



TLM Daily Devotions

October 2020





Intro to the month of October

Turning into the 3rd trimester of this year – how time flies! Even more precious to think on and be strengthened in God’s timelessness, lordship on eternity, and infinite love. He is ultimate power amidst Covid-19 times and fears, bringing forth His will in ways we perhaps cannot understand yet. But later we surely will.

Here is The Bridge for October, binding us spiritually as fellowship together and tuning us permanently up by the miracle how people can belong together all around the Globe despite of thousands of differences, but along two major principles: loving God and loving the poorest of the poor.

In this set you also will find a new column inserted into the last informational page. I added the name of the countries, too, where our contributors are living at the moment. “At the moment” is true, as many of them are living in countries differing from their native land, fit to real missionaries or simply folks with a very broad view worldwide. This addition may be interesting in seeing even better: we really represent a very wide geographical range worldwide, except just one white spot: America...

Enjoy the messages and the Spirit behind!

Marta



What a wish.....!

May you be happy.

May you be well.

May you be safe.

May you find comfort.

May you have strength.

May you have courage.

May you find healing.

May you have peace.

May you have joy.

May you be blessed.

May you be filled with love and kindness – TODAY and ALWAYS!

GREAT! BUT TO GET THERE, YOU'LL NEED TO PRACTISE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING:-

Speak to people – there is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting!

Smile at people – it takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 muscles to smile!

Call people by name – it's the sweetest music to anyone's ears to hear their name!

Be friendly and helpful – to have friends, be a friend to others!

Be cordial – do everything with genuine pleasure!

Be interested in people – you can like most people if you really try!

Be generous with praise – and be cautious with criticism!

Be considerate of the feelings of others – it will be appreciated!

Be thoughtful of the opinions of others – ultimately God's opinion alone counts!

Be alert in offering service – what counts most in life is what we can do for others!

Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith.

*And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of GOD,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which GOD prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

REMEMBER, for others to see Jesus in you?.....

A Jesus person has a mind through which Christ thinks,

A Jesus person is a voice through which Christ speaks,

A Jesus person is a heart through which Christ loves,

A Jesus person is a hand through which Christ helps, etc. –Amen



“...for the good....” – Part 30

Are you living with disappointment?

What happens when you get disappointed? Often, we lose our hope. We feel that nothing is changing and our efforts are not leading to the change we hoped for or desired. It's at this point where we can so easily give up. But if we look at disappointment in the Bible, we discover that it was what they did with their disappointment that gave them the victory in the end. Disappointment can lead to fear and fear can kill off all hope inside of us.

Mary and Martha (*John 11*) were disappointed because when their brother, Lazarus, got ill and they called for Jesus, He did not seem to do anything about their urgent cries for help. Things got worse and their brother died. Jesus, their best friend, the one who could have healed Lazarus, seemed to ignore their cries for help and didn't even turn up for the funeral.

You can just imagine the disappointment.

When Jesus did come, that disappointment was openly displayed. *“Jesus, if you had been here, my brother would not have died,”* said Martha. When Mary saw Jesus, she said the same thing, *“If you had been here my brother would not have died.”* In other words, where were you Jesus? Why didn't you come? Why didn't you answer our cries for help? Why, why, why? Today we may have many whys. Why did the Queen not mention the need for prayer (in her broadcast about Coronavirus)? Why have the Government not issued a call for a National Day of Prayer? Why are their mixed messages from the Government at times? Why can't they get it right? Why are we suffering the way we are? Why does it seem like there are no answers to the problems we face? Why hasn't God answered our prayers? We were told that there is no vaccine and perhaps a vaccine will never be found. What is going to happen to us all?

Disappointment, despair, discouragement. All this leads to our hope being eaten away.

I was told last week by someone who knows, that the letter I received from the Queen was very significant – as normally when a certain subject is raised by a member of the public, there is a certain written response from the Palace to each letter received on this subject. The fact that my letter was so different from others meant that the response was significant. I had hope in my heart that our beloved Queen would at least urge her subjects to pray. I have to say I was disappointed when the hope I had at her mentioning prayer in her speech on VE day was not fulfilled. There may well be a reason behind the scenes why this was not done, but it is still disappointing and some have expressed that to me. In every disappointment we have a choice. Do we dwell on the disappointment, the discouragement and the despair, or do we continue to trust in God for a miracle? Mary and Martha were keenly disappointed, and this led to an end of their hope of every seeing their brother made whole again in this life. Jesus then issued a command to “Remove the stone” from the tomb. At that point everyone would have looked at Martha. Martha was the eldest sister and because of this, she would have had to give her permission for the stone to be removed. She said, “But Lord he has been dead for four days – his body is decomposing –

it's too late – he's gone" (my paraphrase). Jesus response was to basically say to her, "Martha, trust me!" She decided to trust Jesus despite her disappointment and of course when she did a miracle happened and Lazarus was raised from the dead.

We too have a choice.

Right now, people across the world are living with many disappointments. Life is not turning out the way we thought it would. Do we let our disappointment lead us to despair and discouragement and eventually to lose our hope, or do we decide to trust in our incredible God and allow him to show us a miracle?

Today, and every day, I choose to put my faith in our supernatural God – I choose to pray, I choose to believe he has the answers, I choose to trust in him – are you ready to do the same? Are you ready to lay your fears, your disappointments, your discouragements and your despair aside, and trust in God? If so – let's pray with hope in our hearts, with faith running through our veins and with the belief that God is doing something spectacular in our day.

We just need to trust in him like Martha did and believe for our future.....remember what I said last week – your prayers are working. God is moving. The signs are there – let's not give up but continue to trust him and pray!

Written by **Nancy Goudie**, author and motivational speaker. She initiated "Every Friday, National Day of Prayer "Heal our Nation" – Scotland

Kindly shared by Christine Osman



Psalm 75

For the director of music. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A psalm of Asaph. A song.

¹ We praise you, God,
we praise you, for your Name is near;
people tell of your wonderful deeds.

² You say, "I choose the appointed time;
it is I who judge with equity.

³ When the earth and all its people quake,
it is I who hold its pillars firm.

⁴ To the arrogant I say, 'Boast no more,'
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horns.

⁵ Do not lift your horns against heaven;
do not speak so defiantly.'"

⁶ No one from the east or the west
or from the desert can exalt themselves.

⁷ It is God who judges:
He brings one down, he exalts another.

⁸ In the hand of the LORD is a cup
full of foaming wine mixed with spices;
he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth
drink it down to its very dregs.

⁹ As for me, I will declare this forever;
I will sing praise to the God of Jacob,

¹⁰ who says, "I will cut off the horns of all the wicked,
but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up."



Psalm 76

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm of Asaph. A song.

- ¹ God is renowned in Judah;
in Israel his name is great.
- ² His tent is in Salem,
his dwelling place in Zion.
- ³ There he broke the flashing arrows,
the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.
- ⁴ You are radiant with light,
more majestic than mountains rich with game.
- ⁵ The valiant lie plundered,
they sleep their last sleep;
not one of the warriors
can lift his hands.
- ⁶ At your rebuke, God of Jacob,
both horse and chariot lie still.
- ⁷ It is you alone who are to be feared.
Who can stand before you when you are angry?
- ⁸ From heaven you pronounced judgment,
and the land feared and was quiet—
- ⁹ when you, God, rose up to judge,
to save all the afflicted of the land.
- ¹⁰ Surely your wrath against mankind brings you praise,
and the survivors of your wrath are restrained.
- ¹¹ Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them;
let all the neighboring lands
bring gifts to the One to be feared.
- ¹² He breaks the spirit of rulers;
he is feared by the kings of the earth.



The experience that shapes us

Elisha no longer saw Elijah. 2 Kings 2:12

You have the right to lean on Elijah, the one God gave you for guidance, but remember that the day will come when he will be taken from you. You say to yourself: "But I cannot continue my journey without Elijah", yet God wants to teach you to move forward without him.

Elisha is *alone* to cross the Jordan (v. 14), symbol of separation. You too have to cross your Jordan River on your own, without support, without anyone who can take this responsibility for you. Now you need to put into practice what you have learned. There is no point in saying, "I can't do it." You are faced with a new experience and you have to face it. Relying on God, you have to cross your Jordan alone.

Elisha is *alone* in Jericho (v. 15), where Elijah had done great things. You are afraid of taking a bold step and putting God to the test. But if you stay true to what you learned from Elijah, God will give you a sign of his presence.

Elisha is *alone* in Bethel (v. 23). There you will not know what to do either, it will be the end of your wisdom, it is the wisdom of God that will intervene.

When you are on the verge of despair, when you feel completely at your end, stand firm, stay true to God and his triumphant truth in making your life a source of blessing.

