



TLM Daily Devotions

October 2019



Intro to the month

New month, new set of The Bridge, with a number of new contributors again!

A special warm welcome to them who are joining to the dedicated team of those nurturing spirituality of TLM worldwide!

And special warm thanks for those who have been faithfully sharing the treasures of their faith month by month, or in other rhythmical period.

While we are deeper and deeper seeking the heart of Jesus Christ the Lord, we stronger and stronger will be bound together. This is the mystery and reality of “being in Christ”.

Praise the Lord!

Marta



The prodigal father

“Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.” Luke 15: 1-32

I once came across a postcard that bore the inscriptions, “God allows U-turns.” We human beings do not easily understand that. The younger son in the “parable of the prodigal son” ...I have chosen to re-christen it the “parable of the prodigal father” because the father was far more prodigal with his forgiveness than the son ever was with his father’s property.... that the younger son did not understand that “God allows U-turns”. He thought he could no longer be his father’s son. The most he could expect is one of his father’s paid servants. The elder son did not understand either that “God allows U-turns”. He saw no reason why his father should throw a party at the return of a renegade son.

But the father’s behavior was a clear confirmation of the fact that “God allows U-turns”. Not only did he forgive his younger son, but he also gave him back all his right as a son. In that way, he not only forgave, but he also chose to forget the wrong his son has done. This is how God deals with every sinner who repents. He does not just forgive, but he also forgets his wrongs we have done. He wipes our slate clean, and we can begin to write the story of our life all over again on a clean slate.

How consoling for us sinners to know that God is like the father in the parable, and not like the elder son! God does not condemn, He does not write off anyone. All of us sinners can heave a sigh of relieve at that, knowing that ours is not a lost cause. God is always there to forgive us the moment we repent; that is the moment we turn to our father’s house. “Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep. In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away” (Luke 15:6-7).

But the parable also challenges us to be like the father, that is God, and not like the elder son. That being in the case, we too should not condemn or write off anyone, no matter how utterly depraved or sinful we may think he is. Like God, our father, we should be prepared to give every sinner another chance. We should even help him... if we are in a position to do so...to take that chance. If we cannot do anything much for the sinner to repent, we can at least pray for him, that God will give him a change of heart that will lead to his repentance. God will surely answer that kind of prayer, since He “allows U-turns”.

We could pray thus: Lord, may I find every reason to forgive others in all encounters with wrong doers, in my daily life ventures, and reap from the many blessings that abound in You as I follow Your divine guidance. Jesus, I trust in You.

And join us pray as Nigerian marks her Independence anniversary on October 1st thus:

All powerful and merciful father, You are the God of justice, love and peace. You rule over the nations of the earth. Power and might are in your hands and no one can withstand you. We present our country Nigeria before you. We praise and thank you for you are the source of all we have and are. We are sorry for all the sins we have committed and for the good deeds we have failed to do. In your loving forgiveness, keep us safe from the punishment we deserve. Lord, we are weighed down not only by uncertainties, but also by moral, economic and political problems. Listen to the cries of your people who confidently turn to you. Our God of infinite goodness, our strength in adversity, our health in weakness, our comfort in sorrow; be merciful to us your people. Spare this nation Nigeria from chaos, anarchy and doom. Bless us with your kingdom of justice, love and peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Moses Onoh, MD, is a former Country Leader of TLM Nigeria. He is currently with the World Health Organization (WHO) Nigeria Country Office, within the Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases Cluster; serving as a National Professional Officer for Tuberculosis.

The zebra

One of the hottest afternoons of the European heatwave reached us in Pistoia, a pretty city in Tuscany, Italy. Cecilia, my 7 year old granddaughter had just one desire: a “siesta”: sore feet, sweating, too much sightseeing... Tiring summer holiday! I proposed the siesta to happen under a large tree with the cathedral opposite to us, as I had desired to admire it.... The final promise was a “gelato”: the incredibly delicious Italian ice-cream.

- What are we going to do here? – she asked.
- Have rest and look at the cathedral.
- What??? to look at THIS?? It looks like a zebra! – she reposted.
- Bravo!! You caught the word! ZEBRA! Indeed! (How on earth had I not yet found the right word to describe

all those incredibly beautiful medieval masterpieces of Italy, cathedrals, palaces built of black and white marble with stripes!)

- Let us now discover this ‘zebra’! – I suggested, drawing her attention on the details. Let us observe these rhombus-shaped decorations in the middle row, among white columns. Look at the inside of each rhombus, and tell me how many pairs of the same motifs you can find. (I was almost sure she would not find any!)



She started one by one with the rhombus-shapes. After a couple of minutes she reported:

- No pairs. Each one is different. How is it possible? They look similar, but the inside of each one is different. Why haven't they produced them identically? – she asked, still influenced by the “all-similar-striped” zebra-look...



(you can doublecheck the all-different rhombuses by enlarging them!)

I then started to fly back with her into time and history. That this cathedral, the same as all the other “zebras” and marvellous buildings all over Italy and elsewhere in the world had been built centuries before the industrial revolution. “What is that?” - she asked. And I told her about the invention of machines, which are on the one hand a blessing for making labour much easier. But on the other hand they ended up the utmost beauty and value of handmade... resulting “series-products” that we are familiar with.

- Is that all handmade? – she was amazed.

- Yes, all! Each stripe of the “zebra”, each piece of marble they had brought here from Carrara has been formed by the hands of thousands of men, working over years, even decades, on such a building.

I saw on her face she could not place it either in time, or in imagination. Thousands of men? And decades long?...

- Yes, I continued, the landlord invited all the men of the surrounding area to come and build a cathedral! Not all of them were masters of carving, capable of forming flowers, birds, human figures, etc. of marble. Many of them were gifted in that, almost artists. We call them “masters”. But most of them had a good heart and readiness to carve the marble, even if they had not much talent. But they were not sent home. They all were needed and appreciated. Each one worked as he was able to: whether forming just a simple geometrical form, or a most complicated human face... They worked happily, knowing that in building the cathedral each one of them would leave his unique handprint on it.

- And they could show it to their children – she added.

- Certainly! All of the family members, everyone from the villages were proudly watching it, and they could distinguish the carving of the grandfather from the one of the uncle... as every piece was unique! And we can admire it, too, after many centuries and see the handwork of each one of them!

At this point in our talk we explored our uniqueness and God. How much these handmade unique forms are representing God’s creational will, creating everything unique: leaves on the trees, eggs, mosquitos, handprints and.... us as well. Not a copy, nor a reproduction of her either anywhere, anytime in the universe ...

We had taken almost an hour-long journey from the similarly looking “zebra” to God’s uniquely created world and our own uniqueness. Then she jumped up claiming her “gelato”...

*“May the favour of the Lord our Lord rest on us, establish the work of our hands for us, -
yes, establish the work of our hands!” Psalm 90, 17*

Marta Risko – country leader of TLM Hungary
and Cecilia





Asking God “ what I need ”

Generally we ask God for the things which are good for our personal life, for our betterment or benefit. There may be chances here that this may lead our prayer request to be selfish. Therefore, may be sometime God does not answer what we want or He delays His reply. So then what, we must ask God? Bible sets many examples for us and we can learn from these about asking God.

1st King 3(3-15)..... Verses 9 and 10, “So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong”. The Lord was pleased that Solomon ad asked for this.

In simple words, Solomon asked God to help him do his job properly and to carry out his responsibilities toward his people successfully.

Solomon did not ask things for himself or to make him rich or famous king. He asked for wisdom and understanding to govern his large state and people properly and wisely.

The result of his prayer was much greater:

God was pleased because what he asked was not selfish.

God promised to grant him what he asked and He also promised him wealth, honour and fame.

All these brought respect to Solomon in the eyes of other people.

Finally God was praised.

The Queen of Sheba (non believer) also praised and thanked the God of Solomon.

Luke 18(35-43), Jesus asked (the blind man) him” What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord, I want to see,” He replied. He asked for his eyesight and Jesus healed him and he received his eyesight.

At the end, the blind man and also the other people praised God.

We see in both the cases that finally God was praised.

Mark 10(35-41) and Mathew 20(20-28):

Here in these verses that request of James and John and also their mother was very different and opposite to the prayer request mentioned above.

They asked first, very special favor for themselves. We note here that Jesus did not ask them earlier that what they want.

They asked things for their own, personal benefits. This was very selfish request to Jesus.

Jesus was not happy with their request.

He tried to explain to them that they do not know and understand the reality of what, they are asking.

He explained to them that they are asking very difficult thing, which is also not in His hand.

