospel relates a similar story in John chapter 5 : 1-9. Jesus meets a man who has been ill for thirty-eight years. There is no one to take him to healing water of the pool of Bethesda, so Jesus effects a cure. In both stories Jesus says, « take your bed and move around. » The man at the pool should « sin no more. » In both stories the ill person is lying on a mattress filled with straw.

The reference to sin is surprising, but three words are used in the New Testament for what we call « sin. » Transgression means misdeeds - or culpable sin. Transgressors are responsible for what they do. In the « Our Father » « trespasses » translated as « sins » in the modern versions, are actually debts - a bit like the Anglican general thanksgiving where we acknowledge God's infinite goodness by thanking him « for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life. »

The word translated as « sin » in our two stories is more open or less definitive. It refers to missing the mark or to simple errancy. It need not engage culpability. I wish that I were a better musician but playing or singing wrong notes is to miss the mark because that is how I am.

More than 95% of us are immune to leprosy - that is how we are. Susceptibility has nothing to do with culpability. Jesus' ministry enabled incapacitated people to live normal lives. He encouraged them to do well (not to miss the mark) in the future and enabled them to do that. They were enabled to fulfil themselves and to adapt constructively to being who they were.

For each of us that is a mission in life and for « our » Mission it is a policy to set and a Biblical example to pursue. (*Note for those who read Greek : αμαρτανω is about missing the mark, παραπτωμα not used in the passages studied, is about sin, and οφειλημα in the Our Father is about debt.*)

### James Barnett

is an Anglican priest. He was involved in syllabus development and theological education in secondary schools and in preparing men and women for Christian ministry. He was Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative at the European Institutions and currently represents the Intereuropean Commission on Church and School at the Council of Europe. With his wife Elisabeth, he is secretary of the Mission Lèpre France.



**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

*2 Timothy 4:7*

I recently attended the funeral and memorial service for a wonderful man who was the Pastor at the church I attended for 18 years.

There were no words to describe how I felt when I heard about 5 years ago that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. This diagnosis is terrible for anyone, but for this man who had spent 33 years pastoring that church, it must have been devastating not just for him but for wife, his daughters and their husbands and for his grandchildren.

At the memorial service, so many people spoke of the way he had changed their lives; how he had supported them through difficult times; how, without him, they might not be here today.

I can testify to his kindness, his steadfastness and his persistence as he helped me through the illness, and eventually the death, of my former husband. My husband had had a problem with alcohol for many years, but my Pastor never gave up on him. During his illness my pastor would regularly visit him and talk to him about all things, but mostly about the Lord. This love and persistence resulted in my husband finally giving his life to the Lord just two months before he died.

My pastor fought the good fight; he finished the race; he kept the faith; and now he is with his Father in Glory - Praise the Lord.

**Mo Lewis**

Former PA to the HR Director  
TLM International Office  
Brentford  
January 1993 – January 2014



## Inhale

*John 20: 19-21* <sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Jesus had been crucified. The disciples were terrified. They were awaiting the bang on the door and the demand for them to open up and let the authorities in. They knew that none of them were safe.

But Jesus stepped into their fear. He joined them in it. Instead of taking the disciples out of a terrifying situation, he joined them in that situation. Then Jesus breathed on them the very Spirit of God – the Holy Spirit.

Today I want us to think about inhaling Jesus.

The thing about breathing is that it is effortless. Breathing is a reflex. We don't have to think about and remember to take a breath every few seconds – imagine if we did! We'd have no time or energy to do anything else. We only have to think about it and put energy into it *when we want to hold our breath* – and we can't sustain that for long. So inhaling is easy, effortless.

We often think that to receive what Jesus has for us we have to try – we have to do something, be something, have a particular attitude, try hard. But receiving Jesus is like inhaling – just breathing in as he breathes on us.

When we inhale, our lungs fill. Oxygen saturates our blood and is transported through our arteries - whizzing around our body. It feeds every part of our bodies. It keeps our muscles, brain, eyes and heart working.

Think of this on a spiritual level – when we inhale Jesus he soaks into us, saturating our spiritual muscles so we can stand strong, feeding us with the ideas and creativity we need in his service. Jesus gives us eyes to see his truth and have discernment far beyond our human ability. Jesus is the energy that keeps our spiritual heart healthy, strong and beating relentlessly.

It is oxygen that keeps our immune system operational, and enables our body to repair itself.

It is the soaking of Jesus into us – as we inhale him - that heals and repairs us when we are hurt.

It is oxygen that feeds the cells of our body so they can reproduce and grow our body bigger and stronger

It is the saturation of Jesus into us that grows us spiritually and strengthens us

Receiving Jesus is as easy and natural as breathing in. Oxygen doesn't ask us to do anything at all to receive it – except to allow something very easy and natural to happen. And neither does Jesus. **Breathe in!**



## Authors in Alphabetical Order

## Textuarium

Allan Ekstedt	15 May		Ex 2,11-13	9 and 10 May
Aude Ingrand	8 May		Ex 3, 1-12	9 and 10 May
Aude Ingrand	14 May		Ex 3 and 4	12 May
Becky Calcraft	23 May		Ex 3, 13-15	11 May
Brent Morgan	20 May		Ex 4, 1-4	9 and 11 May
Dan Izzett	22 May		Psalm 18, 28	27 May
Eva Fryxell	17 May		Psalm 42, 1	22 May
Geoff Warne	2 May		Psalm 56, 8	22 May
Henno Couprie	18 May		Psalm 86, 11-12	25 May
James Barnett	29 May		Psalm 91,11-12	16 May
Jannine Ebenso	24 May		Eccles 4, 1-22	22 May
Joyce Missing	3 May		Isaiah 40, 21-31	26 May
Kathleen Gavin	12 May		Isaiah 40,28 - 31	23 May
Ken Martin	1 May		Nehemiah 8, 2-3	24 May
Linda Todd	9,10,11 May		Matthew 4, 1-11	5 May
Marie Arnachellum	16 May		Matthew 13, 44-46	4 May
Marta Risko	6 May		Matthew 28, 16	20 May
Mo Lewis	30 May		Mark 2, 1-12	29 May
Mollie Clark	28 May		Luke 8, 1 - 13	20 May
mzf	4 May		Luke 17, 11-19	19 May
Otto Kingsley	5 May		Luke 24, 50 - 53	5 May
Pascal Machefer	13 May		John 12, 1-8	8 May
Peter Laubscher	27 May		John 20, 19-21	31 May
Piet Both Dr	7 May		Acts 10, 34 -43	13 May
PLN Raju Dr	21 May		Romans 5, 20-21	17 May
Stuart McAra	26 May		Romans 12, 2	18 May
Theo de Villiers	19 May		1 Cor 13,13	3 May
Yuek Ming Poon	25 May		2 Cor 4	1 May
Zoe Bunter	31 May		Eph 2,14	2 May
			Eph 5,18	15 May
			Phil 4,11	28 May
			Col 3, 1-17	14 May
			2 Tim 4,7	30 May
			Hebr 2,14-15	21 May
			Hebr 12,1-3	18 May
			1 Peter 5,7	16 May
			Rev 22, 4/a	6 May