Practice what "your Elijah" taught you, but no longer seek his help. Use his cloak, and pray.

Resolve to trust God alone.

L'expérience qui nous forme

Élisée ne vit plus Élie. 2 Rois 2:12

Vous avez le droit de vous appuyer sur Élie, celui que Dieu vous a donné pour vous guider, mais n'oubliez pas que le jour viendra où il vous sera enlevé. Vous vous dites : « Mais je ne peux pas poursuivre ma route sans Élie », pourtant Dieu veut vous apprendre à avancer sans lui.

Élisée est seul pour passer le Jourdain (v. 14), symbole de la séparation. Vous avez vous aussi à traverser tout seul votre Jourdain, sans soutien, sans personne qui peut prendre cette responsabilité à votre place. Il vous faut maintenant mettre en pratique ce que vous avez appris. Il ne sert à rien de dire : « Je n’y arriverai pas. » Vous êtes confronté à une nouvelle expérience et vous devez y faire face. Vous appuyant sur Dieu, il vous faut franchir votre Jourdain seul.

Élisée est seul à Jéricho (v. 15), où Élie avait fait de grandes choses. Vous craignez de prendre une initiative hardie et de mettre Dieu à l’épreuve. Mais si vous restez fidèle à ce que vous avez appris avec Élie, Dieu vous accordera un signe de sa présence.

Élisée est seul à Béthel (v. 23). Là, vous non plus ne saurez que faire, ce sera la fin de votre sagesse, c’est la sagesse de Dieu qui interviendra. Au moment où vous êtes sur le point de désespérer, où vous vous sentez complètement à bout, tenez ferme, demeurez fidèle à Dieu et sa vérité triomphant en vous fera de votre vie une source de bénédiction.

Mettez en pratique ce que « votre Élie » vous a enseigné, mais ne cherchez plus son secours.

Servez-vous de son manteau, et priez. Prenez la résolution de vous confier en Dieu seul.

Reverend Elie FOFOLO - Born on August 5, 1964, son of a Baptist Pastor, both parents died. I am a pastor of vocation and formation, in 2001 I had my degree in Theology at the Protestant University in Congo (U.P.C). After working as a Pastor in the local Church of Kingabwa 1 from 2004 to 2011, I had a meeting with Angelika Piefer who headed the Coordination of the Mission against Leprosy in the Democratic Republic of Congo, from where I had this passion for people affected by Leprosy and I invited Angelika to come to World Leprosy Day in our church on Sunday 29/01/2012, in Kingabwa. This work led us to discover two girls from the same family with signs of leprosy, and their brother ended up being infected, but all three were treated and in good health. This sparked this passion to work as a volunteer in raising awareness, mobilization and the relationship with the local churches of the platform "Church of Christ in Congo" (E.C.C in acronym). - In July 2019, I obtained the Master in Psychotrauma, at the University of Kinshasa, at the Faculty of Medicine. Training that allows me to better listen to and accompany people who suffer trauma and stress for biopsychosocial care. - I am married to only one woman, Madame Espérance since 16/10/1988. From this union God gave us five children including two girls and three boys. Just like Abraham and Sarah, my wife and I, are willing to give up everything and go where the need for the Mission is felt. - Elie Fofolo is currently pastor at the local church of Masina 3, the 15th Congo Baptist Community in Kinshasa



“...there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Proverbs 18.24

I don't suppose there is anybody reading or hearing this who is not affected by the current world health crisis. Some may have been bereaved in traumatic ways; some may have been ill and feared for their lives; nearly everyone will have been affected in one way and another. Many will have been separated from loved ones, losing those personal and affectionate contacts that mean so much. God has made us for relationships, and relationships are suffering at the moment!

Knowing the plight of so many people, I feel privileged to be relatively unaffected in terms of health, work and welfare. But I have felt frustrated at being unable to do more that is directly helpful. Many of you, of course, in the Leprosy Mission's work, are doing just that!

For me, although the suspension of normal life has been hard, it has created opportunities for some of those things which get put off for another time! Now I *have* time, to use and not to waste, to do some thinking and praying and reflecting, -about what God may teach me through this experience, which might not have been so easily taught in 'normal' times.

One thing which has touched me repeatedly is that the coronavirus restrictions and precautions can give me some tiny insights into what it must be like for those affected by leprosy. In public I have to wear a mask; people keep a one or two metre separation; we cannot shake hands or hug or touch each other in those ways which are so basic to human fulfilment and wellbeing. We feel what it is to be lonely in a crowd, to be distanced by those we were close to; we are suspicious and fearful of infection through touch or closeness, through sharing a seat or a pen or anything another person has touched. So in some small ways I hope God can teach me what living with leprosy is like. I can *almost* say, 'at last I know a little of what you feel, of how you are treated'.

In this circumstance the closeness of God becomes more precious, the story of Jesus touching the man with leprosy becomes more real. Isolated by 'covid-19', I might long to touch and be touched, to gather with friends, to speak closely without the impersonal remoteness of mask or screen.

I believe and hope that in such circumstances the promise of God, that he is the *“friend who sticks closer than a brother”* becomes more real and meaningful. Perhaps only in this unusual need can I discover what, in a more complacent, privileged, easy life, I lose awareness of. I can say to God with a new depth of truth, *“All my longings lie open before you, Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you”* (Psalm 38:9), and I can discover his close presence in ways I might not otherwise have known.

May God bless you in your onward journey with 'covid-19', with leprosy, or with any other human experience through which we discover more of God and his love for us.

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.



Lift up your eyes

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" John 4:35 (KJV)

The disciples needed to lift up their eyes and see what Jesus saw! They saw problems and difficulties where Jesus saw opportunities and new beginnings.

I think we all know the background and the context when Jesus invited his disciples to lift their eyes. They were on a journey from Galilee to Judea and Jerusalem. Normally they avoided Samaria, but this time they "had to go through Samaria". Jesus had a special purpose to take this way. When Jesus sat down at the well outside Sychar he saw in advance a harvest for the Kingdom of God. Jesus saw a woman and a city in need. The disciples saw nothing.

Jesus was ready to cross many borders in order to reach a woman who needed her life changed. Not only the geographical border to the despised region of Samaria but also a religious border. "Jews did not associate with Samaritans." They had different opinions on how to worship God. Jesus was ready to cross a cultural border as well when he took the initiative to talk with a woman. This was not appropriate according to the culture. The reason was that Jesus clearly saw a harvest for God's Kingdom.

The disciples saw nothing. They were so full of preconceptions and practical matters so they didn't notice a woman in big need. When they entered the city of Sychar they wanted to leave as soon as possible. They saw no city "white already to harvest" but a dark city condemned by God.

What a difference between the attitude of Jesus and the disciples! What a difference in what they saw! The disciples needed to lift up their eyes and see new perspectives, new understandings and new possibilities.

I can often hear Jesus asking me to lift up my eyes. It's too easy for me to look down at the spot before my feet and to look at others and different situations in a very human way. When I look down I see limitations and restrictions, but when I lift my eyes I can see visions and possibilities.

There is a huge difference between two birds. A hen is concentrated at the fenced area and the spot before her. The eagle may breath fresh air and see wonderful views and new perspectives when it soaring up.

Let's pray that we are able to lift up our eyes today and see like Jesus.

At the end of Jesus' time together with the group of twelve disciples he talked with them about his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. He also informed them that he will come back one day, his second coming. There again he invited them to lift their heads and eyes in a waiting position.

"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
Luc 21:28

I think we are very close to the wonderful and historical moment when Jesus will come back. Before that we have a task to do and a ministry to fulfill.

Let's lift up our eyes to see the white harvest and to be ready to welcome Jesus back!



Encapsulated life

“And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.” Mark 1,13b KJV

When in 1980 we started to build a church, a touching moment was the laying down of the symbolic foundation stone. This actually was a capsule made of special metal, with a message, a couple of documents, also the signatures of the then members of the church. These items had been placed into it as “greeting to the future”. The capsule was then hermetically closed and placed into the concrete of the foundation. There it rests for.... how long? Who knows... intact, protected from dust, water, damage, etc. Sometime maybe future generations will discover it, or maybe never.

This lovely memory came into my mind when reading yesterday Mark chapter 1. Many times I have read it, each time amazed by the simplicity, compactness and easy description of him. When at the faculty of theology we started learning Greek, it was based on the gospel of Mark, so easy even to starters.

As he describes the temptation of Jesus (1:12-13) is absolutely amazing. While Matthew gives a lengthy report (Matt 4:1-11), Mark presses it all into just one sentence. He expresses not just that process Jesus had worked through in the desert. But also gives an accurate and miniature summary of his entire life on earth, too. What Apostle Paul has written about (Phil 2:7-8) is fully covered by the few words of Mark, too. Surrounded by wild animals –angels ministered unto him. Can you imagine a sharper contrast than this?