Finally Jesus said that He cannot meet their demand and they were disappointed.

Their selfish demand also made other ten disciples angry on these two.

God was not praised at the end.

Therefore we must be careful what to asked God. We must learn about this from these good examples of Solomon and the blind man. We must put ourselves in these situations and prepare ourselves,

“What I will ask God, if and when He will ask me to ask”?

We must ask God to give His understanding to us to act on such situations. That we may be able to understand & do God’s plan in our life and not to be selfish.



Why should I love my neighbour?!

1) IT'S A N.T. COMMANDMENT – NOT A GENERAL SUGGESTION!

John 13:34 – “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

2) YOU HAVE GOD'S POWER TO DO JUST SO – NO EXCUSES!

Acts 13:52 – “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

3) IF YOU'RE NOT BUSY LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR – YOU COULD SLIP INTO SIN!

Romans 13:14 – “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

4) IT'S THE GREATEST PURPOSE ON EARTH – SO START, BY GOING ACROSS YOUR STREET...

1 Corinthians 13:13 – “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

5) IF YOU'RE IN THE FAITH – YOU SHOULD BE INTO OUTREACH, WITH A PURE HEART!

2 Corinthians 13:5 – “Examine yourselves, to see whether you're IN THE FAITH.

Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you fail to meet the test.”

6) IT MAY BE SACRIFICIAL TO DO AT TIMES - BUT DO IT ANYWAY! Heavenly 'rebates' await!

Hebrews 13:16 – “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

7) IT WILL HELP TO KEEP YOUR NAME IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE – AND NOT TO SUCCOMB TO THE EVIL-ONE!

In conclusion, loving and giving are not an option, but a God-appointed privilege.

Luke 6:38 – “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Amen.

Otto Kingsley is the Cape Regional Director of TLM(SA), operating from Cape Town, RSA.



Psalm 137

¹By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

²There on the poplars
we hung our harps,

³for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

⁴How can we sing the songs of the LORD
while in a foreign land?

⁵If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.

⁶May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.

⁷Remember, LORD, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.

"Tear it down," they cried,
"tear it down to its foundations!"

⁸Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is the one who repays you
according to what you have done to us.

⁹Happy is the one who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks.



Psalm 138

Of David

¹I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple
and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree
that it surpasses your fame.

³When I called, you answered me;
you greatly emboldened me.

⁴May all the kings of the earth praise you, LORD,
when they hear what you have decreed.

⁵May they sing of the ways of the LORD,
for the glory of the LORD is great.

⁶Though the LORD is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.

You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.

⁸The LORD will vindicate me;
your love, LORD, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.



“This is my story...”

The power of the name of Jesus

Luke 10: 19, Isaiah 9: 6

A TESTIMONY OF THE POWER OF GOD IN MY LIFE

Our Lord Jesus is powerful and no power can stand before him.

I am Mr. Raphael Mulamba, eldest son in a family of 9 children. I lived a difficult childhood always seeming under the influence of the devil's attacks: diseases, accidents, etc. I could start a school year well, but as the end-of-year exams approached, I would have to get sick until I was hospitalized for weeks, so I repeated my fourth grade. When I went to secondary school, the same situation affected my family who had to spend their money on my recovery. Like any African, there was one of my uncles who helped in all these miseries that hit the family. Because my biological father did not take care of the education of his children, this uncle would pay fines and other costs following the custom. Beloved, my situation remained the same, nothing changed, despite the payment of these fines and the observance of customary ceremonies. But one day, a pastor of the 30th Pentecostal Community in Congo, CPC, on a mission to Kasai organized an evangelistic crusade in which my family took an active part and at the end I was baptized in the name of Jesus. Since that day, until now I am at peace, the disorders have left my life, the frequent diseases and other mysterious events have totally disappeared.

Thus, I would like to say to whoever is tormented by unclean spirits that the name of Jesus is more powerful than any other remedy to have peace and live a life of rest on all sides. As Isaiah 9: 1 says, "the people who walked in the darkness see a great light; on those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, a light shines forth. Mark 4: 37-39, Jesus was able to ward off the wind and the storm, imposing silence on the sea and all that tormented me. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday today and forever.

I am Mulamba Mbuyamba Raphael, working in the Mission against Leprosy in Congo, in the program for change. I am married to Therese Kangodia with her we have 6 children. She and I faithfully serve the Lord in our local church and two of our children who are at the University are more involved in evangelism in the Youth for Christ organisation and this gives us more links. The work that God has given us in the Mission against Leprosy in Congo, allows us to keep our relationship with Jesus in the prayer that is the life of this mission in the Congo, retreats for prayer with the pastors of the Congregation. Church of Christ in Congo.

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Mulamba Mbuyamba Raphael, working in the Mission against Leprosy in Congo, in the program for change

LA PUISSANCE DU NOM DE JESUS.

Luc 10 :19, Esaie 9 :6.

UN TEMOIGNAGE DE LA PUISSANCE DE DIEU DANS MA VIE.

Notre Seigneur Jésus est puissant et aucune puissance ne peut résister devant lui.

Je suis Monsieur Raphael Mulamba, fils aîné dans une famille de 9 enfants.

J'ai vécu une enfance difficile tout le temps sous l'emprise des attaques du diable : maladies, accident, etc. Je pouvais bien commencer une année scolaire, mais à l'approche des examens de fin d'année, je devrais tomber malade, jusqu'à être hospitalisé durant des semaines, c'est ainsi que j'ai redoublé la quatrième année primaire.

Quand je suis passé au secondaire, la même situation a affecté ma famille qui devrait dépenser de ses moyens pour ma guérison.

Comme tout africain, il y a eu un de mes oncles paternel qui a revendiqué tout ces maux qui frappaient la famille, parce que mon père biologique ne s'occupait pas de l'éducation de ses enfants, il fallait payer des amendes et autres couts suivant la coutume.

Bien-aimés ma situation est restée la même, rien n'a changé, malgré le paiement de ces amendes et l'observance des cérémonies coutumières.

Mais un jour, un pasteur de la 30^{ème} Communauté Pentecotiste au Congo, CPC, en mission au Kasai a organisé une croisade d'évangélisation à laquelle ma famille a pris part active et à la fin j'ai été baptisé au nom de Jésus.

Depuis ce jour, jusqu'à présent je suis en paix, les troubles ont quitté ma vie, les fréquentes maladies et autres événements mystiques ont disparus définitivement.

Ainsi, je voudrais dire à quiconque est tourmenté par des esprits impurs que le nom de Jésus est plus puissant que tout autre remède pour disposer la paix et vivre une vie de repos de tout côtés.

Comme dit dans Esaïe 9 :1 « le peuple qui marchait dans les ténèbres voit une grande lumière sur ceux qui habitaient le pays de l'ombre de la mort, une lumière resplendit.

Marc 4 :37-39, Jésus a pu menacer le vent et la tempête, en imposant silence à la mer et à tout ce qui me tourmentait.

Jésus Christ est le même, hier aujourd'hui et éternellement.

Je suis Mulamba Mbuyamba Raphael, agent dans la Mission contre la lèpre au Congo, changé du programme.

Je suis marié à une seule femme Thérèse Kangodia avec elle nous avons 6 enfants. Elle et moi servons fidèlement le Seigneur dans notre église locale et deux de nos enfants qui sont à l'Université sont plus engagés dans l'évangélisation dans l'entité Jeunesse pour Christ et cela nous procure plus de bonheur. Le travail que Dieu nous a donné dans la Mission Contre la Lèpre au Congo, nous permet de garder notre relation avec Jésus dans la prière qui est une vie de cette mission au Congo, des retraites des prières et l'accompagnement par des pasteurs de l'Eglise du Christ au Congo.

Jésus Christ est Seigneur.

Mulamba Mbuyamba Raphael, agent dans la Mission Contre la Lèpre au Congo, changé du programme.



"... this man is my chosen instrument to carry my name"

Acts 9:15

In the 1970's, it was my privilege to visit Grenada in the south of Spain on several occasions to share God's word.

Some of the hills around the city contain a clay suitable for making pottery. For many years they have been excavated to produce large numbers of flower pots, water pots, ornamental ones and beautiful vases.

The families transformed the excavated parts into rooms and lived there. The more successful the potter, the bigger the cave and therefore the larger his house. It was my joy to spend a few days with one of the families and live in their beautifully equipped "cave" and enjoy the modern comforts of their cool home.

One of the things that struck me as I watched the potter at work was that although he produced many pieces of pottery every day, he only signed a few. When I commented on this, he gave the following explanation.