Yes, this is what the coming to earth of our Saviour was like for Him! For him this human world meant wildness, cruelty, pain, dirt and suffering from the first moment until the last one! Eternity he had belonged to and temporarily left for our sake is pureness, light, presence and fullness of the Almighty! Jesus' existence is all THAT, as real God, real man. From that very existence arriving into our world: well, simply as amid “wild beasts”! – But it never influenced him. Nor settled on nor polluted him. Not the slightest damaging sign could ever be seen, heard or felt in his holy person. He remained intact and heavenly, pure as a young child, all along until death as young man: amidst “wild beasts”. His 33 years passed despite the hardest challenges and temptations: but like in a capsule! In perfect purity and protection. The situation of his life was among “wild beasts”, but the contents of it was “angelic”. But it never has been kept for his own sake! Jesus was not “l'art pour l'art” perfectness, demonstrating a life protected from sin! But he breathed out, spread out, diffused his inner heavenly spirit, his own purity, for transforming this world. This is what today and as long as the world exists is the only transforming force!

I remember some precious people who had such encapsulated lives. A very elderly, low classed woman in her deathbed, her only son not visiting her for years already full of hate and staying in the neighbouring room, nursed by her daughter-in-law: singing praises, hallelujah, diffusing blessing, seeing heaven and lifted up... ministered to by angels in this world of ‘wild animals’. Or an elderly Catholic lady from a previous neighbourhood, with an alcoholic husband shouting, swearing all day long: she in between murmuring constantly Our Father and the Rosary...all day long... another life focused on God ... Or the man condemned for over 20 years for grave robberies and other things: converted in the first years of prison, from then on praying-serving-witnessing to his ‘colleagues’, leading them to Christ behind the grills... Ministered to and ministering as angel, while surrounded by wild animals...

If I look on myself I am crying up:

*“Lord, have mercy on me! How much I am influenced, and tempted by this world, I am weak and fallible!
Seeking your face – however fearful of the “wild animals”, too. Amidst trials, storms, temptations and
pressing challenges, Lord, keep me protected in your love firmly and safe, capsulated, served by angels and
serving to your glory!”*

Marta Risko – country leader, TLM Hungary



“... for the good....” – Part 31

The steadfast love of the Lord

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3: 22 – 23

These days I always like to sing one hymn from the above verses of Lamentations, it cheers me up with the hope from our Lord during this lockdown and quarantine time at home. I think you may be very familiar with this hymn: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, new every morning, great is thy faithfulness, O Lord, great is thy faithfulness.” Even during this home bound time (under quarantine 14 days), I can see the beautiful view of the blue sky and the clear Himalayas from my balcony, usually mountains can’t be seen clearly during monsoon time (mid of June to mid of September), but the Lord granted me this breath-taking scenery to remind me of His faithfulness and love.

The National lockdown in Nepal had been last from 24 March to 21 July, and then everyone thought it is the time to release, back to normal life with many activities and gathering. However, the pandemic spread very fast since March, the number of confirmed cases increasing every day.

Due to the speedy rising number of confirmed cases, the local lockdown started again in some districts for about 2 weeks. Pokhara where I am living was also under lockdown for 10 days, however during the first day of lockdown, I was informed that I needed to have COVID 19 test, because one of our hospital staff had been confirmed positive a few days ago, and I had been with her in a meeting, so in order to follow the government policy for contact tracing, I was one of the group to be tested. This was not my first time to be tested, I had some symptoms of flu a month ago and had been sick for a few days, at that period I was advised to have my first test and the result was negative. Now the second test in August was negative too, I was so glad for the Lord’s protection and His mercy to me.

All of us working in the hospital in the frontline have to be alert and face different challenges. I realized my new normal life is bounded into two places – my home and my working place, the hospital. Actually the government has advised that elderly people (over 60 years old) and young children (under 12 years old) should not go out at all due to the high risk, but I am going to work as usual although my age is in high risk level, I trust the Lord protects me day by day, I always think a believer is never too old to outreach and care for others.

I praise the Lord for His provision during this unusual time, I have the good opportunity to attend the weekly online Bible course from Veritas College International from May to October, and also listened to the annual HK Bible conference for 10 days in August, sharing in different church groups in HK and Australia by Zoom facility, all these activities have refreshed my spiritual life, it is a bonus from God, His love and compassion are new every morning.

Encouragement and prayer support for co-workers is my daily ministry, most of them came to me to share of their ups and downs, worry about their family and their future.... I learnt so much to listen, to support and

bring them back to God's hand. My leprosy patients would like to chat with me every day, their smile and trust encouraged me, they always said I am the light to bright up their room. Every day I pray to God that I commit all my works and activities to Him, to ask Him to work through me, so that His plan for my life will reach their full fruition, to His praise and glory. God can't be limited by our limitations, our reservations, or our tendencies to settle or dream small.

*As we choose to live for Him—dedicated to and dependent on Him—He will bring about His plans for us.
Whatever we do can be done with Him, for Him, and only because of Him.*

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 with INF as Leprosy Nursing Advisor in Green Pastures Hospital. 2019 started second term with INF in Nepal as LNF leprosy Advisor.



Psalm 77

For the director of music. For Jeduthun. Of Asaph. A psalm.

¹ I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.
² When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.
³ I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.
⁴ You kept my eyes from closing;
I was too troubled to speak.
⁵ I thought about the former days,
the years of long ago;
⁶ I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:
⁷ "Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?
⁸ Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
⁹ Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"
¹⁰ Then I thought, "To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.
¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
¹² I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds."
¹³ Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?
¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.
¹⁵ With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
¹⁶ The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.
¹⁷ The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.
¹⁸ Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;

the earth trembled and quaked.

¹⁹Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.

²⁰You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.



Psalm 78

A maskil of Asaph.

- ¹ My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
- ² I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
³ things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.
- ⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
- ⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
⁶ so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
- ⁷ Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.
- ⁸ They would not be like their ancestors—
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.
- ⁹ The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows,
turned back on the day of battle;
¹⁰ they did not keep God's covenant
and refused to live by his law.
- ¹¹ They forgot what he had done,
the wonders he had shown them.
- ¹² He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors
in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.
- ¹³ He divided the sea and led them through;
he made the water stand up like a wall.
- ¹⁴ He guided them with the cloud by day
and with light from the fire all night.
- ¹⁵ He split the rocks in the wilderness
and gave them water as abundant as the seas;
¹⁶ he brought streams out of a rocky crag
and made water flow down like rivers.

¹⁷ But they continued to sin against him,
rebellling in the wilderness against the Most High.
¹⁸ They willfully put God to the test
by demanding the food they craved.
¹⁹ They spoke against God;
they said, "Can God really
spread a table in the wilderness?
²⁰ True, he struck the rock,
and water gushed out,
streams flowed abundantly,
but can he also give us bread?
Can he supply meat for his people?"
²¹ When the LORD heard them, he was furious;
his fire broke out against Jacob,
and his wrath rose against Israel,
²² for they did not believe in God
or trust in his deliverance.
²³ Yet he gave a command to the skies above
and opened the doors of the heavens;
²⁴ he rained down manna for the people to eat,
he gave them the grain of heaven.
²⁵ Human beings ate the bread of angels;
he sent them all the food they could eat.
²⁶ He let loose the east wind from the heavens
and by his power made the south wind blow.
²⁷ He rained meat down on them like dust,
birds like sand on the seashore.
²⁸ He made them come down inside their camp,
all around their tents.
²⁹ They ate till they were gorged—
he had given them what they craved.
³⁰ But before they turned from what they craved,
even while the food was still in their mouths,
³¹ God's anger rose against them;
he put to death the sturdiest among them,
cutting down the young men of Israel.
³² In spite of all this, they kept on sinning;
in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.
³³ So he ended their days in futility
and their years in terror.
³⁴ Whenever God slew them, they would seek him;
they eagerly turned to him again.
³⁵ They remembered that God was their Rock,
that God Most High was their Redeemer.
³⁶ But then they would flatter him with their mouths,
lying to him with their tongues;
³⁷ their hearts were not loyal to him,
they were not faithful to his covenant.
³⁸ Yet he was merciful;
he forgave their iniquities
and did not destroy them.
Time after time he restrained his anger

and did not stir up his full wrath.
³⁹ He remembered that they were but flesh,
a passing breeze that does not return.
⁴⁰ How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness
and grieved him in the wasteland!
⁴¹ Again and again they put God to the test;
they vexed the Holy One of Israel.
⁴² They did not remember his power—
the day he redeemed them from the oppressor,
⁴³ the day he displayed his signs in Egypt,
his wonders in the region of Zoan.
⁴⁴ He turned their river into blood;
they could not drink from their streams.
⁴⁵ He sent swarms of flies that devoured them,
and frogs that devastated them.
⁴⁶ He gave their crops to the grasshopper,
their produce to the locust.
⁴⁷ He destroyed their vines with hail
and their sycamore-figs with sleet.
⁴⁸ He gave over their cattle to the hail,
their livestock to bolts of lightning.
⁴⁹ He unleashed against them his hot anger,
his wrath, indignation and hostility—
a band of destroying angels.
⁵⁰ He prepared a path for his anger;
he did not spare them from death
but gave them over to the plague.
⁵¹ He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt,
the firstfruits of manhood in the tents of Ham.
⁵² But he brought his people out like a flock;
he led them like sheep through the wilderness.
⁵³ He guided them safely, so they were unafraid;
but the sea engulfed their enemies.
⁵⁴ And so he brought them to the border of his holy land,
to the hill country his right hand had taken.
⁵⁵ He drove out nations before them
and allotted their lands to them as an inheritance;
he settled the tribes of Israel in their homes.
⁵⁶ But they put God to the test
and rebelled against the Most High;
they did not keep his statutes.
⁵⁷ Like their ancestors they were disloyal and faithless,
as unreliable as a faulty bow.
⁵⁸ They angered him with their high places;
they aroused his jealousy with their idols.
⁵⁹ When God heard them, he was furious;
he rejected Israel completely.
⁶⁰ He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh,
the tent he had set up among humans.
⁶¹ He sent the ark of his might into captivity,
his splendor into the hands of the enemy.
⁶² He gave his people over to the sword;

he was furious with his inheritance.
⁶³ Fire consumed their young men,
and their young women had no wedding songs;
⁶⁴ their priests were put to the sword,
and their widows could not weep.
⁶⁵ Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
as a warrior wakes from the stupor of wine.
⁶⁶ He beat back his enemies;
he put them to everlasting shame.
⁶⁷ Then he rejected the tents of Joseph,
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;
⁶⁸ but he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loved.
⁶⁹ He built his sanctuary like the heights,
like the earth that he established forever.
⁷⁰ He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheep pens;
⁷¹ from tending the sheep he brought him
to be the shepherd of his people Jacob,
of Israel his inheritance.
⁷² And David shepherded them with integrity of heart;
with skillful hands he led them.



Draw me

“Draw me away, we will run after you” Songs of Songs 1:4 (NKJV)

“For No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me draw them to me . . .” John 6:44 (NLT)

Ever since man fell in the Garden of Eden, he had become prone to hiding himself among the trees of human, earthly activities. From there, even though he longs for the treasured fellowship of His Creator, he hardly makes the first move to contact God. God first calls with divine longing for His earth-trapped friend hidden away from the reach of His love and benevolence in the hustle and bustle of earthly toils . . .

“Adam !!! Where are you ?

This is the truth in every case of a man coming to God. There is no man, all by himself that can rise to experience the joys of eternity, if God has not first done the work of grace that pulls a man away from the enticing preoccupations of this transient world. Every success at turning to God in communion with Him is but a response to Him, Who first calls the man. God is always previous. Man, at the best of his initiative, only responds to a quiet divine prompting.

Therefore, this is my heart cry especially at this difficult period:

Lord, Call me, beckon me, draw me and give me corresponding grace to respond to You.

Father, Call me Let me hear your voice amongst the rustlings of the trees of this earthly garden. Let your still, small voice distill quietly but deliberately into my soul. Let me hear your longings. Let me hear your whistling. Let me hear you call for my soul to make a sweet appointment with Thee . . . Thou lover of my soul!

Saviour, please **beckon visibly to my soul**. Speak through situations and circumstances to shift my attention to you. Remove the insensitivity of heart and focus that blinds me to your numerous open invitations for my soul to come dine with Thee. Let me see your loving beckoning at every junction of life and ministry. Please, fail not to call me as you did Adam in Eden Saying where are you O sinner That I may be saved from ruin

Dear Spirit of grace, please **draw me, pull me**, and hijack my focus from earthly toils and joys. Cut away the bands and bonds that bind me to this wicked world. Take my hand and pull me away. Take my eyes and fill it with the sights of heaven. Take my mind and occupy it with sweet communion.

There is no other time we ever need God more than this hour we find ourselves in our planet. The pandemic, the flood, the insecurity, the political and economic turmoil that has made us shut in and enforced social distance on us are signals that God is calling us to **come**. When we see ourselves going through loneliness, depression anxiety may **He** cause our heart to know He needs our attention and our ear to hear is **bidding**....

“Come to me, all who are weary and carry heavy burden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light” Matthew 11:28-30 NLT

May His grace enabled us to yield to his call that we may run after Him.



“Blessed are....”

Psalm 119:1 “Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of God.”

David in this long psalm tells us the benefit of the law. The law has not to be understood as applied by the phariseans who were very legalistic. The law must be understood in the sense of its etymology. The law in Hebrew translates into Tora which means: teaching. V 12 *“Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees”.* V 14 *“I rejoice in following your statutes.”*

In this context, we can see that the law in the Old Testament is the will of God revealed to Israel. This is the instruction of a father given by love to his children. The great difference between our God and the numberless of gods created by men is that our God speaks to us. He comes into relationship with us. In the gospel of John ch.1 it is said: *“In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him, all things were made; without him nothing was made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness...”* In Psalm 119 v 105 we read this:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Who says light says darkness also.

We are in a darkness world full of unknown things. In this time of pandemic due to the covid-19, we can measure how fragile we are. We definitely need a light to lead us with confidence in the future. Jesus talking about himself says he is the light of the world.

Your word is a lamp to my feet means that this light illuminates our steps, one after the other.

Recently I was walking along a beautiful gorge. Suddenly I had to cross a small and narrow tunnel in the mountain. Fortunately it was not very long but anyhow it was dark. I could not see where to put my foot. I needed a torch to keep my walk secure. That small light was shining right in front of me. But it was enough for me to move forward until I was out of the tunnel. We are surrounded by darkness, difficulties to overcome, illness, loneliness. In our mission we have many challenges to face. But God in his goodness assures us of his presence one step at a time. We don't need to see all the way long but just where we put our foot. This is what we need to walk in security.

God is with us as He has been with the mission since the beginning.

May God bless you all.

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.



Building my house on the Rock

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. Mathew 7: 24 - 25

I grew by the coast near Cape Town. We often saw severe storms, with the wind and rain howling around our house at night. I was often worried that our house would not be secure in the storm. My father used to check the windows and doors and assured me, ‘Don’t worry, we will be safe’.

During the Covid-19 pandemic I often feel we are in such a huge storm again. Actually, more than one storm: loss of thousands of lives, poverty, division, racism, all causing drama the world over. I felt that worry of my childhood again, that my house may not be safe against the storms.

Then I came across a beautiful meditation that reminded me of having my house built on a secure rock.

I discovered three ways of building a strong house on the Rock. That means putting my trust in God and growing in faith during a storm:

1. Keep noticing God’s fingerprints in and around my life. My eyes need to see God’s work and my faith will grow stronger, as I learn to trust God. The key insight is this: God is always working in our lives, under all circumstances, also during storms. I can stop regularly to reflect and see God’s beauty amidst the storm. God will remind me that my house is safe in him as my Rock.
2. Lament: to weep over the brokenness of my own life and of the world.
During a storm we usually want to blame and scapegoat others for all that is wrong. Yet, God gives us space to weep over the brokenness of all that is wrong. We can express our fear and anguish to God – with brutal honesty like the Psalmists in Psalm 12 and 86. God is big enough to take it.
The primary difference between lament and complaining is TRUST!
As God is close to the broken-hearted, my trust in him grows, knowing that my house is safely on the Rock which is him.
3. Bless our enemies rather than fight against them
In Mathew 5:44 Jesus challenges us for a radical change of heart: to pray for our enemies instead of cursing them. Taking such a radically different position, again builds my faith so that my house will be safe during the storm.

God can set me free of enemies who haunt me, through the process of my heart being changed, praying for them and not cursing them. In this way God’s mercy can flow into my life, and through my life into this world.

(continue)



Erna Möller is a social worker with TLM Southern Africa since 1987.



In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.

Judges 21 v 25

I have lived 25 years in France, 3 years in Indonesia and 5 in India; 33 years, over 2/3 of my adult life. English spoken by the young and the not so young in the UK has changed. Some new phrases annoy me, particularly "Do what is right." It is in the newspapers on social media, in directions from politicians and used by many people. It seems to be used as a phrase of encouragement. Encouragement to what, to think just of themselves or to think for the good of the whole. The reason it annoys me is that I feel behind it is the thought if you do what I think is right it is right, but if you don't do what I think is right it is wrong. So often there is no one right or correct way but many, at other times there is no way that is right and so one tries one best to do what is the least harmful, or upsetting.