"All the vessels are made with care, using the best material possible and serve some purpose. Some turn out much better than others. My name is my reputation - it stands for quality. Only the best vessels that meet my strict requirements and enhance my name deserve my signature. I cannot afford to be identified with inferior quality."

Everyone who has received Christ into his life has become a member of His family and carries His name.

Thought. I call myself "Christian", He has accepted the risk of placing His reputation in my hands.

What is the picture of Him that I convey through my lifestyle, words and actions?

Does it honour Him?

Does it encourage others to want to discover Him?

Silvano Perotti . Secretary for Europe then Deputy International Director and Director for Support and Development TLMI
Born in Italy - retired in Switzerland. Worked with TLMI until 1990.



What is that in your hand?

Then the Lord said to him: "What is that in your hand?". "A staff" he replied. "Throw it on the ground" Exodus 4:2-3

We meet Moses on holy ground in the desert. It's amazing how a dry, empty and sterile soil can be holy ground. But where God is the ground is holy. This is the important and holy moment when God called Moses for a specific task. God is talking to Moses and called him to service. He was on the threshold of his life's ministry after 40 years in the school of God.

After 40 years in Egypt it was necessary with another 40 years in God's school. It was a hard school in the loneliness in the dessert. During that period God was forming and fashioning Moses, he changed his life, he transformed his thinking and mindset. God changed his personality into holiness.

Moses said his "Yes" to God and God said "Yes" to Moses. God promised "I will be with you", like Jesus said to his disciples many years later in the great commission **Matt 28:20**. God was behind his servant.

In this moment Moses expressed the need to have a supernatural equipment in his life, a divine authority in his ministry. This was a necessity to him. To be gifted by God is not a luxury but it's essential to receive a proper and adequate equipment for the task ahead.

God's answered: "What is that you have in your hand"? Moses looked at his hand and saw his shepherd's staff. Perhaps he had made it himself an evening around the campfire. "I have nothing"! The staff was the normal shepherd equipment for the everyday work

God gave his power in the weakness of Moses. Suddenly he experienced the power of God in his ordinary life.

It's the same in our lives. God will use what we have, what we are! He is not interested in what we don't have! God will invest his power and authority in our weakness and his resources in our poverty.

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans" Rom 8:26

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" 2 Cor4:7

God doesn't take away our personality or our natural equipment and natural gifts, but he gives his grace and his Spirit through the divine and supernatural dimension.

Notice that the shepherd's staff will be the sign of the calling of Moses, a sign of the holy ministry. "The staff of Moses" will be transformed to "the staff of God" Exodus 4:20. What a transformation!

God's staff will act together with Moses. The staff will be a faithful partner during his whole life and ministry! When the people faced the red Sea, the staff will create a way (Ex. 14). When the people was thirsty, the staff of Moses opened up the rock for the living water (Ex. 17). In the fight against Amalek, the staff of God together with the praying man of God gave the victory on the mountain top (Ex. 17). We too have a great need of the Spirit of God, the power and his spiritual gifts, but even more the fruits of the Spirit in our lives (Gal 5).

What is that in your hand?



Establish the work of our hands

“May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands.” Psalms 90:17

One of my achievements in the hospital was to set up a new filing system for the leprosy medical record in the medical record room. There was so many errors in the old system for last two years, many records were missing and patients needed to wait for their old record for hours and hours. Many staff have complained to the administration department, but seems nothing had been done. I prayed to the Lord for His wisdom and timing although I was not in the role to do that. After a few months' prayer, I started to take action with approval from the hospital superintendent, in the beginning I used a week to separate the unused paper from the records (thousands of them), and then rest for two months. Then I called more staff to help me to get all records out from the old shelves, to set up some regulations, to separate the active and non-active records, to separate the female and male column, and then put the records on the shelves according to the patient's first name. It took me at least two weeks to finish it with some volunteers, but the important part is how to maintain it in a proper way. After set up such new system, I have totally withdrawn from the room and let the medical keeper to carry on by himself. After a month, I started seeing things improving, and patients are very glad to have their record out immediately, no more long waiting time. I praise the Lord for His favor rest upon me and establish the work of my hands.

“So, keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.” Acts 27: 25

Sometimes when things happened not as I planned, my anxiety and frustration would rise up very quickly. Such as my travel insurance for Nepal, which had covered me only for six months, and then I needed to extend it or to buy a new one by leaving Nepal. I tried to extend it but was failed, so I informed my mission and my prayer supporters to pray for an appropriate arrangement. When the expired day was near, I was anxious, disappointed and discouraged. I prayed for His peace ruling in my heart no matter I have insurance cover or not. God knew how fragile my faith was when facing trial, and He taught me a lesson of patience and trust. Just 5 days before the expired day, my mission bought the insurance from a British insurance company to cover me, I was so relieved with that arrangement. And then next day I also received a mail from the insurance company in HK that they agreed to extend my travel insurance, what a double blessing! It will happen just as He told me.

Yuek Ming Poon – (Hong Kong) Worked with TLM 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 Capacity Building Advisor. June 2015 left TLM and then studied in Vancouver Regent Bible College from September 15 to April 2016, and then back to HK involving in Nepali ministry. 2017 back to Nepal as Leprosy Nursing Advisor in Green Pastures Hospital with INF.



What do you see?

It's fascinating to see your mind at work when confronted with an unusual sight or experience. Your brain tries to force the sight to fit into something familiar, whilst your analytical faculties simultaneously reject the simplistic 'pigeonholing' of the image or experience.

Yesterday, I saw a dog walking along the edge of my neighbour's roof [his house is above mine on the hillside, so I wasn't able to see all of the animal]. "Don't be daft!" I said to myself. How could a dog walk on the edge of a steeply sloping roof?

"Well then, it's a cat!" "Really? A cat? When did you see a cat that large?"

The odd thing about this experience was that I knew immediately what I was looking at - it was a caracal, a medium sized wild cat which we sometimes call a lynx, although it is a very distant cousin of the true lynx. It has unmistakable ears and I recognised it at once, but the sight was so unusual that my brain tried to fob it off as something else. [Caracals normally hunt at night, but this was mid-morning – and I was sober]. There were pigeons on the corner of the roof and the caracal was clearly stalking them. Thanks to the excellent winter rains we have enjoyed, the bush on the hill is very dense and the caracal had obviously emerged from the bush [my neighbour's house is right next to the tree-line] and leapt onto the roof. Once I had processed the experience – I regard it as a huge privilege to have glimpsed this beautiful creature – I dutifully reported it on the conservation website. I'm happy to say that the pigeons escaped unscathed. I should also mention that this is not the first time in recent weeks that I have encountered an animal on a roof... some of my colleagues will be able to shed light on the earlier episode. Of course, my mind went back to Lucy catching a glimpse of Aslan in *Prince Caspian* because that is all I got – a glimpse.

In **Mark 8:24** we read that the blind man in Bethsaida, after he had been healed by Jesus, "looked up and said, 'I see people; they look like trees walking around.'" Commentaries suggest that we should read this as a parable of our own growing spiritual discernment. Maybe. I also think of this person as someone whose eyes were now perfect, but who lacked a way of interpreting the visual information his brain was receiving. In the second phase of the miracle, Jesus gives the man the means to understand this information. People now look like people and not like trees because he has a way of separating the two – next time I see a caracal in my suburb, I won't be nearly as surprised as I was yesterday. It's comforting to cling to old ways of seeing things, but Jesus invites us to let go of pigeonholes defined by the world. It is miraculous when a person without sight sees for the first time; it is equally miraculous when those with 20/20 vision sees for the first time. I do hope that you have known and continue to know this joy. I recall an analogy from my long-distant childhood: it was my first flight and we were coming into land at night. The lights of the city looked like toy-land, but quite suddenly, things jumped into perspective. It was as if in that instant of recognition, I could 'see' the city for the first time, although it had been clearly visible throughout our descent. Suddenly it all made sense – the roads, the houses – everything became, in that instant, intelligible. When Jesus steps into our lives, it all makes sense. Without Him, there is no perspective. I always look at the city lights when I come into land, but that childhood experience has never repeated itself. My brain has learnt to recognise the lights for what they are. Would that all of us would recognise Jesus for who He is.

"Lord, touch our eyes that we might see."

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.



Psalm 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

¹You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.

²You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.

⁵You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

⁷Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"

¹²even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

¹³For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

¹⁹If only you, God, would slay the wicked!
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!

²⁰They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.

²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?

²²I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.

²³Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.