In the last few chapters in Judges there are some strange stories, which are introduced with the sentence In those days there was no king in Israel Judges 17 v 6 and also at the beginning of chapters 18, and 19 and in the last verse of the book. The first and last add and all the people did what was right in their own eyes. It looks as though no one really thought of anyone else, but just got along by themselves. Antony Philips in his book David writes, "*In other words there was a total breakdown in law and order.*" People acted in their own interests without much thought for the other.

Today life is strange, for many it is the first time they have experience restriction of movement, or the need for a document to leave the house and find it hard to accept. Can I do something else, stretching the rules a little, just a little and suggest it's OK, it is right?

There are many movements, some more extreme than others, telling us what we should do, what we should eat or more often what we shouldn't eat because of the way it is produced is bad for the environment, bad for our health etc. Then there is the criticism for the type of transport we should or shouldn't use. At the moment electricity is considered best, but where will we find enough electricity if everyone is charging their cars, I am sure you can think of many examples.

Of course we do need to seek what is right, to seek God's way, but we must also be tolerant and listen to others, they are also seeking to do what is right. We may need to avoid extremes, and take the middle path and stand up for what we believe; we may think a law is wrong if we disobey it we have to expect the consequences; and remember what we do may effect others.

We pray for wisdom and discernment in how we react in these strange and unsettled times.

Elisabeth Barnett retired Occupational Therapist TLM 1979-88, now living in France.



Love in action

Matthew 5 to 8

Of all the gospel writers Matthew is the most orderly. He never gets out his material haphazardly. If in Matthew one thing follows another in a certain sequence, there is always a reason for that sequence: and it is so here on these chapters. In Chapters 5, 6 and 7 Matthew has given us Sermon of Mount. That is to say, that in these chapters he has given us his account of the *words* of Jesus: and now in chapter 8 he gives us his account of the *deeds* of Jesus. Chapter 5, 6, and 7 show us the divine wisdom in speech; Chapter 8 shows us the divine love in action.

Chapter 8 is the chapter of miracles. In this chapter there are seven miraculous happenings.

1. There is a healing of person affected by leprosy (verses 1-4). Here we see Jesus touching the untouchable. The person with leprosy was banished from the society of men: to touch him, and even to approach him, was break the law. Here we see the man who was kept at arm's length by all men wrapped around with pity and the compassion of the love of God.
2. There is healing of the Centurion's servant (verses 5-13). The Centurion was a Gentile, and therefore the strict orthodox Jew would have said that he was merely fuel for the fires of hell; he was servant of a foreign government and of an occupying power and therefore the nationalistic Jew would have said that he was a candidate for assassination and not for assistance; the servant was slave and the slave was no more than a living tool. Here we see the love of God going out to help the man who all men hated and the slave whom all men despised.
3. There is the healing of Peter's wife's mother (Verses 14-15). This miracle took place in the humble home in Palestine. There was no publicity; there were no admiring audience; there was only Jesus, few disciples and the family members. Here we see the infinite love of the God of the entire universe displaying all His power when there was none but the circle of the family to see.
4. There was the healing of all the sick who were brought to the doors at the evening time (Verses 16 and 17). Here we see the sheer universality of the love of God in action. To Jesus no one was ever useless and a nuisance; he had no hours when he was on duty and hours when he was off duty. Any man could come to him at any time and receive the willing, gracious help of the love of God.
5. There was the reaction of the scribe (Verses 18 to 22). On the face of it this little section appears to be out of place in a chapter on miracles; but this is the miracle of personality. That any scribe should be moved to follow Jesus is nothing less than a miracle. Somehow this scribe had forgotten his devotion to the scribal Law; somehow although Jesus contradicted all the things to which he had dedicated his life, he saw in Jesus not an enemy but as friend, not an opponent but a master . It must have been instinctive reaction. That the scribe saw in Jesus a splendor and a magnificence he had never seen in any other man. The miracle happened, and the scribe's heart ran out to Jesus Christ.
6. There is a miracle of calming the storm (Verses 23-27). Here we see Jesus dealing with the wave and the billows which threaten to engulf a man. Here in the love of God bringing peace and serenity into tumult and confusion.

7. There is the healing of the Gerasene demoniac (Verses 28 -34). In the ancient world people believed that all illness was due to the action of devils. Here we see the power of God dealing with the power of devil; here we see God's goodness invading earth's evil. God's love going out against evil's malignancy and malevolence. Here we see the goodness and the love which save men triumphantly overcoming the evil and the hatred which ruin men.

Pradeep and Sarah Failbus - Worked for 39 years and 29 years with TLM(most at Anandaban,Nepal) Now retired and settled at: Kathgodam, District Nainital Uttarakhand, India



Psalm 79

A psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple,
they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.
- ² They have left the dead bodies of your servants
as food for the birds of the sky,
the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.
- ³ They have poured out blood like water
all around Jerusalem,
and there is no one to bury the dead.
- ⁴ We are objects of contempt to our neighbors,
of scorn and derision to those around us.
- ⁵ How long, LORD? Will you be angry forever?
How long will your jealousy burn like fire?
- ⁶ Pour out your wrath on the nations
that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms
that do not call on your name;
- ⁷ for they have devoured Jacob
and devastated his homeland.
- ⁸ Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;
may your mercy come quickly to meet us,
for we are in desperate need.
- ⁹ Help us, God our Savior,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins
for your name's sake.
- ¹⁰ Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"
Before our eyes, make known among the nations
that you avenge the outpoured blood of your servants.
- ¹¹ May the groans of the prisoners come before you;
with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die.
- ¹² Pay back into the laps of our neighbors seven times
the contempt they have hurled at you, Lord.
- ¹³ Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will praise you forever;
from generation to generation
we will proclaim your praise.



Psalm 80

For the director of music. To the tune of "The Lilies of the Covenant." Of Asaph. A psalm.

- ¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might; come and save us.
³ Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.
⁴ How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?
⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.
⁷ Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.
⁸ You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
⁹ You cleared the ground for it,
and it took root and filled the land.
¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
¹¹ Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.
¹² Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
¹³ Boars from the forest ravage it,
and insects from the fields feed on it.
¹⁴ Return to us, God Almighty!
Look down from heaven and see!
Watch over this vine,
¹⁵ the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.
¹⁶ Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;
at your rebuke your people perish.
¹⁷ Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.
¹⁹ Restore us, LORD God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.



Job: God's pride and Satan's envy

Part 1 of 5 – From a test to a testimony

God refers to Job in the Bible as a righteous man (Ezekiel 14:14). He was well pleased with Job commending him to Satan as "my servant" (Job 1:8). He took pride in Job's character, a blameless righteous servant. Then we have Satan ('the accuser') who deceives people through many tricks to make them doubt God's goodness. His ulterior motive is to separate people from the love of God. His deception which began in the Garden of Eden with Eve and Adam had never stopped. Closer a person gets to God's love, greater will be Satan's attacks on that person. He spares no one.

One such test of faith that the Bible records for our benefit is from Job's life. Satan wanted to prove that Job's loyalty to God was conditional to the blessings of riches he received from God. Satan's position was that Job was basically a hypocrite. He maintained that if Job were less fortunate, he would surely curse God. The wager between Satan and God was to test Job's faith in God in times of severe personal grief. It was an extreme test of faith. God had complete trust in Job's loyalty. He permitted Satan to destroy Job's wealth. This was a huge blow to Job who owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred asses and many slaves.

Job had seven sons and three daughters who did not fear God. They had frequently indulged themselves in 'eating and drinking'. As a God fearing father Job offered sacrifices to God in case his children had sinned. While he was making one such offering, he received the news that all his children were killed. Soon, Job's troubles got even worse. Four messengers came with news of one catastrophe after another. By the end of the day, Job had lost all his children, his animals, his crops and his servants.

Disasters struck Job repeatedly and rapidly without respite as in a tsunami. Job was devastated. He lost everything in life. Even after losing all his material riches Job refused to accuse God for his misfortune. Satan upped the wager, wanting to afflict Job's body. God permitted him to "strike his (Job's) flesh and bones" but had to "spare his (Job's) life". God set the limit for Satan in inflicting suffering on Job.

Soon Job's body was covered with painful sores from head to toe. He used a potsherd to scrape himself to relieve the horrible pain (Job 2:8). Job's wife implored him to "curse God and die." Job rebuked his wife. He refused to charge God with any wrongdoing (Job 2;9-10). He "did not sin with his lips". He felt being abandoned by God and longed for an audience with Him to plead his case.

Satan inflicted terrible suffering to Job expecting him to hate and accuse God for his calamities. He presumed that the relationship between Job and God was based on material wealth. In reality it was a spiritual relationship of faith. So, Job's reaction to the tragedy was as much of importance to God as to Satan. Throughout his suffering, Job pleaded with God to present his case but never accused God as being unfair. Job was perplexed by God's silence. Some of his friends had charged him with carrying some hidden sin and his suffering was God's punishment. But God gave Job wisdom to go through his trials.

Job remained faithful to God till he was vindicated. God's faith in Job was justified. He blessed Job with greater wealth than in the past and long life. An amazing real life story that has invaluable lessons on faith for each believer since in this world as we follow Christ, we will face Satan's attacks.

Can we remain faithful and glorify God in times of severe personal suffering?

In gratitude, for His glory.

Dr PLN Raju - Former Director (Resource Mobilization) The Leprosy Mission Trust India New Delhi



Job: God's pride and Satan's envy

Part 2 of 5 - Godly advice magnifies God's glory

Job was devastated after he lost all his wealth and children. He tore his clothes, shaved his head in mourning, went and sat on the town's ash heap outside the city walls, a place for outcasts. Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar had arrived and sat with him in silence for seven days, the standard period of mourning for an important person. Job was scratching his body with a potsherd to relieve the pain from body sores inflicted by Satan (Job 2:8). They came to "comfort and console" Job, share in his grief. They cared for Job. They were stunned by Job's misfortune since they considered him a good man.

Job's sorrow was not loss of his material wealth but the silence of God to his pleas. He never asked God to restore his wealth. He only sought the opportunity from God to represent his case. He never accused God of injustice even when his wife had told him to "curse" God (Job 2:9-10). Job's friends never really understood the source of Job's pain. They believed that God would not allow a good/godly person like Job to suffer. For them, a good/godly person should have a good life and an evil person a terrible life.

Initially their conversation glorified God. Later they tried to convince Job that his suffering was the result of some hidden sin. They attributed some wrongful deeds to Job without any justification, to instil a sense of guilt in him (Job 22:4-11). They became the accusers on behalf of Satan, possibly unwittingly, concluding that Job was guilty of sinning against God. This is a simplistic interpretation of relationship between God and Man, limited to God's provision to satisfy Man's physical needs. They exhorted Job to repent for his secret sins and make peace with God. Their advice was completely misguided. Suffering is not necessarily a result of sin (John 9:3). Sometimes God permits trials in a person's life to bring glory to Himself.

Satan had blinded the thinking of Job's three friends. They made grandiose statements about God without any understanding. They were presumptuous in claiming that they understand how God rules the world. This is hypocrisy, a sin since God's thoughts are beyond human understanding (Isaiah 55:8-9). They rebuked and not consoled Job, repeatedly telling him that he was being punished for his hidden sins. They spoke out of the understanding of the spirit of the world. Elihu, who was there with Job's friends finally got angry with them for being cruel and heartless to Job (Job 32:2-3). He charged them with making unsubstantiated allegations and not being able to counter Job's assertions of blamelessness (Job 32:12).

Acknowledging the presence of the Spirit of God in his life (Job 33:3-4) Elihu then counselled Job on God's glory (Job 32-37). He said: God speaks in many ways, not necessarily the way we wish to perceive (Job 33:14-15), God does no evil or any wrong (Job 34:10), God is mighty and does not despise anyone (Job 36:5), God does not take his eyes off the righteous (Job 36:7), God is a great teacher (Job 36:22), God is beyond our understanding (Job 36:26), God controls nature (Job 37:14-15), God is exalted in power, justice and righteousness oppressing none (Job 37:23), God cares for all who are wise in heart (Job 37:24).

Effectively Elihu had advised Job that the way to understand his suffering was through justifying / upholding God and not in justifying himself. Focus your mind on God's sovereignty and not on your claims of righteousness/blamelessness. The advice must be relevant to the context as demonstrated by Elihu. It should glorify God and not otherwise. Godly advice is possible only by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Godly advice affirms and reflects God's glory

In gratitude, for His glory.

Dr PLN Raju - Former Director (Resource Mobilization) The Leprosy Mission Trust India New Delhi



Job: God's pride and Satan's envy

Part 3 of 5 - Response of a righteous man for trials

God was always in control of Job's situation. God did not cause Job's troubles. He was confident of Job's faithfulness in all circumstances (Job 1:8). Satan presumed that Job's loyalty to God was because of the riches given by God. But God wanted to demonstrate to Satan that God's people trust Him for reasons beyond material riches. Satan could afflict Job only upto the limit that God had permitted (Job 1:12; Job 2:6-7). He was not permitted to take Job's life. But Job was not privy to these facts.

Job was devastated and perplexed by the tsunami of misfortunes that hit him. His lament indicated a state of despondency and spiritual depression (Job 7:20). He cursed the day he was born and wished it been removed from time itself. He was pained that God had abandoned him (Job 30:20). His sorrow was not loss of his fortune but the silence of God. He only wanted audience with God to plead his case (Job 13:3).

Job remained loyal to God even when he lost all his possessions. He kept his trust in God even under most trying circumstances. He refused to deny the goodness of God when his wife pressured him to do so (Job 2:9-10). He did not curse God for his misfortunes or accuse Him of any wrong doing. Job pledged his allegiance to God with a solemn oath (Job 27:2-4). He served God with reverential fear in his heart.

Job charged his three friends for not supporting him in his pleas to God. He warned them not to speak wrongfully about God. He often quoted their own words in his arguments against them. He challenged them to prove him wrong of his claims of blamelessness, which they could not. The more they accused him, the more adamant Job became. Despite wrongful accusations by his friends, Job stood his ground. He searched for answers to his questions, but he never let go of God (Job 33:28-29)

Job's statements on wisdom (Job 28) affirm that no mortal can comprehend God's wisdom. Only through reverential fear one can access it. Only God has answers to all of life's questions. He continued to plead his innocence and lamented God's silence. His pleadings were forceful: God either had to vindicate him or show him to be a liar. Job recalled his own good behaviour and honor in the society (Job 29) not in self-defence but as reasons for his vindication. Job trusted God to vindicate him (Job 14:17) though at times in severe pain he appeared to question God's sovereignty. But in his trials did not turn him to Satan.

Since Job's pleadings were to a sovereign God, he got the response from God in His sovereign identity. God spoke out of a tempest challenging Job's knowledge of the world and his capabilities. He did not condemn Job for asking questions on his suffering. Instead He let Job know that the great "I AM" is in control of the Universe, including Job. All Job's pleas to present his case had evaporated in the awesome presence of God. Job got his answer: you need not know everything in life to hope and trust God. He is trustworthy. God is a promise giver and a promise keeper (Hebrews 10:23). His word is truth.

Finally, Job humbly submitted saying, "Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know" (Job 42:2-3). He realized that he knew little of the sovereign God who was in control of his life. Job's submission in humility to God's sovereignty paved the way for his vindication and restoration in spirit and body. God blessed him doubly. Satan was proven wrong through Job's testimony of faith. God was victorious over Satan. We fight our battles not in the flesh but in the Spirit to glorify God's faithfulness.

The sovereign God is our eternal hope, even in trials and troubles!



Job : God's pride and Satan's envy
Part 4 of 5 - God is Sovereign, Faithful and Merciful

God allowed the circumstances in Job's life to change dramatically for the worse, but not beyond a point. In response to Job's request for an audience to plead his case, God spoke to him out of the tempest. He told Job about the world, the stars, the seas, the creatures of the world. God reminded Job that He is the great Creator. It meant He knew the happenings in Job's life. God need not hear Job justifying himself.

In times of severe physical and mental suffering, we tend to focus only on our agony and not look unto God for wisdom. We need relief from the intense pain at the earliest. It is difficult to trust God's faithfulness at such times. Great is the suffering, greater is the difficulty to be at rest in God. Job was at a loss to understand the reasons for his suffering. He felt being abandoned by God whom he trusted.

In spite of His chastisement, God did not hold Job's persistent pleadings against him. God understands our frailties. Job was made to realize man's ignorance and childish pretensions about his knowledge of things of the world. He broadened Job's perspective of greatness of God (Job 38 to 41). The works of God are way beyond human comprehension. The greatest deception of Satan from the time in the garden of Eden is all that God does for us is not necessarily for our benefit. Job faced this challenge, but God by His grace showed Job the mighty things that He was in control of. Then Job said sorry for the things he said while in agony. God took Job through a severe trial for him to realize God's sovereign powers.

Innocent suffering does not have an intellectual solution. God ignored responding to any of Job's pleas. He did not even affirm Job's innocence though that was Job's need. God knew Job's innocence in the first place (Job 1:8). God had a different take on Job's suffering. His desire was for Job to develop the right perspective of God in the midst of personal suffering. Trials are the tests for strengthening the faith of the believer. They are the refiner's fire (Daniel 3:24-25). Job must learn something more magnificent than knowing the reasons for his trials. It is trusting a mighty God in every circumstance.