Psalm 140

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

- ¹Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers;
protect me from the violent,
²who devise evil plans in their hearts
and stir up war every day.
³They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's;
the poison of vipers is on their lips.
⁴Keep me safe, LORD, from the hands of the wicked;
protect me from the violent,
who devise ways to trip my feet.
⁵The arrogant have hidden a snare for me;
they have spread out the cords of their net
and have set traps for me along my path.
⁶I say to the LORD, "You are my God."
Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy.
⁷Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer,
you shield my head in the day of battle.
⁸Do not grant the wicked their desires, LORD;
do not let their plans succeed.
⁹Those who surround me proudly rear their heads;
may the mischief of their lips engulf them.
¹⁰May burning coals fall on them;
may they be thrown into the fire,
into miry pits, never to rise.
¹¹May slanderers not be established in the land;
may disaster hunt down the violent.
¹²I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor
and upholds the cause of the needy.
¹³Surely the righteous will praise your name,
and the upright will live in your presence.



Costa Rica – God’s Beautiful Creation

Psalm 104: 14-20

*¹⁴ He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:*

*¹⁵ wine that gladdens human heart, oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.*

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷ There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the junipers.

¹⁸ The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.

¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down.

²⁰ You bring darkness, it becomes night, and all the beasts of the forest prowl.

Psalm 104 begins by describing the glory of God. Verse 5 asserts that God has "laid the foundations of the Earth". Verses 6 to 24 concern the ordering of the waters, vegetation and animal life, Sun and Moon and the cycle of day and night.

I recently visited Costa Rica with my husband and son. Costa Rica is a rugged, rain forested Central American country with coastlines on the Caribbean and Pacific. Roughly, a quarter of its area is made up of protected jungle, teeming with wildlife.

In particular, lines 14 to 21 of Psalm 104 seemed very relevant of what I discovered in Costa Rica. A country that contains nearly 6 percent of the world's biodiversity. It has natural wealth, both in species and ecosystems. The people of Costa Rica are very happy and if you ask someone "How are you?" the response will be "PURA VIDA", simply meaning simple life or pure life or just everything's great. In addition, they are very proud of their country and never miss a chance to show this.

Whilst on one of our excursions we saw many birds such as colourful hummingbirds, storks, kingfishers, sandpipers, herons and beach vultures. A highlight was seeing a baby sloth moving, particularly interesting as they normally sleep for 20 hours a day. Our hotel was surrounded by cool misty mountains and we could see the beautiful sunsets every day.

Being in Costa Rica just reminded me of God's beautiful creation and how God's glory can be seen in the different aspects of his creation. It is very important for mankind to protect and honour the creation.

Kalpana Shah - Joined TLMI in April 2017 as a temporary Finance Assistant and from November 2019, became permanent as the Finance Officer.



“...you are God’s field...”

1 Corinthians 3:9

It’s harvest time in UK as I write, and I’m privileged to live in a rural farming area, *Psalm 65:9-13* is all around me and I love harvest services in churches decorated with God’s goodness. (I recognise that I’m privileged to have such abundance, compared with many.)

A favourite Bible passage for this season is Jesus’ parable of the sower, which, unusually, he explains, *Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23*. What strikes me about the parable is that it’s the same sower, the same seed (and presumably the same weather!); the only thing that changes is the ground! The seed is the Word of God, and the sower is the preacher or Sunday school teacher, youth worker or parent, -whoever planted God’s Word in us. So the obvious question is: “What kind of ground am I?”

It’s easy to see other people as the path: no time for God or his Word, no interest, -seed snatched away (v. 4/19). Or we see the rocky ground: passing enthusiasm that “*has no root (and) quickly falls away*” (v. 5/21). But what kind of ground am I? It seems to me that the greatest danger for God’s people in modern times is the thorny ground (v. 7/22). Life is so busy, so full; the soil of our lives is sown with many seeds, growing many competing plants. I don’t know what the ‘thorns’ or ‘weeds’ are in your life, but I know some of the demands that make mine, and those of my Christian family, so full that worship, Bible study, prayer and fellowship can suffer. Yet these are the light and water and air that the seed of God’s Word needs in the soil of my life.

Many of the ‘weeds’ may be good things: work, family, leisure, sport or whatever, but they cause time with God, with his people and in his Word to be ‘squeezed’! It may be that in our efforts to please our loving Father we fill our lives with ‘good things’, -even Christian activities and church works. We become more like Martha than Mary, “*worried and troubled about many things*” rather than prioritising the thing that is needed (*Luke 10:41-2*). Weeds have pretty flowers, they grow their own fruit and are vigorous in growth... but they choke other things. Jesus, in his explanation of the parable, does not say that the good seed in thorny, weedy ground doesn’t grow amidst all the competition! What he says (v. 22) is that it is *unfruitful*.

Well, that’s all easy to say, but work has to be done and families have to be cared for. So I need to look carefully at all the ‘growth’ in my life and see what are ‘thorns’ and what is ‘fruitful’ growth. It’s a matter of balance and priorities. And growing good fruit may not mean ‘success’ or ‘result’ in *my* terms; -it may mean cultivating the soil my life with time for God, -letting him, the master gardener, bring forth the fruit.

We are, as Paul puts it in *1 Corinthians 3:9*, “*God’s field*”.

What a privilege to be cultivating that soil!

David Beazley began involvement with The Leprosy Mission in 1992 when he came as Minister to a Church near the International Office in Brentford. He acted as an informal ‘chaplain’ to the Office, and served on the International General Council for some years. At the same time he became a member of TLM England and Wales Board, serving as Chairman for six years and on various committees. He chaired the Spiritual Ministry MAWG, and is also able to serve TLMi by leading retreat days and other such things as opportunity allows. He now pastors a Church in South-West England part time, and continues as a volunteer speaker for TLM.



The shared gift!

The day after his 10th birthday, I ask my grandson, “What did you get for your birthday ? I have got money from my godmother, my grandparents and even from great-grandmother so that I may buy something which I would like to have. But tell me grandpa, I would like to give a part of that to the poor. What shall I do?

I was amazed and touched by this spontaneous response coming straight from the heart. The child’s first thought was to share with those in need a part of what he had got.

This testimony remind me this famous phrase coming from Raoul Follereau. We can’t be happy alone.

Shared happiness warms the heart of those who give as well as those who receive.

The Bible tells us in the Book of Proverbs, ch. 11:25, *“A generous man will prosper, he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”*

Le cadeau partagé!

Le lendemain de son 10ème anniversaire, je demande à mon petit-fils : « Qu’as-tu reçu pour ta fête ? » J’ai reçu de l’argent de ma marraine, de mes grands-parents et même de mon arrière grand-maman me répondit-il, pour pouvoir m’offrir un cadeau qui me fera plaisir. Mais dis-moi grand-papa, j’aimerais bien en donner une partie pour les pauvres. Comment dois-je faire ?

J’ai été à la fois surpris et touché par cette réponse spontanée, venant droit du cœur. La première pensée de cet enfant était de partager un peu de ce qu’il avait reçu avec ceux qui ont besoin d’aide.

Ce témoignage m’a fait pensé à cette célèbre phrase de Raoul Follereau, appelé aussi l’apôtre des lépreux : « On ne peut pas être heureux tout seul. »

Le bonheur partagé réchauffe le cœur de celui qui donne comme de celui qui reçoit.

La Bible nous dit dans le livre des Proverbes au ch. 11 :25 : *« L’âme bienfaisante sera rassasiée, et celui qui arrose sera lui-même arrosé. »*

Eric Chollet - I'm retired since four years. I used to work with TLM Switzerland for 32 years. During that time, I have had the privilege to stand in different committees (e.g. executive committee - directorate) with TLMI, which has been very rewarding. All along these years of service, I have met a lot of wonderful and dedicated people. May God continue to bless the mission for His glory.



Great is Thy Faithfulness

Reading: Psalm 36 Yesterday I read this psalm and was struck again by the truth of the words of this hymn, the wonderful words written in 1923 by Thomas O Chisholm (an American) based on the verse Lamentations 3:23, written at a time of despair in the life of the Children of Israel.

What do we see as we read our newspapers or watch the news on TV or some other media? Do we see despair around the world, do we see the evil in the world. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish the evil as it is portrayed to us as “good” and “right”. The result may be the forms of economic oppression and social injustice so well described by Amos or compliant acquiescence in corrupt schemes like the elders in Naboth’s community. It can range from domestic violence and road rage to arrogant tyranny of national leaders and protection of vested interests. In this day and age if we talk about sin or the sinfulness of man we are criticised for being judgemental and offensive. In this psalm, David points out that when human beings think too much of themselves, they lose the ability to recognise sin. That seems like a warning for us as individuals, and also as God’s community, the church.

The psalm turns from the wickedness of individuals and of the world to the character of God: love, faithfulness, righteousness and justice. These characteristics of God, and indeed God Himself, are often forgotten by the world. History tells us that; and through His ministry Jesus reminds us of God and His character. Living in today’s world it so easy to become despondent and lose heart but if we focus on God’s faithfulness and praise Him for it, we see God’s characteristics pervading and controlling the universe, not those of the ‘wicked’.

In worship, let us open our eyes to the long-lasting security of finding both ‘refuge’ and ‘delights’ with God; let us see ‘light’ where it may be easy to focus on darkness. Ultimately, ‘evildoers’ are down, never to rise. It is this certainty which enabled Amos to speak to his generation with hope for the future. The vision of God’s character is surely the antidote to fear, anxiety, insecurity and despair aroused by seeing the ‘wicked’ and their actions.

We are reminded that God has a plan to bring about His Kingdom – a plan that is long term, longer term than our minds conceive. Recently I have been reading some interesting books as I have delved into dynasties, empires and powers long gone – Egyptian, Hittite, Persian, Roman etc which remind me that God does indeed overcome the evil of the world – the sinfulness of man – clear illustrations of the closing words of the psalm.

It is not always comfortable or easy to be a Christian in our community or country when those around us or those in authority don’t recognise God, His plan and His faithfulness. As my thoughts turned along this path, I was reminded that God’s plan includes His provision for those who are faithful during those times of evil and who are persecuted because of their faith – what reassurance and testimony to the “great faithfulness” of our God (see Revelation 19).

David ends the psalm by asking God to continue show His love through those who love Him. Today, as you and I take that love to those we meet, may we know the assurance that comes from God’s provision for us. The cross and resurrection provide us with the certainty of the triumph of good over evil. With that assurance in our hearts may we be encouraged to pray for those we meet and for those close to us – pray that they might know the grace of God.

Read or sing the words of that beautiful and meaningful hymn as you pray and give thanks –

“Great is Thy Faithfulness...Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow”

God bless you as you read this and as you journey through this day (or night) with Him, our faithful God.

Christine Osman, formerly Treasurer of TLM



Life with Holy Spirit – Part 7

Continued from 15th June 2019

The Gifts of The Spirit

Some of the scriptures that encourage you to seek and be used in the *Gifts of Holy Spirit*

1. "Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy." (*1 Corinthians 14:39*)
2. "... and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." (*1 Corinthians 14:1*)
3. "Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophecies." (*1 Thessalonians 5:19*)
4. "Do not neglect the gift that is in you"... Meditate on these things, give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all." (*1 Timothy 4:14*)
5. "Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." (*2 Timothy 1:6*)

Most Christians are familiar with the nine gifts of the Spirit that Paul describes in *1 Corinthians 12:4-10*. Yet there are many more? Though the exact number is debatable, here are at least 25 spiritual gifts Holy Spirit gave to the early church and continues to give today.

Stop protecting the church from God – let Holy Spirit have His way!

Most often more than one gift will operate at the same time because many, if not all gifts, are interdependent to each other.

25 gifts of Holy Spirit mentioned in Scripture

1. Word of wisdom (*1 Cor. 12:8; Luke 6:9*)
2. Word of knowledge (*1 Cor. 12:8; Luke 18:22*)
3. Faith (*1 Cor. 12:9; Acts 3:6*)
4. Gifts of healing (*1 Cor. 12:9, 28; Acts 28:1-10*)
5. Working of miracles (*1 Cor. 12:10; Acts 6:8*)
6. Prophecy (*1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Thess. 5:20-21; Eph. 4:11*)
7. Discerning of spirits (*1 Cor. 12:10; Luke 8:29*)
8. Tongues (*1 Cor. 12:10; Acts 19:6*)
9. Interpretation of tongues (*1 Cor. 12:10; 14:13-33*)
10. Helping (*1 Cor. 12:28*)
11. Administration (*1 Cor. 12:28; Acts 6:2-3*)
12. Ministry/service (*Rom. 12:7; 2 Tim. 1:16-18*)

- 13. Teaching (*Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11-14*)
 - 14. Encouragement (*Rom. 12:8; Heb. 10:24-25*)
 - 15. Giving (*Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 13:3; Acts 4:32-35*)
 - 16. Leadership (*Rom. 12:8; Acts 13:12*)
 - 17. Mercy (*Rom. 12:8; Luke 5:12-13*)
 - 18. Apostleship (*Eph. 4:11*)
- 19. Evangelism (*Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5*)
 - 20. Pastoral guidance (*Eph. 4:11*)
 - 21. Grace (*Rom. 12:6; Eph. 3:7; 4:7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11*)
 - 22. Willingness to face martyrdom (*1 Cor. 13:3*)
 - 23. Intercession (*Rom. 8:26-27*)
 - 24. Hospitality (*1 Pet. 4:9*)
- 25. Celibacy (*1 Cor. 7:8*)

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.



Psalm 141

A psalm of David.

¹I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me;
hear me when I call to you.

²May my prayer be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

³Set a guard over my mouth, LORD;
keep watch over the door of my lips.

⁴Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil
so that I take part in wicked deeds
along with those who are evildoers;
do not let me eat their delicacies.

⁵Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness;
let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head.

My head will not refuse it,
for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.

⁶Their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs,
and the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken.

⁷They will say, “As one plows and breaks up the earth,
so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.”

⁸But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign LORD;
in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death.

⁹Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers,
from the snares they have laid for me.

¹⁰Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
while I pass by in safety.



Psalm 142

A *maskil* of David. When he was in the cave. A prayer.

¹I cry aloud to the LORD;
I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.

²I pour out before him my complaint;
before him I tell my trouble.

³When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who watch over my way.

In the path where I walk
people have hidden a snare for me.

⁴Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;
no one is concerned for me.

I have no refuge;
no one cares for my life.

⁵I cry to you, LORD;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."

⁶Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.

⁷Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.

Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me.



Trust

Recently during our daily prayer time at work, we were sharing about our favourite verses in the Bible. There are many verses in the Bible that I go to often at different times but the one that came to mind during our discussion was *Proverbs 3: 5-6*. *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”* This seems such a straightforward instruction to follow. Like myself, do you find that it does not come easily when you try to apply it to your daily life? Recently I came across some writing in Bible Study Tools, which I thought I would share with you that points towards some steps we could consciously take to make sure we are leaning on God.

1. Don't depend on yourself. We live in a world where trust must be earned and seems to be in short supply. Solomon knew that trust is exactly where we must start: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5)* Most of us have faced disappointments, which make us think that we can only depend upon ourselves. Living the life God has called us to means unlearning that lesson. Instead, we are meant to rest in God's understanding. We may know in our minds that He possesses all wisdom but sometimes trusting Him completely like that can be tough. So, each day we must consciously lay aside our own plans and expectations—and surrender to His plans. What if we don't feel like we can trust Him this way? That's where step 2 comes in.....

2. Cry out to God. Surrendering to God begins with our lips and our thoughts. We need more than a commitment to depend on Him; we need to cry out to Him to show that dependence. *“In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:6)* When we pray, we admit that His ways are higher than ours. We show that we are leaving our troubles, burdens, and dreams in His capable hands. In fact, the Bible promises that when we reach out to Him in prayer, He hears us: *“Evening, morning, and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.” (Psalm 55:17)* We must hand the keys of our lives to Him and trust Him to lead us. In order for that to work, we have to...

3. Put God First in Our Lives. It is easy to put ourselves first. When something good happens, we want to congratulate ourselves with a reward. When something bad happens, we want to console ourselves or find someone to blame. When it comes to money, recognition our hopes and aspirations the struggle is even harder. Solomon, who had quite a bit of wealth himself, knew that his money did not belong to him: *“Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9–10)* The Bible tells us to seek God first: *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matt 6:33)* To get there, though, make sure you...

4. Rest in God's Love. When we face a difficult world each day, we can sometimes wonder if God even cares. Why do bad things happen? Where is God when I need Him? Solomon reminds us that God never takes a break or leaves us to fend for ourselves: *“Because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.” (Proverbs 3:12)*

Even in the midst of turmoil, God sticks with us and uses those challenges to shape us. When we understand that, our perspective completely flips. No longer, do we see our setbacks as failures; we see them as moments when God, as our loving Father, works in us.

And that's exactly why we can trust in the Lord with all our hearts. He cares for us each and every day. He gives us what we need to thrive. He pours blessing after blessing upon us.

Of course, following each of these daily steps is not easy. That is why Jesus said we have to deny ourselves and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). Trusting God takes a whole-hearted commitment from dawn until dusk. But we're never alone in it:

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b)

Melonie Rajaratnam — Works at The Leprosy Mission International Office as part of the Finance team as the Grants Officer for the last 19 years.