As a human being, Job had experienced much suffering, confronted many perplexing thoughts and circumstances. Even then he refused to accuse God for his suffering but believed in the justice of God. Job glorified God by not accusing Him of being unfair. This was God's plan for Job from the beginning when He commended him to Satan as His righteous servant. He demonstrated Job's steadfast faith to Satan.

Job deserved honour because he respected God. Job was vindicated for his faith in God's faithfulness, goodness and mercy. Job lamented that his relationship with God had severed. God showed that He was in charge of the whole Universe, including Job, at all times! He had never let go of Job. The trials brought into actuality the unseen characteristics of a true believer. Job not only did not sin, but he spoke the truth. A perplexed Job was perfected.

God had vindicated Job's steadfast faith in two ways. He blessed Job's wealth to be more than in the past (Job 42:12-17) and more significantly He strengthened Job's faith in Him. Faith comes from knowing the person of God, the great "I AM". Job honoured God as a "person" and not only for His "provision" (as accused by Satan). Faith needs replenishment at times (Luke 17:5). God gave Job exactly that. Job rededicated his life to God. Faith is the cornerstone of righteousness (Hebrews 11).

God vindicates His faithful servants

In gratitude, for His glory. **Dr PLN Raju** - Former Director (Resource Mobilization) The Leprosy Mission Trust India



Job : God's pride and Satan's envy
Part 5 of 5 - Trusting God through trials

When the safety walls we build around us start crumbling, when the pain of severe personal suffering grips us; two questions crop up in our minds. What sin did I commit in God's eyes? Where is God's goodness and justice for the righteous? How can we believe that God is in control of our lives when we are going through severe trials? It is a challenge to remain steadfast in faith and obedience to God when one experiences extreme suffering in life. In such circumstances, God's silence is more painful than the loss of worldly possessions. Then our defence often is: I am faithful, why God is not? I am perplexed, I need answers for my pain. Where is the light at the end of the tunnel?

In the life of Job, God had responded in a dramatic fashion, speaking through the tempest, to the anguish in human heart in trying circumstances.

In our faith walk with God there will be times of pain and pleasure, both according to God's purpose. We will experience going through valleys and mountains, day and night, rain and sunshine, desert and green pastures, hopefulness and helplessness etc.. We will go through a rollercoaster of circumstances, experiences and emotions. Life is never at an even keel. At any point of time a Christian is said to be entering into a challenge, going through a challenge or coming out of a challenge. What the Holy Spirit prepares us is to be at rest in God in the midst of any crisis. While the storm rages fiercely outside, the believer is firmly anchored in God through faith and is at rest inside. Our blamelessness is our hope.

Asking God again and again why one is facing a trial may be relevant for the sufferer but not so to God. It is difficult to understand God's intent in every situation in our life. It does not mean that God is not concerned about our pain and suffering. He may have a different perspective. One can only believe and affirm that God is in control of our situation and that He is a faithful God. Man is not privy to all the plans of the Sovereign God. He reveals to us whatever He desires in any manner that He decides. We need to perceive what He is teaching us rather than justifying who we are and our actions. Trust God that He moulds us according to His will, even in trials. He desires us to seek His wisdom to know His justice.

Satan will try all his tricks to entice and deceive us to deny God and His goodness. He is always at war with God using God's people. We are highly vulnerable to his devious ways in times of personal suffering. We need solutions to our problems, relief from our pain. But we are confident that God does not allow us to suffer beyond our ability to bear it. At times God allows troubles in our lives to grow our faith and we learn to trust Him even more (1 Peter 1: 6-7). Troubles are the times to learn hard lessons of life.

In the midst of Job's trials, God gave him wisdom to honor God (Job 28). God knows us, cares for us, gives us wisdom when we seek it. We need to remain at rest/in peace with God and not be afraid in troubled times. Wisdom of God comes to us by way of the still small voice inside steering us on the right path. Troubles do not disappear on their own; but God walks with us through them (Daniel 3:24-25) to increase our faith in Him and bring glory to His name. Faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). God takes pride in his servants who stand firm in faith. He upholds his faithful servants as witnesses to others. Almighty God, creator of the universe never fails us nor forsakes us (Deuteronomy 31:8).

By faith and obedience, a Christian glorifies God, at all times.

In gratitude, for His glory. **Dr PLN Raju** - Former Director (Resource Mobilization) The Leprosy Mission Trust India



Psalm 81

For the director of music. According to gittith. Of Asaph.

- ¹ Sing for joy to God our strength;
shout aloud to the God of Jacob!
- ² Begin the music, strike the timbrel,
play the melodious harp and lyre.
- ³ Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,
and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;
- ⁴ this is a decree for Israel,
an ordinance of the God of Jacob.
- ⁵ When God went out against Egypt,
he established it as a statute for Joseph.
I heard an unknown voice say:
- ⁶ "I removed the burden from their shoulders;
their hands were set free from the basket.
- ⁷ In your distress you called and I rescued you,
I answered you out of a thundercloud;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.
- ⁸ Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—
if you would only listen to me, Israel!
- ⁹ You shall have no foreign god among you;
you shall not worship any god other than me.
- ¹⁰ I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.
- ¹¹ "But my people would not listen to me;
Israel would not submit to me.
- ¹² So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own devices.
- ¹³ "If my people would only listen to me,
if Israel would only follow my ways,
- ¹⁴ how quickly I would subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!
- ¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last forever.
- ¹⁶ But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."



Psalm 82

A psalm of Asaph.

¹ God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods”:

² “How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?

³ Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

⁵ “The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ “I said, ‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’

⁷ But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”

⁸ Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance.



Message in a bin

During a visit to the university City of Cambridge earlier this year, I was walking past King's College when I became aware of the sound of a busker, playing a medley of Beatles' songs. [It is a strange business, but each time I come within earshot of buskers, they switch to songs from the early 1960s – my chief consolation is that they don't switch to songs from the 1950s...]

I glanced around me in surprise, as I couldn't see the performer, although, by the sound of it, I was close to him.

I looked more carefully and was bemused to see that the singing was coming from inside the rubbish bin next to me; one of those squat, black, round litter bins with wide openings below its domed top. Somehow, the guitarist had wedged himself into the bin and with the neck of the guitar extending through the opening at the side, he was merrily strumming away, to the puzzlement of the passing tourists. A few things struck me about this encrypted entertainer: he looked blissfully happy, he was singing merrily, and he was doing a brisk trade.

I suppose that King's College has seen stranger things than a performer inside a litterbin during its 579 distinguished years, but the elegance of King's College Chapel as a backdrop to this *al fresco* 'concert venue' seemed rather incongruous. Buskers add a lot of colour and joy to our lives at stations, shopping malls and even airports, and it's a shame that they often perform in places where you can't easily stop to enjoy their performance, so I took time to listen and to watch the people walking past, their faces lighting with smiles as they spotted the cocooned guitarist.

It's not something they teach you during career guidance at school – "Peter, have you considered the benefits of rubbish bins?" – but in this distracted world, where even in the regal surrounds of Cambridge, people walk around with their noses glued to the screens of their phones, this performer has found that singing in a bin is a sure-fire way to get people to stop and take notice.

It's a technique we see being used by the prophets, who went to extraordinary lengths to get the attention of God's distracted people. Perhaps the most extreme example is that of Ezekiel, symbolically enacting the coming siege of Jerusalem, lying first on his left side and then on his right [Ezekiel 4: 1-17]. Spending the day inside a rubbish bin seems the height of luxury by comparison. Hosea's marriage to Gomer offers another example of a graphic lesson to a deaf world [Hosea 1: 1-9]. John the Baptist "wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey" – possibly the sort of person that would make us cross to the other side of the road if we saw him walking towards us. And yet, people were drawn to him in.

As believers, there should be something distinctive about our lives, something that compels a busy, self-absorbed world to stop and take notice. There may be times when a few of us are called to do something as extreme as climbing into the equivalent of a rubbish bin, but for the most part, I think it is the accumulation of smaller things, done differently, done well, that speak the loudest and the longest. There are many ways to describe such a life. In *Galatians Chapter 5,22-24* Paul uses the example of fruitfulness:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

As we pray for each other today, let us pray that our lives will be fruitful indeed.

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.



"Pay attention do not drift away"

Hebrews 2:1

From our holiday cottage by the ocean, we had a beautiful view of the river. It meandered gracefully and lazily through the tropical forest. During high tide, the salt water moved 6 or 7 kms upstream. At low tide the contents drained into the sea. With each changing of the tide the process was repeated.