I'm sorry what were you just saying?

The new economy is changing our desires. Only twenty years ago we had limited capacity and enthusiasm for the world's information. A daily news bulletin would do. We could catch up with everything else by telephone or face to face. Technology has succeeded in creating a huge appetite for knowing stuff in just a short few years. The new capitalism competes ruthlessly for one thing: our attention. Grab this, and you can conquer the world. The best brains in the world are working creatively and round the clock to distract us from what we're doing, and the evidence is, it's working. James Williams, a former Google strategist turned Oxford trained philosopher has said:

"I used to think there were no great political struggles left. How wrong I was. The liberation of human attention may be the defining moral and political struggle of our time." He did not say it, but might as well: the liberation of human attention may be the defining *spiritual* struggle of our time.

Some of you will know about an experiment carried out where people were put into a room on their own with nothing to do but to sit there for fifteen minutes, to see what happened. A majority admitted feeling uncomfortable with nothing but their thoughts to console them. The experiment was then repeated, only this time an instrument was placed on a table in the room which could administer a nasty electric shock. In the fifteen minute period, one in four women self-administered pain to relieve the boredom. Two in three men did.

We are over-stimulated by noise, information and speed - and have grown accustomed to it. In some cases, we have become addicted. It is not clear how this is re-wiring our brains, but neuroscience tells us it is beginning to. And it is too early to say for sure what this means for the life of faith, but we can make an informed guess. The good news is, we are more connected to other people's lives than ever before – if we want to be. This means we can reach them with the Gospel one way or another. Like St Paul, who availed himself of the sweep of Rome's rule and its infrastructure to gain access to any city he wanted, we live at the very start of an era when someone in another country might be converted to Christ because of something we absent-mindedly posted on a social media feed late one tired night.

The bad news is, this person probably lost attention in less than five seconds because clickbait flashed up an article about a politician they really hate and want to hate a bit more by reading up on. Our smartphones have become the rod and staff which comfort us. Any spare moment can be spent using Facebook, Instagram or Spotify. So deeper thought is easily crowded out – and deeper prayer, upon which this world depends. So, when we talk about seeking the kingdom, we should face the real possibility that we are being distracted from the signs of it by which our hope in Christ is nourished. Like one of those smartphone zombies who walks down a pavement with lots of space and blunders unapologetically into the path we are taking, we may be unaware of what God most wants us to see.

We rightly speak about the importance of vision – of a clear sense of where we need to be heading – but we should be aware of what we are doing in the moment, which is, after all, the only sphere in which God can meet with us, in which we can seek the kingdom and pray for its coming. The attention deficit induced by the unrelenting seductions of modern life leads us to think about something else while God is standing in front of us in the shape of the person talking to us. Jesus said, 'do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow has enough trouble of its own'. Tomorrow is way too far away now – the next minute will do fine for distracting us now.

We should be entertained by our technology and connect with others through it – it's our world and we should happily continue to stream Netflix, watch YouTube and check out BuzzFeed's thirteen reasons why you should never contact your school heartthrob again. We should post on social media to encourage others; to make them laugh; to help them think. But we should know this world is being moulded in ways that can hinder us from seeing the kingdom of God when it is staring us in the face, and to stop us seeking it patiently when it isn't quickly revealed.

In the parable of *Matthew 25, the sheep and the goats* shared one thing in common: neither paid enough attention to what was in front of them to realise it was Jesus. If this risk was present in an ancient, agrarian community, how much greater is the challenge in a frenetic, urban culture like ours.

So let's discipline ourselves for the moment - the only space in which God can meet with us. There needs to be a time to pause, to listen, and to observe. To find that place of poise, awareness and grace from which others will be blessed.

Tim Burton - Senior Officer, Communications TLMI



How the apostles died

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Hebrews 13,7

1. **Matthew.** Suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.
2. **Mark.** Died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.
3. **Luke.** Was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.
4. **John.** Faced martyrdom when he was boiled in huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison Island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on Patmos. The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.
5. **Peter.** He was crucified upside down on an x shaped cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.
6. **James.** The leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club.

This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation.
7. **James the Son of Zebedee** was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial.

Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.
8. **Bartholomew.** Also known as Nathaniel. He was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.
9. **Andrew.** He was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony.

His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words, "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it". He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired.
10. **Thomas.** He was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the subcontinent.
11. **Jude.** He was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

12. **Matthias.** The apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot. He was stoned and then beheaded.

13. **Paul.** He was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational Doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament.

Perhaps this is a reminder to us that our sufferings here are indeed minor to compare to the intense persecution and cold cruelty faced by the apostles and disciples during their times For the sake of the Faith.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: But he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Pass on to encourage other Christians. Why do we feel sleepy in prayer, but stay awake through a 3 hour movie?

Why are we so bored when we look at the HOLY BOOK. But find it easy to read other books?

Why is it so easy to ignore a message about God?

Yet we forward the nasty ones?

Why are prayers getting smaller, but bars and clubs are expanding?

Why is it so easy to worship a celebrity, but very difficult to engage with God?

Make this message your contribution to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Kindly shared by **Pradeep Failbus**



Glass half full? Or half empty?

Your answer is supposed to determine whether you are an optimist or pessimist. But either way — you still have the same amount.

Was your glass full and you used half of it? (Wisely or unwisely?) Is it leaking? Did you give half to someone else? Or was it stolen from you? Whatever the reason, you still have only 50% of the “FULL potential” of the glass.

Is this what your life perspective should be? In The Kingdom, “half” is not your portion. In The Bible we read:

“The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot secure.” — Psalm 16:5

“You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” — Psalm 23:5

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your [vessel]. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” — Luke 6:38

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full [in all its fullness].” — John 10:10

And we read the stories: Of a widow (in 1 Kings) who had nothing left than a little flour left for her and her son. But when she Elijah the prophet, he said to her: Do not be afraid,” first make me a small cake of bread from what you have, and bring it out to me. Afterward, make some for yourself and your son, for this is what the LORD God of Israel says: *‘The jar of flour will not be exhausted and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth.’* So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and the woman, Elijah, and her household had food to eat every day. - And that of another widow in (in 2 Kings) when she and her sons are in debt and no way to pay. But when she meets Elisha (Elijah’s protégé) she says to him “Your woman servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.” Then he said, “Go around and get jars from all your neighbours. Get empty jars, many of them. ⁴Then go in and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour the oil into all these jars, and set aside each one that is full.”

Elisha asked to be blessed with a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. He received the double portion and performed many miracles in Israel. Including the turning of bad water into clean water.

Jesus ‘ups the ante’ tackling several water jars which could each hold 20-30 gallons! And not only were they full – He turned the contents into wine!

So perhaps its time to get out ALL your “Kingdom crockery” – your glasses, cups, jars, pots and flour bins! Yes — it is good to give. But are you also open and ready to receive? Each time the people in these stories received – it not only benefitted them - they were then able to share and bless others too! The Kingdom is waiting to pour... (what will be today? Flour, oil, water or wine?)

May God bless you all abundantly.

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, be all the Glory forever and ever Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)



His abiding presence makes the difference

Exodus 33:12-19) And He said, 'My Presence will go with you and I will give you REST' (Exodus 33:14) (NKJV)

Moses was asked to lead the children of Israel, a very complex and complicated congregation, even though they had experienced the power of God and heard His fearful voice, they went astray to idolatry, worshiping a golden calf. This action interrupted the meeting Moses and God were having on the mount and Moses had to come down and deal with the issue.

After sorting out the Israelites, Moses went back to meet with God and there conversation recorded in Exodus 33:12-19 shows how Moses realised He could not go far, leading such a complex and difficult people, without the assurance of God's presence. In this conversation we learn the following:

- God's presence is only available for those who have found grace in God's sight; *'I know you by name, and you have found grace in My sight'* (vs12 & vs 17). It takes the grace and mercy of God for a man to enjoy God's presence, it is not automatic, it is not by works, it is not a birth right, it is not through religious practice or rituals and it is not by academic or theological qualification.
- God's presence gives rest and peace. *He said, "My presence will go with you and I will give you rest"* (vs14). A complete, genuine and lasting rest and peace can only be experienced in our lives when we have God's presence. Jesus said *'come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest, take my yoke upon you and learn from Me,...and you will find rest for your soul'* (Matthew 11:28-30). The condition to finding and receiving rest in this complex world is to COME to Jesus that means be in His presence, His closeness. Jesus only promises rest to those who come. Any other means we are pursuing for rest can only be temporal and very artificial; only in Christ can we find a lasting rest.
- God's presence distinguish us from others (vs 16). The abiding presence of God will always separate us and what we do from others. The only way the world can see the difference in our lives and our Ministry or vocation is when God's presence is with us. It may be difficult to explain that difference but it will be evident in our lives - thought, action and speech. What distinguishes The Leprosy Mission from other charity organisation is the presence of God and we can see the impact on our relationship with people affected by Leprosy, our longevity as a Mission and our fellowship with one another. Take away God's presence from our midst we will become empty (God forbid)!
- God's presence makes us enjoy His goodness, His compassion, His identity and His abundant grace. There is nothing as great and glorious as God's presence. The glory of the Lord always radiates over the life of everyone and every organisation that experiences His presence. He said *"I will make all my goodness pass before you..."* (vs 19).
- God's presence guarantees our protection. He said *'I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with My hand'*. What a profound promise! God will always cover us, protect us from being exposed to what can bring damage, or death to our lives, our image or identity and our Ministry. God will also put us in the cleft of the rock which symbolise Jesus; (the scripture say's *our life is hiding with Christ in God* Colossian 3:3). Our future is secure and as long as He is with us we need not fear death, failure, shame or disappointment.

Therefore with His presence in Leprosy Mission we need not fear the future, where the money will come from and how Leprosy will be defeated. We are assured of His glory, His grace and His compassion to us and to People affected by Leprosy. We can confidently do our work and trust that He is faithful to do as He promised.

May His presence never leave The Leprosy Mission and may His Presence always go with us such that we will always experience His REST! (Amen)

Bunmi Oluloto - Servant of Christ in the Niger Republic - TLM Country Leader Niger and Chad



Psalm 143

A psalm of David.

- ¹ LORD, hear my prayer,
listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness
come to my relief.
- ² Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.
- ³ The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground;
he makes me dwell in the darkness like those long dead.
- ⁴ So my spirit grows faint within me;
my heart within me is dismayed.
- ⁵ I remember the days of long ago;
I meditate on all your works
and consider what your hands have done.
- ⁶ I spread out my hands to you;
I thirst for you like a parched land.^[a]
- ⁷ Answer me quickly, LORD; my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.
- ⁸ Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.
- ⁹ Rescue me from my enemies, LORD,
for I hide myself in you.
- ¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God; may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.
- ¹¹ For your name's sake, LORD, preserve my life;
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.
- ¹² In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;
destroy all my foes,
for I am your servant.



Psalm 144

Of David.

¹Praise be to the LORD my Rock,
who trains my hands for war,
my fingers for battle.

²He is my loving God and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues peoples^(a) under me.

³LORD, what are human beings that you care for them,
mere mortals that you think of them?

⁴They are like a breath;
their days are like a fleeting shadow.

⁵Part your heavens, LORD, and come down;
touch the mountains, so that they smoke.

⁶Send forth lightning and scatter the enemy;
shoot your arrows and rout them.

⁷Reach down your hand from on high;
deliver me and rescue me
from the mighty waters,

from the hands of foreigners

⁸whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful.

⁹I will sing a new song to you, my God;
on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you,

¹⁰to the One who gives victory to kings,
who delivers his servant David.

From the deadly sword ¹¹deliver me;
rescue me from the hands of foreigners

whose mouths are full of lies,
whose right hands are deceitful.

¹²Then our sons in their youth
will be like well-nurtured plants,
and our daughters will be like pillars
carved to adorn a palace.

¹³Our barns will be filled
with every kind of provision.
Our sheep will increase by thousands,
by tens of thousands in our fields;
¹⁴ our oxen will draw heavy loads.
There will be no breaching of walls,
no going into captivity,
no cry of distress in our streets.
¹⁵ Blessed is the people of whom this is true;
blessed is the people whose God is the LORD.



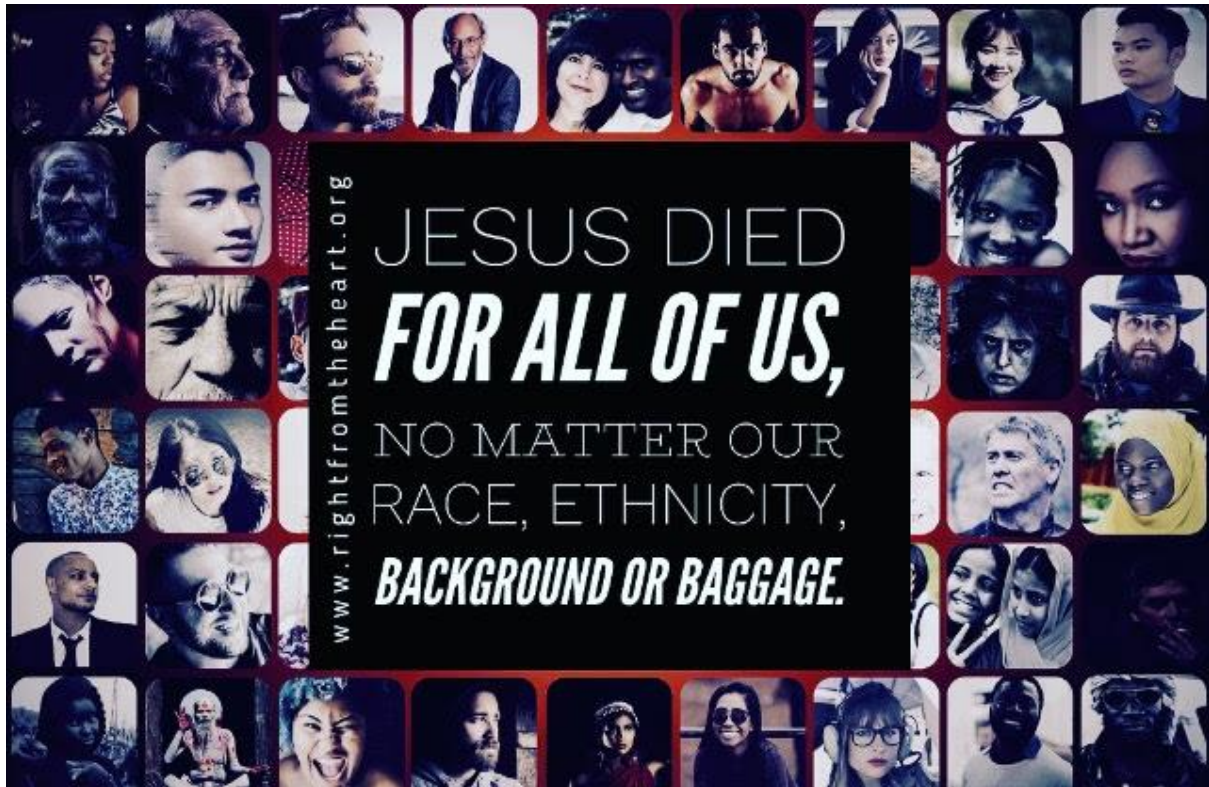
Perfect Peace

“You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.” Isaiah 26:3

In Nepal, April and May always have thunderstorm, lightning and heavy rain every day, the weather just changes immediately within a short time, that is a challenge when return home from work. One late afternoon when I was on my way home from hospital, suddenly the heavy rain came with thunderstorm, and lightning. No one was on the road, all shops were closed, the wind and rain pushed me to other side, I couldn't control myself to walk any more, I knew if I had nowhere to hide, I would be in danger. During that moment I saw a court yard on the road side without closing the gate, so I went in and hope I could hide a bit even it seemed not so much space to hide. During such disappointment I saw a young woman calling me to enter her room, so I went in with my wet clothes, and she closed the door and windows in order to prevent the rain pouring in her small room. I realized she and her husband were living in that small room and waiting for their new baby after a few months. She offered me tea and bread; her warm hospitality was very impressive. After half an hour chat with them, the thunderstorm had stopped, and the heavy rain became less, I had to leave to continue my way home before dark. After a few days, I met her husband on the road and we greeted each other, since then they became my friends. Praise the Lord for His blessings in such thunderstorm time.