One day I decided to use our inflatable rubber dinghy and the tide to explore the interior. The idea was simple and logical. The current would carry me upstream for 2 or 3 hours and then, when the tide turned, I would slowly drift back towards the river mouth, get out and go home.

The journey was slow and gave ample time to admire the luxuriant vegetation - a riot of colours, shapes and forms. Various varieties of birds and the occasional snake glanced inquisitively as the bright orange boat glided past. The scene was beautiful, peaceful and restful. The sun was hot and some time after the turning of the tide that began my return journey, I fell asleep ... and the boat drifted on.

I have no idea how long I slept, but the growing sound of cascading water slowly brought me around. As the noise of crashing waves increased and as the dinghy started bobbing around like a cork, I was soon wide awake. I was no longer on the river but entering the ocean. Worse still, the light breeze had become a strong wind that was pushing me further into the sea. Fortunately I had taken the precaution of bringing some oars and after a lengthy struggle with the elements I managed to regain the land.

In our approach to life, it is so easy to allow ourselves to drift. Because we do not have a clear vision or because of fear of taking risks, fear of commitment, fear of confrontation, fear of change we can develop a pattern of inertia and drift our life away.

As Christians, we face the same dangers. We need to actively work at creating and maintaining positive habits of Bible study, prayer, private and corporate worship, fellowship with other believers, and, above all, a living relationship with Him in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Am I anchored in Jesus or just drifting through life?

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.



"...for the good..." – Part 32

This one is a special kind of devotional for today... drew from my recent readings about the pandemic of 100 years ago. I simply tried to find references in google on the question how churches responded by then on the challenges.

Here is one of them:

<https://wordandway.org/2020/04/20/historian-1918-pandemic/>

Let us reflect, pray and place ourselves, churches and mankind into the palm of God's merciful hands!

Marta



Christ Formed in you.

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

*He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:6*

Are you a person who sees a half glass of water as half full—or half empty? These are two very different ways of looking at life.

For much of my life, I saw God as checking me out in a half-empty-glass sort of way. I had so many character flaws. Fear often paralyzed me from doing the right things. If only people knew what really went on in my heart and mind—well, it would be “game Changer” for me. It seemed that the best survival strategy was to hide my heart and pretend I was doing great.

But God sees us as a glass half full. He has begun a good work in us! Wow, there’s so much to be thankful for! Christ is being formed in us. Even if you are not a Christ-follower, the fact that you are reading this, is part of a good work that God is beginning in you! The good work that God has begun in you is like a launchpad filled with hope, commitment, gratitude, and courage to keep on being formed in Christ.

Think of ourselves as being “under construction.” God is doing good things in us. And God has many more good things that he will do for you and me regardless of our age, qualifications, Job Title, race, ethnicity and culture etc.

So, in his strength let us all *“run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and the perfecter of faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2).*

Personal Prayer. (Every One)

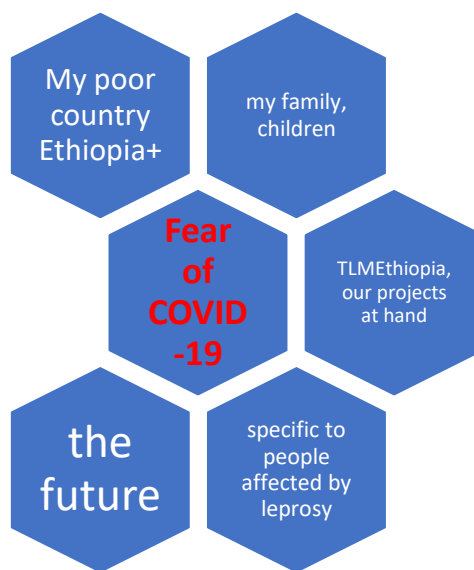
Thank you, Lord, for the good work you have begun in me. Continue your work as I seek to run the race you have marked out for me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



“...for the good...” – Part 33

My journey from fear to peace

This Spring I found myself covered with a cascade of fears: Fear of Covid-19. All my thoughts were about fear concerning:



FEAR

Our joy was compromised. Fear suffocates us, keeps us up at night full of worry and anxiety, distracts us from God’s truth and peace leaving us empty, unsatisfied, and unsure about everything in addition to the uncertainty of COVID-19.

Then many encouragements came to my mind and heart when I thought on even some of the anti-fear scriptures in the Bible. God’s Word is all along encouragement, strengthening us in all situations of our life.



ANTI-**FEAR** SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON AND PROCLAIM

“AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.” (ROMANS 8:28)

“FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER AND OF LOVE AND OF A SOUND MIND.” (2 TIMOTHY 1:7)

“HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU. DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED.” (DEUTERONOMY 31:8)

“I SOUGHT THE LORD, AND HE ANSWERED ME; HE DELIVERED ME FROM ALL MY FEARS. (PSALM 34:4)

I didn't want to answer and comfort others unless I got the inner peace to do it with.

What is that something you save for worst day? Eg. Finance, gold and diamond...

A friend's questions: Why do we not use Jesus for such a moment? How about Him?

How about His experience, as Christians aren't we supposed to role model Him?

My son was also a source of blessing and encouragement for me, saying: "Mom, fear is not in our DNA. Rather prayer is.



*Pray, meditate God's word
Count His kindness
Give it to HIM!"*

How did Jesus deal with difficulties in his life? – I meditated on this.

Jesus accepted the things he cannot change. Jesus never had an experience which was based in fear. He went into every situation, every conversation, and every thought process about the future with peace in His heart.

As we as Leprosy Mission continue to keep our mind on Him and walk in the truth of what He says about us, He will keep us in perfect peace in all that we do, in any situation, amidst trials, uncertainties, fears and darkness.

*He will give His peace which is above human understanding
and is only able to keep our heart and mind in Him.*

Beletshachew Tadesse – country leader, TLM Ethiopia



Psalm 83

A song. A psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ O God, do not remain silent;
do not turn a deaf ear,
do not stand aloof, O God.
- ² See how your enemies growl,
how your foes rear their heads.
- ³ With cunning they conspire against your people;
they plot against those you cherish.
- ⁴ “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation,
so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”
- ⁵ With one mind they plot together;
they form an alliance against you—
- ⁶ the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
of Moab and the Hagrites,
- ⁷ Byblos, Ammon and Amalek,
Philistia, with the people of Tyre.
- ⁸ Even Assyria has joined them
to reinforce Lot’s descendants.
- ⁹ Do to them as you did to Midian,
as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,
¹⁰ who perished at Endor
and became like dung on the ground.
- ¹¹ Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
¹² who said, “Let us take possession
of the pasturelands of God.”
- ¹³ Make them like tumbleweed, my God,
like chaff before the wind.
- ¹⁴ As fire consumes the forest
or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,
¹⁵ so pursue them with your tempest
and terrify them with your storm.
- ¹⁶ Cover their faces with shame, LORD,
so that they will seek your name.
- ¹⁷ May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;
may they perish in disgrace.
- ¹⁸ Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD—
that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.

Authors in ABC Order**Country****Textuarium in Canonic Order**

Allan Ekstedt	7 October	Sweden	Judges 21,15	15 October
Asaph, psalmist	3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 and 31 October	Israel	2 Kings 2,12	5 October
Beletshachew Tadesse	30 October	Ethiopia	Book of Job	19 – 23 October
Bunmi Oluloto	12 October	Niger	Psalm 75	3 October
Christine Osman	2 October	Scotland	Psalm 76	4 October
David Beazley	6 October	England	Psalm 77	10 October
Dorothy Owen	29 October	Papua New-Guinea	Psalm 78	11 October
Élie Fofolo	5 October	DR Congo	Psalm 79	17 October
Elisabeth Barnett	15 October	France	Psalm 80	18 October
Eric Chollet	13 October	Switzerland	Psalm 81	24 October
Erna Möller	14 October	Southern Africa	Psalm 82	25 October
Marta Risko	8 October	Hungary	Psalm 83	31 October
Otto Kingsley	1 October	Southern Africa	Psalm 119,1	13 October
Peter Laubscher	26 October	Southern Africa	Proverbs 18,24	6 October
Pradeep and Sarah Failbus	16 October	India	Song of Songs 1,4	12 October
Raju PLN Dr	19 – 23 October	India	Lamentations 3,22-23	9 October
Silvano Perotti	27 October	Switzerland	Matthew 5-8	16 October
Yuek Ming Poon	9 October	Nepal	Matthew 7,24-25	14 October
			Mark 1,13/b	8 October
			John 4,35	7 October
			John 11	2 October
			Romans 8,28	30 October
			Galatians 5,22-24	26 October
			Ephesians 2,8-10	1 October
			Philippians 1,3-11	29 October
			Hebrews 2,1	27 October

The Bridge

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