During the monsoon time especially in the month of July, travelling is one of the challenges due to flooding and landslides. I had to make decision in what transport I should use from Pokhara to Kathmandu in order to take flight to Thailand for my retreat, and then also return to Pokhara by flight or bus. After returned from my retreat in Thailand, I heard from the news that some parts of the country were flooding due to heavy rain even including Kathmandu. If I took bus, it would take at least 10 to 14 hours by dangerous road, but if by flight, nobody knew when the flight would be in time or may be cancelled, I was so anxious and fear that I may need to stay in Kathmandu for a few days and delay to return for my work, but I do believe our God who is able to bring me back in time, He knows the best, and everything is under His control. So, I got up quite early that morning and went to the domestic airport 2 hours before my departure 10:30am (usually one to half an hour is enough). However, when I went to the airline counter, the flight staff told me that it was too early to check in for my 10:30am flight, so I waited in the airport for a short while. And then he called me to check in and gave me a ticket with 6:30am departure, I felt a bit confused, but didn't ask him anything. When I went inside the waiting hall, a lot of passengers were waiting for their delay flights, and then I realized the Pokhara airport was closed from the early morning due to the thunderstorm and heavy rain. Many passengers waiting for their 6:30am flight was still there. After one hour, all passengers with 6:30am tickets could go on boarding the 10:30am flight. So, I returned to Pokhara on time as I planned, how amazing! During my waiting time, I called my prayer supporters to pray for that trip, so everybody had seen the glory of God, His time is never early or late, always in time.

Yuek Ming Poon (Hong Kong) - Worked with TLMI 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 Capacity Building Advisor. June 2015 left TLM and then studied in Vancouver Regent Bible College from September 15 to April 2016, and then back to HK involving in Nepali ministry. 2017 back to Nepal as Leprosy Nursing Advisor in Green Pastures Hospital with INF.



Playing favorites - Part 1

"But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." James 2:9

Partiality—it's not a very common word in today's vocabulary. But to be *partial* – means to show favoritism. We know that showing a bias, preference or even a prejudice is wrong – but that doesn't seem to stop it from happening. So what can we do? How do we respond to issues of favoritism, prejudice, and even racism in our workplaces, families and communities?

Jesus provided a great example of looking past cultural bias and discrimination in the book of John. At a time when the Jews and Samaritans harbored tremendous prejudice towards one another, Jesus initiated a conversation with a Samaritan woman. Not only did Jesus ignore racial bias, He also disregarded gender rules and cultural norms of the time by speaking with a woman. In spite of their differences Jesus showed her love. He shared the truth about God and addressed her sin, leaving her life forever changed. In the same way, *Jesus stepped past cultural differences and societal barriers to demonstrate His love for everyone: Jew, Samaritan, you and me. (John 4: 4-30)*

So where do we begin? Maybe you think racism is too big of a problem and there's nothing you can do about it. Maybe for others, you struggle to fully understand the complexity of the issues – your life experience makes it difficult to relate to the conversation. No matter where you fall on the issue – look to Jesus. Jesus, who came to die for *all* of us, no matter our race, ethnicity, background or baggage.

Jesus didn't play favorites when He offered us salvation – so why do we?

"But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." James 2:9

Dorothy Owen - Administration & Logistics Assistant, The Leprosy Mission Papua New-Guinea



Playing favorites – Part 2

“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3: 26-28

For Christians, our identity should be in Jesus. All other characteristics such as race, ethnicity, nationality, and gender take second place. And the more we surrender our lives to Jesus, the more pride, prejudice and even racism begin to fall away. So what steps can we take to be part of the change our society so desperately needs?

1. PRAY– Pray for people of other races by name. (If you can’t think of many, that says a lot). Pray for those in power, those instrumental in creating change. Finally, pray for yourself – that God would reveal and remove the prejudices in your own heart, whether big or small.
2. SPEAK – Start conversations with those whose lives and stories are different from yours.
3. LISTEN – Listen to the different experiences and opinions of others. A meal, especially in your home, is a great place to start.
4. CELEBRATE – Celebrate our diversity. The Bible describes heaven when every tribe, every nation, and every language will be represented and praising God together. What a day that will be! (*Revelation 7:9-10*)

So what can we do in the face of such complex issues such as racism, prejudice and social injustice? We can pray. And that prayer might need to begin with asking for God’s forgiveness when we judge an entire group of people. We can also talk to others and listen to their stories. And finally, we can celebrate our God-given differences.

Dorothy Owen - Administration & Logistics Assistant, The Leprosy Mission Papua New-Guinea



Jesus, the Disruptor! – Part 1 of 2

Mark 3: 4-5 "Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored."

Jesus was never far away from controversy. His words were rarely understood by the learned religious pundits nor His actions approved by them. One such instance was the healing of the man with a shrivelled hand at the synagogue in Galilee. On a sabbath day Jesus went to the synagogue, possibly to pray and preach the gospel. Its, now time to demonstrate the difference between grace and law; relationship and religiosity. The sabbath became the great healing day and the synagogue the great healing place for Jesus, the great healer. The man outside the synagogue had presented a great opportunity for Jesus to demonstrate the right relationship between God's love (relationship) and God's law (religion).

Jesus asked the man to stretch out his shrivelled hand. It is humanly impossible. The man in desperation and also hope did as instructed. He heeded to Jesus's command. The first act of faith was that of the man himself. Jesus did the rest. By putting his faith in Jesus, the man had received his healing. God never commands us to do something without enabling us to complete it, for our good. Healing was the outcome of a relationship of faith and love between God and man. Much can be said and preached about loving each other, but unless it is practiced, it is of little significance. Jesus sets the standard for our lives as His followers. Love is action. Gospel is action.

Jesus made the man stand in front of the Pharisees (religious scholars/leaders) for them to see and respond to his condition. Jesus was provoking them. He did so, publicly. Jesus was angry with the religious leaders. Their religiosity had overtaken their compassion. He was disappointed with their attitude. Jesus was addressing the hardness of heart of the Pharisees. They were not moved by the man's condition. Their concern was how to comply with religious practices and not act according to their purpose. The law was used to exclude and not include people in the ambit of God's love.

God's Law per se is perfect. Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them" (Matthew 5:17). He summarized the Law as love for God and love for man (Matthew 22:37-40). It is not the principle (spirit) of Law that is deficient, but its practice (religiosity). Jesus obeyed and was led by the calling of the Holy Spirit.

The Pharisees were more inclined to fulfil the letter of the law and not the spirit of the law. They had manipulated the law to establish their own power and authority over others. The healing on sabbath seriously challenged their control. Later on, they met the Herodians to hatch a plot to kill Jesus. To achieve their goals, they could collude with anyone. They were not interested in the healing of the man but in the threat to their position, authority and power. Their motive was self-propagation. Jesus had disrupted their stranglehold on people. He shook their very foundations of faith.

Jesus had demonstrated that Gospel is action. Words have to be translated into action to serve others, at the appropriate time, which is all the time, anywhere. There is never a wrong day to do something good in the sight of God. The purpose of sabbath is to keep aside time to worship God for His Holiness and compassionate love and be encouraged to do deeds which bring glory to God (Mark 2:27-28). God's commandments are for us to keep our eyes on Him and do what He desires. Religion can take us away from God's will. Relationship will restore it.

In gratitude, for His glory.

Authors in Alphabetical Order

Textuarium

Allan Ekstedt	9 October		Exodus 4,2-3	9 October
Belinda Pettman	24 October		Exodus 33,10-19	25 October
Bunmi Oluloto	25 October		1 Kings 3,3-15	3 October
Christine Osman	17 October		Psalms 36	17 October
Dan Izzett	18 October		Psalms 90,17	2 and 10 October
David Beazley	14 October		Psalms 104,14-20	14 October
David, king of Israel	6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 October		Psalms 137	5 October
Dorothy Owen	29, 30 October		Psalms 138	6 October
Eric Chollet	16 October		Psalms 139	12 October
Kalpana Shah	15 October		Psalms 140	13 October
Marta Risko	2 October		Psalms 141	19 October
Melonie Rajaratnam	21 October		Psalms 142	20 October
Moses Onoh MD	1 October		Proverbs 3,5-6	21 October
Otto Kingsley	4 October		Proverbs 11,25	16 October
Peter Laubscher	1 October		Isaiah 26,3	28 October
Pradeep Failbus	3, 23 October		Matthew 25	22 October
Raju PLN Dr	31 October		Mark 3,4-5	31 October
Raphael Mulamba	7 October		Mark 8,24	11 October
Silvano Perotti	8 October		Luke 6,38	24 October
Tim Burton	22 October		Luke 10,19	7 October
Trevor Durston	11 September		Luke 15,1-32	1 October
Yuek Ming Poon	10, 28 October		John 13,34	4 October
			Acts 9,15	8 October
			1 Cor 3,9	15 October
			1 Cor 12,4-10	18 October
			Galatians 3,26-28	30 October
			Hebrews 13,7	23 October
			James 2,9	29 October

The Bridge - TLM Daily Devotions

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